

## Maria MacDonald

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**From:** wataus@juno.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 17, 2006 9:10 PM  
**To:** wataus@juno.com  
**Subject:** Ministry update from the Waters in Australia

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This ministry update is sent to you on behalf of Phil & Lenna Waters, missionaries in Australia

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Greetings with the beauty of spring and new life in Melbourne, Australia! I enjoy spring because I enjoy seeing plants blossom and grow. In spite of the dry winter that we've had, we are experiencing an early spring (and a lot of pollen!) The Lord has also blessed us with several who have come to the Lord since our last letter. What an even greater blessing to witness the new birth and growth of a new believer.

A few weeks ago, I had the "pleasure" of meeting one of the hardest Aussie women I've ever met. We were introduced, and it was obvious that she had no use for preachers or religion. That's not unusual in itself in this country, but this older woman is dying. A request from her unsaved son to visit her again, prompted me to return to her hospital bedside albeit with reluctance. In keeping with her "style" she met me with a few choice words of profanity. The challenge was clear: the need even clearer. A bit of encouragement, small act of kindness allowed a breach in the well-protected, hardened exterior. She soon began talking about her physical condition, death and her spiritual condition. The circumstances of her sickness had humbled her. After some time she allowed me to pray for her. After a bit more time, she prayed with me asking the Lord to forgive her of her sins and take her to heaven. I have visited her again since then and the change both towards me and her life and especially toward the Lord has been dramatic. Please pray for her and for her many of her family members who are lost.

I've also been asked to return to the local primary school to teach Bible classes to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We will soon be in our last term of the school year, so I may only have a couple of months to work with these students. Pray that their hearts will also be tender to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Next week we will have a children's Bible club for our neighborhood children. Our first one earlier in the year was a big success. We're praying the Lord to open doors for contacts and open hearts to the Gospel. Please pray for our workers, for each of the activities, for safety and for protection. We desperately need your prayers.

We are all doing well as a family. We enjoyed a few days away in August to unwind. The blessings of the Lord were special during that time. Andrew and Kristen will be finishing up years 11 and 7 respectively in December. Andrew has had a full academic load, has managed to work 16 to 20 hours a week as well and build his own computer. Kristen takes life (and school work) a little less seriously than her brother does, enjoys being with people and babysits on Saturday for a Marriage Enrichment class. She is enjoying being 13 and being in the youth group at church. Lenna is hard at work as usual and is planning for a Christmas program and the ladies retreat for next year. We do appreciate your prayers for spiritual strength for each of us. Pray that God would refine us and use us for His own pleasure.

Thank you for standing with us in the battle.

Yours in Christ,  
 Phil

