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Finding Joy in Australia



Greetings Family and Friends-

Maybe you know more about Australia than I do but just in case you do not, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to this amazing, interesting place. Australia is the smallest continent but it is also the largest island in the world. And although it is only slightly smaller in landmass than the continuous United States, the population is many times smaller. With a population of about 20 million, the country of Australia is home to less people than the state of California.

Perth is located in the south west corner. To get an idea of the remoteness of Perth take a look at a map or grab a globe. My dad likes to joke that I chose the one place that is actually further from California than Papua New Guinea. But jokes aside, Perth is in fact closer to Singapore than it is to Sydney. Western Australia is about a third of the entire country and the capital city, Perth is home to most of that population. But even with 2 million people, Perth still feels like a small town to me. It is stretched out along the coast and build around neighborhoods and communities.

One of these communities is the city of Fremantle. Known as Freo to the locals (and now to all of you!), this suburb to the south of Perth is located directly on the Indian Ocean. It was a buzzing settlement even before the founding of Perth and now it is an eclectic, artsy, young and vibrant place. This is where I will be living and where the new church plants will be focused.

Now I know what you are thinking. What about the Aboriginal people? Don't they live out in the bush? Yes and No. While there are still some remote Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal people live in the city too. There are also communities and families in the surrounding areas which are easily accessible by car or bus. The Noongar people were in Western Australia long before the Europeans arrived and they still remain very connected to the land. But it is not just Noongar anymore, there are also other language groups represented in the Perth area.

Well there you have it, a very brief but hopefully informative introduction to Perth. I realize that this does not due justice to the diversity and complexity of life and the people in Australia. But I wanted to provide you with a foundation for prayer and future updates.

Here's to falling in love with Perth!

Joy Candee :-)



Photo taken by Tim Goldsmith

Contact Joy!

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