



## BARRY AND VANESSA'S FAMOUS QUIRKY CHRISTMAS LETTER FOR 2019.

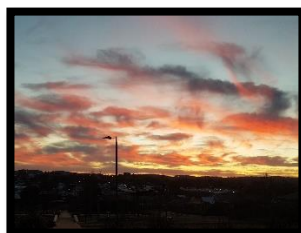
Here, once again is our annual, famous Quirky Christmas Letter—this is number 25. Don't miss any of it: you don't want to be disappointed. The serious bits can be found between the beginning and the end. The quirky parts are in the middle. Now read on if you dare...

### OUR NEW HOME

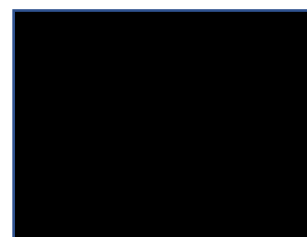
This was the year in which we sold up in Sydney and moved to South Australia, where we bought a fine new house that we never could have afforded in Sydney. Check the photos below.



*Late afternoon*



*Early evening*



*Night Time*

We are now comfortably settled in the beautiful Adelaide Hills town of Mount Barker. Barry has a nice large office—the best home office he has ever had. Vanessa has a study of her own. We have a comfortable guest room (which has already been well used) and a beautiful view from our back porch of a large creek, some splendid trees and lots of open spaces. We really miss our many wonderful Sydney friends but we are also enjoying catching up with old friends in South Australia. Already lots of speaking opportunities.

### THAILAND



It was a privilege to visit our dear friends JT and Queenie Young in Thailand in August where they are ministering in the rural province of Isan to widows, elderly

folks and children while at the same time building a new local church. It is hard pioneering work but they are doing a great job. Picture shows Vanessa with one of the children.

## A NEW BOOK

This is also the year in which we launched out into something completely new: the publishing of *Moments and Memories*, a book of original verse written by Barry. It has been enthusiastically received so far. With quality hard-back cover and tasteful layout, it is an ideal gift book. If you order it through our website ([www.barry@barrychant.com](mailto:www.barry@barrychant.com)) we should be able to get copies to you in time for Christmas. The poem at the end of this letter is from the book. Some unsolicited readers' comments follow:



- I couldn't stop reading until I had finished the whole book.
- Absolutely lovely.
- Very encouraging.
- Uplifting words of wisdom.
- Disturbingly apt imagery.
- Touches the heart with more than sentimentality.
- Such a blessing.
- Half-way through it and loving it

## A SING-A-LONG SONG FOR AN AUSSIE CHRISTMAS

I'm dreaming of a brown Christmas  
Just like the one we had last year  
Where the wild snakes slither  
The gum trees quiver  
And the hot sun dries up every tear.  
I'm dreaming of a brown Christmas  
When all the relatives appear  
And your house is turned upside-down...  
So may all your Christmases be brown.

I'm dreaming of a brown Christmas  
With late night shopping in the mall  
Where the dollars crumble  
And parents grumble  
And children drive them up the wall.  
I'm dreaming of a brown Christmas  
Of stress and paracetamol  
May your smiles out-number your  
frowns...  
And may all your Christmases be brown.

## LATE NEWS

In Nov we visited Spore where V & B addressed ldrs @ FGA in a 3-hr Semnr & B prched 3x @ Grace AOG, a gr8 chrch of <5000 ppl. Enjoyed relaxg trip home @ sea to Syd & air to Adel. (FGA = Full Gospel Assembly).

## HOWLERS

**For your end-of-year enjoyment and amusement, here is a list of genuine howlers that actually occurred in papers written over the years by students we taught. Some of these were obviously from pre-spellcheck days. Even so, take a break, sit back and chuckle. (Comments in brackets are ours.)**

*Paul frequently wrote against sexual immorality. He expects men, if they are married, to have an intimate relationship with only one woman, his wife.*

*The baptism in the Spirit is indeed part of the salivation experience. (Jesus did say, 'Blessed are they who hunger and thirst ...')*

*A Christian is one who has been born again for the purpose of this essay...*

*Baptism in the Spirit is synonymous with conversation. (In tongues?)*

*The Council of Nicea as convened by Constantine inn AD 325 has continued within the Catholic Church to the Vatican Council of 1964. (Some speakers can be long-winded.)*

*The main thrust of Revelation is a prophetic massage. (Well, prophecy is for consolation and comfort.)*

*Christ's initial victory was accomplished by his defeat of all the temptations in the dessert.*

*She has started hanging out the youth group... (Maybe they needed it.)*

*Prayer language may be defined as the tongues of angles ... (An acute point.)*

*The whole Mess was written down in the Catholic service book.*

*They burned incest to their images.*

*God sent his only Son into the world to dye for us.*

*They ate the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. (O taste and see...)*

*If we have faith the size of a mustered seed ... (I wonder if we herd that correctly.)*

*One pacific sin stood out and that was violence. (Mmm...)*

*The words spoken from the prophet's moth....*

*Going through trails, one has to trust God. (Country gospel?)*

*I will keep speaking in tongues as party of my prayer life. (Rejoice in the Lord...)*

*The early believers were a close nit group.*

*Here lies an important principal. (A grave situation.)*

*The Thompson Tropical Bible... (Hot stuff)*

*Peter sought counsel with his Christian piers... (Well, he was a fisherman.)*

*Demons are fallen angels led by satin... (He's a smooth customer.)*

*The Bible dose talk about this matter. Nothing gets done if no one doses anything. (A new slant on divine healing?)*

*They meet to read the holly book. (Only at Christmas?)*

*She was worried she would die before being ruptured with the Church.*



## AT HIS FEET

*When Jesus came initially, divine but human, too,  
our destiny was radically upended and renewed.  
His name divides the panoply of passing centuries,  
but still his power is best displayed in those who bow their knees.  
No manger for the Christ this year - your heart's his royal throne;  
he comes as Saviour, Lord and King and loves you as his own.*

*Don't edge him to the sidelines where discarded wrappings lie  
and empty plates are strewn with turkey bones and cold mince pie.  
Invite him to his rightful place, where stars and angels meet,  
and worship and adore him as you fall down at his feet.*

From B. Chant, *Moments and Memories*, Tabor, 2019.

**Have a blessed and meaningful  
Christmas and a wonderful new year!  
Barry and Vanessa.**



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❖ **Don't forget** to check our website for all kinds of free and fascinating  
resources at [www.barrychant.com](http://www.barrychant.com)