

## The hope of the gospel



### Leslie and Mabel Brush

#### Community outreach workers in Tartaraghan

**W**e live in a world where there seems to be so much hopelessness. The news is dominated by the cost-of-living crisis, wars, corruption, family breakdown etc. There are many with "no hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). The challenge is how to effectively communicate the wonderful hope the gospel offers.

In January our church ran 'Hope Explored' on three consecutive Sunday afternoons; we were delighted to see some folk on the fringes

of church attend. The course focuses on the hope, peace and purpose Jesus gives. Mabel was talking recently to a woman who said that she'd been looking for these things all her life but had no connection with church and didn't know where to look... until a neighbour invited her to Christianity Explored, where she became a Christian.

Part of our work involves building relationships with people, both in the community and with those on the fringes of church, whether through visitation or an event. Leslie previously visited all the homes within a two-mile radius of the meeting house. He plans to revisit these homes with an updated *What's On* leaflet introducing church activities and the booklet *Road to Freedom*. Pastoral visitation gives opportunity to visit individuals, some in seemingly hopeless situations, to share God's Word and pray with them, pointing them to Jesus, the only one who can give real hope.

We are also involved in:

- TLC (Tartaraghan Little Children): a weekly toddler group for parents/caregivers and children.

- Family@4: a monthly informal outreach event for families on Sunday afternoons with crafts; usually, over 100 children and parents attend. It can be a challenge sharing God's Word with such a diverse age group.

- Men@10.30: a weekly men's outreach with games and crafts.
- Friendship group: a monthly event for senior members.
- Women's Bible study: held every fortnight, it brings women of different ages together.

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We are thankful to be part of a church fellowship where God's Word is central; whether it's the very short Bible thought for toddlers, deeper study for women or anything in between. Those at Men@10.30 listen intently to the Bible slot, with one man taking an *Ultimate Questions* booklet recently. While we rejoice in good attendances at Sunday services and our organisations, we long to be people who desire to put him at the centre of our daily lives and ministry – to "seek first the Kingdom of God". Then we can share the hope of the gospel with a needy world.

#### Please pray:

- Thank God for all who attend the events.
- Pray for wisdom in communicating the wonderful hope of the gospel.
- Pray that as believers we put God first in our lives.