

Around the traps with Tom



November 2011

Dear

This letter was first dated 'September', and even then it was late. Certainly far too late to acknowledge and thank you for your generous contribution to enable SU to employ me. I will convey my apologies with a personal note, and trust for your forgiveness!

I've just complete two years with SU this time around, and it seems to be agreed by the 'higher-ups' that it was a good idea. Since July I have continued to work two days a week most weeks, half a day being paid and the rest being voluntary. I have renewed acquaintances with many wonderful people I had dealings with over the years working with SU between 1969 and 1996. While the ultimate goal is to encourage people to consider making some provision for SU in their Wills, the strategy is really to build the SU community, so that people have opportunities to reconnect, even if their active service in SU mission activity is past.

This bequest idea represents a wonderfully satisfying way to assist one of the world's great ministries to continue well into the future. It excites me in a way that paying today's electricity bill doesn't. Not entirely logical, but I really like it. We call those people who we know have included SU in their wills *SU Visionaries*, and we now know of about 35 people in that category.

I doubt if you are looking for a frequent stream of 'team support letters' from me, but I hope this occasional brief update will give you a sense of what is happening through your generosity. And the back page of *Outreach* will usually give you a bit of news as well in the *SUstainers* column.

SUstainers is a network we've set up for people who just want to have a regular way of keeping in touch with others from the past, and hearing about new opportunities for those no longer active in SU to serve in new ways. About 150 people have signed up for that, and are now receiving occasional emails especially pitched towards their interests. With a bit of luck I will remember to include one, if you are not on that list already.

Next time I'll give you some more specifics. Meanwhile, if you would like to add prayer for me to your financial contribution, that will be even more appreciated! Even if you only prayed for a few minutes when you receive this letter, that would be good. I need a lot of sensitivity, energy, and nous to do this well.

Retirement's been great. I also look after the church office one morning a week, and greatly enjoy mentoring a small boy at the local primary school through the *Kids Hope* program. And that still leaves some time for other interests – especially with involvement in some projects with Indigenous people.

June is well, and Pete and Joss, their spouses and children, are all thriving. I hope you are too.