

Lynne & Steve August 14- Sept 3 2019

Noon in Baltimore is 2 AM in Aus Sidney 2 am in Adelaide 1 am in PNG 2 am

August 14

- 5:40 PM DCA > 8:25 PM LAX Cabin: Economy / Coach (H)
10:30 LAX Virgin Australia 8 14h duration Virgin Australia 1631
- 15 Day dropped by Date line crossing
- 16 5:30 am Brisbane (BNE)
9:30 A Virgin Australia 39 > 12:50 POM Port Morsby PNG 3h 20m duration
Hotel Laguna Hotel, Port Moresby
- 17 11:35 AIR NIUGINI Flight Number PX 990 > 13:05 WBM WAPENAMANDA,
Timothy Lutheran Seminary PO Box 381 Wabag Enga Province PNG
- 18 Sunday Worship PNG Enga Province
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22 1430 WBM WAPENAMANDA, > 1600 POM Port Morsby PNG
- 23 9:30 am POM > 10:55 am Cains Air Niugini 90 1h 25m duration
Blue Lagoon Resort www.bluelagoonresort.com.au
- 24 GREAT BARRIER REEF
- 25 Sunday Worship
- 26 12:45 P Cains > 2:55 Brisbane Flight VA 1398: 3:45 > 6:05 Adelaide, Flight #VA 1398
- 26 Majestic Roof Garden Hotel 55 Frome St <https://www.roofgardenhotel.com.au>
- 27 9:10 > 11:45 Cooper Pedy
Underground Hotel 1138 Catacomb Road, Coober Pedy, 5723,
- 28 11:30 > 1:25 Pm Adelaide
Majestic Roof Garden Hotel
- 29
- 30 11 am Sydney I711 am Virgin Australia 417 Sydney 1:20 pm
Holiday Lodge Hotel 55 Macleay Street, Potts Point, NSW, 2011 Australia

September 1 Sunday

- 2
- 3 10:15 a American Airlines 72 Los Angeles (LAX) > 6:12 pm Washington

Australia 8/16

Greetings from Brisbane!

I haven't slept for more than 36 hours (or more, I'm confused as to what time it is in Baltimore) - I awoke about 4 a.m. Wed. and now it's 5:02 a.m. Australia time Friday. I just noticed that my laptop says it's 1:03 p.m. Thurs. in Baltimore (I think that's Baltimore time). Anyway, I'm tired!

We took a rental car to Reagan Airport. Steve had a window seat, so saw the airport fire station where our daughter Stephanie works as a paramedic/fireman. She was off that day. We flew Delta to Los Angeles (5 hr. 45 min. flight), landed at 8:25 LA time. We had a little turbulence but not much. They gave us supper on the plane.

We took a shuttle bus to the International Terminal. Then we walked up a long, long ramp to our next plane. We took a Virgin Australia plane at 10:30 p.m. for a 14 hour flight to Brisbane.

They fed us supper (at 4 a.m. Balto time). They left out snacks: bananas, apples, potato chips, sea salt crunchy broad beans (haven't tried them yet), sandwiches, wraps, yogurt, pudding, water, juice) for us to help ourselves too. I found the handicap bathroom on the plane interesting - never had seen one before - it's big enough to put the special wheelchair they have on board (must be awful skinny to go down the narrow aisles!), not the very narrow one usually found on a plane.

I closed my eyes, don't think I really slept at all - anytime I started to sleep, my head would fall forward and I'd jerk awake. Steve slept, since he dreamed. They fed us breakfast (choice of an omelet or crepes) at 3:30 a.m. Australia time. I watched the movie "Mary Poppins Returns" - I'd never seen it. They kept interrupting with announcements towards the end of the movie. We landed at 5:30 a.m.

We didn't really have a Thursday because of crossing the International Date Line - my laptop now says it's Friday morning.

We deplaned, went through security, walked forever to our next gate. It was sunrise. I was thinking that this airport is so deserted, but then realized it's not yet 6 a.m.!

Our next flight today is to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea at 9:30 a.m. for a 3 hour, 20 min. flight. Then we will go to a motel and collapse!

Thank you to all who sent greetings after my first e-mail. It's great to hear from friends at home! I like to hear what's going on in your lives.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve

8/16-17
Greetings from Laguna Hotel, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea!
3:20 p.m. Fri.

We waited for our plane to leave Brisbane, never left the airport there. We had flown Virgin Australia airlines from L.A. to Brisbane. We flew Alliance airlines (though it was listed as a VA flight) from there to here. For some reason, our seats were rows apart. But the stewardess moved us together - the plane (a Fokker 100) had about 100 seats but only about 40 on this flight. The other 2 flights were full.

We were served juice, then shepherd's pie after we got in the air. Then they brought wine/beer/soda. We flew over the ocean and the Coral Sea, could see some reefs. This plane had no video screens so we couldn't follow our flight or know the time. We had to walk up the steps outside the plane to board, and later down to deplane. It's hot here, about 90, and sunny, I would guess.

We stood in line for a while to get the free visa we needed to enter the country. We picked up our checked bag (hadn't seen it since we left it in D.C.) and headed for information. I found our hotel on their sign board and we tried to call for a shuttle. We called for probably an hour or more, but no answer. Some of those who represented other hotels were concerned and tried to help us. Finally an airport representative called another hotel shuttle to bring us here.

They drive on the left side of the road, have lots of roundabouts. The Hilton shuttle brought us here, to a fancy hotel with a pool. The lady who checked us in said their phones weren't working. We got checked in, they said they upgraded our room for no charge. We are on the first floor, room nearest to the pool (which we won't use, I didn't bring my suit). It's large, air-conditioned, with an attached kitchen which is open to the outside air, there's a glass wall between us and the kitchen.

We haven't slept since Wed., so Steve is now asleep. I didn't feel tired, so haven't laid down yet, but I'm feeling more tired so will lay down now. Good night (at 3:30 p.m.!).

Hello again!

It's now 8:10 p.m.

We both slept. The alarm went off at 6:40, we got up and went to the restaurant/cafe for supper. We split a bowl of the soup of the day, sweet potato soup (but it was yellowish green), hot rolls, and an order of garlic prawns with vegetables (cauliflower, broccoli, strips of pepper, a sugar snap pea, stir fried) and a mound of rice. All was very good.

After showers we're going back to sleep.

Sat. 9:06 a.m.

We slept much of the night, glad to have some sleep!

We just returned from breakfast which was a buffet including fruit slices, rice, meat, beans, vegetables (barely stir fried peppers, cauliflower, etc.), pastries. A chef came out and made me an omelet. All was delicious! We were the only ones eating at that time, a staff of 5 was present in the dining room, don't know how many cooks in the kitchen.

We leave in less than an hour for the airport. We will fly to the Highlands where the Enga people are. We are staying with missionaries there. Steve's grandfather brought

the first missionaries from our church body to that place in 1948 to the Stone Age people. He was in charge of the missions of the world for our church.

A sad note: our daughter Stephanie's mother-in-law died on Friday. Please keep Stephanie's husband Greg, his father Steve Auerweck, and family in your prayers. Thank you.

Don't know if you will hear from me in the next few days since wifi is iffy where we will stay.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



carving in Laguna Hotel lobby



Parliament Building



airport mural

Greetings from Timothy Lutheran Seminary in Enga Province!

Sat. night Aug. 17

Saturday morning we were driven to the airport in Port Moresby. There are many white egrets wandering around the airfield.

We waited and waited for our plane - it was never listed as delayed, but it was 45 minutes late when we finally took off. We were in row 8, so I thought we were behind the first class, but there were only 9 rows in the plane! There were about 20 on the plane, one stewardess. We were given 2 small servings of orange juice and 4 small cookies as our food. When we arrived in Wapenamanda, they took the baggage off the plane and brought 2 items at a time by hand into the room and left it there for us to pick up our luggage.

Maryanne, our hostess, and Martin and Marie Dicke met us. They took us for a tour of the area. It is a province of rugged mountains and high valleys with Lai and Lagaip the main rivers. The Australians gave this part of Papua New Guinea to our Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) in the late 1940s. The Lutherans built a hydroelectric plant and a hospital. Then they built churches and started mission stations. We went to one of the stations, saw the church there. We passed a path which went up a steep hill (mountain goats might like the steepness) - Steve's grandfather walked that path when he came to PNG and he was in his 50s at the time. I wouldn't want to try climbing up or down the path!

In the province there is one good paved road which we were traveling on. The driveways are all dirt as are most of the roads. We also drove around the Highland International Lutheran School campus - it was started as a school for missionary children. When the tribes were angry at each other, they burned down some of the school's buildings.

Enga is a language, the people are in many antagonistic tribes from a few 100 to as many as a 1000 in size.

Maryanne's husband Ron Rall and she are serving as part-time missionaries here. They were married here and served 8 years before their daughter's health forced them to return to the U.S. He was Pastor at Timothy Lutheran in St. Louis until retiring this year. They are living in the old missionary house. It has indoor plumbing, fortunately! Their water comes from a cistern. Ron is in the field, teaching some of the missionaries, so we won't meet him until tomorrow.

There's a video put out by our church about the work here - engage.lcms.org/papua-new-guinea-spring-2019 We haven't seen it, but understand it's good.

It's the dry season here, but it's raining! So there is lots of water in their cistern. There are lots of banana trees growing - there are 29 varieties of bananas. The "new" houses here all have corrugated roofs that extend out from the buildings. The old houses are thatched with woven walls.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve

8/17 Enga Highlands

Sunday afternoon

Since the wifi isn't doing very well on sending messages, this letter is getting longer.

This morning we waited for the gong which announced church was starting - it's rung 3 different times, the first one to remind you to get up out of bed, the second to tell you to get ready, and finally the third one to say church is starting (sometime between 9 and 10). This house is the nearest one to the chapel, less than 50 yards away. Maryanne took a folding chair for me to sit on - the native people sit on low backless benches. There are 4 regular size benches at the back, but they looked very uncomfortable.

The service was in the Pidgin language, so we understood almost none of it. The service started with worship songs that the young people sing. The children went to the front, had a prayer and a word from the pastor, and then went to Sunday School. The preacher apologized to us (in Pidgin) for not speaking English (Marie translated that for us). They also sang 3 hymns of which we knew the melodies - they call them "missionary songs" because the missionaries translated the hymns from English to Pidgin. At the end of the service we had to go to the front of the church to be introduced.

Marie invited us to come to her home for coffee after church. Her house is about a thousand feet away up the steep hill - I no longer do well in climbing hills as I once did. She also had muffins for us. We had a nice visit.

We came back to Maryanne's and have been relaxing. We did manage to get online long enough to get 163 e-mails, but the connection wasn't good enough to send mail. Steve has been resting. I started working on cross stitch Christmas ornaments - carrying yarn to knit/crochet in my suitcase is too much weight and takes too much space.

It was sunny this morning, in the 70s. Now it has clouded over. Yesterday was cold, maybe 60 in the house (which has no heat).

It's now Monday morning, Aug. 19.

Yesterday was Julie's birthday (she is a doctor's widow, she stayed here to be the business manager). We knew her parents Ralph and Lola Behrens, who were teachers whom I met twice a year at teachers' conferences. Maryanne invited Julie and her son Anton, and the Dicke's to dinner to celebrate. Steve hiked with Julie to see a lake at the top of hill - glad I didn't go with them because it was a steep climb. We had a nice celebration. Anton is a "jack of all trades" - he showed us a video of a grass landing strip which he supervised being built. He and his workers took 2 days to paddle 40-50' canoes up the river, loaded with tools. They cut down the trees, removed the stumps, brought in bulldozers, etc., it took 10 years before the first plane landed there.

This morning Maryanne washed our clothes before we went to the Seminary chapel for morning devotions (in Pidgin). We were again introduced.

Hopefully we will get to send this e-mail soon.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve

8/18

Sunday afternoon

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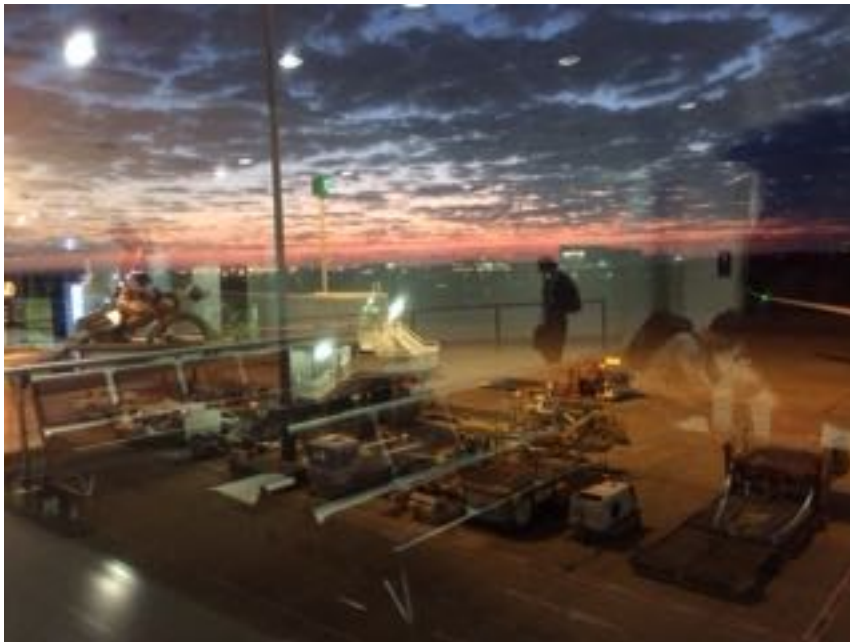
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God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



sunrise at Brisbane, Australia just after we arrived

Mon Aug 18

Hello!

This morning Maryanne washed our laundry and we hung it on the solar dryer - it was dry in less than 3 hours. I read the book, "Papua Pilot" by Paul Westland. It's the story

of a bush pilot for Wycliffe Bible Translators in PNG and Indonesia. It was very interesting - he was landing and taking off on the grass runways.

Ron and Maryanne took us to Wabag (the provincial capital) to the Enga Tackanda Museum which tells the history of the Enga people. In PNG there are about 800 languages spoken, a third of the languages in the world! Sweet potatoes were introduced to PNG around 350 years ago. They can be grown at higher altitudes and on poorer soils than taro which is also grown in PNG. Sweet potatoes also allow multiple harvests and they are good to eat. It was an interesting museum.

We then walked next door where there is a display of sand art. Rocks are crushed to make sand. An outline of a picture (of a PNG person or a bird) is made on a thin piece of wood. The artist puts glue on a section, then dribbles colored sand on that section, changing colors as desired to make a colorful picture. We watched a couple of artists do this. I didn't know that there were so many naturally occurring colors in the rocks! We chose a picture of a bird of paradise - we met the artist who made it. He is a friend of Maryanne's, so he gave us a discount.

The front tire had gone soft while we were at the museum, so Ron and some men changed it. He drives a Toyota Land Cruiser which is really good for the roads here. We stopped at a bank - the natives let Ron and Maryanne go to the head of the line to show respect to the Caucasians. We stopped for ice cream cones. Ron stopped at the market to buy some vegetables. Then we stopped to get the tire fixed - the valve stem wasn't seated well and it was leaking around it. We drove past a Lutheran school and church where Maryanne first worked when she came to PNG.

We played 2 card games last night, Kings in the Corner and Quiddler.

PNG electricity is well known to be unreliable, the first night we were here it was off from about midnight until 6 a.m. Last night it went off about 9:30 but came back shortly after that at half power which meant the lights were flickering. We went to bed. We need to carry flashlights after dark!

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



gardens at the Seminary



view at Seminary



front yard where we are staying



market at Wabag



Sand Art painter



sand art painter



Lukas painted this sand art we bought



before sand added

Tues Aug 20

Hello!

I'm guessing it was about 45 this morning, no heat in the buildings - cold! We went to devotions in the chapel again at 8 a.m.

We just came back from a trip to visit Julie at her home next to the Lutheran Hospital. When Steve's grandfather brought missionaries here, they also planned to build a hydroelectric plant and a hospital. Both were built in the 1950s. They were "state of the art" when they were built. Unfortunately 60 years later they no longer are "state of the art".

Julie took us on a tour of the hospital which no longer has power. The hydroelectric plant has not worked since January because the government would not pay for the parts needed to fix it. It only supplies power to the hospital. Anton, Julie's son, has been fixing it.

We walked thru ICU, about 5 people were around one bed, their blankets spread out on the floor around the person in the bed. There were 2 people in beds on the other side of

the nurses' station. The floor was concrete. I did not see any nursing staff. It was not my idea of ICU!!!!

We walked through the surgical ward. About 8 of the 20 or so beds were occupied. There were both men and women in the ward, no curtains between beds, no privacy. Families come to stay and take care of a member in the hospital, so there were blankets on the floor between beds. One man had a mosquito net around his bed - he was injured in a fight, had tb, and a bedsore, could barely move. His brother was there to help him.

We saw the lab, the broken x-ray machine (60 years old), the 2 autoclaves. We went in the maternity ward - 2 people were waiting for the birth of a child, we didn't see the mother-to-be. There were about 10 beds, no mattresses on them. This was one of the newest buildings.

We also went in a duplex that is being remodeled. There were 5 men working in it. The Ralls lived there at one time, the Dickes will probably move in when it is fixed.

We looked out over the valley in Julie's backyard. Steve's grandfather walked down the 800 foot gorge, rugged mountain, across the valley, across the river, across the rest of the valley, and up the rugged mountain on the other side, about 25 miles between the mountains. He walked many hundreds of miles in PNG. We could see a neighbor preparing her garden for planting. Other gardens had sweet potatoes ready to harvest, another garden had half grown sweet potato plants.

Julie made lunch for us, a bun cut in half with tuna fish with barbecue sauce on it, with cheese on the top, which she broiled. She had made yogurt. She also made chocolate pudding with avocados, cocoa, and honey.

We visited her cassowary which is a dwarf, 24 years old. Her husband bought the chick and brought it home on a plane, which is no longer allowed. It lived in the house for a year or two when young. She has a white cockatoo and a white cuscus (related to a tree kangaroo). The temperature was in the 70s and very pleasant on her back porch overlooking the valley. It was an enjoyable visit.

We relaxed after we got back to Maryanne's. We had left Julie's in time to get here before school let out and children would be all over the road.

Observations along the road: After a garden is harvested, the weeds and plants are burned - you see and smell smoke all over the place. Many times you see people just standing around, doing nothing. Every once in a while you see the skeleton of a car/truck/van on the side of the road, most have had everything taken out and off.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve

Wed Aug 21
Good morning!

Maryanne and Ron left about 7 a.m. for Mt. Hagan, about a 2 hour drive. The last third of the road is marked by many potholes, broken pavement, etc. They have 3 beehives beside the house, bottle their own honey. At their home in downtown St. Louis, they have beehives and 6 chickens. It was not as cold last night as the night before. There was a little rain during the evening - even though this is the "dry" season, it rains a little most days.

The students were working in their gardens behind the house, piling the weeds up. Now the weeds are burning and the wood smoke is in the house, making me miserable. This morning there was no chapel so they had time to work in the garden. They have to raise all their food. Most of the seminarians are married with multiple children (6 is not an unusual number). They leave their families behind when they come to the seminary (there's no housing for families or food to feed them). They might see their families once a year during the 4 years of sem. Many come from far away, can not afford a plane ticket to go home on the one week break between semesters. Most of them get home during a 3 week break in the year.

Martin and Marie picked us up and took us with them to Pausa Lutheran High School. We had to drive from one mountain, down in the river gorge, back up the other mountain to the school. Martin was the chapel speaker. Since they have 2500 students and their chapel is too small to hold that many, the service is held outside. Students brought the benches from the chapel out, the others sat on the grass or the hillside. 2 students brought chairs for Marie and me. It was beautiful sitting out in the sunshine, about 72, until suddenly I realized that the hot tropic sun was probably burning me. Oh, well! Too late to think of that!

Martin spoke about false Sanguma beliefs. Sanguma is accusing someone falsely of witchcraft and where women, men, and even children are falsely accused of possessing spiritual powers and are then tortured and often killed. It has become more widely spread in the last 7 years or so in PNG.

We then drove to the nearby Lutheran middle school which has 700 students in grades 5 - 8. We went into a seventh grade classroom - they have few books, use picnic tables as desks, much below the U.S. standards. The students in both schools wore uniforms. It costs about \$200 in U.S. dollars to pay for a year of schooling, an amount which many Enga people cannot afford. Many live on subsistence gardening, have no outside income.

I often see adults walking down the street carrying a shovel - they are going to work in their gardens. Dogs run loose. We've seen chickens and pigs wandering about.

It's now 8:45 p.m.

We spent the afternoon relaxing. I worked on counted cross stitch.

We walked up the hill to Martin and Marie's home for supper. They had an electric bill, trying to figure out how much it cost and who owed for how much - the bill is for the 2 houses, they think.

Marianne and Ron host 6 seminarians every other Wed. for a Bible study. They serve popcorn and lemonade. The men shared a bit about their lives. One has a wife and 2 children, another has a wife and 1 child, one had 3 sons murdered in tribal fighting, one is single. One finished grade 2, another grade 8, another never went to school. Yet they all can read and are learning on the sem level. They are impressive!

Well, the electricity went out again, so guess we will be heading to bed. No stars out tonight, guess the clouds are too thick.

We fly back to Port Moresby tomorrow afternoon. Please continue to pray for our safety and health - my blood pressure has been running very high the last couple of days.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



Banana trees in garden



New style of individual cemetery plot - until a few years ago they wrapped the body in a sheet and put them in the ground.



Immanuel Lutheran Hospital



Woman with child at the hospital. She has a large yellow bag on her back, the handle is on top of her head. Mothers carry babies in a bag hung from the top of their head. The bag can hang in front or behind her. The babies can be carried that way up to about age 2.



Surgical ward at hospital. Patients bring their own bedding, family sleeps on floor next to them.



A typical PNG home



View from Julie's house. Steve's grandfather walked down the mountain, into the valley, across the river, across the valley and up the mountain in the distance, 25 miles in 1948.



Woman working on clearing her garden to replant



Steve and Lynne with valley behind them

Thurs Aug 22

Greetings from Laguna Hotel, Port Moresby!

This morning we again went to chapel, still only understand a few words of Pidgin.

It was a relaxed morning, except for my blood pressure which was 175/65! After a call to Marianne and Ron's daughter (a physician's assistant in the U.S.), and being told that the bp wasn't high enough to worry, and that the altitude might be a factor in the high reading, I agreed to not eat salt or drink caffeine.

I worked on cross stitch. Marie and Marty stopped in to say goodbye. Ron left his class for a few minutes to come to say goodbye. After lunch, Marianne drove us to the airport. We were very thankful to have such wonderful, caring missionaries to take care of us in PNG.

She was very kind to stay with us until the plane took off. It's a local, rural airport, no security at all, check-in, give bag to check, sit and wait for the plane with everyone else and their families who were going on the plane. There are only planes on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, probably one on each of those days.

The plane came in, let the passengers off, a few minutes later we could go out and walk up the 4 steps into the plane, the one propeller never stopped spinning. Not all of the seats were filled, but Steve and I were assigned to the window seats on row 1, not next to each other but across the aisle! The steward allowed us to sit together.

We had an uneventful flight, above the clouds for much of the way, far above the rugged mountains. We were served a glass of water, 2 containers of 100 ml of apple juice, and 4 small cookies. We landed at the furthest gate from the building, had to walk probably more than 200 yards to the baggage claim. Eventually our baggage arrived - I think ours was the only suitcase, there were also dufflebags and cloth bags.

We finally figured out how to leave that room (no signs), went down another outside corridor until we found "Domestic flights exit". We had asked for the hotel to pick us up at 4 before we left last Saturday. However, the hotel shuttle never came. After over an hour of standing, waiting, another hotel employee arranged for her shuttle to drop us off at our hotel.

We checked in, they didn't have enough room entry keys for us to have one. Housekeeping met us and opened the door for us. About 15 minutes later our key was delivered. I took my blood pressure and it was 129/65, so guess the altitude had affected it.

We went to the hotel dining room for supper. We shared an order of bruschetta and an order of Penang Char Koay Teow (flat rice noodles combined with local prawns and Chinese sausage). All was good and filling.

Photos are still not coming from my phone (camera) to the laptop. I'll keep trying to send them.

In the morning we fly to Cairns, Australia. Please pray for safe travel and continued good health.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



Pausa Lutheran High School



Chapel at Pausa Lutheran High School



Carvd pulpit in Pausa chapel



Rugged mountains by Pausa high school



7th grade classroom in Lutheran middle school



valley by middle school



river we crossed to go to Pausa schools



Papua New Guinea scene



3 pigs along the road



Another scene



Gardens



PGN house



Avocados growing in tall tree in front of missionary house



amaryllis in back yard

Fri Aug 23

Greetings from the Blue Lagoon Resort in Cairns Australia!

Actually we are about 23 minutes north of the Cairns airport in Trinity Beach.

This morning we awoke at 6 a.m., dressed, packed, waited for the airport shuttle to take us to the airport in Port Moresby PNG. They wanted us at the airport at 6 a.m., Steve had convinced them we could come at 7, and we still sat for 2 hours! We were second in line to check-in. There was one woman ahead of us as she finished going through security. Then we had to wait in a longer line to have our passports and tickets checked - there was only one person doing that, so it took an extra few minutes. So we sat for a long time until we could board our plane.

It was very cloudy and overcast in Moresby. Once we were above the clouds it was very sunny. We had a smooth flight, landed a couple of minutes early. We went through customs without a problem.

Then we tried to find the rental car we had ordered, but the phone number didn't work, and there was no desk for that company. We finally got in a line and rented from Budget rental car - those lines were very slow. We have a grey Hyundai.

We followed directions on our GPS on my phone, it's so easy that way! The only challenges are remembering which lane to be in (they drive on the left side of the road) and that the turn signal arm is on the opposite side of the steering wheel - he often hit the windshield wipers instead.

We arrived at the Blue Lagoon Resort and checked in. We have a fourth floor room overlooking a pool and the lagoon - there are many ducks in the lagoon, but we're not allowed to swim there. I'm sitting on the balcony overlooking the view. It's about 75, sunny, and pleasant. This resort reminds me of Wyndham Resorts we have stayed at. Our room has a kitchen area in the studio apartment, a washer and dryer in the bathroom.

We walked over to the bar and grill to split an order of fish and chips for lunch. We sat on the terrace to eat.

Tonight we're going to the Tjapukai aborig for dinner and a show about the Australian aborigines. We had gone to one in Hawaii and one in New Zealand to learn of those cultures. Tomorrow we take a boat out to the Great Barrier Reef.

I was informed that some of photos are upside down or sideways - they are right side up when I send them! Guess something is going wrong with the transmission.

Some more thoughts on PNG. The Enga people were very friendly, always wanted to shake our hands. There is much trash along the roads - cans, etc., are thrown in the ditch, in the rivers, on top of the roofs, very little recycling.

Will write more tomorrow.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve

Sat 8/23-24

Hi! Fri. evening

We went to the mall to get hearing aid batteries for Steve and to get some groceries (cereal, crackers, cookies). Then we drove to Tjapukai which is "Where Australia Begins". We had the wrong time for it, so drove back, driving to Trinity Beach. I put my fingers in the South Pacific Ocean. We came back to our resort and relaxed.

At 6:15 we again headed to Tjapukai for the indigenous cultural experience called "Night Fire". First we received drinks (wine or soft drinks) and canapés, followed by a "sumptuous buffet dinner" - we tried crocodile and kangaroo (both were okay), plus there was chicken, pork, whole shrimp, fish, plus fruit and vegetables and desserts. Our table was next to the stage.

Next there was a didgeridoo welcome - a didgeridoo is a long (5') hollowed out tree trunk 3 - 5" in diameter. The man made all kinds of sounds with it, using his clicking tongue, voice box, singing into it - he said he used circular breathing, in through the nose and out through the mouth (into the didgeridoo) - he went on for 5 -10 minutes without stopping! It was amazing! Next we went outside where, after much work, the men managed to set something on fire by rubbing one stick in the hole of another stick (think Boy Scouts). They threw the fire into the woods where it ignited a fireball. Before this ceremony, we all had our face painted - red and yellow for the dry season and black and white for the wet season.

We walked to a theater where the actors put on a dance show of aboriginal dances. It was an interesting, expensive night. There were so many stars in the sky!

Sat. evening

Greetings from tired people!

We got up early and drove to Cairns to the wharf. After finally getting the parking ticket to put in the car window (one machine was broken, a woman ahead of Steve took forever), we rushed to the wharf to find the ticket counter.

The Reef Magic cruise didn't leave at 8 a.m. but at 9 a.m., so we managed to get aboard with time to spare. We each had to sign our name to a paper before we could board. We sat in the front right side - it was bumpy! Lots of spray hit our window. During the cruise we received instruction about snorkeling and also learned about the reef. After a 90 minute cruise on a catamaran, we arrived at the Marine World reef location on the Great Barrier Reef.

We looked around, then took a glass bottom boat ride over this section of the reef. I took the same ride a second time, but sat in the middle instead of the back. One wrasse swam under the boat almost the entire time we were cruising! Guess it thought it was a good hiding place! We saw many different corals and different fish and a sea turtle.

Meanwhile Steve had started eating the buffet lunch which they provided. I joined him and also ate - salads, fruit, lasagna, beef, curry chicken. After lunch Steve decided to snorkel. They provide everything you need: wet suit, snorkel, life jacket, flippers. While he was putting on his flippers it was time for the fish feeding. The man stood right by Steve's feet as he threw fish to the fish. The live fish were really fast in inhaling the fish. One large 150lb.+ wrasse came up on the platform for his share of the fish - he usually arrives 10 minutes early for the daily feeding - they named him Wally. It was fun to watch. Steve swam and snorkeled until he got tired.

He joined me on a semi-submersible, we saw 3 green turtles, many fish, many corals on the edge of this reef. We had a total of 5 hours at this reef. We did not take the

helicopter flight - I didn't think we'd be able to see much on the reef from the air. They also provided morning and afternoon "tea". We had to again sign the paper we had signed before we got on the boat - that way they didn't leave anyone behind. They also did a head count before they left the wharf and before they left the reef.

It was a fun, exhausting day. We both got sunburned. I wore my hat, but still got some sunburn. We stopped to eat on the way back to the resort - we were going to go to a local fast food restaurant, but there was no one in the parking lot, so we settled for McDonalds - we have never eaten at a McDonalds in a foreign land (and rarely eat there in the U.S.). I'm doing a load of wash since we have a washer and dryer.

Back to reflections on Papua New Guinea: One of the forbidden items on a plane there is chewing betel nuts. The Enga people always said "Good Morning/Day" and were always so friendly and polite. People remember Steve's grandfather and his work with the Enga people - to them history is important. In Port Moresby the Jersey walls were painted with native designs.

Hope you are all well.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



an interesting tree outside the Laguna Hotel, Port Moresby



South Pacific Ocean looking south



South Pacific Ocean looking north at Trinity Beach



Painting of The Wet Side (Gurrabana) at Tj including animal totems of a cassowary, white cockatoo, water snake, bush turkey and rainbow, lightning, rain, cloud.



a native playing a didgeridoo



Steve and Lynne with face paint representing the Dry Side of Australia



fireball at Tjapukai



Steve getting ready to snorkel



wrasse "Wally" came up on platform during fish feeding



fish seen from semi-submersible



I think that is brain coral at top



more fish at reef



staghorn coral



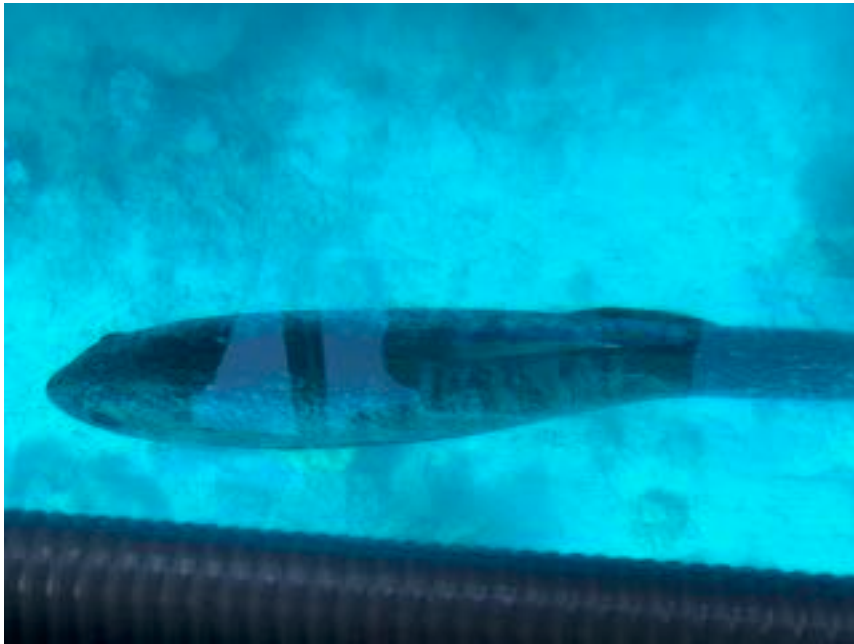
more coral on Great Barrier Reef



fish at the Great Barrier Reef



spaghetti coral



fish that swam under the glass bottom boat

8/25

Hello!

Happy Birthday to my sister Debbie!

This morning we relaxed, I cross stitched, until time to go to church. We had some surprising (to me) visitors as we walked over to our car, parked across the street. Two kangaroos were next to our building! I had seen a large pasture with kangaroos and wallabies a couple of miles from here. But I wasn't expecting to be met by them at my door!

We went to Trinity Lutheran Church for service. The pastor was in Papua New Guinea visiting his father. A professor from the Peace Lutheran Seminary (located on the church property) preached and led service. They used 2 screens for the words of the liturgy and of the songs. Music was a guitar and a keyboard. Afterwards they had refreshments.

Steve wanted to see where route 1 went - on the map it was very crooked so he figured it went up a mountain. He was right - we drove up the mountain, through Kuranda National Park to the Kuranda Rainforest, and yes it rained! Along the way we saw signs of the "Overtaking Lanes Ahead" (passing zones) and "Give Way" (yield). We turned around and went back down the mountain and to our resort where we changed clothes.

We drove further north along the coast, the waves were less than 15' away from the road in places. We went to Hartley's Crocodile Adventures. We had lunch there - I had a meat pastie and he had a crocodile pie, both were good. Then we started walking the many paths. First we saw 4 koalas and 2 babies. One mother and baby were awake and moving around - koalas usually sleep most of the day when they aren't feeding. We continued on to Cassowary Garden where we saw one cassowary hiding in a far corner. The female cassowary lays the eggs and then leaves, the male sits on the nest for the 50 days it takes to hatch, he doesn't eat in that time but uses his body fat to survive, then he raises the chicks!

We went into the Predatory Bird Avery where we found all of the birds except for 2 owls. The blue winged kookaburra posed for me several times. We headed past the tamarins, looked at the Gallery of Living Art (reptiles and amphibians). We then took the Wilderness Walk, passing the Komodo Dragon, several salt water crocodiles, American alligators, the turtle pond (no turtles but storks and a black swan), into the tropical walk through aviary.

We went to the crocodile attack show where an experienced keeper demonstrated the notorious death roll and head shake of the crocodile. Then we went to the Gondwana Gateway where we saw kangaroos and wallabies being fed. We climbed the hill to see the wombats (I thought they were small but it was really large), the quolls (I had never heard of them), the emus, snakes, monitors. We went back down to the kangaroo/wallaby area. I petted a kangaroo - it's fur was soft.

We went back to the crocodiles to take a photo of Steve with a crocodile. The fresh water crocodiles were lying on a bank in the sun. They had finished feeding the koalas when we got back there, but the keeper was still talking. The 8 month old baby was

crawling all over the tree, down to the ground, back up. The keeper put the other mother and 10 month old baby away. Then she carried another koala around so we could pet her - she also had soft fur. i hadn't been thrilled that we were going there (crocs aren't my thing) but I'm glad we went because I enjoyed petting the kangaroo and the koala, and I learned a lot.

We drove 2 km further north to Rex's Lookout where we could see the beach and the Pacific Ocean and some mountains. We drove back - 100km/hr in places, but mostly 60 km because of so many curves. We went back to Trinity Beach along the beach. We found an Italian restaurant where we split an order of crab and zucchini fritters and an order of risotto al mare (scallops, prawns, calamari, barramundi, mussels, and squid). All was good. Back at our resort we walked along the lagoon until we found a dark spot where we could look at the stars. Unfortunately our star app is for the Northern Hemisphere, so it didn't name the constellations but we could see Jupiter and Saturn.

Tomorrow we fly to Adelaide.

Have a good week!

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



cassowary - he hatches chicks and raises them



baby koala is 8 months old



doesn't it look soft?



Lynne petting koala



looking south from Rex's Lookout



Steve and Lynne

at Hartley's Crocodile Adventure



salt water crocodile Haggart



Haggart doing a death roll



wombat - size of a husky



quoll



Lynne petting a kangaroo



wallabies



fresh water crocodiles sunning



Look who surprised us as we went to our car this morning!



View from Kuranda Mountain towards Pacific Ocean

Hartley's Crocodile Adventure



Aren't they cute? Baby is 10 months old



Blue winged kookaburra



black swan



glossy ibis

8/26

Greetings from Majestic Roof Garden Hotel in Adelaide!

This morning we packed up and drove to the airport. We finally found where to drop off the car. Then we finally found our ticket counter - there was another competing airline leaving at the same time as we left!

We waited a while until it was time for our plane. We split a egg and bacon sandwich for lunch, then stood in line for a long time until we could get on the plane. We were in Row 6 - there were 4 rows for first class. They gave us a snack of black jack aged cheddar, crackers, and fruit & nut mix plus juice/coffee/tea. The flight to Brisbane from Cairns was fine.

We then deplaned, waited about a half hour, and got on the flight to Adelaide. This time we were in the same row, but we were each in the middle seat on opposite sides of the plane! This snack was a small bag of some sort of munchie which I haven't seen in the states and the same liquids - not a very impressive snack! This flight was an hour longer.

We landed in Adelaide as the sun set at 6 p.m. I waited for the luggage, Steve checked on tomorrow's flight and found the shuttle. We waited for the shuttle, for \$10 Australian money (maybe \$7 U.S.), the shuttle will take you to your hotel or the city. We dropped a couple off at their hotel, then came here. There was one man who was yet to be dropped off.

We checked in, found our room set at 18 degrees centigrade. (It was about 70 degrees this morning in Cairns.) It was 12 degrees when we landed here, I'm figuring $9/5 \times 12 + 32 =$ about 54 degrees Fahrenheit. So it's colder here and supposed to be even colder when we get to Cooper Pedy tomorrow.

We walked around the corner to Betty's Burgers & Concrete Co. for supper. I had a regular burger, Steve had a pork belly sandwich. Concrete is self serve ice cream with stuff added to it.

I'm not looking forward to tomorrow. Cooper Pedy is an opal mining town in the desert - it is completely underground. (I guess the airport is above ground.) I am claustrophobic, and being underground and sleeping underground doesn't appeal to me. Please pray for me. We will only be there one night., then come back to this hotel for 2 more nights.

Someone asked about the Hartley's Crocodile Adventures - it was somewhat like a zoo, but with very limited animals. Most of the enclosures were larger than I usually see at a zoo. They also are raising crocodiles there since the croc population had gotten very small.

Hope your day is good.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



Enga Highlands in Papua New Guinea



Blue Lagoon from our balcony in Cairns



our room at Blue Lagoon Resort



Interesting trees - the leaves appear silver - in Cairns



Coral reefs near Cairns

8/27

Greetings from the Underground Motel in Cooper Pedy, South Australia!

We had to be ready for the shuttle to the airport before 7 a.m. and he was early! We arrived at the airport in 15 minutes, so had lots of time to get coffee for Steve and eat some of the granola I brought. Our plane, a SAAB 340, left at 9:05 a.m., with 33 seats, 11 rows of 3, one seat on the left, 2 on the right. We flew to Port Augusta, dropped one passenger off, took on 4 more.

We then flew to Cooper Pedy where the 21 or so passengers disembarked. While Steve was trying to call the hotel to get a ride there, a lady offered her bus to take us, the woman she was to pick up wasn't there. So we had a free ride to the motel, with recommendations of where to go.

I had a complete misunderstanding of an "underground town". I thought we would be in something like a huge cave with everything (motels, restaurants, shops, etc.,) inside. I didn't bring my hat because I figured I'd be inside the entire time. I was totally wrong. Some of the buildings are built into the hills, but most are freestanding.

It was too early to check-in but our hostess stored our bags and loaned me a hat. We walked down the hill and into "town" which is basically one long road, about 3000 steps long. (It was 3000 steps back from the Outback Bar and Grill where we had supper. I walked 13,000 steps today, almost 6 miles!)

We saw “Waffles and Opals” and stopped there for lunch. We each had a Belgian waffle with ice cream and berries (strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries) on it - delicious! A man there told us about opals - solid, doublets (a thin piece of opal glued to a black backing), and triplets (a doublet with a clear crystal dome protecting it).

We then took the side street and back to a main road, around the corner to the Old Timers Mine and Museum. We took a self guided tour of the mine - fortunately they require you to wear a hard hat - I hit the hard hat numerous times on the low ceiling. The floor was uneven, very rough with ups and downs. There were some interesting displays in the mine, with about 41 different sections. Eventually we arrived back at the beginning. We sat under an awning and relaxed for a while, also picked through a large box of stones, looking for raw opal - didn't find anything worthwhile.

We then walked up the hill, through a residential area, saw a “spaceship” house (shaped like a flying saucer). We eventually ended up at the other end of town. We went in the Visitor Center, then walked to Opalios to look at opals. Steve bought me a cross with an opal on it. I also bought a souvenir spoon with opal slices on it.

We walked back to the Outback Bar and Grill and sat in a booth for a half hour to rest before we ordered our supper: a kangaroo yipes (gyro) for him, a lamb yipes for me. After we ate, we started walking the 3000 steps back to our hotel. We stopped at the Catholic Church to see it - it was the first underground church here. Coober Pedy is in the desert, very hot in the summer, very cold in the night. It was about 65 degrees today, so our jackets and hats hopefully kept the hot sun off us. We also carried water.

Our room is totally underground, up several steps from the front door, up 3 steps from the hall, a small step down at the bottom of our bed to the rest of the room. I should be okay sleeping here, knowing that I can get outside if I need to go there, I'm not miles underground like I feared. It's about 68 degrees in our room. No photos came from our phones to the laptop, so will send them another time.

Have a good day!

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve

Thank you for your prayers!



crossing the Australian desert



lunch at "Waffles and Opals"



Minnie Berrington, the first woman miner - in Old Timers Mine



Miner sleeping in his bedroom underground



other side of bedroom - he had a window to the outside



bathrooms were included in underground houses



Underground Motel



entrance to our room from the hall



our room in the Underground Motel



Underground St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church



interior of St. Peter and Paul



old fire engine in Coober Pedy



our motel is on this hill



sunset in Coober Pedy

8/28

Greetings from the Majestic Roof Garden Hotel!

This morning we had the motel "breakfast" if you call cornflakes, a flaky bar which tasted and looked like sawdust, toast, a continental breakfast - I was unimpressed! No juice either. Oh, well!

We packed, left our bags with the staff, and walked a couple of blocks to the Catacomb Church which is also underground, developed from an old dugout. It is cut out of sandstone in the shape of a cross. It's an Anglican church.

The homes/motels, etc. are cut into the sandstone which is very strong - the ceilings can be very wide because of the strong sandstone.

We went back to the motel, agreed that the husband would pick us up at John and Yoki's Opals. It was further to walk than I thought, but we made it. We went in to see the fossilized fish. The man works the mine, his wife sells the opals. He found the largest opal, called the rainbow opal - it's about 3" long - I heard he sold it for \$1.1 million!

We were picked up and driven to the airport, arriving just in time to check-in 20 min. before the flight. We were one row forward from yesterday's flight. Even though it was an 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. flight, we still only got a chocolate biscuit (cookie) and a bag of chips as snacks.

When we arrived in Adelaide, we had to take a shuttle bus from the plane to the terminal. It was sunny in Coober Pedy, overcast in Adelaide, started to rain as we got to the terminal. I had planned to go to the Botanic Garden, but with the rain and cold, I changed my mind (my umbrella was still at this hotel since we left the larger suitcase here).

Our small suitcase was there almost immediately. We picked up our rental car - it's a blue Toyota - we usually end up with white or gray cars.

I suggested that, since the weather wasn't pleasant that we go to IKEA for lunch, since we've heard that they have good food. The IKEA is across the street from the airport. I had never been in an IKEA before. After lunch there (even though the sun was making it through the clouds), we wandered through IKEA to see what they offered.

Then we went to the hotel and relaxed. I did some cross stitch and also rested. We are on the sixth floor of the hotel this time, 5 flights up from the room we had before, and straight above it.

We took a walk to find a place to eat - saw Thai, 2 Vietnamese, Indian, German, several other restaurants, but stopped at Sicily. We had breaded eggplant with ricotta and pesto, and a stromboli (a rolled pizza with garlic), and a cannoli with pistachio ricotta. All was delicious. Our waitress just came from Italy (near Venice) 2 months ago to learn English better.

It was close to 70 F. in Coober Pedy, about 55 here. We walked over 4 miles today.

Sleep well!

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



You can see the sandstone which was dug out to make a shelf above our bed



View from Underground Motel



desert garden at the motel



Catacomb Church



front of Anglican underground Catacombs church. The altar was a winch.



I liked their banner.



opalized fish fossil



view of desert near Coober Pedy as we took off



our room at Majestic Roof Garden Hotel in Adelaide. The window opens into the bathroom so you can see the person in the tub or shower - you can slide the opaque doors over the opening.

8/29

Hello!

It's almost 3 p.m. and we're back in our hotel room.

This morning I ate granola I brought in our room (breakfast is \$20 here, we don't usually have a big breakfast). We dressed and left.

We took our car - Steve had suggested walking since "it's just down the street" - but it was a couple of miles down the street to the Adelaide Zoo. It's a very nice zoo, with many walking trails, large enclosures for most of the animals. On the old Elephant House there were photos and information about how zoos changed over time. I remember going to the Brookfield (Illinois) Zoo in 1968 and deciding to not go to another zoo because the cages were so small and barren.

Over the years the thinking changed to more natural environment, native plants, different animals in the same enclosure (ones which would be together in the wild), This zoo has done that, especially putting birds together, and made the enclosures more animal friendly.

We saw so many different animals: pygmy hippo, kangaroos, wallabies, giraffe, meerkats, American alligators, baboons, Brazilian tapirs, emu, cassowary, birds, maned wolf, red panda, tamarins, wombat, more. The signs were well written, except didn't

have the size of the animal (did have a picture) - so you didn't know what size bird to look for.

We chatted with one zoo volunteer. She was spending 2 hours watching Arturo, a Brazilian tapir which had recently been added to the zoo. She was to notice if he ate a certain plant growing in his enclosure (which would be removed if he did because it was poisonous), what his behaviors were, what he did. He is observed for 8 hours a day, other volunteers took other hours. He was asleep at first (after exploring actively earlier), then got up and started eating.

In the walkthrough rainforest and wetlands aviary a different volunteer was with a Superb Lyre Bird. She got it to talk, it makes a huge variety of sounds. It also spread its tail so it looked like a lyre. In the same aviary we saw a short-beaked echidna which is an Australian monotreme, an egg-laying mammal. She carries the baby in a pouch until it gets too big, then puts it in a deep hole for safety while she feeds.

We took a break to eat at the Wisteria Restaurant, we shared a bowl of soup of the day (maybe a thin pea soup, with tiny pieces of ham in it) and garlic bread.

We'd been there for more than 4 hours, our parking ticket was up, and we were tired of walking, so came back here. Steve just went down to the restaurant for their free coffee from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Hello!

It's now almost 9 p.m. We relaxed this afternoon, Steve worked on writing the book he's writing. I cross stitched, sent photos from the cell phones to the laptop, played Solitaire on the laptop.

We went downstairs to the fancy hotel restaurant for dinner. Since we can't eat as much as we could when we were younger, we again split our meal. We had a warm pumpkin and chickpea salad with robberies, pearl barley, orange pieces, curry. For our entree with had Australian beef filet with mashed potato and zucchini flowers stuffed with ricotta cheese. Glad we ordered the beef medium done - it was very red on the inside. All was delicious.

I've repacked the large suitcase, trying to fit clothes for the next 5 days in the little one. We fly to Sydney tomorrow. Australia is almost as large as the continental U.S., so flying from place to place is almost required.

It takes 8 hours to drive from Coober Pedy to Ayres Rock. Steve had found flights to Ayres Rock, but there were no hotel rooms available for an 8 hour drive, so we will not go there. In October they will forbid anyone from climbing the rock, so many people are trying to get there before Oct.

Please continue to pray for safe travel for us. We really appreciate your prayers. It makes us happy that so many are praying for us, and God is answering your prayers.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



yellow-footed wallaby



black wallaby



meerkats



Pantigonian cavy



pretty desert flowers



hyacinth macaw, blue-yellow macaw. I'm not sure if the hyacinth was feeding the blue-yellow or why it was chewing on the smaller bird's beak



capybara, the largest rodent in the world



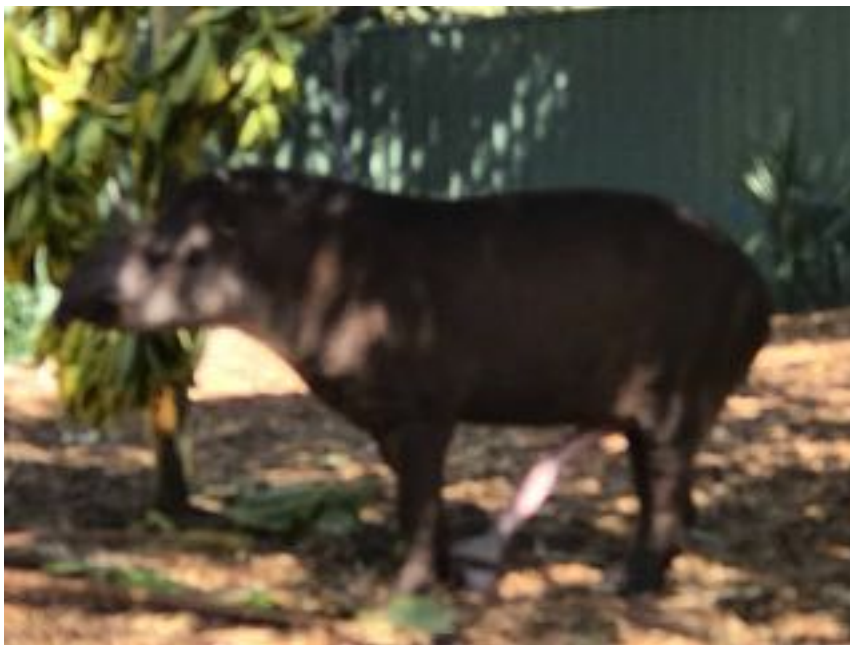
chattering lory



panda



red panda



Arturo, Brazilian tapir



superb lyre bird



potbellied seahorses



short-beaked echidna, an Australian egg-laying mammal (monotreme)



Australian birds



maned wolf - its legs were so long!



interesting flowers

8/30 Hi!

Sydney Australia is NOT a friendly place to me!

We checked out of our hotel in Adelaide, drove to the airport, returned our rental car. We had to do the check-in at a kiosk and put our bags on the conveyor belt, no humans doing anything (though there was one woman who offered to help us). We walked to our gate and waited until it was time to board. We walked down the steps to the tarmac, up the stairs into the plane.

Our seats were both window seats across the aisle from each other, but another couple, who had the middle seats on each side asked to change with us, so we could sit together. We got something like a sweet granola bar and juice/coffee as our snack. The flight was uneventful.

When we arrived in Sydney, we were told we had to all deplane out the front because it was raining. I found our luggage. The information desk called our car company. We were told to walk to Bay 5. It was pouring, glad I had my umbrella in my suitcase. We finally asked where Bay 5 was - the numbers were on the curb, not on signs. Then we didn't see the right shuttle - it didn't have the car company's name on it, so missed the first one. It was about 55 F and cold! Finally another one came and took us to the rental place.

We have a large top of the line Holden - Aussie GM car, free upgrade they were out of compacts. I couldn't get the seat to move - my knees were against the dashboard. That got fixed. I found all kinds of small scratches, but the man wouldn't let me write them on the paper.

Thank God for Siri! We followed the directions to the Holiday Lodge Hotel, couldn't find a place to park. Very dense narrow streets. Steve drove around while I waited for someone to let me in the hotel. He hit a curb and the front tire is flat. We've been waiting about 2 hours for the guy to come and fix it.

Meanwhile, I am in our room which is not at all what I expected. It's an old (built before 1907) hotel, the carpeting on the steps is worn, we have to walk up to the second floor, the paint is peeling, the corners aren't clean. We're on a main traffic-noisy street.

I walked about 3 blocks up the street and found "Coffee, Tea, and Me", bought a ham sandwich (it was after 4 p.m. by then and we hadn't had any lunch). I brought it back to share with Steve, then went back up the street to a grocery store I had passed. I bought granola for breakfast. It's now 5:30 and I guess Steve is still standing outside in the cold, waiting for the guy to arrive to fix the tire.

Sorry, I'm in a bad mood. I'd rather be on a plane to the U.S. now. This, too, will pass, and I'll be in a better mood tomorrow. God has taken care of us, so I have no reason to complain.

Hello, again!

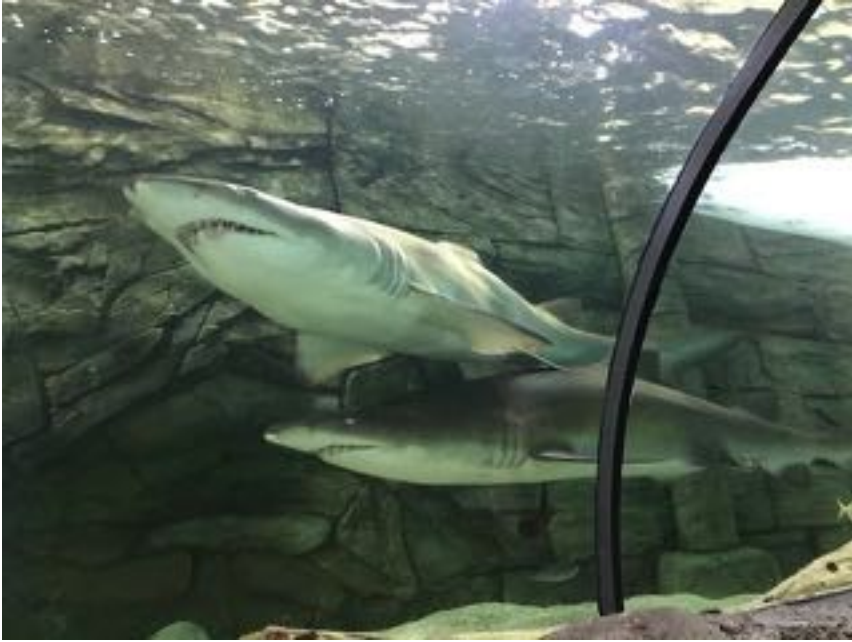
It's now 8:30 p.m. The guy finally arrived after 2.5 hours and changed the tire, moved the donut to the back (front wheel drive, front wheel was flat). We drove around, looking for a parking space on the street (no room here to park). Finally found one - it's over 3000 steps from here (over a mile). We wandered up the street and around, looking for a place to eat, wandered far enough to find the street where the hotel is, found a pizza place and had garlic prawn pizza - ok, but not great!

We didn't pay for wifi here, so don't know when I'll get to send this.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve

In the Sealife Aquarium Sydney





nurse sharks





shark



can you see the black fish with the white tail? they were only in this section



Pig, the dugong



king penguins



gentoo penguins



night on the Reef



large jellyfish

8/31

Greetings from Travelodge Hotel in Sydney!

A much better day! (No photos yesterday)

We decided last night that we would leave that hotel and get a different one. We would also return the car. We slept late (8:20!), packed, walked to the car - it was just over 2 blocks away on the next street! I sat in the car in a no parking zone while Steve brought our bags down.

I was a nervous wreck riding in that car - it was just too big and he has a habit of getting too close on the left side (he's in the driver's seat on the right side). I was so glad to return the car! We had to pay for a new tire. While waiting for the paperwork to be finished, I noticed that the hotel we had chosen was right across the street from the car rental place! I said I did not want to rent another car. We walked across the street (in the rain) and checked in.

After we rested a bit, we walked a few blocks to the train station. We took the train to Town Hall - it's a nice smooth, mostly underground ride, more like a clean subway. You could either sit on the top or the bottom, lots of seats.

We walked toward the harbor. We found a "Brooklyn Bridge Deli" where we split a lamb rub sandwich, very good - there was an old New York license plate nailed to the wall. Then we continued down toward the harbor. We found that we had gone a block too far, walked across the bridge over the highway and two thirds of the way around the Sealife Aquarium. We stood in line for quite a while to buy tickets.

First we walked through the South Coast Shipwreck where they had little penguins (the blue penguins, also called fairy penguins) which we had seen in New Zealand. We continued through Jurassic Seas (creatures which they claim are prehistoric), to Sydney Harbour (local fish), to Dugong Island Boardwalk. They had rescued a dugong, named it "Pig", released it into the wild, found it again, having lost a quarter of its body weight, so brought to the aquarium permanently. You could also go down in the Dugong Island Tunnels to see the fish in that section. Pig eats lettuce for breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack - a container of lettuce came down through the water as we watched, so we could see Pig eat. There were many rays in the other side of Pig's tank, some had tails which were more than twice as long as their bodies.

From there we walked through Shark Valley. 7 divers were in the tank with the fish. There were several nurse sharks, guess they are well fed because they ignored the smaller fish in their tank. It was interesting to go through the tunnels under and in the tanks and see the fish swim over and beside us. From there we waited in line to go on the Penguin Expedition Boat Ride - for 3 minutes you experience a temperature of 6 degrees C - the penguins have cold enclosures! It's really a short boat ride! We then walked through the rest of the penguin exhibit. A little child, maybe a year old was touching the glass where a king penguin was standing on the other side and reaching toward the glass. It was cute. There were also gentoo penguins in the enclosure - some were sitting on rock nests and picking at each other.

In the Tidepools were fish you could touch. We didn't do that. We walked through the Day and Night on the Reef, showing some fish/coral at about 3 hour intervals with lighting getting darker and then lighter. The last wave pool had a rescue green sea turtle in it - she swam so quickly down the edge of the glass and hid on the side so I couldn't get a photo of her.

We sat in the cafe at the end of the aquarium, Steve wanted a coffee and free sweet roll offer, didn't have enough money to pay for it so came to get more coins from me (10 cents). A man came over and said they had paid for it for him and gave him his money back! That was nice. We split the sweet roll and he drank the coffee while we rested. I really enjoyed the aquarium, especially walking through and under the fish tanks. God certainly made some interesting and different looking sea creatures!

We took the escalator up to the Pyrmont Bridge which now is only open to pedestrians and walked across to the Australian National Maritime Museum. It was closing in 12 minutes, so we didn't go in. We could see many ferry boats moving in the harbor. We recrossed the bridge, took another escalator up to cross the highway and headed back to the train station. We took the train back to Mascot, where we got on, then walked back to the hotel. The birds were loudly chattering in the trees as we walked under them, they were roosting for the night since it was dusk at 5:30.

It's 6:45 so will go to eat now. It didn't rain the rest of the day, even saw the sun for a few minutes when it peaked through the overcast clouds.

This hotel is so much nicer than the last one. The dark out curtains even cross, so there's no gap between them! That rarely happens in our hotel rooms! It has wifi so I can communicate with you. Everything looks new and nice looking.

We just came back from supper - we split an order of garlic bread and lamb ragu - all was good.

We are so tired! Hopefully we'll sleep better tonight. My side of the bed was against the wall last night so I had to crawl out to get to the bathroom, disturbing his sleep. When he gets up, it disturbs me.

Have a good Lord's Day!

God bless you,
Lynne and Steve

at the Sealife Aquarium, Sydney

I messed up and sent some of you duplicates of #2 and here is no. 1



little penguins (blue penguins)



blue penguin

9/1

Happy September!

Greetings from 2 exhausted people! I walked over 5 miles yesterday and over another 5 miles today and my legs are not happy! I'm sitting on the bed with my legs extended to let them rest.

We took the train to Town Hall. Next to the Town Hall (city hall) is St. Andrew's Anglican Cathedral. The internet said service was at 10:30 but it had already started when we arrived at 10:15. The usher who seated us said it was a special service so started early. They were celebrating the laying of the foundation stone of the cathedral 200 years ago in 1819. Several dignitaries were there, including Her Excellency the Governor of New South Wales (the state we are in), a man representing the female Premier of NSW, the Lord Mayor of Sydney, the State Leader of the Opposition, the Consul-General of New Zealand. Except for the Consul-General, all the elected officials were women!

Two young adults were baptized, giving excellent testimonies first. The choir (mostly men and boys) sang, there were trumpet and trombones and tympani and pipe organ, glorious music! The Archbishop preached a great Christian sermon.

After the service there were refreshments on St. Andrew's Place (courtyard) - sandwiches, quiches, cheese squares, tiny cakes - for the people who attended - there were probably over 1500 in attendance, few empty seats. So we came the right day to get a free lunch!

Then we walked down the street towards the harbor, up the ramp to the bridge over the highway, down the many steps to the Darling Harbor. This time we walked around the end of the harbor to the National Maritime Museum. We walked along the water, stopped to look at the different ships docked there, including the Endeavor (1770), the James Craig (1870), and a navy destroyer (1970). There was to be a wedding reception on the dock of the Endeavor so we couldn't board it.

I was feeling woozy, so sat down to rest while Steve read about the ships. He found we could board the James Craig, so he had me come aboard also. It's a barque, the Endeavor a coal barge - almost square bow, but it has an iron hull. Originally named Clan Macleod, the James Craig was a working boat for about 50 years, including sailing around the world 12 times. In the 1930s she was abandoned in Tasmania for 40 years. She was repaired, then brought to Sydney. She was refitted to carry passengers, goes out about every 2 weeks on daylong cruises (or can be rented for overnight - the Boy Scouts sleep aboard). She is a square-rigged vessel. It was interesting to see the old galley and the kitchen for today's passengers, plus the cabins the crew slept in.

We then went in the Maritime Museum. Parts of it are free, we looked at those exhibits. There was also an exhibit about Bligh (hero or villain) and a movie of a man's wildlife photos but we didn't pay to go to either of those. I did a lot of sitting while Steve looked at the exhibits. My legs were tired, but the rest of me felt better.

We went into the shopping mall next door to get ice cream cones, we sat on a bench overlooking the harbor as we ate. We walked further along the harbor toward the train station, sitting down again near the convention center. There were a couple of conventions there, I guess, someone was taking photos of a group from Thailand maybe, another group looked Chinese. The groups were giving cheers so it was quite noisy.

We walked back to the station, took the train back to Mascot (section of Sydney where we are staying). We walked around the station area, decided to try a Thai restaurant for supper. We asked what was not a spicy dish (I don't like spicy food), so had fried rice with beef, it was good. Then we walked back to the hotel.

It was supposed to be in the lower 60's F today according to a forecast I saw a couple of days ago, but it was closer to 72 and sunny.

Hope you are all well.

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



St. Andrew's Cathedral after the service, reception outside



St. Andrew's Cathedral after the service. There were tv cameras for those who had to sit in the side aisles



along the waterfront of Darling Harbour



the Endeavor, a coal barge, 1770



the James Craig, a square-rigged barque, 1870



In the National Maritime Museum, sculptures made from ghost net (abandoned net in the sea which can trap sea creatures)



RSV Nuyina - a model of Australia's new ice-breaker made of 117,612 LEGO bricks



the back of the Cathedral with Town Hall in the distance (though it is on the same block). Town Hall is the seat of Sydney local government, built between 1869 and 1889 on what was known as the Old Burial Ground where about 2000 people were buried.

9/2

Happy Labor Day in the U.S.!

Well, we labored today, walked 7.6 miles, 13 stories, yesterday it was only 6.0 miles! My legs aren't quite as bad as yesterday, but I found many benches to take short rests. Tomorrow we sit for 36 hours. It will even out.

We took the train to Circular Quay - the Harbor Bridge is on the left side, the Sydney Opera House on the other side. There was a large cruise ship moored on the bridge side. But I guess those people weren't interested in the Opera House.

We headed right to the Opera House, just barely got in on the 10:30 tour. We received headphones and receivers. That place is huge! And it's all up and down staircases (with probably at least 50 steps in each, if not more!). We first went to the middle size theater where we could sit in the seats and listen to our guide. It holds 400+. Next we went to the theater where "West Side Story" is playing until Oct. The piano tuner was tuning the grand piano so our guide couldn't talk with us in there. It holds 1500. Then we saw a 5 minute film about building the opera house. We went into the Concert Hall - they were experimenting with the lights, turning blue ones on, blinding white ones, designs on the floor and ceiling. It holds 2600. We could hear a choir rehearsal going on in a different room.

After the tour, we walked around the outside of the opera house, then headed up the street a couple of blocks. We found a small cafe next to the Museum of Sydney and ate outside there. He had a ham and cheese croissant, I had a cucumber sandwich.

We then went in the Museum of Sydney. They had a special exhibit about the music of Australia. We received headphones and receivers, had our choice of 60 different songs, from long ago indigenous and emigrant songs. As we walked thru, we listened to them, changing them as we had enough of each song. There was an exhibit about how Sydney has changed over the years. There were model ships of the 11 ships which brought the original prisoners to Australia. The museum is built where the first Government House stood, so had some artifacts which were found underground.

We then walked to the Royal Botanical Gardens. We wandered around through much of them. It is the end of winter in Australia, so many of the trees have no leaves, most flowers are not blooming. There were many beds of blooming pansies. There were small beds of different kinds of grass, telling the conditions under which they grow so you could get the right kind of grass seed for your particular yard. Yes, zoysia grass was one of them. There was a Sydney Fernery with large tree ferns and some different types of ferns - a couple of kinds of ferns can take lead and arsenic out of the ground/ water to make it good to use again.

We walked thru the Sydney Hospital Grounds - the buildings looked like they were from the 1900s. We continued walking to St. James. We could see St. Mary's Cathedral and the park there, but we headed down into the train station. We took the train back to Mascot. We ate supper at a Portuguese chicken restaurant. We stopped at the IGA again (as we did last night) to get a snack for later. We then walked back to the hotel.

It is dark here by 6:15 p.m. Many people on the streets and in the train have a suitcase with them. Yesterday was Father's Day in Australia.

Tomorrow we will get up at 4:30 p.m. Eastern time Monday, fly from Sydney to Los Angeles, a 3 hour layover, then fly to Dulles Airport, landing around 6 p.m. Tuesday. After being awake for 28 hours or so, we will stay in a hotel overnight so we don't have to drive home in the dark, and rent a car to drive home on Wed. Please pray for safe travel for us. I'm not looking forward to all those hours of flying!

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



Harbor Bridge, Sydney Opera House at Circular Quay from the train



Sydney Opera House and Harbor Bridge and Steve



Sydney opera House and Steve



a painted box in Museum of Sydney. On the lid is a ground parrot with the Blue Mountains landscape behind. The interior of the box has Australian flowers, white flannel flowers and dusky coral pea surrounding a large central waratach, painted around 1819.



Royal Botanic Garden with pansies in foreground



Harbor Bridge and Sydney Opera House from the Royal Botanic Garden



Another view of the Sydney Opera House from the Royal Botanic Garden



Doryanthea ercelsa, Gynea lily



There were many ibis walking around in the garden. There were also more than a dozen cockatoos in one place.



Cactus garden in the Royal Botanic Garden



Lynne at Sydney Opera House



our favorite granddaughter Joanna, 4, washing our car - sent by our daughter

Long Tuesday 9/3 36 hours

Happy Birthday to our younger daughter Katherine!

About 2 a.m. EDT

We're about 5 hours from Los Angeles, north of the equator, 38000 feet up, traveling 560 mph. The flight hasn't been too bad, had some turbulence but it's ok now.

I slept very poorly last night, only slept about 4 hours. We got up at 6:15 a.m. (4:15 p.m. Monday in Baltimore), dressed, packed, checked out, found the shuttle. It took us to the International Building. We checked in, found that the power bank I had put in the suitcase could not go through security in there, so had to feel through the suitcase to find it. After a while I remembered it was on the bottom of the suitcase, and I found it.

Then things went ok until Steve's passport wasn't acceptable to the machine, so we had to get in a different line and have a person check it - then it was ok. We walked to the assigned gate, then got an e-mail that the gate had changed to the one next to it. Eventually we went to the right gate and got on the plane. He has a window seat, I'm in the middle, 9 passengers across, an American Airlines 787.

We got a small bag of pretzels quickly into the flight, and choice of beverages; juice, soda, coffee, alcoholic. About a half hour later we had a meal: beef stroganoff with

potatoes and veggies and chocolate mousse, same beverages. It was dark by then which puzzles me - we flew out of Sydney at 10 in the morning, to me it shouldn't have been dark already less than 3 hours later, even though we were flying toward the east.

I tried to rest my eyes for a couple of hours, got some snacks. They came through with Angus beef pie and a mango ice cream bar, about an hour ago. I tried to play some games on the screen on the back of the seat in front of me, but they didn't work for me. Steve has been watching a couple of movies. I did do some cross stitch earlier. The tv screen shows that it is now dark in Sydney.

Time to close my tired eyes and rest.

Greetings from L.A.!

6 a.m. Pacific time

As we first saw America, the sun was rising over the San Bernardino Mts. (or some Cal. mountains). It was bright red. Then the haze took over and we couldn't see the sun anymore. It's sunny out now.

On the plane we were fed breakfast (at 10 p.m. according to when we got up this morning): scrambled eggs, bacon, potatoes, yogurt, muffins. We're both so tired, we don't know what's going on!

We went through Border Control, passport check, got our bags, through Security again. Now we're waiting at our gate for 2 hours before we leave. It's 1:17 a.m. according to our bodies which got up in Australia. No wonder we're tired! The drug dog has been through our gate twice in the hour we sat here!

The flight before ours is going Kona, Hawaii - that sounds like a nice destination, but not now! We're tired of sitting in an airplane seat for 13 hours and still have another 5 hour flight to go.

Greetings from Candlewood Suites in Herndon, VA!

7:30 p.m.

We made it this far, we're in America! Our flight was fine, 5 hours from 10 a.m. Pacific Time to 6 p.m. Eastern Time. They only served us 2 small cookies or a small bag of pretzels, though the flight was over the lunch hour. We also could have soda/juice/coffee/tea. There was no turbulence as we flew.

I had a runny nose last night and it didn't help me sleep. I was feeling very congested at the LA airport so bought some Benadryl which helped some. Hopefully I can sleep better tonight.

Steve was to sit 5 rows behind me, but the kind woman who sat beside me said she would trade seats with him, so we got to sit together. I had a window seat and I didn't

give it up to him - he usually has the window seat - but he said he was going to rest most of the way, so I was able to look out the window.

It was interesting looking down at our country - the scenery varied so much! We started out going north along the coast, then crossed the Mojave Desert, the Grand Canyon, Kansas City, Kansas, Indianapolis, Dayton Ohio. I enjoyed seeing how the countryside changed, the deep river gorges, the high mountains, some with trees on them, some bare, the Shenandoah Valley as we descended. God made a beautiful and interesting world.

We will stay overnight so we don't have to drive home after being awake for 30+ hours and we can drive in daylight. It's going on 8 p.m. and it's still light outside! In Australia and Papua New Guinea it was dark by 6 p.m. (closer to the equator).

God bless you.
Lynne and Steve



Sunrise in California from the plane



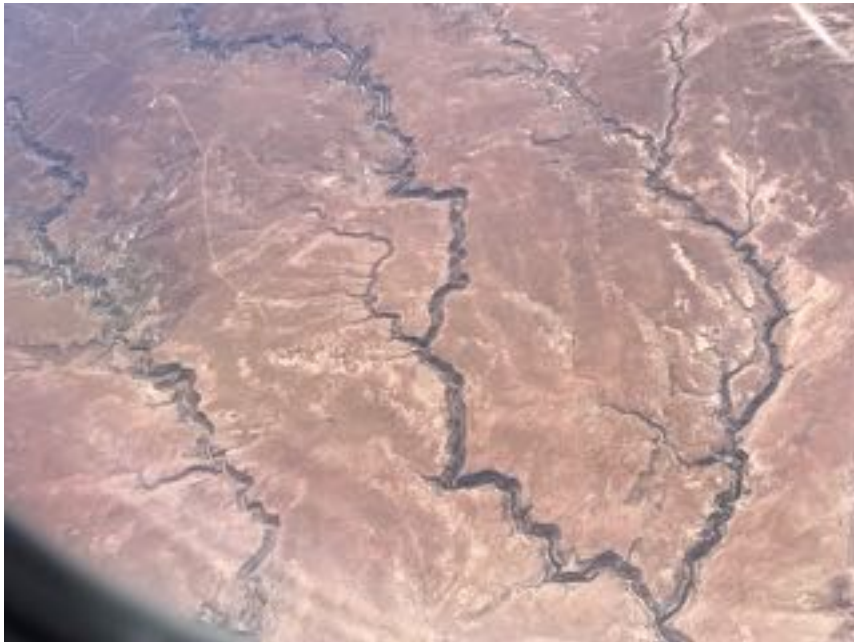
I thought the rugged mountains and the pretty clouds (note black shadow of clouds on ground) was interesting.



So rugged! The dark edges are cliffs.



the contrast between the green mountains and the desert right next to them



the river valleys were easy to spot



in the desert it really makes a difference if you irrigate!



more mountains and green valleys



the sides of the mountains were green, the tops rocks



a different way to irrigate, the corners are so square!



Possibly the Kansas River, with so many oxbows



the clouds almost looked like they were corduroy

HOME 9/4

Hello! We're finally home!!!

I slept very poorly, awoke at 1:30 and didn't get back to sleep. I've been dragging.

We packed up and headed to Brunswick to visit Joanna and her father Greg. Mother Stephanie was at work. Joanna showed me her room and we played for a few minutes.

We then drove to Frederick to the stained glass store for me to buy a tool I wanted. Then we drove home. Some of my potted plants look like they will survive, others don't. Oh, well.

I did a load of wash and hung it outside on the lines. I was just in the garden, finding there are still tomatoes and green peppers growing and one large cucumber. Guess we'll have gazpacho tomorrow for lunch! I've worked on getting rid of some of the recycling (junk mail) and put away some things.

We took the rented car back, then stopped at Aldi's for milk (which they didn't have) - they rearranged the store so now I'll have to search for everything.

It was 91, so much hotter than the 75 degrees and lower that we've been having for the last 3 weeks. But it was sunny!

After walking so much in Sydney, 5.6 miles on Fri., 5.7 miles Sat., 6.6 miles Sun., and 5.5 miles Monday, we're back to taking it easy, only 2.3 miles yesterday, and 1.7 miles today. Guess we need to do more exercising!

We thank you for traveling with us - we did the hard part: walking, spending hours and hours on 13 flights, paying for it all - but I enjoyed "taking you along in our suitcases". We hope you have learned of some new ideas and new places.

Especially we thank you for your prayers which helped us a great deal. God answered the prayers and kept us safe and healthy. We pray for you for peace and safety and good health.

May God bless you richly.
Lynne and Steve



this was on our bed when we went into our hotel room last night,



one last shot of Joanna





can you see Nemo?



