There really is …

No place like home!

We are at the end of an amazing holiday in Bali. As I write this Laura and I are sitting on a plane about to take off and head back to Melbourne, Australia. We’ve had a wonderful time … the weather has been perfect, the Balinese people friendly and kind, we’ve relaxed enormously and absolutely loved the culture, the scenery and experiences Bali has to offer. Interestingly, when Laura and I woke up this morning we looked at each and agreed we were ready and looking forward to going home.

We are sitting on a plane in Bali and leaving a temperature that has consistently been 30°C for almost two weeks and we’re heading to a city, whose temperature when we arrive will be 10°C and … we can’t wait to get there. We’ve been waited on by lovely people just wanting to help. We’ve been served food and drink at the simple wave of a hand or dial of a phone. We’ve left our messy room in the morning and returned in the afternoon to one that was even cleaner and tidier than before we moved into it. Do you know what? We’re looking forward to going home and doing it for ourselves again.

We’ve had people chasing us down the street, fighting for our business and making us feel very important. We’ve had people drive us around and take us wherever we wanted to go. We’ve walked on some of the most amazing beaches on the planet and lazed by some of the best pools I’ve ever seen. We’ve opened our blinds and from our hotel rooms seen views that you would often only see on a postcard … beautiful waterways and amazing rain-forests. As incredible as it’s been … we can’t wait to see our street, walk through our front door and be with our dogs, friends and family again.

There’s something that happens when you’re away from home. As much as you appreciate and enjoy the different experiences, I think it’s a time when we reflect and feel fortunate and grateful for what we have in our lives. I want to encourage you to think about what you have and know how incredibly lucky you are to be living where you’re living and doing what you’re doing. There are people around the world who would love the opportunities in life that we may spend time criticising and complaining about.

As we were being driven to the airport from Ubud this morning, a 90 minute drive, we were fortunate to have a friendly driver named Eddie. We had a great conversation with him and, as the journey and discussion progressed, he started asking us about the price of things and average wages in Australia. We told him some stuff but were unsure how much to share … then he volunteered some information about himself which put some things into perspective for us.
He told us about his living situation and explained that he was renting and paying the equivalent of about AUS$50 per month. Wow, I thought … how cool would that be? Well it would probably be a lot cooler if you were earning more than AUS$200 per month! Eddie was working 40-50 hours per week driving a taxi and was earning the equivalent AUD$6.50 per day! After the cost of rent is taken out he has $5 per day to live on. He is a 28 year old single man … can you imagine if he had a wife and children to provide for?

**The grass is greener where it is watered!**

I didn’t need to ask Eddie about his other circumstances … I was just incredibly grateful for my life and income in Melbourne. It’s so easy to get disgruntled and dissatisfied about your circumstances isn’t it? It’s so very easy to look around at others and wish that you could be more like them or have what they have. The thing I want you to grasp now is that everyone’s life is a package … like yours; it has good and not so good, happy and not so happy and every other variation you could think of.

My prediction is that if you could take your life - with all its challenges - and you could choose to swap it with anyone else’s life – including all their challenges – after looking around, you would stick with yours every time. So rather than look around and compare your life to others … why not focus on yours, love your home and make it the best it can be. Rather look for where the grass is greener … why not water your own?

Don’t wait till you go away until you appreciate what you’ve got. Don’t let it take until you spend time in a third world country before you’re grateful for your circumstances. Don’t wait until you actually see what others put up with before you feel lucky for your situation. Think about what you’ve got and think about where you live. Think about the people who, maybe annoying at times, are always there for you and love you unconditionally. Think about the rain you complain about that keeps the plants alive and looking well. Think about the job that takes too much time and doesn’t pay you as much as you’d like and be grateful for what it does allow you to do. Think about the specific challenges you have and how they strengthen you and develop you into a better person.

It’s your home and it’s where you spend your life. It’s the place that has helped mould you into the amazing person you are today. It’s the place you know and feel comfortable in. It’s the place that holds the opportunities for you to do what you want to do, create what you want to create and be what you want to be. It is perfect? No … there is no such thing as the perfect place. There never was and there never will be, but let me tell you this … it’s your home, it’s where you come from and it’s a truly special place no matter where in the world it is. Make no mistake about … there’s no place like home.