

GoodTidings

Australasian Good Tidings eNews

January-February #55

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GoodTidings Electronic Newsletter of the Seventh Day
Adventist Reform Movement, Australasian Union Conference

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New Year's Message



After reading numerous opinion piece articles during the first two days following the

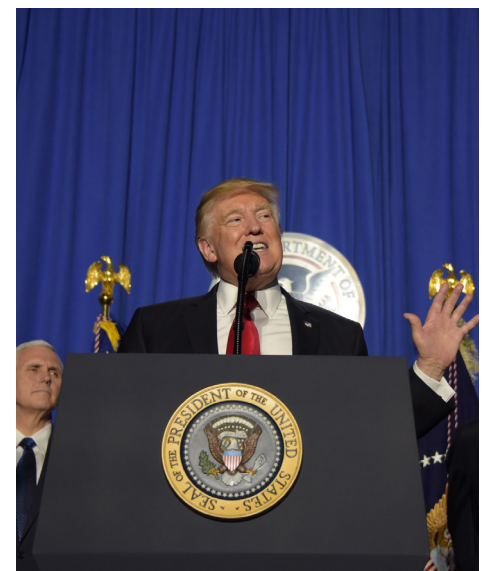
2016 U.S. Presidential Election, I decided to stop reading news on it for a while. I had come away so depressed! Not because I believed the future was bleak, but because that's all that the mainline media establishments offered in their analysis.

It wasn't until I sat down in my lounge room in reflection, that I regained hope. I reminded myself that, no matter what happens, God is still in control. It is He that "removes kings, and sets up kings" (Dan 2:21). He permits nothing to happen in a nation's history or in our lives individually that He has not already foreseen. So however bleak the future may appear to us, we don't need to worry. It is God who holds the future in His hands. Whatever comes our way, He has already made provision for us to meet. While I know that He is just and will hold both nations and individuals to account, He is also a God of love. As His child, I just need to trust Him and His Word, rather than the bleak forecasts of a faithless media.

“

Whatever comes our way, He has already made provision for us to meet.

But I am not blind to what lies ahead. The Bible reminds me that Jesus is coming soon! I know too, that great trials await God's people in this world. Bible prophecy tells me, the whole world will follow the USA's lead in oppressing the commandment-keeping people of God. These things are certain. However, many things appear so uncertain.



Who could have imagined the changes in the political world during the last 12 months. Great Britain voting to leave the E.U. took many pundits by surprise. The election of Donald Trump as U.S. President left many more pundits dumbfounded. These recent international events seem to suggest that globalism, and its one-world agenda, has hit a speed bump. The rise in nationalism throughout Europe and elsewhere threatens to halt the globalisation of the last thirty years. China flexing its muscles in the South China Sea, while the USA ends multilateral trade partnerships and signals a refocus of priorities in international affairs, brings another dimension to the uncertainty we live in. On top of it all, the warfare on terror becomes more terrible as time goes on, with no certain end to the conflict in sight.

Considering where we are in earth's history, such uncertainty should not undermine our hope. Jesus' words relating to the last days, points to the reality that these things are to be expected. "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth..." Luke 21:25-26 (KJV)

In fact, we can take heart that through these things, God is giving us a wakeup call—a call to reconsecrate ourselves to Him, and go and finish the work He has commissioned us to do. Preach the everlasting gospel to "every nation kindred tongue and people".

So let's start right in our homes. Let's start with ourselves and our families. Let's shake off the stupor of indiffer-

ence to spiritual things and reconsecrate our hearts to Jesus. Then filled with His love, and with a new found zeal and commitment to live for Him and Him alone, let's share the message of the gospel—of Jesus and His love—and of His soon coming in judgment—to the world around us. Carpe Diem!

Yours in the Blessed Hope,

~ Paul Chapman, Editor.

General Conference Circular

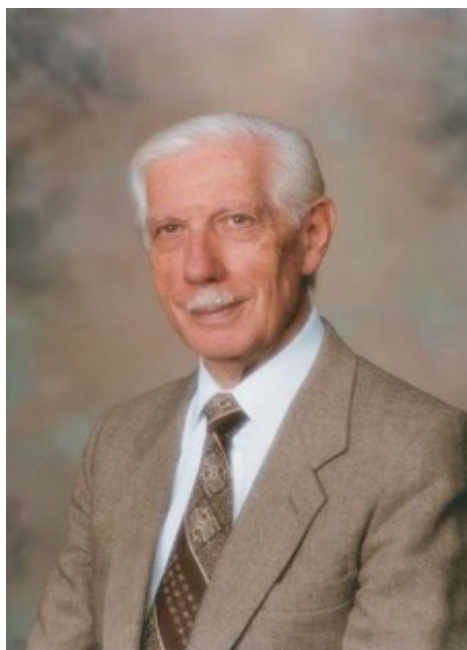
Alfons Balbach

February, 28, 2017

Dear SDARM family around the world,

Christian greetings with:

"I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from hence-



forth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13).

Our dear Brother Alfons Balbach

went peacefully to rest in the Lord at age 93 in Sacramento CA, USA, on Monday, February 27, 2017.

Brother Balbach was born in Lithuania in 1924 and grew up not far from São Paulo, Brazil. Raised as a Lutheran and married to a Roman Catholic, he first became acquainted with the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement in 1948. Soon after embracing the Sabbath truth, he volunteered his services to the church as a translator. He became a member of the Reform Movement in 1950, and his wife—Maria Balbach—in 1952.



Our heartfelt condolences to Brother Balbach's children, their spouses, and his grandchildren.

In 1954 he was ordained to the ministry and became active in the denominational missionary school and publishing department. He authored several books, most of them large, full-color, sold by the hundreds of thousands by our colporteurs, in addition to pamphlets and articles on varied subjects such as apologetics, prophecies, and health. His books are in millions of homes and have led thousands of souls to the knowledge of the present truth.

Brother Balbach served as General Conference Secretary from 1963–1967 and from 1971–1980. He was transferred to the U.S.A. in 1972, along with his wife, Maria, and three sons, Alfred, Paul, and Charles. Here he continued his ministerial, teach-

ing, and editorial work with The Reformation Herald magazine, Sabbath Bible Lessons, and the Standard Bearer. He served as the main editor of these publications for many years and was also the principal author of the Good Way Series, a set of studies which explain the major points of distinction between the SDA Church and the SDA Reform Movement. Several years ago, Brother Balbach was asked by church leaders to begin gathering data for the book The History of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement. This was quite a monumental yet fascinating task, requiring much research and hard work. The finished product was published in 1999 and has been a blessing to many.

Though technically retired in 1991, throughout the remainder of Brother Balbach's life, he was ever ready to help wherever help was needed.

The influence of Brother Balbach will not cease during this time when he will be resting in Jesus:

"When a man dies, his influence does not die with him; but it lives on, reproducing itself. The influence of the man who was good and pure and holy lives on after his death, like the glow of the descending sun, casting its glories athwart the heavens, lighting up the mountain peaks long after the sun has sunk behind the hill. So will the works of the pure and the holy and the good reflect their light when they no longer live to speak and act themselves. Their works, their words, their example will forever live. 'The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.' "—Testimonies to Ministers, p. 429.

Our heartfelt condolences to Brother Balbach's children, their spouses, and his grandchildren.

As a church family, we look forward to that day when our Lord Jesus will return and, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 25:8).

On that day we will meet Brother Balbach again and those who did not have the privilege to meet him here on this earth will then be given this privilege.

With Christian love, yours in the Blessed Hope,

Eli Tenorio da Silva

SDARM GC Secretary

On behalf of the General Conference Executive Committee and Council

If you'd like to view the funeral service, please visit this link: <https://livestream.com/accounts/6873756>

NZ: Baby Congratulations - Pedrosa Family

Abela Abrielle

We extend our congratulations to the Pedrosa family; to Brother Arnaldo and Sister Richel on the birth of their second daughter Abela, and also to big sister Adelaide.



Abela arrived on the 27th of January, 2017. The parents expressed that Abela is God's blessing after long years of waiting!

We pray God will bless each member of the Pedrosa family with much health and happiness.

How wonderful that God knows each one before we were even born and has a special plan for each of our lives. May we all respond to His will.



"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."

Psalms 127:3.

WA: Guildford Church Canvass Tuesdays

Guildford Church has set every Tuesday from 11am to 1pm as "Courageous Canvass" for all who are willing to try it out. The weekly activity brings this vital mission to our community by offering a range of cookbooks, health and spiritual books.

It takes courage to knock on doors, and thoughts of rejection will try to keep us from engaging in this important work, but we must do what the Lord commanded us to



neighbors and those in surrounding suburbs.

On the most recent canvass, we noticed a sign out the front, just by the front door, it said – “No trespassing. Violators will be shot, survivors will be shot again.” Scattered all over the ground were beer bottles and an old pair of steel-cap boots. There was a little hesitation, but we got up the courage to knock all the same. Nobody answered, perhaps they weren’t home.

With each canvass, we are getting revived spiritually and God gives us increasing boldness. New ideas are sparked, and new ways are thought of to reach souls. It’s encouraging. May the Lord continue to bless this work.

~ Gerson Robles

NSW: Feeding the Homeless

Street Buffet - 29 January 2017

Schofield Church has been blessed with the opportunity to be involved in a hands-on, practical, community evangelism through assisting at Street Buffet in Woolloomooloo. Once again, twelve eager volunteers

gathered at the church around 12pm on Sunday 29th Jan to prepare the meal. A delicious menu consisting of baked veggies, curry with rice and a date slice had been planned; and with enough ingredients to feed 150 people, our twelve volunteers fell to peeling, stirring, cutting and mixing until a delicious aroma permeated the entire kitchen. About three or four hot hours later (the heat com-



bined from the cooking, the weather and energy) a big pot of steaming curry with a big pot of rice and rows of baked goods lay neatly waiting on the tables for it all to be loaded into the van.

A twist in the event was that we were asked to arrive about an hour and a half earlier than planned, but with God’s help we finished with time to spare. This was just as well, for when we arrived to the square behind Woolloomooloo Police Station, a lengthy line of people had already assembled to await food service. Street Buffet is a not-for-profit organisation with the vision to bring food to those who are in need in the same way that we bring food to our friends in their homes. It is this family-oriented spirit that provides a great atmosphere, not to mention

do – “preach the gospel to every creature”.

We often get an opportunity to share the gospel with people at their doors and it brings such a sense of gratefulness to God for being able to share the simple saving truth. We’ve had excellent conversations so far with a good number of people even though we’ve only just begun this work. We have already sold SOP books, cook books and given away lots of Steps to Christ books (entitled “Happiness for Life”).

We are burdened with a message to share with the world – that is Christ is our Saviour. The gifts of grace and abundant joy He gives is shared in this work through literature with our



great service for the homeless community in Woolloomooloo.

“
In about one hour,
everyone had been served
during which time people
continued to return for seconds.

While we set up with our meal on the tables, other volunteers brought desserts, salads, drinks and pizza; and once the tables were laden with food, service began. In about one hour, everyone had been served, during which time people continued to return for seconds, including the delicious curry which two of our vol-



unteers had prepared. Nothing ever goes to waste, and any leftovers were quickly packed into takeaway containers for those who wanted them, and the rest was packed and taken to the various hostels and shelters that are in the area.

The environment at any soup kitchen is quite unique, but the experience is unforgettable! The satisfaction and happiness that you receive from

sharing food with another hungry soul is immeasurable and one of the reasons that our volunteers keep coming back. Not only do you feed their bodies but when you hear many of their experiences, you begin to understand how much of a difference a helping hand can be in someone's life. I spoke with one young person who was severely abused by their father and as a result, they tried to end their life many times. Through the intervention of social workers and the family at Street Buffet, they were able to come out of that abusive environment and begin the road to a better future. This reminds me of a quote we learned in EMC, “There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.” There is no limit to the good we can do if we allow God to work through us! This is exciting, as it makes you wonder what other things can be done for the Lord that perhaps have not been thought of yet?

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The environment at any soup
kitchen is quite unique, but
the experience is
unforgettable!

Please continue to pray for our efforts, and if you would like to donate in any way to this cause, either by food, clothes or monetary donations, we will be using 100% of these donations to give to those who are struggling.

~ Daniela Balarezo

GoodTidings is on Social Media

GoodTidings has for years been the official news brand of the SDARM in AUC. Recently, together with the Media Department, we've branched out into social media.

We see this as an important move as we harness the power of social media to reach the world with the gospel.

If you use Facebook or Instagram, you can follow us there. Our handle is @goodtidings4life.



NSW: Youth Focus Meeting 4 February 2017

Many thanks to Sr Weymark for hosting the first focus evening at her home for 2017. Many young and young at heart enjoyed an evening of small group discussions and socialising combined with a delicious dinner.



It was also so lovely to see our tiny tots have the opportunity to play together and enjoy special times together.

May God continue to encourage those who attend.

~ Anonymous

AUC: Worker's Seminar Report

The Australasian Union Conference workforce met for four days as part of our regular ongoing training undertaken by all our workers.

First, we continued our study of the book Pastoral Ministry, with discussion on a portion of the book. On the second day we enjoyed a Communication seminar taught by Sr Dot Illeic, taking us through important concepts in communication and how different personality types relate to one another. On the last day we had an update on visual communication and a discussion forum on what visual tools are working for us and what resources need to be developed in the future. In between these seminar modules we had some doctrinal discussion forums.

One of the outcomes of discussion that we are all looking forward to is a symposium on justification by faith, which we would like to hold later in the year. We encourage all our members to continue to study the great message of righteousness by faith and its vital place in our spiritual life.

~ Nathan Tyler

Sermons We See

*I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.*

*I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.*

*When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.
And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.*

*One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;
One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.
Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,
For right living speaks a language which to every one is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.*

~ Edgar Albert Guest

AUC: Worker's Wives' Seminar

This year from 8th to 9th January, we were able to run a session for the workers' wives. We had a similar session several years ago and have felt the need to have another like meeting for a while. When we were planning the meetings, we were trying to find a time when the wives would be free. This was a challenge since most of our workers' wives have young children. So we decided to run the meetings after the workers' seminar was finished; then the men could look after the children so the women could be free.

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When we were planning the meetings, we were trying to find a time when the wives would be free. This was a challenge since most of our workers' wives have young children.

During the workers' seminar, the wives had to share the duty of preparing the meals. Several of the wives graciously agreed to do the cooking, even though they had small children and their husbands were in the sessions. So when it came time for the ladies to meet, we decided to have the men do the cooking and look after the children. Anticipating that it might be too much for the men to do this, we were able to have Sis. Jessica Brown to help the men



with the cooking, along with some of the other young ladies. I think the highlight of the cooking was the barbecue prepared by the men on the Sunday of the ladies' session. It was truly an amazing meal, held in the new barbecue area down by the children's playground. It was good to see the men with their cooking aprons on attending to the barbecue and the rest of the food. Well done, men! And thanks to Jessica and Melissa and Alyssia as well.

Before meeting together in January, we had gathered a list of topics which were of concern to us. When we met together, we prioritised the list and added a few topics. It was lovely to see everyone sharing and participating. We actually were able to go through our entire list. We were also blessed to have Sis. Weymark and Sis. Brittain with us for the

first day of the session. We realised that we are much more effective as workers' wives as we fellowship more one with another. It was very encouraging as we tried together to find practical ways to bless our own families as well as ways to help and bless those around us.

During the seminar, we realised that we need to have more regular communication among ourselves, so we decided to start our own ladies' prayer breakfast once a month, similar to what the men have. On this prayer breakfast, we share thanksgiving, passages we've come across, challenges we are facing, prayer requests, and experiences. We also share what is going on in our fields. We have been able to keep in touch with each other via Skype and What's App.

We look forward to our next seminar when we will be able to address new topics and share our own experiences.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren [and sisters] to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1.

~ Deborah Chapman

AUC: Summer School

In the first week of January of this year, we met together for Summer School, at Elim Heights. We began on Monday, 2 January, with about 20 students of various ages. We covered the topics of Budgeting, How can I have the Assurance of Salvation, and Influence in the morning. In the afternoon, we covered more discussion-style topics such as Developing a Life Mission and Standing up for Your Faith. The discussions were very interesting, and it was really lovely to see everyone working together.

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...we were very blessed to have Sis. Weymark and Sis. Brittain present a slide show and talk on the History of Hebron.

On Tuesday, we went to the Colo River for an excursion. We had hired kayaks, and it was a nice time of fellowship and exercise. Those not kayaking visited on shore, and for a time those of us on the other side of



the river had a large space to relax in—until we noticed the tide coming in. We quickly moved belongings that had been left on lower ground, and enjoyed our time on the river, noticing that it was a little more difficult rowing once the tide really came in. We enjoyed a lovely lunch which was brought to us from the campground, since it was only about 20-30 minutes away. We decided to go back to the camp mid-afternoon and leave the rest of the afternoon free. I was surprised to see how many of the young people ended up having a nap in the afternoon. Reminded me of the verse in Isaiah 40:30, “Even the youths shall faint and be weary”.

On Wednesday, we began our sessions with The Christian and War,

followed by a woodworking project led by Br. Luke Kneebone. He helped us begin the construction of a bench around the large pine tree in front of the church hall. We then had a session of How to Live the Life of Faith. After lunch we continued on the woodworking project and also had a presentation on The Advent Movement in History.

Thursday, our final day, we were very blessed to have Sis. Weymark and



Sis. Brittain present a slide show and talk on the History of Hebron. Hebron was the church property owned before Elim Heights. This talk was recorded on video as we would like to keep a bit of history on record. After this session, we had more time



to work on the woodworking project as well as do some auto mechanics on the church-owned vehicles. It was lovely to see the enthusiastic young people working through the rain showers. Several cars were serviced and specific faults were fixed.

We are very thankful to all those who participated in this project. These summer schools require a lot of input in order to allow a variety of topics to be presented, both practical and theoretical. There were many helpers in preparations and in the presentations. It was also lovely to see so many people attend. There were some who were as young as 12 as well as some of our elderly sisters. We also had a couple of young parents and many young people. It was a real blessing to see the enthusiasm of all those who participated, both in presenting and in attending. Thank the Lord for bringing all the plans together!

~ Deborah Chapman

“The great object of education is to enable us to use the powers which God has given us in such a manner as will best represent the religion of the Bible and promote the glory of God.”

~ EGW

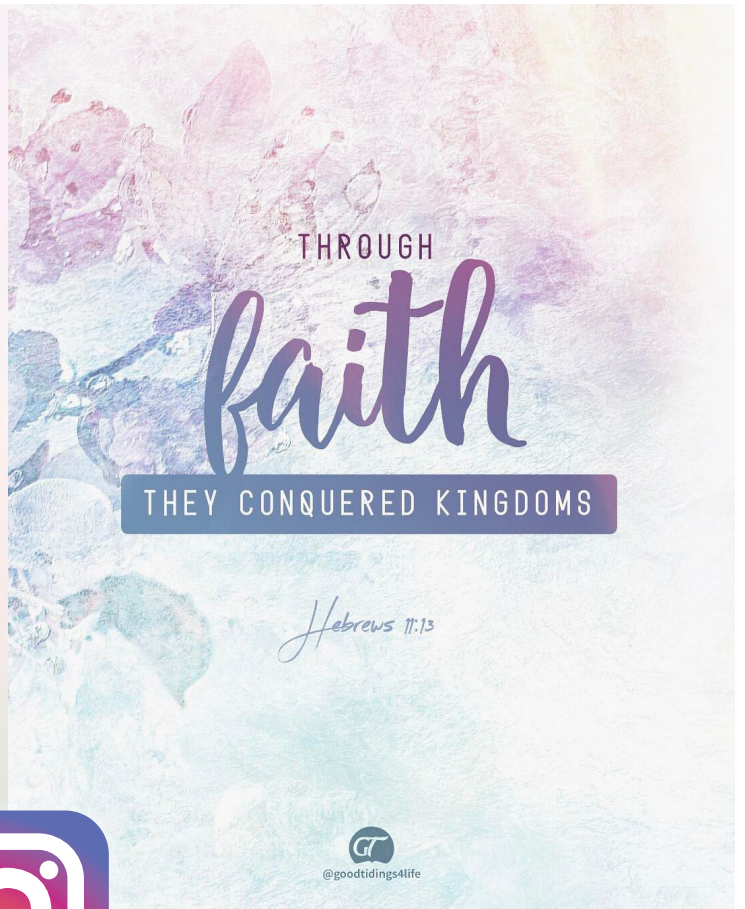
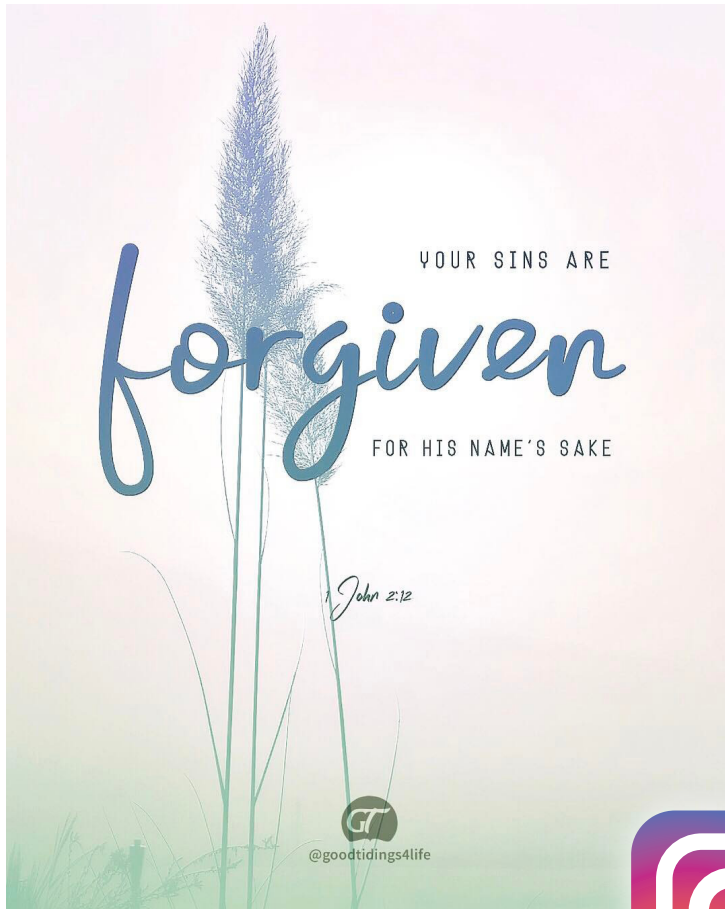
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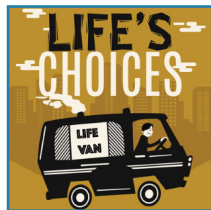
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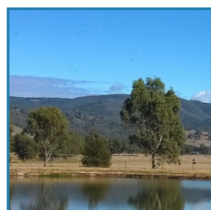
WA Field Youth Camp

Date: 14-17 April, 2017

Venue: Wave Rock Caravan Park

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact: 0411 250 852



VIC Camp 2017

Date: 14-17 April, 2017

Venue: Alexandra Adventure Resort

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact: 0421 077 533



NZ Field Spiritual Conference

Date: 19-23 April, 2017

Venue: Lakeview Bible Camp

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact: +64 9 825 0247



NSW Camp 2017

Date: 9-12 June, 2017

Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact: 02 9627 7553



'17 SDARM MediaCon

Date: 3-7 July, 2017

Venue: Melbourne

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact: 0433 283 135