GoodTidings

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Lessons to Remember



It was touted as the War to end all Wars...yet in the years since WW1 ended, millions of lives have been sacrificed in hundreds of wars fought all over the globe. It is as if humanity has never learnt the lessons that so many paid the ultimate price to teach us.

Each year on the 25th of April in Australia and New Zealand, many take a moment's silence to remember their sacrifices — men and women who died to protect the freedoms we enjoy. All of us reading this in freedom can be grateful for those sacrifices. But how many will take a moment to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy because of the greatest sacrifice ever made. It was a sacrifice made 2000 years ago, when one man laid down his life for the deliverance of the world.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, did so, not to place us under oppression, but to deliver us from sin. It is the love of God manifested in the

> "how many will take a moment to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy because of the greatest sacrifice ever made.

gift of Christ to this world by which He commends His love to us. It is as though God wanted to show just how much he loved you and me. Not wanting to hold back, He gave the greatest gift of all — the gift of his only begotten Son — to die for us. And He did so at the risk of eternal loss to Himself.

"For God so loved the world, that



he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

When the apostle Paul realised the depth of that love, and surrendered to it, he understood the true purpose to life:

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15).

When God's love touches your heart, you can't help but live a life of self-sacrificing love in return. A life that is willing to give up all for the blessing of others bears witness to the greatest sacrifice of all. Though at times the ones we sacrifice ourselves for may reject us or show a total lack of appreciation for the things we do for them, our love will not waver. Why? Because it is grounded in the reality of a love that did not fail us — the love of Christ who gave all for us, not when we were His friends, but when we were His enemies. "To the death of Christ we owe even this earthly life. The bread we eat is the purchase of His broken

> When God's love touches your heart, you can't help but live a life of self-sacrificing love

body. The water we drink is bought by His spilled blood. Never one, saint or sinner, eats his daily food, but he is nourished by the body and the blood of Christ. The cross of Calvary is stamped on every loaf. It is reflected in every water spring." (The Desire of Ages, p. 660).

Considering that everything we are or have today comes to us as a direct benefit of Christ's sacrifice, why not take a moment each day to reflect on His death? And as you do, let God awaken a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving in your heart for the blessings that sacrifice brings—not only life today but the blessed assurance we can have in Christ now of eternal life hereafter.

~ Paul Chapman: Editor.

Condolences - Family Devai

Francisco Devai: 30 August 1927 – 16 April 2017

We offer our deepest sympathy to the family of our late brother Francisco Devai. Br. Devai fell asleep in Jesus on Sunday, 16 April 2017, after suffering a massive stroke. May God comfort his family and all those who are feeling this great loss.



Br Eli Tenorio, current General Conference Secretary, shares the following: "Brother Devai was born in Brazil of Hungarian descent on August 30, 1927, and was raised in the church of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement. He was baptized at the age of 15 and served the Lord as a canvasser, Bible worker, pastor, and minister, holding many offices in the church, including the General Conference presidency from 1967 to 1979 and vice-presidency from 1979 to 1987.

> He was undaunted by inconvenience, pioneering, and persecution in dangerous places...

"This beloved brother will always be remembered for his tremendous dedication to the Lord's work and for his amazing self-denial and remarkable love for others above himself. He has left us an example of meekness that was always ready to serve whenever there was a need to help—literally at any place on the entire planet at any time, even on a moment's notice. He was undaunted by inconvenience, pioneering, and persecution in dangerous places, and could always be counted on to seek out earnestly the lost sheep anywhere and to tenderly nurture the flock. Wherever this gentle servant was to be found, he genuinely blessed all with whom he came in contact.

"Brother Devai is now resting peacefully in the Lord, yet his inspiring method of labor will continue bringing forth fruits to glorify God's name. The full results of his work will only be known in eternity, but we appre-

ciate the opportunity that God gave us to know him and for using him to bless people in so many ways. Indeed, this was a modest, unassuming man whose heavenly crown will likely be quite brilliant with an abundance of stars, symbolizing the many precious souls deeply touched by the wondrous love of Jesus that shone through this humble vessel."

The funeral service was held on April 23, 2017 at the Moriah Heights property in the new but not quite completed meeting hall. Over 400 family, loved ones and friends were present.

> "...that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

~ Editor

Baptism Sr Taiva Fuimaono and Farewell of Polistina Family



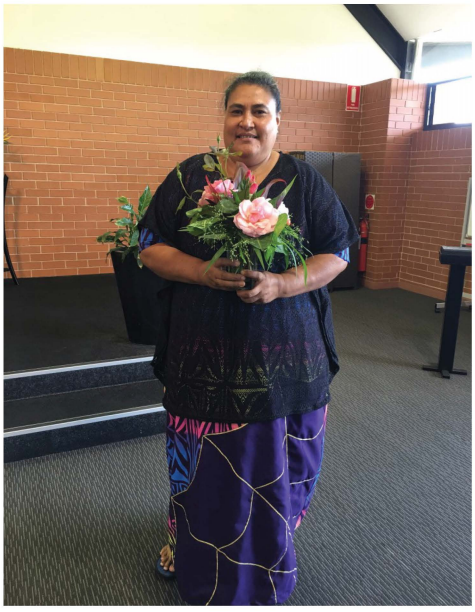
Saturday 11th March, 2017 was a special Sabbath in Sydney as the two local churches combined for the day at Schofields church in support of a dear sister that had decided to dedicate her life to Christ in taking the next step of baptism. The church



was filled with members and plenty of visitors alike to witness Sister Taiva Fuimaono profess and testify of her love for the Lord and her willingness to live faithfully for Him.

> The sermon touched on our need of true conversion and the importance of real change in our nature and characters

Divine service was taken by Brother Peter Lausevic about having freedom in the truth through baptism based on John 8:32, "And Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."



The service was not only an encouragement for the baptismal candidate but for all who are in the valley of decision and are wanting to take this step in their spiritual walk with the Lord. It was also an opportunity for all who have taken this step already to re-examine their commitment to the Lord and to re-commit themselves to Him. The sermon touched

on our need of true conversion and the importance of real change in our nature and characters which then leads us to us understand the freedom we will have in God's truth; for a converted man is no longer carnally minded but becomes a spiritual being. If we accept Jesus as our personal Savior, not only do we receive forgiveness, we are also saved from our sinful state and therefore have life through Christ - 1 John 5:12 "He that hath the Son of God, hath life."

The beautiful sermon then led into the profession of faith which was conducted by Brother Larry Ah-Ching. Sister Taiva gave a short testimony to praise the Lord for His leading in her life and for reaching this special moment in her



Christian experience. She was also happy that her husband and children were present to witness this step and she expressed hope that they also will choose to take this step someday.

After a wholesome combined lunch together, we all travelled down to the Hawkesbury River to witness the baptism. We had plenty of spectators that were out and about for the day. We found a lovely spot, and praise the Lord for His mercies in blessing us with the beautiful weather. The weather leading up to Sabbath wasn't looking so grand, but the sun surely shone for this happy occasion. Everyone met back at Schofields Church for the fellowship service of Sister Taiva into the church. This was conducted by Brother Sas.

Straight after the fellowship service a farewell meeting was organised for the Polistina family. With Sydney losing the Dumaguit family already to neighbouring New Zealand, we now were preparing to lose one of our Sydney Bible workers and his young family to rural NSW. Although this doesn't sound too bad because they are still in NSW, we will no longer be within "walking" distance.

> "There were a few tears, as Domenic and Nadine took the opportunity to share their gratefulness to the Lord

It was a night filled with different emotions, with a few joining the queue to say some words of encouragement, to thank them for their huge support and hard work not only at Wentworthville, but in Sydney and the various projects they have helped out with over the past few years. There were a few tears, as Domenic and Nadine took the opportunity to share their gratefulness to the Lord for answering all their prayers and for His leadership in their Christian walk. They are very excited for what is ahead of them in their new home. We shared more laughs and reminisced on happy times with a short slideshow before finishing off the meeting and closing Sabbath with a prayer. We all enjoyed a scrumptious combined dinner together before going our separate ways.

We thank the Lord for the wonderful Sabbath that it turned out to be. We pray that the Lord continues to bless our newest member Sister Taiva in all she does for the Lord. We also wish the Polistina family all the very best in their new home in Wagga Wagga and especially with their efforts in God's work there and in neighbouring areas.

~ Tanya Ah-Ching

WA: Field Youth Camp - Life's Choices

After this youth camp, I can say that I understand just a bit more of why God placed Adam and Eve in a garden. Being surrounded by God's handiwork ultimately magnifies His greatness and works to reveal His plan for us in our lives.

This wonderful experience all started on the 14th of April when families packed their cars and headed off for a four-hour drive east of Perth to Wave Rock, in the wheat belt region. Though the journey was long, there was something special about leaving the city and entering the country with



wide expanses of golden coloured land on either side of the road. Even in something so simple as this, one can start to experience the peace that God intended for us all.

Upon arrival, we found a busy campground and many friendly campers.



However, we were blessed to be given a portion of the campground backing out onto the bush with enough space for everyone to be together. All hands were on deck as we set up tents, prepared dinner and had showers in readiness for the Sabbath hours.

As the evening came upon us, we all gathered together under the gazebo and opened the Sabbath with some favourite songs from the children. A discussion taken by Br Gerson Robles on Life Choices followed. This discussion centred around the impact of the choices we make, understanding that we will face major life choices and to safely navigate these decisions we need God to direct us. After the discussion, we all went for a night walk to Wave Rock. Even though it was dark and we only had the light of our torches, a first glimpse of this structure left us all in amazement as to its magnitude and formation. Every visit to the rock left us talking about how it was created. We always concluded that such a thing could only be a work of the mighty power of God.





Sabbath morning, we awoke to the crows in the trees above our tents, sounding the alarm of a new day. We all came together in the freshness of the morning for worship which was taken by Br Luke Kneebone. This was followed by a hearty breakfast to prepare us for the day ahead.

After breakfast we all walked up to Wave Rock where we hiked to the top of the rock to be welcomed by an amazing view of the campground and the massive expanse of plains and bush surrounding it. We found a relatively sheltered portion of the rock and all sat around in the fresh air ready for our next discussion. The study was led out by Br Luke Kneebone on the parable of the sower. We all thoroughly enjoyed

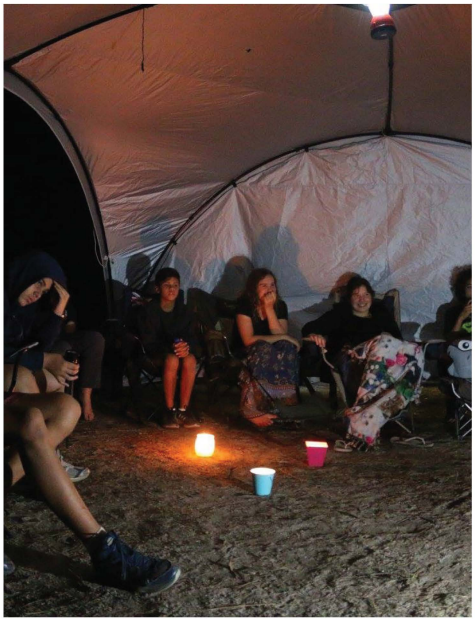
“...a first glimpse of this structure left us all in amazement as to its magnitude and formation.

delving deeper into this parable and really understanding its meaning and significance for us today. Some people will readily accept the truth, others will allow the light they received to be taken from them and still others will completely reject it. But we need to keep sowing the seed. If we are faithful in this, then the Holy Spirit will bless the soil upon which our seeds are sown.

Lunch time came and we all headed back to the campsite for food and drinks to keep us going throughout the rest of the day. A big walk was planned for the afternoon which took us past Hippo’s Yawn. This called for another long stop and many more photos. Hippo’s Yawn is a massive rock structure that essentially looks like a hippo yawning.

Again, it is something that could have only been formed through the power of God. As we continued our walk we passed more wildlife, bush and a number of salt lakes until we reached our destination at the amphitheatre. Tired from the walk we sat down on the grass to catch our breath. As we were all together, we decided to start singing. We sang a number of songs from hymns through to favourite choruses until it started to rain, at which point we all moved under the shelter of the stage and continued our sing song. After a few more songs, we started a discussion based on a question that was asked about what it means to make a complete surrender to God. This was such an encouraging and thought- provoking discussion! Personal testimonies were shared and more questions were raised as we tried to understand what it really means to surrender. Have I surrendered myself to God? How do I surrender myself to Him? When can I surrender myself to Him? These are all questions I would encourage everyone to ask themselves and talk about with others. We all thoroughly enjoyed the discussion and agreed that we would like to have a part two session at some time. Later that evening we closed Sabbath with singing and gathered together for a game of Bible taboo.





> When we are searching for treasure in the Word of God we should never give up

Sunday morning came before we knew it, and everyone was eager to begin the day. We all looked forward with excitement to the day's activities. Worship was taken by Br Jacques Payet, where we looked closer at the life of Joseph and how he never doubted God's plan for His life. He knew that God would lead him, and he remained faithful. The God that Joseph served is the same God that we serve today. So we can have the same faith and assurance that God has something planned for our own lives. We may not see this plan straight away, but never doubt—claim the promises of God and in His time He will reveal His plan to you.

After breakfast we all headed off for a 15-minute drive from Wave Rock to a place known as Mulka's Cave and The Humps. It was here that we were to begin our orienteering session. Br Luke Kneebone and Br Gerson Robles had gone to great lengths in setting up the course and met us all there. After being divided into four groups we began the course, searching for clues, answering questions and working out puzzles. Some of us got very lost, while others found their way after some time and persistence. What was very interesting in this activity was seeing how different teams worked together to move forward. We all learnt a valuable lesson from

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this activity. When we are searching for treasure in the Word of God we should never give up. Don't be like those of us who gave up searching for our clue during the orienteering session only to find out later that we were just a few steps away from it. Persist in your search for the truth! We also learnt that sometimes things may not make sense until we search a little harder to find the next clue that helps it all make sense. This is the same with the Word of God. If you don't understand something, keep searching, keep praying and you will be given light to help you understand. Have faith in God!

> The camp was such a blessing to everyone who attended and inspired us with the desire to more earnestly search for God

After orienteering, all the groups hiked up a rocky mountain to meet everyone at the top for lunch. The setting and the view were beautiful, a magnificent testimony to the majesty of God! Later that afternoon we visited a mineral lake which contained very similar properties to the Dead Sea, allowing you to float on the water.

Sunday evening we had our worship and close of camp meeting. We spent the time reflecting on the lessons we had learnt that day and sharing personal testimonies of our own experience over the weekend. It was very encouraging to see many of the young people share their thankfulness for the time we could all spend together out at such an amazing location.

As Monday morning approached, it was time to pack up and prepare for the journey home. The camp was such a blessing to everyone who attended and inspired us with the desire to more earnestly search for God, surrender to Him and learn of His will for our lives.

~ Amariah Payet

An Appeal for Prayer

Greetings from South Australia. We have a very small church here in Adelaide, and we have been praying for some time for visitors and new families to come to church. In February 2015 we were contacted by a refugee family from Sri Lanka, wanting to come to our church. The husband, Anuj, and his wife, Dilunika have three children, Deethma, Idoosha, and Ashelle (who was born in Australia). Anuj's family had been active Seventh-Day Adventists in the past, but had backslidden. However, when the family came to Australia, they decided they wanted to go to a church regularly. From their first Sabbath in attendance at our church, they have attended almost every week (except for sickness) and have willingly participated in church activities. Not long after first coming to church, they introduced us to Anuj's brother and sister, who also then started coming to church together with their families. The church has been enlivened by their company and attendance. They have always had many questions to ask in Sabbath School and after the sermon. They have also been having Bible studies.

> The situation was extremely distressing for the family– leaving trouble in their own country, coming to a new country, only to find themselves in more trouble

Soon after Ashelle was born, an unfortunate situation complicated their attempts to settle in Australia. Anuj was accused of a crime he never committed. Due to the visa restric-



tions, he was imprisoned for one and a half years while awaiting trial. A lot of support was given to the family by the church, as the situation was very difficult for Dilunika—alone, not speaking the language, without transport, at risk of post-natal depression, and now without her husband. We made monthly visits with Dilunika to Mt Gambier Prison where Anuj was being held, so that she could see him. The situation was extremely distressing for the family—leaving trouble in their own country, coming to a new country, only to find themselves in more trouble, as if God wanted to test their trust in Him. This situation drew them closer to each other and to God. Due to lack of evidence, the charges were dropped, and the case was dismissed.

At the time of Anuj's arrest, his bridging visa, which allowed him to stay in Australia until his refugee visa was granted, was revoked. Upon release from prison, he was immediately taken into Immigration detention. Thankfully, he has been allowed to stay in Adelaide, making it possible for the family to visit him weekly. The Lord helped us to find a good Immigration lawyer to help with their application for a Safe Haven visa. Once all the paperwork was submitted, and all their interviews were done, we then waited for a decision regarding their visa.

We had been praying that the decision would be favourable, but on the 28th of February, we were informed of the decision to not grant them a Safe Haven Refugee visa. This means that they now face deportation back to Sri Lanka. We can only conclude that the Lord is testing them yet again that they might continue to trust Him. Their last hope in the process had been the fact that all visa refusals are referred to a Tribunal that reassesses the application decisions. Being an independent body and higher authority, it can decide whether there has been a mistake in the decision-making process and grant a visa; or if they deem that there is not mistake, then they will rule that the decision be implemented and they be deported.

Although the family is trusting the Lord in this matter, we are asking for your prayers for them. They are new to the faith, babes in Christ, and their faith is being severely tested. We have done everything we can to support and help them with their situation. The lawyer prepared an appeal to the Tribunal and submitted this on 27th of March. The Tribunal hearing took place 4th of April.

> *"Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet."*
>
> *~ Ellen White*

Unfortunately, the Tribunal ruled in favour of upholding the Immigration Department's decision to not grant asylum. The matter is now being reviewed by a barrister for appeal to the Federal Circuit Court.

As government financial support for the family has now been cut, if you are moved to help this family financially, please contact Br Joe Voncina at the Union Office on 02 9627 7553.

We thank you for your prayers and support.

~ Your brethren from South Australia

NSW: 2017 Conference Delegation Report

On the 5th of March, 2017, about 26 Delegates from around NSW gathered at Schofields Church in Sydney to make plans and discuss propositions for the NSW Conference for the next two years. We were blessed by God's Spirit when we opened with the hymn: "Blessed Assurance Jesus is Mine".

After the reports from the previous two years were accepted and notes taken on the minutes from the last session, we started nominating those who were to be on the respective committees. Once everyone present had been appointed to a committee and assigned an area to work, we all got down to business.

In the Plans Committee, many discussions were had in regards to a building extension at Schofields as well as to the allocation of Bible workers in the NSW Conference. Plans were approved for the Missionary and Youth departments respectively. These include plans

- To hold seminars based around various aspects of the family such as, courtship, marriage, parenting, communication, etc.





- To continue and possibly broaden the engagement of members and youth in welfare work such as feeding and clothing the homeless.
- To continue health outreaches in the form of cooking demos, health lectures, and Depression Recovery Programs.
- To encourage the members and youth, who are willing, to engage in regular canvassing work.
- To create media projects that will involve youth in filming and editing and working with AUC Media department to create content for internet such as cooking videos, short spiritual videos, etc.
- To continue with Focus Meetings once a month.
- To plan a camp near Eden or Merimbula.
- To run a Character Seminar as planned by the previous youth leaders.
- To change venues (between Schofields & Wentworthville) for the youth combined meetings every month.

We adjourned for lunch at the appointed hour. After a hearty meal and a photoshoot, we resumed our meeting to cover a few final notes, and then the other committees joined us.

> “...involve youth in filming and editing and working with AUC Media department to create content for internet such as cooking videos

The Finance committee discussed the need for more accurate budgets in regards to NSW Field Camp meetings and more awareness to people in regards to where the offerings are being directed so as to cover costs without being in debt.

The Nominating committee came back with some good recommendations for leaders and assistants for the various departments. Br Paul Chapman was Elected as NSW Field President until such times as Br Nathan Tyler can move to Sydney. Br Larry Aching was assigned as Vice-President. There was a building committee chosen to keep up to date with the progress of the Sabbath School rooms building at Schofields. Br Craig Cunningham was chosen to continue on as Secretary of the Field and was also elected as the Missionary Department leader with two assistants. The Youth Department Leader chosen was Sr Daniella Belarezo, with two assistants to help and support her in her work.

I hope and pray that for the next term, you will keep these leaders in your prayers so that we may continue with God’s help to run things smoothly and efficiently in our Field.

~ Sam Wiseman

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.”

Psalms 51:12-13

What Does it Mean to "to be in Your Likeness"?

What does it mean, 'to be in Your likeness'?
In heaven You were perfect,
No Scars marked Your brow,
No tears of pain and grief fell down Your cheeks,
Your hands had no nails driven in them,
Your side was not run through.

In heaven You were perfect,
Your visage unscathed,
Yet You chose the path to pain,
And death put You in the grave.

You did this because You didn't want me to lose Your likeness,
My sins- my life- were what had almost obliterated
The likeness of You in me;
The hope of glory.

And You couldn't bear to see me standing alone in my misery
And so You came.

To walk how I walked,
So that I can walk as You walked,
To feel what I feel
So that I can feel what You feel for humanity,
To see what I see,
So that I can see others as You see them,
To love me unconditionally,
So that I too can love.

You came to cry aloud, to feel the pain,
The burden of sin, the sting of death.

Continued...

What does it mean, 'to be in Your likeness'?
When one day I will reach out and touch Your hands
And ask You,
"What are these wounds in Your hands?"
How will I ever be able to look into Your eyes
When You reply,
"I was wounded in the house of My friends"
Knowing that I was one of those friends?

What does it mean, 'to be in Your likeness'?
When Your likeness will forever be marked and scarred,
So that my likeness will never again be marked and scarred?

For me You were scarred,
Your beauty was marred,
Yet those very scars
Are what make You
More than Beautiful.

I can never transform myself into Your likeness.
Only You can do that for me.
From glory to glory

Oh Lord, teach me, show me,
What it means to be in Your likeness.

May I one day rejoice as the psalmist did,
And exclaim,
"As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness:
I shall be satisfied,
When I awake, with Thy likeness." Psalm 17:15

~ Dot

VIC: Cooking Class

The last cooking demonstration of the year had everyone in high spirits as surprises were rolled out one after another bringing good cheer and developing ties of friendship. Almost every chair in the room was occupied as regular visitors encouraged their friends and family to join in the educational fun. As a result there were twice the number of usual participants, the added interest adding to the enjoyment of the evening.

> Their hearts now warm and happy, Nathan Tyler stepped in with an enlightening presentation on the true meaning of Jesus' birth

There was a little murmuring among some when only three recipes were quickly demonstrated rather than the usual four. Had they been short-changed? Not likely. The attendees were soon to be greatly blessed as the Melbourne choir beautifully serenaded them with Christian music. Not to be outdone, the Sunbury band followed with their fun and enjoyable tunes.

Their hearts now warm and happy, Nathan Tyler stepped in with an enlightening presentation on the true meaning of Jesus' birth – how His birth, life, death and resurrection confirmed the prophecies of the Bible leaving no room to doubt. Heads were nodding in agreement as he shared what Jesus Christ's coming to earth as a man means to us today.

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Still the surprises were not over, as the doors dividing the hall were opened revealing a magnificent vegan banquet consisting of all the recipes demonstrated throughout the year. Instead of the usual taste testing, those who joined us for the evening enjoyed a full-fledged meal, causing most to promise to come again for 2017's classes (Already some have called asking when the start date is for the new season).

As people were leaving, they were encouraged to take a copy of The Desire of Ages. A large number of copies were heartily received, and the evening closed, a good success. Bonds were made and strengthened, visits arranged, and the whole church was blessed by being actively involved and united in reaching out and blessing those around them.

~ Adriana Stanciu Simen

NSW: Depression Recovery Program

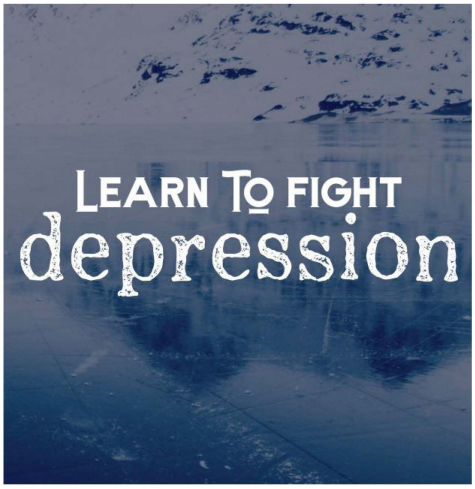
Last year, the missionary school students participated in as well as facilitated a Depression Recovery Program in Wentworthville Church. The results were very encouraging, as we had over 10 participants who experienced great results and lasting changes in their lives after going through the program. Needless to say, the students also had a great experience and gained the skills needed to facilitate the program in their local areas as well.

This year, the Depression Recovery Program is being held in Wollongong every Tuesday night at 7pm. Due to the interest that has begun in that area through current and new contacts, we realised that there was a need to provide a program that would not only improve mental health, but also feed the mind that is starving for God's love and the peace that a life hid in Christ can provide. Keeping these goals in mind, three introductory sessions were held where potential participants would gain further information about the program.

We thank the Lord for His providence as the participants which have signed up are committed and dedicated to finding a way to improve their mental health and overcome the obstacles that they have been facing for years. In this, they will be needing your prayers throughout the successive weeks as the first step is always the most difficult, and we can anticipate the kinds of challenges that each one will face. In the first session, we discussed what depression is and its causes. In the workshop that followed, each participant shared their reason for attending and what they hoped to achieve. Many were surprised by learning about the ten hit categories (i.e. circadian rhythm, genetic, nutrition, addiction to name a few) to the brain and that if you experience at least 4 or more, there is a greater likelihood of developing depression.

However, this program is effective in that it targets not only the mental state that is created through depression but also aims to find the cause of depression and treat it through learning new lifestyle habits and making better choices. It is something that I cannot recommend enough to anyone who is looking to help their depression and find joy and happiness once again. Not only that, but it is also helpful to those who are not suffering from depression and are willing to learn about mental wellbeing or else how to support a loved one who is suffering from depression. This is only week two, and there are six weeks to go; but with God's help, and your prayers, we will see lasting, positive results.

~ Daniela Balarezo



Guyana - Building Project

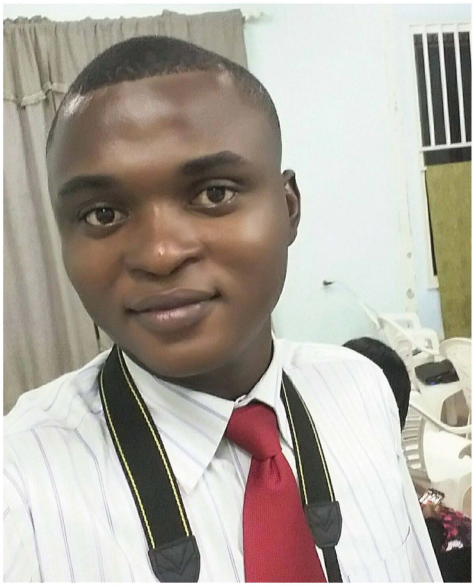
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.

To begin expressing our need, in the solemnity of the days we are living now, we want to borrow the pressing words of our Lord, which are found in the twenty-first chapter of the Gospel of Luke verse twenty-eight, He said: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Soon after our Lord finished unfolding the last scenarios of this world's history, He admonished His disciples that when they see those things begin to happen, it would be the moment for them to stand and to pay close attention because their salvation would be drawing near. Those words have direct application to us, to our generation. There is no doubt that we are living in the last days. "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." (Romans 13:11)

> We have recommenced our work on the building this year using the resources that we had gathered in years past.

We have an ongoing building project that began a few years ago. We wish to finish this project by the end of this year, God willing. By the generous help of the brethren of the General Conference and the efforts of our minister, Br. Arnaldo Pedrosa, and his wife, Sis. Richel Pedrosa, who are now working in New Zealand, the mission acquired a parcel of land. They started to build the mission's headquarters, but the work was never able to be finished due to



insufficient finances. We now feel the necessity to complete this work. We need to 1) finish the walls 2) install windows, 3) tile the floor, 4) seal the speaking platform. Adding to that we need to build extra stairs to the top floor which will enable us to have more rooms for the children's Sabbath School as well as rooms for the local missionary and missionary visitors.

We have recommenced our work on the building this year using the resources that we had gathered in years past. But little has been accomplished compared to what is left to be done. That is the reason why we appeal to the generosity of our brethren for help. We have a budget of USD $5,000 to finish the work. However, any amount the Lord might put in your heart to give is welcome to complete the work.

We realize that we might only be able to use this building for a few days, months or years that we have left in this world, as the signs of the times are indicating. But "[we] must work the works of him that sent [us], while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 9:4)

Your brother in Christ

Herold Etes,

Bible Worker, on behalf of the Church Committee.

QLD: Youth Choir 2016

Last year, while completing a Choral Conducting university course, my lecturer offered to assist me in the formation of a choir and act as an ongoing mentor. I accepted, and by end of year, 25 young people joined the group. By God's grace, we were on our way! The experience was challenging but worthwhile. As the rehearsals progressed, the group found their unique sound. It seemed that we had practiced only for days, instead of all the weeks, by the time we held the SDARM Queensland Youth Choir's inaugural concert. On







the morning of the 27th of November 2016, the 26 choir members and their parents made their way to the University of Queensland for the concert in the school's performance hall.

After a thorough run-through and final rehearsal, we all met together for a prayer, to dedicate the concert to God and ask Him to bless our work. As friends and family filled the hall, the choir excitedly waited knowing that we would also have the opportunity to create a professional recording of the concert. This was a blessing, as one of the university sound technicians offered to do the recording for us.

We had the pleasure of performing a few choral works, and a few of the members also performed in a guitar trio, string quartet and chamber choir. One of the highlights of the concert was to have guest pianist Mary Chalaby perform a rendition of some of the best-loved hymns.

By the end of the day we were thoroughly ready for a well-earned rest, and the festivities continued as we all gathered for dinner together at a local restaurant. Gifts were exchanged while we took the time to thank all the parents, caregivers, members, church family and God, who made this project possible.

What do we have to look forward to in 2017, you may ask? Well, 2017 brings an exciting season with many performance opportunities including filming a short video for the Good Tidings YouTube channel. This project has been unbelievable, and all our choir members are committed to spreading their love for music to all those around. If you would like to sponsor this ongoing project or would like to join or keep posted of all our upcoming events, please email qycsdarm@outlook.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

~ Elisabeth Balarezo

Dumaguit Family Farewell

On the 4th of March, all the Sydney churches came together, and we held a farewell at Schofields Church for the Dumaguit family. We spent the afternoon in a praise and fellowship meeting, and after the closing of Sabbath, we enjoyed a delicious dinner that all contributed to.

> "We miss their presence in the congregation...

After eating, we watched a short PowerPoint presentation of photos taken during the Dumaguit's time with us and then presented them with a gift from all of us at church: a book of Australian landscape images and also a plaque which quoted Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good...to give you a future and a hope."

We miss their presence in our congregation, but trust that the Lord is guiding and blessing their plans and the work in Auckland, New Zealand.

~ Vivian Cosson

"I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high."

Psalm 7:17

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST REFORM MOVEMENT

WANTED

OPERATIONS & SALES COORDINATOR

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

BASED IN SCHOFIELDS, NSW

An opportunity has arisen for a highly motivated, consecrated and business minded person to coordinate the operations of our publishing work within Australia and New Zealand.



SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE INFO.

Wanted: Operations and Sales Coordinator - Christian Publishing

An opportunity has arisen for a highly motivated, consecrated and business minded person to coordinate the operations of our publishing work within Australia and New Zealand.

Religious Liberty Publishing Association is dedicated to the production and distribution of Christian publications in a variety of multi-media formats including print, electronic, and audio/visual, that support and facilitate the mission of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement, Australasian Union Conference. Recently, the retail publishing operations of RLPA were assigned a new brand, "Elim Bookshop", and an online bookstore launched. RLPA will continue as a wholesale supplier and publisher of SDARM sourced materials.

This role offers an exciting, mission focussed opportunity to work for Christ in a happy, uplifting team environment that values high Christian principles, a strong work ethic, and a willingness to help wherever needed.

As operations and sales coordinator for the publishing work, you will use your strong administration and sales skills to oversee the production, distribution and marketing of high quality Christian publications for our church and the wider community. The role will also entail the coordination of in-house and/or outsourced graphic design projects. You will also be called upon to administer publications and subscription sales and order fulfilment. As a team player, you will also enjoy helping out with reception, retail counter sales and any other administration task that may present itself. Your manager will be the Director of Religious Liberty Publishing Association, and you will work closely with them in achieving operational goals.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate

- A strong commitment to Christ
- A sound understanding of the third angel's message in the light of Revelation 18:1-4 and the relevance of the publishing work to supporting its promotion
- An active membership in the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement and strong commitment to the principles of faith we uphold.
- Strong business administration skills, along with experience in sales and marketing of online products.
- Ability to coordinate production schedules of Christian publications and marketing of the same (online and print)
- Strong Customer Service and Counter Sales skills
- Excellent Telephone manner
- High proficiency with computer software packages (Outlook, Word, Excel, Web, MYOB)
- Strong order picking, packing and dispatching skills
- Exposure to Reckon (QuickBooks) Accounting Software or ability to learn

This is a unique position for someone who loves Christ, enjoys a challenge, and has a passion for evangelism through Christian media.

To apply please forward your resume to pchapman@sdarm.org.au by June 4, 2017.

For questions on this role please Contact Paul Chapman on +61 414 495 838 or by email pchapman@sdarm.org.au

"Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character on His church."
~ EGW

RLPA

Elim bookshop

it's online



elimbookshop.com.au

WA: Amariah's Baptism



Sunday 9th April had dawned bright and clear. It was a perfect morning as members and friends of Guildford and Stratham churches headed down to Lake Moyanup in Waroona, WA to witness the most beautiful of ceremonies. On this day another soul would be making a public commitment to give themselves over to the Lord and serve Him for the rest of their life. This time it was Amariah Payet.

The profession of faith was held by the lake along with special items and testimonies from those who knew Amariah. Amariah also gave her testimony. She shared the familiar struggle of doing her best to please God but then realising that at the end of each day she had again failed and fallen short of righteousness. She then shared that something she had read in a recent Sabbath Bible Lesson helped her to finally realise that if she waited until she was good enough to please God, salvation could never be hers. Instead, by faith she took hold of the promise that Christ's righteousness could be her own and that she could be complete in Him today.



Amariah was baptised in the lake by immersion, symbolising the death of the old person and the raising up of the new person that she now is in Christ Jesus.

Members and friends then stayed behind to have refreshments and a light lunch and spend time together. It was a beautiful and memorable day—a time where some could reflect on their commitment to the Lord while others who had not yet committed could think seriously about taking this vital step in their personal salvation.





~ Catherine Robles

> *"Those who submit to the solemn rite of baptism pledge themselves to devote their lives to God's service; and the three great powers of heaven... pledge themselves to co-operate with them."*
>
> *Ellen White*

WA: Youth Canoe Day

The WA Youth came together on Sunday, 26th of March to enjoy a day of canoeing at Lake Leschenaultia, east of Perth.

The day was cold and windy. While a small part of us took some cover under a picnic table shelter, the rest of the youth actually went out canoeing with enthusiasm—and even went swimming in the frigid waters. Those who were looking on only became colder with the sight.



Despite the chilly weather, old and young enjoyed themselves, and it was nice to strengthen friendships by spending time together as a group.

When the water and wind became too cold, even for the active ones, we changed tack and had some games on the green. Overall, it was a lovely day.

We thank the Lord for the blessings of Christian friendship and wholesome recreation. We're all looking forward to having more regular social times together.

~ Catherine Robles



Missionary Training Program 2018

Mark your calendar! Elim Missionary College is now planning for 2018, continuing the program we have been running since 2008. Dates are the 4th of February to the 10th of June, 2018.

To apply for MTP 2018, please download the following files and read over all the information. Then print and complete the application form, and return it to us prior to the 1st of November, 2017. Please be sure to have the form signed by your local church elder or minister. You can download from the links below - or by visiting www.sdarm.org.au/emc.

- MTP 2018 Info Flyer
- MTP 2018 Detailed Brochure
- MTP 2018 Application Form

If you have any queries, please contact us at emc@sdarm.org.au.

A Silent Witness

In Daniel 12:4, last part, we read: "... many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." As a young person, I wondered: how will it be possible for all the world to hear the good news of the Gospel? Today with technology advancing by the second, through the world-wide web and other media options, the message can be given to the whole world with a click of a button. We should take advantage of this and make the most of the options available. We will never know how far-reaching our work will be.

> God has His ways and means to reach every single person with the message.

Tuesday, 18th April, we received a phone call at the church's head office in Schofields from someone who was googling potential facilitators to take vegetarian cooking classes and a healthy diet workshop for a community eco-expo. This person came across our vegetarian cooking demonstrations on the web and was very impressed. He decided to contact and invite us to take part in the World Environment Day weekend program where they are running several educational activities, engaging the community in living well principles. Unfortunately, due to this event being held on a Saturday, we had to decline the invitation, but communicated that we would be very happy to help on any other day. While talking to this person, I found out that he was a vegetarian. So I used the opportunity to invite him to attend our Vegetarian Way Cooking Demonstrations this coming May.

But what was really amazing to me was that before I mentioned about the Sabbath, this person already knew who we were—that we are Sabbath keepers. When telling me the date for the event, he made sure that he said the word "Saturday" loud and clear, then followed with a question: "Would that be a problem to you, since it will be your day of worship?"

God has His ways and means to reach every single person with the message. When doing His bidding, we never know how far reaching our work may be. How important then it is that we are faithful in all that we do, for we never know who may be watching (or reading).

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

May God help us to be consecrated instruments in His hands.

~ Lidia Voncina

COMBINED SABBATH & BUSY BEE AT ELIM HEIGHTS

Elim Heights has always been a wonderful place to spend time together and to praise God while being surrounded by His wonderful creation; so, when an Elim Heights combined Sabbath and a Sunday Busy-bee was lined up on the same weekend, many took advantage of this social time and the opportunity to be together.

Over the Sabbath many came from Schofields and Wentworthville churches and were privileged to hear Br. Domenic Polistina take the





Divine Service. This was followed by lunch and then an interactive Young People's meeting in the Amphitheatre, always a special place resplendent with the ambient sights and sounds of the forest. This meeting was led by Sr. Vivian Cosson and Sr. Daniella Balarezo. To top it all off, we ended the day with a social bonfire and dinner where we got to enjoy some delicious coal-baked vegetables and were warmed up by the radiating fire. Those that were able decided to stay the night and be ready for work in the morning.

On Sunday everyone joined forces







and got busy sorting through the many jobs that needed to be completed. Many assisted in cleaning the buildings and doing general repairs and upgrades while some of our talented ladies prepared a delicious breakfast and lunch for all the hungry workers. One of the biggest jobs was to clear the branches around the church building. So we put our strong men to good use as they climbed, cut and cleared, with a handful of young and willing volunteers eager to ride along in the tractors and have a go.

By the end of the day we had accomplished so much. The time spent working together was wonderful! The weekend overall was such a blessing, and it's safe to say everyone that came along thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Many hands make light work.

~ Lana Gordon

VIC: Health Seminar

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayst prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John vs 2.

Our mission is to preach the gospel to every creature. For sure the greatest desire of God's heart is that His children should spend eternity with Him. However, His love doesn't stop there. He cares for the health and happiness of His sons and daughters in this life just as much as He does for the life spent in the eternal abode. For this cause we have a message bound up with the gospel to bring life more abundant to the people of earth in such a time as this: where disease, pestilence and suffering abounds.

To help fulfil this commission, the idea to hold a series of health lectures in Melbourne was born. It was a grand idea, which involved bringing a speaker from overseas, hiring a professional seminar room, and making a commitment to run the program over several evenings.

Br. Liviu Tudoroiu was the requested speaker, and he graciously made time to fly the 16,000 kms from his home in the US to serve the people of Melbourne. Arrangements were made to hire a room in Mantra—a complex near the city in Preston, a very modern and comfortable space especially suited for seminars and business lectures. Different approaches to advertising included using Facebook, as well as flyers and posters which we took to vegan



or vegetarian restaurants and cafes throughout Melbourne, asking them to display the advertising in their establishments in exchange for promoting their businesses at the event.

The lectures ran on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings over a period of two weeks, plus two additional meetings on Sabbath for the brethren here. The lectures were all very interesting, informative and highly engaging, covering a range of topics from food addiction to mental and spiritual health. All who attended—church members, people from the public, friends and relatives—were abundantly blessed. The health advice, church involvement, inspiration of missionary spirit and the experience of holding an event like this, were benefits of outstanding value to all who were involved. Hopefully this will lead to an even better project next time!

Thanks to God, the organisers, and to all those who participated in this blessed event – thank you for your untiring efforts and devotion in bringing this message of love and mercy to a sick and dying world! Looking forward to the next one!

~ Douglas Thirkettle

NZ: Lakeview Bible Camp

Finding an available place for our camp meeting this year was a challenge for us. Most of the nearby camp sites are fully book for the entire year. The NZ Young People's leader, Sister Corin Te Kahika, finally found one and suggested that we visit the place. The venue was almost three hours from Auckland, but it was an awesome location.





After coming from the AUC meetings, on January 19, 2017, I responded to an invitation from one of our friends from an independent SDA ministry to attend a camp meeting hosted by their group. This meeting was at the same place that we had booked for our conference to be held on April 18-23, 2017. My visit was great, and I met and talked to several people, some of who had already visited our church in Auckland.

On April 17, five cars and a caravan made their way from Auckland, fully loaded with passengers and goods, to the place of meeting—Lake View Bible Camp, Ngongotaha, Rotorua. Some visitors were already with us for the camp. Once we arrived, everyone helped set up the place for the meetings. On the same day, Brother Paul Chapman arrived from Australia.

Tuesday, April 18, was given to the NZ Field Annual General Meeting and a Church Committee Meeting where Br and Sr Dumaguit were accepted into Auckland Church membership. April 19 was given to final preparations for the opening of the Spiritual Conference. Our camp attendance was small with a limited number of speakers, but it was an awesome time. We chose the theme, "Christ in you, the hope of glory", with a focus on the family.

The opening message of the Conference was, "God's Glory in the Family Ministry". It dealt with the key principles and lessons revealed in

the Bible that are a firm basis for the Christian family. They are summarised as follows:

- God is an interactive Being who has made human beings for relationships.
- God established family as His primary setting for human development and care.
- God created human beings as male and female.
- Some individuals will not persevere in marriage, by neglecting the high biblical ideals for marriage and the divine power that is available to enable marital commitment to survive.
- Although marriage is God's general plan, being single is also a best option for some.
- Physical intimacy is for within marriage.
- Child bearing is an option which married couples who are able choose.
- God's covenant with His people is the basic principle of family life.
- The results of the Fall: Broken relationships – with God and with fellow humans.

The closing thoughts were –

"Fathers and mothers who make God first in their households, who teach their children that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, glorify God before angels and before men by presenting to the world a well-ordered, well-disciplined family–a family that love and obey God instead of rebelling against Him. Christ is not a stranger in their homes; His name is a household





name, revered and glorified. Angels delight in a home where God reigns supreme and the children are taught to reverence religion, the Bible, and their Creator. Such families can claim the promise, 'Them that honour Me I will honour.' As from such a home the father goes forth to his daily duties, it is with a spirit softened and subdued by converse with God.

"The presence of Christ alone can make men and women happy. All the common waters of life Christ can turn into the wine of heaven. The home then becomes as an Eden of bliss; the family, a beautiful symbol of the family in heaven." (The Adventist Home, pp. 27-28).

APRIL 20, 2017

In the morning, Brother Rolly Dumaguit dealt with the gift of Christ to the marriage feast at Cana. That union was a symbol of what God wants to do to our own marriages. The message was based on John's Gospel (John 2:1-12), "The Marriage Feast." During the study, questions that related to marriage, divorce, and re-marriage were also entertained. This presentation closed with this thought –

"The grace of Christ, and this alone, can make this institution what God designed it should be—an agent for the blessing and uplifting of humanity. And thus the families of earth, in their unity and peace and love, may represent the family of heaven." (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings, p. 65).

> "There was also a butterfly house and a beautiful garden with raised garden beds full of fruit, berries and seasonal vegetables

After a break for lunch, Brother Paul Chapman presented the message on "God's Design for Marriage." God designed marriage to help meet the manifold needs of men and women in a framework of support, safety,



and security. This was a wonderful discussion which all of us enjoyed and fully appreciated. His talk concluded with this reflection from 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

"Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not conceited, does not act improperly, is not selfish, is not provoked, and does not keep a record of wrongs. Love finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

> Our merciful God has not only provided food, but a royal feast, for the perishing, rebellious creatures.

During a break from the meetings, some of us visited aMAZEme a wholesome recreational centre for families, that included small animal petting, an aviary and a playground. There was also a butterfly house and a beautiful garden with raised garden beds full of fruit, berries and seasonal vegetables. The central feature was a maze formed from winding hedges along 1.4 kilometres of pathways. The children and youth who went had a wonderful time.

APRIL 21, 2017

Everyone was excited as we met to worship together on Friday. This was also a preparation for the Sabbath. Sister Mercy Dumaguit presented the study in the morning on "Keeping the Marriage Healthy." A saying that "prevention is better than cure" can also be applied to the marriage relationship. "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 1:2). There are simple protective measures that God has given to couples to help maintain a healthy marriage.

We live in an atmosphere that is unfriendly to us physically, spiritually, and relationally. The virus of sin, with its thousands of variations, and the bacteria of selfishness, likewise variable and pervasive, are in the very air we breathe. Marriage, the closest family relationship, is the most vulnerable to relational germs, disease, and death. A carefully crafted strategy is employed with the utmost efficiency by Satan himself to infect every marriage with a fatal disease.

> But without faith it is impossible to please him...

The Bible admonishes us to "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

The children and youth had gone to distribute tracts during the morning. They distributed "100 Facts About the Sabbath" and "Why I Am A Vegetarian"–about 800 tracts in all.

The evening worship service shared thoughts from the following Bible verses –

"Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches." Jeremiah 9:23.

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." Hebrews 9:22.





"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

APRIL 22, 2017

We joined together on this wonderful day. The Divine Service message was on "The Marriage Miracle" and the speaker was Brother Paul Chapman. According to Matthew's gospel, the "king" had "sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come" (Matthew 22:3).

The provision made in the gospel for perishing souls is represented by a royal feast made by a king, with eastern liberality, on the marriage of his son. Our merciful God has not only provided food, but a royal feast, for the perishing, rebellious creatures. In the gift of salvation through his Son Jesus Christ, there is enough and to spare, of every thing that provides for our present comfort and everlasting happiness.

Many are called to the wedding-feast—to salvation—but few have on the wedding-garment, which is the righteousness of Christ, the sanctification of the Spirit. Then let us examine ourselves whether we are in the faith, and seek to be approved by the King.

Right after the Sabbath lunch, Brother Paul Chapman and Brother Rolly Dumaguit conducted special studies for our visitors on the following interesting subjects:

- The Nature of Christ in the Godhead
- Who is the king of the north? (Papacy or Turkey).
- The four Beasts and the 24 Living Creatures.
- Issues between IMS and SDARM.

The children, youth, and the "once young" joined for a walk amidst the beautiful redwoods in a nearby park. We all praised the Lord that the whole day went well.

> We must not only hide our children from danger, but expose them to opportunity.

APRIL 23, 2017

On the morning of the final day of the Camp, the farewell message was based on Proverbs 22:6 – "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." If we believe that God desires to produce a godly final generation, what should be our part? The duties of Christian parenting are not just for those with children. We are all in this together.

Paul wrote something in Hebrews 11:23 –

"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment." See the hiding part? The government of Egypt was no friend to believers in God. Far from it. Egypt had embarked on a calculated plan to break the Hebrews. The government decreed murder; newborn male children were to be slaughtered.

What did the Hebrew parents do? What any god-fearing parent would do: they hid the child. We are to hide the child as well. That is, we are to protect the child against dangers and bad influences. God urges us not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1, 2).

But hiding the child is not the whole picture. Consider Proverbs 6:6-8: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest."

We must not only hide our children from danger, but expose them to opportunity. They must, according to their age, be given space to make their own decisions and to learn from their mistakes. We must guide them so that they have learning opportunities.

After packing and cleaning, with rejoicing in our hearts, we bid farewell and headed for home.

~ Arnaldo Pedrosa

Farewell to Brother Peter Daniel Lausevic

Peter Daniel Lausevic, an ordained Minister and Bible Worker moved to Australia in 2007. He pastored Schofields Church in the NSW Conference and served as the NSW Conference President for at least two terms. Brother Peter reestablished the "Elim Missionary College", its previous program having ended in 2001. In 2008, and every two years thereafter until 2016, Brother Peter led out in the running and administration of five Australian-based, four-month-long intensive but practical missionary training programs. He also taught some of the classes.

> We thank you, Brother Peter, for your faithful, dedicated service from the bottom of our hearts.

At the General Conference Session in 2007, Brother Peter was chosen as 2nd General Conference Vice-President residing outside the USA. From that time, Brother Peter gave a large portion of his time to the Australasian Union Conference and travelled also for the General Conference to assist in the training of youth and evangelical outreach programs in countries such as Switzerland, London, India, South Africa, Philippines, Ukraine, Brazil, Italy, Peru and the USA.

In 2015 Brother Peter became 1st General Conference Vice-President, which requires him to live in Roanoke to assist the President and the running of the General Conference Headquarters.

Brother Peter's main focus and passion is education and training of workers and evangelical outreach in weaker units throughout the world. His desire is to maintain education and training of workers all over the world and to set up an Educational Centre in Roanoke for leadership and teacher training.

Brother Peter worked tirelessly and faithfully for the Lord during his time in Australia, proving himself a blessing to all of God's people here. In sharing all of the above, it goes without saying that his wife, Sister Susan, has been a wonderful support to him and to the AUC. We trust that the Lord will be with them both in this new phase in their ministry for the Lord.

We thank you, Brother Peter, for your faithful, dedicated service from the bottom of our hearts. We will miss you greatly. May God continue to use you mightily in His service.

With Christian love from all your brothers and sisters here in Australia.

God bless you!

~ Craig Cunningham

QLD Youth Camp Report 2017

On Friday 21st of April, families, friends and youth around Queensland and other states joined together for a weekend of Christian fellowship. The camp theme was "Cardiac Arrest". The studies covered issues associated with the heart of a Christian, whether young or old. We opened Sabbath with a study taken by Br. Cameron Thiel on the topic of Diagnosis. Br. Cameron talked about the need to have our heart problems effectively diagnosed. Dinner was served and we all came together again for a Bible study taken by Br. Jared Chapman on, "Heart of Flesh and Heart of Stone".

> As part of the meeting, some people were asked to share change of heart experiences they had had.

After a good night's sleep, we all awoke to a beautiful raining morning. Worship was taken by Br. Robin Kim on "Triple Bypass". Br. Robin shared about things that break our heart and then lead us to accept Christ into our hearts. We gathered for breakfast and then quickly set things up for Sabbath School. For Sabbath School Br. Jacob De Souza led out, and Sis. Adrianna Wales took the youth Sabbath School meeting on "Pure Blood, Toxic Blood". After we











all had a short break to greet one another, Br. Jade Wales took the divine service on open heart surgery. It was a very touching message, and we all gained a blessing from it. After a fellowship lunch and time to catch up, we gathered together again to share stories, experiences and items in Young People's meeting. Young People's meeting was taken by Sis. Jessica Brown. As part of the meeting, some people were asked to share change of heart experiences they had had. This gave great encouragement to others in the meeting. After Young People's meeting, we all had a quiet time to have a walk in nature and relax before the close of Sabbath.

> "...many people were touched and some requested Bibles studies.

The closing of Sabbath was taken by Sis. Elisabeth Balarezo on "Heart Rhythm". After Sabbath was closed, dinner was served and the bonfire was lit. After a nice evening around the fire, we all drifted off to bed. Early Sunday morning, worship was taken by Br. Ben Thiel on "Vital Signs". After breakfast, for our workshops, we had a paramedic and an ambulance come and teach some first aid and information on health and emergency first aid. After a BBQ lunch, we gathered together for close of camp by Br. Benji on "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)". After camp had closed, Sis. Diana and Br. Ricardo organised some games for everyone to play. After the games, dinner was served and then everything was cleaned up and packed up and we all left. The camp was a blessing to young and old. Even though it was a youth camp, there were many other young children there and many people were touched and some requested Bibles studies.

We thank God for the opportunity to come together and learn more about Him and come closer to Him.

~ Jessica Brown

NSW: Feeding the Homeless

Psalms 41:1 "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble."

It has been a great experience and privilege to be able to lend helping hands in feeding the homeless in Woolloomooloo. This month will mark five months since we first began. Each time, God has been opening doors, pouring blessings upon us and bringing more people together in this ministry. The

kitchen was buzzing in April with many volunteers joining us to prepare a delicious and nutritious meal consisting of steamed veggies, potato bake, red lentil sauce and a mouth-watering apple crumble. It was great to see new faces and first timers attending, and we even had a few more children join in to help, cut, peel and chop fruit for the crumble. In about two and a half hours (our fastest time yet thanks to all the efficient helpers) the cooking was finished, and all that remained was to pack the steaming pots and trays into our cars and drive to begin serving in Woolloomooloo. It was not a moment too soon, since by that time we were all feeling pretty hungry ourselves!







When we arrived, there were already a few volunteers setting up tables, and the homeless patrons had begun to already assemble in a long line just beside the tables. It was about 30 minutes before we began; and by the time we started, there were between 60-80 people assembled. As we served, there was opportunity to converse with the people as they passed by the tables and encourage them to take more veggies, which many of them did. Some were not sure in the beginning, but after trying the foom, they eagerly came back for more. More or less, they are used to turning to comfort foods instead of having a healthy, hearty meal. It is in these times and situations that I've realised that although these people have made bad choices, are suffering with addictions, have come from abusive homes, or have chosen to live that life, they are human beings nonetheless, deserving of our compassion. In a world that plunges men and women deeper into sin and decay, it is no wonder that the life expectancy of the homeless is considerably lower than the general population. It also means another soul lost to eternity where they might have been redeemed. In France, Les Morts de La Rue reported that, according to homeless statistics, at least one person dies every 20 hours on the streets.

God has blessed us by allowing us to live in a privileged country and by bringing us closer to Him to learn of Him at his feet. If we are being moved by His love and Spirit, working as He worked, then we too will look for ways to relieve the suffering around us. Jesus' method of working teaches us the all encompassing principle of how to live and work for others. "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. he showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" (The Ministry of Healing, p. 143)

~ Daniela Balarezo

NSW: Raw Food Report

Most Australians do not eat enough fruits and vegetables. Thankfully, at the Raw Food Hands-on Workshop in Schofields, Sunday, April 2nd, 2017, we were preparing for a delicious and nutritious experience packed with fruits and vegetables. The class was fully booked with 30 outside participants, expected to arrive for a 10:30 am start. Director and food event coordinator, Lidia







Voncina, designed this program to equip anyone with the tools, skills and creativity to prepare delicious raw meals.

As the participants were arriving, they were treated to an alkaline chlorophyll green drink which consisted of baby spinach, pineapple, coconut water, lemon and mint. Colon Hydrotherapist and health advocate, Susan Lausevic, gave a short introduction into the benefits of eating raw food, and then everyone was directed to their stations. Six stations were set up where six different recipes were prepared. The dishes presented on the day included:

- Raw Tomato Soup (Vivian Cosson and Daniela Balarezo)
- Raw Vegetable Curry with Parsnip Rice (Tanya Ah-Ching and Jenny Foaese)
- Almond Milk and Almond Cheese Stuffed Tomatoes (Lidia Voncina and Joe Voncina)
- Zucchini Pasta with Tomato Basil Sauce and Raw Fetuccini Zucchini Pasta (Susan Lausevic, Rosemary Voncina and Vesna Kraus)
- Vietnamese Rolls with a Raw Dipping Sauce (Rosetta Ilic and Lana Gordon)
- Banana Cream and Passionfruit Slice (Amy Gules and Lilly Sas)

Each participant had the chance to chop, peel, slice and prepare each of these dishes as the groups switched to a new station every 20 minutes. When all was said and done, a delicious banquet was arranged with all the dishes that everyone had prepared; and it's safe to say, no one went hungry or felt that they were missing the cooked side of the meal. Most of all, we learned that preparing raw food can be quick, fun and delicious while being nutritious. When you eat raw you are actually getting the most out of your meals. Why not begin trying raw food recipes, substituting for one cooked meal?

> "The best part of the whole event was that everyone was hands-on, which is always a great barrier-breaker...

A huge thank you to all the helpers and volunteer staff who worked tirelessly to bring this program to fruition and continue to share their love of a vibrant and heathier lifestyle with the community. It goes without saying that everyone who attended also deserves a round of thanks as they not only put together a delicious set of dishes but also made for a very enjoyable and creative Sunday morning.

–Daniela Balarezo.

Looking through the eyes of a demonstrator

Hummmm... What can one say about a Raw Food Workshop? It was a lot of fun. It was educational. It was healthy. It was what it was... raw food. You either love it or you don't. There is usually no middle ground.





What you don't normally think of though is that it is a great social event. Both, demonstrators and guests had such a unique time together.

The best part of the whole event was that everyone was hands-on, which is always a great barrier-breaker. The other best part was, there were no generation gaps. We were approximately fifty in number and the age range was between eight to over eighty. Everyone had a go, plus enjoyed the fruits of their labours later. One more best thing was that it was not just a ladies' event. Thank you men; you were awesome.

I had some time throughout the day to ask our guests if they were enjoying the hands-on experience, and there was nothing but positive feedback from all. So what does this tell us? Plan another hands-on Food Workshop ladies. It was too much fun for everyone

Please see the attached recipes and give them a go. Most of them were fabulous!

~ By Lilly Sas

VIC Camp 2017

Vic Camp 2017 was definitely one that will be remembered as a camp that was special for many reasons. Held in the same beautiful spot, with mostly the same church family, at the same time of the year as others before it, little did we know that this camp was going to be so different. It began when the planning committee decided to make "Family" the camp theme. This meant no long, dry doctrinal discourses for the sermons; no argumentative debates during the workshops; and an involvement of youth and children rarely seen.

Every topic that was presented in some way gave practical and biblical advice and suggestions about how to raise and run a family for the glory of God. Topics ranged from Christian education, family Christianity, how and why to conduct family worship, the missionary family, and preparation on becoming part of the heavenly family. On Sabbath, the workshops involved more detailed and specific discussions regarding the various roles and responsibilities of individual family members. These were a blessing and enjoyed by all involved.

A huge blessing also came from something else we don't see every camp – the welcoming into the fold of seven children of God by baptism. The occasion was made even more special by the visitors from NSW and QLD joining us to witness Chris and Rosa Leaosavaii, Ben, Pepe, Inga, and Salati Ahmann, and Irina Duna all don their baptismal gowns and make their commitment to Christ public in the waters of the cool (freezing) waters of the camp lake. Not to worry about the Victorian climate though, as the camp fire was lit that Sabbath evening, and the family socialising continued into the night.

> "This meant no long, dry doctrinal discourses for the sermons; no argumentative debates during the workshops...

On Sunday, the youth participated in an extremely original and well thought out activity that not only taught and encouraged them in life skills but made camp a delight instead of a duty. The idea was that they would simulate real life by being delegated different jobs in which they could earn (pretend) money. With that money they could pay the church tithe by giving some of the money to pastor Luke Philips, or they





could donate to feed the homeless man Gaby Mandic, or they had the opportunity to buy goods and services like kayaking or food or wifi. It proved a really good idea with very real lessons learned – something special and enjoyed by all involved.

> Br. Nathan Tyler gave his final thanks to his Victorian Field family, with whom he had the pleasure of organising field camps for the last eight years

Camp closed on Sunday evening with something else to make it a special camp. After thanking the cooks, their helpers and the coordinators, Br. Nathan Tyler gave his final thanks to his Victorian Field family, with whom he had the pleasure of organising field camps for the last eight years. This camp, he said with slight nostalgia, depending on certain circumstances, was likely to be the last one he would share in the organisation of, for his ministerial duties will see him being transferred to NSW (with his family) some time this year.

So it was that with friendly farewells and a little sadness, most went home on Sunday evening. A camp to be remembered for so many reasons: the baptisms, the activities, the lessons learned and family bonds strengthened. May God help us have such an experience not only every camp, but every day. For this let us pray "unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant (us), according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in (our) hearts by faith; that (we), being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that (we) might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Ephesians 3:14-19).

~ Adriana Stanciu

Victorian Camp Wive's & Mother's Session

For our workshop during the Victorian Camp, the mothers and wives had a session showing some practical ways of connecting with God. Since we feed our relationship with God most effectively when we keep our thoughts uplifted to Him, many of these ways can help us to keep our focus on God through the day. Mothers are often very busy, so even if we can only do one or two things at the moment, it can still help us in our relationship with God. We had various stations where we were challenged to:

Write down a blessing we have received on a small slip of paper and

> *"Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy."*
>
> *Psalm 59:17*

put it into the Count Your Blessings box. At the end of the year, you empty the box and read the blessings.

- Write out a favourite Bible verse either onto a post-it note or a piece of card. Then put it where you can see it through the day—like in the kitchen where you are cooking.
- Do a journal entry. We were encouraged to record a favourite verse which has helped us through different situations; an experience we have had; or a thanksgiving to God.
- Begin a prayer list. We were encouraged to put names on the prayer list provided.
- Write down a spiritual lesson from nature or from the daily experience; something from nature or a trial we have gone through.
- Take stock. Based upon the verse from 2 Corinthians 13:5, we are encouraged to examine ourselves. So we were encouraged to reflect on our day. Things we feel we could improve upon. Things we think went well. How we can better reach out to others.
- Name a song which has been inspiring to us in our Christian experience.
- Think of ways to share what we have learned or experienced with others.

After completing all the activities, we shared the responses. It was very encouraging to hear the different responses. One of the activities, which was the spiritual lesson from nature or the daily experience, didn't get shared. So here is one of the responses, giving an example of a spiritual lesson from nature.

> Overall, I was very blessed by the many encouraging things shared among us...

"Perfect plants need to be replanted in the big garden so they can grow and bear fruit. If they are left in small pots, they stay seedlings, not growing nor bringing fruit to their full potential. Once we outgrow the place we are in and exhaust all its possibilities, God, the great Gardener, will replant us somewhere else. However, He will not do that if we don't want to grow to our fill potential; or sometimes He will try to change the soil first, until He gets us to where He wants us, if we will cooperate with that."

Looking at the spiritual lessons in our day-to-day life reminds me of the method Jesus used in reaching hearts. "The birds of the air, the lilies of the field, the sower and the seed, the shepherd and the sheep—with these Christ illustrated immortal truth. He drew illustrations also from the events of life, facts of experience familiar to the hearers—the leaven, the hid treasure, the pearl, the fishing net, the lost coin, the prodigal son, the houses on the rock and the sand. In His lessons there was something to interest every mind, to appeal to every heart. Thus the daily task, instead of being a mere round of toil, bereft of higher thoughts, was brightened and uplifted by constant reminders of the spiritual and the unseen."—Education, p. 102.

Overall, I was very blessed by the many encouraging things shared among us.

~ Deborah Chapman

"In behalf of the souls for whom Christ has died, who are in the darkness of error, it is enjoined upon all true followers of Christ to be a light to the world. God has done His part in the great work, and is waiting for the cooperation of His followers. The plan of salvation is fully developed. The blood of Jesus Christ is offered for the sins of the world, the Word of God is speaking to man in counsels, in reproofs, in warnings, in promises, and in encouragement, and the efficacy of the Holy Spirit is extended to help him in all his efforts."

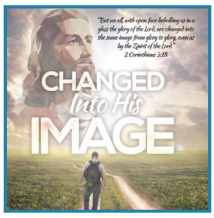
~ Ellen White~

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Upcoming Events



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



WA Field Camp 2017
Date: 22-24 September, 2017
Venue: Guildford Church
Click here for more information.
Contact: 0411 250 852

AUC Music Camp & Youth Convention
Date: 22-30 December, 2017
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp
Click here for more information.
Contact: 0430 505 934



Missionary Training Program 2018
Date: February 4 - July 10, 2018
Venue: NSW
Click here for more information.
Contact: emc@sdarm.org.au

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Tel: (02) 9627 7553

Email: goodtidings@sdarm.org.au
Web: www.sdarm.org.au

Editor: Paul Chapman
Associate Editor: Lidia Voncina
Design: Gerson Robles

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