

Good Tidings

Australasian Good Tidings News

28 October, 2026 – No. 85

Upcoming Events

Week of Prayer

Dates: December 4-13, 2026

Location: Worldwide

AUC Worker Seminar

Dates: December 20-22, 2026

Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp

AUC Youth Conference

Dates: Dec 24, 2026 - Jan 2, 2027

Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp

Camponotus

Dates: January 3-5, 2027

Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp

Summer School

Dates: January 3-5, 2027

Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp

EMC Mission Training Program

Dates: January 10 - March 29, 2027

Location: Melbourne

Victoria Camp

Dates: March 26-29, 2027

Location: Yackandandah, VIC

Forward in Faith: Sharing the Good Tidings

Welcome to a new term of the Good Tidings, our church news magazine! As we begin a new term in the Australasian Union Conference, we do so with a renewed sense of purpose and a theme that encourages us to keep moving forward: "Forward in Faith."

What does it mean to move forward in faith? It means trusting God as we continue the work He has entrusted to us, even when the way ahead is uncertain. It means looking beyond our challenges, taking advantage of new opportunities, and remaining faithful to sharing the Gospel with everyone.

This is the inspiration behind our theme. As a church, we are called not simply to maintain what we have received, but to press forward in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Our mission remains clear: to preach the Gospel to everyone, sharing the hope, love, salvation found in Him, and tell the world that He is coming soon.

Through the Good Tidings, we hope to strengthen this mission by sharing the stories of what God is doing across our fields. Every event, church activity, missionary initiative, outreach program, and testimony has the potential to encourage others. These stories help us reflect on our progress, learn from one another, and remain united in our calling.

For this reason, we warmly invite you to contribute! If something meaningful is happening in your field, please send us your news, photographs, reports, and testimonies. Whether it is a major evangelistic campaign or a small act of service in your local church, we would love to hear about it and share it with our readers.

As we journey through this new term, may the Good Tidings continue to be a platform that informs, inspires, and unites us in our mission.

Let us move forward in faith, trusting in God's leading and working together to share the Gospel with the world.

Together, let us keep sharing the good tidings of Jesus Christ!

Forward
in Faith

Something to share?

Email events and news to
goodtidings@sdarm.org.au

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In Memory of Elaine Weymark

12 December 1930 – 6 October 2025

Elaine Dawn Weymark passed away on 6 October 2025, just two months and six days before she would have turned ninety-five. She had lived every one of those years with a warmth, industry, and quiet faithfulness that touched multiple generations—as daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and beloved friend to all who knew her. Those who gathered to remember her life could not help but feel, as one speaker put it, that “she was a mother to so many.”

Early Life

Elaine was born on 12 December 1930, the second youngest of seven children to Lily and George William Heslop, in the family home at 20 Gladstone Street, Leichhardt, Sydney. Her earliest memories included the view of the arch of the Harbour Bridge on the horizon. She made mud cakes in the garden using pebbles for sultanas, and helped her parents paint the house.

From childhood she was guided by her beloved Aunt Ethel, who had no children of her own and formed a bond with Elaine that lasted all their lives. Aunt Ethel taught her to love birds—particularly the Willy Wagtail, the Blue Wren and the Jenny Wren—and introduced her to fine table settings and a love of beautiful things. “Aunt taught me to enjoy nice things,” Elaine recalled.

When Elaine’s father George attended an evangelistic mission in a nearby park, he was captivated by a Bible chart of Daniel 2, and both parents’ lives were transformed. They became Seventh-day Adventists, worshipping at the Stanmore Church, where George was in time ordained an Elder. Later, Elaine continued her Christian experience in the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement, where she would serve devotedly for the rest of her life, known affectionately as “Sister Weymark.”

Education and Early Career

Elaine’s sharp mind led her to Hornsby Home Science High School, where she studied Cooking, Sewing, Physiology and the Business Course. Aunt Ethel then sponsored her to attend the prestigious Miss Hale’s Business College in Margaret Street, Sydney, to study typing and shorthand.

Her first position was as a secretary at a carpet manufacturer in Five Dock, where she even rode her bicycle to work because it was faster than the bus and tram connection. When an opening arose at the church office, she took it. Her speed and precision became the stuff of legend among those who worked alongside her. Br. Sas recalled watching her arrive at the office on a Friday morning at 9 a.m. and, working

entirely on a Remington typewriter, type all thirteen children’s Sabbath lessons on stencils, then correct, print, fold and staple them—ready for posting by one o’clock in the afternoon.



A Life Partnership

Harold Weymark had been among the first students at Hebron Missionary College at Lower Portland on the Colo River. It was there that Elaine was baptised on 11 January 1948, and Harry presented her with a beautiful red-leather bound copy of the book *Education* to mark the occasion.

Their friendship deepened slowly and tenderly through letters—official correspondence growing shorter while the personal letters grew longer. Harry visited the Heslop family home in Sydney; on one bus ride he took Elaine’s hand and held it very tightly. By Wednesday evening prayer meeting he had made what Elaine later called “the longest goodbye I have ever had.”

The engagement followed on 26 August 1951. Elaine’s gift to Harry was a zippered pocket Bible inscribed, “To Harry, 26.8.51. Psalm 37:4, 5.” The verse read: “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

They were united in marriage on 11 December 1951—the day before Elaine’s twenty-first birthday, exactly as she had quietly told her father she hoped would happen, back when Harry’s very first letter had arrived years before.

Harry was ordained into the ministry of the SDA Reform Movement, and for nearly sixty years Elaine stood beside him as partner, secretary and support. She also served as church treasurer, at one point mentoring a young man in the use of ledger books and calculators in a tiny office barely a metre and a half square. That young man was Joe Voncina, who went on to serve as a church treasurer himself for over twenty years—a quiet legacy of her patient teaching.

Homes and Seasons of Life

Elaine and Harry made a succession of homes across two countries, raising three children: Kenneth, Desmond, and Roslyn. Kenneth was born in Melbourne; Desmond followed thirteen months later, and Roslyn arrived some years after. Desmond, born in New Zealand while Harry was posted there, was affectionately known in the family as “the Kiwi.”

In later years Elaine and Harry settled on acreage at Maraylya, where they tended fruit trees, flowering gardens and a vegetable patch, before moving to McGrath’s Hill on the outskirts of Windsor. This became their last shared home, and Elaine loved it dearly—particularly the verandah that looked out over the back paddock, and in the backyard, the best lemon tree ever.

Harry passed away in 2009. Elaine met widowhood with characteristic resilience, keeping busy at Elim Heights Youth Camp—where she painted, gardened and planned improvements alongside caretaker Robin Gordon, whose partnership she treasured deeply. She joined a knitting group in Richmond, making blankets for those in need, and enjoyed bus excursions with her niece Carol, speaking of those outings with fondness for years afterwards.

The Forster Years

When the COVID pandemic of 2020 brought isolation, Elaine told Desmond and his wife Margaret that she was ready to relocate closer to family. Homes were hard to secure, with so many people wanting to move out of Sydney. One morning Margaret spotted a house that had come onto the market only two kilometres away from their home in Forster on the NSW mid-north coast, and Desmond walked through and signed the contract the same day. Fortunately, Elaine loved the house.

At the local arts and crafts centre, Elaine's skills in sewing, knitting and crocheting amazed everyone she met, and she quickly became the person others came to for help. She crocheted small rugs for children at the Ronald McDonald House, joined a new knitting group, made friends, and quietly filled the days with purpose and generosity.

Her five years in Forster were filled with joy: her 90th birthday party with all the relatives, attending the primary school open day for her great-grandchildren as the only great-grandmother present, watching great-grandchildren at nippers and surf carnivals at Tuncurry, attending Pony Club, walks along the breakwall, and cuddling the family's little Kelpie puppy, Ella. She tended a new vegetable garden, drove herself about as she needed, and kept up warm correspondence with her brother Neville in Tasmania, and with many beloved friends.



The Woman She Was

Those who spoke at Elaine's memorial service mentioned the same qualities over and over. She loved people above all things—her stories were about the people rather than the things. She was reluctant to criticise, even when she had every reason to do so. She was industrious and unassuming, always to be found doing something: head down in the garden, stacking shelves in the church health food shop at Schofields, or in earlier years, quietly writing a personal note to tuck inside a payroll envelope so that every church worker felt seen and appreciated.

As a loving and caring person, Elaine made every person she spoke with feel, in that moment, like the only person in the world.

She was humble and modest, often uncomfortable with praise. During filming of the documentary about the history of Hebron Missionary College, we captured a proud detail—that the oranges grown on the property were “the pick of the markets in Sydney.” While the camera was rolling, she immediately added, “Oh, don't put that in.” We put it in anyway.

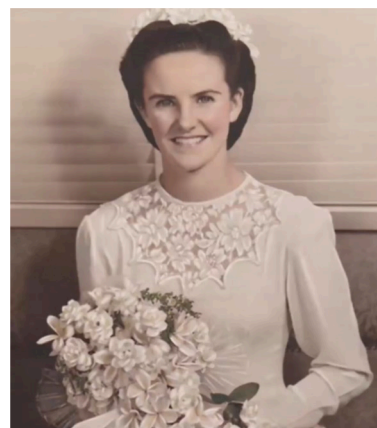
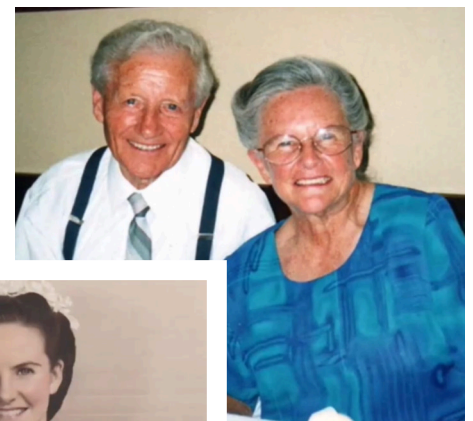
Legacy and Hope

Elaine leaves behind her three children Kenneth, Desmond and Roslyn, their families, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; her brother Neville and his wife Rosetta, and a church family that spans decades and continents.

Elaine treasured the hope expressed in the verse she had inscribed in Harry's engagement Bible: that to delight in the Lord is to find the desires of your heart fulfilled. She believed that death would be only a brief sleep, and that she would wake at the Lord's call and be reunited with Harry and all those she loved and who share the blessed hope.

Dear Elaine is now resting. Her works are following her. The influence of her life still lives today, and will continue to do so. Let us be inspired to follow her example in modelling the life of the Lord Jesus.

~ Nathan Tyler



“United” in Tasmania

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1

This year's Victoria-Tasmania Conference camp themed "United" took place for the first time in Tasmania, Australia's sixth state. Brethren from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and even Western Australia came to be part of this blessed event.

Now Tasmania is truly something different; if one has never been there, it is hard to imagine it: nevertheless I'll try to picture it for you.

Imagine you are sitting in an aeroplane flying over the Tasman Sea with your destination Hobart, and you look out of the window, and see this island approaching. The distant spot draws closer, and you notice it's beautiful hills rolling up and down. You see the earthen & green colours of the fields, forests & meadows, the blue of rivers and lakes blending in as if placed there by the brush of a painter. As soon as you exit the aeroplane, fresh air from the mountains and sea greets you with its pleasantness.

Thursday, the 9th of April, before the official start of our camp (Friday the 10th to Monday the 13th) a couple of families and members find themselves busy, working together in preparation for the kitchen at our brother Lance Smith's place in Claremont. What a lovely elderly couple! Not only did they open their house to numerous guests, who took over the kitchen, bathroom, living room, as well as every spot in the house, but they also blessed us with the stories of their amazing life experiences and miraculous interventions of our Lord. Picture young and old chatting, laughing and working with their hands, peeling cooked potatoes, and onions, forming Arancini-balls, and at times listening to our brother and guest speaker Pastor David Zic sharing experiences from his ministry. Truly I'd say for those gathered there, the Camp had already started!

On Friday after settling in our venue,



Brother David shared with us the first message entitled "United in Faith" and presented to us the importance of being perfectly forgiving as our Father in heaven is (Matthew 5:48). Conviction settled upon us, as upon the disciples that we need more faith: "And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5).

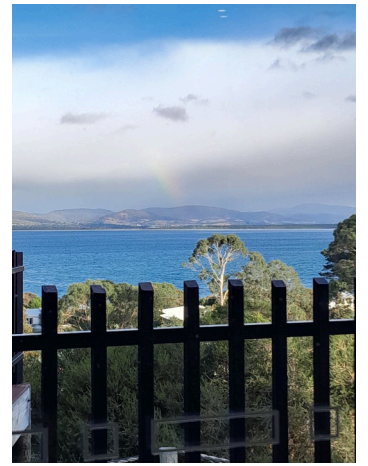
Over the next couple of days, we studied about what it really takes to be united.

How the Holy Spirit works to unite us and mould our spirit.

How unity in truth guides us to the law of God and converts us in return (Psalm 19:7).

Drawing closer to God, draws us closer to one another. Being united to Jesus involves unity in love and unity in service for the Master. If these are missing in our lives, then we shall question if after encountering Jesus, we have walked away as the young rich ruler did once upon a time. Our church doesn't just need members; it needs Jesus' disciples!

The truths we learned, the presentations we heard and the conversations we had passed so quickly, that I wish we didn't have to part again. Not yet, but one day in the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus there will be no parting anymore, no more goodbyes. Until then we



shall work and share the light of the Gospel to the world.

Being in these meetings turned out to be a great blessing, and I'll cherish these memories imagining that they must have been close to what the church felt in the days of Apostle Paul, when hungering and thirsting after the Word of God made us forget our physical needs. We didn't want to miss one moment of the uplifting presentations and conversations. Thankfully we had no Eutychus fall from the window (Acts 20:9).

On Sabbath afternoon and Sunday morning our visitors from Tasmania and the mainland, probably about 2 families and a couple of individuals, had the opportunity to ask important Questions in a Q&A Session. Br. David presented the answers to us always drawing rich treasures from the Scriptures and Pen of Inspiration, yet time was too short to present all that is of great importance. Great interest was aroused and our young people, members and visitors are strongly encouraged to take up the opportunity and get rightly

trained, acquiring the needed foundation to become useful tools in the hands of God.

This is possible by attending one of our missionary training programs around the world, such as USA, Europe, or right here in Australia.

The time is short; the kingdom is approaching and we must not stop now, but with new energy labour in unity for the hope that is before us! "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2. Peter 3:9)

Grace will soon be exhausted. Jesus will return!
You who have experienced the saving Grace of God,

What will *you* do about it?

~ Michael Postolache

Mothers' Camp in SA

A weekend of Renewal and Connection

The recent Mothers' Camp at Woodhouse Adventure Park was a beautiful success, drawing an encouraging number of mums from our church.

From the moment attendees arrived, the atmosphere was filled with warmth, anticipation, and a shared desire for rest, reflection, and inspiration.

Throughout the weekend, speakers delivered heart-felt messages that resonated deeply with every mother present. These sessions were more than talks—there were moments of honesty, encouragement, and gentle reminders of the strength and resilience that mothers carry every day.

Some mums shared that the words spoken felt as though they were crafted just for them, meeting them right where they were in their personal journeys.

As the camp unfolded, the impact became clear. Laughter returned, shoulders relaxed, and conversations blossomed among women who understood one another's challenges and triumphs.

Surrounded by the natural beauty of Woodhouse Adventure Park, mums found space to breathe, reconnect with themselves, and rediscover the joy in their calling.

By the end of the event, every mother left revived, motivated, and empowered to continue the important work of nurturing her children.

The camp served as a powerful reminder that when mothers are supported and uplifted, families and communities grow stronger.

We celebrate the success of this year's Mothers' Camp and look forward to many more opportunities to gather, encourage, and grow together.

~ SA Brethren



Coleambally Church Opening

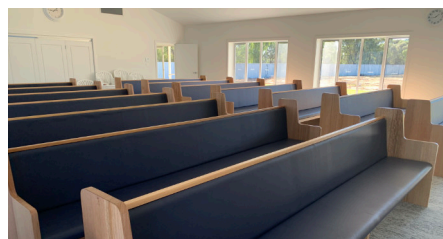
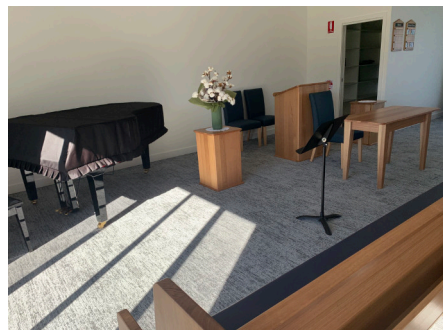
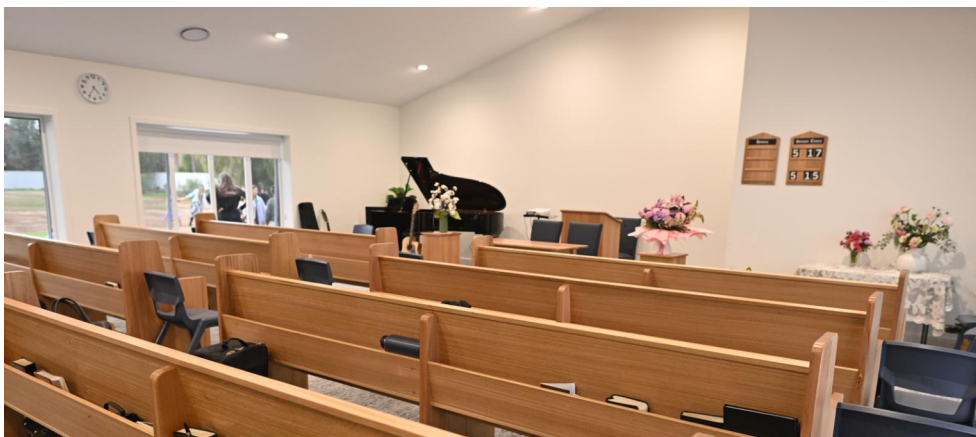
We praise God for the opening of our own church building in Coleambally! For 20 years we had been meeting in a borrowed church, and while it was a blessing, we long dreamt of worshipping in our own church. In October 2024, this dream began to be a reality when, after years of plans and discussion, the concrete foundation/floor was poured. The steel beams were up by the end of the year and by the end of 2025 most of the work was completed. Then in April 2026 our prayers were answered when the occupancy certificate was issued. Finally, we could start meeting in our new building!

Over the weeks following we prepared for our church opening! On the 23rd of May 2026 our church

was packed and overflowing with people who had come to worship with us from near and far and praise God for the blessing of fellowship. Br Miguel Mendoza shared a message on the purpose of the church, and we had many beautiful items and enjoyed singing hymns together.

God has provided us with so many blessings and answers to prayer. For instance, our church pews had arrived only days before, and we needed them to fit everyone who came. We have much to be thankful for, and we pray that God may use our church and every one of us, to be a light in the community and to share God's love with those around us.

May we all continue ... "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).



Elim Missionary College

Eight students joined us in Melbourne for two months to complete the Mission Training Program 2026. They learned various skills such as research, how to conduct a Bible study, public speaking, literature evangelism, simple remedies, and even basic auto mechanics—and more. Their theory subjects included topics such as prophecy, righteousness by faith, church administration, and the work of the Sabbath School.

As it was the first time an Elim Missionary College program has been run in Melbourne, we had some adjusting to do, but we had a great time, and the local church was very accommodating, both in allowing the use of facilities and in helping to cater lunch and dinner for the students.

A highlight was the graduation on Sabbath, attended by many, including at least 12 alumni.

Elim Missionary College will be offering a three-month Mission Training Program again in 2027. Learn more by visiting www.sdarm.org.au/emc



MISSION *Training Program*

Our intensive seminar programs were started in 2008 to provide short but intensive courses of study and practice, enabling development of essential skills in a short amount of time.

Over the years, our programs have been upgraded to meet emerging needs. Today we are integrating additional hands-on skills to prepare for mission service at home and abroad. This experience will help prepare you for active service in your local church or in a missionary setting. If you are a student or plan to enter university, the research skills and mental discipline you learn in the Mission Training Program will prove to be of great advantage.

In 2027 we are offering two programs. The first is Mission Core and aligns with the two-month program which we introduced in 2026. We have designed Mission Core to align with the university break period to enable current or entering university students to complete our program without needing to defer studies.

	Mission Core	Mission Extended
Start	10th January, 2027	10th January, 2027
Finish	28th February, 2027	29th March, 2027

Elim Missionary College

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