

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS – April 2016 #49

NSW Youth Sabbath – Coleambally NSW

Weekend Camp - 22-25 April 2016



After driving through some heavy rain and through a hailstorm just outside Wagga Wagga, we were wondering what kind of weather we would have to face over the weekend. But as we got closer to Coleambally, God truly blessed us with such amazing blue skies, not even a small cloud was to be seen. All present witnessed a gorgeous, colourful sunset which was followed by a very clear, starry night, making each feel the bite of a cool, autumn country evening.

Around one hundred and fifty happy faces found out about their sleeping arrangements; some slept in Mary and Robbie's home,

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some camped in tents on their property and others were divided and accommodated in homes of various other Wiseman families. It was then time to prepare for the Sabbath.

The Wisemans hired a large marquee where the meetings took place; we tried to imagine how people in old times attended camp meetings in a large tent. The opening of the Sabbath was taken by Abraham Dumaguit.

A very welcome meal followed. This consisted of delicious hot soups, bread, spreads and salad. Thank you to the wonderful people involved in preparing and organising all the meals throughout this camp.

Sabbath morning worship was taken by Daniela Balarezo. We are to build on a sure foundation – “God is love” is a gift of grace to each one who accepts it. Breakfast was then served.



Sabbath School was taken by Benjamin Fuenzalida and Guerlyne Ganthier. The children had their own separate meeting. The review lesson, entitled "God's Purpose for His Church", was taken by Jared Chapman; he finished off with a beautiful poem that he had written. We then separated into different classes and studied the lesson for the day, "The Mission of the Church". The adult class was taken by Roxanne Fountain, and the two youth classes were taken by Elisabeth Balarezo and Cameron Thiel. The following thoughts were emphasised:

- We should be as rays of light reflecting Jesus in this dark world
- Our mission is to preach to the world; and if we must, then use words.
- Let our light shine.

Favourite hymns of praise were then sung to the Lord until the youth classes rejoined us in the marquee.

Divine Service was taken by Serban Ionita on the “Value of a Soul”. Serban started off with the parable of the lost sheep and the love that the Shepherd had for that sheep. It was at the cross that love was ultimately revealed. By Jesus’ ultimate sacrifice, the serpent’s head was crushed. At the end of Divine Service, Serban made an appeal to all who would like to respond to God’s great love to come forward, and a special prayer was offered in their behalf. After the divine service a delicious Mexican-style lunch was served.

Young People’s meeting: what a blessing it was! We had such a full program, which included as many multicultural items of praise as the people they represented; these items were sung in a number of languages: Australian: “All O’er the Land”; Spanish: “Mas Alla Del Sol”; Portuguese: “Abre-me Os Olhos”; Romanian; Samoan: “Faafetai I le Atua”; American: “The Circuit Riding Preacher”; Hungarian: two items; Yugoslav: “Bog Je Ste Ljubav”. Other items included a quiz taken by Lawrence Hake and Guerlyne Ganthier; a duet sung by Adriana Stefanescu and Jade Wales; an organ item by Telitha Whitaker and a poem by her brother; an activity by Elisabeth Balarezo, “Are You converted?”; a singing item by Elisabeth, Daniela and Benji, “Jesus banished all my fears” (the lyrics were written by Elisabeth, and the music was composed by Benji); an EMC male item “Come thou Fount of Every Blessing”; a practical demonstration of how Jesus can make us clean (using coloured water turning clear), by Abraham Dumaguit; an instrumental item; and a touching poem done by Jared Chapman, where he wrote of his own personal experience, which I would like to share:

My Story, By Jared Chapman
Will you give your heart away?

*It all started a while ago, back one day
I don’t know why, but I forgot to pray
One day led to another as time went on
One minute later five years had gone.*

*I became lost, numb to sin
By numbing my conscience from within
The evil in this world began to seem fine
The good and bad seemed to rhyme.*

*I was caught in an illusion
Surrounded by never-ending confusion
It all started by playing with sin
Ignoring that small voice from within.*

*The voice slowly disappeared and went away
As my conscience and heart began to decay.
I was stuck, caught in the in-between
I was lukewarm, though I had not seen.*



*The strongest sermons could not awaken me
I became baptised, but still could not see
Numb to the fact that my faith was weak
My loving Saviour I had forgotten to seek.*

*Instead I turned to the pleasures of this earth
But still never finding a sense of true worth
I searched for happiness as I watched it disappear
Confusion filled my mind, nothing was clear.*

*The close friends I made never believed in Christ
I gave them my time as they slowly changed my life.
I continued to change as I copied their behaviour
Not realizing I was slowly letting go of my Saviour.*

*But I was unaware this change was happening inside
As my love for spiritual things slowly withered and died.
Even though I didn't want to, I still went to church
I just couldn't bear to see my parents broken and hurt.*

*I continued to live life in this same depressing way
Never finding true fulfilment at the end of each day...*

*One day my conscience started to awake
I realised that Jesus I had come to forsake.
I no longer desired to spend time with Him, I lost the thirst
It all started gradually over time by putting other things first.*

*I realised it was me who crucified Him and nailed Him to the cross
I realized without His sacrifice, I would have been lost.
I asked for forgiveness, He forgave my sin
He gave me the desire, the peace within.*

*I then made the choice to put Him first above all
I started listening to that voice, hearing each call
I put Him first, at the start of every day
I read the Bible, I remembered how to pray.*

*Every day I live is a struggle, a fight
A conflict, a war between wrong and right.
It doesn't matter how hard I try or what I do
I know only God's hand can pull me through.*

*God can change your heart too
He has the power to make all things new.
He longs to comfort and bring your soul rest
He desires to dwell in you and be your guest.*

*Today He is knocking at the door of your heart
He longs to be one, never to drift apart.
It all starts by listening to your conscience, that still small voice
Sin may have taken you captive, but freedom is a choice.*

*The time is coming when you will fade away
When you stand before your Maker, what will He say?
"Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord"
Or "I know you not, for throughout your life I have been ignored".*

*Today Jesus has offered you freedom through His sacrifice on the cross
He gave up His **life** that you might not be lost
He stepped down from heaven to die on this earth
To show **you**, how much you're worth.*

*Today Jesus is pleading to you with His voice
He reaches out to everyone by giving the choice
The day of your salvation, peace, fulfilment and happiness is today
But first Jesus asks, Will you give your stony heart away?*

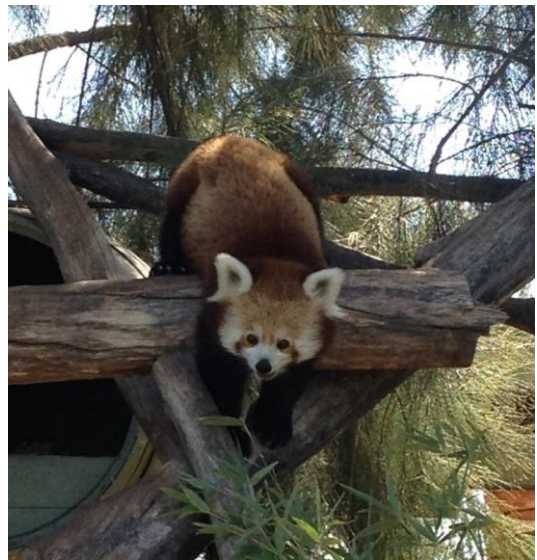
Dinner was served immediately after the closing of Sabbath meeting, "The Truth Through the Pioneers", which was taken by Larry Ah-ching. All then gathered around a very large and powerful bonfire and enjoyed the warmth which it radiated.



Sunday morning's worship was extra early due to our planned outing to Altina Wildlife Park. Jade Wales took the worship study about God's unending love. God wanted to teach the prophet Hosea in a practical way His patience, endurance and love to the human race.



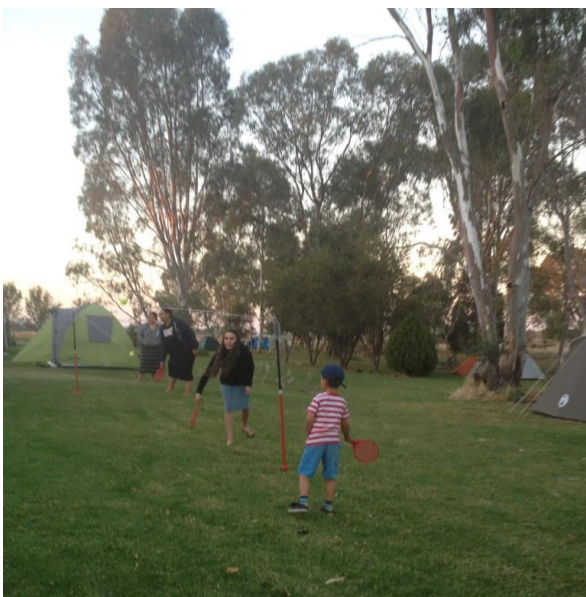
All those who attended the outing had a wonderful time. The wildlife park caters for guests by taking them in horse-drawn wagons in order to see exotic animals living in large open-styled enclosures; people can sometimes experience the feeding of these animals. Some of the animals seen were: lions, giraffes, zebras, antelopes, rhinos, camels, etc...



The wildlife park runs horse-drawn cart tours which last about two hours. Our group "The Coleambally Youth Group" was divided into two. One group took the earlier tour on the horse carts while the other group walked through the smaller enclosure section of the park, which included the crocodiles, monkeys, red pandas, etc. Then the groups swapped over.

At the end of both tours, everyone was looking very much forward to lunch. We

drove to a beautiful quiet place by the edge of the Murrumbidgee River, amongst some majestic River Red Gums while listening to native birds serenade. There we enjoyed delicious fresh bread rolls with salad, Nutolene and Nutmeat patties. What a beautiful place to spend some time together relaxing.



Soon it was time to pack and return to the Wiseman's property for some further activities. Some of the people, including the bus to Sydney, packed and headed back to their homes.

The evening meal was served and evening worship was taken by Sam Wiseman, about being a pioneer.

Monday morning's worship was taken by Herold Etes, and then the rest of us packed and also left the Wiseman's. The weekend seemed to end too quickly.

Firstly, we are very thankful to God for His many blessings, protection, and the privilege to fellowship together. We thank the youth department for organising this event and all those who worked so hard in making this weekend such a blessing. We especially thank the Wiseman families for their hospitality, for the food that was prepared and for their happy and relaxed disposition. It's always a wonderful blessing to spend time with them.

May God bless each one who attended, and may the thoughts and messages expressed be treasured in each heart, causing us to have a closer walk with the Lord.

~ Lidia Voncina

For more photos: www.sdarm.org.au/?p=11264

Western Australia News

Ordination Brother Luke Kneebone – Elder

On Sabbath 16th April 2016 Br Paul Chapman ordained Br Luke Thomas Kneebone as an elder of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement Church with the laying on of hands.



The duties and responsibilities of the position were brought to our attention as set out by the apostles in the early church. It was with solemnity that all present gave their support to Br Luke as he was formally recognised for the work that he had already begun.

~ Catherine Robles



Dedication of Cyrus Alexander Kneebone – 16th April 2016



It was with pleasure that we were able to watch the dedication of little Cyrus Kneebone, born 18th January 2016. Many were present from both churches in WA, and it was special to have his grandparents there from Port Macquarie, NSW.

Br Paul Chapman brought our attention to Cyrus the Great and the great plan that God had for him in history and compared it to little Cyrus Alexander Kneebone and the sure plan that God had for his life.

Prayers were presented for the whole family on this occasion.

~ Catherine Robles



Fellowshipment of Sister Christine Godfrey

2nd April 2016



It was a beautiful Sabbath together as members from both churches in the WA Field came together to witness the fellowshipment of Sr Christine Godfrey.

Sr Christine Godfrey has been an Adventist Christian throughout her life, and her journey has been filled with many experiences. It was with joy that we welcomed her into the church through the right hand of fellowshipment as she had already been part of our church family in a special way for some time. It was a special occasion, and we all rejoiced together.

~ Catherine Robles

Cooking Demonstrations – NSW

Schofields Central Church, Sydney Australia.



Firstly, I would like to thank our heavenly Father for the opportunities that He gives us to be able to further His work in some way. We have been conducting cooking demonstrations in our church for quite a number of years now; and with some effort put into these programmes, we can see that the Lord is helping us to let our light shine in the local Sydney community.

Various members help with the distribution of flyers into local neighbourhood letterboxes, advertising with banners in front of our church plus phone and email contacts that have been collected from previous registrations of such events. These all help bring the people to the programmes.

We conduct our cooking demonstrations over three consecutive Monday evenings in May and then again in October of each year. Registration to attend is specified, and therewith we can know how many will be attending (to know how much in food samples needs to be prepared in advance), and we also have their contact details for follow up for the next session.

The first series of cooking classes started off quite small in number, around six to ten people attending, but over the years our numbers have swelled to 80 to 90 registrations for each night.

Each evening starts off with a half-hour health lecture taken by various speakers who are well versed in the health field; this is then followed by the cooking demonstration of three to four dishes per night presented by various individuals. As each dish is demonstrated in front of the people, samples are provided. This way the people are involved in the process and can ask questions and make comments.

The evening concludes with prayer and an invitation to the next session and/or any other outreach programme that the church is conducting, including invitations to our regular Sabbath meetings and weekly Wednesday night prayer meetings. There is also a health food shop which our church runs on the premises. The shop gets a promotion, as many of the products used in these cooking demonstrations can be purchased there. In addition, we have a book stall with cookbooks, small health books and health tracts that attendees can see, have and/or purchase.

The Vegetarian Way cooking demonstrations are posted on our Schofields Church Facebook page and also on YouTube by searching Schofields Church.

This is a free education program offered to those in the community; there are no costs for people to attend, but instead, a donation is very welcome and greatly appreciated. It takes time for the people to gain our trust, but now we recover about 75% of expenses incurred in donations. Sample portions are generous, and information gained is great, and the people realise this. We form friendships and word of mouth contacts that have proved invaluable. The Lord is good, and He is ever there to bless the efforts that are made in His behalf.

Praying that this information may help other churches take the step of faith and start with what is available to them, and to aim high; the Lord will give the increase.

Your sister in Christ,
Rosetta Ilic

We have been blessed to have the Elim Missionary College students here in Sydney while we had the April series of cooking demonstrations and appreciated their help throughout this outreach. Also a great “thank you” to all who have helped in many different ways. May God continue to help us in the health work.

Dishes presented during cooking demonstrations are selected, created and tested by the cooking demonstration team. The team consists of Amy Gules, Lidia Voncina, Rosetta Ilic, Vivian Cosson and Tanya Ah-ching.



The recipes demonstrated during the April 2016 session consisted of ingredients that have bone building properties, such as greens, almonds, sesame seeds, linseed, etc.

Here is a list of the items demonstrated:

- Veggie Noodle Soup
- Vegetable Bake
- Kale Chips
- Delicate Delicious Crepes
- Apricot Spread
- Calcium Rich Spread
- Alfredo Fettuccini
- Collard, Roasted Tomatoes, Mushroom and Almond Stir-fry
- Almond and Apple Slice
- Potato and Asparagus Soup
- Cottage Loaf
- Tomato Sauce
- Sticky Toffee and Nut Pudding

Why not try some of the recipes below and enjoy tasty food while maintaining healthy bones?

Cottage Loaf

INGREDIENTS

1 block hard tofu – soak tofu in salty water overnight or for a few hours; cut the tofu block into a desired shape e.g. long triangle, long tube or rectangle and set aside.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ½ cup quinoa | 1 large carrot, grated |
| ½ cup brown lentils | 1 heaped tablespoon Massel stock powder, chicken style |
| 1 litre of hot water | 1 teaspoon salt |
| ½ tablespoon salt | ⅓ cup sundried tomatoes, drained and finely chopped |
| 2 tablespoons olive oil | ¼ cup continental parsley, chopped |
| 2 onions, finely chopped | ¼ cup coriander, chopped |
| 3 cloves garlic, crushed | ½ cup linseed meal |
| 1 long red chilli, seeds and vein removed, finely chopped | ½ cup soymilk |
| 1 cup raw cashews, whole | |
| 1½ tablespoons tomato paste | |

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 200°C. Oil spray bread tin and line with baking paper, leaving the edges taller to help prevent the top of the loaf from burning.
2. Place quinoa in a bowl, cover with cold water and soak while cooking lentils. In a large saucepan, cook lentils with hot water and salt for 15 minutes. Drain the quinoa, and add to the lentils and cook for a further 15 minutes until tender but not overcooked. Drain lentils and quinoa and rinse under cold water and set aside.
3. Meanwhile, sauté the onion and garlic until almost clear; add the chilli and cashews and cook for about 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Add the tomato paste and continue to cook for a further 2 minutes. Take off the stove.
4. Add carrots, stock powder, salt, sundried tomatoes, parsley, coriander, linseed meal and soymilk, and mix until well combined.
5. Press half the mixture into the loaf tin. Place the tofu shape which has been previously cut along the centre of loaf tin lengthwise, and add the rest of mixture on top, pressing gently. This will make an attractive pattern when loaf is sliced. Bake for approximately 40-45 minutes until golden brown. Check after 25 minutes, and if it looks like it's burning, then cover with baking paper and foil for the remainder of the time. Leave to cool in the tin. Cut into slices and serve with tomato sauce or gravy.



Sticky Toffee and Nut Pudding

INGREDIENTS

Cake

- 2½ cups pitted dates, roughly chopped
- 1½ cups almond milk
- ½ teaspoon bicarbonate soda
- ¼ cup vegan margarine, lightly softened
- ¾ cup toasted chopped almonds, divided
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1¼ cups wholemeal plain flour

Toffee Sauce

- ¼ cup + 2 tablespoons brown rice syrup*
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- 3 tablespoons vegan margarine
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon almond milk
- Pinch of salt



METHOD

Cake

1. Preheat oven to 160°C and toast the almonds for about 8-10 minutes. Now, preheat oven to 190°C. Lightly oil-spray a 23cm (9-inch) pie dish.
2. In a medium sized pot, bring 1½ cups of almond milk to a low boil. Add in the chopped and pitted dates, and reduce heat to low. Cook for 1 minute, remove from heat, and stir in bicarbonate soda. It will froth up a bit. Add margarine; mix until it melts.

3. Add the dry ingredients (cinnamon, salt, half of almonds and wholemeal flour) into the wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Spoon the mixture into the prepared dish.
4. Bake at 190°C for approximately 30 minutes or until cake gently springs back when you touch it.

Toffee Sauce

1. About 10 minutes before the cake is done, make your toffee sauce by whisking together the sauce ingredients in a pot. Bring to a low simmer over medium heat, and then reduce heat to low, whisking frequently for about 5 minutes, making sure it doesn't burn. Remove from heat and set aside.
2. Remove cake from oven, let it cool for a few minutes and then prick with a fork or toothpick all over. Pour $\frac{2}{3}$ of the toffee sauce over the top (reserving the other $\frac{1}{3}$ of the sauce), and spread the sauce with a spoon.
3. Scoop or cut out portions and place onto plates. Drizzle with remaining sauce, and top with toasted almonds. Serve with your favourite vegan ice cream.

Serves 6

*Note: Other liquid sweeteners may work instead of brown rice syrup (you can use honey), however the taste and consistency will change slightly.

For more photos: www.sdarm.org.au/?p=11164

Wedding of Emily and Jonathan Brown

11 April 2016



On April 11th 2016, guests from the USA, Melbourne, Sydney, Queensland and Perth gathered together at the beautiful Golden Valley Tree Farm situated in Balingup, Western Australia, to witness the marriage of Emily Newman and Jonathan Brown.

Rain had been forecasted for the day, and sure enough everyone woke up to a very wet morning. We were all praying hard as preparations went on as planned.

Thankfully there was a large gazebo at the ceremony location, which sheltered the waiting guests while the heavens unloaded the last big downpour for the day.

At 1:00pm when the ceremony was due to commence, the rain ceased and the wedding carried on as planned. It was a beautiful witness of God's power and love to all those that attended.

The ceremony was held under two massive acorn trees, and Br. Paul Chapman conducted the marriage service. During the signing of the papers, Hayden Wiseman serenaded us with a beautiful gospel song. After greeting everyone, the bridal party then went off for their photographs, while the guests headed back to Donnybrook Town Hall.

Interesting items entertained the guests throughout the reception and were enjoyed by all who attended.

It was truly a very happy occasion with a lot of love for the preparation that went into action on the day; and despite the rain which upset things to a degree, it actually added some fibre to the day.



May the Lord bless this newly married couple as they begin a new journey in life together.

~ Daphne Newman

We wish to extend our congratulations to Emily and Jonathan Brown on their wedding! May Jesus be always the centre of your union!

"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." Colossians 3:14-19.

Elim Missionary College 2016 Progressive Report

Canvassing Work – March & April

After the first month of studies at Elim Heights Youth Camp was over, the EMC students were divided and placed in homes of different families while their course continued at AUC Headquarters in Schofields.



During the months of March and April, the students' schedule included classes in the mornings by different teachers; Brethren Peter Lausevic, Paul Chapman, A C Sas and Rolly Dumaguit. The students also went through the "Depression Recovery Program" with Bro. Domenic Polistina and had a special Sabbath School Seminar run by Br Sam Batger.

During the weekends the students were split up and assigned to visit different churches, groups and individual homes where they presented Bible studies. Those who received visits truly enjoyed the fellowship.

Each day, the students had breakfast and evening meals at the homes where they were placed. Lunch was provided at Schofields by Sisters Rosemary Voncina, Mira Ilic, Amy Gules and Nadine Polistina, with the help of Sisters Tanya Ah-ching, Lidia Voncina, Veronica Hake, Susan Lausevic and Lizy Thiel. The students were in charge of making fresh salad each day to complement the dishes cooked by the sisters.



Canvassing Work:

After lunch the students spent the afternoons doing canvassing work. Br Rolly took the class on how to be successful in the canvassing work, and then they put the theory into practice by spending some time doing door-to-door canvassing. During these two months, the students combined sold a total of 710 books which brought in an income of \$4425.30.



While doing the canvassing work, the students were also able to personally invite people to attend the cooking classes held during April; they also made many contacts who are now receiving Bible studies.

We thank the Lord for helping each student in their missionary work, and may the souls that have been reached surrender their lives fully to Him.

Here are some of the personal experiences that some of the students would like to share:

Experience from Brother Herold Etes:

THE LITTLE ANGEL

On the day before the last day of our canvassing work, my teammate Jade and I went out to canvas, praying that the Lord would bless us, especially since we did not have many results from the day before.

As we began to knock on the doors of the residents on Hillcrest Road, it was quite discouraging at the beginning, without answers until we met a little boy riding his bicycle in a "no through road" across Hillcrest.

When we met him, Jade was a few steps ahead, when he asked me, "What are you doing?" as he saw me holding the books. I answered politely without trying to get something from him, "Well, we are asking for donations in the community in favour of the Elim Health Centre, and as an appreciation for donations we offer a book that will benefit them in return." Then he smiled and answered, "Oh, nice," as he slowly continued to ride his bicycle.



As I kept going and knocked on the first door of that street, I did not see him for a while, and suddenly I saw him also knocking on the door of the third house away from me. They opened to him and I heard him saying to the lady who opened to him, "Hey, these guys over there have books to sell; they will come to you just now." I was so surprised when I heard that, and he seemed to be well known by her.

I kept knocking on the door and nobody answered, and as I was going to the next door he came to me and said, "The man will not hear you because he is in the backyard." When I looked, he was there. I went and had a chat for a while with the man. He was not really able to buy anything and said his son is a nutritionist. So we finished, and as I went out the little boy was standing right in front, and I approached the next house and he smiled and said, "This is my house; come in."

He went in first and talked to his father. Before I even started talking, the father asked me to tell him what this was all about. As I finished, he kindly gave his donation and mentioned at the end that he is a Christian. I presented to him a few little books of stories for children and said, "I would like you to have these books for your son. I really appreciated his enthusiasm and his kindness." The little boy was really happy, and he promised that he will read them. I was happy too.

And as I went out I found my teammate, Jade, who was sharing the same joy as me; he told me that the lady on whose door the little boy had knocked was really interested in having one of the cookbooks that we were advertising. She actually bought one.

The little boy was not an angel surely, but we could witness how God used him to help us in reaching the hearts of those people.

The greatest joy we experienced was from the fact that we were able to leave a book that contained the present truth in each of these homes that were opened to us.

~ Herold Etes

Jordan's Canvassing Experience



Above: Herold, Jade, Benji and myself canvassing out in the mission field!

One of the most interesting experiences I had during the four weeks of canvassing started when I met a lady at a door and began presenting some health books. From the start, she showed interest in the cooking books as well as *Plants that Heal* and *Foods that Heal*. During the conversation, I noticed in the background her young daughter was home as well as what I believe was the woman's father (or father-in-law). After discussing the suggested donation for each book, she realised that she did not have enough cash for the books, so I left her with an invitation to the upcoming cooking classes.

After leaving this lady's house, I continued my canvassing at the house next door. After knocking twice and waiting a reasonable time, I realised that nobody was home and decided to continue on to the next house. As I was walking out of the driveway and towards the next house, I heard a man's voice from inside the first lady's house saying loudly, "Where did he go!?" I continued walking until I heard the voice behind me say, "Hey!", in a rough tone. I quickly decided to trust God and turned around to see an older man who had come from the first house. As I walked towards him, he asked about the price of the books and showed interest in purchasing one if I would agree to a bargain. I spent a bit of time negotiating before he went inside. Then I heard the lady tell him which book she thought looked most interesting. Shortly after, he came out with enough money for two books, and I was glad to leave him with the books *Plants that Heal* and *Foods that Heal*. After leaving the house for the second time, I immediately thanked God for turning what was a strange situation into an opportunity to share some practical health books.

~ Jordan Chapman

It all happened on a sunny Thursday afternoon. My partner, Cameron, was having tremendous success selling books left and right, one after the other. We prayed at the beginning of our adventure, and the bright sunshine reflected the rays of blessings that God poured on us. I sold one or two books, but nowhere near the seven or eight sales Cameron was racking up. We prayed for sales, but we also wanted to reach people for Bible studies and talk to them about Christ. And I was desperately trying to get either. And finally I got to a door of a shanty-looking house, and some kids answered the door to bring their mom to meet me. She was on the phone, and by my estimation, not at all excited to talk to a stranger at the door. I tried to canvass, but she was distracted on the phone, talking to what appeared to be some inspector of sorts. It did not sound good. It sounded like she had to pay more money that she didn't want to pay. Through my staggered attempt at canvassing, she told me to come again in half an hour. I did not think much of it, but after meeting with Cameron, thanking God in prayer once again and pleading with him for success, I had a burning desire to meet her again after half an hour. I was praying in my mind as I was marching back to her house and to her door. Finally, I knocked. The sweetest Samoan lady opened the door, the very same lady, and explained what had her attention earlier and why she couldn't speak to me. She purchased a health book, and we got to talk about why I'm in Australia, how I'm studying in Bible college, and how we want to spread health in the community, both physical and spiritual. She shared a little of her life story along with her father, and they both let me know that anytime I'm around, I could come in for a chat, to say hi, and they would most definitely like a Bible study. God answered my prayer in what at first appeared like something else entirely. He truly works in marvelous and mysterious ways, and I thank Him for it.

~ Serban Ionita

Milestone for Ilic and Sas families – 60 Golden Years

I ... take you ... to be my lawfully wedded (husband/wife), to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

These days, vows repeated at weddings seem to have lost their meaning. Marriage today is becoming an option which many couples choose not to pursue. Vowing to live with someone “till death do us part” is a huge commitment which many are not willing to undertake, and others are frightened to do so. Sixty years of living with the same partner is a wonderful blessing and a real achievement.

We wish to congratulate two of our wonderful God-fearing couples on reaching this very special event in their lives. May God truly continue to bless the Ilic and the Sas families in reaching this milestone.

“...Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.” Psalm 127:1-4.

Congratulations – 60th Wedding Anniversary!

Aca & Mira Ilic – 13 April 2016

Mira Jugovic (known as Mima) and Vladimir Ilic (known as Aca) first met in 1953 when Aca came to Borovo, Croatia where Mima's family lived, to see Mima's older sister Zora. Nothing became of this meeting, but two years later in 1955 Aca came once again to Borovo to visit the family. This time he plucked up the courage after Mima finally came home. She didn't hurry from work that day in Bjelovar, but went to visit her other married sister Seka and then her grandmother. She came home to find the family in a fluster, awaiting her arrival. Needless to say Aca, then 25 years of age proposed to Mima who turned 17 that year.

One year later, on the 13th April 1956, they were married in Borovo, Croatia. They went to live in the home of Aca Ilic's family in Macvanski Metkovic in Serbia. They lived happily in Metkovic and had their first child, a boy Danilo (known as Danko) on the 24th May 1958, then twins on the 23rd March 1961, but only the one, Ivan survived, and lastly on the 23rd January 1964 Branko was born.





Photo from left to right: Son Branko, Aca and Mima, Aca's brother Rada (known as Cica), Sons Danko and Ivan.

In 1992 Aca and Mima migrated to Australia, to follow their sons, who had all met and married ladies from Sydney: Rosetta, Anne and Dot, who all lived in Australia.



Photo from left to right: Sons and their wives – Dotte, Branko, Anne, Ivan, Rosetta & Danko

Aca and Mima have six grandchildren, two from each son. Jesse the first grandchild by Branko and Dotty followed by Vivian then Lana from Danko and Rosetta. Next Bianca from Branko and Dotty, and lastly Lusinda and Luis from Ivan and Anne.



This year 2016, on the 13th April Aca and Mima celebrated 60 happy years of marriage with three sons and three daughters-in-law and six grandchildren, two of which are now married. Vivian to Chris Cosson and Lana to Jeremy Gordon.

~ by Rosetta Ilic

Alfredo Carlos Sas & Catharina Bende Sas – 1 Jan 2016

When Catharina Bende and Alfredo Carlos Sas (known as Carlos) first met, little did they know what the future would hold for them; that one day they would marry one another. They grew up on a farm as neighbors and played together as children. Both were very hard workers at home and during their teenage years they studied and worked in the city, but on the weekends they returned to their homes in the farm.

Carlos proposed to Catharina when she was 18 years old. Catharina's mother told Carlos that her daughter had to wait until she would reach her twenties before she was to be married. Two years after the proposal Carlos asked Catharina if she was ready for marriage; her answer was "YES, I'm ready", but now it was his turn to ask for extra time to be able to finish building their house. Another year and a half passed until they were married at the registry office on Friday 30th December 1955, and the religious ceremony was on Sunday, the 1st January 1956. What a wonderful way to start the New Year for two young people who were very much in love!





Their first few years of married life were very hard and challenging; they struggled financially to make ends meet. Although they were living in their house, it was not totally completed; there was no power, no water plumbing through the house (water was drawn up by buckets from the well), floors were rough concrete, there was no stove; cooking and heating water for baths was all done on a small kerosene primus stove. Since Carlos was employed by the church's printing house, his wages were minimal, so with much care and a great budget, little by little they were able to

finish parts of their home, slowly making it more comfortable for them to live in. Although Carlos and Catharina had a hard beginning, they felt that God had truly blessed their lives in many different ways.

Within the next 10 years, Carlos and Catharina were thankful to God for the gift of their four children, two girls and two boys: Lidia Raquel, Charles Daniel, Deise Regina and Ruben Alfredo. During these years, Carlos was also invited to become a Bible Worker and later ordained for the ministry. This meant that during those early years of married life they faced many challenges. As part of being a Bible Worker, they answered calls to be transferred to a number of different working fields, with the hardest of all moves going to a new country, Australia, in December 1969. They left behind all their family, friends, household goods and many personal items; with only what they could carry in their suitcases, they arrived to start a new life in a country where only Carlos was able to communicate due the language barrier. They were very grateful to the brethren in Australia for their great help and support while settling in this country. Catharina started working as a Nurse's Aide in a Convalescent Home to bring extra income to help with their financial commitments which included purchasing their home and a car.



After a few years in Australia, Carlos was given charge of the work in the Pacific Islands, and this found him travelling overseas for weeks and months at a time, leaving Catharina to take on the role of Mother and Father. I'm sure this would have been a real challenge at times since they had a couple of teenage children by then, but God was merciful to them; the many prayers that went up were answered.

In November 1976, Lidia was married to Joseph Voncina. The happiness of having another son join the family was very soon struck by tragedy. Deise, who was only eleven years old at the time, died from complications resulting from diphtheria. The Sas household lost both their daughters within four months; one married and one passed away. This terrible pain of losing a loved one was deeply felt by the whole family for many years. It was especially hard for Catharina; and though time heals almost anything, even to this day this loss is often felt.

The long-awaited birth of a grandchild brought much joy to Carlos and Catharina when Jade Raquel was born on 8 August 1984. A few days later, on the 19th August, Charles and Lilly (nee Erdeljan) were married. Once again there was a time of rejoicing.

On the 31st May 1987, a second granddaughter Amy Angelica was born. In the same year, Carlos was elected the Secretary of the General Conference; so the family once again was torn apart due to their move to Roanoke, USA, leaving their last son Ruben behind. There were many sad goodbyes said after that.

Ruben and Elizabeth (nee Kukrika) were married on 6th of January 1991; this event once again brought much joy to the family as there would be another time when the family was reunited for a short period.

The life of Carlos and Catharina was enriched by the birth of another six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren:

3rd grandchild, Brendan Daniel 14 October 1995

4th grandchild, Jeremiah 25 March 1996

5th grandchild, Ashley Raquel 9 November 1997

6th grandchild, Harrison Wesley 26 November 1997

7th grandchild, Kaily Amber 21 June 2001

8th grandchild, Barnaby Roy 10 October 2007



*Grandchildren: Top row: Brendan, Grandpa, Luke (Jade's husband), Jade with Josiah, Amy & Benny (Amy's husband)
Next row: Harrison, Barnaby, Kaily, Ashley and Jeremiah*

Great-grandchildren:

Josiah Daniel Kneebone – 27 September 2012

Levi Joseph Gules – 3 August 2015

Cyrus Alexander Kneebone – 18 January 2016



Great-grandchildren Levi, Josiah and Cyrus

It was their joy also to be able to attend two of their grandchildren's weddings: that of Jade, who is now married to Luke Kneebone, and Amy, now married to Benny Gules.

Life tossed many experiences into Carlos' and Catharina's pathway, some wonderful ones, some sad, some good and some bad; but after living together for over 60 years, and with the combined knowledge of one hundred and twenty years, both Carlos and Catharina have much wisdom to share with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

God's work always had priority with Carlos. In 2004 Carlos retired after 56 years of service in the Lord's work, and they both moved back to Australia from the USA to enjoy their retirement together with their family. Carlos and Catharina hold the belief that one day Jesus will return to take his faithful children home. May this strong belief be the hope for each one of us.

May God truly bless Carlos' and Catharina's autumn years together!

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

~ Lidia Voncina



"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever." Psalm 23:6

Elim Missionary College – Sabbath School Seminar

5-8 April 2016

During the EMC missionary training program students study a variety of subjects; one of these is the Sabbath School (SS), its purpose and function. During the scheduled week of SS training, classes were divided into two parts, morning and afternoon.

Mornings were delivered by Br Paul Chapman, *General Conference Sabbath School Director*, in which he addressed: the functional role of the Sabbath School program, how it is structured, how it should function, and how to present the SS lesson.

The afternoons were delivered by Br Sam Batger, *Australasian Union Sabbath School Secretary*, along with the AUC SS committee, in which was addressed: the SS - not just a time slot, which covered the role of the SS outside each week's SS hour; the history of the SS movement, why it came about, what it was and what it could be again; the role of media in the SS, modernising the SS for evangelism and the importance of reporting; and planning for success, how to develop a **wise plan** for your SS.

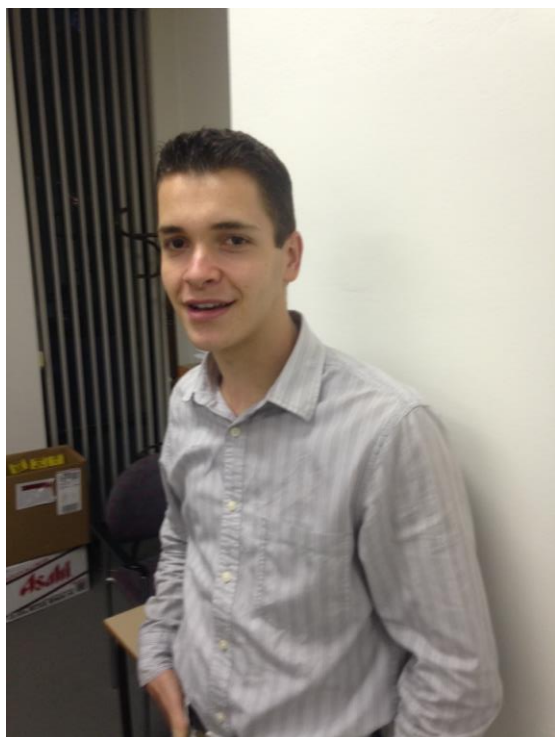


While the mornings took a more traditional, lectures-based approach, afternoons used a problem- or project-based method, in which a short lecture was followed by each lecturer facilitating a group to solve a problem relating to the SS in general or for a specific location. Students were encouraged to identify the needs of a local community and how the SS as a whole or a SS class could meet these needs and engage the local community. The week was concluded with an examination for the morning classes. A presentation by each of the four groups was the method of assessment for the afternoon classes; each of the groups had the opportunity to present their research, reasoning, and planned approach to solving the problem they had chosen to take on. I will not give the details of each plan presented but will instead encourage the reader to inquire of the students



themselves that they may be inspired with the same creativity, enthusiasm, determination, and vision with which the students inspired me.

~ Luke Phillips



Photos: Courtesy of Sam Batger

News from Pacific Islands

Samoan Field

Last February 11-15, 2016, a camp meeting was held in our church property located in Faleasiu, Apia, Samoa. Many visitors came from protestant churches as well as from IMS brethren. During the day we had doctrinal presentations while in the night we had public meetings; and around 45 persons attended the meetings.

Our three Bible workers are very active in their missionary activities, which has resulted in a missionary awakening in that island. They prepared four souls for baptism, which occurred at the end of the camp meeting. During the fellowshipment, we made an altar call, and, interestingly, 10 souls stood up and came forward to receive a special prayer from the officiating minister. These souls are already receiving Bible studies, and most of them said that they are ready to be baptised this coming May, 2016. Today their membership count is around 40 precious souls.

PNG Family Camp



Brother Mario Palacios Alvarado, the General Conference Family and Education Department Director together with Bro. Rolly Dumaguit visited Markham Valley, Lai, Papua New Guinea last December 15-21, 2015. The weeklong visit included a family seminar which was aimed at guiding our children to a conversion experience as well as protecting them from the corruption of the world through proper education. The meeting was very well attended by our brethren from all parts of PNG, and on the Sabbath an estimated 100 persons came



and joined with us. The meeting was crowned with the baptism of four souls. This Field has three ministers, one-part time Bible worker and two trainee workers. It also has 90 baptised members.

French Polynesian Field



During the last four years, frequent visitations were made to this field by Brethren Ben Thiel, Rolly Dumaguit and Nehemiah Chang, to improve the spiritual life, administration, missionary capability, health and practical living of our brethren. By the grace of God there is a great improvement in this particular Field. Former brethren were visited, and many of them came back to our church. Through an active missionary spirit, many minds were awakened, and this resulted in Bible studies and baptisms. A new property was purchased near the metropolis of

Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia. The brethren plan to build a church and the headquarters in this area. To prepare the young people to forward the missionary work in the future, three young people will be sent to the Philippine Missionary School to study there for two years. Today, they have two Bible workers and an estimated 30 members, which come from five different islands.



Kingdom of Tonga



One of our visions in the Pacific Islands has been to extend our territories by opening the work in some un-entered countries. Finally, last January 27 to February 10, 2016 Brethren Rolly Dumaguit and Tom Ngunts went to Nuko Alofa, Tonga to open the work. This island country is the last remaining monarchy government in the South Pacific and is deeply influenced by Christianity. Out of the 106,500 Tongans, the majority are Free Wesleyans, followed by Roman Catholics, Latter Day Saints, and Seventh Day Adventists. There are two groups of Adventists in Tonga: one keeps the Sabbath of the eastern hemisphere, as Australia does; and the other, the main stream Adventists, keep Sunday as their Sabbath as in the western hemisphere, like the United States of America. This issue comes up because of Tonga's closeness to the international date line. These two groups are continually in friction, arguing which is the true Sabbath. As our missionaries arrived there they visited the two groups. They made some contacts from the independent group who keeps the Sabbath like Australia. Similarly, they worked also in the main Adventist church resulting in a contact of another two families. They made visits to these families and were able to convince them to organise a three-night health seminar in one of their homes. The closest contact is a family who just arrived from Los Angeles, California. They went back to Tonga for good, to have country living. They knew the SDARM church in Beaumont and often visited there and met our people. The man has questions on the history of our movement during World War 1, The Marriage Question and the sealing of the 144,000. We studied these topics deeply for four days. In his prayer in our last meeting he said, "Lord take away the fogs of doubt and help me to receive the truth although it is painful for me to receive it." Brethren, we need to pray for these souls who are in the valley of decision. We need to go back again by June to follow up these interested souls.

~ Rolly Dumaguit

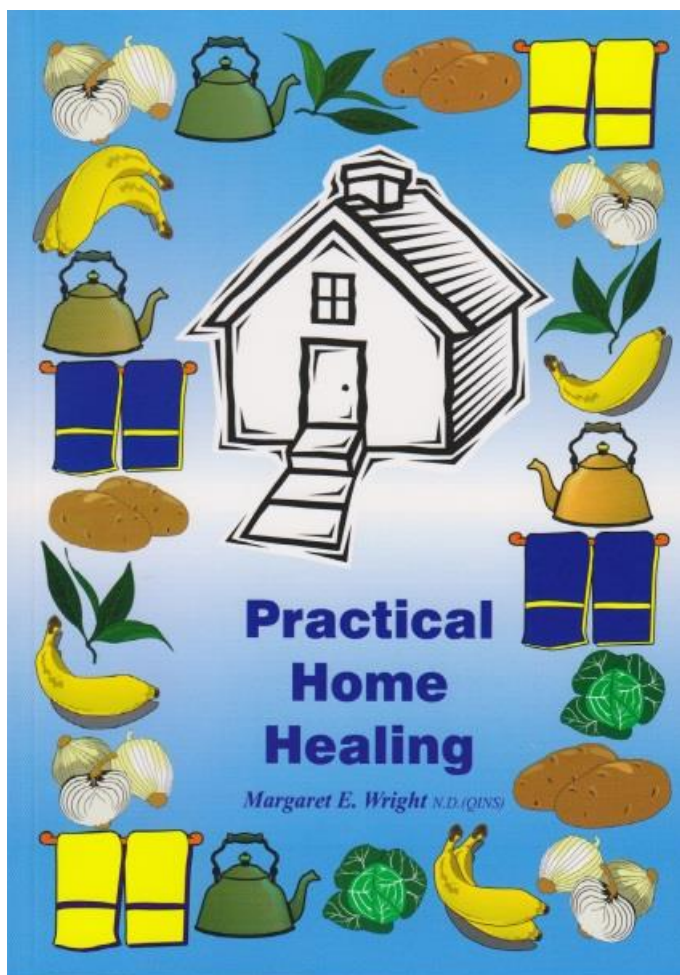
Photos provided by Br Rolly Dumaguit

Practical Home Healing

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Practical Home Healing is a must for every home!



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Coming Events Calendar

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 25-28 June 2016 | Winter Outreach 2016 – Sunshine Coast QLD
<i>For further information, email:</i>
Sandra Barnett sandrapiano@bigpond.com
<i>Mobile: 0407 450 181</i> |
| 26-28 August 2016 | Women's Camp – WA
<i>For further information, email:</i>
Catherine Robles cathrobles@gmail.com |
| 9-11 September 2016 | Queensland Spiritual Conference
Baden Powell Park, Samford
<i>For further information, email:</i> benthiel@sdarm.org.au
<i>Call +61 7 3862 4803</i> |
| 12-19 December 2016 | South Pacific Union Mission Youth Convention
Fiji
<i>Save the date, further information coming soon!</i> |
| 28 Dec 16 – 1 Jan 2017 | AUC Spiritual Conference
<i>For further information, email:</i>
SDARM: info@sdarm.org.au
<i>Phone: +61 2 9627 7553</i> |
| 2-5 January 2017 | Summer School
Elim Heights Youth Camp
<i>For further information, email:</i>
Deborah Chapman education@sdarm.org.au
<i>Phone: +61 2 9627 7553</i> |

GOOD TIDINGS E-NEWS

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

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