

# AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS - 8 April 2014 #28

## Passing of Neville S. Brittain

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It is with much sadness in our hearts that we say goodbye to our dearly beloved Brother Neville Stuart Brittain who fell asleep in Jesus on Friday morning 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at the age of 85.

Born in Victoria, Australia, Bro. Brittain came to the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement in his youth. As a young man he attended the Missionary College at Hebron. Bro Brittain married Elizabeth Southwell on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1953. He was also trained as a naturopath and served extensively in medical missionary work with the Elim Health Centre. He was later employed by Hopewood Health Retreat, in Wallacia, NSW, and also served as President of the forerunner to the Australian Natural Therapists Association (ANTA). He was quite knowledgeable in many subjects, yet he had a certain grace and humility characteristic of true Christian faith.

Bro. Brittain was a man of integrity and principle with a great love for the present truth. In 1975 he received a call to engage in full-time gospel ministry in Western Australia. While there he helped build the first church residence at Stoneville. Two years later he was ordained as a minister and together with his family moved to South Africa where he

served as the African Regional Secretary for 12 years. He also served as Regional Secretary for Asia and the Pacific.

In 1991 Bro. Brittain was elected as the President of the General Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement, a position he held until 1995. He then served as GC Vice President before retiring and returning to Australia. During his retirement years he was still quite active, cheerfully assisting when needed. A particular love of sharing his knowledge led him to help with the Elim Missionary College in delivering the medical missionary unit, "Health and the Gospel." He also served on the board of the College in 2001- 2002. Even now his work carries on at EMC through recorded lectures he gave in prior years.

During the last 10 years of his life Br Brittain, his wife Elizabeth, and their son Keith, resided at the Elim Heights Youth Camp as the resident Caretakers. The work that the Brittain's put into the property was greatly appreciated by all who utilised the grounds during their tenure.

It was with deep sadness that the news was received almost a year ago that Bro. Brittain had been diagnosed with stomach cancer, after just having celebrated his sixtieth wedding anniversary. Having lived a long and fulfilling life, he was content to let the illness take its course. Many have testified of the Christian dignity and peace with which Bro. Brittain faced death.

On Friday, April 4, 2014, a memorial service took place at Schofields Church Hall, in NSW, Australia. Many family members, friends and church family attended the service. Br Peter Lausevic shared an encouraging message, "Christ Our Only Hope"-- specially prepared at the request of Br Brittain. His brother-in-law, Gordon Southwell, shared the eulogy, highlighting the many events of a life well lived in faithful service to the Lord. Bro Brittain's children and grandchildren also shared their cherished family memories. Br Sureshkumar, representing the General Conference, briefly shared some words of encouragement and comfort for all in attendance. In appreciation of Bro. Brittain's love of music, the NSW Combined Choir shared two beautiful songs to the glory of God. The burial service taken by Br. A. C. Sas was held soon afterwards at Pine Grove Memorial Park, Eastern Creek (Minchinbury), NSW.



Many souls were greatly blessed by the faithful courage of this man of God and were tremendously benefitted by his honest, practical ministry. He will be greatly missed by all.

Bro Brittain is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, their six children and their spouses, twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. We are grateful to God for the life of this dear man, and we share the hope



that if faithful, we will once again meet our dear brother on the special resurrection morn. Truly it may said of him: “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” (Revelation 14:12)

## Missionary Training Program 2014



### Report from Missionary Training Students

Six very excited students gathered together at Elim Heights Youth Camp on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014 for the start of another Missionary Training Program (MTP). Unfortunately, due to an accident, one had to go home, but five very enthusiastic students have

remained for the full program.

I asked the students to write a paragraph expressing their thoughts on the MTP thus far and here are some of the thoughts expressed by them:

On Sunday you will be going to the church’s campground. No electricity, no internet, and hardly any phone signal. For a month!!! “What???”

However, after being there a month, I noticed that I really didn’t miss FB, emails, YouTube, etc... but what did happen... made four new friends. They were there to help me conquer my biggest fear... the vastness of stars. Got a close encounter with nature, and got to know myself. Above all, learned what it is to have a connection with God. Praying is easy, we all do it, but do we really feel it? Or mean it? When you have no friends, no family to speak with, God becomes that confidant. Then you can say “I have met God!” Really one month was not enough.

Wish more people could do this. I was ambivalent myself, but now I can say: “It is worth it!” Definitely invite everyone to take a chance... you’ll find out that Mr. Peter isn’t that bad! Do it for yourself! Do it to challenge yourself! I challenge you! You won’t regret it.

~ By Denise Gutierrez – USA



### The Paragraph

I’m in Australia. I’m at the end of the world. It’s something that I have to remember coming from Spain. But the most important thing is that I am in the missionary school.

Before I came to this land, I was starting to study “Engineering Industrial Electronics” in the University of Valencia. I was learning many interesting things about the electronic world, but

suddenly, I was also learning things bad for my spirituality and things that was destroying my connection

with God. But God also knew that, and during the London Project, He gave me the opportunity to come to Australia to study His Word. Now, a month is past, and the knowledge is improved. Thanks to God and the great teachers that are in this school, I know how to be a strong man in the Word of God and help souls for their salvation. But I mustn't forget that I have more work to do yet!

~ Leonardo Rodriguez – Spain

I have never thought that I would have the opportunity to go across the world to study at a missionary school just a few months before it was supposed to start. In 3 months, I was already here. Now, that the first month is passed I can see how much it is worth it and that this was the best choice I have ever made. I have learned so many things during the last month, more than I have ever learned during my whole life as a Christian. By studying many of our principles and the process of researching the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, I was amazed with everything I can do. The main point we were taught is that we should learn how to make questions and find the answers for ourselves, and this is the most successful way of studying. Furthermore, we have learned about the responsibilities of a gospel worker. I cannot say it was easy. Actually, it requires lots of dedication, earnest work and self-denial. However, by the end of it, we will be able to say, Wow! It was amazing! Now we are back in Sydney, willing to put into practice what we've learned and also wanting to keep increasing our knowledge. I encourage everybody who has the desire of coming to the missionary school to come. It is a unique experience, and I am sure God has a special blessing for everyone who takes up their duty as sons and daughters of God.

~ Melissa Fernanda De Oliveira Da Mota – Brazil

Before coming here I did not know what to expect. I knew that we were going to be doing a lot of studying, but I was not prepared for this. Even though we are nowhere near being done with this program, I have already obtained so much knowledge! It is absolutely amazing! It is not easy, but it is definitely worth it. This is a great way to start a new life with God or to strengthen and make it better. It helps build a foundation that many look for. I am rather young in regards to my spiritual life, and other students have been in the faith for many years; but yet we are all on the same level. We are here to learn and share our own experiences with each other. Every step of the way we are helped and guided, whether from a student or a teacher. Help is only one question away, one prayer away.

~ Ryan Belu – USA



#### Missionary School Experience

During the first week we stayed at Elim Heights Camp. I felt that the first week was not that busy since I had time to exercise in the mornings. Then came the second the week when it really got busy, especially in preparing our sermons. This was the nature of the weeks that followed. Our stay at camp was four weeks; I honestly think it should have been more for the reason that we were in nature and feeding ourselves spiritually. After four weeks we moved down to Sydney. For the past two weeks we've been doing Canvassing work. So far

Missionary School is surprising because you learn new things daily and most of all you learn to depend on God.

~ David Dumaguit

## Pope's Call for Unity – Is Protestant Reformation Over?

On February 25, 2014, the Catholic News Agency reported that Pope Francis sent a video message to a gathering of U.S. Pentecostal leaders, voicing his “yearning” that separation between Catholics and other Christians may end.

“We have a lot of cultural riches and religious riches. And we have diverse traditions,” he said. “But we have to encounter one another as brothers.”

“Let’s give each other a spiritual embrace and let God complete the work that He has begun,” he said, adding that “the miracle of unity has begun.”

The message, recorded on an iPhone on January 14, was delivered to a gathering of Pentecostal leaders at Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, by Pentecostal Bishop, Tony Palmer. Palmer, a good friend of Pope Francis, added to the message, calling for the need for Christian unity.

“I’ve come to understand that diversity is divine. It is division that is diabolic,” he said, saying Christian unity is “the basis of our credibility.”

Bishop Palmer cited the 1999 Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification between the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church, saying it “brought an end to the protest” of the Protestant Reformation.

That agreement recognized that "by grace alone, in faith in Christ's saving work and not because of any merit on our part, we are accepted by God and receive the Holy Spirit, who renews our hearts while equipping and calling us to good works."

"Brothers and sisters, Luther's protest is over," Palmer told his audience. "Is yours?"

"We are not protesting the doctrine of salvation (taught) by the Catholic Church anymore," he said. "We now preach the same Gospel."

He called on Protestant Evangelical leaders to sign the agreement, also reciting Jesus’ prayer that his disciples “may be one.”

(See <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/we-are-brothers-pope-stresses-in-message-to-pentecostals/> for full story.)

Those who are students of Bible Prophecy will not miss the tremendous significance of this news story.

Traditionally, Protestants have taken the Bible as the rule of faith and practice, a fact that has kept them separate from the Catholic Church for 500 years. Contrary to what some may have thought, the term “protestant” came from the “protest” made by those Princes of Germany who had accepted the Biblical truths of the gospel proclaimed during the 16th century Reformation. In opposition to a decree that would stifle the freedom to preach God’s word throughout their realms, in 1529 they appeared at the Second Diet of Speyer (Speyer), and voiced their objection:

“We protest by these presents, before God, our only Creator, Preserver, Redeemer, and Saviour, and who will one day be our Judge, as well as before all men and all creatures, that we, for us and for our people, neither consent nor adhere in any manner whatsoever to the proposed decree, in anything that is contrary to God, to His holy word, to our right conscience, to the salvation of our souls.

“What! we ratify this edict! We assert that when Almighty God calls a man to His knowledge, this man nevertheless cannot receive the knowledge of God!” “There is no sure doctrine but such as is conformable to the word of God. . . . The Lord forbids the teaching of any other doctrine. . . . The Holy Scriptures ought to be explained by other and clearer texts; . . . this Holy Book is, in all things necessary for the Christian, easy of understanding, and calculated to scatter the darkness. We are resolved, with the grace of God, to

maintain the pure and exclusive preaching of His only word, such as it is contained in the biblical books of the Old and New Testaments, without adding anything thereto that may be contrary to it. This word is the only truth; it is the sure rule of all doctrine and of all life, and can never fail or deceive us. He who builds on this foundation shall stand against all the powers of hell, while all the human vanities that are set up against it shall fall before the face of God."

"For this reason we reject the yoke that is imposed on us." (*The Great Controversy*, p. 202-203.)

D'Aubigne, in his *History of the Reformation* wrote of this event:

"The principles contained in this celebrated protest of the 19th April 1529, constitute the very essence of Protestantism. Now this protest opposes two abuses of man in matters of faith: the first is the intrusion of the civil magistrate, and the second the arbitrary authority of the Church. Instead of these abuses, Protestantism sets the power of conscience above the magistrate; and the authority of the Word of God above the visible church. In the first place, it rejects the civil power in divine things, and says with the prophets and apostles: We must obey God rather than man. In presence of the crown of Charles the Fifth, it uplifts the crown of Jesus Christ. But it goes farther: it lays down the principle, that all human teaching should be subordinate to the oracles of God. Even the primitive Church, by recognizing the writings of the apostles, had performed an act of submission to this supreme authority, and not an act of authority, as Rome maintains; and the establishment of a tribunal charged with the interpretation of the Bible, had terminated only in slavishly subjecting man to man in what should be the most unfettered—conscience and faith. In this celebrated act of Spire no doctor appears, and the Word of God reigns alone. Never has man exalted himself like the pope; never have men kept in the background like the reformers." (D'Aubigne., b. 13, ch. 6.)

To hold that the 1999 Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification between the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church has "brought an end to the protest" of the Protestant Reformation is to miss the entire point of the "protest." The princes of Germany were not protesting against false doctrine. That was to come later in the Augsburg Confession of 1530. What they were protesting against at the 1529 Diet of Spire was the restriction of religious liberty threatened in an edict of the German emperor, at the behest of the Roman Catholic prelates. That edict forbade the further preaching of the reformation teachings beyond those places in Germany where it had already been preached; effectively ensuring no more persons would be converted to the Reformation faith, a faith founded on the Scriptures alone. The German princes recognised the principles at stake in this issue. They deemed that in matters of conscience the traditions and teachings of men are to be subordinated to the Scriptures. They also recognised that neither the visible church, nor the state, nor the majority has any authority to deny men and women the right to follow the dictates of their conscience.

D'Aubigne writes further, "A Romish historian maintains that the word Protestant signifies enemy of the emperor and of the pope. If he means that Protestantism, in matters of faith, rejects the intervention both of the empire and of the papacy, it is well. But even this explanation does not exhaust the signification of the word, for Protestantism threw off man's authority solely to place Jesus Christ on the throne of the Church, and his Word in the pulpit. There has never been anything more positive, and at the same time more aggressive, than the position of the Protestants at Spire. By maintaining that their faith alone is capable of saving the world, they defended with intrepid courage the rights of christian proselytism. We cannot abandon this proselytism without deserting the protestant principle."

What Pope Francis and Bishop Palmer are calling for is effectively the abandoning of Christian proselytism. Regardless of what denomination a person may belong to, they are all to be recognised as brothers and sisters of the one Catholic (Universal) Church.

Bishop Palmer stated in his address, "It's the glory that glues us together, not the doctrines...If you accept that Christ is living in me and the presence of God is in me and the presence of God is in you, that's all we need. Because God will sort out all our doctrines when we get upstairs."

Under this attitude, doctrinal differences and practices, even if they may be deemed unscriptural, are to be



tolerated, provided all profess faith in the one true God and worship the only Lord, Jesus Christ. However, we cannot agree to this position. We should seek for unity of Christ's body, but that unity must be based upon the platform of truth. The church of God is "the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Timothy 3:15. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the father but by me." John 14:6. He also prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth" (John 17:17). It is this reality that has led Bible-believing Christians to seek for and promote truth, as this is the means by which Christ will sanctify us, thus bringing us into unity. Consequently, if we encounter doctrines that are in conflict with the Word of God, we are not to remain silent. We are to speak up against Scriptural error and promote the truths of the Bible, regardless of consequences. In the past, those consequences often resulted in persecution by the State, at the behest of the established Church of the day. Prophecy declares that such intolerance will again be revived.

The book of Revelation points us to a time when the whole professed Christian world will deny a plain truth of Scripture in regard to the worship of God. Under the symbol of the third angel's message of Revelation 14:9-12, a warning is given against receiving the mark of the beast. The beast in Revelation is a symbol of the apostate Roman Catholic system of worship. The change from Sabbath to Sunday, as a day of worship, is hailed by her as a "mark" of her authority. Those who follow her example in keeping holy that day, when they know that God's word says otherwise, pay homage to her. The third angel's message is a warning against such homage, for it is in direct violation of God's Ten Commandments.

Based on Revelation 13:14-18, we understand that the mark of the beast will be enforced worldwide, commencing with the USA, the former bastion of religious liberty and the haven of Protestantism. When the USA enforces a Sunday law, in doing so, she will be denying the principle of religious liberty, causing the whole world to worship the beast of Revelation 13:1-8. However, this worldwide homage will require Catholics and Protestants to unite. Prophecy indicates in Revelation 16:12-14 that indeed there will be a spiritual unity between these two bodies, as well as paganism. (In Rev 16:12-14, the Beast is a symbol of Catholicism; the false prophet is a symbol of apostate Protestantism; the dragon is a symbol of Paganism or spiritualism)

Hence this testimony from the pen of E. G. White:

"By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near." (*Testimonies*, vol. 5. p. 451.)

By the appeal for unity in Christendom, recognising all as brothers and sisters under the "one church," the Pope and the Pentecostal Bishop are simply taking another step closer to what prophecy indicates will eventually happen. The professed Christian Church will once more unite with the State and enforce laws against those who refuse to submit to her dogmas, thus violating liberty of conscience.

It is just a reminder to us that we are indeed living in the last days. While we may find this a daunting reality, it should also fill us with great hope and expectation that the coming of Jesus is near. Let us ensure, each moment of each day, that we are in Christ and prepared for the tremendous events before us.

--Paul Chapman.

Bishop Palmer's official video and his address to the Pentecostal Leaders Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, including the recording of Pope Francis' message, may be viewed here: [http://youtu.be/NHbEWw7l\\_Ek](http://youtu.be/NHbEWw7l_Ek)  
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## Special Gifts from God – Birth Announcements



It's been wonderful to receive news of three new babies who have been born within the last month into God's family. We extend our congratulations to families De Souza, Gordon and Polistina and wish them God's many blessings as they bring up their children to love and serve the Lord.

*"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD" Psalms 127:3 first part.*

### **Baby Lucas Daniel de Souza**

Jacob de Souza, a Bible worker in the Queensland Conference, and his wife Sandra have much to thank God for. On a Sabbath day in March their family was blessed by the arrival of a beautiful, strong and healthy baby boy, Lucas Daniel who weighed 3.32kg. The parents expressed that this was a wonderful gift from God on their thirteenth wedding anniversary day!



### **Baby Immanuel Polistina**

Domenic and Nadine Polistina have become parents to a beautiful baby boy, Immanuel. Here is the news as received from Brother Domenic:

*"Hello everyone,*

*We are privileged to be the parents of our baby boy, Immanuel!  
Weighing in at 3.6kgs and 49cm long.*

*We thank our heavenly Father for the grace, wisdom and endurance that He gives to us. The baby had a small complication so is in special care nursery but he is healthy and strong! Mum is good and recovering well.*

*Thank you to all who kept us in their thoughts and prayers and has helped us with gifts and advice."*

### **Baby Amelia Grace Gordon**

Another beautiful baby girl was born to Philip and Tania Gordon. Amelia is their third child and is very much loved not only by her parents but by her older two siblings, Elise and Mitchell. Amelia was born at a healthy 3.32kg and measured 50cm long. We thank God that mother and child are both doing well and the whole family is very blest indeed. Our prayers and best wishes go to the family.





## History of the South Pacific Union Mission - Part two

### **Papua New Guinea:**

The work of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement (SDARM) in Papua New Guinea (PNG) was begun in 1998 by two ministers, Mervyn Southwell and John Ciric from Australia. They met with local people who were interested in the Reformation Message. Their first stay and beginning of the work was at Yabob village near Madang. They also visited and made presentations at Wanuru Village near Bogia. A number of people were baptized on that occasion and the work was organized as the "PNG Mission Field".

During June 2002 Br John Ciric together with our local PNG Field Leader visited Eastern Highlands Province (EHP) and held meetings at Goroka. An Australasian Youth convention of the SDARM was then held on Mannum Island educating the youth of PNG and Australia on topics of Christian Living, Marriage and Family Relations and Health. Outreaches were held each evening for the surrounding villages with numbers of 600-800 attending.

During September/October of the same year (2002) Brn Michael Stoyko and Peter Dakire visited Goroka the second time and had further meetings with interested people from the Highlands provinces. On this occasion Andy Ambman Nop invited these brethren to come and share the message of Reformation in Minj, Western Highlands Province. A number of meetings were held and a local church was organised in the Minj area. Br Andy Amban Nop was the leader of the local church and work in the area at the time.

As interest in the work of our church continued to grow, our organisation was finally registered as Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement Inc. on August 20, 2004.

A church building was erected in 2008 by many local and overseas volunteers. The opening and dedication of the church building was held during November 2008 and was attended by Brn John Ciric and Benjamin Thiel, as well as a number of members and visitors from Australia and many parts of PNG. Local and provincial leaders were invited guests who were given opportunity to speak. They expressed their happiness in seeing the building project completed and encouraged unity among the tribes and families for the good and happiness of all. Hundreds attended on this special occasion to hear the messages presented; the large building was unable to contain the number who attended. The opening was followed by a spiritual conference, baptism and organisational meetings. Through a chain of unfortunate circumstances, this beacon of light had to be sold. Today, instead of just one beacon there are a number of smaller lights shining for God throughout many different places in this country.

The current membership in PNG is fifty members.

### **Samoa:**

In the late 80's Samoan Sydney members shared the reformation message with two families who lived in Brisbane. Brn Savili Saunia and Sam Tanuasa had relatives in Samoa so they visited Samoa and took the reformation message to them. Br A C Sas visited them in March 1988 and after having studies for ten days they were able to have a baptism of fifteen souls. These were the first fruits of the Reform Movement in Western Samoa.

On the 30th January 2001 the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement was registered in Samoa.

Sometime ago a plan was formulated to have a "fly-build" project to erect a chapel in Samoa. In 2013 the brethren there were very happy that this time had finally arrived! Unfortunately Br John Lausevic, director of the Welfare Department was not able to carry this out due to some health problems, so Br Luke Kneebone was entrusted to take on this project.

On Sunday 9th June 2013 Br Luke, his wife Sr Jade and son Josiah left Sydney for Samoa to start on stage 1 of the building. Despite some monsoon-type weather, Luke, joined by the Samoan brethren, local tradesmen, Aladair Pow, Tim Wiseman, Madalin Duna, and Matthias Thiel all worked hard with the construction of the church.

It is wonderful and encouraging to see how the Lord has led and how quickly this building was completed to the glory of God.

The church dedication took place on Wednesday 25th September, 2013. The membership in Samoa is twenty-seven souls; and a big challenge is left with the brethren to fill those pews in their new church.

We are thankful to God that another beacon is standing for Him on this beautiful island of Samoa!

### **Solomon Islands:**

The work in Solomon Islands was pioneered by Br Brian Jaksic together with a brother from Vanuatu. While staying in a motel, he found out that it was owned by a Seventh Day Adventist member and all the staff working there were also Adventist. They started asking questions and Br Jaksic realised that he didn't have enough literature to give out, so he decided to write five small tracts on his laptop to add to others which he had. They were printed and distributed; all were well received. Soon there were 500 pieces of literature given out on ten different topics.

On Sabbath Br Jaksic was given the opportunity to speak at an SDA church for the Divine Service and in the afternoon where he could share the 1888 Message and the work and mission of the Angel of Revelation 18.

Three months later, Brn Brian Jaksic and Andrew Pakoasongi visited again, but this time with a lot more pamphlets; a total of nineteen different subjects were available for distribution. The literature proved to be a powerful witness for the cause of God. They decided to distribute literature to all passersby in the streets of Honiara, the capital city.

On the third visit our first member in the Solomon Islands was baptised, Br Fernandez Cruz, a brother who was on fire for the Lord and who is still working for the Lord to this day. It was during this time that our church was registered on the 9th June 2010.

Currently there are thirty-four faithful members in Solomon Islands.

### **Vanuatu:**

During the year 2000 two church members from Queensland, Australia, Terry and Violet Barnett, went to Vanuatu on holidays. They spent the Sabbath in fellowship with a group of Advent believers in Sorovanga. They also assisted funding a new classroom for the school. On their return to Australia they shared their experience with Danny and Suzi Boje, church members from Victoria, Australia. One year later Danny and Suzi visited Vanuatu and went to find this school, spend the Sabbath with the believers there and supplied some school materials for the school. When they asked the believers if they would like to hear more about the Reform Movement and its message they were met with an overwhelming positive response.

Due to this strong interest it was decided to send two ministers from Australia on an initial visit to follow up contacts made. During October 2001 Pastors John Ciric and Michael Stoyko visited Port Vila and ran public meetings at Sorovonga School answering many doctrinal questions. Two hundred Sabbath School Lessons were distributed. Due to much interest shown, it was decided to further establish the work in Vanuatu. Michael Stoyko was to make a second visit and Ben Thiel was to meet him after visiting Fiji. While Ben was in Fiji the brethren there gave further contacts they had from Vanuatu which were then followed up. The next few weeks were busy ones in missionary work. As interest in our message grew, the truth was presented each night in different locations.

One night at Blacksands' school, after Br Ben presented the study on the 2300 Days, Reform Movement in History and Prophecy, John Willy, who sadly is not with us today, said, 'Thank God for this message.'

There is a man in Malekula who is preaching this same message – he is a reformer.' Ben knew that we didn't have any reform members in Malekula at the time but said, 'Brother, if he is preaching this message I would like to meet him, how can we get in contact?' Contact was eventually arranged via the radio and they went to visit, first landing in Santo to visit friends, then going by cargo ship, which was understood to be faster than flying and driving around the island. After a very long night on the ship and many stops in various villages, they asked the captain when they would arrive at their destination. They were told that there was no definite time of arrival and that it was not certain that the ship would go there at all; so they requested to be dropped off at the next village. So by accident, or rather God's hand of providence, they landed early in the morning on the beach in Achin, the very village where our little church is established today.

After meeting the locals and handing out some literature, Michael and Ben continued by truck to the village where they met Br Benbi Mogoro and his family. They eagerly grasped hold of the truth. How did he learn about our message? Around the year 1998 a sister in Uranquinty Church in NSW gave *The Good Way Series* to a visitor from Vanuatu (a relative of Br Benbi's). Eventually Br Benbi saw this series of studies and borrowed them and read them till the pages were worn. Before leaving Br Benbi's village by truck his last request was, 'Please brethren can you get another copy of *The Good Way Series* for me? This one is worn out and I need to give it back to my cousin's brother!' How important the printed page is in spreading the good news!

January 2002 Brethren Michael Stoyko and Ben Thiel arrived in Vanuatu and ran meetings at Sorovanga and Simpalo Church for two weeks. Brethren Tony, Charlie and Willie indicated their interest in the truth, and Brother Tony started to have Bible studies with Brother Michael at Malapoa.

Brethren Michael and Ben visited again in April 2002, when they ran meetings for two weeks. After these meetings, many in the Eratap church accepted the message of reformation and decided to unite with the SDARM.

Another two weeks of meetings were held during July 2002, and on the 4th August 2002 five brethren and two sisters were baptised at Eratap.

Fifth of August 2002 five brethren together with Ben Thiel and Michael Stoyko met with the Financial Services Commission to start the registration documents for SDARM in Vanuatu. On the 2nd September 2002 Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement Committee (Inc.) registration was completed.

Brother Glenn and Sister Rosemary Clements, from New South Wales, Australia, came to Vanuatu in 2004 and invested their time and money to establish a day school here. Their efforts in establishing the school have been a great blessing and support in housing the church and forwarding the work in this country. They were also active in helping in the process of purchasing the land and raising the church building.

Over the years the mission field has continued to grow and missionaries and lay members from Vanuatu and abroad have supported the work there in many different ways.

A special General Conference Sabbath School offering was collected to help fund the church building. With the generous offerings from brethren in all parts of the world a house of worship has been raised and is free of debt. Through the Australasian Union Conference Welfare Department, Br John Lausevic and many of the youth from Australia combined their physical efforts with the local workers in Vanuatu to raise a lighthouse for the Lord in Port Vila in 2012.

We praise God for the fifty-eight faithful members in the Vanuatu Mission Field at the present time.



## Music in the Church - Part 4

Music is one powerful way to manipulate the emotions. Advertisers use background music to make you feel depressed, and then they provide the solution (their product), backed by happy music. Thus they try to dictate your feelings. The instruments, the harmony, and the range of pitch all affect us. The greatest psychophysiological impact comes from the climax of the music, the highest or lowest part of the piece. Changes in melody carry emotional messages. Harmony builds expectation. Certain combinations of sounds can also cause tension. The tension then needs to be resolved, for the music to be beneficial. Some tension is never resolved in music. When you hear music filled with tension, it is usually a suspenseful scene in a movie. The atmosphere is not relaxed. The musicians have purposely chosen certain instruments to create the desired effect. Thus the musical instruments themselves are not neutral.

As we have seen, certain sounds convey certain emotions. Light music conveys joy. A long, even sound can portray reverence. Little changes in the music can greatly change the meaning of a song. Two different people can play the same song very differently. Sometimes people play a song, especially a hymn, and convey a different meaning than the song was designed for.

The elements of music also affect an actual piece and the way it is played. Melody plays a role. Rhythm carries the message. The notes and the emotion portrayed make the song. The beat also changes the message. Passionate emotions are brought in through the beat. Warping of the proper beat is the problem.

Certain types of instruments have a tendency to convey certain negative emotions. Percussion instruments often provide a sense of anger. The words do not change the sound. Whatever you do with the words, this type of music still communicates anger. Harsh, angry music affects the listener. If you listen to this all the time, it makes you angry. Sometimes this music is played while someone is driving, and the anger is taken out while driving, such as by using excessive speed and by road rage. Music conveys not only anger, but also immorality as well. Immoral connotations are present in the music as well as in the words. Even so-called Christian music conveys anger and immorality. Music is therefore emotional. Music is not morally neutral nor a matter of opinion. Music communicates a definite message.

Music has power. If the message of music is properly presented, it is very hard not to resist it. This medium can be used for good as well as for evil. We just need to be careful how we use it.

One area that we should be careful of is when using music during altar calls. The music conditions the response instead of people making a choice. It is not wrong to make an appeal to the emotions, but we should not manipulate the people through the music played. The music will override the choice if it is used improperly.

Music should also communicate worthwhile feelings. This involves two areas. We have a duty to have the music and the words communicate the same message. Both the words and the music should be in harmony with Philippians 4:8. When the good musician performs, he communicates reverence, joy, and love intuitively. He himself is a committed person.

Through time, our tastes for food as well as for music will change. We may have to change what we listen to. It is a choice. Even in apparently good music, we will have to choose. If we want to listen to music in harmony with Philippians 4:8, we will have to draw boundaries even in classical music; we will have to limit its romantic music as well. If we believe that there is no good or bad music, but that all is the same, we are taking a humanistic point of view. Humanism, though, is opposed to Christianity.

--Summary of a Series of Talks given by W. Stefani, Adventist Pastor

## Wedding – Josie and Etienne Decuyper



What a happy occasion a wedding always is... the weather looked a little grim on Monday morning the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 as guests started to arrive at the stunning venue in Mt Eliza, Victoria; but we are thankful to God that the rain kept away during the time of the wedding and afterwards while pictures were being taken. In the beautiful gardens of the vineyard with the ocean as a backdrop, Josie and Etienne Decuyper affirmed their vows to each other in front of a large number of guests. The service started with the music to the hymn "O Perfect Love" but the lyrics were specially written by Esther Boje:

### ***O Perfect Love***

*Before our friends, and you, O Lord our witness  
May we be filled with joy and peace always  
May thy true love, fill all our life with sweetness  
Be thou our guide, our stay, for all our days.*

*O perfect Life, may thy rich blessings hover  
O'er our new life, which we embark today  
May thy light shine in us from you the giver  
Be thou our guide in all our unknown days.*

*O perfect love, our love will know no ending  
May it shine out for, all to see today  
Our hearts unite, in love to thee unbending  
Be thou our guide, our stay, fore'er we pray.*

*~ Lyrics by Esther Boje*

Although their vows were made in English, Josie also read her commitment to Etienne in French which would have been very touching for her husband, for his mother and brother who were visiting from France. We wish them God's blessings for a lifetime of happiness.

## Youth Department Fly-n-Build – Elim Heights, NSW

The AUC Youth Department is organising a fly and build project at our Youth Campground Elim Heights. The purpose of this plan is to make the campground more attractive and more youth friendly. The project involves two weeks of labour and building two major projects—an outdoor amphitheatre and youth recreational facility. So we need your help by volunteering one or even two weeks.

**Registration closes on the 31 May 2014**

You can register online at <http://www.youthchallenger.org.au/fly-build/>

Or contact via phone or SMS: +61-430505935 or email: [youth@sdarm.org.au](mailto:youth@sdarm.org.au)

## Sydney Youth Activities – 1st Quarter 2014

### Youth Focus Meetings:

**Asian Night - 8 February 2014**



visitors from Melbourne – Sr Lidja Lupoiu and Austina Borovnica.

After the serious business of light socialising and catching up had been going on for a while, we were called to attention by Br. Matthias Thiel, and spent some time gathering ideas and laying a roadmap for what youth activities and meetings would be happening in the year ahead.

It was a vibrant and happy group that gathered at Brother Dominic and Sister Nadine's house on the evening of Sabbath, 8<sup>th</sup> February. We had gathered for our first Youth Focus meeting of 2014. The meeting was particularly well attended due to the new and enthusiastic missionary students, who had arrived just before the weekend. They had come from all over – Brazil, Spain, Georgia, Arizona, Sydney. We also had two





Meeting over, our appetites had already announced what must happen next. Food! And it was good, with a large variety of Asian food, from tom yum soup, to stir-fries and noodles, rice (of course,) spring rolls and more. After dinner, some of our number decided it was time for a little good entertainment and joined to coerce as many as possible of the rest of us to join in the fun. Charades kept our minds focused on spiritual things while providing an excellent way of breaking the ice and getting to know each other better.

Good things don't last forever, and one by one people started to leave, and so ended a very enjoyable meeting and social gathering. What a great way to start Youth Focus meetings for the new year!

~ Reported by Amos Thiel



### Pie Night - 1 March 2014



On the first of March I attended a Youth Focus meeting in Schofields, NSW. We read together the parable of the "Prodigal Son" and then separated into groups of four or five to do a questionnaire and discuss the parable. One of the questions we had was, "Why do you think he, the son, felt that he could return to his father after wasting all of his inheritance?" One of the answers we came up with was he had nothing and he was starving, so it left him with no choice. But others said that the son knew the love of the father. That was more than likely the main reason the son returned. He knew where he could get help. We ourselves can also look to God for help no matter what our condition, He is waiting for us.

After we enjoyed this discussion and we had closed the Sabbath we ate dinner and thoroughly enjoyed many kinds of pies especially the ones we had for dessert.

Some of the youth stayed after dinner to talk, sing,



arm wrestle, and enjoy each other's company. It was a great way to finish a Saturday evening after a great Sabbath day.

~ Submitted by Ryan Belu

## Youth Day Outing – Jenolan Caves:

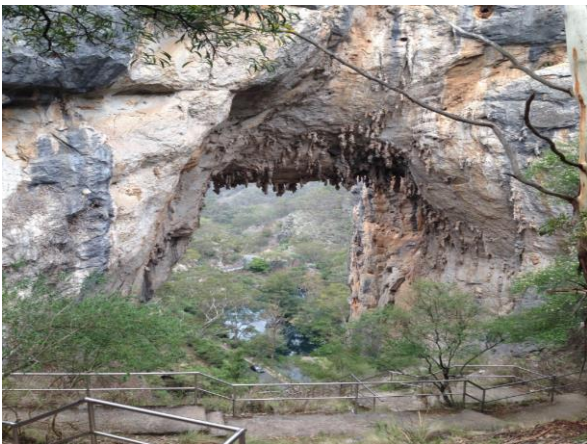


On Sunday 23rd February, 2014, an early but welcome 'wake up time' was set for all going on the day outing to the Jenolan Caves. A fresh 15 degrees Celsius was not so welcoming, or should I say — unexpected. Meeting at 10am at the caves was another story.... need I say more.

By 11:30 we were 26 people in total — including the missionary students, young people and young at heart. Because we all arrived at different times we ended up seeing different caves, as each tour filled up very quickly. The Temple of Baal, Chifley and Lucas were amongst the few we toured. The astonishing limestone formations were all just so breath taking.

The Temple of Baal Cave was originally named thus as it reminded early cave explorers of the Biblical story of Elijah and the Prophet of Baal.

The Chifley Cave, having a fascinating history, was the first cave in the world to be lit with electronic lights displaying the 'spar' crystal back in 1880.



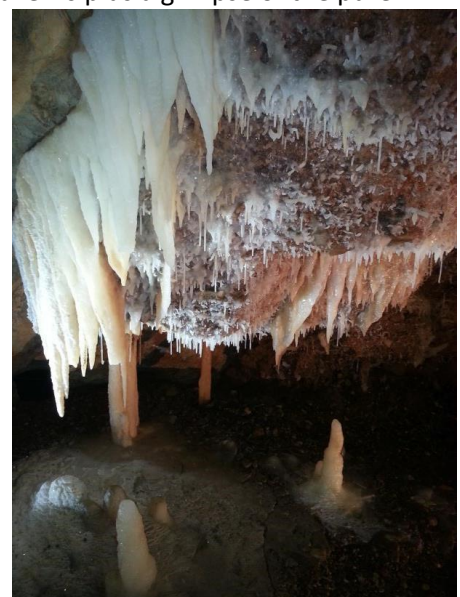
The Lucas Cave was where the huge 'Broken Column' limestone formation could be seen, also offering the highest and widest caverns plus a glimpse of the pure underground river.

The highest chamber in this magnificent cave, 'The Cathedral', is reputed to have the best acoustics of any performance space in the world and is

often used for musical concerts.

We truly have a wonderful Creator and may His name be truly praised.

A back pack lunch turned into bean burrito wraps, salad wraps and most original was Chris, Viv, Jesse and Amos, with their banquet BBQ, pots, pans and toaster—now I don't know what extra utensils they would have brought if it wasn't going to be a back pack lunch. They all managed to prepare their banquet by the time we had nearly finished. After the tours some adventurous people decided on an extra outside walk to the Carlotta Arch, which was a tiresome scenic walk, but well worth every step. Others decided on the Jenolan Caves Blue





Lake plunge — yes, well, what can I say, icy waters after a heated up walk — just so refreshing and good for the circulation. I am sure Jesse and David will agree.

Praise the Lord for his watch care over us all. Now back to routine life and study for the missionary students, young people, mums, dads and children.

~ Submitted by Kiara-Shaye Hake

## Adventist Aged Care Visit – Kings Langley



What a wonderful Sabbath, the 1st of March, 2014, was. The first day of autumn, and the first Sabbath we've performed at the Adventist Aged Care at Kings Langley this year. Schofields and Wentworthville churches along with the missionary students were happy and excited to share the joy of a special Sabbath afternoon program with the elderly. The one-hour program included singing items by the Focus singers, quartet and missionary students. All those with instruments,

including an elderly gentleman from the nursing home, played two instrumental items, and a poem was shared by Vivian called 'Beyond Our Asking' about how "God has a store-house filled to the brim, with all that man needs if we'll only ask Him".

Congregational singing with songs chosen by the nursing home residents, and Joe's short sermonettes after each song, were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Singing the old time religious songs reminded the elderly of their childhood days. It was also such a joy to spend the afternoon with Br and Sr Brittain, Ethel Stoyko's mum and dad, and many others who reside at this nursing home. There were 73 of us in total in the dining room and the oldest but shortest resident, being 96 years of age, seemed to have the whole nursing home under her control. Beautiful short experiences were shared privately with many of the residents. One lady was so sad that she had no money to

give the performers as a present, but we assured her that we were after no money, but that her presence in the dining room, singing along and listening, was worth more than a present to us, and that we didn't come to collect offerings, but to offer an enjoyable afternoon for them all.



We are all looking forward to going again, and for the residents our next visit cannot come soon enough. We would like to praise our heavenly Father, who gives us the privilege and talents to reach the

elderly in song and praise, and to bring to them the message of Christ's love to us all, and the sacrifice He made for each and every one of us.

~Submitted by Veronica Hake~



## Invitation to QLD Conference Youth Camp - Noosa

SDARM Queensland Field Conference Youth Department presents...

### *Are You* **Connected?** Queensland Youth Camp 2014

24th - 27th April  
Boreen Point, Noosa

Join us for a weekend of fellowship and study  
as we cover this great topic and more!



*"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,  
ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done  
unto you." John 15:7*

Join us for what is shaping up to be a great weekend! Come along to find out more about this topic, fellowship with other youth, and gain a spiritual blessing whilst enjoying time in nature.

To find out more details, and to register, please use this link: <http://www.youthchallenger.org.au/gld-youth-camp/>

Please register your interest ASAP so that we can guarantee camp sites for everyone.

## Invitation to the Victoria Camp – 17-21 April 2014

### Light Your World

Join us for the 2014 Victoria Camp, to be held on Easter weekend (17-21 April), at Waratah Bay in the Gippsland area of Victoria.

The theme will be "Light Your World", with practical messages centred on the subject of evangelism. Youth activities are also being planned.

For more information or to register, please visit [www.sdarm.org.au/vic2014](http://www.sdarm.org.au/vic2014)



## Invitation to the NSW Spiritual Conference – 6-9 June 2014

### A Thief in the Night

NSW Conference invites you to attend our 2014 Spiritual Conference, 6-9 June, 2014. The title of our conference is "A Thief in the Night".

## Venue

The conference is being held at:

Elim Heights Youth Camp and Convention Centre, 5760B-5760D Putty Road, Colo Heights, NSW, 2756

For more details contact Alasdair Pow – mobile: 0433 408 145 or [apow@sdarm.org.au](mailto:apow@sdarm.org.au)

## Invitation to the WA Spiritual Conference - September 2014

### Jesus Knocks - Christ's Message to Laodicea

WA Field invites you to our 2014 Field Spiritual Conference, 26-29 September, 2014. The title of our conference is "When Jesus Knocks – Christ's Message to Laodicea". The counsel of the True Witness to Laodicea is more relevant to God's people today than at any other time in the history of the Christian church. We will consider the most important elements of this message found in Revelation Chapter 3 and how they apply to us today. We hope you will be able to come and join us at this important and refreshing time together.

## Venue

The conference is being held at a beautiful Christian campsite named Camp Logue Brook located just 1½ hours' drive south of Perth (between Yarloop and Harvey). The address is: Logue Brook Dam Road, HARVEY WA 6220.

## Coming Events Calendar

**17-21 April, 2014**

### **Victorian Conference Camp 2014**

*Location: Waratah Bay, Victoria.*

*For Further information go to*

[vic@sdarm.org.au](mailto:vic@sdarm.org.au)

*Telephone: +61-(0)3-9331-6432*

**24-27 April, 2014**

### **Queensland Youth Camp 2014 – Are You Connected?**

*Location: Boreen Point, Noosa.*

*For Further information go to*

<http://www.youthchallenger.org.au/qld-youth-camp/>

**6-9 June, 2014**

### **NSW Spiritual Conference 2014**

**"A Thief in the Night"**

*Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp, NSW.*

*For Further information contact Alasdair Pow on*

[apow@sdarm.org.au](mailto:apow@sdarm.org.au) or

*Telephone: +61-(0)433 408 145*

**6-20 July, 2014**

### **Youth Department Fly-n-Build 2014**

*Elim Heights Youth Camp, NSW*

*For Further information contact Csongor Matyas*

*Email: [youth@sdarm.org.au](mailto:youth@sdarm.org.au)*

*Telephone or SMS: +61-430505934*

- 15-17 August, 2014**      **Queensland Conference Camp 2014**  
*For Further information contact Paul Chapman*  
Email: [pchapman@sdarm.org.au](mailto:pchapman@sdarm.org.au)  
Telephone: +61-(0)7-3862-4803
- 26-29 September, 2014**      **Western Australian Mission Field Spiritual Conference**  
*Location: Camp Logue Brook, Harvey*  
*Western Australia*  
Register online at [wa@sdarm.org.au](http://wa@sdarm.org.au)  
Telephone: +61-(0)8-9377-3283  
Download Invitation Here: [www.sdarm.org.au/wa2014](http://www.sdarm.org.au/wa2014)
- 3-6 October, 2014**      **NSW Youth Camp**  
*Location: 85 Grange Avenue Schofields.*  
*For Further information*  
[mthiel@sdarm.org.au](mailto:mthiel@sdarm.org.au) or [lidia@sdarm.org.au](mailto:lidia@sdarm.org.au)  
Telephone: +61-(0)2-9627-7553  
Matthias Thiel mob: +61-(0)424 430 329
- 26 October, 2014**      **NSW Youth Department Seminar - Communication**  
*Location: 85 Grange Avenue Schofields.*  
*For Further information*  
[mthiel@sdarm.org.au](mailto:mthiel@sdarm.org.au) or [lidia@sdarm.org.au](mailto:lidia@sdarm.org.au)  
Telephone: +61-(0)2-9627-7553  
Matthias Thiel mob: +61-(0)424 430 329
- 24-28 December, 2014**      **AUC Youth Convention 2014**  
*Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp, NSW*  
*For Further information go to*  
[www.sdarm.org.au](http://www.sdarm.org.au)  
Telephone: +61-(0)2-9627-7553

## **GOOD TIDINGS E-NEWS**

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