

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS – 28 February 2015 #37

QLD Baptisms – Faumuina & Panchia

28 February 2015

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Baptism in Coomera QLD (L-R): Jacob De Souza (Bible Worker), Rachel Panchia, Spiki Faumuina, Luka Faumuina, Paul Chapman (Minister)

The Sabbath of February 28, 2015 was a high die for those who attended the Sabbath Services in the Pimpama group, on the Gold Coast, Queensland. The day was bright and the temperature warm, though the late afternoon rainclouds threatened to spoil the occasion. Thankfully, the weather remained fine as Luka & Spiki Faumuina and Rachel Panchia made their covenant with the Lord through baptism.

The afternoon profession of faith and baptism in a lake by Coomera, was complemented by a wonderful morning of Bible Study and worship. Many visitors were present for the occasion, and all rejoiced

together with heaven as three more souls were added to the kingdom. Sr Spiki's stand for the Lord is no doubt an answer to the prayers of her mother, Sr Tupe Sauvao, who passed away in 2013. Sr Spiki is the first of her siblings to take a stand for the Lord in baptism. Her husband, Luka has made a wonderful experience in his decision to accept the Lord and take a stand for the Sabbath truth. Their four young children were thrilled to see their mum and dad baptised. Those that know Sr Rachel Panchia were also thrilled to hear her testimony and witness her baptism.



More photos online at:
<http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=8045>

“The obligations in the spiritual agreement entered into at baptism are mutual. As human beings act their part with whole-hearted obedience, they have a right to pray, "Let it be known, Lord, that Thou art God in Israel." The fact that you have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, is an assurance that if you will claim their help, these powers will help you in every emergency. The Lord will hear and answer the prayers of His sincere followers who wear Christ's yoke and learn in His school His meekness and lowliness.” —*Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 98, 99.

We pray that the Lord will bless these dear souls, that they might be true to their covenant, and that they will faithfully continue in the pathway of spiritual growth in Christ, unto the full measure of men and women in Christ Jesus.

NSW Conference Delegation Session 2015

Sunday 22 February 2015

Twenty two delegates from all parts of New South Wales met on Sunday morning the 22nd February 2015 at the Schofields Centre to organize the new officers for the coming two years term for the NSW Conference.



The delegation Session opened with a silent prayer and hymn “To God Be The Glory”. The scripture reading was taken from Philippians 2:12 last part and 2:13 which was followed by prayers of Brother A C Sas and Sister E Stoyko.

Brother Alasdair Pow welcomed the delegates and then shared some thoughts from 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7; Ephesians 4:11-13; Philippians 2:2-5. We were encouraged to seek the Lord’s will and use the special gifts God has given to His people through the Holy Spirit.

The delegation was brought to order and Br Paul Chapman, the Union President, chaired the conference as the Union representative.

It was a wonderful session and each felt God’s leading throughout the work done.

This is the list of the new NSW Conference Officers for the next two year term:

President	M Thiel
Vice President	A Pow
Secretary	C Cunningham
Treasurer	M Staudinger
Auditor	J Voncina
Missionary Dept	D Polistina
Miss Dept Assistants	A Dumaguit, D Dumaguit
Sabbath School Dept	G Kraus
Youth Department	L Ah-ching

Youth Dept Assistants	S Wiseman, D Dumaguit
Health Dept	A Thiel
NSW Committee	M Thiel, A Pow, C Cunningham, M Staudinger, E Stoyko
Building Committee	I Gules, D Ilic, M Staudinger
Welfare Dept	M Dumaguit
Council	NSW Committee (M Thiel, A Pow, C Cunningham, M Staudinger, E Stoyko), J Voncina, and Dept Leaders (L Ah-ching, G Kraus, M Dumaguit, D Polistina, I Gules)

Delegates for Self-Management and Union Conference:

A C Sas	E Stoyko
G Kraus	R Wiseman 1 st Reserve
D Ilic	D Polistina 2 nd Reserve

Thank the Lord for the willingness of those who accepted the call to go forward and carry out their responsibilities in the different offices. May God give them wisdom as they take on the great work ahead of them.

The session was closed at 5:15pm with the prayer of Br D Polistina.



For more photos:

<http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=8021>

Predestined According to the Purpose of God

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.” (Romans 8:29, 30)

A lot of discussion over the years has been generated over these verses. Who does God predestine? If he predestines a person, then is that person necessarily free to choose Him? And if some are predestined for salvation, does that mean others are not? Let's have a look at these verses and see what they are teaching us about God and predestination.

To answer the first question, who does God predestine, we need to look at the context of the Bible chapter in which these verses occur, Romans 8. In this chapter, the apostle Paul is discussing those who “walk after the Spirit”. He declares them to be “the sons of God”.

Romans 8:14-17: “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

The Spirit of God dwells in the sons and daughters of God. If we do not have the Spirit of God, we are not Christ's.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (verse 9).

We know that the work of the Spirit of God is to bring the gift of salvation to us through “regeneration” (Titus 3:5). To be “regenerated” by the Spirit, is to be “born again” (John 3:5). So it may be said that those who are Christ's are those “born of the Spirit” or “born of God”. And what do those that are born of God do?

“...love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God” (1 John 4:7).

They love God. Paul refers to them as "children of God" (Romans 8:16) and "joint-heirs with Christ (verse 17) and "saints" (verse 27), who will be glorified together with Christ. These are those “who are the called according to his purpose” (verse 28). The “born again”, “regenerated” “saints” are the subjects of the verses that follow.

Now look at Romans 8:28:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God....”

“Them that love God”, the “born again” children of God, are the ones for whom all things work together for good. We have often heard this verse quoted to us as a source of encouragement, particularly when some trouble or calamity comes our way and for which we have no explanation. But it is not often that we hear the full verse quoted. The second half of the verse suggests that there is an explanation for the “all things” that happen to those that love God. “All things work together for good...to them that are the called

according to his purpose." When we understand God's purpose for those who love Him, we will understand what the "good" is that God is working together in us. Understanding this purpose, will also provide a solace in answer to the question "why" when troubles come. So let's consider the purpose of God and how it relates to His predestining.

Looking again at verse 28, when it says "called ACCORDING TO his purpose" it means the calling is in harmony with the purpose. The Purpose therefore would precede the Calling.

Purpose -> Calling

Now verse 29 brings God's foreknowledge into the discussion. Here is where many stumble. People read "foreknowledge" as God's predetermined will. But this is not the case. Paul introduces God's "foreknowledge" using the conjunction "for" or "because", implying that the phrase, "whom he did foreknow" is an explanatory remark related to the previous phrase, "those who are called according to His purpose".

God foreknows those who are "called according to His purpose". Paul then says of those ones that God "foreknew", He "also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son".

Foreknowledge = Predestined ->To be Conformed to the Image of the Son

The reason for this predestination is "that he [Jesus] might be the firstborn among many brethren" (verse 29). This is God's purpose. How will they become brethren of Christ? By the many being conformed to His image. In order to conform them, they must first be "born again", or regenerated, in Christ. This is the work of God in accomplished in accord with His purpose.

Now we know that the calling of God includes the invitation: "Whoever will, let Him take of the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17). God's invitation is to "whosoever will". Anyone that wants to, may come and drink. This is a universal invitation. God has called all to drink of the water of life.

Paul then says, those whom God called He also justified (Romans 8:30). To be justified is to have a right standing with God, fully accepted in His sight as though you had never sinned. Does that mean that everyone called is automatically justified by God? No. It is Jesus who stands justified before God. But Jesus has said that, through the power of the Cross, He will "draw all men" unto Himself (John 12:32). Only those who do not resist that drawing power, will be led to Christ. In response to the command, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ", they believe and thus shall be saved (Acts 16:31). They accept the forgiveness of God for their sins, and God pardons them. In doing so, God is both "just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Romans 3:26). Those whom God justifies are only those that exercise belief in Jesus.

That the drawing of God is universal, is further supported by the fact that that drawing includes an unwillingness on God's part "that any should perish". God is willing rather "that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

God's purpose then includes a willingness for all to be conformed to the image of His Son. But in between the willingness for all to come and the conforming, is the harmonic:

Only the "whosoever" that will come and "believe" on Jesus are permitted to take "freely" of the water of life and thus be ultimately conformed to the image of His Son. This freedom to believe or not to believe is

the harmonic undergirding all that God does within those whom He calls. In the word picture below, this Harmonic sits between Calling and Conforming:

Calling<=>Harmonic (*freely believe*)<=>Conforming

The Calling of God does not compromise this harmonic at any step in the process, else it becomes discordant with God's Purpose.

Purpose = Calling =>Harmonic (*freely believe*) =>Conforming

If those called do not continue to drink "freely" of the "water of life" by "believing" on the Son, they will not be conformed to His image.

Understanding this harmonic within God's Purpose, divine foreknowledge then is God foreseeing those who will respond willingly to the call to believe and drink. They are the ones who God has predestined "to be conformed to the image of His Son". As they respond to the invitation to believe and drink, they will be justified by faith in Jesus.

And those whom God has justified, according to Paul, He will also glorify. They are the ones that God will ultimately conform to the image of His Son. As they drink from the water of life freely, God works together all things for their good, in order that they may go on to full conformity to the image of His Son and thus constitute the many brethren. That is the work of the Holy Spirit within each one who believes. The Spirit that regenerates those who believe is the Spirit that also transforms them day by day into the same image, "from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

What this means for one who is yet to believe is that God's invitation, "whosoever will, let him drink", is an invitation to freely receive the gift of salvation. "Let him drink". If you are one of those souls, this invitation is for you. The following passage from the pen of inspiration expresses the universal nature of this call.

"The same divine mind that is working upon the things of nature is speaking to the hearts of men and creating an inexpressible craving for something they have not. The things of the world cannot satisfy their longing. The Spirit of God is pleading with them to seek for those things that alone can give peace and rest—the grace of Christ, the joy of holiness." *Steps to Christ*, p. 28.

But God will not force you to accept Him nor will He deny you if you are willing to believe in Jesus and accept His forgiveness for your sin. He will pardon you, and justify you freely "through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).

What this means for those who do believe in Jesus is that God will accomplish His purpose in you. He will conform you to the image of Jesus. All He asks is that you freely exercise your faith in Him constantly. Don't let the present difficulties discourage you in the Christian life. Take up the battle in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Paul recognised that the sufferings of the present are to be expected by those who are children of God and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17-18). If Christ suffered, then so shall we. But note, Paul's attitude to sufferings in view of God's ultimate purpose:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (verse 18).

So no matter what happens to you, no matter what trials or tribulations come your way, no matter what sufferings you may be called to endure, you can have confidence, founded in God's determined purpose, that He is working ALL things together for your ultimate good—His predetermined purpose—that your life will be conformed to the image of Jesus.

– Paul Chapman

Congratulations on New Arrival

Our congratulations go to Tabitha and Rolf on the birth of their baby daughter, Sarah Grace who was born on the 12th February 2015.



May God pour out a special blessing on your beautiful family!

Many of you may know Tabitha as she worked for the Australasian Union Conference Office, Schofields NSW for ten years as desktop publisher/RLPA Director.



Even since retiring Tabitha still has a great regard in her heart for God's work and is part of the proofreading team. Now she is appreciating the joys of being a mother!

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalm 127:3.

Engagement Congratulations

Matthew Boje and Melissa Mota



Brazilian born Melissa Mota came to Australia from Brazil early 2014 to attend four months of our Missionary Training Program. During college, there were many activities that the students participated in, one of them being a camping trip held by the NSW Youth Department in Jervis Bay, NSW on 4-6 April 2014. It was very nice to have Matthew and Nathan Boje from Victoria join our camp, and this is where Matthew and Melissa first got to know each other, and lights started sparkling in their minds.

At the end of last year, Matthew decided to visit Brazil; and during his trip he was able to meet and get to know Melissa's family and friends. Their friendship now was becoming more serious as love started to grow in their hearts.

Early this year while Melissa came back to Australia to visit, on the 11 February 2015 Matthew took her back to the very place where they first started their friendship at Jervis Bay and asked for her hand in marriage. Their engagement was publically announced on Sabbath 28th of February.

Melissa returned to Brazil to complete her studies, and plans are for a wedding to take place next year.



We wish to extend our congratulations to Matthew and Melissa on their engagement and wish them both much happiness. We pray for God's blessings as they plan their future lives together.



Courtesy of
Christianwallpaper.co

Youth Focus Meeting - NSW

7 February 2015

With holidays over and life starting to get back to some normality, it was good once again to meet together for the first NSW Youth Focus Meeting (YFM) for the year 2015. We would like to thank Brother Ionel and Sister Stela Gules who opened their doors for us to hold this evening at their home and also for their hospitality.

As each one arrived, before the program started, all were offered a lovely cool drink which was truly refreshing; we all then sat at the back outdoor verandah and gardens to have our meeting. The weather was really kind to us and was very pleasant.



The Bible reading and discussion assigned for the night was found in John 10:1-18. *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his*

own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”

We all took turns at reading the scripture passage, and then took part in a discussion derived from a worksheet with thirteen questions. It was good to have Br Peter Lausevic with us, as he was able to answer some questions



raised from points discussed. Since Br Matthias Thiel was visiting Uranquinty, he was able to also hold a YFM for the youth from around that region, on the same topic.

Some of the questions were: Who do the sheep represent? Explain what a sheepfold is. What or who is the door, and what does Jesus mean by entering by the door? What is the benefit by entering in by the door? Explain the thieves and robbers, and what do they come to steal? Who is the Shepherd? Why do the sheep need a shepherd?

The final question was a personal one; each was to answer it for themselves and to contemplate on: Who is your shepherd?

“... What can give you greater joy than to see children and youth following Christ, the great Shepherd, who calls, and the sheep and lambs hear His voice and follow Him? What can spread more sunshine through the soul of the interested, devoted worker than to know that his persevering, patient labor is not in vain in the Lord, and to see his pupils have the sunshine of joy in their souls because Christ has forgiven their sins? What can be more satisfying to the worker together with God, than to see children and youth receiving the impressions of the Spirit of God in true nobility of character and in the restoration of the moral image of God--the children seeking the peace coming from the Prince of peace?”—Fundamentals of Christian Education p. 271.

All enjoyed a beautiful Mexican dinner followed by the closing of Sabbath. It was very lovely to also have with us from Melbourne, Matthew Boje and Melissa Mota, who were visiting Sydney.

For the past two years, Brother Chris Cosson and I have been assisting Br Matthias Thiel in leading the NSW youth. I am sure I can also speak on their behalf in thanking each one who has supported the NSW Youth Department with the many different programs held throughout the past term. We pray that through God’s continual guidance the new NSW youth leaders will be able to bring the youth even closer to our wonderful and loving Saviour.

May God help each one of us to recognise the voice of the true Shepherd and to enter through the right gate.

~ Lidia Voncina

Condolences to Zulic Family



Walter Zulic – 24 April 1962 - 2 February 2015

Walter Marino Zulic was born on the 24 April 1962 to Elsa and Giulio Zulic in Santiago, Chile. The family immigrated to Australia on the 10th April 1974. While living in Punchbowl, they made contact with the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement (SDARM) and for many months received Bible studies by Pastor A C Sas. They were convicted of the message and accepted the truth. Jointly both parents together with their daughters Anna and Giulietta were the first four members of the family to be baptised into the SDARM church, on the 3rd January 1975.

Later, Walter and some of their other children were also baptized, and the family attended the Wentworthville church for many years.

Sadly throughout the years, Walter drifted away from his spiritual experience, choosing the ways of the world; but we thank God that during the last part of his life, he was reconciled with God as the Holy Spirit influenced him. He was greatly sorry for the direction he had taken and was able to make a new experience with God. He felt the wonderful forgiveness that only God can give and had great peace in his heart accepting Christ's great sacrifice for him personally and believing that Jesus will come back soon to take him home.

May the Lord comfort the family and friends of Walter and help them to be faithful and look forward to seeing him once more in the earth made new where there will be no more tears. *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."* 1 Corinthians 2:9

Eulogy written by Walter's sister, Anna Allen

Highlights from the past

We came to Australia as a family - Mum, Dad and eight siblings: Giulio, Giulietta, Walter, Alex, Johnny, Branco, Boris and myself. We arrived in Sydney, Australia on April the 10th 1974, and it was here that we accepted the Advent message.

Walter, Johnny and I together with three other young people left to attend a youth convention in the Philippines on 12 April 1981. Four of us including Johnny and myself had an excursion visa and decided to go only for four weeks, whereas Walter and the others stayed on an extra four weeks to attend the "Missionary Training School".



It was there at this very "Youth Convention" that Walter and Nena met for the first time and very quickly fell in love, starting a relationship that would continue on for years to come with much fruition.

Walter came back to Australia mid-June 1981, but during that same year, he returned to the Philippines to continue getting to know his then sweetheart Nena. They both decided to take things very seriously and were married that same year – 11 November 1981.

Soon after their wedding they took their flight back to Australia to face the new beginnings and new challenges that life had in store for them.

Once back home as a brand new couple, Walter found himself a job and a house to live in and raise his young family.

On the 10th of August 1982 their first child James Walter was born. Two years later on the 27th of August 1984 a baby girl, Caroline Esmeralda was born, who brought so much joy to the family. Then on the 29th April 1987 the family was blest with another arrival of Mark Anthony.

Family highlights - while at home.

I well remember whilst still living at home, Walter was so eagerly waiting for the day he was to embrace his most important milestone in his young life, when he would turn the required age to get his driver's licence. For this to take place it seemed to him the days were not going fast enough, so he started the count down, and he meant this; he wanted everyone to notice and to see what he had written on the calendar as he was ticking the days off one day at a time. This activity went on for days and months. During that particular year, he would say: Oh dear I wish the days would go much faster. It's just not going fast enough for me. I can't wait until I will be able to sit behind the wheel and go places. I guess at the time it was one of the very first achievements for him as a young man, apart from his first job which he held.

I just loved listening to his so vivid and true expressions and stories which he always loved to share with everyone. 'Listen up everyone! You are not paying attention, and you aren't taking this seriously enough; I can't wait to get my driver's licence!'

Family, friends, work colleagues and whomsoever he would meet down the road would always love his stories and daily anecdotes. Yes they were his true experiences, and they will always be remembered and kept in our hearts and minds for ever and ever as time goes on.

Walter was baptised by Brother F Devai in the year 1978 together with a large group of young people.

A tribute to my brother by Alex Zulic

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him". I Thessalonians 4:13-14.

It's amazing how we can always bring to mind those old fond and cherished memories that somehow seem to stick like glue to our minds, and as I type these few words, one such memory just crosses my mind....We were temporarily living in the beautiful Port of Coquimbo, south of La Serena in Chile in this really nice residence. It was a very happy time for us kids; Walter was about seven and I was about six. I always looked up to my brother, always thought of him as special, and in this particular moment all of a sudden I crept out of bed and reached over to him and I tightly and lovingly cuddled him and held him. Even at that young age I esteemed him greatly.



My dear brother, it is hard to believe that you are gone....I don't think that I have yet accepted your sudden and premature departure. At certain intervals it's like I think you are still here, and yet soon reality hits me and I have to concede that yes, you are gone. Gone yes my brother, but not forgotten, that's for sure.

We all miss you greatly, especially Mum and Dad and also your own children James, Caroline and Mark.

I had never realised how cruel death can be till the moment I lost you my good friend and brother. But I keep on trusting in the Lord's promise that one day we will see you again.

Having you around me was fun especially our young school days together. What joy it was to spend time with you my friend...Even as adults it was always fun to be around you; we had a very special bond, even a

very special kind of invented language you and I shared that nobody else knew about till much later in life, lol. My brother if you and I ever had a disagreement, well, the good and fun times we had together far outweighed those few and in between disappointments that life sometimes bring.

Well, I will now say goodbye to you my good friend and brother...but I will always remember you as my special brother who always came to my rescue, no matter what.

Always thinking of you...and hoping and praying that one day when this world passes that we will see each other again according to God's promise.

Loving and missing you always.

Your loving brother,

Alex Simon Zulic.

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=7875>

Busy-Bee – Elim Heights Youth Camp

1 February 2015

The verse *“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might”* Ecclesiastes 9:10 first part, was certainly taken seriously by those who were at the last busy-bee held at Elim Heights Youth Camp.

Some people stayed overnight after the usual 5th Sabbath combined meetings at Elim Heights for an early start to the busy-bee planned for Sunday morning the 1st of February. Those who went home Sabbath afternoon returned early in the morning to join the working team.

A list of ‘to be done jobs’ was given out; so much was achieved in a short time. Brother Amos Thiel and Sr Elaine Weymark spent the morning remodeling the garden, Brother Robin Gordon had the men busy doing concreting and the ladies worked in the kitchen cleaning the cupboards, sorting through utensils, plates, cups, glasses etc... discarding anything that was rusty, cracked or broken. It was lovely to see the cupboards clean and in order once again.

‘Many hands make light work’ and because of that, the work that was planned for the whole day was completed by lunchtime. Some chose to stay back for a combined lunch while others went home with an early mark!

We send a huge ‘thank you’ to each one who sacrificed and took time out to help improve our campground, making the place even more pleasant and beautiful.

~ Lidia Voncina



Condolences to Wily Family

Sister Mataina Wily - 23/10/1927 – 7/1/2015



We would like to extend our sincere condolences to the grieving family, relatives and friends of late Sister Mataina Wily who passed away in Samoa. Those who knew her witnessed in her life that Sr Mataina loved her Lord Jesus and was a true matriarch in this beautiful island of Samoa. Sr Wily was a loving mother to Brother Pasene Wily, Sisters Tulipe, Ario and Pele. She fell asleep in Jesus while in hospital on the 7th January 2015 at 11:45pm at the age of 87 years. The burial took place on Sunday 11th January 2015.

May God comfort each one during this time of sadness and may we all look forward to the day when we shall see our sister once again. *“In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.”* Job 12:10.

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18.



Baptism – Victoria

Jade Wales

Members of the Shepparton church and friends gathered on the 10th of January in the quaint country town of Eldorado, Victoria. We spent a lovely Sabbath together which included the usual morning services, a combined lunch and the highlight of the day, the baptism of Jade Wales. Although there had been some rain, and it was still lightly raining, the creek level did not pose a problem; and Br. Jade made his stand for Jesus while everyone looked on from the shelter of umbrellas.



When we gathered back at the hall for the fellowshipment, we had a wonderful time of sharing as Jade gave his testimony and shared a special song that he had written. A few others expressed their desire to recommit their lives to the Lord, and after a season of prayer we all departed with songs in our hearts and thanksgiving that another child of God had come home.

~ Nathan Tyler



For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=7917>

Schofields Combined Sabbath

Schofields Combined Sabbath - 3 January 2015

A hot welcome for 2015 was felt by all at Schofields on the 3rd January. Br Szabi Szoke led out in the study of our Sabbath Bible Review Lesson 'God is Calling You!' "For many are called, but few are chosen." *Matthew 22:14*. We all then separated into various classes for the study of our new yearly lesson on the life of Joseph – 'Joseph the Dreamer'. "God designed that [Joseph] should obtain an experience by temptations, adversity, and hardships, to prepare him to fill an exalted position." *The SDA Bible Commentary [E. G. White Comments], vol. 1, p. 1097*. "The Lord works in His own way and according to His own devising. Let men pray that they may be divested of self, and may be in harmony with heaven." *The Review and Herald, May 5, 1896*.



For the divine service, over 100 people were present, and it was encouraging to see many friends and family from Wentworthville, India, America, Queensland, Melbourne, Adelaide, Coleambally, and Perth. It was also beautiful to see, after many years, Br and Sr Zulic senior, Anna, Julia and husband, and John Zulic. It was also lovely to have Sr Suzanna Bende Vukovich visiting and with us still. Br Paul Chapman shared many interesting thoughts on what we are feeding our minds on. Is it Star Wars and its characters? This and many other worldly attractions are amongst many of the million dollar businesses corrupting the minds of our children. If we allow these things to cloud our children's minds, they will be lost and swept away in today's immoral tidal waves. "By beholding we become changed." *The Adventist Home, p. 330*. "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;" *Ephesians 6:14*. "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;" *1 Peter 1:13*. Time is short. We need to store our minds with the beautiful gems of heaven. God is searching not our outward appearance, but our inward... our hearts. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." *Romans 13:10*. We need to live our lives for Him, not for ourselves, and we need to focus on Him who has called us.

We all enjoyed a delicious vegan lunch and were able to socialise with all the visitors.

Following lunch, we had a combined Missionary Meeting which was held by Br Domenic and Br Abraham. 'Value of A Soul' was the theme of the afternoon. Why does Jesus value a soul? He sees all the possibilities and spiritual advantages that have been granted. God has His name on every soul.



During the afternoon we were presented with a children's item, showing and telling us what was created and when during creation, and they sang Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. We also had an instrumental item, a group singing item, and a special Spanish surprise item by the youth about how can we repay such a price... His life for us. Throughout the afternoon we had a few missionary experiences, firstly by Br Dumaguit, who related in an experience from Vietnam and the registration of the church. As long

as they can hold 10 members, for 10 years, they can register the church. This was approved by the government in two weeks. Foreigners can not actually preach as yet in Vietnam, but can be in the congregation. Praise God for His leading. He also encouraged the young people with how there are 38 young people doing colporteur work in the Philippines. Br Chapman followed with some news regarding the detox program they held in Queensland, 'Detox from Yourself to Your Souls'. This was held from Friday-Sunday, and twenty-five people from the general public attended this outreach in Nundah; and one precious soul named Jordan wanted to give his heart to the Lord after this outreach. Br Domenic also related a short experience regarding a lady who attended the Wentworthville cooking demonstrations and had lost 30 kilos by introducing recipes from the cooking demonstrations into her life. Originally she was 120 kilos, and she went down to 90. The Dumaguit family favoured us with an item entitled 'The Old Rugged Cross'. Br Cunningham and Lachlan also sang a duet, which Br Cunningham wrote 'With Jesus in my Heart'. In closing, the leaders shared a few extra valuable points regarding the value of a soul and the importance of us as individual precious souls. "We have then the genuine ring in our faith, for it is a working faith. It works by love. Speak it from your heart: 'Lord, I believe Thou hast died to redeem my soul. If Thou hast placed such a value upon the soul as to give Thy life for mine, I will respond. I give my life and all its possibilities, in all my weakness, into Thy keeping.'" *Faith and Works p, 16.*



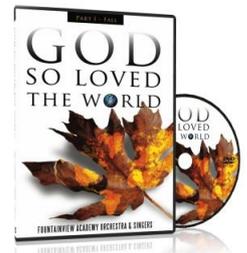
~ Reported by Veronica Hake

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=7829>

Fountainview DVD's

\$29.00 each

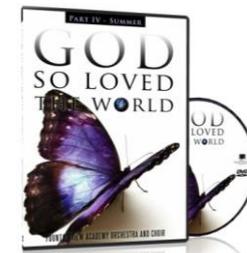
Music! The age-old gift that lifts our spirits and makes us happy! Add to this the beauty of nature—the grandeur of Canada’s mountains in a backdrop of fall colours, and more. Hear these smiling, talented young people as they share from their own hearts, with their host, Mike Lemon, about their passion—God. Follow these young people in music and inspiration as they tackle some of life’s toughest questions in this first episode of God So Loved the World.



Spring! That time when EVERYTHING comes to life! Hear it in the drip of the first melting ice, the silent opening blossoms—in thrilling strains of music and in the orchestra’s thunder—the tune of a storm! But there’s more—hear these smiling young people step out from behind their instruments and speak of their Friend, God. Join them in music—join them as they share with their host, Mike Lemon, the exciting news of spring—the new life that God promises us all.



Summer is the warmest of the four seasons and one of our favourite times of the year. We spend more time outdoors, energized by warmth of the sun, taking it all in. The Bible tells us of a “Christian summer”, when there will be no more sin and suffering and we will enjoy endless days in the presence of our Creator. Summer, the fourth and final part of the God So Loved The World series, focuses on the Biblical themes of the second coming, the resurrection of the dead, facing our life’s record, the millennium, and the promise of eternal life with our Saviour and Friend, Jesus. As you listen to the music and the stories, filmed in the beauty and warmth of summer, it is our prayer that your own heart will be warmed by the promises of God.



Inspired by the Reformation, this DVD production is a musical and historical journey through Europe. “It Is Written’s” John Bradshaw joins Fountainview Academy to host The Great Controversy, filmed in five different countries of Europe at historically meaningful sites. These young musicians share not only music, but personal testimonies and powerful reformation stories, still relevant to our lives today.

What drove the legendary reformers such as Luther, Huss, and so many more, to sacrifice so much, giving up even their lives? Could they see the far-reaching impact of their actions? Do you ever wonder if you have a part to play in this drama? See the powerful victories that these faithful warriors gained by simple faith and firm reliance upon God and the truths of His Word. Find the strength that brought them peace even in the face of death itself. Know that the same victory they each claimed can be ours too!

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Coming Events Calendar

- 3-6 April 2015** **Vic/Tas Conference Camp – “Christian Life Skills”**
Location: Alexandra Adventure Resort
43 Murrays Road Whanregarwen Vic 3714
For Further information email vic@sdarm.org.au
Online: www.sdarm.org.au/vic2015
Telephone: +61-(0)3-9331-6432 or Mobile: 0421 077 553
- 3-6 April 2015** **WA Field Youth Camp – “Getting to Know God”**
Location: Lake Navarino Holiday Park,
147 Invarell Road, Waroona
For Further information: Catherine Robles - Mobile: 0433 283 135
- 8-11 April 2015** **New Zealand Field Conference – “Jesus: The “I Am””**
Location: Campbell Park Christian Camp
280 Molesworth Drive, Mangawhai Heads, New Zealand
For Further information email nzfield@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: +64 9 825 0247; Mobile: +64 2 153 8179; 64 2 135 1844
- 5-8 June 2015** **NSW Conference – more info coming soon**
Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp, NSW
- 3-5 October 2015** **Queensland Conference – more info coming soon**
- 25-29 December 2015** **Education and Family Camp – more info coming soon**
Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp, NSW
For Further information email education@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: +61-(0)2-9627-7553
- 25 Aug - 8 Sept 2015** **22nd GC Delegation Session – Delegates only**
Location: Wirtz, Virginia USA
For Further information <http://gcsession.sdarm.org>
- 10-13 September 2015** **22nd GC Session Spiritual Meetings – Public**
“Christ Is All, and in All”
Location: Salem Civic Center, Taliaferro Complex, Salem, VA, USA
For Further information <http://gcsession.sdarm.org>

GOOD TIDINGS E-NEWS

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