

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS – 31 March 2015 #38

Werribee Meetings

7th March 2015

Regular services have commenced in Werribee (for directions see below). The first meeting was held on Sabbath the 7th of March, 2015. Some of the attendees on the first day are pictured. We look forward to many Sabbaths to come. The group has begun advertising for a Depression Recovery Program as part of their strategy to reach out and be a blessing to the community. Please uphold them in your prayers.



Saturdays: 9:30am – 12:00pm

55-57 Kookaburra Avenue, Werribee, VIC 3030.

Meeting at the Men's Shed at the Wyndham Park Community Centre. Enter the complex, go straight at the roundabout, and the Men's Shed is on the right.

Contact Phone Number: 0433 733 881

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The Meaning of Forgiveness

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. *Micah 7:18.*

“God's forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin but reclaiming from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart. David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, ‘Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.’ Psalm 51:10.

“If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love. His ear is open to the cry of the contrite soul. The very first reaching out of the heart after God is known to Him. Never a prayer is offered, however faltering, never a tear is shed, however secret, never a sincere desire after God is cherished, however feeble, but the Spirit of God goes forth to meet it. Even before the prayer is uttered or the yearning of the heart made known, grace from Christ goes forth to meet the grace that is working upon the human soul.

“Your heavenly Father will take from you the garments defiled by sin. In the beautiful parabolic prophecy of Zechariah, the high priest Joshua, standing clothed in filthy garments before the angel of the Lord, represents the sinner. And the word is spoken by the Lord, ‘Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. . . . So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments.’ Zechariah 3:4, 5. Even so God will clothe you with ‘the garments of salvation,’ and cover you with ‘the robe of righteousness.’ Isaiah 61:10. . . .

“‘If thou wilt walk in my ways,’ He declares, ‘I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by’ (Zechariah 3:7)—even among the holy angels that surround His throne.”—*The Faith I Live By*, p. 129.

“Christ has made every provision for us to be strong. He has given us His Holy Spirit, whose office is to bring to our remembrance all the promises that Christ has made, that we may have peace and a sweet sense of forgiveness. If we will but keep our eyes fixed on the Saviour, and trust in His power, we shall be filled with a sense of security; for the righteousness of Christ will become our righteousness. . . .”—*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 259

“Look away from yourself to the perfection of Christ. We cannot manufacture a righteousness for ourselves. Christ has in His hands the pure robes of righteousness, and He will put them upon us. He will speak sweet words of forgiveness and promise. He presents to our thirsty souls fountains of living water whereby we may be refreshed. He bids us come unto Him with all our burdens, all our griefs, and He says we shall find rest. . . .

“Jesus sees the guilt of the past, and speaks pardon, and we must not dishonor Him by doubting His love. This feeling of guiltiness must be laid at the foot of the cross of Calvary. The sense of sinfulness has poisoned the springs of life and of true happiness. Now Jesus says, ‘Lay it all on Me. I will take your sins; I will give you peace. Banish no longer your self-respect, for I have bought you with the price of My own blood. You are Mine. Your weakened will I will strengthen; your remorse for sin I will remove.’ Then turn your grateful heart, trembling with uncertainty, to Him and lay hold on the hope set before you. God accepts your broken, contrite heart, and extends to you free pardon. He offers to adopt you into His family, with His grace to help your weakness, and the dear Saviour will lead you on step by step, you placing your hand in His and letting Him guide you.”—*Our Father Cares*, p. 133.

~Ellen G White

Skype Conference – AUC Workers

Virtual Prayer Breakfast

For the very first time in the history of the Australasian Union Conference (AUC) of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement (SDARM), on Wednesday 25th March 2015, all the AUC workers were blest to hold a conference call together on Skype. Each was able to share the progress of the work within their fields and also gain strength and ideas from other workers. Sharing experiences, encouragement, and discussion about the progress of the work as well as prayers together in a group was a very precious experience had by all.

During this meeting on Skype, some of the workers shared that they have been sincerely praying and fasting for God to lead them to souls that are hungry for the truth, to give them some contacts; but unbeknown to them God already had a plan in answering their petition, and their prayers were answered immediately. A number of visitors attended church on Sabbath, and they felt strengthened knowing that when we ask God, He will always answer. There have been awakenings in many of the fields. We thank God for a number of baptisms which have been held in different places. Many are renewing their commitment with the Lord, and many are showing interest in the truth.

Conference calls such as this are planned to take place once a month. Let us all pray and work together for the advancement of the work while there is still time and freedom in this country. We have a daily battle, but God promises us victory! Let us move forward with God's help! Please keep praying for our Bible workers and the work entrusted to them, as they are also targeted by the enemy continually.

"We are laborers together with God.' Christ is the head of the church on earth, and he requires that every one who believes in him as the Redeemer, shall surrender himself to obey his word, to love God supremely, and to love as Christ loved those who are perishing in sin. In every church there should be men who will set in operation missionary efforts, and teach the workers how to exercise tact, and how to carry out the best missionary methods. There should be many workers in every city, and laborers sent to every possible field. We have the promise of the Creator of all worlds, the promise of him who has all power at his command in heaven and earth, that he will be with us, and will work with the living, working church on earth. He appoints angels to cooperate with human agencies in advancing his work for the saving of perishing souls. All heaven is employed in ministering to the heirs of salvation, imparting the renewing power of the Holy Spirit to those who shall work for the salvation of souls." The Youth's Instructor, November 7, 1895.

AUC Health Department Website

We are really happy to advertise our Health Department Website which you can find at elimhealth.org.au

We envision the website to be a source of good information and resources for the public and church members alike, especially for those who are making the change from a Meat Diet to a Vegetarian Diet. We also envision the website to be a place to advertise any health events that are going on in our fields and conferences around Australia and also to see reports on past health events that have taken place.

If you have a health event that is being planned in your area, please email Catherine Robles on cathrobles@gmail.com to advise her of the event, the date, time, venue and a small write up about the event. You can also refer to the website when giving your health talks.

Book Store

You are able to purchase certain books through the website, although we only have a few books advertised as we are trialling this method of advertisement to see if it is successful.

Recipes

Recipes from different cooking demonstrations around Australia have been uploaded on the website and are available to print. If you would like to have recipes or information available from a particular event that you have hosted, please email them to Catherine Robles.

Future Visions

The Union Health Department hopes to have a health correspondence course accessible on the website as soon as possible. We will keep you updated with further information on this. We also intend to upload more media of health talks and seminars as they are available.

Baby Girl Congratulations!

Belinda Rose Decuyper



Thank God, for another 'little lamb for Jesus' was born. Belinda Rose born to Josie and Etienne Decuyper on the 20th March 2015 brought much joy to the whole family especially to her eldest sister, Mikayla.

May God give the parents wisdom as they bring up their family to honour and love Him.
"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6

Congratulations and best wishes to all of you!

Condolences – Ivastinovic, Stoyko and Voncina families

Joseph Ivastinovic – 5/6/1971 to 16/3/2015



'Little Joe' as known to his family and friends although very tall, big and strong lost his battle with leukemia on Monday 16th March 2015. Sadly cancer is not a respecter of any persons. Joseph Ivastinovic was born on 5th June 1971 and lived a very short time of 43 years.

Although not being able to be physically baptised due to his sickness, Joe accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour and died with the hope of waking up at the resurrection morning at the coming of Jesus. *"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."* 1 Thessalonians 4:14

Joseph Ivastinovic, son-in-law of Miroslav and Maria Voncina and nephew of Teresa Stoyko, will be sadly missed by his wife Suzana, his parents Slavko and Maria, his brother Branko, brothers and sisters-in-law, uncles, aunties, cousins, nephews, nieces and many friends.

We pray God will comfort all those who are mourning at this time of loss.

Vanuatu Disaster Report

Letter from South Pacific Union Mission President (initial appeal):

16th March 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you may have heard via news and media the island nation of Vanuatu has been hit by one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the Pacific on Friday evening 13th March 2014. The result is major damage, devastation, some injury and loss of life. Cyclone Pam has caused devastation in Port Vila, the nation's capital, as well as in the outlying islands.

Vanuatu has a population of over 250,000 people and has many islands, approximately 70 which are inhabited. The Reform Movement was established in Vanuatu in 2002, and today there are around 100 members.

Contact has been established with our brethren in Port Vila, and we thank the Lord there is no reported injury or loss of life among them, and our two church buildings have not suffered any major storm damage. According to the information we have so far, there has been loss or damage to at least three houses of our brethren as well as damage to crops and property.

Due to damage caused to infrastructure and communications, it may be some time before contact can be made with the outlying islands and we can find out how our brethren in those areas are and assist them. But we are sure they will be needing physical assistance with food, water and restoring or rebuilding their

homes and churches. For this reason we are asking for your assistance. At this stage we are requesting that any donations be sent to the Australasian Union Office:

Direct Debit:

SDARM Australasian Union

BSB: 032-274

Account No: 168675

Please note it as: Vanuatu Welfare Appeal

Cheques or money orders:

Write out to: SDA Reform Movement

Please post to SDA Reform Movement, Vanuatu Appeal. PO Box 132 Riverstone NSW 2765.

A number of people have asked how they can help. At this stage we are making this initial appeal for monetary help – the welfare department leader of the South Pacific Union Mission lives in Vanuatu, and further updates and an assessment of the situation will become available as communication is reestablished. We will update you as soon as further information becomes available.

Thank you for your assistance and prayers at this time.

Yours in the blessed hope,

Ben Thiel

South Pacific Union Missions President

Letter from AUC Welfare Department Director:

9/4/2015

Hello and Greetings.

I left Perth at midnight on Sunday and arrived safely at Port Vila late Monday 6th April in the afternoon. The trip took so long due to in-bound flight delays. When flying into Port Vila, all that was seen were trees turned on end, trees with no leaves and the much needed shade was missing. There were no birds singing, and devastation was all around everywhere you looked.

Have been visiting our members here. Traffic is going very slow due to having to dodge thousands of potholes and wash outs.

Took us all day yesterday to buy 30 bags of rice, Australian and expensive. Was blessed by meeting the owner of the largest supermarket chain here.

They are rationing food supplies. A man spoke to me in his antique-filled office for an hour. He gave us permission to go buy at his wholesale warehouse where I had the exact amount of money to buy bags of rice and no more for that day. We left as they closed. An NGO tried to buy more rice and was sent away one minute after I paid for our bags. We loaded the 27kg bags and drove away happy. I will distribute them this coming Sunday morning to the members here in Vila. I ordered soap, rice, salt, lentils, clothes, washing powder, toilet paper, matches, and few more essential items to be delivered by charter boat. As many boats sunk or are damaged, getting supplies out is hard.

We definitely will need more funds as I see it. Some charter flights are available at a high price. Problem is the airstrip is far from our people. So I have to wait for a specific boat, The Epi Dream. Hopefully it can come off charter doing relief work to take our supplies there.



We have Br Clements here with his wife and daughter. They are busy repairing their house which completely lost its roof. They also lost their caretaker's house. It was blown away. Only the slab was left. They have 15 people to cook and care for just there every day. They are sleeping in tents. Bro. Clements showed me around. He showed me a shipping container that was moved in an angle from the force of the wind. The wind tore off the entire roof and electrical wires from his house, and rain came in and flooded everything else. His wife was looking tired from all the work.

All the staple crops were destroyed especially the cabbage.

I am staying at Br Charlie's house at the moment. He sent his daughter by plane to Santo Island, and she brought back greens. I was allowed to bring in some \$100 worth of seeds; so first thing I bought was more seeds to send to outer islands as aid: bok choy, beans, and cucumbers.

Here is hot and humid with plenty of sunshine. The first cruise ship with tourists came back yesterday which really congested the town even more.

Praise God that none in the church suffered casualties.

I have sharpened my brain as they want me to cook a few dishes here. Canned foods are available here but at high prices.

Greetings from Vanuatu,
John Lausevic

Further information from the AUC Office

The Australasian Union Office would like to thank all those who have donated thus far to this appeal. There has been a total of Aust \$22,000 (General Conference \$12,000, Australia \$10,000) donations received. Our aim is to raise \$30,000. If you feel in your heart that you would like to help, please make your donations as per above initial appeal. Thank you.

Schofields Singing Outreach – Kings Langley NSW

Adventist Aged Care - 7 March 2015



Once again it was wonderful to bring some sunshine to the residents at the Adventist Aged Care Village in Kings Langley. We thank God that we could return again in 2015. Numbers of our own members and friends as residents are increasing at the nursing home which this time included Br M Southwell, Sr Brittain, Br G K Brittain, Sr Sabo and her husband. Many were happy to join in our presentation of thanksgiving in song.

The afternoon program was filled with many items from poems, solo, duet, to group singing and instrumentals:

Focus Singers – “I’d Rather Have Jesus” and “Redeemed”

Schofields Singing – “Tis Midnight, And On Olives’ Brow” and “King Of My Life I Crown Thee Now”

Instrumental Group – “O For A Heart To Praise My God” and “Alas! And Did My Saviour Bleed”

Quartet – “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

Solo – “On a Hill Far Away”

Duet – “There Was One Who Was Willing”

Poems – “It Is Finished” and “Jesus Saves”

Br Amos Thiel shared a short message on the true meaning of Christ’s death touching many hearts of those residents who were present. The afternoon was very much enjoyed by all.

May God help and strengthen the faith of the elderly as they face each day with its many challenges. Until we meet again.

~ Reported by Lidia Voncina



For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=8235>

NSW Youth Focus Meeting

7 March 2015 -



"I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments....Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." Psalm 119:7, 9

Warm as the day may have been, our young people looked forward to another Youth Focus Meeting which was held at Sr Elaine Weymark's home in McGraths Hill. With newly appointed NSW Youth Leaders, we all looked forward to what they had in store for the youth. Br Larry began with a study and discussion on the parable of the Good

Samaritan where the youth, along with the assistance of the adults in attendance, were separated into 5 groups. Each group was given a character from the parable (Traveler, Good Samaritan, Priest, Levite, the Innkeeper) to discuss what the positives and negatives of their characters were. After coming together again, each group shared their thoughts, and a deep discussion continued to help the youth understand the parable and its meaning, and how the lessons from this parable can help and encourage us in our Christian experience today. We then ended the discussion session with the close of Sabbath.



For closing of Sabbath Br Domenic Polistina read from Psalms 121. Unbeknown to him, verses one and two were one of Brother Weymarks' favourite

verses; each time he went out the back and sat on his chair in the back verandah he looked to the mountains and quoted: *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth."*



Our dinner theme for the night was Indian, to which we had a variety of Indian cuisines including rice dishes, many different curries, Indian breads, samosas, salads and what would an Indian night be without the presence of home grown chilies. Every dish was deliciously tasty; that almost every pot, pan, bowl or dish was completely cleaned out proved it to be a job well done to all.

After dinner the youth leaders had the young people and those young at heart participating in a fun activity called “How well do you know me?” where the aim was for everyone to get to know each other that little bit better; and I’m pretty sure that by the end of the night we all learned that little bit more about one another. Praise God for another great Youth Focus Meeting; it was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

~ Reported by Tanya Ah-ching

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=8193>

Baby Arrival

Olivia Grace Duna – 24 February 2015



Olivia Grace weighing a healthy 3.474kgs is very much loved by her siblings Emilia and Jonathan.

Congratulations to the proud parents and all around. May God truly bless all of you.

May this wonderful commitment made by Joshua be also your wish and prayer “...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15.

It is always wonderful news to hear of a new baby’s arrival, and we are so happy to announce that early on the morning of the 24th February 2015, a third child arrived to Madeline and Natasha Duna.



RLPA - News

This is a compilation of articles and sermons given in the 1890's by Jones and Waggoner on Righteousness by Faith. A popular best seller for years, this is one of the finest books on victorious Christian living available. It gives the "how-to" of overcoming and explains many hard-to-understand passages in the book of Galatians. Find out firsthand what the 1888 message really is!

Order your copy today for \$25.00

RLPA:

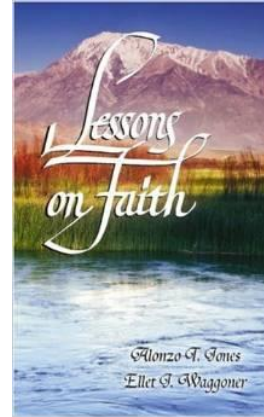
info@rlpa.org.au

02 9627 7553

RLPA

PO Box 132

Riverstone NSW 2765



Coming Events Calendar

28 April – 16 June 2015 Depression Recovery Program – Melbourne – 7:00pm

Location: Wyndham Park Community Centre, Room 3

C55-57 Kookaburra Avenue, Werribee, VIC 3030

For further information contact: Geoff

Mobile: 0421 077 553

11 May 2015

Depression Recovery Program – Perth – 7:00pm

Location: Function Hall - Perth

6 James Street, Guildford, WA 6055

For further information contact: Luke

Mobile: 0411 250 852

Email: wa@elimhealth.org.au

11, 18, 25 May 2015

Vegetarian Way Cooking Classes – Sydney – 7:30pm

Location: Function Hall - Schofields

85 Grange Avenue, Schofields, NSW 2765

For further information contact: Lidia

Mobile: 0433 239 955 or (02) 9627 7553

Email: info@elimhealth.org.au

19 July 2015

Vegetarian Way Cooking Classes – 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Location: Function Hall - Perth

6 James Street, Guildford, WA 6055

For further information contact: Luke

Mobile: 0411 250 852

Email: wa@elimhealth.org.au

- 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
- 18 October 2015** **Vegetarian Way Cooking Classes – 3:00pm - 6:00pm**
Location: Function Hall - Perth
6 James Street, Guildford, WA 6055
For further information contact: Luke
Mobile: 0411 250 852
Email: wa@elimhealth.org.au
- 25-29 December 2015** **Education and Family Camp** – more info coming soon
Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp, NSW, Australia
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/2015/>

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