

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS – May/June 2015 #40

NSW Spiritual Conference 2015

NSW Conference – Strangers & Pilgrims

5-8 June 2015



Our recent NSW Spiritual Conference, Friday 5th – Monday 8th June 2015 at Elim Heights, as always, proved to be a blessing to all, both young and ‘young at heart’ alike as we explored the theme ‘**Strangers and Pilgrims.**’

It was a time of physical and spiritual refreshment, especially for our young people. It was also a good opportunity for brethren from far and near to meet up. We were all able to come apart from the daily cares of life to enjoy the peaceful tranquillity of Elim Heights.

With all the hard work a lot of our brethren, particularly Sr. Elaine Weymark and our caretaker Br. Robin Gordon (as I am sure you would

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agree), have put into enhancing the infrastructure of the grounds, our stay at Elim Heights was very pleasant. It was indeed a delight.



One of the enjoyable aspects of the camp was the number of children that were present. It's always good to see the youth and children enjoying their stay and bringing with them that atmosphere of youthful buoyancy which only they can. Thank the Lord for our young people!

Opening of Sabbath commenced with Br. Craig Cunningham presenting the evening worship "**Feeling Our Need**" for Christ and purity as we live as strangers and pilgrims in this world, which will be destroyed at Christ's soon return.

This was followed by the evening meal and then the opening of Sabbath where Br. Alasdair Pow shared with us practical insights on "**Why Be a Stranger/Pilgrim?**" The message strongly emphasised not making this world our final home.

Sabbath morning found us sitting at the feet of Jesus as Br. Amos Thiel led us through the morning worship, "**The Strait and Narrow Way**". The main thought was that the broad way is actually 'narrow' because it excludes all happiness, eternal life, joy and salvation and the narrow way is only narrow in terms of what is in this world. It actually leads to the 'banqueting house' where 'His banner over us is love', which is not available in the broad way.

Breakfast followed, then the Sabbath School, which was divided into three classes. The Divine Service was taken by Br. Paul Chapman, our AUC President, who shared from the Word of God, "**Following the Steps of the Master.**" As Christ lived as a stranger and pilgrim in His life on this earth, so we too are to live as strangers and pilgrims. We are to remember that, this world is not our final home. We are to live and love as Christ lived and loved – by a life of self-sacrifice and blessing to others.

As lunchtime arrived, we had the choice to either eat inside the dining hall or outside; and even though we were braving the not so cold weather, which was rather unusual this time of year, the sun was shining. The company of loved ones kept us warm.





The Young People's Meeting saw Br. Larry Ah-Ching lead out with his assistants, Br. Sam Wiseman and Br. David Damaguit as they shared with the congregation "**Youthful Enthusiasm**", which was based on the Scripture verse, **1 Timothy 4:12**, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." This verse was presented in segments, with Sam explaining the deportment of Christians in word and conversation; David, charity and speech; and Larry, faith and purity.



After an extensive round of spiritual presentations, Br. David Damaguit closed the Sabbath with a short talk on "**Avoiding Worldly Danger.**"

Our evening meal followed, and the night was closed with a bonfire that provided warmth and the opportunity to socialise. The bonfire was enjoyed by everyone.

Sunday morning saw us rising to morning worship with Br. Sam Wiseman presenting "**Yoking up with Christ**". God has made provision for us to be yoked up with Him, and all we have to do is act our part by

trusting God to fulfil His promises. Our faith is proved by our actions. Sam gave an illustration from the Old Testament in the taking of Jericho. The children of Israel were yoked up with Christ. They trusted God and showed they were yoked up by what they did.

We then partook of a satisfying breakfast in good company and at 10:00am were able to listen expectantly to Br. Peter Lausevic's timely presentation "**The Good Fight of Faith.**" Br. Peter exhorted us regarding the necessity of vigilance in our Christian life, emphasizing that we are missionaries. We are witnesses for Christ first and foremost no matter what our profession may be.

Our next study was at 11:30am with Br. Domenic Polistina presenting "**The Final Crossing.**" Br. Domenic took us through the experience of the children of Israel as by faith they finally took possession of their inheritance. The reason they didn't possess the land initially was because they were not born again. So it is the same with us today. By faith we can enter the Promised Land that awaits us, an heavenly country, that holy city, the new Jerusalem.



Lunch was next on the menu followed by **Youth Activities**, which were much looked forward to by the youth. After interviewing one of the participants, they said concerning the activity, "it was one of the best....full of teamwork."



The activity consisted of ten stages, and each stage was different. It was like a treasure hunt. At each stage was an activity, and on successful completion of that activity a clue was given to send everyone onto the next stage. There were three groups: two of young people and one group of children led by Br. Harold Kraus. As the activity was held outdoors, it was good to see the young people eagerly running to their next stage!

As all good things come to an end, in this world at least, our Conference for 2015 finally came to a close with Br. Paul Chapman giving the Benediction. The evening meal followed, and then our evening worship "**What to do with Doubt**" by Br. Joe Voncina. Br. Joe made the important point that an effective way to overcome our doubts is to face them and consequently deal with them.

For Monday morning worship Sr. Linda Goudie presented to us a study on our heavenly home, our "**Home Sweet Home**". A fitting conclusion to our camp.

With these things in mind we made our way to breakfast; we then cleaned up, packed up and departed to resume our Christian lifestyles in this world with renewed vigour.

Thus ended another much needed and blessed Spiritual Conference.

Bearing these things in mind, let us remember these words of Scripture, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” **Hebrews 10:25.**

Reported by Br Craig Cunningham

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=9261>

NSW Youth Sabbath

Youth Sabbath – Elim Heights Youth Camp

On Sabbath 30th of May, young and old gathered from far and near (and even interstate) to Elim Heights Youth Camp for our 2nd “Youth Sabbath” with the theme being “At the Crossroads - What Do I Decide?”

Various youth were chosen again by each other to take responsibilities and lead out for the day. The Sabbath School meeting was taken by Vivian Cosson as Sabbath School superintendent with



Kiara Hake being assistant leader, Amos Thiel took the review lesson and the teachers were Abraham Dumaguit for the adult class and Cameron Thiel for the youth class. The children's class was taken by Bianca Ilic, Laurence Hake, and Adam Kneebone, with Tanya Ah-ching assisting. They did a very good job in presenting the lesson for the day on Jonah followed by activities.



Divine Service was taken by Sam Wiseman with Stephen McMahon leading out; the message for the hour was 'At the Crossroads'. Sam touched on choices, how we are faced with making choices every single day, but the ultimate choice is for our spiritual life, eternal destiny.



Our lunch theme was Multicultural; we had many dishes to enjoy from nearly all around the world.

Young People's meeting was taken by Ashley Sas and Luis Ilic assisted by Tanya Ah-ching. It was a pleasant meeting with lessons being drawn from different characters from the Bible and choices that they made and the consequences that followed. They did a good job in explaining their views.



Stephen McMahon closed Sabbath, summarising what we had heard and learnt throughout the day about choices and the ultimate choice being for our eternity. Then there was a combined dinner with a social evening of activities for the youth and those young at heart.

It was a blessed Sabbath day, especially seeing the youth fulfil their various responsibilities.

May the Lord's blessings be upon them.

~ Reported by Nadine Polistina

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=9157>

Vegetarian Way Cooking Classes – Schofields NSW

Schofields Church – 11th, 18th and 25th May 2015

It is such a pleasure to report on our recent cooking demonstrations that were held at Schofields Church recently in May 2015.

We had three sessions held on Monday nights, with each session delivering about 4 food demonstrations.

Proceeding each session there was a health talk by Amos Thiel on various interesting topics.

Our competent cooks namely Lidia Voncina, Amy Gules, Rosetta Ilic, Vivian Cosson, Stela Gules, Denise Gules and Rosemary Voncina were delighted to share healthy vegan recipes, many of which have been passed down through generations or just recent additions to the family table. Some of the foods that were on the menu included delicious soups like



‘Cream of Broccoli’ and ‘Baked Kumera Soup’, casseroles from Borlotti beans also eggplant and tomato. Potato and rice bake served with mushroom sauce, kale, quinoa and roasted sweet potato salad followed by yummy desserts such as cherry crumble with coconut custard, date and apricot slice and chia, date and almond balls.

We were also shown how to make almond milk and mouth-watering strawberry nut shakes.



The average attendance was 55-60 people. Everyone could sample each food as it was being demonstrated and given the recipes and notes to take home with them.

All in all I feel that these outreaches have a great success providing healthy and nutritious options to add to our meal plans and broadening our culinary repertoire.

We thank the Lord for opportunities that He affords to us to help our fellow beings, and may He continue to bless His work and His faithful workers.



~ Rosetta Ilic

Some of the recipes demonstrated:

ALMOND MILK

Ingredients:

- 1 cup soaked almonds ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup raw almonds when soaked = 1 cup soaked almonds)
- 4 cups filtered water
- Pinch salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon maple syrup (optional)

Method:

1. Soak almonds overnight or for at least 6 hours, and discard water.
2. Blend soaked almonds with filtered water, salt and maple syrup until well done.
3. Pour through a cheese cloth, and squeeze the milk out leaving the almond cheese.

Notes:

The milk can be used plain or with flavour; also makes an awesome milk shake with fruit and maple syrup. The cheese is fabulous used with salt and olive oil as a spread or in dips and stuffed tomatoes.



KALE, QUINOA & ROASTED SWEET POTATO SALAD

Ingredients:

- 1 bunch kale, chopped
- 1 large sweet potato, cubed (2 sweet potatoes if on the smaller size)
- 1 cup quinoa, uncooked
- 3 teaspoons coconut oil
- Salt to taste
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon, squeezed
- Roasted sesame and sunflower seeds to garnish (optional)



Method:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C. Place cubed sweet potatoes in baking tray and disperse coconut oil evenly in dollops across tray and place to bake for 15-20 min till potatoes are soft all the way through, rotating and mixing half way through. When finished take out and place aside to cool.
2. Make dressing by mixing olive oil, salt and lemon juice, and then pour over chopped kale in a mixing bowl. Mix well, and allow to marinate for a few hours or overnight ideally.
3. Boil quinoa with stock cubes till fluffy and the white rind starts to separate from the grain, then set aside till cool.
4. Mix in sweet potatoes and quinoa when ready to serve. Garnish with dry roasted seeds.

CHIA, DATE & ALMOND BALLS

Ingredients:

- 200g dried apricots
- 90g almond meal
- 35g desiccated coconut
- 45g chia seeds
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 500g pitted dried dates
- 1 lime, zest and juice
- Extra desiccated coconut to roll into



Method:

1. Place the almond meal, coconut, chia seeds, cinnamon and vanilla in a food processor and process until all the ingredients are finely chopped.
2. With the motor running, add the apricots and the dates a few at a time, processing until all the dates have been added and the mixture is starting to come together. Add the lime juice and zest to bind it together.
3. Roll into 3 cm round balls (you can roll all into the extra coconut, or only half for contrast). Place in a container, and refrigerate until ready to serve.

TIP: Covered in the fridge, they will keep for up to 2 weeks.

Preparation time: 20 min (+ chilling)

Cooking time: Nil

Makes 34 balls

Photos courtesy of Danko Ilic

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=8965>

Mothers

God's purpose for Adam and Eve at creation was to populate this world with faithful and obedient children who would love and praise Him. Unfortunately, sin entered this perfect world and brought sorrow and suffering. Eve was to experience pain in childbirth, but a child to most mothers is still a wonderful gift from God. To many their 'Mother' is the world to them, the one who fulfills all their needs. Mothers love unconditionally, and children know that they can count on them above anyone else.

To be a mother is a special calling and one of great honour! Throughout the ages many mothers have sacrificed themselves in order to give their families and others help, love and support. In Bible times we read of faithful mothers like Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary and so on... who brought up their children for a special work; and not so long ago during times of war and through the depression years, many mothers were left alone to carry life's burdens the best way they could without their husband's help. Many missionaries' wives brought up their children on their own... but with God's help they brought up faithful men and women.

"The mother who trains her children for Christ is as truly working for God as is the minister in the pulpit."
Prophets and Kings, p. 219.

Today, in many countries people dedicate one day a year to pay special tribute and honor to their mother. I would like to share some history on how Mother's Day came about; these excerpts are taken from Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mother's_Day

*"**Mother's Day** is a modern celebration honoring one's own mother, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May."*

Founding (United States)



"The modern American holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia, which now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Her campaign to make 'Mother's Day' a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her beloved mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Anna's mission was to honor her own mother by continuing work she started and to set aside a day to honor mothers, 'the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world'. Anna's mother, Ann Jarvis, was a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the Civil War and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues."

"Anna Jarvis was the driving force behind the first Mother's Day observances in 1908."

PHOTOGRAPH BY BETTMANN, CORBIS

"Although Jarvis was successful in founding Mother's Day, she soon became resentful of the commercialization and was angry that companies would profit from the holiday. By the early 1920s, Hallmark and other companies started selling Mother's Day cards. Jarvis became so embittered by what she saw as misinterpretation and exploitation that she protested and even tried to rescind Mother's Day. The holiday that she had worked so hard for was supposed to be about sentiment, not about profit. Jarvis' intention for the holiday had been for people to appreciate and honor mothers by writing a personal letter, by hand, expressing love and gratitude, rather than buying gifts and pre-made cards. Jarvis organized boycotts and threatened lawsuits to try to stop the commercialization. She crashed a candymakers' convention in Philadelphia in 1923. Two years later she protested at a confab of the American War Mothers, which raised money by selling carnations, the flower associated with Mother's Day, and was arrested for disturbing the peace."

Australia

"In Australia, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May."

"The tradition of giving gifts to mothers on Mother's Day in Australia was started by Mrs. Janet Heyden, a resident of Leichhardt, Sydney, in 1924. She began the tradition during a visit to a patient at the Newington State Home for Women, where she met many lonely and forgotten mothers. To cheer them up, she rounded up support from local school children and businesses to donate and bring gifts to the women. Every year thereafter, Mrs Heyden raised increasing support for the project from local businesses and even the local Mayor. The day has since become commercialised."

While the intent of this day has to some degree been lost sight of in its commercialization, I think it is wonderful to have a day set aside when each one of us can express our gratitude to our mother, who has made such an impact on our lives—a day we can reflect on their life and show our love and thankfulness to them and to God for giving them to us. I would like to share some words of inspiration taken from the book *The Adventist Home* pp. 240, 243.

"The sphere of the mother may be humble; but her influence, united with the father's, is as abiding as eternity. Next to God, the mother's power for good is the strongest known on earth.

"The mother's influence is an unceasing influence; and if it is always on the side of right, her children's characters will testify to her moral earnestness and worth. Her smile, her encouragement, may be an inspiring force. She may bring sunshine to the heart of her child by a word of love, a smile of approval. . . .

"Little does the mother realize that her influence in the judicious training of her children reaches with such power through the vicissitudes of this life, stretching forward into the future, immortal life. To fashion a character after the heavenly Model requires much faithful, earnest, persevering labor; but it will pay, for God is a rewarder of all well-directed labor in securing the salvation of souls.

"The tenderest earthly tie is that between the mother and her child. The child is more readily impressed by the life and example of the mother than by that of the father, for a stronger and more tender bond of union unites them."

"The day of God will reveal how much the world owes to godly mothers for men who have been unflinching advocates of truth and reform--men who have been bold to do and dare, who have stood unshaken amid trials and temptations; men who chose the high and holy interests of truth and the glory of God before worldly honor or life itself."

Today, I want to thank God for my faithful mother, for still being able to go and enjoy her company and for that special bond we have.

The work of a mother is truly a very important one; and since the effects of this work will be felt throughout eternity, may God give us wisdom and grace to do this work to His honour and glory!

~ Lidia Voncina

Mother's Day Outing - Queensland

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." Exodus 20:12.

On the 10 of May, the Pimpama Group held a very special Mother's Day picnic at Underwood Park, in Queensland. What a kind, thoughtful attitude of all the fathers that planned to give their wives and mothers a relaxing day off in nature, in fellowship with all the other mothers. It was a very beautiful sunny morning; all the mums got to sit down and relax while the fathers put on their aprons and prepared a delicious vegetarian barbeque, salads and special cakes.

The plan was for all the children to serve their dear mothers, showing their love and appreciation for all the hard



work their mothers do for them. The children also gave their mothers a very special card for the occasion.

We would like to thank God for this special gathering, and may we always remember all the mothers in our prayers.



What does the pen of inspiration say about mothers?

"The Queen of the Home—The king upon his throne has no higher work than has the mother. The mother is queen of her household. She has in her power the molding of her children's characters, that they may be fitted for the higher, immortal life. An angel could not ask for a higher mission; for in doing this work she is doing service for God. Let her only realize the high character of her task, and it will inspire her with courage." The Adventist Home, p. 231.

"No work can equal that of the Christian mother. She takes up her work with a sense of what it is to bring up her children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. How often will she feel her burden's weight heavier than she can bear; and then how precious the privilege of taking it all to her sympathizing Saviour in prayer! She may lay her burden at His feet and find in His presence a strength that will sustain her and give her cheerfulness, hope, courage, and wisdom in the most trying hours." The Adventist Home pp. 204, 205. Amen!

PS- Father's Day is in September!!! 😊

~ Reported by Sandra de Souza

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=8925>

Special Sabbath Meetings - Queensland

2 May 2015 – Special Day program with isolated people in Queensland



"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrew 10:25

On Sabbath, the 2nd of May 2015, the Pimpama Group held special Sabbath meetings for the isolated members in Laidley at a hired Community Centre Hall. Just the day before, the storms had hit Queensland with lots of rain and strong winds; this made some people wonder whether the meeting was going ahead or not. But the Lord was good to us, as the weather cleared up on Sabbath morning; it was absolutely beautiful, allowing people to travel from different areas to the meeting place. Surprisingly we had a good number, a total of 65 people attending the Sabbath School followed by Divine Service which was taken by Brother Jacob De Souza. Bro. Jacob shared a message on 'The Wedding Garment'.

Soon after the Divine Service we had a combined lunch. It was a good time to catch up and spend some time with our church family and many visitors. In the afternoon, we had a very special Young People's Meeting which was held by Sister Cecilia Reyes with the help of some young people sharing special items,



playing instruments and singing. During the meeting everyone was divided into groups for a craft activity where all came up with a Bible craft and had to share the spiritual lessons. It was good to see everyone involved, adults and children working together.

The group 'Corner Stone' also praised the Lord with special songs. Everyone present played a part to make the day special, and praise God for this opportunity; it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We could see everyone working together in God's cause, which was very encouraging. God willing, we will be able to hold more meetings like this with our dear isolated members in Laidley.

~ Reported by Jacob De Souza & Freddy Reyes

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=8901>

Vanuatu Cyclone Aftermath - As reported by the Clements family



March 19th we flew over to Port Vila not knowing what we were walking into. Trudging off the plane, we were faced with crates of aid from various countries, all waiting to be slowly distributed. Brother Charlie picked us up after the arduous process of collecting our luggage from a non-operational baggage carousel, as the power was still off in certain areas.

Driving out of the airport pick-up area, I can only describe the scene unfolding in front of us to be like a battle ground. Trees were down and void of greenery. Buildings were left standing without a roof, walls, and some were stripped back to their foundations. Smoke haze stuck thick and suffocating in the air, as people had started to clean up and burn off the mountains of rubbish and debris. Housing never known to even exist, now stood visible for us all to see. The school, by God's grace, suffered only minimal damage to one classroom, the toilet block and the library. Books in the library couldn't be brought back from the endless days of rain and debris that came in the

gaping hole in the roof; however only days after Cyclone Pam, Brother Andrew had a roof back on and repairs made.

Coming over the little rise leading to our home, we honestly didn't know what to expect for our or Brother Fredrick's homes. To our horror and disbelief the surrounding foliage was either wind ravaged, looking burnt and shredded, gone completely or broken from the sheer force and strength of the wind. Our roof was the first thing to be spotted some 40m from our house. Laying folded in half upside down, our roof had peeled off like the lid of a tin can, taking with it the light fittings and meters of electrical cables ripped from the walls.

Brother Fred's home was destroyed beyond repair. Thankfully during the cyclone Brother Fred and his family had taken shelter in our garage, ensuring their safety; but there was no hope for their humble home. Taking it back to the slab, we undertook the task of rebuilding in less than five weeks.

Enduring many nights of heavy rain, wind and the threat of encroaching smaller cyclones, we, with the help of Brother Andrew and his team of boys, put a new roof on our home and rebuilt Brother Fred's home... all in less than six weeks.

The ladies, not often trusted with the hammers and tools, undertook the all-important task of keeping the many hungry mouths fed (an average of 15 mouths every lunch). Like a well-oiled machine, we all went about our tasks, and again by God's grace and His blessings of good fortune we got everything done.

We were fortunate, as others still face a long process of recovery, but the people of Vanuatu are resilient. Even now, though, they still need our help and prayers.

I want to thank everyone who made a donation for the little churches in Vanuatu.

~ Cherie Clements

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=9343>

Nepal Disaster Appeal from the General Conference



(AP Photo/Niranjan Shrestha) taken from <https://qzprod.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/nepal-2.jpg?w=1600>

May 1, 2015

Dear Brethren (Stewards in the Cause of God),

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.” Matthew 5:7. The poor are all around us, the distressed, the afflicted, the sorrowing, and those who are ready to perish. There is a greater need for the

exercise of mercy today than ever before. God has made us His stewards, and He is not to be charged with the sufferings, the misery, the nakedness, and the want of humanity. The Lord has made ample provision for all of us. He has given us large supplies with which to alleviate the want of these sufferers and underprivileged ones.

“When you meet suffering souls who need help, give it to them. When you find those who are hungry, feed them. In doing this you will be working in lines of Christ’s ministry. The Master’s holy work was a benevolent work. Let our people everywhere be encouraged to have a part in it.” – Welfare Ministry, p. 29.

We are all aware of the destructive earthquake in Nepal on April 25, 2015 – one of the most powerful disasters to strike Nepal in 81 years, leaving a trail of massive destruction and an estimated 6,400 dead and over 20,000 injured. Initially, we were trying to establish contact with our brethren in Nepal; we have been unable to get full information. What worries us the most is that there are so many areas about which we have no information at all – and when we have this silence, it usually means the damage is even worse. The devastation and the desperation wrought by this catastrophe are in the exact area where we have our brethren.

Now we just received the message that many of our brethren have lost their homes. We need to get into action to rescue these brethren from this disaster. They need emergency supplies of drinking water, food, preventive sanitation measures, and help to rebuild their homes. The impact for the entire community has been really devastating.

Here below I quote from the communication we have just received from North India:

“Though the Bible prophecies speak about natural disasters and occurrence of earthquakes, we are saddened by the recent Nepal earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 or 8.1 and a series of aftershocks that shook the entire nation of Nepal and which is believed to have killed more than 6,100 people as of April 29, 2015. The death toll increases every hour. This was far more powerful than the earthquake that ruined Haiti in 2010. Major aftershocks of a magnitude of 6.7 have occurred repeatedly. This is a very catastrophic event. Up to 15,000 people may have died in the devastating earthquake. People are in great pain and panic.

We have tried to establish contact with our people in Nepal. We have not been able to reach them either by mobile or email. Then we sent our members and volunteers to rush to the spot.

Many of the houses in the hills have collapsed, and the injured are in a bad situation. A few landslides have blocked the road leading to these places. People across the country sleep outdoors or in cars because of the fear of aftershocks, despite the cold and rainy weather.

We have sent a team to help in supplying the basic needs such as emergency food (non-perishable), purified water, blankets, tents, mats, body bags, torch lights, sanitary supplies, first aid materials, and emergency medicines (like IV cannulas, IV drip sets, Elastoplast, leucoplast, splints, casts, POP, gloves, bandages, and dressings) and have joined in the rescue operations which are carried out with international organizations. The Sindhupalchok district where we have the majority of members has sustained total damage and all the houses were destroyed. Gorkha is another district where our members are – a place where rescue teams are unable to reach. We will keep updating once the team arrives there. The Kathmandu airport has been shut for a couple of days.

“It will take a great deal of time and resources to bring our people back to normal. They need our prayers, aid and support to recover from the effects of the earthquake.”

Despite the lack of reliable data about the extent of the property damage caused by the quake, the Welfare Department immediately organized funds and personnel to embark on the task of distributing relief and to engage in the service of helping the victims. Yet now we realize that what we gave is not enough. We need more –so much more!

You can help make a difference by donating as little or as much as you can. United States residents can make tax-deductible donations. The General Conference ensures that 100% of donations will go directly to help the victims and their families.

Please forward to the General Conference Welfare Department such donations as you feel appropriate to help our devastated brothers, sisters, children, entire families, and others in this stricken jurisdiction. Please make cheques payable to the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference, World Disaster Relief Fund and send to 5240 Hollins Road, Roanoke VA 24019, USA.

Please mark on your check that you wish the donation to go to Nepal Relief. There are two ways to donate:

Mail a check payable to: Seventh Day Adventist General Conference
5240 Hollins Road, Roanoke VA 24019

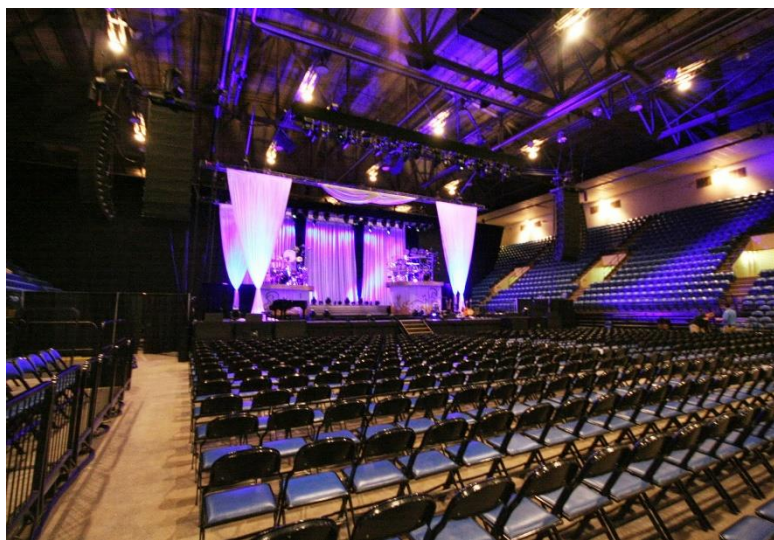
Donate with PayPal: Nepal Relief

Your brother in Christ,

D. Sureskumar - General Conference Welfare Department

22nd SDARM General Conference Spiritual Meetings

*Come to the 2015 Spiritual Meetings following
the 22nd SDARM General Conference Delegation Session **September 10-13, 2015, Roanoke, VA, USA.***



Anyone who has ever attended the spiritual conventions following the General Conference (“GC”) delegation sessions will never forget those memorable events. Whether it be of the early SDARM conventions or the more recent ones in Ploesti, Romania 1991 and 1995, in Itu, Brazil 1999 and 2003, in Jeju, South Korea 2007, or in Sibiu, Romania 2011—our memory is flooded with the images of brethren and friends we met, the truth-filled messages we heard, the elevating music we profoundly enjoyed. . . .

Photo: Salem Civic Center, Taliaferro Complex

This year, **September 10-13**, you will have a unique opportunity to attend yet another GC spiritual convention; however—after nearly 36 years—this time in the USA, immediately following the 22nd GC Delegation Session to be held near Roanoke, Virginia.

About 10 km southwest of the SDARM GC headquarters is the city of Salem, nestled in the Roanoke Valley and surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains. One of the well-known features here is the Salem Civic Center, a premier convention and meeting facility that can comfortably seat over 6,000 people, with parking for 3,000 vehicles.

Why should you and your family plan to be there?

Many of our members and friends will carefully deliberate whether or not to dedicate their time and financial resources to this event. Some might be tempted to think that their time and money could be used in a better way. Yet the Spirit of Prophecy has timely and pointed advice to all who might hesitate to include this event in their busy schedule:

“It is important that the members of our churches should attend our camp meetings. The enemies of truth are many; and because our numbers are few, we should present as strong a front as possible. Individually you need the benefits of the meeting, and God calls upon you to number one in the ranks of truth.

“Some will say: ‘It is expensive to travel, and it would be better for us to save the money and give it for the advancement of the work where it is so much needed.’ Do not reason in this way; God calls upon you to take your place among the rank and file of His people. Strengthen the meeting all you possibly can by being present with your families. Put forth extra exertion to attend the gathering of God’s people.” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 38, 39.

What can you expect to learn and experience at this convention?

The theme of the convention is “Christ is All, and in All.” No other topic could better satisfy our spiritual longings or more closely meet our present needs than this theme dedicated to our beloved Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ.

“Christ, the precious Saviour, is to be the Christian’s all in all” (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 65). The messages will also include news and photos from the worldwide vineyard. The music will be inspiring as well. As we unite in worship, prayer, testimony, praise and song, we will have a unique opportunity to clearly focus on our mission and to petition our heavenly Father for the outpouring of His Holy Spirit in great measure.

How can my family, friends and I attend this event?

Hotel and motel rooms near the Salem Civic Center have been already reserved at a discounted cost—and tasty, nutritious, vegan meals prepared by our capable cooks will be provided at an affordable price. Free shuttle bus service to the Salem Civic Center is also available. For details, please see our dedicated website and email information:

- **Website:** www.gcsession.sdarm.org
- **Email:** reservation@sdarm.org
- **Phone:** +1-540-904-1446
- **Fax:** +1-540-366-2814

Just complete the online registration form on the website and make your payment by credit card. Then you will be notified by email that your registration was successful. **The registration deadline is July 15, 2015.** To get the choice you prefer, register early.

Don’t miss this special opportunity! You’ll be glad you came.

RLPA - News

With the long winter nights ahead of us, what a perfect time to spend with your toddlers or young children exploring these beautiful felt books. These “quiet books” are ideal for taking to church.

Great value for your money! Give a special gift that has a personal touch. Parents and Grandparents love to make these kits into felt books that will be treasured for years to come.

Kits come ready to cut out.

Animal Mothers

Animal mothers and their babies are adorable friends ready to come out and play, but first you may have to find a few who are good at playing hide-and-seek. 63 figures, 6 peek-in pockets reveal hidden animals, 4 page booklet with instruction sheet and stories, yarn and pockets.

7 pages 19cm x 26cm



Noah's Ark

Gather all the animals into the ark to save them from the giant flood! This timeless story emphasizes God's protecting care for his faithful followers.

5 pages 25cm x 20cm

Old Testament Bible Stories

Open this glorious eight page book and find eleven of your favourite Bible stories. See the Red Sea part, face the giant with David, find baby Moses in the bulrushes, and more. Your child will never forget these stories!

8 pages 19cm x 28cm

\$29.95 each

RLPA:

info@rlpa.org.au

(02) 9627 7553

RLPA

PO Box 132

Riverstone NSW 2765



EMC Missionary Training Program 2016

The theme for MTP 2016 is “Education in Service.” We are building on last session’s work in community programs, including health education.

To apply for MTP 2016, please download the following files and read over all the information. Then print and complete the application form, and return it to us prior to the **1st of November, 2015**. Please be sure to have the form signed by your local church elder or minister.

Forms may be downloaded from: www.sdarm.org.au/emc

- [MTP 2016 Info Flyer](#)
- [MTP 2016 Detailed Brochure](#)
- [MTP 2016 Application Form](#)

Post: PO Box 132 Riverstone, NSW 2765

Tel: +61-2-9627-7553 Fax: +61-2-9627-7554

Email: emc@sdarm.org.au

Cost, Location & More

Costs
AUS\$3,200 for the entire time, including lodging, meals, textbooks and consumables.
If you are coming from outside Australia, you will be responsible for your own airfares, visas and travel insurance (required).

Location
The training program will be held at Elim Heights Youth Camp (first four weeks), the SDA Reform Movement Australasian Union headquarters in Schofields, NSW and other field locations (for the practical experience portions).

Accommodation
Accommodation will be arranged as part of the program and will be covered in the cost of attending.

Contact
For more information, please contact via the following.

SDA Reform Movement
Missionary Training Program
PO Box 132, Riverstone, NSW 2765

Phone: Australia: (02) 9627-7553
International: +61-2-9627-7553
Fax: Australia: (02) 9627-7554
International: +61-2-9627-7554
Email: emc@sdarm.org.au

Education in Service

Missionary Training Program 2016

7th Feb – 12th June, 2016
Sydney, Australia

Missionary Training Program 2016



Elim Missionary College
*Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement
Australasian Union Conference*

An intensive, short-term course designed to help prepare you for soul-winning.

Coming Events Calendar

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 20-23 August 2015 | Sacred Music Congress
<i>Location: California USA</i>
<i>For further information contact: Jorai Cruz</i>
<i>Email: joraicruz@aol.com</i> |
| 25 Aug - 8 Sept 2015 | 22nd GC Delegation Session – Delegates only
<i>Location: Wirtz, Virginia USA</i>
<i>For further information http://gcsession.sdarm.org</i> |
| 10-13 September 2015 | 22nd GC Session Spiritual Meetings – Public
“Christ Is All, and in All”
<i>Location: Salem Civic Center, Taliaferro Complex, Salem, VA, USA</i>
<i>For further information http://gcsession.sdarm.org/2015/</i> |
| 2-5 October 2015 | Queensland Conference 2015 Camp Meeting
“Stand Up For Jesus”
<i>Location: Minden Retreat, 25 BOUGHENS Road, Minden Queensland</i>
<i>For further information contact: +61-(0)7-3862-4803</i>
<i>Email: qld@sdarm.org.au</i> |
| 18 October 2015 | Vegetarian Way Cooking Classes – 3:00pm - 6:00pm
<i>Location: Function Hall - Perth</i>
<i>6 James Street, Guildford, WA 6055</i>
<i>For further information contact: Luke</i>
<i>Mobile: 0411 250 852</i>
<i>Email: wa@elimhealth.org.au</i> |
| 25-29 December 2015 | Education and Family Camp – more info coming soon
<i>Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp, NSW, Australia</i>
<i>For further information email education@sdarm.org.au</i>
<i>Telephone: +61-(0)2-9627-7553</i> |
| 7 Feb – 12 June 2016 | 2016 EMC Missionary Training Program
“Education in Service”
Application forms available www.sdarm.org.au/emc |

GOOD TIDINGS E-NEWS

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

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