

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS – October 2015 #44

Queensland Conference 2015

October 2015

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1 QLD Camp Meeting - Children's Item Sabbath Young Peoples Meeting

"The greatest want of the world is the want of men—men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall." (*Education*, p. 57.)

The call for such men and women formed the basis of our 2015 Camp Meeting, "Stand up for Jesus". Held at Minden Retreat, just west of Ipswich, Queensland, the camp meeting proved a blessing to all who attended. There were over 100 souls in attendance on Sabbath. The topics and discussion groups included, "Dare to Stand Alone", "Black, White or Grey", "The World's Greatest Want", "Standing for Real", and "When Jesus Stands for You". The messages and group discussions were challenging and thoroughly enjoyed. There was also plenty of time for recreation and fellowship together.



We opened the Sabbath program with a message from Benjamin Fuenzalida, “A Challenge to Choose”. Whether we are old or young, as Christians we are faced with everyday choices that impact our spiritual experience for the better or for the worse. Benjamin challenged us to not procrastinate, but make the choice for Jesus today, no matter what the cost.

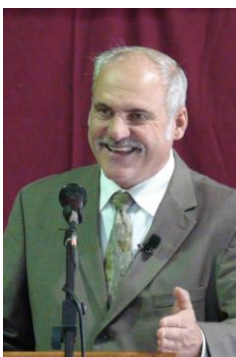
Paul Chapman opened the Camp Meeting with a presentation entitled, “A Stand Worth Taking”. In Ephesians 6:10-14 the apostle Paul exhorts Christians to stand for Jesus four times. In Jeremiah, we are called to “stand in the old ways”. In view of the coming crisis of faith, we must ask ourselves, are we prepared to “stand” when no one else does?



“None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict.” *Great Controversy*, p. 593.

We also considered a number of areas that will be used to undermine the foundation on which we stand. Finally, we considered the cost of the stand that Jesus took for our salvation and why we should count it indeed a stand worth taking when we stand for Him.

The Sabbath morning program opened with the worship of Luka Faumuina, “When Families Fail”. Here he highlighted the consequences of family breakdowns, and what we can do to ensure our families are a success in standing for Jesus unitedly.



Peter Lausevic presented a powerful and encouraging message for the Worship Service entitled, “The World’s Greatest Need”. This message inspired us to live up to our full potential – God’s ideal for us is higher than we can ever think. God has a plan beyond our expectations and thus a place beyond our expectations. To fulfil that potential, God’s purpose for us, we explored the statement from the book *Education* p. 57, “The greatest want of the world”.

The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. God has opened for us a path of continual advancement toward this goal—moral perfection of character. He has also provided the method for us to reach this goal. As we evaluate our own personal lives, we can resolve to be these people today – to be the men and women who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

The service was followed by a very tasty vegan lunch which was enjoyed by over 100 members and guests.

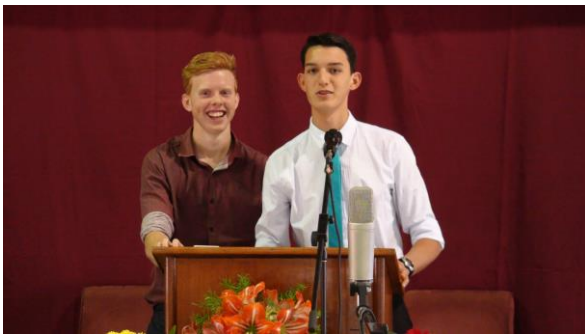
Lunch was followed by a dedication service for three infants. But right before this service, we were blessed with a short children’s presentation, “People who Stood for God.” It was inspiring to see all the children participate in this part of the program and share what they had been learning in their Sabbath School program.



2 Dedication Service – QLD Camp Meeting 2016

The dedication service included three families—Josephine and Etienne Decuyper with their daughter Belinda; Camille and Marcus Dammasch with their son Joshua; and Cherith and Ben Dammasch with their son Josiah. Words of encouragement were shared by Ben Thiel and Csongor Matyas and prayers were offered for each of the children and their parents.

The Young People’s meeting that immediately followed this service was very well presented



by three of our young men—Jared Chapman, Lachlan Reyes and Keian Reyes. The topic “Dare to Stand Alone” considered many different aspects and Biblical examples of people who dared to stand up for their faith. Our young people were challenged to follow these examples.

Ben Thiel closed the Sabbath program with a subject entitled “Your Spiritual Posture”. Often times our ability to stand for the right in a crisis wavers because during times of ease we were careless in how we stood in our

everyday life. Are you a Christian who stands hunched over, head down, or a Christian who stands tall every day, with head held high for Jesus?

After a delicious evening meal, the social activities for the youth began, led out by Daniela Balarezo and assisted by Melissa Chapman.

Sunday morning worship, “Armed to Stand”, was presented by Juan Ricardo Amaya. As the title suggests, we considered the various aspects of the Christian armour that the apostle Paul exhorts us to stand with. “Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,” Ephesians 6:14-17.



After breakfast, Jacob De Souza presented a very interesting topic, “Black, White or Grey?” Often in our Christian experience we may face decisions that we consider are grey areas; that is, there is no clear right or wrong choice in the matter. But, when we consider the Word of God and thoughts from the Testimonies, we see that in God’s perspective, there are no grey areas. We need spiritual discernment in order to see things as God sees them in order to make right decisions.



The morning program concluded with a workshop based on the theme, “Standing When It Counts”. The members of the congregation were divided into discussion groups and each group was given a number of real life questions to resolve. These discussions were absorbing and at times rather animated. They were quite challenging as we really had to give some careful thought to how we would respond in a Christian manner to the actual situations we were presented with. These discussions were enjoyed by all who participated. We must all take a stand at some time or another, and though we might differ on our ideas on certain points, we know that while we remain steadfast to God, following His principles in our daily lives, He will guide us in the pathway of righteousness.

After lunch, the afternoon was spent in fellowship and recreation, which proved a blessing for all. The evening worship, by Terry Barnett, focused on the significance of “Little things”, giving us pause for the importance of each person no matter how young or insignificant in the world’s eyes they may appear. God has a plan and purpose for each one.

Finally, on Monday morning, Elisabeth Balarezo encouraged us with thoughts on the topic, “When Jesus

Stands for You". This morning worship was based on the verse, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man," Luke 21:36. We learnt that no one is worthy in themselves to stand before Jesus. Nor will we be made worthy in order to stand, but rather we will be "accounted" worthy to stand. We learnt also that Jesus stands for us in three main ways. Firstly, Jesus stood for us at the fall when he agreed to bear our punishment for sin, then again at the cross when He actually bore our punishment for sin, and thirdly, today he stands for us before the Father as our Sanctifier. There, in the sanctuary in heaven, He ceases not to present us perfect in Himself, presenting to the Father His own righteousness for our sins. This reality we may claim by faith today. Thus, the only reason we will be accounted worthy when he returns is that we believe in Jesus now. But our standing before Him today does not stop with mere belief. It is a faith that watches and prays. It is a faith that works. Those who believe in Jesus for their salvation, we will be found watching, praying and working. Thus when Jesus returns, those who believe in Him, we will be found living a sanctified life.



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. Course commences 7 February, 2016.

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 immediately. 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](#)

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 Elin Hughes Youth Camp (first four weeks), the SDA Reform Movement Australasian Union headquarters in St Ivel, 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
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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

Elin Missionary College
Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement
Australasian Union Conference

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

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THE END IS HERE – Bible Prophecy Update on Turkey

The events of the last few weeks in the Middle East involving ISIS, Syria, Russia, Turkey, Iran, China, etc. have generated renewed interest in the prophecies of Daniel 11 and 12. There we find, in detailed prophetic vision, the history of those powers that were to persist beyond the death of Alexander the Great, down to their final destruction and the ultimate deliverance of the people of God from their enemies. Of particular interest is the details concerning the “king of the north”.

Historically, the “king of the north” has been identified as the political power that is in possession of Asia Minor—the northern geographical division of Alexander’s empire. Daniel 11:40 refers to the “time of the end”, a period commencing in 1798. At that time the “king of the north” was the Ottoman Empire. Today the power in possession of that territory is Turkey. North of Turkey is Russia. East of Turkey is Iran, India, and China. To date, Daniel 11:44-45 has largely remained unfulfilled (or at least seen partial fulfilment).

However, prophecy indicates that, in the context of the “time of the end”, the “king of the north” would be “troubled” by “tidings” from “the north” and from “the east”. So troubled would he be, that he would “go forth with great fury to destroy” and take away many, eventually planting his headquarters in Jerusalem. That last stand would see him come to his end.

In view of this, the events that are happening right now in that region of the world must certainly give us pause for thought. Iran’s alliance with Russia in the current Syrian civil war crisis, and Turkey’s objection to their actions, reflects a genuine troubling from those powers to the north and east of Turkey. Are we seeing prophecy fulfilling before our eyes? If we understand the application of Daniel 11:44-45 correctly, Turkey will be that power that will lead the Muslim world into the militant political turmoil that regains control of Jerusalem before eventually coming to its end.

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” Daniel 11:44-45.

When that happens, prophecy indicates that Michael shall stand up to deliver His people, an allusion to the completion of the ministry of Christ in the Heavenly Sanctuary, and the final time of trouble that precedes His second coming in glory.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:1-2.

Included here are a few of the news stories of late that will be of interest in this question. While we must be careful not to speculate beyond what is written, these events do lend weight to the view that Turkey will yet play a significant role in the fulfilment of the final events of Bible Prophecy.

"tidings out of the north shall trouble him" Dan 11:44

[Turkish President] Erdogan urges Putin to reconsider air campaign in Syria – 03 Oct, 2015

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=73499>

Turkish President accuses Russian military of turning a blind eye to killing of dozens of civilians.

NATO says Russian combat jets entered Turkey twice – “McClatchy DC” October 5, 2015

NATO decries action as ‘irresponsible’ and warns of ‘extreme danger’

Full Story Here: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/world/article37770381.html>

"tidings out of the east shall trouble him" Dan 11:44

Iranian troops join Syria war as Russia hits rebels – “Business Day Live” October 02 2015

“BEIRUT/MOSCOW — hundreds of Iranian troops have arrived in Syria to join a major ground offensive on behalf of President Bashar al-Assad’s government, Lebanese sources said on Thursday, a further step in the rapid internationalisation of a civil war in which every major country in the region has a stake.”

Full story here: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/world/mideast/2015/10/02/iranian-troops-join-syria-war-as-russia-hits-rebels>

Iran lobbied for Russian campaign in Syria , officials say – “The Sun Herald” October 8, 2015

“BAGHDAD — Iran played an integral role leading up to Russia's move to launch its air campaign in Syria and play a stronger role in Iraq, with one of Tehran's most powerful generals meeting for three hours with President Vladimir Putin to push for intervention, Iraqi government officials tell The Associated Press.”

Read full story here: <http://www.sunherald.com/2015/10/08/6454643-iran-lobbied-for-russian-campaign.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy>

Iran’s leader bans further talks with US – “Business Day Live” October 08 2015

“IRAN’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei banned on Wednesday any further negotiations between Iran and the US, putting the brakes on moderates hoping to end Iran’s isolation after reaching a nuclear deal with world powers in July”

Full story here: <http://www.bdlive.co.za/world/mideast/2015/10/08/irans-leader-bans-further-talks-with-us>

"he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain" Dan 11:45

Sultan Erdogan: Turkey's Rebranding Into the New, Old Ottoman Empire – “The Atlantic” April 5, 2013

In the eyes of secularists, the Europe-facing, Western-dressing, cocktail-toasting modern nation-state is being replaced by a religiously conservative one, headscarf by headscarf.

Full story here: <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/04/sultan-erdogan-turkeys-rebranding-into-the-new-old-ottoman-empire/274724/>

Turkish President Calls On Muslims To Invade Jerusalem – “Jews News” May 19, 2015

“Unfortunately we the Muslims lost our aim to head towards Jerusalem. The water of our eyes froze making us blind, and our hearts that was destined to beat for Jerusalem is now instead conditioned for rivalry being in a state of war with each other.”...

The Turkish president called on citizens to “raise their hands in supplication for this blessed night towards Allah to restore the Al-Aqsa Mosque [Jerusalem] to be re-owned by Muslims, and to remove the mist from their eyes, to see Jerusalem in their hands at every moment and at every opportunity”.

Full story here: <http://www.jewsnews.co.il/2015/05/19/turkish-president-calls-on-muslims-to-invade-jerusalem/>

Turkish Prime Minister: “We will march to liberate Jerusalem” – “Jerusalem Online” May 28, 2015, 04:07PM

During the inauguration of the 55th airport in Hakkari Province, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for the re-establishment of the Ottoman Empire....both Turkish leaders spoke of their desire to conquer Jerusalem and to re-establish the Ottoman Empire.

“By Allah’s will, Jerusalem belongs to the Kurds, the Turks, the Arabs, and to all Muslims,” Davutoglu declared. “And as our forefathers fought side by side at Gallipoli and just as our forefathers went together to liberate Jerusalem with Saladin, we will march on the same path to liberate Jerusalem. The Turkish government does not differentiate from East to West. We intend to put together all of the regions of our nations and we will bring these regions back together.”

Erdogan’s speech was even more grandiose. He proclaimed himself to be the reincarnation of Saladin, who will kick whom he perceives to be the modern day crusaders out of Jerusalem by uniting the Muslim world behind him by hinting at the re-establishment of the Ottoman Empire...

“Jerusalem is for the Muslims and not for Israel,” Erdogan added. “Why should we continue to be friends with those that stomped their boots on the Temple Mount? They insist that we have to be friends? I say, we will not.” Erdogan promised to follow in Saladin’s footsteps: “They all promise you O Saladin, if you united the brothers in the Middle East, so will we. Saladin said ‘Jerusalem is not for the Crusaders.’ Saladin witnessed this. Allah witnesses this. One people, one flag, one nation and one state!”

Source: <http://www.jerusalemonline.com/news/middle-east/israel-and-the-middle-east/turkish-prime-minister-we-will-march-to-liberate-jerusalem-13709>

In view of these things, dear reader, let us be awake to the reality of the Lord’s soon coming. Let us seek Him today, while he may be found, and call upon Him while He is still near. Let us make our calling and election sure, and, with all our heart seek for the great outpouring of God’s Spirit that will enable us to finish the work of preaching the everlasting gospel to all the world for a final witness.

~Paul Chapman

Baby Dedications - Queensland

Josiah Nathaniel Dammasch, Joshua Ernst Dammasch and Belinda Rose Decuyper – 3 October 2015.



Sabbath afternoon at the Queensland Camp began with a special dedication service. Brother Ben Thiel spoke for a few minutes on our Lord's desire for the children not to be turned away. He spoke of the day when Jesus walked on earth, and the disciples told the mothers that Jesus was too busy for the children.

Brother Csongor Matyas shared with us the responsibility of mothers and encouraged us that the Lord would help us in raising our little ones for the Lord.

Then Br. Ben asked the families to stand who were bringing their babies to be dedicated to the Lord. Markus and Camille stood with their son, Joshua Ernst. Josephine and Etienne were next with Belinda. And then there was the second Dammasch family bringing another little boy; Ben and Cherith with their youngest baby, Josiah Nathaniel.

The dedication prayer started with Joshua Dammasch. Bro Ben took Joshua in his arms and prayed for him and his parents. Br. Csongor then took Belinda in his arms and prayed for her and her parents. The dedication prayer part of the service concluded with Br. Ben dedicating little Josiah Dammasch.

The service was a solemn but encouraging reminder of our duty as parents. May God help us all in raising our little ones for Him.

~ Cherith Dammasch

"Children are the heritage of the Lord, and we are answerable to Him for our management of His property. The education and training of their children to be Christians is the highest service that parents can render to God. It is a work that demands patient labor--a lifelong, diligent, and persevering effort. By a neglect of this trust we prove ourselves unfaithful stewards. . . ."

"In love, faith, and prayer let parents work for their households, until with joy they can come to God saying, 'Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me.'" The Adventist Home pp. 268, 269.

Schofields Church Vegetarian Cooking Classes

Schofields Church Cooking Demonstrations

Vegetarian Cooking Classes

Once again the Schofields church offered the public another series of vegetarian cooking classes during the month of October. These classes took place during three consecutive Monday evenings, the 12th, 19th and 26th of October at 7:30pm at the Schofields Function Hall.

Throughout this program, Br. Alfredo Carlos Sas, Br. Domenic Polistina and Sr. Susan Lausevic took the health lecture segment for these evenings.

On the first night, Br. A C Sas spoke on the digestive system. Digestion starts in the mouth. How important it is to chew our food so it mixes with saliva before swallowing. A phrase he wanted the audience to remember is "Drink your food and chew your drink." Br Sas also talked about herbs and plants, the important part they play in curing one's self when sick; he also shared some things about the book "Plants and Health" of which he is the author.



Brother Domenic Polistina took the second lecture on improving intelligence, memory and mood, based on nutrition.

When we learn, we actually change the wiring of our brain, either in a positive or in a negative way, depending on what we are focusing on and learning about. Both brain and neurotransmitters are derived from nutrients and are affected by what we eat or drink. The saying: "you are what you eat" is very true.

You can learn more about this lecture by watching it on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XWYldwimds&feature=share>

Sr. Susan Lausevic spoke on the “Benefits of Raw Foods”.

Raw foods contain phytonutrients, essential oils and other health-generating elements that are lost when foods are exposed to heat.

A raw food diet will flush the system of toxins, support the immune system better and lower blood pressure.



A good goal is to eat 20% of your food cooked, and the rest should be raw.

Some of the benefits of eating a RAW food diet is: raw foods look more appealing, they have more colour, texture shape etc., it improves an athlete's performance, helps with weight loss, gives us more energy, benefits the whole person, spring cleans the whole body and aids in curing many diseases.

Organically grown raw foods are the best for our intake.

We would like to thank each of the health lecture presenters for their time and efforts.



Keeping consistent with the spring and summer seasons, we thought a fresh and light menu was in order.

The following recipes were demonstrated:

1st night: Refreshing green drink, quinoa, millet and tofu patties, spinach and beetroot salad, avocado, kiwi fruit and lime slice.

2nd night: Brussels sprouts salad, potato and baby spinach rolls, Russian salad, no bake peanut butter banana pie.

3rd night: RAW vegetable curry with cauliflower rice, Vegan cashew cheese sauce, soy mayonnaise/sour cream, eight-layer dip, zucchini wrapped vegan quiches, coconut and mango chia pudding.

Here are a few favourite recipes to whet your appetite.

Avocado, Kiwi Fruit and Lime Slice

INGREDIENTS

Base:

- 2 cups almonds
- 2 cups desiccated coconut
- 2 cups dates
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup maple syrup
- 2 lemons, juice and zest
- 1 teaspoon vanilla paste

Filling:

- 1 large avocado (or two small ones)
- 1 cup cashews
- ½ Tablespoon vanilla paste
- 4 limes, juice and zest (reserve some zest for sprinkling)
- ½ cup maple syrup
- 2 Tablespoons water
- 2 Tablespoons coconut oil

Topping:

- 7 kiwi fruits, thinly sliced
- Mix reserved lime zest with ¼ cup desiccated coconut

METHOD

1. Process first four base ingredients together, in a food processor.
2. In a small bowl, mix all wet ingredients together, then add to the processed ingredients.
3. Spread crumb-like mixture evenly on a paper-lined tray, then press to form the base.
4. Place all filling ingredients in a blender, and blend till smooth. Pour filling over prepared base; then arrange sliced kiwi fruit on top, and sprinkle with lime and desiccated coconut.



No Bake Peanut Butter Banana Pie

INGREDIENTS

Base

- 1 cup pitted dates
- 1 cup almonds, (or any nuts e.g. walnuts, macadamias, cashews, or mixed)
- ½ cup desiccated coconut

Pie

- 1 ¼ cups peanut butter
- 3 medium-ripe bananas
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- Pinch salt (more if peanut butter is unsalted)
- 3-4 tablespoons pure maple syrup



METHOD

Base

1. Combine all ingredients in a food processor or heavy duty blender till well mixed and comes together as a course dough. You may need to add a little water or a few more dates if the mix is too dry.
2. Line a pie tin with cling wrap, then press the crust dough into the tin. Set aside in the fridge.

Pie

1. Blend all ingredients together in a heavy duty blender till well combined.
2. Pour into the prepared pie crust, and chill in the fridge till ready to eat.

Raw Vegetable Curry with Cauliflower Rice

INGREDIENTS

Rice

- 1 cauliflower, medium size
- Salt to taste

Vegetables

- 2 cups broccoli, chopped
- 1 cup carrots, grated
- 1 cup fresh corn kernels cut from cob
- 1 cup mushrooms, chopped
- 1 cup frozen baby peas
- ½ red capsicum, finely chopped



Curry cream

1 tin coconut cream (400g)
1 cup raw cashews
2 tablespoons curry powder
1 teaspoon turmeric powder
1 tablespoon cumin powder
1 tablespoon onion powder
1 tablespoon Massel chicken-style stock powder
1 tablespoon soy sauce



METHOD

1. In food processor, chop the cauliflower until it resembles rice. Set aside.
2. Rinse frozen peas with hot water and drain. Place all vegetable ingredients in a bowl and mix.
3. Put all curry cream ingredients in blender; process until smooth, then add it to vegetables. Mix it together.
4. Serve on cauliflower rice.

Vegan Cashew Cheese Sauce

Cashews will give you healthy fat without empty calories. This recipe can be added to noodles, over rice, lasagne or as a sauce over taco salad.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup raw cashew pieces
1 cup water
4 tablespoons nutritional yeast
¼ teaspoon turmeric powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon onion powder
Juice of 1 lemon
1 baked and peeled red capsicum or 3 tablespoons Ajvar (red capsicum spread)

METHOD

1. Blend the cashews, then add 1 cup of water, along with the nutritional yeast, turmeric, onion powder, garlic powder, lemon juice, baked capsicum and salt.
2. Blend until the sauce is extremely creamy and smooth, about 2 minutes, depending on your blender.

Quinoa, Millet and Tofu Patties

INGREDIENTS

½ cup millet
½ cup quinoa
1 cup cauliflower, chopped
3 cups Massel chicken-flavoured liquid stock (vegetarian)
¼ cup mushroom seasoning
1 Tablespoon olive oil
2 onions, diced
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 cup firm tofu, mashed with a fork
2 Tablespoons parsley, finely chopped
1½ cups rice flour
No Egg equivalent to 3 eggs, beaten
Approx. 2 cups cornflake crumbs for rolling mixture
Rice bran or sunflower oil for frying



METHOD

1. Wash and drain millet and quinoa; place in medium-sized saucepan. Add chopped cauliflower, mushroom seasoning and liquid stock. Bring to the boil, then simmer until the liquid is absorbed and cauliflower is soft (approx. 40 minutes). Let it cool. This can be made a few hours earlier or even the night before and refrigerated.
2. Sauté the onion and garlic in the oil and add to the millet mixture. Add tofu, parsley, rice flour and No Egg mixture. Season to taste.
3. Shape mixture carefully and roll in the cornflake crumbs.
4. Shallow fry in oil until golden all over, or bake in 200°C fan forced oven for 40 minutes.

Makes about 20

Coconut and Mango Chia Pudding

INGREDIENTS

1 tin coconut cream (400gms)
1 cup soy milk
¼ cup maple syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup chia seeds
1 teaspoon lemon zest (optional)
2 tablespoons lemon juice (optional)
2 large ripe mangoes, finely chopped, for serving



METHOD

1. Mix first four ingredients together well; add chia seeds last. Stir for a couple of minutes then a couple of times while it sets (approx. ½ hour).
2. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight.
3. Serve with fresh or frozen mangoes.

A huge “thank you” to all who have volunteered throughout this series of cooking classes. We appreciate all the help you have given us and could not have done this work without you.

May God bless the health work being done everywhere.

~ Lidia Voncina

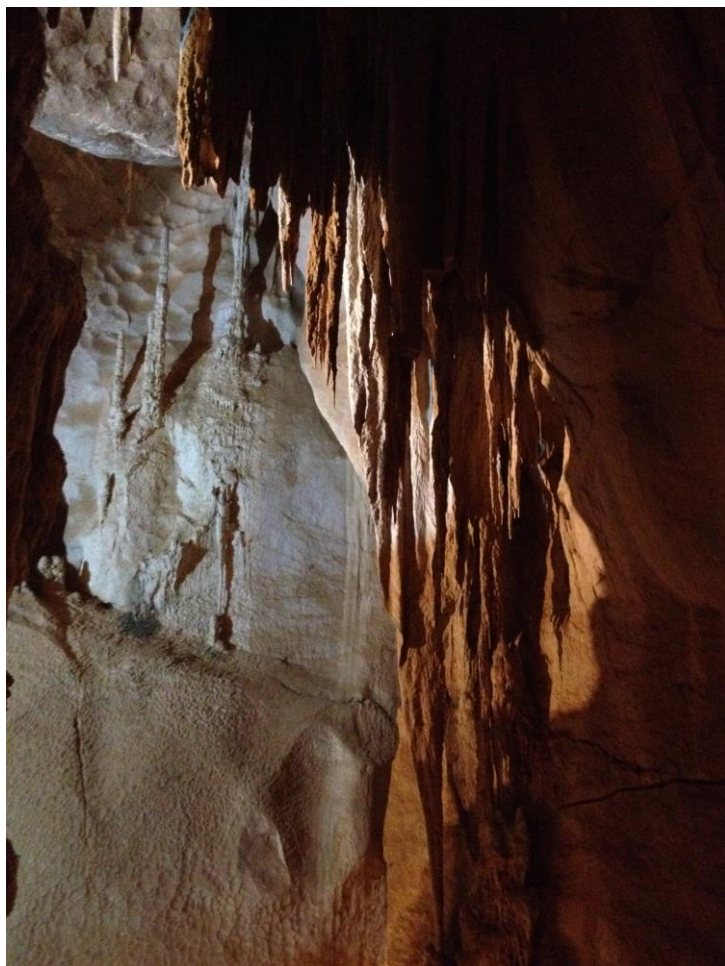
For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=10163>

NSW Youth Department Camp

Wombeyan Caves Campout

Greetings from **Psalms 107: 31**, “Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!”

It never ceases to amaze me, especially in these last days as we near the closing scenes of this earth’s



history, how our kind heavenly Father continues to manifest His presence among us as His people. Our recent Youth Campout at Wombeyan Caves, “Aim to Win,” Friday 2nd October, 2015 – Monday 5th October, 2015, was no exception!

Located 176 km south-west of Sydney, the Wombeyan Caves (a network of over 230 caverns) have a well-deserved reputation of being one of the country’s most attractive cave systems.

Wombeyan Caves were discovered in 1828 by a party led by John Oxley and John Macarthur. Oxley, who died later that year at the youthful age of 42, was responsible for much of the early exploration of the Southern Highlands. Macarthur, known to many as the founding father of the Australian wool industry, had accompanied Oxley in the hope that he would find suitable new grazing lands.

Nestled amongst the hills of the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, the Wombeyan Caves campground is in Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve, which is located within the traditional land of the Gundungurra People. The word **Wombeyan** coming from local language meaning 'grassy valley between mountains'. It's believed that Wombeyan Caves were part of an Aboriginal travel route that coincided with seasonal availability of food, and the caves may have provided reliable shelter.

Wombeyan Karst Conservation Reserve plays a special role in the conservation of some of Australia's precious native flora and fauna. The moist forest that surrounds the park's creeks is home to superb lyrebirds, the eastern whipbirds and flycatchers. There are birds of prey, including brown goshawks and wedge-tailed eagles. It is stated that you have to look particularly carefully to see a tawny frogmouth; their camouflage is excellent; they stay very still and upright. You might mistake them as part of the branch. A tawny frogmouth is an owl!

So on the Friday, our brethren made their way to the allocated site within the campground to pitch their tents in time to welcome in the Lord's holy Sabbath day.

Oh! By the way, there are wombats, too. I can testify to that because after I had retired on Sabbath evening to my tent I heard Br. Joe exclaim, "There's a wombat. . . in our camp!" He (the wombat) obviously came looking for something to eat when it was quiet.

Br. Larry Ah-ching led us into the opening of the Sabbath with evening worship, followed by dinner and a huddling around our makeshift campfire as there was a shortage of timber on our first night. Nevertheless, it provided something!

Our first night being the coldest, we awoke to what turned out to be a clear blue sky. After breakfast Br. Murray Brown and Br. Abraham Dumaguít arrived, and we all enjoyed warm fellowship together with our Lord as we participated in morning worship within the Sabbath School Lesson.



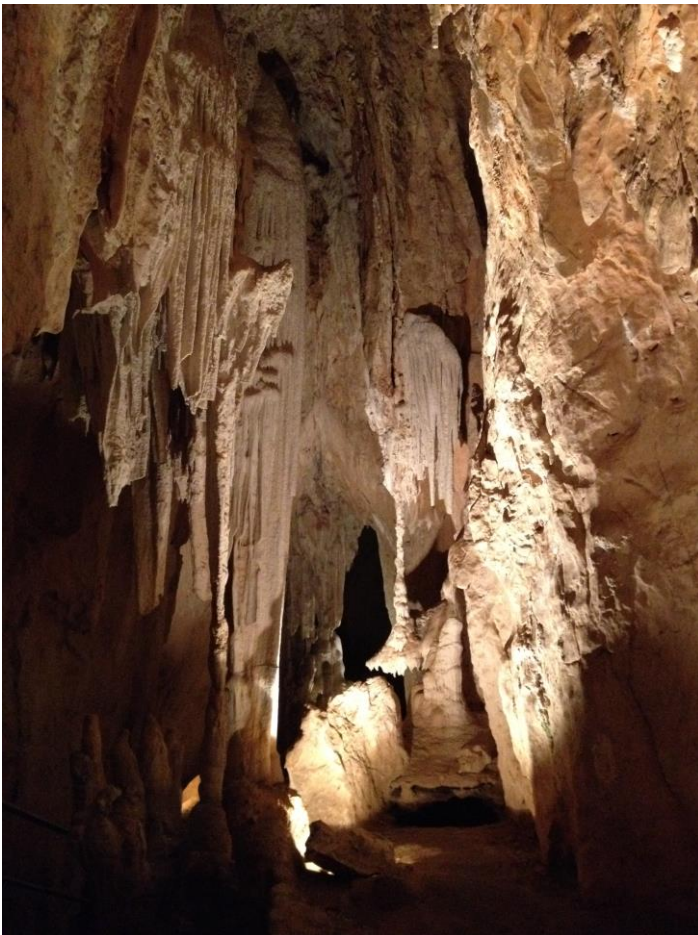
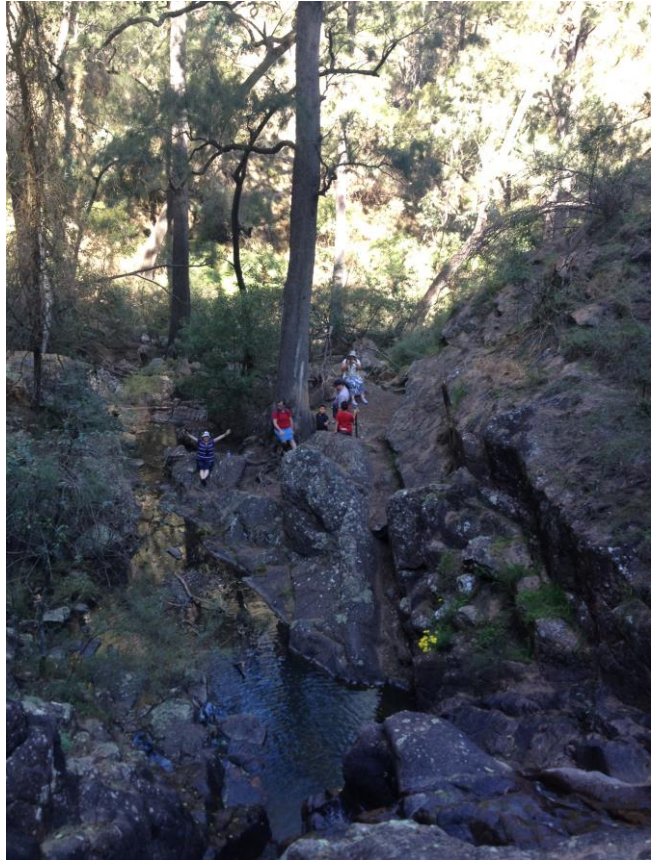
Br. Domenic shared his sermon entitled, "Aim to Win," which presented two questions.

- a. **What is the aim of life?** Phil. 3:8, To win Christ. To gain His favour and fellowship.
- b. **What is needed to 'win'? How can we win?** Three points:
 1. Faith/confidence: Eph. 2: 8; 1 John 2: 28; Psalms 27: 1, 3-5.
 2. Putting away evil (distractions). Phil 3: 7-8, 10-11; Heb 12: 1; Joshua 24: 14, 23.
 3. You are what you think. Ed. 146, Prov. 26: 2; 23: 7; Illustration from Numbers 13, Israel's experience on the borders of Canaan. The twelve spies.

A combined lunch followed, with the arrival not too long after, of Ray and Wendy. Having enough time to clean up and for our dinner to settle somewhat, we then proceeded on a relatively easy two hour walk; round trip to Wombeyan Waterfall. The walking track provides the shade of tall gum trees, alongside vibrant green ferns and follows in some parts alongside a beautiful creek. Upon arrival at our destination, we witnessed the majestic beauty of this stunning waterfall. The rock formations were amazing. It's absolutely marvellous how God was able to bring beauty out of the catastrophic deluge of a worldwide flood.

We arrived back at camp to simply relax and talk, have our tea and listen to Br. Abraham as he took the evening worship and close of Sabbath. Our campfire took on new meaning as we had an abundant supply of "fuel" with many thanks to those who collected the timber. It was nice to sit together and share life experiences!

In the morning Br. Joe took the worship, breakfast was eaten and we proceeded to our first tour, Fig Tree Cave, which is a magnificent show cave. It is a self-guided tour which allowed us to set our own pace and to stop as often as we liked to take in the awesome cave formations surrounding us the whole way and to take photos for those who had their cameras or iPhones. We also saw some bats!



The carefully placed lighting provided an excellent opportunity to look out for the stalactites and stalagmites, the helictites and cave coral, and other beautiful cave decorations. The cool cave air made our walk a delightful experience.

After that we waited in a grassy area until our next tour of Wollondilly Cave. This was a guided tour and our tour guide, John Mango, was just the best! He was a very delightful tour guide who had no problems socially interacting with all in our group.

Wollondilly Cave is the longest and most varied cave in the Wombeyan Caves network and stretches across an incredible five levels.

The cave walls come alive before your eyes, sparkling throughout the five major chambers. It's remarkable to think that the pathways through the cave were created by free-flowing streams. Another wonder resulting from the Biblical account of the flood in the time of Noah!

After a big day we arrived back at camp to have our lunch? Well, meal, as it was about 3:00pm. So we were really looking forward to it. In fact, it was a barbecue with Br. Larry as head chef!

After finishing our much needed meal, Br. Domenic lead the evening worship revising what we had learned throughout the camp.

After that, the majority of us made our way home, while others remained to view the caves on Monday.



Next to God, a big thank-you to Br. Larry and Sr. Tanya, who put in a lot of hard work organising such a great camp! I can say with confidence that it was enjoyed by all. And we look forward to many more to come, God willing!

Craig Cunningham.

Resources:

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/new-south-wales/wombeyan-caves/2005/02/17/1108500200135.html>

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and-accommodation/campgrounds/Wombeyan-Caves-campground/LearnMore#41B26BD44AB94C4088086717D26097DB>

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/wombeyan-waterfall-walking-track>

https://www.google.com.au/search?q=wollindilly+cave&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&gws_rd=cr&ei=mkssVpGoNOPRmwXNyKaADg

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=10119>

Engagement Congratulations

Adriana Stefanescu and Jade Wales announced their engagement on the 5th of October 2015. We would



like to wish them all God's blessings as they plan their wedding and future lives together.

"And above all these things put on [love], which is the bond of perfectness." Colossians 3:14.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12.

New Zealand Camp

NZ Field Youth Camp Meeting

Seaforth Road, Waihi Beach, Western Bay of Plenty
New Zealand
October 6-11, 2015

Waihi Beach is the jewel in the crown of the Southern Coromandel and Bay of Plenty. The range of stunning walks and rides in this region will have you coming back for more. Waihi Beach offers nine kilometres of sweeping white sand with one of the safest surf breaks in New Zealand. It brings people back each summer to just relax or enjoy activities out on the water or along our coastline and bush. There's something to suit everyone and every budget with a wide range accommodation and dining options.

In one of these particular areas, we chose to hold the camp meeting for the young people, for our friends, brethren, and interested folks. The date was set for October 6-11, 2015, and preparations were made to organise the program. The theme for this camp meeting was “The Challenge Camp”.



We learned the lesson that one of the most important steps to planning a good youth camp, or any Christian event for that matter, is to have an organised team to work with. As we contemplated individuals who are ideal for the team, we remembered that with God’s help we had the opportunity to truly create a youth retreat experience that would bring not only the little children, teenagers but also the adults as well closer to Him.

This meeting was blessed with the presence of two important guests. Brother Rolly Dumaguit, the Pacific Regional Secretary and Second Vice President of the SDARM General Conference; and Brother Csongor Matyas, the AUC Youth Department Leader. Both visitors from Australia had imparted inspiring messages and wonderful instructions for both individuals and churches.

Day 1. Thirty-five people turned out on this day. After organising and setting up ourselves, we all joined together for the evening worship. A precious thought was drawn from Ecclesiastes 3:11 – *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”* NKJV. *“No mortal mind can penetrate the secrecy in which the Mighty One dwells and works. Only that which He sees fit to reveal can we comprehend of Him. Reason must acknowledge an authority superior to itself. Heart and intellect must bow to the great I AM”* The Ministry of Healing p. 438.

Day 2. What a wonderful day to wake up in the morning. Brother R. Dumaguit presented topics that can be summarised in these words: “Each one bring one”, “Your unknown potential”, “What is the difference

between a disciple and a member?" Vital thoughts from this presentation were – "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" James 1:5. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" Matthew 16:24.

Brother C. Matyas also presented the challenges for the youth, family, and the church. Important thoughts for this presentation were – "That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace" Psalm 144:12. "Why is it that there is so much corruption among the youth of today?" Signs of the Times, July 22, 1889.4. "If disobedience is allowed in the home life, the hearts of the children will be filled with opposition to the government of God" Child Guidance, p. 550. "...But ministers may do their work faithfully and well, yet it will amount to very little if parents neglect their work" Ibid.



The final thought for the day came from 1 Corinthians 1:27-30: "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption."

God calls those of us who are weak, those of us that don't have wisdom. God does call common people, ordinary people. Why? Because Christ becomes our wisdom, Christ becomes our righteousness, and Christ becomes our strength. Jesus uses common, ordinary people.



Day 3. Everyone was so excited. We went out and had our picnic on the beach! But that was after lunch. Before that, it was decided that the youth would be having a separate class from the adults. The main figure to lead the youth was Brother C. Matyas; and for the adults, Brother R. Dumaguit continued to give a lecture on "oikos", and we ended up dealing with basic doctrinal approach.

After lunch, we all rode to the beach park. Only those who attended the camp would be able to describe the natural beauty of the place. Fresh sea

breeze, green grass, trees, blue waters, white sand, trails up and down to the highest peak, overview of Waihi Beach, etc. Just several of the features we enjoyed out there.

Day 4. Every day brought a new set of people to the camp. This day the total attendance was forty-six. This was the preparation day for the Sabbath. In the morning, the two age groups were in separate places. The youth and children decided to go out to visit a gold mining site. Lesson learned was that there are many who are willing to jeopardize their lives to find gold that is perishable. How many are willing to risk their lives in exchange for the life that measures with the life of God?



For the evening worship, we all gathered together to give thanks. Selected individuals were appointed to say what they are thankful for. Brother Abraham Dumaguit, one of the visitors from Australia, led us in this worship and praise. It was shortly followed by a wonderful study presented by Brother Csongor Matyas on the "The Worship."

Day 5. Sabbath morning. All woke up with the readiness to meet God. The thoughts for the morning devotion were based on Hosea 12:4 - "Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Beth-el, and there he spake with us." "Through humiliation, repentance, and self-surrender, this sinful, erring mortal prevailed with the Majesty of heaven. He had fastened his trembling grasp upon the promises of God, and the heart of Infinite Love could not turn away the sinner's plea" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 197. "Jacob had received the blessing for which his soul had longed. His sin as a supplanter and deceiver had been pardoned. **The crisis in his life was past.** Doubt, perplexity, and remorse had embittered his existence, but now all was changed; and sweet was the peace of reconciliation with God" *Ibid.*, p. 198, Emphasis supplied.



Our Sabbath School was graced by the total attendance of fifty souls. Brother Matyas directed the study of the lessons. Brother Rolly Dumaguit preached the Divine Service. It was an inspiring message that was based only upon ten, life-changing words of Jesus to Mary Magdalene - "*Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more*" John 8:11.

The youth meeting in the afternoon was led by Brother C. Matyas. It was a very pleasing program for the young and also for the young "at heart." We had singing presentations and a question and answer session about basic

doctrines and issues. Our spirits were animated by this wonderful fellowship. Brother Billy Te Kahika brought the closing thought for the evening worship about the role of our family in the success of the church's work. We welcomed the new week with the taking of photos.

Conclusion

We all gathered together for the final morning worship. We listened to the parting thoughts on Jesus' resurrection. "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me" (Matthew 28:9, 10, Emphasis supplied). Jesus replied, "Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. Go to *my brothers* and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'" (John 20:17, NET Bible, Emphasis supplied).

When they were doing their duty, Jesus met them. Every time you do what is right because you know it is right, Jesus meets you. Every time you step out in faith Jesus meets you. Every time your heart thrills through and through to do what seems to be impossible to do, God and Jesus meet you.

Jesus' resurrection brought the new beginnings to the disciples. The fisherman Peter was transformed into a mighty preacher. Matthew the tax collector became the faithful chronicler of one of the Gospels. Thomas the doubter became a missionary to India. Mary and all the disciples were transformed. This can be a new beginning for me and you. We all need to have a new start today.

~ Arnaldo Pedrosa

Adapted from: <http://www.waihibeachinfo.co.nz/>

For more photos: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?p=10053>

URGENT!!! Please give generously – PNG Drought Appeal

You may remember reading this appeal which was published in our last newsletter. The reason you are reading it again, is that we have been requested to republish it, due to very little response received.

Please, whether you personally, or your local church, field or conference can assist financially, we will be very happy and grateful to hear from you. Thanking you in advance.

Appeal letter for Funds for Emergency Food Supplies due to El Nino Drought in PNG

Dear Brethren and Friends in Australia and New Zealand,

Currently a need has arisen in Papua New Guinea where our members and their children are going hungry and at this point in time are in great need for assistance. Members cannot access their food sources, namely their gardens, due to frost and drought. Over 10 weeks of no rain has meant that their dependence on the only water source to water their gardens has dried up. In addition the water supplies from streams and rivers have given up. In some places springs have dried up.

The PNG Welfare Department has used up all available funds, and the government is not forthcoming in aid to the people in a timely manner. Across the country many people are in need. Currently the immediate need is to purchase food supplies for all the member families in need. Funds are needed for this purpose.

Please donate generously for this important need as without a water supply, the burden to collect water almost always falls on children. With many thousands of people without water, that's a huge risk to children's health. They are at serious risk of diarrhoea, and other life-threatening illnesses from drinking contaminated water sources.

Our Plan is to subsidize their food costs to alleviate the loss of their only source of food; their gardens. The plan is to purchase supplemental food supplies for a period of four months. Once this period of time has passed, we will assess the situation on the ground through the PNG Welfare Department and bring further news.



“Money has great value, because it can do great good. In the hands of God's children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, and clothing for the naked. It is a defense for the oppressed, and a means of help to the sick. But money is of no more value than sand, only as it is put to use in providing for the necessities of life, in blessing others, and advancing the cause of Christ.

But Christ sanctions no lavish or careless use of means. His lesson in economy, ‘Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost,’ is for all His followers. (John 6:12.) He who realizes that his money is a talent from God will use it economically, and will feel it a duty to save that he may give.” Christ Object Lessons p. 352.

“The more means we expend in display and self-indulgence, the less we can have to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Every penny used unnecessarily deprives the spender of a precious opportunity of doing good. It is robbing God of the honor and glory which should flow back to Him through the improvement of His entrusted talents.” Christ Object Lessons p. 352.

“God also entrusts men with means. He gives them power to get wealth. He waters the earth with the dews of heaven and with the showers of refreshing rain. He gives the sunlight, which warms the earth, awakening to life the things of nature and causing them to flourish and bear fruit. And He asks for a return of His own.” Christ Object Lessons p. 351.

“Our money has not been given us that we might honor and glorify ourselves. As faithful stewards we are to use it for the honor and glory of God. Some think that only a portion of their means is the Lord's. When they have set apart a portion for religious and charitable purposes, they regard the remainder as their own, to be used as they see fit. But in this they mistake. All we possess is the Lord's, and we are accountable to Him for the use we make of it. In the use of every penny, it will be seen whether we love God supremely and our neighbor as ourselves.” Christ Object Lessons p. 351.

To donate please mention **“PNG Drought Relief”** on your envelopes or direct deposit reference. Below are details for Direct Debit Deposit:

Name: Reform Movement
BSB: 032-274
Account: 168 675

You can also call +61 2 9627 7553 for credit card payments or further assistance.

You can also pay via **PayPal** here: <http://my.sdarm.org.au/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=16>

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Christian Blessings from The Australian Welfare Department.

Halloween – What Should Christians Do With It?

Halloween – What should Christians do with it?

Today, “Halloween” is celebrated on the last day of October. This sugar-coated witchcraft practice seems to be leading the world blindly. The sight of blood, black, deadly spiders, death, witches etc. seems to not bother people anymore, including very young children, all because of the sweets that are coating it all. Many children and adults wear the most terrible, frightful, shocking and in some cases immodest costumes. Although some of these customs existed many hundreds of years ago, America and Hollywood have influenced and set a new trend for the rest of the world. A couple of decades ago, the practice of Halloween wasn’t very popular here in Australia, so what went wrong? Many minds are being programmed through the media that it’s a fun thing, and it has also become a very huge money-making venture. As Christians, what should we do with it?

A friend of mine shared an article on Facebook which I thought was worth circulating. So with permission from the publisher (* see *disclaimer at the end*), here is the article written by Michele Blake. Hope you gain a blessing from it.

QUOTE:

Michele Blake is a marketing consultant, writer, photographer and home-schooling mum who has (in her spare time) been researching the false claims of psychology and psychiatry since she became a Christian 15 years ago.



10 Reasons I Kissed Halloween Goodbye **By Michele Blake**

Ever since deciding to “just say no” to Halloween, I can honestly tell you that the blessings and joy of obedience are far greater than any fun I ever had “celebrating.”

And since many people, even Christians, think my decision is odd or even legalistic, I finally decided to put together a list of the top ten reasons I kissed Halloween goodbye.

1. Halloween glorifies evil, not God.

It’s no secret that Halloween is all about witches and ghosts and fear and death. Haunted houses, Hollywood movies, even neighbourhood patios are graced with blood and dead bodies and axe murderers ... giant replicas of poisonous spider and cobwebs ... scary organ music, skeletons, and gravestones. Can anyone deny that this holiday glorifies Satan and every evil thing?

“Oh, but our family only dresses in good costumes,” we are quick to point out, as if somehow sugar-coating the evil with smiling pumpkins and sparkly Disney princess costumes somehow changes the meaning of the celebration.

I too continued to dress up for several years, but no matter what creative spin I put on it, eventually I could no longer justify that anything I was doing in respect to this holiday was honouring to God. Sure, my

costumes were cute. Sometimes they were even sophisticated, clever, funny, or smart. But none of those things changed the fact that the holiday itself glorified evil, and I could no longer lend my talents and attention to remain part of it.

Most of us know that Halloween is one of the highest, most holy days for witches and Satanists. Even though we ourselves may not be involved in the practice of witchcraft, we give credence to the holiday by celebrating it. If we abhor evil, should we not also abhor any day designated to celebrate it? The Bible says to avoid even the *appearance* of evil. *“Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.”* —1 Thessalonians 5:21-22. It also doesn’t take a rocket scientist to discern that the Halloween is all about fear. Scary costumes, haunted houses, and horror movies are designed for no other purpose than to frighten us. Seeking out opportunities to be scared is, on this day at least, the highest form of entertainment. If we do not have a spirit of fear, should we even *acknowledge* a day whose purpose is to invoke a spirit of fear in us? *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love, and of power, and of a sound mind.”* 2 Timothy 1:7

2. If the seed is bad, the fruit will be bad.

Halloween has never been a Christian holiday. The foundations of Halloween are occultic, and the symbols and traditions we continue today all have roots in pagan practices. God tells His people over and over again to avoid all pagan rituals and traditions.

Halloween derives in part from the occult traditions of the Druids, the pagan priests of the Celts, whose fall festival was the precursor to Halloween as we know it. *“To ancient Druids, the end of October commemorated the festival of the waning year, when the sun began his downward course and ripened grain was garnered from the fields. Samhain ... was celebrated with human sacrifice, augury and prayers; for at this season spirits walked, and evil had power over souls of men.”*¹

When the first Christians came to America, they knew of Halloween’s occult beginnings and banned its celebration.²

*“[B]ecause of Christianity among so many of the settlers, Halloween celebrations were not celebrated until the 1800’s when several immigrants from Ireland and Scotland introduced their Halloween customs. They brought various beliefs about ghosts and witches with them. Other groups added their own cultural influences to Halloween customs. German immigrants brought a vivid witchcraft lore, and Haitian and African peoples brought their native voodoo beliefs about black cats, fire, and witchcraft.”*³

Today, we have become so accustomed to the traditions of men that we refuse to question them. Even Christian families have been honouring this holiday for generations. But doing so ignores the fact that this festival in no way honours God, and in fact celebrates the very practices God abhors:

“When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer [pharmakeia], or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.” —Deuteronomy 18:9-11.

Putting a Christian label over the top of a pagan practice does not make it pleasing to God. In fact, we are to get rid of all pagan practices and have no part of them:

“These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things.” —Deuteronomy 12:1-4.

God doesn't want us to keep the ways of the world and sprinkle Christianity on top. He wants us to elevate Him alone: His ways, His philosophies, His deliverance, His celebrations. Any other practice is sin and eventually bears bad fruit.

3. Don't dine with demons.

Samhain was the one day of the year when the dead were allowed to come back into the world and commune with the living. People traditionally set a spot for the dead at their table, inviting them in. Since there was also the possibility that evil spirits would come looking for them, people took to “guising” themselves for protection. In other words, it's okay to dine with demons — as long as you wear a costume to protect yourself. *“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.” —1 Corinthians 10:21.*

So are we really supping with demons? Sharing food with someone represents a sacred connection. Adam and Eve first ate with God in the garden, but then chose to share an apple without God in the presence of Satan. Jesus spent much of his time on earth dining with sinners, because that is who He came to save. The last thing Jesus did before He was crucified was to share a meal with His disciples, and He commands us to continue remembering Him in that way until He comes again. When we see Him in heaven, it will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb! *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” — Revelation 3:20.*

Satan is the world's greatest counterfeiter, so he tempts us to sit at his table and join *his* feast (festival, festivity) by making it as attractive as he can. He knows we won't say no if his festival looks like pure evil, so he's let us create our own G-rated version that we aren't as likely to resist.

But God says, *“For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ... And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God.” —2 Corinthians 6:14-16.*

4. Halloween is an excuse to flaunt sexuality.

It's true. Halloween is becoming more risqué every year. In fact, sometimes I think its real name is “Dress Like a Porn Star” Day. Girls dress more provocatively, and at much younger ages, on this day than any other. There seems to be an unwritten competition to have the raciest costume. For those passing on ghoulish or gore, the only other worthy goals seem to be shock and immodesty.

“But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. —Ephesians 5:3-8.

I can vouch from personal experience that when we put on a costume, we often detach ourselves, sometimes ever so slightly, from our inhibitions. After all, it is much easier to act a tad bit naughty when our real identity is hidden. It's almost as if bad behaviour is somehow excused when we are in costume — and it's much easier to explain in the morning: "I wasn't actually sinning; I was just staying in character."

Even though we are not to have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, we prefer to emulate them and parade them on our Facebook pages as if they are somehow deserving of honor.

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret." —Ephesians 5:11-12.

5. We play how we practice.

This is one of my husband's favorite sayings. He is usually referring to table manners with our sons: If you use a knife and fork correctly at the kitchen table, then you won't have any problems when it counts — when you're at a nice restaurant with your employer or meeting your future wife's parents for the first time. How we practice spills over into real life.

The same applies to Halloween. We think we can entertain the macabre, erect gravestones in our front yards, and prop dead "bodies" on our front porches. "Oh, but they're not real," we demur. Then we are appalled when a 17-year-old has a fascination with dead bodies and decides to act on his morbid desires.

Do we really have any right to be shocked or even surprised when some among us decide to act out in real life the fascination with evil we insist on holding dear? We can't have it both ways: if we choose to be entertained by evil, we should be prepared for the time when it becomes reality.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." —Ephesians 6:12. Let us not drop our guard for a moment, or even camp out one night a year "for fun" on the side of the enemy.

6. Are we causing others to stumble?

Even if we don't believe it's dangerous to dabble in the ancient pagan practices of Druid priests, have we given any thought to the impact our actions might have on others?

The Bible tells us just how important it is that we not lead His children astray (Matthew 18:6) or cause them to stumble (Mark 9:42). If we present witchcraft, promiscuity, and the occult in a fun and seductive manner now, are we opening the door to involvement in those practices in the future? Will our children learn values we want them to learn by participating in this "holy day," or would they learn better values, perhaps even courage, from seeing us stand up against evil even when our culture says it's fine? It probably goes without saying, but what values are we impressing on our children when we send them trick-or-treating? Is the lie "give me your candy or I'll play a trick" really becoming of anyone?

If we forego Halloween but give our children a substitute celebration instead, are we sending the message that "I am trying to compensate because I think you're missing out on something really amazing"? I want my children to believe what I myself believe: that we have been given something so much better than this!

No more bobbing for apples in the church basement (a pagan fertility ritual, by the way) when I have true joy in knowing God's true Son!

7. Be faithful in the small things.

For many Christians, the thought of whether to celebrate Halloween is a small issue, maybe even a non-issue. After all, it's only one day a year. And what harm is there really in a handful of Snickers miniatures and a pillowy pumpkin costume? Let me answer that this way:

First, our character, integrity, and devotion to God is evident in the small things. If we can't be faithful in the small things, how will our hearts be faithful in the big things? *"He that is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much: and he that is unrighteous in a very little is unrighteous also in much."* —Luke 16:10. So, yes, even something as seemingly small as how we handle Halloween is important.

Second, God has told us to focus on what is pure, noble, right, lovely, and admirable (Philippians 4:8). Is Halloween any of these things? No, and therefore it is unworthy of any of our time or thoughts.

Third, *"the Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil."* —1 John 3:8. If God came for the purpose of destroying the works of Satan, why do we then try remember, imitate, and even elevate those very things? How do we expect we will be able to keep ourselves faithful when the big temptations come alone when we can't even say no to glorifying evil in what we do for fun? *"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."* —James 1:27. But we've joined forces with the world. In fact, instead of keeping ourselves unspotted, we have become one giant spot with it — we are so much alike no one can tell where the world ends and the Church begins.

We need to start keeping ourselves pure in the small things, so that we will be able to stay pure and undefiled in the big things.

8. God wants to bless us — but not in the way the world blesses.

For those of us who love Jesus, why is it so important to entertain the macabre and flirt with the dark side for one day, one week, or one month out of the year, instead of delighting in the joy the Lord Himself has set before us? *"Thus says the Lord, 'Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, for the Gentiles are dismayed at them. For the customs of the peoples are futile....'"* —Jeremiah 10:2.

We often say we don't want to deprive our children of candy, of dressing up, of the "fun" they have by participating in this holiday. But God has already told us the customs of the world are *futile!*

If this is the kind of happiness we want for our children, we are clearly setting our standards too low. Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, and *He* will provide all of the other things we need.

"Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." —Psalm 37:3-4.

God in His divine sovereignty did not give us Halloween for our entertainment. Instead, we thought we were missing something and we hijacked it! Just like Eve in the garden, we believed Satan's lie that God was withholding something good from us. God, however, has far better things in store for us than candy corn

and parlor games. Why do we continue to grovel in the plastic sandbox when God has given us the entire beach?⁴

We continue pouring time and money into what is overall something that has no lasting fruit and does not in any way glorify God. Would our time be better spent in prayer, teaching our children about the real dangers their friends face by dabbling in the occult? As a Christian, I don't want to spend even a penny of my money on a \$7-billion-a-year event that is so dishonouring to God. As a nation, it is painfully evident where our hearts are. "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." —Luke 12:34.

9. There is sin in the camp.

Even if we think *our* costumes are not sinful (as if it's the costume that's the problem and not the fact that we are still giving reverence to the holiday itself), what about others who have decided that there is nothing wrong with *their* costumes either? After all, they aren't really practicing witchcraft, just *dressing up* as witches. So do we excuse the dressing up but draw the line at Ouija boards? What about pretending to cast spells? We have made ourselves the judges of what is good and evil instead of following God's command to avoid even the spoils of the enemy.

I have two words to say to that kind of thinking: Remember Achan. In Joshua 7, Israel was accursed and could not even stand before its enemies because just one man, Achan, had taken the spoils of Jericho, when God had said no one was to touch them. By the sin of one man, the entire nation was judged. *"Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction."* —Joshua 7:10-12.

It's just a holiday — what's the big deal? The darkness of Halloween is *devoted to destruction* and is in no way honouring to our Father of lights (James 1:17) — and no orange and black sugar coating will make it so. God is a jealous God, and all pagan beliefs are sinful in God's eyes. We can't choose how much or even how nicely we want to celebrate. And we need to help hold each other accountable because we may all bear the judgment for sin in the camp.

At this time in history more than ever, we are in great need of God's mercy on our land:

"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." —2 Chronicles 7:14.

Yet how many of us are truly humbling ourselves and turning from wickedness? We say we are followers of Christ, but we refuse to surrender in complete obedience to His Word in even the simple act of turning from a holiday that glorifies evil.

If still we refuse to repent and seek God's wisdom in every aspect of our lives, we should not be surprised when God further removes His hand of blessing and protection from this great land.

10. Come out from them and be separate.

Perhaps the reason I finally let go of Halloween was precisely because I didn't want to.

If that sounds like a contradiction, let me explain. You see, the very fact that I kept coming up with reasons and excuses so I could continue celebrating eventually led me to question my motives. Why was I hanging on so tightly? Was it possible that my celebration of Halloween had become an idol to me? Certainly it appeared so, because still I embraced the traditions of men even when I knew God's heart on the matter.

"Therefore come out from them and be separate from them, says the Lord." —2 Corinthians 6:17.

God wants His people to be holy, which means to be set apart. If everyone else is doing something, and I'm doing it too, that is a good time to examine myself to see if I'm really in the faith. If people don't look at me and think I am peculiar (1 Peter 2:9) — if I fit right in with our culture and no one can tell I am any different — then I am probably doing something wrong.

The Bible doesn't say that we should have less to do with darkness than other people do; it says have *nothing* to do with evil. By even acknowledging and associating with the holiday, I was giving credence to it in my life and opening myself to deception.

It is my prayer that everyone who follows Christ will be open to prayerfully seeking God's wisdom about the traditions of man. *"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."* —Ephesians 5:6-10."

End notes:

1 <http://heartofwisdom.com/blog/should-christians-observe-halloween/>

2 <http://www.logosresourcepages.org/HalloweenBook/history.htm>

3 <http://heartofwisdom.com/blog/should-christians-observe-halloween/>

4 See also C.S. Lewis' quote: "It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." — C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses*

UNQUOTE

Article taken from: http://prophezie.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1174:10-reasons-i-kissed-halloween-goodbye-&catid=41:top-headlines

* Disclaimer:

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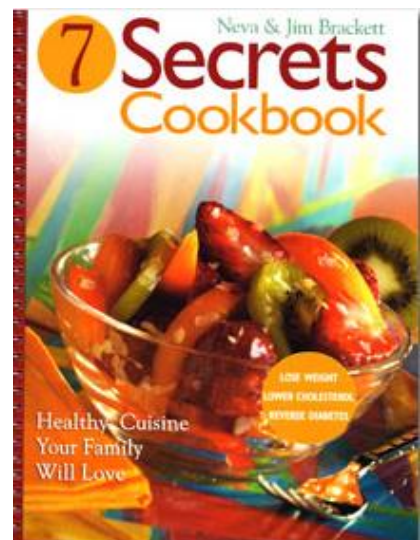
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“Mothers should take their daughters with them into the kitchen, and give them a thorough education in the cooking department.” ApM p15

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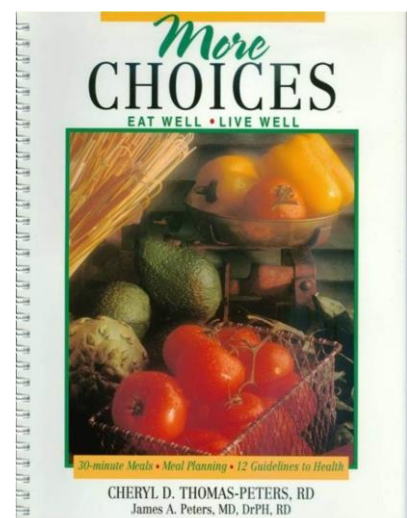
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