

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS – March 2016 #48

Victoria/Tasmania Conference

25-28 March 2016

“I Will Come Again”



This year's Victoria camp was held near the small country town of Alexandra, a beautiful setting with a small lake and hills rolling along the horizon. The theme of the camp was “I Will Come Again,” and the meetings covered various aspects of preparing for Jesus' soon coming. “Promise of His Coming,” “Your Fitness for Heaven,” and “Outline of Final Events” were some of the topics presented throughout the weekend.

Early Friday afternoon we arrived and settled in. We then went to catch up with people we knew and meet with the people that we didn't know.

First event on the program was tea, which we thoroughly enjoyed. Br Larry Ah-ching then opened the Sabbath with the evening worship.

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Sister Roxanne Fountain took worship early Sabbath morning. She spoke about signs in relation to Christ's return. We need to be able to read these signs. Br Benji Fuenzalida took Sabbath School and the various groups separated for the lesson: "The Call of the Church."

A choir consisting of the Melbourne Choir, the Missionary Students, and anyone else who wanted to join, sang a beautiful rendition of "What A Day That Will Be" to replace the first hymn in the Divine Service. The Melbourne Choir also sang for the second hymn. Br Paul Chapman took the Divine Service on "Another Pentecost Promised." When using the ratio of the population then to the population now, we have far more resources available today than the apostles had in the years after Jesus' death. Imagine what we can do today when we let the Holy Spirit work through us!



After the service we had a delicious lunch, at which over 150 people were present.

Next on the program was Young People's Meeting run by Sisters Susanna Mandic and Lily Escobar. A number of children's items were presented first up in the meeting. Many songs, a poem, and a couple of activities were presented throughout the afternoon. Sr Susanna had people with specially placed coloured stickers under their chairs come forward to sing an item.

After Young People's Meeting, Br Larry Ah-

ching provided the youth with Bible games while they walked around the lake. Then we ate a delicious meal after which Br Serban Ionita closed Sabbath.

Sabbath evening, we had a great time socialising and getting to know the Missionary Students.

The Missionary Students took most of the meetings, putting into practise what they have learnt. It was great to meet those we hadn't met before, some coming all the way from the US.



Sunday morning, we were up before dawn and Br Herold Etes from Suriname took worship at 7:00am.

After a scrumptious hot breakfast, Sr Elisabeth Balarezo took a workshop on “The Remnant and the Seal” and had a number of activities and discussions incorporated into the meeting; and Br Jordan Chapman took a workshop on the “Progress of Current Events” where we learnt about current events in relation to the



end of time. These workshops were run simultaneously and were repeated so that the two groups could enjoy both.

Just before lunch a group photo was taken, and then we enjoyed another great meal. Sr Esther Boje and Sr Cati Szabo made appetising food throughout the camp and catered some delicious replacements for the gluten-free people.



On Sunday afternoon we had great fun with the activities provided. First was rock climbing, and then we harnessed up for the high ropes course. Also, in the afternoon we went boating on the lake and had a lot of fun there.

After the evening meal Br Doug Thirkettle took worship with an “Outline of Final Events.”

Into the evening, a group of us enjoyed an inspirational, impromptu concert with Sr Elisabeth Balarezo on the cello and Sr Daniela Balarezo and Walter on violins.

They played special requests with beautiful, harmonious improvisations.

Monday morning Br Abraham Dumaguit took worship on "Are You Prepared & Ready?" We must make our decision to follow Jesus now and not hesitate until it is too late.

After breakfast and packing and saying goodbye, we were on the road for home with many great memories of a great camp.

I thank God for a wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual refreshment.

~ Nathan Wiseman

For more photos: www.sdarm.org.au/?p=11028

Ecuador Earthquake Appeal – from General Conference

Dear Brethren in the AUC,

We have just received the following urgent appeal from the General Conference Welfare Department:

ECUADOR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

"There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need." Acts 4:34, 35.

To the dear reform family throughout the world.

With great sadness we have encountered many natural tragedies this year: floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, epidemics, etc. These things are clearly a sign that the end of all things is fast approaching. They also provide us an opportunity to share with our brothers the blessings that come from the hands of our Creator.

Last Saturday, April 18, the Ecuadorian Coast cities were devastated by an earthquake. Today early in the morning (April 20) was another, and dozens of aftershocks that are occurring several times a day. These are called "the replicas". As a result, hundreds of people had very serious losses, among them many of our brothers who have lost much of their property and even their homes.

In San Lorenzo and Chone, some of the families of our brothers were affected with several material losses.





Thank God we have no loss of life. Physically all our brothers are well, but need to rebuild their lives. At the moment, some of them are living in tents in their backyards because their houses have had the structure shaken and are in danger of falling. We have already sent emergency aid from the General Conference for the purchase of food, water, etc., but we need more to help our brothers to rebuild their lives!

We appeal to all those who are part of the Reform family to help us with offers to answer this need.

You can send your contribution directly to the General Conference through **PayPal**: treasurer@sdarm.org

Or in the United States deposit into the account: [Banco Wells Fargo Routing #051400549 Account #5665967989 SDARM](#)

For deposits from other countries: please contact Brother Rudolfo Gessner rgessner@sdarm.org

Or give directly through your local church channels. Please mark all donations on your direct deposit reference or on your tithe slips, **“Ecuador Earthquake Appeal”**.

For AUC members, 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.

We count on your support and we put ourselves available for any questions that may arise.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:10 (New International Version).

Our collective help can return to our brothers and their families the right to have a place to live!

In Christ,
André Marcelo Devai
**Welfare Department –
General Conference
Seventh Day Adventist
Reform Movement**



For more photos: www.sdarm.org.au/?p=11058

Condolences to the Cristea Family

Dimitru Cristea – 16 October 1928 - 20 March, 2016



It is with sad hearts we announce our dear Br Dimitru Cristea passed away on Sunday, 20 March, 2016. He was born in Romania on 16 October, 1928.

When only 20 years of age, his spinal cord was seriously damaged, and he was confined to lay on his back for 12 months. At the hospital, he met a nice young nurse, Maria, who became his wife three years later. Three children were born to the marriage - George, Angela & Gabriela.

Dimitru was not musical, but loved music and encouraged his children to learn. He was employed as a bookkeeper for the community farms, later becoming the treasurer.

Dimitru and Maria made the decision to join the SDARM when Dimitru was 32 years of age. He loved God and loved to study his Bible. He had many favourite subjects – The New Jerusalem being one of them. In the 1980s, Dimitru and Maria moved to Turkey as a stepping stone to immigrating to Australia in 1985. They chose to settle in Wagga Wagga. George and family (wife Zoica, son Daniel, and twin daughters, Irina & Rodica) also immigrated soon after.

Dimitru and Maria have faithfully supported the Uranquinty SDARM Church each week. Although George's family moved to Melbourne for more work opportunities, Dimitru and Maria continued to reside in Wagga Wagga until the end of 2014. Due to declining health, it was better for the elderly couple to be closer to family, so they moved together to Melbourne and soon after to a nursing home.

Dimitru passed away quietly with family nearby. His funeral took place on Wednesday, 30 March, 2016, in Seymour, followed by the burial at Nagambie Cemetery. Br Paul Chapman and Br Nathan Tyler conducted the ceremonies. A small choir rendered some beautiful hymns, adding comfort and hope for those who have been left behind. The family and church ladies supplied a beautiful spread of food and refreshments at Seymour, where we could share some memories together.

Dimitru will be remembered for his sincere and devoted love of God and eternal interests. May we all be faithful to meet with our dear brother on that wonderful day of Jesus' soon return.

~ Remembered by Mary Wiseman

Taken from "The Pioneer" Newsletter Vol. 6 No. 2



Photo from left to right: Rodica Popa (granddaughter), Maria (wife) and George Cristea (son)

Bone Health Outreach - Wentworthville

14th March 2016



Kitchen Staff

Above photo *from left to right*: Liliana Escobar, Stela Gules, Elisabeth Balarezo, Wendy Flores, Roxanne Fountain and Vesna Kraus.

A community health program once again took place at the Community Centre, Wentworthville. This time Brother Domenic Polistina took the lectures on bone health. Foods that help maintain healthy and strong bones were demonstrated by different people. Once again it was lovely to have the students here in Sydney, and they were of great help.

We pray God will bless this important work.



Words of Wisdom

“Always a Way of Escape”

There is a place in the Hudson where, as you sail, you seem to be entirely hemmed in with hills. The boat drives straight on toward a rocky wall, and it seems as if it must either stop or be dashed to pieces. But just as you come within the shadow of the mountain, an opening is suddenly disclosed, and the boat passes out into one of the grandest bays on the river.

So it is with temptation. You are not to seek it, not to enter into it; God promises no way out in such a case. But if it meets you on your heavenward journey, you are to go straight on though you see no way out. God does not promise “a way of escape” until the temptation actually comes. The way will reveal itself in due time if you only keep on, your way being the way of duty. And remember that as in the river the beautiful bay lies just around the frowning rock, so often your sweetest and best experience of life lies just behind your most threatening temptation. — *Christian Herald*

~ Taken from *The Review and Herald*, March 24, 1904.

Container for Papua New Guinea

Packing Shipping Container for PNG - 11 March 2016



On a Friday morning, the missionary college students were scheduled to help sort and repack a shipping container full of clothing and books; these are to go to Papua New Guinea.

The morning was overcast; and as they began to work, it started to pour rain... but that did not deter the eager youth from achieving their goal. Tarps were soon put up as shelter. Later, as it cleared up, they were able to finish their work.

We thank God for all the donations that were brought for our foreign missions.



“Good deeds are the fruit that Christ requires us to bear: kind words, deeds of benevolence, of tender regard for the poor, the needy, the afflicted. When hearts sympathize with hearts burdened with discouragement and grief, when the hand dispenses to the needy, when the naked are clothed, the stranger made welcome to a seat in your parlor and a place in your heart, angels are coming very near, and an answering strain is responded to in heaven. Every act of justice, mercy, and benevolence makes melody in heaven. The Father from His throne beholds those who do these acts of mercy, and numbers them with His most precious treasures. ‘And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels.’ Every merciful act to the needy, the suffering, is regarded as though done to Jesus. When you succor the poor,

sympathize with the afflicted and oppressed, and befriend the orphan, you bring yourselves into a closer relationship to Jesus.” Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 25.

For more photos: www.sdarm.org.au/?p=10999

Baby Congratulations to the Thiel Family



Amalia Vivienne Thiel – 9 March 2016

What a wonderful gift from God; another little girl born to Naomi and Ben Thiel!

Amalia Vivienne was born on the 9th March 2016 at Westmead Hospital, NSW.

What joy this new little one has brought to her parents and siblings, Adelheid and Emmett.

We would like to extend our congratulations to all. May God’s richest blessings be upon your family as you continue to serve Him.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” Psalms 139:14.

Food for Thought

Who Wants a Knocker

Complainers, whingers and doubters discourage themselves. Someone stated that, “You can tell a reformer by the way he runs down his church!” God does not want whingers, nor does He need knockers.

“The worst enemies we have are those who are trying to destroy the influence of the watchmen upon the walls of Zion. Satan works through agents... Be careful lest you be found aiding the enemy of God and man by spreading false reports and by criticisms and decided opposition.” *Testimonies*, vol 5, pp. 294, 295.

“Many thank God for the truth and then turn around and question and find fault with the very means which Heaven has ordained to make them what they are or what they ought to be. How much more pleasing to God it would be for them to act the part of Aaron and Hur and help hold up the hands of those who are bearing the great and heavy burdens of the work in connection with the cause of God. Murmurers and complainers should remain at home, where they will be out of the way of temptation, where they

cannot find food for their jealousies, evil surmisings, and faultfindings, for the presence of such is only a burden ...; they are clouds without water.” *Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 527.

God needs producers, not consumers. God wants doers, not knockers. Nor is there a place in God’s work for those who consume the time or efforts of producers – then whinge and complain about how things could have been done better. Apply yourself to the task God has placed before you – and the work will go forward.

If you are not prepared to contribute, you have no right to complain. Yet, by placing your life on the firing line you will not have time or the desire to grumble, for every effort will be bent to advance and improve, though the knockers abound to harass and annoy.

“Unfaithful Sabbath-keepers are the worst enemies the truth can have.” *The Review and Herald*, November 26, 1861.

“In rebuilding the house of the Lord, Zerubbabel had labored in the face of manifold difficulties. From the beginning, adversaries had ‘weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,’ ‘and made them to cease by force and power.’ But the Lord had interposed in behalf of the builders, and now He spoke through His prophet to Zerubbabel, saying, ‘Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain.’” *Conflict and Courage*, p. 258.

Let faith grasp the final reward, and bend every effort to fulfil God’s purpose on the journey there. Yes, mistakes may be made. You may stumble and fall, but the Lord will lift you up to press on. Mountains need to be removed; the walls need to be built.

“Let every one who is seeking to live a Christian life, remember that the church militant is not the church triumphant. Those who are carnally minded will be found in the church. They are to be pitied more than blamed. The church is not to be judged as sustaining these characters, though they be found within her borders. Should the church expel them, the very ones who found fault with their presence there, would blame the church for sending them adrift in the world; they would claim that they were treated unmercifully. It may be that in the church there are those who are cold, proud, haughty, and unchristian, but you need not associate with this class. There are many who are warm-hearted, who are self-denying, self-sacrificing, who would, were it required, lay down their lives to save souls. Jesus saw the bad and the good in church relationship, and said, ‘Let both grow together until the harvest.’ None are under the necessity of becoming tares because every plant in the field is not wheat. If the truth were known, these complainers make their accusations in order to quiet a convicted, condemning conscience. Their own course of action is not wholly commendable. Even those who are striving for the mastery over the enemy, have sometimes been wrong and done wrong. Evil prevails over good when we do not trust wholly in Christ, and abide in Him.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pp. 294, 295.

Nothing works without whole-hearted, wholesome commitment. God requires your time, your money, and your effort. Don’t just talk of conversion or commitment. Don’t allow whingers to impede your commitment to God’s cause. Step out. Push forward the car of reform; it takes effort on the up-hills, wisdom and care on the down-dales.

God does not need knockers. He wants the converted committed.

~ Article selected from the AUC Archives

Visitors Day – Prospect Samoan Group - NSW

Psalm 117:1,2 - "O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord."

Prospect Group had been anticipating the Visitors' Sabbath for quite a few weeks as invitations went out to many friends and family and to anyone that was willing to come and spend the Sabbath with us. Sabbath, March 5th 2016, came around very quickly, and what a beautiful Sabbath it was.

Prospect Group set out with a goal in mind for each one of our regular attendees and members to have at least one visitor come along on Saturday, March the 5th. In our endeavor to reach this goal we knew that the devil would also work in trying to diminish our efforts. We invited so many, and we were happy to hear that many were willing to come and spend the Sabbath with us. But as the visitors Sabbath got closer, our visitors were also decreasing in numbers. We lifted our Sabbath plans to God in prayer, and the Lord came through as He always does.

From the start of Sabbath School, we had visitors right, left and centre. We had visitors that were from all walks of life: some were Adventists, two were young Mormons, and some even had stopped going to church altogether. Many young people also came who are trying to find their way to the foot of the cross. With rich studies from the Word of God that filled our morning services to a very filling lunch, we all had a splendid Sabbath of fellowship. Young People's Meeting followed lunch with items of praise, experiences, quizzes and activities that both young and old were involved in. Prospect on average would have about 10-15 attendees on any given Sabbath, and at times even less. But on our Visitors' Sabbath we counted a total of 32 visitors for the duration of the day plus our regulars.

We praise and thank the Lord for the wonderful Sabbath we had and the opportunities we had to meet new people and to share God's amazing grace. The greatest thing that has come out of this Visitors' Sabbath is that a few of the young people have become regulars at church each Sabbath and have now started Bible studies. We are now considering having a Visitors' Sabbath at our Prospect Group once every three months, and we are already looking forward to the next one.



We pray that the Lord continues to bless the efforts of His work everywhere, that the seeds planted may grow and come to fruition and that it may be done all for the honour and glory of our Father in heaven.

~ Tanya Ah-ching

SA News

South Australia News

Sabbath 5th March 2016, we enjoyed a rather typical once a month nursing home outreach, followed by church members' and friends' social get-together!

A great time was had by all. We in South Australia are generally a happy little company who need a little 'stoking up' as it were to get the missionary spirits 'fired up', but, thank the Lord, He has given us little opportunities to start 'spreading the 'Reform message' here in Adelaide by simple letterboxing using the new, fresh, colourful leaflets advertising for free our main outreach books, *Great Controversy*, *Desire of Ages*, and from *Carnivore to Herbivore*.

We usually attend nursing homes about once every month or two, to exercise our vocal talents and bring some joy and eternal hope to those who are in their last days of life in this world. Just this last weekend we managed to bring some joy to the residents of Hahndorf Nursing Home (about 60 in our audience). We also have our weekly prayer groups, both at home and at church, and our monthly social get-togethers, usually at church, but, sometimes, as we did this last weekend, at our member's homes. This last weekend we shared a light fruit meal together, along with interesting discussion about how to improve our personal and church life and outreach methods. This last weekend was a 'House-warming' get-together at Br Csongi and



Kaylene Matyas' new place in Meadows, a beautiful country town just slightly South-east of Adelaide (about 30 kms away). In attendance we had about 26 friends and church members.

Let's ask the Lord the Lord to 'fire us up' even more, that our talents may be used to quickly gather His people from all the confused Christian groups and other belief systems out in the world today.

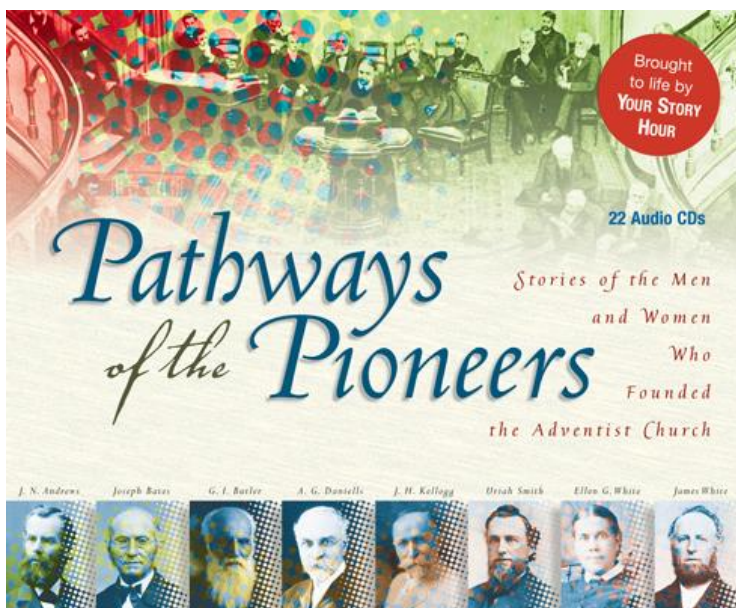
~ Gary Southwell

Pathways of the Pioneers

Stories of the men and women who founded the Adventist Church.

An **exciting** way for kids to learn church history!

Pathways of the Pioneers is a series of 115 historical stories about the development and growth of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Dramatized by the creative team of *Your Story Hour*, brings to life the stories of the men and women who were led by God to spread the gospel and establish the Adventist Church. This series begins with God's call to William Miller, concludes with the death of Ellen G. White, and tells of the wonderful and difficult years in between. Sure to be enjoyed by all ages, this collection will inspire, delight, and educate. These are great for use in the classroom or in the car. There are 22 audio CD's with approximate total running time: 23 hours 25 minutes.



\$89.00
(limited stock)

RLPA

PO Box 132

Riverstone NSW 2765

Phone: 02 9627 7553

Email: info@rlpa.org.au



*"The angel of the LORD
encampeth round about them that
fear him, and **delivereth** them."*

Psalm 34:7.

JUNE 9-13, 2016

TWO PROGRAMS
YOUTH & ADULT **ONE CAMP**

NEW SOUTH WALES CONFERENCE
www.sdarm.org.au/events/nsw-conference-2016

Coming Events Calendar

- 1 & 7 May 2016** **Health Seminar – Schofields NSW**
“Mind Body & Soul”
Church Function Hall, 85 Grange Avenue, Schofields
For further information, email: info@elimhealth.org.au
Call +61 2 9627 7553
- 20 May 2016** **Prophecy Seminar – Schofields NSW**
“Unlocking Bible Prophecy”
Church Function Hall, 85 Grange Avenue, Schofields
For further information, email: nsw@thefinalcall.com.au
Call +61 2 9627 7553
- 20-23 May 2016** **Men’s Camp - WA**
“Foundations of Manhood”
For further information, email:
Gerson Robles gerson@sdarm.org.au
- 9-13 June 2016** **NSW Spiritual Conference and EMC Graduation**
“Deliverance – Free at Last”
For further information:
Peter Lausevic www.sdarm.org.au/events/nsw-conference-2016
Mobile: 0433 074 197
- 26-28 August 2016** **Women’s Camp – WA**
For further information, email:
Catherine Robles cathrobles@gmail.com
- 9-11 September 2016** **Queensland Conference Camp Meeting**
Baden Powell Park, Samford, QLD
For further information
Benjamin Thiel: benthiel@sdarm.org.au
Phone: +61 7 3862 4803
- 12-19 December 2016** **South Pacific Union Mission Youth Convention**
Fiji
Save the date, further information coming soon!
- 28 Dec 16 – 1 Jan 2017** **AUC Spiritual Conference**
For further information, email:
SDARM: info@sdarm.org.au
Phone: +61 2 9627 7553
- 2-5 January 2017** **Summer School**
Elim Heights Youth Camp
For further information, email:
Deborah Chapman education@sdarm.org.au
Phone: +61 2 9627 7553

GOOD TIDINGS E-NEWS

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PO Box 132, Riverstone NSW 2765, Australia

Tel: (02) 9627 7553

Email: goodtidings@sdarm.org.au

Web: www.sdarm.org.au

Editor: Paul Chapman

Associate Editor: Lidia Voncina

Design: Tabitha Hauptmann

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