

Good Tidings

Australasian Good Tidings eNews

2018 November - December #66

In This Issue

Editorial	1
Adventist Leaders Dialogue	3
Queensland Baptism: Fernando Balarezo	4
Jamie & Amariah - Married	6
Health Convention 2018	7
SA News	11
Watch Our Latest YouTube Clips	14
Upcoming Events.....	16



"No man is an island, Entire of itself, Every man is a piece of the continent, A part of the main." ~ John Donne.

John Donne's opening lines to his famous prose-poem was written during recovery from illness. In reflecting on the nearness of death to each of us, he expressed the view that it didn't really matter if the "bell" was tolling for him or another. Each person's death affects us all. We are all "part of the main" and an essential part at that. "No man is an island". No one lives unto themselves nor does anyone die unto themselves.

The Bible puts it another way. We are all members of the one body, the church of Christ. But the human body is not just a mass of individual

cells. It's a tremendous and amazing collection of highly organised interdependent systems all working for one end – the promotion and maintenance of life. In achieving that end, each cell has a role or function, and each is dependent in some way upon another. In a healthy organism, every cell, every organ and every system works together in perfect harmony to supply that which the another part of the body needs. So too with the church. The mutual interdependence of each member of the church to the other, is further expressed by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:16:

"...the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure



of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” (KJV)

Just so you don’t lose the meaning of this verse in the old English phraseology, I’ll share it from the ESV:

“...the whole body is united and held together by every ligament with which it is supplied. As each individual part does its job, the body builds itself up in love.”



the most prominent attribute that will be manifested in each part of the body giving to the other that which it needs, is that of love.

There are three important things I want to highlight from these words of Scripture. The first is that the body is held together by its individual members. Without you and me actively engaged in church life, things fall apart.

Secondly, God has a specific purpose for you and me in His church. If we fulfil that purpose faithfully, the body will build itself up naturally.

And thirdly, the most prominent attribute that will be manifested in each part of the body giving to the other that which it needs, is that of love. This is the secret to healthy church relationships—the exercise of love. This is the one attribute above all others that distinguishes us as Christ’s followers.

What is love? The apostle defines it

by what it is and what it isn’t:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.” (1Cor 13:4-8 (ESV))

For me love is like the immune system of the body. When it’s present and functioning as it should, it not only fights disease, it destroys it. “Love covers a multitude of sins.” When love is missing, our church relationships become toxic.

“God’s people greatly dishonour His name, and misrepresent His truth, when they manifest a lack of love one for another. As love for God grows cold, they lose the childlike simplicity that knits heart to heart in loving tenderness. Hard-heartedness comes in, and there is a drawing away one from another. When we fail to love others as Christ has loved us, Jesus can do little for us; for His words and spirit are not permitted to enter into the heart.—Bible Echo, April 23, 1894.

So important is the attribute of love that Jesus declared it to be the distinguishing mark of His disciples.

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 15:34, 35.

“These words are not the words of man, but the words of our Redeemer; and how important it is that we

fulfill the instruction that He has given! There is nothing that can so weaken the influence of the church, as the lack of love. Christ says, “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). If we are to meet opposition from our enemies, who are represented as wolves, let us be careful that we do not manifest the same spirit among ourselves.

“The enemy well knows that if we do not have love one for another, he can gain his object, and wound and weaken the church, by causing differences among brethren. He can lead them to surmise evil, to speak evil, to accuse, condemn, and hate one another. In this way the cause of God is brought into dishonor, the name of Christ is reproached, and untold harm is done to the souls of men.

“How careful we should be, that our words and actions are all in harmony with the sacred truth that God has committed to us! The people of the world are looking to us, to see what our faith is doing for our characters and lives. They are watching to see if it is having a sanctifying effect on our hearts, if we are becoming changed into the likeness of Christ. They are ready to discover every defect in our lives, every inconsistency in our actions. Let us give them no occasion to reproach our faith.

“It is not the opposition of the world that will most endanger us; it is the evil cherished right in our midst that works our most grievous disaster. It is the unconsecrated lives of half-hearted professors that retard the work of the truth, and bring darkness upon the church of God. . . .

“God would have us individually

come into that position where He can bestow His love upon us. He has placed a high value upon man, and has redeemed us by the sacrifice of His only-begotten Son, and we are to see in our fellow man the purchase of the blood of Christ. If we have this love one for another, we shall be growing in love for God and the truth.”—This Day with God, p. 165.

As we close 2018 and begin 2019, I pray that we will resolve to build strong churches, knit together by the spirit of love, where each person realises the intrinsic value of the other before God. No man is an island. Neither is any member of the church. Let our love then “be without dissimulation”; let’s “abhor that which is evil” and “cleave to that which is good”; and let’s be “kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.” (Romans 12:9,10)

~ Paul Chapman

Adventist Leaders Dialogue

On December 5 and 6, 2018 an open and friendly dialogue between representatives of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement took place at the headquarters of the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States.

The dialogue between a small group of leaders from both organisations acknowledged our shared heritage as well as our distinct differences. Nikolaus Satelmajer, one of the key organisers of the meetings on the Seventh-day Adventist side, said “The conversation was friendly and informative.”



Davi P. Silva, president of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference, said, “It has been a valuable opportunity to get to know one another, and to dialogue openly and freely on questions of shared interest as well as to further explore vital differences as they relate to our eternal salvation.”

The meetings were initiated by two brethren from the SDA Church who, in August 2017, approached our General Conference leadership regarding the possibility of holding meetings to understand why we hold differing views and know where we agree. Our purpose in meeting together was to share what we believe to be important truths for the people of God living in the last generation of this world’s history and to understand one another’s point of view on the same topics. To facilitate discussion, papers were presented by participants from both sides on four areas of belief and practice: Christian temperance and the diet for the last generation; the relationship between church and state especially as it relates to participation in military service; the law and the covenants as they relate to justification by faith; and issues surrounding divorce and remarriage.

The verbal presentations made during the meetings were recorded and made available on the IRLA Videos [YouTube Channel](#)

Reformed Adventist Dialogue November 2018

Our General Conference have made available the joint statement in regard to the dialogue at <http://sdarm.org/news-events/news/2019-03-01/leaders-adventism-dialogue>

“After reading the combined statement below, please listen to the links provided (both video, audio, and written documentation) as presented by selected brethren regarding the views on several issues. The presentation of the subject of Closed Communion as submitted/delivered at the initial meeting in Silver Spring, Maryland, was not recorded, but a more detailed document that was given after the meeting is also linked below.

“Please pray for those participating in the meetings that the Spirit of the Lord may be in our midst, guiding and directing us to clearly present the points in which we differ and at the same time recognize, uphold, and encourage each other on the points upon which we agree.”

Joint Statement of Participants in the Seventh-day Adventist and Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement Dialogue

December 2018

As representatives of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement General Conference, we are delighted to have the opportunity to meet and dialogue together in a spirit of Christian friendship and respect. Our shared heritage, and our many intersecting areas of doctrine, values, and practice, have allowed us to quickly establish a strong foundation of understanding and fellowship. As Sabbatarian Adventists, we share unique ties of spiritual kinship, each treasuring the Sabbath truth and looking forward eagerly to the soon return of our Savior.

We acknowledge, though, areas of clear difference in theological understanding and church practice, and these we express forthrightly and humbly, sharing with each other from Scripture and the writings of Ellen White.

We meet in order to better understand one another, to open up a warm and cordial space for discussion and fellowship, and to affirm one another as we each seek to share Jesus Christ and His salvation in a fallen world. We look forward to meeting again in the Spring of 2019 to continue our conversation.

~ Editors



Queensland Baptism: Fernando Balarezo

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Mark 16:16

On Sabbath 3rd of November at Clayfield Church, we had a special morning worship service where Brother Ben Thiel shared the Word of God to church members and many visitors, followed by a profession of faith taken by Br. Paul Chapman. We also had an enjoyable combined lunch, then we all headed off to Pirate Park at Scarborough by the beach to witness Brother Fernando Balarezo committing his life to Jesus through baptism. Family and friends joined their voices with songs of praising and thanksgiving. We praise the Lord for this special occasion. Let us remember Brother Fernando in our prayers, and may we all be a blessing and support to him.

~ Jacob De Souza

Sitting by the ocean, I thanked God for such a memorable and significant day. It was lovely to see so many individuals from our church family join us, to celebrate this occasion.



My family have prayed for many years that Dad would be ready to take this step, and two weeks earlier, he surprised us by announcing that he would like to make his stand in baptism.

As he walked into the water, we sung the hymn ‘Just as I am’ and then we all stopped singing as he publicly committed his life to God. He picked this hymn as it was significant in his journey to accepting

Jesus. After struggling to change his life, he decided to give himself to God, 'just as he was', and then he found peace. This was my own experience, I had tried so many times to be a different person until I finally decided that I could not change myself. I needed to come to God just as I was and let Him take over. If you have not experienced this peace just say, "Jesus, here I am, change me. I cannot change myself." Don't hide anything from Him. Come to Him just as you are.

~ Elisabeth Balarezo

It was such a privilege and a special moment to be able to attend my dad's baptism. As we know, baptism is a public declaration of the miracle that God has changed us from within, and we get to renounce the world and become a new creature in Him. We were able to make music on earth as my dad was baptised, but I like to think that in one way, we were joining in the heavenly choir that I really hope to be a part of one day. My dad's testimony and example has really helped me to understand that the love and patience of God knows no bounds, and time is not an issue with Him. We must continue to trust in Him knowing that what we pray for is heard in heaven, and that if we accept Jesus' perfect life to cover our own and then cooperate with him each and every day, we have nothing to fear for our future. Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

~ Daniela Balarezo





Jamie & Amariah - Married

And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him”
Genesis 2:18

On the 3rd of December 2018 families and friends joyfully gathered together to witness Amariah Payet and Jamie Squires exchange their vows as they began their lifelong journey together as husband and wife.

Amariah met Jamie for the very first time while attending the AUC Family Toolbox Camp in 2010. It was not until April 2016 when they again crossed paths, this time as young adults, that things took a serious turn. They became friends, and soon their friendship developed into something very meaningful and beautiful.

Jamie officially proposed to Amariah on the 2nd April 2018 by the beach side in Hillarys, Perth. And not long after, plans for their wedding begun.

We wish them both God’ blessings and success as they begin their journey together

~ J Payet





Health Convention 2018

What a glorious sunny day as people were arriving from all over Australia for our year end AUC conference featuring the theme “Live 2B Healthy”. God wants to give His people health. “Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.” Jeremiah 33:6. The call to you is to “preserve every portion of the living machinery, that you may use it for God. Preserve it for Him. Your health depends upon the right use of your physical organism.” Sons and Daughters of God, p. 171. At this conference however, the lectures were designed to not only provide theoretical information, but also practical demonstrations.

Our conference was opened by Sr. Susan Lausevic giving an overview of what the conference was all about—To eat well, live well and enjoy fellowship with one another. Br Domenic Polistina followed with a presentation “YB Healthy?”. Sr Daniela Balarezo led out with wonderful music, putting together a range of songs on health into our very own 2B Healthy songbook.

It was imperative to put the informa-



tion into practice, so the next morning we had a large group of excited conference attendees for the various exercise groups. There were mini trampolines and chair exercise for low impact exercises run by Sr. Deborah Chapman and more intense exercises by Br. Paul Chapman. Lovely walking tracks were designed for the camp so that we could really enjoy nature. Morning and evening devotions were an inspiration bringing our spiritual health into focus with topics on “Deep Breathing—Prayer”, “Attitude of Gratitude”, “Healthy Choices”, “Losing Weight”, “Heart Transplant”, “Healthy Circle”, “Exercising the Right Arm”.

We were grateful to have Dr. Dragan Ivanov from Serbia to share his health expertise with lectures and discussion on topics covering Cancer, Diabetes, Mental Health, Fasting,



Youth Health Challenges and lots of discussions on general health. Everyone was engaged as he gave these lectures and then answered questions from the audience that attended.

The children were all enjoying their ‘healthy’ programs too with lots of fun and educational programs put together by Sr. Vesna Kraus and her

many dedicated helpers. They learnt all about the body, even viewing a real heart from a sheep.

Delicious, healthy meals were served daily from expert cooks from Coleambally, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne overseen by Srs. Jessica and Marion Brown. Outdoor dining was encouraged by creating a festive atmosphere with shade umbrellas over picnic tables.

In the afternoons Health Booths and practical workshops were provided, instead of lectures, giving everyone a chance to 'experience' health. These were both educational, fun and relaxing. Sr. Monica Balarezo who is an expert massage therapist taught classes on various types of massage. Domenic and Nadine Polistina created a lot of interest with their workshops on Essential Oils. Gerson and Catherine Robles had a booth displaying the benefits of being Vegan. Sr. Susan and helpers supplied green juices and cool coconut water, which was very refreshing in the hot afternoons. Sr. Elisabeth Balarezo and Dr. Dragan spent time during the afternoon workshops with the youth dealing with Youth Health and prepping for Sunday's "Health Expo".

On Friday afternoon, a raw food workshop provided a lot of hands tips on preparing many raw dishes. Four experienced cooks provided a workshop, demonstrating four raw dishes that can be easily prepared at home. Sr. Rosetta Illic led out with Thai raw wraps with a large assembly line of helpers who put together trays of appealing wraps. On another table Sr Rosemary Voncina was instructing a team putting together raw stuffed peppers. Sr. Susan was busy at another table with raw zucchini



and pasta sauce and beetroot and carrot dishes. Sr. Tanya had a table making Mexican salad. A "Raw Delicious" recipe book was prepared to hand out for the workshop. A lot of the dishes prepared were served for the Hallelujah Lunch on Sabbath.

We welcomed the Sabbath in with a lovely presentation by Br. Nathan Tyler on "The Remedy for Stress". Stress is a main cause of disease

today, and it can cause our physical body to break down. Br. Nathan spoke about learning to leave our cares with the Master Healer—Jesus.

Sabbath was another perfect sunny summer day. Divine Service was taken by Br. Peter Lausevic on how "God wants UTB Healthy" emphasizing that health is given to us to serve God. The afternoon Youth Meeting was filled with wonderful items from

the children, singing groups and choirs. Br. Paul Chapman presented the “The Right Arm of the Third Angel” as a fitting close of conference, and many thanks and gratitude were expressed to all those attending and to all the participants who made our gathering a success. The final component of the conference was the Health Expo, which took place on Sunday.

HEALTH EXPO

Sunday morning Schofields church was buzzing with activity and excitement as the hall was transformed into a temporary Health Expo. Charts, posters, registration tables, consulting rooms, equipment, products, juices and food items were all being put into place. There were twenty-four booths with over seventy volunteers working together to manage the tradeshow. This included volunteers acting as our kitchen staff, receptionists, ushers and substitutes for different booths. Sr. Elisabeth Balarezo was directing it all, as it then started to fall into place with everyone in their sections.

There was a booth learning about correct posture; two exercise bikes that rewarded your efforts with frozen smoothies as you cycled; and a table showing how too much ‘screen’ time affected your brain. St John’s Ambulance crew joined us for the day and gave two practical demonstrations on CPR and first aid. Some of the booths included a health quiz booth, chair massages, a gratitude wall, a BMI booth, blood sugar measurements, pH tested with green chlorophyll drink, natural skin care, delicious fruit soft serve ice cream, together with salad and nachos for lunch. The children had a five metre long paint mural, a petting



zoo by our friends at Kindyfarm and a jumping castle, giving the youngest members of each family a fun-packed day.

Dr Dragan along with his translator Sr. Rosetta Illic, worked round the clock, in our downstairs office providing thorough 20-30 minute consultations. Pastoral consults were also available in the adjoining office.

As the day came to a close, everyone seemed reluctant to leave, and once pack down commenced, each of our volunteers took the opportunity to explore other booths. We are grateful for the work that every volunteer put in as well as for the work of our Health Expo planning team that worked behind the scenes, which included Ashley Sas, Natali Fuenzalida and Michael Godwin, led



by Elisabeth Balarezo.

They are currently working on putting a manual together that will provide other churches around Australia the opportunity to put together an expo in their area. If you would be interested in providing this opportunity in your local church area, whether it is big or small, please contact Elim Health.

TESTIMONALS

"It was great being part of the health camp and the expo. The health camp was well attended and everybody seemed happy and eager to learn. It was great having Dr Dragan there and being part of it all. The expo seemed really charged with a healthy and vibrant environment. The visitors who attended looked happy and everybody was having a

great time. It was a privilege to be part of it and enjoy the guilt-free ice cream!" Catherine Robles

"First of all the expo was very well organised. I had no idea what to expect and was pleasantly surprised. I loved the smoothie-making bikes, the yummy food samples as well as the amazing vegan nachos along with all the tests that were offered like blood pressure, BMI, glucose



SA News

The Lord calls us to reach out, use our talents, evangelise, and cultivate enthusiasm for His work, rather than doing our 'own pleasure'!

He is very patient toward each one of us, and we thank Him for that!

Though not fulfilling the goal of 'Cooking Classes' and 'Public Evangelistic Outreach' planned for the final part of 2018 (these will have to be rolled over into 2019), we have been engaged in some ongoing regular outreach in some areas within our 'big' state with 'little' people numbers!

Both regular visitors and members can vouch for the thoroughly enjoyable Sabbath times together at our one little Somerton Park Church hall, even through little things that may go wrong some times. During winter, (23/6/18) we experienced a major drop in power. Heaters were coming on, then going off, and church was getting rather cold. It was found that a transformer had finally ceased working (blown) after many decades of service, and so all transferred to the sunny dining room for our morning services till professional electricians

could fix the problem, keeping the children entertained for a good hour or so. Our lunchroom service on the subject of True Religion and Relationships, presented by Br Csongi, will not be soon forgotten. We cannot take our connection with our Creator for granted, and we all need to work together to solve problems. No more power problems after that, and nice to have a warm, rather than a cold lunch together (as the ovens and stoves came back to life).

We continue to 'soldier on' in nursing home visits. Our main nursing home patrons from Austral Tce, Morphettville, never get sick of listening to us. We can all attest that we get as much (or more) out of the sing-alongs as the older people, who listen and join in as much as they can. By God's providence, we have a few enthusiastic musicians who help set the tone for the hearty singing and smiling faces all round. (We have violin, acoustic guitar, piano, saxophone, and clarinet.) Sr Janet Southwell is usually the one to lead out and tries her best to explain the story behind some of the well-known hymns. Because of our varied ethnic backgrounds there is usually someone amongst us who can connect with different cultures of those

and pH level tests. I loved the fact that I was able to speak to a doctor who agrees with fasting and other more holistic ways of living. All in all I will definitely come back next time. Well, in fact, I want to be part of it as I am working towards having my own health business." Daniela P. (first time visitor)

"My kids just loved all the little furry animals to pat and painting on the wall. Everyone seemed happy and enthusiastic about being healthy." JB (visitor)

"We want this again", I heard by many who attended. So let's work on the next one. I encourage all churches to try this avenue of outreach.

~ Susan Lausevic – AUC Health Department





visited, from Dutch, to German, to Polish, Serbian, Indian, and even Australian!! (Visits have been made on 7/7, 3/11, and 15/12.)

The overall tenor of much of the sermons this last half of the year has been on the church as a close-knit family, working together, encouraging closer relationships with one another; and not getting too comfortable with our lives in order to serve others rather than ourselves. We have had the opportunity to put these lessons into practice in the following ways: regular visits of Anuj Indika in Adelaide Detention Centre for Immigrants; assisting Brett Wilkinson in his personal health and accommodation; communicating with and visiting Br Trevor Holmes while in hospital for a few weeks and

with his continuing health problems; assisting one another in areas of employment (Br Csongi and myself); and encouraging one another in the Prayer Meetings, which have not always been operating due to various reasons.

Actual letterboxing as a church has not taken place; but, praise the Lord, our Brother John, living in Whyalla during this period, has had the privilege of distributing at least 7000 Present Truth Correspondence Course flyers, of which Sr Lidia has informed us, there have been a few requests. Br John has also canvassed the area, door-knocking and offering The Great Controversy books for free. Some people have accepted the books. He plans to continue this work in both Port Lin-

coln and Port August in the new year (2019).

Social evenings, though infrequent, have been welcome, as an extension of the beautiful time in free open discussion on our Sabbath afternoons. We plan to make them more productive in the new year with planned discussion topics from between 2:00 and 2:30pm Sabbath afternoons. We do not usually have Youth Meetings as young people are not usually present. (Maybe we could re-name this time 'Church-family-time' with all our visitors and members welcome to present or address any item of interest or concern- Sabbaths are so precious as we often don't see each other through the week.)

May the Lord bless each one of our Fields (and small church groups) as we reach out in the new year, and possibly learn from each other – Church Visitors Day (for direct church neighbours) as practiced in Schofields Church recently, was a brilliant success, with quite a few visitors!

May God bless us all in 2019!

~ Gary Southwell

CARE TAKER WANTED

For Elim Heights Youth Camp



**Interested parties please contact
02 9627 7553**

Watch Our Latest YouTube Clips



Don't forget to subscribe to our channel!

Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement
NSW Conference presents

no place like **home**



June 7-10, 2019

Elim Heights Youth Camp

www.sdarm.org.au/events/nswcamp2019

Upcoming Events



NSW Camp 2019

Date: June 7-10, 2019

Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp

[Click here for more information.](#)

Contact: 0431 409 439



VIC Spiritual Conference 2019

Date: April 19-22, 2019

Venue: 43 Murrays Road, Whanregarwen

[Click here for more information](#)

Contact: vic@sdarm.org.au

GoodTidings Electronic Newsletter of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform
Movement, Australasian Union Conference
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: Gerson Robles

Follow us on:



www.instagram.com/goodtidings4life

www.facebook.com/goodtidings4life

www.youtube.com/goodtidings

If you no longer wish to receive the Good Tidings e-news, please
[UNSUBSCRIBE.](#)