

# Good Tidings

Australasian Good Tidings News

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This edition is formatted for easy reading on screens. Let us know if you like it!

## Keeping In Touch During Extraordinary Times

As we put together this edition of *Good Tidings News*, our places of worship right across the Australasian Union remain closed. Everywhere there is disruption to normal life, and many are asking—when will this end?

“Social distancing” has become a part of everyone’s vocabulary. But as one of our workers aptly put it, it is really “physical distancing.” Socially we are still connected and must continue to nurture the relationships that we share as a church community.

In the very early days of the restrictions, church leaders in Australia and New Zealand put our heads together to work out what we were going to do. At first it was about how we would manage the various restrictions and guidelines when it comes to our church services. Very soon, however, all gatherings came to an end, and it was then about how to look after and support everyone going forward.

One of the first things we committed to do was staying in touch. Firstly by telephone, and visitation wherever possible, and then by providing as much connection as we can to church services, Sabbath schools and prayer meetings by electronic means. It has been wonderful to see so many groups studying, praying and worshipping together.

We have also launched a new online video channel, to keep up with news and views from around our Union. If you have not done so, please check out and subscribe to our “SDARM Australasia” channel on YouTube.

All Sabbath services, Sabbath schools, prayer meetings, and other online resources are being kept up to date on a special web page: [www.sdarm.org.au/online-worship](http://www.sdarm.org.au/online-worship)

Please avail yourself of all of these means. And if you want to speak to someone, please ring your local church leader or Bible worker or give us a call at the Union office. If you need something, please make that known. And please help by keeping in touch with those in your circle. Let’s encourage one another, keep praying, deepen our connection with God, and serve our community in any way we can.

*“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name” (Malachi 3:16).*



# Report of the 35<sup>th</sup> AUC Delegation Session

Delegates from across Australia and New Zealand gathered at the AUC headquarters in Schofields, NSW for our 35<sup>th</sup> delegation session. A total of 28 delegates represented the various units of our Union.

The following is the list of new officers, including those elected by the Delegation, and other committees and officers appointed by the Council:

**President** Nathan Tyler  
**Vice Presidents** 1<sup>st</sup> - Miguel Mendoza  
 2<sup>nd</sup> - Benjamin Thiel  
**Secretary / Treasurer** Joe Voncina

**Children's Department** Vesna Kraus  
**Education Department** Ruth Rodionoff  
**Elim Heights**  
**Managem't Committee** Joe Voncina  
**Elim Miss. College** Nathan Tyler  
**Health Department** Catherine Robles  
**Missionary Dept** Paul Chapman  
**Sabbath School Dept** Sam Batger  
**Welfare Department** Luke Phillips  
**Young People's Dept** Daniela Balarezo

**Elim Store** Elaine Weymark  
**Resource Centre** Tanya Ah Ching  
**IT & Communication** George Gurduiala (coordinator)  
 Paul Chapman (email and CRM)  
 Peter Kim (web services)  
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 Conference and Mission Field Leaders  
 Finance Committee Chair  
 ChurchSafe Coordinator

**Bylaws Committee** Nathan Tyler (chair)  
 Paul Chapman, Harold Kraus,  
 Susanna Mandic, Naomi Thiel  
**ChurchSafe Officers** Susanna Mandic (coordinator)  
 Joe Voncina (point of contact)  
**Finance Committee** Harold Kraus (chair), Danko Ilic,  
 Martin Staudinger  
**Ministerial Committee** N Tyler (Chair), R Acquiatan,  
 P Chapman, A Pedrosa, B Thiel



Online Conference 15-17 May, 2020  
 Visit [www.sdarm.org.au](http://www.sdarm.org.au) for more information



## Elim Heights Recovery Progress

After the devastating fire in November 2019, the Elim Heights Management Committee set about to move forward with the work of restoring the camp facilities. Three major buildings had been lost, along with most of the caravans and various tools and machinery. Two tractors and a ride-on mower were saved, and dormitories and the dining hall and children's building were still standing, as well as the toilet blocks and generators.

Thank the Lord, the state government has stepped in and arranged to pay for the removal of all rubble



from the site to make it safe and ready for rebuilding. Currently, contractors for the government have just finished cleaning up the site, and plans are being drawn up for a new church hall to take the place of the one that was lost in the fire.

We thank the Lord that our insurer has now settled our claim, and so we have some funds which, if managed wisely, should go a long way toward restoring what was lost.

Stay tuned for more news as we restore and renew Elim Heights Youth Camp!



## Elim Missionary College Programme

Twelve energetic students gathered at Elim Heights for the 2020 Missionary Training Program. Coming from around Australia and the USA, they entered upon their studies enthusiastically. We started with Bible Research and Gospel Workers classes, and then moved into how to conduct home Bible studies.

After the first intensive month at Elim Heights, the program moved to Schofields. The canvassing program got into full swing, with many books sold and contacts made. But just as canvassing was finishing up, the pandemic response started to affect the program. Br Rolly Dumaguit, who had been the canvassing instructor, had to urgently return home before flights closed. We endeavoured to carry on with the visitation program and other training, but the future looked increasingly doubtful.

Finally, on the 23rd of March, as restrictions on gatherings and social interaction were getting ever tighter, the EMC Board held an emergency meeting. It was decided to suspend the program and send all students home. Sadly, it was the first day of class by Br Sas, so they only really got his introduction.

All of the students left within a week and have arrived home safely. The EMC Board has agreed to look at how to enable them to finish sometime in the future, as we are able to do so.

Despite the cancellation of the program, we had a wonderful time, formed new friendships, and learned a lot together. We look forward to seeing what the class of 2020 do as they shine for Jesus in these tremendous times.



## Solomons Fly & Build

It is with sadness in our hearts that we would like to announce that the "Fly & Build" program in Solomon Islands 10th May – 10th July 2020 had to be postponed until further notice, due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We look forward to the time when things will be back in order. We pray God will care for His people during these difficult times.

# Organic Practices taught across the South Pacific Union Mission

The fight against poverty and climate change has been an ongoing battle across the entire South Pacific Region. Scientific studies have shown that best practice organic agriculture is a win-win situation. Research has shown that organic farming systems are more resilient to adverse weather conditions such as increased number of tropical cyclones and drought patterns over the last few years.

Due to the increase of these types of incidents the Australasian Union Welfare Department has been assisting the South Pacific region for several years with hands-on training seminars on the direct benefits of eating healthy food. Explaining the benefits of eating healthy is an important work due to the increasing prevalence of importation of “junk foods.” With this increase comes a change in dietary habits and sugar intakes. Brand advertising has taken over these places, and soft drinks along with white flour and white food products is seen as “good foods” while home grown food as mediocre.

Diabetes and Heart Disease have taken over as the leading causes of death. Almost all of our membership lives in rural locations, and all have land available to them to use for gardens. However, knowledge on how to use their land is not passed down. Many have abused the land to the point they garden by burning new ground every year with the idea that it is fresh ground.

“In God’s plan for Israel every family had a home on the land, with sufficient ground for tilling. Thus, were provided both the means and incentive for a useful, industrious, and self-supporting life.” MH 183

Recently I was invited to attend a church dedication. Prior to the dedication we invited all the surrounding neighbours and farmers to attend an agriculture seminar for four days. Training given really focused on soil re-habilitation using simple and readily available treatments. Each person owned the tools needed, each person had a space for a garden. They were impressed with a video shown on how one man was using his same garden bed for over 10 years. Many could not believe such a thing was even possible. But by showing this video presentation the concept entered their minds to start new again. Over time deforestation was occurring, and they had to travel longer distances into virgin territory to grow gardens. This simple concept of using homemade composts along with the manufacturing of their own biofertilisers and using simple ingredients in their gardens makes all the difference in the soil and allows them to garden in the same place.

Many widows attended the seminar. They along with orphans are the needy ones, as there is no other support system available to them but by living from their gardens. When shown about their neglect, their eyes lit up, and smiles emerged as they caught the vision of change.



Ellen White wrote, “Christian farmers can do real missionary work in helping the poor to find homes on the land and in teaching them how to till the soil and make it productive. Teach them how to use the implements of agriculture, how to cultivate various crops, how to plant and care for orchards. Many who till the soil fail to secure adequate returns because of their neglect... Their ill success they charge to the unproductiveness of the land. False witness is often borne in condemning land that, if properly worked, would yield rich returns.” The Ministry of Healing, pp. 191-193.

Once the students realised that they didn’t have to work so hard by creating new gardens, and could stay close to their homes, their outlook changed. I was able to share stories of how over the years I got feedback from previous students and how their fruit crops had increased. Their vegetable gardens yielded so much that their lives improved from their changes. When I showed photos of farmers growing larger fruits and vegetables, they shook their heads in amazement that such things are possible.

Over time in the South Pacific many missionaries of all the various denominations have come and taught people how to grow vegetables. But this information was never passed on and over time forgotten. Many tell me, “Mama ground always gives up her food to us.” However, when I showed them that the food they were eating had diminished in nutritional value and the reasons why their fruit was not sweet, they looked in amazement and wanted to learn even more. This is a common occurrence everywhere, and when I tested this theory not only across the South Pacific Islands, but also in Colombia and Brazil, even across parts of Europe, people were in agreement with the values shown them. There are many lessons to learn about soil health and how it relates to our body’s physical health.

More work and training are needed not only to the people hungry for agricultural training, but more work is needed in our sanitarium gardens, more work is needed in our missionary schools in regards to agricultural knowledge. Agricultural education is a wonderful tool; however, it also means more than just studying books. It is important to have the physical aspects intertwined with the educational aspects, thus fulfilling the mandate of God given in Eden.

John Lausevic, outgoing Welfare Department Director



## Asylum Seeker Family Update

We have reported in the past on the plight of a Sri Lankan asylum seeker family who were caught up in an unfortunate series of events that saw the husband and father held in immigration detention. As we write, he is still in detention.

“Brother A” and his family came to Australia on 3 August 2013, seeking refuge in the country. They were placed in detention and on 15 January 2015 were released into the community on bridging visas awaiting their refugee visa application to be processed.

They lived a happy life trying to integrate into Australian society. In the meantime their third child was born in June 2015. Only a week after their baby boy was born the father was arrested by police on charges he categorically denied. After he was arrested his bridging visa was cancelled on 1 July 2015 and he remained in prison until the charges against him were dropped on the 23 September 2016.

Had the criminal charges not been brought against him, there would have been no obstacle to Bro A remaining in the community and he would have been granted a refugee visa in due course. However, whilst the charges were eventually dropped, this changed his status in the eyes of the Department, and on the same day he was taken from the prison to the Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation where he is currently being held separated from his family.

Bro A had legal representation to deal with his criminal charges and according to the law he is innocent. He also had legal representation with his immigration proceedings, all the way to the High

Court of Australia. Despite the High Court upholding Bro A's case, the Immigration Assessment Authority has still refused to revisit their decision upholding the Immigration Minister's original decision not to grant a refugee visa to the family.

Our local pastors have personally assisted the family to find legal representation and supported them to go through all this difficult time. They currently still face an uncertain future and with the family being separated for so long time it is inexplicably difficult for the couple and their children. It affects their education and cripples their everyday life. Two of their children are attending school and the second to last child, kindergarten.

We have been informed by the court that Bro A's next hearing will be on the 26th of May, 2020. Unfortunately JusticeNet has also informed us that they can't find a lawyer to take his case on pro bono. We have spoken with a lawyer who helped in October with the appeal. The initial fee she charges for a barrister to look at the case is \$2,000, and if the Barrister sees it possible to succeed then it could cost up to \$15,000. If not, then there is no chance for them to stay.

It is felt that God brought them here for a reason, not to just send them back, but unfortunately we don't have that kind of money. Money is scarce now with the economic situation as it is, but perhaps there is someone praying to God to show them where to spend their money for a good purpose.

If you are moved to help toward the legal expenses to help this family be reunited, please contact Br Joe Voncina at the Union Office on 02 9627 7553.

We thank you for your prayers and support.

## SA Baptism—Brett Wilcox

It was with great joy and refreshingly cooler weather that the baptismal drought in South Australia was broken on Sabbath, the 18th of January 2020.

Brother Brett Wilcox has finally decided to make the ‘plunge’ and join Jesus publicly. He has studied with our brethren in QLD, WA, and now finally in SA where he plans to continue sharing his faith!

We had a special church service at Adelaide church where friends, church members and many visitors came along to worship God and to witness a long-time church comer committing his life to Jesus. In the afternoon we gathered at the beautiful Somerton Beach, just a km or so away from the church. It was beautiful, sunny, just slightly cool, with a little sea breeze, as our little church group witnessed the public declaration of Brett's faith.

Afterwards we welcomed Br. Brett officially as a member of God's Church. We had a lovely welcoming Lord's Supper celebration afterward and social evening, where all enjoyed the Sabbath

atmosphere right up to sunset. What a beautiful way to spend God's holy day!

Our prayers and support are with Br. Brett as he endeavours to follow closely in the footsteps of Jesus. “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...” 1 Peter 3:21

Compiled from reports by Jacob De Souza (Elder) and Gary Southwell (Missionary Leader)



# Wedding Congratulations to Ashley and Benjamin

There is always an element of excitement in the air when it comes to weddings—whether for the couple themselves or for the guests attending it. The dream of nearly every girl is to grow up and one day be a beautiful bride. How fitting it is that the church is also compared to a bride adorned for her husband. Marriage—what a beautiful gift our Maker gave to mankind! How wonderful that Jesus performed his first miracle at a wedding feast.

January 6th, 2020 was just another Monday for most people at the Gold Coast in Queensland, but for Ashley and Benjamin (Benji) on this day, history was to be made. For those who were present, what better way than to spend the day at a delightful place while witnessing the exchange of vows? The peaceful, gorgeous grounds of the Historic Rivermill at Mount Nathan provided the opportunity to reconnect with nature while partaking of the joys of this young couple as they joined their hands and lives together in holy matrimony.

Benji truly rejoiced in this day, as he took this verse literally: “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.” Proverbs 18:22.

As guests took their seats, an atmosphere of anticipation filled the air. The parents, bridegroom, his groomsmen, and pageboys walked down the hill to wait for the arrival of the bride. When the beautiful bridesmaids and flower girls followed walking down

the hill it was evident that the bride was just around the corner. Ashley, looking stunning with her proud daddy, Charles, now walked down the hill, bringing much emotion, especially to Benji.

A very fitting song “How Great Thou Art” was the song that was chosen for the congregation to sing. The wedding service was taken by Pastor Ben Thiel, and after a meaningful service, it was beautiful to watch the happy couple exchange their vows. Pastor Nathan Tyler presided over the legal side of the wedding, and while the signing of the registry was taking place, Benji’s father rendered an item in song.

Between the service and the reception, the guests were treated with delicious canapés while the newlyweds and attendees had formal photos taken. The children were able to explore and enjoy the delights the venue had to offer, from feeding the animals that resided there to playing in the playground. The evening reception was held at the same venue, making the day a very relaxing and enjoyable one.

We pray that God will always be Ashley’s and Benji’s strength and guide as the future unfolds before them. May their home be a little heaven on earth with Christ as the centre.

“The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” Numbers 6:24-26.

Ashley and Benji, congratulations and best wishes for a lifetime of happiness!





## Gurduiala Family Grows

Congratulations to the Gurduiala and Newman families on this wonderful news.

A little bundle of joy arrived at the home of George and Shelley on Wednesday the 15th January 2020. How thrilling must it have been for these parents when God's precious gift entered their family!

We pray the Lord will richly bless George and Shelley with wisdom and knowledge, as they bring up little Eva Victoria to honor and love her Creator!



## Baby Boy Arrival

It is with joyful hearts that we wish to congratulate the Gules and Dumitru families on the arrival of Baby Jaxson Daniel. Johnny and Denise Gules were so looking forward to this little boy, and they were delighted to announce his arrival on the 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Sabbath 22<sup>nd</sup> February was a special day at Schofields Church, when baby Jaxson was dedicated to the Lord. He was brought to the front by his parents, and Brother Peter Lausevic took him in his arms, and prayed for God to care for Jaxson and to influence his life in the right direction.

We pray God will give you knowledge to raise Jaxson to His honour and glory, that he may learn to be an obedient child as per instruction found in Colossians 3:20, "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."



## Baby Dedications—Kneebone and Robles Families

On Sabbath 7th March many of the church brethren, visitors and friends witnessed the parents of Hiram Joseph, and Priscilla bringing their children to the front and having them presented before the Lord. As Elder Jacques Payet held Hiram and prayed for each of the children and for their parents, the congregation also bowed their heads in silent prayer. It was a very blessed day for all who were present at Guildford Church.

God entrusts parents with a very important work; firstly, to know Him and to love Him with all their hearts and soul; and then to diligently teach this to their children while they are growing up. This work is of such great value. The results will be seen throughout eternity. Children here are only on loan to parents; they belong to God. May He continue to guide each parent in this solemn work that has been



assigned to them. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4.

"There is no higher trust than that committed to fathers and mothers in the care and training of their children. Parents have to do with the very foundations of habit and character. By their example and teaching the future of their children is largely decided." *Prophets and Kings*, p. 245.

# A Tribute to our Mum—Catharina Bende Sas

This is a very brief recollection of the life of a beautiful lady, Catharina Bende Sas, as seen through the eyes of her children Lidia, Charles and Rubem.

Catharina Bende Sas was born on Saturday, 24th November 1934, in a little town called Caiva Presidente Venceslau. The second of nine children born to Americo and Barbara Bende. Sadly, two passed away very young, in their infancy. Andrew was only 5 weeks old when he died of cot death and Lidia contracted Diphtheria when she was still under one year of age. There were seven who survived to adulthood. They grew up a very close-knit family. Their names are: Americo, Catharina (Mum), Suzana, Rodolfo, Clara, Margarida and Ester.

Due to the hardships and the shortage of food experienced during the World War II years, Catharina's parents decided to move closer to Sao Paulo City, to a Hungarian settlement called "Istvan Falva". When Catharina was ten years of age, the family moved to a town called Aluminio, to be close to their friends, the Sas family. The shy young man who was waiting at the station to pick up the Bende family by carriage was Alfredo Carlos. At the time he had no idea that in this family was his future bride. Both families grew very close, and the children almost felt like they were brothers and sisters.

The Bende family was very poor. There was no money for the children to study, but against all obstacles, Catharina still managed to finish her primary school and then at the age of eighteen receive her diploma as a seamstress. She also taught herself how to play a pedal organ and to read music; in those days this was quite an achievement for a young lady.

As young adults, both Catharina and Alfredo Carlos went their separate ways during the week to work in the big city of Sao Paulo. When Catharina was only eighteen years old, Alfredo Carlos decided to visit and spend a weekend at the Bende Family farm. Just before leaving, he handed a letter of proposal to Catharina while she was sewing. This brought her much joy, and after a very long engagement, they were married in the registry office on Friday, 30th December 1955, and the church service and reception were on Sunday, 1st January 1956.

Alfredo Carlos and Catharina were blest with four children, two girls and two boys: Lidia Raquel, Charles Daniel, Deise Regina and Rubem Alfredo.

One of the biggest challenges Mum had to face, was to leave her country Brazil and move to a new country, experiencing new culture, new language, and more. Leaving all her family and friends behind was one of the hardest things she did. On the 2nd December 1969 we arrived in Sydney Australia to start a new life.

As we started life in this beautiful country everything



was new and exciting. Little did we know that in less than eight years we would be going through a devastating time. On the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1977 Deise Regina, our dear sister died at the age of eleven, something that our Mum never got over till the day she herself passed on.

Those who knew Mum knew that there was no limit to what she could achieve if given the opportunity. At a very young age, when Mum started working, she helped her family financially to buy a property in Mailasqui, Sao Roque, SP. Catharina's hands were gold, and that was evident in the beautiful detailed embroidery that she did, the knitting and the sewing that kept her family warmly dressed, the beautiful veggies she grew and the delicious food that came from her kitchen. No matter whether there were 1 or 10 additional people for a meal, there was always enough food to go around, and there were still leftovers. Friday night dinners were especially amazing! We all got together at our parents' home even after Joe and I, Charles and Lilly were married and moved out. This was a time that each of us looked forward to every week.

Food played a huge part in Mum's life. Not just her family enjoyed her delightful meals, but Mum was always involved in cooking for church events, camps, conferences, executive committees, council meetings, or anywhere she was needed. Even in her later years, while living in the aged care facility, Mum worried that she did not have something to offer her visitors, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. What made her food distinct, was the flavour blend of Brazilian, European and Aussie cuisine. At home, Mum always kept a bonbonniere (lolly jar) filled with goodies for when her family would visit.

Washing and ironing was another thing... mum had no peer... I have never seen such beautifully washed and ironed clothes like the way our mum used to do it; from sheets and towels right down to even our underwear, everything was ironed... In the early 1960's we moved to Brasilia when they were building that city. Everything was very dusty, as there were lots of dust storms. We lived in a two-room timber dwelling with dirt floors, where more dust would filter in between the timber paneled walls. It was necessary to sprinkle water on the floor





before sweeping to settle the dust... but on the table there was a white starched embroidered tablecloth... this is how clean and tidy our mother was.

Mum always sought out some form of work whenever she could, to earn a little extra money, so that she could complement Dad's minimal wages... since Dad's wages came from tithe, she didn't feel right spending it on things other than the necessities of life. While in Brasilia she washed shirts for some of the government diplomats; in Belo Horizonte she sold tablecloths, made Hungarian walnut-tortes for the rich society, and donuts and cakes for the corner shop; in Australia she worked nightshift as a nurse's aide in Parramatta Nursing home for over 20 years; and in the USA she cleaned houses.

Some of the things mum enjoyed doing were bareback horse-riding, knitting (she would knit while on horseback caring for the cattle), reading, crocheting, gardening, swimming (especially enjoying the unbroken ocean waves). Mum always enjoyed music and loved singing alto in church choirs. Later in life she was the official organist at the church Dad pastored in Belo Horizonte where we lived last in Brazil prior to immigrating to Australia. Then here at Wentworthville Church she would also play the organ. Even on her death bed whilst in hospital, the singing of hymns seemed to soothe her and give her comfort.

There was no limit to Mum's love for us; she was always planning something special to make us children happy. We have fond childhood memories of going to lunches at a department store cafeteria during school holidays. Three specific times she sacrificed in order to give us the best were:

- Lidia – at a very young age received a special doll which was bought on monthly instalments.
- Charles - it was a beautiful Brazilian acoustic guitar.
- Rubem - a Malvern Star 12 speed racer bike.



Although she was very shy and quiet during her early years, life's challenges made her a very strong, brave and resilient person. Someone we knew we could lean on and trust. Many times, while Dad was away travelling, she had to fend for herself and take on the responsibility of both a father and mother. Many times, she would take her three younger children to work with her during her nightshift as a nurses' aid, as she didn't want to leave them alone at home. With all that she had to do, she still found time to make some improvements in our home as a surprise for Dad when he returned home from a trip.

Mum was meticulous in everything that she did. She had a habit of counting things, like how many patties she would fry, how many cookies she would bake, how many pieces of clothing she would wash, how many shirts she would iron, etc. She kept a very detailed accounting book, and she would balance her finances every Tuesday. Mum would have made an excellent accountant!

Sadly, for Mum and all of us, in 1989 she once again moved away from family and friends to live in the USA. Dad was transferred there to be the SDARM General Conference Secretary and later the SDARM President. During this time away, there were many 'happy hellos' and 'sad goodbyes' until they finally moved back to Australia when Dad retired in 2005.

Our mum loved babies and children. She would light-up whenever she saw her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, they were the joy of her life. Mum had great peace, pride and joy when they were by her side. She was also a very devoted mother to us children. Mum used to always call the young ones "darling", and when she heard the grandchildren's voices on the phone she would always say: "Hello Darling"...

After returning from the USA, Mum's bone health continued deteriorating. She suffered with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Osteoarthritis, and Osteoporosis. This led to replacement surgery in

both knees, some of her back nerves being severed, and the final broken hip. For many years Mum stayed mostly at home as it was too hard for her to go out. Dad was her full-time care giver. The last two years of her life, Mum lived in an aged care facility, Dudley Foord House, where she had 24/7 care and we could constantly visit.

Our mum had a hip replacement operation in Norwest Private Hospital on the 17th January, and six days later, on Thursday 23rd January 2020, she peacefully fell asleep.

We look forward to the resurrection morning, when by God's grace we will meet each other once again!

Catharina was survived by her:

- Husband: Alfredo Carlos.
- Children: Lidia & Joe, Charles & Lilly, Rubem & Elizabeth.
- Grandchildren: Jade & Luke, Amy & Benny, Brendan, Ashley & Benji, Jeremiah, Harrison, Kayli, Barnaby.
- Great-grandchildren: Josiah, Levi, Cyrus, Zachariah, Hiram.

One of Mum's favourite Bible verses was Psalm 91:1, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Some of Mum's Favourite Hymns were:

- Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine
- Does Jesus Care
- Jesus Loves Me
- We Know Not the Time When He Cometh

Catharina was deeply loved by all and is sorely missed. She will always remain in our hearts.

~ Lidia, Charles and Rubem

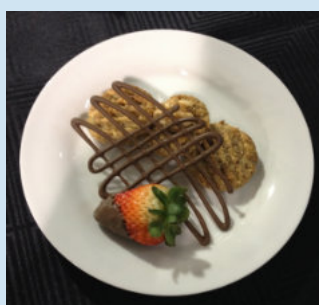
## Walnut Maple Cookies

Why not try making this very easy, delicious recipe with the family during lockdown... sure to elevate your spirits

Makes 12 cookies.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 ½ cups walnuts ground in food processor
- ⅔ cup wholemeal flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ⅓ cup flaxseed meal
- ⅓ cup carob chips
- ½ cup + 2 tablespoon maple syrup
- 2 teaspoon vanilla



### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a small bowl add all the ingredients in the given order and mix well.
2. Preheat oven to 180°C
3. Drop dough on cookie sheet with a spoon and flatten with a fork
4. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes until golden brown. Check often to prevent from burning.
5. Let cool before removing from cookie sheet.



# In Memory: Maria Cristea

I'd like to share with you all a few things about the life of our grandmother Maria Cristea.

Maria was born in the heart of Romania in the small German village of Sincu Brasov on the 14th of June, 1934, to parents Emil Ghircoias and Elena Moga, who were both of similar age, born in 1898. She was the baby of the family—she had three brothers, Gheorghe, Jon and Basile.

Life was not easy, when you consider that World War II was in full swing between 1939 and 1945. Her Father worked in agriculture, while her mother worked in a local clinic as a nurse (she died of meningitis in 1944). Grandma, at just 9 years old, was called in to help at a clinic for a few years. Not having proper transport, she lived there in one of the rooms.

The four siblings were all separated by the war, until one day as she was walking through the train station her big brother recognised her and jumped out of a slow-moving train. He arranged with the doctor she was working for and took her with him to another town.

At the age of 14, Maria found a job at Agigea Rehab and Wellness Centre as a kitchen hand, where later she met our grandfather, as he came in for a back operation. They became good friends and later got married in 1951. Maria was the faithful girl of the family, and in 1968 they became members of the SDARM church.

They lived in a little village close to the Danube Delta, where they harvested reeds which, back in those days, were used for roofing. Later making and burning mud bricks, terracotta stoves and agriculture. Their family started to grow, and they had three children: George, Angela and Gabriela.

In 1979, she had a major operation, and one kidney was removed. That same year her father died at 81 years old of liver cancer.

The children eventually married and had their own families – grandchildren came along and especially we (Daniel, Rodica and Irina) spent a lot of time around Grandma. I (Daniel) remember she bought my first violin in 1980.

Communism was not a friendly regime specially for our faith, and we decided to leave the country. August 1984, we migrated to Istanbul, Turkey and applied for an Australian visa. Late in 1985, we arrived in Melbourne and were welcomed into our church family of Keilor Park, as many of you know!

We lived for a time in Wagga in NSW, and there my grandparents enjoyed gardening. As kids we loved grandma's salty doughnuts, strudels and tofu she often used to make. She had other hobbies like sewing, crocheting, and quilt making. We had a good time in our church community in Wagga, and later a new church was built in Uranquinty, NSW.

As time went on Grandpa and Grandma became weaker and older. In 2015, they moved back with us to Melbourne, and on the 20th of March 2016 we lost our grandfather. After that, grandma was very lonely even though we payed regular visits in the Whittlesea nursing home. Dementia took hold as time passed, she became weaker, stopped walking around and in the last 3 weeks did not eat nor drink very often. She fell asleep on the 6th of February, 2020.

We are so sad, and we will miss her dearly. Our hope and prayer is to be faithful and soon meet her, and all our loved ones, on the sea of glass and never be separated again!

Brother Daniel Cristea



## Upcoming Events



### Online Conference

Date: 15-17 May, 2020

Venue: live online stream

Stay tuned via the “Online Worship” page

Contact: [info@sdarm.org.au](mailto:info@sdarm.org.au)



### AUC Youth Conference 2020

Date: [TBC] December, 2020

Venue: Elim Heights [TBC]

Contact: [info@sdarm.org.au](mailto:info@sdarm.org.au)

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