

2020 July 29 #70

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Report of the Online Conference

At the onset of the pandemic in Australia, we realised that all our upcoming conferences were going to be cancelled. So work began on an online conference, to take up a bit of the deficit.

The conference committee from Victoria were gracious enough to let us “borrow” the theme from their Easter weekend camp which was cancelled, which had been called “Our Greatest Need.” And since we didn’t have missionary school students to assign topics (they had already gone home after EMC 2020 was cancelled), each of our church workers around Australia and New Zealand was assigned a topic.

There was a flurry of activity in the weeks leading up to the 15th to 17th of May as the media team prepared for a completely online conference. Each location had to ensure that their equipment was up to scratch, and in some cases, presentations were prerecorded. At the AUC office we had to prepare to host every single meeting from our location.

The media team managed quite a technical achievement, when they discovered how to hand off a livestream from one location to another. This meant that the host could introduce the speaker, and then the control of the livestream could be handed off to the other location.

A purpose-built website was created, with schedule of meetings, livestream links, and previous meetings which could be watched later.

Finally the day came, and we shared 13 wonderful messages and a Sabbath afternoon program of testimonies. Although there were a few technical hitches, all came off surprisingly well, as hundreds of viewers joined us from around Australasia and across the world.

If you missed the conference or any part of it, you can still catch up with video, audio or transcripts online at ourgreatestneed.sdarm.org.au



Ordination of Miguel Mendoza

We would like to welcome Br. Miguel Mendoza to the ministerial team. He was ordained as a minister at Schofields Church on Sabbath the 25th of July.

Originally the ordination ceremony had been planned for the Victoria camp in April. However, with the cancellation of the camp, the plan shifted to a local service at the Maranatha church at a future date to be determined. Then the situation changed again, with metropolitan Melbourne going back into lockdown.

At this point the decision was made to proceed with the ordination, despite less-than-ideal circumstances. Sadly, it could not take place at all in Br. Miguel's home field of Victoria. So it was decided to host it in Sydney, where regulations would still permit the requirements of this ceremony, and we could make use of the live streaming capability of Schofields Church for those who were unable to attend.

Before this could happen, however, travel restrictions were introduced. Br. Miguel and Sr. Daiana his wife, travelled to New South Wales and spent 14 days in mandatory self-isolation. Once this was completed, we were able to proceed with the plan and Sabbath the 25th was a special day for all.

To commence the service, an item was shared, which had been sent by the church in Victoria, including music and photos. Then Br. Nathan Tyler presented the message, "Soldier, Servant, Shepherd," highlighting the qualities that a minister

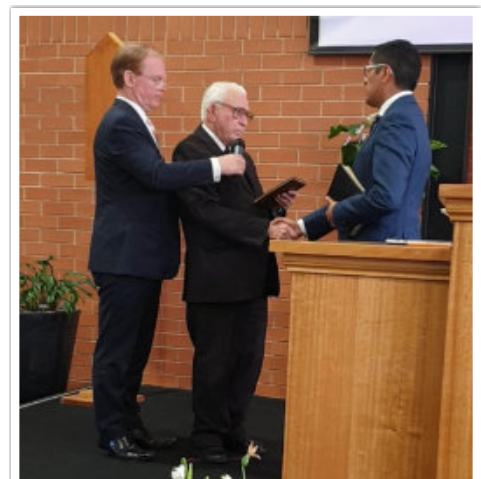
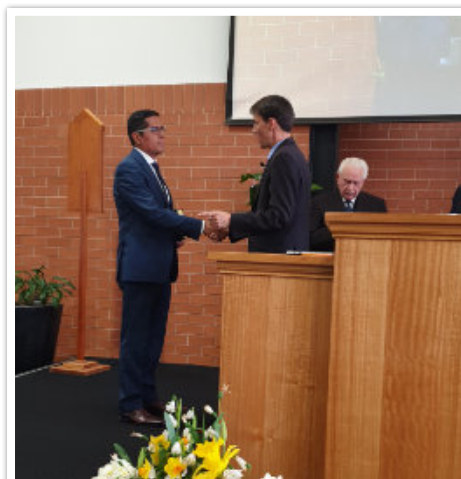
of the gospel must exhibit. Next Br. Paul Chapman related key events in Br. Miguel's life and ministry, such as his attendance at missionary schools in Peru and Brazil, and his move to Australia. Then he asked both Miguel and Daiana to formally indicate their acceptance of this call to ministry. Br. Alfredo C. Sas led in the special prayer with laying on of hands, and then read the ministerial charge.

Two more touching musical items were presented, also from the brothers and sisters in Victoria. Although they could not attend in person, their songs and photo memories brought emotion to all.

Br. Miguel was invited to address a few words to the congregation. He spoke in English, Spanish and Portuguese, for the benefit of family and church friends who were also watching from overseas.

The service ended with the benediction pronounced by the new minister himself. As we were dismissed, although restrictions permitted us from shaking hands, Miguel and Daiana were greeted by all and we wished them well in their continuing ministry.

Welcome to the ministerial team, Miguel. May God grant you and Daiana daily grace and courage as we all work together in the service of our Lord Jesus.



Queensland Thanks You

Many thanks to those who have donated to the Queensland Field renovation fund for the church house at Clayfield.

Fundraising has now reached about half the original goal of \$30,000. Due to your generous contributions, work has been able to continue as funds came in. See progress photos below.

A special offering was collected on the 25th of July. However, many churches were not open, so we encourage you to visit the appeal page our web site to give directly:
www.sdarm.org.au/news/2020/05/29/qld-appeal/

Please continue to support our brethren in this endeavour, so that they can complete the much-needed renovations, in order that the space may be utilised for the various functions that will be held here.

\$30,000

Goal

47%

Funds
Raised

\$14,222

Raised so far



Queensland Conference
Renovation Fund

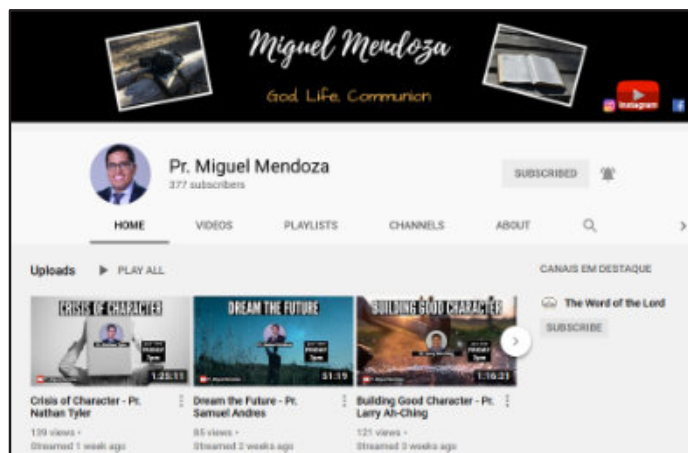


Social Media Projects

Several of our workers and members have started new social media channels, to provide resources and stay in touch.

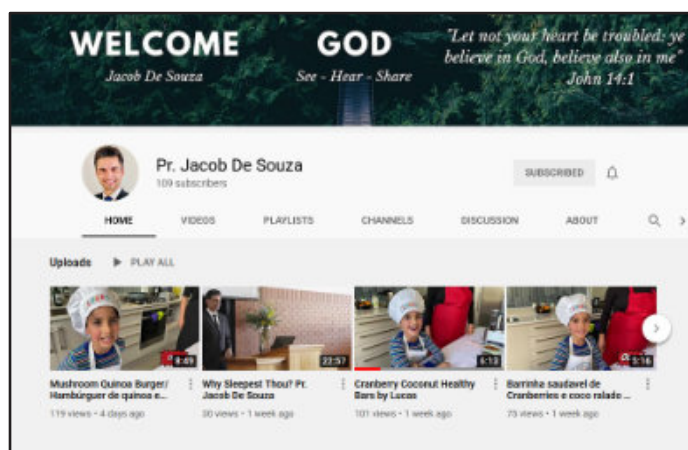
Br. Miguel Mendoza has been hosting different speakers, who have been sharing a variety of messages reflecting on spiritual themes for today's world. There's something for everyone—be sure to check out his channel!

www.youtube.com/MiguelMendozaofficial



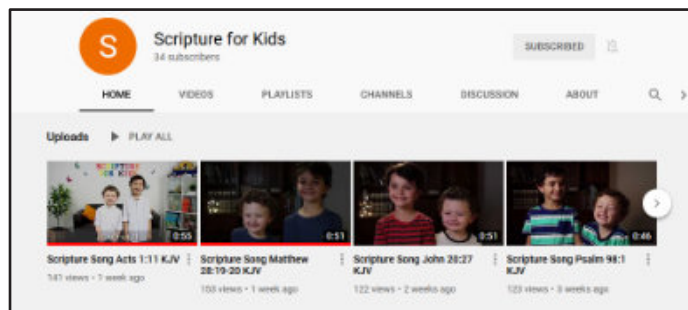
You'll find on Br. Jacob De Souza's channel a variety of testimonies, messages and everyone's favourite—recipes by Lucas. The latest, Cranberry Coconut Healthy Bars, are absolutely delectable. Check them out here:

www.youtube.com/PrJacobDeSouza



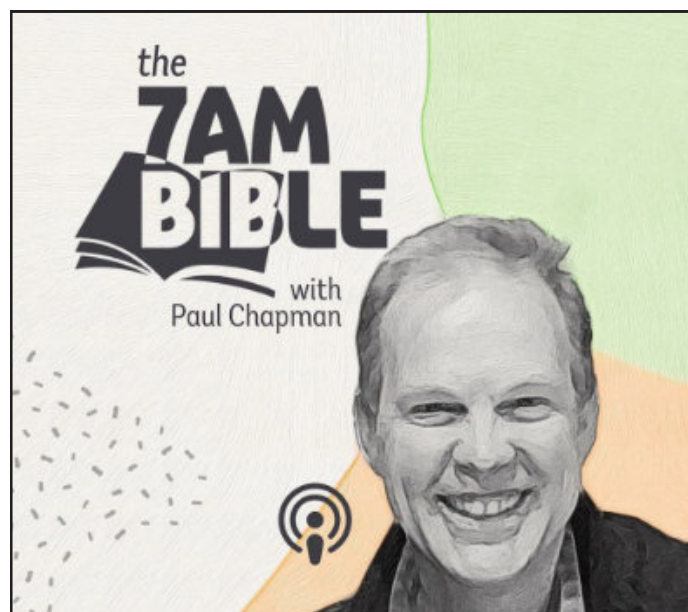
Memorising Bible verses for the children's lesson has never been easier, with original Scripture songs by Sr Jade Kneebone, sung by her boys Josiah and Cyrus. Find them here on Scripture for Kids:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCdwt8jEgvlhUgkUUK57MHNw



For a daily look at God's Word, in the theme of the current Sabbath Bible lesson, have a listen to The 7am Bible, hosted by Br Paul Chapman. This podcast can be enjoyed at home, in the car, or wherever you are. Subscribe in your favourite podcast app or find it online at:

<https://the7ambible.com/>



Adelaide Building Project

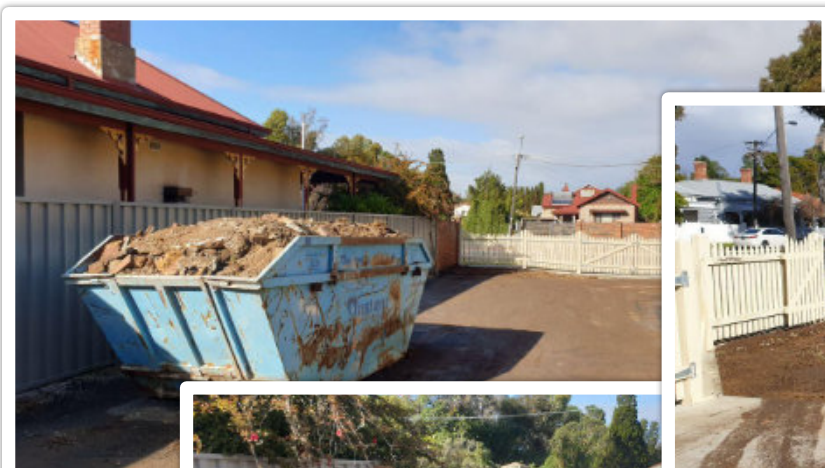
Through the generosity of one of our members, a small residence is being built next to our church in Somerton Park (Adelaide), South Australia.

It was the desire of one of our sisters in Christ to give back to the Lord what He had given to her. In consultation with the local church, she decided to enter into an agreement that would see a unit being constructed for her next to the church, which would be used by her and eventually become available for the church to use.

This is a wonderful example of a cooperative project which enables someone to make a donation and at the same time provide for their own needs during retirement. We thank the Lord for this opportunity and hope that the arrangement will be a blessing.



Guildford Landscaping Refreshed



Photos from Guildford Church (Perth)

End of Year Stocktake

The end of the financial year can be a nightmare to many businesses in Australia, and it is no different here at the headquarters. A careful account of all stock items on hand for the Elim Health and Book Stores is taken on the last day of the financial year, 30th June. This is required from us by our accountants and the government; so, it is all-hands-on-deck for the day!

Like most things in life, there must be some drama to throw the spanner in the works and make it interesting. For us, this stocktake day was not to be any different; things just had to go wrong. Just prior to getting ready for this big task, Tanya's computer seized up, and a new computer had to be purchased and set up. Br Nathan was able to oversee the purchase of the computer and transfer all the programs, making sure it was working by the end of the day so that the stocktake figures could be entered in.

At 9:00am we gathered in Br Joe's office for a prayer, and each received a clipboard with the list of goods that we stock. Now we were ready to start our counting. This was to be a whole day's exercise. Tanya, Joe and I would like to say a big "thank you" to our helpers: Sr Weymark, Rosetta, Larry, and Daniela for their commitment.

All appreciated being able to stop for a combined lunch. Then the counting of items continued and was finally finished at 7:00pm. Then Tanya could start entering stock numbers into the computer.

During this time of unforeseen circumstances, the Elim Health and Elim Book Stores have been able to function and been a huge blessing to many, providing them with their spiritual and physical needs.

We praise God for His constant help and for allowing us to continue to be a witness to all those who come along. ~ Lidia Voncina



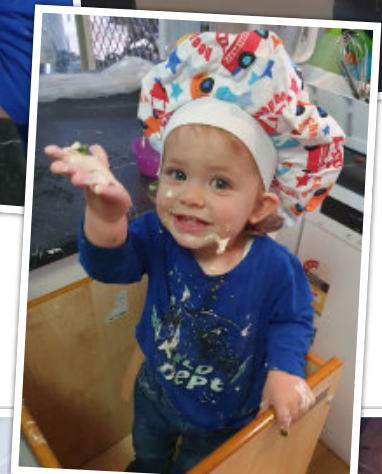
Children's Zoom Meetings

We have been richly blessed by children's Bible classes, kids' groups and youth Bible classes, which we are currently running on Zoom on a weekly/fortnightly basis. A range of topics have been covered, and it has been beautiful to see the enthusiasm and participation during the meetings.

We pray that these will continue to bless and encourage families and youth in their walk with God. We know there is no greater education than that obtained at the foot of the cross. The Bible and nature reveal God and His great love to us, His children.

The Education Department is working towards several projects, and we look forward to bringing you updates in the near future. We thank you for your ongoing support. It means so much to us to know we can serve God and you, in the great work of educating our children and youth for eternity.

~ Ruth Rodionoff
AUC Education Dept. Director



The Corona of Thorns

So here we are, in such a state
The likes of which we've never seen.
Everyone is sort of down
Because of this COVID-nineteen.

Our fellow men we kind of fear;
From all we're told to keep away.
But more important: We should see
That from our faith go not astray!

Our daily life is quiet now
And many feel that they are bored.
But now's the time to carry out
The mission of our suffering Lord.

Recalling Him who paid our price
Whose brow with bloody sweat adorns
The Lamb of God who bore the cross
Corona'd with a crown of thorns.

Remember Him who raised the dead—
The daughter of the ruler Jairus,
Lazarus and widow's son—
And fret not over this bad virus!

When staying home in just one place
It's tempting now to sit and mope.
But shame on all who think that way.
This trial is a beam of hope!

For though the news is really sad
While people groan as they are sick,
The prophecy is telling us
That Jesus' coming will be quick!

So, as we see the signs around us
Danger all around is lurking,
We should pause to pray and plan;
For Jesus' sake we must be working!

The time is not quite over yet:
And not yet full is evil's cup;
But as we see it worse and worse
The time is now to just look up!

When pressed with cares and overwhelmed
Let's now rethink our aims and goals
To witness more at every step
And reach out more to weary souls.

Yes, let's speak loud for Jesus Christ,
Assured that we are not alone.
Our Lord shall come—and lo, we'll stand
And bow before His Kingly throne!

How great the joy when we shall see
The beauty of that heav'nly place;
But best of all, to see our Lord
Beyond the cloud—and face to face!

Barbara Montrose
April 8, 2020

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