

Good Tidings

Australasian Good Tidings News

2020 September 25 #71

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AUC Hosts Online Week of Prayer

The AUC had the privilege of hosting the Pacific edition of the online Week of Prayer, August 21-30, 2020. Collaborating with the Pacific regional secretariat, items were collected and posted along with the sermon content from the General Conference.

Hundreds of viewers from around the Pacific joined via YouTube stream and in some cases, downloaded videos which were taken by Bible workers to remote areas.

Highlights included musical items from around the Pacific for each of the sessions, a collection of musical items for Sabbath, and a special finale at the end of the last presentation.

Around the AUC, some churches met to view the presentations and pray, while others watched at home and had prayer groups via zoom due to pandemic restrictions.

The concept of Week of Prayer comes from the 1860s, when the American Civil War caused serious disruption and economic difficulty for the emerging church. Believers set aside a week of prayer in early 1865, and in only a few weeks the war was over.

It is with the same earnestness in view of the times and the global disruption of travel and downturn in economic activity, that the church has gathered for prayer. Let us continue to pray that God will intervene so that the gospel may be preached and Christ's commission be fulfilled.



SDARM PRESENTS



DISCOVERING STEWARDSHIP

LET'S PROVE THE
LORD AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO ENJOY AND UNDERSTAND THE
GRACE OF GIVING.



WWW.SDARM.ORG.AU/EVENTS/MONTH-OF-STEWARDSHIP/

5 SABBATHS IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

More Progress in Queensland

With a fresh coat of paint inside and out, the residence and multipurpose building at the Clayfield Church has been dubbed, "The White House."

Many hours of work have gone into finishing structural modifications, cladding and lining, roofing, flooring, outside steps, painting and many more tasks.

We particularly would like to acknowledge the help of our volunteers. Thanks to all workers and donors who have help toward seeing this project push forward. Much progress has been made, but also much remains to be done. Please keep giving generously so we can continue working on the project.

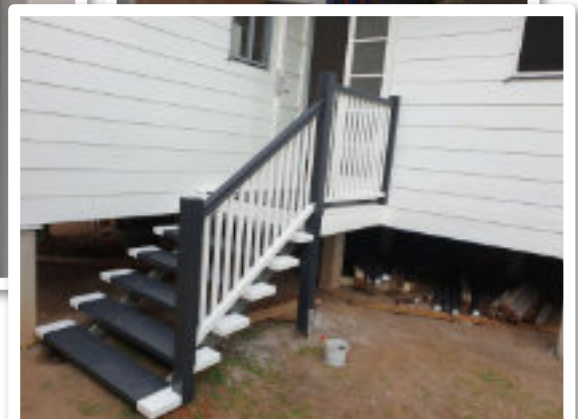
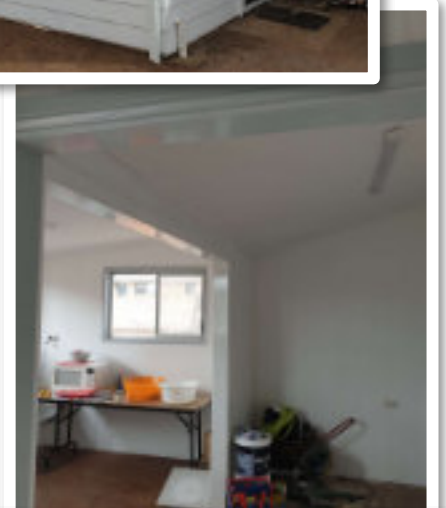
\$30,000
Goal

70%
Funds
Raised

\$21,116
Raised so far



Queensland Conference
Renovation Fund



In Loving Memory of Our Dear Sister Alexandrina Silva

The Australasian Union Conference extends our sincere condolences to the Silva Family. May God comfort each one of you through the loss of your loved one.

It is with great sadness that we wish to inform you that our dear Sister Alexandrina fell asleep in Jesus on the 6th August 2020 in the city of São Paulo, Brazil. In faith, we look forward to the resurrection morning, when we will once more be with our loved ones. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18.

Sister Alexandrina was a dedicated wife to Brother Davi P. Silva who was the General Conference President for two terms: 2011-2019. She made many sacrifices in order to travel alongside her husband and support him in the ministry. We were privileged to meet and fellowship with her when she accompanied her husband during some of his visits to Australia.



Sister Silva was a role model to those around her. Her contagious smile, gentleness, and eagerness to minister through her hospitality was a testament on behalf of her character. She will be sorely missed by many.

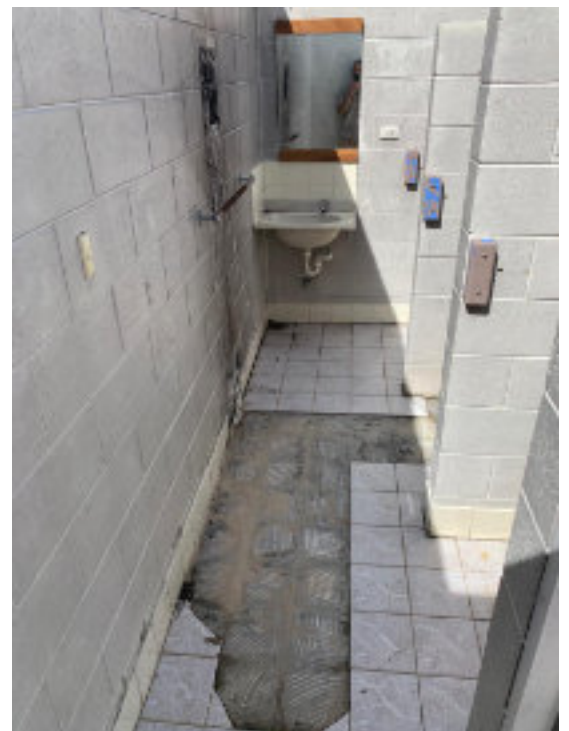
"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4.

May each one of us look forward to the time when we will once more meet with her!

Elim Heights Working Bee

Ahead of the anticipated rebuilding of shed and hall, the Elim Heights committee has identified a number of maintenance and repair items that need attention.

A working bee has been scheduled for the 4th of October, with all available hands needed to help.



In Memory of Our Brother Duraisamy Sureshkumar

On behalf of the Australasian Union Conference, we wish to convey our deepest sympathies to the Sureshkumar family: Sister Chandra, her children—Janet, Johnson, and Joan; son-in-law Emmanuel Roshan, and daughter-in-law Jasmine Johnson; and grandchildren: Hannah, Samuel, and Danielle—we also send our sincere condolences to other family members spread around the world.

We were shocked and very sad to hear the news of the passing away of Brother Duraisamy Sureshkumar, who fell asleep in Jesus on Thursday, 27th August 2020. Although, to the Christian, death is but a sleep, a moment of silence and darkness. "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..." John 11:25-26.

Brother Duraisamy Sureshkumar left behind a wonderful example of a faithful child of God. During the decades that he tirelessly ministered in the work of the Lord, he was respected everywhere for his faithfulness, his knowledge, diligence, friendliness, kindness, for being a wonderful Christian friend and brother, and he touched the lives of many. His work in serving the Lord was respected by many around the world, where he served in various capacities, in Local Church, Field, Union, Regional Secretary, General Conference Vice-President and President. We particularly appreciated his visits to Australia during the times he came to officiate at our Union Conferences. Our dear brother's reward will be given from Jesus' own hands at His return.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13.



The funeral service for Brother Sureshkumar was held at 2:00pm on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 Roanoke time. For those who wish to watch the funeral service and interment, you will find them on the "SDARM Roanoke" channel on Youtube.

"For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." 1 Thessalonians 4:14.

We look forward to seeing our dear brother again soon. Brother Sureshkumar will be sorely missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with the grieving family.

Children's Online Programs - Positive Reviews

Some thoughts received by the Education Department from mothers of young children regarding the children's on-line programs:

"We are in the USA in a church without other young children. For us, the interactive Sabbath School class begins Friday evenings, and my children now look forward to the opening of Sabbath as they never have before. It's been a great blessing and encouragement for them to see other children like themselves studying to follow the Lord. Thank you so much for making this available!" Alicia – USA

"We, as a family, have been very thankful for the children's classes. My children enjoy the short and very interesting Bible studies. The teachers put a lot of effort into making them at a child's level. It's also nice to see their friends from around Australia. It gives the children a sense of belonging and a way to keep in touch with their friends. Every off week from the Bible class we have had a different family doing something practical with the children. This has been fun with different ones blessing us with their talents. If you haven't joined in with your children yet, please do. They will be blessed, and we look forward to seeing you!" Danica – Australia

Reflections on Ninety Years of Life

Br Aca Ilic, at a recent prayer meeting, had some words of reflection after his 90th birthday.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the time has come for me to say a few words at the end of my ninetieth year. Yesterday was my birthday.

I was born in September, 1930 in Metkovic, Yugoslavia. I was baptised when I was 13 years old in May, 1943, during World War II. We heard about the Reform Movement in the third quarter of 1945, and in 1946 we became members.

At that time, I thought that I would never even see my 50th birthday—I was waiting for Jesus to come. I did not even plan to get married. But the years passed, and I got married. I am thankful for that. We have three sons, and now I have grandchildren. The time even came for them to get married.

I am still alive, and I thank the Lord for all these things. How long it will go, only the Lord knows.

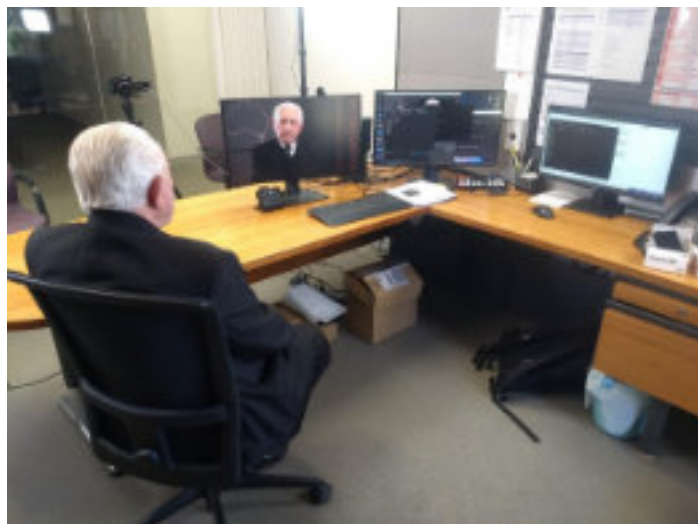
Tonight when I arrived for prayer meeting, I said to Sr. Weymark, “Today is the first day of my 91st year. I am a year ahead of you.” She replied, “Oh, I’ll catch up to you!”

I thank the Lord for everything.

AUC Studio Hosts History Lesson

A project from Brazil saw Brother A. C. Sas prepare and record a history lesson on the origin and early history of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement. The presentation was delivered in the Portuguese language.

Since the start of pandemic restrictions in March, we have put a lot of work into upgrading the AUC President’s office to also function as a studio, enabling video recording on demand. One window was blacked out, lighting installed, and studio equipment was donated, including camera, microphones and a media production computer. A backlit map of Australia and New Zealand hangs on the wall. This setup has been used in a number of productions, and has proven invaluable.



Br. Sas’ recording was very well received in Brazil, much to his and our satisfaction. He has now informed us that he will be preparing the same in the English language.

You may have seen the video “History of the Reform Movement” which was part of the *Reformation Series*. This was filmed by Br. Sas in 1998. Asked if the new video would be the same as that, he replied that people continually ask new questions, and that this would be very much an expanded presentation. Stay tuned for this!



Dedication of Eleanor Dammasch

They wanted to come to conferences, but those were all cancelled. They wanted to go to Queensland, but the borders closed. Finally, the parents of little Eleanor Dammasch requested that we have her dedicated right in her home.

It was not to be a small affair, however. With a several church members in the area, and friends and family gathered, quite a few people came together on Sabbath the 5th of September.

Br. Nathan Tyler presented a Bible study for families, based on the story of Elijah. He talked briefly about why we dedicate children, following the example of Mary and Joseph when they brought Jesus to be dedicated, and in the same manner as parents brought their children to Jesus to pray for them. Then everyone knelt as a special prayer was offered for baby Eleanor and her family, that they would have God's special grace to raise her for Him.



Elim Heights Caretaker Still Needed

The caretaker position for Elim Heights Youth Camp is still vacant. It's a wonderful opportunity for someone who would like to enjoy the country lifestyle and is comfortable with operation and maintenance of machinery and facilities, and other related duties.

If you are interested in knowing more regarding this position, please don't hesitate to contact Br. Joe Voncina (AUC Secretary/Treasurer & EHYC Committee Chairman) on landline phone number: (02) 9627 7553, mobile 0433 239 955 or by email jvoncina@sdarm.org.au for further information.



Upcoming Events



Month of Stewardship

Date: October, 2020

Venue: all churches and online services

Info: www.sdarm.org.au/events/month-of-stewardship/

Contact: info@sdarm.org.au



AUC Youth Conference 2020

Date: 25-31 December, 2020

Venue: Online

Contact: info@sdarm.org.au

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