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### Our Theme

A theme was announced last year for our strategic planning for the current term. This will be, “Uplifting Jesus, Serving People, Proclaiming Truth.”

We uplift Jesus by studying His character, accepting His righteousness, and depending on His daily grace.

We serve people by ministering to their physical, mental and spiritual needs, with prayer that they may be blessed, enriched, and led to a closer relationship with God.

We proclaim truth by making God’s word our standard, understanding its teachings, and upholding and preaching the present truth message.

We would encourage local churches and conferences to plan their conference themes around this general theme. For example, the theme for the NSW Conference camp this year will be, “Saved to Serve.” This reflects the thought that Jesus saved us so that we may not only have a place in His kingdom, but serve others in the hope that they too may accept that opportunity.

It is hoped that this theme will form a basis around which we can focus our efforts and reflect on our mission as a church.

UPLIFTING *Jesus*  
SERVING *People*  
PROCLAIMING *Truth*



## Trafford Hughes Baptism

Yowah, QLD — We were blessed to visit brethren in country Queensland in January, and we had a wonderful Sabbath together with Br Trafford Hughes, Sr Valda Hughes and Sr Dorothy Kelly. We praise God that Br Trafford Hughes decided to recommit his life to God. He was baptised on the 23rd of January 2021 in a small country town in far west Queensland. May God bless Br Trafford and his wife, Sr Valda and keep them by His grace. Please keep them in your prayers.

~ Ben Thiel



## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Latza Barat

I want to thank the Lord that He has blessed my mother with 90 years of life and that we have been privileged to have her as our mum.

Mum was born on the 14th March, 1931 in a little village in Macedonia. Her childhood was not an easy one, as she had little education and had to work hard. However, my mum was very bright—give her a needle, some thread and material, and she could create wonderful clothes. She became a dressmaker/tailoress and has blessed many people with the clothes she has sewn or mended.

Her early life instilled a strong work ethic in all her family, and she has been working in her garden for many years, enjoying the fruit of her labours and giving to others of the food from her garden.

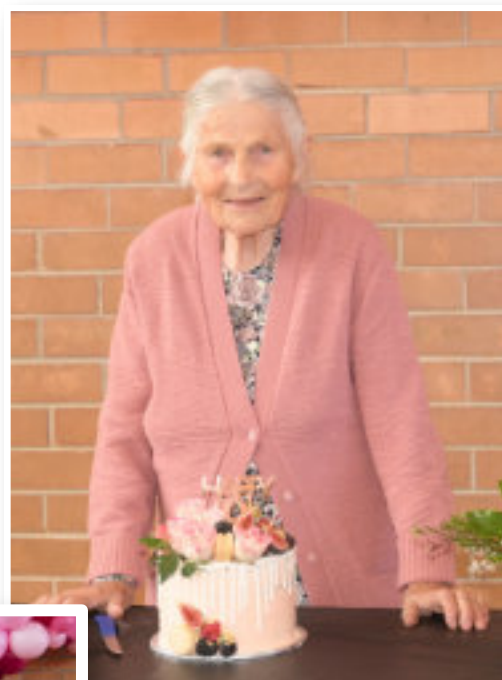
We had a birthday celebration on Sunday, 14th March, and all 4 of her children, 8 of her 12 grandchildren, and 9 of her 13 great grandchildren were there to make her birthday a special day for her and to honour her for all the love and care she has given to each one of us. We pray that God will richly bless her and give her many more happy and rewarding years.

~ Lizy Thiel

*It is with appreciation in our hearts for the life of Sister Latza Barat that we would like to thank God for the years of service that she has given to the Lord. Not only by supporting her late husband Steven Barat in the ministry, but her hospitality and kindness was appreciated by many. Brother Barat worked in the various states of the Australasian Union Conference for many years, serving as a minister of the gospel.*

*We take this opportunity to also congratulate Sister Latza Barat on this milestone in her life and pray God will continue to care for her in the coming years.*

~ Editor



# News from Queensland Conference

## Updates on the Clayfield house renovation

We believe that God has ways and means to help them that trust in Him. Sometimes our faith is tested, but as long as we keep our faith alive, God will supply our needs according to the riches of His glory.

We are happy we were able to finish the installation of the flooring for the hall of the Clayfield church house. Now the hall and the kitchen look neat and tidy and ready for some missionary activities that are being planned. We thank God for impressing so many people to contribute generously towards this project. Many thanks to all who have given so far praise God lots of progress has been made! We have now reached our goal and completed the first stage of the Clayfield project.

Now we are looking at the *last major stage* of the project, which is to rebuild the front veranda. This will require additional funds, but we believe that God will provide in His own time by touching the hearts of those who can give.

We ask all who would like to help to give generously as we push forward to finalise the front veranda which is very badly in need of repairs for the safety of all and so we can run missionary activities in the future.

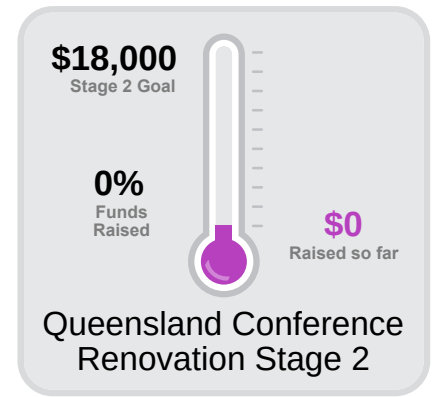
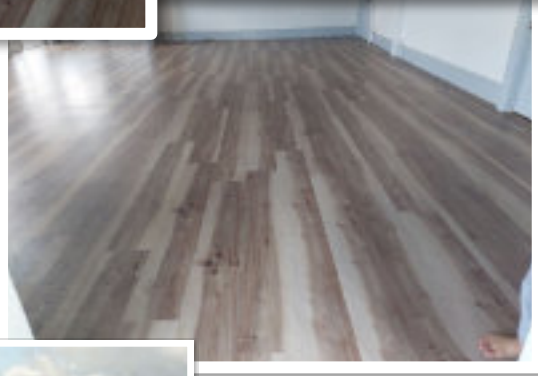
## Baptism

In the book of Luke, chapter 15, we find a parable of Jesus which He concluded like this, "Likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just person which need no repentance."

On May 22, 2021 the brethren from Queensland held a combined Sabbath meeting, with visitors from New South Wales attending, along with friends and relatives of Sr. Aimasi Jenny Foases, who was getting baptised on this day. The service was led by Brother Alfredo Carlos Sas, our retired minister, and was followed by the profession of faith, led by Brother Larry Ah Ching, an ordained elder. Then on Sabbath afternoon we went to the beach, where the baptism of Sister Jenny was performed by our GC Pacific Regional Secretary, Brother Ben Thiel, followed by the fellowshipment led by Brother Randy Acquiatan.

We all felt the joy of heaven over one soul that had come to the Lord.

~ Randy Acquiatan



# WA Youth Camp - Coral Bay

In the early hours of the morning on a summer day in January 2021, a group of families left Perth and made their way up the coast of Western Australia to a beautiful place called Coral Bay.

Coral Bay is a beautiful little bay with a reef and sand dunes for four-wheel driving. It is about 12 hours drive north of Perth and is a very popular holiday destination for locals and tourists and great for families and children.

This trip had been looked forward to with much anticipation as it had been postponed for a number of months due to the Covid pandemic. The weather was warm and calm, perfect for holidaying.

Some of the group took a couple of days to get to Coral Bay, as they stopped overnight at another place; and others of the group did it in one go, driving half the night and most of the next day to get there. We finally all met together and set up tents and caravans and chalets, laughing and catching up with one another.

The first morning, once everyone had eaten breakfast and had worship, we all hit the beach with our beach tents, sunscreen, hats, snorkels etc., and had a wonderful day relaxing and snorkelling in the cool water. This became our pattern for the week that our group was at Coral Bay.

Some of the group had kayaks and there was a paddle board which was fun watching different ones trying to stand up on! Poor Br. Jacques (who was the owner of the board) found it not as easy as other people made it look, and he was the subject of laughter from the rest of the group, watching him try valiantly again and again! But he did manage to last a few seconds once, before succumbing to gravity!!

There was a small reef that was visited and snorkelled around by most of the group with lots of positive reports on the underwater beauty.

The evenings were spent socialising with each other

and playing different games, with lots of laughter and fun.

Worship was taken by a designated young person each evening, with different points being brought out and some discussed at length.

Sabbath afternoon was spent walking along the beach to a cove where a lot of reef sharks were found and watched by those strong enough to make the full distance. In the evening we all drove a short distance up to the sand dunes and watched the beautiful sunset together. It was a beautiful ending to an enjoyable holiday with church friends.

The next day saw the group pack up and begin the long journey home.

We want to thank God for the beauty of the ocean and for the lovely fellowship with church friends and family and the opportunity to spend time in nature together. Even though this earth has suffered from close to 6000 years of sin, there are still little remnants of the original beauty God created all those years ago. We thank God for that and pray that all were spiritually refreshed and encouraged.

We also thank those who organised and planned the camp. It was very much enjoyed and well worth the effort!

Thank you and God bless,

Shelley Gurduiala



# WA Easter Youth Camp

2-5 April 2021

The WA Easter youth camp at Lucky Bay, outside Kalbarri National Park, was previously planned for 2020, at the same time as the regional border closure. Because of the delay however, we were happy to have Lidia and Joe Voncina visiting in time for the camp.

Most families started arriving around 4 o'clock Friday afternoon, and we set up camp before worship and opening Sabbath.

Sabbath School the next morning was taken by Luke Kneebone and included a very long discussion, since no one except Luke had a Sabbath School lesson.

In place of a sermon, Gerson Robles, Cameron Brown, Luke Kneebone, and Catherine Robles gave instruction on how to prepare a sermon or worship, designed to help the youth with presenting worships or talks. They were all very helpful, and they showed a variety of methods and styles. This may have been in response to previous comments from the young people that they were given worships to take without any previous training. The youth were then given an opportunity to put their brand-new training to use by being placed in groups of two and taking a worship each for the rest of camp.

After lunch, and an unfortunate incident involving Dina and her lunch's closer acquaintance with the ground, we set off for the lookouts along the coast. We stopped at the Natural Bridge and Island Rock, as well as the Eagle Gorge lookout and beach, but my favourite was the Grandstand that looked down on a tiny rocky cove. After the lookouts, we went to Pot Alley, apparently named after the local crab fishers lost one too many crab pots! We stayed until after sunset and enjoyed climbing around the rocks and watching the rescue mission for the shoe that fell into the ocean, before closing Sabbath there.

On Sunday morning worship was given by Dina and Jhana, and after breakfast everyone got ready to leave for Kalbarri National Park. Like smart Western Australians, we left around 11, to a place where one of the walking trails closes at 7 am due to risk of

heatstroke and death if walked later in the day. On the way there we went past the turnoff, which we blamed on the leading car's driver rather than the navigator, since there was a very big sign.

The first lookout was the two skywalks, which some enjoyed, while others, including myself, avoided looking down and left as soon as possible! After that was the walk to Nature's Window, which was beautiful, but we were beginning to understand why people didn't go there in the hottest part of the day.

After lunch at the Z Bend lookout, the more adventurous members of the group took the trail down to the river and then met up with the rest of the group at the lookout (Except Johnny and Luke who climbed up the side of the gorge to get to the lookout, naturally). After that was a swim and kayak at the mouth of the Murchison River.

On the way back to camp there were some frantic preparations for a worship that was moved to an earlier time to fit all the groups in. After both worships were presented by Isaac and Esther, and Hannah and Johnny, camp was officially closed, and some people went to bed. But since camps do not usually end once they are closed, a discussion started up about the camp. This led to further discussion on who got to be classified as youth. It involved the disadvantages of an age cut off, what happened when non-youth came to a youth camp, and whether or not WA youth were boring for not having had enough near-death experiences. Those in the discussion that had aged out of the 13-30 age bracket were generously assured that they were not in the non-youth group and were a joy to have at youth camps. The discussion wound down at 11, and Jade and Luke kicked us out from under their caravan awning.

Those who went to the camp had a wonderful time, and there was a big round of thanks to the field youth leader, Inneka, and her assistants, Johnny and Jade, for organising it. We also thank Joe and Lidia for coming. Their presence was very much enjoyed, and it was strongly and well-argued that they should make a permanent visit.

Hannah  
Lausevic



# Ordination of Jacob DeSouza

Matthew 20:28 “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

## **The Ordination Service**

On Sabbath 27th of March 2021, our dear brother Jacob de Souza was ordained to the gospel ministry, at our church in Somerton Park, Adelaide.

We were privileged to have three active ministers present for the service, as well as retired minister Brian Jaksic. Brother Friedrich Staudinger, minister from Germany, led in prayer to begin, and the children presented an item.

Brother Ben Thiel, minister and GC Pacific Regional Secretary, addressed the church with the message “Called to Minister.” Following the sermon, Brother Miguel Mendoza, minister and Australasian Union Vice President, shared a short biography of Brother Jacob de Souza. Then Brother Ben Thiel asked questions of Brother Jacob and his dear family, Sister Sandra de Souza and their children Lucas and Isabella, in regards to this new endeavour and their willingness to serve in such capacity.

After taking the pledge from Jacob and his family, Brother Miguel Mendoza together with brethren Ben Thiel and Friedrich Staudinger ordained Brother Jacob as a minister, laying their hands on him and offering a prayer of dedication. Finally, there was the charge of the new responsibilities and privileges of a minister and the welcoming of Brother Jacob to the gospel ministry.

As Brother Nathan Tyler, AUC President, couldn't make it to this event, he sent an important and encouraging message to Brother Jacob and his family. One of the sentiments shared was, “Ministry is a sacrifice, but also a great reward. We have the privilege of working for souls, and the Lord often gives us the joy of seeing the fruits of our labours. At other times we are merely sowing seed, which may not bear fruit for years. But always we work for Him—not for ourselves, not for the church, but for Christ.”

Brother Jacob addressed the church with words of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord, and, after a closing hymn, pronounced the benediction.

If you missed it, this service can be watched online: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=852tqdx\\_HWY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=852tqdx_HWY)

## **Brother Jacob's Biography**

Born in Brazil as a Catholic, Jacob became an Evangelical at the age of 19. His younger brother, who is now a minister in the SDA church, invited him to his baptism in Brazil, where he himself was a member for about 10 years. He started visiting the SDARM church in Brazil for a while, then moved over to New Zealand and visited our church in Auckland, where in 2006 he became a member together with his wife.

Jacob invited his dear mother to visit our church in Brazil, and she started having Bible studies and eventually became a member of our church. This brought much joy to his life. His mother invited her husband to come to church, and he also got baptised years later. Today he is a deacon in the church.

About 13 years ago during the missionary school in Sydney, Jacob's beloved mother passed away. It was a very difficult time in his life. But the Lord helped him to continue and complete the missionary training. He worked at his trade of hairdressing in New Zealand until he received the call to work for the Lord in 2008. He was ordained as an elder in 2016.

Brother Jacob's passion is for teaching the truth. He enjoys giving Bible studies, sharing the precious truth we have. He enjoys very much his Sabbath School class, which he looks forward to every Sabbath.



Brother Jacob also loves spending time with his family and doing different activities with his children whenever possible.

### **Welcome to the Ministering Team**

We want to give thanks to our merciful God and pray for the De Souza family in this new stage in their lives. And as we contemplate the need of people to step up and serve in the Lord's cause, remember these words:

"Workers are needed all over the world. The truth of God is to be carried to foreign lands, that those in darkness may be enlightened by it. God requires that a zeal be shown in this direction infinitely greater than has hitherto been manifested. As a people, we are almost paralyzed. We are not doing one-twentieth part of the good we might, because selfishness prevails to a large extent among us. Cultivated intellect is now needed in the cause of God, for novices cannot do the work acceptably. God has devised our college as an instrumentality for developing workers of whom He will not be ashamed. The height man may reach by proper culture has not hitherto been realized. We have among us more than an average of men of ability. If their talents were brought into use, we should have twenty ministers where we now have one." *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 426.

To our dear Brother Jacob and family: on behalf of the Australasian Union Conference, our staff and membership, we offer you all our support and encouragement and look forward to serving together.

~ Miguel Mendoza and GT editors

## **WA Field Camp Meeting 2020**

25-30 September 2020

Another year had passed, and here we were again at the Barbers' farm, for our yearly field camp meeting. What a year it had been for all of us, especially for those in other parts of the world and for our brethren in the eastern states. We have been very blessed here in WA throughout 2020 and feel especially blessed that our camp meeting could continue as planned.

Friday September 25th and Sabbath is approaching. The marquee is up, tents and caravans are in their spot around the campfire circle, parents are gathering their children for the opening meeting and excitement reigns in the camp once again. Our camp theme, "Crucified with Christ," comes as a timely reminder for each of us, who desire to have this be so in our daily lives. Our opening topic, taken by Luke Kneebone, is "Christ and Him Crucified." This set the hopeful mood for our remaining camp topics, even though pending rain loomed above, as a casting shadow. But prayers have been said to keep the rain away, and so far, so good.

Some of our topics included "From Heaven to Calvary," "Why the Cross?," "The World Crucified to Me," "The Old Man Crucified with Christ," "Crucified with Christ," "The Power of the Cross," "The Cost of Calvary," "To Crucify the Flesh and Lusters," and a few more. The most touching to my heart, for me personally, was the topic "The Road to Calvary through the Eyes of Christ." Sabbath afternoon, a fun and engaging Young People's meeting was taken by Inneka, of which we all participated. Our brains were well stretched.

Sunday, Day Three. A craft activity for the younger children, decorating little trinket boxes around the

craft table. For the older children and youth, the challenging activity was to build two billy carts, mentored by Luke, Chris, and George, which was a huge success and one of the highlights of the camp.

The billy carts finally built; it was time to put them to the test. What fun they had, including myself! This ended up being the main entertainment for the rest of the camp, with children of all ages vying for a ride.

The rain tried its hardest to hold off but eventually down it came. Thankfully, it wasn't for long, but nonetheless we had good-sized mud puddles in the dirt driveway and Monday, Day Four, saw a few with wet bedding and leaky tents. And what else do children like to do? Yes! Play in the mud. Some of the children were covered from top to bottom, clothes, and all, in very muddy clay. But what is a camp without making childhood memories!

Our official camp had closed Sunday night, but some families were staying on through Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, as it had been decided that a longer more relaxed camp was desired. Worships and meetings continued over these days keeping the same theme going. It was really nice to have a more relaxed and longer camp, and we were incredibly grateful that the rain had not dampened the spirits of the campers. When asked what the children enjoyed most about the camp, the unanimous answer was, playing in the mud and the billy cart rides.

As the last campers trailed out the gate, Wednesday 30th, it was sad to see them go. Field camp meeting 2020 had once again been an uplifting and enjoyable experience, in spite of the rain.

~ Robyn Barber

# In Memory of Peter James Jackson

23 February 1950 – 8 March 2021

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Brother Peter Jackson, former Australasian Union Conference Secretary, and much-loved brother in Christ.

Brother Peter Jackson was first introduced to the Third Angel's Message through his wife-to-be, Sister Charmaine. While he was still in the Royal Australian Air Force, he read the book *The Great Controversy*, became convinced of the Present Truth, and gained an early discharge from the Air Force. After receiving Bible Studies from Brother Neville Brittain, Brother Jackson was baptised in 1973 and became a much loved and respected member of Clayfield Church in Queensland.

Brother Jackson loved Bible prophecy. Many of our members who grew up in Queensland will remember the presentations on prophecy he would give in sermons, youth meetings and baptismal classes.

Brother Jackson's zeal and love for the message led him to being invited to full-time service for the Lord, first as a canvasser, and then later as a Bible instructor, serving the Queensland Conference for several years. He later served as Secretary of the Australasian Union Conference (AUC) and Director of the AUC Publishing Department. During his years of service, both voluntary and paid, he contributed greatly to the upbuilding of Christ's church here in the Australasian Union Conference. During the early to mid 1990's he was instrumental in revising the Present Truth Correspondence Course and AUC Bylaws and later developing the Working and Policies Guide. As the Education Department Director for the Australasian Union Conference, he also established "Elim Missionary College," and formulated its motto, "I Study, I Work for Eternity." He also developed much material that would serve as a guide for church education departments around the world.

Always the diligent worker, Br Jackson devoted many hours over many years to preparing and then typing up Bible studies and sermons that later became part of his "Present Truth Sourcebook," a compilation of over 1,000 Bible studies and sermons expounding on the message for these last days. This sourcebook has become an invaluable resource that many gospel workers throughout the world continue to utilise in their own ministries today. His 45-page book, "The Nature of Christ", now included in his sourcebook, was also a helpful resource in defending the truth on the humanity of Jesus. The tracts on "Christmas" and "Easter" were also prepared by Br Jackson and are still being published today here in the AUC.

Family meant a great deal to Brother Jackson. His sermons on marriage and the family were treasured



by many. He also edited Brother A. C. Sas' book, *Gateway to a Happy Home*. In 1995 and 1999 Brother Jackson represented the AUC as a delegate to the General Conference Session, where he was well regarded for his work on the session Bylaws and Doctrinal committees respectively.

Perhaps what has inspired those who knew him well was his love for the message, his unwavering integrity, and his unfailing love for his family. Indeed, what he taught, he lived. With certainty it can be said of Brother Jackson, "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."

We look forward to the day when we shall meet him again on the resurrection morning.

~ AUC Office.

## ***Reflections on the life of Peter Jackson***

Dad was born, sixth of 10 children, on February 23, 1950. His parents had a strong faith in God and were very active in their local Methodist church. This devotion to God had a strong influence on Dad, and the principles he was raised with were always forefront in his life decisions. He grew up on Cribb Island – now known as the Brisbane airport.

Aside from church and school, his growing years were full of love, laughter, fun and adventure. Nanna poured herself and all her love into her children; and although she believed in firm discipline, her arms were ever open, and her heart overflowed with an incredible love for her children, grandchildren, friends



and neighbours. Poppa was a quiet, stable influence in the home. These were qualities which were strongly reflected in Dad's own life.

After completing school Dad joined the Air Force where he faithfully served his country until he met Mum and discovered a new passion – prophecy and the second coming of Jesus. He threw his energy into the study of God's Word. After extensive studies with Br Britain, he was convicted on the Sabbath message and refraining from carrying of arms. He pleaded with God to be released from his contract with the RAAF so he could follow his convictions, and after spending all night in prayer, he was overwhelmed with a speedy answer. Around this time, the RAAF decided to offer redundancies – the only time in Australian history – and he was released. Dad was baptised and remained unwavering in his convictions to his last breath.

Dad worked in various management roles during our growing years. However, his focus and energy remained on his children, working tirelessly to not only support our physical, mental and emotional needs, but to instil a love for God and an unwavering faith in His love and His Word. Dad would say, "we must be minute men" prepared to respond to God's call at a moment's notice. So, when we were somewhat older, he accepted a call as a Bible worker in the Queensland Field. From there he was invited to work for the Union where he spent three years. His approach to Bible studies was to anchor the receiver in the love of God first and foremost, then to develop an understanding and appreciation for the link between love and obedience. Being passionate that order is one of God's many requirements led Dad to begin working on the Policies and Procedures and the first significant revision of the Bylaws for the Australasian Union Conference. Whenever I went to him with questions for the Education Department, he would draw on documents he had begun to develop in his earlier years with both the Union and GC, with a view to developing a guide for the Department. He had this wealth of information which he had stored just in case it was ever needed. He was fully invested in the work of the Education Department, and I would spend hours talking through ideas, concerns and projects with him. He was, and continues to be, my greatest inspiration.

Dad was intrigued with emerging technology, and I remember him taking numerous evening courses at the local college through his working years. He purchased his first computer during my early teenage years, and after he taught us to type from an early age, we would beg him to allow us on his computer. He would sit us at the computer and explain how to access files using the dot prompt, how to save files and use the function keys. Then he would allow us to assist him in his project of digitising the sermons he had collected over the years. Along with these, he

also built on his own studies and created a large collection on every topic he came across. I remember six large folders, each filed according to topic A, B, C and D. Br Gerson contacted me shortly after losing Dad to say that he has been making these available online, which I am very grateful for. Dad's greatest desire was to have the gospel message and the Bible truths he had discovered for himself available to every seeking heart.

Dad was methodical, with a 'never say die' approach to every task presented him. If he didn't have an answer, he didn't stop until he found one. He researched in-depth information on health, gardening, painting and computers. He was a calm man who stood like a rock for his convictions. His courage and unwavering steadfastness had a great influence on the lives of his children and grandchildren, who were ever lifted in his heart to God in prayer.

Worships are a beautiful memory, especially opening Sabbath where we would all join in singing praises to God. Dad was ever an enthusiastic singer, and, as with everything he undertook, he would put his heart and soul into 'making a joyful noise unto the Lord'. Having the privilege of living with them in recent years, I would pop over to ask a question, take back a dish I had borrowed or some other little thing – any excuse to 'pop in', and the memory of Mum and Dad having worship, discussing their reading or on their knees in prayer is seared into my memory. Dad's love for music led to his purchasing hundreds of old records and converting them to MP3. Thousands of gospel songs have been converted over and stored on memory. This music was always playing in the lounge, in his office and in the car – hearts ever uplifted to Heaven in praise.

Mum and Dad moved to the Riverina in 2018 and have spent the last several years building their current home while enjoying spending time with their children and grandchildren. They spent hours in the yard together building a garden and orchard, and it was my privilege to be a part of this. Dad believed that part of a healthy lifestyle involved a thriving garden.

I was chatting with Dad shortly before his birthday – only days before his hospitalisation – and it suddenly came to me that God gives to man threescore and ten years and that Dad had exceeded that. Dad said, "Yes, I have lived the years God has given me, and every day from here is a bonus. God is good." The incredible thing about Dad was that he was as ready to die as he was to live. He never once feared death. His faith in the loving arms of His Saviour wrapping him up in rest was so very real. This is the faith, hope and peace I wish for each of you, my friends.

~ By Ruth Rodionoff (Peter's daughter)

*"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."*

# Bush Camp Report

## ***NSW Conference Easter Regional Campout, 2nd to the 5th of April, 2021***

The COVID lockdown in Australia had taken its toll. For several months throughout 2020, members had been worshipping at home. Camp meetings were a thing of the past, a distant memory of days gone by when freedom reigned. So, it was with great relief that in early 2021, COVID restrictions eased in most of the States, and east coast borders opened.

Making the most of the opportunity, over the Easter weekend of 2021, the New South Wales Conference hosted a regional camp meeting affectionately called a “bush camp.” It was tents-only and BYO food and drinks.

At first, we were going to make it a campout close to the border of New South Wales and Victoria—an opportunity for us to renew our inter-state relationships as a church family. But we thank the Lord that Brother Robbie and Sister Mary Wiseman opened their gates for us to hold the camp on their farm in central NSW. Portable amenities were hired, along with a marquee and chairs, a portable cool room, and for the children, a jumping castle. The hire of the castle and much of the other facilities was through the kind donations of a few.

the Sabbath drew near, several cars, SUV’s and 4WDs began arriving at the Wiseman farm. Familiar faces, long unseen hopped out to set up camp. There were families from Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales. Over 150 guests attended for the Sabbath program.

The theme, in support of the AUC strategic plan, was “Jesus, Our All In All.” Brother Miguel Mendoza opened the camp with the topic, “Christ, the Servant.” We considered Christ as the Servant of the Most High, Who came to our world as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, Who lived a life possessed of one purpose: To bless others.

For Sabbath morning worship, Brother Larry Ah Ching presented, “Christ, the Revelation of God”. Jesus came to reveal the character of God to us—to reveal Him as a Father who loves us—in order that we might love Him and be restored into a loving relationship with Him Who so loved the world. As we



behold the life of Jesus, we actually see what our Father in heaven is like. Thus, we are led to love Him.

For the Sabbath Divine Service, Brother Paul Chapman preached, “Christ, the Saviour of All” and the implication that has for each of us. He died for all—that we who live might not live for ourselves but for him. He touched on how to find Christ as a personal Saviour and in turn appreciate what it means for Christ to be our all in everything.

The Youth Meeting, led by Brother Nathan Wiseman and Sister Lucy Wiseman, was a feast of praise and testimony in song and music.

For the close of Sabbath, Brother Nathan Tyler led us to consider Christ as the power of God “unto salvation” (Rom 1:16) -- our Saviour from the power of sin in our life. He dwelt on why we need power, how we obtain power and Who is the source of power in our spiritual life. 1 Cor 1:18, 24: “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

The Saturday evening hours were spent in fellowship around the bonfire or just sharing a meal with church family and friends.

On Sunday morning, Brother Ivan Feaveai, our youngest preacher during the camp, spoke on “Christ, the Friend of Sinners.” He dwelt on what it means to know Jesus as a friend and how that affects your personal walk with God.



After a quick breakfast we all broke out into groups for the day's activities. These included a working farm tour, a bushwalk and mountain climb, and helicopter rides for those who enjoy aerial views. For the children, the jumping castle proved a hit.

The day's activities concluded with evening worship presented by Brother Sam Batger, entitled "Christ, the Lord of My Life".

"In order to receive the virtue of the blood of Christ, even the forgiveness of your sins, you must consent to the conditions he imposes. 'If any man will come after me,' he says, 'let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.' **Seeking pardon of sin from his cross, you will seek direction from his throne.** Looking to and believing in Christ as your personal Saviour, is your only hope of salvation. Receiving Christ in all his completeness, you are in truth able to sing:--

'I will follow thee, my Saviour,  
Wheresoe'er my lot may be.  
Where thou goest, I will follow;  
Yes, my Lord, I'll follow thee.'

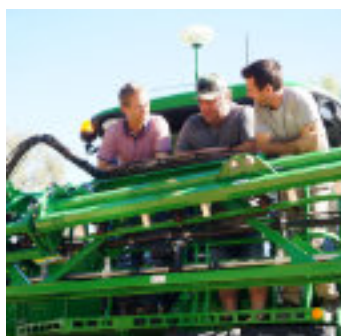
*The Youth's Instructor*, October 2, 1902. [Emphasis supplied].

By Sunday night a few families who needed to get home for the morning had packed and left. Those who remained for one more night were refreshed with the Monday morning worship taken by Brother Ben Thiel, "Christ, My Mediator." As our mediator, Jesus is the one who ministers for us before the Father in heaven, providing grace for our needs, and pleading mercy for us continually, until we arrive unto the full measure of His character, perfectly reflecting His image to the world.

"Jesus stands in the holy of holies, now to appear in the presence of God for us. There He ceases not to present His people moment by moment, complete in Himself. But because we are thus represented before the Father, we are not to imagine that we are to presume upon His mercy and become careless, indifferent, and self-indulgent. Christ is not the minister of sin. We are complete in Him, accepted in the Beloved, only as we abide in Him by faith." *Faith and Works*, p. 107.

We praise God that we could join to worship Him together, encourage each other and enjoy the lovely New South Wales countryside. Though we were sorry that we missed getting a photo of those who attended, we did manage to take a group photo of those who stayed till Monday morning. We were all so grateful for this wonderful opportunity to renew our spiritual energy and obtain a fresh focus on Jesus, our all in all.

~ Paul Chapman



# First Trans-Tasman Bubble Conference

Community spread, contact tracing, index case, index patient, patient zero, self-quarantine, social distancing, and super-spreader are all associated with SARS-CoV2, Novel coronavirus, Coronavirus, and COVID-19. Along with a crisis situation unprecedented in our lifetimes, there has also been upheaval in our language!

Another phrase, “travel bubble,” has been used in relation to the opening of borders between countries during pandemic. Because of pandemic restrictions and the closure of borders between Australia and New Zealand, conferences and travel have been restricted to a great degree. Providentially, on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the borders opened between the two countries, and we could have our first “travel bubble” conference.

Last year, the New Zealand Field decided to hold its Annual General Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020 via Zoom teleconference. This worked, and allowed some members to attend who otherwise couldn't, as well as the AUC representative to chair the session, but as we all know, it's just not the same this way.

So as soon as the “bubble” was announced, plans were made for a special conference weekend and AGM at our church in New Lynn, Auckland, the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021. Brother Nathan Tyler, AUC President, was able to come and stay in New Zealand for a full week and preside at the Annual General Meeting. It was a wonderful time we all spent together, and the meeting was a success.

The theme for the conference was “The Eleventh-Hour Worker.” For the opening of the conference, the main theme was our response to the call to labour in the Lord's vineyard (Matthew chapter 20).

“This parable does not excuse those who hear the first call to labor but who neglect to enter the Lord's vineyard.... None of those called later in the day were there in the morning. They had not refused the call. Those who refuse and afterward repent, do well to repent; but it is not safe to trifle with the first call of mercy” (*Christ Object Lessons*, p. 399).

“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest” (Matt. 9:37, 38).

The message on Sabbath was about “Realising Our Need,” focusing on the condition of Laodicea and our tendency to not realise our own need and spiritual condition.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021. It was a lovely, beautiful, sunny day, and business was able to run efficiently. We praise the Lord that we made it in person this time. We trust that in the future, He will continue to open the way for us!

“If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one. But, though professing to be converted, we carry around with us a bundle of self that we regard as altogether too precious to be given up. It is our privilege to lay this burden at the feet of Christ and in its place take the character and similitude of Christ. The Saviour is waiting for us to do this” (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 189).

“Unless the people are reached through God, they will never be reached. We are to rely wholly upon God, pleading His promise [Zechariah 4:6]” (*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 50).

~ Arnaldo Pedrosa



# Baptism - Perth WA

Sabbath 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Due to Perth COVID restrictions with indoor meetings, Guildford Church and some Stratham members and visitors enjoyed a beautiful mild, sunny Sabbath day by the banks of the Swan River, at Sandy Beach Reserve in Bassendean, where we worshipped our Saviour.

Brother Jacques Payet held an inspiring Divine Service message on how Jesus paid our debt on Calvary, and because of this, we have the assurance from Galatians 2:20, "The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

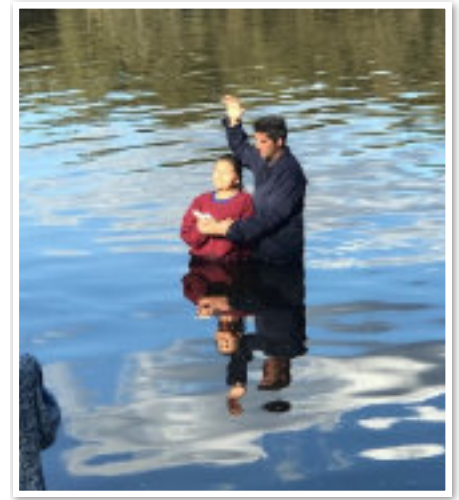
After a picnic lunch, Brother Luke Kneebone led a short sermon and the Profession of Faith with the candidate for baptism, Sister Gloria Robles. A beautiful item was sung, "Nearer my God to Thee," and several recommendations were given for Sister Gloria to be baptised.

Sister Gloria gave a short testimony, and thanked God for the new opportunity to be re-baptised. She shared how she had suffered through previous life choices but is thankful that God forgives and has opened the way for her to rededicate her life to Him. Her prayer is to follow Him and to testify of Him to others.

To the strains of "I will follow thee my Saviour," which the congregation sang while instruments were played, Brother Luke led Sister Gloria into the water for the baptism. Her face was alight with God's peace and joy.

Brother Jacques extended the hand of fellowship to Sister Gloria, and we all greeted and welcomed her into our church family. We praise God for another precious soul that has been saved and whose name is written in the books of Heaven.

~ Helen Milosavljevic



## In Pictures: Schofields Sing-along



# Youth Outreach Weekend

April 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

What a blessed time the youth and (those young at heart) experienced this weekend! We began on Sabbath, where we were blessed to spend the day at the Melton community church, thanks to the Batger family. What made the day so special is that it was run by the youth!

We began the day as every day should, worshipping and praising God with song. It was a cold day, but our voices filled our hearts and the humble room with warmth. Many songs later, the youth began Sabbath School, directed by Caleb Wiseman. We were asked to try and focus on making our Bible lesson presentations engaging and promoting discussion. Though most of us are shy and coming out of our shells, it is an important skill to learn (and something that I know many youth want to grow stronger in) to have confidence and boldness for the truth and evangelising.

After Sabbath School and more singing, Sam Batger had a thought-provoking and eye-opening Bible study to share, titled "Living a Life that Matters." He discussed about our human nature and asked if there was a difference between human nature and sinful nature. Most, including myself, said no, but he challenged our thoughts—and what a spiritual advancement we all made! In short, I learnt that we were created perfect in the beginning. When Jesus came to this earth, He was both God and human. Our human nature can be like Jesus' nature, once we have accepted His sacrifice and let His strength, and only His strength, help us be as He was, tempted in all points, yet without sin.

Our dear sisters helped with preparing delicious haystacks for lunch and enjoyed fellowship with so many new faces! Shortly after lunch we split up into groups and went letterboxing around the Melton area, spreading papers offering free copies of *The Great Controversy*. We pray that the book will be a light and provide a new perspective to those who request a copy.

As night was approaching, we were very thankful to have the close of Sabbath and dinner at Sister Esther and Brother John Boje's house, where the youth had more meaningful conversations and played fun games!

After a long day, we were all up again to continue our missionary work. The effort made by all the youth to come down to Melton again early Sunday morning was an inspiration! On a warm and sunny morning there were around 20 there to help one of our disadvantaged neighbours, and what an awesome experience we all shared.

Everyone got to work cutting plants, trimming trees, pulling out thick roots and mowing the lawn. We got rid of endless bags of rubbish, swept, washed, cleared, scrubbed, and you know what... every single person there had a great time doing it.

We had an amazing, rewarding feeling seeing our neighbour become so emotional that young people would take time from their weekend to willingly help someone. And this was our mission, our goal and our theme, James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

The memorable quote we all took from a famous Chinese proverb states—

If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap.  
If you want happiness for a day, go fishing.  
If you want happiness for a month, get married.  
If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune.  
If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody else.

We are called to deny ourselves, let go of all pride and selfishness and become meek, humble and selfless servants. This was demonstrated this weekend; it truly made us all so happy to help somebody else.

When we want to work for the Lord, He gives us an endless stream of opportunities. If we continue to work together, press together, and lift each other up, we can all reach heaven so soon! It was really heartening to see the youth genuinely passionate about this, hearing that they cannot wait for another experience like this—to experience the light, glory and prosperity that God promises us when we help others.

I end with this verse, Isaiah 58:7, 8: "Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward."

This is the work of Christ. This is the work He left for us to carry out. We pray the Lord will help us and open our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit so we can continue looking after our neighbours and loving each other just as Christ loves us.

~ Victoria Kornja

*"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'" Gospel Workers, p. 363*

# Workers Fellowship Weekend

Jesus once said to His disciples, “Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while” (Mark 6:31). A few weeks ago, our pastoral workers did take a rare opportunity to come apart, for study, meditation and prayer at our first ever AUC workers’ retreat. At a conference centre in the Blue Mountains, surrounded by God’s beautiful handiwork, we had the chance to have heart to heart talks and deepen our relationship with God, and strengthen our commitment to serve the people and each other.

Highlights included the nature walks over and around the escarpment, with magnificent panoramic views, cliffs and waterfalls among the scenery. We also enjoyed preparing our meals together, and practising a few musical items.

The most precious experience, though, was the sharing time on the last evening together. Many commented that it must have been a little bit like the

experience of the disciples in the upper room as they prayed for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Hearts were drawn closer, confessions were made, heartfelt prayers were offered, and we enjoyed a special season of refreshing.

This blessed experience proved that coming apart is not a waste of time, but that God’s people should do more of this, especially in view of the times in which we live.



## Should Photoshop be banned?

By Chantelle Batger

Photoshop should be banned on portrait photos in the media and advertising. Why? Here is what I think.

Photoshop is an app that is used to change any features of a photo. In some cases, such as changing backgrounds and enhancing the surroundings of your photos, I believe that this is ok. But when it comes to altering the body that God gave you, I believe that this is wrong for many reasons.

Photoshop is used to lure people into buying products or reading content. Only the ‘good looking’ people appear in every photo, but is this what they truly look like? Photoshop is used to say, “If you use our product, you will look like this.” But the reality is, they will never look like that—because the photo is setting unrealistic expectations for the consumer.

It also gives out low self-esteem vibes to those who don’t look like that ‘amazingly gorgeous’ person in the photo. Often people do think that because they aren’t looking like that super-altered model, they are classified as ugly. Is this what God really wants us to think about something that belongs to Him through creation and He has bought through His redemption?

In the Bible it says that in six days God created the heavens and the earth, the water, the firmament, the ground, every herb-bearing seed, the heavenly host, the fowl of the air, the fish of the sea, and every living beast on the planet—and He said that it was good. When He created man in His own image, He said that it was very good, and He gave us dominion over everything.

Jesus says, “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor

yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?..... If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?” (Luke 12:22, 23, 28).

We are so important to Him, so why should we alter the magnificent body that He has created for us? Why should we believe that we need to change our facial features in order to look beautiful if we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalms 139:14).

The world might identify me as ugly or not belonging because someone else’s identity by looks was changed. God says, “I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine” (Isaiah 43:1).

If God looks after the sparrow, the lily, the grass, are we not much more important than they are? God clothes them and makes them so beautiful that, “even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these” (Matthew 6:29). Doesn’t that mean that He has arrayed us and adorned us to be beautiful without all the photoshop? He has made us beautiful just the way that we are, and we are so important to Him that He was willing to lose all eternity just for one sinner that would repent.

By coming to earth, Jesus took a great risk. If He would have sinned once, everything would have been lost. You are so very special that you don’t need to alter your body to look like others. If God had wanted everyone to look the same, He would have created us all alike, but this is not what He has intended for us.

So, be happy and content with how God made you, and remember He loves you. You are worth all the sacrifice that He has made for you.

## Upcoming Events



### **NSW Spiritual Conference**

Date: 11-14 June, 2021

Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp

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



### **Education Department Conference**

Date: 24-28 December, 2021

Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp

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

### **Missionary Training Program 2022**

Date: Feb to June, exact dates TBC

Venue: Elim Heights and AUC Office

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

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