

Upcoming Events

Prophecy Seminar

Date: 10-11, 17-18 Sept, 2022
Location: New Lynn, Auckland
Contact: Arnaldo 021 538 179

WA Camp

Date: 23-26 September, 2022
Location: Kirup, WA
Contact: Luke 0411 250 852

Camponotus Kids

Dates: 27-30 September, 2022
Venue: Seymour, VIC
Contact: AUC Office (02) 9627 7553

QLD Camp

Date: 30 Sep - 3 Oct, 2022
Location: Coolabine, QLD
Contact: Randy 0421 077 553

Week of Prayer

Dates: December 2-11, 2022
Online at www.sdarm.org

AUC Delegation Session

Dates: 26 & 27 December, 2022
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp

AUC Spiritual Conference

Dates: 28-31 December, 2022
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp
Contact: AUC Office (02) 9627 7553

Camponotus Kids

Dates: 2-4 January, 2023
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp
Contact: AUC Office (02) 9627 7553

Ed. Dept. Summer School

Dates: 2-4 January, 2023
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp
Contact: AUC Office (02) 9627 7553

Progress in East Timor

If you would like to follow the news from the East Timor Mission, you can do so at the web site: fromtimor.com

Our newly-formed East Timor Mission have obtained a parcel of land and are working to establish a headquarters and educational centre.

We have acquired a small truck and a machine for making concrete blocks, which will ensure the livelihood of eight Timorese people. We will use the blocks in the construction of our future facilities and also to sell, in order to raise some more money for the development of each stage of the project.

Many of the stages of this project were authentic challenges that caused us to have an even more persistent attitude, in an attempt to find a solution—because the greater the challenge, the more tenacious we become in facing it!

We put a lot of work, with trial and error, into the making of moulds for the concrete blocks and reinforced concrete fence columns.

One of our projects is to install a local radio tower and station, as this is a great tool, both for the spreading of the Gospel, as well as for raising awareness and providing information in the field of health, hygiene, food and education. We already have the equipment that was purchased from donations given by some brethren in Victoria, Australia, for which we take the opportunity to convey our thanks - "thank you!"

We would like to develop an organic beekeeping and agriculture project, to teach young Timorese how to work with bees in hives, because there is no such method here.



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We intend to make them aware of the great need for the preservation of the bees, as they are the most important pollinators that ensure the balance of our planet's ecosystem, as well as well as provide a food which is an important source of essential nutrients for the much-needed maintenance of health.

We also plan to work the land with the use of organic fertilisers and pesticides that will ensure that we obtain nutritious and healthy products. In the same context, we will encourage the majority of young people to acquire a taste for cultivating the land, as unfortunately the vast majority of them have the mentality that this type of work is humiliating.

In the area of construction, we intend to train young people to acquire theoretical/practical knowledge about the structure and foundation of a house, through the installations of sanitation and electrical, and ending with the thermal construction of the roof.

In a second stage, we want to expand our vocational training so that children can learn various practical activities that will help them to develop their talents and choose their professional career.

We understand that this is one of the most important and effective ways to shape their character.

In a third stage, God willing, we would like to build an orphanage, as there are a number of abandoned children who need our love and an opportunity to know family affection and have access to the same training opportunities as children who had the privilege of being born and accepted by their family.

At this stage, we also want to set up a small clinic for natural treatments that will meet the needs of the majority of Timorese, especially in the treatment of diseases considered problematic in Timor, such as tuberculosis, cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, communicable diseases, parasitic diseases, and malnutrition.

According to a survey carried out by UNICEF, in 2007, more than one in ten Timorese children suffer from malnutrition, of which one in two suffers from chronic malnutrition. Given this reality, we have prepared a systematic nutrition plan that will help many poor families to understand how to make their diet as balanced as possible, according to their material possibilities.

Your Help Needed

Please give generously to assist with the East Timor Mission.

To support this appeal, please donate through your local SDARM congregation or deposit directly:

BSB: 032-274
Account: 168675
Name: SDARM Australasia
Reference: East Timor Mission

~ The East Timor Mission



Baptism & Wedding Vow Renewal

20th March, 2022

Tony and Irene Williams first came in contact with the Guildford Church a few years back when they attended a branch Sabbath School that was running every Sabbath morning in a neighbouring suburb. After attending church meetings for a while, they stopped coming until several months ago, when they decided to make Guildford Church their home church. We have enjoyed their fellowship very much and were delighted when they decided to be baptised. Although both had been baptised previously, they felt that they were missing something in their former baptisms, and desired to make a new start in their Christian experiences by being rebaptised.

The day arrived, and we gathered on the banks of the Swan River, where we have held so many baptisms in the past. We always gather at a sandy beach that gently dips into the water to the perfect depth for baptism. Br. Luke spoke on the significance of baptism and described the inner change that the outer rite symbolised. Tony and Irene were beaming with smiles as they came up from immersion, and the rest of us were just as happy as we welcomed them into fellowship.

We all went back to the church, where many people had been busy all morning preparing for the next event on the program: renewal of Tony & Irene's wedding vows. They had a civil ceremony when they were married 10 years ago, after a courtship in which a large mango tree owned by Irene featured quite heavily. Tony loves mangoes, and he jokes that he married her for the mango tree. As their 10th anniversary approached, they decided they wanted to have a church wedding renewal, and we were only too happy to oblige.

Irene said that she didn't want everyone to go to too much trouble, but everyone decided they would go to a great deal of trouble to make the wedding special. So many people pitched in to make the occasion a blessed one for this beautiful couple. When Tony and Irene walked down the aisle, it was into a church decorated liberally with Catherine's beautiful fresh flowers. Afterward there was a reception in the hall featuring rice and curry in a nod to Tony's Indian heritage. Chloe and Jade's beautifully decorated cake and lovely table arrangements set the stage for a memorable celebration. Irene said to Catherine that next time she will tell everyone to go all out, since telling us not to go to too much trouble had the opposite effect and perhaps it would be a bit more subdued if she gave us permission to make a big fuss. Tony and Irene both expressed how happy they were to have such a welcoming church family, and said they were overwhelmed with the love and warmth. Their church family feel equally blessed to have them officially part of their number.

~ Reported by Inneka Lausevic



Camponotus Kids Camp NSW

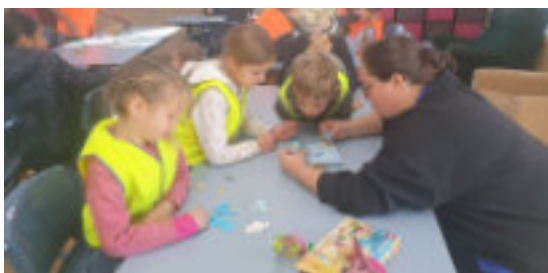
We asked the children to name one thing they were thankful for. It was a delight to hear "I'm thankful that we can have Camponotus." Although there were hours of work, planning and organising that went into the program held on the 13-14 June, it was just as much anticipated and enjoyed by the organisers. It brings so much delight to our hearts to see the smiles, hear the laughter and share the challenges with the children.

With the general theme centred around the importance of 'listening to', 'following instructions' and 'lessons learned from Jonah', a primary activity involved building a Lego pack. However, we surprised the teams by removing all the instructions. Several took on this challenge with amusement, but they responded with a ready "YES!" when the instructions were handed out.

We have all been there – the delight of opening a new purchase – then attempting to use it without reading the manual. In some instances, this serves us well enough, but the frustrations when it doesn't work!!! After voicing my grievance to my Dad on more than one occasion I would always be met with the same answer, "Well did you read the manual?"

As the children embark on their life journey, they are daily receiving instructions from God through godly parents, teachers and pastors. The activities and lessons presented throughout the program were designed to instil in them the importance of listening and following instruction, because without this, like Jonah, our path leads us into trouble.

The program included practical lessons in orienteering directed by Brothers Nathan and Rolf. The children were very eager participants – my children know how to read a compass better than I do now and have continued to demonstrate this in the weeks which followed. We are looking forward to this training leading to safely hiking the National Park surrounding Elim Heights



using a compass during our New Year program.

The children enjoyed riding their bicycles around the Elim Heights bypass. Regardless of stopping at five points to complete a task, they completed the circuit in record time.

We are so grateful to all those involved in this program who made it possible – children, parents, instructors, organisers, the cook and those who work behind the scenes cheering us on as we endeavour – with one heart and mind – to educate for eternity.

Camponotus Kids News

We look forward to reports from our Queensland and Western Australian Camponotus teams who will be delivering the programs over the coming months. WA already held their first ev-ANT on Sunday the 1st May and are getting ready to hold their 2nd one during September, Qld will hold their first on 7th August and their 2nd after Qld Camp in October.

A presentation program, with badges etc. will be held at end of year AUC Conference.

NSW/Victoria will be holding their third program in Seymour 27-30th September. The program will continue to build on the Orienteering learned.

We are excited to share the news that this program has been extended to include 13-16 years as well. This will launch in January with the first program running between Monday morning 2nd to Wednesday night 4th January alongside the other



two Camponotus Kids age groups. This program will incorporate developing a strong relationship with Jesus, understanding our mission on earth, life skills, survival skills, leadership and team skills.

There are four ev-ANTS planned for each year

Registration fees for Camponotus Kids - \$140/child per year

Non-registered children who participate in ev-ANTS \$40/child per ev-ANT

Anyone who would like to sponsor a child or make donations to Camponotus Kids Program please contact the Union Treasurer. All donations are much appreciated and most welcome.

Summer School

We are so grateful to God for bringing us through a very difficult period over the past couple of years of lockdowns due to Covid. Now this crisis has past, we look forward to re-establishing our summer school which will be held at Elim Heights following conference.

Sunday 1st January, though not part of summer school, will be a special full day outing for everyone. This will be followed by three days of practical activities and lessons. So, if you are able to build a few extra days into your plans following the annual conference, we would love you to join us.

~ Ruth Rodionoff – Education Department Director

QLD Youth Campout



While others had come before and set up camp, the car I was in arrived to camp very late – at midnight in fact. Inskip Point is very sandy, and we got stuck in the sand on our way in, because of driving too slowly. Two helpful campers got us unstuck and gave us some good advice which we would all end up using over the weekend: “Drive it like you stole it!”

The next day, Sabbath morning, dawned lovely and bright. Some young people got up early and went for a walk on the beach. Unfortunately for those of us who had come late and slept in, the weather worsened a bit through the day.

Morning worship was taken by Br Keian Reyes. After breakfast, we shared experiences for Sabbath school. Then instead of a sermon, we had an interactive Bible study led by Br Tyler.

Even though it was raining and cold, and we didn't get to get out and walk on the beach during the afternoon due to the weather, it was nice to be together huddled under our two camp marquees.

God blessed us with great weather in the evening, and we all went to Rainbow Beach and enjoyed walking on the sand and seeing all of the different colours, which give the beach its name. Kayli led out in closing of Sabbath as we sat on top of the dune watching the sunset.

Our final worship was held early Sunday morning. Some of us had to return home, while those who stayed behind enjoyed kayaking in Tin Can Bay after a picnic lunch on Sunday afternoon. ~ Daniela Balarezo



WA Youth Dinner

Fondue, being a social event, and generally acceptable to the fancy of both the gentleman and ladies of WA, was chosen as our end of year event.

The preparation for this event began a week before, with Jade Kneebone's team running all over Perth looking for enough fondue sets for the thirty people expected at the dinner. The food preparation began a few hours before the dinner was supposed to start on Sunday. The first call of duty for the helpers involved the chopping of bucketloads of vegetables (too much food being a necessity at these sort of events). There were a few mishaps in the preparations, the most prominent of these was the buying of the wrong fuel for the fondue burners, which was then spilt onto the floor causing someone to slip. Thankfully they weren't hurt, and the fuel still worked okay.

Time quickly passed and it became apparent that everything would not be ready by 5:00pm. We didn't have to worry though, because questions began to appear on the group chat, such as, "What time are we supposed to be there?" "Was it at five or six?" And from some people who didn't get the memo of 'Vegan Fondue Dinner' "Is there going to be Sushi?" The hopes of the delusional were brought back to reality with the explanation that "Fondue is Swiss and Sushi is Asian. Both great, but right now we're doing Swiss."

Once everyone had arrived the food still wasn't ready so most of the youth sat outside and played some games while waiting. Once we were all seated and said grace, we started battering the vegetables on our fondue sticks and frying them. There were comments on how the fondue sticks looked like weapons, whereupon a certain uncle stabbed his niece in the hand with one, "accidentally" of course. Another of this his shenanigans included filling up the same niece's drink with vegetables from the food platter and christening it "The Lil' Niece." I'm afraid I cannot vouch for his innocence in this instance.

As the ambassador for event recommendations, I would definitely suggest fondue, as it gets the shy talking. (Its effect on the crazy must also be taken into account).

Thank you to Jade, Johnny and Chloe for organising this event. It was very much enjoyed by everyone who attended.

~Jhana Lausevic



90th Birthdays

John Kraus

What a year was 1932. John Kraus was born on the 24th of May. This year was also one of the worst experienced years of the Great Depression that people lived through. With all the trouble and wars which they suffered—it is so wonderful that they are still here to share their experiences with the younger generations.

Brother John's favourite verse is Psalm 37:25, *"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."*

We wish to convey our best wishes and Gods blessings to Brother John. May you continue to enjoy God's bountiful care through the coming years.



Alfredo Carlos Sas

1st April 2022

Due to extra knowledge available and a better quality of life, man's lifespan seems to have increased. We praise God that several of our brothers and sisters have reached ninety and plus years and are continuing to bless us with their experiences and words of wisdom. These folk have not only lived their childhood years during The Great Depression but also experienced a hard time during World War II and are still defying all odds and happily soldiering on.

My father, Alfredo Carlos Sas, is one of these extraordinary, resilient people. He was born into an extremely poor family in Santa Catarina State, Brazil. Although he was a very frail boy. During his growing years, God had big plans for his life, He had a special work for dad to do. Being the fifth child of eight and living a simple life on a farm helped prepare him for a



life of simplicity and adversity. As he physically grew, so did his love for God grow. While still in his teen years, he decided to dedicate his life for the service of the Lord.

Not long after his baptism, Dad started working as a colporteur. He also worked in the printing house as a bookbinder, then linotypist and printer. Having done an oratory course proved very beneficial to my father when he founded and was the main speaker for the radio broadcasting program of our church in Brazil.

After entering the Bible work, he was sent to Brasilia to pioneer the work there. In 1966 Dad was ordained for the ministry and worked in Sao Paulo for a short time before being transferred to Belo Horizonte, where he stayed until he was transferred to Australia, at the end of 1969.

Dad ministered here in Australia as the Australasian Union Conference President from 1973 to 1981, and during those years he also cared for overseas fields in the Asia Pacific Region, which often took him away from our family for many months at a time.

In 1987 he was transferred to the General Conference Headquarters in Roanoke, Virginia, USA, to serve as the General Conference Secretary, a position which he filled for two terms. Then from 1995 to 2003 his final appointment was to the General Conference Presidency which took him right up to his retirement, although, until this day dad is still active corresponding with people on spiritual matters. Over his working years, he



wrote over forty booklets and books on doctrine, health, denominational history, stories for children, and a daily devotional. Included was his autobiography, *My Life Story*, which is available for purchase from RLPA.

Fifty-six seems to be a significant number for my dad; he served the Lord in his employment for 56 years, and during these years he visited 56 countries, finally retiring on the 1st of June 2004.

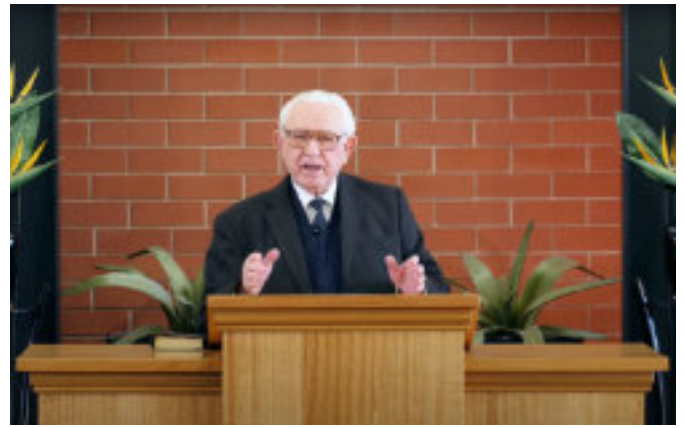
Music also played a big part in my dad's life. While young and still at home, he taught himself music from a syllabus. As a self-taught musician, he learned to play the violin and mandolin, and later was teaching those instruments. While working, Dad joined an instrumental group in the Sao Paulo Church. My father also loved singing; he has a rich deep bass voice. Dad was the founder and conductor of the central choir in Sao Paulo Church from 1951 to 1960. He composed six songs and arranged music for several hymns. Just prior to retiring, he played a big part in putting together our current church hymnbook, the *Reformation Hymnal*. Until this day, he loves to listen to sacred music and finds it very relaxing after a day of activity to just sit and watch a sacred music DVD, especially on Friday nights.

The preaching of the gospel was not the only important interest in Dad's life. He fell in love with a beautiful young woman whom he knew from childhood. They grew up together in the same neighbourhood, and in 1956 he married this love of his life: Catharina Bende. Together they had four children: Lidia, Charles, Deise (Deceased) and Rubem. During most of our mum's final years of life, Dad was able to care for her at home, but for the last two years when this was no longer possible, he was still with her for a major part of each day. Sadly, after 64 years of being married together, Catharina fell asleep in Jesus on 23rd January, 2020. We eagerly await that wonderful morning when we shall all be together once again.

My father is blessed to currently have the company of three out of four of his children and their spouses, also eight grandchildren, three grandsons-in-law and 5 great-grandsons.

I would like to thank God for caring for my father for over ninety years. These years have truly been such rich and fulfilled years for him, and I pray it will continue to be so. I am very grateful for his guidance and wisdom while we were growing up.

May each of us appreciate the legacy that these godly persons bring into our lives! May God continue to bless and care for each one as they face tomorrow.



Congratulations, Dad, on reaching such a milestone, your 90th Birthday! We love you very much and pray God will continue to be your strength and guide.

~ Lidia Voncina



Victoria Camp in Pictures

Victoria Camp was held at a private property in Seymour over Easter weekend. It was such a blessing to have a camp again and the event was attended by brethren from NSW as well. Br Paul Chapman captured the following photos with his 35mm film camera.



Farewell to Tshado Family

On the evening of Sabbath 19th February, Guildford Church members and friends gathered for a farewell dinner for the Tshado family, who regularly attended and supported Guildford church for approximately 15 years. They were as close to us as any of our members, and we had many beautiful times together in Sabbath fellowship and grew very close together over the many experiences shared throughout the years.

The evening was spent sharing a delicious meal prepared by some of our sisters and sharing of memories and words of appreciation. There was lots of laughter and tears as we recalled the wonderful times we had together.

It was truly a memorable evening and very fitting for the Tshado family, who we will all miss very much, as they have been a part of our lives for many years.

Towards the end of the evening, we gifted the family a token of our love with a canvas printed with pictures of all the Western Australian members and friends they came to know, and a prayer from Genesis 31:49, *"The LORD watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another."*

~ Reported by Gerson Robles



The Shoe Box Project

In the midst of all the disasters happening around the world, we decided to help one of our churches in the Philippines, by creating a small project called "The Shoe Box Project." This started among the churches in Queensland.

The Need

Br. Randy Acquiatan was in touch with a local church directly, and inquired what their needs were. They responded by sending us photos of 18 children that needed our help, ages ranging from 4-16 years old.

When I saw the photos, my heart was filled with joy at the thought that we could gift them with a few necessary items. And so, we started the shoe box project.

We packed a box of essential items for each of these children, and gathered donations that will be distributed according to their needs by the local church. Each shoe box contained a pair of shoes, a pencil case and stationery, care products (toothbrush, toothpaste, etc), and children's story books or a devotional book.

Local distribution

Donations will be distributed by members of the local church, and the way they handle means can be compared to the way the early church distributed resources. They analyse the needs of families and share according to need. The boxes will have the name of each child and will be given directly to them.

How are the items being sent?

It is possible to send tea chest sized boxes to the Philippines fairly inexpensively. We packed and sent a box to the Philippines from Queensland, which



recently went on its way with the items donated for the dear children.

How do I donate for future shipments?

Even though we completed the project, we decided to extend it to other local churches whose children are also in need.

Some brethren here in Queensland have provided what we can, but it is a big task for us and, we ask your help to fill these boxes and provide hope and love to these sons and daughters of God.

We have a spreadsheet of items that have already been donated, and we can help guide you in what items will be suitable. If you would like to get involved in sending items in future shipments, please contact me on 0430 942 622.

May the Lord bless you richly,

Sister Monica Balarezo
Missionary Leader for QLD Conference

Mums Remembered in Victoria

A special dinner was held in Victoria on the 8th of May to recognise the mothers among us. The dinner was prepared by their children. It was a great opportunity to also connect with families that we don't usually see at church. The mums were all told they were not to help but some of them couldn't resist getting in to lend a hand with the day, which just made it all more special. That's what mums do, isn't it?



WA Camponotus Activity Day

"Go to the ant thou sluggard, consider her ways, and be wise." Proverbs 6:6.

The Lord blessed with gorgeous weather, and we began the program with prayer and the Camponotus Kids theme song, then kicked off with "Getting to Know You" game. At first, some of the children were a little shy but as the game moved forward, they started coming out of their shell and joyfully participated.

Next was a craft activity, making ants using pipe cleaners and plastic spoons. These looked interesting upon completion. The activity was followed by a short talk about "Carpenter Ants." The objective was to learn what a carpenter ant is and how hard working they are.

During craft time, Jacques took time to set up our next activity, Obstacle Course. The children had so much fun attempting this activity! They were all given a trial run. They were also timed while attempting the course. In addition, treats were placed along the course to distract and hence reducing their finishing time should they stop to collect these treats along the way. They soon learned the benefits of giving undivided attention to their end goal. Sis Lidia had so much fun too, putting her skills to the test.

After lunch, Johnny Thiel took over, introducing the group to Orienteering and instructing on the use of a compass to find direction. They were also taught the proper use of landmarks. This was a theoretical introduction to orienteering only. We hope to progress to more practical application at our next gathering.

We then moved to the messy part, our science experiment—"Slime Activity." The children got to mixed cornflour with water and test the theory of "resistance" and how we must listen to God as He will help us resist and overcome temptations. Needless to say, the children loved the messiness of this activity.

Tug of War was enjoyed by all present. This activity was about working together as a team. They especially enjoyed teaming up against Johnny, Jacques and Gerson.

In all, the Lord blessed the day and the many lessons learned.

We are to encourage these young children to give their hearts to God from a very young age. With God by their side, they will achieve great and mighty things.

~ Michelle Payet



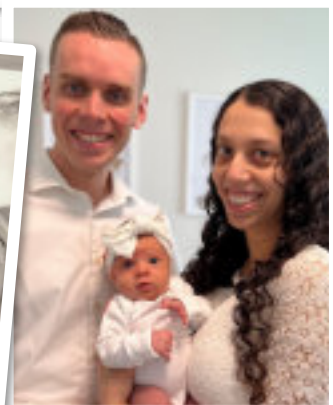
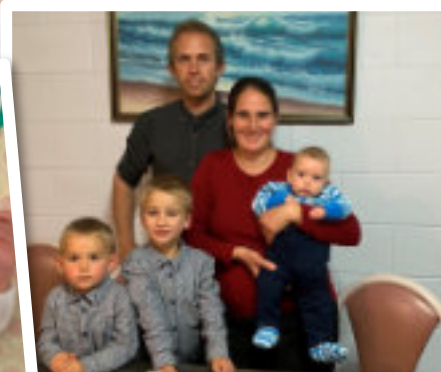
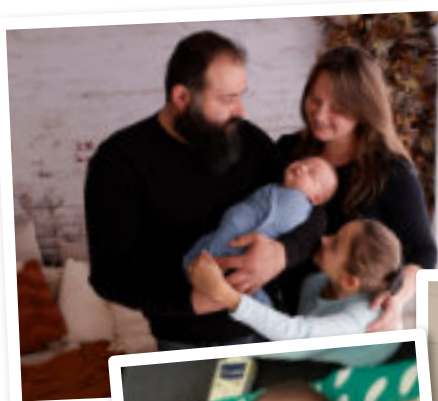


Baby Congratulations

We thank the Lord for sending four more healthy baby boys and two precious baby girls into the church family.

- Baby Luca Benjamin brought much joy to the Squires family by arriving on the 7th November 2021. Luca is the first born to Amariah and Jaimie.
- David Toby was born to Susanna and Gabriel Mandic on the 26 April. He brought much joy to his big sister and parents.
- Tim and Jessica Wiseman have been blessed by the arrival of baby Robert Timothy on the 5th of March.
- Theophil Samuel was born to Sam and Rebeka Wiseman on the 30th of April.
- A new Baby Girl has blessed the Gules family—Hailey Grace was born to Johnny and Denise on the 3rd of July.
- A much-anticipated grandchild of Paul and Deborah Chapman arrived on Monday 20th of June. Congratulations to Jordan and Renata on the birth of your little princess Lauren Elizabeth.

Our congratulations and best wishes to you all. May the good LORD grant you wisdom to know how to bring up His little flock to His honour and glory. "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalm 127:3.



Mira Ilic

8th March, 1938 to 25th January, 2022

Mira (Jugović) Ilić, known to most as Mima, was born in the town of Jazavica, near Novska, the youngest daughter of Ivan and Reza Jugović.



She had two sisters and two brothers: Marija (Seka), born 1927; Mijo, born 1929; Zora, born 1933; and Zdravko, born 1935.

Mima lost her mother at an early age – she was only 4 years old when her mother passed away in 1942. Her father remarried in 1949 to Manda, who was a widow herself and had a son, Milan.

In 1952, the whole family moved to Borovo for better work opportunities. Here, Mima met her husband, Aca (Vladimir) Ilic and they married on the 13th April, 1956, after which she moved to Metkovic.

Her journey to her new home wasn't very long (a little more than 100km). She arrived as a young bride of 18 years old and had to quickly adapt to living in a home with 3 grown men; her husband, her father-in-law, Ceda, and her brother-in-law, Rada. At the same time, she had to familiarise herself with new surroundings, new neighbours, along with slightly different traditions and lifestyles.

The challenges she faced during her early years in Metkovic prepared Mima for a life of helping others, and she developed a real talent for knowing exactly what to say, at the right time, to encourage and console those who needed it. Being the cheerful and friendly person that she was, Mima was quickly accepted in her new surroundings.

If Mima felt outnumbered living with 3 grown men, the scales were really tipped when she had 3 sons of her own. Danko was born in 1958, Ivan in 1961, and Branko in 1964. A little known fact is that Mima actually gave birth to 4 sons; Ivan is a twin, but his sibling was still-born.

Danko married Rosetta in 1980, and had 2 daughters; Vivian and Lana. Ivan married Anne in 1990 and they had 2 children, Lusinda and Luis. Branko married Dot in 1987, and they had 2 children, Jesse and Bianca.

Vivian and Chris were married in 2012, and 6 weeks later, Lana and Jeremy were married. Jesse and Maria married in 2020.

Mima loved to extend her hospitality to others, and

her cooking and cakes were products of her hospitality that were enjoyed by many visitors. She was a talented organiser which was demonstrated during the 7 conferences, across 14 years, held in our backyard, where between 500 - 700 people attended. During this time, Mima developed a deep love for Metkovic and its community, which welcomed our visitors with open arms. She often said, "God is good and directs everything - I thank Him for our wonderful neighbours and their warm hospitality in receiving 100's of guests. Without them it would have been impossible to accommodate this many people."

And because of her eagerness to always help those around her, she made many friends not only in Metkovic, but also in far away places, on different continents. She untiringly maintained these deep friendships, regardless of where she was. Many of you were recipients of her phone calls "just to say a few words"—but our dad, Aca, described these calls as "there goes my Mira, straining the telephone cables".

In keeping with her positive spirit, Mima was always happy and knew how to brighten any gloomy situation with her quick wit and smile.

Mima loved to travel, or as some have said "she wasn't afraid to travel." They would say "it's easy for her to travel since she came from so far away." Imagine, 105km was considered "so far away." As we, one by one, moved away to Australia and Canada, her friends would ask why she didn't seem sad (but we knew she was just good at acting). Her answer was "Let them go; it gives me the opportunity to see the world." In any case, Mima was the first of us to travel to America, to visit her father and brothers.

In August 1992, Mima and her husband moved to Australia to be closer to their children. This is where her grandchildren christened her "Mima", which is how many of you know her. As earlier in her life, she quickly adapted in Australia, expanding her circle of friends who also enjoyed her company and culinary skills (kolaci).

Though heartbroken at her passing, we have faith in the hope of Christ and the resurrection. She is survived by her husband, Aca; their sons, Danko, Ivan and Branko, with their wives, Rosetta, Anne, and Dot; her grandchildren, Jesse, Vivian, Lana, Bianca, Lusinda, and Luis, and their spouses, Chris, Jeremy, and Maria; her brother-in-law, Rada; and many family and friends from all over the world.

~ The Ilic Family

Bozena Vatala

21st November, 1935 to 28th January, 2022

We would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of our dear Sr Bozena Vatala, who was laid to rest on the 28th January 2022 while residing at the Adventist Retirement Village.



May God place His loving arms around each family member as you mourn for the loss of you dear Mother, Grandmother and Great-grandmother.

We look forward to the day when we shall meet once again at Jesus' feet. A beautiful promise is found in John 14:1-3 *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

Revelation 14:13 *"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."*

Milivoj Dimitrijevic

18th June, 1930 to 16th February, 2022

Milivoj Dimitrijevic served for many years in ministry and missions work. We acknowledge his service in the cause of God and offer our condolences to his family. The following tribute was prepared by his children.



Dad was born on the 18th of June, 1930 to parents, Djurica and Olga Dimitrijevic, in Novi Knjezevac, in what was then known as Yugoslavia, now called Serbia.

He was the eldest of four children, followed by a sister and two younger brothers. Being the eldest, meant that at a young age, Dad knew what hard work was, looking after his sister and brothers while mum and dad were out farming in the field.

At a very young age, Dad accepted employment as an apprentice shoemaker. He left home to live at his place of apprenticeship, in the home of what was then called his "Master" (the man who took him to be his apprentice and who taught him).

When he turned 16, he was baptised into the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement, and understood that he was to obey the law of God. In particular, the 4th commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and the 6th commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," featured prominently in his beliefs and in his life.

Because of the situation at the time, when all young men were conscripted, he also was called up at the age of 20 to serve as a soldier in the military.

As he refused to be a soldier, to bear arms and work on the Sabbath, he was called to attend court to answer for his faith and was sentenced multiple times, for a total of 12 years spent in prison, from the age of 20 till around 35.

The best years of his early adulthood was spent in prison, where he suffered very much. So much so, that his whole life and outlook was shaped by the suffering that he endured at the hands of the prison officers. This outlook stayed with him throughout his life.

In particular, he was starved of food for a total period of forty consecutive days, where he became so emaciated and weak, that the guards fed him secretly from the food they brought with themselves. In the end, Dad prayed for God to help him. God answered his prayers, and he continued to live on bread that rats brought him when the guards were prohibited to share their food.

Dad was tortured, left out in the cold, with little clothing, in an area known for its wolves. He was hanged by his hands tied behind his back from the ceiling, and other evils too numerous to mention.

There were good times too, during his imprisonment, where Dad often talked about having been trusted to run the kitchen, where he was allowed out of the prison, with large sums of money to pay bills. He was also entrusted to be the personal servant to the warden, who knew him well, allowed him into his home, taking care of his wife and family.

Because Dad was conscientious, there were many experiences that he related to us, of witnessing for the truth, of being in court and telling the judges of our faith.

When Dad was released from prison the final time, he decided to get married and met Mum, Piroška Vince in Fedemes, Hungary. After a short courtship, they were married in 1966.

Joseph, their son was born in 1968 followed by their daughter Lidija in 1971.

After many years, mum wanted to leave Yugoslavia and on his second trip to the General Conference, Dad was transferred to the Philippines as a

missionary in 1975 where he stayed till 1979, the first worker from abroad who stayed there for the full 4-year term.

In the Philippines, he helped establish new churches and taught people to be self-sufficient. He taught them to make soy products, such as coffee, soy milk and tofu as well as farming. The soy products and farming proceeds were then sold for a profit.

Dad also spent a lot of time building churches and homes, a trade that he picked up during his time in prison, where he had ample time to practice, being involved in erecting many buildings during his incarceration.

Additionally, he organised the church members to do colporteur work, selling books and religious publications. With the money made from their entrepreneurial efforts, the Philippines Union became financially self-sufficient, no longer being funded by the General Conference, as was the case up until then.

During his time in the Philippines, as a family, we were happy there.

After another trip to the General Conference, he was transferred to Australia to work as a minister for the Yugoslav church, initially located in Auburn then finally to Schofields.

Here began another chapter of his life. He worked hard and tried his best to feed his young children and wife.

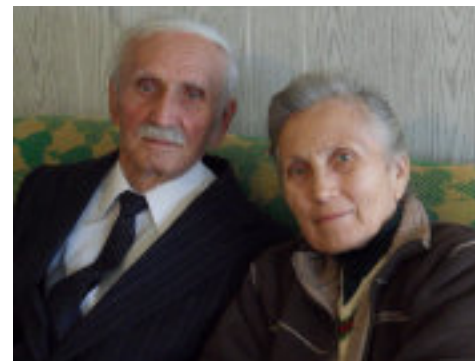
Our first home was in a rundown house in 14 Clarke Street, Riverstone, initially owned by Dad's brother, Vass, which he eventually purchased from him. This became the family home for over 37 years, finally being sold before the move to George Street, Riverstone.

During this time, his son Joseph went to university, and his daughter Lidija was married to Szabolcs on July 26, 1992. This brought much joy to our family, Joseph gaining a brother-in-law, Lidija a husband and mum and dad another son and a son in law. After they were married, Lidija and Szabolcs lived in the back home on the Clarke Street property, before moving on to other properties.

Dad worked hard, he loved the truth, he always wanted to do missionary work. That was the theme of his life. We lived a hard life, experiencing constant hardship most of our life. But God is good. He blessed us in many other ways.

With Terry Barnett, and others, Dad was involved for many years in the construction of buildings and development of the church property in Elim Heights, a project that he held dear to his heart.

In his old age, in 2018, we finally moved out of Clarke Street to George Street. Here, Dad was happy. He loved our cooking and spent much time sitting in his favourite chair, reading the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. As the years passed, he spent more and more time sleeping and when he could, enjoyed watching horses and farm life on YouTube which reminded him of his early years.



Mum looked after Dad faithfully, all the days of their married life together, until she no longer could. Dad was loved by Mum and Dad also loved Mum and appreciated all that she did for him when he was no longer capable of looking after himself.

After a gradual decline, Dad passed away peacefully at home in George Street in the loving care of his family.

We still miss him, spend a lot of time crying and hope and pray that we all meet again, as a family, when Jesus comes to raise those sleeping in the grave and together, we shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

We would like to share the Bible verses below with you, a promise that we hold dear to our hearts.

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:52-55).

Beloved husband of Pirooska Dimitrijevic, and father of Joseph Dimitrijevic and Lidija Szoke.

~ The Dimitrijevic Family



Maria Esman

9 December 1933 – 19 June 2022

It was a full house on Sunday the 3rd of July as family and friends gathered at the church in Somerton Park to pay their respects and give tribute to the life of Maria Esman. The service started and finished with some of her favourite hymns, and stories and memories were shared to honour her life. The following is some of what was shared on the day.

Maria was born on the 9th of December, 1933, in Utrecht, Holland. She was second born in a family of seven children. Her father was a bricklayer and her mother a homemaker.

Maria was only six years old when in 1939 the Nazi forces occupied Holland. Her childhood from that time on changed dramatically. It was a period of great trauma and anxiety—first the occupation, then the death of her baby brother Harry in 1942 when he was only one year old. Then in 1946, Maria's mother died at the age of 36, when Maria was only 12 years old.

Maria and her five siblings were put in the care of an auntie, under the supervision of the children's welfare service. This system did little to protect these children from the hardships that lay ahead of them.

In 1956, Maria married Theodoros Esman. Later that year their firstborn son Rudy was born. In 1958 Maria and her family sailed to Australia and landed in Port Adelaide. They took up residence in Glenelg, and Miranda was born. In 1972 the family moved to Christies Beach, and the next year welcomed a third child, Clair.

Theo was a manufacturing jeweller by trade. He worked long hours providing for his family. Maria was a homemaker caring for her children. Sadly, in 1978 Maria and Theo separated.

It was around this time that Maria was introduced to the Seventh Day Adventist faith. She became an ardent believer in the Advent message.

When she met the Southwell family, she agreed for Merv to visit her on the condition that he would bring his wife Esther along. Merv and Esther developed a good relationship with Maria and she was invited to have Bible studies, and became a member of the Somerton Park church.

Around the same time she shared the Reformation message with William (Bill) Pannell, who served as an ordained deacon in the Somerton Park church for a number of years, and passed away in 2005.

Maria was known by all at the church as "Sister Esman." She served as a Sabbath school teacher for the children for many years, and also assisted with cleaning and organising, bringing the same touch that was manifested in her housekeeping through the years. At combined lunches her soups were always a highlight.

Sister Esman enjoyed participating in nursing home singing on Sabbath afternoons. This was an effort of the Somerton Park church and was conducted in various facilities around Adelaide. She would make friends with the residents and form many bonds with them over the years, visiting them through the week.

Maria loved to share her health tips with all who would listen. It was her wish for health reasons to shift to the country. After Clair left home she lived in Callington and then Clayton Bay. After a few years she felt it better to be closer to church and family, and she moved to Woodcroft Park, where she made her home in one of the cottages. Then just a couple of years ago, she decided to offer her services as a live-in caretaker at the little Somerton Park church. Her generosity made possible the construction of a little unit at the church, where she lived until her passing.

In the early hours of Sunday morning the 19th of June, after some time spent in hospital, Maria passed away. She was 88 years old. She did not suffer from pain and she kept her memory and mind sharp, right to the end.

Maria is survived by her children, Rudi, Miranda and Clair, her children-in-law Jane and Lindsay, and her grand and great-grandchildren Daniel, Jade, Kristopher, Jessica, Shenae, Bradley and Dylan.

Our beloved Sister Esman will be missed, but she is at rest and awaiting the resurrection.

~ Gary Southwell and Nathan Tyler

WA Youth Camp - Easter 2022

15-18 April 2022

On Friday afternoon of the 15th of April, on a gloomy overcast day with rain threatening, our group of young and not so young converged on the Northcliffe Bush Camp and set up our tents and caravans. We had stayed at this camp once before, and enjoyed it very much. It is peaceful and well set out, with whimsically-built and surprisingly comfortable amenities cobbled together from salvaged vehicle and building materials. It is surrounded by bush, with some lovely walking trails cut through.

Our topic for the camp was music, and the first meeting was worship on Friday night, taken by Hannah Lausevic. Hannah is in her first year of a music education degree and lent us her music expertise by explaining the fundamentals of music. She briefly covered rhythm, melody, harmony, written music, music history, and some more complicated music terms such as syncopation and others that I've forgotten the names of. She nicely illustrated each point by referencing a hymn we were all familiar with to show us how the technicalities worked. Most of us went to bed a little or a lot wiser; some took the opportunity for some more personalised music instruction after the meeting.

On Sabbath morning, more people arrived and joined in the first event of the day, which was a group discussion on Biblical principles of music. Each group were given a list of questions that they needed to answer from the Bible. The questions covered the principles from the Bible that govern the music we choose to listen to; lyrics; percussion; the effect of our music choices on our mental, physical and spiritual health; and the effect of music on our relationship with God. When the groups reconvened to present their conclusions, there were some common threads running through the answers to each question. There were also some interesting differences in some of the conclusions reached by each group. Suffice it to say that music is not a simple topic.

In the afternoon, an outing was scheduled, but the rain falling now and then put a damper on that. Someone went and fetched a portable fireplace and firewood, so we were able to set up a gathering place that we could warm ourselves up beside. It attracted a couple of nearby campers after dark, who joined us to chat and socialise. We enjoyed ourselves very much, toasting our toes and yarning, until it started raining yet again and scared us into our tents. All except a bunch of youth and an eager older chaperone, who conspired together to set up an

indoor socialisation area in the camp kitchen, complete with cooking lessons and a deep and meaningful discussion that kept them talking into the wee hours.

The next morning, we didn't cut any slack for the sleepy youth who had brought their tiredness down upon their own heads, and we began the morning meeting. The youth were invited to bring their music choices that they knew were wrong or were not sure if they were wrong or not, and we would use the Biblical principles we had discussed the day before to ascertain their appropriateness for a God-follower. We tried, we really did. But we concluded again that music is not a simple topic. Everyone had their own ideas as to whether the music was good or bad, the elements that made it God-honouring or not, and if it was appropriate for a Christian to choose to listen to. We left a lot of the music to examine at a later date, and retired in defeat for lunch.

After lunch, we went on an outing to Mount Chudalup, a granite monolith that had a very comfortable walking track to the top, with incredible 360-degree views over the surrounding countryside and coast. We spent quite a while at the windy top, taking fun photos. Then we went on to drive to the beach and had a nice walk there until the threatening rain became more than threatening and turned into reality. But not before some rather spectacular leaps by the children from the edge of a sand dune down to the beach. It looked like so much fun that some adults tried it too. I can confirm that it was a lot of fun.

That evening, we had a cozy end-of-camp fireside talk/discussion taken by Jonathan Thiel about how to give up music that we have learned to love, but have been convicted that it is not a God-honouring choice. Some shared their experiences with relinquishing favourite types of music, and the power of God that enabled them to do so. We were encouraged to make God first in our lives, so that our decisions and music tastes are sanctified and changed by the renewing of our minds.

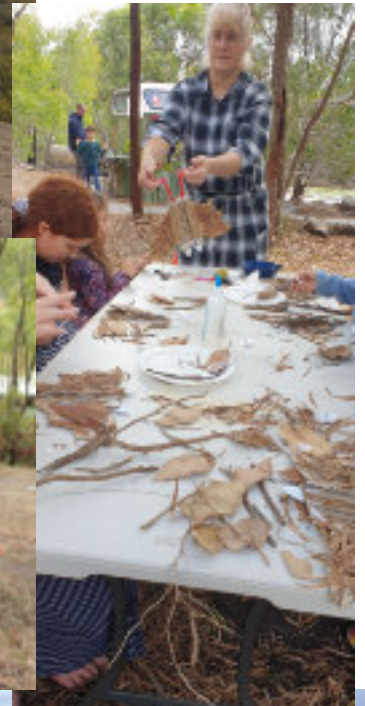
Some people packed up and left that evening, others stayed until the next morning, when we had worship together and then spent the next few hours packing for the homeward journey. Chloe Brown kept the children amused and excited with a treasure hunt through the campground, after which they ended up with a nice stash of fun gifts.



As we all made our way home, we were inspired to research more deeply into the topic of music choices that would preserve our connection with God and

prevent the devil from making inroads into our lives with music that will separate us from God.

~ Reported by Inneka Lausevic



Baptism in the Seychelles

"I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10.

On the 13th of June, my wife and I made our way to the Seychelles. In times past, such a journey has always been associated with gladness especially at the thought of fresh island air and spending time with family. However, it was not so this time as the aim of this trip was to bid farewell to our mum, who sadly passed only a few days before our trip. We have the hope of seeing her again very, very soon. Christ's coming is so near! Mum held on to faith in Jesus till her last breath. What a beautiful hope we have.

Our trip to the Seychelles was made brighter by seeing the brethren and hearing of their experiences and progress. Despite many challenges pertaining to Covid-19 with restrictions making it very difficult to meet on a regular basis, they are all of good courage and working together to establish a dedicated place of worship. Construction is already well underway and the brethren hope to dedicate a house of worship to the Lord by September 2023. Praise the Lord.

As men and women dedicate their lives to God, the enemy becomes angry. These brethren worked hard at securing furniture for the Lord's sanctuary, and while in storage a fire engulfed the storeroom and consumed it all. But praise God, they remain strong and are working towards purchasing new furniture.

Although the country is without a Bible worker, Brother Roy has been actively sharing and teaching the gospel truth to souls. As a result of his humble efforts, Br Steve & Sr Cythra embraced Christ as their personal Saviour and publicly made their profession on Sunday the 10th of July, 2022.

The weather, though, was not exactly in our favour. During the monsoon season, the ocean and rivers



become alarmingly rough and unsafe and the option of an outdoor pool was most convenient & desirable. The baptism was witnessed by members of our church, friends and families. We wish Br Steve and Sr Cythra God's blessings as they unite their hearts to Christ. I praise God for the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of humanity.

The brethren send their love to the brethren in Australia. Please pray for the work in the Seychelles.

~ Br Jacques Payet



Condolences to the Payet Family

We were sad to learn that the mother of Br. Jacques Payet passed away in June. Our sincere sympathies go to Br. Jacques and his family during their time of sorrow. We pray each family member feels God's loving arms around them, as you mourn the loss of your mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. May the blessed hope of the resurrection morning help to bring comfort to your hearts during this time of grief.

Br. Jacques, originally from the Seychelles, now living in Perth, is an ordained elder who has served as the field leader for Western Australia several times. He has also for many years been an active executive member for the Australasian Union Conference. When visiting the Seychelles, Br. Payet voluntarily assists the General Conference with the work there.



"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 4:16-18.

Clayfield Renovation

The Queensland Conference have progressed to the final stage of their current renovation project. The veranda was badly in need of repair. It was felt that these repairs should be done before any new programs were planned for the public to attend.

As well as getting new posts, floor framing and decking, the front of the house is being restored to heritage look, as it was when it was originally built.

After a delay of several months, the project was able to take off. These photos show where your donations have gone to work.



First Sabbath Offering Information

The offering collected in Sabbath School on Sabbath the 6th of August will go to the GC Education Department to assist with the ongoing development of a kindergarten to 12th grade curriculum.

Below are a few points regarding the project.

What is being developed?

The General Conference Education Department is preparing an entire kindergarten to 12th grade curriculum, with the focus on educating children for the honour and glory of God.

What format will it use?

Rather than grades we use the term “levels” to distinguish subjects by grade, “units” to correspond to an academic month, and “lessons” to correspond to an academic week.

For a full year subject (for example, Math for level 3) there are always 10 units with 4 lessons per unit. A smaller subject (for example, Art for level 3) has five units with 4 lessons per unit.

Rather than printing large textbooks, each Unit with its 4 lessons is available as one printable document. A teacher's answer key is then separately available to be printed and used by the school teacher. In the future, these will be expanded to include extra teaching notes, additional assignment ideas, etc.

How much will the curriculum cost to use?

All of our materials will be offered free to anyone who wishes to use them. Church education departments and schools in the various countries would have free access to the materials, which they can use as best fits in their local context.

This is a ministry to provide educational materials, not a for-profit business. We will copyright the materials only to ensure that someone does not reprint them for profit.

How will it be distributed?

The curriculum will be distributed online in electronic format. This allows us to make materials available as soon as needed, and means they will be available to anyone to use.

As an example, the church has an on-demand printer in Angola that will make it possible for them to make only as many as needed for any class in a given school year or even one copy for a family that want a printed copy, or the family or church/school can print as many as they want themselves locally.

Since we are not mass-printing materials we can also have updated editions as frequently as we make them.

When will it be available?

Right now we have manuscripts mostly for math, but



Students in PNG with curriculum from an external organisation

we have people working on various subjects and levels. Once we have a few more manuscripts ready, we will be moving on to design and branding.

We are not waiting for the complete curriculum to be finished before starting to make the materials available. Instead, we will post each textbook as it is ready.

We have worked with a number of professional educators in our church to have the curriculum as a complete program outline. With that framework in place, whatever materials we produce will be made available right away for use and then we will add more as we are able.

What about localisation and translation into other languages?

The format we have chosen allows us to easily make locally-applicable materials. The history curriculum is made to adapt to the country of the student's origin rather than simply an American-focused social studies program.

We also plan to have the material translated as available so that it can be used anywhere. This will not just be in major languages like Spanish and French, but local languages like Bahasa Indonesia, Kinyarwanda, Tamil, etc. There are already a host of volunteers who have signed up to do this. As soon as any of the materials are available in the base language (English) we will make it available to these approved translators, and then make the translations available for free.

Will the General Conference provide education support services, transcripts, etc?

The General Conference Education Department will not be providing teachers who monitor students or give diplomas, etc. A local church, unit, or mission may do this, and we would encourage them to use our materials.

Does this project intend to replace Christian home school curriculum that is already available?

This is a General Conference project that is intended to benefit the whole world, especially the missions who are in the most need. It is not our intent to compete with any existing home school curriculum programs that service first-world English countries.

The vast majority of our membership, even English-speaking membership, is not in countries where existing materials are even remotely affordable. As a result, our schools in the developing world use a patchwork of materials, often without proper permissions and from whatever sources they can, Christian or not, to piece together a program for their schools.

Our open-source free materials will greatly improve the quality of education these schools offer, and increase the marketability of these programs to

generate revenues for the schools of our church in the impoverished and developing world.

If home-school families choose to use the program, when completed, that will be wonderful, but not the main purpose of this project. In fact, it is anticipated that many home-schoolers will continue to make their own choices regarding what curriculum materials they use, but may choose to use our materials for selected subjects, such as Bible or Church History.

How can I help with the project?

You can help by giving generously when the First Sabbath Offering is collected on August 6th, 2022. Your donation will help to cover the cost of design, branding, and digital production of the materials.

Furthermore, if you know of anyone who might want to help develop curriculum subjects, please contact the GC Education Department director, Brother David Zic, at dzic@sdarm.org.

AUC Delegation and Spiritual Conference

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AUC Spiritual Conference 2022

Elim Heights Youth Camp

28–31 December, 2022

(Delegation session will be held on the 26th and 27th)



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