

# Good Tidings

Australasian Good Tidings News

February 20, 2023 – No. 78

## Upcoming Events

**NSW Delegation Session**  
February 26, Schofields NSW

**WA Delegation Session**  
March 12, Guildford WA

**Missionary Seminar**  
March 25-26, Coleambally NSW

**NSW & Victoria Bush Camp**  
Dates: 7-10 April  
Location: Coleambally, NSW  
Contact: P Chapman 0414 495 838

**Missionary Seminar**  
April 15-16, Auckland NZ

**NZ Delegation Session**  
April 23, Auckland NZ

**Missionary Seminar**  
May 6-7, Schofields NSW

**New South Wales Camp**  
Dates: 9-12 June  
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp  
Contact: P Chapman 0414 495 838

**Queensland Camp**  
Dates: 25-27 August  
Contact: R Acquiatan 0421 077 553

**Western Australia Camp**  
Dates: 22-25 September  
Contact: L Kneebone 0411 250 852

**Queensland/NSW Youth Camp**  
Dates: 29 September - 1 October  
Contact: L Ah Ching 0431 409 439

**SPUM Youth Conference**  
Dates: 22-27 December, 2023  
Location: Vanuatu

**AUC Youth Conference**  
Dates: 26 Dec 2023 - 2 Jan 2024 (TBC)  
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Camp

## 2022 End of Year Conference and Programs

The theme for the 2022 Conference was “Uplift, Serve, Proclaim,” based on our AUC mission theme. Starting on Wednesday evening, the conference was held over four days and was attended by people from across the Union, with a few from outside our region as well.

A large tent replaced our main hall which was lost to fire in 2019, and this tent was set up in nearly the same spot as the old hall had been. In this tent we gathered for morning and evening worships, meetings and workshops on Thursday and Friday, and the Sabbath services.

Our visiting guest speaker was General Conference Vice President Rolly Dumaguit. He spoke on Sabbath about our mission to uplift Jesus, serve others and proclaim the truth. Other speakers highlighted the concepts behind this theme.



Thursday afternoon's feature was various department leaders giving presentations and demonstrating the activities of their department. The Health department gave some talks, the Education Department showed their programs, the Media department new video production equipment, the Missionary Department showed the new canvassing program and books, the Welfare Department showed pictures and souvenirs from the East Timor Mission, and Elim Heights Management Committee showed the plans for the new hall.

The close of the conference was emotional, partly because it is always this way, and partly because this was the first Union-wide camp to be held at Elim Heights since 2018. What a blessing it was to gather our people from both countries, plus international visitors from afar, together once again!

*Continued next page...*

**Something to share?**  
Email events and news to  
[goodtidings@sdarm.org.au](mailto:goodtidings@sdarm.org.au)

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### **End of year (continued)**

Everyone was in for a surprise after the close of the conference. It was New Year's Eve, and our caretakers had organised a special fireworks display, which held us spellbound and seemed to rival even the displays enjoyed by people in the city!

Over the next several days after the conference, we went on an outing to Hunter Valley Gardens, conducted a summer school and Camponotus Kids program, and held discussion sessions for our church workers and their spouses. Finally, it was time to leave, but we all thanked God for the precious opportunity and very much look forward to our next conference at Elim Heights!



Note: conference presentations were all recorded and are available at the AUC Youtube Channel, or via the following page: <https://www.sdarm.org.au/news/2022/12/31/auc-camp-2022/>



**Conference attendees**



**Camponotus Kids  
learning about fire safety**

# Report of the 36th AUC Delegation Session

Delegates of the Australasian Union met on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of December, for the election of new officers and approval of policies and plans for the next three years.

It was voted to continue with the theme, "Uplifting Jesus, Serving People, Proclaiming Truth."

## Officers & Special Committees

- President: Nathan Tyler
- Vice Presidents: Miguel Mendoza, Benjamin Thiel
- Secretary-Treasurer: Paul Chapman
- Accountant & Asst. Secretary: Deborah Chapman
- Executive Committee
  - Nathan Tyler
  - Miguel Mendoza
  - Benjamin Thiel
  - Paul Chapman
  - Jacob De Souza
  - Danko Ilic
  - Jacques Payet
- Council
  - Executive Committee
  - Department and Institution Directors
  - Field & Conference Leaders
  - Bylaws Committee Chair
  - Finance Committee Chair
  - ChurchSafe Coordinator
- Bylaws Committee: Naomi Thiel (chair), Luke Kneebone, Susanna Mandic, Miguel Mendoza, Nathan Tyler
- ChurchSafe Officers: Naomi Thiel (coordinator), Larry Ah Ching (assistant), Catherine Robles (contact)
- Finance Committee: Harold Kraus (chair), Danko Ilic, Mary Wiseman
- Ministerial Committee: N Tyler (chair), R Acquiatan, P Chapman, J De Souza, M Mendoza, A Pedrosa, B Thiel

## Departments

- Children's Department: Amy Gules
- Education Department: Ruth Rodionoff
- Elim Heights Mgt. Committee: Benny Gules
- Elim Missionary College: Nathan Tyler
- Health Department: Danica Tyler
- Media Department: Paul Chapman
- Missionary Department: Jacob De Souza
- Sabbath School Department: Arnaldo Pedrosa
- Welfare Department: Luke Kneebone
- Young People's Department: Sam Wiseman



*Delegates to the 36<sup>th</sup> AUC Session*

## Strategic Plan

The following overall strategic plan was approved by the delegates.

**OUR MISSION:** To fulfil the Gospel commission by service to the community, uplifting Jesus and proclaiming the truth.

**GOAL 1** — To support members of the AUC (research needs, create an action plan and implement over the next three years).

**GOAL 2** — Encourage and enable total member involvement through empowering, training and preparing lay people to lead out and serve.

**GOAL 3** — Support incoming department directors (initial orientation and training, ongoing support and combined networking sessions at least once a year), and publish the strategic plans of individual department directors in the *Good Tidings*.

**GOAL 4** — To proclaim the truth in our local communities (including plan for the Missionary Department to facilitate at least one outreach seminar in each conference/field during this term).

The full strategic plan will be published in an upcoming issue of *Good Tidings*.

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

# In Loving Memory of Latza Barat

By Esther Boje

Latza Barat, “Baka” as she was fondly known to many, was born in Trsje, Macedonia on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, 1931. She was a twin. Sadly, her twin Lena died at the tender age of two years old.

She attended school for six months before the school was shut down due to the war. With limited schooling she was still able to learn to read and write in many languages, not only in Macedonian.

Latza was very hardworking – working alongside her mother cooking and baking bread from a very young age. In the evening she would listen to her father secretly reading the Bible each night. This was where her love for God’s Word was born. Her Bible is marked and underlined in many places.

Stevan and Latza were married on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 1956 in Trieste, Italy. Soon after, Stevan & Latza Barat migrated to Australia to live in the land of freedom and plenty. Mum was ambitious and learned to read, write and speak English. In Australia, four children were born – Ben in 1957, twins Lizy & Rebekah in 1959 and Esther in 1967. This led to the birth of 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren whom she loved and adored.

She was a true missionary who loved Jesus with her whole heart. She didn’t go to foreign lands but did plenty missionary work wherever she went. She stayed at home while dad went on mission trips. Even in hospital she told all those in the surrounding beds about Jesus and gave away a copy of Steps to Christ to a nurse. She got us contact details of the patients so we could follow up and visit them. She loved Jesus very much and this was seen in her daily life.

Her missionary endeavours reached many lands as she would sew clothing and collect more clothing and items to send in large timber boxes to places like the Philippines, Indonesia and wherever there

was a need. She would assist Br. George Heslop in the printing room, folding tracts, packing books or whatever else was needed to be done. She had extensive knowledge of plants and herbs and would always help any one in need of health advice.

Mum loved to cook, preserve fresh fruit and vegetables and was always willing to share her knowledge with whoever asked her for her recipes. She loved to make “pancakes” for whoever was hungry. Her specialty was “gibanitsa” which translated would be “burek.” We loved to arrive at her home just as the “gibanitsa” was coming out of the oven.

She loved gardening and would spend many hours in the garden each day – weeding, watering, encouraging plants to grow on trellises or on stakes. She loved flowers and had many plants inside



her home and outside. She loved her dog, cats and chickens, and they loved her in return.

In 2006 she was diagnosed with heart failure. With the assistance of medication, she lived 16 years with this condition. Over the last 2 years of her life, as she could no longer work in her garden, she started making a little garden around the house, growing a few tomato plants, capsicums, garlic, leek, celery & parsley.

In 2021, we had the privilege to have a 90th Birthday party in her honour where all her children were present, most of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A fun-loving person, she was able to engage in games with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Each great-grandchild received a gift from her, and we all have precious memories in our hearts of this day.

Each time there was a need for someone to tell the children a Bible story, she was always eager to share one with them. Many times she brought little items for the children to see, feel or eat.

Her wish was to go to worship in the newly-built Keilor Park Church for just one Sabbath.

She was an avid fundraiser for the project, and she rang all her contacts around Australia and the world to raise funds for this project. Latza led by example by giving generously to the project. She cannot attend in person anymore, however, she will be there in our hearts each week.

Latza loved to joke and we will miss her quirky ways. She lived for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She always waited by the phone for our phone calls.

Sadly, Latza spent the last month of her life in hospital. The doctors tried many different ways to help with the fluid build up in her body. We were given the good news that she would be released after 10 days in hospital. I waited with my phone on my lap, (as it was Sabbath) for the call from the hospital to come and pick her up. It never came, and day by day passed where some other complication would arise and her release would be delayed. On Sunday 11th September, I received a phone call from her doctor and was informed that she had 3-4 days to live. I was devastated as I had COVID and could not go to the hospital to visit her. My isolation period ended on 14th September at midnight and Sara made sure I was at the hospital by 11:45pm.

Latza was also in isolation as I was a primary contact and during this time we were able to "Facetime" her. She "Facetimed" her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren as much as she could. During her last days, family members came to visit and Lizy, Rebekah and I would take turns staying with her round the clock. My mum tried to talk to us but did not have the strength to project her voice. We would ask her if she wanted this or that and she could only nod or shake her head in reply. We were holding her hand – one on each side, and if we let go, she would look around for our hands. From 10pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> September we noticed a change in our beautiful mum. Lizy and I were there when she took her last breath at 2:50am on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

The last word I understood that she said was "Resurrection." I know she will be looking for us ALL on the resurrection morning. Latza was laid to rest alongside her husband in Bacchus Marsh awaiting the trumpet call, when the dead in Christ shall rise.

### ***My Mother's Garden***

My mother kept a garden.

A garden of the heart;

She planted all the good things,

That gave my life its start.

She turned me to the sunshine,

To love my Saviour dear;

She loved to share her Jesus,

Even when the end was near.

Her constant good example,

Always taught me right from wrong;

Markers for my pathway

To last my whole life long.

I am my mother's garden,

I am her legacy.

And I hope she always felt the love,

Reflected back from me.

## **Life Events Reports**

Good Tidings will be happy to print life events announcements such as weddings, births and significant birthdays. From 2023, all such items will be inserted only on request. If you would like to have yours appear here, please send the information and photos to [goodtidings@sdarm.org.au](mailto:goodtidings@sdarm.org.au).

# In Loving Memory of Terezija Stoyko

By Michael Stoyko

My mother, Terezija Stoyko, was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 1931 in Borovac, Yugoslavia, now Croatia, the second child of Ana and Josip Ivastinovic. Her oldest brother was Nicola, younger sister, Mara and younger brother, Slavko.

Growing up in the village was a life of learning responsibility from a young age. She was always with her older brother Nicola and there to assist him. From five years old onward, she would wake up at 5 am to help with the cows. He was scared of the dark and had to take the cows to pasture really early in the morning and bring them back late at night.

Mum and her sister, Mara, always had long hair and would wear them in long braids. The two sisters were always close and spent many happy times together from a young age.

Life was busy for Mum as a farm girl. When she was about 12 or 13, she would go to the fields, hoe and chip around in the garden, then later she would help with the harvest of corn and other grains. Mum helped look after her younger cousins during busy family times and gave a helping hand where required.

Their family home was on the main road between two capital cities – Belgrade and Zagreb. This became a bad place to live during World War II, as almost every night, four of the different opposing militia and army would walk in and occupy the family home, forcing all the family into one room. These were trying, testing times. One day a military officer took some of the rare family photos they had – one of these being of Nicola, and broke the frame and tore and destroyed the photo. As Nicola passed away during war time in 1942, this was an even greater loss for the whole family. Rebuilding the property post-war, the home and farm responsibilities continued.

In 1954, Mum met Teodor Stojka. Knowing that he wanted to marry and move to America, she accepted his proposal of marriage. Mum was married at the young age of 23. Dad had to pay a fee to release her from the Yugoslavian government in order to travel abroad, as he was not a Yugoslavian resident.

Mum and Dad travelled to Trieste Italy, living in a British and American refugee camp whilst waiting for acceptance into America. There in the camp their first child Michael was born. Destination America, became destination Australia, and they arrived in Australia in 1957. Life without knowing the language and with no family about was difficult.

When we came to Australia, we lived in a house in Leichhardt owned by Br Heslop. Like many migrants at the time, we all lived together in the home which had 5 bedrooms, housed 5 families, all sharing 1 bathroom and 1 kitchen.

By hard work and saving their pennies, they were enabled to purchase their first home. The second child Joe, third child Simon John, fourth child MaryAnne and fifth child Helena were all born in Australia. Mum's sacrifice and generosity knew no end, especially for her children.



As children, our home at times became an AirBNB for immigrants from Europe. We loved having visitors stay with us, learning about the day-to-day life of other countries and hearing of the experience of different families. The help she received when she arrived in Australia she never forgot. She gladly assisted many migrants with language barriers, passing on the help she received.

Mum was always willing and happy to help us with our hobbies. When I worked on my car, Mum came and helped me. She held tools and assisted however she could.

Blue was her favourite colour. Although blue does not naturally occur in these 2 flower families, roses and cymbidium orchids were her favourites.

As the grandchildren began being born, her joy knew no end. Baking biscuits and posting express post interstate was often done. Her strudels (apple, pumpkin and especially potato strudels), pizza and palachinke (pancakes) were especially requested and enjoyed by the grandchildren. They would say, Baka, you should open a pizza shop. Her response was, "I'm too old for that."

Her culinary skills were widely loved and respected, teaching many how to make bread and walnut pita (roll), krofne (homemade donuts), pizza, piroge (large potato dumplings) and palachinke (pancakes). One relative's young son said to his mother whilst attending Auburn church, "You don't need to take food to church for Sabbath lunch. Aunty Stoyko always has plenty of food to share for everyone!"

As the great-grandchildren began being born, her joy was immeasurable. She loved every precious moment available spent with them, as they all lived away from Sydney.

She worked as a housekeeper for 45 years for two sisters who trusted her with the alarm codes of their homes. As retirement loomed, they begged her to stay on, but she had to stop, as her health was starting to slowly decline. The hard work done all her life was starting to take its toll, and she lamented not being able to do things she previously could do, but came to accept this, after many falls.

Her last fall at home on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, was the last time she would be there.

## News from Solomon Islands

*With the help of many brethren and sisters around the region, including some from Australia, the work in the Solomon Islands has been progressing. The following was condensed from a report on welfare work written by Br. Thomas Ngunts, a missionary stationed in the Solomons on behalf of the South Pacific Union Mission.*

Thank the Lord for His loving kindness all through last year, and now we are already into 2023. I just want to write a brief report of the welfare work here in the Solomon Islands Mission Field in 2022.

With assistance from donors in Australia, we made a trip early last year with two bales of clothes and food to the Weather Coast (on the opposite side of the island from Honiara).

In June we made another trip and held a youth convention for one week. During the youth convention, the youth were engaged in welfare work by going out into the villages and distributing clothes which we received, thanks to support from overseas. The youth and members really enjoyed reaching out to the local

people in other ways as well. These ways included applying natural treatments to those who were unwell, praying with people and preaching the Word of God. Classes were also held on how to make compost for agriculture and how to do simple natural treatments for disease.



Mum loved God and was dedicated to helping others. Some dear people that she spent time with have said, "She always had a kind word to say to me;" "she was like a second mother to me;" and "she treated me as part of the family." It was her wish that by God's grace she could see her older brother and all her family in heaven. She encouraged her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to love God and to be faithful to Him.

She was a loving and caring child, sibling, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, a friend to those in need, a mother to those without their own close by. Her passing has left many hearts broken, but the knowledge she is at rest from pain, is mercy that only God can give.

As a result of these efforts, two candidates were baptised on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, 2022. That brings our membership on the Weather Coast to three. A small building for worship has been prepared using bush materials. We have many interests in the area, and three people put their names forward for Bible studies to prepare for baptism.



Donations also assisted us to return to the Western Province to visit interests and members there. We arrived in August, 2022 and spent one week visiting and giving Bible studies to the interested families. These dear people have accepted the message of Reformation and are preparing for baptism. Another trip there is being planned for this year.

We are grateful for the support we have received from overseas, particularly from Western Australia. The brethren and sisters there have been very supportive of our welfare and missionary work.

Thank you to all who have sent your gifts and remembered us with much prayer and support during 2022.

God bless you all,

Thomas Ngunts



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PO Box 132, Riverstone NSW 2765, Australia  
Tel: (02) 9627 7553

Email: [goodtidings@sdarm.org.au](mailto:goodtidings@sdarm.org.au)

Web: [www.sdarm.org.au](http://www.sdarm.org.au)

Editor: Nathan Tyler

Associate Editor: Deborah Chapman

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SERVING *People*  
PROCLAIMING *Truth*