GOOD TIDINGS

In This Issue...

From the Editor - Our Great
Need1
General Conference Session
2011 Report3
Vegetarian Way Cooking
Demonstration - NSW3
Baptism - Dominic Polistina
- AUC Youth Convention5
Fly-N-Build Vanuatu Project
Update5
Baptism - Sam Wiseman
NSW8
PNG School Project9
Calendar of Events9

E-NEWS 15 February, 2012 Issue #10

From the Editor - Our Great Need

Welcome to the first edition of Good Tidings E-News for 2012.

With the holiday season behind us and the new year well under way, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on our preparedness for the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. To begin, I would like to ask a question: If Christ were to return today, would we as a church be ready to meet him?

The Bible says that Jesus is going to receive unto himself a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing; a church that is holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

Can we say that our church is holy and without blemish; that we have no spots or wrinkles within? I think if we are honest with ourselves, we would all agree that we have a great work to do, within and without, if we are to fulfill Christ's purpose for His remnant church.

I believe also that we are in grave danger of losing sight not only of that purpose, but of the reason for our existence as a people under the Fourth Angel's message (Revelation 18:1-4). Our movement was founded on the message of "Christ Our Righteousness". It is a stirring message of revival and reformation—a revival that takes hold of our heart and is manifested in a genuine reformation of our life. It is a message that affects our standards of Christian living—our entire world view. It makes its receivers true reformers.

Dear reader, on behalf of my fellow ministers and gospel workers within the Australasian Union Conference, I wish you to know that we are all deeply concerned—concerned for you personally and for where we as a people are headed. It is our fear that the precious message of "Christ Our Righteousness" is not fully understood by us as a people. The effect of this message, when experienced personally, will be a bulwark against temptation and the spirit of worldliness, in its various forms, that ever threatens to leaven our churches. Only by receiving this message into our hearts will it have an effect that will change our lives. When Christ has full control of our heart, then our language, our dress, our diet, our music, our

occupations, our recreation, our family life, our school life, our "online" life, our "offline" life—every thought, word, and act no matter where we are or who we are with—all will reflect the purity, holiness, and loveliness of Christ's life.

Note just how deeply we will reflect His life: "It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience." *The Desire of Ages*, p. 668.

This message makes us not only true reformers but true missionaries. Note, however, what constitutes a true missionary:

"Those who have never experienced the tender, winning love of Christ cannot lead others to the fountain of life. His love in the heart is a constraining power, which leads men to reveal Him in the conversation, in the tender, pitiful spirit, in the uplifting of the lives of those with whom they associate. Christian workers who succeed in their efforts must know Christ; and in order to know Him, they must know His love. In heaven their fitness as workers is measured by their ability to love as Christ loved and to work as He worked.

""Let us not love in word," the apostle writes, "but in deed and in truth." The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within. It is the atmosphere of this love surrounding the soul of the believer that makes him a savor of life unto life and enables God to bless his work.

"Supreme love for God and unselfish love for one another--this is the best gift that our heavenly Father can bestow. This love is not an impulse, but a divine principle, a permanent power. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. Only in the heart where Jesus reigns is it found. "We love Him, because He first loved us." In the heart renewed by divine grace, love is the ruling principle of action. It modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, and ennobles the affections. This love, cherished in the soul, sweetens the life and sheds a refining influence on all around." *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 550-551.

If we are to ever be among those who will finish this work of proclaiming the "everlasting gospel" to "every nation, kindred, tongue and people", we need to be true to our calling as reformers. We need to "arise and shine" and be a burning light in this world of darkness. We need to let Jesus be not merely our best friend, but to let Him be the Lord of our lives. We need to study this most wonderful message of "Christ Our Righteousness" and let it cleanse us, purify us and sanctify us. We need to let this message cut away all worldliness and every unchristian attitude from within our midst.

As I write this, I am reminded of a young person's comment regarding one aspect of their "online" life. Every so often they find they need to "clean up" their Facebook contacts. As many of our readers would be aware, Facebook, an online social networking tool, makes it so easy to accumulate "friends". One click of a button and a "friend request" from anywhere across the globe suddenly opens up to you a whole new world of discovery about that person's life. The "news feed" feature keeps you updated with all their latest happenings. But for some of your "friends", after a while of reading their posts, you come to realise that most of what appears in your "news feed" is just plain rubbish. To clean it up, you either hide comments from those "friends" or remove them entirely from your contact list. This particular young person took the latter option.

When it comes to our "offline" world, perhaps there's a lesson here for us. What kind of "news feed" are you sending out to the people around you? Is it one that tells in favour of heaven and the Christian life, or is it one that needs to be "cleaned up". It is a solemn thought, but right now Jesus has a book of names with faces that He is cleaning out. It is called the Lamb's Book of Life. When we profess faith in His name, we in effect are sending Him a "friend request". Jesus joyfully accepts it and records our name in His book. But he doesn't stop there. Jesus wants not only to be your best friend but for you to accept Him as the Lord of your life. That means obeying His word in everything. Those that do will be overcomers, and He promises to

clothe them with a beautiful white garment—the symbol of His own righteousness, of a pure and holy life. Dear reader, we have the wonderful assurance that if we are found in that condition, then Jesus will not blot out our name from His book, but will confess it before His Father in heaven. (Revelation 3:5).

In view of this reality, I pray that as a people we will make 2012 the Year of Revival and Reformation. Let us study this most precious message and understand what it means personally. Let us take the time to "clean up" the profile of our own life by surrendering all that is out of harmony with heaven to Jesus. Let us be the people God wants us to be—true reformers—a people that are holy and without blemish, who are living for Christ and Him alone. Let us be a people prepared for translation.

—Yours in the Blessed Hope, Paul Chapman, Editor

General Conference Session 2011 Report

News from the proceedings of our 21st General Conference Session can be found at http://gcsession.sdarm.org

One point of note we would like to draw your attention to is the unanimous concern expressed by the delegates for the spiritual welfare of our Church at large. Many expressed their heartfelt belief that "a revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work." Delegates also recognized that any efforts for revival and reformation must begin with the ministry. In recognition of this concern the Session issued a declaration, calling for ministers and workers to take positive steps in addressing this need at their respective local church level.

The seven point declaration acknowledges a decline in spirituality as evidenced by a lowering of the standards revealed in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy. Points 4) and 5) of the declaration read:

- (4) The work of educating the churches must be combined with the presentation of the messages from the book of Revelation in connection with Christ as our personal Savior. "If our people were half awake, if they realized the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message....But whatever phase of the subject is presented, uplift Jesus as the center of all hope, 'the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and morning Star." TM 118:1.
- (5) The only way to succeed in the work of Reformation, is that each member must understand his need of a Savior. "Before there could be any permanent reformation the people must be led to feel their utter inability in themselves to render obedience to God. They had broken His law, it condemned them as transgressors, and it provided no way of escape. While they trusted in their own strength and righteousness, it was impossible for them to secure the pardon of their sins; they could not meet the claims of God's perfect law, and it was in vain that they pledged themselves to serve God. It was only by faith in Christ that they could secure pardon of sin and receive strength to obey God's law. They must cease to rely upon their own efforts for salvation, they must trust wholly in the merits of the promised Saviour, if they would be accepted of God." PP 524:1.

The full seven points from the Declaration of Porumbacu can be found at: http://gcsession.sdarm.org/bulletin_11.htm

Vegetarian Way Cooking Demonstration - NSW

On the 12th, 19th & 26th September 2011 the Sydney members were able to hold another series of cooking demonstrations.

These cooking demonstrations have previously been held in a community center about twenty minutes away from the Union office at Schofields. Now we decided to try something different; to run them at Schofield's function Hall with the seats facing towards the Kitchen to make it easier for the demonstrators.



Since we were holding these at our church property, we had some concerns that this might deter some people from coming, but as it turned out we had no reason to worry, as many people attended, even beyond my expectation. At the first evening there were 30 visitors and for the first time we saw this number increase to 46 by the last night. I mention this because in all previous events we noted a decrease in number as the time progressed, but here we see the opposite; in fact an increase of over 50% of the initial attendees. One of the contributing factors was that we utilized the contact list from prior demonstrations, contacting them by phone, email and text. This proved to be very

efficient and effective. We also distributed about 2000-3000 flyers within the local area. This also proved to be a great success, with many local people registering to attend. This was not only very convenient for the

demonstrators but exposed our church to the people who came.

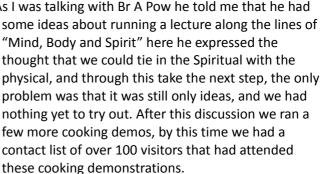
Prior to each demonstration, Br Charles Sas took a half hour segment on some health topics. With the help of Br Bruce Powell we were able to record the cooking demonstrations and the talks by Br Charles; these are available on the Schofield's web site www.schofieldschurch.org.au

Taking the Next Step.

About a year ago I was talking with Br A Pow about how to take the next step from a 15-20 min health lecture prior to the cooking demonstrations to

introducing them to Christ and the church. We found that some of the visitors that came to these events were interested in the Health shop at Schofield's, through this we have increased the number of customers to the shop, but that is where their interest stopped. As I was talking with Br A Pow he told me that he had





As we were planning the Vegetarian Way cooking demonstrations for this year I again discussed the issue of taking the next step with Br A Pow, and he agreed to put the ideas on power point and present

them in a three part lecture starting seven weeks after the last night of the Cooking Demonstration, this was a first for all as this had not been carried out in this way before and praise God it was a great success.

"A Healthy Mind" was the title of the lectures, the theme was how to recognize and find solutions to Stress, Anxiety, Depression and Guilt. Throughout the three evenings A Pow presented the importance of a holistic approach to health and how the mental, physical and spiritual (the heart or emotions) are all connected. The last night of the three began on the first Sabbath of December at 5:30pm followed by a Vegan



Vegetarian buffet meal. All thoroughly enjoyed the food prepared by the sisters of Schofields church and many are eagerly waiting for the next series of cooking demonstrations which are planned for some time in May 2012.

We thank God so much for His help and trust that He will give us the wisdom we so much need to continue working for Him in helping a physically and spiritually sick world.

More photos online at: http://www.sdarm.org.au/news/2012/feb18-vegetarian-way-cooking-demonstration-nsw.html

--Luke Kneebone

Baptism - Dominic Polistina - AUC Youth Convention



At 5:30am on Sabbath morning, 31st December 2012, guests at the AUC Youth Convention made their way to the banks of the Colo River, NSW to witness the baptism of Br Dominic Polistina.

This joyful event was preceded the evening before by Br Dominic's profession of faith before members and guests present at the AUC Youth Convention. All who heard his personal testimony could not help but be encouraged by the gracious working of the Lord in Dominic's life.

It was so wonderful to see another young person make their covenant with Jesus Christ, acknowledging Him as the Lord of their life, and giving their life to Him in service.

Br Nathan Tyler officiated over the service and it was a blessing to see so many turn out so early in the morning. Though it was a little cool and overcast, the Lord held back the rain long enough for the ceremony to take place.

We pray that Br Dominic, having found his home in the Lord's family, will receive a rich measure of the Lord's grace and be true to his baptismal covenant.

More photos online at: http://www.sdarm.org.au/news/2012/feb19-baptism-dominic-polistina-auc-youth-convention-2011.html

Fly-N-Build Vanuatu Project Update

All I could hear was my heart thumping

The emotions of several months were finally coming to an end. The culmination of planning and phone calls was finally coming to a landing on the small runway of Malekula Island. I had been here one time before in preparation of the Church building program. I had walked its dusty road and met with the committed church members. But nothing had gripped me until this moment. Now was the appointed time; the hour when action had to happen. I was traveling with a special faith that had built up over a few years.

I would be gone from my hometown and family for more than six weeks to do this Fly-N-Build in Vanuatu. I knew that the funds I had been given were short of the required budget. I also knew that I was going to

help build a place of worship for people who could not do it all on their own. For years this remote island was part of a place once called New Hebrides—where missionaries long ago went by boat, where people were cannibals and where killing others meant little. None of that mattered to me as I resolved that with the money in hand, by God's grace, I would help build either a bamboo shelter or a proper church building.

As soon as I checked in I knew I was in trouble with being overweight. I am not talking about my body being overweight but being overweight in the suitcase department. Mind you in Vanuatu they do ask you to stand on the scales for flight safety reasons.

The supervisor at the airline desk said that I had to pay over \$1500 in overweight charges. As I had prayed about this beforehand, I asked the supervisor if he could find a better way for me. He instructed the agent at the desk to charge me \$99.00 for overweight baggage and sent me on the way. I knew that was an answer to my prayer, and began singing praises within. I was not carrying my clothing in my suitcases as I had clothes already in Malekula that I had left there on my previous trip. My heavy suitcases were actually full of building materials.

Arriving in Port Vila I was met at the airport 14 hours after departure. The brethren gasped as I needed their help with all the heavy cases and boxes. They knew I was serious about my mission at hand. I was only sad that I had to leave behind a brand new chainsaw that had been donated to the Vanuatu Mission for use there.

With only three days in Port Vila I had to arrange materials and logistics based on the available funds given me. This was funds that were collected in a special appeal for the Malekula Island church building. I shared on that Sabbath with the brethren there how I was going in complete faith in the Lord that his mercies were great and that we would have enough funds to complete the building needed. Despite not having all the needed funding, I went forward knowing that the Lord would provide in due season.

The plans were reduced in size and many things were cut out of the plans for the building. Materials were removed from the List of Materials needed. Anywhere we could cut a corner in time saving measures we did. We reduced the scope of the building and even removed the concrete slab. To compensate, we paid a local driver to transport loads of gravel and black beach sand that we dug up from the local beach nearby.

Because of the plans being changed we had to scramble to order the main timber and roofing tin for the walls and roof. Instead of coming by boat transport from Port Vila the materials were ordered locally on the premise that they would be there in time for the young people who



Malekula Fly-n-Build Team with Local Church Members

were coming from Australia to help on that phase. The materials were supposed to come two days before the fly-n-build team arrived. The local suppliers promised to have the materials there at a certain time, but as happens, "Island time" kicked in. A week later the materials arrived at our beach by a small boat which towed a very small dinghy behind it. We stood on the beach with a smoke signal fire burning, watching and waiting for the boat to arrive. A false alarm was given as another copra boat came by. Finally our boat arrived. We were able to unload most of our cargo until a piece of tin roofing material was dropped into the ocean. You see the small boat did not anchor off the beach but rather "drove" around in circles while the materials were being unloaded. As the wind picked up, it became too dangerous to unload the rest of the roofing tin. The captain said he was going to take it to the nearest port and leave it there.

I was sad that our most of the Fly-N-Build team members that had come to Malekula had now gone. But it was all providential. In one conversation I recall Gideon's name was mentioned along with the teasing song sung...something like "nine little missionaries came and now there were three". You see, when the timber arrived we thought we were getting New Zealand "S4S" timber—what they call in carpentry lingo "Surfaced on four sides". But instead of New Zealand Pine, we actually received a local sawmill pine called Island Pine. The ends of the timber were cut out of square with a chainsaw. To our dismay every piece of wood had to be "squared-off" with a handsaw before being used. So when you see a better picture of this building you will understand how much work went into it.

During the week before the timber arrived to Malekula, the Fly-N-Build team, who originally came to help build, helped transport and load the sand for the floor. They also helped mix concrete for posts which would be the future Sabbath School classroom and Combination Dining hall. They worked very hard in the hot sunshine and the heavy downpours of rain to complete the task on hand. Once we had completed the foundation, it was decided that instead of sitting there wasting time, the Fly-N-Build team would fly back to Port Vila and assist in the church building program there. The Second planned Fly-N-Build program in Port Vila was going on simultaneously with Malekula. The work in Port Vila had progressed immensely by the time we came back there. The block walls were already up and waiting for trusses to be put on.

Back on Malekula, Bro. Luke Kneebone, who had come to run the Malekula Missionary Outreach program, was gracious to assist during his free time and together with Bro. James Yeomans, helped put the walls up and complete the roof framing. We had a saying that this building was built with one hammer, one handsaw and one wheelbarrow. One can accomplish much when one has little. In this case we had little. We prayed when we started and we prayed when we finished. We had brought the building close to completion and on the last Friday morning I was asked to make sure we could meet there for Sabbath meetings. The pulpit was not built nor the pews completed. Some portions of the walls and roof were not done yet. I asked Bro.



Malekula House of Worship - Door and Shutters Still to be Fitted

James to build the pews on a design we had decided upon in Port Vila and with the materials on hand he attacked the task and the first pew built we named it after him. By the afternoon finishing time 95% of the pews were completed and I had built the pulpit. We raked the sand floor clean and took everything out and put it away.

On that Sabbath morning I had a special time with God. I had never in my entire life walked to church on a Sabbath morning along the shore of a black sand beach with the waves lapping at my feet and the sun shining behind the clouds. The coconut palms were swaying in the breeze and the Tamanu nut and mango trees were giving shade along the shoreline.

I shared that touching experience to that first Sabbath School that morning where I explained how it took us almost an hour to drive to church and how our hectic lives were in turmoil fighting traffic and such to get to church on time. I shared what a blessing they all had now and what we missed.

The following Sunday morning was a busy day as we knew we still had a few small items that needed to be done. We walked away with only a few scraps of tin and no pieces of timber left. Everything was used up in the final work. Even the prop of the borrowed ladder was used to create the final pew. We left behind some nails to help with the Sabbath School building.

As volunteers we had much to unlearn about living a hectic life and running here and there. Every one of us had to learn what it meant to live on "Island Time", to smell the frangipani flowers and take things a bit slower.

I encourage everyone to not only assist in monetary means knowing that those who are benefiting from those donations are very grateful in the fact that some person far away sacrificed money to build a lighthouse for God. Small amounts go a long way and now there is still a small amount of money needed to complete this Malekula Island church. If you find the desire to help, \$2000.00 is needed to finish the doors and windows for this building to be secure. \$300 of this amount is needed to make a thatch roof for the Children's Sabbath School building. In many ways I received more blessings than I deserved and am very grateful that many have given to this cause. Local members helped with food donations, cooking, washing and shelter. Vanuatu Mission gave logistics and monetary assistance, members in Australia gave money and time, Sister Dorothy Robinson of Western Australia created 3 boxes of Children's Sabbath School materials which were left behind in three churches. The smiles of many "Tenk-yu Tumas" were echoed in the local Bislama language to each of us at the final good-bye feast held in Malekula. They said that perhaps we might not see each other again and so each sent their heartfelt love to all.

On behalf of Mission Projects Oceania, additional funds are needed for this new church, hymnals, and literature for distribution. Please keep this new church in your prayers and thoughts.

John Lausevic

Director Welfare Department

If anyone wishes to donate towards this please address the funds towards Malekula Island Church Building Fund, c/- SDARM AUC, PO Box 132 Riverstone, NSW 2765, Australia.

More photos online at: http://www.sdarm.org.au/news/2012/feb19-fly-n-build-vanuatu-project-update.html

Baptism - Sam Wiseman NSW



On Sabbath 7th January 2012, Br Sam Wiseman made his public covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ through baptism.

It was a beautiful summer's day in the district of Coleambally, NSW, and a good number of interstate visitors along with the locals rejoiced together with Br Sam as he became a soldier of Jesus Christ. The church at Coleambally was completely full as we worshipped and fellowshipped together.

Br Nathan Tyler took the divine service, reminding us of the importance of heavenly citizenship. Br Peter Lausevic then took the baptismal service highlighting the importance of accepting Jesus and his truth and how the Christian should bring forth fruits worthy of repentance.

We then made our way to the baptismal site where Br Sam publicly was buried and rose again from the watery grave. We thank the Lord for Br Sam's commitment to Jesus along with his burden to share this wonderful gospel message with as many as possible.

It takes courage, faith and hope for young people to stand for Jesus, but everyone who does will be greatly rewarded. We pray that Br Sam's decision may inspire other young people to take their stand for Jesus so that they may be ready when he comes.

-Br Alasdair Pow

PNG School Project

New PNG Government legislation, which came into effect last month, requires compulsory schooling for all PNG children. To meet this requirement, we are pleased to report that our brethren in PNG have taken the first steps in implementing a Christian based education program. In October 2011, the AUC Education Department, in assisting with the coordination of program curricula, received over 300 names of potential students who wish to be be enrolled in the school program. To date, five tutors have been appointed and have received initial teacher training last month. Day school programs have been initiated in three areas — Minj, Markham Valley and Karkar Island. These programs are providing general primary education in the "ABCs" to around 100 students.

We are greatful to "Christian Light Education" for their willingness to assist us in securing an order for high quality Christian based materials for delivery to PNG at a very reasonable price. However, these core curriculum materials are yet to be delivered. The AUC Education Department anticipates the initial project costs for materials to be approximately \$10,000. While the majority of families whose children are enrolled in the school program will be able to cover a large part of this cost, it is anticipated that there will be a need for funding to assist in covering the transport, storage and delivery of the materials, as well as further training for teachers.

With this in mind, we would appeal to anyone who would like to give towards the "PNG School Project" to please contact the AUC Offices for details on how to make a donation.

Tel: +61-2-9627-7553 E: treasurer@sdarm.org.au SDARM AUC, PO Box 132 Riverstone, NSW 2765, Australia.

100% of all Donations Marked "PNG School Project" will go towards funding this project.

Please keep this project and the brethren who are carrying it forward in your prayers.



Potential Students and Tutors, Markham Valley, Morabe Province, PNG.

Calendar of Events

March 9 - 11, 2012

General Conference Sabbath School Department Seminar: Theme: Sabbath School Evangelism

VENUE: Schofields Church, New South Wales For further information please contact, Br Paul Chapman: pchapman@sdarm.org.au

March 16 – 18, 2012 Health Convention: The Liver – Heart Connection

Venue: Schofields, New South Wales

For further information contact: info@elimhealth.org.au

March 18 & 21, 2012 Health Seminar, Perth, Western Australia

March 22 – 25, 2012 Prophecy Seminar, Perth, Western Australia

For further information on either of the Perth Seminars please contact Br Gerson Robles: gerson@sdarm.org.au or Br Alasdair

Pow: alasdairpow@yahoo.com.au

April 5 – 9, 2012 Victorian Conference Camp Meeting

Theme: Jesus' Last Prayer

Venue: Lakewood Park, Paynesville, Victoria

For further information including online registration go to:

http://www.sdarm.org.au/vic2012

or email vic@sdarm.org.au

Tel: (03) 9331 6432 Mob: 0433 239 946

May 15 – 20, 2012 Vanuatu Field Camp Meeting

VENUE: Port Vila, Vanuatu *For further information contact*

Br Andrew Caleb: pakoasongi2010@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: +67-8-774-3113

June 8 - 11, 2012 New South Wales Conference Camp Meeting

Missionary School Graduation

VENUE: Elim Heights Youth Camp, Colo Heights, New South Wales

For further information contact nsw@sdarm.org.au

June 17 – 23, 2012 Prophecy Seminar, Rockhampton, Queensland

Venue: Bauhinia House, Cnr Berserker & High Street, North

Rockhampton, Queensland

9 Nights of Bible Prophecy Lectures for the General Public For further information contact pchapman@sdarm.org.au

GOOD TIDINGS E-NEWS

Electronic Newsletter of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement, Australasian Union Conference

PO Box 132, Riverstone NSW 2765, Australia

Tel: (02) 9627 7553

Email: goodtidings@sdarm.org.au

Web: www.sdarm.org.au
Editor: Paul Chapman
Associate Editor: Ben Thiel
Design: Tabitha Hauptmann

If you no longer wish to receive the Good Tidings e-news, please click unsubscribe: UNSUBSCRIBE