

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS 14 August 2012 #13

Now at Rest: Paul Balbach

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Dear Brethren,

Christian greetings with Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

It is with heartfelt sadness that we inform you of the passing away of our dear brother Paul Balbach, just short of his 59th birthday. He peacefully went to his rest in the quiet of his home, surrounded by immediate family members and a few friends on Sunday, August 12th, 2012 at approximately 9:55 a.m.

Most are aware of our brother's courageous battle against cancer and the bountiful mercy of God in graciously granting him considerably more time than the doctors had predicted at the time of the diagnosis.

A more comprehensive obituary of his life will be prepared shortly.

Bro. Paul Balbach served as a dedicated minister and General Conference Secretary of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement, greatly beloved by believers all around the world. His presence here in Roanoke was uplifting and encouraging; he was indeed a man of faith. We will greatly miss his words of gratitude to God and that deep, rich baritone voice raised in melodious praise to his Saviour and Redeemer. Plans are underway for the funeral to be held in Sacramento, California on August 19, 2012, the Lord willing. The family is requesting that in lieu of flowers, any donations in memory of Bro. Paul Balbach should be made toward the First Sabbath Offerings for the missionary projects in Ethiopia (June 2012) and England (in 2013).

May the Lord of life comfort those that mourn, in harmony with His sure promises--and may each of us be found faithful to our charge while opportunity lingers.

"We may sleep, but not forever;
There will be a glorious dawn;
We shall meet to part, no, never,
On the resurrection morn.
From the deepest caves of ocean,
From the desert and the plain,
From the valley and the mountain,
Countless throngs shall rise again."

Yours in the blessed hope,
The brethren from the Roanoke Church

Baptism of Timothy Barat – Victoria



On Sabbath, the 23rd of June, 2012, the clouds parted over Sunbury as we gathered to witness our brother Timothy Barat take his stand for Jesus.

Members and friends from the local churches and the community gathered for the services at Maranatha Church, with baptism conducted in a river nearby, and followed by fellowship and refreshments in the inviting warmth of the meeting hall.

A highlight of the day was the testimony which Timothy shared about how the Lord led him in a special way to dedicate his life to Him, turning away from choices and associates in life that would have led him in a different direction, and courageously choosing the higher path.

Our prayers and best wishes are with Timothy as he begins his new life in Christ. --Nathan Tyler

More photos online at:

<http://www.sdarm.org.au/?q=news/2012/aug10-baptism-timothy-barat-%E2%80%93-victoria.html>

Solomon Islands Mission Conference & Health Outreach



Local tradition believes that the Solomon Islands are called by this name after King Solomon in the Bible. They say that he came there to gather some natural resources such as gold for the building of the temple.

Solomon Islands is the newest Mission Field in our region being first opened by Br Jaksic a few years ago.

We have one main church group situated on the main island about 40 kilometres away from the capital Honiara. We have

some scattered members and part-time bible workers around different parts of the island as well as in other smaller islands. There are many interested souls in the message of reformation and the members are very much inspired to spread the gospel message throughout all the Solomon Islands.

The local brethren have built a lovely church meeting place for the worship of God and have only a little work to do to finish it. They have a good section of young people who sing beautifully and who are very much on fire for God. During this last trip the local elder Br Kuki baptized seven new souls into the kingdom of God bringing the whole of our church membership in the Solomon Islands to 32. They have now around seven part-time Bible workers spreading the message of reformation. One newly baptized member was a pastor from the "Assemblies of God" church and left them when he became convicted on the Sabbath as the seventh day of the week.



Although western technology is fast moving in, Solomon Islands is still very primitive in places. Overall the people live quite simply, mainly dependent upon the sale of their produce at the local markets for income.



The next goal our brethren have is to build a headquarters in the capital of Honiara and they are seeking and praying to God to provide a piece of suitable land for this purpose.

While Br Csongor and I were there we managed to run a health outreach seminar about 10 minutes away from the church. A good number attended and positive feedback was received from the attendees. The Solomon Islands are very much in need of the health message along with the gospel and they are hungry to learn more. Br Kuki is going to run some seminars for the workers to encourage them in their work and



we left each worker a copy of the book “The Ministry of Healing” to help them in promoting the health work. They held their second delegation session during our visit. Plans were made in this session to extend the work in the coming term by establishing six areas where they have members and workers around the islands.

We ask you to keep the brothers and sisters of the Solomon's in your prayers as they seek to spread the gospel throughout their territory.

--Alasdair Pow

More photos online at: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/?q=news/2012/aug10-solomon-islands-mission-conference-health-outreach.html>

Pacific Islands Leaders Meetings – Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Word of God is clear that the Gospel will be preached in all nations before the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven. It is of interest that the work of God in the island regions gets a special mention in Isaiah. 42:10-12

“Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof. . . . Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.”

The Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement first took the message of reformation to Papua New Guinea in 1998. Shortly after the Fiji mission field was established. Since that time the work has spread across many regions and countries of the pacific. We praise God for the many wonderful experiences gained as

souls from all walks of life have given their hearts to God and many churches and groups have been established.

As calls have come from the highlands and coastal areas of the island nations of the Pacific our workers, lay members and youth from Australia and New Zealand have answered the call and given time and energy to assist in many different ways. We have seen Isaiah 42:4 fulfilled in the lives of many: The Lord is establishing “judgment in the earth, and the isles” do indeed “wait for his law.”

While we thank God for the great things He has done, we also realise that this is no time to be idle. We now have over two hundred members across the Pacific but we realise how great the work is and how many villages and islands are still untouched. We have a great responsibility. Our resources are small but God’s are great.

During the Council meeting of the Australasian Union Conference in January 2012 the work in Pacific Islands was discussed at length. A great need for further consideration on how to best organise and support the work in the islands was realised. It was therefore decided to call a Pacific islands meeting of all field leaders in the Pacific islands within the territory of the Australasian Union Conference, and together with representatives from the General Conference and Australasian Union Conference, consider our methods of work, review our current structure in view of the needs of the Pacific island fields, and make plans to more effectively carry forward and organise the work in these areas.

The Pacific Islands meetings are scheduled to be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, 23rd – 27th November 2012. Meetings on Friday, Sabbath and Sunday the 23rd – 25th of November will be public meetings, and will include the dedication of the new church building in Bladiners Estate, Port Vila on Sunday. All are welcome to attend. Monday – Wednesday will be for Field Leaders only. Please pray for the leaders at this time and the Lord’s work in the various fields of the Pacific islands.

Depression Recovery Program – Keilor, VIC

The Victoria Conference will be hosting a Depression Recovery Program in Keilor Park in September and October. The program features the latest in research on the connection between lifestyle and mental illness, and offers practical steps to recovery.

The Depression Recovery Program will be of particular interest to those suffering from anxiety or depression, those wishing to help a loved one with the condition, and anyone interested in preventive measures to maintain peak mental performance.

Space is limited. There is a cost involved for materials. Inquiries can be made on (03) 9331 6432.

Email: vic@sdarm.org.au

Spread the GT E-News

Are you literate in computers? Then think of those who are not or who may not be receiving “Good Tidings E News”. Print it out, hand it to friends, put it on the church bulletin board, your magazine table or on your fridge.



And for all your friends who are computer literate, forward this edition of “Good Tidings E-News” on to them and invite them to [subscribe](#).

Coming Events Calendar

- August 17-19, 2012** **Queensland Conference Camp Meeting**
Venue: Ewen Maddock Recreation Centre,
Landsborough, Queensland.
For further information contact: qld@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (07) 3862 4803
- Sept 11- Oct 30, 2012** **Depression Recovery Program, Victoria**
Venue: Keilor Park, VIC
For further information contact: vic@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (03) 9331 6432
- September 14-16, 2012** **Western Australian Field Camp Meeting**
For further information contact: geron@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (08) 9377 3283
- September 25-30, 2012** **Papua New Guinea Field Camp Meeting**
For further information contact: info@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9627 7553
- October 4-8, 2012** **Health Seminar, New Zealand**
For further information contact: info@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9627 7553
- October 25-29, 2012** **Fiji Islands Field Camp Meeting**
For further information contact: mthiel@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9627 7553
- November 2-4, 2012** **'Getting to Know God' Retreat**
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Campground
Colo Heights, New South Wales
For further information contact: missionary@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9627 7553
- November 23-25, 2012** **Pacific Islands Public Meetings and Church Dedication**
Venue: Bladiners Estate, Port Vila, Vanuatu
Meetings Commence: 5:30pm Friday, November 23.
Church Dedication: 2:30pm Sunday, November 25.
For further information contact: info@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9627 7553
- November 26-28, 2012** **Pacific Islands Leaders Meetings, Vanuatu**
Venue: Bladiners Estate, Port Vila, Vanuatu
For all Field Leaders of the Pacific Islands only
- December 2, 2012** **Malekula Island Church Dedication, Vanuatu**
Venue: Achin Mainland Village, Malekula Island, Vanuatu
For further information contact: info@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9627 7553

December 25-29, 2012 **“Alive and Kicking” Health Camp**
Venue: Elim Heights Youth Campground
Colo Heights, New South Wales
For further information contact: info@sdarm.org.au
Telephone: (02) 9627 7553

GOOD TIDINGS E-NEWS

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