

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS - 1 JULY 2013 #20

NSW Youth Camp – Dunns Swamp

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Our prayers were answered as youth along with a few adults around NSW came together for the Youth Camp Long weekend at Dunn's Swamp, Wollemi National Park. It was a perfect weekend and great weather for camping considering it was winter. Friday the 7th of June those that arrived there during the day set up camp and had Sabbath preparations underway. Sam Wiseman took opening Sabbath with the topic of "Who is God? – God is Love" After being filled spiritually everyone enjoyed socializing whilst eating dinner around the campfire and having a sing-along accompanied by Sam on the guitar and Hayden on the violin.

Sabbath morning we woke up to the sun smiling through the mist of the clouds, it was most beautiful to start morning worship off with "Getting to know God" we all learned and discussed ways of getting to know someone and how we can relate this in getting to know God also. Barnaby Sas was rushed to emergency as he imitated man vs wild by cutting his finger with a pocketknife, thankfully he got it all stitched up and bandaged. Sabbath School soon followed with Hayden Wiseman leading out and it was not

long till we were all preparing our lunches to take on our nature hike.

The hike wasn't as strenuous as I had expected but everyone was able to stop and breathe in the fresh air nature brought out. We were hoping to see platypuses' at the platypus point though we were told that it was very rare to sight them. The views from the top were magnificent, the sky cascading over the mountains and cliffs overlooked the green portraying the very works of God's creation. When we got back to camp we all huddled around the campfire as Br Alasdair Pow lead out with "How big is God?" the message for closing Sabbath. We discovered that compared to the sun, earth is but a minute planet and compared to particular stars, earth cannot even be seen. To think that earth is but a spec, then what are we humans compared to in God's eyes, the Bible says we are like Grasshoppers. We finished the evening off with songs around the campfire.

Kiara-Shaye Hake took Sunday morning worship as we were challenged with the question, "If it were worth knowing God?" We ourselves cannot force this upon others but if willing to know Him it is ultimately worth it. The rest of the day consisted of fun activities such as kayaking and abseiling. All of us thoroughly enjoyed it well through till sunset. We then devoured a wonderful barbeque before Ashley Sas ended the night with evening worship. Ashley shared a few verses and we shared what great things God has done for us personally.



The dreaded Monday morning had come where we would have to pack up and leave, but before we left Br Matthias Thiel closed the Youth Camp. We learnt the consequences of postponing knowing God. Although we were all in need of a good hot shower, I secretly did not want to leave this weekend behind. We all received a positive experience spiritually and physically as we relished the moments and memories from a blessed long weekend camp. I'm sure I speak for all that went, that we would be looking forward to many more to come.

Reported by Janice Tuuina

Report from Samoa Fly'n'Build Project



Left to right: Luke giving Tim Wiseman a quick rundown on how the bob cat works! Luke and Alasdair going over the project budget.

Sometime ago a plan was formulated to have a “fly-build” project to erect a chapel in Samoa. The brethren there are very happy that this time has finally arrived! Unfortunately Br John Lausevic, director of the Welfare Department, is not able to carry this out due to some health problems, so Br Luke Kneebone was entrusted to take on this project.

On Sunday 9th June 2013 Br Luke, his wife Sr Jade and Josiah left Sydney for Samoa. Jade shared the following thoughts from their trip:

“Well we made it here safely. Flight went well, Josiah seems to love flying so that was good... unfortunately I forgot just how hot it actually gets over here. Poor little Josiah, he is constantly sweating, and I just can't manage to keep him cool! Village life is much different when you have a little baby, and things like keeping mozzies away become much more important... Luke has been busy trying to organise everything for the church building so they can start construction next week, so I haven't seen him much as he has been catching the bus into town everyday. But there are plenty of helpers here to help look after Josiah... Anyway for those of you who know the people from church here, all are well and excited that they will be getting a new church soon. Luke managed to get a data sim, so we will try to continue with the updates when possible. Love from Samoa - Luke, Jade and Josiah”

We are grateful and thankful to the Lord that “Stage 1” has now begun. Please pray for the success of this special project that it may be a blessing to the brethren there in Samoa; pray also that God will bless and give strength to all those who have sacrificed of their time and effort for the benefit of this work.

Another quote from Jade: *“Br Alasdair Pow and Tim Wiseman arrived safely last night (18th June), but I think they are a bit stressed to see how much work actually needs to be accomplished in the next 10 days!”*

Since then, Brother Madalin Duna also has gone over to Samoa to join the rest of the team and together with the Samoan brethren they are extremely busy levelling the ground, digging the trenches and preparing the steel for the foundations of the chapel.

Quote from Jade - Thursday 21 June 2013: *“We are all still well over here in the land of Samoa! Construction is progressing slowly, but getting there, in Island time.”*

Brother Matthias Thiel also joined them on Sunday 23 June and will be building a retaining wall and also helping with the concreting. God willing, the concrete will be poured on Wednesday 26th June 2013, making it all ready for “Stage 2” which will be taking place sometime in September this year.

Update Monday 24 June 2013: *"Hi all from Samoa. Just thought I'd fill you in on our weekend over here. We all had a lovely Sabbath. Thanks to the Samoan government the guys can't work before 8am or after 6pm, and are not allowed to work on Sundays. So we all had a lovely weekend, and managed to be tourists for half a day on Sunday! It was the first time any of us got a swim here in Samoa this trip. Josiah absolutely loved the water! Brother Matthias Thiel arrived last night from New Zealand and today work continues on the site although they are quite stressed as the work is progressing a bit slower than wished. Today they are working in the rain. Luke had to run into town again, so I am spending my 6 year wedding anniversary without him Oh well never mind. Only 1 ½ weeks to go and we'll be coming back to freezing Sydney lol and then I'll probably wish I was back here hahaha!!"*

Update, Tuesday 25 June 2013

"Still managing...work going nicely despite monsoon type weather this morning. Workers still in good spirits but I think looking forward to getting home Hoping concrete will be poured tomorrow." Jade Kneebone

Update, Wednesday 26 June 2013

"Well the concrete is being poured today despite the rain and thunder. Block work going good too." Jade Kneebone

Update, Thursday 27 June 2013

"Well, all our fellow countrymen have left us here in Samoa now....Seems like Stage 1 of the project is nearly finished. Luke is just doing some tidying up bits and pieces, and sorting out stuff for stage 2 in September. I was tempted to fly back with the others this morning, but decided that I might as well stay for the last week and keep my husband company. Anyway, that's all for now. Better try and get some sleep!"

If you would like to be a part of this special project and able to go over to help as a volunteer during 'Stage 2' you are welcome to contact Br Luke Kneebone on 0411 250 852 for more information. Your financial support is also always much appreciated; please send any donation to the treasurer of the Australasian Union Conference Office at Schofields. May God bless each cheerful giver!

Reported by Lidia Voncina, AUC Office



Stage 1: Site preparations. Block work



Stage 1: Concrete Pour Wednesday 26 June, 2013

More photos online: <http://www.sdarm.org.au/news/2013/jul01-report-samoa-fly%E2%80%99n%E2%80%99build-project.html>

London Project Update



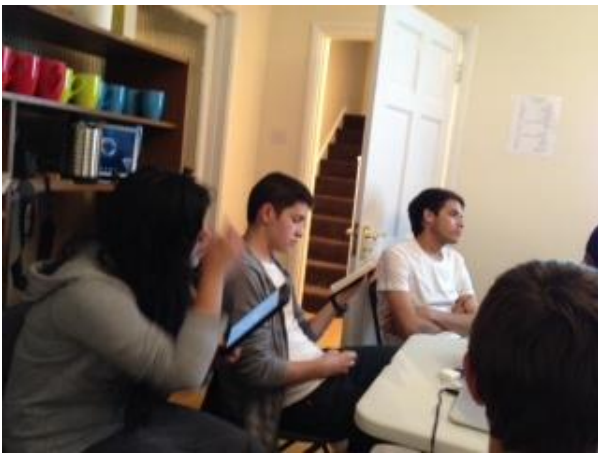
Many greetings to all of you in Christ Jesus. It is with great joy and enthusiasm that we inform you of our arrival in London and of the commencement of this evangelistic outreach which many of us have long been looking forward to. We thank the Lord for His graciousness in allowing us all to arrive here safely and for the privilege of being able to take part in this project which, in actuality, is much more than a project--it is a solemn mission and a rewarding work! What a wonderful blessing it is to have been given the opportunity to labor alongside other God-fearing youth in His vineyard in a foreign land, bringing the truth to a place where its beacon has not yet, for some time, been able to shine in all its brightness. While we are fully aware of the challenge that awaits us, and while we know discouragements and difficulties will at times be hurled our way, we also know and remember that we are not alone in this mission we have undertaken. He who protected, guided, and strengthened the prophets of old as well as our faithful forefathers, will be beside us every step of the way to grant us divine assistance and courage.

As I'm sure some of you know, this project was not without its share of setbacks and obstacles which had to, with God's help, be overcome. These were not only on the field level but also on a personal level, for many of us. But by God's grace, we have made it here and at the moment we are twenty-one strong, anxiously awaiting the arrival of six more canvassers who will be arriving from Hungary and Spain tomorrow

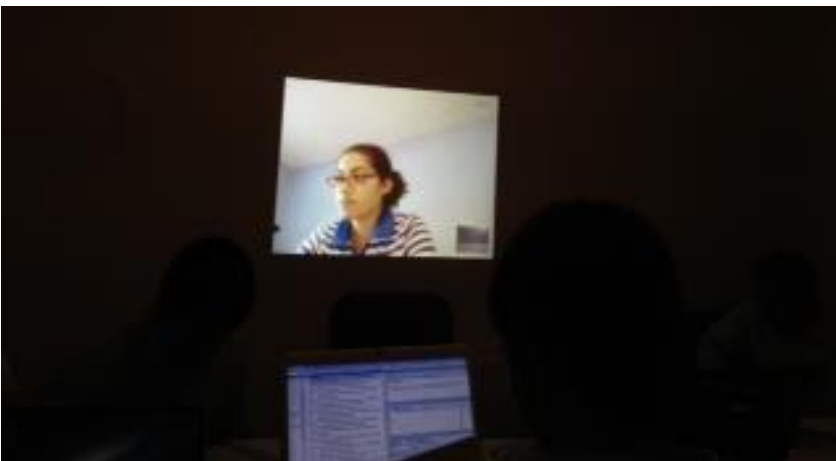
as well as three more individuals from France next week. We realize that the enemy has been trying his hardest to discourage us and halt the Lord's work by flooding us with difficulties and complications. But this only proves that a great work is to be done here in the next months, provoking fierce oppositions from the powers of darkness.

Today we had our very first canvassing experience which was quite encouraging and exciting. After only a few hours of canvassing, we sold a total of thirty-eight books including two More Choices, one Bible Heroes, and thirty-five Happiness Digest (Steps to Christ), which earned us a total of 51 pounds and 21 pence. It was beautiful to be able to get a taste of reaching out to others in this way, especially for those of us who did it for the very first time. We ask that you pray for us so that today may have been only the first of many such wonderful experiences and that with God's help we may be able to do our utmost best in this sacred commission that He has entrusted to us as His sons and daughters.

Eunice A. Braidman, reporting from London



Here is worship after canvassing the first day. Julie Lombard directs this worship from Montreal Canada.



Gisselle Lanuza teaches them how to canvas via Internet from North Carolina in the USA and Rolly Dumaguit leads them during the day.



London 2013 Project Participants



London 2013 Sabbath Service

View the Public Presentation Video Live Stream at: <http://listentosermons.org/london>

Evangelism Through the Sabbath School - Melbourne, Victoria

On the Weekend of 26-28 April, 2013 Paul Chapman, as the General Conference Sabbath School Director, conducted Sabbath School Seminar in Melbourne, Victoria. The program, entitled Evangelism Through the Sabbath School, highlighted the primary purpose of Sabbath School work: The ingathering of souls for Christ. Over the three days material was presented which challenged members to make the Sabbath School what God intends it to be: The most effectual instrumentality of the church in bringing souls to Christ as an evangelistic tool of the local church.

"The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ." Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p.10.

Topics included:

The Object of Sabbath School Work

Teachers as Evangelists

Small Group Evangelism

Organising the Sabbath School for Success

Branch Sabbath School Evangelism

How to Teach the Sabbath School Lesson

Appreciation was expressed by many for the instruction given, with positive steps being taken to apply the material to the local Sabbath School Work.

If you would like a Seminar conducted in your area, please contact Paul Chapman [on email: pchapman@sdarm.org.au](mailto:pchapman@sdarm.org.au)

Making New Friends in Australia - Adelaide Camp Meeting

For a long time we have planned to visit Australia, but we never found the right time to go. Then this last year it seemed like everything fell into place. Between work and family the timing could not have been better. I had been talking to an uncle of mine, who visited us two years ago, that lives in Australia and who recently has had surgery due to a brain tumor. He is doing well and under his doctor's watch—may God help him to stay well. After talking to my family about it for a few days we bought the tickets. Soon after, we started looking at SDARM events in Australia and found out that there was a South Australian Camp Meeting during our visit there. Things could not have worked out any better. I was very pleased that we were able to finally take a trip to Australia, which my wife has wanted for a long time, to visit our relatives, and have a chance to meet the church brethren.

For help we contacted Brother Csongor Matyas, he was very willing to help us make reservations and find the location of the camp meeting. Also Brother Nathan Tyler helped us in the plan our trip to the camp meeting. We could not have been happier with how they handled our situation.

When we arrived in Melbourne, Australia on Friday morning our relatives were already waiting for us. We stayed with them for a few hours and then we proceeded to the camp meeting in Adelaide (Mylor).

On March 30th, Saturday, the program started at 7 A.M. with everyone giving us a warm welcome. It was very pleasant to be welcomed so openly even though it was our first visit. That Sabbath morning they held a regular program. After lunch, people were preparing for the young's people meeting and I was so pleased when I saw children, youth and other brothers and sisters playing so many instruments, singing in duets, groups, and even a choir.

On the 31th of March, Sunday, in the morning was a missionary presentation, and in the afternoon, in the city of Mount Barker, was a great concert presentation by the young people, with musical items, while helpers spoke to the interested and handed out literature. Brother Harold Kraus was very professional while explaining before each item what each song meant. The programs were very emotional and touching. The concert presentation lasted for about 3 hours including a short break. The hard work of the youth and participating members paid off. The concert left a great memory in the hearts of many.

On the 1st of April, Monday, was the day when most of us traveled about an hour to one of the most picturesque parts of the Fleurieu Peninsula. We spent the day together on a little island where we walked around the island with a great view of the ocean and historical rocks giving us all kinds of information. Of course the lunch was very welcomed. We ate and some of us played volleyball. It was truly a wonderful day. After a short morning prayer on April 2nd we ate breakfast and left the camp meeting loaded with so much emotions and happiness in our hearts!

During the camp meeting we made many new friends and we even met some old ones. One good friend now I have is Brother John Boje from Melbourne. To my surprise one day we were on the way to eat dinner with Brother John and he told us he only eats raw food. He brought with him a trunk full of his own fruits and vegetables. Inspired by his actions we joined Brother John in a feast of his home grown fruits and vegetables.

After the camp meeting we stayed with my uncle and his family on Wednesday. By about noon on Thursday we arrived at Brother Nathan Tyler's beautiful country home in Broadford, which is about an hour drive from Melbourne. We were all amazed at the location of his house and the garden that he and his family had. After we had lunch with Brother Nathan and his family, we then visited Brother John Boje and his family. Later that evening we met up with Sister Katy Szabo at Brother Mihai Lupoiu's house for dinner. Like all of the brethren, the Lupoiu family were very kind and hospitable while we were with them. They are one of the families we will not soon forget. Thanks to my wife and Sister Katy who had already made plans to stay with her for a few days when they met at the camp meeting just a few days before. We stayed at her house from Thursday till Saturday. On Friday morning my wife and Sister Katy prepared the food for the Sabbath, and in the afternoon we visited John Boje's beautiful garden with many fruits and vegetables. He even had strawberries, which are my favorite. On Friday night there was a church meeting at the Lupoiu house. In all, about twenty of us, ate dinner then soon after had a youth program and a question and answer session by Brother Peter Szabo. Saturday morning the Church of Sunbury had a regular Sabbath morning program with a very good lunch following the program. Lunch was followed by a Young's People Meeting for about two and a half hours of great instrumentals, songs sung by voice and a few experiences. We left the church with a great joy and a wonderful experience.

If you want to listen to beautiful music during a Young's People Meeting, go to Australia.

If you want to be a part of that church, move to Australia!

When the vacation was over and it was time to come home, Mihai with Nicoleta Lupoiu and John Boje came to the airport with us. We really appreciated that.

We all made so many new friends during our short visit in Australia. We were only able to visit a hand full of families from the numerous invitations that we received from the brethren there. We only mentioned a few of the memories from our vacation. We leave the rest for you to experience when you get the chance to visit Australia.

We returned home with so many great memories from the Adelaide Camp Meeting and the Melbourne Church.

Do you want to see Heaven? Now is the time to prepare your soul.

May God Bless you and your families for the hospitality and friendship all of you gave us.

—By the Belu Family

Wedding of Nadine Cunningham and Domenic Polistina



On Sunday, 2nd June, 2013, the two young lives of Br Domenic Polistina and Sr Nadine Cunningham were united in marriage at Windmill Reception Gardens, Plumpton, a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. The setting was beautiful with the lawns and gardens neatly manicured. The groom and his best man and groomsmen as well as approximately 180 guests assembled in and out of the quaint little chapel to witness the arrival of the bride and her attendants.

Br Nathan Tyler conducted the wedding service offering the young couple (and all other couples) some practical advice for a happy and successful marriage. They were reminded to remember the word CARE.

C – Communication with each other first

A – Appreciation (Do not be shy to express)

R – Respect (Regard the others feelings and wishes)

E - Encouragement (Gives motivation to serve each other)

Br Peter Lausevic carried out the legal side of the ceremony. Domenic and Nadine expressed their promise to each other in personally written vows.

As they signed the register, Damien Blewitt sang the Irish Wedding Song – May God bless this couple who married today.

As the couple gathered for photos, some dark clouds were gathering but the sun dispersed light through the rain, producing a beautiful rainbow. We trust God will bless the new Mr and Mrs Polistina with lots more rainbows as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

—Reported by Mary Wiseman (Courtesy [The Pioneer](#) Vol 3, #22)

Literature Evangelism - Sunshine Coast, QLD



On Monday June 24, 2013 the Woombye church group commenced their four day literature evangelism project in the Sunshine Coast region of Queensland. The program was organised by Sandra Barnett and any young people or families looking for some healthy, positive recreation during the winter school holidays were invited along. The main thrust of the project consisted in the delivery of tracts and flyers to households throughout Nambour and Landsborough during the morning hours. This

was followed by a picnic lunch, an afternoon outing in nature, and an evening meal and fellowship. By Tuesday afternoon, all of Nambour Heights had been completed which was a great achievement. The literature campaign, in progress at the time of writing was due to finish on Thursday June 27. Reports have come through that a good part of Landsborough has also been completed. We pray that the Lord will bless the material that has been distributed. The local brethren are looking forward to checking their local post box in anticipation of good number of positive responses. We look forward to hearing news of the responses generated from this campaign.

Public Cooking Demonstrations - Clayfield Church, Queensland

On Sunday, 2nd June, members and friends of the Clayfield church in Queensland, held a cooking demo in Nundah. Two weeks before, we letter-boxed 2,000 invitations with the help of Jacob and Sandra De Souza. We had a good turn out of just over 20 people from the public, none of whom we had ever met before, as well as other church members and friends. The dishes demonstrated by Naomi McMahon, Sandra De Souza, Ruth Rodionoff, and Helen Voncina were red lentil soup, bread, vegetarian lasagne, tofu croquettes, lentil tartex, cashew cream, as well as desert which was a simple coconut pudding and pineapple cream. In between the demonstrations Br Paul Chapman spoke on the 8 laws of health. We thank the Lord for the positive re-sponse expressed by many who attended and we are all looking forward to the next cooking demo. **Watch “Vegetarian Lasagne” Demonstrated:** <http://youtu.be/YzqjI97Uw64>

—Submitted by Melissa Chapman



Lessons in the School of Grace: The Fruit of Salvation

A question was raised recently in a Bible discussion group that I am a member of concerning the nature and role of obedience, or “good works”, in the Christian experience. What relationship do they have, if any, to our salvation? As you might imagine, a quite lively discussion ensued.

One member of the group stated, “Salvation, if real, leads to works of obedience by faith. If obedient works do not exist – or willful rebellion to God’s commandments does exist – then the grace He so wilfully offered was rejected.”

A detractor retorted, “The thief on the cross did not have time to perfect his life even in faith as you suggest. If you could find some grace to go with your package it would make more sense.”

If the thief on the cross was assured of salvation, simply by his declaration of faith in Christ, then is it any different for us?

Ephesians 2:8-9 is emphatic: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9.)

This is a powerful verse that emphasises the fact that our salvation is wholly of grace. But what place do works have in this package, if any?

In Paul’s letter to Titus we find an answer. Here Paul defines saving grace not by what it is, but by what it does.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” (Titus 2:11-12.)

Saving grace is an educator and its lesson is a very practical one. In this world today, with all its sin and decadence, grace teaches believers that they are to deny sin in all its forms and “live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives” (ESV).

Grace also teaches us to keep “looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” It reminds us that Jesus gave Himself for us, for a reason—“that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” (Titus 2:13-14.)

Note the outcome of this lesson. Those who enter the school of grace become purified believers who are zealous of good works.

Ephesians 2:9 makes it clear that any assurance of salvation or acceptance with God does not rest on our works. Our salvation is by grace alone through faith. It is a gift of God, not gained by anything we have done for God, but in what God has done for us in Christ. If our salvation were dependent on our good works, some might have a reason to boast. But the apostle makes it clear here, that there is no room for boasting. Any “good works” that we do are simply the product of God’s work in us. The next verse in the passage makes this point very clear.

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

As sinners, we have nothing worthy to bring to God. In fact we can do nothing to merit ourselves to Him. He alone chose to save us, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...” Note now how this was accomplished. “...by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5).

Unless we have experienced this regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, we are not in a saving relationship with God nor are we able to work any good work He has ordained for us. The reason He recreates us anew in Christ is so that we CAN do good works. Before we even knew God, He already ordained a life of good works for us. More than that He draws us, calls us, converts us, and renews us so that “we should walk in them.” Such a life of good works then is merely the fruit of our faith, not the root of it. A Christian life in which there is a zeal for good works—where there is denial of self and sin, and an active life of godliness—are simply the fruit of God’s grace alone working in the heart of the believer. For this reason, as Jesus affirmed, much fruit (the good works of our redeemed lives) glorifies our Father in heaven (Matt 5:16; John 15:8).

A life of grace is a life of growth—“first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear” (Mark 4:28). When the thief on the cross confessed Christ as his saviour, he manifested the springing up of God's grace in his heart. His life was but a blade. He had no further opportunity to glorify God. But we, who are called to live godly lives in this world, are to “go on unto perfection” (Hebrews 6:1). We are to grow in grace, letting our life manifest not only the “blade”, but also the “ear, and after that, the full corn in the ear” (Mark 4:28). The thief’s life of grace constituted but a few hours. Ours may constitute a number of years. In either case, our assurance of salvation lies not in any works of righteousness that we have done, but solely in the grace of God.

To illustrate further the relationship of works to our life, consider the beautiful symbol of the branches and the vine, as applied by Jesus. In the passage found in John 15, Jesus states that He is the vine. Believers are the branches. Our Father in heaven is the Caretaker of the vine.

If a branch bears fruit (“good works”), it is purged (through tests and trials) by the Caretaker, in order that it may bring forth more fruit. Furthermore, any branch that does not bear fruit is cut off. Meditate on this for a moment. The only purpose of the branch is to bear fruit. This is our reason for being, our reason for living—to glorify our Father in heaven in joyful response to His saving work for us and within us. But how do we go about bearing fruit? Do we try to produce the fruit ourselves? Or do we trust God to take care of the fruitfulness of the branches?

If we are trying to bear fruit, with our focus on ourselves, we will be making a sad mistake. A great many of the ancient Jews made this mistake. When it came to efforts to “bear fruit”, they were indeed a zealous people. Their efforts to “keep” the law of God, was second to none. However, all their efforts to maintain “good” works amounted to nothing. As the apostle Paul put it, they had a zeal, but not according to knowledge. What knowledge were they ignorant of?

Paul explains the problem in Romans 10:3, “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”

In trying to establish their own righteousness they failed to not only submit to God’s righteousness, but were entirely ignorant of it. The kind of righteousness that God requires was a righteousness that surpassed human standards. Not only in outward conduct, but in the inner mind and heart of a person, God required perfect conformity to His will. Only one person who has ever walked this earth manifested that kind of righteousness in every thought and act of His life. That person was Jesus Christ. His righteousness alone could meet the demands of God. And in giving up our own righteousness, and submitting to this righteousness we find acceptance with God.

In going about to establish our own righteousness, trying to make ourselves a “better” Christian, we are really operating as those ancient Jews were. They were so focused on complying with the letter of the law that they forgot the weightier matters, “justice, mercy and the love of God.”

The only way to come into possession of this kind of righteousness is through confession and belief:

“..If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10.)

Such a confession and belief, rooted in our hearts, requires submission of our own will and way to God's will and way. In taking a lesson from the vine and the branch, it is evident that no amount of worrying can produce one ounce of fruit. If the branch simply rests in the vine, allowing the life of the vine to flow through the branch, there will be life, growth and fruitfulness—naturally. This is the life of faith.

The ancient Jews who failed to exercise such faith became fruitless branches, despite their efforts to bear fruit. Consequently they were cut off. But other branches were grafted in by faith. Using the figure of an olive tree, the apostle Paul exhorts believers:

"Do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. Then you will say, 'Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.' That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.

"Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off." (Romans 11: 18-22 (ESV))

Continuing in God's kindness, or goodness (as the KJV renders the word), requires the continual exercise of belief—a belief that manifests itself in fruit bearing. The Greek word for "believe (πιστεύω) (pisteuo) means, not just to have a merely intellectual belief that something is true, but to trust, to put faith in, to rely on, to be persuaded of, to have confidence in. All this implies an active, abiding faith in Christ, a "faith which works by love" (Galatians 5:6). Such a relationship will indeed be fruitful.

But remember, the secret to fruit bearing is not to try to bear fruit. The secret is simply to abide. John 15:5, "Abide in me and I in you" Christ said. We are to be IN Christ, and He is to be IN us. This requires continual self-surrender. The branch has nothing to give but itself and depends solely on the vine for everything. Life and fruitfulness is promised to the branch that abides. It is a relationship of absolute trust.

For Christ to be in us, it requires an intimate and unbroken connection with Him. This calls for us to deny ourselves and give up anything that would interrupt our connection with Him in obedience to the Word of God (John 15:3). It calls for a continual trust in Him for everything, exercising constantly the faith He gives to us for without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). It calls for constant communion with Him through prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. It calls for meditation in His word, listening for His voice speaking to our hearts.

As we abide in the vine, "the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5) continues. This washing cleanses us from "all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Bad fruit is removed and good fruit buds and blossoms. This process involves the Holy Spirit imparting a new heart to us—new desires, new purposes, and new motives. This change of heart leads to a change of behaviour in our life.

What God does with this heart is outlined in Hebrews 8:10-12. "I will put my laws into their minds and write them in their hearts." That is, the principles of God's laws—to love Him with all our heart, and our neighbour as ourself—will be fulfilled in us.

Just as Christ, foreshadowed in Psalm 40:8, could say, "I delight to do thy will, Oh my God, yea they law is within my heart!" so will every believer who has Christ within, also declare the same words, "I delight to do thy will, Oh my God, yea thy law is within my heart"—written there by the Holy Spirit!

As the apostle Paul wrote,

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. (2:13) For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure." (Philippians 2:12-13)

God works in us BOTH to WILL and to DO of His good pleasure. It is God that wills us to do In saying that, is there nothing that we are to do? The fact that all through Scripture believers are told "to hold our confidence sure", "to reckon ourselves dead", "to submit", "to come", "to abide", "to work out", "to deny", "to stand", "to put on", "to fight", "to pray", "to persevere", etc, implies that we have much to do. But all

this doing will come naturally to us as we do one simple thing: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved!” (Acts 16:31)

As the figure of the branch and the vine illustrate, fruit bearing is the sign of a living healthy connection with the vine.

Taking the analogy of fruit bearing further, in another place Jesus, likens people to trees. Each tree will be known by its fruit. Good fruit indicates a healthy tree. Corrupt fruit indicates a diseased tree.

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil” (Luke 6:45).

When it comes to the fruits of our life, our works will bear witness to the soundness of our Christian experience. If we are producing “evil” fruit, it is a sure sign we have fallen from grace. Our life, instead of being a fruitful walk in the Spirit, becomes a hedonistic walk in the flesh.

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” (Galatians 5:19-24.)

Diligent students of grace learn its lesson well. The only way we can be saved is by grace alone through faith in Christ. But that grace teaches us that if we belong to Christ, our old life, lived in the flesh is now to be crucified with Him. By constantly reckoning ourselves “dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ” (Romans 6:11) we are in a position to live godly, spirit filled lives, zealous of good works. In so doing, it is my prayer that we may all become glorious fruit laden branches, the product of the Lord's planting, the fruit of the grace He abundantly bestowed upon us when he “saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

—Written by Paul Chapman

DVDs for Outreach: The 70 Weeks Prophecy

A video presentation by Paul Chapman on the 70 Weeks Prophecy of Daniel Chapter 9 is now available for distribution. This is a great witnessing tool designed for neighbourhood outreach. The presentation gives the evidences for Jesus' Messiahship based on the fulfilment of this prophecy. Christians with an interest in end time events will find this a challenging presentation of the “70th week of Daniel 9”. Is that week in the future? Or is it in the past? Or is it part past and part future?

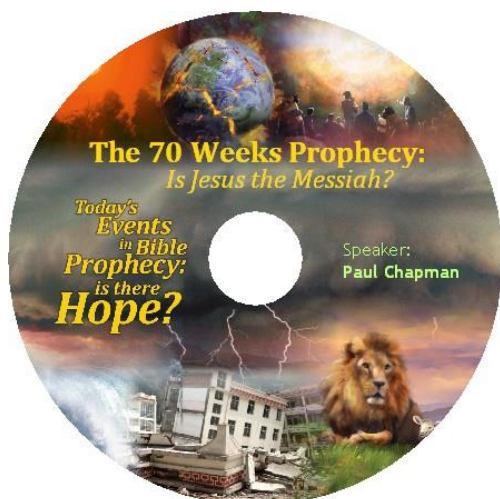
After viewing the video, one Christian recently responded:

“That is a great, great video. We need that truth so desperately in this world of confusion. So many Christians are caught up in the Sir Robert Anderson deceptive mathematics, that “cut off” the Messiah from the 70 weeks. What a breath of fresh air you bring to the Christian community.

“Keep up the good work to expose this wicked antichrist replacement.”

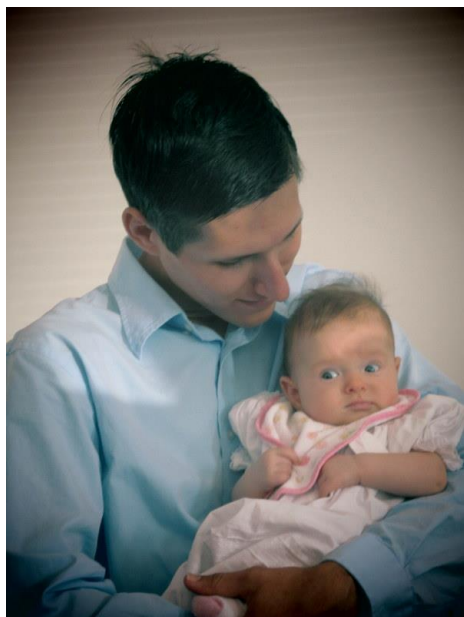
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Watch online now: [The 70 Weeks Prophecy: Is Jesus the Messiah?](#)



Arrival of Katherine Dammasch

Ben and Cherith Dammasch welcomed baby Katherine Melody Dammasch on December 9, 2012. She weighed in at 7lb10oz and was 54cm long. She was dedicated by Nathan Tyler Feb 23 at Keilor Park Church, Melbourne.



Remembering the Life of Br Paul Voncina

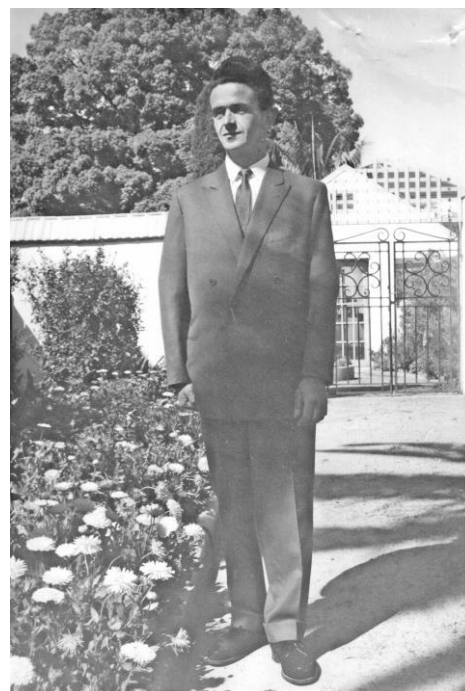
Paul Voncina was born in Mitrovac Croatia on the 27th June 1935 to Antonia and Rudolf Voncina. Paul was the youngest of 13 children; he was amongst 6 brothers and 7 sisters. His early years were spent going to school, working on the family farm and later joining his father and brothers who were working the forestry industry.

In 1957 Paul went to Germany where he worked in the mines for one and a half years. In 1959, at the age of 24, seeking a better life, Paul migrated to Australia.

On the 25th September 1960, Brother Paul Voncina was baptized by Pastor Charles Peter Haynes at Lane Cove River and became a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement church. In the same year Paul married Mira Jaksic who came to Australia to be his wife.

Paul's first job in Australia was at the Holden car manufacturing plant. After that he worked many years at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital as a handy man and laundry hand.

Robert their only son, was born on 25 May 1970 and they spent many happy years enjoying nature, going to parks, feeding birds, going to the beach, playing soccer and cricket; Paul also enjoyed teaching Robert how to ride a bike. One of the things Paul took much pleasure in was helping Robert with school woodwork projects; they made model boats and even a working guitar; Paul was very good with his hands.



One of Paul's great enjoyments in life was playing the organ at home. He never had music lessons but taught himself how to play the organ so whenever he had any spare time he would sit and play his organ.

Sadly, Paul suffered a terrible work accident in 1977, during which he lost his right arm; his life was very much affected from that time on.

One of the happy moments of Paul's life was in 1979 when he was able to go back to visit Croatia and Serbia with his son Robert to visit the family and do some sightseeing. This was the first time that Paul went back since he had left his homeland.

After his terrible accident Paul chose to move out from his home and live alone, a very private and peaceful life. Even during these years, Paul never gave up his Advent beliefs of awaiting the return of his dear Saviour Jesus Christ.

Early 2003, quite often Paul used to turn up at the AUC Union office and ask for tracts so he could letter box; he still had zeal for missionary work and wanted to spread the good news. Sometimes when out of tracts, he would be quite sad and say: "How could you run out, I need to go and spread the message".

On Sabbath the 20th April 2013 at the age of 77, Paul was found in his unit where he had fallen peacefully asleep in Jesus.

To Mira, Robert, Svetlana, relatives, Paul has fallen asleep but the wonderful memories live on and as you reflect on his life you will remember these precious years that you spent knowing him, living with him and being with him.

Be comforted with these words ... "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." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

—*Written by Joe Voncina*

Coming Events Calendar

16 – 18 August 2013

QLD Spiritual Conference

*Location: Ewan Maddock Dam Recreation Centre
Landsborough QLD 4550*

For further information contact: gld@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +61 (7) 3862 4803

19 – 22 September 2013

WA Spiritual Conference

For further information contact:

<http://www.sdarm.org.au/wa2013>

Telephone: +61 (8) 8376 0163

4 – 7 October 2013

NSW Spiritual Conference

“Jesus Paid It All”

Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp

For further information contact: nsw@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +61 (2) 9627 7553

25 – 29 December 2013

AUC Spiritual Conference

Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp

5760B-5760D Putty Road, Mellong NSW 2756

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

Telephone: +61 (2) 9627 7553

GOOD TIDINGS E-NEWS

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