

AUSTRALASIAN GOOD TIDINGS

E-NEWS - 25 September 2014 #23

"Here Am I, Send Me" - WA Camp Meeting 2013

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Coming Events Calendar



The WA Field Conference was held from September 19-22 this year. Entitled, "Here Am I, Send Me", the convention's theme was evangelism, both in one's personal experience and as a church team.

We opened the conference with a meeting entitled, "The Reluctant Missionary". There's a few reluctant missionaries found in the Scriptures, but the one we looked at and that everyone remembers, and perhaps remembered for the wrong reasons, is Jonah - the prophet that was swallowed by a big fish.

The book of Jonah contains only four short chapters, but in them is revealed God's compassion and mercy for the wicked people of Nineveh. The instrument God used to reach them was very unwilling, to say the least. Jonah's attempt to escape responsibility and the call of God only resulted in terrible disaster for himself. Through a couple of providential and yet catastrophic events (including ending up in the belly of a fish), Jonah was brought right around to face the God he was running away from.

We learned that God did not use the big fish to punish this very unwilling and childish prophet, but rather to save his life from certain death in the

ocean. The compassion of God is here also clearly revealed.

When God commanded him again to go to Nineveh, this time Jonah obeyed. He had repented in the fish's belly. However, there was still a horrible disorder in Jonah's attitude towards the repentant people of Nineveh. When God had mercy on the people of Nineveh, rather than rejoicing with the angels of heaven over the revival in the hearts of those sinners, the Bible states that, "it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry." Jonah 4:1

Jonah had his priorities mixed up. He was happy over a plant that shielded him from the heat of the sun and angry because God spared the lives of thousands. He wanted to die rather than to do God's will. He was out of harmony with the heart of God, and that is why he was so unwilling.

In this study, we not only saw God's compassion over the city of Nineveh but more so in his treatment of this unwilling prophet, who had the greater guilt. We learned that unwillingness to "go" at the command of God only shows up a spiritual illness. We need the compassion of God.

Bro. Csongor with his family visited us and he took the study entitled, "The Gifts of the Spirit in Action".

We learned that everyone one has a special gift from God to bless others with. We often like to think that our gift is not very significant and with this thought excuse ourselves from action, but all the spiritual gifts are necessary for the church to be complete in its mission to share the gospel.

The divine service was taken by Bro. Ben Thiel and was based entirely on the camp theme. What moved Isaiah to respond so positively to the call of God? He had seen a vision of God sitting on His throne. He had seen his own weakness and inability and yet trusted implicitly in the grace of God to help him with the task.

Bro. Jim Newman spoke to us about "The Power to Witness". There's only one way we are going to receive God's power from above to help us in our work - that is to agonise in prayer for it. We must deeply feel our necessity for the power of the Spirit to help us in the last great work.

This important work can only be accomplished if there is unity among God's people. It only takes one person working in the right lines for this to start working towards unity. This statement was read out, "The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife. Those who have not been living in Christian fellowship will draw close to one another. One member working in right lines will lead other members to unite with him in making intercession for the revelation of the Holy Spirit. There will be no confusion, because all will be in harmony with the mind of the Spirit. The barriers separating believer from believer will be broken down, and God's servants will speak the same things. The Lord will co-operate with His servants. All will pray understandingly the prayer that Christ taught His servants: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Matthew 6:10." 8T 251.1

On Friday, a couple of discussion groups were organized by Sr. Monica and Chris Newman. These were on the "Qualifications of Missionaries" and "Methods of Outreach". Both of these were greatly enjoyed by those who participated and there was plenty of food for thought that challenged our personal mission activities and as a church.

One of the highlights of the conference was having our brothers and sisters from over East visit us. Ben Thiel, Csongor Matyas and their families, Sr. Monica Balarezo, Amos Thiel all came to spend time with us. We were also visited by a young family from Victoria and they blessed us with their fellowship. I'm sure they'll keep in touch with our people when they head back home.

A number of positive testimonies were shared as the conference came to a close. We especially thank The Lord for His presence with us - this is what made the camp all worth it.

—Reported by Gerson Robles

Invitation to Tasmania Weekend Camp - November 2013

Old Time Message for a New Generation

You are invited to a special weekend camp in Tasmania on the 8th to 10th of November, 2013. It will be held at the Riverbend Youth Centre, in Smithton. This lovely Christian camp will provide the ideal atmosphere to spend some quiet time in study of God's word and fellowship with other believers. We will consider the relevance of the old time Reformation message in today's generation. Why do people today need to hear this message? Is it still relevant? Bring your Bible and your questions and be prepared for a blessing! For more information, download the flyer from the link on the calendar at www.sdarm.org/calendar

Vegetarian Way - Health Lecture and Vegetarian BBQ Demo



Sydney 15 September 2013

As a community service during the year the members of our Sydney churches held cooking demonstrations at our Schofields centre. During these presentations a number of the attendees asked for some ideas of foods for a vegetarian barbeque; so it was decided to have a designated Sunday specifically for this purpose, also to ask Br Alasdair Pow to have a health segment. After consulting with Brother Pow about dates when he would be available for the health presentation, Sunday 15th of September was set for this outreach.

Sunday morning before 11:00am as the people started to turn up Sister Rosetta Ilic together with Ashley Sas welcomed a total of thirty two very keen visitors as well as some of our own members. Before the lecture started, Br Matthias Thiel welcomed each one and introduced Br Alasdair Pow to do his presentation. All who were present thoroughly enjoyed hearing what Brother Alasdair had prepared.

The topic for the day was "Avoiding Arthritis". Arthritis is a condition most prevalent in older Australians, affecting 49% of people aged 65 years and over. Br Alasdair spoke on foods that are beneficial in preventing this disease; also for those who are already suffering from it which foods can be eaten to help



bring pain relief and which foods need to be avoided. He also spoke about a number of medicinal herbs that help with joint inflammation and pain relief.

After the health lecture, Sisters Amy Gules and Lidia Voncina demonstrated how to prepare a number of vegan barbeque foods and a couple of drinks while Brother Ivan Ilic cooked the food outside on the BBQ. The visitors who attended were very impressed with the variety of foods demonstrated and also how tasty they were.

Back in the kitchen there was a hive of activity; many wonderful people helped with the food preparation, setting up demonstration trays, washing up and also cleaning afterwards. We are very grateful for these people. There were also those who set up chairs, tables, video equipment and the BBQ. It's wonderful that so many help in these outreach programs and it would not have been able to be done without the help and support of all. We would like to send a huge "thank you" to all those who gave up their private time to help on Saturday night preparing the kebabs and also on Sunday before, during and after the barbeque. Thank you also to Brother Benny Gules and Sister Amy Gules for the loan of their barbeque and Sister Weymark who faithfully mans the Elim Store.

Foods demonstrated were: Vivamy (named after Vivian and Amy) BBQ Burgers, Crispy Lentil Patties, Gluten Free Rice Burgers, Vegan Vegetarian Sausages, Soy Mayonnaise, Veggie Kebabs, Refreshing Green Drink and Pink Lemonada.

Below are some of the recipes that were demonstrated, if you would like any of the others, please send your request by email to info@elimhealth.org.au

Vivamy BBQ Burgers

INGREDIENTS

1 tin Nutmeat crumbled

1 medium onion finely chopped

1 medium carrot, grated

1 potato washed but not peeled grated (preferably Pontiac)

1 zucchini grated

130gms corn kernels (approx 1/3 tin)

1 garlic clove crushed

2 tablespoons fresh continental parsley finely chopped

½ teaspoon dry Italian herbs

1 cup dry breadcrumbs

1 heaped tablespoon stock powder or salt to taste

3 teaspoons Egg replacer (No Egg) available at health food stores

Oil for frying



METHOD

Into a large bowl mix together all the above ingredients except the oil (last ingredient).

Make patties according to preferred size.

This mixture can be either cooked on BBQ plate, shallow fried in frypan or baked in moderate oven until golden brown.

Serve on burger roll with preferred sauce and/or mustard and salad.



Refreshing Green Drink

INGREDIENTS

6 granny smith apples

1 handful baby spinach leaves

1 leaf of kale

1 lime juice

½ cup crushed ice

METHOD

Juice kale, spinach and apples in that order.

Add lime juice and ice cubes.

Gluten Free Rice Burgers

INGREDIENTS

2 carrots grated finely

2 medium celery sticks diced finely

1 onion diced finely

1 cup cashew pieces

3 tablespoons French onion soup

2 cups cooked brown rice

2 cups gluten free cornflake crumbs

2 cups soy milk

2 tablespoons egg replacer

Extra salt (optional)

Oil for frying



METHOD

Mix all ingredients together except milk and breadcrumbs. Pour milk to make a liquid mixture. Add breadcrumbs to bind into patty consistency. Shape into burgers and is ready for the barbeque. This mixture can also be baked in moderately hot oven 190 degrees C till golden brown. Serve either in salad rolls or with steamed veggies and salad.

“Music in the Church”, Part 1

One of the strongest gauges of the vitality and morality of a culture is its expression of the arts, especially its music. The Chinese have said that when the world is chaotic, the music is licentious, and excited without being calm. The arts tell us where the values of the people are. It is a barometer of spiritual health. In general, actions speak louder than words. The art of a culture or a religion, tells us where they are at. Their art involves architecture, paintings, sculpture, and music. In music, the lyrics, notes, harmonies, rhythms, and instruments used reveal something about the religion. Therefore, you can tell much of the ethos of a church by the type of music which is approved and thus used. The music tells you something of its values.

There are a few differences between tribal cultures and western cultures in regard to their music. Tribal cultures tend to be very conservative with their music. That is, it changes very little over time. In tribal cultures, the older people have control over the music. In western cultures, and in particular in Christian circles, there has been unparalleled change in the music.

It is interesting to see why there has been so much change in Christian music. First of all, in general, there is little distinctive direction for the church to follow. One cause of this lack of direction in the area of music is the basic belief from the Middle Ages that art is purely aesthetic, ie, it is apart from morality, there is not right and wrong. There is a basic belief which has come from the Roman Catholic church that human creativity was not part of fallen human nature. In history this church disregarded the background of the artist, if his ability was good. Other Christians have since thought of music in this same light. They have concluded that the skill of the musician was what determined whether music was good or bad. Music itself, they considered neutral, with no moral quality. (It would be interesting to look into this background to see some of the reasons for the changes in Christian music, and to determine whether we are not using some of the same excuses to justify our choices of music.)

There is another viewpoint about whether or not music is neutral. While there are some non-moral principles used in forming a musical composition, that is not to say that the composition is completely amoral (without moral principles). If music is non-moral and the skill is the only determinant, you'd have to agree that among good choices of music would be good quality tribal, voodoo, drumming, scrap metal, rock, etc. Then all that would matter would be the words and the skill of the musician, and any style of music would be acceptable. This is the view of the majority of Christians and Adventists. However, Seventh Day Adventists in general believe that the fall of mankind has affected all areas of human nature, including creativity. The great controversy going on must have touched music somewhere.

If we take the viewpoint that only the words matter, Christian music will be affected by the market forces. What most people want is what will be produced. The lyrics, then, will resemble the world's music. The controlling factor will be the trends of the world, the popular side. The Charismatic movement has led out and influenced the formation of Christian music. The result is that Christian music, especially the lyrics, now can't be distinguished from secular music. At one time it was said that those organising the Billy Graham crusades used more secular styled music for the unchurched, to evangelise. In a few years, the

music chosen just for the unchurched is not the music of the church. They have come down to the level of the world. On Christian radio stations those in charge are choosing which songs to play over and over again. People keep hearing songs, and then buy them. These stations are determining how the Christian faith is shown through their choices of music. Then those who know the least about faith are determining most of how Christian faith is expressed.

We, as Christians and Seventh Day Adventists, need to take a more definite stand. "...the line of demarcation between His people and the world is ever to be kept unmistakably distinct. . . . There is constant danger that professing Christians will come to think that in order to have influence with worldlings, they must to a certain extent conform to the world. But though such a course may appear to afford great advantages, it always ends in spiritual loss." (Prophets and Kings, p. 570)

"Christians are constantly seeking to imitate the practices of those who worship the god of this world. Many urge that by uniting with worldlings and conforming to their customs they might exert a stronger influence over the ungodly. But all who pursue this course thereby separate from the Source of their strength. Becoming friends of the world, they are the enemies of God." (Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 607)

Conforming to worldly customs converts the church to the world, never the other way around. We need to unfurl the banner of what ought to be people's preferences. We need to be proactive rather than passive. We need to educate the ministry as well as the laity.

—*Summary of a Presentation Series on CD by W. Stefani, Adventist Pastor, "Music in the Church".*

Samoa Fly-N-Build - Church Completion & Planned Dedication

The brethren in Samoa are thankful to God that soon they will be able to worship in their much awaited for church. It is wonderful and encouraging to see how the Lord has led and how quickly this building has advanced over the past weeks. Br Luke Kneebone is once again over there directing this project and here is one of his expressions on facebook: "God has blessed and every thing is running well so far."

Brother Alasdair Pow is now there, helping in the completion. Many hands are eagerly working on the finishing touches. Fans and lights have been installed and now the welding of the fence between the front of the church and the car park is being done.

With the building in its final stages, everyone is looking forward to the church dedication which is planned for this coming Wednesday 25th September, 2013. The church will seat over 200 people; how wonderful it would be if all the pews were filled up with eager souls wanting to worship God each Sabbath!

Please continue praying for this project and for the brethren there; also remember that your monetary gifts towards the finishing of this work will be much appreciated. For information on how to contribute please contact Joe Voncina on +61 2 9627 7553 or jvoncina@sdarm.org.au or treasurer@sdarm.org.au thank you in advance for your support.

We are thankful to God that another beacon is standing for Him on this beautiful Island of Samoa!

—*Reported by Lidia Voncina*





Rockhampton - Baby Dedication and Outreach Service



On Sunday, September 22, 2013 a public dedication service was held for Genessa Araya, newly born girl to our Bible Worker in Rockhampton, John Araya, and his wife Rachel. Due to the officiating minister Bro Paul Chapman's travel commitments the dedication was planned for Sunday. However, we decided to turn the occasion into an effort to renew our friendship with many of the friends and interests we had come across during our ministry in Rockhampton over recent times. Invitations were sent out, a hall hired, and refreshments prepared. Though many expressed their apologies that they could not attend, we thank the Lord that we still had around 60 souls present for the gathering.

Bro. Paul Chapman presented an encouraging message on the privileges of parenthood, and the solemn responsibility that parents have in raising their children for the Lord. We are living in the last days, and God is calling for a restoration of the family. The only way parents can make a success of their marriages and families is if God is at the centre of home life. When we follow God's plan for families, our homes will become a little paradise on earth where "our sons [*may be*] as plants grown up in their youth" and "our daughters [*may be*] as corner stones, polished [*after*] the similitude of a palace" (Psalm 144:12). The service also included a number of encouraging items by some of our youth.



The visitors included interests from our prophecy seminar series held in the same location last year, as well as other contacts from the surrounding areas. It was interesting to note the multicultural nature of the visitors in attendance-- Africa, Australia, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, New Zealand and Romania. Many of these also come from varying religious backgrounds. During the refreshments time it was good to be able to hold converse with each one and share together about the things of God.

Please continue to keep our ministry in Rockhampton in your prayers.

“We Remember” - Paseka Tupe Sauvao

Paseka Tupe Sauvao (Born 10 Apr 1952 – Died 15 May 2013) had a heart of gold. Though she didn't have a lot of material things in this life, she still had so much to give without asking anything in return. She would make sure that the needy would not leave empty handed, even if it would mean that she would have little or nothing left for herself. That didn't matter to my mother. What was important was her being able to help those who came to her for aid.

Paseka left behind four children and eleven grandchildren. She also left behind many of her sister's children and children's children that she cared for and some of whom she raised from when they were only a few weeks old. She always reminded us of the true value of caring for those who are in need. We will remember also, the great love that she showed for her sister's children especially those who had lost their mother, not realising that one day her own children would go through the same path sooner than anyone expected. Mum had enough love for everyone. She used to say that God wants us to care for those in prison and for those who have lost their parents. She cared for us equally and no one felt unwanted. Mum always quoted to us

James 1:27 *“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world”*

and

Hebrews 13: 1-25 *“Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

If you ask anyone who had spent a lot of time with my mum, “What she was like?”, they would describe her as a caring loving person who had a big heart; a humble person who feared God, who had perseverance and patience; and someone who was not afraid of speaking the truth. Sometimes the truth hurt, but Mum reminded us that the truth sets us free. We may not like to hear the truth at times, but sooner or later we realise that this is exactly what we need to hear in order to move on—to hear the truth. She reminded us that no matter how bad things turn out, God will never forsake us if we genuinely seek His help. If God is willing, He will answer us according to our needs.

Around her children, she was a loving caring mother. Some may say that she was very strict in disciplining her children. Regardless, we loved her for the way she disciplined us because we understood that she cared for our well-being and our future. When she found God's truth in 1997, her life changed and so did her discipline methods—from less traditional discipline to spiritual discipline. Mum focused more on our spiritual life and sharing the knowledge that she received from God's Word. Every time she disciplined us or shared a story with us, she always quoted a Bible verse to emphasise the message she was trying to get across.

Paseka was baptised into the Seventh Day Adventist Church around 1997. Around 2005 she started attending the Church of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement. In 2011 Mum renewed her relationship with the Lord and was re-baptised. Mum loved the church, the church people and the blessing that God had shown her through the Word. She was never afraid to speak her mind. She is dearly missed by the brethren who knew her in New Zealand and Australia and especially by her church family in Samoa.

Although Mum lost the battle to live on this earth, she never lost hope and faith in our Heavenly Father. She never gave up nor stopped fighting for her life. She never stopped smiling no matter how painful it was at times to smile. She was an inspiration to us all and left us a great example of someone who's life was in God's hands. She taught us a great lesson of perseverance and patience, humbling herself before the Lord and accepting whatever outcome God had for her. We love our Mum and we look forward in seeing her again very soon.

—As communicated by her daughter, Tara Sauvao

Coming Events Calendar

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

Download Invitation here:

<http://www.sdarm.org.au/sites/default/files/pages/Jesus Paid It All WEB2.pdf>



22 – 24 December 2013

AUC Triennial Delegation Session

Location: Elim Heights Youth Camp

1 November 2013

Registrations Due for Elim Missionary College 2014 Course (2 Feb 2014 - 31 May 2014)

For further information contact:

emc@sdarm.org.au

Telephone: +61 (2) 9627 7553

For Registration Forms and Course Information go to:

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

8-10 November 2013

Tasmania Weekend Camp

Location: "Riverbend" 358 Trowutta Road

Smithton, Victoria

For Registration Forms & Details go to

http://www.sdarm.org.au/sites/default/files/pages/Flyer_for-web.pdf

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

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