

AUSTRALASIAN
GOOD
TIDINGS

E-NEWS

3 May 2011

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SA Field Camp Meeting – Mt Gambier

It was cool and fresh after a little rain as members and visitors arrived in Mt Gambier for the SA Field 2011 Camp Meeting held April 22-24, 2011.

Though we were meeting at the local Golf Club for the conference, the combined Presentation/Dining hall made for a beautiful scenic backdrop. Surrounded by God’s creation, the weekend provided us with valuable lessons on ‘overall spirituality’.

On Friday evening Br Csongi Matyas welcomed us very enthusiastically and warmly and we opened the Sabbath in song – “Nearer to the Heart of God”. We were invited to state why we came to the camp. Some responses were: I like to learn; I love to worship together! John 3:16 was to be the theme text of the camp. Later on we learnt how important that verse is, along with John 3:17. Jesus came not to condemn but to save! The enthusiasm of Br Csongi was infectious and thus was started the positive and happy spirit that dominated the conference throughout.

Covering our main topics we started with Br Nathan Tyler’s experience of trying to grow some Daffodils in his own way. It didn’t work. Only God’s way is what really works, as we found out during the study entitled ‘The creation and Purpose of the Human Race’.

Sabbath Morning Worship was brought to us by Br Cameron Brown emphasizing the bad news of how this once perfect world was subtly deceived into sin and became filled with fear and guilt. What is the Hope or Good News? To Fight Sin you need to KEEP CLOSE to JESUS!

Before the Sabbath School started 2 testimonies were offered – Br Craig Cunningham related how God used an anonymous man to saved him from a rip that was pulling him out to sea; and Br Damien Blewitt offered his testimony of how God saved him, from drifting back into the world of rock music, and the life of a country rock musician, and back to the arms of Christ.

The Sabbath School lessons were presented by Br Csongi (Review) and Br Nathan Tyler (Lesson). They stressed the need for each individual to study for themselves, and not to lean completely on the ministry as the ministry can become corrupt like that of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas. To deal with sin immediately and call it by its right name; to counsel together, especially with the Lord!

For the Sabbath Worship Service Br Ben Thiel led out with an inspiring presentation based on the conference theme 'Heaven's Rescue Plan'. He outlined the rescue methods this world uses to save a life. Such methods show the great value placed on temporal life. Yet such a life, if only dedicated to Satan's kingdom, offers shallow benefits in comparison to a life dedicated to God and service in His kingdom. Christ set us the example in this regard. "Remember that Christ risked all. For our redemption, heaven itself was imperilled. At the foot of the cross, remembering that for one sinner Christ would have laid down His life, you may estimate the value of a soul." (COL 196:4) It is up to us to respond, to consent to be rescued. When we do, we will then give our lives in service to Him, helping to rescue others and thus give them HOPE!

After lunch a youth oriented Praise and Testimony Meeting was presented by Br Peter Szabo and Sr Amy Voncina in which the theme was played out in various songs and hymns. All was presented with beauty, pathos, reverence and joy! A touching rendition of 'Have You Had A Gethsemane' helped us realize how we need a deep and close 'baptism' of 'blood' in which our soul cries out for purity and true conversion and a deeper, truer experience with Jesus.

On Sabbath evening Br Luke Kneebone presented the Good News, the hope of the Patriarchs. Not the vain hopes of this world. But the comfort and joy that comes from a deep and abiding walk with Jesus in this life and the hope of eternal bliss as we live the Eden life in this world made new! Our religion is not to be a formal round of ceremonies, but a REAL and LIVING RELATIONSHIP!



Br Stelios Kiriakov presented the Sunday morning message. This study brought us back to the bad news of Satan, a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Br Stelios presented with dynamic relevance the REAL and powerful ANSWER to Satan's temptations. There were several parts to the answer. In closing we were impressed with the importance of sharing our own testimony and the impact this has on those we are trying to witness to, rather than good arguments, which are at best, dry. The living experience touches people's hearts, and brings the truth to life before their eyes like nothing else can do.

Then came what many reported to us as the highlight of the camp. The **Atonement – Completion** at the **Cross**, Then the **Final Completion in Totality** at the **Close of Probation!**—was presented by Br Alasdair Pow. The Gospel, as revealed in the Sanctuary, covers very important issues we need to know of in order to be saved; that's why Satan hates the Sanctuary truth. The two greatest truths are 1) The Atoning Sacrifice and 2) The All-powerful Mediator. Br Alasdair clearly established from the Bible that the **Act of Atonement was complete at the cross**. All man's sins from the godly to the ungodly were all paid for, completely, at the cross. That's why Jesus sat down in heaven after this part of Salvation was completed. **In the sanctuary in heaven, the final stage of the gospel message, the 'application of the atonement', will be finalized**. This **application** has been in **progress since sin entered our world** but has had **no real value until paid for at the cross**. Now it **continues on to the close of probation**, when the seven last plagues will fall. At that time the **application of the atonement is no longer applicable**. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still, he that is righteous, let him be righteous still." The price has been paid and is sufficient to cover all our sins, whether we accept it or not—whether we are saved or not. **If we accept salvation but do not put it into practice we are like a person who accepts a ticket but does not procure a boarding pass. It will do us no good. Likewise, God has paid the price, through Jesus, that we no longer need to feel guilty over our past sins, but that we may now accept the boarding pass of grace and power and no longer live in sin but go forward living a righteous life, overcoming every temptation that comes our way. We may on occasion slip up but when we do we may claim God's forgiveness and move onward. We will always have the free choice to fall back and lose our place in the Lamb's book of life by continuing in sin. If we do, then our names will be blotted out of the book and our sins then come back to haunt us. Then finally we will be punished for all of our past sins. The atonement will then have no value for us, as our ticket has become invalid, our boarding pass destroyed.**

All truth's cluster around the central truth of Jesus' atonement for us at the cross, in all it's value—the complete and full payment for the salvation of every soul. God has accepted the sacrifice of Christ as the atonement for sin. The atonement now needs to extend to our acceptance of Jesus' character or life principle and with it the wiping out of our past life of sin. The Priesthood extends from the cross in reality, no more in symbols. Our duty is to continue this ministry of reconciliation or atonement on Earth. We need this boarding Pass. This is in reality the administration of the atonement to mankind. Accepting it personally, we then extend this offer to others!

Following this dynamic presentation we entered into a short question/answer session.

A quick photo session was then followed by a delicious lunch which was, in turn, followed by a guided tour through the Mt Gambier Discovery Centre and the Blue Lake Water Supply Pumping Station. During this last walk the underground tunnels echoed as many sung hymns beneath the ground, impressing the tour guide favourably, and buoying all our spirits up.

During his closing remarks, Br Jaksic summed up the weekend in with the very apt words—"This has been a little piece of heaven on earth."

--- Reported by Gary Southwell

Baptisms Queensland – Jordan Chapman & Naomi McMahon



Sabbath April 23, 2011 was a glorious autumn day in Brisbane, just right for another special occasion when two young hearts made their covenant with the Lord in baptism—Jordan Chapman and Naomi McMahon.

Family, friends and church members from every Queensland group and church, and some from as far north as Mackay gathered at the Pine River, on the northern outskirts of Brisbane, to witness the event. When news of the planned baptism spread, a busload of young people from Rockhampton and Bundaberg decided to make the trip down to share in Jordan's and Naomi's joy. Around 80 people in total turned out for the afternoon, including friends from Jordan's and Naomi's home school network. Following the baptismal service, we gathered at a nearby hall to close Sabbath and share a fellowship meal. The young people relished the opportunity for an evening of social activities and the older folk enjoyed the fellowship as well.

The next morning, an inspiring missionary outing was made by the young people led by the Queensland Field's intrepid Missionary Leader, Br

John Araya. The young people busked at the Woodridge Markets to raise money for our planned Rockhampton Prophecy Seminar this coming June. A number of promising contacts were made and \$200 was raised.

It was a wonderful weekend for all who attended. Our prayers are with Br Jordan and Sr Naomi as they commence their new life in Jesus Christ.

May 2011 First Sabbath Offering – Allocation Update

Bro Peter D Lausevic writes to us on behalf of the General Conference Missionary Department:

Dear Brethren of the Sabbath School,

We trust that all is well with each of you as we all work together to hasten our Lord's second coming. Greetings to you with these words from Acts 16:9: "And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us." From all parts of the world we are constantly hearing this Macedonia cry.

As you are well aware, the first Sabbath offering for May 2011 was scheduled for the missionary endeavor in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. However, due to organizational difficulties, the brethren have decided that the plans for this city were premature for this year and that it will need to be postponed. Although other places were proposed, there was insufficient time to organize a new location in time for this year.

There is another city outside of North America that has been considered in the past and preliminary steps are being made to prepare for 2012. However, due to the fact that a new administration will be organized later this year on the General Conference level, final plans will need to take place in September after the session.

We may state that London, UK is on the short list and if we select this city, it is one of the most expensive in the world and we will need plenty of funds for such a project in a country that has long been neglected in the history of the Reform Movement. Although it is premature to announce the exact location, we are asking you to open your hearts with your financial assistance for this project during this year's 1st Sabbath offering for May 2011.

By the time this offering is collected and received at the GC headquarters, we will be well on our way for this project and will be in need of those funds for immediate use.

We thank you in advance for your understanding of this change and your willingness to help.

Special Appeal – Vanuatu Building Project

12 April 2011

To All Members and Friends of the Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement

RE: SPECIAL APPEAL for Church Building Funds on Malakula Island, Vanuatu

In the early 1800's in the city of Boston USA lived a very young man. There also lived in that city a Minister of the Gospel whose congregation exceeded the size of the little church building he preached in. It was resolved to build a new larger building. Meeting after meeting was held, but the prospects were not bright, and various circumstances led the hopeful to be discouraged. They were ready to abandon the enterprise.

One night a meeting was held which broke up without decisive action; but the very next morning the pastor's doorbell rang very early. The door was opened and the servant asked what he wanted. "I want to see Dr. S." answered the boy.

Presently the pastor came to the door of the house and found there a little fellow with a wheel-barrow, three times as large as the boy, containing two bricks, with which he had brought to build the new church with.

The pastor put on his hat and walked out in the street saying to one and another, as he met them, "The church will be built. The first load of bricks is already on the ground." The people took courage as the story was told and went forward. It was a little thing for that boy to trundle the wheel-barrow, and carry his two bricks to build the church; but who will say that the great God, who chooses the weak things of this world for his own glory, was not honoured by that trifling act?

How few there are who would have been willing to do so small a thing as that, and yet, as the widow, who brought her two mites to the treasury, 'cast in more than they all,' so, without doubt those two bricks, brought by the little boy, were of more real service in the building of that church than any other gift bestowed. Condensed from Gems of Song & Story p. 67

Malakula Island in Vanuatu is in urgent need of building funds. A budget of \$15,000 AUD is set but the funds are needed to start and complete this new church building. The Welfare Department is organizing a Fly and Build programme in June 2011 to build this church building and we are going forward like this little boy who brought his two bricks. All are welcome to come and join us in this project. If you feel that you

cannot come than please feel blessed by helping raise the funds to buy building materials for this church. All donations are accepted and if you do not have the funds now please pledge according to your means. Please give generously to this building project.

On behalf of the AUC Welfare Department

John Lausevic

USA Storms Update

No doubt we have been alarmed by the ferocity of the storms lashing the USA during the past week. Many lives have been lost and much devastation suffered. It further serves to remind us that we are indeed living at the end of time.

Our prayers go out to all who have been affected by these storms. So far (as of April 29, 2011) we have word that one church family's house has been damaged. Thankfully no lives were injured. We will keep you posted as we receive further word.

General Conference Session 2011 – Public Meetings

Dear Brethren around the world,

We are happy to provide you with information about the **Public Meetings of the 2011 Session** of the General Conference to be held in Sibiu, Romania, between **August 18-21, 2011**, the **Dedication of the Youth and Family Retreat Center and baptism in Porumbacu (August 22, 2011)** and the subsequent **holiday and hiking program in Porumbacu**, to which you are heartily invited to participate **for the rest of the week**.

Date of the Public Meetings: **August 18-21, 2011**

Location of the Public Meetings:

Sala Transilvania ("Transilvania" Sports Hall)

Str. Octavian Goga Nr. 1

Sibiu, Romania

Date of the dedication of the Youth and Family Retreat Center in Porumbacu and baptism: **August 22, 2011**

Date of the holiday and hiking program in Porumbacu:

August 23-28 August, 2011 (Please check the "Fellowship and Adventure Package" under the "Hiking" tab at the below website)



Update: BOOKING DEADLINE for accommodation at the Spiritual Meetings of the GC in Sibiu, for brethren coming from abroad has been **extended up to April 30th, 2011**.

Attention: Before booking your flight back, please check the information on the website address below about the Dedication of the Youth and Family Retreat Center in Porumbacu and the Fellowship and Adventure Program, to which you might want to participate as well!

Beginning with May 1st, all the remaining places shall be given away to the Romanian brethren.

For up to date information and travel details please visit: <http://www.azsmr.ro/qcsession>

Coming Events Calendar

10-13 June 2011

New South Wales Spiritual Conference

VENUE: Elim Heights Youth Camp

Official invitation brochure in PDF format can be downloaded here:

http://www.sdarm.org.au/files/2011-NSW-Camp%20Invite_WEB.pdf

For further information contact nsw@sdarm.org.au

16 June – 15 July 2011

Mission Projects Oceania: Fly & Build – Vanuatu

Malekula Island, Vanuatu: 16-29 June 2011

Port Vila, Vanuatu: 3 – 15 July 2011

For additional details contact Br John Lausevic

welfare@sdarm.org.au

+61 8 9731 6037

23 June – 9 July 2011

Evangelistic Seminar – Rockhampton, Queensland

9 Nights of Bible Prophecy Lectures for the General Public

For further information contact pchapman@sdarm.org.au

5-7 August 2011

Queensland Spiritual Conference

VENUE: Ewen Maddock Dam Recreation Centre – Sunshine Coast

Additional details will be available on the website soon; for further information contact pchapman@sdarm.org.au

18-21 August 2011

General Conference Spiritual Meetings

Sibiu, Romania.

Website for the location of the public meetings:

<http://www.salatransilvania.ro>

For location, access to Sibiu, hotels, contacts, etc.:

<http://www.azsmr.ro/gcsession>

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