

# EPPING SDA CHURCH NEWSLETTER

No: 173

Welcome to our weekly Epping Church Newsletter.

Thank you to all the contributions for this week. If there is any information you would like to share or a photo you would like us to view, please email it Alvin or Stephanie at the addresses below:

[ajing@eppingsda.org.au](mailto:ajing@eppingsda.org.au).

[stephcyee@yahoo.com](mailto:stephcyee@yahoo.com)

This newsletter can also be downloaded on our website:

<http://www.eppingsda.org.au>

## This Sabbath at Epping

The service this Sabbath will be taken by Epping's "Senior Elder" – **Eva Ing**. Her sermon is entitled "Building the dream home - Part 1". The elder in charge is **Alvin**, while the offering is for **ADRA Appeal Expenses**.

## Last (few) Sabbaths at Epping

Both editors of this newsletter have been away for a few weeks, so we have a little to catch up in this newsletter. Thanks to Arthur for providing these updates:

### Sabbath 10<sup>th</sup> September

**Arthur** took the sermon and the topic was "**Fair Pay?**" It was based on the parable of the Vineyard workers found in Matthew 20. The parable was told by Jesus as a follow-up to the encounter with the rich young ruler in Matthew Chapter 19. Jesus was trying to make two points clear to the disciples.

The **first point** is that Christ looks at our hearts and not at our wealth. Being rich was not the problem for the young ruler, it was that he loved his worldly riches more than God. He had a yearning for God to be in his life but he weighed up his options of leaving all his worldly possessions behind to follow Jesus and decided that it was too costly for him.

The **second point** that Jesus is trying to make is that the amount of time that we spend labouring is not as important as the spirit in which we labour. As a side point, many people regard the parable as unfair because the labourers who joined last, only worked 1 hour for the same pay as those who worked the full 12 hours.

The reason we see this as unfair is because we immediately associate ourselves with the labourers who started first and worked through the long hot day. The fact is that we are actually the

labourers who start last and only work 1 hour. We are the labourers who start last because we are the workers that no one else wants to hire. It is only through the grace and generosity of the Master that we are offered an opportunity to work for him at the last hour, but we still receive the full reward!

Put in that light, suddenly the Parable doesn't seem so unfair anymore but is filled with generosity and grace.

### **Sabbath 17<sup>th</sup> September**

SAC took the service with Richie Reid, the Chaplain.

### **Sabbath 24<sup>th</sup> September**

**Maree Worker** took the sermon based upon the life of Paul and was very interesting and informative.

### **Sabbath 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**Travis Siutu**, a final year Theology student from Avondale took our service.

Travis and his wife Puna, took the service at Epping Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Travis's sermon was based on the **parable of the wedding banquet from Matthew 22**. He related the story of the wedding to Kate and Will's wedding where millions who were not invited tried to sneak a peek of the ceremony from outside the church. He also related the story to their own wedding where they watched the video of their wedding reception a few weeks later only to discover they had guests present that neither of them knew. Travis was emphasising the fact that everyone enjoys attending a wedding, even more so if you are special guest.

In his introduction, Travis highlighted that the parable was directed at the Pharisees and Chief Priests who were trying to kill Jesus.

The parable has three parts, three invitations from the King. The first invitation is for the specially invited guests, but they refuse to come. These guests represent the children of Israel who ignore the invitation from the Son of God.

The King sends out a second invitation to the guests, but this time he makes it even more appealing by telling them of the wonderful banquet he has prepared for them. Again they refuse to come but this time they kill his servant. Travis points out that the servant who is killed delivering the message may represent Jesus, our servant King.

Finally, the King sends out his army to destroy the murderers and throws open the invitation to all who are willing to attend. This is the invitation that we now have before us. God is waiting for our answer, are we willing to attend the wedding or do we refuse like the others. In order to attend,

we need to put on the wedding garment, a gift from God. The wedding garment represents the righteousness of Jesus that cloaks us, that covers our sins.

Travis encouraged us all to be present at the wedding banquet and to accept the righteousness of Christ by developing a personal relationship with Jesus.



# Pathfinder News

## 1. Pathfinder Investiture Rehearsal this Sabbath October 8

From Henry:

We will be having a rehearsal after lunch this week. You need to be there so we can practice the ceremony details. Full uniform is not required at this time.

Those of you who still need to submit various requirements please complete and bring them.

**After the rehearsal, I would like to see all those who went on the expedition for a few minutes including parents if at all possible.**

Please check your dress uniform to make sure it fits and is complete.

## 2. Pathfinder Investiture NEXT Sabbath October 15

## 3. Pathfinder Expedition

Thanks to Arthur for this report:

"The Epping Church Pathfinders and leaders set off for expedition on a cold Friday evening on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. The expedition this year was held at Deep Pass in the World heritage listed Wollemi National Park. Upon arrival at 10pm, the advanced group (consisting of Angelica, Ashleigh, Caitlin, Katie, Tanisha, Leighton & Matthew, led by Arthur and Lynden) had a short 3km hike to base camp while the basic group (consisting of Jared, Jess, Renee, Brianna & Tim, led by Annali, Elaine and Jon) were given a bus ride to base camp to join us. The first camp site we chose was a soft grassy plain that seemed perfect in every respect except for the fact that it was infested with leeches and within minutes of pitching our tents we were attacked! We quickly moved to a hard and dusty camp area, it wasn't as nice but it was leech free. Pathfinders from other clubs continued to stream in all night up until about 2am.

Sabbath morning started with a light drizzle of rain which continued for most of the day. We were up and out by 8am for worship. The worship service was held along the bush track and consisted of each group performing a skit and singing a song. The theme this year was "Nothing is impossible for God". After the worship service the groups broke off and started their expedition. Our advanced team was sent down to Deep Pass to tackle the Deep Pass canyon. It was meant to be done with just daypacks but because the group was keen (and forgetful) we ended up tackling the canyon with our full packs. It proved a challenge but nothing that the pathfinders couldn't handle.

The scenery was beautiful and we were even treated to a waterfall which we had to climb. The canyon had a few tricky sections for us to negotiate but fortunately there were ropes in place for us to use.

It was late afternoon by the time we exited the canyon and made our way to the top of the ridge to camp for the night. We pitched our tents in a scrubby area and settled in for the evening but at around 7pm we were hit by strong winds and a thunderstorm. It rained heavily on and off all night and the rain continued for the rest of the weekend.

We awoke to a dark and wet Sunday, it was 5.15am and bitterly cold. The weather had turned for the worse and the temperature had plunged to a bone chilling 3 degrees. We started hiking towards River canyon at 6am and had to descend into the valley though the thick scrub. The scrub and fallen trees were so thick in places that Tanisha vanished down a hole between fallen branches, she was promptly rescued by her friends. We eventually reached the River canyon and had to brave the icy waters which got to about waist deep in places. The scenery was like something from Jurassic Park! Strangely curved rock formations, winding water channels and tall ferns. It was worth the discomfort.

We completed the canyon hike and made it back to our camp by 10am to pack up and start our afternoon hike to Deep Pass and back to our cars. It started to rain quite heavily so we sheltered for lunch under an overhang at Deep Pass. The hike out to the car park was uneventful except for the constant rain and cold wind. Some of the younger pathfinders in the basic groups were in danger of getting hypothermia so a convoy of vehicles was organised to shuttle them to the car park.

We de-registered and left the expedition at about 3pm, exhausted, wet, cold and hungry...**but we had a great time!**

**Photos on this link:**

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150327207845665.344552.571375664&l=01c48b92b4&type=1>



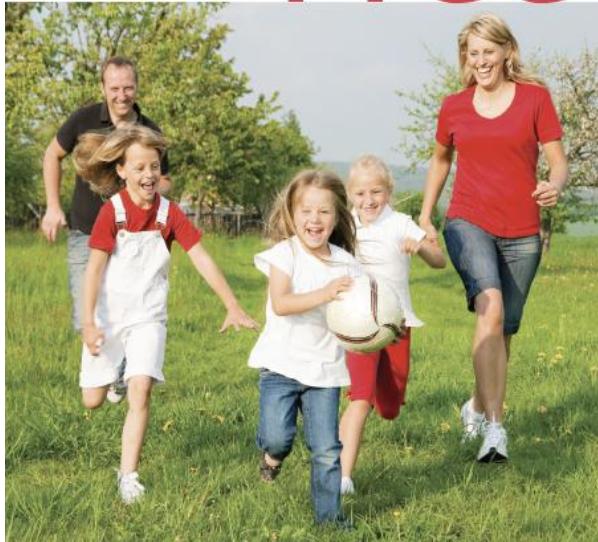




# Personal Ministries

Our **Body Balance course** commences next week. I would encourage you all to support our latest outreach initiative. Please see Rod for more details:

# Free Discover a **healthier** lifestyle



October 15

## Body Balance Seminar Series

Aims to educate and enlighten people to our body's need for a healthy lifestyle encompassing correct eating habits and fitness regimes.

October 22

### **Dr Daniel Lin Paediatrician**

A holistic approach to the care of children, including educational, emotional, and physical health. "Are you a Tiger Parent?"

### **Catrin Jonsson**

Post Graduate **Exercise Physiologist** Student  
Getting Started on a Fitness Program

### **Dr Frances Miao Emergency Physician**

First Aid

### **Ben Go Physiotherapist**

Development of a Healthy Spine and  
Management of Common Sports Injuries

**Seminars** begin at 2.30pm and end at 4.00pm

**Location** Epping SDA Church Hall, 2 George Street, Epping

**For Bookings & Enquiries** contact 0433 732 039 or visit our website at <http://www.eppingsda.org.au> to register online.

## Other Church Events

1. **Working Bee** – our next working bee is planned for **October 30**. Put this in your diaries, and I look forward to seeing you on Sunday afternoon. I believe afternoon tea will be provided.

## Special Prayer Requests

A number of special prayer requests this week:

- Please remember **Maree's father** as he recovers from recent surgery
- Please keep **Henry** in your prayers
- Please remember Stephen's mother, **Joy Baxter** in your prayers as she battles illness
- Please keep **Bob McIntyre** in your prayers
- Please pray for **Jackie Blom**, a long time member and friend of Epping Church

# Epping Mission Project 2011



**Our Goal: \$30,000 to support  
International Children's Care Sri Lanka**

**Brick Making** - Help fund a small workshop, materials, sales yard, shed, electrical connection, materials to get started. Provide job opportunities for the older students to develop skills, work ethics and earn some pocket money as well as make a return profit to ICC Sri Lanka.

**Bakery and Retail Centre** - a small commercial centre on the roadside to sell the produce such as bread from their small bakery, and fruit, vegetables, eggs. This will be a part of the vocational training for the older abused girls referred by Child Protection (CPO).



**About ICC Sri Lanka:** The ICC Children's Centre is in a small village community adjacent to Lakpahana Adventist School in the Central Province. It is 45 minutes drive from the nearest city, Kandy. The centre has been through a difficult time but during 2010 emerged with a glowing report from the provincial child protection office which culminated in formal recognition and registration as an Orphanage in October 2010. ICC is now considered to be among the best orphanages in the province in terms of quality of care for the children.

The provincial authorities have asked if ICC Sri Lanka would be prepared to care especially for abused girls since that is the greatest need in the Kandy region. In their judgement Christians care for this type of person better than any others. The ICC Village property could potentially accommodate 60-70 children. It currently houses 28.



Some improvement to the facilities took place leading up to registration. Our dream is to develop the centre to the point that it provides best practice caring in family style homes for some of Sri Lanka's most neglected and abused children and one that can operate with little or no dependence on foreign aid so that we can reach other children in other locations that are also in need of care.

## How to make a Donation



1. **Cash Donations** of \$2 or more are Tax Deductible  
ICC Official Receipt issued by Belle Tung
2. **Online:** <https://iccaustralia.worldsecuresystems.com/support/support.html>  
In the **Area to Support**, please type **Epping Mission Project**  
You will receive an email acknowledging your donation and a  
Tax Deductible Receipt mailed to you within 5 working days.
3. **Credit Card** - please use the Donation Form below and

### Mail to:

International Children's Care Australia  
Suite 205, 16 Hunter Street  
HORNSBY NSW 2077

or **Fax:** (02) 9987-1920



Credit Card Donation Form				
Name on Card		Amount	\$	
Credit Card No		Expiry Date		
Card Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	<input type="checkbox"/> Amex	
Signature		Date		
Telephone No		Mobile		
Please write name here if it is different from the Credit Card Holder and the address you would like your receipt mailed to.	Name			
	Street			
	Suburb			
	State		Post Code	

Thank you for your generosity !!!

## Photo of the Week



Horseshoe Bend, Arizona – by Garry McCarthy

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”

Isaiah 55:6