

Epping SDA Church Newsletter

No:55 –16th August 2007

Welcome to our weekly Church Newsletter. It's another big news week with lots of reports and photos, so take your time to digest it all.

The highlight of this weekend is the **Family Seminars** to be taken by **Pastor Alex Currie** on Friday night and Sabbath. All the details are below so plan to attend this important series.

If you have any articles and news for this newsletter, please email them to:

<mailto:ajing@eppingsda.org.au>

This newsletter can also be downloaded on our website:

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

This Sabbath @Epping

This week's service will be taken by **Pastor Alex Currie** as part of his Family Seminar series. **Alvin** is the elder in charge and the offering is for **Local Budget**.

Family Seminar – August 17 and 18: Pastor Alex Currie

Dr Alex Currie's seminar times are:

Friday night 17th August – 7pm

Bring along a pot of your favourite hot soup and some buns to share at 7 pm - the seminar with Alex will follow afterwards

To cater for the children and young at heart there will also be **a movie** – so kids, bring a pillow or something to be comfortable and warm and PJ's are very welcome. Mums and Dads, if you have a video or DVD that is suitable could you bring these along as well

Sabbath service 18th August.

A variety of suggested topics from the congregation have been passed onto him. As a result the seminar will be very much tailored for Epping Church. Our families are very important and I know that all those who attend will gain helpful ideas. Some of the topics to be covered include:

1. Peer Pressure for Teens and Youth - how parents can help their children.
2. What to do to help families come together and stay together.
3. Guidance on helping people/parents and children in differing home situations such as single parent homes.
4. How to help or relate if youth are now out of the church.
5. What kind of values or choices can be encouraged in young people regarding music, movies and Sabbath activities for active youth in an urban situations.

Last week @Epping

A report from Arthur:

A small but enthusiastic band of musicians attended the **Music Jam** on Friday night and practised the 5 songs that Annali had arranged. We must have very talented musicians in our church because they

sounded great straight-away even though they were all sight-reading their pieces for the first time. Many thanks to Annali, Stephen and Bruce for organising the event and the music. Pr. Bruce was so impressed with the small orchestra that he organised for them to play the hymns for Church so that the rest of the congregation could enjoy their talents. I am sure everyone present received a blessing from the contribution of the orchestra to the worship service.

The sermon taken by Pr. Bruce was all about crowns. We were shown pictures of some spectacular and priceless crowns from royalty throughout the ages, we were also shown a crown of thorns similar to the one forced onto the head of Jesus as they mocked his claim to being the Messiah. The emphasis of the sermon was that even though we marvel at the beauty and value of some of these earthly crowns, they will eventually fade away.

Instead we should take the advice found in 2 Timothy 4:7-9 *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing”*.





Pastor Bruce writes:

“It was a happy surprise to see everyone turn up with their instruments on Sabbath morning. Thank you all for your willingness to share your skills, vocally and instrumentally”.

Pathfinder and Adventurer News

1. Pathfinder Social Last Saturday evening

From Pastor Bruce:

Thanks to Arthur, Zorana, Cassandra and Ashleigh for opening their home along with their hospitality. It was a really great night and we enjoyed it. It was wonderful to see the church family and friends’ fellowshiping together. It was also great to see the Pathfinders inviting all their friends along to the night

A report on the night from Arthur:

We had a very successful social on Saturday night. Over 60 people attended the potluck at the Wongs where it was

standing room only. The crowds kept arriving from 6pm onwards and every room was filled with people chatting and eating, even Snoopy the dog was having a time of his life running around and licking up the crumbs!

It was clear by 6:30pm that we would need more than 5 lanes at the bowling alley. A quick phone call to the Castle Hill Bowling alley confirmed that they were fully booked and that we may need to disappoint a few kids (both young and old!). After a few prayers on the way over to the Bowling Alley, we were pleasantly surprised to be offered 3 more lanes and an even cheaper price than we were originally quoted! We all had a great time bowling with Richard and Ben the standout players...Richard just edged Ben out of first place proving that age and treachery will always beat youth and strength.

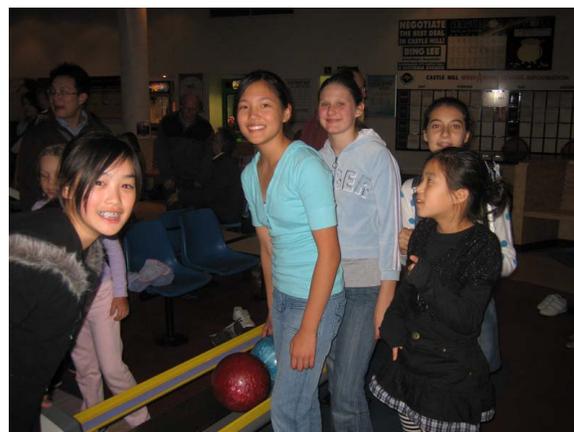
We saw many interesting bowling styles in action including the “reverse under the legs bowl” and the “lie down and push the ball” method. Most of these unique styles were emanating from Ashleigh’s group of primary school girls. The high school girls were more conventional choosing to use the bowling ramp instead so as not to damage their fingernails.

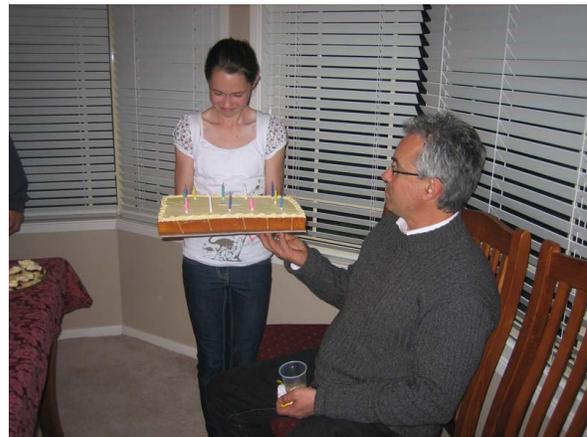
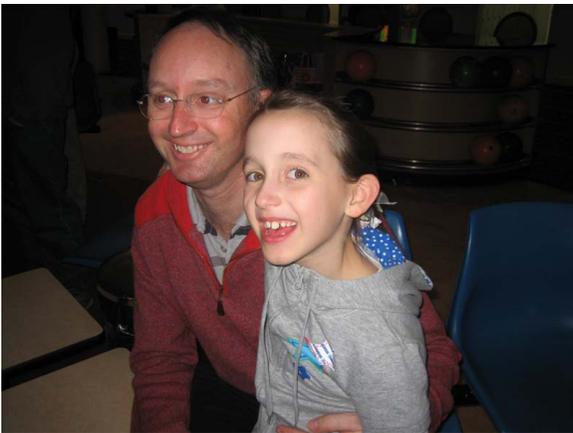
The boys on the other hand were determined to compete properly and we saw them all bowling with all their might, hurling the ball at the pins like the mighty Greek Olympians of old hurling the shot putt at unseen enemies.

After the bowling, everyone headed over to the air hockey and video games area to watch Michael and Maree try to outdo each other at air hockey. The intensity of the competition was obvious from the

concentration on their faces as every trick was used to gain the advantage. Michael was the eventual winner even though questionable tactics were employed.

It was back to the Wongs for dessert and a surprise birthday cake for Richard, I believe he is entering his 30th year. After the cakes and ice cream were demolished, a big screen movie was shown for the “big kids” as most of the little ones had gone home to bed. It was a fantastic night of fun and games and we look forward to next month’s social...the current suggestion is for a board games night with a “difference” (the “difference” is currently a secret!).





ADRA Appeal – Continues this week

A message from Andrew Lim:

The ADRA Appeal campaign for 2007 commenced last Sabbath and continues till the end of October.

The Greater Sydney Conference is introducing the 'igeneration' involving as many 15-30 year olds as possible in collecting for ADRA. Young people who raise \$50 by or more for ADRA appeal by Sept 1st will on presentation of their Church Treasurer receipt receive a great looking 'igeneration T-shirt' along with an entry ticket to a Concert to be held on Saturday night on Sept 1st at SAC Auditorium.

For those who would prefer to give a tax-deductible donation, please see Sharon.



Local Church News

1. Communion Service August 25

Our next communion service is to be held Sabbath August 25.

2. Wollondilly Camp – Take 2 19th – 21st October

From Arthur:

Hi Everyone!

I suspect that enough time has passed for the memories of camping in the wind and rain to have faded so...the Wollondilly Camp is back on the calendar! It is now scheduled for Fri Oct 19 to Sunday Oct 21. Time to start looking for all that camping gear that you packed away!

This camp will be free for those who paid for the last (wet) camping attempt. If you wish to bring friends then you must please contact me first as we have limited space.

3. Fathers Day Service – September 1

Remember to put this date in your diary as the Sabbath Service will focus on our Fathers.

Plan to invite your friends and family to this special Sabbath Service.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kathy Tung who will be getting married this weekend to Fabian Foo. Congratulations also to the "Father and Mother of the Bride" Henry and Belle. Our prayers are with you all for this unforgettable and joyous occasion.



City to Surf

A report on this spectacular run from Rod:

"On Sunday August 12th some energetic Pathfinders and their parents summoned the strength and courage to awake early and participate in the annual 14km City to

Surf fun run / walk. The weather was sunshine perfect and the atmosphere electric as over 64,000 people joined in the race. We were fortunate enough to enjoy a luxury breakfast in the Art Gallery before lining up in the "Back of the Pack" Group.

There were the usual fancy dress outfits, outrageous wigs and skimpily clad painted buddy smugglers. When the siren went for our group to start it was apparent that the first few racers had almost finished the race!!

With the adrenaline running and the musical bands playing we set out at a fast pace and the first few kilometres were easy. Then reality struck with the uphill climb of Heart Break hill and our fitness was tested. All our training (or lack thereof) showed as we huffed and puffed up the steep incline. Though we sweated and perspired in the heat, we still had time to appreciate the beautiful surrounds with grand views of Sydney Harbour, the Bridge and the Opera House, Rose Bay, and of course, the oasis of Bondi Beach where we had a BBQ lunch and cool drinks awaiting us at our marquis.

That downward run into Bondi coincided with a fresh cool breeze off the water and we picked up our second wind and forgot about our sore feet. Finishing the race was exciting and most of us improved on our times. The medal around the neck was well earned and a just reward for our efforts.

We encourage everyone to join us next year and share in the fun and excitement."



Sydney to the Gong Bike Ride

A number of Epping Church members participated in this fund raising event last year, and in the process raised over \$8000 for Multiple Sclerosis research. This year we are forming an Epping Church team to ride “to the Gong” which takes place on Sunday November 4.

More about the event here:

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



Fear not if you have never done this before. It's relatively easy and you ride at your own pace. Epping even has its own riding and training guru to help you get into shape (Sensei Ben), and we will be doing plenty of training rides before the event. If you are interested, please see Arthur or Alvin.

Here's a pic of our team last year:



Prayer Requests:

Please remember the following members, friends and programs in your prayers

<i>John Bagnall</i>	<i>As he continues to recover from his back operation at home. John would like to thank the church for their prayers, the card and flowers and hopes to see everyone in a few weeks.</i>
<i>Dale and Gloria</i>	<i>As they travel to and work in the Solomon Islands</i>
<i>Henry and Belle</i>	<i>As they recover from Influenza</i>
<i>Kathy Tung</i>	<i>May God's blessings be with Kathy as she enters marriage this weekend</i>
<i>Abby</i>	<i>As the birth of her baby is imminent</i>

Dates to put down in your diary

<i>August 17, 18</i>	<i>Family Seminar – Dr. Alex Currie</i>
<i>August 18</i>	<i>Pathfinder Meeting 1pm</i>
<i>August 25</i>	<i>Communion Service</i>
<i>September 1</i>	<i>Fathers Day Service</i>
<i>September 16</i>	<i>Health Assessment</i>
<i>September 22</i>	<i>Regional Meeting. Church Closed.</i>
<i>Late September</i>	<i>International Food Fair after Health Assessment</i>

Thought for the Week

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25