

Epping SDA Church Newsletter

No:87 12th September 2008

Welcome to our weekly Church Newsletter. Thank you to everyone that has helped contribute to this edition. If you have any news or photos to share, please send them to:

ajing@eppingsda.org.au

This newsletter can also be downloaded on our website: <http://www.eppingsda.org.au>

This Sabbath @ Epping

Our speaker this week is our Pastor, **Michael Dabson**, with **Eva** as the elder in charge. The offering is for our **Local Church Budget**.

Last Week @ Epping

Our service last week was taken by **Pastor Ray Southon**. Ray has been a regular preacher at Epping over the last 2 years, and was a former Pastor of our church. His sermon was on "Forgiveness" and I've attached a number of relevant slides. If you would like the full powerpoint presentation, please email me.

Matthew 11: 28-30

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion?
Come to me. Get away with me and you'll
recover your life. I'll show you how to take a
real rest. Walk with me and work with me –
watch how I do it.

Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.

I won't lay anything heavy or ill fitting on you.
Keep company with me and you'll learn to live
freely and lightly.

"The Message"

Matthew 5: 23

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

1 Corinthians 4:3

"I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself."

Hebrews 12: 15 NIV

"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."

(niv)

Thoughts to Ponder

The past exists only in memory, consequence, effects.
It has power over me only as I continue to give it my power.
I can let go, release it, move freely.
I am not my past. The future is not yet.
I can fear it, flee it, face it, embrace it,
And be FREE to LIVE NOW." (Warina Engelbrecht)

Pathfinder News

1. Pathfinder Expedition: September 26-28 Newnes NSW

The Pathfinder Expedition is this weekend, and I hope that those who are going have made their final preparations by now. I believe it is a record for Epping Church with almost 30 Pathfinders and Leaders attending. We wish you all God's blessings on the Expedition, and hope the weather is favourable and that you have the adventure of a lifetime!

I believe the final groupings are:

Intermediate Advanced - 1

Group Leader 1 Meagan Wright

Group Leader 2 Belinda Wright

Fernanda Ly

Elizabeth Yee

Arthur Wong

Ashleigh Wong

Nadezda Kondrashova

Melissa Laws

Intermediate Advanced – 2

Group Leader 1 Jonathan Tung

Group Leader 2 Michael Ing

Annali Baxter

Hannah Bruce

Stephanie Yee

Cassandra Wong

Jessica Laws

Shannon Ing

Intermediate 4 - 3

Group Leader 1 Henry Tung

Group Leader 2 Rochelle Baxter

Leighton Baxter

Staff Nadia Egorina

Joshua Ly

Brianna Worker

Staff Michael Worker

Angelica Kross

Staff Rod Kuo

Stephen Kuo

Matthew Kuo

Jeremy Singh

Epping Church News: Upcoming Events

1. Youth Forum – 26th September, Friday 7:30pm -

Our inaugural Youth Forum will be held at Christian's and Matthew's home at 4/34 Betty Cuthbert Drive, Lidcombe. Tel: 9749 7919

Pastor Dabson will be hosting a Youth DVD and discussion night and anyone interested are more than welcome to attend. We hope that this will be a regular event in the Church Calendar.

2. Progressive Tea – 25 October details to be announced

3. Communion Service: November 22

4. Epping Church Camp

This was originally planned for 8th November 2008, but due to clashes with school and university exams the camp will be postponed to later in November. Stay tuned for updated details next week. Epping Church will be closed the week of the Church Camp.

Postcard from Houston: No. 3

This week's postcard from the Micklethwaites sounds a like a real adventure, especially for Ethan. I'm glad everyone survived through the ordeal unscathed

"Hello everyone,

I thought I would let you know that we are fine after the passing of Hurricane Ike. It hit right onto the Galveston Island which is about 50 miles south of here and was the most badly hit place. Hurricanes apparently weaken as soon as they hit land so by the time it reached us in Houston it was not too bad. We were not one of the areas that had to evacuate and being on the 4th floor we thought we were unlikely to flood so that was all good.

There were lots of warnings about broken windows so moved all our stuff into the bathrooms as they are windowless and put the kids to sleep in our very large walk in closet. Our bed is a reasonable distance from the window so we figured we would have time to get into the closet if they broke. The hurricane got to us around 11 pm and the wind was really bad by about 2 am. We lost power and water around that time. We were prepared for that as they say it can

take weeks for all the power to be returned. So we were advised to fill our bathtubs with water and buy lots of water for drinking as well as batteries for torches etc. As it turned out living next door to a post office and only 1.5 miles from the Medical Center complex was a blessing as we had power and water by 4pm this afternoon. Convenient as we still had not managed to eat all the food in the fridge and was going to have to throw it all out. We were planning to live on bread all weekend.

Most of the devastation has occurred in the city (about 10 minutes from us) as the high rise buildings form wind tunnels which makes the winds more damaging. Apparently for every 100ft (about 30m) high a building is the category of severity increases as far as equivalent damage. So one of the really tall buildings in the city had multiple windows broken on just about every floor. Flooding has been moderate but nothing really bad. There was not that much rain (well a lot but Houston is better equipped to handle this volume). Galveston suffered mostly from the huge storm surge that occurs at the front of a hurricane. Apparently it is a bit like a very slow tsunami - the whole island got flooded.

Ethan very excited to have a hurricane come. He was asking some questions and I told him that I was not sure as I had never lived through one before. He assured me that was alright as he had not either. He waited all day on Friday and by the evening he thought it must have passed as nothing had happened yet. However this morning he was disappointed that he did not get to see the storm at its worst and anxious to see the damage around our place! He was really patient having to spend the last 2 days indoors. Madeleine completely non-plussed although she loves watching the storms that occur around here. She usually demands that the windows be open so she can see the rain and hear the thunder without the impediment of glass! I had bought this little head light for Ethan and he happily wore it around our blackened corridors today as we went to the car to listen to the radio for news. Amazing how isolating it is with no electricity as you can't get TV or internet.

Luckily for us we had nothing happen to our apartment but some neighbours told us they had at least 10 leaking spots on their ceiling with some of it sagging in. They spent the night in their closet too! Our apartment faces an internal courtyard and swimming pool so I think we were pretty protected. Some of the outside units have suffered the loss of some of the roofing tiles, some wooden boards off the walls and guttering has been ripped off. Other than that, there was tree fell onto a car in the adjacent apartment block and a fence onto a car at the nursing home just near us. We were told to not drive anywhere today (in the city there was a curfew and it was a \$500 fine if you were out and about for no reason) so will have to see if there was any further damage when we can go driving.

Fortunately our shipment from Australia arrived on Wednesday (yes, you are right in thinking that it has taken nearly 5 months to get here!) and so the kids had lots of toys and DVD's to pass the time with for the last 2 days.

We hope all is well at home.

From Frances, Ken, Ethan and Madeleine.

Pictures from Tasmania

Well the promised photos from the Grosses have finally arrived. I had promised them in Newsletter 86, and you can see them below. I have reprinted Elaine's and Bruce's postcard to provide relevance to the pictures.

Dear Epping Church Family,

This year is certainly flying by and you might think we have forgotten you. But we definitely haven't .. and thoroughly enjoy keeping up with your activities and events – thank you Arthur, Henry and Alvin for keeping us up-to-date. You all have a special place in our hearts. We have a constant reminder of you with the special church family rock you gave us. We also appreciate very much the cheque that arrived by mail to use towards a data projector or laptop – this was a very kind and thoughtful SURPRISE as we loved “the rock” and church family photo that you gave us.

Where do we begin? We certainly have had a very busy year with settling in to our house and the three churches, but appreciate having an assistant pastor.

Our first activity on arriving in Tassie was Elaine's Dad's 80th birthday – we made this a special event by borrowing a 1937,38 hotted up car which Dad thoroughly enjoyed which drove him from place to place relating to his personal life story.



After a short break (in which we ate many kilos of crisp, juicy cherries, we came up to Launceston to find a place to live and the busyness hasn't stopped. We still haven't totally settled in yet, but have been involved with many church activities. Still haven't got any pictures hanging up yet but hope to do so soon. Your two pictures Helen that you painted, and the group photo are special to us.

Over Easter, we had to fly up to Albury for the 160th Anniversary reunion of the Grosse family arriving in Australia. A thanksgiving service was held in the Walla Walla Lutheran church (where my Dad and Grandfather used to attend). This was organised by my Lutheran minister cousin and he invited Dad and myself to participate in the service.



You may remember the outdoor service at Parramatta Park and I showed you a rock (among others) from Ebenezer, SA to illustrate that memorials help us remember special events and leadings from God. I have included a photo of my Dad, brother and sister in the second church made out of stone from my Grandad's property - note the Ebenezer reminder!. The book "Great Grosse Blessings" (family history) was also launched.

We also visited the Orange Grove merino property nearby that my Grandfather had owned. The owners kindly allowed us to wander around the homestead, the farm and visit the orchard, some fruit trees that Grandad had planted are still remaining from 60 years ago when they left.

In May, was another special event when I visited Dad for his 90th birthday at Alstonville. He is still keeping well, but a little frustrated with the local policewoman who is trying to take his driving license from him but he can still drive quite OK.



Tasmania still has bonfire night in May and it is a tradition of the Launceston church to have a fundraiser and bonfire evening outdoors – it was a good night but quite chilly as you can see Bruce rugged up in the photo.

Another social event in Launceston was hiring two buses and being ferried between snacks at a home, main meal at a restaurant followed by sweets at another home and hot drinks back at the church hall. It was a great type of fellowship evening that you guys might like to try out some time. (Photo of us at the restaurant).



It looked like a great weekend you pathfinders had at Pindar cave – what a beautiful place and a unique experience. You seemed to have had a great time and we really enjoyed looking at the photos. We also really enjoyed the video of the “year review” pathfinder activities – it was great to re-live some of the special times with you. We have a pathfinder club in Launceston, who are also active with outdoor activities but some of the camps through the winter are indoors. One of the outdoor camps was at a beautiful spot on the beach at Bridport – you would all enjoy that area.



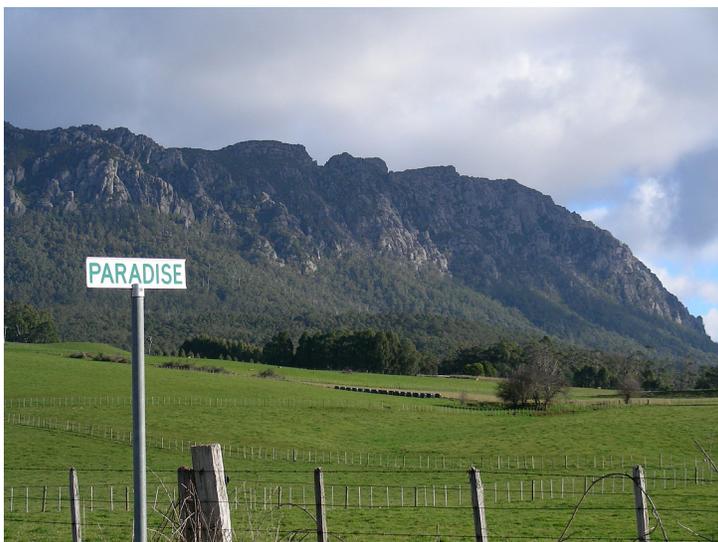
Another event was the Deloraine church 40th anniversary of their building in April, and in my visiting around I heard that Pr Malcolm Allen was involved with the building and he and Val kindly came down and relived the memories as the guest speaker. It was a happy time for many people to come back and catch up again.

It is really great that you are supporting each other as a church family through your various ups and downs, particularly at the times of sadness and illness and we have remembered you in our prayers. It is great to hear of the progress of Sue, Carlene, Fern and Aileen, but also sad to hear the losses of family members of Abel and Channing. Stephen's Dad (Ivan), Bob, Sue and Ken, we continue to pray that you continue to feel God's love and care. It was great to see that Luna celebrated her 70th birthday and is keeping well – happy 70th Luna.

We are surprised at how long the pleasantness of Autumn lasted but now see the snow on the mountain ranges around us (there is a ski field at Ben Lomond with 3 or 4 ski lifts running) and feel the chill of winter. We are surprised however, it is not as bad as we expected – we are having lovely sunny days (cold nights) – but we have probably only had 6 very cold winter days. When we arrived, the locals said “layers” are the answer, so we are making use of our thermals. Members at Deloraine have showed us pictures of snow thickly covering the whole town 18 years ago. Tasmanians are saying however that the weather is warming up and we have met many mainlanders who have moved down here enjoying the weather.

In saying that however, last week some of the roads on the west coast and plateau country were closed with snow and the main highway to Hobart was blocked for hours with accidents caused by people slipping on the black ice (the ice was 4mm thick on the bitumen).

We haven't had much chance to take any breaks and see "the beauties of Tassie", but recently we spent a day at Cradle Mountain with a cloudless blue sky as you will note in the pictures. We thought those who did the Overland might like to see a couple of pictures of snow on Cradle. The rangers said it was much whiter the week previously, but tourists are not allowed to drive in when the whole area is covered. We thoroughly enjoyed our little taste of the outdoors and stayed overnight at PARADISE – as you will see by the photos, a real place in the valley before Mt Roland.



The parents of the Principal at Aore are Launcestoneans and have just returned from a visit there and were showing us some pictures at lunch last Sabbath. We are pretty sure there was a picture of Belinda with the Mountain view school storm co visit. The parents said you all did a wonderful job – hope you enjoyed it. The visit by Dale and Gloria was also much appreciated.

This Saturday night Elaine has her 40th high school reunion anniversary at Huonville, south of Hobart. There have been two previous reunions, but Elaine was told that she has no excuse for not being at this one.

Abel and Rita, we have seen your wedding photos that were taken in Launceston all those years ago and Mon Reid sends her love to you and is waiting on us to give her your address. We are sure she would love to see a recent photo of you and the boys.

In closing we really miss you, but we have so many happy memories of working with you. “One day” we will put the photos we have taken of your beautiful children on a disk and send it to you. We trust that Jesus is very close to each one of you and that you Stephanie, Cassandra, Annali and Shannon are enjoying your new walk with Jesus.

Our love, our thoughts and our prayers continue for you. When the cold winds blow from the South in Sydney, just remember it comes with lots of warm hugs and love from us.

Love Bruce and Elaine



Epping Project – Philippines Orphanage

From Belle:

“The project involves fund raising largely from tax deductible donations to support the Orphanage in the Philippines. Our aim is twofold: 1) help the Orphanage 2) provide an avenue for our young people to build team spirit and experience a meaningful way in supporting a good cause.

For the more adventurous, we are also forming a plan to travel to the Philippines to visit the Orphanage in October 2009 including an Adventure Tour - details of airfare and tour cost will come later.

Some have asked why ICC and not ADRA? We continue to support ADRA. However, for a specific project like this one, ADRA is no longer able to accommodate tax deduction. International Children's Care (ICC) was founded and operated by Adventists and is recognised internationally. ICC-Australia is a registered Australian Charity - Reg No A0034270A.

I invite you to check out their website for additional information:

<http://www.iccaustralia.org.au/index.htm>

I have outlined the project in brief and if anyone is interested to make a tax deductible donation towards this project, I have enclosed the Credit Card Donation Form which you can fax to International Children's Care - Australia. The funds will be held in a special account specific to the Epping Project.

Thank you.”

Goal	\$50,000 (\$26,502 raised so far)
Project	Orphanage in the Philippines – Mobile Clinic, Vocational Training Centre, Goat Bank
Target Group	Pathfinders, Youth, Parents
Date	October 2009
Who are involved?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People making tax deductible donations • People finding others willing to donate • Group joining the Adventure Tour to visit the Orphanage in the Philippines <p><i>(Details of cost, itinerary, dates, etc later)</i></p>
How do you make a donation?	Credit card Phone (03) 5152-5774 Fax: (03) 8660-2967 By Fax: Use the attached Credit Card Form.
	Cheque International Children's Care Shop 7 Riviera Plaza BAIRNSDALE VIC 3875
	Direct deposit Commonwealth Bank BSB 063 532 AC 1033 5881 International Children's Care
How much should I give?	How big is your heart? Donation over \$2 is tax deductible. \$\$\$ Bigger the Better \$\$\$
ICC Website	http://www.iccaustralia.org.au/
ICC Australia Coordinator – Dean Beveridge	dbeveridge@iccaustralia.org.au
For more details contact	belletung@gmail.com Mobile: 0413 453055 Home: (02) 9671-2755
YOU are needed !!!	Get involved and be rewarded !!!
What is the reward?	A warm and fuzzy feeling that YOU made a difference !!!

EPPING PROJECT DONATION FORM

Send donation to	International Children's Care Shop 7 Riviera Plaza BAIRNSDALE VIC 3875
By Phone	(03) 5152-5774 <i>If sending donation by phone, please mention the Epping Project.</i>

By Fax	(03) 8660-2967 <i>Please fill out your details below.</i>
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Credit Card Payment			
Card type	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Bankcard		
Name on Card			
Amount to be debited			
Card Number		Card Expiry Date:	
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Address you would like the receipt sent	Street:		
	Suburb:		
	State:	Post Code:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
Please direct donation to	Epping Project – Orphanage, Philippines		

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT !!!

Prayer Requests:

Bob McIntyre: Bob had his surgery at the SAN last week so please keep him in your prayers as he recovers. We also ask that you remember Nerelle and Colleen in your prayers as well.

Please also remember the following members, and friends in your prayers:

<i>Sue Wood</i>	<i>It's great to hear that Sue is progressing well and I ask that you remember Sue, Ken and their family in your prayers.</i>
<i>Carlene Bagnall</i>	<i>While she is continuing her recovery</i>
<i>Ivan Baxter</i>	<i>Please continue to pray for Ivan as he has ongoing therapy</i>
<i>Allan Ing</i>	<i>As Allan continues his rehabilitation</i>

Dates to put down in your diary

<i>September 26</i>	<i>Youth Forum 7:30 pm</i>
<i>September 26-28</i>	<i>Pathfinder Expedition</i>
<i>October 25</i>	<i>Progressive tea</i>
<i>November 22</i>	<i>Communion Service</i>
<i>Church Camp</i>	<i>Date to be announced</i>

Thought for the Week:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23