

EPPING SDA CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Photos by Alvin Ing and Arthur Wong

Welcome

Welcome to the first Epping Church Newsletter for 2011. There have been many events and happenings over the summer hiatus, so it may take us a few weeks to cover all the news and highlights of the past 6 weeks.

First of all I like to welcome Stephanie Yee back to the editor's desk. With her design and communication background, I'm looking forward to a revitalisation of

newsletter. This is the first edition with her professional touch.

I would also like to welcome Epping Church's new Pastor who we met for the first time on January 22, when he took his first sermon at Epping. A big warm welcome to Pastor Ramese Tupe, his wife Malia and children Asenath and Ezra. We look forward to working together over the next year (and hopefully more), and getting to know all of you better.

If there is any information you would like to share or a photo you would like us to view, please email it to the address below.

ajing@eppingsda.org.au.

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

This Sabbath at Epping

The speaker this Sabbath is our new Pastor, Rams Tupe. Arthur is the Elder in charge. The Offering is for the SPD Record.

Saturday 22nd January at Epping

Epping was blessed to have the service taken this Sabbath by Pastor Rams. Rams gave us some information and background into his past work in the ministry, as well as some insight into his role as a husband and father. Well done Eva on the interview, the hard hitting questions were backed up by even better answers.



Rams service was entitled "Let Us Rebuild" and he challenged us that in the New Year, there will be new opportunities. These are opportunities that God is opening up for us to serve. How will respond when new doors open for us?

1 Corinthians 16:9

"because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me"

Through God we can overcome the obstacles that are put in the way.

Last Sabbath at Epping

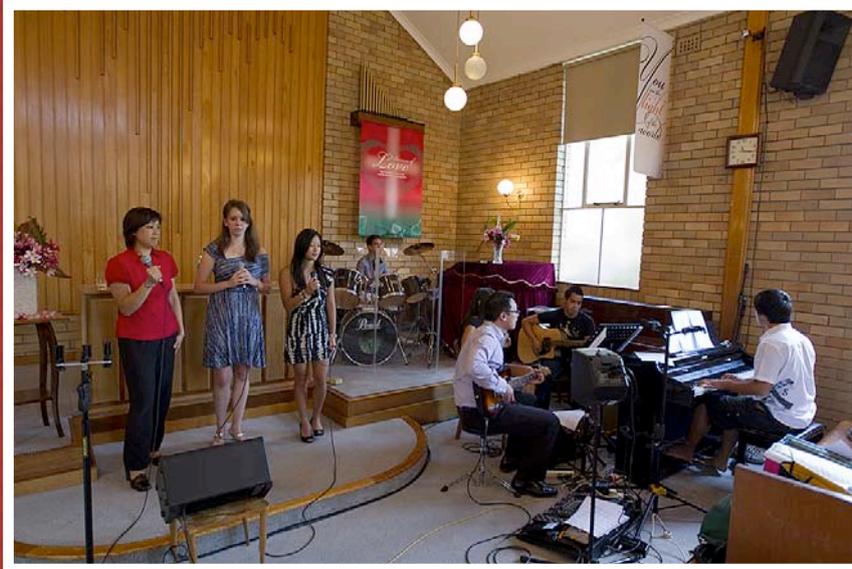
Guenter Blankenbourg, too the service last week with his sermon entitled "**Maranatha**". Guenter is a lay preacher and an Elder at Wahroonga Church.

Amongst a number of themes, Guenter told us that God has prepared a place for us (John 14: 1-3). He also focused on the parable of the Ten Virgins. When Christ comes, will we be ready, or will we be asleep?

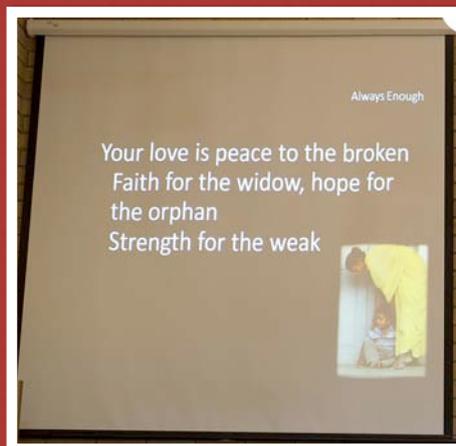
When will he come? Matthew 24:36



The 'Alternate Band' were in fine form:



.... and for a piece of self indulgence, my favourite lyrics from the songs we sang last week:



Church News

1. **Board Meeting** this Sabbath 5th February after Lunch
2. **Adventurers** 1st meeting of the year – this Sabbath after lunch
3. **Personal Ministry News – Cell Groups recommencing**

From Rod:

Just to let you all know that we will recommence Cell groups for Term 1 on **Friday February 11th**. It will be good to continue / complete our Revelation Series.

Week 1: Feb 11th
Week 2: Feb 18th
Week 3: Feb 25th
Week 4: Mar 4th
Week 5: Mar 11th
Week 6: Mar 18th
Week 7: Mar 25th

Venues:

- 1) Baxter's (7pm start)
- 2) Go's
- 3) Tungs
- 4) Youth - see Matthew Ing for timetable

The prophecies within Revelations are being fulfilled in our day and we as a church would benefit from understanding them fully as Christ's second coming draws nearer.

Please pray for the series

Rod

PS **Jon Paulien** (co presenter on the Revelation DVDs) will be holding a seminar at the SAN, **Friday Feb 4th - 9am-4pm**. Ring the Conference for tickets.

Pathfinder News

From Henry:

Just a reminder that Pathfinders and Adventurers will begin on 5 Feb after lunch. It will involve registration and a couple of modules. We finish about 3 pm.

For those who went to Camporee, here is a chance to get the Unofficial TShirt

<http://www.springwoodpathfinders.comoj.com/Fundraising.html>

CAMPOREE REPORT (from Henry)

Twelve Pathfinders and Staff from Epping attended the Under Oath Camporee in Toowoomba, Qld. We finally all caught up with each other in Warwick, Qld, about 70 kms from Toowoomba. On the way up we were driving through intense rain from Armidale to Guyra, almost 60 kms of stormy weather which finally subsided as we approached Glen Innes but

stayed overcast until we reached the border. We had heard earlier that Warwick had been cut off by local flooding both north and south of the town. We saw the evidence, but no flood.

Epping club had teamed up with Clarkson and Morley Clubs from WA to help provide some of the kitchen stoves and other items to help make things run smoothly in the kitchen, while they provided the cooking staff and some of the larger items. We finally got to meet all the club members on Tuesday when everyone got there about 11 am. There was a rush to set up camp and get ready for the Opening Parade. So much depended on the Parade protocol and the spectacular of the Ceremony to make an impression on the dignitaries present. Finally 2:30 pm arrived and Shiloh Subcamp was in full uniform and ready to march. The Arena was a good 10 minutes walk away plus we were expected to hold ranks.

Once the band started playing the Subcamps marched in and assembled in formation, the Colour Guards raised the flags. We were welcomed by the dignitaries and welcomed by 3 Cadillacs from the local Motor Enthusiasts. Thus ended the first day of the Camporee. We went back to our subcamp to make acquaintances with our new neighbours and prepare for the activities the next day.

Wednesday morning we were warned of a possible storm to hit the area, and most of us thought well, it can't be that bad. Epping got to raise the Subcamp flag and it was a proud moment for Epping with the whole subcamp present.

Morning's activity was the Mikdash which was the highlight event of the day and each team of four had to go through several obstacle courses including a water slide, jelly pool, sponge gauntlet before claiming pieces to build a dome for their team. It was challenging and fun to say the least.

The afternoon's activity included a hay baler obstacle course, horse swamp bridge crossing, a reverse water slide and various other challenging puzzles involving team effort. However, mid way through the event, the storm unleashed its fury with such intensity that a full blast shower was a dribble in comparison. Within minutes, every road had become a river and the horse swamp was now a swimming hole. Later on we were to find out that 100 mm had been dumped in the space of less than 2 hours. Toowoomba was supposed to get 150mm in January total! The activities were abandoned and we returned to camp to find several tents had collapsed, contents drenched, and the once green meadow was now a black muddy puddle, with the ensuing drizzle causing rivulets of brown soup to merge into one huge delta the size of 6 subcamps. Our new gazebo had collapsed under the weight of water but was temporarily repaired and was somewhat useable again.

Those with wet sleeping bags, mats and clothes were sent off to town to the local laundromat to dry out the items. Most of Epping's tents were reasonably dry and secure, though some parts of the tents were wet where the fly had come loose or became unsecured. On the whole most of the casualties in our group were in the Clarkson and Morley clubs, but many other clubs suffered dramatically. The evening program helped to take away some of the self pity and direct us to more noble thoughts about commitment and loyalty. What a way to start a Camporee!!

Thursday morning the Camp Directors had determined that the camporee was going to continue as they rallied all the club directors to reorganise and implement contingency plans for the worst affected clubs to be relocated to permanent undercover sheds located at various spots around the Showgrounds. Those clubs that elected to stay at their site were allowed to make that decision. Shiloh subcamp was directed to relocate for the last 3 nights. The only activity done on Thursday was to relocate our gear. Only the kitchen crew stayed at the campsite to prepare meals for our clubs. The campsite was slowly becoming a swamp even though the hired shelter had remained intact. During the afternoon, an impromptu program and movie was put on in lieu of the activities scheduled as major changes to venues underwent transformation into refugee camps. Thursday night's program was again both entertaining and encouraging, with the beautiful Ariella seemingly flirting with the king.

Friday morning activities were centred around groups collecting idols, then burning them and destroying them. In the afternoon most of the campers went to the Festival and got their share of balloon sculptures, face paint, popcorn and several other goodies. There were lots of little experiences for all to enjoy, even "horse and buggy" rides. Where were the Cadillacs?

Sabbath morning, the service focussed around unravelling the mysteries of the crypt and finding out about the extent of idolatry in the land and King Josiah decreeing the destruction of all idolatry everywhere. The evening program centred around the renewal of commitment to God and the rededication of the Temple. The priests brought back the Altar, Table of Shewbread, Golden Candlestick and finally the Ark. Pathfinders were challenged to make a commitment to God in their life. There were many young people requesting Bible Studies.

The props made the experience very real, you could easily believe you were there. The lowering of the Flags signified the end of the Camporee. A challenge to all to be at the next Division Camporee in 2015 at Stuart's Point was the final message on the screen.

Toowoomba, you gave us a time to remember. We left about 9:30 on Sunday morning after saying our good-byes to the Clarkson and Morley clubs who had so generously shared their resources with us. In spite of the discomfort, we came away with thoughts of recommitting our lives to God.

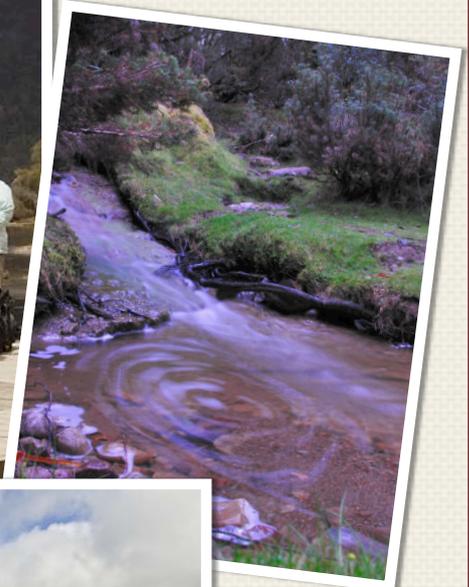
Epilogue:

The river flooding occurred Monday afternoon at Toowoomba, after all the clubs had left. Certainly God was looking after the participants of the Camporee in a very special way. So much happened in so short a time, that only the best memories remain. May we never forget how God led throughout this experience. We went to experience a camporee, what we came away with was the realisation that God was protecting the campers from devastation. It was that close. I understood that the last group to leave on Monday morning safely got away. We'll experience more of God's protection the closer we get to the end of time.



Overland Trek Report (From Arthur) December 16-21 2010

The group of 14 trekkers successfully completed the 60+km Overland trek with no incidents despite the very wet and cold conditions. Most have returned home to enjoy the first night in their own warm bed. Congratulations and well done!



Postcard from Bruce and Elaine

The Overland group had the very real privilege of being invited to dinner at the Grosse's residence in Launceston prior to the Overland Trek. It would be the last decent meal we would have for a week. For those who are unaware, Pastor Bruce was Epping's Pastor from 2006-2008 and we all still have very fond memories of Bruce and Elaine's time here.

Apart from the wonderful meal, highlights of the visit were an inspection of Bruce's wonderful rock collection, which included a rock symbolising all Epping's members. The history and stories behind every piece in the collection would fill a book (or two).

Speaking of books, the other highlight was Bruce and Elaine's library which has been put together over many decades. Any book of any value or significance to Adventists in particular is in this library, as are many other tomes. Unlike most libraries though, these books all get a very thorough workout. It's no surprise then where Bruce's encyclopaedic knowledge hails from.

Henry presents a Christmas present to the Grosses (Hand made parquetry by Henry)



Pastor Bruce's rock collection. Note the picture of Epping Church on the wall, taken after the baptism of Annali, Cassandra, Shannon and Stephanie. Note also the rock with the names of all the Epping members to the right of Arthur.



Sew and Tell- From Carlene

Our first meeting for 2011 will be at Sue's home next Monday night at 7.30 pm. Any

ladies interested in craft and fellowship are welcome to join us as always.

Prayer Requests

Prayer Praise

- *Please remember the victims of natural disaster around Australia. Be it bushfires, floods or cyclones, please continue to pray for their safety and protection.*
- *Please continue to pray for Ron's safety.*
- *Please pray for Luna's health and recovery.*
- *Please continue to pray for Ivan as he continues his recovery.*
- *Please continue to pray for Sue's health and also her family.*
- *Please pray for Bob as he continues to battle against his illness.*
- *Please continue to pray for Lorraine's health.*
- *Please pray for Andrew and Sally as Andrew recovers from his illness.*

Dates to keep in your Diary

February 5	Pathfinders and Adventurers begin
February 5	Board Meeting
February 11	Cell groups commence
April 14-17	Inspire 2011

Photo of the Week



Tjøme, Norway by Audun Wigen

Thought for the week

“However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”— the things God has prepared for those who love him—”

1 Corinthians 2:9