

# EPPING SDA CHURCH NEWSLETTER



## Welcome

Welcome to our weekly Epping Church Newsletter.

Have you been paying attention this week? What has grabbed your attention? NSW State election? – foregone conclusion. Carbon Tax? – old idea repackaged. Release of iPad2? – even Apple fanboys and girls are non-plussed with the upgrade.

In case you missed it (no excuses really), Epping's Website has been upgraded and revamped thanks to Arthur. New Server, new features, new contents and a much better interface. Why don't you visit and check it out for yourselves: <http://www.eppingsda.org.au>

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 to the address below: [ajing@eppingsda.org.au](mailto: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 week is Pastor Cheonneth Strickland. Eva is the elder in charge and the offering is for Education.

## Last Sabbath at Epping

Epping was blessed last Sabbath to have the sermon taken by Arthur Wong. His sermon was based on 1 Cor 7:29-31

29 What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.

Paul is telling us to make the most of every opportunity! Understand what the Lord's will is, Don't take your loved ones for granted. Love them today. Cherish them today. Forgive them today.

Also remember that you're not in control. The things you own and things you buy, they may not be here tomorrow. Happiness can turn to sadness in a moment! So, don't trust in yourself or the things of this world. Trust in Christ and His promises. Then you will have peace because you will know that your mourning will not last forever.

Stop wasting time doing things that you know are wrong. Instead, confess your sins every day and know that God forgives you. Then ask Him to give you the strength and desire to live out His good and gracious will in this world. If you're not sure what His will for you is, then find out by studying His Word. Scripture reveals God's good plan for our lives. Come to Sabbath School, it may be the most important hour of your week.

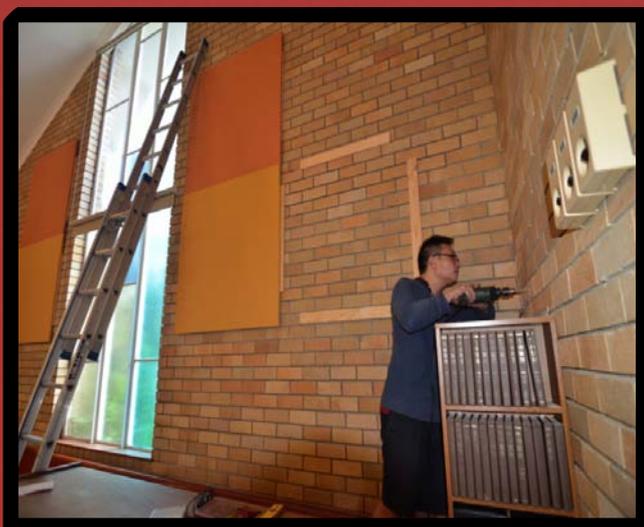
## Sound Panels Installed

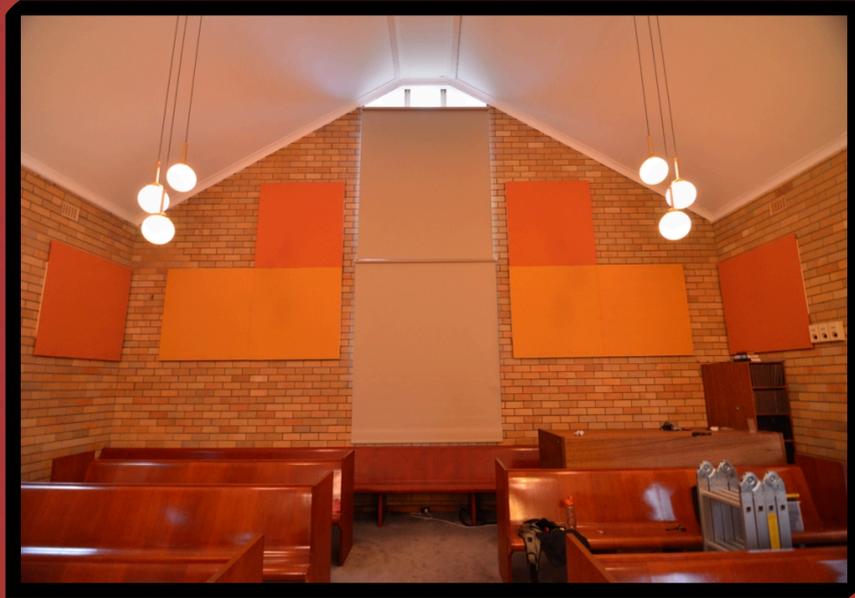
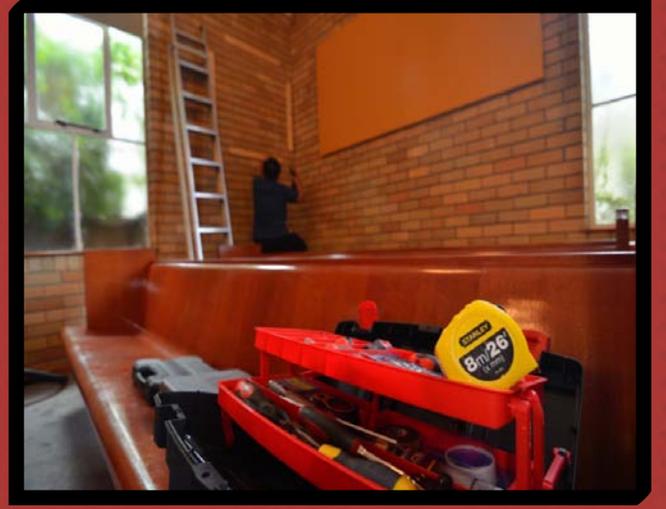
The sound panels in the church have finally been installed after a second big effort by a few dedicated members.

Kerri and Annali were busy covering the foam panels with the coloured cloth while Greg, Victor and Arthur were busy mounting them onto the wall. Mia and Sara supervised the whole operation to ensure that it ran smoothly.

After two hours of hard work the job was completed with a very satisfactory result. You can see the handiwork for yourselves this Sabbath at church.

Below are some photos of their hard work.





## Church Events and News

*I. Inspire 2011 – This will be held on April 14-17. EPPING CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED ON APRIL 16  
Be renewed, recalibrated and refocused. Inspire 2011 will be four days of spiritual refreshment, growing in your  
giftedness and sharpening your focus.*

*In 2011 our theme is connecting. We will be exploring what it means Keynote Speaker: Ben Maxson  
We're excited to announce that our keynote speaker is Pr Ben Maxson. Pr Maxson leads the Paradise SDA Church in  
California. Previously he has served as our General Conference Stewardship director. Pr Maxson has developed some  
great discipleship resources, is the author of 'Get Normal' which is an excellent book and shaping a biblical worldview  
and is an engaging speaker who is in demand around the world. Pr Maxson's presentations will challenge and inspire  
us.*

*Please keep this in your diaries. To register, download this document:*

[http://www.gscadventist.org.au/site\\_data/430/assets/0029/5885/Application\\_Form.pdf](http://www.gscadventist.org.au/site_data/430/assets/0029/5885/Application_Form.pdf)

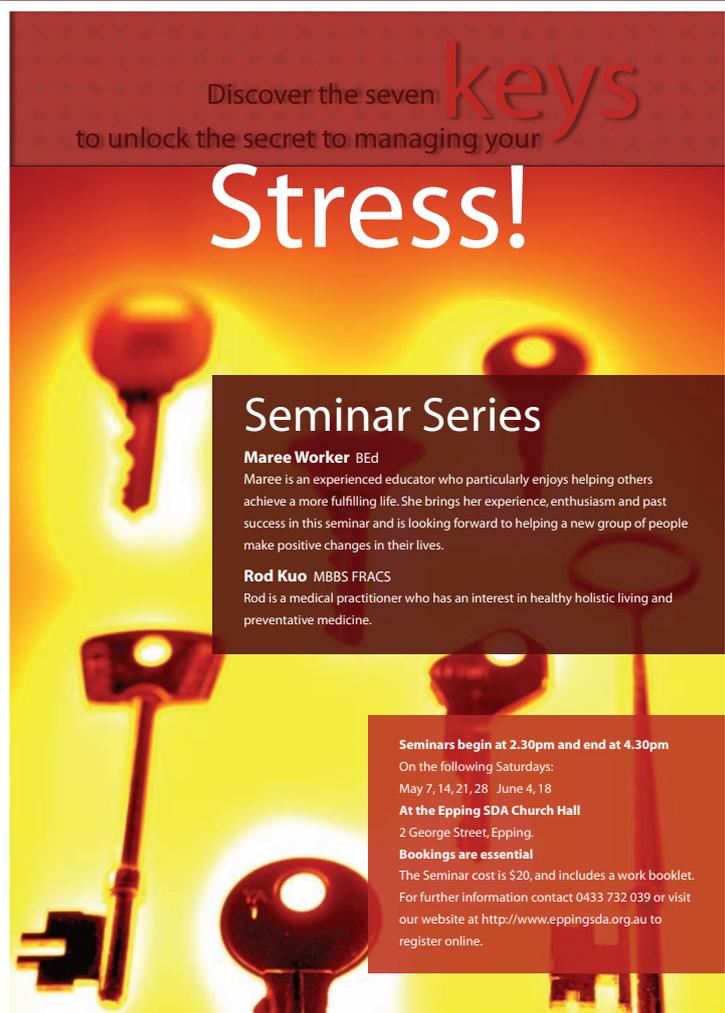
## Future Personal Ministry News

*May 1 (Sunday) - Health Assessment at Eastwood Shopping Centre.*

*May-June - Stress Management Course. 6 week course (May 7/14/21/28 and June 4/18)*

*August - Vegetarian Cooking series (August 6, 13, 20 and 27)*

*October - Body Balance Course*



Discover the seven **keys**  
to unlock the secret to managing your  
**Stress!**

### Seminar Series

**Maree Worker** BEd  
Maree is an experienced educator who particularly enjoys helping others achieve a more fulfilling life. She brings her experience, enthusiasm and past success in this seminar and is looking forward to helping a new group of people make positive changes in their lives.

**Rod Kuo** MBBS FRACS  
Rod is a medical practitioner who has an interest in healthy holistic living and preventative medicine.

**Seminars begin at 2.30pm and end at 4.30pm**  
On the following Saturdays:  
May 7, 14, 21, 28 June 4, 18  
**At the Epping SDA Church Hall**  
2 George Street, Epping.  
**Bookings are essential**  
The Seminar cost is \$20, and includes a work booklet.  
For further information contact 0433 732 039 or visit  
our website at <http://www.eppingsda.org.au> to  
register online.

# Stewardship

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This is Part 5 in our series on Stewardship:

## 5 – Stewarding Your Environment

This reading is condensed from a sermon preached by Sue Redman, pastor of Chatswood SDA Church

One day when I was reading the last few chapters of Job, trying to remind myself that I'm no-one to be challenging God on His will for my life, I was hit by another realization and this time it was God's profound love for the earth. I know it's nothing new, it's nothing that isn't glaringly obvious in Genesis or the Psalms or wherever we look in the Scriptures, but all of a sudden God's heart for this earth became my heart for this earth and that's why I'm now with Dr John Baldwin, a professor of theology at Andrews University, who said, "It's time for Seventh-day Adventists to be more active in environmental issues." [i]

According to the Word of God, the formation of this earth was not an accidental phenomenon of little worth. This earth was created by God, in fact Jesus Christ Himself John 1:1-3 says, and according to Genesis 1, God considered His creation "good". All created things were declared "in fact, "very good" (Genesis 1:31); and this calling, pronouncing, declaring of all created things "good" by God implies that we Christians should also be calling, pronouncing and declaring all created things "good", for indeed everything that God creates is "good" and should be valued and respected as such.

Whether or not we actually believe everything God creates is "good" is profoundly reflected in how we "rule over" His creation. Genesis 1:28 tells us that after God made Adam and Eve in His image (Genesis 1:26),

"God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'"

This tells us that right back in the very beginning, God gave humans the responsibility of "ruling over" or stewarding the earth. In the Handbook of Seventh-day Adventist Theology, Charles Bradford summarizes the implications of these instructions for Christians today,

"The stewardship of the earth, which God entrusted to Adam and Eve, still belongs to their descendants. We who inhabit the planet are responsible for its care. In the final judgment, the 'destroyers of the earth' are destroyed."

Sound a bit steep? Bradford is actually quoting Revelation 11:18

According to Bernard Nebel and Richard Wright, there are four basic principles of sustainable living and these are: 1. recycling to dispose wastes and replenish nutrients; 2. using solar energy; 3. maintaining the size of consumer populations to prevent overgrazing; and 4. maintaining biodiversity. An ecological crisis exists, they say, when any one of these principles are compromised. Bernard J Nebel and Richard TWright, *Environmental Science: The Way the World Works*, 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1993), p 552.

### Positive environmental steps

The concerned Christian's imagination is the only limit to creating positive ways to nurture the earth God has entrusted to us. We can recycle. We can use compost for gardens. We can use environmentally conscious methods of transportation. We can support quality environmental organizations.

Pastor Don McFarlane, the President of the Adventist Church in Britain, said, "As people who believe that the earth was created by God, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in engaging in measures to stabilize its climate. We might think that our individual contribution to climate stabilization might be too small to make a difference, however every little bit counts. Every snowflake in an avalanche has some responsibility for it. Every person has a responsibility to care for our earthly home."

*As the whole creation groans in labor pains as Romans 8:22 puts it, let us look forward to the day when as verse 21 says, "creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God." God's redemptive work, through Jesus Christ, is not only for us but also the natural world in the sense that it too will be re-created. My prayer is that we will be faithful stewards of the garden until then.*

*Reflection:*

*How do you appreciate God's creation?*

*What can you change in your lifestyle to be a more effective steward of creation?*

*How do you feel when you read that "every person has a responsibility to care for our earthly home?"*

## Prayer Ministry

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- *Please remember the victims and families of all those affected by the Earthquakes in Japan and Christchurch.*
- *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.*

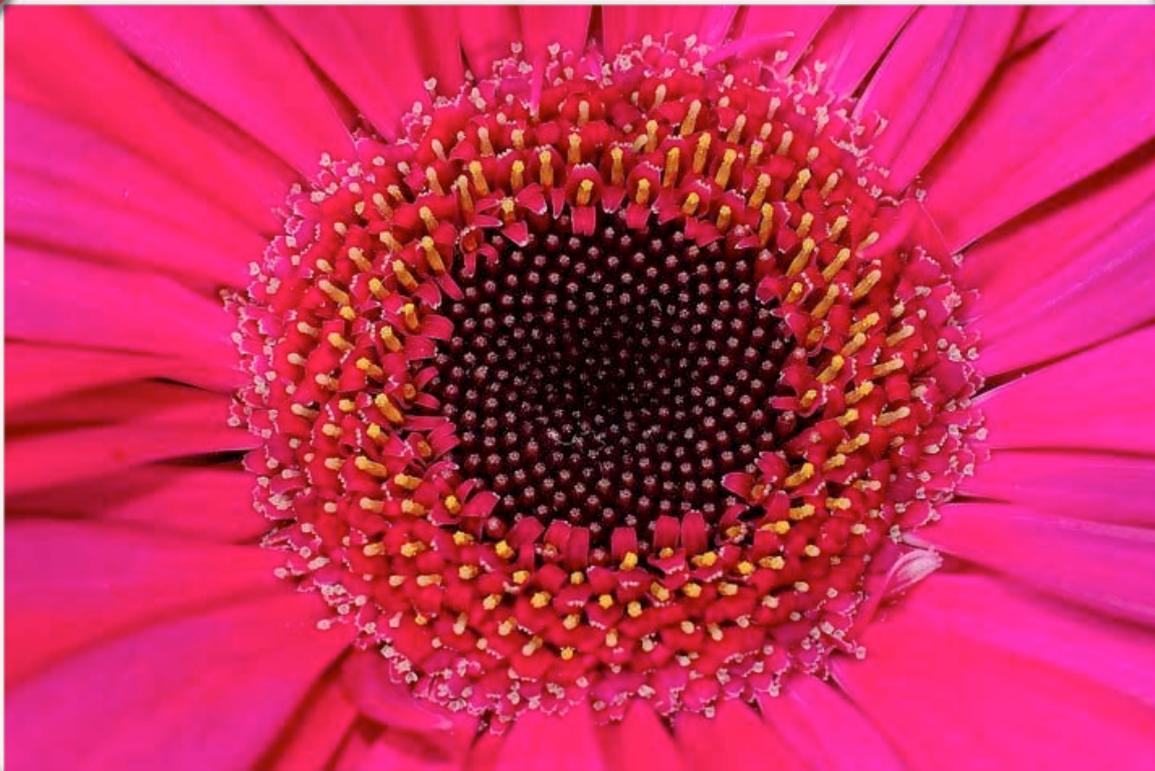
## Dates to keep in your Diary

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<b>April 9</b>	Deacon and Deaconess Ordination
<b>April 14-17</b>	Inspire 2011

## Photo of the Week

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*Photo by Arthur Wong*

## Thought of the Week

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*But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

*Isaiah 40:31*