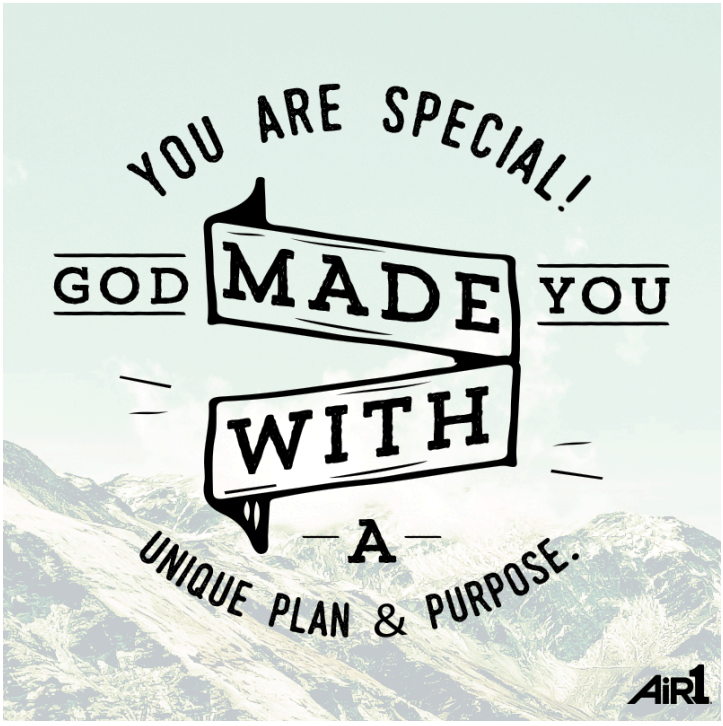
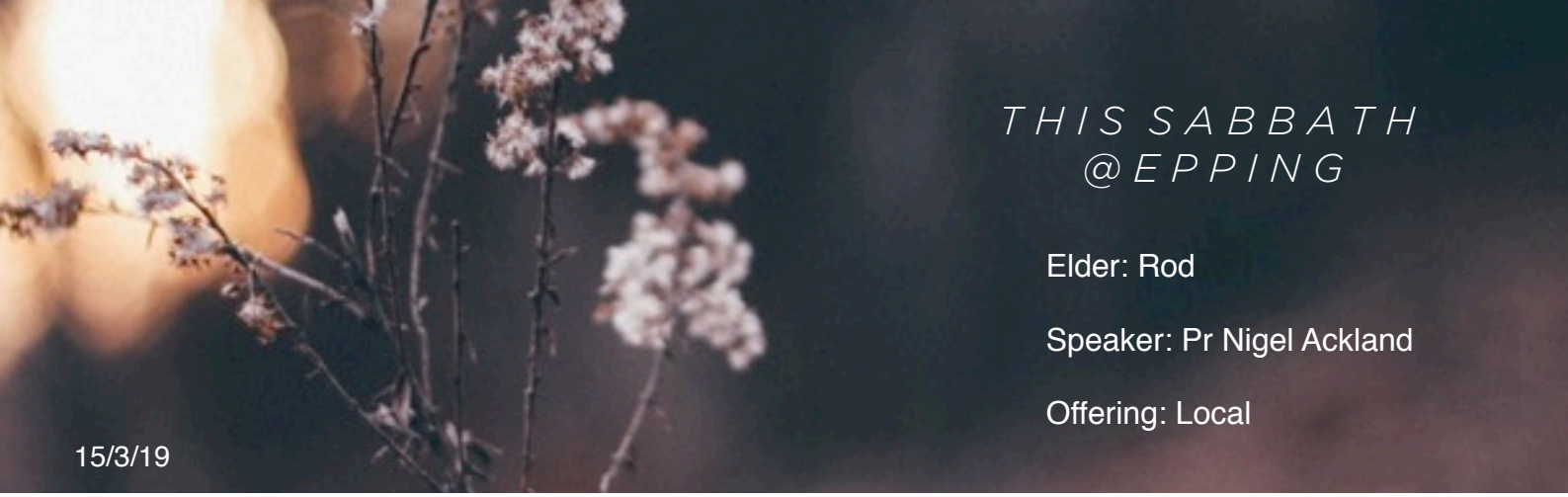
If you have anything to share with the church, please don't hesitate to contact us on the below emails.
Mande :mande.lees@gmail.com ; **Stephanie**: stephcyee@yahoo.com ; **Alvin**: ajing@eppingsda.org.au



Communion this week!

PRAYER REQUEST

- Please pray for Luisa and family
- Please pray for all our Epping Church Bible Study Groups
- Please pray for all the members of our local and global church
- Please pray for Blacktown ADRA in providing service to the needy, particularly with limited resources



THIS SABBATH @EPPING

Elder: Rod

Speaker: Pr Nigel Ackland

Offering: Local

15/3/19

Last Sabbath

Our speaker was Dr Ken Landers who spoke to us (especially the young people in the congregation) about "You are Priceless".

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

WEEK FOUR

"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead , if possible, even the elect."

Matthew 24:24

LIGHT of HOPE

To all our valued supporters,

2018 has been an eventful year for Light of Hope, bringing unexpected challenges to funding our work in Cambodia. Through these months of uncertainty, God has brought peace and provided for the needs of all the families and children who are beneficiaries of our projects. You, as supporters, have had to navigate through a new name, a new donation process and new-look reporting. Despite the initial uncertainty and new changes the work of Light of Hope Cambodia is blossoming and many more lives of children and families have been given hope and a pathway out of poverty in the past year.

We have been blessed to have World Relief Australia provide us with the conduit by which to provide funding from you, as donors, direct to the development projects in Cambodia. This service continues to provide supporters with tax-deductible receipting for your donations.

Light of Hope continues to be managed and staffed by a strong Christian Cambodian team. This team manages the governance and day-to-day operations, and is focussed on improving the lives of families and children in their communities.

Over the last few months you may have had contact with one of our dedicated Australian volunteers. Light of Hope staff in Australia volunteer their time and expertise to co-ordinate your sponsorships, mail-outs, and the work of Light of Hope Cambodia. These volunteers might make contact with you in regards to your payments or sponsorship, and will be available to answer your questions. Please feel free to call or email to talk about any aspect of our work at Light of Hope.

We thank each of you who have re-engaged your sponsorships or donations to Light of Hope in wake of the changes this year. Without your dedication to give to the work of Light of Hope, we would not be able to touch lives of children and families as we do. If you, your family, your church or your community group would like to spend some time volunteering at Light of Hope, we would love to hear from you. These experiences bless us as volunteers as much as the children and families that we come to serve. Don't think that there is nothing you can do, you would be surprised what we can achieve with a passionate team ready to serve.

Blessings to you from all at Light of Hope this Christmas. May we all seize this Christmas season and make it our primary purpose to share love and touch souls for eternity. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to each family and child in Cambodia supported by the work of Light of Hope. Thank you for being a special part of this ministry.

Yours sincerely,

Sherree Hughes

Light Of Hope Project Manager

"Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever." Psalm 136:26

Contact us for more information:

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LIGHT of HOPE

PROJECT NEWS

December 2018

Another eventful year draws to a close. How exciting to share the highlights of the year at Light of Hope Cambodia!

There are currently 65 children living at Light of Hope in five houses. In each house a married couple serve as "Mum" and "Dad" to each of these children, and each home operates as an individual home. This year has seen a new routine established of different homes being responsible for an activity each Sunday. This brings everyone together in a fun social experience. The children in each home are tasked with planning and conducting the activity for the whole centre, and we have seen activities like talent shows, treasure hunts and team games. These fun times together are important in creating memories for these children who call Light of Hope home.

Our children's services team continues to work with the families in the local communities, identifying families and children at risk and assessing how they might be empowered to ensure the safety and nurture of their children within their families.

The gardens at Light of Hope continue to produce a wide range of vegetables to supplement the diet of the children. This year we have seen a significant expansion in our fruit production with the planting of more mango, custard apple and avocado trees and dragon fruit vines. Fruit is something that is difficult to include in the children's daily diet due to the cost. The production of this fruit will enhance the nutritional intake of the children and also provide a small income with any surplus stock that is harvested.

Education continues to be the pathway out of poverty for so many of these children from the outlying villages. This year has seen the addition of a second Kindergarten classroom and a dedicated Kindy playground has been created. It is exciting to see this commitment to early learning education thriving in our school. The end of the school year in August gave us reason to rejoice, as 100% of our students sitting the government exam in Year 9 and Year 12 passed. For our graduating Year 12 students, this opens up the world of university study for each of them. Ten students graduating from the Light of Hope School this year received scholarships to study in their chosen field in Phnom Penh.

QUICK FACTS FROM 2018
LOH CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

20
children currently in tertiary education

9 children chose to be baptised

19,200
kilograms of rice used for feeding

6,348
kilograms of vegetables grown in the gardens

115
fruit trees planted in the gardens

5
family groups, each in a house with a "Mum" and "Dad" and a dozen "siblings"

The Light of Hope students in Phnom Penh have settled well into a new academic year of tertiary studies. They are a cohesive group and it has been great to see the older students mentor the new ones to settle in and show them the ropes. The transition from Light of Hope campus to Phnom Penh can be challenging for some students and this support from 'brothers and sisters' is valuable. This last year we have had three of our students graduate university – one in electrical engineering, one in teaching and one in tourism.

Nuthpich's centre continues to support 16 children who are all growing so fast. Many of the students here are in their final years of schooling and some have commenced their vocational training. The children at Nuthpich's centre continue to be involved with Pr Nuthpich in serving the children living beside the rubbish dump.

Volunteer groups continue to provide valuable support, mentoring and training across the program. Visiting teams have a substantial impact across the program, each bringing a different skill set and focus. This year has seen hours of professional learning for our staff in teaching, children's services and our primary carers. Volunteers have worked long and hard in the Cambodia heat in creating a new kindy playground, building a new verandah along our canteen and library, replaced water tanks and guttering on the houses and commenced a revamp of our church building. In 2019 why not get together with a group and come and serve at Light of Hope, we know that you will not only leave an impact where you have served but you will be richly blessed in the process.

We praise God and thank Him for His care and guidance in the past year and we look forward to an exciting year in 2019 where, with your help, we can touch the lives of more children and families who need the light of hope.

QUICK FACTS FROM 2018 LIGHT OF HOPE SCHOOL

568
students receiving a quality education at LOH school

35
hours of contact teaching each week

697
children aware of their rights and protected from violence and exploitation

100%
of year 12 students at LOH school successfully passed their government exams

while only **66%**
of year 12 students across the whole of Cambodia successfully passed their government exams

29
teachers trained in child-friendly techniques

103
volunteer hours worked each week for LOH by Australian supporters, both in Australia and in Cambodia

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God who said "Let light shine out of darkness" made his light shine in our hearts

Contact us for more information:

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Epping Church:
Roof Repair Fundraising

The Epping Church roof is leaking and in need of repair. It will cost $60,000 to fix it. The Board has approved a "Repair the Roof Fund Raiser" with monthly Special Offerings on the first Sabbath of every month commencing August 5th (then Sept 2 / Oct 7 etc)

Roof Repair Fund trip is now on the e giving website. Feel free to donate here,

https://egiving.org.au/Epping%20SDA%20Church

ROOF REPAIR PAID!

Finished product! - still going with Special Offerings

MEMORY VERSES

Week 1:
"To the law and to the testimony! If they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isa 8:20

Week 2:
"These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve" 2 Corinthians 11 13:-15

Week 3:
“To obey is better than sacrifice” 1 Samuel 15:22

Week 4:
"For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead , if possible, even the elect." Matthew 24:24

Usually, on the back-burner of my mind, I like to have a handful of metaphysical concepts percolating as I grapple with their significance in light of God's will. At the moment it is compassion, integrity, truth, obedience, and sacrifice. These came more into focus when I read a challenging quote by Ellen White in 5 Testimonies, p. 167. She says, "The more closely we resemble our Saviour in character, the greater will be our love toward those for whom He died."

I confess, I do not love all 7.69 billion people on earth as I ought. But praise our merciful Father, the love is growing. How do we grow a character more like Christ's? Every morning we invite the Holy Spirit into our heart for the day and allow Him to teach us. He knows what you need, and the best learning styles you respond to. He will work tirelessly to prepare you for a place in heaven. Don't fight Him, rather, take in His teaching in the same way a drowning man fights for air. Do that and become the loving reflection (image of God) He created you to be.

"Shouldn't you also have compassion…, even as I had pity on you?" Matthew 18:33.