

EPPING SDA CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Photos by Light and Motion Photography

Welcome

Welcome back to our weekly Epping Church Newsletter.

We've been offline for a few weeks due to Easter Holidays and other activities, but that hasn't stopped Epping Church from pursuing some wonderful outreach programs and social events in the last few weeks. You can read and see all about these in this edition of the newsletter, thanks to the myriad of reporters

and photographers that we have on staff at this publication.

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 Alvin or Stephanie at the addresses below:

ajing@eppingsda.org.au
stephcye@yahoo.com

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

This Sabbath at Epping

This is a very special Sabbath at Epping. Our young Adventurers will be having their investiture during the service, which is a great way to acknowledge all their hard work and achievements throughout the past year. A special thanks must go to Sharon for leading out to our children.

The service this week will be taken by Glenn Roberts from the ICC, and he will be giving an update on all ICC's activities including Epping's newest Mission Project in Sri Lanka. You can also read more about our Sri Lanka project further on in this newsletter.

The elder in charge is Arthur and the Offering is for Disaster and Famine Relief

Last Sabbath at Epping

Last week's service was taken by **Pastor Stephen Bews**, currently Greater Sydney Conference director of Personal Ministries and Sabbath School, and formerly Pastor of Castle Hill Church. His sermon was entitled "Just a Touch" and was based on Luke 8.

Luke 8: 42-48

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

Why did the woman touch Jesus' garment?

She wished for:

1. Someone to follow
2. Someone to worship
3. Someone to save her

Jesus was that person.

Pastor Bews also went on to the story of Jairus, the synagogue leader. Jairus lays at Jesus feet as he sees him as someone to follow and worship. He asks Jesus to go to his house to heal his daughter who has died.

"The sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings "

Malachi 4:2 (NIV)

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.

Question for everyone: do you find in Jesus someone to follow and worship, someone who can save you from sin?



Health Assessment at Eastwood May 1

From Rod:

A BIG Thank you to all those who helped out today at the Health Assessment at Eastwood. We were blessed with warm sunshine and great attitudes and teamwork from all the participants. Everyone played their role well, including Rams who had to expand his duties and play security guard! Even a small head injury couldn't deter Victor!!

We had a good turn out from the community and everyone looked to have enjoyed the occasion.

Another big thank you to those who also stayed back to help with some extra letterboxing afterwards.



Stress Management Course

Epping's Stress Management Course is in full swing now, with the third seminar in the series taking place this Sabbath Afternoon at 1430.

The remaining dates for the 6 week course are May 21, May 28, June 4 and June 18.

Thanks to Maree and Rod for driving this series, and I'm sure they would appreciate our continuing support.

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.



Future Personal Ministry Events

1. August - Vegetarian Cooking series (August 6, 13, 20 and 27)
2. October - Body Balance Course

Friday Night Cell Groups

From Rod:

Just a quick reminder that Term 2 Cell Groups have commenced at 7pm Friday evenings on:

Week 2: May 20

Week 3: May 27

Week 4: June 3 (June 10 Public Holiday)

Week 5: June 17

at Venues:

1) Kuo's

2) Go's

3) Tung's

4) Youth Group - ask Matthew Ing

For some groups it would be good to continue or complete the Revelation series.

Through Bible study and prayer we can learn more about Christ and what plans He has for us.

Pathfinder News

Upcoming Pathfinder Events include:

June 18 – Pathfinder Investiture

2-3 July - Proposed Snow Trip

23-25 September - Pathfinder Expedition

28-30 October - Social Night with Church / Adventurer Camporee

Youth News

WATERSKI DAY- 8TH MAY 2011

The day started bright and early
In fact it was a frightful 5:30

The temperature gauge read 5 degrees
And the biting cold did not ease

Our adventure began at Wisemans Ferry
The water temperature wasn't as scary

Wakeboarding I did enjoy
All of my skills I had to employ

All of us got up pretty quick
Making us all look fully sick

We were all able to ride the wave
Showing our courage, and how we were brave

The girls skied with graceful ease
While they screamed "It is such a breeze!"

It was a day filled with fun...
Turns, flips, jumps and glorious sun

Falling onto my face many times
Has resulted in this fantastic rhyme

"Let's do it again!" they cried
I whispered "I'm just glad I'm alive"

Written by: Matthew Ing



Church Offerings

I continue to encourage all members to support our Local Budget offerings each week. On Sabbaths where the offering is not formally assigned to our Local Church Budget, you can still support Epping Church by utilising the envelopes marked "Local Budget".

These are located in the Church Foyer and on the Church Pews. Please ask the deacons or deaconesses for an envelope if these are not readily available.

Stewardship

This is Part 7 in our series on Stewardship:

7 – Stewardship: A Lifestyle of Worship

In Romans 12 Paul talks about being a living sacrifice in **all** you do – he goes on to say that this is your spiritual act of worship. Worship is about glorifying God and our expressions to Him. It is far more than music, a service that happens on Sabbath, or time spent reading the morning devotional. Worship can happen in many ways: singing, communion, prayer, awe over nature, plus a myriad of other thoughts, actions, and feelings that can be expressions to God.

In Isaiah 29:13 we are told to worship continually. In the Bible, people praised God at work, at home, in jail, and even in bed. Your routine activities can be transformed into an act of worship when you do it for the praise, glory and pleasure of God. Martin Luther said, 'A dairymaid can milk cows to the glory of God.' Work becomes worship when you dedicate it to God and perform it with an awareness of His presence. It is not just a movement of the mind, but a rich and complex action, which consumes our very nature. It is the way we live life.

Created To Worship

Dallas Willard writes; "We were made for worship and our hearts are restless until they have found the object of worship that we were created to honour." (*Spirit of The Disciplines*, 183) We either worship God or we worship creation, there is no middle ground. We have all been created to worship something – we choose.

While we are blessed and encouraged through worshipping God, our goal, when we worship, is to bring pleasure to God, not ourselves. If you have ever said, 'I didn't get anything out of worship today' you have misunderstood worship. Worship is for God. Psalm 147:11 says, "The Lord takes pleasure with those who worship Him and trust His love." Just like a parent loves the feel of their child's unsolicited tight hug God takes pleasure when we honour Him.

In Isaiah 29 God complains about worship that is half-hearted and hypocritical. The people were offering God stale prayers, insincere praise, empty words, and man-made rituals without even thinking about their meaning. 'These people come near to me with their mouths and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'

Offering yourself to God is what worship is all about. Be a 'living sacrifice' in all aspects of our life is what Stewardship is all about. In today's competitive culture we are taught never to give up or give in - so we don't hear much about surrendering. But surrendering to God is the heart Stewardship. It is the natural response to God's amazing love and mercy. We give ourselves to Him, not out of fear or duty, but in love, 'because He first loved us'. You need to remember that you are an eternal being. That life is about more than what you can cram into it between now and the grave. God calls you to worship him with all you have. Your time, relationships, resources, gifts and money. The price of not stewarding in a God honouring way is exhaustion, self-preoccupation, ungratefulness, irritability, and a lot of compassion squeezed out of you. You can end up skimming life rather than living life.

God knew that by ourselves we would drift into society's self-oriented traps. We will only experience life to the full when we take the opportunity God created for us to revive, recalibrate, and renew around God's purposes. God calls you to be His steward. How will your life reflect the fact that you live to serve Him

Reflection:

How might you ensure that you don't just carry out acts of worship, but that your life is an act of worship?

What factors might hinder you from surrendering to God in all aspects of your life?

Would your friends say that Jesus is at the centre of your life-governing system?

How will you apply the principles of a well-ordered heart this week?

Mothers Day Social

From Arthur:

I'd like to thank our young people for organising an amazing Mother's Day social! Everyone who attended was very impressed by the food, decoration and service...it was simply fantastic! The mums were so surprised to find the hall so beautifully decorated with a full sit-down meal awaiting them...with table service and excellent food. it was such a treat for all our hard-working mums and aunties to be served for a change and not have to wash up.

I received many, many compliments about the evening, the food was great, the service was great, the games were fun...but the greatest compliments were about our young people. Everyone was totally blown away by their teamwork, hard work and positive attitude; it was a truly outstanding effort! You guys rock! You have demonstrated that you can do anything as a group if you set your minds to it!

A big thank you to all our young people and the social committee for putting on one of the best Mother's Day socials ever!





Epping Mission Project 2011



Our Goal: \$30,000 to support
International Children's Care Sri Lanka

Brick Making - Help fund a small workshop, materials, sales yard, shed, electrical connection, materials to get started. Provide job opportunities for the older students to develop skills, work ethics and earn some pocket money as well as make a return profit to ICC Sri Lanka.



Bakery and Retail Centre - a small commercial centre on the roadside to sell the produce such as bread from their small bakery, and fruit, vegetables, eggs. This will be a part of the vocational training for the older abused girls referred by Child Protection (CPO).



About ICC Sri Lanka: The ICC Children's Centre is in a small village community adjacent to Lakpahana Adventist School in the Central Province. It is 45 minutes drive from the nearest city, Kandy. The centre has been through a difficult time but during 2010 emerged with a glowing report from the provincial child protection office which culminated in formal recognition and registration as an Orphanage in October 2010. ICC is now considered to be among the best orphanages in the province in terms of quality of care for the children.

The provincial authorities have asked if ICC Sri Lanka would be prepared to care especially for abused girls since that is the greatest need in the Kandy region. In their judgement Christians care for this type of person better than any others. The ICC Village property could potentially accommodate 60-70 children. It currently houses 28.



Some improvement to the facilities took place leading up to registration. Our dream is to develop the centre to the point that it provides best practice caring in family style homes for some of Sri Lanka's most neglected and abused children and one that can operate with little or no dependence on foreign aid so that we can reach other children in other locations that are also in need of care.

How to make a Donation



1. **Cash Donations** of \$2 or more are Tax Deductible
ICC Official Receipt issued by Belle Tung
2. **Online:** <https://iccaustralia.worldsecuresystems.com/support/support.html>
In the **Area to Support**, please type **Epping Mission Project**
You will receive an email acknowledging your donation and a Tax Deductible Receipt mailed to you within 5 working days.
3. **Credit Card** - please use the Donation Form below and

Mail to:

International Children's Care Australia
Suite 205, 16 Hunter Street
HORNSBY NSW 2077

or **Fax: (02) 9987-1920**



Credit Card Donation Form			
Name on Card		Amount	\$
Credit Card No		Expiry Date	
Card Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex		
Signature		Date	
Telephone No		Mobile	
Please write name here if it is different from the Credit Card Holder and the address you would like your receipt mailed to.	Name		
	Street		
	Suburb		
	State		Post Code

Thank you for your generosity !!!

Sew and Tell- June 6

Our next meeting will be at Nerelle and Colleen's home at 7.30 pm on Monday, June 6. There will be the usual devotional, fellowship and craft, with a light supper to follow. All ladies are welcome.

Further details from Sue or Colleen.

Prayer Ministry

- Please pray for Luna's health and 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 Josh Woods' parents

Amazing Race

From the team that brought you the amazing Mother's Day dinner, they are now bringing you the Amazing Race!

Are you ready to pit your skills, brains and fitness against other teams as you race around the world? The much anticipated **Epping Church Amazing Race** is on again on Sunday 29th of May!

The race will begin from Dural at 9am and finish at a yet undisclosed Park for lunch around 12.30pm. During this time you will face challenges that will push your brain and your body to the limit (slight exaggeration) but I guarantee that you will have a lot of fun doing it!

The format of the 'Race' will include timed events but it does not include any timing between locations so there is no need to speed. Your safety and the safety of others is paramount so make sure you drive responsibly and within the speed limit.

Start assembling your team now as you need a combination of brains, strength, co-ordination and teamwork!

Some initial details:

Start time: 9am

Start Location: 12 Romeo Place

Cost: \$5/person (fund raising for ICC Sri Lanka School)

Dress: Wear clothes that are comfortable and allow you to run. Some bush-bashing may be required...you have been warned!

Things to bring: Snacks, drinks, picnic lunch and a friend (preferably an athlete, code breaker or a rocket scientist!). You will also need at least one digital camera in your team and a working mobile phone.

More information will be provided as we get closer to race day!

Photo of the Week



Photography by David Liittschwager

Thought of the Week

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!"

Romans 11:33