

# **Epping SDA Church Newsletter**

No:82 – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Welcome to our weekly Church Newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition. If you have any items of interest, be it news, special events, or just something you would like to share with the rest of us, please email me via:

[ajing@eppingsda.org.au](mailto:ajing@eppingsda.org.au).

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

## **Welcome to Pastor Michael Dabson**

A very warm welcome to Epping's new Pastor, Pr Michael Dabson, who took our service last week. Michael is from Cooranbong, and we are fortunate to have him ministering to us for the rest of 2008. Pastor Michael will be preaching regularly at Epping and plans to be involved in regular visitations over the next 6 months. He will be undertaking these visitations midweek, usually on Wednesday or Thursdays. As he mentioned last week, if you would like a visitation for any reason, please fill in the back of the church bulletin and hand it in to Michael or one of the elders. Alternatively he can be contacted on:

[dabson@aapt.net.au](mailto:dabson@aapt.net.au)

During this week Pastor Michael has been busy with visitations already, as well as meeting with the elders on Wednesday evening. If you have the time, ask Pastor Michael about his journey in Christianity, and how he approached the many questions and uncertainties that many of us face. I look forward to exploring these issues in various forums in the near future.

## **This Sabbath @ Epping – Pathfinder Investiture**

This week's service will be taken by **Pathfinders** who are all to be congratulated for their wonderful achievements. The elder in charge is **Henry Tung**, while the attending District Directors are **Peter Fowler & Cecilia Salazar**. The offering is for **Education**. Greg will be leading out with the Epping Church Band.

# ***Pathfinder and Adventurer News***

## ***1. May 30-31 – Pathfinder Camp***

*From Henry:*

*Thanks to everyone who came to the Murphy's Glen camp. That is a really nice place and we haven't fully explored all the possibilities the location has to offer. We will probably be back one of these days.*

*Special thanks to Meagan and Belinda for suggesting this interesting location and helping with the camp organisation and modules. Thanks also to Jon, Stephen and Kenn for all their help with the camp program.*

*Thanks to the parents who came and helped out with all the various activities. You all are the greatest group to be with. We wouldn't be a team without you.*

*Everything worked out so well, the fire, the cooking in the fire, the walk, the prayer and you all having fun with the footy. And also the flint starters who got the fire going.*

*Congratulations to your skill.*







## ***Local Church News and Events***

### ***1. Social Night – Saturday Evening (tomorrow night) 14<sup>th</sup> June – 7 PM***

*Our social evenings are highly anticipated, and this one is no different. Our games master is planning some new and innovative activities but you have to be there to find out what he has in store. A little hint: bring your voices!*

*From the Games master:*

*“Guess what? It's time for another mega games night at Epping Church this Saturday night at 6 pm!*

*I want to stress that the night will be for all ages, in fact we need more adults/seniors available to participate as the teams will not be able to compete without them. The kids will need their brains and brawn, the adults will just need their brains :-)*

*To make it easy on all the mums, we will provide pizzas and dessert for \$5/head BUT PLEASE BRING DRINKS. Any money left over will be put into the pathfinder fund.*

*Get ready for a great night of fun and games! Don't forget to bring some friends to share in the fun.”*

## **2. Agape Feast – Friday Night: 20<sup>th</sup> June 7:30 pm Epping Church Hall**

*This is an event to place in your diaries. Everyone (children, youth, adults) is invited to this unique feast where we renew our minds and our bodies. The beauty and simplicity of the Agape Feast is a powerful reminder of the love God has for us. Michael and Maree Worker will lead out on this special night.*

## **3. Sports Night – Saturday evening 19<sup>th</sup> July**

*This is also a night to note in your diaries. If you can move, you need to come. Activities range from Tennis, Basketball, Squash, Indoor Cricket and Table Tennis. See Matthew for more details closer to the event.*

## **4. Friday Night Prayer Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> July**

*Epping Church is planning to have regular Friday Night Prayer Meetings and the next one will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July. These meetings are focused on bringing the church family together and to provide pray and other support for anyone in need. Please see one of the elders for help with any aspects of these meetings.*

## **5. Working Bee – Sunday July 20.**

*Our next Working Bee will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Please let Jim know of any maintenance issues that we need to address.*

## **6. Communion Service**

*Our next Communion Service will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup>.*

## **Sew and Tell – Monday July 7 - 7:30 pm**

*The next Sew and Tell meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday, July 7. A dinner is being planned to celebrate Luna's Birthday. More details to follow.*

## **Prayer Ministry**

*It has been particularly inspiring over the last few months to witness the power of our prayer ministry. I would encourage everyone to continue to support this important ministry.*

*A message from Arthur earlier in the week:*

*"We have request for prayers for some of our Church family.*

*Please pray for Fleur as she undergoes surgery this Friday.*

*Please pray for Aileen as she undergoes surgery on the 23rd of this month.*

*Please remember both Fleur and Aileen in your daily prayers, prayer support is an important part of our Christian life and it is something that all members of our church can do, both young and old. I would encourage you all to participate in this important mission.*

*Please also continue praying for Allan, Sue and Carlene.*

*Sue has experienced a significant improvement from her treatment and we praise God for this.*

*Allan too has improved dramatically. He rang today to pass on his thanks to Epping church for our continued prayer support. His heart condition is now stable and he has one more skin graft operation to go.*

*Carlene is also improving daily and is now at home.*

*Warmest Christian Regards,*

*Arthur"*

*And an update from Kenn:*

***An update on Fleur - good news!***

*"Hello all, We are thanking God that Fleur has done exceptionally well! She went in to the San this morning and had a device implanted in her heart to help it pump better. The hole that was there has now been closed. Doctors are happy and Fleur will be home tomorrow. It is such a blessing that all has gone well. Thanks for your support. Kenn Duke"*

## **Postcard from Houston II**

*Hi guys!*

*Sorry I have not written in a while. I have this weird Houston virus which has given me bilateral conjunctivitis, a blocked nose, sore throat and a dreadful cough. I am still not better although at least I can see better. It is starting to really annoy me.*

*We have been here a month and doing pretty well. We passed our drivers license test last Tuesday! So we now have a Texas drivers license. Although the whole process is quite overwhelming. We queued for 2 1/2 hours just to do the written test on the Friday before and then on Tuesday we had to get there at 6.50am to find a line already around the building waiting for an appointment for the test. You can't book ahead and you have to arrive by 7.30am if you want an appointment for the same day. So we did ours at 3.30 and 3.45pm. Afterwards we had to join yet another (short) queue to get our photo taken. Ethan was rather surprised that yet another line had to be joined. Wanted to know what they are all for. The night before when we told him we were going to do the test he wanted to know what they were testing. We told him things like how we turned and to make sure we had both hands on the wheel etc. Ethan then said "but you two don't do that!"....out of the mouth of babes. Ken thought it was a good thing Ethan was not our examiner.*

*The examiner looked really bored and was so big he hardly fit into the front seat of our car! Then we drove several loops around the license place and he passed us! Such an anticlimax after all the queues we stood in.*

*The other big question everyone has been asking is church. Well our first Sabbath we decided to have a quiet one and stayed at home. The second we went looking for this one reasonably close by. They called themselves the Real Truth SDA church and gave their address on the website. We drove for an hour and could not find them. Not much real truth there!! I presume that they either no longer meet or have moved and have not updated the website.*

*The last 2 sabbaths we have gone to the Houston International SDA church. Essentially they are made up of lots of nationalities (about 50 different countries represented they tell me). They are about the size of Castle Hill and similar in design as well. Sabbath School was a bit strange. They sang for the whole class (Ethan wondered why they forgot the craft) and it was all about the rituals of church like getting dressed in your best clothes, driving to church, the building, sitting still and listening etc. I couldn't believe that there were so many songs about these things. The kids looked a bit bored toward the end. The second week was a little better at least there was a story. The service is also quite different. They have singing and announcements then childrens' story then more singing and the poor pastor does not get to the pulpit until about 12:15 pm. By that time our kids have eaten all the snacks and are pretty restless so we have not heard a sermon yet!*

*This week we thought we would take lunch so they could eat lunch (they have a parents and kids area) and we could stay for longer. Maree you would love the song service. They have about 4 people up at the front who lead out and 2 keyboard players. It is really good and reminds me of home.*

*The church is quite vocal and they say Amen quite often and do a lot of congregation responses to statements. Overall we quite enjoy the church but haven't really met a lot of people. The problem is that it is over 30 minutes drive so quite far. Nothing closer that speaks English. We have about 5 Spanish churches around us. There are a couple of Afro-American ones. One of them looks like a typical Gospel one with a huge choir and sermons on YouTube.*

*Thought we would try them out just to see what that is like. I just have to gripe about the food. I can't tell anyone here!! Have now located some pretzels without corn syrup. Who would figure that pretzels would need them? Ethan complaining that American potato chips are no good. None of us like the butter here either. Finally found some made in the "European Style" and low and behold Ethan told me "I don't like the bread but the butter is good". Small progress. Bread here is hard too. It is either sweet or sour. Really hard to find bread without an ingredients list that is longer than my hand.*

*Also I have to buy imported beans to get a can without corn syrup (as in red beans and canellini etc). Ridiculous! I really miss Woolies...*

*Tomorrow I am hoping to get to see some pre-schools for Ethan. He is missing school as he is asking me when he will start going. Have booked swimming lessons. They do them for 2 weeks Mon -Thurs as this intensive session and then nothing until the next term. Weird eh?*

*Must go to bed, miss you all very much*

*Frances, Ken, Ethan and Madeleine*

## **Prayer Requests:**

*Please remember the following members, and friends in your prayers*

<b>Sue Wood</b>	<i>It's great to hear that Sue is improving and I that you remember Sue, Ken and their family in your prayers.</i>
<b>Carlene Bagnall</b>	<i>Carlene is recovering from recent surgery and we pray for her during her rehabilitation.</i>
<b>Fleur Duke</b>	<i>Fleur has successfully undergone surgery today and we pray for her ongoing recovery.</i>
<b>Aileen Manahan</b>	<i>Please remember Aileen in your prayers as she undergoes surgery later this month.</i>
<b>Victims and families of Cyclone Nargis in Burma</b>	
<b>Families affected by the Earthquake in South Western China</b>	

## *Dates to put down in your diary*

<b>June 14</b>	<i>Pathfinder Investiture</i>
<b>June 14 – 7 PM</b>	<i>Social evening, Epping Church</i>
<b>June 20 – Friday evening</b>	<i>Agape Feast – Epping Church</i>
<b>July 7</b>	<i>Sew and Tell – Luna's Birthday</i>
<b>July 19 – Saturday evening</b>	<i>Sports Night</i>
<b>July 20</b>	<i>Working Bee</i>
<b>July 25 – Friday evening</b>	<i>Prayer Meeting – Epping Church</i>
<b>August 9</b>	<i>Communion Service</i>

## *Thought for the Week:*

*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

*James 4:10*