

Epping SDA Church Newsletter

No:83 – 20th 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.

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

Agape Feast: Tonight (Friday 20/6) 7:30pm Epping Church Hall

From Arthur:

”We have a very special program this Friday night at 7:30pm!

It is an Agape Feast, or feast of brotherly love where the body is refreshed with food and the spirit is renewed to overflowing through an inspirational and unique worship service.

We will also be using this evening to pray for our members who are facing serious health issues or other trials.

I would like to encourage you all to attend this special night if at all possible. Please bring your family and friends to share in this experience as well. You can let the stresses of the week from work or study wash away as you enjoy the meaningful worship and the Agape feast of fruits, nuts, breads and dips.”

Here is a link to a web invitation for the event.

<http://www.eppingsda.org.au/agapefeast.html>

This Sabbath @ Epping

*This week’s service will be taken by **Arthur Wong**, and the elder in charge is **Eva Ing**. The offering is for **Pacific Island Advancement**. **Greg** will be leading out with the Epping Church Band.*

Last Week @ Epping – Pathfinder Investiture

Last week's service was taken by Henry and was of course the Investiture of all our Pathfinders. Congratulations to everyone involved in the club, and on your achievements!

For the record, the Pathfinders and their achievements were:

Friends

Brian Park, Ellie Shin, Matthew Kuo, Sam Duke, Brianna Worker, Joshua Ly

Friends Adv

Ayen Manahan



Companion

Leighton Baxter, Ashleigh Wong, Fernanda Ly, Angelica Kross, Stephen Kuo, Denver Ha, Jeremy Singh



Explorer

Ellie Yee, Melissa Laws

Ranger

Jessica Laws

Voyager

Stephanie Yee, Shannon Ing, Annali Baxter, Cassandra Wong, Jessica Laws



Guide – Michael Ing **Special Award** – Meagan Wright and Belinda Wright. Ron Manahan



Special Recognition: Arthur Wong, Michael Worker, Nadia Ly, Rochelle Baxter, Chelsea Ly



Extra Special Award – our makeshift video projector.

Other Photos from the day:





Pathfinder and Adventurer News

1. From Henry:

“With the Investiture over, there will be no meeting this weekend, however we are celebrating a very unique event this Friday evening at 7:30 pm.

We would like each of you to come and be spiritually refreshed at the Agape feast. It's a time of blessing, renewal and fellowship.

Please come and enjoy the evening. You will be glad you came, and we will be having a very special prayer session for one of our Pathfinder families. Let me know if you are able to come.

PS: die hard Pathfinders who can't help themselves can help make me some of the food for the evening. Let me know if you are interested.”

2. Youth Outdoor Activity

This is an opportunity you will not want to miss. It may not happen again soon and you are invited to participate. Roddy Wong has organised this very special challenge and we want you to be there. It will be a really fun and inspiring.

This activity is mainly for the older teens. We would like to limit this to those who are part of our club or youth groups and join with some of the youth from Chinese church. First come first served.

We will be meeting at Chinese Church in Strathfield to catch the bus at 8 am sharp. You will need to bring lunch, water, camera, etc. and it will be a day to remember. Cost is \$25 for the day, includes transport and gear. Please let Henry know if you are interested.

DARE YOU NOT?

A CALL TO ALL YOUTH...

**JOIN US FOR A DAY OF EXCITEMENT
OF ABSEILING & ROPE SKILL**

SUNDAY, 27 JULY 2008

8:00 AM - 18:00 PM

BLUE MOUNTAINS

MEET AT STRATHFIELD CHURCH

PRICE

\$25 PER PERSON

(INC. EQUIPMENT & TRANSPORT)

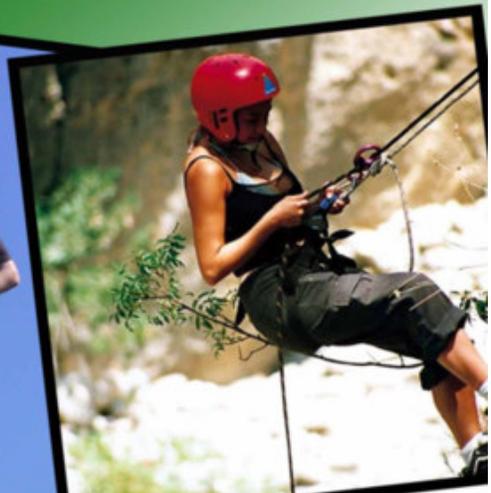
MAXIMUM 25 PERSONS

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

CONTACT RODDY WONG

E: RODDY.WONG@CREATA.COM

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Games Night

Thanks to everyone who made last Saturday evening's social such a great success. How to judge the night? Easy when you can't get the kids to leave after 10pm despite an exhausting 10 event Olympic Challenge. Thanks especially to Arthur for his creative games and intricate planning, and to Zorana, Eva, Belle, Vanessa and Elaine (and any others I've forgotten) for the Pizzas, Desserts and drinks.

From Arthur:

Thank you to all who participated in last night's games night with an Olympic theme, I haven't laughed so hard in a long time!

It was great to see so much energy, creativity and competitive spirit (perhaps too much competitive spirit from some!). The 'slam dunk' game certainly brought out the true character of a lot of the players. I had to constantly remind them that the objective of the game is to get their balloon into the bucket and not attack the opposition. Dishonourable mentions go to Kenn for lying on the opponent's balloon until it popped, Michael for hitting Elaine's balloon out of the building and Ben for singing really badly.

We only got through 8 out of the 9 events last night, I think dinner got in the way so we might dispense with dinner and just have games and dessert next time! I'm already planning the next round of challenges...

The most memorable moments came from the Skit event, where the teams had 5 minutes to come up with a skit with an Olympic theme. The skits were so good that I just have to share them with you...please watch out for Nick in one of the skits, see if you can guess what he is up to!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfpEWQEdN_c







Microsoft Excel spreadsheet titled "Epping Olympics Scoreboard".

	Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D
Event 1				
Event 2				
Event 3				
Event 4				
Event 5				
Event 6				
Event 7				
Event 8				
Event 9				
Total	0	0	0	0

Local Church News and Events

1. Sports Night – Saturday evening 19th 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.

2. Friday Night Prayer Meeting 25th July

Epping Church is planning to have regular Friday Night Prayer Meetings and the next one will be held on the 25th 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.

3. Working Bee – Sunday July 20.

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

4. Communion Service

Our next Communion Service will be held on August 9th.

Sew and Tell – Monday July 7 - 7:00 pm

The next Sew and Tell meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday, July 7.

*We will meet at 7 pm on Monday July 7 at **La Botte Italian Restaurant, Pennant Hills Road, Carlingford**, to celebrate **Luna's 70th birthday**. There is plenty of parking at the rear of the restaurant. Further information from Carlene (9498 8207) or Coralea (9871 1337).*

Prayer Ministry

From Carlene:

“I would like to thank all those at Epping Church for their prayers for me recently. I am sure that my good recovery owes much to them and I appreciate every one. I have been at home now for a week and I am doing well. I am being very conscientious about Dr Sears' instructions re exercises, what I can and can't do, and not bending or twisting. I see him in two weeks and hope thereafter to resume a more normal life!”

Rick Warren Interview

Thanks to Belle for this:

Rick Warren (from” *Purpose Driven Life*”).

In the interview by Paul Bradshaw with Rick Warren, Rick said:

People ask me, What is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven.

One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body -- but not the end of me. I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act - the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity. We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense. Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one.

The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy. We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness.

This past year has been the greatest year of my life but also the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer. I used to think that life was hills and valleys - you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life. No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God

for. You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems. If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, which is my problem, my issues, my pain'. But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others.

We discovered quickly that in spite of the prayers of hundreds of thousands of people, God was not going to heal Kay or make it easy for her. It has been very difficult for her, and yet God has strengthened her character, given her a ministry of helping other people, given her a testimony, drawn her closer to Him and to people.

You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad of life. Actually, sometimes learning to deal with the good is harder. For instance, this past year, all of a sudden, when the book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy. It also brought a lot of notoriety that I had never had to deal with before. I don't think God gives you money or notoriety for your own ego or for you to live a life of ease.

So I began to ask God what He wanted me to do with this money, notoriety and influence. He gave me two different passages that helped me decide what to do, II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72.

First, in spite of all the money coming in, we would not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases.

Second, about midway through last year, I stopped taking a salary from the church.

Third, we set up foundations to fund an initiative we call The Peace Plan to plant churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation.

Fourth, I added up all that the church had paid me in the 24 years since I started the church, and I gave it all back. It was liberating to be able to serve God for free.

We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt?

Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be driven by God's purposes (for my life)?

When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better. God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.

Happy moments, PRAISE GOD.

Difficult moments, SEEK GOD.

Quiet moments, WORSHIP GOD.

Painful moments, TRUST GOD.

Every moment, THANK GOD.

'Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.'

'Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.'

Only a loving God could use such imperfect people to accomplish his perfect will.

Prayer Requests:

Please remember the following members, and friends in your prayers

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

Dates to put down in your diary

<i>June 20 – Friday evening</i>	<i>Agape Feast – Epping Church</i>
<i>July 7</i>	<i>Sew and Tell – Luna’s Birthday</i>
<i>July 19 – Saturday evening</i>	<i>Sports Night</i>
<i>July 20</i>	<i>Working Bee</i>
<i>July 25 – Friday evening</i>	<i>Prayer Meeting – Epping Church</i>
<i>August 9</i>	<i>Communion Service</i>

Thought for the Week:

What does the Lord your God require of you, but . . . to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 10:12