Epping Church Newsletter

18th February 2009

Introduction

Welcome to the 100th edition of our weekly Church Newsletter. For those not old enough to remember, our first edition was published on the 22nd March 2006, a little under 3 years ago. The newsletter has evolved somewhat since that time, although it is only fitting that the most significant change be reserved for this "landmark edition".

Over the past 3 years I have many people to thank, including everyone who has submitted articles and photos. However, I would like to especially thank Michael Calculli who suggested the idea of this newsletter initially, and to Pastor Bruce and Elaine Grosse for their support and encouragement in the first few years. Thanks also to Arthur who has edited numerous versions of this newsletter, and who has also introduced many new features.

*I readily accept that I have absolutely no talent when it comes to art, design and graphics (I lost most of my talent with age – if you are under 25 years, ask your parents what I mean). It is therefore very fortunate that Epping Church is blessed with young people with extraordinary talents in many areas. May I therefore introduce and thank our new co-editor **Stephanie Yee** who is responsible for the new look and layout of our newsletter. A bit of an improvement don't you think?*

Again, thank you to everyone that has contributed to this edition. If you have any news or photos to share, please send them to: ajing@eppingsda.org.au.

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

This Sabbath at Epping

*This week's service will be taken by **Pastor Chris Manthey** with **Pastor Michael Worker** the Elder in charge.*

*This week's service will be a **Communion Service**.*

*The offering is for **Education**. A special **Disaster Offering** for the Victorian Bushfire Crisis will also be held. Details are found later in this newsletter.*

*An **Attendance Survey** will be undertaken during our service this week, which will involve the completion of a survey form.*

Last Sabbath at Epping

*Our service last week was taken by **Pastor Garth Bainbridge**. We were also privileged to have the children's story taken by **Mrs. Bainbridge**.*

A special prayer was held for everyone affected by the Victorian Bushfires. Henry, Brianna and Jim led out

Victorian Bushfires

*Our last newsletter outlined **ADRA** and **Sanitarium's** response to the bushfire crisis. ADRA has donated an initial $150,000 from its Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund. Donations can still be made to this fund online at www.adra.org.au or by calling 1800 242 372.*

*A **Special Disaster Offering** for the Victorian Bushfires Crisis will be held this Sabbath **February 21**. This message from **Pastor Blanch**, President of the Greater Sydney Conference:*

"In the wake of the Victorian Bush fires and the Queensland Floods many church members have been asking about how they can help. You may have missed ADRA's invitation to contribute through their Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund so we would like to provide another chance for you to help out.

Despite graphic television images and stories the recent disasters are beyond comprehension. The loss of life, homes, everything, is more than anyone can imagine. Naturally, as Australia responds to the needs of survivors, our church family wants to help out. To facilitate our response it is recommended that a special offering be taken up on 21 February, 2009. This offering is in addition to the Education Offering to be collected on that date.

*This special offering will provide **two separate** giving opportunities. Church members can participate **in both or either** option:*

1. To specifically support Adventist families and friends affected by the bushfires in Victoria, church members should place cash donations directly into the offering bags. The Victorian conference has established a fund to specifically help the Adventist families affected by the fires. These donations are NOT tax-deductible.

2. To support ADRA's Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR) Fund, which enables them to provide an immediate response in times of disaster, church members should place their donation in an envelope along with their name and full contact details, and clearly mark the envelope with 'ADRA Disaster Offering'. These donations ARE tax-deductible, and can receive a receipt, which is why it's important to place the gift in an envelope and provide the details as listed above. So far ADRA have contributed $150,000 to the Victorian fires and $30,000 to the wide-spread flooding in Northern Australia.

On behalf of the families impacted by disasters thank you for your generosity of spirit.

May God bless and keep us.

Pastor David Blanch, President: Greater Sydney Conference"

Epping Church News

1. Communion Service – this Sabbath February 21.

Our first Communion Service for this year is planned for this Sabbath.

2. Health Assessment – May 17

Our next Health Assessment will be held on Sunday May 17 at Eastwood Mall.
This will be followed by a series of Healthy Living Lectures. For further details please see Victor.

Pathfinder and Adventurer News

1. The next Pathfinder Meeting is being held this Sabbath February 21 after Lunch

2. Master Guide Training 9am to 9pm February 21.

Congratulations

Congratulations to ***Stephanie Yee*** *for her tremendous fundraising efforts for Epping Church's Philippines Orphanage project. During the recent school holidays, Stephanie raised over $550.00 for the project. Well done!*
Don't forget you can also continue to help us reach our goal by using the donation form below.

Introduction – Joshua Woods - Youth Minister

We have already had the pleasure of worshipping with our new Youth Minister, Joshua Woods and his wife Jen, over the last few weeks. Joshua is providing leadership in our Youth Ministry, including co-ordinating the Youth Sabbath School, providing spiritual direction and focus for Youth activities, and encouraging the Youth to grow in Christ. Thanks Joshua for your enthusiasm and dedication, especially having to travel from Avondale every week. Thanks also for sharing some information on your background and interests:

"Hi everyone. My name is Joshua Woods and I am the eldest of 4 children. I have 2 brothers and a sister. I was born in a town in Adelaide, called Glenelg, and moved to Brisbane, with my parents at the age of 1 yr. I wasn't raised in the church, but at a young age I began to attend a Uniting church.

In high school (Mueller College), through the influence of my high school chaplain, I became a Christian. The Brethren church ran my high school. After leaving high school I began to attend a Baptist Church, which was run by my high school science teacher, and was baptised. My parents then began to attend an Adventist church. I hadn't heard of the church and thought it was a cult, so I went with them a number of times to ensure they weren't being led astray.

I attended for a short time and I realised that this church preached truth, and went deep with their studies. After attending for a while longer, I did a profession of faith, and became a member of the church.

I had felt a burden for a while to study to become a minister, so I applied to study theology at Avondale and was accepted straight away. I haven't been an Adventist, or even a Christian, as long as my classmates, but I am very passionate about working for God.

I have had a lot of jobs for someone my age, and I was fairly good at them, but I didn't feel fulfilled in any of them. Whereas, being a minister, I do.

I was a youth worker before coming to Avondale, and still feel a burden for working with young people to help them to improve their own lives, and to find God. I love music, especially rock and folk. I play guitar, but not very well."

Welcome again Josh and Jen, and maybe we should get you in the band as well.

Happy Birthday Jessie

Congratulations to Jessie who celebrated her 10th birthday last week.

Priorities

Thanks to Arthur for sending me the following poignant article written by ***Jonas Arrais***

General Conference Associate Ministerial Secretary:

"Do you think God wants our minds to be filled with worry and anxiety and our agendas full of appointments? No! He wants us to make time for spiritual things, for the important things in life.

Discovering God's will for us in the New Year should be our first priority, before we do anything else. Consider these suggestions before establishing your priorities.

1. Ask yourself who or what is most important in your life.

I hope you will say, "My relationship with God." If so, this priority will influence all other areas of your life. Putting God first means dedicating time to prayer, Bible study, church attendance, and witnessing.

2. Spend time with your family.

Not only do we make a mistake, we also commit injustice when we do not dedicate enough time to our spouse and children. Moments together without the interference of cell phones, the Internet, and television strengthen good relationships and restore those that are dying.

3. Don't let work rule your life.

Today's unemployment and financial crises mean that people are very concerned about their jobs. As Christians, we should be the most dedicated workers out there, but we must remember that we work to live; we don't live to work.

4. Live in the present.

Two things might prevent us from fully living in the present: the past and the future. Sad remembrances of things we've done or left undone in the past, and anxiety and worry about the future—these may des troy our ability to make good use of today. While it is important to learn from past mistakes and plan for the future, it is also important to enjoy the beauty of the present.

Another year is beginning, a new page in the story of our lives is about to be written, and the hope of a happy new year beats strong in our hearts. God wants to help us live for today, just as He wants us to focus on eternity. He wants us to bring the hope of salvation to those who do not have it. May we make the Lord's will our own in 2009"

Credit Card Donation Form

Epping Mission Project

Note: This donation is to support the ICC Happy Valley Elementary School building project, ICC Orphanage, Philippines.

Fax this form to	Fax No **(03) 8660 2967**			
Postal Address	International Children's Care Shop 7 Riviera Plaza BAIRNSDALE VIC 38757A			
Credit Card Details				
Card Type	☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Bankcard			
Name on Card			Expiry Date	
Credit Card No			Amount	$
Signature			Date	
Telephone No		Mobile		
Address you would like the receipt sent to	Street			
	Suburb			
	State		Post Code	

THANK YOU !!!

Dates to keep in your diary

February 21	*Pathfinder meeting*
February 21	*Master Guide Training*
February 21	*Communion Service*
May 17	*Proposed Health Assessment - Eastwood Mall*

Thought of the week

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

Romans 8:35,37

Prayer Requests:

Persons affected by the Victorian Bushfires and the Queensland Floods	***Please remember the many people affected by these natural disasters in your prayers***
Bob McIntyre	***Please remember Bob, Nerelle and Colleen in your prayers.***
Allan Ing	***Please continue to pray for Allan, Adelyn and their young family.***
Sue Wood	***It's great to hear that Sue is progressing well and I ask that you remember Sue, Ken and their family in your prayers.***
Ivan Baxter	*Ivan continues to have therapy for a haematological disorder. Please remember him in your prayers.*