



EPPING SDA CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Light and Motion Ph

Welcome

Welcome to our weekly Epping Church Newsletter.

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 to the address below:

ajing@eppingsda.org.au.

This newsletter can also be downloaded on our website:

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

This Sabbath at Epping

The speaker this week is Epping's own Pastor, Pastor Rameese Tupe. Alvin is the elder in charge, and the offering this Sabbath if for our Local Church Budget.

Sabbath 19th February 2011, at Epping

The 19th was a special Sabbath at Epping with Pastor Rams taking his first communion Service at Epping. He was very ably assisted by Pastor Michael and Henry. Thanks to Andy for the following images:



Last Sabbath at Epping

Last Sabbath's service was taken by Epping's Personal Ministries leader, Rod Kuo and was entitled "Set the Vision". Rod outlined what Epping's current Personal Ministries plan was, and then proceeded to challenge us both as individuals and as a church.

Rod began by telling us about Paul, and how a vision was important to him. He challenged us to have both a local vision and a vision for the world at large. A few relevant texts were:

Proverbs 29:18 – "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he". A Vision helps us focus

Habakkuk 2:2. "And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it"

Matthew 24:3-8

The signs of the times and the end of the age

Rod felt that our vision should be to proclaim the everlasting gospel - the 3 angels message in Revelation 14. To bring people to accept Christ as their Saviour and Lord. To prepare a person for Christ's second coming

Some of Epping's Plans for 2011 include:

Inspire 2011

Health assessment programs

Stress management programs

Vegetarian cooking

Body balance program

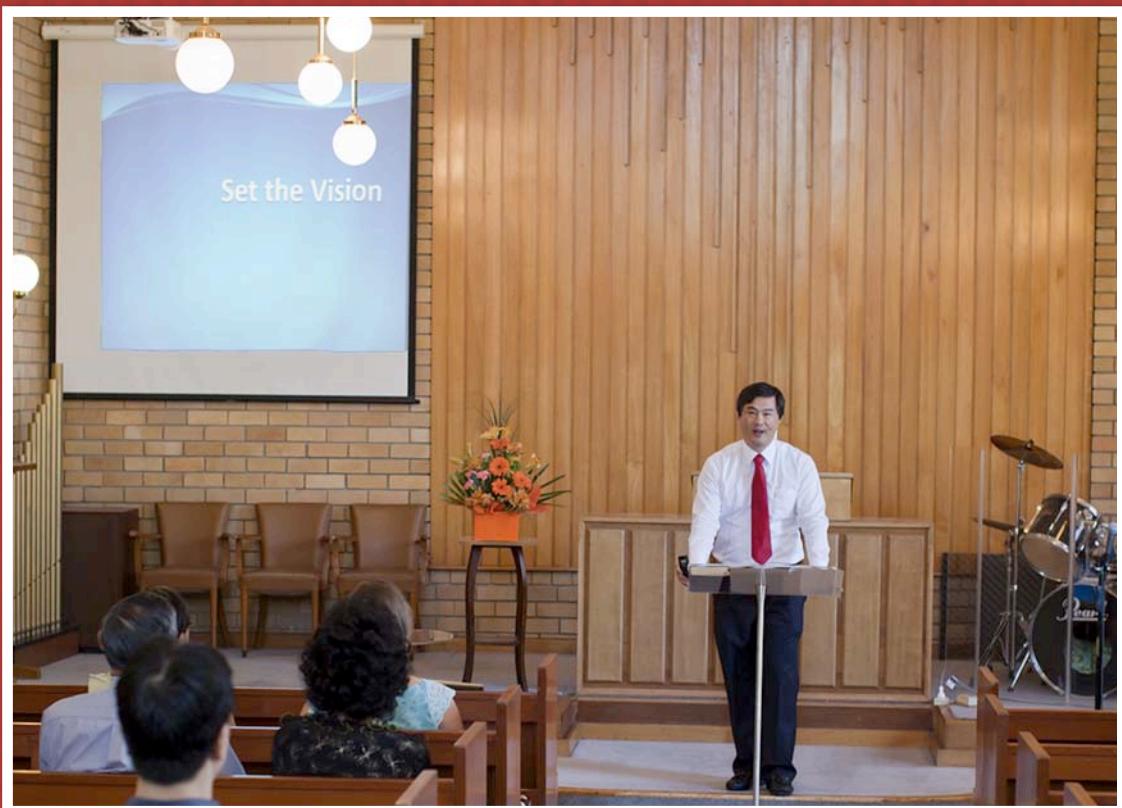
Christmas program

Sequential Programs for follow-up

Rod suggested we also need to grow the church from within first –and Cell Groups were a excellent vehicle for this. The groups create a feeling of belonging with Bible study and prayer.

“Each one, reach one, teach one”

James 1:22-25 - Let's be a doer of gods word



Church Events and News

1. Inspire 2011 – This will be held on April 14-17.

Be renewed, recalibrated and refocused. Inspire 2011 will be four days of spiritual refreshment, growing in your giftedness and sharpening your focus.

In 2011 our theme is connecting. We will be exploring what it means Keynote Speaker: Ben Maxson. We're excited to announce that our keynote speaker is Pr Ben Maxson. Pr Maxson leads the Paradise SDA Church in California. Previously he has served as our General Conference Stewardship director. Pr Maxson has developed some great discipleship resources, is the author of 'Get Normal' which is an excellent book and shaping a biblical worldview and is an engaging speaker who is in demand around the world. Pr Maxson's presentations will challenge and inspire us.

Please keep this in your diaries. To register, download this document:

http://www.gscadventist.org.au/site_data/430/assets/0029/5885/Application_Form.pdf

2. Working Bee - Sunday 13th March, 2pm to 5 pm

This is the first working bee of the year, and there are many maintenance items to attend to. I encourage everyone who is able to come and help out. I'm sure there is a job that is just right for you on the day. Remember, many hands make light work.

Some of the items that need attending to are:

- Gardening- pruning trees, tidy the gardens, weeding
- Cleaning – removing leaves from gutters, cleaning windows and glasswork, cleaning brickworks
- Decluttering – Minister's rooms, Sabbath School rooms. There is a Piano in the foyer that is free for anyone who wants it. It is in good working order. We will have a trailer at the working bee, so if you want it, let me know and we can probably deliver it to your home on the day (as long as you don't live in Perth).
- Maintenance and Repairs – doors, locks etc.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the day. Refreshments will be provided.

3. Cell Groups

Cell groups for Term 1 are continuing on a Friday evening..

Week 4: Mar 4th

Week 5: Mar 11th

Week 6: Mar 18th

Week 7: Mar 25th

Venues:

- 1) Baxter's (7pm start)
- 2) Go's
- 3) Tungs
- 4) Youth - see Matthew Ing for timetable

The prophecies within Revelations are being fulfilled in our day and we as a church would benefit from understanding them fully as Christ's second coming draws nearer.

Please pray for the series

Rod

Pathfinder News

Next Meeting – This Sabbath March 5

From Henry:

Just a reminder of the things you need to get done by the next meeting 5 March.

1. **Reptile Honour research (requirements below)** Find out as much as you can, and we will work on the rest. If you can finish all of it, please email it to me. If not, bring a print out of your work.
2. **Your Survival Kit.** You need to make this up as we will be doing our survival night on the 12th March most probably. We will give you more information about this later at the meeting. Details of one kit are given below and links also. Each group will be allowed some essential gear for this exercise. Details later, get your kit ready, add anything you want but it needs to be very compact, should not weigh over 1 kg.

Special Request: Please remember those who are in Christchurch right now, both the victims and families and also those helping the survivors of the earthquake. This makes our exercise even more relevant to prepare ourselves for any disaster.

Reptile Honour Requirements

1. What is a reptile? Define the characteristics of a snake or lizard.
2. Name 15 reptiles: (lizards, snakes, tortoises and turtles) found in your locality or country. Tell where they live, their food habits and their economic importance.
3. a. Name 5 poisonous reptiles of Australia, describing each as to location of fangs and geographical location 3. b. What are the main characteristics of the Tuatara, where is it found, and what is its life history?
4. Tell what to do if you are bitten by a poisonous snake.
5. Tell what to do if you are bitten by a non-poisonous snake.
6. Tell the life history of one representative of each: lizard, snake, turtle. Compare lizards, snakes, turtles and crocodiles as to life history variation in eyes and ears, teeth, heart, lungs, limbs, tails, and scales (shells).
7. Be able to tell two Bible Stories in which a reptile played an important part.

Survival Kit (thanks to John Behrens)

Fire starter/ waterproof matches salt in a film canister tea light candle small

Rid or Aeroguard

Aqua tablets (to purify water)

Alfoil

String

Mini first aid kit

Small scissors/ pocket knife

Emergency blanket

Emergency poncho

Appy wipes in a snap lock bag (maybe 5 or so)

A couple of muesli bars

Upcoming Pathfinder Events include:

*March- Proposed Survival Bush Camp – more details to follow
March 20 - Adventurer Fun Day
April 2 - Social Night with Church
23-24 April – Backpack Camp
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

1. Youth Cell Group Meeting, NEXT Friday 11TH MARCH 7:00 pm

*Please contact Matthew for further details.
ingmatthew89@gmail.com*

2. Water Skiing Weekend – March 19-20 (Wisemans Ferry)

See Stephanie for details

Future Personal Ministries News

May 1 (Sunday) - Health Assessment at Eastwood Shopping Centre.

May-June - Stress Management Course. 6 week course (May 7/14/21/28 and June 4/18)

August - Vegetarian Cooking series (August 6, 13, 20 and 27)

October - Body Balance Course

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 2 in our series on Stewardship:

2 - Renovation of the Heart

Sometimes in the rush of life it is easy to forget that God created us on purpose and for a purpose. Throughout the Bible, God reminds us that we are His children and that because He made us we are inherently valuable. In the hustle and bustle of life there is little time for introspection – in so doing we rob ourselves of the vital energy that comes in the knowledge of who we are and who we were created to be.

While professing to be God-followers we can live altogether separately from Him and face life the same way as people who do not know God. The apostle Paul calls this foolishness. Society drags us toward busyness, achievement, and success by our own initiative. There is little room left for God.

Cultivating a Well-Ordered Heart

Good stewardship is about cultivating a well ordered heart. We look externally for order and balance and blame outward situations – if my job was different, if my wife wasn't so demanding.... However, when we are brutally honest with ourselves we have to admit that the truly significant disorder is of the heart. Solomon said: 'Keep your heart with all diligence – out of it flow the issues of life.' Imagine what the world would look like if it were filled with people who had well-ordered hearts.

A well-ordered heart will ask questions like:

- How can I fill my daily tasks with a sense of the presence of God?
- How am I involved in Christian community?
- How do the people closest to me experience God working in and through me?
- Am I growing in a love for God and people?
- How will I handle money in a way that draws me closer to God?

Where does the still small voice fit into our hectic lives? When do we allow Him to lead and guide, correct and affirm; and if this seldom happens what is the price we pay? What would it take to make more space for prayer throughout your day? How hard would it be to skip that TV show?

The answer lies in being intentional about our spirituality. This is not some works trip but rather orienting our lives around practices that allow us to live a life more purposeful and abundant. "Fixing your attention on Jesus, so that you will be changed from the inside out." (Romans 12 Message) Ellen White suggest we should make time each day to contemplate the life of Christ, especially the closing scenes – it is by beholding that you are changed. Maybe you need to take a look at your life and schedule and determine what needs to be changed so that you have the time to "be still and know". Maybe some good things will need to be eliminated from your life to give God the chance to work in and through you.

When this change happens you don't just do the things Jesus would have done, you find yourself wanting to do them - they appeal to you and make sense. You don't just go around trying to do right things; you focus on becoming a right person. Stewarding what God has given you becomes a joy rather than an obligation. Your heart beats and breaks for what God's heart beats for. Scripture tells us that people and the church are very high on God's priorities and therefore they should be high on ours too.

Reflection:

If you had an extra hour in each day what would you fill it up with?

What do you think it means to find 'rest for your soul'?

What 'heart-building habits' help you grow in your relationship with God?

If your friends were to list you top five priorities, what do you think they would write?

Prayer Ministry

- Please remember the victims and families of all those affected by the Earthquake in Christchurch. to prayer for their safety and protection.
- Please continue to pray for Ron's safety.
- Please pray for Luna's health and recovery.
- Please continue to pray for Ivan as he continues his 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.

Dates to keep in your Diary

March 4	Cell Groups meeting
March 5	Pathfinder meeting
March 13	Working Bee
March 19-20	Youth Waterskiing Camp
April 14-17	Inspire 2011

Photo of the week:



Gardens of Stone By Henry Tung

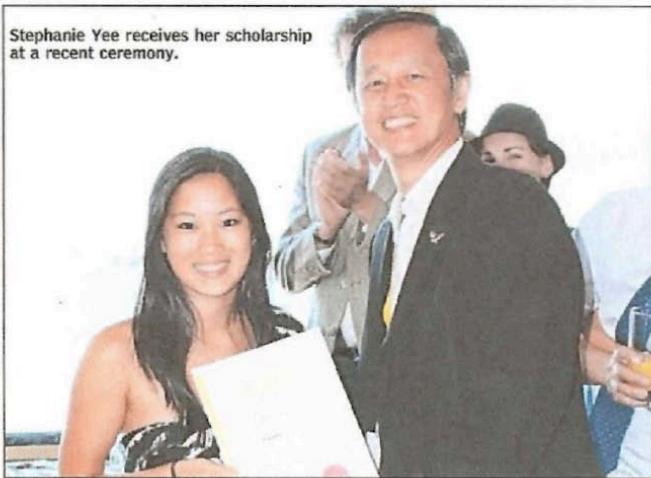
Congratulations

Congratulations to Stephanie Yee and Matthew Kuo on their birthdays last week. Congratulations also to Stephanie on her wonderful achievement on gaining a Scholarship for Raffles College.



@school

Stephanie Yee receives her scholarship at a recent ceremony.



Creative abilities

Shireen Khalil

Raffles College of Design

STEPHANIE Yee's dream of becoming a professional photographer is looking promising after she won a scholarship at Raffles College of Design and Commerce at North Sydney.

The scholarship valued at \$27,720 covers half the cost of Stephanie's Bachelor of Arts (Visual Communication) degree. It was awarded for outstanding creative abilities that she demonstrated in her portfolio.

But the former MLC Burwood student wasn't expecting the good news.

"When Raffles College rang me to let me know I'd won the scholarship I was really surprised and couldn't believe it. I never thought I'd win such a great opportunity to study at such a reputable college," she said.

Stephanie used her HSC body of work for the scholarship application.

"My portfolio included photographs that I had taken through my travels. I chose a theme called Eye Catcher where photos I selected captured the simplicity of images in life that can be found everywhere we look," she said.

Raffles College program director for photography, Sarah Smith, said Stephanie will be encouraged to develop her individual style and focus on her creative concepts.

Thought of the week

"But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. My feet have closely followed his steps; I have kept to his way without turning aside."

Job 23:10-11