

Epping Church Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the Epping Newsletter for 2015. After the Christmas / New Year hiatus, we are finally back to keep up to date and informed on all our Church happenings. We have a new leadership team in place and over the next few weeks, we plan to help you to get to know them just a little bit better. The best way is of course to go up, shake their hands and introduce yourselves, but that may be a little daunting if 120 people do it all at once. So we will have some introductory articles here to begin with.

First of all welcome to our new head elder **Rod**, who all of us know well. Congratulations on your bravery for taking on this new role, and we're sure you'll be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Welcome also to our new **Church Pastor, Nigel Ackland**. Pastor Ackland was kind enough to answer some profound questions I sent him, and you can read his replies in the first of our series on "Member Profiles". Welcome also to Nigel's family, Sandy, Toby and Tori.

Finally, a warm welcome also to our new Youth Minister, **Adrian Peterson**. Adrian has jumped right in, and will be at Epping's Youth Camp this week. The rest of us will need to wait another long week before meeting him.

Upcoming Events

- Feb 06 Cell Groups
Recommence this Friday
- Feb 07 Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
Rod Kuo's residence.
Saturday evening
- Feb 22 Working Bee 2 – 4 pm
Sunday afternoon
- Mar 6-8 Church Camp,
Crosslands. Please
contact Arthur
- May 25- Photography Course.
June 22 More details in the
newsletter.

If there is any information or images you would like to share in future editions, please email:
Alvin ajing@eppingsda.org.au or Ron rjcmahan@yahoo.com.au

Last Sabbath @ Epping



Epping witnessed a very special service last week with the Baptism of Benita, Jim and Fedz. It was good to see **Pastor Daniel** taking the baptismal service, as both **Geraldine** and Daniel have been instrumental in the commitment shown by Jim, Fedz and Benita. **Arthur** took the highly relevant sermon entitled “Baptism and Beyond”. Arthur provides the following summary:

Baptism and Beyond

The reason we get baptized:

It is biblical. In Matthew Chapter 3, we read of John the Baptist baptising Jesus in the Jordan river. There are a few points to note from this of account Jesus’ baptism:

- Firstly. Jesus was sinless, he was completely righteous and one with God, he had no need to be baptised. John the Baptist recognised this and tried to prevent him from being baptised. But Jesus said “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfil all righteousness.”
- That was the first act of His ministry, to be baptised as an example for us.
- Another point to note is that As soon as Jesus was baptised He went up out of the water, this means he was under the water when he was baptized.
- The final point to note is that the spirit of God descended upon Him after the baptism. Both water and spirit was integral in his baptism.

Another example of the importance that Jesus placed upon baptism comes from a story in John chapter 3. Jesus tells Nicodemus that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

The reason that we baptise by full immersion in water is because it symbolises that our old sinful life is dead and buried with Christ. Through our faith in Jesus and His resurrection and grace, we are raised a new person, we have repented of our sins and they have been forgiven and we are new disciples in Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit to help us focus on a life committed to Christ. That is what it means to be born of water and the spirit.

Baptism is biblical, Jesus was baptised, His disciples were baptised and His last instructions to his disciples was to go Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Baptism is like a marriage

First of all, just like in a wedding in which 2 persons commit themselves to one another because of their mutual love, so in baptism we commit ourselves to Christ because of His love for us and we want to express our love to Him.

Also, like the wedding, baptism is a proclamation. It is a declaration. I show to everybody by this action that I love this person. I declare before all the people who are present at my baptism, and before heaven and earth, that I am entering into a covenant of union with Christ.

In a marriage, when there is true love between the 2 people, you can see that one puts the interests of the other person first. And so in baptism, we are declaring that 'From now on, the interests of the Lord Jesus are in front of my own interests. He is the one whose interest is central to my heart.'

Again, just like in a wedding, because the 2 have now become united, where the one is, the other will be. In baptism as in marriage, we say, 'For better and for worse, I will follow you Lord Jesus. For richer or for poorer, Lord, I will be with you.'

Life after baptism

- Baptism is only the start of your relationship with Jesus. You know enough about his Love and character that you want to commit your life to Him. But you need to continue to grow your faith in Him, to discover the depth of his Love for you and to continue to learn about His will for you.
- Continue to study God's word because ⁴Jesus has told us that, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'^[b]"
- We should Put God first. Matt 6:33 seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matt 22:37 Jesus said to a lawyer when asked what the most important commandment was, '*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*'
- We need to develop our prayer life. Phillipians 4:6-7. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.







Pastor Nigel Ackland

Welcome again to Pastor Ackland who joins Epping Church for the first time this Sabbath. He will be taking our service. I asked Nigel some questions about his background and what his vision is for Epping as we work together over the coming years:

1. Can you tell us a little bit about your background in Ministry? What motivated you to become a Pastor, where have you worked, what are some of your personal aims and goals?

I have been in ministry now for 25 years and pastored 15 churches. I started ministry in Tasmania where I met my wife Sandy and where we had our son, Toby. From there we worked with ATSIM in Far North Queensland and had our daughter Tori before moving down to outback NSW. I then worked with Sanitarium as their Corporate Chaplain, after which we moved to South Australia. Now we are happy to be serving the Lord back home in Sydney. I grew up wanting to be a pastor and the Lord encouraged that goal throughout my life. If, with the Holy Spirit's help, I can hasten the Lord's coming by even one day, it will be worth it. If I can lead one more person to the foot of the cross it will be one more friend to spend eternity with in heaven.

2. Can you tell us about your family and their interests?

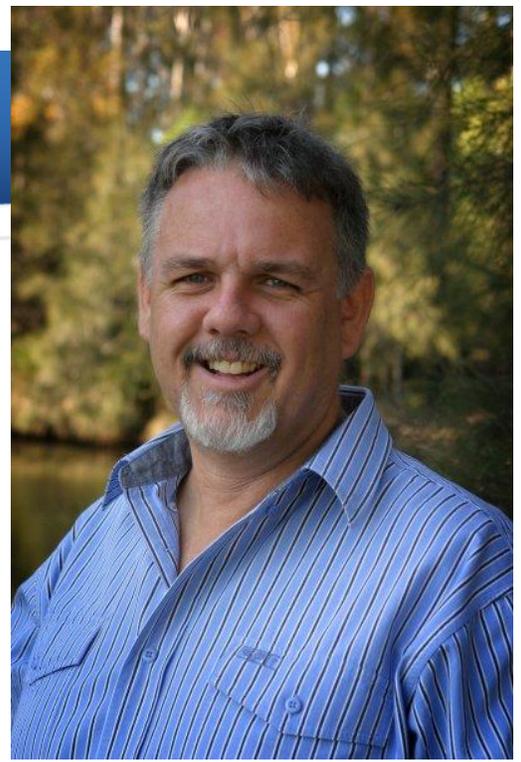
My wife **Sandy** is a primary teacher with a real passion for children's ministries. She loves her arts and crafts, keeps me well fed, and is a great spiritual prayer warrior - but one of the most humble and beautiful people you will ever meet. My son **Toby** is 18 and a Personal Trainer. He's a real people person and loves a laugh. He plays the drums, rides a unicycle, and has been involved in Christian film and media production. My daughter **Tori** is 16 and doing year 11 at Hills Adventist College. She is artistic, very caring, and thinks outside the box. She is a very spiritual girl with a real passion for other young people.

3. Your interests apart from the Ministry?

My interests outside of ministry are a little harder, as there is not much time left outside of ministry! I like cooking, movies, snorkeling, art and photography - I'm not much good at them, but I like them!

4. Your aims for Epping Church, and what you would ideally like to see happen as we journey together over the next few years?

Since I don't know you yet, my aims for Epping would be the same as my aims for all Christians. To find a way around being "time-poor" and grow spiritually through prayer, Bible meditation and cell groups. I want all generations to have a first-hand and personal relationship with God; to see through the devil's traps of materialism, apathy, discouragement and the "me" generation. I want to work with a church that hates sin but loves the sinner enough to go out into their community, be creative, be friendly, and win souls/friends for the kingdom of God. Success is up to God - God calls us to be faithful.



Pathfinders

The Pathfinders had a busy time over the holiday period with the Camporee and last week some also went camping at Yellow Rock. Here are some photos I've plagiarised off Facebook.



Happy Birthday – Helen

80 years young



Prayer Requests

- Please remember Maree's Mum in your prayers.
- Please remember Fedz's father who is ill in the Philippines.
- Please pray that Victor has a quick and complete recovery from recent surgery.
- Please pray for a successful church camp and that the church family will form closer ties and be uplifted spiritually.

Church Camp – March 6-8, 2015



Church Camp is almost upon us for 2015. Get in early and reserve your spot for another fabulous Epping Church Camp on March 6th-8th 2015 at the beautiful Crosslands Convention Centre!

It will be another great camp filled with spiritually uplifting messages, great food, great fellowship and a tonne of fun.

Like last year, you can choose to relax and do very little or challenge yourself with abseiling, water sports and of course the giant pool 'worm' obstacle course.

The cost for the weekend including food and accommodation is \$85/adult and \$45 for kids under 16. If you just want to visit or the day the cost is \$40.

If you are interested to see what the accommodation is like, visit <http://crosslands.adventist.org.au/>

To secure your booking just complete the website form and pay a deposit of \$10 per person. You can pay the deposit in person to Sharon Gardner or Arthur Wong or via EFT.

Register here: <http://www.eppingsda.org.au/content/church-camp-registration.html>

Photography Course- May 25 to June 22, 2015



Photo Course participants on a field trip in 2014

Epping will be running another photography course in May-June this year. Details as follows:

This course is designed for those at an intermediate level of photography, with a good knowledge of the basics of photography, including the interaction between aperture, shutter speed and ISO; as well as the ability to work in full manual mode. The course will be focused on composition, lighting, movement and post processing techniques.

The course will be held on **Monday evenings 7pm to 9pm: May 25 and June 1, 15 and 22**. There will be a break for the June long weekend.

In addition, we have planned 3 field trips, with the aim to spend some time on the Monday evenings following each field trip to perform image review and feedback. These are scheduled for:

May 30 (Saturday evening) - Travel and Night Photography: Vivid Sydney Festival

June 13 (Saturday afternoon / evening) - Sunset landscapes and Night Photography, Blue Mountains

June 21 (Sunday mid morning to evening). Somersby Falls and Bateau Bay Beach, Central Coast. Waterfalls and Seascapes.

All proceeds will be donated to the Epping Church Mission Project / International Children's Care. A minimum donation of \$200 is requested.

The Course Venue is at 2 George St. Epping NSW 2121 and will be limited to 20 participants wait list.

See Alvin for further details.

Photo of the Week



Verse of the Week

However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him.

[1 Corinthians 2:9](#)