



WELCOME TO

Epping Church

WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS

1 Sep 2017

If you have anything to share with the church, please don't hesitate to contact us on the below emails.
Mande :mande.lees@gmail.com ; **Stephanie**: stephcyee@yahoo.com ; **Alvin**: ajing@eppingsda.org.au

New RECIPE CLUB!!

Something more casual, hanging out with friends and sharing great healthy recipes!

Come to the new Recipe Club. Feel free to invite your friends and family

When: Sunday September 17th

Time: 1.30pm in the Church Hall.

RSVP

Please see Rochelle or Benita for more details.

RSVP by September 13th @ srbaxter2@gmail.com

You don't want to miss out!

EVENTS

Sep 2	Father's Day Breakfast 9am
Sep 17	New Recipe Club Sunday September 17th 1.30pm in the Church Hall.
September 22 - 24	Pathfinder Expedition @ Thirlmere Lakes.
Oct 8	Sunday Working Bee 130pm-4pm
Nov 18	ADRA Vanuatu Youth Mission Trip Auction Fundraiser
March 9-11, 2018.	Epping Church Camp @ Crosslands (50% Deposit required by end of September)

P R A Y E R R E Q U E S T

- Please Pray for our Year 12 students sitting the HSC this year.
- Please remember Fedz father who is ill in the Philippines
- Please pray for Candy and family as they grieve the passing of her Mum
- Please pray for the Worker family as they prepare for their move down to Melbourne
- Please remember the Young family as they mourn the passing of Esther Young

THIS SABBATH
@ EPPING

Elder: Rod

Speaker: Michael Worker

Offering: Local

1 Sep 2017

LAST WEEK

We had the pleasure of having Alalate Laughingoa Makfana taking the sermon titled 'I cant do this by myself'

The story of the Man by the Pool of Bethesda.
We cannot be saved or healed by our own, but by the help of Jesus Christ.

A relatable sermon by all.





NOTICE BOARD

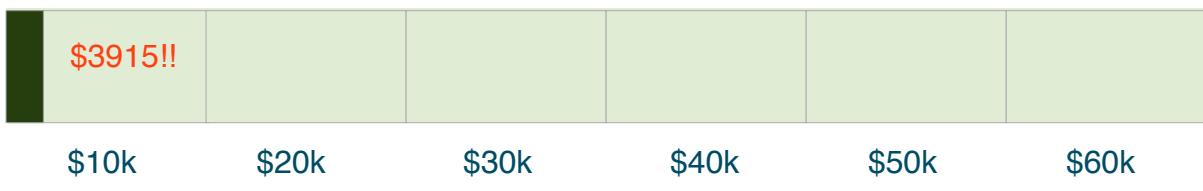
1 Sep 2017

Epping Church: Roof Repair Fundraising

The Epping Church roof is leaking and in need of repair. It will cost \$60,000 to fix it. The Board has approved a "Repair the Roof Fund Raiser" with monthly Special Offerings on the first Sabbath of every month commencing August 5th (then Sept 2 / Oct 7 etc)

Roof Repair Fund trip is now on the e giving website. Feel free to donate.

<https://egiving.org.au/Epping%20SDA%20Church>



Bibles wanted!

Bibles and any Christian books in Malaysian, Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese, Thai or Italian to bring good news to the inmates at Long Bay Prison. Please give them to Pastor Nigel.

2018 ADRA Youth Mission Vanuatu

Available to donate on our site down below.

<https://egiving.org.au/Epping%20SDA%20Church>



NOTICE BOARD

1 Sep 2017

"Same Sex Marriage Postal Plebiscite" - resources from the Australian Union Conference

In order to contribute to the conversation on the issue of same sex marriage, the Australian Union Conference has compiled some excellent resources on its website <https://adventist.org.au/marriage>.

There you will find the text of the little booklet that was distributed with the Record earlier this year under various headings on the left hand side of the page. Can I remind you of two relevant sections in light of the upcoming plebiscite, "Redefining Marriage – the Consequences for Families" and "Redefining Marriage – the Consequences for Religious Freedom and Free Speech"

It is important to be informed and we encourage you to be involved in this plebiscite and vote your conscience and pray for God's leading in our nation.

Keep up with the latest developments at <https://www.coalitionformarriage.com.au>.



NOTICE BOARD

1 Sep 2017

The push for changing the definition of marriage has been an ongoing debate in Australia for a number of years, and it's certainly an issue that is very polarising. Earlier this year the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia created a booklet and resources to help members understand the Church's position on the debate, which are available online at adventist.org.au/marriage.

Last week the Australian Government announced a postal plebiscite would be held on the issue. This is a voluntary vote, therefore it is important that you ensure that you are eligible to vote and that your details are up-to-date. You can check your electoral details at www.aec.gov.au/enrol. We want to encourage you to make an intentional decision to vote and to be informed about the consequences of changing the definition of marriage.

As we interact with others on this issue, we must do so with love and respect. Many people have called for this to be a respectful debate. As Christians we need to be at the forefront of modelling Christ's character to everyone, even though we may disagree with the other person's point of view. In addition to demonstrating love and respect, let's pray for those engaging in the public debate, and for those who may feel marginalised or upset by the nature and process of this debate. There is no doubt that some people will feel very vulnerable at this time, and we need to find opportunities to minister to them.

We believe a change to the definition of marriage will dramatically re-shape our nation and have consequences for children and freedom of religion. Despite what some may say, and despite the current traditional definition of marriage, there has already been a significant shift, driven by various forces, to restrict freedom of speech for those who disagree with the push to change the definition of marriage. This push to restrict freedom of speech and freedom of religion has been recently demonstrated by the actions of the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal in Tasmania summoning two Christian pastors for sharing their views on marriage in a public place and, amongst other things, quoting Bible verses. This follows a series of events earlier this year where there were campaigns to remove Christians from their corporate and public positions for holding a traditional view of marriage.

As we have seen recently in the Queensland public education system, there have been moves to restrict freedom of religion in the playground, to the point that even the exchange of Christmas cards was to be forbidden. Due to public pressure, Education Department leaders softened their stance. It is unlikely that their views have changed; rather they recognised that they overstepped on this issue.

The cross-party Senate Select Committee on the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill, which reported earlier this year, considered the Government's initial amending legislation. It indicated in its conclusion that, "There was broad agreement that any future legislation to amend the Marriage Act should ensure religious freedoms are appropriately protected when considering changes that extend access to marriage to all adult couples."

To this point, there have been no policies developed by the Government to provide such positive protections. If the Government were to proceed on a proposed private member's bill, the *Marriage Amendment (Definition and Religious Freedoms) Bill 2017*, circulated only last week, there would be clear concerns as, despite its name, the protections for religious freedom are very narrow.

Mark Spencer of Christian Schools Australia expressed it well when he stated, "It is however clear that should legislation be enacted to change the definition of marriage, careful attention is required to understand and deliver a balanced outcome that respects the human rights of all Australians if the



NOTICE BOARD

1 Sep 2017

nation is to continue to be a tolerant and plural society where a diversity of views is not only legal but valued."

Spencer is concerned that unless such legislation is put in place, then there is no protection or guarantee for schools that staff can be expected to model an approach to marriage consistent with the doctrines, tenets or beliefs taught within that Christian school (or even a church). At this stage the longer term consequences of changing the definition of marriage are unknown, but as we look overseas, there is reason for concern.

Seventh-day Adventists believe, as stated in fundamental belief 23, that marriage is between a man and a woman, and that this belief has its origins in the Garden of Eden. In addition to producing our own series of resources, the Coalition for Marriage, has released some excellent materials on its website www.coalitionformarriage.com.au. The Coalition for Marriage is a coalition of likeminded people that exists solely on donations. Should you wish to donate, you can do so via their website.

In summary, we feel it is important, as Australians and as Christians, that we pray for this process. Further, we need to be enrolled to vote and make an intentional decision to cast our vote. In order to have an educated vote, we need to be informed about the consequences of changing the definition of marriage, including significant risks to freedom of speech and freedom of religion in Australia. We seek God's guidance and leading for all Australians, no matter their views on the marriage debate, and should we engage in any discussion, to do so with love and respect.



THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

RICHES VS POVERTY

1 Sep 2017

As we have noted in the past, the principles of God's Kingdom of Grace often seem to run contrary to the wisdom and understanding of man. For example, in man's world you will be poor if you spend more than you earn, waste your money on non-essentials, buy only things that depreciate, and give your money away to everyone with a hard-luck story. But in the Kingdom of Grace "it is not returning to the Lord His own [tithes and offerings] that makes men poor; withholding tends to poverty" CS 36.

So, not giving our money to God and those in need will make us poor? I guess it all depends on how you define being 'rich.' Is how much money, houses, cars, stocks, and bullion you have, is that what makes you rich? There have been many men with lots of those things that have died lonely and miserable. Isn't a man whose home is filled with love and laughter a rich man? Isn't a man who is loved by many friends a rich man? Isn't a man whose children come to know God because of his example a rich man? Isn't a man who actively nurtures a generous and compassionate heart a rich man? Isn't a man who inherits the kingdom of God a rich man?

Remember, God has promised to care for our daily needs if only we would be generous and compassionate as He is generous and compassionate. A rich man is rich in character, not in possessions; for he has learned to store up treasures in heaven. Don't be one of those people who are so poor, all they have is money.

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly" 2 Cor. 9:6.