



Nurturing Disciples

In a Healthy Growing Church

Reaching Out and Connecting

FOCUS

Newsletter of the South Queensland Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

THE LAST EMPIRE IN SOUTH QUEENSLAND

by Pastor Jorge Munoz, South Queensland Conference President

Nearly a month has passed since we commenced the Last Empire Evangelistic program here in our conference. We have received good news from the different participating venues and in many places attendance has been good. The Lord has truly blessed, and in general, programs have gone off without a hitch and feedback has been positive.

We praise God for his faithfulness in leading people to attend the programs, clearly there is a desire in people's heart to hear and learn from the Word of God.

It's a blessing and an encouragement to hear some of the incredible stories that transpired over the last month:

A French woman left on holidays and asked her neighbours to collect her mail, but instructed them not to keep any junk mail. When

she returned, among the letters she found a brochure advertising "The Last Empire" programs. She found it interesting so she began attending. Praise God for her neighbours, who by the way, were from a different faith.

A couple received a copy of the *Beyond the Search* DVD, and after watching it, they enjoyed it so much they shared it with their friends across the road. Both couples decided to attend "The Last Empire" program.

A church pastor from a different denomination is attending the program with 15 members of his congregation. They continue to attend and have seen clearly from scripture the beauty of the Sabbath rest. They have now made a commitment to keep it.

One participant was so enthusiastic about the program he borrowed a "Last Empire" T-shirt and went out into the community to "officially" invite others to come to the presentations.

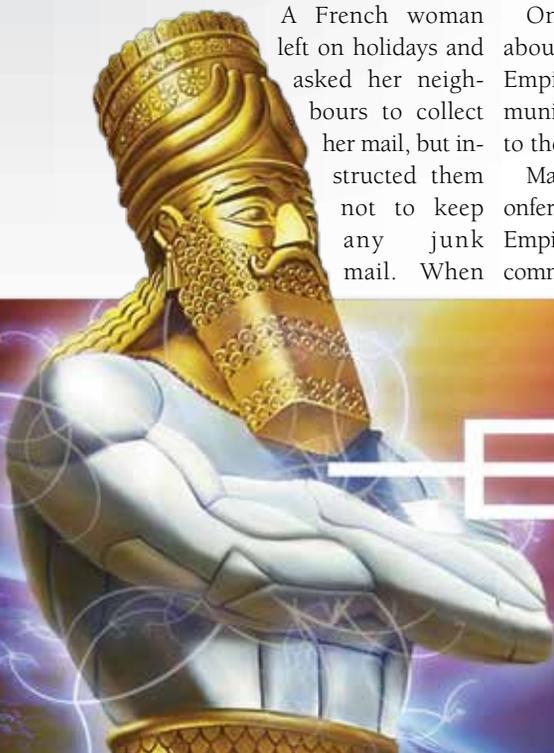
Many of our young people right across our conference have heard with interest "The Last Empire" messages and now are eager to recommit their lives to God and to his Word.

We praise God for those who have stood for Christ, accepted Him as their personal Saviour and have expressed a desire to be baptised.

The harvest is indeed ripe, and the Holy Spirit continues to work on people's hearts as they hear the biblical messages of "The Last Empire."

Something has become clear yet again as the majority of those who have attended have come and stayed, in many instances simply as a result of the connection they have made with those at the different venues where the program has been presented.

Continued ministry through friendship evangelism will be essential as we move forward to the next phase of "The Last Empire" program. One of the most powerful avenues to clearly demonstrate the love of God is through a strong sense of connectedness, friendship and Christian love. Let us continue to pray that God's power will move people's hearts and that He'll continue to pour out His blessings on all who continue to reflect His love.



THE LAST EMPIRE

THE LAST EMPIRE

DISCOVER REAL HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



ALBION, COOK ISLANDS AND REDCLIFFE

The Cook Islands Adventist Church at Moorooka is delighted to report that it has been running a very successful “Last Empire” evangelistic campaign so far! That’s thanks to a 24-year-old woman named Mahina Law who has taken it upon herself to be the main presenter! Mahina had never preached a sermon in her life before this series, but church Pastor Mike Brownhill testifies to the fact that she is doing a superb job. “She’s not just reading the script, she’s preaching powerfully,” says Pastor Mike. “We’ve had two Caucasian men come in off the street who have been regularly attending both Sabbath lectures (11am and 3pm) for a month now, as well as half a dozen unbaptised Polynesian youth from various SDA churches.”

Pastor Brownhill relates that the campaign at the Albion Adventist church is progressing marvellously as well. He relates, “Brian Abrahams is doing a great job preaching the series without notes each Tuesday and Friday night to three or four non-Adventists. It’s a great effort because he drives a 100-kilometres return trip from Narangba to Woodford for work Monday to Friday, then another 80-kilometres return trip from Narangba to Albion to preach twice a week—that’s commitment!”

Meanwhile, at my third church, Redcliffe, “We’ve had 15 non-SDAs in attendance for lecture 15, which was on the two beasts of Revelation 13. Sabbath morning evangelism in our churches is a great idea.”

—Article by Pastor Mike Brownhill

COASTLIFE

Michael has been attending every meeting of The Last Empire at Coastlife. He told Pastor Wes Tolhurst that he had been praying for God’s guidance in his spiritual journey. As he was recently riding his bicycle, he thought he saw what looked like the finger of God from Michelangelo’s famous painting on a piece of paper that was sticking from under a bush. It turned out it wasn’t Michelangelo’s painting, but a masterpiece of another kind—“The Last Empire” (TLE) brochure for the Gold Coast. He has been so excited about

DALBY

SHOWERS OF BLESSING AT DALBY SHOW

the meetings and the information he has learned that he has brought seven other people along!

On May 31, after nine meetings of TLE at Coastlife there were still 30 non-SDA adults attending the meetings. Over the course of the meetings, 130 non-SDA adults have been in attendance. In the adjacent hall, 110 non-SDA children with parents besides represent 43 non-Adventist families who have been coming along to the five programs. Many of the parents have been taking up the invitation to come over to the adult program.

Pastor Tolhurst said, "We're only part-way through the program but I've already had five people tell me they're joining Coastlife. While we can praise God for that, I know a couple of hundred adults and children have been moved along in their spiritual journey. 'The Last Empire' and 'Messy Church' (a high impact, activity based church program geared specifically to the needs and interests of young children) has definitely been a tool for God to reach people's hearts and lives with His love. To know that you're partnering with God in building something eternal is as good as it gets. That joy has been shared with 80 volunteers at Coastlife alone."

The Gold Coast has had a very successful team-approach to the evangelistic series, utilising the same speaker at the three different church venues. Pastor Anthony Kent, from the General Conference in the United States, has been presenting the same talks at each of the three main church venues: Coastlife, Gold Coast Central and Reedy Creek. The advertising reflected that there were three different locations offering the programs at differing times. Attendees could then choose the venue most convenient to them or a time that was convenient. If anyone missed a session for some reason at one venue, they were able to catch it up at another venue. "I know our volunteers often missed hearing the presentations at Coastlife because they were busy serving others, so they would go to the Reedy Creek church to catch the Sabbath afternoon session."

—Article by Wes Tolhurst

The "The Last Empire" display tent turned out to be a popular place to visit at the recent Dalby Agricultural Show. Normally, some 5000 people attend this event during the two days every year, and this year around 600 people accepted "The Last Empire" flyer that outlined the details of the event to be held in Dalby. Many people also visited the health tent, where they were treated to a free health age check, with nine of these visitors leaving their personal details so they could be informed of future events or seminars.



"Edgar," the massive inflatable statue of Daniel 2, attracted many people to the Dalby church display tent and the materials contained within. Pastor Ricardo reported, "I am pleased to say that God took good care of the inflatable statue during the first night. After a long day we left the site at around 8.30 pm, but before we did we asked that God would keep the statue safe as lots of teenagers stay in the show grounds until very late at night, looking to have some 'fun.'"

"That night, at about 10, there was a torrential downpour—it only lasted about five minutes. Next morning, when we arrived back at the show, we noticed there was a cigarette butt placed on top of the base of the statue, but clearly the rain had extinguished the cigarette before it had time to burn through and do any damage—our prayer had been answered. I was reminded of Psalm 34:7: 'The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.'"

—Article and pictures by Ricardo Scheffer



HERVEY BAY



"Whatever our hands find to do . . . do it with all your might!" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

This was certainly the case for the small Hervey Bay Church team. After much prayer and determination, this church was given the privilege of seeing the unmistakable hand of God work, night after night through Dr Marcha William, as she delivered words of hope to an eager audience and also shared her amazing talent as a gifted musician and singer/songwriter.

The truth was laid bare and the response was amazing. Friendships were formed and bridges were built into a community that largely feels God is not necessary. Hervey Bay is a resort town with a large concentration of comfortable retirees.

Local TV network and radio station personnel present in the audience voiced their surprise at the content of the presentations, and were open to further discussion on many of the topics covered.

The service and devotion to the Lord from the church team certainly upset the evil one, who has been working overtime trying to spoil proceedings. Despite each of the team members having serious illnesses to endure, they have forged ahead in order to see and hear the Word preached. Many of the visitors to the program have had to battle with unexpected personal issues as well, but, the Lord's blessings have continued to be bestowed upon both church members and those from the community who have attended.

—Article and picture by Lyn Farrugia

KINGARROY



The first night of The Last Empire evangelistic campaign in Kingarroy saw more than 100 people fill the Senior Citizens building. It was a combined program supported by the Murgon Church, as well as some from the Nanango Company. The Kingarroy Church Singers, who have only performed together a few times during Sabbath worship programs, delivered superb music for the occasion. Those in attendance were truly blessed by their performances.

More than 34 visitors came the first night and many commented on the friendly atmosphere, how wonderful the refreshments were, and how delightful the presentation was. Even though there have been a number of people who have dropped their attendance, there still remains a core of interested visitors who are making big decisions for Jesus! Pastor Okesene, the local church pastor and presenter of "The Last Empire," is delighted with the way the church teams have worked together: "It has certainly been a fantastic team effort as the whole place takes over two and a half hours to setup and be ready for the program. I have been amazed at the commitment of the entire team, it inspires me each time I get up to deliver another presentation! Praise God!"

—Article and picture by Gideon Okesene

MARYBOROUGH

NO STOPPING

It was a challenging start to "The Last Empire" program in Maryborough, those of lesser mettle would have eventually walked away, but not these members. They are soldiers of Christ and they refuse to desert their post!

The church at Maryborough booked the Brolga Theatre as the venue in order to host "The Last Empire" evangelistic program. The first night they only had two people from the public show up—a bit disappointing. On the second night, no-one showed up from the public—a bit disappointing. On the third night no-one showed up again, disappointing. The coordinators decided to cancel the hall bookings and transfer the program back to the church, at least it would save some venue hire costs!

Day four was worse, not one person showed up. The coordinators therefore considered stopping the program altogether—but no—after further discussion it was decided they would press on and not let the devil win!

Praise God for the tenacity of the Maryborough members! By the end of presentation eight they have four people coming to hear the presentations! In addition to these four new people, some of the young people from the church have become very interested in the program.

The Maryborough church has decided it will run all 24 programs with presentations each Monday and Thursday night.

Oh, and by the way, some of those who are attending "The Last Empire" presentations have decided to attend the church's prayer meeting on Wednesday night as well!

"For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised" (Hebrews 10:36).

—Article by Carol Boston

LOGAN CITY SAMOAN

TWELVE BAPTISMS



Twelve candidates were baptised on May 24 following a two-week presentation of "The Last Empire" series at the Logan City Samoan Church by Pastor Sam Afamasaga and his church members. Meetings were conducted every evening, except Saturday nights, and culminated in the baptism of 12, mainly young people, done by Pastor Toetu Faraimo, minister for the Glenala and Springwood Samoan congregations, who also preached on "The Lord's Invitation" to a packed Logan Samoan Church. Many of the 105 regular invitees of the two-week series were also present for the church service and baptism, which was followed by a big Sabbath lunch for all—something Samoans are particularly good at!

—Article and pictures by Maranata Titimanu



ROCKHAMPTON



Rockhampton reports that they wrapped up “The Last Empire” evangelistic series on a high note during the last Sabbath of May. The church decided to run an intensive program format: five nights a week for the four weeks. Mark Turner reported, “It was a fine effort from the church members who showed plenty of stamina in order to get through all of the presentations. It was a great atmosphere—warm and friendly. The Lord blessed our efforts here in Rockhampton, currently we have 20 decisions for baptism or re-baptism! Praise God!”

—Article and pictures by Mark Turner



REEDY CREEK



Throughout the month of May, Reedy Creek members and attenders have been kept busy following up friends, family, neighbours and community contacts who have been attending “The Last Empire” presentations. Those attending the sessions are mainly the result of TV advertisements and flyers, contacts from the various health events and service initiatives the church has intentionally organised leading up to the campaign, as well as *Beyond the Search* and literature evangelist contacts who have been followed up. They include family members of church attendees, business associates, friends, neighbours and general public attendees.

Pastor Pratt said that it has been empowering to see church members get excited about their contacts coming along and also intentionally building friendships with those they didn’t know before the campaign began. One couple who have been attending the meetings said, “This has been the friendliest church we have ever been to.”

As a result of the program thus far, there are quite a few people now attending the Reedy Creek worship service on Sabbath, and others are preparing for baptism.

—Article and pictures by Pastor Greg Pratt



Gloria in the middle enjoying the series with Joy and Marianne





Twenty Years Making a Real Difference in Logan Central

by Pastor Chris Foote, Regional Director of ADRA Australia (South Queensland)

Recently, the team at the ADRA Community Centre in Logan held a Sabbath afternoon celebration with an enthusiastic group of volunteers, church members and special guests. This marked 20 years of sharing Lord's rich blessings with the community of Logan. Pastor Malcolm Potts, a key team member throughout those years, shared an historical journey of how service had taken several forms through that period. Special guests also included Logan City's Mayor Pam Parker, ADRA Australia's CEO Mark Webster, local State Member Desley Scott and our conference leaders.

You can be very proud of the amazing ministry and support provided through the years—and that continues every week. Thanks to Centre Manager Pam Wood, and our fantastic ADRA volunteers for your big commitment to help people in need.



Logan City Mayor Pam Parker enthusiastically sharing her appreciation for our ADRA Centre.



Adventist Residential Care Yooroonga *'my home'*

by Pastor Chris Foote

"It is exciting to see the hard work coming together in a good, welcoming plan," said Laurie Evans, chair of the project committee for Yooroonga, our new conference strategy to assist people with a disability.

Now that we have Development Application approval, a submission is being made to the Conference Executive seeking approval to proceed with drawing of final plans. The group of two-and three-bedroom units will be located on a separate piece of land, adjacent to the Adventist Retirement Village at Victoria Point.

With an estimated construction cost of \$1,744,000, the team



Yooroonga project team and the new promotional brochure.

are also moving forward with fundraising and recently approved a brochure design to use around the conference. With end of financial year a few days away, it is an ideal time to make a tax-deductible donation. This is available on the conference website through e-Giving (Select Giving, then Yooroonga, then select Other Church Activities).

The reason for setting up such a ministry is to provide an opportunity for people with a disability to find purpose-designed accommodation in an Adventist-friendly environment.

CONFERENCE NEWS



by Pastor David Edgar, AAA President

Your AAA (Adventist Aviation Association) conducted four (4) mission trips during May. The first was on May 10 to encourage the “House Church” at Cathleen Symes’ home at Dirranbandi, 490 kilometres south west of Brisbane. The Dirranbandi group, swelled by six AAA volunteers, had a great day with Bible study and prayer, followed by sweet fellowship during lunch. All too soon, the team departed for the 90-

minute flight back to Brisbane, wondering who “encouraged” who? It seems that all involved profited in more ways than one when following our Lord’s counsel, “it is more blessed to give than receive” (Acts 20:35). Please pray for our remote members in Queensland’s vast Outback. Other AAA flights were to Roma (May 17), Chinchilla Show for a Health Booth (May 24), and the new outpost at Longreach (May 31).

AAC Sabbath Seminar “Longing for God”

Do you hunger for that blessing that comes from taking time to fellowship with the Lord and His word? This is profoundly important for our spiritual, emotional and physical wellbeing. At this next seminar on Sabbath, August 2, you can learn more about how the Lord yearns for our connection with Him, and how we can be richly empowered and blessed in His presence. For more details, contact Susan at the Conference Office on <susanhensley@adventist.org.au>, and be sure to check your bulletins each week. Special guest is Dr Irene Alexander. Discounts as usual for AAC members and “Friends of AAC”.

QASAM—Watch this space!

The Mudjimba Apex Camp provided a great venue at Easter for the Adventist Singles to fellowship and be spiritually and socially blessed.

Special guests Barry and Cecily Harker shared a variety of presentations that proved to be a real blessing to all those who attended throughout the Easter weekend.

While the QASAM team have an ongoing calendar of events, a highlight on August 9 will be a Singles Rally day, at Garden City Adventist Church Hall, in Eight Mile Plains. The theme is “The Journey” and is the first of five rallies to be held across Australia in the following two months. For more details about this or other QASAM and National Single Adventist Ministry events, visit the webpage <www.adventistsingles.net.au> or Adventist Singles SPD on Facebook.



DOES MY JOB MATTER TO GOD?

by Kaitlyn Mitchell

On Friday, May 23, Matt Cooper led the monthly Café Q discussion, “Does My Job Really Matter To God?”

Studies have shown that 75 per cent of all adults are looking for ways to live a more meaningful life. Furthermore, half of all adults are searching for meaning in general. But what are all of these people missing? Why aren't they seemingly satisfied with where they currently are in life?

Matt Cooper suggests that they are “missing the key” and relates why. Millennials (or younger people) account for one quarter of all Christians. Due to the fast-paced and ever-changing nature of the environment Millennials have created for themselves, it is common for young people to have several career changes throughout their lives.

If what you do doesn't define who you are, what should you be doing instead? These days, we don't climb the career ladder or venture on the career path. Instead we go on a career journey. This will open up more options and ways to get to where we ultimately want to go. Eventually our end-goal should include working to create a better world and this is only achieved by “looking up.”

As Christians, we should be “looking up” because there is a higher purpose. Through our careers/jobs, we can find comfort and stability in the fact that God wants us to have a job where:

1. We work together and are rewarded over time (Romans 8:28);
2. We are called to focus on the work, rather than the money (Jeremiah 17:7, 8);

3. We offer the gifts God has given us because there is good that comes out of that labour (Ecclesiastes 3:12, 13);
4. We are benefitting others by giving freely—there is a focus on who we are helping rather than ourselves (Ephesians 4:28);
5. We are giving glory to God through all of our actions and thoughts (1 Corinthians 10:31).

In order for us to glorify God, we need to offer an accurate representation of His character and values. You might not want to, but you have been called to. Christians in the workplace are often on show for others around them—closely watched and, sometimes, it can feel like we are being monitored. We should glorify God so that those around us can get a glimpse of our Heavenly Father and what it means to have a relationship with Him. Simple

things like staying positive and building people up (Ephesians 4:29) are the beginnings of this. Even if you think things like this are small, someone is aware of it (Proverbs 19:1). The conclusion: You are the one who can make a difference, don't leave it to the next person. If your name is to stand for something, you want it to stand for integrity.





THE BEST WAY TO SAVE ON STAMPS



by Luke Farrugia

What is the number-one method of communication on the internet? Twitter? Maybe Facebook? No, it is email and that by quite a wide margin. Sitting at around 2.2 billion accounts, it is the number-one method of digital communication. With numbers like that, it is a perfect method for sharing the gospel, but like many things, although it is a great idea, you still need some proper planning to make it effective. Today we will be exploring how to get the most effective mailing list.

THE TOOLS

You will only need an internet connection, your computer and a MailChimp account to get started. The great thing about MailChimp is that it is free until you gather more than 2000 subscribers, at which point I think most of us would be willing to pay to use the great service they offer. You can sign up at <www.mailchimp.com>.

YOUR ACTION LIST

1: Pick your topic: Think clearly about what you are going to offer. Most people are totally saturated with emails every day, so what you are offering needs to be valuable enough to keep them motivated to open your emails or to sign up in the first place. Here are some ideas:

- One weekly fact about the reliability of the Bible.
- One insightful thought from the Sabbath school lesson each week

that your readers can use.

- **Nature insights:** using nature to illustrate a Bible principle (photos would add real impact to this one).

2: Setup a MailChimp account: There are many options for you to choose from, but based on our experience we have found MailChimp to be a solid choice.

3: Build your list: There isn't much point writing if there is no audience, so it is vital to pay attention to this step. It is likely that your list will start small, but that is OK, we all have to start somewhere. Send the sign-up form to all your friends and ask them to send it on to others. Share the sign up link on social media and get your friends doing the same.

When sharing the link and asking people to subscribe, make sure you state what it is about and why your readers are going to care. This is called your value proposition, and without a good one it will be difficult to sign people up, so give some thought to the best way to communicate this point.

4: Start your campaign: Now everything is in place. Start sending! Tip: you will notice MailChimp has a schedule feature. If you can find the time to write a few emails ahead, you can schedule them to go out by themselves without you needing to remember them.

5: Test and measure: One of the beautiful things about mailing lists is the amount of statistics you have access to, so make sure you keep a close eye on

that and keep trying new things. You will soon learn what works with your audience and what doesn't.

For example, the subject line is what convinces people to open your email. If you notice you are only getting a 10 per cent open rate, try changing your subject line. Try making it shorter or longer, and see if it is better to lead with verbs or adjectives, or maybe the people on your list will respond best to a super simple heading. You won't know until you try.

THE FINAL WORD

This article brings us to the end of our series on digital evangelism. I have had a great time writing this series and I hope it has encouraged you to get involved and share the beauty of the "Old, Old Story" in the newest of ways.

Even though this is the last article in the series, I am still interested if you have any questions or feedback. Please don't hesitate to email me, I would love to hear from you: <focus@farbox.com.au>.

The Final Final Word;

The South Queensland Conference FOCUS Editors would like to sincerely thank Luke Farrugia for his submissions to the FOCUS Newsletter over the past 18 months. Luke has continued to expertly inform us about how we can best use electronic media to spread the Word of God. Thank you Luke.

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DALBY

WHAT'S FOR DINNER



The Dalby church has a regular attendance of 14 baptised members, but recently they were outnumbered by a large group of visitors—16 in total. In addition to this, the church decided to hold a special dinner at the Dalby Senior Citizens Hall where the "The Last Empire" seminar was to be promoted. Of those who attended, 27 were not Seventh-day Adventists. Mr Ricardo Scheffer said that recent initiatives undertaken to make contact with the community had indeed worked: a ministry tent at the recent Dalby Agricultural Show, canvassing by Sone Marinar and his literature evangelist team (Uli Paga and Wendy Kent) the distribution of the *Beyond* DVD's, a satellite dish ministry (led by Ken Dearing), and weekly Bible-study contacts.

Those who attended the dinner enjoyed a lovely vegetarian meal and were treated to some fine music presented by four ladies from the Brisbane Korean Church: Hannah Won, Angela Ahn, Sharon Oh and Susanna Je. During the course of the evening, Ricardo had the opportunity to speak on "Why We Can Still Trust the Bible" and at the conclusion of his talk he invited those interested to officially sign up for "The Last Empire" seminars. Ricardo said later, "The Holy Spirit touched the hearts of 16 people that night and hopefully, with the Lord's blessing, we may soon double the size of our church!"

The church is planning to hold a free Christian music concert in Dalby on June 28, where invitations to attend will be sent out to the community once again. The goal is to promote "The Last Empire" seminar and invite more people to join us for the remaining presentations.

—Article and picture by Ricardo Scheffer

SOUTH BRISBANE TO HONOA AND BACK



On April 17, a missionary-minded team from South Brisbane Church set out for flood-ravaged Honoa on the island of Malaita in the Solomon Islands. Their leader, James Kop, was accompanied by the following: wife Janelle, Steve and Zoe Jolly, Maureen Ellson, Antonia Ludwig, James Hodgen, Iose Mataafa and Alex Box.

Despite the effects of the flood, the team was able to continue with the work they went over to accomplish: mould removal, cleaning and re-painting the Honoa medical clinic, fitting an awning to the front of the clinic to help prevent patients from getting wet while waiting to be attended by the nurse, installation of solar panels and ceiling lights, and a daily children's program.

The team filled four crates with building equipment, school supplies, clothing, sunglasses and reading glasses, food and Bibles before setting off. And in answer to prayer, they did not have to pay Customs Duty.

The South Brisbane Church missionary team spent two weeks there and thoroughly enjoyed serving the local island community. The local children were particularly well cared for by Maureen, Antonia, Janelle, and Zoe and enjoyed the activities provided for them.

"All in all it was a fortnight of hard but satisfying work," said one team member. "One has a distinct feeling of fulfillment when it comes to serving and supporting our island brothers and sisters."

—Article and pictures by South Brisbane

ROMA THINGS ARE LOOKING UP OUTBACK



Carl and Linda Rattray, the pastoral team at Roma, recently visited Charleville in order to celebrate church with the locals. Carl reports that they were delighted to worship with 14 precious people. All had a great Sabbath as they enjoyed meeting up with friends from Eight Mile Plains, St George, Dulacca, Roma, Cunnamulla and west of Charleville.

Carl relates, "Many thanks need to go to Linda Van De Vrugt for bringing her

guitar along and keeping us all in tune! Some of these people travel many kilometers to attend church, some of them four to five hours one way!"

Carl and Linda ask that we all uphold these faithful members in prayer, especially the young people. Carl explains, "It is very difficult for our young people out here. Due to the isolation as a result of distance, many of them do not get to see other Adventist young people for very long periods of time."

—Article and pictures by Carl Rattray



TOOWOOMBA SHARING THE TREASURE WITH THAILAND

In a whirlwind ministry trip to Thailand in April, Glenvale's Pastor Casey Wolverton



Casey Wolverton faced a new challenge: preaching a series of messages about Jesus to an audience of university students, many of whom were far more familiar and committed to the Buddhist faith than Christianity.

While in their summer session, Asia-Pacific International University invited Pastor Wolverton to share three sermons to more than 600 students and staff in as many days. Although the university is operated by the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, the students come from a wide mix of faith traditions, the majority of which are Buddhist.

"Speaking about Christ to those who don't know much about Him was challenging, all the more so because I had to do it through a translator," reported Pastor Wolverton. "But I was very grateful for the prayer support from so many around the world. I could see the Holy Spirit at work, particularly by the end of the week."

Dr Loren G Agrey, President of AIU, was pleased with the series and its impact on his students. "That is my favourite theme (story of Jesus), and we appreciate Pastor Wolverton taking the time to come to Thailand and 'make the case for Christ' to those of our students who don't know Him yet."

—Article and picture by Pastor Casey Wolverton

WE SHALL REMEMBER THEM...

Article by and pictures by Lyn Bennet

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; / Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. / At the going down of the sun and in the morning / We will remember them.”

On Thursday morning April 24, staff and students at Brisbane Adventist College paused to “remember them.” They attended a special combined students ANZAC Chapel Service held at the College’s Student Centre.

Annie Jung and Shinae Lee performed beautiful and moving musical items, accompanied by a group of secondary singers.

Sania Alamate led the audience in prayer and Pastor Bob Possingham eloquently described the sacrificial characteristics of a soldier, likening them to Jesus.

A number of special



guests were in attendance including: Michael McKean (war veteran) and his wife; Ian Walker (State Member for Mansfield); Cr Krista Adams (Councilor for Wishart Ward); and Pastor Malcolm Potts (former South Queensland Conference Secretary).

It was moving to watch “Mick” pay respect to his fallen comrades, and even the young prep students seemed to grasp the significance of the occasion. Those in attendance were privileged to have the “Last Post” and “Rouse” performed live by Brad McClintock. The morning gave beautiful testimony to the fact that the ANZAC spirit is alive at Brisbane Adventist College.



Girls Empowered at Brisbane Adventist College



Article by and pictures by Lyn Bennet

Candles, cups of tea, sweet treats and pampering—the perfect combination for a gathering of girls. But this wasn’t just an ordinary gathering—Friday night, May 9, signified the first “Empowered” event for 2014, with a special Mother’s Day theme. Girls in Years 5-8, along with their mums and other significant women (grandmothers, teachers, chaplains, aunts), were invited to a special program held on the mezzanine floor of the Brisbane Adventist College Student Centre.

The evening consisted of delectable treats, card making, mingling, and an opportunity to share favourite “mum memories.” The event was facilitated by the College’s chaplain, Pastor Alina. A special highlight was the “prayer circle” tradi-

tion at the conclusion of the program, where the mums and aunts surrounded the girls and prayed that God would continue to bless their lives. The first “Empowered” program was launched in September last year and its mandate is simple; “Surround girls with a network of women, an ‘army of aunts’ to love, nurture, mentor and influence them.” The “Empowered” team is passionate about helping girls to live for Jesus.

While the focus has been specifically on girls from Years 5-8 at the college, organisers wish to assert that women of all ages are welcome and they further stress that, “You are never too old (or too young) to be an ‘aunt’ and make a difference in the lives of our girls!” “Empowered” will be a regular feature in the Brisbane Adventist College calendar.

ROYALTY HITS THE GOLD COAST

Article by Matthew Moore and pictures by Pastor Wes Tolhurst

When Week Of Spiritual Emphasis (WOSE) rolls around at Gold Coast Christian College, there is always a buzz in the air and this year was no different.

Both Primary and Secondary students participated in an amazing week where the visiting speaker, Hayden Petersen, shared with the students their true identity in Jesus. The WOSE theme "Hello my name is . . ." focused on the false labels the world and others place on us and what can eventuate if we begin to believe these false labels. The students, staff and parents were all challenged to accept their true identity: Children of the One True King.

Many students made important decisions for Jesus and accepted that they are indeed heirs to the kingdom because of the sacrifice Jesus has made for our lives.



On the Friday evening, at the conclusion of the week, the Secondary students had the opportunity to attend their first AGAPE, a Sabbath evening program run by senior high school students who have a passion for giving young people a place to belong, believe and become. The cafe setting is relaxed and comfortable, one where students can enjoy good food and good music. Hayden Petersen shared his personal testimony during the evening.

On the Saturday evening, 170 people from the college community came to enjoy more fun and fellowship at the Pray 'n' Play program.

"With a closing Sabbath program, food and games, the week certainly finished on a high. God truly blessed our WOSE program again this year at Gold Coast Christian College," said College chaplain Matthew Moore.

Join The Fun At Noosa Billy Cart Grand Prix

Article and pictures by Georgina Hobson

On Sunday July 20, Noosa Christian College (NCC), Cooroy will host its 12th Billy Cart Grand Prix on the campus it shares with Cooroy Adventist Church. This event is the annual fun fair and fundraiser for NCC, located on the Sunshine Coast.

There are a variety of billy cart races throughout the day, with registrations open beyond the school families to the wider community across different age groups, including open adult races. We invite you to get a team together, build or borrow a billy cart and join us for a great day of racing fun!

In addition to the billy carts there will be plenty of attractions including a 3-kilometre family fun run, live music, a large food court, giant garage sale, produce stalls, sideshow with amusement rides, muscle car display, animal petting enclosure and competitions, including Lego, cooking and art. The family fun run begins at 7.30 am and registrations for billy carts open from 8.30 am. Please visit our website, facebook page or contact the school for more details. We'd love to see you there!

www.noosabillycart.com

www.facebook.com/Noosabillycartgrandprix



NOOSA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
COOROY

BILLY CART GRAND PRIX

Sunday 20th July
7.30am - 3.00pm



JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY

3km family fun run | billy cart races from 10am
food court | amusement rides | giant garage sale
produce stalls | auction | live music

Prep to Year 12

20 Cooroy Belli Creek Road, Cooroy, QLD 4563
P: 07 5447 7808 W: www.noosabillycart.com

CRITICAL NEWS MAJOR ACTI-PASS CHANGES

Big Camp Activities 2014 Onwards

ATTENTION

Parents, Grandparents, Children, Young People
Church Leaders, All Church Members

SITUATION

The last few years have seen growing complexities in the organisation of activities for young people at Big Camp. These complexities include: changes in government legislation, risk-management requirements, increasing numbers of young people and the associated logistics, supervision ratios, transportation management, and rising costs. Then there is the general frustration of Big Camp attenders waiting in long lines at camp only to potentially be told that we have just sold out. The resulting frustration of campers is then being poured out on those serving behind the counter, and those organising and managing the operation behind the scenes. The situation has become untenable and requires a different approach as we move into the future.

RESPONSE

The following conference departments have been involved in working through the above situation toward a new way of managing the composition of divisions and sales of activities for Big Camp 2014 and beyond.

Youth Department

Children's Ministry Department

Administration

Treasury Department

Education Department

The changes made have taken into account feedback from parents, limiting factors and further potential growth in numbers in our conference.

As a result the following three major change areas were resolved:

1. Movement toward "Year Level at School" designations for the various divisions at camp, rather than purely age-based. Except where developmental considerations are required in some children's areas.
2. The way sales for activities will be conducted.
3. The introduction of a Kindergarten Acti-Pass.

THREE KEY CHANGES

1. For school age children: Defining the various Divisions by year level at school.

2. The way sales of activities will be conducted!

3. Introduction of a Kindergarten Acti-Pass

Ministry Division Categories at Big Camp

DIVISION	INFORMATION
BEGINNER Leader Mrs Darelle Hunt	Designed for children aged 0-3 years (Excluding Prep). All children in this group must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.
KINDERGARTEN Leader Mrs Heidi Richardson	Must be of Pre-prep age (4 year olds); Prep (determined by Conference Education Department as “the child having turned five by June 30 of the year they commence Prep Year”); and Year 1 children. (Entry Level Guideline: Needed to have turned four by June 30, 2014)
PRIMARY Leader Pr Russell Willcocks	Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 students. (Entry Level Guideline: Needed to have turned 7 by June 30, 2014)
JUNIORS Leader Pr Sean Berkeley	Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 students.
HIGH SCHOOL Leader Pr William Strickland	If you are in Year 8-12 then this is the place for you at Big Camp. ie. All of High School excluding Year 7.
YOUNG ADULT Leader Pr Steve Kane	If you no longer attend High School and are involved in Tertiary Study or Working then this is the place for you at Big Camp. And/Or You are 18+ Years of Age.

Changes to Children’s Division’s

In response to the many requests from parents to focus on keeping peer groups together during camp and to keep in step with the Youth Department and Pathfinder programs, new parameters will be introduced for the Kindergarten and Primary Children’s Divisions at Camp beginning this year in 2014.

The Kindergarten Division will still basically accommodate the 4 – 6 year age group and the Primary Division, the 7 – 9 age group, but it will be determined by what year level at school the child is in and not their age per se.

As well as keeping natural peer groups together (as per at school), this system will hopefully facilitate a gentle transition into the Junior division and beyond; as the Youth Department has already adopted the “Year level at School” guidelines not only for Big camp but also for their Adventurer and Pathfinder Club entry ages.

2014 will be a transition year for the Kindergarten and Primary Divisions as we adopt the school year level parameter, so we ask you to bear with us during this time. As mentioned at the outset, these changes have been instituted in response to the numerous requests of parents over the past couple of years.

CRITICAL INFORMATION FOR BIG CAMP ACTIVITIES

Activity Sales

3 STEPS TO BE INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES AT BIG CAMP

STEP ONE - SELECT THE CORRECT DIVISION YOU BELONG TO

STEP TWO - PURCHASE A PASSPORT WRIST BAND FOR EACH PERSON GOING ON ACTIVITIES

STEP THREE - DECIDE WHETHER TO PURCHASE A FULL ACTI-PASS OR A SELECTED ACTI-PASS

Passport Wrist Band

Passport Wrist Bands must be purchased PRIOR to Big Camp.

This means that each participant's contact, medical and consent details are in our system prior to Big Camp. If you want to engage in activities at Big Camp, then the Passport wrist band must be purchased prior to Big Camp. Even if you are not sure if you are going or your friend is going, it is better to purchase one anyway.

WARNING

THERE WILL BE NO SALE OF PASSPORT WRIST BANDS AT CAMP!
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PURCHASE ANY ACTIVITIES AT BIG CAMP BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T BUY AN ACTI-PASS BAND PRIOR TO CAMP!

Full Acti-Pass

Full Acti-Pass (Entire Activity Package for the Week) You may pay for a Passport wrist band and Full Acti-pass prior to Big Camp at the EARLY BIRD RATE or, provided you have pre-purchased your passport wrist band before camp, you may purchase it at Big Camp for the FULL RATE which will cost you an EXTRA 10%.

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

THAT YOU PURCHASE YOUR FULL ACTI-PASS ONLINE AS THE EARLY BIRD RATE WILL GIVE YOU A SIGNIFICANT SAVING.

PLEASE NOTE: THOSE WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS CAN PURCHASE A FULL ACTI-PASS VIA HARD COPY.

Selected Acti-Pass

Selected Acti-Pass (Selected Activities Only) You may pay for a Passport wrist band and Selected Acti-pass prior to Big Camp at the EARLY BIRD RATE or, provided you have pre-purchased your passport wrist band before camp, you may purchase it at Big Camp for the FULL RATE which will cost you an EXTRA 10%.

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

THAT YOU PURCHASE YOUR SELECTED ACTI-PASS ONLINE AS THE EARLY BIRD RATE WILL GIVE YOU A SIGNIFICANT SAVING.

PLEASE NOTE: THOSE WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS CAN PURCHASE A SELECTED ACTI-PASS VIA HARD COPY.

★ PURCHASE ONLINE | <http://sq.adventist.org.au/annual-convention-applications-open>

CRITICAL INFORMATION FOR BIG CAMP ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten Acti-pass Sales

Kindergarten Acti-passes are available online as per other divisions PRIOR to Big Camp. We encourage you to take advantage of this option. The Kindergarten PASSPORT WRISTBAND including FULL ACTI-PASS is \$10.

Daily passes will be available for sale at Big Camp from the Kindergarten venue for a cost of \$2 per day.

Frequently Asked Questions

★ **Can I purchase a Passport Wrist band at Big Camp?**

NO. You would have to purchase one prior to Big Camp online or by application form before applications close.

★ **What are the closing dates for Passport Wrist Bands & Early Bird Activity Prices?**

Hard copy applications Passport Wrist Bands and Activity passes will close on September 10 and online registrations close at 5 pm on September 16.

★ **What is the website address to purchase Passport Wrist Bands & Activity passes?**

<http://sq.adventist.org.au/annual-convention-applications-open>

★ **Can I purchase a Full Acti-pass or Selected Acti-Pass at Big Camp?**

YES. As long as you have already purchased a Passport wrist band prior to camp. If you haven't done that, then the answer is NO.

★ **Will activities cost me less if I purchase everything prior to Big Camp?**

YES. You will pay 10% less. If you have more than one child you are paying for, it will give you a substantial saving by purchasing everything prior to Big Camp. (Except for the Kindergarten Division)

★ **Will activities cost me more if I purchase a Full or Selected Acti-pass at Big Camp?**

YES. You will pay an extra 10%. (Except for the Kindergarten Division)

★ **If I do not have access to the internet and need to purchase activities prior to camp, can I do so?**

YES. There will be hard copies of the forms that you can fill out inclosed in the May *Focus*, or please call 07 3218 7777 and ask for the Youth Department.

★ **When is the last time I can purchase Passport Wrist Bands and activities prior to camp?**

Midnight September 10 online sales will close

★ **I haven't purchased a Passport Wrist Band and I'm desperately trying to get my child to an activity. Can I drive my child to the activity and pay at the gate to the establishment in question?**

You may do so where we have not fully booked the venue in question. You must sign a statement that indicates you understand that you are fully responsible for the care of your child at that activity and that your child will remain under your direct supervision while participating in the activity in question.

CRITICAL INFORMATION FOR BIG CAMP ACTIVITIES

★ **If my Passport Wrist band breaks at Camp. Can I get it replaced?**

YES. Come to the office and we will match your details to confirm your identity and then replace it.

★ **Can I use my Theme Parks pass or similar to reduce the cost of the activity?**

NO. We have entered into a low-cost arrangement with the theme parks.

★ **Can I catch the bus to the Theme Parks but use my Theme Park Pass or similar when I arrive?**

NO. Because we have a packaged cost structure.

★ **Can I swap my Passport Wrist bands with my brothers or sisters or friends?**

NO. If you had an accident we would be using the medical details of the person the wristband belongs to. The Passport wrist band contains personal and medical information for that person only.

★ **Can I get a refund for activities purchased?**

NO. So you will need to choose carefully. You cannot get a refund for missing the bus or deciding not to go or changing your mind or for any other reason apart from the medical one below.
YES. For medical reasons and you must present a medical certificate.

★ **Can I change or swap activities once I have purchased them?**

YES. But this must be done the day before the activity in question and by 10 am prior to the new activity or the activity you no longer wish to participate in, which ever is the earlier.

★ **When is the latest time I can purchase/swap an activity if I am purchasing it at Big Camp?**

12.00 midday the day before the activity is taking place. The only exception to this is the Young Adult division, where purchases would need to be completed by 10 am the day of the activity. (Unless it is a full-day activity whereupon it must be purchased at 12.00 midday the day before).

★ **Can I go to activities from a Ministry Division that I am not in?**

No.

★ **If I still have questions who do I call?**

Call 07 3218 7777

Thank you for our patience and understanding with these changes.



Heart Questions for God

Risë Rafferty

(Risè pronounced Reecie) will be joining us all the way from Oregon. Risè has been writing excellent articles for **Light Bearers** for many years, as well as addressing health related issues on Three Angels Broadcasting Network. Her research and down-to-earth writing and speaking style have been such a blessing to others.



Ladies book this event in your calendars!

Women's Ministries Conference | 18 - 20 July 2014

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Early Bird Registrations 27 June 2014 | Registrations Close 4 July 2014
Full Weekend - \$175 Early Bird | \$195 Normal Rate
Day Visitor (includes lunch & afternoon tea) - \$30 Early Bird | \$35 Normal Rate
Day Visitor (no meals) - \$10

For more information phone 3218 7777

ADDITIONAL MUSICIANS NEEDED BIG CAMP YAD:

Expressions of interest are being sought in the interest of adding: (i) a multi-Percussionist; (ii) Cello players; and (iii) a Bach Piccolo Trumpet player to the worship band in the Young Adult Division for Big Camp this year. This role will involve playing on stage at Big Camp and attendance at Sunday afternoon practice sessions June to September in Brisbane.

Expressions of interest are also being sought for musical items (solos, instrumental, band, choir, duo, trio, quartet, etc) to be considered for inclusion in the music program for the Sabbath afternoon concert in the Young Adult Division tent. This concert is scheduled to be held at 3.30 pm, on September 20.

Expressions of interest may be submitted via a demo audio-video clip, email attachment, email Youtube web-link, or by a posted USB memory stick (USB memory sticks will be return posted).

All expressions of interest are to be submitted no later than June 30 to:

Email: <GaryRoberts@adventist.org.au>

Mobile: 0427-387 328.

Postal Mail: Pastor Gary Roberts, PO Box 892, Hervey Bay QLD 4655

ATTENTION YUGOSLAV ETHNIC CHURCHES

We would like to invite all of our brothers and sisters from a former Yugoslav background who are currently residing in Australia or New Zealand to join us for a special 25-year anniversary convention at Avondale College from January 2-5, 2015.

For all bookings and further information please contact;

Julian Tamas: <juliantamas@hotmail.com>

Pr Dragan Kanazir: <DraganKanazir@adventist.org.au>

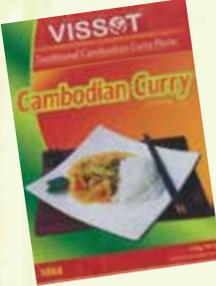
CORRECTION:

FOCUS would like to acknowledge that the "humble acreage" referred to on the front page, in the first line, of May 2014 *FOCUS* was owned by GJ & RO Aldridge, the parents of Alan and Peter Aldridge. Upon the death of Gordon Aldridge in 1999, the property was transferred to Alan and Peter Aldridge as tenants in common and remained so until the property was sold. We apologise for any confusion caused in our previous edition.

HELPING TO SAVE THE WORLD LEAVES A GOOD TASTE IN YOUR MOUTH!

Vissot Samlor Curry, as featured in *Record*, May 17, 2014, is manufactured in Cambodia as a small cottage industry to provide work and training for local people. Each box sold means more jobs for desperately poor Cambodians, more money for farmers, more money to expand the not-for-profit business, and create a new Adventist clinic in Cambodia. Please visit <www.jomnin.org> to support or buy curry. Thanks for your support.

VISSOT
Delicious Cambodian Curry



As featured in the latest Record!

Save postage...
Curry available from the office of
Michelle Down - Library

\$6 / packet

**Whoever thought that
saving the world could
taste this good?**

It all began with peanut butter ...

Ross McKenzie, a volunteer in Cambodia, missed his peanut butter, so began to grind his own. A widow, whose husband had been killed during the Pol Pot massacres, begged him for work, so she began selling peanut butter. Students also needed work - and so a cottage food industry began.

Today Vissot employs 20-30 staff and has been voted one of the top 10 brands in Cambodia by the Ministry of Commerce for its high standards of quality control.

Vissot curry is now being exported to Australia, and your support of this delicious curry will help the industry to expand.

Each box sold means more jobs for desperately poor Cambodians - more money for farmers - more money to expand the not-for-profit business and create a new Adventist clinic in Cambodia.

**That is an amazing amount of
good from one bowl of curry!**

Buying curry will:

- Support students
- Grow the business
- Establish a health centre

www.jomnin.org

DATE CORRECTION

Toowoomba Central Church Pathfinder 50 Year Homecoming Celebrations will not be held on Sabbath, August 16, as previously advertised. Celebrations will now be held on Sabbath, August 23.

Toowoomba Central Pathfinder Club wishes to extend an invitation to all. Come along on the day and help us celebrate 50 years of operation.

Attention *FOCUS* Contributors

FOCUS is produced by the South Queensland Conference Communication Department, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane, QLD 4000.
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Art & Print—Signs Publishing Company

Subject to sufficient copy received the next general issue of *FOCUS* will be published in July.

Submissions should reach the *FOCUS* Editor, SQC Office, 19 Eagle Terrace, Brisbane, 4000, (sqfocus@adventist.org.au) NO LATER THAN July 4 at 10:30 am. All copy may be edited and late items may not be printed. Advertisements (1-10 lines) \$25. \$2.50 for each additional line.