

# Revival News



Canberra

May 2008



## Pastor's Desk:

As you know I have just returned from a three and a half week trip to Vanuatu where I visited the assemblies in Pt. Vila, Tanna (Green Point) and Santo (Mango Station). This was a very rewarding and productive trip with a lot of time spent in teaching the leaders and the people sound doctrine about our fundamental beliefs and practices. The simplicity and power of the gospel and the unity and love in the fellowship there are wonderful and at times overwhelming.

Coming home I am thrilled to see these qualities evident in Canberra and particularly in the way you are all responding to the leadership of Pr. Michael and Pr. David in the two assemblies. Nevertheless difficulties and challenges continue to arise and try us in the broader fellowship and I want to remind you of some scriptural principles to apply in our relationships with one another.

*Titus 3:2 "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men."*

*1 Peter 5:5 "... all of you be subject one to another and be clothed with humility; for God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble"*

*1 Cor. 1:10 "Now I beseech you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement."*

*Eph. 4:30-32 "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice: and be kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."*

Be wary that in taking particular positions about differences in matters of doctrine and practice, men and women can forget principles of Godly behaviour and be more concerned about winning arguments and convincing others to join with them than seeking to do what the love of God would want for the wellbeing of the body of Christ in our fellowship. God bless, Pr Bob

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# Canberra Updates: Chandler St & Southside

## Convention 2009

We have been given an opportunity to host the 2009 Convention in Canberra, and after much discussion decided 'we can do it!' With the support and assistance of our fellowships in the southern NSW region it will be a fantastic event and a source of spiritual growth, blessings and joy.

Having Convention 2009 in Canberra will be an encouragement for those in nearby fellowships as it is more likely that they will be able to attend. It will also be an opportunity for them to build on established foundations and add to God's church.

We plan to feature a series of special topic sessions that will focus on what the Bible says about issues that affect our everyday life (marriage, kids, work, money) and our spiritual walk (prayer life, leadership skills, outreach, bible prophecy).

But we can only deliver an amazingly blessed convention if we have your personal commitment to participate. Hosting Convention 2009 will require your help, input and prayers. It will be a learning and growing experience for all of the saints in Canberra and regional NSW, and we will need your full support.

It will be an opportunity for us to serve our brothers and sisters by hosting a blessed event and together, with guidance from the Holy Spirit, we can do it and have a blessed time.

## Canberra Website

The Canberra website is almost ready and Jordan and team have been working hard to finalise things. Its purpose is to provide information about the fellowship to the Community as well as helping with internal communication.

The website will include Church News, Coming Events, and facilitate provision of ministry articles, testimonies and audio upload from the Sunday talk.

The go-to persons if you have input are Angela (Southside) and Brendan Taylor (Chandler St)

## Youngies

Last month youngies have been actively seeking to serve their brothers & sisters in the church. The 'help out' day earlier in the month saw the youngies out serving some of our older brothers & sisters with needs. This produced excitement both in the youngies that participated as well as those on the receiving.

Last weekend they stepped out again to support the Wagga Fellowship by taking Café Alive on the road. The youngies descended on Wagga Saturday lunch time and hit the streets to invite people to Café Alive that night.

Sunday we partook of Wagga's famous hospitality with a fellowship prayer breakfast bright and early, followed by the communion meeting and a hearty fellowship lunch. Thanks to Wagga for having us!



A Taste of Heaven, desserts in the upper room, Southside

## DVD's & CD's for sale

Gabby is looking after orders for the products which will be soon available through Actnow Media & Arts. These will be available for purchase at the bookshops. Lesley has placed an order for Southside and Gabby is waiting to hear from Belco (you can see the bookshop managers to place your order).

This is what will soon be available:

Nightlife – This is a great CD - the Nightlife band will have you singing along to their gospel songs and top quality music.

Café Alive Sessions – seven bands of young people playing a variety of gospel music from rock to reggae. Recorded at the 2007 'Alive in the Can' event at Chandler St church.

God's Country – a documentary on the spread of revival across PNG. This follow up to 'The Latter Rain' features amazing new testimonies, a look at the revival in Bougainville and an interview with Principal Pastor Godfrey Wippon.

100 Years of Revival: A DVD featuring presentations by P. Jock Duncan on the history of Pentecostal revival.

## Chandler St upgrade meeting

On Thursday 26 June, 7.30 pm P.David is inviting all those with an interest in planning for the future best use of the hall, adapting & refreshing our 30 year old building.

We've already been making some changes (Crying room; Café area; Creche/YMCA area), planning others (Entry and foyer refresh; Sunday school; Kitchen), but there are still others that are no more than rough concepts (Prayer room; Youngies room; Breakout room(s); Stage refresh etc).

Its not a small job and could take a few years to see through completely, but P.David would like to start a process of identifying a bit of a master plan for this work and see how it can be implemented.

Please come if you have ideas or would like to be involved.

# News & Testimonies



Shelter being built at Mango Station, Santo with materials provided by Canberra donations.

## Around the fellowship

### New pastors appointed in NSW

Graham Webster in Wagga and Craig Southwell in Goulburn have recently been appointed as pastors. They have been faithful servants of the Lord in their assemblies for many years and their appointment as pastors is a blessing to the whole church.

### News from Pastor Aquila in Labasa, Fiji

*Pastor Aquila told me they have about 200 on their books though some of the youth are in Suva for education etc. He said that the youth are a very good testimony to local young people. The tourism project is called tribewanted.com. They had an American visitor at the meeting recently from that project. (Noel Cavanagh)*

Once a month we have lunch together after the communion meeting and all the members bring a potluck to share together with our new folks who received the Holy Spirit and got baptised during the month. The scout hall is fully packed, and the chairs are not enough for the saints.

We now have 12 house meetings, with four small family type meetings in the outskirts of Labasa. Most of the members who received their healings are still going strong in the Lord. A bedridden couple in one of the villages near the town are both healed with the brother now a house leader in that area.

We now have a house meeting in one of the nearby islands called Vorovoro, with a tourism project started there one and half years ago. They are now bringing visitors to the meeting on Sundays. This brother is also a chief on that island. We are now preparing to host the Fiji national rally in August, as well as the Christmas Camp.

We now say MOCE MADA MAI LABASA, AND NAMASTE. GOD BLESS. Pastor Aquila (Fiji)

## Main events 2008

- Convention in Perth – June 6-8
- Whole assembly Pot luck dinner – June 14
- Soul Sistas Camp – 20-22 June
- Northern NSW kids camp – 4-6 July
- Mens weekend – August 1-3
- Fiji National Rally - Labasa
- NSW Rally Newcastle – Sept 13/14
- Teens camp – Sept 28 – Oct 4
- Kids camp – Oct 4- 9
- Howmans Gap camp – Oct 3-5
- Council meeting Oct 30 - NSW pastors Oct 31
- Canberra 50<sup>th</sup> – Nov 1 & 2
- Womens weekend – Nov 21-23
- Longbeach Christmas camp – Dec 27–Jan 3



Andy (Towi) & John working on one of the signs



Abu (grandfather) Pastor celebrated his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday after the Sunday meeting

# News & Testimonies

## A Taste of Heaven

Southside recently hosted a lovely fellowship and dessert night - A Taste of Heaven. Those that attended enjoyed the terrific ambiance created by the candles, fairy lights and live entertainment in our own 'Upper room' at the Southside hall.

We particularly enjoyed the 3-courses of spectacular desserts, lovingly prepared by some of our brethren who spent many hours during the preceding week in preparation. Thank you again for all those who helped, it was a great night! See the mouthwatering photo on p.2.

## Congratulations

- ❖ Congratulations to Julia Chere-Masopha who was baptised on Monday night at the Southside hall after the prayer meeting.
- ❖ Welcome to Mark Wilson, Mary-Anne (and daughter Zarina), Trish (and son Reuben) – Mary-Anne & Trish were baptised recently at Chandler St.
- ❖ Welcome to Noah Wood (see pic). Krista & Damien have been waiting a long time for this little blessing.
- ❖ Felicity Smith & Rachel Tibballs are travelling through USA and Europe catching up with the saints at their summer camps.
- ❖ Paul Wright is soon off to Prague to do a few units of his degree at the uni there.



## Vanuatu

Pr. Errol, Ldr. Benson and I visited Mango Station in Santo to encourage and strengthen the people and appoint Willie Rouvonne as the pastor.

Pr. Willie and his wife Mayla have a small fellowship of mostly extended family members, creating much discussion because of the clear salvation testimony and orderly church

practice, including the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

They have land in the village and are building a shelter and pastor's house with \$4,000 funds raised by donation in Canberra. **(Thanks to those who contributed).**

The village has always been Anglican and this is the first time another fellowship has been established. On our last trip it was a new thing for white people to stay in the village. For me it is basic that we stay with the people, but I did not realize how important that was for the people there.

We also visited Fanafo in the middle of the island where the government is building a hydro- electric power plant. Pr Willie took us to meet an old friend, Timothy. He was very excited to see us and I really enjoyed talking with him about the things of God. He received the Holy Spirit very quickly after we started to pray and has committed himself to our Fellowship.

He has been holding prayer meetings twice a week for local people and now plans to build a small shelter on his land for a fellowship. Pr. Willie will look after both places for the time being.

I am confident that in a couple of years time we will have a number of small fellowships scattered across the island.

After a couple of days back in Vila Ldr. Benson and I went to visit our assembly at Green Point in Tanna which is under the care of Pr. Jeffed Konapo since late 2005. This is a small but very strong assembly of largely extended family members with assemblies in other villages in the region.

The village leader Jimmy had left the fellowship due to a misunderstanding, and there was an important reconciliation between him and myself. He gave a very moving apology to me before God and the assembly that was a wonderful example of the way Christ would want us to resolve our differences.

**Our next project is to purchase water pipe and fittings to pipe water from a spring up in the hills to the village (young girls in the village have back problems from making many trips to the spring carrying heavy buckets and water bottles) and also for materials to allow Pr Jeffed to build and stock a small store to supply the village at Green Point and adjacent villages.**

**\$1200 will cover this project, and your donations are welcome at the 'Vanuatu table' (Southside) or else online or in the tithes bag – please identify as 'Green Point water pipe' The store will generate savings and small income for Pr Jeffed and the work of the Lord.**

I am confident that in time there will be more assemblies in Tanna but there are difficulties with access and communication and strongly entrenched "kastom" practices in many areas of people's lives that Christian churches in the last 100 years have not been able to effectively deal with.

I know that the simple and uncompromising message of salvation and way of life we preach will succeed. **Pr Bob**