

HeartBeat

2016 Summer School: a brief 'summery'

The theme of this year's BMi Summer School was visibly displayed in technicolour as conferees from BMi's motley family gathered together at House of the Rock Church, Gisborne. *The Church in Action* proved to be a very appropriate motto.

As has become legend, we were treated to warm and gracious hospitality by the hard-working team at John and Jenny Barnes' church, providing nourishment for the body and the soul. Terry Barnes—with a little help from his friends—provided creative times of engagement with God in worship and adoration throughout the week. The conference provided an opportunity to develop relationships with brothers and sisters from across BMi with all states and territories represented. The hard work carried out by the various speakers in preparation paid dividends as the Holy Spirit brought light to bear across a multitude of areas in church life. The impact was evident in the enthusiastic practicum sessions which sought to unpack and develop key themes addressed by the speakers. The week was capably anchored by Chris Whiting who displayed something of what it means to love God with our heart and our mind.

Plumbing the depths of the biblical doctrines of the Christian faith is what the Holy Spirit uses to create in us a passionate heart and inspire worship both in spirit and in truth. Well done, and thank you, to everyone who played a role. The church in action is something beautiful to watch—and the best thing is: God alone gets all the glory!

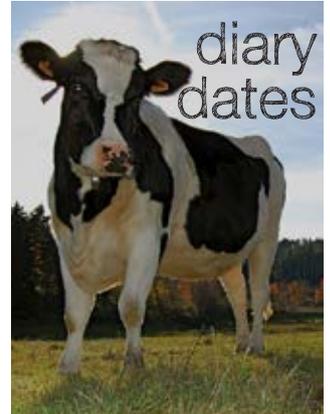
Phil Oster



Terry Barnes demonstrated some music theory



Nigel O'Reilley shared on 'The Church as Ministers of God's Grace'



30 May – 3 June

National Leaders
Gathering
Grindelwald, Tas

Sat 30 July

Victorian State
Gathering

Sat 3 Sept

South Australian
State Gathering

Sat 19 Nov

NSW/ACT State
Gathering



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Return to Bacolod

SouthernLife Church in Moruya sent a 'work team' to the Philippines in February 2016 to complete several projects that had been flagged on the previous trip in November 2015. Here are photos and reports from several of the team.

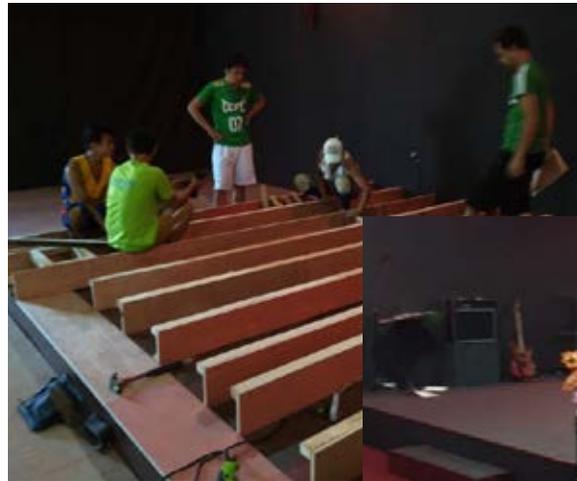


Top: Children in the mission area

AFTER BEING on our Philippines trip last February, Peter and I have seen for ourselves 'how the other half live'. It was confronting, especially going into the slum communities and wondering how they live every day in such poor conditions. What I focused on was the happiness of the families and children, despite their environment. The Filipino people have so much to teach us westerners on attitudes to life and our fellow-man — patience, respect, tolerance and contentment. The pastors at the BMI church in Bacolod, Joe and Primrose, live with their five children in a 25 square house, together with a few other boarders and the only bathroom facilities they had was a trickle of water in the basin — no working shower or toilet. They had to go over to the church and use the toilets there, which weren't functioning properly either. Peter, Gary and John were able to fix the toilets and their bathroom plus reinforce and carpet the floor and platform in the church. We also bought them a near-new multi-purpose vehicle while we were over there, with funds combined from three BMi churches in Australia. They were so thankful to God for His provisions and we left feeling satisfied that we had made their lives a little more comfortable.

Peter and Evangeline Smith

I AM VERY HAPPY that our part of the church on the earth is also part of BMi movement. Our recent trip to the Philippines really brought that home to me. I know that Bacolod is not Moruya. I know that Pastors Joe and Primrose are not Pastors Marty and Maudie. I know that the drummer



Left: Stage under construction

Below: Stage complete, with carpet!

Bottom: Handing over the 'new' Hyundai Grand Starex

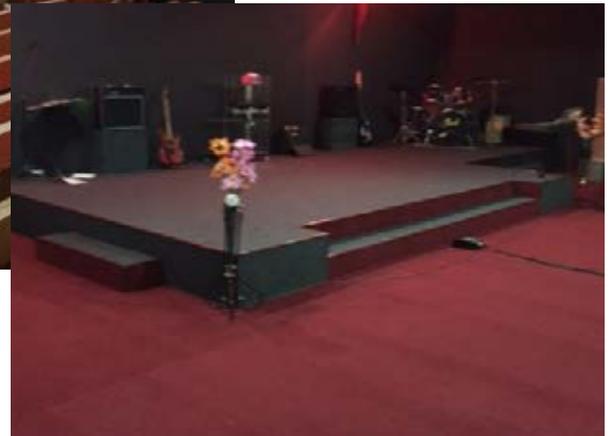
and keyboard player and guitarists and vocalists at City Harvest are not the drummer and keyboard player and guitarists and vocalists at Southern Life. I know that they practice on a Saturday night and we practice on a Wednesday night. I know that their discipleship groups meet in all different locations across a city and ours meet in houses across our small towns. I know that there's a real difference in housing and wealth for people in slum areas there and the living standards in Australia. I know that I would never get away with loading six people on a motorbike without helmets here, but that's pretty reasonable there.

So how come we felt so at home?

As Ps Peter Frogley would say, 'it's all about the relationships'. The main relationship, the one that really counts, is the one we have in Jesus.

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith ... there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, not is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26, 28



While there were visible differences, the things that count, sometimes invisible but nevertheless real, were all the same. The love of God in our hearts, His grace and forgiveness, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, our great joy in salvation, faith and abundant life. It was amazing to experience that and I am very thankful to God.

Also, Joe and Primrose and their wonderful congregation were extremely loving and welcoming and that made a world of difference. Our big, big thanks to them.

Jenny Nardusso

