

BMi News

impacting our nation and the nations

March 2010

DIARY DATES

APRIL

BMi Month of Prayer

JUNE 7-11

National Leadership Gathering

JULY 17

Tasmania State Gathering

SEPT 18

Victoria State Gathering

NOV 20

South Australia State Gathering

SCRIPTURE

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:18

QUOTABLE

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one often comes from a strong will, and the other from a strong won't.

Henry Ward Beecher

Something new

Welcome to 2010 and a wonderful New Year.

I really do like the start of new things and the challenge of them.

Recently I have been inundated with a couple of verses from Isaiah. It seems just about everyone has been coming to me with this scripture and sharing it as a word for the season. This one seems to get a regular airing around the New Year time.

However, none of that can take away the power of this verse nor the fact that the Father is wanting to say something to us. Don't fall into the contempt zone by the familiarity of the verse.

So here is the verse:

Do not remember the former things,
Nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I will do a new thing,
Now it shall spring forth;
Shall you not know it?
I will even make a road in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

Isa. 43:18–19 (NKJV)

It does seem like Isaiah is saying to position yourself for the new things that the Father is going to do. So often, the Father is waiting for us to do our part in order that He will do His. Sometimes a "Mexican Standoff" ensues because we simply will not make the move.

The important thing to remember is that new things come from Heaven and that the Father wants to do something new. People who have moved past the old, put aside the disappointments, the disillusionments and the failures and embraced HOPE again will begin to see something they have not seen before.

When a river comes to a desert, it is no longer a desert. When a road is built in a wilderness, it is no longer a wilderness.

Position yourself TODAY to receive from Heaven life-changing power to cause those things that just are not happening to begin to happen. The Father is waiting for you.

Mark Crawford

Website

The BMi website has a new look! Check it out at www.bmi.org.au

More content and a community section are coming soon!

The screenshot shows the BMi website homepage. At the top, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT US, CHURCHES, EVENTS, RESOURCES, BLOG, and CONTACT US. Below the navigation, there is a main banner with the text: "WE ARE A VIBRANT, PASSIONATE GROUP OF CHURCHES WHO LOVE GOD, LOVE LIFE AND LOVE EACH OTHER". To the right of the banner, there is a section titled "LOCATE A CHURCH NEAR YOU" with a globe icon and a link to "Click here to locate a church". Below the banner, there are several icons representing different website features: ABOUT US, PHOTO GALLERY, MUSIC, RESOURCES, and COMMUNITY. At the bottom of the page, there is a "WELCOME TO BETHESDA MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL" section with a paragraph of text and a photo of a group of people. To the right of this section, there is a "LATEST BMI NEWS" section with a date "2009-03-24" and a link to "Read more news". Below that, there is an "UPCOMING EVENTS" section with a calendar icon and a list of events: "Monday 7th June 2010 -- Friday 11th June 2010 National Leadership Gathering", "Saturday 17th July 2010 8th State Gathering for Tasmania", and "Saturday 18th September 2010 9th State Gathering for Victoria". A "View all events" link is at the bottom right of the events section.

New Covenant Church

Nowra, NSW

On October 22, 1997 Liz and I arrived in Nowra from Adelaide.

The church at Nowra had had an interim pastor for 6 months, but now we were “installed” and ready to go. Apart from a short honeymoon period (three months) the next 18 months saw a massive outgoing as several people still wanted to control the work. We were left with a wonderful remnant.

We still have a small church, but wonderful disciples.

Toolbox

Several years ago I was asked to teach the concordance and associated books at Moruya. I was and felt totally inadequate but it was an interest of mine. So out of that came “TOOLBOX”, a course of four two-hour sessions.

Based on the premise that people can generally read, what Toolbox does is to show them “how to get stuff” out of the word. It has proven to be an invaluable course. Several people have done it multiple times and have now gotten to a stage where they are able to teach the program (and have done so). This course has alleviated the need for Bible learning programs and has developed several strong word-based preachers.

Part of the program is not only to find out the Greek and Hebrew meanings but also to “get a word”, develop it, and then to preach or share it.

Building up the Body

It was about 1981 that a pastor in Bethesda (Adelaide) preached on Ephesians 4:11. I grasped the concept and for the ensuing period have tried to understand and “develop it to fit”. The church has been developed along these principles. There is still much work to do.

Our program is fairly light. We have a Sunday morning service and once a fortnight a praise/prayer night alternating with the opportunity for gathering. A recent delightful time was sitting down on the bank of the Shoalhaven River, under a huge tree, drinking and eating, and simply sharing our lives and expanding the Kingdom of God. A men’s night and a worship practice are each held every two weeks.

Our church is strongly relational and this is the mood of the meetings. We are still working on how to get a more “open” form of Sunday service so that greater

opportunity to express concepts and thoughts can be made. Sunday is seen as the main time to bring revelation, teaching and preaching.

As a church we have been fairly active in overseas work. We have been given or received ministry in the Philippines, Fiji, Singapore, and Samoa.



Pastors gathering at McDonald's in Samoa

God is fairly active and determined to change our character. It seems as though we are being somewhat changed ‘inside out’, scrubbed and then put back. For some unknown reason He seems to be picking on me and for the last year or so have gone “through it”. All is good though, and we (Liz and I) are in the process of getting ‘new’ parts. I thank all of those who have made contact with us and/or prayed for us.

The Morning is coming.

John Dickerson



Pastors John & Liz Dickerson

I have read Plato and Cicero sayings that are very wise and beautiful; but I never read in either of them: “Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give thee rest.”

St. Augustine

Emmanuel Christian Outreach

Strathalbyn, SA

In many ways, 2009 was a year of “creative tension” for us as we journeyed forward (warfared) in our vision to enlarge our regional impact for the Kingdom.

A dream to provide help and support to the needy in the local community was realized with the start of an op shop, New Directions Family Centre, in August. NDFC was initially subsidized by the church, but became self-supporting by January this year. There was fantastic input from our congregation and Greg and Annette Phillips were instrumental in helping us “kick off” with a generous donation of clothes. (Incidentally if you need clothes for a similar venture, just call in with a trailer and we’ll help out).

NDFC is also delivering surplus bread/buns etc from Bakers Delight to struggling families in the community and helps out with food parcels etc. as we become aware of them. The shop has been a great point of connection with the local community and is now well patronized. So far we have tithed to missions in Cambodia and look forward to the Lord’s blessing to see that tithe grow greatly.

Our heart for raising funds for missions also led us to research and set up “New Life Transfers”, a business arm of NDFC’s parent charity organization Country Life Community Care Inc. The aim is to provide new, good quality, attractive and affordable family garments along with other products (non-clothing) that add to a person’s sense of wellbeing and are visually edifying.

We’ve invested in heat transfer machinery and are currently selling mugs, hats and t-shirts as we

go up the learning curve on how it all works and get our act together to venture into the marketplace for the Kingdom. It’s catalyzed a new group of people including young people to team up to see the vision launched and a business plan is being framed as I

write. We would value your prayers for this faith ministry since it puts us before people and businesses who look for quality and value, which we aspire to deliver, building good relationships in the process and profits for the kingdom.

But the most amazing thing was totally unexpected—compliments of Prime Minister Rudd’s Building Education Revolution Grants scheme: about \$3.6 million has been received to construct an assembly hall at Murray Bridge College plus a full size gymnasium and new science laboratory at the Strathalbyn college... pure capital gain to the glory of God and for His Kingdom purposes.



New assembly hall at Murray Bridge Christian College

Also not on the radar screen when we began in 2009 was access to finance to complete the construction of a multi-purpose



New Life Transfers team (Pacquita, Robbie, Sally, Markus) with some of their products—check out Robbie’s hat!

building on the front of our property at Strathalbyn and to acquire two acres of land and the old Catholic manse across the road (the property only came on the market in June & as our accountant said “Catholics never sell land—it’s a miracle!”). So God is amazing in His gracious and abundant provision for the work of His Kingdom—it’s left us with a deep sense of privilege and awe at what the future may hold to require such resources. There’s a growing sense of excitement as we anticipate a new era of Kingdom growth and harvest to the glory of God

Be encouraged, my friends, you serve an awesome God with whom all things are possible. So dream God’s dream for your life, family and church: “What would you do for the glory for God if you knew you couldn’t fail?”

Have a go for God!!

Lew McMaster

River City Life Christian Church

Launceston, Tasmania

As we enter 2010, we at River City Life are believing for breakthroughs as we step out into more of God.

Our focus is more and more on team and we are excited at what the Lord is doing in regards to this as He brings people in and raises people up. We've had a great time over summer with many fellowship activities that have had a definite effect as our fellowship with one another goes deeper. We desire to go beyond doing the 'church' things to being a people of God who impact the community.

One great day was a beach day that coincided with two people, Jacque Penney and Nic Lunnon being baptised. It was great to share this day with them.

We are also busy planning our Focus Conference for 2010. This is on from 30 April to 2 May with Peter and Christine Christenson coming over from Western Australia. This conference has a 'Kingdom' focus and brochures are available from the church by e-mailing info@rivercitylife.org.au

the River City Life Church Family



The Sweet Boutique

Having done a Marketing Diploma last year a whole new world seems to have opened up for me. With a stirring within for the last six months to start my own business I took the plunge in early February and started "The Sweet Boutique".

The day after I made the decision to venture out a very generous lady said that the Father would definitely have me have the best Mixmaster around, a Kitchen Aid. Woohoo! This was such an encouragement and has already saved me lots of time. Luscious "homemade heaven" sweets such as cheesecake, pavlova etc are delivered to the local business houses if they would like a special morning tea of these luscious creations.

Starting out small has been the aim but I am pleased with what I see so far. I do what I have to do and I trust the Father for the rest.

Jenny Templeton



Marriage is in the air amongst our Administrative Officers

Pictured left is our current AO Melissa Janbergs (Ginninderra Christian Church, Canberra), whose whirlwind romance culminated in her marriage on 13 February to Nat Walker.

Breaking news is that our previous AO Olivia Wagner (right) has advised that after a romantic picnic in Adelaide's Botanic Gardens she is betrothed to David Busby (Almond Grove Family Church, Adelaide).



200 Florey Drive, Charnwood ACT 2615, Australia

Phone: +61 2 6259 3946

Fax: +61 2 6259 3945

E-mail: info@bmi.org.au

Website: www.bmi.org.au