

The local church is the pillar of truth to any community. The church has been commissioned by Jesus to preach the Kingdom of God to the whole world.

The Lord has given each one of us a commission to make a difference in our communities – to represent Him and minister to and serve them so that they can come to the knowledge of the truth in Christ Jesus. The Church of today can have many messages and themes and programs running in them. As I have been observing lately the focus has been on the apostolic/prophetic move, and everyone wants to be recognised as someone who is significant in the body of Christ.

These are all fine and great but the primary message Christ left the church is to preach His gospel to every creature. All that you require for this position is to know Jesus. He wants us to brag to everyone about how good He is and how He loves unconditionally. The world today is hurting and in pain and rebellion. Morality is disappearing fast from the lives of people. The answers that they are looking for are in your heart and in your life.

The church can live in a place of intimidation and fear – but none of these

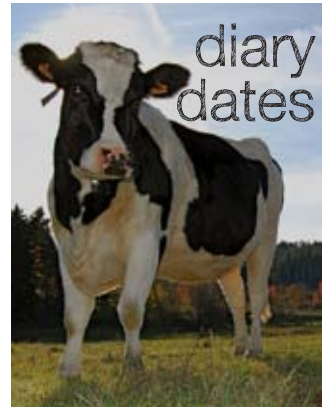
things are God given. Their source is Satan. God hasn't given us a spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind. It's time for the church, the pillar of truth to rise up (1 Tim 3:15).

If we were to take a course in sales the first thing they would teach us is that we have to believe in the product we are selling. All great salesman have been able to do this with great success. We have to believe that God can and will save souls today. There is no commission unless we submit to the primary mission – and that is to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. We have to believe the fields are white unto harvest and go and reap of them. The fields are outside the church – where we work, where we shop, where we play sport, everywhere is our mission field.

I wonder whether Jesus Himself would have been recognised if John the Baptist never heralded His coming. He has limited Himself to our obedience in sharing our faith. He has the grace to save everyone who believes, but how will they believe without a preacher? And how will they preach unless they are sent? Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Rom 10:14-17).

We have to be faith activators in the lives of those around us.

*Greg Phillips*



**6–10 June 2011**

National Leaders Gathering, Coffs Harbour (featuring International Leaders)

**23 July 2011**

Victoria State Gathering

**15 October 2011**

South Australia State Gathering



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# around the churches

## **Almond Grove Family Church, Adelaide SA**

Since AGFC's 25th Anniversary in September last year, they've had David and Liv's wedding of the century in November and of course the arrival of Elskien from Canberra at the start of 2011.

After discovering they have some great talent in their congregation and re-equipping the church kitchen, plans are afoot to launch in July a community cooking class called 'Fantastic Family Food'. AGFC are planning to use these nights to showcase budget-friendly, time-friendly, kid-friendly and nutritious meals. On their pilot nights they've had full recipe demonstrations, competitions and a whole lot of cooking fun.

One plan for the future of the class is to focus on the particular needs of those many dads who are raising their kids alone, offering encouragement and practical help in preparing quick easy meals for their family.

It's not only a fun evening, it's a great way to serve the community and get people exposed to the church!

## **Mount Gambier Christian Centre, Mount Gambier SA**

Recently MGCC put on their fourth 'Old Time Music Night', raising funds for Vanuatu. Neville Telford rounded up the old style musicians for a concert featuring bagpipes, violins, piano accordion and a wide assortment of eclectic instruments. Around 100 people from the church and community attended the event.

They're also looking to install a new roof on the church so the girls have been busily making apple pies to help raise funds.

## **Tamar Valley Christian Church, Exeter Tas**

Kevin Donohue is about to return from his yearly pilgrimage to the Philippines, connecting with Joe Chavez's BMI churches in Bacolod and other regional areas. Kevin was accompanied by Andrew Goelst, Wayne and Pat Blazeley and their 10 year old grandson, and all reports indicate it's been another valuable time of serving the international churches. The team has been participating in renewing wedding vows, the MPFG student graduation, mother's day service and other church services, plus the three day 'Kingdom Builders' camp. God is good and all is well, even after a typhoon hit their campsite and blew the tents away!

## **SouthernLife Church, Moruya NSW**

Pastors Marty and Maureen Woodward have recently returned from participating in Targa Tasmania, where Marty is the race chaplain (when he's not belting through the Tasmanian countryside in a souped up Ford Mustang).

Race chaplaincy at Targa is opening up several doors for Marty in other events across Australia and giving some excellent opportunities to share the gospel.

A particular prayer point for Marty is his tinnitus, which manifests as a quiet but constant ringing in his ears and makes everyday tasks like sleeping or quiet thinking very difficult. Please pray that God's



healing hand would be upon Marty and indeed his blessing would be on the whole church at Moruya.

## **New Covenant Church, Nowra NSW**

Peter Vacca is visiting the South Coast of NSW on 13-17 May, and it sounds like he'll be busy! He'll be participating in a leaders meeting, two Sunday services, mens meeting on Monday evening and praise and worship on Tuesday night.

Pastor John Dickerson is expecting PV to move in the miraculous, words of knowledge and the prophetic. His visit has been preceded by some excellent prayer meetings — prayer with expectation.

John has asked the church members to be 'suckers', because as they suck everything they can from Pastor Peter, he will draw even more from the Lord and will be a great blessing to those present.

NCC have also recently welcomed David and Jane Cairns from Launceston, plus another family of four from the local community.

## **Bethesda Christian Centre, Adelaide**

Bethesda Christian Centre have started a new Church plant in Woodcroft, a southern suburb of Adelaide. Friday the 13th of May seemed to be a great date to start and they are having it on Friday nights at the Woodcroft Community Centre.

The first night went well in the brand new facility, with a great time of worship, and the prophetic messages that came forth gave confirmation in what they are doing and that it was God's timing.

They had ten people for a start and are believing for great things in God for the future.

# Sometimes Trivia isn't Trivial



On 7 May Ginninderra Christian Church held a 70s/80s bad taste trivia night, attended by around 90 people. **Susanna Arnold** reports.

After waiting for almost 730 (!!) sleeps it was finally time for another of our great GCC trivia nights. As usual our family got wholeheartedly behind this — although for some of us it took some thinking and planning to adhere to the dress code of 80s/bad taste!

We love this church activity not just for our own sake but also as an excellent outreach tool to invite (often non-churchgoing) friends and neighbours. In fact, our trivia night has become such a favourite with our next-door neighbours that they would be offended if we didn't invite them to it! This year we also invited several members of the Austrian-Australian choir.

Well, did Phil & John do an amazing job, or what??? According to our neighbours, this was the best trivia night so far! And our choir friends commented that they enjoyed the night tremendously, had lots of fun and can we please invite them again the next time we have one. One of the guests is a regular trivia night attendee and he commented that our trivia night was the best one he had ever been to! They all enjoyed the fun atmosphere and the interaction between the generations — many other trivia nights are intense and competitive but they enjoy the balance that we have in our night.

At this point I should mention the special child guest star we had on our table for the 'Just for Kids' round. Andy Garrard was a great hit with our table — and got us lots of points as well. Don't anyone dare pinch him for their table next year!



The questions were once again varied and interesting with the categories ranging from your standard History and Geography to things like 'Flags of the World' and a bonus round called 'Ditloids' (cryptic puzzles with letters and numbers). And many of them caused some interesting discussions on our table. Would YOU know Al Capone's nickname? Or how old Moses was when he died?

The Bible round was conducted in complete silence, with points taken off for making noise. Our table got in trouble for giggling when a team member wrote 'Gilligan's Island?' for the place where Paul got shipwrecked.

The eight teams did well and even the youth tables provided some stiff competition this year — almost as stiff as the hair spray in their hair! Our team was ahead until the 'Gladiator' round. Gladiator was loosely based on 'hot seat' and gave an edge to the teams who weren't scoring well, as the questions got harder for the higher ranked teams. Unfortunately for our team by the time play got to us the questions were so hard we could only score a few points, and the leader board was really shaken up.

So the final result saw the 'Chicago Mullets' (aka Brian's table) pip everyone else to the post. The final round included some good sportsmanship as well, which once again was a testimony to our visitors.

So, thank you Phil and John and Margaret (who helped supply the questions) — your work is much appreciated. And hopefully many more church members get the opportunity to enjoy another trivia night in the near future!

*Susanna Arnold,  
Ginninderra Christian Church*

# Take up your Cross and follow each other

Jesus told us to take up our cross and follow Him. This standard Christian practice was altered slightly by the saints at Open Door when on Good Friday this year we joined with several other churches in the Cheltenham area for an annual march of witness.



By God's grace our meeting place is located midst five other churches, all within walking distance. So for the last many years the folk from the local churches proceed from Open Door, across the road to the Cheltenham Uniting Church, then to the Presbyterian Church, the Anglican Church and finally to the Catholic Church. We stop at each church for a scripture reading, prayer and a time of singing. Most years we start with a

crowd of about 100 and by the time we collect the church members at each new location, as they join us from their Good Friday services, we are at about 400 by journey's end.

Attendance at these marches saw a particular boost in 2008 after the tragedy of the Victorian bushfires and has been increasing each year since. It is always gratifying when able to join with others to make a strong witness

as to the centrality of the Cross on such a solemn day as Good Friday. It is particularly pleasing to observe how the task of carrying the cross at the front of the march is shared around amongst members from each church. We are called to follow Jesus, but there are times when it is good to follow each other!

*Chris Whiting  
Open Door Christian Church, Melbourne*

# Teaching science in Kenya

Last edition we heard about the new Bethesda Girls High School started by Bishop Julius Wafula Macheusi and the BMi team in East Africa. Work has begun on their science lab as Bishop Julius tells us below.



Constructing the laboratory



Inside view

The laboratory in a high school is very important for students especially for the practicals.

As for now by God's grace we have managed to raise up the walls and the roof, but we are running short of about \$2,000 for iron-sheets, windows, and a door.

God has given me the heart to educate the girl child for leadership positions in future and I am looking for this much needed support to finish the laboratory.

We are at now having enough infrastructure which may help us, whenever we will have seminars and conferences. However, the most important for students is the laboratory.

We love each other and we need each other, we are in a coalition, for the glory of God.

Thank you for standing with us over the years. God bless you.

*Bishop Julius Wafula Macheusi*



Students in front of the laboratory

# God is with us in Strathalbyn

At Emmanuel Christian Outreach in Strathalbyn, SA, Pastors Lew and Heather McMaster and the team have been very busy lately, as Lew reports.

## Community Centre

The construction of our two-storey community centre at Strathalbyn is nearly complete and this Sunday we have our first service in the ground floor Play Cafe while we await completion of the auditorium upstairs.

I must say we feel very much like the children of Israel who are after years of wandering in the wilderness (25 in our case) finally settled into their 'home' — their promised land.

We've been greatly blessed in the project with some incredibly generous gifts of time and expertise by tradespeople and volunteers. For example, all skirting, door jambs, doors, carpentry and joinery have been provided free of labour costs by a tradesman from Murray Bridge. And the actual coordination of all trades and supervision work to schedule/complete the internals of the building and external site works has also been provided free-of-charge by a qualified tradesperson in our congregation. The Lord has blessed us with great favour for which we are deeply grateful and encouraged.

## Mainly Music

This week also saw the start of our 'Mainly Music' program to serve the local community. It was well attended by young mums and their 'ankle biters'. It is the first program we have offered directly into the community as a church for many years and after months of preparation and practice Paquita Wise and her team were excited and encouraged by the positive response and feedback from the



community. I have a sense it's going to reach full capacity very quickly, and thoroughly recommend it to other churches if there is not one going in your town or community. Mainly Music is a wonderful outreach opportunity for young families, and it's also great fun.

## Decade of Destiny

Last Friday night we launched with our leaders the idea of forming a 'Decade of Destiny' working party to help guide our church and congregation to transition into the future within a 10 year timeframe.

The role of the working party is 'considering the history of ECO, to prayerfully research current church activities, resources and governance in order to resolve a plan to transition the ministry of the church into a functional form which will better fulfil the Common Purpose Statement (CPS) in our regional community in the foreseeable future and recommend a schedule of action steps to implement that plan.'

It's a bit of a mouthful, but basically it is a commitment to systematically and prayerfully find God's 'Tree of Life' for the future of our church. I think it's going to be a time of growth and change for all of us as we take the journey together.

*Lew McMaster  
Emmanuel Christian Outreach*

got something  
to contribute to  
HeartBeat?

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