

COUNCIL NEWSLETTER NO. 13

OCTOBER, 2007

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this edition of the council Newsletter.

The old saying has it “something old, something new”. Well, we’ve got both for you here.

We start off with some strange “new” fellowships around the world: Liberia, Surinam and Santo, as well as further exciting developments in Brazil. Then there’s an item from Africa of a visit to our new works that are just settling in: Zambia, Cameroon and Congo.

From there we take you to the 25th Anniversary celebrations of our PNG fellowship – well, hardly ‘old’, but certainly well-established compared with the brand-new assemblies above.

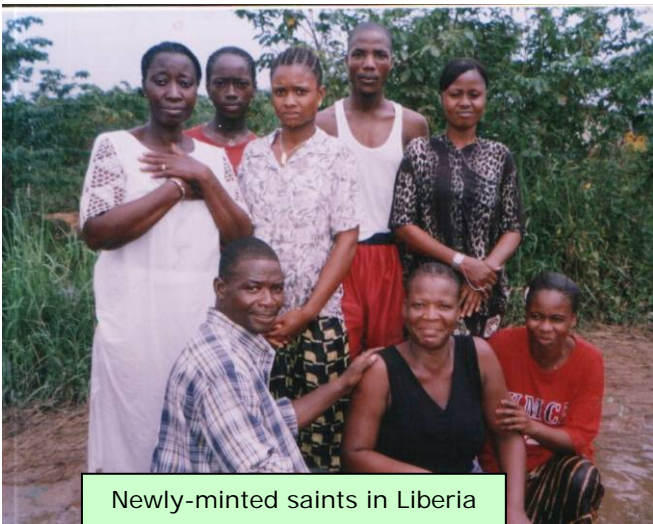
We conclude this edition with a round-up of other news from around the world.

We trust you enjoy reading of the blessings of the Lord Jesus throughout your Church.

LIBERIA

Leader Wellington of our African Ivory Coast assembly needed to visit his home in Liberia earlier this year for a family matter. This turned out a little differently to how he planned. He was robbed and left stranded in this frontier country, which until recently was in the midst of a terrifying civil war. But “*all things work together for good.*” His stay ended up much longer than anticipated, and resulted in quite a number of people being baptised in the capital, Monrovia. Praise the Lord.

Wellington has just returned to Ivory Coast leaving his brother Augustine in charge. The baptisms have continued in the fledgling group. Please pray for their continued steady growth.



Newly-minted saints in Liberia



Leader Wellington baptising in Liberia

SURINAM

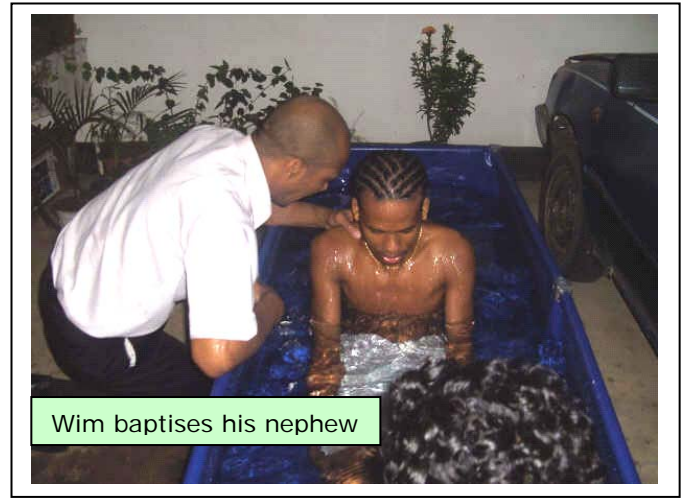
Q: Where or what is Surinam?

A: It’s a former Dutch colony, just to the north of Brazil, in South America.

More importantly, it's also a place where some revival has been taking place. Brother Wim Halfhide from Holland has just returned home after a visit to his former homeland and ended up baptising 9 people. Praise the Lord.

The background to the story demonstrates the hand of God

Wim hadn't heard from his sister in Surinam for many years. It turns out that she was praying to God to show her the purpose of life. Wim phoned her shortly afterwards without knowing this. They ended up praying together over a phone link and she received the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. As a result, she invited him over to baptise her. When Wim got to Surinam she had a number of others lined up as well - with the result that altogether 9 were baptised and all received the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord. (The Dutch saints plan a follow-up visit at the end of January, 2008.)



SANTO

Pastor Bob Beverley reports on a successful outreach over on Espiritu Santo Island in Vanuatu (known locally as simply "Santo") last month. Apart from all the preaching, the brethren found it extremely uplifting to lay hands on the sick in hospitals and in the villages. Everyone seemed to want to be prayed for and no-one wanted to be left out. The visitors saw quite a number of healings, and were delighted to see one woman even come over to their village in Santo to testify of her miracle cure.

We have not previously had an assembly on Santo, but the recent effort resulted in a handful of folk being baptised and receiving the Holy Spirit, thus forming the nucleus, we pray, of a new assembly. Praise the Lord.



BRAZIL

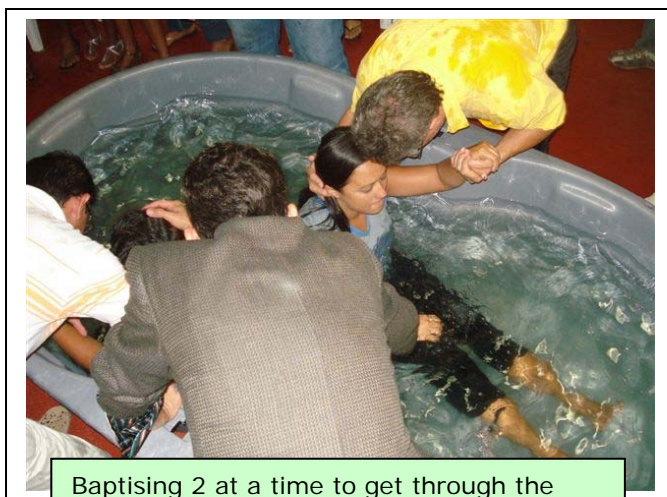
In July's Newsletter we brought you wonderful news of revival in Fortaleza, Brazil. The revival there has continued unabated, including several local Town Councils inviting Pastor Esteves to bring his meeting out to their suburbs. There have been some great results. (See photos below of a meeting 4 weeks ago - 30th September - where 52 folk were baptised.)

At last Sunday week's meeting a notable miracle took place. Brother Eduardo prayed for a lame lady suffering with a paralysed left leg (from thrombosis). "As I was praying for her, there in front of my eyes, she started walking!" explained Eduardo. She was healed there in the prayer line. She and another 31 people were baptised the same day, all receiving the Holy Spirit with the sign of speaking in tongues.

The main meeting in Fortaleza is now overflowing to the point where despite cramming 400 seats into the small hall, and asking another 100 members to stand up around the walls, several hundred must now congregate outside, around the doors on the pavement and in the street to listen. The meeting now exceeds 900 people. The police have complained to Pastor Esteves that his meetings are disrupting traffic around the hall and he will need to move to other premises. Praise the Lord – an interesting problem to have!



52 eventually lined up for baptism at a recent meeting (30 Sept 2007)



Baptising 2 at a time to get through the candidates. All 52 received the Holy Spirit.

AFRICA

A report from the Editor, Pastor Kevin Quirk, on his trip to our African assemblies in August and September.

"It's not often you get to go to Africa, but I had the privilege of visiting 5 of the 7 African countries where we have assemblies last month with my son Travis and Pastor Ron Carslake from South Africa (see the 5 countries below). It's an eye-opener to see what the Lord is doing in some of these countries in the developing world. Apart from South Africa, the rest of the continent is pretty rough by Western standards and much of it racked by poverty and social problems. According to a recent U.N. report, Africa has 13% of the world's population, but over 65% of its AIDS cases. (You see families everywhere that have taken in AIDS orphans). Nonetheless, the saints are great. They appeared happy, friendly and most welcoming wherever we went. They have a strong sense of isolation – particularly the French-speaking centres - but they truly appreciate being part of the Revival Fellowship. They wished to be remembered to you wherever you are and ask that you pray for their growth in the Lord.

Kenya

There are now 52 Kenyan centres. They hold their National Rally each August so I planned my trip to coincide with that. The Rally was in Kibwezi, a country town roughly in the centre of where our assemblies are located. About 300 folk gathered from around Kenya. This is only a fraction of the total Fellowship, but travelling costs are prohibitive for many of our folk. We had a great time of meetings and fellowship over the weekend, including special sessions for Sunday School-aged children, Young People and married folk. The singing in Kenya, in fact throughout the African assemblies, is fantastic. Kenya's senior pastor, Sammy Mwanzia, interpreted to us what each song was saying.

Most of the country's 16 pastors made it to the Rally with their wives, along with many of the other officers and elders. A couple of games of "Revival Rules" soccer and volleyball capped off a great weekend.



Kenyan National Rally



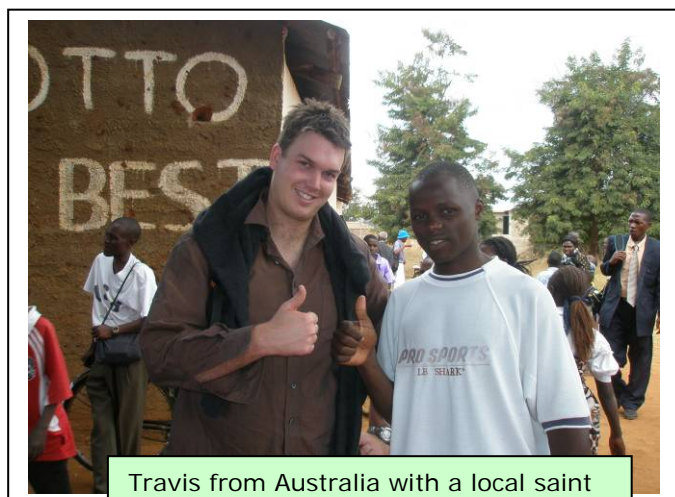
Pastor John of Machakos assembly and his fiancée Josephine



Saints relaxing between sessions



Pastors and wives



Travis from Australia with a local saint



Young People's meeting

Cameroon

We have one assembly in the large, crowded, commercial port city of Douala. Brother Alain Artus of France evangelised here only 2 years ago (the country is French speaking) and he came down to help us. The fledgling assembly is very enthusiastic and active in evangelising. It was a bit tough having to do everything in school-boy French, but the joy of meeting saints in this far-flung outpost outweighed the inconvenience. We got out witnessing around the local slums, and it was very easy to talk to people and see them turn up at that night's meeting. In the few days we were there we had 6 people baptised and all filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues. The Cameroonians want to be remembered to you all and ask that you pray for them.



Douala assembly Leader George and his wife Nahi



Pastor Ron and Travis with the hall in the background



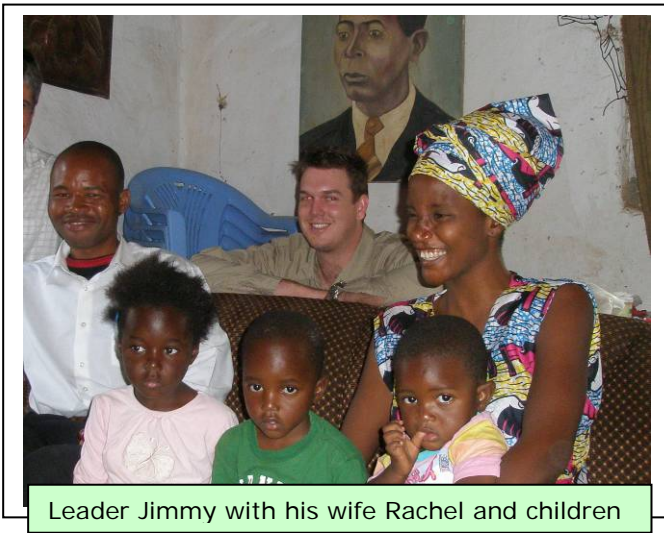
Some of the local saints



A meeting in full swing

Democratic Republic of Congo (yes, there's another Congo... a smaller one)

Again, this is a French-speaking country and we have one assembly in the sprawling southern city of Lubumbashi. The country is still pretty edgy after its civil war and there was an outbreak of Ebola virus while we were there (!) Leader Jimmy battles on despite all this, the poverty in the community and pressures from Pentecostal congregations nearby. It was great to see the little "hall" they have constructed out of timber and plastic sheeting with the help of a donation from Adelaide assembly. The plastic child's wading pool that Jimmy had been used for baptisms had obviously worn out: it has been cut up and now colourfully decorates the front of the hall! The hall itself has no electricity so two ladies praying for the Holy Spirit after one meeting did so in the dark (others sought by candle-light). It's amazing the conveniences we take for granted in the West.



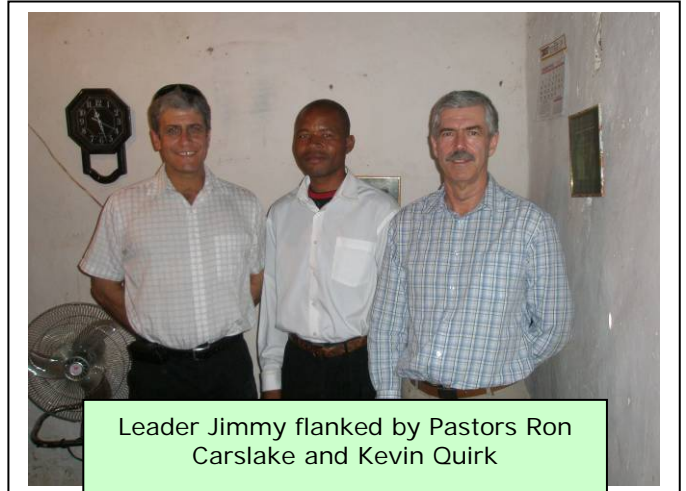
Leader Jimmy with his wife Rachel and children



The new "hall"



A meeting in full swing



Leader Jimmy flanked by Pastors Ron Carslake and Kevin Quirk

Zambia

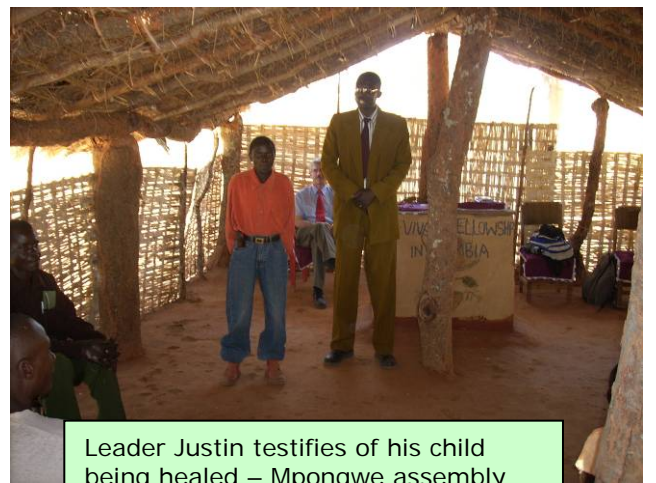
The pace of revival in Zambia has been amazing. In less than 3 years this Fellowship has grown from zero to 22 centres, spread across several hundred kilometres of the Copperbelt and North-Western Provinces. As with most other African nations, the people are generally ready to listen to the Word of God. And as with most of Africa, there are plenty of both nominally-Christian, and Pentecostal, churches there, but the folk who have come to the Revival Fellowship are pleased to have found a down-to-earth, Bible-based church, centred on the infilling of the Holy Spirit and the miracles that follow. Getting baptised isn't easy: often they must walk several kilometres to a spot where there is sufficient water to baptise by immersion. Pastor Eddie tells of baptising 3 candidates in a tributary to the mighty Zambezi River, with Pastor Millan up on the bank keeping a keen eye out for crocodiles! But it's worth it. And, of course, all members describe how they were filled with the Holy Spirit with the sign of speaking in tongues. There are many testimonies of healing as well.

Leader Justin (photo below right) of the tiny village assembly at Mpongwe gave a moving testimony of waking in the middle of the night to find his young child had passed out unconscious, and then apparently died. His wife was greatly distressed, but being far from any help, all they could do was pray. They prayed on for several hours until suddenly at around 4.30am the child came back to life. They were overjoyed. Praise the Lord.

We managed to get to 4 assemblies that represented the spread of our Fellowship in Zambia. Pastor Eddie, the senior pastor and a former journalist with the Zambian national broadcaster (sound familiar?) has devoted himself to caring for the fledgling work. His 700km round trip to minister to new, small assemblies has often left him on the side of the road for an entire day waiting for a lift. On one occasion he had to strap himself on top of a truckload of fertilizer bags to stop from falling off during a dozy, night trip. As you might imagine the donation by the Mission Fund of a new motorbike just recently is most appreciated. His offsider, Pastor Millan, located towards the Western end of the arc of assemblies, in Solwezi, is also in need of transport. We are looking at buying him something shortly.



The senior Pastor in Zambia, Eddie, atop the motorbike recently donated by western assemblies. He is most grateful for this practical help.



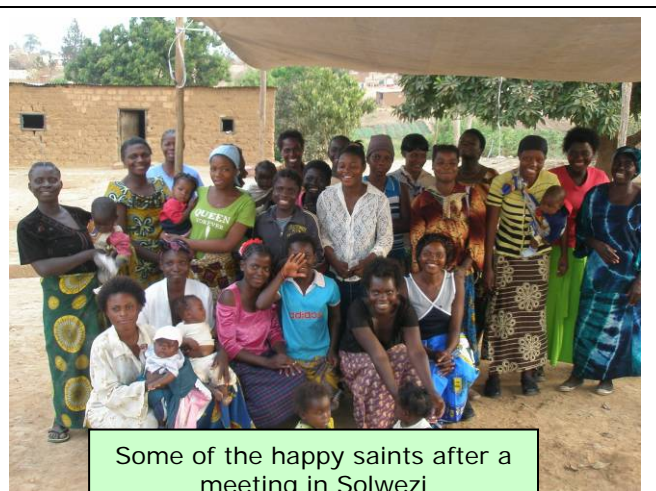
Leader Justin testifies of his child being healed – Mpongwe assembly



Solwezi assembly- local evangelists



Pastor Millan, his wife Stephania and children – Solwezi



Some of the happy saints after a meeting in Solwezi



One of 5 baptisms after a meeting in Kitwe



A meeting in Kitwe conducted in one of the sister's backyards



Meeting in full swing in the home-made thatch hall at Mpongwe.



The Chipulukusu assembly meets in a local school room. We had 4 baptisms.

South Africa

It was great to get to the assembly in Cape Town - after hearing about it for so many years. We managed to get to a midweek house-meeting, a French-speaking house-meeting (run mainly for the refugee Congolese saints), a Young Peoples' meeting, a Saturday morning street outreach, as well as the Sunday meetings.

They are a great bunch who wish to be remembered to all the saints elsewhere.



Sunday meeting – Cape Town



Pastor Ron with some of his elders and helpers

CONGRATULATIONS TO PNG FELLOWSHIP ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Following are excerpts from a report from Pastor Joe Abel on the Anniversary celebrations held in Lumi, PNG, over the long weekend of 22nd-24th September, last month.

“The Revival Centres of PNG began on 1 September 1982 when 9 people (8 men and one woman) were baptised in the village of Karaite. They were baptized following the miraculous healing of Pastor Godfrey Wippon’s mother.

Karaite village is also known as ‘Weli Lato.’ This name comes from a traditional legend. As the story goes, fire was first introduced to people in PNG at Karaite in the Lumi district, who used it to cook food. From here the fire spread to the East, West, North and South to all parts of PNG.

The five older men who were baptized on the 1st Sep 1982 knew the story of Weli Lato very well. When they witnessed this ‘fire’ beginning to spread they saw some additional significance in their ‘Baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire’.

Now, 25 years later, the church is established in every province in PNG. These five brothers are now asleep in the Lord as is Pastor Godfrey’s mother who enjoyed a blessed 10 years after she was healed.

The spiritual parallel of the Weli Lato legend has unfolded before our eyes. With approximately 50,000 saints in over 800 assemblies in PNG and Bougainville, we are witnessing one of the greatest Revivals in modern history.

This is indeed a **true** revival with each member of the fellowship being baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit with the Bible evidence of speaking in other tongues, coming out of their religions (‘Christian’ and traditional) and being separate, having their lives changed within and without.

During the celebrations Pastor Godfrey spoke passionately (at times, tearfully) about the fellowship. As well as the healings and blessings he spoke of persecution, hard work, resistance and rebellion he and the church had suffered during the last 25 years. He urged the leaders and people to stand up strong and resist pressure to compromise to safeguard the church for the next 25 years (should the Lord tarry) for our children and their children.

He spoke about the foundations upon which the church was built and the need to *‘earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints’* (Jude 3).

Our Trip from Wewak to Lumi

Due to an unexpected price increase, we were forced to cancel our charter flight and make the journey by road. We could not find any hire vehicles because every truck and 4WD vehicle in Wewak had been hired by the many saints who were making the trek to Lumi. Thousands of PNG brethren arrived in Wewak and were transported from there in the back of trucks. By the afternoon we had an open one-tonner for our luggage and a 4WD Land Cruiser which could take half our group. Pastor Godfrey took us to meet a sister who, just 2 hours earlier, had taken delivery of a brand new Toyota 4WD Land Cruiser which had just 47km on the clock. Without hesitation, she offered the vehicle to us without charge.

Our trip from Wewak to Lumi was very memorable. At around 3:00 am, after a gruelling all night drive over rough roads, dodgy bridges, mud holes and river crossings we were stranded 5 km from our destination when one of the vehicles slipped off the narrow planks and became wedged in the metal frame-work of the bridge.

We were so pleased to reach our accommodation at daybreak, which was in a couple of run down huts (part of a technical college built some decades ago). There was no running water or electricity. In our cabin there were only two beds with old bare foam mattresses and a toilet which had to be flushed by bucketing water into the cistern. The shower floor had rusted out (but there was no running water anyway).

After a good sleep we were ready to take part in the celebrations.



Just some of the many thousands of saints marching from Central Lumi

Opening day

On the opening day most of the brethren gathered on a field in Central Lumi near the airstrip. It was a breathtaking sight as each region assembled in ranks dressed in distinctive colours with flags and banners identifying their region. Saints had come from far and wide including representatives from Bougainville and the New Guinea Islands.

We marched from Central Lumi to Lumi High School, singing choruses as we went. It was an amazing sight to behold as we looked back and saw this army of God's people winding down the hill for several kilometres.

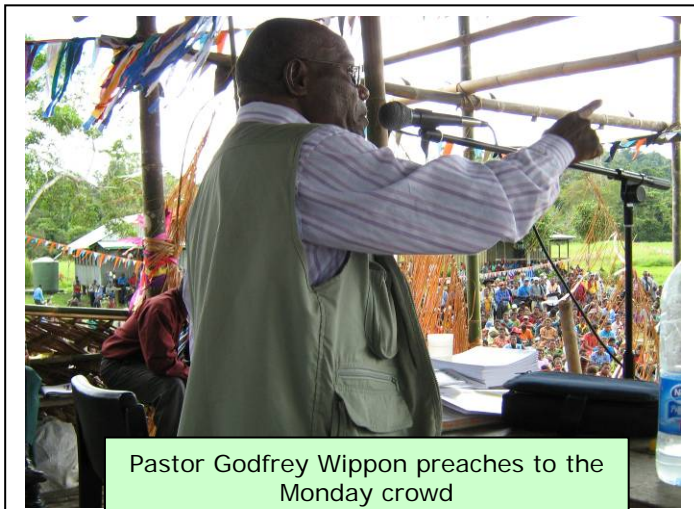
Miracles and Healings

We witnessed miracles and healings as hundreds were Spirit-filled, the lame walked and the dumb spoke. During the celebrations a total of 310 people were baptized. There were wonderful testimonies from those who had received the Holy Spirit minutes before - as well as some from well established brethren.

After the Celebrations 7 new centres were established: 4 in the Lumi district and 3 in the neighbouring Nuku district.

Final Comment from Pastor Godfrey

'In most assemblies our halls are full and need extensions. It has been a blessed occasion for the whole church in PNG. Outsiders are talking about our presence here in the two Sepik provinces. We had a big story in the newspaper as well. Many read it and were highly impressed. Australian Brethren: thank you for all your support in cash, kind and prayers.' "



Pastor Godfrey Wippon preaches to the Monday crowd



Brother Kevin Aputi (first member healed of AIDS in PNG in 1999). Our PNG church affirms over 200 folk have now been healed of this disease.



This lady had never spoken: she was healed and "over the moon".



Baptism queue - 310 were baptised over the week.

WORLD ROUND-UP

HOLLAND

We hear from Pastor Pieter Visser in Holland that their new assembly in Almere continues to grow, with 26 locals in regular fellowship. Praise the Lord.



DUBLIN

Pastor Pieter Visser was over in Ireland recently and sent us back these snaps. "They're a happy assembly with some very dedicated saints," he tells us. [They look a little like the cat that got the canary! - Ed.]



MELBOURNE

Report from Pastor Darryl Williams of Melbourne assembly:

"The Melbourne assembly hosted the annual Victorian and Tasmanian Regional Convention with the theme "In Hope of Eternal Life" on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th October at its regular venue in Balwyn.

The region was well represented with visitors from Hobart, Launceston, Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Warrnambool. Other visitors came from South Australia and New South Wales including pastors John Kuhlmann, Paul Nobel, Greg Drage and Mark Hall.

The theme from Titus 1:2, *"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began"*, provided a wealth of terrific encouragement and confirmation of what an amazing and certain future hope we have in the Lord.

The well-balanced program kept the talks, testimonies, musical items and fellowship flowing, making it a very enjoyable and edifying weekend. It also included a man, who came along from recent outreaching in the Dandenong area, being baptised on Saturday evening.



AUCKLAND

Report from Pastor Wayne Edwards of Auckland assembly:

"Over the weekend of 29th and 30th September, Auckland Revival Fellowship hosted the biannual New Zealand Convention. The theme was 'Are You Ready?'"

The weekend was based on the format of 2 weekdays of outreaching, a Saturday morning outreach, Saturday afternoon and evening Rallies, followed by a Sunday afternoon communion meeting and evening Rally. All up there were 10 visitors from overseas assemblies and 70 from the other 4 fellowships around NZ.

We had 12 new people visit the Rally which was held on the Northshore district of Auckland in a newly built school hall. We are now busy with follow-ups and have had some young people attend further meetings since.

There were some wonderful short talks, items, testimonies and great fellowship, and, by the time morning tea on Monday came round, we were all exhausted, but topped up in the Spirit. Pastor Jock Duncan hosted a Pastors' meeting on the Sunday morning and brought greetings from the Council and gave a summary of the work around the world at the Sunday Communion meeting. It was agreed to have the next Rally in New Plymouth in 2 years time and to hold it over the October Labour Day Long Weekend. So start saving!"



PERTH

The Western Australian assemblies held their “Next Generation” camp for children in the 9-13 year old age bracket followed immediately by the popular Spring Camp over the October school holidays. Apart from all the fun and learning in the Lord, 8 children were filled the Holy Spirit and later baptised. Praise the Lord.



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