



No. 14
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest issue of the Council Newsletter.

We start off with an item on the recent Australian appeal to help our Mission assemblies. From there we go on to news from outposts far and wide: Brazil, Kenya, USA, Bali, Thailand, Adelaide and New Zealand.

The Christmas holiday season provides a great opportunity to get away from it all and spend some time in fellowship with the brothers and sisters in Christ. All over the world assemblies organise “Christmas”, “Winter” or “Summer” camps at the end of December. The final section of our Newsletter brings you photos and a few reports from many of these camps. The Psalmist reminds us, *“How good and how pleasant it is for the brethren to dwell together in unity.”* We enjoy a truly wonderful life united in the Lord.

CHRISTMAS CAMP MISSION FUND APPEAL

Special requests for help regularly come in from our brethren in the mission areas. We decided to have an appeal at the various Australian Christmas Camps to kick start the Mission Fund for 2008. Some conducted Mission Fund auctions; others ran tuck shops and stalls, while others simply took up a special collection.

We are pleased to report that, so far, about A\$30 000 was raised directly through this avenue! Praise the Lord.

On behalf of all the brethren in those poorer countries, the Council extends its thanks to those who contributed. Well done to all!



An auction in full swing at one of the camps.

Items donated at this camp included everything from home-made jams to a yacht!

BRAZIL

After their hall in the slums of Fortaleza collapsed last year, the saints got stuck in and rebuilt it, taking the opportunity to expand it while they were at it. The opening of the new hall was considered quite an event by the locals and attracted a big crowd (see picture on right). Pastor Esteves is shown on the left cutting the ribbon at the official opening. Congratulations to our Brazilian brethren!



The Brazilians are also feverishly working on the next section of their hall at Gadelha, out in the countryside. They received a grant of land in the town, and had completed a small part of the building. However, it appears a new City Hall official is opposed to our efforts in this highly Catholic country, and has threatened that the City will resume the land, should the rest of the building not be completed “immediately”. Sufficient funds were raised in the above Appeal to fund this need. Praise the Lord.

KENYA

Many of you will have seen the riots in Kenya over the past month or so, leaving over 250 000 citizens displaced and many hundreds dead. Although the situation is still confused, so far, it seems our saints are not badly affected. Ps Sammy Mwanzia is over in Burundi evangelising some folk who want to know more about our way, but his wife, Christine sent the following text message in his absence:

“Jumbo pastor... We’re very fine. The political violence has only affected our businesses (because the prices are shooting up day and night). The Lord will take care (of us). Pastor Sammy is in Burundi. Say ‘jumbo’ to all.” [NB Jumbo is Swahili for “hello” - Ed.]

We have 51 centres in the country, but most are away from the worst of the clashes. Nonetheless, please pray for Kenya’s stability so the gospel may continue to flourish.

Pastor Sammy of Kenya and his wife Christine



USA

The saints in the Americas gathered in November for the Annual USA Rally. Ps David Elliott reports:

“The highlight of the fall was our 20th year Anniversary Convention for Fresno and Brazil during our Thanksgiving weekend November 22nd – 25th. It was a very exciting time having 35 visitors from Ireland, London, Australia, San Pedro, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Canada, and Pastor Esteves from Brazil. Praise the Lord - it was a great blessing that he was able to stay with us for one week. He gave a DVD presentation of the exciting things that are happening in Fortaleza and the villages.

It was also wonderful to have Pastor Darryl and Beth Williams from Melbourne and Pastor Mark and Sheila from Canada here with us. A few other visitors were able to stay an extended time and it was great to have their fellowship.

The theme of our convention was “For Eternity”, and about 140 people attended. Several new people came to meetings. We also had 2 baptisms and a visiting teenager received the Spirit after the concert night so there were exciting times and many blessings. The two meals that were provided during convention took in about \$1000 which was given to Pastor Esteves for the continuing work in Brazil.”



Shown here are the local and visiting pastors: Bill Stockton and David Elliott (both of Fresno assembly), Esteves (Brazil), Ward Young (Fresno) and Darryl Williams (Melbourne). [NB Not shown in this photo, but also visiting the USA Rally, was Ps Mark Lindal of Canada.]

BALI, INDONESIA

The year 2007 was a big year for Bali Assembly, in Indonesia, with official government recognition of our Fellowship there, the inauguration of three pastors, the move to the bigger new premises, etc. We received an end-of-year message from Pastor William of the Bali Assembly, which reads in part as follows:

“It is certainly a blessing for all of us to pass the year 2007 and of course to keep up the hope of His return and keep on serving Him.

I would like to earnestly thank the Australian fellowship for all the support in prayer, guidance and financial help. It is greatly valued for the establishment of our fellowship in Bali. All the saints here are so delighted to know that we are never alone and we are part of one big family through out the world, with a great work of salvation.”



Part of the Bali assembly during a visit by Ps Michael Swanson of Perth (Ps William is on the far right)

NEW ZEALAND

Ps Jock Duncan reported on a great time had on his recent visit to New Zealand to attend their National Rally in Auckland. Whilst there he conducted pastors’ meetings and found a consensus among the five New Zealand pastors to ask that Ps Mark Wattchow of Christchurch assembly become the new New Zealand Liaison Pastor.

The Council happily agreed to this proposal. Therefore, for matters of liaison and coordination in New Zealand, folk are asked to contact Ps Mark Wattchow.

Ps Jock Duncan will continue to represent the interests of New Zealand at the Council level.

Ps Jock Duncan also tells us that the New Zealand assemblies would welcome any young couples or retirees that might like to spend, say, a year in an assembly helping out with evangelism. Any takers...?



Pastor Mark Wattchow, his wife Julie, and their children in sunny Christchurch

THAILAND

In very recent news from Thailand, Ps Colin tells us that brother Nuhark has been shifted to a smaller prison where Ps Colin was welcomed last week by the authorities. They allowed him to go into the prison from 9am to 3pm to preach the gospel. About 39 prisoners attended, of whom 22 received the Holy Spirit with the sign of speaking in tongues. Nuhark has been granted liberty by the prison staff to move freely amongst the prisoners, to organise meetings and to conduct baptisms (sounds like he's going to be pretty busy!)

“We then visited the assembly in the village. The saints organised an outreach at another village. We had 15 visitors, two came to the meeting on Sunday and one was baptised.” Praise the Lord.



Encouraging prisoners



Prisoners seeking to receive the Holy Spirit



Sunday's baptism



Sister Mek shows where she was healed of a goitre

AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP CAMP

This camp will be held in Adelaide over the Australia Day long weekend 24-28 January 2008. We pray it will help inspire many of our up-and-coming leaders throughout the Australian Fellowship.

Please contact Pastor Paul Nobel in Adelaide if you would like to join in (pk_n@iprimus.com.au).

CHRISTMAS CAMPS AROUND THE WORLD

Christmas is a great time to get away and enjoy some uplifting fellowship. Here are some photos and reports from around the world.

Continental Europe

“**Overcomers** was the theme for this year’s European Winter Camp in Germany, held from 25th December to 1st January. Some 240 brethren from across Europe and Australia attended and it was our biggest winter camp held so far. There were many new faces, which was a real blessing, and we thanked the Lord for the revival that is taking place in Europe and around the world. We go into 2008, expecting great and wonderful things to take place in all the fellowships.”



United Kingdom

“**Called unto the work** (*Acts 13:2*) was the theme for this year’s UK Winter Camp at Hordle Walhampton School in Lymington. It was the biggest one we’ve had there but we still all managed to fit in (just!). The theme led to some fantastic talks which could be summed up as “focus” and “priorities”: better get them right or else!

The opening talk asked the challenging question: ‘Why are you here?’ Succeeding talks took up the

challenge. We were reminded to stop worrying about our own needs (that's God's department) and instead pray for revival. One lady from an outreach came to several meetings during camp and was baptised. She has already been to a Sunday meeting back up in London.

It was wonderful to pray in the New Year, sitting by the log fire with so many brothers and sisters. The large contingent of Dutch saints gave the camp a truly European feel, and the fellowship was second to none. We look forward to a busy year of revival in 2008."



Singapore

The Singapore assembly held their camp at the end of November at Kota Tinggi resort just across the border in Malaysia. This year they had over 130 in camp.



Saints from Singapore, Bali, Hong Kong, Australia, etc.

Some of the men ...



FIJI

Fiji assemblies held their Young People's Rally in Levuka during the Christmas-New Year period. "It was Great Fun!" reports one of the participants.



New Zealand

"We had a fantastic camp!" reports Ps Alan Butler of Bay of Plenty assembly, New Zealand. The camp was held on the Kapiti Coast on the North Island.



New Zealand Christmas campers

Canada

A scene from the CNIB dining hall, Victoria, BC, Canada. (Ps Mark Lindal third from the right).



Capetown, South Africa

“In Cape Town just over 60 saints camped at Noordhoek for our Christmas camp, from December 27th to January 3rd. We were joined by one brother from Australia and another who lives in Sasolberg, about 1200km away. We heard many uplifting talks, and were reminded that even though 2007 was a good year,

we can't rest on our laurels. We're looking for more revival in 2008, and today we rejoiced to see our first baptism for the year."



Young People's Item



The Crazy Builders skit – "allow us to construct a new rostrum"



New Year's Eve fun in the kitchen



Victoria, Australia

“Melbourne hosted a six day, fully catered camp at Anglesea which is located approximately 110 kilometres from Melbourne. On the busiest days, over 100 saints attended from nine different assemblies. The theme was "God's Creation" with a number of PowerPoint presentations on "Creature Features". It was a great time of feasting - much fellowship, encouraging talks, uplifting testimonies, prayer, items, activities and, of course, lots of food!”



Coolum, Queensland, Australia

Despite 3 weeks of wild weather from a tropical storm, the saints from the Bundaberg to Gold Coast region report they had a wonderful time, with plenty of great fellowship.



Jude Malazzo's baptism at Coolum beach after receiving the Holy Spirit.

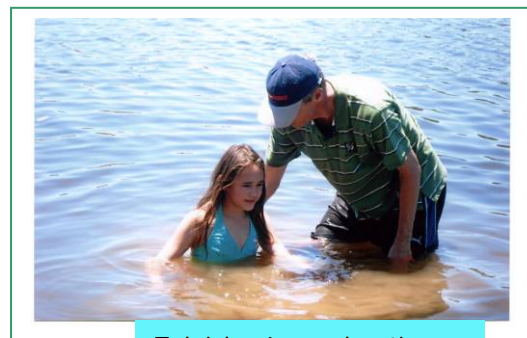
Western Australia

“The Western Australian saints headed for the cooler Summer region of Albany for their Christmas camp. The theme was **‘No good thing will He withhold’** (Ps 84:11) and plenty of talks around this theme served to inspire all that made the trip down there. There were two baptisms - one after a local outreach.

A highlight at camp was the annual Mission Fund Auction night when saints donate all sorts of goods and services. The comperes kept the evening light-hearted and fun - and raised \$8 800! We pray this will help our brethren overseas.”



Part of the Sunday meeting



Talaisha Jones' baptism after she received the Holy Spirit



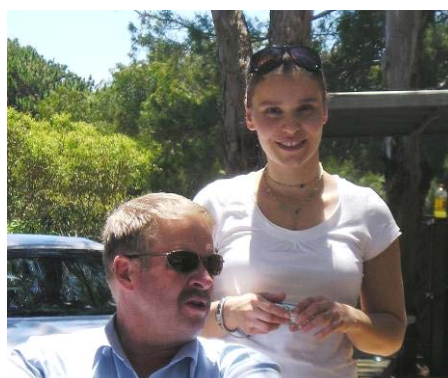
Plenty of time to relax by the Kalgan River



"Fruits-of-the-Spirit Man" (!)

Adelaide

Christmas camp was held at Adelaide's own camping ground at Carrickalinga, about an hour south of the city. Highlights included a couple of baptisms, a couple of folk receiving the Holy Spirit, and 1 200 saints thoroughly enjoying the New Year's Eve Concert. Everyone commented on a great time of fellowship.





CANBERRA

Canberra held their Christmas camp this year at the privately-owned Longbeach Camp. They self-catered and chose the theme **Walk in Faith**. "The ministry was great and the fellowship was wonderful!" says Pastor Bob Beverley. The owners plan to double the accommodation during 2008, much of it suitable to house families, so for those that couldn't make it in 2007, plan now to head there later this year.



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