



No. 16
October, 2008

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Revival Fellowship Council Newsletter.

A lot has happened since our last issue. We had our annual International Convention in June, and amazing reports of revival have continued to come in from Brazil, PNG, Africa and elsewhere. We thank God for the simple but powerful message He has given us and the fruits that flow from His Good News.

"The blessing of the Lord maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." Prov 10:22

We hope you enjoy all the news.

BRAZIL

A report from the Editor, Pastor Kevin Quirk, on his trip to our Brazilian assemblies in July.

It's hard keeping up with the revival taking place in Brazil these days.

Our fellowship is located in Brazil's North-eastern state of Ceara with our main assembly in Ceara's capital, Fortaleza, a sprawling poverty-stricken city of over 3 million. Approximately three-quarters of the assembly come from the very poor sectors of the community. Nonetheless it was wonderful to see that they are visibly healthy and happy.

The main hall is rented in the inner city suburb of Iricema Beach and nominally fits about 400 people. To try and get as many as possible to a Sunday meeting, Ps Esteves runs two Sunday meetings. Members can only attend one. There are a variety of other meetings throughout the week including 53 house meetings, Young People's meetings, mid-week meetings at both Iricema Beach and the church's own hall in the slums. A lack of leaders makes it pretty tough to look after everyone, and we were surprised to see that some house-leaders are required to run 4, 5 and 6 house-meetings each. Ps Esteves himself would normally do 6 talks each week at various venues.

At our first meeting on the Sunday Ps Esteves' simple talk was followed by a call for baptisms. **A queue of 59 baptism candidates lined the side wall, meandered up the stairs, and overflowed into a Sunday school room.** All but a handful had received the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Later that afternoon an additional 23 were baptised down at the beach. That made 82 for the day - without any particular outreaching.

FORTALEZA: The baptism candidates line up along the wall, up the stairs, and into crèche.



...and the baptisms start...

A few days later we travelled out to a cluster of small village assemblies located some 6 hours drive inland. We attended an Opening Concert and Pageant at the newly-constructed hall at Gadelha. The hall was packed to the rafters with another hundred visitors crowding around outside. The senior pastor in the countryside, Ps Jose, estimated there were about 250 unsaved visitors to the meeting. We enjoyed seeing another 17 folk baptised that night. All had received the Holy Spirit. That made ninety-nine baptisms for the week. Praise the Lord. Over successive weeks in September Ps Esteves reported weekly baptism counts of 71, 110 and 93.



GADELHA: The new Hall built with help from Australia

The young folk put on a very touching pageant describing the Australians assistance at Gadelha (note the hand-painted Australian flag)



...and the crowd inside on opening night...

Baptismal candidates line up after the Hall opening



Just a few Saturdays ago they had a particularly stirring day. This came in from Ps Esteves by email:

“210 baptised this Saturday!!!!!! It is a big miracle!!!!”

Ps David Elliott of Fresno followed this up for us:

“Saturday's events are a bit more colorful than I first indicated. The total count was actually 255 baptisms for the day. (The other 45 were baptized later in the day:- Ed.). Brother Claydstone had challenged the people in a previous meeting to bring someone new to the next meeting: so they did. There were about 600 at the meeting. He preached on Acts 2 - the initial outpouring of God's Spirit and the beginning of Christianity.

At the end he asked if anyone wanted a new life: so they just started to line up for the baptisms: 210 were baptized at that meeting. **As they lined up, a number of them started to spontaneously break out in tongues as they received the Holy Spirit.**

Across the road at the cultural center some kind of event was taking place, with the newspapers and TV reporters in attendance. When they saw the crowd at the hall they came over to see what was happening and as a consequence they reported about the exciting things at the hall on the TV news.

Since then Ps Esteves has experienced a rush of people into the fellowship. As of today he has approximately 150 people waiting to get baptized.”

In another email Ps Esteves reported:

“Thank you for all your help... God still keeps on accomplishing miracles, saving souls, praise to the Lord God! We had recently another 93 baptized!”

NB. Several young folk have asked if they might visit the assemblies in Brazil. However, because of both the workload of Ps Esteves [he would need to accompany you while you were there – nobody else speaks English], and the dangerous nature of the area where our Fellowship is located, he has asked that saints from Australia and elsewhere hold off visiting for the moment. We'll let you know when the situation changes.

In the meantime just enjoy the wonderful way in which God's work continues to flourish in these places.

PNG – 210 RECIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT AT THE 2008 NATIONAL RALLY

While on the topic of revival, we can't go past the Annual PNG Rally that took place two weekends ago on 27th and 28th September in Goroka. Here are some extracts of one brother's description of the week.

“PNG Trip 2008

Three pastors, two leaders, one brother and five sisters from Gosford, Lismore, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth (all in Australia) gathered at the Brisbane International Airport on September 19 to fly out to Port Moresby on a journey that took them into the Western Highlands of PNG.

We met PNG brethren in Port Moresby, Mt Hagen, Wabag, Minj, Shimbu (Ouna Center near Kundiawa), Goroka, Lae and then Port Moresby.

We attended a Sunday meeting in Mt Hagen, outreaches in Wabag and Kundiawa and a healing rally in Goroka. In Lae and Port Moresby we visited the halls which hold 2000 and 4500 saints respectively. These halls are not quite finished but are already probably too small.

AIDS is a huge issue in PNG with advertising in every town on the consequences. The population of PNG is around 5.5 million people and there are 59,000 HIV-positive cases. This is estimated to rise to 200,000 by 2012 if the current rate of infection continues.

We heard testimonies at the outreaches and rally of saints being healed of Aids. Below is a photograph of brother Mark and sister Margreath who have both lost spouses to Aids - **and have both been healed of Aids** - and subsequently married in the church.

The main event was the healing rally in Goroka over the weekend of 27/28 September. There must have been close to 3000 saints supporting the rally. The rally had music items, testimonies and talks from PNG and Australian saints and went for over 3 hours.

At the end of this an altar call was made for people to come forward and have hands laid on them for healing. Saints and visitors (“observers”) came forward to hear Pastor Godfrey preach to them on the healing power and promises that were written in the Bible. Then PNG and Australian oversight moved along the lines praying for people.

Each day the Lord blessed with people being healed and receiving the Holy Spirit. On Friday 3 people were baptized before the rally, 50 were baptized at the rally and 15 were baptized in the evening after the rally. On Saturday 70 were baptized and on Sunday 72 were baptized. In all, 210 were baptized over the rally.

The 15 that were baptized in the evening on Friday were from the Lutheran church. An elder brought 14 of his flock to be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. The Lord blessed them all and they all spoke in tongues.

A few testimonies from visitors that were healed and received the Holy Spirit were:

- The wife of a Lutheran Pastor came to the rally for a healing. She had been prayed for in her church but had not been healed. She was healed by the Lord at the rally and received the Holy Spirit in the prayer line. She was going to be baptized at the end of the meeting.
- A woman had very bad back problems. She was healed at the prayer line and wanted to get baptized. She received the Holy Spirit while she was being baptized.
- A man came forward and testified that the Lord had healed his knee which had been damaged by a gun shot. He was a hired fighter for tribal fights and had been injured during one of the fights. He had been operated on and they could not make his knee right. He was baptized and received the Holy Spirit.
- A man was healed of short sightedness at the prayer line. He was baptized after the rally and received the Holy Spirit.
- A sister was healed of Aids at the prayer line.

As a first time visitor to the PNG fellowship, it was an amazing journey of strengthening in the faith and truth of the Lord’s power (Rom 16:16 and Acts 2: 42 – 47). (“Salute one another with an holy kiss ...they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship ...and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”).

The lasting impression that struck all the Australians was the love of the PNG brethren and the gratitude they expressed in having fellowship with us. To come away from the trip unchanged in our walk with God was impossible: such were we all affected” - Jim, Perth Assembly, Western Australia.



Leaders praying for the sick



Mark and Margreath – both healed of Aids



Baptising down at the river



A line of saints waiting to greet the Australian visitors at Mt Hagen airport

And while we're in PNG, the Pt Moresby assembly finally has a new hall capable of containing (most of) the current crowd of over 3 000 saints. Ps Paul Nobel from Adelaide was involved in managing the new hall and reports for us as follows:

“The Port Moresby Assembly has a brand new hall at “9 Mile”. It's been built by a team of workers from the Adelaide assembly, ably assisted by a lot of local saints.

The building is a large shelter that will seat about 3000 people or maybe more (PNG-style). It has no walls and so lets the breeze through. The structure was partly prefabricated in South Australia, shipped to Port Moresby in large containers and then constructed on site. Work on the site started on June 30 this year and was completed on Sept 12, about 11 weeks in all.

Pastor Godfrey visited Port Moresby just before the work was completed. A Sunday meeting was arranged alongside the not-quite-finished building – 4 141 people turned up and 44 “observers” were baptised. Pastor Jeffrey and all the local saints are obviously pretty excited about it all – they're looking forward to an official opening in March or April 2009. Meanwhile, they are meeting in four different locations in Port Moresby – this has not slowed the revival as some 30 or so people are being baptised each week.

The mission fund donations given by many saints, have allowed this project to go ahead. A big "thank you" to all those individuals and assemblies that contributed. The work of the Lord in PNG is flourishing and it's good to have been able to support them in a practical way. Praise the Lord for the good testimony of our brothers and sisters in PNG who continue to be a bright light in a troubled country."



After months of planning and the lengthy approvals process the massive earthworks begin



...up goes the huge frame...



Adelaide and local saints pose proudly in front of their handiwork.



The first meeting – without seats

AFRICA

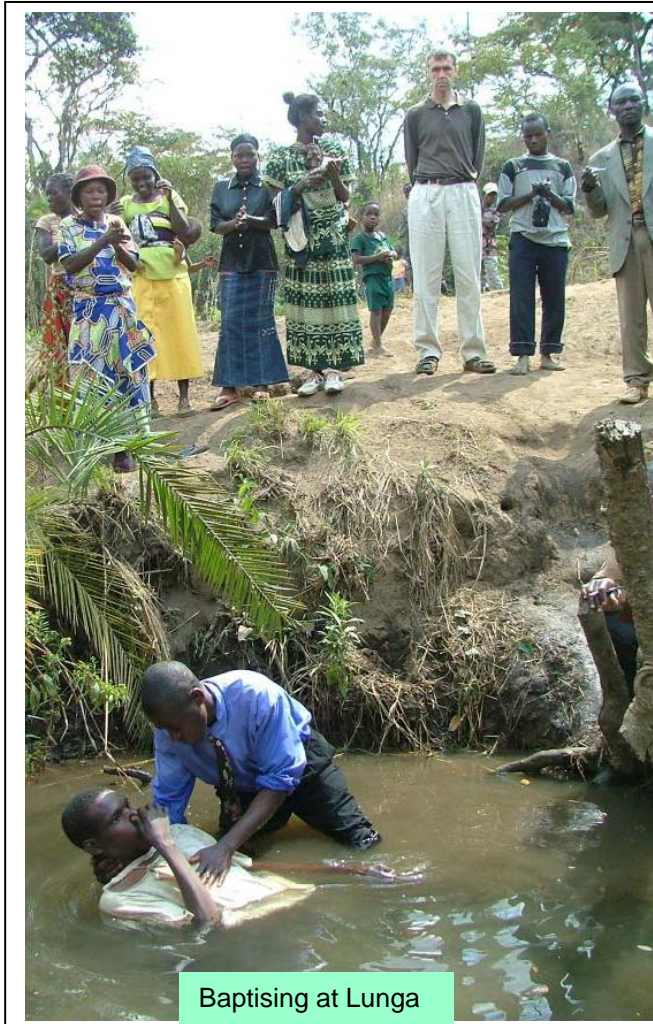
Zambia

Revival is continuing apace in Zambia. So far this year our brethren have seen 300 baptisms, and 10 new centres have been established. Currently there are 27 assemblies plus 8 smaller groups spread across the Copper Belt and North Western Provinces.

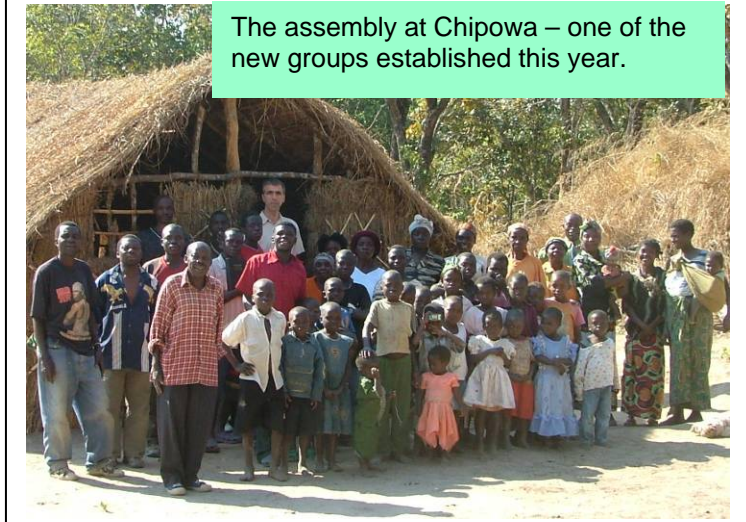
In August several brothers from Adelaide, London and Cape Town visited some of those assemblies. At one village where 4 men had been baptized during a previous visit in April, a further 26 were baptized in one day. They also heard numerous testimonies of God's healing power and provision. While visiting another village in April, a brother named Mangaya had asked for prayer for a serious rash-like disease which was all over his legs. At the time the pain was so excruciating that he could hardly walk, and it had affected him for more than a year. When our brothers met

him again in August he said that the pain had left almost immediately after prayer. Subsequently, he has been completely healed, and they found him rejoicing and very busy for the Lord.

Development is also proceeding on the farming land at Sayilunga. Recently the assembly was able to purchase a large irrigation pump with funds donated by the saints in Australia. An area has been planted with vegetables which will be harvested shortly, a second fish pond is being dug, a number of seedling fruit trees will be planted prior to the onset of the wet season, and one of the cows is pregnant! (God is providing the increase in many ways.)



Baptising at Lunga



The assembly at Chipowa – one of the new groups established this year.



Over at the Farm – everyone's impressed with the new irrigation pump donated by Australia.

Zimbabwe

In February this year our pastor Eddie from Zambia travelled to Zimbabwe to follow up a couple who had heard the gospel from members of their family living in Perth. During his visit 36 people were baptized and most of them were filled with the Holy Spirit, with the scriptural evidence of speaking in tongues.

Subsequently our new brethren have continued to preach the gospel and a further 76 people have been baptized. In August Pastor Brian Allen was able to visit them for the first time since Pastor Eddie's visit in February, and he found a group of more than 70 saints holding regular meetings in Old Tafara Township, a suburb

15kms from the centre of Harare. They had much to discuss and learn. Pr Brian found them very keen to listen to sound scriptural advice.

Again the testimony of the Lord is very much in evidence; an elderly lady who was paralysed on the left hand side of her body was completely healed after being baptised and Spirit-filled. Many others are talking about the changes they are witnessing in their lives, and a lot of interest is being generated in the local community and further a field.

We pray that revival will continue to flourish in this troubled part of the world.

RWANDA

We reported in the last issue on a new outpost opening up in Rwanda. We are pleased to tell you there are now a couple of dozen folk in regular fellowship under the leadership of Pastor Esron, meeting in two areas on different sides of the city.

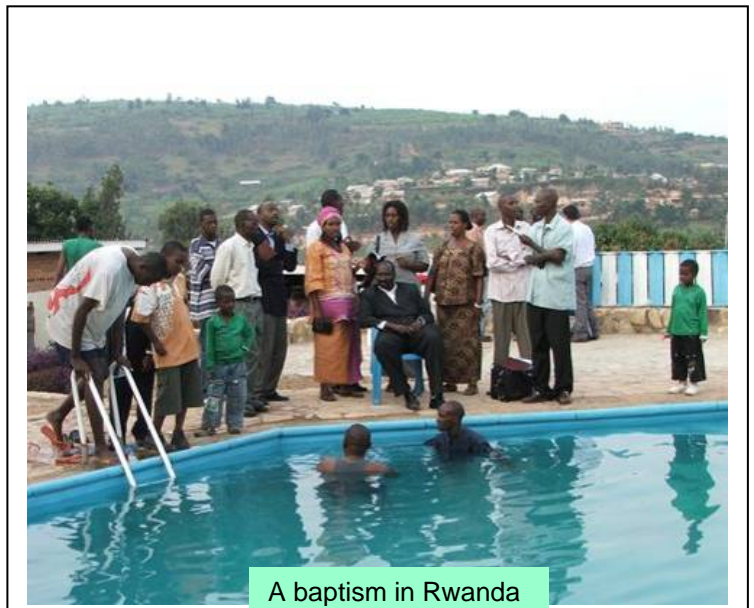
Because of the former genocide in the country the laws are very strict regarding the establishment and running of churches (there were apparently appalling cases of priests locking members inside their churches and bulldozing, or setting fire, to the buildings because of ethnic differences).

Ps Brian Allen reports that the Fellowship name is now registered and they are able to hold meetings in Ps Esron's house, for the time being, as a special concession, as he is well known to the local government authorities (normally we would need to have a church building and an official Administrator). Nonetheless, he is under some pressure to buy a hall, or at least a block of land to start building. To that end he has found a rural block that would be suitable. The Australian Fellowship has been asked to help out.

"The work appears to be off to a good start", says Ps Brian.



Ps Esron, his wife Emmah, brother Gad and Ps Sammy of Kenya (kneeling)



A baptism in Rwanda

KENYA

Ps Brian Allen also visited Kenya and spent some time at new centres and a number of outreaches, resulting in a number of baptisms. All is going well in the Kenyan assemblies.

One need he pointed out is for a motorbike for Pastor Charles, whose time is wasted travelling around by push-bike, bus and then foot to get to all the remote fellowships in his district.

At one of the outreaches in Machakos they baptised a Ugandan brother, Nelson, who received the Holy Spirit, and who spent a lot of time with the pastors. He plans to preach to contacts back home to Uganda. If something develops the pastors are considering a visit across the border to Uganda.



Mostly new people at an outreach meeting in Kisii



Esther and Julius in Nyao, Kenya

BALI, INDONESIA – HALL OPENING

We told you in the last Newsletter of Bali's plans for a new hall. The construction of the new facilities is well advanced and the date for the Official Opening has now been set for Saturday 21st March 2009. Following the opening, an in-house Camp will be held from 25th to 28th March, as this is a public holiday time in Bali. A number of Australian folk have already made arrangements to be in Bali for the opening.

No venue has yet been selected for the Camp. We're letting you know about the dates so that those wanting to attend can take advantage of any air fare and accommodation deals that come out. (NB. Febri's Hotel in South Kuta has offered a special deal for Revival Fellowship visitors through Pastor Deane of \$US 45 per night including breakfast for a superior double room. This property is of a good standard and is only about 4 years old. The website for information is www.greenbali.com)

If you plan to attend either the hall opening or the camp or you'd like more information about Febri's Hotel please contact the Bali liaison pastor, Deane Clee, at deaneclee@optusnet.com.au.

CONVENTION 2008

June is always an exciting month with the Revival Fellowship's International Convention taking place in one of Australia's capital cities. This June (7th -9th) it was held in Perth, Western Australia.

The local saints hosted the event at the Esplanade complex ballroom in Fremantle, Perth's colourful and friendly portside suburb.

Despite Perth being literally the most remote capital in the world, the local crowd was swelled by interstate and overseas visitors from far and wide: PNG, Fiji, U.K., Europe, Singapore, Canada, etc with about 1 000 joining together to evangelise the unsaved, listen to inspiring speakers from around the globe, hear amazing testimonies of divine healing and deliverance, and to sing and thank the Lord. It was a wonderful weekend of fellowship and a little taste of heaven.

If you didn't make it to this one, why not start planning now to attend the next one in Canberra?



The crowd jams into the Esplanade Ballroom as the Saturday Rally begins



A Perth Young Peoples' item



14 were baptised during Convention week



PNG sisters rug up but enjoy the warm fellowship



Evangelists were out in force in central Perth, as well as Fremantle (as shown here)



Ps Bob Beverley of Canberra – next year's Convention hosts



PNG folk led by Ps David Peter of Bougainville bring an item

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Just prior to the June Convention, the Revival Fellowship's Council gathered to take in news from around the world and consider various issues common to any large organisation.

The Council composition has seen several changes this year with both Pastors Russell Gay (Queensland) and Steve Gillespie (U.K.) stepping down as Council pastors. The Fellowship thanks them for all their work over the last few years.

While on this topic, we are pleased to announce the addition of Ps Ron Carslake of South Africa as a new Council Pastor. He is deeply involved in caring for assemblies in many countries in Africa as well as his own assembly in Capetown.



Newly-appointed Council Pastor Ron Carslake with his wife, Helen, enjoying Perth during Convention



Ps John Kuhlmann chairing one of the Council Meetings

To help with coordination in some of the Australian regions, the Council also appointed the following men as Liaison Pastors:

Ps Bill Allen (Rockhampton) became the Liaison Pastor for Northern Queensland.

Ps Terry Coles (Gold Coast) became the Liaison Pastor for Southern Queensland.

Ps Mark Hall (Newcastle) became the Liaison Pastor for Northern N.S.W.

For pastors, the Friday of Convention was a busy day with a full-morning Pastors' Workshop, and then normal business throughout the afternoon. Relief was provided though, by way of a delightful pastors' and wives' dinner that evening, hosted by the local assembly, where they could mingle, get to know pastors in other locales and generally 'swap notes'.



Annual Pastors' Meeting



Pastors' and Wives' Dinner night ~ shown here are Ps Greg Drage, David Kschammer and his wife, Sue.

Ps Mark Lindal has sent us some photos from the North American Summer Camp, held at Shawnigan Lake, BC Canada on July 4-6. Saints from Holland, Australia, Boise Idaho, San Pedro and Fresno California joined the host Canadian saints for a camp themed "Liberty" (Luke 4:18). He tells us some great talks were presented and the fellowship and activities were excellent.

The camp started and ended with outreaches in Victoria, BC. At the wrap-up barbecue, hosted at Pastor Mark's home, 6 new people attended.

Next year's camp is July 3-5. Ps Mark says "Start planning to come now!"



EURO SUMMER CAMP

Many of the Europeans gathered again at Wasserkuppe, Germany to enjoy the summery weather and the fellowship. Ps Pieter Visser of Holland reports for us as follows:

“Around 330 saints from across Europe including England, Ireland, and Australia came to enjoy a week of fellowship together and realign ourselves with the word of God. Last year we joked about having two winter camps because of the cold weather, but not this year! The sun was out and so were we! Many people walked (40 minutes) to the nearby lake to swim and cool off. Over the week we heard many testimonies and it is very clear that God is working with us and is in our midst. Because of this we see many miracles, healings and victories. God has given us the possibility to change for the better and it is good to see the contrast of where we have come from and where we are going to. We were pleased that during camp, brother René was made pastor of the assembly in Almere, Holland.

See you at Winter Camp!”

Changed by God,
to do what?



European Summer Camp – Wasserkuppe, Germany



Newly-minted Pastor René of Almere, Holland



Members of the international band strike up

U.K.

A week after the Wasserkuppe camp in Germany came the U.K. Summer Camp at picturesque Calver, based on the theme "There is no other Name under Heaven".

Almost 200 folk joined in from all over the U.K., with visitors from continental Europe - and a few Australians thrown in. Cliff College in Derbyshire proved the ideal location for plenty of encouragement from the Word of God, rewarding fellowship and entertaining items.

The great testimonies were augmented by the arrival of brother Gerry, who had just been on the ill-fated Qantas flight that blew a hole in its side and was forced to make an emergency landing in the Philippines. He described the calm of the handful of U.K. saints on board and the hand of God in getting them all to safety – and the benefits that followed!

Pastor Warren of London says "Don't forget our next camp is in the town of Bath, an even more amazing location! Overseas visitors are most welcome!"



UK Camp ~ part of the crowd at a meeting



Two of the 6 baptisms at camp...



An hilarious kids' item



Enjoying the sunshine and warm fellowship

AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP CAMP 2009

The January '08 workshop camp proved very successful. The next one is planned for Adelaide 5-9th March, 2009. You might want to put it in your diary.

Enquiries: quirk@inet.net.au