



No. 18
August, 2009

INTRODUCTION

We start this issue with a report on the opening of the new Hall in Pt Moresby, the capital city of Papua-New Guinea (PNG), the nation just to the north of Australia.

The Hall was designed only a few years ago for 3 000 worshippers, at a time when the leaders felt this would allow for more than adequate growth from their then numbers. Again, God has shown us up. Even before completion, it was inadequate to cope with the influx of new Christians from a society reeling under the triple social malaises of poverty, substance abuse and sickness - and finding relief through the powerful infilling of the Holy Ghost. By the grace of God, miracles abound. Healings abound. And thousands, literally, are receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost each year with the miraculous sign of "speaking in tongues". As Jesus promised, "You shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..." (Acts 1:8)

We then take a look at this year's International Convention, held in Canberra. As always a great time of Fellowship and catching up with "old campaigners" from around the world.

There is also an article on the Fellowship Council, its function, some of its guiding principles, and the current Council members, to update your knowledge of your Church.

Following on from that we move to "darkest Africa" (well, Kenya anyway) to join our brethren in the first Pan African Rally. The work in Africa has been growing quickly over the last few years and it was decided a single Rally to bring as many of the leaders, and saints, as possible, together would be great for all to see what the Lord is doing 'just over the border' on their own Continent. We pray this will become a regular event.

On the subject of Hall Openings, the Bali saints seem to have come from nowhere and built their Fellowship up - and then cemented their position locally with the building of their own Hall. They have made a wonderful job of it and visitors from Australia were deeply impressed. A short report on that follows.

We finish off with news of the new work in India, a couple of recent camp reports and some notes from a Young Peoples' Outreach to Georgia, USA.

As always, we are grateful that the Lord has been so gracious to us. We hope you enjoy a good read.

P.N.G.

It's not all about numbers - didn't Jesus say "*many are called but few are chosen*"? - but for most of us from small to medium-sized assemblies in the Western world, it's certainly impressive to spend some time in a "mega assembly" like Pt Moresby. For the folk who

were fortunate enough to join in the recent Pt Moresby Hall Opening on 12th April this year, they well and truly got a taste of it. And how!

The Opening Day celebrations were huge. The Governor-General of P.N.G. himself came to officiate on the day. This is, after all, the largest single church building in the country. He expressed genuine pleasure at the rapid growth of the Revival Fellowship throughout P.N.G. and the standards it maintains.

As a result of the weekend's outreaching some 155 folk were baptised. Praise the Lord.

A few more figures that emerged over the big weekend:

- Approximately 8 000 attended the Opening
- Around 4 300 take Communion each week in Pt Moresby
- They typically baptise between 30 - 60 folk each week in Pt Moresby
- There are now over 1 000 Centres in the P.N.G. work
- In all, these contain some 80 000 folk.

Praise the Lord.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Opening Day platform with sign; the view inside the auditorium; the PNG governor-General being greeted on arrival; some of the welcoming sisters





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: another view inside the auditorium; Ps Godfrey Wippon recounting the story of the Fellowship in PNG; baptisms begin down at Ela Beach; after baptism the candidates line up to pray to receive the Holy spirit...as each receives and begins to speak in tongues it sounds a bit like a jet engine starting up - or, "*a rushing mighty wind*" to quote Acts 2: 1-4.



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 6th - 8th JUNE 2009

Canberra assembly were hosts this year to a gathering of some 1 500 folk from all over the world, including a large contingent from the Pacific - we had 140 visitors from PNG, Fiji and Vanuatu all adding to the wonderful sense of international fellowship.

Other visitors too came from Europe, USA, Canada, Singapore, Africa and elsewhere.

It's always a little taste of heaven.



PREVIOUS PAGE: the view from the back of the massive National Convention Centre; and a PNG item.
BELOW: one of 6 baptisms for the weekend; Monday's BBQ back at Belconnen



Two testimonies from Convention:



HEALED OF AIDS

One of the more remarkable testimonies at Convention was one 'from the audience' from Christine Wemri of our Pt Moresby fellowship in Papua New-Guinea.

She told how she, her husband and little daughter were healed of HIV/AIDS.

We include it below verbatim for others to enjoy...

"I didn't know what to do. I was lost. I was so worried. HIV/AIDS has no cure. My baby was 7 months old at the time and she was a very sick baby. So was my husband. I just didn't know what to do: we were all so sick. I just worried: I was going to die, my husband was going to die, and my daughter as well.

A brother was witnessing in the hospital. He told me (*about healing*) and how I should 'seek first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you' from Matthew 6. I asked them to pray for me and my family in the hospital. He brought along a (*church*) Leader and they prayed for me and my husband....that day I saw changes in my husband.

I decided to get baptised next day and received the Holy Spirit (*and spoke in tongues*). The following day I returned to hospital and the attending doctor asked me to do another blood test. I did. I ended up doing three check-ups and all returned negative results! (*She, her husband and baby were all confirmed healed from HIV/AIDS.*)

Now my daughter is 4 years old. Praise the Lord!"



SURFERS SAVED

Another remarkable story was the testimony of some young folk who were preaching down at the beach in Brazil during a surfing competition (photos at left).

While preaching to the unsaved, over 20 *spontaneously* received the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues, sitting on their boards or standing on the beach!

Brother Cleystone and Neto continued to preach and ended up baptising 33 for the day.

Praise the Lord.



While on the topic of Brazil, we also heard about outreaching in the countryside and we can't help but include this shot of the new hall at Gadelha, suitably completed with a new fence, and the accompanying brochure featuring Ps Jose and his wife, Fabiana, announcing the theme *"Who will go for us? Then I answered, here am I, send me!"*



**Pr. Abreu
&
Fabiana**

*"Disse o Senhor:
A quem hei de enviar?
E eu disse:
Eis-me aqui, envia-me."
Isaias 6:8*



Rua do Planalto, 511 - Gadelha - Iguatu

COUNCIL AND PASTORS' MEETINGS

In the lead-up to the Convention in early June, the Council met for two days followed by our Annual Pastors' Meeting.

All sorts of practical and spiritual matters were discussed, all aimed at enhancing our unity and on-going efforts to meet the two great challenges of the Fellowship:

- To help save as many as we can, and,
- To help as many as we can stay saved.

The news from the mission areas continues with exciting reports of revival in PNG, Brazil, Africa and many other places as we have tried to relay to you in this Newsletter. We thank the Lord He sees fit to continue to use us.



A typical Council Meeting (in the Belconnen Hall, Canberra)



Ps John Kuhlmann addresses the Friday "Annual Pastors' Meeting". All told, nearly 70 pastors gathered from around the Work.

The Revival Fellowship operates with the help of two documents that best summarise our views of the Bible, and the way the Church is meant to run. These are the Fellowship's "Articles of Association" and the "Pastors' Manual". Every pastor has (or should have!) a copy of both. You may have seen a copy of the Articles of Association on your assembly notice board.

The Pastors' Manual opens with these scriptures:

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you, be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility..." (1 Pet 5:5)

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing..." (1 Cor 1:10)

Maintaining unity in a far-flung work is crucial. Getting together as pastors is not only great encouragement, but helps to iron out any looming problems and keep everyone on track. The Council's role in this is spelled out in various places in the Articles of Association and the Pastors' Manual and we reproduce some of it here for you:

"THE COUNCIL

A small group of experienced men is required to guide us wisely into the future. The Council is not for 'lording over' other pastors, but to promote the need for all to be 'subject to another'. If

we remember to be humble and learn from each other we shall do well. All pastors have a contribution to make and their views are welcome...

Individual assemblies agree to be in Fellowship on the basis of commonality of doctrine and operations outlined in this document, and in the Pastors' Manual, and agree to be under the general spiritual and administrative guidance of the Council of Pastors of The Revival Fellowship...

The Council of Pastors will consist of pastors of proven ministry and experience who are nominated on a broad geographic basis in order to represent the views of all the pastors in the Fellowship (world-wide)...

Each assembly shall be represented on the Council by a Council Pastor...

The Council has a responsibility to be united by watching out for each other as well as the rest of the Fellowship."

As the Lord reminds us Proverbs:

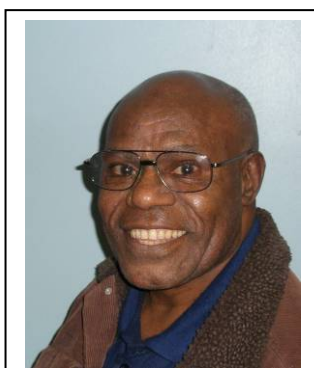
"Where no counsel is the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."
Prov 11:14

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed; but in the multitude of counsellors they are established." [...are successful"] Prov 15:22

The Council composition has evolved over the 14 years since we officially formed the Revival Fellowship, and so we include the latest roundup of your Council Pastors below - with some of their territories of responsibility - to keep you up to date.



Ps John Kuhlmann
Chairman



Ps Godfrey Wippon
PNG



Ps Jock Duncan



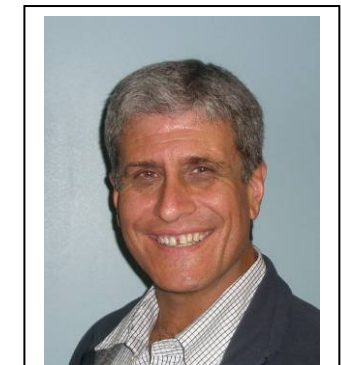
Ps Bob Beverley
Southern NSW;
Vanuatu



Ps Paul Nobel



Ps Darryl Williams
Vic; Tas; Americas



Ps Ron Carslake
Africa



Ps Pieter Visser
Europe; UK

Ps Garry Hall
Northern NSW



Ps Kevin Quirk
W.A.



AFRICA

Ps Ron Carslake of South Africa reports as follows:

"Our first ever Pan African Rally was held in Kenya at Kisayani in the Kibwezi district from the 14th to the 17th August. More than 330 Kenyan saints were joined by leaders from our assemblies in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda and Burundi, as well as visitors from South Africa and Australia. The theme of the rally was "Top up the Oil" – not a request to check the engine in Pr Sammy's car but inspiration drawn from the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew chapter 25. Many of the talks and encouragement were focussed on keeping ourselves involved in the Lord's work so that our light is burning brightly as we wait for His return. The days consisted of meetings in the morning and early afternoon, with time allowed for volleyball, netball and soccer to round out the day.

There were various pastors, leaders and wives meetings, both before and after the rally weekend, to consider goals for the assemblies and ways to involve everyone in the work. Our visiting pastors and leaders brought reports on the things which God is doing in their corners of the vineyard, often highlighting challenges which are common to all of our brethren. Some of the most difficult can be the influences of African tradition mixed with nominal/Pentecostal "Christianity", and the need to keep our thinking untainted by ways which seem to be acceptable in the world round us.

Overall the weekend was a great time of fellowship, building friendships and forging unity with like-minded brethren who love the work of the Lord and are enjoying their new life with Him. On Saturday afternoon an outreach was conducted in the town, which resulted in many contacts and plenty of follow-up opportunities for the local saints. Three people were baptized after the Sunday meeting and filled with the Holy Spirit with the Bible evidence of speaking in tongues. Everyone left for their home assemblies filled with renewed enthusiasm, and eagerly looking forward to meeting each other again next year."





PREVIOUS PAGE: a Rally meeting;
 CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Ps Millan (from Zambia) outreaching; Helen Carslake testifying at an open-air outreach; some of the Kenyan pastors and wives together with visitors from Rwanda, Burundi and Australia; the crowd on Sunday.

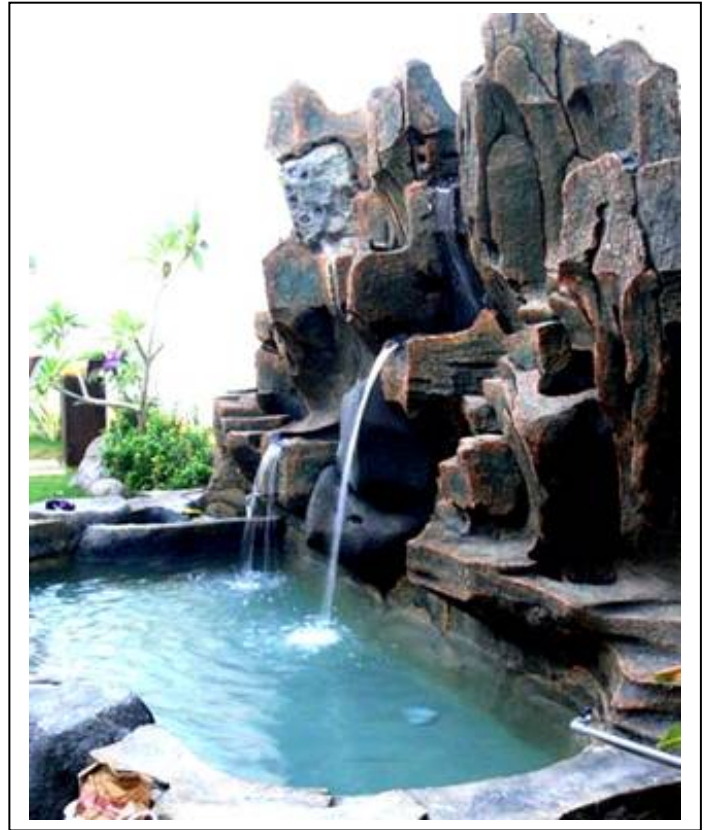


BALI, INDONESIA

An exciting phase of Bali assembly's growth occurred with the recent opening of their new hall. Visitors came from around Australia and other parts to join in the celebrations. The weekend was followed by a Camp at what looks like the Garden of Eden! All this was capped off with 5 baptisms. (And Ps William tells us they have had another 17 baptisms since then.) Praise the Lord.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP AND NEXT PAGE: The official opening; an item; what must be the coolest baptism tank in the whole Fellowship! (yes, it really is for baptisms); Camp followed the Hall Opening at what looks like paradise on earth; a meeting in the new hall.



BANGALORE, INDIA

The fledgling group in Bangalore, India has enjoyed some baptisms recently, bringing the number since inception two years ago to 15. The group is now under the leadership of local brother, Gopi. He also looks after another handful of saints 300km southeast in Kallakurichi. There are also folk over in Chennai and Hyderabad.

If you're heading that way don't forget to add Bangalore to your itinerary: they love to have visitors.



Some rooftop preaching and a baptism at Kallakurichi



LEFT: meeting in progress at Kallakurichi RIGHT: folk at the meeting at Bangalore

ATHENS, USA OUTREACH ~ JULY 2009

A bunch of Young People headed over to the USA in July to join one of our small groups there for some evangelism. The Americans are famously religious, but getting them to follow the 'signs-following gospel' of the early New Testament can be a test of anyone's patience. Nonetheless, the participants had a great time. One of them, Josh Quirk, reports as follows:

"The outreach in Athens, Georgia was great fellowship with the local saints and visitors from all over the world. We came from England, Brisbane, Adelaide, Alice Springs and of course, a group from Perth. The two weeks of outreaching (including a morning on a float in the 4th July parade!) provided the small fellowship of 10 with 3 baptisms and a host of follow-ups and contacts." Praise the Lord.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Athens Sunday meeting in progress; some of the visitors getting into the spirit of the 4th July; one of the baptisms; the saints suitably kitted up & outreaching at the local 4th July parade.



TASMANIAN EASTER CAMP

The Tasmanian saints report that at the Revival Fellowship Easter Camp in Tasmania this year they had a truly national camp. Saints from all states and territories were in attendance (WA, SA, NT, NSW, ACT, QLD, VIC and, of course, Tasmania) in one of the most picturesque locations on the planet: a mountain in the Ben Lomond National Park in an off-season ski resort. It appears this is the second highest point in Tasmania. Truly warm fellowship with altitude!



EURO SUMMER CAMP

The European saints got together in Wasserkuppe Germany again for their annual Summer Camp. Ps Piter Visser reports:

“Nearly 320 saints from across Europe, Ireland and as far away as Australia gathered in Wasserkuppe, Germany, for a week of fellowship. We were pleased to have Pastor Paul and Cathy join us (from Adelaide, Australia). We are the people being used by the Lord and it is a blessing to be involved in everything that is going on in our worldwide fellowship. When we appreciate what we have, we will fulfill the task we have been given. One day the Lord is going to return to the earth and until then, we need to continue doing the Lords work, not the work of the world.

During the course of the week there were four baptisms.” Praise the Lord.



The traditional '09 Summer Camp group photo

LEFT: a meeting in progress under the Big Top

RIGHT: Ps Paul Nobel from Adelaide and his wife, Kathy, with Shelley and Tomas and baby Benji, from Czech



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