



"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..." (Eph. 2:10)



Clarendon, Australia

Photo by L. Mager

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Know What You Know is the Truth of God's Word!



When our minds are opened and we read the Bible with an **obedient, humble, and reverent attitude** (Isaiah 66:2), we will know that we truly know the plan of God. It is the only plan that makes sense in this world of confusion. The **true, seventh-day Sabbath** and the **annual Festivals**—along with so many other **clear doctrines found in the Bible**—set us apart from the billions who are deceived by Satan the Devil. Yes, we can know that what we believe is the Truth. (*How Can You Be Right?*, Gerald Weston, LCN, Sep-Oct 2024)

Upcoming Events

October 3
Feast of Trumpets

October 12
Day of Atonement

October 17-23
Feast of Tabernacles

October 24
Last Great Day

Greetings from Clarendon

I hope that you all had a wonderful Feast of Trumpets wherever you were. Nicole and I had the pleasure of observing Trumpets with our members in Melbourne, Victoria.

Brethren, are you truly excited to keep God's Festivals? Have you made every effort to obey God's command to assemble as we read in Leviticus 23, or are His Feasts a bit inconvenient? Thankfully, God has given us these special days so that we never forget His love for humanity and His desire to ultimately Tabernacle with mankind for Eternity. What a privilege to be called now as firstfruits, future kings and priests and to have a special invitation to be married to the Lamb. One can only imagine what it will be like to have Christ as our Husband. Surely, as His future bride, we are eagerly getting ready for that special day. We are told in Revelation 19:7, *"...and His wife has made herself ready."* A work in progress...

To help us in this effort, God has blessed us with 32 faithful shepherds (in the Asia-Pacific Region), many who serve multiple congregations and some serving multiple countries. I wish to express to all the ministry serving in the region, our collective gratitude and appreciation for all their labour. In many cases, we are probably not fully aware of their personal sacrifices, but they serve selflessly to prepare God's people. Without these men and their wives, we couldn't accomplish the work we are doing. So, from all of us - thank YOU!

You will notice in the photo above, the men who serve as Pastors in the Australian Work. Recently, we have been holding Pastoral Manual and Church Policy Reviews - two day conferences here in Adelaide. These meetings serve to ensure we are all on the same page as we strive to preach and teach the same thing. The unity and bond of brotherhood was certainly strongly felt at these conferences.

If I may, let me introduce them to you. Mr Michael Gill - serving our congregation in Canberra, ACT. Mr Anthony Mew - serving the Brisbane congregation and our scattered members in Queensland. Mr David Edwards - looking after our faithful flock in Perth, WA. Mr Zig Svalbe - a faithful shepherd for God's people in Tasmania. Mr Graeme Hemphill - serving brethren in Sydney, NSW as well as much of regional NSW. Mr Robert Tyler (me) - pastoring our Adelaide congregation. Mr Martin Montgomery - pastor, assisting in Adelaide and working in the Clarendon office as Director of Media, and finally, Mr Adam Jennings - faithfully serving the growing membership in Melbourne, VIC. It is indeed a great privilege and responsibility to serve God's Church. As such, all of God's ministers recognize that serving you (the Church) is akin to serving Jesus Christ Himself. See how the Apostle Paul writes about the special relationship Christ has with the church. *"For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones"* (Ephesians 5:30). In serving you, we are indeed serving Christ!

Finally, as we witness nations in turmoil and as we see the earth in travail, we are clearly seeing the last gasps of a world struggling to survive. In the months and years ahead, no doubt many of us will experience many challenges. However, through it all, let's remember Philippians 1:6, *"...being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."* Let's all work together as we prepare for that day.

May God bless everyone with the most spiritually uplifting Festival Season ever!

In Christ's Service,

Melbourne Fellowship Weekend 2024



The vibrant suburb of Ringwood in Melbourne's east was the setting for the 2024 Melbourne Fellowship Weekend. The event, which took place over the King's Birthday long weekend of June 7-10, was enjoyed by the local Melbourne congregation, as well as more than 30 interstate guests and even 2 overseas members from New Zealand. The weekend was attended by guest minister Mr Martin Montgomery and minister-in-training Mr Warren Burnett and was themed "Philadelphian Unity".

The weekend began with a Bible Study and Soup Night on Friday evening. A selection of homemade soups and bread was enjoyed by brethren before the commencement of the Bible Study, given by

Melbourne Pastor Mr Adam Jennings.



Adelaide Assistant Pastor
Mr Martin Montgomery

Brethren arrived back at the hall the following day for Sabbath services. Mr Jennings gave the sermonette on God's perspective on Philadelphian unity, while Mr Montgomery spoke about various

aspects of our carnality that can negatively impact our Philadelphian unity with each other. Afternoon tea involved cheese tasting followed by a catered spit-roast dinner, which included a variety of meats, vegetables and salads. At the completion of the meal, brethren were able to enjoy a fun game of Bible Celebrity Heads.

The next morning, there were two separate lectures continuing on the theme, "Philadelphian Unity", delivered by Melbourne Elder Mr Zig Svalbe and Mr Burnett. After being well fed spiritually, brethren filled up on delicious sandwiches before embarking on a selection of afternoon activities. Some brethren

chose a guided Yarra River cruise. The youth and the young at heart embraced the Melbourne winter and took part in ice skating at O'Brien Icehouse at the Docklands, while others took the option of a relaxed walk in the Fitzroy Gardens.

After returning to the hall that evening brethren enjoyed a fun-filled Loaded Spuds and Games Night. Several minute-to-win-it style games were set up, as well as a table tennis and air hockey tournament and prizes were on offer for the winners of each game.

Monday, the final day of the Fellowship Weekend, was centred in the hustle and bustle of Melbourne's CBD. A farewell lunch at one of the oldest licensed pubs, The Mitre Tavern, brought the weekend to a close.

The weekend was a huge success with many opportunities to fellowship and embrace the theme of Philadelphian Unity. It felt like brethren were fully adopting God's instruction to us through Paul, "that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement." (1 Corinthians 1:10) - Troy Kearns



MALAYSIA: Feast of Pentecost

This year the Feast of Pentecost was very special for all the brethren as it was a combined service. Brethren from Bahau, Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru congregations gathered at Port Dickson, Bayu Beach Resort Hotel for Pentecost services. The sermons by our ministers Mr Rajan Moses and Mr David Isaac were very uplifting. They both covered the subjects of Christian character, the meaning of Pentecost and how to be grounded in the truth.

The buffet lunch was delicious with great variety including fried chicken, beef curry, lemon chicken, Chinese style tofu and dessert. The second service was extra special as one of our members, Mr Victor James from Johor Bahru congregation, was ordained as Deacon. Both ministers laid hands on him.

For the offertory music, a quintuplet of girls sang and in the afternoon we had

another choir of a mixed group. The evening tea break and cake cutting for Fathers Day was fun and joyful. As Paul says, "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:3) By keeping the Feast of Pentecost, we continue to understand the deep meaning and how special our calling is as firstfruits. It was a memorable and uplifting Pentecost. - *Ronald Moses*



NZ: Auckland Activity Evening



On Saturday, June 22, 2024, the Auckland congregation enjoyed an evening of education, delicacy, and fun! The events commenced with a nature documentary highlighting how animals adapt and survive earth's islands across the globe. Following this, a delectable fish and chips meal, accompanied by fresh salads, satisfied the taste buds of those present. Finally, board games, which included chess, Monopoly, Jenga and even a basketball arcade game, were enjoyed by the members. There were many laughs, good sportsmanship and plenty of fellowship. - *Paul Kearns*

NZ: Christchurch Air Force Museum Tour

On Sunday, 28th of July, seven members of the Christchurch, New Zealand congregation and visiting minister, Mr. Tony Leman, enjoyed a guided tour of the NZ Air Force Museum at Wigram, Christchurch. The tour was followed by a visit for refreshments and fellowship at historic Riccarton House, a Christchurch landmark and former home of famous Canterbury settlers, the Dean family. It was an enjoyable day of fellowship and learning about New Zealand's aviation history. - *Grant Holmes*

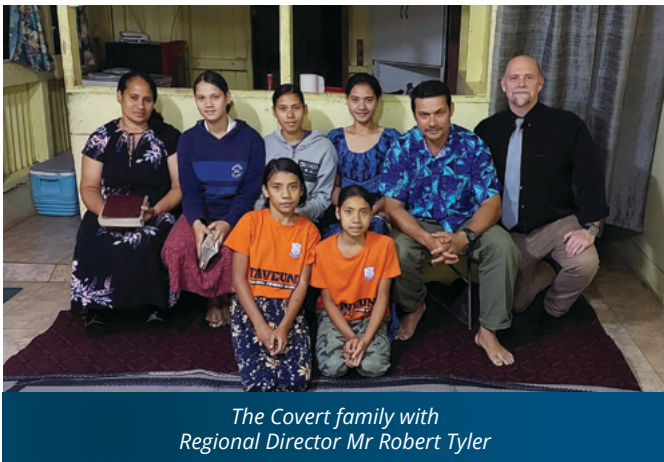


FIJI: Ministerial Visit

On Friday, September 6, 2024, I arrived in Nadi, Fiji to meet up with Regional Director, Mr Robert Tyler, who had arrived the previous day, in order to embark on a busy trip ahead to visit all of our new members who have recently joined the Living Church of God after successful TWPs were held there in November last year.

I have been back several times since then to connect with the local members but it was really helpful to have Mr Tyler there too so he could ascertain what the needs of the members are spiritually and physically as we look to further the Work in this Pacific nation.

We did not stay in the same hotel for more than one night and (including our international arrival and departure flights) we boarded seven flights in a five-day period. There was certainly no time for pina colodas on the beach!



*The Covert family with
Regional Director Mr Robert Tyler*

Our first point of call was Nadi where we spent time with the Navuruvuru Family having a special Sabbath dinner on Friday night, followed by services the next day on the Sabbath where eight people were in attendance. We met at the venue where we will be holding the Feast of Tabernacles this year. Mr Tyler was impressed with the facility and believed it would work well to accommodate our needs.

On Sunday we flew to what is called the "Garden Island of Fiji," which is Taveuni Island. Flying on a smaller aircraft it was certainly a bumpy ride to get there as we experienced quite a bit of turbulence, so Mr. Tyler and I were relieved when we landed safely! We visited with Keith & Rosie Covert who are raising six daughters and we thoroughly enjoyed their company. Mr Tyler gave a Bible Study and this was followed by a delectable meal provided by the Coverts.



*Brethren from Suva with Regional Director Mr Robert Tyler
and Area Pastor Mr Paul Kearns*

On Monday we headed for Labasa on the northern island of Vanua Levu where the Tokalau family kindly agreed to meet us at our hotel for a Bible Study. There was also an additional two ladies who met with us. Following the study and Q&A session, we enjoyed dinner at the hotel restaurant. Our final destination before we departed was the nation's capital of Suva. We flew there on Tuesday and held a Bible Study and supper with the local members, which was encouraging. We travelled to Auckland the next day, satisfied that it had been a busy and productive trip.

Mr Tyler was able to get to know the brethren more intimately and provide them with Biblical answers to their questions, which included how to properly keep the Sabbath and how to explain difficult Scriptures that false ministers use to do away with the Sabbath such as Romans 14:5-6. Mr Tyler does want to officially register the Church in Fiji soon so that the Work there can be more established. We have just recently begun airing the Tomorrow's World telecast on a local station called Mai TV every Sunday at 5pm, so a foundation is being laid for the Work to grow in Fiji. I was also able to tie up some loose ends with Feast of Tabernacles organisation while in Nadi, so everything is now in place for what is going to be a memorable inaugural festival for the *Living Church of God* in Fiji.

All of our current members have a connection back to the Worldwide Church of God in one way or another so it is incredibly inspiring to see God bring these brethren back into the fold of His flock and it is exciting



*Brethren meeting Mr Tyler and Mr Kearns
for a Bible Study in Labasa.*

to be able to work with these members to help them obey God and get back on track keeping His Way of life. - Paul Kearns

LCG Asia-Pacific Media Report

The work of God is the most exciting and important work on the earth and as our Presiding Evangelist often reminds us – we have been called early (as Firstfruits) to do the work and prepare the way for Jesus Christ’s return.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 28: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20)



It is getting harder and harder to do this with our traditional method of TV. An increasing presence online and in digital marketing has become the main force in growing subscribership in our region and around the world.

Although TV is no longer producing the “lion’s share” of responses, it is still an important part of the work. Digital marketing on Facebook doesn’t create the same type of long-term relationship that TV does. Some of our subscribers have literally watched us for years and for others, decades. A click on Facebook doesn’t promote the same depth of relationship as quickly. Although it can over time, as we direct people to our online presence on YouTube and our websites (*tomorrowsworld.org* and *lcg.org*). When we use a combination of these platforms, TV and Social Media, we can achieve a favourable result.

negotiated quite hard with GEM, eventually closing the deal at half the asking price and, to date, it is producing good responses in line with expectation. Our other Australian station 7TWO still remains the “Flagship” in terms of responses, but GEM is a very viable alternative option that allows full coverage of the nation that 7TWO does not.

While affordable and worthwhile TV in New Zealand and the Philippines is becoming harder and harder to procure, an interesting opportunity has recently opened up in Fiji on MaiTV. It is too early to truly assess its worth as we are really only just getting started, but it is very affordable and well worth walking through this open door. We are now reaching 33 nations in the Asia Pacific region with Facebook and there are just a handful of nations that we are yet to enter. The main barriers preventing us from reaching some nations are language barriers, lack of social media use, other dominant religions and government restrictions, as in the case of North Korea.

It has been our endeavour to continually assess the value or worth of our methodology in reaching people. For a long time on Facebook, we have made use of a Facebook algorithm that directs our advertising toward a new audience instead of those that we have previously reached. This sounds like a good idea in terms of growing the number of new subscribers. However, when the data was collected through trials that we undertook, we found that it was not the most effective strategy when compared to targeting new and previously reached people. We have subsequently changed our approach based on the data. We have also trialed using the same Facebook budget over a shorter period of time in different nations in the Pacific, which effectively gives a bigger presence for a short, sharp, burst. Although this is a new strategy it is very clearly producing a substantially better result.

In 2023 the total Facebook response was 21,747. After only 8 months, at the end of August 2024, we have already exceeded that with 23,163 responses and there are still 4 months left to increase that further.

facebook Responses 2023 & 2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Avg
TOTAL 2023	1,153	1,637	1,495	1,899	1,572	1,348	1,408	1,508	1,840	3,430	2,298	2,159	21,747	1,812
TOTAL 2024	3,034	2,813	2,397	3,542	2,366	2,502	3,440	3,069					23,163	2,895
Increase/Decrease	163%	72%	60%	87%	51%	86%	144%	104%					7%	59.8%

Some exciting developments in TV have been made this year with the securing of an 8:30am Saturday morning airing on 9GEM. We have been in discussion with GEM and involved in a couple of different trials over the last 18 months or so. The trials were very helpful in giving us the data we needed to ascertain the true worth of the station and airing time. We

The Work and the ever changing opportunities and ways to implement it can be challenging, but incredibly rewarding as well, particularly when we see new people being added to our subscribership daily with growing efficiency in the use of resources that God provides. - *Martin Montgomery*

PHILIPPINES: Ministerial Visits

On the morning of June 15, 2024, we drove to Marbel, Koronadal to conduct the combined Sabbath Service for Polomolok and Koronadal. When we arrived there the children held out a welcome banner that said "Welcome to South Cotabato Church our new resident minister Sir Amancio Cuares Jr and his wife Ma'am Myrna Cuares we are happy to have you." We were deeply moved by this gesture in showing their happiness that we are assigned to their area. We also held the Pentecost Service at Marbel, Koronadal and had a wonderful time fellowshiping with the brethren.



On July 27, 2024, our Regional Pastor Mr Joseph Gonzales and his wife Janice, visited Polomolok Congregation in South Cotabato. The brethren were very glad and rejoiced in their presence, expressing thanks and gratitude for sending Mr and Mrs Amancio Cuares Jr as their new resident minister. The sermon from Mr Gonzales titled "The Major Pathways Leading To God's Kingdom", encouraged the brethren to follow God's direction to reach eternal life. After the services we fellowshiped and had snacks followed by a visit to the residence of Mr and Mrs Cuares in Polomolok, then on to visit brethren in General Santos City.

On August 7, 2024, Mr and Mrs Amancio Cuares Jr visited the Bayotas and Lumbab families living in the mountains north of Polomolok. Due to the distance going uphill, Mrs Cuares could not walk to reach the place. It was a blessing that one of the brethren, Mr Rowel Lumbab, was passing after his delivery of coconut fruit, so Mrs Cuares was able to ride the "Carabao Farm Cart." She enjoyed the ride and we were very happy to meet Mr Jerry Bayotas who had been unwell. - *Amancio Cuares Jr & Myrna Cuares*



Left: Mrs Myrna Cuares reaches the mountain region of the Bayotas and Lumbab families

Right: Mr Rowel Lumbab, the owner of the Carabao Farm Cart.



BRISBANE: Mount Coot-Tha Summit Hike



On Sunday, August 25, 2024, fifteen keen members of the Brisbane congregation set off on a refreshing morning walk up to the Mount Coot-Tha Summit. Our path took us from the JC Slaughter Falls, through a small rock pool, up stairs and inclines to the Summit lookout and back, making for a 5km round trip which took about an hour to complete. Although it was an unusually warm day, the group was buzzing with happy conversation and a beautiful family atmosphere. Our energetic little ones helped each other and everyone enjoyed the lush sights and sounds of the area. After the mildly challenging hike, the group met up with some others at the Botanic Gardens Café to rest ourselves and share a wholesome brunch and warm fellowship. - *Dakota-Rae Burnett*

NZ: Auckland Bible Study Evening

On Friday night, August 23, 2024, Church singles met at the gorgeous and historic Ferndale House where a singles Bible Study was conducted by Mr Paul Kearns. He guided us through examples of young leaders, both in the Bible and the world. We discussed figures like Isaac Newton, Jane Austen, King Josiah, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. These leaders embodied strength, intelligence, and faith at ages that society would have dismissed as being inexperienced or naive.



As a young single, these examples challenged my character and my faith. The societal pull to chase the pleasures of our hearts through fame, wealth, and impulse, are tough to resist, especially when those around are 'happy' experiencing these fleeting rewards. However, the study reminded us of the true fulfilment and lasting success that comes from following the One that is our Creator and the very essence of love. Keeping His laws, serving others, and remaining chaste, are only a few examples of how we can follow Him. We were then able to fellowship in the dining room adorned with intricate decor, reflecting the historic ambience of the Ferndale House. We enjoyed juicy burgers and crunchy fries from Burger Fuel, with the warmth of each other's company.

The night then concluded with a Q&A session. We had been given the opportunity prior to the session to submit questions. Mr Kearns and Mr Leman answered our questions confidently and speedily with scriptural evidence and insightful explanations. They provided guidance on dating in the Church, ways to develop an intimate relationship with God, and our own questions about accounts in the Bible. It was so encouraging to see what was on the minds of my peers, being in a space where we could be open in our pursuit for answers. In our journey to grow in the faith and stature of Christ, I feel so grateful to the Church for opportunities such as these, to build one another up. - *Caroline Aleki*

PERTH: Italian Dinner Evening

After the Sabbath on June 8, 2024, the Perth congregation enjoyed fun and fellowship with an Italian themed dinner. Sitting at tables decked with red and white checkered tablecloths, Italian music playing in the background and dining on authentic Italian dishes prepared by the ladies, everyone had a very enjoyable evening. Thanks go to Mr and Mrs Chris Pressler for organising a very successful activity. - *Jenny Edwards*



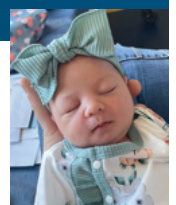
MELBOURNE: International Dinner & Quiz



Members of the Melbourne congregation stayed after services on August 24, 2024, to take part in an international themed buffet dinner and quiz night. Brethren were treated to a diverse array of authentic dishes from around the world that were pre-prepared by members from their home culture. After savouring dinner and dessert, brethren tested their knowledge on fun and challenging international trivia questions. It was a memorable evening that provided the perfect opportunity for extra fellowship. - *Troy Kearns*

BIRTHS

Mr and Mrs Andrew and Ellie Crouch of the Brisbane congregation welcomed **Eevie Morgan Crouch** on June 20, 2024, weighing 3.1kg and measuring 52cm long. She has been a delightful addition to the Crouch family and big brother Judah loves having a little sibling to care for.



BAPTISMS



Mrs Denise Maddicks made the big step and was baptised by Melbourne Pastor Mr Adam Jennings on May 17, 2024 in a beautiful setting at the Maddicks home. Following her baptism, Mr Jennings and Elder Zig Svalbe laid hands on her. A small number of guests witnessed the important commitment she made in her life. We heartily welcome Denise into the family of God.

July 21, 2024 was a very important day for **Mrs Vicki Evagora** of the Melbourne congregation. Elder Zig Svalbe baptised her at her home and hands were laid on by Melbourne Pastor Adam Jennings and Elder Zig Svalbe. Witnessed by a small number of friends and family, we celebrated the joyful location with a well prepared meal and heartfelt fellowship.



On July 22, a small group gathered in Brisbane to witness the baptism of **Ms Kim Khatri** into the family of God. Brisbane Pastors Anthony Mew and Dayrell Tanner laid hands on Ms Khatri. Despite the chilly weather and cool water, those present were warmed with joy to be part of such a special occasion.

Ms Delma McKenzie was baptised on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, by Perth Pastor Mr David Edwards. The baptism was performed in the calm waters of a sheltered cove near the Port Geographe Marina. After the baptism Mr and Mrs Edwards and Ms McKenzie enjoyed a celebratory lunch. Ms McKenzie is the only Church member in Busselton.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Mr Rod Edgar (83) died peacefully in his sleep on May 2, 2024. Rod was an energetic man but unfortunately began to suffer from Parkinson's and then Dementia. Mercifully, God has allowed him to go to his rest, awaiting his resurrection. He and his wife Lynn shared 57 years of marriage together. His memorial service was held on May 12, 2024. Two weeks after holding Mr Rod Edgar's memorial service, **Mrs Lyn Edgar (81)** joined her husband in sleep until the resurrection. Rod and Lyn met on the dance floor in Ayr, Queensland in 1963 and together shared a wonderful life. Although she had been suffering with a number of health difficulties, she remained positive. She was a joy to the Townsville congregation and will be missed by all who loved her. Her memorial service was held on May 29, 2024.

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