

The Lamb of God Chronicle

April 2015

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REFLECTIONS... 'Progression of Erosion in Family, and What to Do'...



Yes - that's me in the photograph. People change don't they, and I am certainly changing in line with Job 19 [26a] and other Scriptures. My change is gradual and feels somewhat comfortable. But other changes around me, and impacting me, are taking place with the speed and impact of a societal tsunami. They are coming in fast, in waves one after the other, as far as the horizons I see, and they are damaging and undermining Christian family beliefs, and by consequence the church.

In recent years I have seen an agenda of darkness which has eroded Christian parenting. We are now familiar with the mainstreaming of systems which lessen parental notification regarding things as serious as teenage abortions, and laws that lessen parental ability in the ways of disciplining their children. We now have terms such as 'carer/parent' replacing 'mother and father' or 'mum and dad'. And in marriage we now have 'partners' instead of husbands and wives [well- not in my home]. We are well softened to accept same sex relationship to equal traditional marriage, and we are now seeing adoption into same sex marriages. That could be a little confusing down the track with two dads or two mums. And this will likely confuse a growing child to understand and embrace Christianity. We now see the mainstreaming of these new realities portrayed every evening in a variety of television programmes. And millions of young children will grow up having known no other reality than that portrayed in media.

In April 2006, in Bogota, Columbia, Catholic Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko gave an address at a Latin American Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities. In his talk he included quoting other significant church leaders. He said 'The expanding process of secularization and an authentic "dictatorship of relativism" (Benedict XVI)

have produced a tremendous absence of values in many of our contemporaries, which is accompanied by *a joyful nihilism that ends in an alarming erosion of faith, a type of "silent apostasy" (John Paul II) and a "strange forgetfulness of God" (Benedict XVI)*. And six years later the world renowned speaker and Evangelical Evangelist Billy Graham warned *'Our society strives to avoid any possibility of offending anyone- except God'*. But other warnings go back further, given by men of God such as the insightful Evangelical Pastor Aidan Tozer. He warned of a *'dangerous path of Christian compromise with the world'* and he is quoted as saying *'Religion today is not transforming people, but rather it is being transformed by people'*, and *'It is not raising the moral level of society but rather is descending to join society's own level'*, and *'Society is smilingly accepting its surrender...'*

What can we do? For me I see wisdom in Ephesians 6 [10-18]. In particular verse 12. Read it and then reflect on how many times the Apostle Paul exhorts us to 'stand'- not to ignore, not to run, not to shrink in fear, not to say that's some other person's problem. Start at home, stand at home, and embrace the many rich gifts, blessings and support that you have in being a member of the Christian Community Lamb of God. Stand. We are church today, we are the Christian people, and we are a part of the answer in God.

In a few months my leadership role in the Lamb of God takes a constitutional change. I will no longer be serving you in senior leadership, and therefore I will have a less prominent role in the community. But I will still be there as a member and a brother in the Lamb of God. And I pray God you will find me standing with you, and with other Christian bodies, in this work of Christ into which we are all called.

Your brother on this journey into the Eternal Kingdom of the Eternal God.

Roger - Senior Coordinator

OUR PEOPLE

With sadness, yet confidence in the Lord, we remember:

- Fr Merv McGettigan [Southern], as his brother Robert passed away last February.

[Note to all Branch leaders: Please send your local news/snippets to Roger Foley or Tom Caballes so that we can acknowledge important occasions in the lives of our brothers and sisters and make sure we do not miss any of them.]

NEWS AND ARTICLES

NEWS from the NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Lamb of God National Council met late March for a time of pastoral sharing followed by discussions and time spent on business matters. We can confirm that leadership changes will take place later this year in three key areas, being in the Christchurch and Auckland Branches, followed by a vote for a new Senior Coordinator on 7 November. With regard to the Senior Coordinator vote, starting April, Roger will be visiting all branches and locations to meet with covenant members in order to explain the approach we will take to comply with the necessary constitutional process. He will also answer

questions and inform members of the three candidates available to be voted as next Senior Coordinator. Members will also be advised how they can contribute into the selection process if they so wish.

AUCKLAND BRANCH UPDATES

As the first quarter of 2015 draws to a close, the Auckland Branch Members poised themselves to put into action the plans for 2015, as presented by the Elders. Programmes of Service and Outreach, which had been initiated earlier, will be pursued with commitment. Some of these will be a re-vamp of Auckland Prayer Watch participation, the Prison Ministry, a Life in the Spirit Seminar, a Marriage or Parenting Course and acts of service within the Branch and to the wider community.

A vital element to outreach and service is Communication and Relationship Building. This was dwelt upon by Dave Hughes from the Word of Life Community in Ann Arbor Michigan when he addressed the Auckland Branch members and spoke about community building and relating to the wider Ecumenical community.

Over the course of two weekends Dave Hughes, accompanied by his wife Jane, gave the series two talks on pastoring members to our Pastoral Leaders. His experience and wisdom was well appreciated.

On March 15, community building in the Auckland Branch was strengthened further when four Underway Members committed themselves to become Full Covenant Members. Leading the way in service, Pastoral Leaders washed the feet of the four new Full Covenant Members. Congratulations and welcome to Anthony Pillai, Alfred and Iris Saldanha and Aaron Fisk. Thank you to our Pastoral Leaders and Elders for drawing our new Full Covenant Members into our fold.

The Month of March will end with a Branch Lord's Day celebration followed by fun with an Irish theme.



Dave and Jane Hughes in Auckland



[L to R] Aaron, Iris, Alfred and Anthony making their Full Covenant



STEPS TO A HEALTHY, RADIANT, AND GLOWING SPIRIT

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

JOIN US AT THE WELLINGTON WOMEN'S RETREAT

Date: 19-20 June 2015: Fri 7:30pm–9:00pm, Sat 8:30am-3:00pm.

Venue: Our Lady's Home of Compassion Retreat Centre, 2 Rhine Street, Island Bay, Wellington

Cost: *Overnight - \$65/pp (twin sharing); \$73/pp (single room)

*Day only - \$15/pp

*Includes lunch, am/pm tea

For further information, please contact Mhel Caballes – Mobile number 021 030 2309,
email mhelcaballes@gmail.com.

CHALLENGES IN LIVING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Resource for House Group Discussion by Tom Caballes

Stressed? Rest in the Lord – April 2015

*Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. [Matthew 11:28-30]*

Stress is a modern day malady. It affects our physical, mental and spiritual health. Are you able to sleep well at night, or do you toss and turn about something? Do you feel enslaved by daily duties and responsibilities? Is life like a list of endless urgent matters that you need to keep up with? Too much cell phone, Facebook and the internet occupy our precious time and energy – they do not help with our stress level. God wants us to rest. He rested when He created the world. He introduced the Sabbath, which is a time for personal and family rest, and is a pattern for us to follow. Jesus came so that we may have life in its fullness, in abundance [John 10:10]. He created us not to be like robots or machines. Stress sucks the joy out of life. You can choose to live a stressful life, but you can also choose also not to. So, if you choose to live in the rat race, you will still end up – as a rat. It is your choice.

So How Do You Avoid Stress in Life and Be Able to Rest in the Lord?

1. Decide to be purposeful in life – do not just do what is the most urgent, but what is important. Establish personal and family goals. Plan your life based on your goals and priorities. Learn to say no.
2. Take regular ‘pauses’ in life. See how you can avoid or alleviate stress in your daily life. Use your annual leave wisely. Regularly plan for a personal retreat and/or family vacation. Take care of your body by exercising regularly. A revitalised and healthy body refreshes and sharpens the mind too.
3. Take time off from cell phones, the internet and other technology stuff. Some Christians regularly ‘fast’ from technology. Why? It shows that they are not slaves of all these modern gadgets, but they serve the living God. Decide to invest your time with relationships rather than with gadgets.
4. Develop some good healthy hobbies and diversions you enjoy – such as gardening, reading good books, hiking, painting or something similar. These things can help you regain some balance in life.
5. Celebrate the Lord’s Day with family and friends. Gather together to thank God for His blessings of the week, and recall your forthcoming eternal destiny. Enjoy time together with some board games or other fun activities together. Enjoy the company of friends and family.
6. Learn to trust in the Lord and say no to anxiety. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. [Philippians 4:6-7]* Know that God is in control – not you. He knows the past, the present and the future, and believe that everything will work out good for those who love Him [Romans 8:28].
7. Lastly, if there is something that keeps stressing you out, you need to deal with that source of stress. The best thing to do is to talk with a pastoral care person to discuss and for you to decide what to do.

Other Scripture Passages:

1. *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow... [Matthew 6:33-34A]*
2. *Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. [1 Peter 5:6-7]*
3. Other references: **Psalms 9:10; Psalm 37:3-5; Psalm 118:8-9; Proverbs 3:5; and Isaiah 26:4.**

For Reflection or Sharing:

1. From a grade of 1 to 10 with 10 being the highest, how stressed are you right now? How and why?
2. What decisions and actions do you need to do to avoid and/or lessen stress in your life?
3. What can you do to enjoy life more?

KAIROS NEW ZEALAND YOUTH NEWS

Kairos New Zealand Schedule of Events for 2015

April 10 to 12, 2015	BLAST Weekend in Wellington
July 16 to 18, 2015	Winter Oasis in Auckland [for High Schoolers]
January 5 to 10 2016	Summer Oasis 2016 in Christchurch

BLAST 2015

The BLAST rego is out now! <http://www.kairossp.com/kairosblast2015.htm>. The online rego is here: <http://www.kairossp.com/blast2015onlinerego.htm>.

See you there!

WEBSITES WORTH NOTING

KAIROS South Pacific Web Site HAS BEEN UPDATED with 2014 photos – go take a look ...

Check it out at: www.kairossp.com

You can network and chat with other young people by going to this website:

<http://www.kairossp.com/kairosspnzchatroom.htm>

We designated every Friday night at 10pm as a time to meet other young people.

Go and visit the International Kairos Media website: <http://www.kairos-media.org/>

Our Lamb of God website has been updated – please visit

www.lambofgodcommunity.net.

Sign up [free] for Youth Culture Newsletter

The most recent edition of the Youth Culture Newsletter is now available online. It will no longer be sent to you via the Lamb of God e-mail list but you can get it at this link:

<http://www.kairos-na.org/youthculturenewsletter.htm>

This is a recommended Sword of the Spirit publication for youth and parents.

Living Bulwark Sword of the Spirit - Highly Recommended!

This Sword of the Spirit on-line publication has received more than 43,000 visits (an average of 135 visits each day) in its first year. All back issues for the past 12 months can be found at: <http://www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/archives.htm>. The current issue of the online magazine can be seen at: www.swordofthespirit.net/bulwark/index.html.

SENDING NEWS FOR CHRONICLE PUBLICATION

Branches are encouraged to email news, photos, happenings and snippets to Tom Caballes at joethomascaballes@gmail.com. Each issue is closed around the 20th of the previous month.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT OUR RECORDS

Membership Records and Data: Branch leaders are responsible to keep updated records and then email all new attendee additions, deletions, address and phone changes, births, deaths, transfers, etc. to -

Tom Caballes joethomascaballes@gmail.com
and copy to Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz

BIRTHDAY INFORMATION

[Day and month, but year is optional.] Branch leaders are asked to keep updated records and email all new attendee additions to -

Tom Caballes joethomascaballes@gmail.com

GETTING CHRONICLE & OTHER NEWS BY EMAIL

[1] If you are receiving The Chronicle as an electronic edition, we just need hear if and when you change your email address. Notify Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz.

[2] If you are receiving this by hard copy but you have an email address, please send your email address to Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz.

[3] The Chronicle has a national and international mailing schedule. If you know of others wishing to be added, notify Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz.

Wedding Anniversaries - Happy Anniversary!

NAMES	DATE	BRANCH
Mark & Mary Jackson	01/04	Blenheim
Peter & Debbie Anngow	03/04	Christchurch
Henri & Cutie Zalamea	05/04	Central
Terry & Sue Greig	09/04	Central
Steven & Judy Homes	11/04	Southern
Brian & Joan Lobo	18/04	Auckland
Jonathan & Helen McKenzie	18/04	Christchurch
Russell & Gidget Mendonca	19/04	Auckland
Robert & Karin Van Doorn	21/04	Christchurch
Bernard & Andrea Forster	24/04	Christchurch
Joseph & Theresa Gomes	26/04	Auckland
Roger & Veronica Foley	28/04	Christchurch

Birthdays for This Month - Happy Birthday!

NAMES	BIRTHDAY	BRANCH
Amelia Matthews	01/04	Christchurch
Isabella Matthews	01/04	Christchurch
Deanne D'Mello	02/04	Auckland
Cherylyn Donald	03/04	Auckland
Anila Collins	04/04	Auckland
Danielle McKenzie	04/04	Christchurch
Christopher Fernandez	06/04	Auckland
Blanche Hollingsworth	10/04	Auckland
Denver Saldanha	10/04	Auckland
Rachel D'Souza	11/04	Auckland
Stephanie O'Connell	11/04	Nelson
Imelda Currie	12/04	Christchurch
Deanne Antao	13/04	Auckland
Rico De Zoysa	13/04	Auckland
Stephen Sison	13/04	Central
Marie Fredericks	15/04	Christchurch
Nicole Sequeira	16/04	Christchurch
Diane Staite	16/04	Nelson
Ivan Carvalho	17/04	Auckland
Bill McElhinney	17/04	Blenheim
Ian Hamilton	17/04	Christchurch
David Hamilton	17/04	Christchurch
Juliana Afamasaga	17/04	Central
Mira D'Souza	18/04	Auckland
Ron Elliott	19/04	Christchurch
Kevin McCormick	19/04	Auckland
Bruce Joslen	21/04	Christchurch
Brian Lowe	21/04	Auckland
Alexa Caballes	22/04	Central
Patrick Forster	23/04	Southern
Tili Leatitagaloa	23/04	Auckland
Carol Cullimore	24/04	Blenheim
Sarah McCormick	24/04	Auckland
Judy Kwan [Lim]	25/04	Auckland
Michelle Amaral	25/04	Auckland
Lisa Blanch	25/04	Central
Bronwyn Harborne	25/04	Ch/Ashburton
Mary Anngow	26/04	Christchurch
Peter Anngow	26/04	Christchurch
Dennis D'Souza	26/04	Auckland
Leander D'Souza	27/04	Auckland
Apollo Geneta	27/04	Central
Sandy Westbury	27/04	Nelson
Bruce Donald	28/04	Auckland
Elias Martis	28/04	Auckland
Allan D'Souza	30/04	Auckland
Harry Lowe	30/04	Auckland

PRAYERWATCH - SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE

Reinforce the guard, station the watchmen, prepare an ambush! The Lord will carry out his purpose... Jeremiah 51: 12

Ephesians 6: 14 Stand firm then, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Here Paul is looking at the sandals the Roman soldier is wearing and we know that if we are going any distance or into unfamiliar rough terrain we need good and strong footwear. Today we are spoilt for different types of footwear so we can choose something suitable for our requirements. Whether playing sport, walking tracks or climbing in the mountains we need to know our need and choose the right footwear for what we are doing. We all know that if our footwear is too big or too small or does not fit correctly, then our feet suffer and we fail to achieve as we want to. For the Roman soldier the sandals are an important part of his uniform and are a sign he was equipped and ready to move at a moment notice.

The sign of a Christian is that we are ready to preach the gospel and share the gospel with those around us. At the center of the Gospel is the message of reconciliation – man reconciled with God and man reconciled to man. The Gospel is the Good News of peace. Man must first be at peace with God before he can be truly at peace with his fellow man. It is futile to preach “Peace on earth” until we have come to peace with God. Our old nature will always be at war, so until we repent of and die to the old nature, can we change, putting on the new nature of Jesus will bring us peace. The world cries out for peace and does not know the source of true peace, Jesus, who came, calling us to repent from our evil ways so we will be at peace. Soldiers, we must preach this Gospel of peace and live it out in our daily lives.

If you have any comments or questions concerning the Prayerwatch then please send them to me or give them to one of your branch leaders to send to me. God bless and watch over you all.

Alan McKenzie - National Coordinator, Prayerwatch

LAMB OF GOD PRAYERWATCH - PRAYER INTENTIONS

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Against strongholds of Apathy, Witchcraft, Confusion and other named spirits.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

COMMUNITIES Protect and bless the life and mission of THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, Patmos & Cornerstone Lamb of God [Fiji], Families for Christ [Melbourne], Vanuatu Group, Light of Christ [Nelson], The Covenanted Community For Christ, [Penang & Taiping],

FAMILY **Auckland:** Yvonne D'Souza, Desmond & Charmaine Vessaokar, Tili Leatitagaloa, Blanche Fernandes, Sequeria's & Saldanha's Families, Neville & Karyn Coutinho, Ivan & Hilary Carvalho, Valerie Menezes, Russell & Gidget Mendonca, Wendell & Glynis Fernandes, **Central:** Jun & Angie Briguera, Henri & Cutie Zalamea,

Rose Buladaco, Joel & Tiza Sison, Robert & Ethel Caballes, Tom & Mhel Caballes, **Blenheim:** Mark & Mary Jackson, Mike & Cheryl Garrett, **Christchurch:** Roger & Veronica Foley, Robert & Karin Van Doorn, Darren & Julie Humphries, Tai & De Stirling, Niul & Coila Kay, Lyn Keane, Pauline Marsden, John & Monica Haughey, Annette Sargisson, Chris & Maureen Lyons, **Southern:** John & Janet MacManus, Mike & Judy Prendeville,

OTHERS NEEDS Auckland: Mark & Elizabeth Stolten, Allen & Judy Carneiro, Gillian Puch, Joseph Gomes, Allan Carvalho, Blanche Fernandes, Peter Dalgado,

HEALING CANCER Blenheim: Carol Cullimore, David Aberhart, **Christchurch:** Mary Anngow, Robin Corbett, Kerry Fordham, Trevor Wall, **Southern:** Christine May

HEALING HEART Auckland: Isabel Morais, **Central:** Paul Oliver, **Blenheim:** Chris Fredericks, **Christchurch:** Dorelle Ham, Undine Cavanagh, Philip Middlemiss, Niul Kay, Andre'a Forster,

HEALING Auckland: Annette Carvalho, Winona D'Costa, Olivia Fernandes, Lucy Misquita, Blanche & Denis Hollingsworth, Cheryl Donald, Mira D'Souza, Peter D'Souza, Delia D'Mello, Fr John Rea, Maria dos Anjos D'Souza, Bruce Donald, Rosana Kuresa, Thomas Hong, Vimath Sequeira, Karyn Coutinho, Manuel Lobo family, Michelle Amaral, Alwin D'Souza, Eddie, Cynthia, Clyde D'Souza, Joan Lobo, Christopher Dalgado, Pam D'Souza, Christie D'Costa, Grace Collins, Tili Leatitagaloa, Alfred Saldanha, Philomena Coutinho, Arca Fernandes, **Central:** Stephanie O'Connell, Sharon Powick, Michael Powick, Jacob Muollo, Henri Zalamea, Aly Fernandes, Rae Taylor, **Blenheim:** Peter Greig, Josiah Grieg, Grace Weston, Mike Garrett, Anita Fredericks, Judith Rodgers, Barbara Ryan, Jamie Rodgers, **Christchurch:** Lisa Borkus, Karin Van Doorn, Chris Aston Grieve, Veronica Foley, Siobhan Forster, Bernie Black, John Murray, Chris Lyons, Monica Haughey, Mikyla Challies, Bronwyn Harborne, Pauline Marsden, Ian Hamilton, David Black, David Marsden, **Southern:** Fr Merv McGettigan, Daniel MacManus, Steven & Judy Homes & Family, Pat Forster, Rhoda Woodfield, Alan McKenzie, Mike Prendeville,

BEREAVEMENT Auckland: Peter Stoddard & Family, **Central:** Rosemarie Buladaco, **Blenheim:** **Southern:** Florence Quigley & Family,

COVERING PRAYER National Council, Kairos Ministries, Branch Life, Lamb of God Centre, Branch Visits, Clustering in Auckland, Ministry of Fr John Rea, Employment of Members, Light of Christ Special Ministry, Wellington branch [sickness among extended family], and Ashburton Group in Christchurch.

“I have made you a Watchman” Ezekiel 33: 7