

# The Lamb of God Chronicle

June 2015

The Lamb of God Community PO Box 35 054 Christchurch 8640

Phone [03] 383 2631 Mobile 021 817 232

Email: [Lamb\\_of\\_God@clear.net.nz](mailto:Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz)

Website: [www.lambofgodcommunity.net](http://www.lambofgodcommunity.net)



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### REFLECTIONS... 'There is a Reason and a Purpose in our Calling...'



On Saturday 9 May we celebrated the 36th Anniversary of the founding of the Lamb of God in Christchurch. We gathered for a very well attended 'Celebration Evening with the Lord's Day'. During the evening we projected a running photographic presentation of seasons of our life, sang some 'vintage' praise songs, and enjoyed and celebrated with lots of food.

Just two days later we again celebrated, this time for the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Lamb of God as a National Community. That day back in 1985 began the foundation of a particular and special work of the Lord - a community declaring that we are 'one people, with one cheque book [one common fund], being ecumenical in nature, and multi-locational in where we live and witness.' Indeed it is a calling in God that is somewhat unique. We are called to live as a people who respect and pursue Christian unity on a daily 'grass-roots' basis under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We are called to live this life in committed relationships not just where we live, but wherever the Lamb of God is established throughout New Zealand. And we are called from a variety of denominations and streams of the Christian faith, and from many different cultural backgrounds. Wow - only God can do that.

In looking at how we are today, thirty-six years later, it is clear that our Christian Community is markedly different to most of mainstream society. We pray, we raise our children to know the Lord, and our youth to serve the Lord. We meet frequently as families and singles to celebrate and praise God. We care for and support each other emotionally, financially, physically and spiritually. We regularly share our lives together in small groups of men and women. And we do all of this additional to our faithful commitment to our local churches of various denominations. We are pretty 'weird' compared to mainstream New Zealand. But there is more to come. As this nation

becomes more secular, as this nation continues its path of being a world 'leader' in rejecting Christian beliefs and values, we will become more obviously 'different', and therein lies the purpose in God of our call. We need to continue to stand for Christ, for Christian values, for family life, for the inherent value of each person created in the image and likeness of God. We may soon enter a time when even Christian leaders and pastors will be tempted to compromise their beliefs and values to 'mainstream acceptance' rather than to stand against the stream. Community is a call of God for such a time as this.

The founding leaders of the Lamb of God Christchurch Branch will well remember the word declared at the first prayer meeting on 8 July 1979. The word included this declaration *'I call you from the mire and the filth of this world to be my people, you will face many challenges, but know I will be with you step by step by step.'*

My time of service in leading our community is drawing to a close. What I am alerting to those who will serve you into the future is this. Yes, it would be great to have a general gathering each week of five hundred men, women and children. Yes it would be great to have a roster of a dozen music teams. Yes it would be easier to have everyone going to the same church, all of the same denomination, all of the same culture. But that is not our call. The Lamb of God is called in this land of Aotearoa to be multi-locational, ecumenical, multi-cultural and a people endeavouring to live a common life, a Christian life, in medium and large sized groups, but also in locations where just a handful of people live out this life in God committed to each other as members of the Lamb of God.

Be careful to discern well, and in prayer, should you ever be tempted to walk an easier path.

Your brother in the Lord - Roger  
Senior Coordinator: Lamb of God Community

## OUR PEOPLE

### **Congratulations!**

- To our recent tertiary graduates in different regions, including Alexa Caballes [Central], Clarese Caballes [Central], Renella Carneiro [Auckland] and Lukanne Lowe [Auckland].

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

- Ron and Jacqui Blackwell [Central], as Ron's dad passed away recently.
- Ivan and Annette Carvalho [Auckland] as Annette's mother has died.
- Joseph & Theresa Gomes [Auckland] as Joseph's brother has died.

**[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

### **LAMB OF GOD, NADI, FIJI- A Request for Two Practical Needs**

Elizabeth, the Community Administrator, has ask if we can assist with two items as per this communication: *'Bula Roger, just wanted to say that our Children's Club is in need of an outdoor tent for camping for the kids. Any used or second hand tent would be much appreciated. Also we are in need of a digital camera since the last one was lost with my handbag.'* I assume Elizabeth is means that her handbag was lost or stolen and inside it was the digital camera we supplied in January.

If anyone has a second hand tent or camera they can donate could they please contact Roger who can then get it over to Fiji late July.

### **AUCKLAND BRANCH UPDATES**

In keeping with the call of Pope Francis and other church Leaders, Pastors and Ministers to be missionaries of Christ, the Auckland Branch started a "Life in the Spirit Seminar" [LISS], offering members and guests an opportunity to receive the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit, the most essential criteria to be missionaries for the Lord.

The extent of the success of this ongoing Seminar has been put into heartfelt words by Brian Lobo, one of the participants:

*"Shackled, in a state of desolation and burdened with a heavy weight of anger, guilt and anguish, the man bowed low and groaned weakly. He remained in this state, pleading silently, when The Lord touched him and he felt a dim ray of hope rise within him. He inclined his ear and strained to understand, when a light began to shine within, and he saw the cobwebs of his life.*

*"Where are you Lord?" he asked. The reply came from within, "Seek me and you shall find me and I will show you the way to peace, joy and fullness of life."*

The man rose and went about his work, while he pondered this experience. As he stepped out he met an old friend, who seemed suddenly a different person, at peace with himself and radiating a spirit of joy. *"How did this happen?"* he asked.

*"Attend a Life in the Spirit seminar,"* the friend replied, *"and you will see."*

The Auckland branch of the Lamb of God began the proposed LISS at St. Anthony's Church, Mangere, at the end of April and though obstructions due to ongoing road works made it difficult to access the venue easily, many made the decision to attend and have done so.

The teachings and testimonies that follow a time of praise and worship have opened the eyes of participants' understanding to God's love and forgiveness, of the battle that goes on in life, the way of freedom through Jesus Christ, and a new life of peace, joy and power, through the Holy Spirit. Openness in sharing each one's journey in life at the small group sharing enable participants to strengthen their desire to take the steps to

make positive changes. New hope is born, and faith strengthened as each learns, and new friendships are made, and or reinforced.

It is with much excitement and expectation that we now look forward to receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, helping our inner growth through prayer, community and service, leading to a transformation in Christ. May these gifts give us a new life of dynamic relationship with Him, so that our lives may bear much fruit for the kingdom of God.”

### **WELLINGTON BRANCH - Ecumenical Easter Worship Celebration**

The Wellington branch woke up early and joined hundreds of Christians from different groups and denominations in celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus on 5 April Easter morning. The event was called “Sonrise Service” which was hosted by the Arise Church in association with the Council of Wellington Churches. The event was held at the top of a very windy Mount Victoria. Even though it was cold, damp and there was some drizzle of rain, these did not stop the brothers and sisters from praising and worshipping God from seven in the morning. Coffee and hot cross buns were served afterwards. The brothers and sisters from the branch had a breakfast together at the Sunday market near Te Papa museum after the event.



## CHALLENGES IN LIVING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Resource for House Group Discussion by Tom Caballes

An Inheritance Awaits - June 2015

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you... [1 Peter 1:3-4]*

At times I ponder: what if I was a son of a very rich father, say Bill Gates, whose riches will seemingly never run out? What kind of life would I have lived? Obviously I would never worry about money. I would find a worthy cause to devote my life to. I would want to enjoy my riches too, but not waste it. I would like to help the needy. How about you – what would you do if you were that rich? But then, guess what? We do have a heavenly Father that has unfading, infinite and imperishable riches! The Bible has full of promises of unfathomable treasures for those who follow God and remain faithful to the end. Are you aware of your eternal inheritance? Aren't you excited about it? Do you anticipate it?

### So What Do You Do as You Await Your Inheritance of Incomparable Value?

1. Being a Christian is the best investment in life, because even if the costs sometimes are high, the dividends are out of this world. Is your life centred in Christ? Have you decided to leave all else behind and follow Him? Have you decided to follow Him to the end, come hell or high waters? If not, now is the time to do so. Think about it: what can compare with eternal life with God? Absolutely nothing.
2. Start *'putting on Jesus Christ'* now [See Romans 13:14]. God wants you to grow in the character of Christ now and be like Him in all things. God wants others to see Jesus in you.
3. Do good by loving God and loving others in whatever situation you are in. *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. [Galatians 6:9-10]*
4. Sometimes it is easier said than done, but you need to withstand challenges, trials and difficulties in this life because only those who complete the race wins the prize. So do not give up! Focus on the prize!
5. Use your talent, time, money, and resources wisely, especially in building God's Kingdom. Of course you want to enjoy life too as God's sons and daughters; yet be mindful that you will also account for everything you will have done in this life one day. Have a balance in your life in this area.
6. What is the best thing you can ever give to your friends and relatives? It is not money or riches. It is Jesus Christ Himself. If you give Jesus to others, they will also have the same infinite inheritance that you will have. A relationship with Jesus is one gift you can freely give to others without lessening any of your own. Actually, the more you share Jesus to others, the more your eternal wealth will be!
6. Start looking forward to your inheritance! Have you imagined life without pain, sorrow, sin and death? Have you imagined walking with God and seeing His face? Yearn for that day and time when this will happen – because in due time, it will, as long as we are faithful to the end.

### OTHER SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

1. *And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." [Mark 10:21]*
2. *But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him." [1 Corinthians 2:9]*
3. *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. [Colossians 3:23-24]*
4. Other references: **Matthew 13:44-46; Ephesians 1:13-19; Galatians 4:6-7 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19.**

### FOR REFLECTION OR SHARING:

1. How much invested is my life towards eternity?
2. Am I reflecting the character of Jesus to others? In what way can I improve?

## KAIROS NEW ZEALAND YOUTH NEWS

### Kairos New Zealand Schedule of Events for 2015

July 16 to 18, 2015	Winter Oasis in Auckland [for High Schoolers]
August 28 to 30, 2015	UCO Retreat in Auckland [for Post-High Schoolers]
January 5 to 10, 2016	Summer Oasis 2016 in Christchurch

### WINTER OASIS 2015

The Auckland Kairos team is busy planning for the Winter Oasis 2015 Youth Camp. This will be the first time that Winter Oasis will be aimed at High Schoolers. Please start looking at reserving the dates and booking your flights soon. Details will follow later. Ronnie from Kairos Auckland is the main contact person for Winter Oasis 2015.

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:joethomascaballes@gmail.com). Each issue is closed around the 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:joethomascaballes@gmail.com)  
and copy to [Lamb\\_of\\_God@clear.net.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz).

### *Wedding Anniversaries - Happy Anniversary!*

NAMES	DATE	BRANCH
Bernie & Bernadette Black	05/06	Christchurch
Manuel & Cheryll Lobo	05/06	Auckland
Vitus & Arca Fernandes	08/06	Auckland
Jojo & Ella Jalandoni	10/06	Central
Aselemo & Ana Masara	10/06	Christchurch
Philip & Alison Middlemiss	10/06	Christchurch
David & Marilyn Hamilton	11/06	Christchurch

### *Birthdays for This Month - Happy Birthday!*

NAMES	BIRTHDAY	BRANCH
Christy D'Costa	01/06	Auckland
Hans Jalandoni	01/06	Central
Chris Aston-Grieve	02/06	Christchurch

David Matthews	02/06	Christchurch
Robert Van Doorn	02/06	Christchurch
Mildred Tan	04/06	Auckland
Kerry O'Neill	07/06	Blenheim
Andy Crocker	08/06	Nelson
Kyle Zalamea	08/06	Central
Mike Cullimore	09/06	Blenheim
John Caballes	10/06	Central
Reuben Garrett	11/06	Blenheim
Tony D'Costa	13/06	Auckland
Joseph Gomes	13/06	Auckland
Chanelle Anngow	14/06	Christchurch
Darren Humphries	14/06	Christchurch
Petal Sequeira	14/06	Auckland
Liana Borkus	15/06	Christchurch
Micah Briguera	16/06	Central
Marisa Misquita	18/06	Auckland
Francesca Humphries	20/06	Christchurch
Maria dos Anjos D'Souza	23/06	Auckland
Ethel Peters	23/06	Auckland
Martha D'Lima	23/06	Auckland
Mark Powick	24/06	Nelson
Irene Hong	25/06	Auckland
Nazareth Aakaanksha	27/06	Auckland
Benjo Fernandes	28/06	Central
Joel Sison	29/06	Central
Murray Mcguire	30/06	Nelson

## PRAYERWATCH - SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE

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

## HELMET OF SALVATION

Therefore put on the full armour of God ... and take the helmet of salvation... [Ephesians 6: 13, 17].

As Paul is writing this with a soldier guarding him he sees the helmet the soldier is wearing, armour to protect the head but also the same helmet provides a striking symbol of military victory. The helmet is used in many ways today, by cyclists, skateboarders, sportspeople in certain sports, workers [hardhats] in some industries where heads need protection from damage that may occur. The head as we know is an important part of our bodies and if injured can have serious consequences for our lives. Paul sees salvation as our helmet. Jesus came to bring each one of us salvation – salvation from eternal death, separation from God and from all that is evil. The salvation which is in Christ gives us forgiveness for the sins of the past and strength to conquer sin in the days to come. Salvation only come through Jesus as he said in John 14: 6 “*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*”. As we put on the helmet of salvation we need to see it as more than freedom from the past and protection into the future but as the opportunity to share in the victory Jesus Christ



gained for us by his death on the cross. We need to strive for God's kingdom as a fully armed soldier of Christ as we march steadily through battle after battle being led by our commander in chief, Jesus to victory and finally to eternal life and salvation. Our hope needs to be in Jesus and the salvation he gained for us and his offer to live with him and God our Father forever.

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, Manuel Lobo, 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,

**OTHER 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, Other: Ali Jackson

**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, 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, Alfred Saldanha, Arca Fernandes, Rex and Winnie

D'Costa, 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, Judy Prendeville,

**BEREAVEMENT** Auckland: Peter Stoddard & Family, Ivan & Annette Carvalho, Joseph & Theresa Gomes, Central: Ron & Jacqui Blackwell, 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*