

The Lamb of God Chronicle

November 2013

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REFLECTIONS: '... Roger, I advise you to leave Christchurch and move elsewhere...'



These words were spoken to me by my doctor a couple of weeks ago when he gave me a health check. He knows what I do and that I work in pastoral ministry. He knows I serve as best I can on earthquake aftermath related task groups. He knows that I am one of the few fairly over-worked Justices of the Peace left in the Eastern Suburbs. He knows my home was hammered in the February earthquake of 2011, and remains unresolved and unrepaired just under one thousand days later, even down to its seven cracked or broken windows! He knows my daughter Sue's home, just a hundred metres away, is also significantly damaged and is subsiding. He knows the Lamb of God Centre is also badly damaged

and unusable. And he knows I worry about these things and the situation of many of our families in the Burwood Cluster. He is a good doctor but his words did give me quite a shock. Yes I need to listen to him and be vigilant in disciplines of self-care. And maybe I need say 'no' more often. But we are not walking away from those with whom we share our lives in Lamb of God. We have not heard God speak in that direction.

But my doctor's comment has made me reflect on just 'where we are at' after nearly one thousand days since that devastating day for Christchurch. And so my reflections are summarised as below:

- First thing is has my resolve and my goal that we must 'come through this, not individually, but as a people', the people of the Lamb of God, been shaken or changed? Emphatically no. After one thousand days of significant stress and strain we can thank God that we have lost not one person from membership. This really is an intervention of God as between thirteen to fifteen thousand people have relocated out of the Eastern Suburbs. Many churches have been

hard hit with member transfers and loss but so far we are still together. A blessing indeed.

- In the Burwood Cluster and beyond we suffered significant damage to our homes. Almost every member had damage. The Service Team has tracked damage to thirty community homes, seventeen being in the cluster. As we start November we seem to have little to no damage to eight, repairs completed or near completed to eleven, demolition and rebuilds in progress or will be by first quarter next year to six, leaving five or so into later 2014 or into 2015/16. The challenge is obvious in that the last homes to get attended will be something like five or six years after the damaging earthquakes, and in some situations of quite sustained stress and strain and making do in damaged homes that just get worse as time passes. This will be the yardstick measuring our sensitivity and charity of care and speech. Are we a people, or are we not? My prayer continues, and will to the end, that we come through together. We are slowly inching forward.
- How are our many children coming through? The answer is wonderfully well. Yes they have suffered, and as Veronica would say 'they have seen stuff they should never have seen...' But at the spirit level we can rejoice in the growth, commitment and tensile strength we see. At gatherings the children, some younger than ten years of age, are often drawn to share 'words' with the discernment teams then up to the microphone to speak. Another huge blessing has been to have young people associated with Sword of the Spirit communities in the United States raise airfares and sponsorship and come join us to serve in helping us get through. Right now we have Annie Taccolini from Ann Arbor with us and Annie is doing a great job in more than basic service. She has initiated several outreach events and study groups and connected so well with the many young people we have.
- And what about the Lamb of God Centre? Progress towards repair or a smaller footprint rebuild had nearly collapsed. But not quite. We have recently started working with a Christian building Company [Cornerstone Construction] who are rebuilding a demolished church in the Burwood Cluster. Since working with Cornerstone we are seeing some light and the beginning of some progress.
- And finally- are we growing? Well a month ago I would have said 'no', we are static and that is understandable with all we are going through, plus no longer having access to the Lamb of God Centre. However in the last couple of weeks we are having five new people starting to connect and that is very encouraging. God is at work.



So, are Roger and Veronica going anywhere and considering relocating? They are certainly not at this time.

Roger Foley: Senior Coordinator

NEWS AND ARTICLES

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AND SPRING FIESTA - AUCKLAND BRANCH



“Courageous Women, In the Potter’s Hand” – was the theme of the Auckland Branch Women’s Retreat. To all the women gathered over the weekend, it was a soul searching time. Thought provoking talks, uplifting Praise and Worship sessions, and prayer ministry provided the much needed impetus to submit to the Potter’s hand. A big thank you to the Women’s Leadership team for all the planning and time spent in bringing about this awesome experience.

My very sincere thanks indeed for the wonderful Retreat you blessed us all with last weekend. It was just a pleasure being there, being cared for and about, ministered to and so well fed! I so appreciate the loads of work put in by you all over a long period of time. Your dedication and love surely shone through for all of us.

I have come home with some wonderful spiritual ideas to work on and I've already started. I love the candle, the booklets, and the book with Mass readings (which I was able to give to my sister as I get them online on the Catholic Exchange website and she was just thrilled!) the poems, the poster of the potter, the wonderful music, and the amazing decorating of the prayer room - God's angels in the middle of the night and so many other things for which I know we all felt thoroughly spoiled.

My thanks also to your husbands and families who also pitched in and gave of their time. May God pour more blessings on you than you can possibly contain.

Love, Bernie MacNevin

Spring Fiesta 2013 followed soon after. And what a resounding success it was. Detailed planning and hard work from the service team coupled with collective effort from community members culminated in an evening of fellowship, fun and dance for everyone, guests included. And after all that dance and swing, the



very next day, Branch members turned up in numbers to do a Stock Take, to raise funds for Community.

BOWLING FELLOWSHIP - WELLINGTON BRANCH



The Wellington Branch had a bowl of great fun last 29 September at the bowling alley of Strike-Porirua. It was an early start at 10:30 am for all the members to bowl. Four lanes were packed with excited players, young and old.

The four teams were named as: the Pink Panther, Mickey Mouse, The Avengers, and the

All Blacks, each wearing their team hats & flag for the All Blacks team. The four teams hit the lanes and more than strikes and spares will be on the line. Everybody is competing for a spot at the bowling tournament, but more importantly, all the members were having fun. For the winners, great prizes are up for grabs. The highest single adult scorer award was given to Maribelle Alejandro and for the Kairos, it went to Rency Tamayo. Overall team winner was awarded to the Mickey Mouse Team. An additional prize of the best form model went to Robert Caballes and the most prestigious prize of Coke Z award was handed to Alexa Caballes, Nicola O'Malley, Ella Jalandoni and Hans Jalandoni. After the tournament, everybody went to the food court for the lunch fellowship.



Angie Briguera

A TRIBUTE - ALL LAMB OF GOD MUSIC TEAMS



“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.” This is what our music ministry do here in Wellington. And I know this is the same with the music ministries in all our branches in the Lamb of God. We are indeed blessed with adults and young people who share their gifts in music to help us in our worship week in and week out. They have committed their time and talent to lead us into prayerful and

joyful worship. Their songs are music to our ears, as the saying goes.

But I believe that it is music to God's ear as well. Through their ministry, the Lord not only hears our voices and beautiful sounding instruments but he also hears our hearts. Yep, that's right! The Lord hears the music of our hearts – hearts that praise and worship Him, hearts that listen and follow Him, and hearts dedicating our very lives to Him.

To our music teams around the country, we honour you all. Continue to help us practice what we will eventually do in heaven!



OG Gueco

FIONA'S WEDDING

We were indeed privileged to attend the wedding of Fiona Woodcock to Jamie Houston on Sat 19th October to a packed church at the Salvation Army in Lower Hutt, Wellington. A wonderful blest occasion with a proud Dad (Keith) giving away her daughter to another lovely Christian man.



They were surrounded by family from around the country and overseas, including Fiona's 97yr old grandmother from Napier. They had also invited to the reception Lamb of God members (Jonathan & Helen McKenzie; Paul & Christine Oliver; Andre & Karen Geelen) as well as a couple from the Light of Christ, friends they grew up with and then many from their Church cell group and the church itself, about 150 people in all. The Church provided the food, the catering and the music. This was a Christian wedding in its fullest sense providing a wonderful witness to God's

providence and answer to prayer.

For the many of us in Community who have been praying for Fiona for many years that she would find a husband, you could not have had your prayers answered in a better way. A marvellous way for them to start their married life and we wish them every happiness in the years ahead.

Andre Geelen

CHALLENGES IN LIVING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Resource for House Group Discussion by Tom Caballes
The Need for Ongoing, Deeper Conversion - November 2013

But we all, with our face having been unveiled, having beheld the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are being changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Lord Spirit. [2 Corinthians 3:18]

Our first 'yes' to follow God is a crucial point in our lives. It changes our focus from pleasing ourselves to pleasing God. It is the time when we said "here is my life Lord." Yet there is a need for an ongoing conversion to God as we follow Him after many years. Why? We cannot become a saint in a day. Circumstances change and when they change, they pose the same question: will you follow Jesus in these circumstances? I remember when I got married, I slowly discovered how selfish I am. It took a long conversion process to change my self-will. And yet, even now I am still self-centred in some areas in my life. I need continually repent and change my ways as I walk my life as Jesus' disciples. In order for us to grow in holiness and likeness of Jesus, we need to continually repent, say yes to God and leave our past behind.

So What Do We Undergo Deeper Conversion in Our Lives?

1. Humility is the key. Admit that you are a sinner, even after years of following God. You are a product of God's grace; don't be surprised that you will find some things in your life you need to yield to God. Your struggle with sin ends only when you die.
2. Life is a matter of putting on the new man and putting off the old man in us. Changes can come drastically or slowly. We need patience with ourselves. Our struggle is to become more and more like Jesus every day of our lives.
3. Surrender all areas of your life to Him. No ifs and no buts – total surrender. It just does not work if you hold on to some areas.
4. Look at different areas of your life – your married life, your work life, your role as a father, your work life, etc. – if God sees you, what would He say? Do you compromise your integrity? Is your speech pattern consistent whoever is around?
5. Have a mature person help you. Many times we walk with a blind corner, and we do not see everything that happens in our lives. Be open to his/her input.
6. Commit your life to holiness and obedience to God's will. We need to let go of our hurts, pains and grudges in the past and forgive those who hurt us deeply.
7. Examine your life daily before you go to sleep – how did you offend God today? Have you given in to anger, lust, or envy, or have you lied, or something else?

Other Scripture References

1. *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. [James 4:8-10]*
2. *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, & take not Your Holy Spirit from me. [Psalms 51:10-11]*
3. *So get rid of your old self, which made you live as you used to - the old self that was being destroyed by its deceitful desires. Your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy. [Ephesians 4:22-24] Others: Colossians 3:9-10; Revelation 2:4-5.*

For Personal Reflection and Group Sharing:

1. What areas of my life have I not surrendered yet to God?
2. What are my 'favourite' sins? How do I turn away from them?

KAIROS NEW ZEALAND YOUTH NEWS

Kairos New Zealand Schedule of Events for 2014

Jan 7 to 12, 2014	Summer Oasis in Christchurch
April 25 to 27, 2014	Kairos Blast in Wellington
July 11 to 13, 2014 [tbc]	Winter Oasis in Auckland

KAIROS WELLINGTON BLAST DATES - 2014

Please note of the changes with the Wellington BLAST dates from 2014. Due to Easter weekend falling on the previous planned dates, the new dates are now as above.

WEBSITES WORTH NOTING

KAIROS South Pacific Web Site HAS BEEN UPDATED with 2012 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 josethomascaballes@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 josethomascaballes@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 josethomascaballes@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 for November - Happy Anniversary!

NAMES	DATE	BRANCH
Steven & Maria Sequeira	05/11	Christchurch
Rudy & Veena Castelino	12/11	Auckland
Chris & Anita Fredericks	14/11	Blenheim
Dominic & Bessie D'Sa	18/11	Auckland
Mike & Cheryl Garrett	20/11	Blenheim
Jo & Anila Collins	23/11	Auckland
Eddie & Cynthia D'Souza	23/11	Auckland
Christopher & Carol Fernandez	25/11	Auckland

Birthdays for November - Happy Birthday!

NAMES	BIRTHDAY	BRANCH
Aleisha McKenzie	01/11	Christchurch
Beth Garvey	02/11	Christchurch
Robert Caballes	03/11	Central
Vimath Sequeira	03/11	Auckland
Brian Lobo	04/11	Auckland
Andre Geelen	07/11	Central
Siobhan Forster	08/11	Christchurch
Sarah McKenzie	08/11	Christchurch
Patrick Amaral	12/11	Auckland
Neville Coutinho	12/11	Auckland
Maria Tan	14/11	Auckland
Chris Saldanha	16/11	Auckland
Yvonne D'Souza	17/11	Auckland

Miggy Alejandro	18/11	Central
Eunice Gueco	18/11	Central
Monica Homes	18/11	Southern
Christine May	18/11	Southern
Karyn Coutinho	19/11	Auckland
Yohana D'Costa	19/11	Auckland
Steven Machado	21/11	Auckland
Seva Masara	21/11	Christchurch
Raema Muollo	23/11	Nelson
Janet Aberhart	24/11	Blenheim
Neil Menezes	25/11	Auckland
Anne Hooper	27/11	Ch/Ashburton

PRAYERWATCH - SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE

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

Last month I looked at the prophetic word we receive at our Gathering and noted there was an increase in the number of words this year encouraging spiritual warfare. For the first six months of this year 28% of the Words or 25 words received encouraging spiritual warfare. Since the end of June there have been another 20 words, over 40 for the year and they still seem to be coming. At the April National Council meeting prophetic word talked about the darkness increasing and if we look at what is happening in New Zealand today we realize this is true. With the foundations of society being change by legislation and leading people into sin, use of illegal drugs, waning numbers attending in our churches the signs are there that the darkness is increasing. Early prophetic words for the 'Lamb of God' talked about it being raised from the mire of the earth and being a 'bulwark' for the protection of people who come within its spiritual walls. For the last couple of years over 65% of words tell us we are living in a 'time of grace', God our Father is pouring out the Holy Spirit on his people, anointing his followers with the gifts they need to live at this time. To live a way of life that supports marriage and family life allowing people to grow and develop into true people of God and support that maintains a godly way of life. 40% of the words received this year tell us we are called as 'Lamb of God', to live as a 'community of disciples', a special way of life. We are called to be holy [41% of words] to persevere [28% of words] in living this way of life, a sign to the world. 36% of words tell us that we are to proclaim the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ so we are a 'Community of Disciples on Mission'. Some extracts from the prophetic word we have received over the years follows.

'I raised you from the mire and filth of the world to be My People - know that I will be with you and that I will guide you step by step by step.' Christchurch 8 July 1979

In 1984 we heard the Lord speak about us 'being one people' and that we were to 'establish in the north, south, east and west of both islands of New Zealand'

'The Lamb of God is not a narrow vision for this small group and this city alone. Rather I desire you become established nationwide in this land, that My glory may be seen, that My purpose for first raising you up might be fulfilled. My vision is much wider than you are able to imagine at this time, remember that from small beginnings great things grow ... remember none of this is to be done in your own strength alone, rather it is simply My will that you fulfil.' 5th January 1985

Lamb of God, my people, I would speak to you again, on this your 19th birthday, My People remember that I called you, I called you Lamb of God, I called you as a people, I called you from the mire, I called you from the darkness, I called you to be a people of light. Prophetic Word Christchurch Gathering: 10 May 1998

"Today, my children, it is in dark times that you shine out as beacons of My light. I have called you into Community, I have chosen each and every one of you with the talents each and every one of you possess, to be disciples on a mission – to be my beacon of light. Stand together – be united, so that you can be strong in your mission to be My disciples, to be My beacon. I called each and every one of you – you are not here by chance. Auckland Prophetic Word 01 July 2012

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], protect and bless their life and mission.

FAMILY

Auckland: Yvonne D'Souza, Peter & Margaret Stoddard, Desmond & Charmaine Vessaokar, Christopher & Carol Fernandes, Tili Leatitagaloa, Blanche Fernandes, Sequeria's & Saldanha's Families, Neville & Karyn Coutinho, Caedmon & Nicky Rebello, Ivan & Hilary Carvalho, Valerie Menezes, **Central:** Jun & Angie Briguera, Henri & Cutie Zalamea, Rose Buladaco, Joel & Tiza Sison, Robert & Ethel Caballes, Tom & Mhel Caballes, **Blenheim:** Jamie & Judith Rodgers, Mark & Mary Jackson, Mike & Cheryl Garrett, **Christchurch:** Roger & Veronica Foley, Robert & Karin Van Doorn, Darren & Julie Humphries, Tai & De Stirling, Bruce & Bronwyn Harborne, Niul & Coila Kay, Lyn Keane, Pauline Marsden, John & Monica Haughey, Annette Sargisson, Toni May, Chris & Maureen Lyons, Joan Corbett, **Southern:** John & Janet MacManus, Richard & Christine May, Mike & Judy Prendeville,

PREGNANCY

Auckland: Jessie [Prasad] De Zoysa,

HEALING CANCER

Blenheim: Carol Cullimore, David Aberhart, **Christchurch:** Mary Anngow, Robin Corbett,

HEALING HEART

Auckland: Isabel Morais, **Central:** Paul Oliver, **Blenheim:** Chris Fredericks, **Christchurch:** Dorelle Ham, Undine Cavanagh, Philip Middlemiss,

HEALING

Auckland: Annette Carvalho, Winona D'Costa, Olivia Fernandes, Lucy Misquita, Blanche & Denis Hollingsworth, Cheryl Donald, Mira D'Souza, Jemima Rebello, Peter D'Souza, Delia D'Mello, Fr John Rea, Elizabeth Locke, Maria dos Anjos D'Souza, Bruce Donald, Rosana Kuresa, Thomas Hong, Vimath Sequeira, Karyn Coutinho, Manuel Lobo family, Michelle Amaral, Margaret Stoddard, Alwin D'Souza, Eddie, Cynthia, Clyde D'Souza, Joan Lobo, **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, Micah Rodgers, Anita Fredericks, Jamie & Judith Rodgers, Barbara Ryan, Val Synott, **Christchurch:** Lisa Borkus, Karin Van Doorn, Chris Aston Grieve, Veronica Foley, Siobhan Forster, Andrew Black, Bernie Black, John Murray, Chris Lyons, Monica Haughey, Joan Corbett, Andre'a Forster, Mikyla Challies, Bruce & Bronwyn Harborne, **Southern:** Fr Merv McGettigan, Daniel MacManus, Steven & Judy Homes & Family, Pat Forster, Michael Quigley, Rhoda Woodfield, Christine May, Alan McKenzie,

BEREAVEMENT

Auckland: Marisa & Cosmos Misquita, Bruce and Cheryl Donald, Wendell & Glynis Fernandes, Patrick & Michelle Amaral, **Central:** Rae Taylor & Family, Tom & Mhel Caballes, **Blenheim:** Branch & Family of Val Synott, **Southern:** Richard & Christine May,

OTHERS NEEDS

Auckland: Mark & Elizabeth Stolten, Bob Misst, Allen & Judy Carneiro, Gillian Puch, Joseph Gomes, Allan Carvalho, Blanche Fernandes,

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], Ashburton Group, Christchurch,

"I have made you a Watchman" Ezekiel 33: 7