

The Lamb of God Chronicle

January 2015

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REFLECTIONS... 'A Year of Change, Challenge and of Blessings...'

The year 2015 will be a year of change in our community. The National Council has agreed a programme which will see senior leadership changes in our branches in both Christchurch and Auckland, and in overall leadership of the Lamb of God with a change in Senior Coordinator. These changes are not 'sudden decisions' but have been a part of our plan over a couple of years.

At branch levels in Christchurch and Auckland the local leadership teams and members, in consultation with the National Council, will start the process towards senior leader change early in the year. In Christchurch we are looking to make a change by mid-year, in Auckland the leadership discussions are to commence early year and a report on progress be made at the March National Council. The actual Auckland changeover is targeted to be in place by the end of the year. The National Council will vote a new Senior Coordinator at its October/November meeting.

From January I will start preparations to smooth the way for the national leadership changeover. We are looking to confirm available candidates by April and between that date and the October/November vote I will visit all centres to meet with all full covenant members. I will explain the procedure we will follow and how full covenant members can participate into the process. Once we have inducted a new Senior Coordinator it is agreed I will be available to work alongside the elected brother in familiarisation, support and any required training for about a year.



Your brother – Roger
Senior Coordinator

OUR PEOPLE

Congratulations!

- To Greg and Maryanne Hall [Rosjier and Evelyn] – from Auckland branch, for the arrival of new granddaughter Gianna Josephine Victoria Hall [photo].

[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

UPDATE FROM AUCKLAND BRANCH

A fitting finale to an event filled year! The Lamb of God Auckland Branch members honoured their 60+ brothers and sisters with a touching celebration.

“With them is wisdom; and in length of days understanding.” [Job12:12] Thank you to our senior members for being our bulwark as we go forth as missionaries of Christ. Your constant encouragement has spurred us on to take on new challenges.

Hazel Patrao, one of the members who attended, shares her sentiments about this poignant occasion. “The whole evening was full of love, joy and laughter sharing with our brothers and Sisters. The organising committee did such a fabulous job. They went into such tiny, little details to make sure that it was ‘an evening to remember’. From the table décor, to our name badges, place tags, from the walls to the floor, the MC and the band, the dinner plate to the dessert everything was so thoughtfully organised that it was nothing but sweet memories of Christmas brought back to us. The evening started with the Lords day meal prayer, then the best home cooked, an elaborate Christmas meal (love stirred into every dish), the dancing, the games and the prizes... Everything was so thoughtfully planned and executed in a timely manner. We find no words to express our thanks to the organisers of this 60+ evening. Lord bless each and every person who was instrumental in giving us such a memorable evening.”

Later in the month, the Branch members met to celebrate with the new thirty four Full Covenant Members. Following the Lord’s Day Prayers, some of them shared their testimonies on how choosing to become Full Covenant Members has impacted their lives in a positive manner. An inspiration to all of us

As the year ends and we rejoice in the milestones achieved, thank you to the Elders, Pastoral Leaders and Women’s Leadership Team, all of whom played a major role in bringing about this event filled year.

PHOTOS AROUND THE LAMB OF GOD COMMUNITY...

In Auckland...



The young ones – Christmas presentation

In Christchurch...



HELPING HAND: Sophie Lyons and Nicole Sequeira during one of their tutoring sessions.

From Wellington...



Carolling and Fundraising – Fun!



All cooks together



Castlepoint Christmas Outing

CHALLENGES IN LIVING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Resource for House Group Discussion by Tom Caballes

Let Us Not Into Temptation – January 2015

Pray then like this... “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...” [Matthew 6:9-13]

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught us to pray the “Our Father.” The first part refers to God, the second part refers to us and our needs. This part of the prayer, “lead us not into temptation...” comes immediately after the asking for forgiveness. Jesus knows our need to be forgiven and tendency to fall into sin through temptation. How? *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. [Hebrews 4:15]* He knows our state of sinfulness and how easy it is for us to fall. Verse 16 continues on: *Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* God’s grace and mercy is always there for us.

So How Do We Not Fall Into Sin Through Temptation?

1. We need to commit to doing the positive: love God, offer our life to Him, seek Him in daily prayer and the Scripture, grow in His character, and love and serve God’s people. The key to avoiding temptation and sin in our lives is to strive for holiness. *Strive for ... holiness without which no one will see the Lord. [Hebrews 12:14]* Holiness and sin are opposites – we can pursue only one. We need to pursue one daily, consistently, and without fail. If and when we fail, we need to repent and go back to the right path.
2. Temptation itself is not sin; but it is an opening that can lead to sin. Let us avoid all forms of temptations if and when we can, especially in the areas where we are weak. Many times we need to run away to win.
3. We need to sift through what goes in our minds, eyes and hearts and never let our guards down. *For all that is in the world-the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions-is not from the Father but is from the world. [1 John 2:16]* Our unguarded minds, eyes and hearts connives with the enemy within, our flesh. What should our minds be occupied with? See **Philippians 4:8**.
4. The way we handle media plays a very significant role in the way we can be tempted. Billboards, magazines, newspapers, movies, TV shows, and the internet are the modern ways temptations can creep upon us. We need to know how to protect ourselves from these, like placing the computer in a public area.
5. We need to leave our past behind. *Brothers ... one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead... [Philippians 3:13]*. We are a new creation in Christ. Let us leave the old man behind and let the new man in us grow into the likeness and image of Christ. Let us leave the sins of our youth. Let us settle our unresolved past – hurts, resentment, grudges and so forth. Only those who resent and not forgive are the ones who hurt themselves. We can be free from our past – it’s our choice.

OTHER SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

1. *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. [1 Corinthians 10:13]*
2. *Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. [2 Corinthians 7:1]*
3. *That you are to put away, in relation to your earlier way of life, the old man, which has become evil by love of deceit; And be made new in the spirit of your mind, And put on the new man, to which God has given life, in righteousness and a true and holy way of living. [Ephesians 4:22-24]*
4. Other references: **2 Peter 3:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Timothy 6:9.**

FOR REFLECTION OR SHARING:

1. What kind of temptations do I regularly encounter?
2. What are my personal weaknesses? In what ways do temptations come to me through my weaknesses?

KAIROS NEW ZEALAND YOUTH NEWS

Kairos New Zealand Schedule of Events for 2015

January 6 to 11, 2015	Summer Oasis in Christchurch
April 10 to 12, 2015	BLAST Weekend in Wellington

Summer Oasis 2015

Summer Oasis 2015 will be here soon! Come and be part of it! Dates are from 6 to 11 January. Please look at the following links:

<http://www.kairossp.com/so2015ejstream.htm>
<http://www.kairossp.com/so2015edgestream.htm>
<http://www.kairossp.com/soonlineregistration.htm>

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 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 - Happy Anniversary!

NAMES	DATE	BRANCH
Michael & Rita O'Callaghan	02/01	Auckland
Ashlyn & Felecia Fernandes	03/01	Auckland
Brian & Ruby Lowe	05/01	Auckland
Joseph & Maribelle Alejandro	06 / 01	Central
Ian & Pārbati Hamilton	09/01	Christchurch
Peter & Maria dos Anjos D'Souza	10/01	Auckland
Desmond & Charmaine Vessaokar	10/01	Auckland
Harry & Maureen Lowe	11/01	Auckland
Peter & Margaret Stoddard	12/01	Auckland
Ron & Helen Elliott	13/01	Christchurch
Brian & Aakaanksha Nazareth	13/01	Auckland
Alwin & Mira D'Souza	14/01	Auckland

Birthdays for This Month - Happy Birthday!

NAMES	BIRTHDAY	BRANCH
Dan Gueco	02/01	Central
Michael O'Callaghan	02/01	Auckland
Allen Carneiro	03/01	Auckland
Pam D'Souza	03/01	Auckland
Barbara Summerfield	03/01	Ch/Ashburton
Isabel Morais	06/01	Auckland
Carol D'Souza	07/01	Auckland
Vitus Fernandes	09/01	Auckland
Natalie Tan	10/01	Auckland
Andrea Forster	12/01	Christchurch
Meryl Saldanha	13/01	Auckland
Rita O'Callaghan	14/01	Auckland
Paul Oliver	14/01	Central
Maribelle Alejandro	16/01	Central
Johanna Coxon	16/01	Christchurch
Allan Carvalho	17/01	Auckland
Sheila D'Souza	17/01	Auckland
Erika Sison	18/01	Central
Jessie De Zoysa	19/01	Auckland
Jaison Mariposa	19/01	Central
Angie Briguera	21/01	Central
Glynis Fernandes	22/01	Auckland
Jenny McElhinney	25/01	Blenheim
Coila Kay	26/01	Christchurch
Irma Shennon	26/01	Christchurch
Delia D'Mello	28/01	Auckland
Sharmilla Carvalho	28/01	Auckland
Thomas Hong	30/01	Auckland
Andre Carvalho	31/01	Auckland
Annette Sargisson	31/01	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

Once again the year's end is fast approaching and the celebration of the birth of our Saviour and Redeemer. The one who we join ourselves to as we live this call on our lives as a 'community of disciples on mission'. This time of the year can be a busy time as we prepare to celebrate and also prepare for the summer holidays so it is timely to reflect on how Satan will see this period as a time to attack us.

January is a time when our young people gather in Christchurch for teaching, formation, worship and recreation. We need to pray that our young people will be blessed as they gather for

Summer Oasis and the Men's and Woman's Households. That all leaders and teachers will be well prepared and all serving in anyway will have an enjoyable and blessed time.

As this is a time of the year we spend time with family and friends, are away from home and traveling more and perhaps are more relaxed our prayer life and time on the Watch can be interrupted. It is important to keep up our commitment to God and our brothers and sisters in the Lamb of God community as Satan will not be on holiday but looking for an opportunity to attack.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5: 8-9

Some things to remember especially if we are away from home is to let those before and after us on the Watch know we will not be making contact or we can organize to pass the Watch by text message. Our hour on the Watch may be interrupted by what is happening around us so I urge you to keep up the commitment at a more suitable time or at least use the Gap Dedication prayer on the sheet. It is important to keep up the Covering prayer especially to protect our homes and to ensure our travel is safe and without problems. We need to be careful we are not giving the enemy an opening to affect our own life or our life in the Lamb of God, as we are counting on each other to keep up the spiritual protection. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour, let us ponder the revelation of God's intervention in our lives with his saving grace and the power of the Holy Spirit as we live our lives radically for Jesus, our Commander and leader of this mighty Army.

Soldiers of Christ, Arise, and put your armour on!

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 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, 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, 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, Mike & Judy Prendeville,

HEALING CANCER Blenheim: Carol Cullimore, David Aberhart, Christchurch: Mary Anngow, Robin Corbett, Kerry Fordham, 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, 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, Christopher Dalgado, Pam D'Souza, Christie D'Costa, Grace Collins, Tili Leatitagaloa, Alfred Saldanha, 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, 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, Mikyla Challies, Bruce & 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, Steven Homes, Mike Prendeville,

BEREAVEMENT Auckland: Marinelle & Bob Misst, Central: Karen & Andre Geelen, Diane & Michael Staite, Ron & Jacqui Blackwell, Southern: Florence Quigley & Family,

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

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