REFLECTIONS... ‘A Time for Every Season, Leaving Behind 36 Years…’

On Wednesday 01 July we reach four years, four months and nine days [or 1,590 days] since our home, and many others in the cluster, were significantly damaged in the 6.3 magnitude earthquake and the thousands of aftershocks. Thirteen minutes after the savage 6.3, as Veronica and Bruce Yocum and myself escaped outside and stood watching our home [No.9] continuing to sway and shudder, came another earthquake at 5.8 magnitude, then two minutes later a 4.0, followed seconds later by a 4.3, then a minute later another 4.3, then another minute and a 4.7, two more minutes and a 4.0, then four minutes to a 4.1, followed three minutes later by 3.9, four minutes later a 4.0, then a 4.3, then a 3.7 magnitude. No wonder the damage was so significant. It took thirty nine minutes of almost continuous movement before there was a lull - for a short while. And it was an interesting but sleepless night.

Thus began a part of our journey as a Christian Community that will live long in our memories. Who can forget the up to thirteen days for some without power, water and sewer? The ingenious porta-loos that were constructed, the arrival of the Ashburton ‘cake and baking brigade’ and the several Nelson Branch eleven hour return truck trips loaded with fruit and food and water and more. Or the hours of toil in shovelling liquefaction out of houses, driveways and streets. Then the international response to the plight of our devastated city, and the later significant appeal response from within the Sword of the Spirit. And in all of this and since - not one person has left the Christchurch Branch. Yes, some have lost some vigour and some zeal, some we see less frequently, but all remain involved to a degree. I find that astonishing, and a real sign that the Lord heard and saw our determination to ‘get through this as a people, not as individuals.’
Sadly for Veronica and me, we now need leave our home of the past thirty-six years. No9 still presents pretty well to the eye, but the damage was eventually costed at a high of $506,000 and most of that is related to what you cannot see - the foundations. And our land is classified as Technical Category 3, being the worst category on the scale, and we are now classed inside the Flood Zone. Our financial situation was also a problem as we were simply not insured sufficiently to sustain a $506,000 repair. And so we have sold ‘as is where is with no insurance’ at a value of $344,000 under our current City Council Rateable Value. Crazy world. We are currently trying to buy in, or adjacent to, the cluster but so far without success. We have viewed eight or nine possibilities and made two so far unsuccessful offers to purchase. There is little on the market that can work for us, meaning pretty well maintenance free [our ages] and not on TC3 category land. If possible we would also like to avoid the Flood Zone. It is in God’s hands. He knows our desires, but we want His intentions.

Interestingly we were to depart No. 9 on 29 June. But earlier in June along came the organisation repairing the quake damaged infrastructure in our section of Lake Terrace Road. They have closed road access [refer the photo] and blocked vehicular access in/out of No 9 for about 28 days. And so we cannot pack up and depart, but neither can the new owner move in. Just another little thing in our interesting lives!

No. 9 has many memories for us. We bought in March 1979 and immediately knelt in the empty lounge and thanked God for our new home, but then we immediately ‘gave it back to God’. In May of that year began the call of the Lamb of God, with the first actual prayer meeting, and the next two, held in the lounge at No9 before we hired a public hall. We have many memories of great family life with our daughter Sue, and Danny and Glen. This week also happens to be the anniversary week of the deaths of Danny, then Glen and his wife Louise, and Steven - so this is quite a week for us. One thing though we will not miss is the morning ritual these past 1,590 days of needing to ‘foot scoop’ the shower water ‘uphill’ because the earthquake damage raised the drain plug higher than the shower floor.

Veronica and I now move into a period of much uncertainty in our lives. Leadership changes in Christchurch, leadership changes in the National Community, moving from our home of thirty-six years, and with uncertainty about where we will live. Quite a bit to face in one year, but in God we trust.

My memory verse these past few weeks has been Philippians 4:6 - ‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.’ I now need add verse 7: ‘And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and your mind in Christ Jesus.’ Amen to that…

Your brother in the Lord – Roger: Senior Coordinator: Lamb of God Community
OUR PEOPLE

Congratulations!
- Ishaan Castelino and Renella Carneiro [both Auckland], who recently got engaged.
- Andre and Karen Geelen [Central], as their son Nicholas is now engaged.

With sadness, yet confidence in the Lord, we remember:
- Tony and Lisa Borkus [Christchurch], as Tony’s mum passed away.

[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

AUCKLAND BRANCH UPDATES

A priest for all people, a people’s priest. That has been the hallmark of Fr John Rea SM, a Marist priest, who celebrated sixty years of his ordination to the priesthood. The Lamb of God Auckland Branch were honoured and privileged to host this momentous occasion. The evening commenced with the celebration of the Eucharist followed by a Lord’s Day Meal and dinner attended by over 200 friends and well-wishers of Fr John.

Pam & Allan D’Souza, one of the many who honoured Fr John that evening, said this of this humble servant of God: “Many years ago Jesus told Peter to feed his lambs and Fr. John heard a similar voice over six decades ago which put him on the path of selfless service. Fr John has and relentlessly gone about this mission of spreading God’s word. Even more wonderful are the various miracles and healings that the Lord has done using Fr. John as His instrument. The Lamb of God Community reminisced over the last 60 years with slide shows and people talking about their experiences with Fr. John.

A priest who we know as a person of few words, Fr. John was overwhelmed by the support he felt on that Saturday evening. We wish him good health and cheer as he continues in his mission, spreading the faith, providing consolation, dispensing peace and radiating joy.”

From one eventful evening to a weekend of spiritual joy!! Cosmos Misquita shares with us how the men of the Auckland Branch were blessed and edified during their Men’s Conference. 2 Corinthians 9:6 … And he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. During the weekend I could see God’s promise bearing fruit on the men attending the conference. The men’s conference was based on the theme, “Take me higher up-being accountable for our lives.
before God.” During these 3 days the men had the opportunity to pray, worship, listen, share, reflect and have lots of fun. We started off the evening with a party atmosphere similar to an entrée; the momentum continued throughout the entire weekend. It was wonderful to see men opening up and sharing their inner lives with likeminded brothers. Praise and worship led by Ashlyn, Neville, Joe and Peter were Spirit-filled that helped build a platform for each talk. The talks given by John Tham, Tom Caballes and Jonathan Hesp gave food for thought regarding our roles as husbands and fathers and touched on commitment, faithfulness, transparency, etc. Group sharing amongst the brothers provided enough evidence of soul searching by the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

The committed men in the kitchen raised the bar and did a fantastic job of a normally daunting task; providing physical nourishment. The upward trajectory continued until the last day when every action taken and word spoken was spontaneous. We were all edified by the music team and felt they all performed to a very high standard. Truly the power of the Holy Spirit in action.

The conference was truly an exhilarating experience. All praise, honour and glory be to our Father our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

MAIN POINTS ON FAMILY LIFE - AUCKLAND MEN’S CONFERENCE

[Below are some of the main points shared during Men’s conference recently held in Auckland.]

We are in a Spiritual battle. At stake are our own souls – and also the souls of our spouses and children, and their children’s children. The need of the hour is strong, mature, and responsible men of God who can take their place in their families.

Because of what society is now, it is no longer acceptable to be just a ‘good’ husband and father. God is calling us to be the best husbands and fathers we can ever be. We as husbands need to take the role of leadership in our marriages: if things are not working well, it is our responsibility to make them work! Most marriages break apart because men do not take seriously their roles as husbands – or do not know how.

The key to a happy wife [and a successful marriage] is a loving and a caring husband!

Our window of opportunity to influence our children is slowly fading away as time passes by. When our children are young, they are like sponges – they absorb what we give them. That ‘sponge’ gets firmer and firmer as time passes by and the values, priorities and character of our children gets formed more and more. As our children mature, we become more like advisers and friends to them rather than telling them what to do.

Deep down inside, children yearn for their father’s approval. It is in-born, as God designed it. Our roles as fathers are very powerful – in fact, life-changing to our children.
When children do not get their father’s approval, they seek that approval from someone else. Missing fathers create a massive vacuum of unmet needs in the lives of their children, which only their fathers can fill.

God created fatherhood for one eternal purpose: to reveal and represent Himself. Every human father is called to be a physical representation of God to His children, to reveal Himself to the next generation.

There is no other most influential person in a child’s life than his dad. Mums are very important and priceless in their roles, but they were never created to be dads. Why? Children get their identity from their dads; they get their values from their dads; and they learn their self-worth from their fathers.

If our fathers had not been good ones to us, we need to forgive them and break the chain of ungodly fathers in our line of ancestry. Our fathers probably just did what their fathers did – either for the good or the bad. You can break the chains of the past generations of anger, abuse, negligence and rejection. You do not have to follow the footsteps of your own father if he was not a good one. Be a chain breaker! Let us start a new ‘line’ of godly fatherhood that can be carried on from this generation onwards.

There are five areas of legacy we can leave our families behind: a loving provider, a strong protector, a truthful leader, a respectable authority, and an intimate friend.

We need to be the spiritual leaders at home – and it all boils down to our relationship with God. We cannot teach what we do not have. We cannot give what we do not practice. Our families can smell hypocrisy from afar. We need to be credible leaders and authority at home. We need to be faithful to our own prayer time and lead our families in spiritual undertakings like family prayers, celebration of the Lord’s Day, etc.

As leaders of the family we need to swallow our pride many times. We need to acknowledge our shortcomings to our spouses and children and resolve to do right.

We need to develop a ‘heart to heart’ relationship with our children. When their hearts are open to us, the more they can receive what we tell them. If deep inside your children feels you love them, you have their hearts. We need to ‘capture their hearts.’ How? By giving them undivided attention, generous affirmation and loving affection. On the other hand, we lose our children’s hearts by our absence [physical and/or mental], our uncontrolled and unrighteous anger, unjust and unexplained discipline, harsh criticism, lack of compassion, favouritism and comparing one child to another, hypocrisy, hurting, abusing or disrespecting their mums, misunderstanding and not truly listening, and setting unrealistic expectations for them.

The challenge before us is to be the best husbands and fathers we can ever be. It is not an easy task. It takes a real man to do the job. Are you ready to take the challenge?
WELLINGTON BRANCH — WOMEN’S RETREAT PHOTOS

The Ladies of the Wellington Branch recently held a retreat for women at the Home of Compassion in Island Bay. The branch was delighted to host 6 sisters from the Auckland branch who came and participated in the retreat. Below are some photos during the event.

SOUTHERN REPORT

The Dunedin meeting on Sunday 31st May saw Richard and Christine May of Balclutha take the final step of covenant to full membership of the Lamb of God community. Richard and Christine, the daughter of the late Ron and Mary Surrey, Auckland, started the journey back in 2001 when they started attending the monthly meetings in Dunedin. Underway was achieved in 2006 so Margaret and I have come to realize that we have been on a journey with a special couple. Richard and Christine have shown a willingness to attend our meetings and participate in community activities, many telephone calls and staying with each other have helped in building this special relationship. Roger and Veronica Foley along with members from Timaru, Invercargill and Dunedin joined us on this special day starting with lunch.
CHALLENGES IN LIVING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY
Resource for House Group Discussion by Tom Caballes
The Choices You Make – July 2015

He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. [Romans 2:6-8]

One of my favourite movie series as I grew up is “Back to the Future.” It shows how a decision of a person in the past affects what happens to him in the future, and in the movie, Marty McFly was able to travel back in time to correct the mistakes made in the past, although he messed it up more. How I wish such a machine is available now! But what I learned from that movie is that the decisions we make today forms what our future will be. We are all laying the foundations of our future based on the small and big decisions we daily make. Of course circumstances affect a lot of what we become, but circumstances work in tandem with our decisions to form our future. We essentially are the product of the choices we make – not by our parents, or whoever else influenced us in our youth. So, are you responsible to where you are at the moment, or is it someone else? Are you ready to face the future based on the decisions you made in the past and the decisions you will be making from now on?

So How Do Make the Right Choices Now?
1. Have you clearly identified what are the goals of your life? Everyone has written or unwritten goals for their lives. It forms our beliefs, our values and priorities, and it eventually dictates your choices. So, what are you passionate about? Know who you are and what your life is about, then pursue them with passion and purpose. If you have not written them before, now is the time to clearly identify them.
2. Make careful decisions about your life – the bigger the decisions are, the more discernment is needed. It would be great to have pastoral help when you make significant, life-changing decisions in your life. Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future [Proverbs 19:20].
3. We need to be deeply entrenched in the Word of God, because it deeply affects how we think about things and how we decide. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path [Psalms 119:105].
4. It is easier to decide when things are black and white, but it is much harder when issues are in different shades of gray. Sometimes the choices we face are between good things – and which ones are better. Sometimes we are faced to choose the lesser evil. Again, this is where practical wisdom in the form of brotherly or sisterly advice comes in. Seek advice and wisdom and you will appreciate it!
5. We need to be mindful of the eternal consequences of our decisions: will this decision bring me closer to God or not? Will this decision make God’s will be done? Is God pleased with this decision?
6. Lastly, we need to ask ourselves: will we regret or be thankful for that decision later in life? Will my life be blessed by this decision, or will my life turn for the worse? Aim to live a life with no regrets!

OTHER SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:
1. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. [Proverbs 3:5-6]
2. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit ... and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. [Hebrews 4:12-13]
3. Other references: Prov 24:6; Deuteronomy 30:19; Proverbs 14:12; Joshua 24:15; and Galatians 6:7-8.

FOR REFLECTION OR SHARING:
1. Am I the person of my own decision, or do I blame someone else for who I am?
2. How often do I seek advice and guidance from those who can help me, or am I very independent?
WEBSITE 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!

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<td>Robert &amp; Ethel Caballes</td>
<td>01/07</td>
<td>Central</td>
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<td>Leslie &amp; Simone D'Mello</td>
<td>10/07</td>
<td>Auckland</td>
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<td>David &amp; Emily Matthews</td>
<td>14/07</td>
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<td>Talea &amp; Pogia Afamasaga</td>
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Birthdays for This Month - Happy Birthday!

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PRAYERWATCH - SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE

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

This month I was going to continue God's armour and especially the sword but the last month in Timaru we experienced things that are worthy of sharing about the importance of spiritual warfare.

It started at our meeting of 20th May which was led by Mike Prendeville and concentrated on the outreach meeting the following week with Mike feeling a special anointing during our time of worship for the approaching meeting. This sensing that the outreach meeting is important to the Lord so we entered a time of spiritual warfare and received the following scripture.

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalm 46: 10-11 NIV

Then on Margaret’s and my way home on the open road we met two cars travelling very close [probably 20 metres apart] and at that moment we were hit by something including
a liquid that covered the bottom half of the driver window screen. I used the wipers to remove most of it and realized the next day that it was egg and had initially hit near the front of the bonnet leaving a noticeable mark. The next morning as Mike was on his way to work about 6 am he was travelling on passing lanes south of Timaru in the centre lane when a reckless driver passed him on the left at speed as the lanes were returning to a single lane. I can remember last year two months in a row driving to Dunedin for the Lamb of God meeting being astound by a number of drivers passing in places where they could not see approaching traffic.

We need to be aware of what is happening around us in this physical world as it is also affected by the spiritual battle we are in as we stand as soldiers in the army of Lord Jesus Christ. Spiritual warfare needs to be a part of our lives whether we are attending Lamb of God meeting or going about our daily lives. The Prayerwatch is an important part of community life but also covers our daily lives so we need to stand together as brothers and sisters in this ministry that covers us where ever we are or what we are doing.

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.

INTERCESSIONARY 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],


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


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

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 the Ashburton Group in Christchurch.

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