

# The Lamb of God Chronicle

January 2010

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### **REFLECTIONS... a minor miracle, I sat down & enjoyed the view!**

Five weeks after being stopped by an avalanche in the Otira Valley I returned there early December, and as anticipated I was able to this time cross the debris in safety. I needed an ice-axe to cut maybe fifty steps and although I carried crampons I did not need to use them. An hour past the avalanche debris I entered a kind of amphitheatre. Behind and below me the clouds were already forming and I knew I should turn back by 4.00pm, thus giving me another 45 minutes to keep climbing. To my right was the steep shoulder of Mt Philistine, ahead of me the ice-fall lifted into cloud towards the Philistine-Rolleston traverse, centre left I could see the lower rock buttresses of the famed Otira Face lifting to the High Peak of Rolleston another vertical 900 metres up, and to my left a cloud free view of what I had come to assess- the Otira Slide approach to Rolleston Low Peak.

I sat down to rest at the glacial edge, drank crystal clear ice melt, had a few pieces of chocolate, then I lifted my pack ready to go again. And then it happened! All of a sudden the sun broke through the high cloud over Philistine and Rolleston and the amphitheatre became a special place of serene beauty, tranquillity and isolation. It was stunningly beautiful. The ice-falls stretched steeply to the big peaks, all three summits of Rolleston were visible, and the Otira Slide was clear all the way to the summit. My binoculars could easily pick the area of recent tragedy where a young Australian died having fallen into a crevasse after making a wrong option for a descent.

The amphitheatre was so 'magic' that I went no further. I sat down and used my camera and binoculars. I had a prayer time, so easy & delightful in such a setting, and I prayed for the young Australian. Before I eventually started my descent back down the cloud filled valley I was even blessed with the thunder of three high altitude avalanches way up near the Philistine-Rolleston traverse. It was a wonderful and blessed day.

Veronica and I wish you all a peace and joy filled Christmas.

Roger Foley: Senior Coordinator

## **A Letter from the President of the Sword of the Spirit**

Dear brothers and sisters - Greetings!

A few months ago (May 2009), Steve Clark passed on the baton of the presidency of the Sword of the Spirit. This was not just another routine incident in the life of our international community, both because of who Steve is and because of the particular season we are in.

Steve is the founder of the Sword of the Spirit, and from its beginnings he has worked tirelessly at establishing, maintaining, and defending the vision he received from the Lord to build a Bulwark, a community of disciples on mission. This required from him courage to start the work, and more courage and boldness to build in good times but also in times of difficulties and persecution. He demonstrated an even greater measure of courage and trust in the Lord in handing on the leadership to other brothers when he was still capable at all levels to go on - something rare in the history of founders of movements in the church. He did not simply retire when things were not going well. On the contrary! The Sword of the Spirit is now experiencing a season of unprecedented growth with a promise from the Lord of a season of grace and more open doors for mission, a season, according to Steve, like that at our beginnings.

Brothers and sisters, I believe that in this season the Lord is inviting us to trust Him and move forward in boldness and courage in the mission that is ahead of us. All of us need this in our daily evangelism, our communities need it for their outreaches, our regions in their missionary efforts. A couple of months ago, I participated in a mission trip led by more than a hundred university young men and women from Europe and the Middle East to try to establish a University Christian Outreach in a very resistant and difficult environment, Aleppo, Syria. During the day they reflected on the book of Acts, and many were struck by the secret of the success of the beginning of the mission of the church: the boldness of the apostles (see Acts 4). During the evening, with trust in the Lord, expectant faith, and courage and boldness, these young men and women evangelized, and miracles happened both in their lives and in the lives of people they had never met before.

The apostles had another decisive weapon for the success of mission that our young people discovered: the power of prayer and intercession. *"And now, Lord, grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."* *And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness."* (Acts 4: 29-31) In this "Year of Personal Prayer" I invite you all -as well as the regional presidents and the senior coordinators- to integrate intercession for the mission as part of your regular personal, family, community, and regional prayers.

As the apostles moved in faith, the Lord provided them with all the extraordinary gifts as well as the human and material resources they needed for the mission. The Lord has promised us the same in this season. The members of the first community were generous in offering the Lord and the apostles their resources, their time, their talents, and even their lives, "for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet" (Acts 4: 34-35). May the Lord make us even more generous in offering what we have to His mission, to our mission.

Finally, I hope to be able to visit your communities during the coming four years, especially in conjunction with my participation in regional council meetings or regional Kairos conferences.

Your brother in Christ,

Jean Barbara - President of the Sword of the Spirit

## OUR PEOPLE...

### **Congratulations!**

- To David and Kathleen Black and family [Maureen, Bernadette and Catherine] at the birth of Jazmine Clarise to Rosemary in Twizel

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

- Vivienne van Gerwen from the Ashburton group, who passed away recently.
- Michael Dekker [Blenheim] involved in a tragic fatal accident on 18 December, our love goes to Julia and the children and wider family

[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

### **Photos from Auckland Branch "Miracle of Love" Christmas Musical**



## CHALLENGES IN LIVING TOGETHER AS COMMUNITY

Resource for House Group Discussion by Tom Caballes

“The Cost of Discipleship – Then and Now”

January 2010

*“I came to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already kindled! (Luke 12:49)”*

### **How was it to follow Jesus during the First and Second Centuries? Not easy!**

- Men and women live hard lives as it were: no cars, no planes, no i-pods, no cell phones, and no internet! They have to draw water from the well for them to drink!
- To be a Christian during that time means they are ready to live an inconvenient life, and be willing to die for their faith any day, every day. They face daily persecutions and possible betrayal from friends and families. Some are even judged and labelled as cannibals!
- Let us look at Paul. The price he paid for discipleship includes “five times I received ... forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with a stick, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, and I drifted on the sea for a day and a night. I have been involved in frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from the gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the open country, dangers at sea, dangers from false brothers, in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, through hunger and thirst, through many periods of fasting, through coldness and nakedness.” [2 Corinthians 11:24-27] Compared to now, we live very easy and comfortable lives, don't we?

### **Discipleship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

- We live in an “instant,” easy and comfortable world; we have all the gadgets and gizmos. We live in a global village created by advanced technology and the internet.
- We are constantly bombarded by the world and the media to “take it easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.” [Luke 12:18] We are told we should accumulate wealth, upgrade to get the latest electronic stuff even if we do not need them. “You deserve it!” they say all the time.
- We definitely do not face hardships, persecutions or dangers for following Jesus as Paul did.
- But the truth is: God calls us to ‘enter through the narrow gate’ [Matt 7:13]. God is not calling us to an easy or convenient life; God is calling us to a life of sacrifice, daily discipleship and a life of love for our brothers and sisters in the Christian community. God calls us to share our time, talent, money and resources to serve one another, to advance God's Kingdom here on earth.
- If we are truly living out the call to ‘deny ourselves, take up our crosses and follow Him,’ we should not be looking for an easy or comfortable life. We should be ready to be misunderstood and be laughed at when we make a stand for God wherever we go. And we are called to ‘preach the word, in season or not [2 Tim 4:2],’ and make disciples of all nations [Matt 28:19] with love.
- Dave Quintana puts it this way: Jesus came to comfort the afflicted, but he [Dave] came to afflict the comforted! If we live an easy, comfortable Christian life without hardships and challenges, let us look at ourselves if we are really following God and giving our all to Him.

### **Other Scripture References:**

Matt 7:13-14; Matt 10: 34-39; Matt 16:24-26; Luke 12:16-21; Luke 12:49–53.

### **For Personal Reflection and Group Sharing:**

1. Deep inside, are we still aiming to have an easy, comfortable life? Or do we aim to have a life of daily love, sacrifice and service for all our lives? Is it okay to live a hard, uncomfortable life?
2. What price are we paying for being a disciple of Jesus? For being part of a Christian community? For serving our brothers and sisters?
3. Do we accept being judged, be laughed at and be misunderstood by others as we make a stand for God as part of discipleship?
4. What are we doing to evangelise others and share the gospel to the people around us?

## KAIROS NEW ZEALAND YOUTH NEWS

### Summer Oasis 2010



Something big is on the horizon... Summer Oasis 2010! We will expect some international speakers, guests and participants from Europe, Asia and Fiji! Make sure you are able to come from January 10-14 plus January 15-16 for the leaders' training.

Our theme for 2010: **"For Such A Time as This..." from Esther 4:14:**

*For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"*

More details and rego forms are available on the website: [www.kairossp.com](http://www.kairossp.com) and then go to Summer Oasis 2010 Registration.

### Kairos New Zealand Schedule of Events – 2010

Jan 10-14	Summer Oasis 2010	Christchurch
Jan 15-16	S/O Leaders Training	Christchurch
Jan 17-27	Men's Summer Household	Auckland

### WEB SITES WORTH NOTING

KAIROS South Pacific Web Site – 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.

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 - 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) .

New Lamb of God website! Visit and bookmark:

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

### **SENDING NEWS FOR CHRONICLE PUBLICATION**

Branches are encouraged to email news, photos, happenings and snippets to Tom Caballes at [josehomascaballes@gmail.com](mailto:josehomascaballes@gmail.com). Each issue is closed around the 20<sup>th</sup> of the 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 [josehomascaballes@gmail.com](mailto:josehomascaballes@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 [josehomascaballes@gmail.com](mailto:josehomascaballes@gmail.com)

### **GETTING CHRONICLE & OTHER NEWS BY EMAIL**

[1] If you are receiving this 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).

## 2010 FIJI MISSION-REGISTER NOW AS CLOSE OFF DATE IS BROUGHT FORWARD TO MARCH

**Planning has commenced** for the 2010 Encounter Jesus Mission trip to Fiji & our accommodation at the Coral Coast Christian Centre is already booked.

**This trip will include** a twelve day Mission Trip comprising formation, leadership training, learning teamwork and practical living skills, and giving service in mission and works of mercy in local situations. It will include a combined weekend retreat with our brothers and sisters from the Patmos Community, and working with the Lamb of God Nadi Community.

**Departure date** Thursday 23 September [school holidays start next day]  
**Return date** Tuesday 5 October, within the school holidays

**Accommodation will be at a premium** and we are ideally looking to sign up a numerically balanced team of brothers and sisters.

### **What is the cost likely to be?**

We will again equalize costs so everyone pays the same regardless of location. This will include a small levy towards extending the supervisory team to four. At this point [without applying any fundraising] please budget on \$1,600 per person. That means setting aside just over \$30.00 a week from now! I will even save it for you if you send it to me!

**To date we have 5 guys and 3 girls signed up!**

If you wish to advance register please advise *now* by calling Christchurch 383 2631, or mobile 021 817 232, or email to [Lamb\\_of\\_God@clear.net.nz](mailto:Lamb_of_God@clear.net.nz)

## *Birthdays for January*

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>BIRTHDAY</b>	<b>BRANCH</b>
Gueco	Dan	02/01	Wellington
Carneiro	Allen	03/01	Auckland
D'Souza	Pam	03/01	Auckland
Morais	Isabel	06/01	Auckland
D'Souza	Carol	07/01	Auckland
Fernandes	Milton	07/01	Central
Kahonde	Piwai	07/01	Auckland
Woodcock	Fiona	08/01	Central
Fernandes	Vitus	09/01	Auckland
Franswah	Honorine	10/01	Auckland
Tan	Natalie	10/01	Auckland
Forster	Andrea	12/01	Christchurch
Doran	Sami	12/01	Blenheim
Middlecote	Sandra	13/01	Auckland
Saldanha	Meryl	13/01	Auckland
Oliver	Paul	14/01	Central
Simento	Rachel	14/01	Auckland
Joy	Christabel	15/01	Auckland
Alejandro	Maribelle	16/01	Central
Mathetha	Michelle	16/01	Blenheim
Mathetha	Zodwa	16/01	Blenheim
Van Doorn	Johanna	16/01	Christchurch
Walker	Francesca	16/01	Blenheim
Carvalho	Allan	17/01	Auckland
D'Souza	Sheila	17/01	Auckland
Geneta	Leah	18/01	Central
Sison	Erika	18/01	Wellington
Mariposa	Jaison	19/01	Central
Briguera	Angie	21/01	Central
Triggs	Yvonne	23/01	Southern
Aguinot	Danny	25/01	Christchurch
McElhinney	Jenny	25/01	Blenheim
Fredericks	Tim	26/01	Blenheim
Intervencion	Jovial	26/01	Southern
Kay	Coila	26/01	Christchurch
D'Mello	Delia	28/01	Auckland
Carvalho	Sharmilla	28/01	Auckland
Hong	Thomas	30/01	Auckland
Machado	Andrew	30/01	Auckland
Celestine	Marina	31/01	Auckland
Carvalho	Andre	31/01	Auckland

## *Wedding Anniversaries for the Month of January*

SURNAME	NAMES		DATE	BRANCH
Fernandes	Ashlyn	Felecia	03/01	Auckland
Rebello	Caedy	Nicky	04/01	Auckland
Lowe	Brian	Ruby	05/01	Auckland
Alejandro	Joseph	Maribelle	06/01	Central
D'Silva	Sean	Shirley	06/01	Auckland
Joseph	Biju	Teresa	07/01	Auckland
D'Souza	Peter	Maria d Anjos	10/01	Auckland
Rajkumar	Dominic	Sandra	10/01	Auckland
Lowe	Harry	Maureen	11/01	Auckland
Stoddard	Peter	Margaret	12/01	Auckland
Elliott	Ron	Helen	13/01	Christchurch
D'Souza	Alwin	Mira	14/01	Auckland
Lewis	Keith	Rohini	16/01	Auckland
Geelen	Andre	Karen	22/01	Central
Antao	Tony	Luiza	24/01	Auckland
O'Connell	Peter	Stephanie	24/01	Nelson
Cammell	Wayne	Michelle	25/01	Auckland
D'Souza	Lionel	Carol	31/01	Auckland
Martis	Elias	Priscilla	31/01	Auckland
Misst	Bob	Marinelle	31/01	Auckland

## **PRAYERWATCH: SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE**

Another year has almost disappeared as we once again approach Christmas and the summer holiday period and look at the impact this will have on the Prayerwatch. 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 today as most have a mobile phone we could look at texting to pass on the watch. As the life of the "Lamb of God" slows down at this time of the year and we do not have our usual contact with our house groups and other meetings we are involved in we could let our commitment to the Prayerwatch be more relaxed as we get out of our usual routine. Does Satan go on holiday like we do or can we count on him perhaps to try harder to disrupt our journey with Jesus. 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. As this is a time of the year we are away from home and traveling more and are more relaxed it is important to keep up the Covering prayer especially to protect our homes and to ensure our travel is safe and without problems. The hour we spend on the Watch is very important and we need to maintain this commitment even as we take time out of our busy lives as we are still under attack.

As Paul warns us in **Ephesians 6: 10-12: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

Let us keep our armour close at hand and give some time this holiday season to ponder the birth of our Saviour and the message this has for our lives. Let us come more deeply under our Saviour's blessing this Christmas season and holiday time be a time of reflection and restoration.

If you have any comments or questions concerning the Prayerwatch then please send them to me at [alan.mckenzie@clear.net.nz](mailto:alan.mckenzie@clear.net.nz) 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 Community & Lamb of God Nadi Branch, [Fiji], Vanuatu Group, Light of Christ [Nelson], The Covenanted Community For Christ, [Penang & Taiping],  
 Protect and bless their life and mission.

### **FAMILY**

**Auckland:** Keith & Rohini Lewis, Jo & Anila Collins, Gladys Gomes, Bernie MacNevin, Peter Celestine, Yvonne D'Souza, Basil & Reena Fernandes, Ivan & Sheila D'Souza, Joseph & Teresa Gomes, Elizabeth Locke, Dominic, Sandra & Francis Rajkumar, Wayne & Michelle Cammell, Caedmon & Nicky Rebello, Lionel & Carol D'Souza, Alwin & Mira D'Souza,

**Central:** Orencio & Riza Gueco, Jun & Angie Briguera, Cutie Zalamea, Rose Buladaco,

**Blenheim:** Jamie & Judith Rodgers, Mark & Mary Jackson, Mike & Cheryl Garrett,

**Christchurch:** Roger & Veronica Foley, Robert & Karen Van Doorn, Darren & Julie Humphries, Bev Cummins, Philip & Alison Middlemiss, Lesley Tilston, Bernard & Andrea Forster,

**Southern:** John & Janet MacManus, Richard & Christine May,

### **PREGNANCY**

**Auckland:** Anila [Jo] Collins,

### **HEALING CANCER**

**Auckland:** Christine Pinto, **Central:** Bryan Scoullar, **Blenheim:** Carol Cullimore, David Aberhart, **Christchurch:** Margaret Considine, Fr Paul Duncan, Lysanne Cecchi, Josie Uren,

### **HEALING HEART**

**Auckland:** Alfred Saldanha, Maria dos Anjos D'Souza, **Central:** Paul Oliver,

**Blenheim:** Chris Fredericks, **Christchurch:** Dorelle Ham, Undine Cavanagh, Philip Middlemiss, Chris O'Connell,

**HEALING**

**Auckland:** Thomas Hong, Edward D'Souza, Ceejay Rodrigues, TJ Brown & Samuel, Elise D'Souza, Valerie Menezes, Cheryl Lobo, Kati Cammel, Jesse & Peter Delgado, Fatima Joy, Audrey Cabral, Collin & Vimath Sequeira, Ruby Lowe, Tili Leatitagaloa, Philomena Lobo, Susan Dias, Lovlin Franswah, Sheila D'Souza, Cynthia Braganza, Dorothy Fernandez, Manuel Lobo, Joel Tham, Nathan Coutinho, Dominic Braganza, Alwin D'Souza, Maureen Lowe, Grace Collins, Sean & Teresa Joseph, Teresa D'Souza, Annette Carvalho, Winona D'Costa, Glynnis Fernandes, Marinelle Misst, Olivia Fernandes, Lucy Misquita, **Central:** Stephanie O'Connell, Raphael (Bubbles) Rufino, Alice Rufino, Sharon Powick, Michael Powick, Jacob Muollo, Henri & Cutie Zalamea, **Blenheim:** Peter Greig, Josiah Grieg, Grace Weston, Mike Garrett, Micah Rodgers, Anita Fredericks, Jamie & Judith Rodgers, **Christchurch:** Lisa Borkus, Karin Van Doorn, Chris Aston Grieve, Veronica Foley, David Black, Siobhan Forster, Andrea Forster, Catherine Roberts, Andrew Black, Bede Haughey, **Southern:** Fr Merv McGettigan, Daniel MacManus, Steven & Judy Homes & Family, Pat Forster, Michael Quigley,

**BEREAVEMENT**

**Auckland:** Manuel & Cheryl Lobo, Allan & Sharmilla Carvalho, **Central:** OG and Riza Gueco, **Blenheim:** Gail Price & Family, Julia Dekker and Family, **Christchurch:** Chris Ashton-Grieve,

**OTHERS NEEDS**

**Auckland:** Keith & Rohini Lewis & Family, Mark & Elizabeth Stolten, Bradley Pinto, Bob Misst, Greg Hall, Christine Fonseca, Alwin D'Souza, Allen & Judy Carneiro,

**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, Summer Oasis 2010,

Leadership Day

Summer Household

PTI [Auckland]

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