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Growing in Grace

Confirmation 2024

*Back: Bishop Alan, Ethan Flor,
Digby Leisemann, Jack Nugent,
Bishop Ben.*

*Front: Brooklyn Jeffery,
Grace Kronk, Apostle Wayne,
Zara Teske, Charlotte Kumar.*



Ordination of Apostle Jimmy B. Soriano for the Philippines United Apostolic Church



*L-R: District Bishops Johnny C. Soriano (NCR District), Toribio Anlog (Mindanao);
Senior Bishops Danilo Ravina, Delfin G. Cayabyan; Apostles Wayne Schneider,
Jimmy B. Soriano, Cliff Flor, P.J. Erasmus (South Africa); District Bishops Warlito Bianan
(Central District), Antonio G. Benuagen (Abra District), Renato M. Munda (Middle District).*

A full report will be produced in a Special Edition Herald.

**Apostle Sermon
Pentecost
19th May 2024**

Text is Pastoral Letter for Pentecost 2024

The Holy Spirit has opened our eyes with the singing of that hymn as to what we are doing today and the reason that we are reflecting on the gift that our Heavenly Father and our Saviour and Redeemer sent to this world in this time of Grace to fulfil a purpose. Nothing in this world will endure, nothing of this world, therefore, can take us onto eternal life. We have been taken back with the message in the gospel proclaimed to this first pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the Jewish festival of Pentecost and we have been in our minds eye transformed to a time that was, in God's sight, very different to what He had destined for this world. God desired and He showed His will and purpose by what He set in place at the very beginning. All the natural aspects of this world were just the setting for Him to be able to commune with the pinnacle of His creation which is mankind, man and woman, and He prepared a special place at that time, a garden with all the natural requirements taken care of so that He could spend His time communing with Adam and Eve.



What a great disappointment to the one who made all things that the aspect, which was His delight that He loved, chose a different path than that which He had destined for them. It has not changed who God is. God is love and He has always loved His creation and He has proven that love through His plan and particularly as we remember each church year that He sent part of Himself, the Word by

whom all things were created in that garden to take upon Himself this flesh which caused the problem so that this flesh could be the means by which he once again had authority over the fullness of His kingdom.

The Bishop reminded us that these two festivals of Ascension and Whitsun go hand in hand, that it was necessary for the King of Kings to be firstly set in place and given by the Father the Almighty, the authority over all parts and the control of the power that was going to be the way and the purpose and fulfil the role for which it was sent to prepare again citizens that were able to dwell and commune in God's presence. There are levels of roles that the Holy Spirit plays for us in this day of Grace.

We understand as we have been taken back to that first Pentecost, that those ambassadors that Christ had chosen to bear His authority upon earth were not perfect, they were earthen vessels. Already as Christ walked with them, one of them had also chosen a different path. During this time between Ascension and ten days later the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, those disciples were obedient and they waited silently as we have just sung, the waiting does not mean not doing, and so during that time they also set about looking to the words of God and they saw that it was necessary for the one who had given up that role to be replaced, so they cast lots and appointed Matthias so that once again that twelve-fold ministry could be in place. We come to this day of Pentecost and we witness in the gospels recorded by four different perspectives and then the book of Acts in which the physician Luke said at the beginning that his desire was to gather together that history because he wrote it after the events and he wrote that history in order that those who were present at the time and those to come after would see the work of God being fulfilled by the power of that Holy Spirit through earthen vessels.

That great commission that we have heard of to testify of Christ to be witnesses to His resurrection was to begin in Jerusalem, the centre and seat of authority for those of the Jewish faith. But Christ on the cross had

asked for the heathen nations to be part of His inheritance to be recipients of the gifts that He was to provide through His death so that message then not only would remain in Judea with those of the Jewish faith but had to go out into Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth and the gospels account in the book of Acts tells us clearly if we follow it through how that work was fulfilled and how they followed that plan.

We must remember that those twelve men had already demonstrated their weakness. They may have been given by Christ the keys to the kingdom of heaven where He spent the forty days prior to His ascension teaching them of His words but He knew that if He did not send this power from on high that we bear witness to today that those words would be empty, that they would become words of men and not words of the Christ; that was God's promise and command when those disciples were with our Lord and He went to the mount to pray and He was transfigured before them and became glowing white showing the glory of the Father and the instruction that the Father then told those disciples, 'This is my beloved Son hear ye Him.'

We have just sung that hymn and in it we recognise the power that is able to fulfil this work of the Christ upon this earth. It is the Holy Spirit that opens our eyes that we can see this plan of God, it is the Holy Spirit that opens our heart so that we can feel the fruits of that Holy Spirit, the love, the joy and the peace that is now available on this earth by the victory of Jesus Christ and through that Holy Spirit dwelling in the place that it was sent to dwell. Jesus Christ prefigured all these things in His natural labour within the Jewish faith. It is the week leading up to His crucifixion He came back to that seat of authority in Jerusalem and He went into the temple and He cleansed it as He continues to do for this spiritual temple as our great High Priest anointed of God in the throne of God and He cleanses it by the power of His Holy Spirit, another intercessor within; Know ye not that ye are the temple of God. The Holy Spirit dwells within you and so if we understand that, it is only through the Holy Spirit opening

our mind that we can understand that we can go from knowledge of who Jesus Christ is, to understanding His role, understanding this Holy Spirit and then we have the call that is made today as we look forward into the future to apply that knowledge and understanding within our lives to wisdom so that we can be these earthen vessels that God the Father desires to be in His household as sons and daughters that the Christ, the King of Kings desires to be fellow citizens in this Kingdom of God with Him as He is the first fruits.



We look back to the outpouring of this Holy Spirit with thanksgiving that another gift was sent from God and it is that gift of life for the Church. If we go back a little further and we read what the Holy Spirit has gathered together in not

only the New Testament or Christ's testament, but in the Old Testament that was to prepare the way for Christ, we begin to understand that God as a Trinity God, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost are one and that they always work together, and indeed we can go back in the role of this Holy Spirit, the third part of this Trinity God to the very beginning. It is recorded, the presence of the Trinity creating God is recorded in the words that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai written in the book of Genesis and God gave sufficient knowledge so that through the understanding of the Holy Spirit we could know that God the Father the Word and the Holy Ghost are the creating power. We find verses 1 and 2 the very beginning of beginnings:

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

What understanding can those words give to us with regard to this time in which we live,

thousands of years forward in history. They take us to the time that we are remembering today. The Holy Spirit was always used to work within chosen vessels from time to time throughout the Old Testament era. Many mighty works were done, many mighty works are recorded in Scripture where the Holy Spirit worked for a short time in men and in women, but the Holy Spirit did not have a dwelling place upon this earth, it was sent from the throne, and it returned to the throne. We celebrate today the same as we remember what was present at the very beginning for when we consider this notion that the Almighty God's purpose was to create beings that He could be connected with and that He could commune with, no doubt as he looked down upon the earth having set in place a chosen people, having provided a way that they could be connected to them and yet all of that failed through human weakness. He at this time looked down and saw that the earth was void and full of darkness and so it was the same at the beginning that a power had to go out from His throne so that the word could be effective.

In the first instance creating the natural earth that we see and in the second instance in this era of Grace creating His spiritual temple, creating His household, another place where He could walk and dwell and commune with the earthen vessels. That is why He sent His Holy Spirit and that is what the Bishop has testified of through the power of that same spirit and its role in working in earthen vessels to testify of Christ, promised by Christ that it would then have the capacity to work within those hearts, to open our eyes, to open our ears, to open the mouths of those called to testify so that this spiritual temple of living stones could fill the earth. We come forward two thousand years of that Holy Spirit working in such a manner and we see the necessity of the Holy Spirit to continue to be our lead and our guide within the structure that Christ has for His temple but also to be the means by which we all individually have life within us.

Today, when we look back to that first Pentecost was essentially the birth and the giving of life to the church and we can find that also in the book of Genesis as we find

how God created the first natural bodies. When He created Adam the recording that He gave to Moses also speaks of the role of this spirit. For we find in Genesis 2:7

"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

We know that one of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to provide life. The Holy Spirit provides this life now in this new being because this new being is once again made as it was in the time of Adam, that it is not a dual being that we have become through inheriting the spirit of man but we put upon ourselves and the church is required to have this divine nature, a heavenly nature that is only made possible through the indwelling of that Holy Spirit, it is the life within.

Our Lord taught how that life was to continue from that point in time when He looked out and He saw that the fields were ripe already for the harvest and the harvest was great, but the labourers were few, and He knew that there would have to be a gradual growing of this harvest, this household of God. It is why it had to begin in one location before it could be spread out because it was to be passed from person to person through earthen vessels and when we read that account in the book of Acts, yes the Apostles had a role to play, yes the Priests who came across from that Jewish household and began to be the pastors and shepherds within this new way, all had to be led and guided as earthen vessels by the power of that Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit gathered together how that message went out and on the majority of occasions it was members moving to a new location, thankful for the power that they had within their life to overcome this world but then shared those blessings with others and a new place of worship grew.

That is the pattern that was shown from the very beginning of this Christian era and that we have witnessed in our time that we will celebrate in the months to come as the work from this land has gone into a new field of labour, the Holy Spirit has blessed that until we now come to a point when the authority

structure of an ambassador for Christ being ordained in that land, in the land of the Philippines, is ready. We see how this work must continue but how we all have a role to play, how the Holy Spirit not only is for our welfare when we become part of this work but we put ourselves into that work to work with and for Christ to continue to build His kingdom and we do it in the same manner that He taught in the parable of the sower, faith the thing that is living that is a seed that is planted in the hearts is the Word of God and it has to be heard, so it has to be spoken of and we have prayed in that hymn, open our mouth that we may speak, speak those things that the Holy Spirit would have us say so that we can be the vessel by which He plants the gospel message into hearts of others.

The prophet Isaiah having been part of that fourfold ministry in a time when the Holy Spirit was sent by God to the prophets so that they could speak words of God, he saw this time when Christ would be victorious - He would be set in place on His throne so that He could redeem His fellow citizens He could cleanse their hearts and in that time He would have the capacity to send them life so that they could be living themselves and they could be part of this growing body, the household of God - Isaiah 59:19 on:

"So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever."

That is why we come together today because we are thankful that, two thousand years on from our Lord sending this power, He has remained as the authority within the church and He therefore continues to send those words that dwell in our hearts, the

words that make us free, the words that tell us the good news that this life does not end with the death of the body, the good news that tell us that yes we are sinners, but our sin can be removed, it can be separated as the Psalmist wrote as far as the east is from the west so that it is no longer the barrier between our God and us. That God, the desire and will that He showed in the very beginning where He could commune with mankind has once again been set in place that He can commune with His brothers and sisters, that the Father can commune with His sons and daughters because the Holy Spirit is God within us. We have been reminded however, we still have the same freewill that Adam and Eve had in that garden. We still have the same capacity to choose something other than God's will and desire for our lives, indeed we will choose the wrong way if we do not make the choice to allow the Holy Spirit to be the voice that we listen to. The Holy Spirit is a quiet still voice.



The prophet Elijah, in his time, having been used by the spirit mightily and powerfully to show who the living God was in the time when the false gods of Baal and his workers were presented to God's chosen people was lead to a mountain - in fact he fled to the mountain because of his own weakness and we perhaps should learn where we need to flee to because we have heard that the redeemer will be in Zion and it is to Mount Zion, the Church, that we should flee in times of trouble and distress - but Elijah fled to a natural mountain and he prayed to God, he said that I am the only one of your prophets left. That was his perspective in his natural mind, but God said quietly to him, there are over seven thousand prophets that I still have that have not bowed their knee to Baal. He instructed him to go to the front of the cave in which he was hiding, and we know that in our time the rock in which we hide, the cleft of the rock, is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is our protection; He is the one who provides what is needed to keep us from the dangers of this world.

God caused an earthquake to occur, and he said to Elijah, is my voice in that earthquake,

and no it was not. He caused a mighty wind; He caused many natural powerful events to occur that Elijah witnessed but in none of them was the Holy Spirit. Finally, he understood that the Holy Spirit is a quiet voice within our life. Some may call it the voice of our conscience, it is an eternal voice, internal voice, eternal as well, but internal that guides our thoughts and our minds and we can resist it, we can quench it, we can pour the busyness of our life on it so that it has no capacity to be heard over that busyness. We are given understanding of these things, understanding of how the Holy Spirit works so that we can make the choice to listen to it and make the choice then to use it to be the means by which we fulfil our purpose in God's plan.

We have been reminded of the purpose of that Holy Spirit in planting this seed of faith, but we know that the seed of faith is in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is the Word of God that must be planted within hearts for those hearts to bring forth fruit. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Hebrew church having come from that faith, having been a Pharisee or a leader of the Jewish nation, he wrote of the importance of listening to the voice of this Holy Spirit in our lives and we can find firstly in Hebrews 12:25 when he says:

"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven."

We understand, having heard the words of the Holy Spirit, that it is our Lord and Saviour who speaks from heaven, that He is the head of the Church, that He has been given the preeminence by the Father in this era in which we live, that all power both in heaven and in earth is in the hands of the Son. When he speaks the Apostle Paul tells us here, we should not refuse those words. We know what happened to the nation who refused as He spake upon earth. Let us also use that fear as the beginning of wisdom that we hearken to the voice of that Holy Spirit in our life, and we do not use our spirit of man to quench it. Earlier in that letter he had also written this message which supports what we are

hearing, in Chapter 2 he says:

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?"

As we sit here today and we consider and reflect the role of the Holy Spirit within this era of Grace in providing life to this new creation the Church and that we as the living stones have that spiritual life within, let us consider that question posed to us at the end of the pastoral letter - who are we working for in our lives? Are we using that Holy Spirit and aiding the work of our Lord and Saviour in the building of His kingdom upon this earth, or are we choosing to not hear those words, to use the inner voice that we all have as the spirit of man to tell ourselves that does not apply to me, someone else will do that work, I will look after myself. Let us be encouraged that this word is the word that saves. When we understand that, we should have the desire that others too might have that beautiful hope through the hearing of the gospel preached.

Amen.

Apostle Sermon 30th June 2024

Text is 1 Timothy Chapter 4

What a powerful hymn and a wonderful message the Holy Spirit has guided you to sing in that youth chorus hymn today. It sums up why we are here and sums up how we are here. It gives us our purpose. God's desire from the very beginning of when He created time, when He created all that we see and then He created the pinnacle, the high point of that creation, mankind, has always been for us to be His sons and daughters. What a travesty that occurred in the world that for thousands of years, that was not a possibility, that there

was a separation that did not come from God. It came from a Godlikeness that He gave to mankind and that He respected, because He desired that mankind, of every generation, individually would choose Him - choose to love Him as He loves us. Thankfully, we can again sing those words, that we are a child of God, and that it is only and alone in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and His victory that we are able to have that blessed opportunity again.

The Bishop has reminded us in that text of Apostle Paul to the church at Ephesus, that God is now not just with us, He is within us and that is an unbelievable and unimaginable, awesome blessing. Nothing now can separate us from the love of God, except our own free will. He still respects that. If anything happens in our life to separate us from God, do not ask where is God? We should ask ourselves how we have gone away from His love?

The Holy Spirit has made a number of connections for us today in this service and it is fitting that we conclude a blessed youth camp with a divine service. As we have discussed in the youth camp, a divine service has two main components. We are, out of our love for Christ and for the Father, called to worship Him in spirit and in truth. We are called to show our love in our praise, in our thankfulness through prayers, and through obeying His instructions to set aside a time every seventh day. If we do that, He will make it holy for us, so that we can go forward into another week. There is an even more logical and practical reason, because we need to have this connection maintained.

The Deacons that have preached and the Bishop has reminded us that there will be times in our life as we go forward, that not everything will go as we would like it to go, but it is on this day that we can establish our confidence in where it should be established, not in our ability to remain connected to God, but in His love for us. Our Lord was the Word that was with God and is God and became

flesh and dwelt amongst us so that this flesh that had caused the problem was now the means by which there's reconciliation, this reconnection, this communion with God. It is the Holy Spirit that connects us one with another.

Through our daily walks of life Christ has promised, and He taught parables to show the things that would stand before the whole world before His return, and some of them are not positive experiences, but He also showed us how we can endure. We have a strength or a righteousness that does not come from ourselves, but from the One who came to this

earth and through His life, fulfilled all righteousness. The word righteousness means: the rightness of the Word of God. It was that rightness that God used when He spoke, to create all things. It will be that same rightness that allows Him to judge purely, as we have sung in the opening hymn, because it is in the Word of

God. Justice has to be done. If we hear those words and we do not understand them, which is the theme for this year's youth camp, we will be fearful.

How can we stand before a perfect God? How can we hope to remain connected when these things are happening in the world, and in our individual lives that seem to be getting greater and stronger against us? It is because of the righteousness of Christ. So, we come here today to not only worship, but to receive further blessings (plural), from our Lord. Whatever we have done in this past week, if it is positive, we can offer on the altar of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and He then takes that and stores that in a heavenly storehouse where the things that happen in this world cannot impact and He then uses it when we have need of it.

The Scripture tells us that even believing that Jesus is the Christ gains a righteousness for our soul, but if we try to hold on to that righteousness, the enemy, the one that we've heard of that came to Timothy, and that

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Apostle Paul warned him of, who will have a seducing spirit, as he is an angel, he is trickier than we are clever, and he will always be victorious, if we did not have that something within. We could not see through the lies without the power of the Holy Spirit and so when we offer it to God, He takes that which we believe, as a righteousness and stores it for us so that it cannot be lost, it cannot be taken away by Satan.

Every time we do a good deed for someone else, we gain a measure of righteousness, if we've followed the Lord's example, it is the right way to act. Again, if we did not offer that back to Him, it gets lost in our life, because the very next breath we may do something wrong and so we offer it to our Lord and He purges it. He takes away the things that should not be there and He stores it for us. When we overcome a temptation, we gain a righteousness. We can only ever overcome a temptation when it is the Holy Spirit working through us, because our human nature wants to go the opposite direction. When we listen to that voice - some will call it a conscience, but it is the quiet still voice of the Holy Spirit that tells us immediately, as we are about to speak, as we are about to act, that is not what you should be doing. When we listen to that quiet still voice, submit our own nature, and we do the right thing, that too, is offered as righteousness. But, if we had to rely from week to week on those things that we have done, we would fall far short of the righteousness required to continue this journey.

Prior to providing His natural body as the atonement for sin, our Lord set in place a way where He could bless elements of this world and the Holy Spirit will convert them to become as His body and as His blood. He promised that when we have that within us, His life is within us, His righteousness is within us and we offer all of that back to Him to store for us so that when we need it, it can be used, and it is not lost. So, that is why we come at the conclusion of this youth camp into His presence in this divine service, not just to say thank you, but to look to Him for what is needed to go forward as we leave this place.

The Holy Spirit has made other connections for us today. We've heard the quite personal letter of the Apostle Paul to a young servant and we've heard how that relates to you as young people within the faith to not let that feeling that you are young and do not know as much as older people, do not even let those times when you may hear older people say, 'Oh, the youth of today' (I know your faith) - do not let anything despise that faith. Do not let anything bring it down. For it is faith in the place that it should be placed - in God the Father and in the Son and in the Holy Ghost. Resolve that in your hearts and in your minds, that is what the Apostle Paul was telling Timothy. Don't worry about what other people think of you, do not care what your friends may say when you stand up for your faith, be strong in the Lord.

The Bishop read words that the Apostle wrote to a church gathering like our gathering today in a place called Ephesus. The connection there is that Timothy traveled with Paul to that place. On his mission journey, he gathered Timothy to him, and he was a close ally and Timothy looked to follow what the Apostle's teaching was, so that he could grow in faith. When they got to Ephesus, it was there that the Bishop Timothy was then instructed to stay. The words that we've heard in this letter to Timothy, as a leadership manual, if we look at them in the language of what we've learned over the youth camp of understanding, it was actually for his role in Ephesus. He would have heard those words; he would have been there when the Apostle preached those words and wrote to the church that he was to look after.

Our youth camp theme is the pillar of understanding - the youth know, but for the benefit of all the adults, we are working through understanding purpose for our faith, understanding the reason why, because understanding is so important. It builds on the belonging, and we have the belonging that the youth sung of, to be a child of God or part of the household of God, to have brothers and sisters in faith, understanding is also important.

The Apostle Peter concluded his letter

with the prayer, from that time on that those who read the letters that he wrote, would “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (see 2 Peter 3:18). Grace is what saves us through faith, but we have to increase, we have to grow in that Grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We sang the opening hymn for today's service, ‘the wonderful words of life’, and what is contained in that word. We've been encouraged then, the connection through

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the preaching, to read and continue to read the Holy Bible in our lives from day to day. There were specific messages, that when we look back at them and understand the context that these words were written, even though, as we've been reminded, they apply to the world in which we live, that too should be a strengthening of our faith.

Imagine that 2000 years ago, the Apostle Paul wrote these words to Timothy, that in latter times people would not value marriage. What do we see in our culture today? Marriage is just a piece of paper, we hear, but of course, marriage is part of the very creation that God set in place from the beginning. Marriage is that means by which He said He would bless the union of man and woman. If we understand that Paul was saying there would be this time that marriage was no longer valued, we also see how we can play our part as young people. We can be different to that, we can uphold God's Word and His creation, we can value marriage.

We should, at all times as young people, as soon as we contemplate these words, we ask God, we pray to God to reveal to us and prepare for us a life's partner. We do not just say, I'll get my degree first, I'll get a job first. Set things in Order, the way they were meant to be, look to that most important role of being a husband or a wife, so that we can then

receive God's blessings upon our life.

Apostle Paul saw that there would be a time when food became so important that some people would say, don't eat this, that's not good for you and that it would cause confusion for the people. I don't know if it's in your life, but it's certainly in my world - eat more of this, don't eat that, don't eat meat. It's so confusing in the world in which we live. The Apostle Paul said, it's simple, God made everything to be good for us when it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. We have right there the reason, that every time we put something into our mouth, whether it be in our homes, where we perhaps are confident in praying and saying thank you, but also when we are eating in public, we have the need for God to prepare that for His creation and when that happens, it can be a blessing for us and so we continue to use that every day, every time we have a meal.

We are also confessing that we recognize that someone may have worked hard to prepare that, but the essential ingredients come from God, the Father, the Almighty Creator. We are thanking for those ingredients that have been prepared in that meal for us and we are asking it to be sanctified or blessed for our partaking.

He said also, to not overly concern ourselves with bodily exercise. Again, in the world in which we live, and particularly when we are young, we all feel the need to be faster, stronger, healthier and that is not a concern,



that is not the focus of the message here. The message is to take ‘little thought’ for that. Now in the time that we have lived in, particularly in this land, but in many lands, the instruction as God took Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, that we would need to earn our daily bread by the sweat of the brow, which meant we were active in our employment, but as times have changed, and particularly now in the modern era with much technology, many of us are not active in our daily employment. There is a need to do some movement to keep

this machine well oiled, but it is not meant to take over our life, it is not meant to go ahead of our spiritual well-being. We have to get that balance right.

These three practical aspects were relevant, as we've heard, 2000 years ago, but also the Apostle Paul said that the Spirit showed that in the latter days, expressly, they would become more prevalent in our lives. As always, he provided the 'what we should do'. We should not just hear these things and agree with them, but we should then as every sermon should, having taught us the truth, it should then take us the next step and ask, what are we going to do about that? How do we resolve these conflicts in our life? How do we go forward in faith?

We've heard that Timothy was told that if he reminded the people of these things, as we are being reminded today, that he would be a good servant of Jesus Christ, and that he would be responsible in fulfilling the calling that he had. He had to command, and he had to teach those things as we are being taught and commanded today, but he also then was told by the Apostle Paul - and we can all take this as a doing into our life - that we had to be an example of believers. People in our world look at us, when we say we are Christian and rightly or wrongly (often wrongly) they will say, 'if you are a Christian, why do you do this or that?' We have the answer, of course, that we are not perfect. 'Do not look at me as if I am Christ', but it is something that we need to wear.

Our morning salute tells us and encourages us to ask Christ, that every thought that we have, every word that we speak, every action that we do, would be as if we belong to Him. If we have sung with gusto and with spirit, as you have sung, that we are a child of God then surely, our family characteristics should be showing through in our words, and in our life - that is the example that we are being asked, not because we are better than anyone else, but because we belong to God. Christ has bought us with His bodily sacrifice on the cross. He desires that He would stay with us, and commune with us, be with us every step of the way. We still have that free will and that

choice and so it is with encouragement that these words are given to you today, so that you can imprint them in your hearts.

It is easy today; we are all here with brothers and sisters in faith. It is easy to show and share our faith. It is not as easy to show and share our faith when the enemies are without, but we should be of good cheer, we should be of strong courage to know that when we do that, as the Lord has promised, He will be with us. It requires perhaps for all of us, a change of heart. The Apostle Paul, we remember, was the one who through his diligence and misunderstanding, thought that he was doing God's will when he was persecuting the Christian church.

We understand that there is therefore a necessity to understand the truth, if we are to be confident that we are taking the right path. The Holy Spirit is a spirit of truth, so we cannot listen to men or women, we

have to listen to that Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will tell us, if we give it that opportunity. Yes, that makes sense, that sounds like the word of God, but we can always check, because the Holy Spirit has gathered together, as His role was, the words of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Word of God, that would become the witnesses upon the earth, to make sure the foundation is still in place. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone, but the written words that reveal Him in the Old Testament to the Israelite nation, in the New Testament, His example and His words and commands, that along with that great commission to go and teach all nations, He said that we have to observe all things that He commanded us (see Matthew 28:20). We cannot observe those

There is therefore, a necessity to understand the truth, if we are to be confident that we are taking the right path.



things in our life if we do not know them. We must take the recording of His words, that the Holy Spirit has written down

through earthen vessels, and gathered together in the Holy Bible and we can be confident that these are the words of Christ.

The Apostle Paul valued understanding as our theme for today. He knew that we should pray, he knew that we should preach, he knew that we should help each other, but in every part of that we had to understand why we were doing it. We can find that message in a letter he wrote to the church at Corinth, from 1 Corinthians 14:14-17 and he says this,

“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.”

We can see the necessity that when we even sing our youth chorus hymns, as we had the example last night in the ‘question and answer’, if it is uncertain what you are singing, ask, so that you can understand. When you then sing, as the Apostle Paul said, you do not sing just with the spirit, but you sing with understanding. You can therefore go forward receiving that truth more confidently and more comfortably within your life. We have received so many blessings in this past week. Personally, I have received added blessings by being with young people, the same as you, in a distant land. If I could share that experience in any way, for you to know that this household of God is much greater than we could ever imagine, and it will be much greater than we ever will know. We will only experience that unity that the Apostle Paul spoke of in its fullness at the Lord’s return, but what a gathering that will be, what an event to look forward to and with such an event, a gathering beyond any experience that we have yet had in our life, what would we do and what should we do to grasp hold of it and make sure we are there?

My prayer for you, as we leave this youth

camp weekend, is similar to that which the Apostle Paul made in a greeting to a church that was under his responsibility, a church at a place called Colosse. He wrote to that church, after he had also been separated physically from them, to remind them, that although we are separated physically, we are united through the power of the Holy Spirit, and you’re always in our thoughts and we pray that we will be in your thoughts. We can read his concern and prayer for them, which is magnified in my heart today. In Colossians 1:9, he says,

“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Amen.

Apostle Sermon Pentecost 19th May 2024

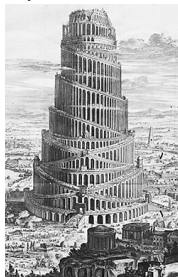
Text is Pastoral Letter for Pentecost 2024

We are fully aware that we celebrate today the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the beginning of the Church. Many throughout the world regard this day as the birth day of the Church. We know that Christ was the foundation, and that He came out of the grave, and established and put into place the means for this beginning, when on His ascension He told His apostles, ‘They had to go into every part of the world, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things that I have taught you, and lo, I will be with you alway, even unto the end of the world.’ They were commissioned to fulfil and begin the building of a spiritual temple throughout the world, and they realised it would be impossible. But on the ascension day, He gave them that promise that He would not leave them comfortless, that they should tarry and He would send unto them the power of the Holy Spirit who would be the reigning deity on this earth, and who would work through them as earthen vessels

and other earthen vessels whom He would choose down through the ages, and they would be able to fulfil that commission, that commission of building a spiritual temple on this earth, so that those that are part of this temple can become part of the Kingdom of God, that they can become citizens when that kingdom is established.

Many throughout the world call this day, the day of the gift of the Ascension Day, and so it is; for if we did not have this Holy Spirit none of us would be here today, because it is that Spirit that has spread the gospel that has taught the world about Christ, that has prepared for us the things and gifts necessary that we can bind ourselves together, and that we can look in hope for this great day and this great promise that stands before us. Our Lord said, the world will not receive this Holy Spirit because it cannot be seen. We do not have to see this Spirit, we can feel it, and we know that it is working as we see the results of it all around the world. And so it is, that the Holy Spirit once again had to bring about this first gift that was shown on this day, to bring an end to what the Spirit had to do unto God's instruction thousands of years before when mankind decided to build a temple.

They were going to build a tower which is called the Tower of Babel. They were going to build it up to heaven. The reason they wanted to build this was:



1. They did not believe in the promises of God, who had promised Noah that He would never again send a flood to destroy the whole earth. They doubted God's words and thought that man's wisdom would have to take over.

2. They decided and saw in their minds that this was the way to have access to God, that man could build this tower up to God and commune with Him once again.

We know that was not possible because man could not stand in the presence of God and live because of the sin and the corruption that was within his body. Our Lord had to become that link. He had to become that

tower we might say: that means that we could have access unto God and His blessings, but it would be through an appointment from God through this power of the Holy Spirit, and that is why our Lord became the head of the Church. He is the head of the building. He is the chief corner stone. Nothing man can do can achieve that.

3. They, in their mind decided that this temple that they would build would be an edifice to themselves. It would become known world-wide of the great power and wisdom that they had in being able to build this, and people would come and worship them for what they had done, but this was not to be.

We know that all honour belongs to God, especially in this spiritual temple that we see being built today throughout the whole world. No man must take any power or any honour from that. Unfortunately down through the ages we have seen that within this living temple there has been and still is today those who wish to take honour and glory, and regard it as their work rather than the work of the Holy Spirit. We must never allow that to happen. No man must be allowed to take any honour and glory for this spiritual temple that is being built.

When we compare that first temple and we look to see how this new spiritual temple should grow, we see the Holy Spirit fulfilling the first miracle we might say to prove that it has been sent from God. We have already heard how this Holy Spirit came about and that every man heard them speak in his own language, and we find written in Acts 2:7-12

"And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these that speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?"

We see that the Holy Spirit was fulfilling and bringing an end to the power that it showed previously in the building of the Tower of Babel, and we find recorded in that the role of the Holy Spirit in Genesis 11:1-7

"And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, (it is important that we understand, 'let US go down', meaning God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit; for the Holy Spirit was now to fulfil an act under God's instruction) and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

We see the Holy Spirit was the one that confounded the languages of the world under God's instruction, and they were spread throughout the whole world and mankind spoke all different languages. Now came the day of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit was again sent through Christ from God to restore and bring back, that mankind, no matter what nation, kindred or tongue they came from, would now be able to speak the one language. That does not mean there was only to be the one language, but every one could understand the works of God. So, from that day forth throughout the whole world, in no matter what language people spoke, they learned of the works of God, they learned of the salvation of Christ, they learned of this power of the Holy Spirit in their own language. Even others who may sit next to them and hear this, they can understand because in their own language they also know that this

applies.

We see that has even moved further, for if we visit a foreign country the Holy Spirit has blessed somebody now in that land to be able to translate the message into their own language. No longer should the people be scattered. There is now this unity of the Spirit that the Holy Ghost reversed under God's instruction and began the building of this spiritual temple throughout the whole world. No one or no one nation can have pre-eminence over it. Every one is eligible to be blessed. We then ask ourselves: What is the role of this Holy Spirit? The role that Christ told to His apostles what it would do.

We should refresh our minds on this, because right down through the ages the prophets, the Psalmists, all wrote about the time when the Spirit of God will be poured out, men's hearts will be changed, there will be a change within the world. There will be a time when unity and peace will exist through this power that will be poured out into the world. Our Lord when He was on this earth, the last of the prophets foretold of this also, so that all of the prophets are in unity. John the Baptist



told the people: I indeed baptise with water, but there is one coming after me whose latchet of His shoe I am not worthy to touch, and He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

We see that this baptism comes through Christ and it will bring about the entrance into becoming part of this spiritual temple on earth. That was witnessed after the day of Pentecost when the evangelist Philip went to the Samaritans who were not regarded as Jews by the Jews, but they believed they were. He converted them and told them of the love of Christ, and he baptised them in the name of Christ, but they did not yet have that Holy Spirit. They had been circumcised to God which was the baptism to the Father. He baptised them to Jesus Christ, but they still lacked something. When the apostles heard of this, it is recorded in the Scriptures they went there and they

found that there was a sorcerer who had great powers and the people were following him, and he wondered and watched to see what would happen. The apostles in the name of Christ laid hands on them and baptised them in the name of the Holy Spirit, which today we call the Sealing, and the people then were able to speak in tongues and understand each other, and they were able to find peace within their hearts, and they were able then to worship God and through Him Christ.

This sorcerer then sought to buy that power, and he was told that he would perish because it is not available for sale, it is a gift from God who will pass it through His chosen ambassadors and chosen vessels. It is nothing that man can do; man can never take control over the Holy Spirit. We see that this blessing was not only foretold by Christ and the last of the prophets, but it enacted itself in the days after Pentecost. Our Lord had explained this to his apostles who did not understand, for they had not yet received the understanding of the power of the Holy Spirit. He explained to them the role of the Holy Spirit which we find written in John 16:7-15

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

We see the role of the Holy Spirit explained very clearly by Christ. We can enjoy all of those benefits today. We can hear in the teaching of those things that Christ had taught, and they

are now brought to our remembrance by the Holy Spirit.

We see that He has the right to reprove sin. We must always understand that God forgives our sins through the power of the Holy Spirit. Of righteousness, righteousness which we receive through the Sacraments that He has left for us. All of these are generated and operated by the Holy Spirit, and through this we can all be bound together for the Spirit remains with us to the very end.

On the day of the Resurrection it will be the Holy Spirit that will bring us out of the grave. The Spirit will never leave us if we make our hearts a dwelling place for this Holy Spirit at all times. When we witness Sealing we hear the words that the Holy Spirit is to teach us that it is in the Body and Blood of Christ wherein He will dwell. We have this great blessing that is given unto us. As we have heard in the Pastoral we must be united. There is no divisions with the Holy Spirit. We are all united as one and we must remain that way. We could say that the Holy Spirit is our partner in life who walks with us, talks with us, communes with us all the way in our life.

If we accept this, we then need to carry out our obligation that this Holy Spirit requires of us, and that obligation we find written in the last book of the Bible. In the Book of Revelation 22:17 our obligation is made very clear. After all of the blessings that are foretold in the Book of Revelation, we then find an instruction to the Spirit, the Holy Ghost from God, and an instruction to us as that living body of the Church, and we find written,

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

The Spirit is urging us to come unto Christ at all times and partake of the water of life, but the obligation is extended to the bride. The bride must also be prepared to say at all times: Come, partake of the water of life. We see it as a partnership, the Spirit and ourselves. Let us build on that partnership and it will please Christ and please God, that the day this Spirit was sent into the world has become fruitful.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND MISSION

Thanksgiving and Mission Festivals are a time set aside in the church to remember and celebrate together in the unity of the spirit, reflecting and offering thanksgiving to God for all blessings received over the last twelve months.

Thanksgiving - the gratitude for all benefits of divine providence (God's care - Grace). Psalm 34:8, *O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.*

Right from the beginning, there has been a desire from man to bring offerings of thanks to God. We can learn from Cain and Abel in their desire to bring offerings to thank God for blessings provided to them. We see God's reaction to their offerings of thanksgiving that these offerings must be pure and sincere. Genesis 4:3-5, *And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering: he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth and his countenance fell.*

We, as Christians, now live in this wonderful period of time where the Grace of God in Christ continues to be poured out. As Apostle James said, James 1:17, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.* These gifts and the treasures provided unto us through the ministry in the word and sacraments allow us to connect with God as His sons and daughters and as a loving Father He continues to provide for us. Though our sincere and united thanksgiving, abundant Grace may be poured out to others by the Lord. 2 Corinthians 4:15, *For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.*

In peace and contentment, we can go forward. Hebrews 13:5-6, *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, AND I WILL NOT FEAR WHAT MAN SHALL DO UNTO ME."*

These words should give us a strengthening of our faith and trust in the Lord and a desire to share with others what we have received. Psalm 105:1-2, *O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.*

Elder Wayne Bramer

Newsletter

DISTRICT NEWS

ORDINATION

On Sunday the 28th of April, Deacon Craig Muller was ordained to the Priest Office for Caboolture.

Priest Craig & Sis. Therese Muller with officers



CONFIRMATION

On Saturday the 18th of May, many visitors attended Bundaberg for the annual Confirmation Service. Apostle Wayne reminded the candidates of the importance and significance of the day for them, and the opportunities to be involved and "belong" to the church into the future. This year seven candidates from Bundaberg, Charleville, Mackay, Malmoe, Nundah and Townsville recited their lessons from the catechism, facilitated by Bishop Ben. Being a small group this year, youth members Maisie Leisemann and Brayden Barron agreed to support them with their recitation. After service and the momentous photos, all were treated to a warm meal and the opportunity to enjoy some time of fellowship in the hall.



2024 Confirmees with Bishops and Apostle



Assistants Maisie Leisemann & Brayden Barron

PENTECOST FESTIVAL

The Pentecost Festival on Sunday the 19th of May was well attended and was a special day for all who were able to attend. Apostle Wayne preached about the blessings that the Holy Spirit provided through vessels in the Old Testament and how God continues to give us ongoing blessings within the structure of the Church that Christ established. We were also challenged to consider if we are choosing to accept the individual guidance that we receive from the Holy Spirit each day of our lives. We all felt encouraged and strengthened to work and try harder into the future. A bounteous lunch was served after service and the locals farewelled many visitors as they commenced their journeys home.

YOUTH CAMP 2024

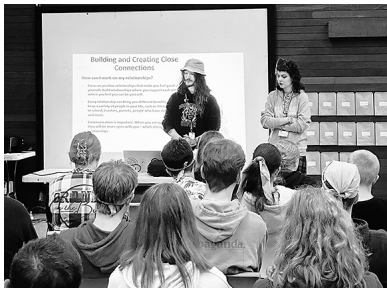
The Annual Youth Camp was held from the 25th to the 30th of June 2024 in Yeppoon at the PCYC Capricorn Coast Centre with the theme being “Knowing Christ, Growing in Faith”, which was based around the Understanding pillar. First day kicked off with people arriving from their various hometowns and finding a dorm to stay in. Lots of friendships rekindled and new friendship bonds formed with the Youth taking full advantage of the facilities, especially the basketball court, pool table, table tennis table and tennis courts. After a delicious dinner of lasagne and garlic bread, followed by dessert, it was time to announce the Team Leaders - Team A were Byron Lerch and Soraya Lynch, with Ben Flor and Kimberley Parchert for Team B. The Youth were then presented with their name tags, folders and programs by their Team Leaders. Bishop Alan welcomed one and all to the camp and touched on the topic for the camp and the basis of our faith, being Jesus Christ. Evening Devotions were said, and the evening concluded with Youth Chorus singing led by Deacon Sam Sinnamon.

Wednesday commenced with “Dawn Declarations”. This was an optional activity and was led by Chanel. Every day the caterer, Amanda, wrote a quote or message on the board in the dining room. Wednesday’s quote was, *“Understanding comes through communication, and through understanding we find the way to peace”*. After breakfast, the Youth gathered in the stadium to join in some icebreaker activities led by Deacon Joel and Sis Amanda Flor. These activities consisted of the Tower game, Paper Planes, and Spaghetti and Marshmallow towers. It was great to see the Youth be welcoming to each other and respect everyone’s decisions during these activities. Chanel then led an activity called “Same, but Different”, and during this activity the Youth were encouraged to decorate their bandanas. Our first Guest Speakers for the camp were Lachlan and Rani from Headspace, which is a National Youth Mental Health Foundation. Their presentation was based on Tips for a Healthy Headspace and how by striving for good mental health and wellbeing this allows you to live your life in a positive and meaningful way and allows you to cope with life’s changes and challenges. Lachlan and Rani were extremely impressed by the Youth and how well they listened and interacted with their presentation. Thanks was given by Soraya on behalf of the Youth. After morning tea, the Youth assembled for some more Youth Chorus singing. Bishop Alan, assisted by Sis. Hayley Kaddatz commenced the session after lunch with some Bible Trivia in Kahoot form. The Youth enjoyed this activity immensely and continued with more online Kahoot topics and showed that they can still be children at heart by choosing one based on the movie “Cars”. Beach activities were planned for the afternoon but due to the rainy weather, these activities were moved indoors to the stadium where the competition, albeit friendly, commenced between the teams and certain Youth who shall not be named, Luke Doyle! Some free time was allocated in the afternoon and the Youth took advantage of playing pickle ball, pool, table tennis and basketball. After dinner, a session of Getting to Know the Officers & Wives commenced, with the Youth choosing Deacon Sam Sinnamon first and then Deacon Joel and Sis Amanda Flor. The evening concluded with people either choosing to watch the State of Origin Game 2, play boardgames or card games, playing

pool or table tennis or just chatting. Many were disappointed that the Queensland Maroons did not put up a great fight but bring on Game 3.



Wednesday's Activities



Thursday started with what was supposed to be a morning walk to the beach, but the weather was not kind to us and so the early morning activity was held in the stadium. Amanda's quote for Thursday was revealed at breakfast, which was, *"If you want understanding, you must give some."* After breakfast, due to the weather, the activities scheduled for the morning had to be altered. The high ropes course was changed to crate stack, as this was able to be done in the stadium, and the indoor rock-climbing wall was also used. Friendly competition occurred with the rock-climbing wall between Keldon and Nash, with Nash coming out the overall winner. The crate stack proved to be a winner, as the Youth encouraged each person who gave it a go. It was wonderful to see the support offered as they attempted the crate stack. Izzy ended up with the highest crate stack and this was acknowledged by everyone. While these activities were occurring, Apostle Wayne, Sis Karen, Ev. Mitchell and Sis. Kristy arrived at the camp after returning from the Philippines and a hearty welcome was given to all from the Youth. After lunch, Ev. Mitchell provided a spiritual talk relating to the Order of Divine Service. He explained how God gave instruction to stop all natural work and worship God on the seventh (Sabbath) day and by doing this how we can refresh and start again for the week ahead. This spiritual talk was educational and informative as it started from what we should be thinking and feeling from the first toll of the bell until the Apostle Blessing that concludes the service. Thanks was provided by Cassidy on behalf of the Youth. The second guest speaker for the camp was Pauline Davies. Pauline is the Nurse Unit Manager at Rockhampton Hospital, and her role involves being an Oncology Paediatric Nurse and a Sexual Assault Nurse for patients fourteen years and above. Pauline talked about her life and what inspired her to pursue a career in nursing, especially after starting her own day care business for families with special needs who needed respite and looking after nursing families. Pauline spoke about her passion for oncology and how the journey with families is rewarding and fulfilling but can also be heart breaking. Pauline explained that nurses are good at building walls and handling self-care but also need a great support network. Pauline also reminded the Youth that "No matter what you are going through, someone else is always going through something worse/else." Thanks was provided by Luke on behalf of the Youth. Youth Chorus followed Pauline's talk. After dinner a special presentation was provided by Apostle Wayne, Sis. Karen, Ev. Mitchell and Sis. Kristy about their Philippines trip with a slideshow presentation. Apostle Wayne and Ev. Mitchell wore their traditional outfits, with Sis. Karen and Sis. Kristy displaying their outfits also. They also showed the many gifts they received throughout their stay.



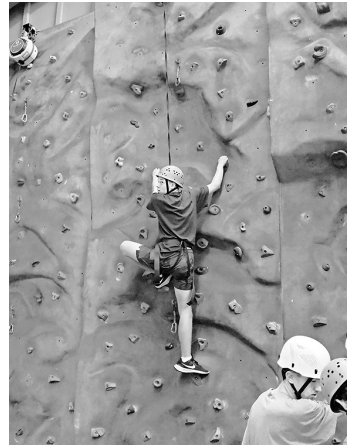
Nurse Pauline Davies



Traditional Filipino outfits displayed



Rock wall climbing and crate stacking activities



Friday commenced with Dawn Declarations and Amanda's quote for Friday was, *"The Noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding"*. After a delicious breakfast of ham and cheese croissants, the Youth were split by age. The younger Youth were involved in a session with Deacons Joel and Sam with Sis Amanda assisting. The older Youth were involved in a session with Apostle Wayne. These sessions provided much thought and opened many avenues of discussion which showed the depth of thought that the Youth have today. Another session of Getting to Know the Officers & Wives occurred, with the Youth choosing Deacon Clinton and Sis. Hayley Kaddatz. This session was enlightening with Deacon Clinton giving a run-down of their official date to a fancy restaurant in Mackay, with Sis. Hayley correcting his version along the way. Due to Laser Skirmish being cancelled, the activities for the next session were decided in consultation with various Youth and Supervisors so we all headed down to the beach, finally, for some beach games. Cassidy and Keldon emerged victors in the balloon game, with the assistance of Kimberley. Youth Chorus practice occurred before lunch. Apostle



Beach games and spiritual discussions

Wayne presented a spiritual talk relating to the Apostle Creed, explaining how it must be based on the Holy Bible and how it affirms the common heritage and basic beliefs that unite Christians around the world and throughout history. After a quick afternoon tea, the third guest speaker, Peter Milne, gave his presentation. Peter talked about his life and life experiences and has been and still is involved in many different organisations in his life. Peter spoke about how life has many positives and negatives and how life can change when the situation changes and there are always many paths that you can follow. For many of the older Youth, Peter's presentation hit home, especially when he mentioned that implementing "Plan B" can have many positive aspects and be extremely rewarding. There was some free time allocated on Friday afternoon with the Youth making use of the facilities or spending some time down at the beach. Q & A with Apostle Wayne commenced after dinner, which was followed by Ev. Mitchell and the Youth who have been involved in the Youth Leadership Program giving a brief overview of the program.

Saturday started with an early morning beach walk for the Youth who wished to attend. Amanda's quote for Saturday was, *"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood."* After a hearty breakfast it was time for the Youth to participate in The Amazing Race – Apostolic Style. This activity commenced at the 2023 Youth Camp and was enjoyed so much that the Youth asked for it to happen again in 2024. The Youth were split into teams of 2 or 3 and were required to complete tasks, both spiritually and naturally, and attempt to be the winner at the end of the activity. Activities ranged from knowing the 4R emblem and its meaning, matching the Beatitudes, matching the Biblical pairs, True or False and many more. To continue from one activity to the next, the clues given were baby photos of the officers and wives who were present at the camp and the Youth had to figure out who was who. They were also required to take photos of certain objects and people whilst completing the race plus attempt some physical tasks, which were called roadblocks and detours. It was entertaining to watch the Youth develop and display different techniques and methods to achieve results and move onto the next station and show that they are capable of working with a wide array of people even when placed outside their comfort zone. After a quick morning tea, the Youth assembled to have a discussion with Apostle Wayne relating to spiritual and natural matters within the Church and their lives and how they can assist within the communities. Many issues were brought forward and discussed in a calm manner with many Youth putting forward ideas and suggestions. The final Youth Chorus practice occurred before lunch, with the Youth putting in the gusto and emotion that was asked of them. After lunch, the Youth were given time to prepare for the impromptu concert that occurs at the finish of the camp. Members from various communities joined with the Youth for the dinner meal and to enjoy the concert afterwards. The Youth did an outstanding job putting the concert together with many traditional items being performed. The girls combined to sing "The Girls Song", relating to things that had occurred throughout the week of the camp. There were many skits performed and it was fantastic to see that all the Youth were involved. The traditional Music Man finished the concert part from the Youth and the finale act was by the officers present. Presentations were completed on behalf of the Youth to thank everyone who had assisted in making the Youth Camp successful. A huge thanks was given to Amanda from the catering company for her time and effort throughout the week. After the concert, there was a quick Q & A and closing address by Apostle Wayne. From the response given by the Youth, the camp will continue in 2025 at Chaverim in Bundaberg.



*Saturday night
concert items*





Concert Finale



Youth Camp group photo 2024

Sunday morning was an earlier start than usual due to packing and cleaning up before heading into Rockhampton for divine service. The quote provided by Amanda on our final day was, *"To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding. Proverbs 1:2"*. After breakfast, last minute packing and cleaning, all headed into Rockhampton. The Youth Chorus sang during the service, and you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit working throughout the service. After service, lunch was provided for all who wished to stay and enjoy the fellowship. The hot meat and gravy rolls were a hit. It was then time to say farewells with the Youth reminding each other about the upcoming Youth Rally in October. A blessed week and God be with you till we meet again.



Youth Camp service attendees

OVERSEAS NEWS

INDIA

All have been active with church services including Ascension and Pentecost. Because of elections during this period, Christians have to maintain a low profile.



Community visits



Sunday school children singing



Community visits





Community visits

UKRAINE

The invasion from Russia has intensified during this period. Church services and relief and children programs continue amongst this crisis. Communication is harder to maintain. Last letter from Bro. Yuriy (3rd July) sums up the need for continued support and prayer.

Dear Apostle Cliff and Sis. Heather

Warm greetings to you from Ukraine!

We have been closely following your trip to the Philippines on the Internet. Our prayers have been with you. It is great to see the Church in the Philippines and its rich fruits. I'm sorry that I haven't written to you about our situation for a long time. For several months, after strong attacks by the Russians on our energy sector, there has been no electricity in Ukrainian cities for 5-8 hours a day. As the government says, in the fall and winter we will probably only have electricity for 4 hours a day!!!

As you know now, quite often the Russians attack Zaporizhzhia and Dnipro with missiles. Thank God, none of our people were hurt. However, we have postponed repair work in our Church for some time. We hope that peace negotiations will begin soon. Politicians are talking about this more and more. I ask you to pray about this.

We continue our spiritual and humanitarian work in both communities. It is very important to always feel your help!

As always, we ask for your prayers and apostolic blessings.

Your in Christ,

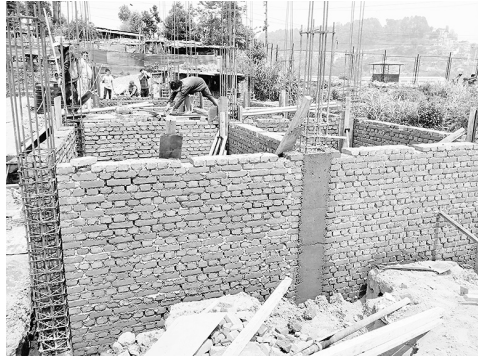
Bro. Yuriy



Russian Bombings

NEPAL

Bro. Thomas advises building is progressing as quickly as possible. They are so happy to receive the teaching items on a regular basis as he advised, “We are learning many teachings. We are with you and want to connect with you as your church. We pray and hope that one day you will visit us. Thank you.”



Church Building under construction

MYANMAR (BURMA)

The situation with ongoing fighting is getting worse. Where possible church services continue. Extracts from letters tell the sad situation which requires ongoing prayers of all.

Dear Apostle Cliff Flor,

Trusting and praying that you all are doing fine. We all are weak because of the hotness of the weather. I am not able to reply to your email immediately because I am not feeling well. My diabetes gives me problems, especially my eyes. I am not able to read and write because my eyes are very painful and I can't see clearly as well. But by the grace of God I am feeling better now.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you from the bottom of my heart for all your love and concern for us and for all your support. We are very grateful to you for all your encouragement, your anointed messages, and other materials for the officers. Thank you very much for your prayers in times of our crisis and troubles. It is our strength that knowing all the communities are praying for our current crisis. I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to you on the behalf of our community for all your love and support for the Myanmar community.

The weather is very hot. There is no rain. We are crying for rain just to cool down the weather. The heat temperature is 44c. On the other hand, we have very poor electricity as well. Hundreds of them died because of the weather. We can't stay inside the house. We are looking for cool places like under the trees. We can't sleep at night either. We can't sleep without mosquitoes next. Thousands of mosquitos are surrounding us at night. Our pillows and our clothes are sweating all night.

The war situations are worse and worse across the country. All my family in Kalay and Tahan are displaced for their safety. Some transferred to other villages. Some are transferring to forest where there is river and water. They leave their house and everything they have. Please continue to pray for us and for our country those who are facing challenges.

My Best Regards to all,

Van Lal Lawm 1st May, 2024

Dear Apostle Flor,

Thank you for your email. Thank you for sending assistance. It is very good to hear that you have a very blessed time in the Philippines and the ordination service was done very well.

The war situation is heading worse and worse. Now the battle is taking place. From June 25, together with the TNLA troops of the Northern Alliance called three brotherhoods, and the PDF joint forces attacked Nungcho, Mokok, Black Stone, and Tipaw Twonshps. Now they started to attack Lashio city. Sooner or later they will attack Pyin Oo Lwin next to Lashio. Pyin Oo Lwin is 40 miles from Mandalay. On the other hand, Mandalay PDF attacked Matayar city and the surrounding areas. Matayar city is only 20 miles from Mandalay. Now we packed important documents and other needs and were ready for flight any time. But it is impossible to run away without vehicles. We are praying to God for a way to purchase a vehicle. But it is impossible for us. But we believed that God is able to make impossible things possible.

While battling rebels, the Junta army burned villages and rice fields destroying the crop and it led to a sharp rise in food prices. Monasteries and Churches are fired by airstrikes. A lot of the citizens no longer afford to buy decent rice. Now a lot of people buy cheap, broken rice usually used as chicken feed. For Myanmar people, rice is an essential part of their diet (Main Food), and rising prices have hit most of the people especially hard. Come to think of it, the life of people in Myanmar is the same as the chickens on the farm that sit and wait their turn to be killed. Imported medicines are not available to buy in Mandalay. I cannot find medicines for diabetic which are usually used for my diabetes. Some available imported medicines are getting higher than ten times the price. We don't know where to head.

On the other hand, we are facing a problem with electricity. The government is not able to supply electric power. We only have power for one or two hours a day. We need a solar Battery for lighting, especially for my sons. They study hard for their lessons until midnight. We use a charger light but there is no electricity for charging. Please continue to pray for our needs and for our protection from the crisis we are facing.

My Best Regards to all,

Van Lal Lawm 4th July, 2024

Dear Apostle Flor,

Trusting and praying that you all are doing fine. As for me and my family we are fine.

The war situation in Mandalay is really alarming. Anti-junta fighters announced war in Mandalay. Security tightened in Mandalay as opponents of Junta drew closer. The junta takes place in Mandalay hill, Yankin hill, the top of Ocean Center, the top of Mandalay plaza, and the top of other high buildings and the surrounding areas in Mandalay city. So we are worried about that. We are ready and packed things such as important documents and other things in order to leave for other places. We have nothing to do but to leave if there is battle in Mandalay. There are three army camps and a police station about two miles away from my house. The police station is less than one kilometer from my place. My place will be a field if there is war in Mandalay.

Thank you for your prayer support and financial support as well. Please continue to pray for us and our protection.

My Best Regards to all,

Van Lal Lawm 18th July, 2024

CANADA

Bishop Edwin advised services for Ascension and Pentecost were sincere. This was a busy time, as they sold their home and moved to a new town house at Niagara Falls. As well, he had to organise the training seminar for Pakistan. On May 12th a special Mother's Day event was held and well attended. All are looking forward to Apostle Wayne and Sister Karen's visit later in the year. It will enable sealing to be dispensed.

PHILIPPINES

All communities celebrated Ascension and Pentecost festivals. Combined services and Officers meetings were held during this time. Sadly, some Officers passed during this time including Evangelist Eddie Santos from Abra. The Apostles' visit and ordinations are to be recorded in a Special Edition of the Herald. Apostle Jimmy has been busy visiting communities, sealing members and children. Unfortunately a typhoon and flooding damage has occurred to some churches, members homes and belongings, businesses of members and crops.



Apostle explaining Sealing



Sealing



Apostle visit Bulacan service 56 sealed



Flooding



Apostle Jimmy & family



Bishop Johnny distributing relief to flood victims



Valenzuela community

KENYA

All services continue with celebration of Ascension and Pentecost. Crisis struck during this period. After such a dry period, then came heavy rains and flooding. A large dam was undermined by water which caused water and flooding to many including members. A relief program was arranged by the churches and all are thankful for the assistance from other countries.

Apostle Cliff Flor

Re: Flood assistance from Contributors.

To all brothers and sisters

We are so grateful for the kindness and loyalty you have shown us during this time of difficulties in Kenya.

You have been a true course of comfort and support in the lives of the suffering people who were hit by destructive floods that left villages upside down.

Thank you for your always being there for us and for unwavering support at this time of suffering in Kenya

May God bless you

All honour and glory to God

Bishop Daniel M. Asiago

Kenya



Severe flooding Kenya



Cameraman loses footing in floods



Distributing food to flood affected families

All would have seen the turmoil that has broken out in Kenya over the plan to impose increased tax on food items. Although the government has withdrawn the proposal rioting still continues. All are praying for peace.

Apostle Cliff Flor

Thank you for your prayer.

Demonstrators took fight to the parliament buildings and burned part of the building, destroyed Supreme Court offices, and other Government institutions. Military to remain in the streets in Kenya to help police quell protests. Military also are protecting State house as protesters vow to enter into the buildings. Thank you as you continue to pray for us. Wish you nice time in Philippines.

Bishop Daniel. 29th June, 2024

PAKISTAN

The spiritual work of the church is under the care of Bishop Edwin from Canada. Services were held for Ascension and Pentecost as well as each Sunday. The Officers training seminar was successful per report. Sadly, we have to report the passing of Priest Patras. All are looking forward to visit from Bishop Edwin planned for October this year.

Teaching Seminar's Report

Minutes of the Seminar: The United Apostolic Church – Pakistan conducted a one-day teaching seminar for the Evangelists, Priests, and Deacons in Lahore on May 24, 2024, at 2 Lawrence Road, Lahore, Pakistan. The seminar was a resounding success, held as scheduled despite being the hottest day of the year. The dedication of the Evangelists, priests, and Deacons was commendable as they gathered promptly at the designated time.

The seminar began on time, the short divine service held by the evangelist Amanat Barkat, with the assistance of two other evangelists. The spiritual atmosphere set the tone for the day, providing a moment of reflection and unity among the attendees. The mass included prayers, hymns, and a brief sermon by Evangelist Joseph Gulzar focusing on leadership qualities, drawing inspiration from biblical verses. He emphasized the importance of integrity, humility, and service in leadership, citing examples from the lives of Moses, David, and Jesus Christ. Evangelist Amanat let the liturgy followed by the distribution of communion reinforce the spiritual unity and commitment of the participants.

Following the mass, the seminar proceeded with a well-prepared lecture by Mr. Noel Irfan, his presentation was both enlightening and engaging, shedding light on the core doctrines and beliefs that form the foundation of the United Apostolic Church. Mr. Noel began his lecture by revisiting key points from the previous seminar (December 2023), providing a revised perspective. Noel used various references from the United Apostolic Church's Book of Doctrine and the Biblical verses

to substantiate his points, providing a deeper and more structured understanding of the church's teachings. This approach not only enriched the content of his lecture but also prepared the priests and evangelists to be better equipped in their ministry roles. Noel discussed how these doctrines influence the daily lives of believers and the operation of the church. He provided examples of how doctrinal understanding can enhance personal faith and community cohesion.

After the first session, a lunch break was announced. Lunch was served, providing a much-needed break for the attendees because of the massively hot weather in Lahore, Pakistan. The meal was well-prepared and delicious, and everyone appreciated the opportunity to relax and fellowship with one another. The quality and variety of the food were particularly noted, contributing to the overall positive atmosphere of the day.

Following lunch, the evangelists, priests, and deacons were given a questionnaire regarding the session. They were provided with time to fill it out and return it to the speakers. This questionnaire aimed to gather feedback on the content and delivery of the seminar, as well as suggestions for future topics and improvements. The process allowed participants to reflect on what they had learned and to contribute their perspectives to the ongoing development of such seminars. Later Q&A session where attendees could ask questions and seek clarification on various doctrinal points. Noel's thoughtful and thorough responses were greatly appreciated by all present.



The seminar concluded with a closing prayer and a message of encouragement for all participants to continue studying and living according to the doctrines of the United Apostolic Church. Feedback from the Evangelists, priests, and deacons was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a desire for more such seminars in the future. Overall, the seminar was a fruitful and inspiring event, reinforcing the beliefs of the United Apostolic Church and fostering a sense of community and shared purpose among its members.



Participants of Officers Seminar

Community News

NUNDDAH

In the post-Easter period at Nundah, we have continued to receive the blessing of rain like many parts of the state, making it a wetter winter than usual. Fortunately, we have still been able to gather for some exciting events.

In May, we were overjoyed to witness the Baptism of baby Nevaeh Callan, daughter of Sarah Wilson. It was a blessed and special service, and we were joined in unity by family and friends of Sis. Sarah for the occasion. We look forward to seeing Nevaeh as she continues to grow!

May also brought us the Annual Community Picnic. The event featured a Bluey drawing competition with prizes awarded to our talented young (and young-at-heart) artists. The day was filled with laughter, games including Bible 'Celebrity Head' and a lolly counting competition, quizzes, pets, and a delicious BBQ cooked by the youth, making it a memorable outing for all our children and their families.

A huge thankyou to Sis. Rachel Parker and Sis. Nicole Atkinson for organising the event and to all the other helpers for making it an amazing afternoon.

We were also blessed to welcome Bro. Digby Leisemann as an adult member of the community following his confirmation in Bundaberg. Congratulations Digby on confirming your faith and we look forward to seeing you grow as a member of the Nundah community.



Community picnic



Baptism - Nevaeh Callan

In June we enjoyed lunch together at a local hotel to celebrate the Diamond Wedding of Bro. Sid and Sis. Hazel Hebbard, for all those who couldn't make it to Binjour for the official celebrations a few weeks prior.



Digby's confirmation



Working Bee



Diamond Wedding lunch for Bro. Sid & Sis. Hazel Hebbard

CABOOLTURE

We had a working bee during this period to clean up around the grounds and clean out some of the kitchen cupboards. We ended up with lots of surplus crockery etc. which will go to a worthy cause. As always, many hands make light work.

Also, we had the ordination of Brother Craig Muller to the Priest Office for Caboolture, which is a blessing to the community. After service, we had lunch and a discussion with Apostle Wayne and Sister Karen.

We had no candidates for confirmation this year, but some members travelled to Bundaberg for this day and the following day being the Pentecost Festival. They all enjoyed the weekend.

For the month of May, we had a simple sausage sizzle for our BBQ, with cake for those who celebrate their birthday during that month.

During June, we had the sad news of the passing of Brother John Ostrofski, a faithful member who was one of the original Caboolture members from Dux Street days and an original male choir member. During his service, those who visited joined with the male choir for one last song for him, then onto the graveside ceremony. He led a very active life and will be sorely missed within the community.

Also in June, our youthful members travelled to Yeppoon for the Youth Camp. They all enjoyed themselves for the week and thank all who organized the event and looked after them. After divine service in Rockhampton on Sunday was the long trip home.



Before & after garden was ripped out



Declutter items



June birthdays



Bro Craig & Sis. Therese Muller



Bro. Craig with family after his ordination

MARYBOROUGH

The last quarter we have been blessed to celebrate the life of our Lord with His Ascension and the promise fulfilled of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Deacons Lyall Mischke and Brad Wilson held service on Ascension Day morning and in the evening Apostle Wayne and Sis. Karen united with us for service after having Ascension Day service in Bundaberg.

The Mother's Day BBQ was well attended, giving the opportunity to spoil the mothers in what love and support they provide to their families. The husbands and children addressed the tasks necessary to prepare the meal; the mothers still had to bring their salads though!

The 18th and 19th of May was Confirmation and Pentecost Festival in Bundaberg, where Deacon Lyall and Sis. Vickie represented the community.

On the 9th of June, the community had a surprise visit from Bishop Ben, Sis Suellen, and Sam for service, this also coincided with our monthly BBQ. Blessed service with both the Apostle and Bishop labouring and Bishop Ben united in prayer for the travel and labour being undertaken in the Philippines in the coming week. Before and after lunch the members spent valuable time interacting with the Apostle and Bishop on a less formal setting.

Sis. Summer Niethe and Bro. William Waring announced their engagement on the 15th of June. We wish them God's richest blessings for their future. On the 23rd of June Priest Peter, Sis. Rhonda, Bro. Blake, and Sis. Summer Niethe travelled to Goomeri for service. As an added blessing Sis. Summer played the organ, giving Bro. John a break, which was an uplift to all present.

On Tuesday the 18th of June Bro. Mark, Mick the plumber, Bro. Chris and Bro. Dale replaced roofing sheets on the hall that were lightly damaged through a recent hailstorm. We are very appreciative of the excellent result; well done brothers!

The annual Youth Camp in Yeppoon and service at Rockhampton was supported by Deacon Lyall, Sis. Vickie and Bro. Kent who also assisted with the videography and photography requirements, and the social media updates posted on 'Life with ACQ' which also includes some testimonials. On the same Sunday the 30th of June, the community brought thanks for the Priest Office. Elder Doug and Sis. Elva Kirchner visited the community to bring thanks for the bearer



Mother's Day BBQ



Sis. Summer & Bro. William engagement



Roof repairs, Brothers Mark, Chris, Dale & Mick the plumber

of that office, Priest Peter. The hot dish lunch was prepared for all to enjoy. The Elder as chairperson commenced the proceedings with the Sunday School children singing and giving a card and present (a Christian coffee mug), for which Priest Peter was incredibly grateful. In appreciation the children were given a chocolate for their involvement. After speeches, Priest Peter thanked one and all for their support in the past year and cut the homemade birthday cake, while the members united in the birthday hymn for the year ahead. A blessed time had by all.

Greetings to all and God bless.



Priest Peter birthday thanks Sunday School singing



Priest Peter birthday thanks cutting the cake

CALOUNDRA

The community welcomed Ev. Owen and Sis. Vanessa Bramer on the 21st of April. They were present for divine service, with Sis. Vanessa being able to reconnect with Sis. Donna Leisemann as they used to spend lots of time together when they were younger. Later in the afternoon, some Caloundra Youth gathered at Deacon Damian and Sis. Kirrily Muller's home to join with the Youth via Zoom for a Youth Connect session. They talked about being a Christian in the modern world.

The men of the community came together on the 4th of May for a breakfast before they commenced the working bee. After a hearty meal, it was then time to start the jobs that needed to be done.

The community was blessed with a visit from Apostle Wayne and Sis. Karen on the 5th of May. After divine service, the annual monthly meeting was held and after the meeting, members joined in a fellowship lunch.

Ascension Service was held on the night of the 9th of May with those being able to attend and join in the spiritual blessings from this special event.

Priest Ray Weder travelled to Bundaberg for the Confirmation service on the 18th of May and stayed on for the Pentecost service on the Sunday. Ev. Bret Leisemann and family were able to be present for service in Caloundra on that Sunday, after being in Bundaberg for the Confirmation service.

In lieu of our monthly BBQ, we decided at the monthly meeting to have a burger lunch. The cooks slaved away on the BBQ, cooking the burger patties and bacon. It was then ultimately your choice what you wanted to place on your burger. A very successful venture for the community and will probably try it again in the future.



Members enjoying their burger lunch



Youth assembled for the Youth Connect meeting

Elder Ken and Sis. Narrelle Muller were present for service on the 23rd of June. It was great to see them and spend time with them, and hopefully these visits will become more frequent now that the Caboolture community has been blessed with the Priest Office.

The annual Youth Camp was held from the 25th to the 30th of June in Yeppoon. Deacon Damian, Sis. Kirrily, Sis. Taylor and Sis. Cassidy attended and reported that an extremely blessed time was had. They attended divine service in Rockhampton to conclude the Youth Camp.

Retired Ev. Stan and Sis. Francis Keune paid a visit to the community on the 7th of July. It is always lovely to see them.

GYMPIE

An unusually quiet period for community activities.

It was a blessing to welcome Apostle Wayne and Sis. Karen to the community on June 2nd. A blessed service followed by a community lunch and fellowship made for a lovely day. With the Philippines journey pending time was taken to appreciate the blessing on that labour across almost forty years to the culmination of an Apostle ordination for the country.

We were able to take in the ordination service live streamed from the Philippines. Ev. Brice Kaddatz observed how things had changed. When he was last there in 1997 there was one phone line to Abra and mobile phones were yet unheard of.

Preparation for Apostle Wayne's visit included a working bee to tidy up the yard and gardens. The persistent rain to that time had the yard looking a picture.

Ev. Brice and Sis. Fran held a service in Theebine on May 26th. A lovely group in attendance as usual and fellowship over lunch was enjoyed by all. Deacon Brian and Sis. Jasmin Kaddatz have been supporting services in Goomeri each month.

On Sunday May 5th all our ministry were in Rockhampton community as part of our family commitment to Beef 2024. It was a blessing to be assembled with Priest Neil Hickson and those gathered on the day.

Believe it or not, we are looking for rain clouds to gather again. We look at world events and thank God for the relative peace in our country. Blessings.



Apostle visit



Theebine service



Working bee

MALMOE

Hello to all from Malmoe. We haven't been up to much out here in the west over these cooler months, just soaking up the warm sun and waiting for maybe even some snow on the blistering cold mornings we have had; not as bad as some of our fellow communities would be experiencing though, that's for sure!

In May at Bundaberg, we were fortunate to have Charlotte Kumar and Grace Kronk from the Malmoe community, confirmed. It was a wonderful day for all who attended, and a proud moment for their community, their families, and their Sunday School teachers.

While we haven't had the yard maintenance or grass to mow over the cooler months, we were very fortunate and grateful for the kind donation of the Greenfield mower from the Caloundra community, which was surplus to their needs. Our loyal mower had seen better days, being over thirty years old its duty was becoming a struggle. Thank you to Bro. Ray Weder and Bro. Damien Muller for making the trek to Kilkivan for handover – here's to another thirty years with our new mower.



Charlotte & Elder Wayne



Grace & Sis. Roslyn, her former Sunday School Teacher

Elder Wayne & Evangelist Justin Kronk with Charlotte & Grace



GOOMERI

This year is fleeting by. Already we are in the second half of 2024.

Community life goes on quietly having lived through the Ascension and Pentecost Festivals under God's blessings, being well served by visiting officers for which we are thankful.

It is with regret we advise of the passing of Sister Dulcie Martin who moved to Murgon in 2001 to be near her family. During this time, she was a regular member of the Goomeri community until age caught up in later years. May she rest in peace.

The church was involved with the Anzac Day services which were well attended. On a local note, the Pumpkin Festival was held this year after lapsing for several years due to Covid. The church was blest on the Sunday with several visitors who had attended the festival. Attending the church service was an evangelist, a deacon, a janitor, and three organists so we were well catered for.

Greetings from Goomeri.

BINJOUR

On Saturday the 4th of May, the Greiner family had a get together lunch in the hall. All enjoyed the meal and renewing family ties.

The community was approached earlier in the year if we would like to assist with the Mundubbera Driver Reviver site situated at the Black Stump Rest Area on the highway entrance near Mundubbera. The local Lions Club sponsor and run this facility with the aid of other local organisations. Members from Binjour and Malmoe community have volunteered to assist. The Driver Reviver canteen operates mainly at the beginning and ending of the school holidays and other public holidays. The church community was rostered on Saturday the 22nd of June to take part in our first day of participation. Members were rostered in pairs for three shifts during the day from 9am to 5pm. Volunteers reported they all enjoyed chatting with the travellers. We thank Sis. Julie Greiner for looking after the roster.

In January this year, on behalf of the community, an application for sponsorship to purchase a new ride on mower was lodged with the North Burnett Community Enterprises Ltd trading as Community Bank Mundubbera branch of the Bendigo Bank. The North Burnett Community Enterprises Ltd Board provides sponsorship to local organisations throughout the local area. We were very pleased the Board approved our application for \$10,000 to assist with the purchase of a new ride on mower. We have purchased the new mower which will be used to maintain the cemetery and the church grounds. We are very thankful and appreciative of the sponsorship provided. The new mower was delivered on Tuesday the 25th of June.

Greetings from Binjour



Greiner family get together



Delivery of new Mower - Janitors Robin Greiner, Sid Hebbard & Jeff Wengel with Norco Sales rep.



Driver Reviver Volunteers - Sis. Nola & Bro. Gordon Schneider and Bro. Robin Greiner

BUNDABERG

The community social life continued with a barbecue lunch on Sunday the 23rd of April.

Ascension Day was celebrated on Thursday the 9th of May with divine services in the morning and evening. The community was blessed with a visit by Apostle Wayne and Sis. Karen for the Ascension morning service. We were reminded of the need and the expediency of our Lord being set in place once again, from whence He had come, the throne of God, so that He could send that great power and comforter, the Holy Spirit.

A Bible study evening was held on Tuesday the 14th of May the topic being "The fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit". A good number of members contributed to the discussion and time passed quickly. God willing, we will continue with this "fruitful topic" in July.

The Confirmation Service was held on Saturday afternoon the 18th of May, followed by photos, then an evening meal and fellowship. Pentecost (Whitsun) Festival was celebrated next day the 19th of May. Lunch and fellowship ended a blessed weekend of church and community life. From Bundaberg, Zara Teske confirmed her faith. All in the community congratulate Zara on this faith step she has taken.

On Sunday the 16th of June, a group of members had lunch in the hall and then enjoyed watching the Ordination of Apostle Jimmy in the Philippines on the big screen. We thank Priest Gavin Lerch for his good work in setting this up.

On Saturday the 22nd of June, volunteers from the community conducted a profitable sausage sizzle at Bunnings as a fundraiser for the U.A.V.F.

The Over 50's had get-togethers this period. An outdoor setting at Innes Park Beach was the venue for the April outing. A sausage sizzle lunch was enjoyed by all. A birthday cake was cut by Lance Kirchner, and shared. Across the Waves Sports Club was the May lunch venue. A large group experienced what was on offer and enjoyed the fellowship. On the 20th of June, we met at the Garden Mill Cafe, Hughes Road, Bargara for morning tea. A lovely place in a quiet, rustic setting. The coffee, scones, etc. were well presented and enjoyed.

Having successfully completed the Bundaberg Show U.A.V.F. Fundraiser in 2022 and 2023, the church was again invited to undertake the set-up and pack-up of the Bundaberg Show pavilion and cattle yards as a fundraiser for the U.A.V.F. A willing band of volunteer brothers gathered the week before show late in May and set up the display cases in the show pavilion. The adage "Practice makes perfect" was on display with this being completed in short time and with very few issues. Given the large number of entrants for cattle showing, horse and rodeo events, additional temporary yards needed to be constructed, taking the work well into the third day. Packing up then took place on the days immediately after the show, all day Saturday and finalized on Sunday afternoon. This was a much



Zara Teske with Priests Des & Gavin



UAVF volunteers at Bundaberg Show gate



Over 50's at Innes Park Beach



Over 50s at Across the Waves club

speedier process and once again the show committee executives were totally impressed by the work attitude, organization and commitment demonstrated by the church volunteers. During the three days of the show, church members also manned the access gate used by showies, tradies and exhibitors ensuring only those authorized to enter the grounds did so at this entry. By all accounts there were no issues, and a good time was had by all concerned. Given the positive feedback received over the past three years, it is likely that the church will be offered this option again in 2025. It is a significant fund-raising opportunity for the U.A.V.F. and requires minimal planning or preparation, just a desire to put in a solid effort for a couple of days. We are happy to accept assistance from willing members from nearby (or not so near) communities who may be available to support this U.V.A.F. activity. Once again, thanks to all our volunteers for their efforts, especially those who travelled some distance to assist and support this endeavour.



Over 50's at Garden Mill Cafe

Bundaberg Youth

It was a busy time for Bundaberg Youth with several activities occurring. On the 21st of April, the youth gathered at Priest Gavin and Sis. Hayley Lerch's house for the Youth Connect; this also happened to be Chanel's birthday. On Saturday the 1st of June, the youth undertook an exciting fundraising opportunity for the local youth fund, cleaning the horse stables after the Bundaberg Show. Plastic bags were taped to shoes, an appropriate amount of screaming occurred, and the smell grew on us. All the youth worked hard to get through the cleaning in quick time. The show organisers commented that the standard of cleaning was a lot better than previous years and encouraged us to come back next year. On Sunday the 9th of June, the youth transitioned the community barbecue to a Mexican Fiesta with a wonderful array of Mexican food, from tacos to nachos available for lunch. The early morning food preparation wasn't a big hit with everyone, but the hard work paid off with a great lunch enjoyed by



Chanel and Soraya



Prep underway with Ben & Hudson

the community. After the customary dessert option, the focus turned to the trivia competition. It was great to see competition from all ages. Ten Bundaberg youth made the journey to Yeppoon for the Youth Camp with everyone enjoying their week and already looking forward to Youth Camp 2025.



Trivia time



Ready to serve



The clean-up crew

Bundaberg Sunday School

A quiet quarter for us this time. We did a trip to the movies in the school holidays to see Despicable Me 4, which we all enjoyed so much. After the movies we played arcade games and did a couple of photo booth photos. We then headed to Maccas for lunch and an ice cream, where we all put on our Minion Hats for a photo. We couldn't play on the playground as the showers of rain had made it quite wet, instead we went "looking with our eyes only" at the Toyworld shop. It was a fun day for everyone. Our planned day at the park was postponed due to the weather which was showery and windy. We are looking forward to our planned outings in the next few weeks.



Sunday School children at cinema

GLADSTONE

Greetings from the Gladstone community! We've had a quiet quarter here in Gladstone. We, like all communities, celebrated the Ascension and Pentecost Festivals. It is always good to reflect upon what our Lord has done for us and the great gift he has given us through the Holy Spirit.

In the last few months, we have had the pleasure of welcoming a new member into the Gladstone community. Sis. Del Howard has relocated from the Townsville community to Boyne Island. Priest Isaac and Sis. Katie Bramer have had the pleasure of enjoying a couple of home services with her at this stage. The rest of the Gladstone community is looking forward to meeting Sis. Del soon.

On the 26th of May the community was blessed with a visit from Elder Doug and Sis. Elva Kirchner. We were able to enjoy lunch and a meeting together after service. It is always an uplift to receive visitors to our community.

God's blessings to all in the coming months from us here in Gladstone.



*Kameran, Hudson, Jamison,
Piper & Finn*



*Gladstone Sunday School children
at a monthly meeting.*

CHILDERS

Very little to report for Childers except to say we are 'Steadily marching on, while we sing the joyful chorus'. At this time of year, it is important we celebrate Christian festivals with thanksgiving for victories won by our Lord and King.

We are thankful for visits from Elder Doug and Sister Elva Kirchner with a handful of Bundaberg members; an opportunity to discuss a selection of Bible verses chosen by members on the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

We are thankful for the tireless effort of Brother Robert to keep the church lawn and garden in a good and presentable trim during this time of the year where weeds tend to take over.



Confirmation - Ethan Flor & family



The brothers cooking lunch for Mother's Day BBQ

TOWNSVILLE

Ascension Day Service was celebrated early in this period in fellowship of the Spirit and in thanksgiving by all who attended.

The following Sunday after service, the community enjoyed a barbecue in the park in recognition of Mother's Day and in appreciation of the support of all the sisters in the community. Lunch was provided by the brothers who cooked up the traditional variety of sausages and heaps of onions, followed by sweets, some of which were prepared by the brothers. All in all, it was thoroughly enjoyed.

One young brother, Ace Low four years of age, got the shock of his life when a resident kookaburra swooped down and snatched a sausage out of his hand just as he was about to take a bite. The look on his face was priceless. Judging by the numbers, it appears that the kookaburras have been breeding quite well since the last time we visited the park beside the Ross River.

Townsville community was represented by Deacon Joel Flor, Sis. Amanda and family at the Confirmation of their son Ethan, who took upon himself the responsibility of the vows given by his parents before God at his baptism. Pentecost Service was conducted the following day in the unity of God's Spirit with all in faith throughout the church, which was felt on this day of thanksgiving. After Service the following Sunday Bro. Ethan was welcomed into the community as a responsible member of the church and community.

Early in June the call went out for all who were able, to assist in a general clean of the church and amenities. A big "thanks" to all who answered the call.

At this time of the year, we are always reminded of God's promise that the seasons would change in the order of God's creation, and after a reasonably warm/hot summer we are now enjoying the coolness of winter. Unlike some areas, we are waiting for a blessing of rainfall as the district has become very dry. We will wait in patience for God's Blessings.

Closing with all our love and greetings.

MACKAY

Mackay Community was busy again with Golden Weddings and Silver Weddings which are always special days. Many members received some lovely rain in this period.

There were two baptisms recently. Alaina Maree Atherton was baptized on the 27th of April, first child for Michael Atherton and Sophie Westcott. Isla Claire Schokker was baptized on the 1st of June, first child for Ashton Schokker and Tahlia Barron. Isla's Great Poppy Bishop Alan Crouch baptized her.

Larry and Barbara Saron celebrated their Golden Wedding on the 5th of May. They walked down the aisle followed by their children, grandchildren and great - grandchildren to the organ playing "Jesus Loves Even Me"; Apostle Cliff remarked "The Tribe of Larry". Priest Russell Flor preached from Psalm 136:1-3 and Apostle Cliff used Hebrews Chapter 13. The Mixed Choir sang "Count Your Blessings".

Apostle Cliff and Priest Russell gave the couple a three-fold blessing. As Barbara is a retired Sunday School teacher, the children assembled in the middle aisle and sang "When you Pray" as the jubilarians walked out. The church service was beautiful, and it meant so much to have family and the church family present with some travelling from the Sunshine Coast. After photos, the family gathered at a local venue for lunch to celebrate the occasion, with an anniversary cake to cut.



Baptism Alaina Maree Atherton



Golden Wedding Barb & Larry Saron



Baptism Isla Claire Schokker



Golden Wedding Barb & Larry with family

On the 12th of May, Ken and Jenny Atherton celebrated their Golden Wedding after divine service. They brought their thanks for fifty years of blessings together with their family and their Mackay church family. They walked down the aisle to "Remember When" by Alan Jackson, followed by their five children with their partners, and twelve grandchildren some also with partners. The community sang "Jesus Lover of my Soul". Elder Lyle Daniel preached from 1st Chronicles 29:11-13 and Apostle Cliff chose Ecclesiastes 4:9 on and Psalm 72:1-3. The Mixed Choir sang "What a Friend we have in Jesus". Apostle Cliff and Elder Lyle gave the couple the three-fold blessing. Guests were Julie and Marty Hayden from Tannum Sands (Julie is Jen's cousin and one of her original attendants), Jen's sister Leanne and husband Paul from Bundaberg, Jen's brother Gary and wife Alexis from Cairns, and Ken's brother Brian and his wife Denise from Sarina. A private lunch was held, and the room was quickly decorated by family before Ken and Jenny arrived. The venue overlooked the ocean which was appropriate as Ken was a professional fisherman for over thirty years of their married life, and the colour theme for the day was blue. There was much laughter as sons-in-law Mitchell and Anthony chaired the reception. Speeches were made by their children Daniel, Jodie, Kristy, Katie and Michael and three of their

grandchildren Jessica, Brittany and Rebecca. Jenny responded as Ken said he made the first speech fifty years ago. Ken also had some wise words to say. Ken and Jenny cut the cake to Ed Sheeran's "Perfect". The cake was beautifully decorated for the occasion by the girls. A happy and blest day was spent with their family. They were so thankful that all their immediate family could attend as some had to travel. They could not have asked for anything more. It really was a GOLDEN day.



Ken & Jenny Atherton cutting Golden Wedding cake



Ken & Jenny's family

Nick and Leah Flor's Silver Wedding celebrations commenced by spending Saturday with friends eating their way around the Mackay district. A function was then enjoyed by friends and family at their home that evening to eat some more!! Many guests on the night who were at their original wedding twenty-five years ago, reminisced about how they entered the reception by riding Nick's speedway sidecar into the venue with Leah on the back. Little did they realize that they had already planned to enter this function on a motorbike again before cutting the cake and having a couple of short speeches. On Sunday, the whole community was invited to celebrate with them as they came before the altar to receive a Silver Wedding Blessing. Nick's dad Apostle Cliff and Elder Lyle conducted the service which was heartfelt and greatly appreciated. The community sang "Sunshine of my Soul". Elder Lyle chose Psalm 105:1-5 and Apostle Cliff chose Psalm 12:6-7 and Psalm 119:105. The Mixed Choir sang "Surely Goodness and Mercy". As Nick is a Sunday School teacher, the children assembled in the middle aisle and sang "We Do Come Rejoicing". After addressing the children, they did a pirouette and walked out of the church to "Love is in the Air" by John Paul Young. Judging by comments still being received, a lot of love was felt and shared on the day by everyone. They feel they have been truly blessed and thank all for their good wishes.



Silver Wedding Sis. Leah & Deacon Nicholas Flor



Silver Wedding motor bike entrance



Deacon Nicholas & Sis. Leah with their family

On the 24th of May, Ben Reck and Katie Cheshire celebrated their wedding with friends and family, some travelling from Victoria for the occasion. A blessed day was held by Ben and Katie and all the guests attending, many commenting on the lovely service conducted by Priest Jason Walton. Ben and Katie would like to thank all for the love and well wishes for their life ahead together.

The Mackay Community had two young members confirmed on the 18th of May. They were Brooklyn Jeffries and Jack Nugent.

On the 25th of April we were saddened to hear of the passing of Beryl Parchert. Beryl was a much-loved member of the community and regularly attended church service and any function that was on. She was a long-time member of the Mixed Choir and resided in the church units across the road from the



Wedding - Ben & Katie Reck



Confirmation Mackay group

church until she entered St. Francis of Assisi nursing home.

Denis Ryan, husband to Grace "nee Schmidtke", passed away on the 9th of June and his funeral was in the St. Francis Catholic Church on the 18th of June. Several Apostolic church members attended.

The community gathered at the Seaforth grounds for the annual community picnic. Many families gathered with their chairs and rugs to eat lunch together and chat under the shade of the sprawling trees. The ice-cream trailer was a huge hit with children and adults alike returning for second and third helpings. After lunch the children gathered, with the help of the youth and Sunday school teachers, to play a melody of games including limbo, water balloon corner spry, three-legged dress up race [even the adults had a ball with this one], water cup races, egg and spoon race, dodge ball and for the finale the traditional tug of war. During the tug of war, waiting secretly behind the trees ready to spring into action as soon as the last game had finished, was Michael Kay AKA the lolly man, decked out in his lolly encrusted slip. Like all lolly men before him, no amount of side stepping could compete with the eager children resulting in a lolly frenzy. Before packing up and departing, gift

bags were handed out to the children. What a beautiful day socializing with the Mackay church community, family and friends. See you again next year.



Lunchtime



A crew of Flors



Children waiting their turn



Bishop & Carmel



Family time at the picnic



Picnic group



Cousins set to go



Lollyman



Enjoying picnic



Egg & spoon race



Games



Trying not to spill it!



Limbo



Mother - daughter picnic



Sunday School teachers show how it's done



Picnic lunch



Picnicing



Tug-o-war



Setting up for lunch

This year saw the commencement of monthly services at Oz Care aged care on the first Wednesday of the month at 10am. Sis. Marina Duncan, a staff member, recognized that there was a need for a divine service to be provided for the residents, so she reached out to the church for support. The attendance is steadily growing. Brothers and sisters from many denominations attend as well as family members who have aired their gratitude to all who are involved as for most this is their only opportunity to attend a divine service. One of the resident's greatest pleasures is singing hymns during the service,

On Anzac Day Priest Russell again helped with the services by doing the Prayer and Reflection part of the service for the Farleigh and Northern Beaches RSL Subbranch of which he is a member. The Dawn Service was held at Farleigh after which breakfast was provided by the Farview Tavern for a gold coin donation. The mid-morning service was held at Bucasia which is part of the Northern Beaches suburb. This was followed by a Sausage Sizzle hosted by the Northern Beaches Lions Club also for a gold coin donation. Both services were well attended. Four of his grandchildren marched with the Northern Beaches State High School.

Once again at this time of the year, Brian Gay who lives in the church units, prepares his vegie garden with a variety of vegetables grown. As in the past, on Sunday mornings he brings some to the church for the members to take home. As always, they are most welcomed by the church members. His friend George at the units provides some as well.



Oz care service



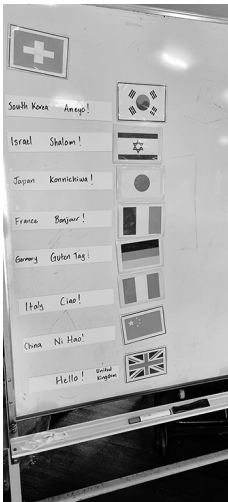
Enjoying the sunshine



Brian Gay's garden, Clinton helping out with the weeds

Mackay Sunday School

Leading up to Pentecost, the children enjoyed watching an animated video on the Ascension of Christ followed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles. After a quick question and answer session, we played a game of matching the country to its flag, and how to say hello in that country's language. This tied in with the story of how the Apostles spoke in many different languages on the day of Pentecost, and how they each went their own way in the world to spread the word. After this, we had a craft activity wherein each of the children had a page to colour in, which displayed the word "Hello" in multiple languages, and then once rolled into a tube, it was the correct size to fit a battery powered tea light into to make a candle. This represented the flames above the Apostles' heads at Pentecost, and to bring light into the world. All the children left Sunday School with a smile and a light to take home and tell their families what they had learned.



Sunday School activities

Mackay Youth

This year we commenced an “Introduction to Leadership” zoom meet for youthful members who wish to advance their knowledge and interest in leadership. Monthly zoom sessions occurred where we discussed several topics related to leadership as well as complete certain self-awareness and self-development activities. Subjects such as personality traits, leadership styles, and team dynamics are a few of the areas that have been covered. The journey so far has been insightful and encouraging.

On the 21st of April the youth gathered at Priest Jason and Sis. Kim Walton's home in the afternoon to take part in the second Youth Connect zoom for the year. The subject was “How to be a Christian in Today's World”, with many youths coming forward with suggestions from their own experiences from school and work. These zooms have been a good way for the youth across different communities to stay connected in that time between youth rallies and youth camps. After the zoom the fire pit was lit, and the cobwebs brushed off the pool table in the shed. The kettles were fired up and there were chicken wings for entrée and

smoked chicken thigh and salad wraps for mains, followed by ice-cream for dessert. Everyone present had a good time and went home with full bellies.

An invitation was sent out to the community to let everyone know that on June the 9th the youth would be holding their biannual fundraiser as a community BBQ. The youth put in the hard yards with setting up the hall, preparation of salads, cooking the meats, washing up the dishes and cleaning up the hall. There was a quick-fire Bible quiz for the members just to make the night a little more interesting, with a few laughs along the way. This was well supported, for which the youth are very thankful as it allows the youth camps to be more affordable for them.



*After Youth Zoom session
the boys play pool at Uncle J's*



Chelsea & Mickenna dishing out dessert at fundraiser



The money changers at fundraiser



Washing up at the fundraiser



Preparations almost complete



Cooking up a storm for the fundraiser



Keeping a close eye on the meats



It was a successful team effort

BERYL PARCHERT'S EULOGY

Beryl June Parchert was born on 17th June 1933 at Beleurs Private Hospital Toogoolawah to parents August and Emma Tetzlaff. Beryl had two brothers Ernest and Maurice and two sister's Kathleen and Gloria (a little sister who passed away at age 4).

Beryl went to Mt Beppo School until 13 years of age and then helped her parents on their dairy farm. When she was older, she went to work at the Sunshine Café in Toogoolawah as a waitress. Beryl enjoyed playing softball for the local Mt Beppo team and would travel to Ipswich to play.

One weekend Brian Graffunder asked his mate Lenny or Tarz as he was affectionally known to accompany him to Mt Beppo to see his girlfriend Deidre Greinke and that's how the romance began. Beryl told us she only saw Lenny twice before they married. They corresponded by letter in those days. No technology in those days. Mt Beppo didn't even have electricity. They married on 6th June 1959 and began married life on the family cane farm at Shinfield. Beryl loved to bake and would take Lenny smoko down to him where he was working.



Late Sis. Beryl Parchert

They loved visitors and there were always tins of homemade cakes and biscuits on hand for a cuppa. Beryl also loved to sew and crochet. Their place was a haven for feral cats. Beryl fed them and of course they multiplied.

After Lenny passed away in 2008 Beryl moved into Tranquil Rest. She greatly missed her home in Sarina and would often ask if we could take her back for a look to see the old home. She eventually settled down to town living and she and sister-in-law Irene would be out and about. Russell and Gaye took her on her first plane ride which she thoroughly enjoyed. She would also catch the train to see family in Bundaberg and Toogoolawah until her health prevented her from doing so.

She suffered a stroke in 2017 and was hospitalized for several months. She recovered well but due to her failing eyesight, the hospital decided it would be unsafe for her to return home and she became a resident of Francis of Assisi Home. Beryl embraced life in the nursing home. She went to as many activities as possible. If you visited, you had to go in between bingo or exercises or you would be interfering with her social life. She was always first in line to go on the bus trips and especially enjoyed going to Golden Years where she always found someone she knew from living in Sarina.

Beryl's faith was very important to her. She attended church wherever possible. She sang in the choir for many years. She also taught Religious Education to the children at Swayneville State School. Beryl lived during the war years and knew what it was like to do without. She was a hoarder. Kept everything in case she needed it even if it was broken. She would try to fix everything even in the Nursing Home. She would get cranky with us if we threw anything out. Beryl lived a simple life. She was content with her lot.

Nephew Ken's Memories - When first married they lived with Uncle Lenny's parents and some siblings. While there, Uncle Lenny built their home at Shinfield using building materials from Uncle Bob and Aunt Emma's (Chick's) house in Kate Street, Mackay. Reflecting back, this makes it easy to see why she was sentimental towards the house. She would often ask people to take her out to visit the house and at times sitting down to a cup of tea with the new owners.

Sunday mornings were always the same – music playing loud enough that we could hear it from our house over the road. As a young fellow, I knew it was time to quickly get dressed for Church when the music stopped and the Cortina went charging past with Uncle Lenny quickly changing through the gears. This timing meant that it was time to quickly get dressed meaning I was never late for church.

Beryl took the church bus run every Sunday and church event. It was always a little daunting as to whether she would be able to lift herself in to and back herself out of the church bus, but she managed it well. We knew there was something going on the day she forgot her handbag. She wouldn't get in the bus or out of the bus without knowing where her handbag was and was very protective of it. We'll miss driving in to Francis of Assisi seeing Aunt Beryl ever so faithfully waiting for her lift to church.

A memory from Brother-in-law John - John wanted to get past Beryl's house with the tractor and the Falcon was in the way so Aunt Beryl got in it – one foot on the ground and door wide open. She started it up and pressed heavily on the

accelerator. A sight unfolded as she ran straight into the tank stand. When Uncle Lenny asked afterwards who was at fault, John replied with "Well the tank stand has been there forever!"

Some of nephew Les's memories who lived across from Len and Beryl - Up until the end of grade 5, Nev and I, Mum and Dad lived across the gully from Uncle Len and Aunt Beryl on the farm at Shinfield. They had black and white TV before us, so some afternoons we would have an early bath and tea, so we could duck across to their place, down through the gully to watch Sir Francis Drake.

Then, just before dark we would run flat out, back home down through the gully so the boogie man didn't jump out of the long guinea grass and get us.

To add to the fear of the gully, a cranky magpie also lived in the big gum trees down in that gully and our cousin Kelvin O'Brien, who was visiting at the time, got a decent peck on the ear one day which drew blood. After that incident, our Dad relocated that magpie with his single barrel 410.

Smokos' at Uncle Len and Aunt Beryl's were enjoyable and Aunt Beryl's jam drops were really good. Interestingly enough, whenever I indulge in a jam drop these days, I compare it to Aunt Beryl's as hers were top shelf.

Before TV was around, Uncle Len and Aunt Beryl would show cartoons and home movies in their small lounge room. Uncle Len playing with the movie projector and Aunt Beryl as always, looking after the food. As children with no TV around, reel to reel cartoons were really something.

I can remember Aunt Beryl faithfully walking up the paddock, taking smoko out to Uncle Lenny wherever he was working cane. It was usually a large Brandy bottle filled with white tea wrapped around with newspaper. The tea seemed to be just the right temperature for Uncle Len when she arrived. Of course, there were other goodies for him also.

During our teenage years, on occasion we would blow in to Uncle Len and Aunt Beryl's mid evening on a Friday or Saturday night with a few rowdy mates and some liquid refreshments. We would all squash in around their kitchen table and yarn and laugh and they were always happy to see us and hear what we were getting up to. Aunt Beryl would stay and be involved in the action and yes there was nice food.

Family life at Shinfield was not always peaches and cream but from my experiences, when I stand back and take a good look back and up until today, we were Family back then and still are Family today and so it is with a grateful heart we acknowledge we were blessed with our Uncle Len and up until recently our Aunt Beryl. Both of them, at different times, have looked out for our welfare and helped mold us probably more than we know.

On a personal note, when our daughter Julie was born Aunt Beryl came up to me and said, "If we had a daughter, we were going to call her Julie".

It is difficult to speak about Aunt Beryl without Uncle Len but my last thought is one of the hospitality which was displayed to us and the many visitors which we saw at their place over the years.

Beryl passed away peacefully on Thursday morning 25th April.

2nd Timothy chapter 4 Verse 7. "I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith."

ROCKHAMPTON

We have seen the first half of the year pass under God's blessings and protection.

Deacon Warren and Sister Joy Flor visited Rockhampton and after divine service we discussed the state of the screen that separates the altar from the rest of the building. It had been there for many years and time had not treated it well. We agreed it would be nice to have a new screen in time for the Youth Camp service, so Bro. Warren enquired about a screen at Childers that was not being used. Bro. Warren, with help from Janitor Gary Pukallus removed the screen from Childers and installed it in Rockhampton in time for the Youth Camp service. It looks amazing. The Rockhampton community is very grateful for the selfless labour of Bro. Warren and Bro. Gary.

Once the screen was in place, they proceeded to wash the church building while Sister Joy and Sister Sue Pukallus cleaned the inside. We can only express a very humble and sincere thank you to these members.

The mandarin tree that was planted to celebrate twenty-five years of service by Apostle Cliff Flor and Apostle Ken Dargusch started to bear a beautiful crop of fruit. Priest Neil Hickson told the members that in a couple of Sundays there would be fruit for all. The next Sunday he pulled up, looked at the tree and all the ripening fruit had gone. We hope the fruit went to someone who needed it.

The Festivals of Ascension and Pentecost were celebrated in the community.

Emanuel, Lawrence and Priest Neil went to the Rockhampton Heritage Village to see how they lived in the 'old' days. They looked at the exhibits in the reception building and when they stepped outside there was a vintage car that took them to the start of their exploration. A lovely day was had.

The much-awaited Youth Camp service came to Rockhampton, and it was a blessed event. It was wonderful to see the church full. A lovely lunch was had by all and after lunch, sadly for Rockhampton, it was all over. The community patiently awaits the next Youth Camp in this area.

On the 14th of July, two Christian brothers from Vanuatu joined us for divine service. A wonderful interaction of Christian brotherly love occurred after service. The two men are with a



Washing off outside



Setting up the screen



group of fellow workers who are working on a farm outside Rockhampton.

As we proceed into the second half of the Year of Grace 2024, we can look back and reflect on the many blessings God has granted us, look to the future and continue to pray for God's ongoing blessings.



Lawrence and Emmanuel check out the 'old' days at Rockhampton Heritage Village

SOMETHING TO PONDER

(Submitted by Lynette Beckmann)

THIS MORNING: If you woke up with more health than illness - you are more blessed than the million who will not survive.

THE WEEK: If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or pangs of starvation - you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

IF: you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep - you are richer than 75% of this world.

IF: you have money in the bank, in your wallet and change in a dish somewhere - you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

IF: you can read a message - you are more blessed than over two billion in the world who cannot read at all.

IF: we seriously think about this, is there not just one small thing we each can do to help change the plight of many?

[Author Unknown]

District Notice Board of Events

2024

- Jul 14** Silver Wedding – Pat & Elayna Rogers, Mackay
21 Community Thanks – Priest C. Muller Birthday, Caboolture
- Aug 18** Divine Service Edmonton (Cairns)
24 Wedding – Connor Sloan & Rayne Niethe, Maryborough
25 District Thanks – Ev. O. Bramer Birthday, Townsville
31 Deacons' Zoom Seminar
- Sep 7-8** Thanksgiving & Mission Festival, Bundaberg, Service all communities
7 Officers' Meeting, Bundaberg
13 Wedding – Dale Anderson & Sarah Quaite, Bundaberg
22 Silver Wedding – Deacon Jarrod & Kerri Flor, Bundaberg
22 Apostle Wayne & Sis. Karen, Divine Service Toronto, Canada
29 District Thanks – Elder D. Kirchner Birthday, Maryborough
29 Apostle Wayne & Sis. Karen, Divine Service Toronto, Canada
- Oct 5-7** Youth Rally, Bundaberg
20 District Thanks – Ev. B. Leisemann Birthday, Nundah
25-27 Altar Servants' Seminar, Chaverim, Bundaberg
27 District Thanks – Bishops B. Sinclair & A. Crouch Birthdays, Bundaberg
- Nov 2** Wedding – Luke Sinclair & Beatrice Lau, Caboolture
10 District Thanks – Ev. B. Kaddatz Birthday, Gympie
10 Community Thanks – Priest B. Weder Birthday, Townsville
10 Divine Service Edmonton (Cairns)
17 Community Thanks – Priests M. Grieving, G. Lerch, D. Walz Birthdays, Bundaberg
- (Date Change)**
- Dec 1** Advent Festival Caboolture, Service all communities
1 District Thanks – Apostles W. Schneider & C. Flor Birthdays, Caboolture
8 Community Thanks – Ev. M. Keune Birthday, Childers
15 District Thanks – Elder L. Daniel Birthday, Mackay
25-26 Christmas Festival, Service all communities

2025

- Jan 1** New Year's Day, Service all communities
1 District Thanks - Elder W. Bramer Birthday, Malmoe
- (Enquiries re Cairns Services – Ev. O. Bramer 0428 764933, Elder L. Daniel 0408 775424)