

HAPPENINGS

News of churches of Christ in Australia – August 2015

Greetings to all our readers this month! Please email your news to **tedpaull@hotmail.com**, or ring **(02) 9888 9664**, **(02) 9878 3008** or **(02) 9878 1078**, or mail it to **P O Box 41 NORTH RYDE NSW 1670**. If you would like to receive your own email copy of *Happenings* please let us know. Ted Paull

Melbourne Baptism

From the congregation meeting at Belmore Road, North Box Hill comes the good news of the baptism of **Michael Wu** on July 29.

Victorian Worker

After prayerful consideration and planning, the Heidelberg West church of Christ has decided to host **Roberto Quintanilla** as an additional worker for the Kingdom community throughout Victoria from late July. Roberto is a graduate of the Macquarie School of Biblical studies and for the last four years has been an evangelist and preacher for the Kurrajong (NSW) church of Christ. He will largely maintain an itinerate role where he will endeavour to visit and strengthen Christians in rural areas, help to foster greater connection between the various congregations in Victoria, assist with preaching and teaching where necessary, and support the establishment of new churches. Being fluent in Spanish, he also hopes to use this ability to teach and encourage Spanish speaking Christians while evangelising to those who may respond to the gospel taught in this language. The notion of a new itinerate worker has been well received by Victorian congregations and has helped to foster a greater sense of unity, purpose and vision.

Papua New Guinea trip

On June 20, five Australians, **Gillian Johnson, Jannah Hoopmann, Damian Bissett, David Payne and Steve Collins** travelled to PNG from Australia to meet the remainder of the team, **Wesley & Tupolin Wosse, Joe Dobadobba and Ruth Zimmermann**. During 15 days they visited the villages of Orouba, Aroba and Asama, the Waria Valley, Owen Stanley Ranges, Oro and Morobe Provinces. The result was: numerous Christians restored, 23 baptisms

and several hundred more encouraged and strengthened, including the team. Wherever they went, roadblocks were removed, doors were opened and the path made clear for them. In spite of the need to develop bonds between members of the team and change in culture they were able to overcome, bond, draw nearer to God, speak boldly and compassionately and subsequently flourish. They want to thank the Christian brothers and sisters from Australia and abroad who supported them financially. And through prayers and the team's families who had given so much to enable this trip take place. They ask for prayers for the new Christians and for those who have been restored.

Summer Camp

Camp Challenge is planned for December 27-January 1 on the theme: "We are the Light of the World".

Sydney Seminar

This year's Bankstown family seminar is planned for Saturday and Sunday September 26-27 (the second weekend of the school holidays). The theme is: "Family Life & Spiritual Development: The Hurdles". Speakers are **Roy Courtney, Peter Tickner, Frank Cunningham, Bob Marks, Les Totman, Michael Bargholz and Ted Paull**. The Saturday program is scheduled to go from 10:00 am to 2:45 pm. The Sunday session is scheduled to begin at 9:50 a.m. and end at 2:15 p.m.

For the Ladies

The Blacktown (Sydney) church plans a Ladies' Day on Saturday August 29, 9.30am-3pm. The theme will be "Somewhere over the Rainbow-Standing on the Promises of God." To assist with planning please RSVP to Anne McArthur at **amcarthu@hotmail.com** by August 24.

Queensland Lectureship

The 'Set on a Hill Lectureship' in Toowoomba at the Gipps Street church of Christ will be happening this year from September 25 to September 27. This year the theme will be "The Wisdom From Above" and the guest speaker is **Sam Willcut**. Information: at web www.tinyurl.com/gippsstreet or phone (07) 4630 1505.

NSW Bible Quiz

SouthWest church of Christ Bible Quiz this year will test the youth/young adults' knowledge of Paul's letter to the Galatians. It will be held on Saturday August 8 at the East Campbelltown Community Hall, cnr. Macquarie Ave and Waminda Ave, East Campbelltown, starting at 6pm with a meal together. This event is open to all youth and young adults from ages 11 to 30. Contact: **Frank Cunningham** mob: 0418 618 415 or (02) 4627 1011 or email: stand_firm@hotmail.com.

Harry Blackmore

In the early 1940's, the teenage Harry, reading the Bible for himself, suddenly noticed the passages about the importance of baptism for salvation and found someone who baptised him for remission of sins. Several people associated with the deaf society in Melbourne also later became Christians after independent study. This included Horace & Ivy Blackmore--Harry's parents. They and three of his brothers were deaf and the family's home language was AUSLAN (Australian Deaf Sign Language). After they had visited several religious groups seeking a church which followed the New Testament teaching, Harry visited the church at West Footscray in 1958 and as a result the Blackmores and several others travelled 25km from the Eastern suburbs to meet with that church each Sunday. Harry was pursuing studies as a medical student, becoming a doctor in 1959.

In 1961 these brethren began meeting in the eastern suburb of Glenhuntly in Horace Blackmore's home which he had remodelled to accommodate the congregation. Harry became a regular teacher in that church. He also qualified in Science in 1965 and Psychiatry in 1966.

After a move to Perth in February 1967 he began worshipping with the City Beach congregation and was appointed Psychiatric Superintendent at Claremont Hospital serving at that level with the WA Mental Health Service for the next 18 years. He became a nationally recognised translator for the deaf and served for 30 years on Boards of Management of the WA Deaf Society and WA School for Deaf Children. In 1985 he was

awarded Member of the Order of Australia for services to the Deaf community.

In the City Beach church he enthusiastically served in preaching and teaching and mentoring the young men in weekly training classes, emphasising the need for Biblical preaching. He translated for the deaf brethren and encouraged and trained other members to learn AUSLAN. For 20 years (1974-1994) he edited the teaching magazine *Truth in Love* which was circulated to many congregations in Australia and overseas. Harry was one of the elders chosen by the congregation. He encouraged the church to support mission work in PNG and India. He also actively encouraged Scripture-based congregational singing, including the use of two new books of Scripture songs.

In 1994 he moved to a congregation meeting in Scarborough. Half of this group were deaf and half were hearing, with Harry as the main translator and often teacher as well. Eventually he retired from the public service but continued to lecture, mentor and serve on the Board of the Deaf Society. When his wife Gwenda became unwell he cared for her at home until her death in 2011 after 60 years of harmonious work together in the Lord's service.

Harry himself eventually became frailer with a number of chronic medical conditions which made him breathless and markedly reduced his mobility. Nevertheless his mind remained alert as he kept up a lively interest in the church meetings, attending every meeting, adding his knowledge of the scriptures to the discussions after the lessons.

Harry passed away peacefully in his sleep on Saturday June 20, 2015, in his 90th year.

(Thanks to those who assisted in compiling these notes, especially Evan Blackmore, Warner Quarles and Stuart Bassett.)

CALENDAR

August 8th

SouthWest Bible Quiz @ East Campbelltown, NSW

August 21st-22nd

Ladies Retreat @ Port Sorell, Tasmania

August 29th

Ladies' Day @ Blacktown, Sydney, NSW

September 26th-27th

Family Seminar @ Bankstown, Sydney, NSW

September 25th-27th

Lectureship @ Toowoomba, Qld

December 27th-January 1st 2016

Camp Challenge @ Tahmoor, NSW

April 29th-May 2nd

50-N-Over Retreat @ "Meroo", Kurrajong, NSW