

Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation



Living and Sharing the Gospel

November 2016

Ulladulla Report

This year we had the largest attendance for the last 6 years with 174 for the young adult-led service.

Visitors came from Canada, the Philippines, UK, US, France and from Victoria, SA, Queensland and WA. The theme of "The Mighty Water Fall of God's Grace" helped to show how powerfully God is for us and how he will achieve his purpose in us and in this world.

Speakers included **Kerry Gubb, Helen Callaghan, Randal Bouchier, Drew Garratt** and **Rod Dean**. Excerpts of **Cathy Deddo** on "Grace" formed several first messages. There were three children church sessions.

Robyn Pemberton again brought together a whole range of worship leaders, singers, special music and musicians. She was strongly aided by the PA team of **Paul Brewster** and **Barry Hatfield**.

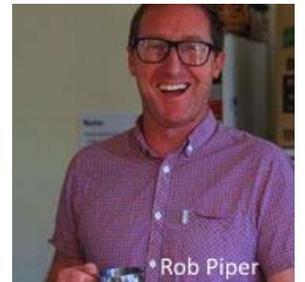
To make the festival happen requires a movie list of credits — each person quietly contributing their part. It is a remarkable fact that we only required a collective 30-45 minute meeting to make sure everything is organized and thought through. We are blessed with many mature servants who just get on with the job.

One of the characteristics of the Ulladulla site is that it a relaxing and a welcoming festival. This was enhanced by the kitchen crew and the excellent coffee provided by **Robert Piper's** coffee machine. Rob also provided an informal surf board riding clinic for visitors and locals.

Ulladulla is also a very generous congregation. This year over \$4,000 was raised to support the medical and educational needs of our PNG brothers and sisters.

The two offerings exceeded \$13,000 and all expenses were covered. A collection of household cleaners was given for *Yurana House*.

This year we had a Bunco night attended by 85 people. Young and old rushed around in the excitement of this dice game. Other activities included 10 pin bowling, a Pigeon House hike, children's party, senior's trip to the Maritime Museum and special entertainment with afternoon tea, Funland and morning beach games with breakfast.



We were very grateful for the return of **Ken Lewis** for the last part of the festival. At the beginning of the festival he had a fall and this meant that he was taken to go to hospital to check bleeding from the brain. After a lot of prayers Ken and **Carol** returned to finish the last two services with us. Please continue to pray for Ken's recovery.



One exciting opportunity was watching whales enjoying the Ulladulla waters.



Again we are very appreciative for the Highway Christian church for allowing us full access of the church facilities for the duration of the festival.

This financial year the Sydney congregation has supported the Buduburam congregation with \$1,500 for medical insurance, \$1,600 for grain and \$3,300 for school fees.

Buduburam, Ghana

We will be sending shortly \$4,600 to complete the children church's building. Another \$3,300 will be sent for the next school year early in January.

We are waiting for information on Buduburam's vocational needs for the Bathurst congregation.

Theo Okai wrote:

Through house-house evangelistic methods, about 5 Ghanaian families who stay at Buduburam have begun to worship with us. They have become active with their kids participating in the choir.

Please submit our grateful thanks to our brothers and sisters in Australia who have been supporting us. Please let them know their help is very much appreciated.



Our Cup Runneth Over Blessings of Interstate Connections

On August 27th, **Helen Callaghan** attended the Melbourne Ladies' Retreat held in Mooroolbark. This event has been a highlight for the Victorian ladies for many years, and is attended by

interstate and overseas visitors.

The theme this year was "Our Cup Runneth Over" and the messages focussed on the many blessings from God that are found in every aspect of our lives.

Jenny Jarman set the scene with an introduction on the Good News of God's love and purpose for us all.

New Zealand Board member, **Maureen MacDonald**, in her presentation entitled "Blessed for Adventures with God", described her involvement in *Elijah House*, a prayer ministry which reaches out to hurting individuals, bringing restoration to broken lives and relationships.

Maureen also assists with a drug rehabilitation program and serves on the street van where she encounters a variety of difficult circumstances and suffering, and sees how prayer brings blessings to the lives of many with deep emotion wounds.

Malorie Raymakers gave an eye-opening presentation on human trafficking. Malorie visited Cambodia and Thailand with the *Destiny Rescue* organisation which rescues young girls who have been sold into sex slavery. These young girls, and also boys, are given the opportunity to start a new life, receive education and counselling. It was a moving and confronting look at how God's love overcomes the evil in this world.

"Letting Go" was the title for **Veronica Kennedy's** talk on looking at what is important in our lives. Veronica runs a home de-cluttering business and gave simple and extremely helpful tips on keeping our homes organised and free of unnecessary items.

Helen Callaghan's talk was titled "Living Under the Waterfall." It took the ladies through a day in the life of a sheep in King David's time, highlighting the loving, compassionate care of our Good Shepherd. She discussed areas of our lives where we don't often see blessings, such as in dementia or sexual abuse, but encouraged everyone to see that we are in Christ's grip and actually live in a state of constant blessing. Our greatest blessing is our union with Christ.

This was followed by communion before the final worship service.

The ladies had worked hard behind the scenes to provide a Continental breakfast, lunch, pre-dinner wine and cheese and dinner, each beautifully presented and worthy of any quality restaurant. The fellowship and love shared was inspirational and a delightful reminder that our connections across the country are a gift from God to be nurtured and enjoyed as often as possible.

Bangladesh — Rod Matthews wrote:

Thanks again for your pastorate's wonderful commitment to missions. I will be meeting with **John Biswas** and attending his church in LA on July 17th and will get from him a time frame for the needs for which you have allocated funds.

Bangladesh and Nepal

This is what has occurred or will occur shortly:

- Wollongong sent \$5,000 for training nurses aides. \$1,500 from the Wollongong Bible Fund was sent to purchase more Bibles. The Wollongong congregation has also budgeted for another \$5,000 which will be needed in March next year.
- Canberra will be sending \$2,000 for the goat program and \$2,500 for training gospel workers this year.

Kathmandu, Nepal

The Wollongong congregation has sent \$9,000 to support the Kathmandu Bible School.

Rod Matthews wrote:

The \$9,000 for the Kathmandu Bible School is super! That will need to go to **Deben** in December before the office closes, as January is too late after the office returns to work. Deben starts the school in February and has to pay for all the students to come in from the rural areas.

Sydney has also budgeted \$3,000 for next year's mobile Bible college.

