



No. 15
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INTRODUCTION

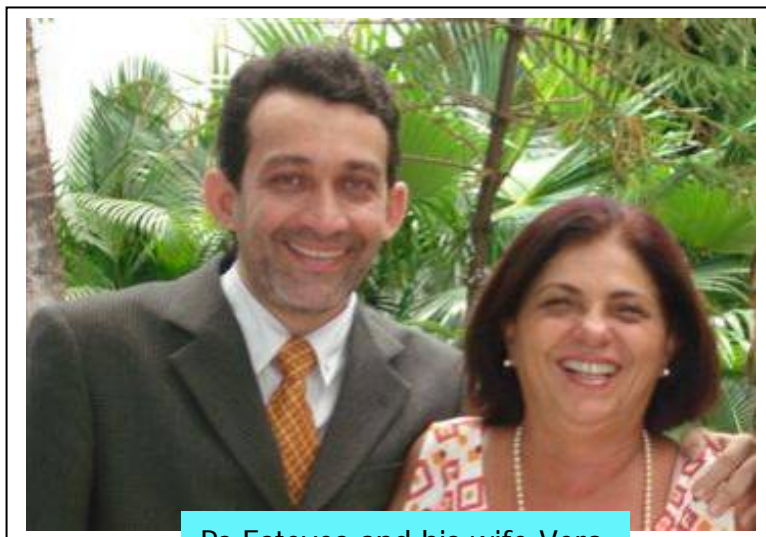
Welcome to the latest issue of the Council Newsletter.

This issue, again, is going to take on the appearance of a bit of a geography lesson - with happenings from around the world. We start off in Brazil, where many will have already heard of the remarkable "Acts 10 experiences" (two of them!) that have recently taken place there. We then take you to New Zealand in the south Pacific, on to a series of countries in central Africa (some you may never have heard of before), over to Europe, and then to Australia with news of the Inaugural Leadership Camp and an update on the International Convention in June.

We close this issue with a round up of Easter Camp photos.

Praise the Lord for the great things God is doing among us, all over the world.

BRAZIL – SCORES HAVE THEIR OWN PENTECOST



Ps Esteves and his wife Vera

Well, Brazil never ceases to amaze us. This report came in from Pastor Esteves in Fortaleza in the last weekend of March:

"Last night at the outreach we had an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and 80 people were baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost. We are filled with awe. We pray not one of the new converts will be lost, but all will continue to praise God and serve Him with all their life and hearts. Praise to the Lord God!!"

Ps David Elliott of Fresno fills in a few gaps for us:

“Ps Esteves had a street outreach last Friday night somewhere between the Iracema hall and our own hall in the slums. He took 300 chairs & set up in one of the streets there. They asked a lady if they could use her electricity and she said ‘OK’ because it was the word of God going out.

Anyway, they had some singing and then Esteves preached on the story in Acts chapter 2 (*the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon the disciples – Ed.*). Meanwhile, it began to rain and one of the brothers suggested they pack up and go home.

Ps Esteves said ‘no’, because the people were still standing around, wanting to hear the preaching, so they covered the equipment up and preached on.

When Ps Esteves had finished he could hear people speaking in tongues. He thought it was the saints that had gone with him to help; but no! It was groups of the ***new people that had spontaneously received the Spirit in the crowd!***

As he moved amongst them he could hear a group here and another there, and another over there, and so it went on.

He then got up on their little portable stage and preached about Acts chapter 10 (*the story of Cornelius’s household receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues spontaneously during the preaching – Ed.*), and how necessary it now was to get baptized: so the people then rushed the baptism tank. At one time they had 6 in the tank, and they had to sort them out. The guys were bumping their heads together as they baptized people in the tank. What a night!! Over 80 people baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Now, as if that isn’t exciting enough, more news has just come to hand 2 weeks ago. One of Ps Esteves’ folk asked him to come out to a town about 50km out of Fortaleza. Ps Esteves tells us:

“Maranguape. That is the place where these people were baptized. We have one brother that has relatives there, brother Alison. He invited some of the saints to go there to preach the gospel. They went also to help the people because they have had a flood and lots of people needed help. So we went there. The little village there has no infrastructure - cars cannot get there because of the bad road and the mud. So we went on foot. When we got there many people came to hear the gospel. When we start preaching the word of the full gospel they began to speak in tongues, it was marvellous. And we baptized them.”

Again, to fill in a few gaps, we hear the entire area was flooded and people were busy pulling possessions out of their houses when Ps Esteves arrived. Ps Esteves stood in waist-deep water preaching to all the villagers as they listened as well as buzzed about their business. Again he preached on Acts chapter 2, and noticed that the townsfolk were spontaneously receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues! He instructed them to be baptised to which a number responded “but where?” (!) [They presumed baptism required a church building with a baptismal facility.] Ps Esteves laughed and pointed to all the floodwaters swirling about and baptised them on the spot. In all, they found 55 of the locals had been Spirit-filled.

On another note, one further comment from Ps Esteves:

“Hi, my pastors! We would like to say thank you very, very much for sending money to purchase the motorbikes for Pastor Jose and Valdir. I am sure that this gift will help the spread of the gospel in the countryside. Thanks to all those assemblies which helped us get the motorbikes.

Revival in the villages has been on-going as well: in the city of Iguartu we are now holding meetings there on Monday nights. There are saints in each of these villages: Iguatu, Gadelha, Barro Alto, Queimadas, Tanque and Pirpiri. In all, there are 735 souls in the rural areas. What wonderful work the Lord is doing!

God bless you all.”

Ps Esteves’ closing comments refer to the efforts of Australian assemblies in raising the money to buy Ps Jose and Ps Vulgir a new motorbike each to get around the country assemblies (they have been riding donkeys since their last motorbikes died some months ago – a slow and dangerous exercise on some Brazilian highways!) Thanks to all who contributed.



Ps Jose and his new motorbike, donated from Australia



Ps Vulgir and the other new motorbike

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland held an international outreach in the city in February and Ps Wayne Edwards reports as follows:

The outreach was held in Auckland from 11-17 February 2008. There were 15 visitors across the week from Australia. The week started off on Monday to Thursday with half days of door knocking and half day of activities in and around Auckland. On Friday and Saturday we held a Bible Prophecy Display in the CBD at a hired Council Hall.

There was also a lot of street witnessing going on and by the end of the week we had 25 contacts to follow up. Praise the Lord. We had four new people to the Wednesday meeting and five to the Sunday communion meeting. Unfortunately none have been baptised to date. Follow-ups are continuing and we look forward to the Lord filling and thrilling many new saints.

A big thank you to Pastor Daryl and Sheila Hounslow for encouraging the visitors to come across and also to all our visitors who were a great help, including the saints who came up on the weekend from other New Zealand fellowships."



One of the outreach meetings in Auckland, New Zealand

While on the topic of New Zealand, they have had a great couple of weeks recently in the Te Puke assembly on the eastern seaboard of the North Is of New Zealand.

The region imports foreign workers to help with the fruit picking. A long story cut short, after some preaching, scores of Vanuatians and Islanders have turned up at meetings! The local assembly was swamped with all these visitors (Sounds like a great blessing.) So far 18 have received the Holy Spirit and 7 have been baptised. Praise the Lord.

We let Ps Alan of Te Puke take over from here:

A crowd of Vanuatians were spotted wandering through town one Sunday recently and some were looking for a church. A brother went to the campsite and a handful came to a Friday and Saturday night. We went and picked up about a dozen for the Sunday meeting and the following Wednesday two received the Holy Spirit (and spoke in tongues) - one was already baptised and the other got baptised.

We had 29 Vanuatuan and 5 Solomon Islanders at the meeting on the Wednesday night and prayed with five of them - two received the Holy Spirit (and spoke in tongues).

Because of the numbers we were expecting, we held the Sunday meetings at one of the backpackers' accommodation areas. We had to take everything out there: chairs, sound equipment, etc. We had about 60 new people at the Communion meeting and about 75 at the night meeting (that's about 100 new people): 90% of them were Ni Vanuatu, the rest Solomon Islanders.

Last Wednesday, we had 17 new people at the meeting and we had 6 receive the Spirit and one of them got baptised. Saturday we showed the PNG "Latter Rain" video and had 33 people come along - about 16 to their first event. Eight received the Holy Spirit after the movie.

Sunday we had again about 40 ~ approx half of them to their first meeting.

We had 5 baptisms the following Saturday night after a time of singing choruses

We are all exhausted, but happy - the saints are all having a great time and we will see where the Lord takes all this."



AFRICA

BURUNDI – A NEW OUTPOST

Burundi is a tiny country wedged between D.R. Congo, Tanzania and Rwanda (see map below).



Report from Ps Brian Allen:

“After several visits by Ps Sammy at the request of some locals it seemed the right time for a visit by a few extras. So on 1st January this year Ps Brian Allen and Kevin Williams headed to Burundi. Pr. David Kschammer & Jeff. Day joined them a few days later. Pr. Sammy Mwanzia of Kenya & a Pastor Eron from Rwanda were with us as well. (Ps Eron had come to find out what we stood for.)

We stayed in the capital Bujumbura till the 5th & left for Rumonge about 72 kms away.

A few people wanted what we had, so for the rest of the week we held meetings in the hotel conference room till Saturday 12th, then headed back to Bujumbura.

We are happy to report that in Rumonge there were 10 baptisms, 8 received the Holy Spirit (and spoke in tongues) and another one later. There were about 21 people all told that came to hear.

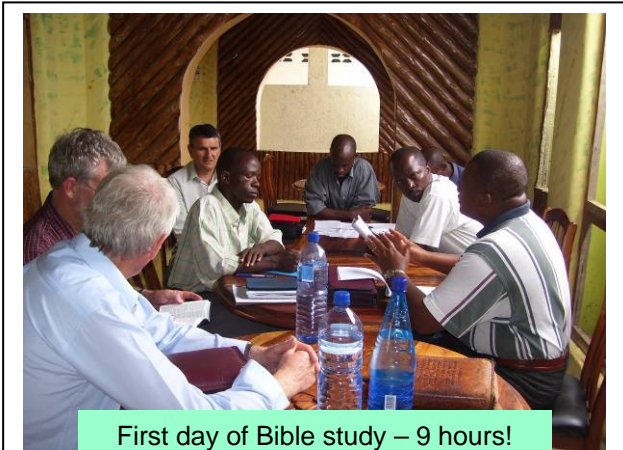
During this time Eron was listening carefully to all that was being said.

Back in Bujumbura, a young lady called Teddy, who had been witnessed to on the 14th met us. She had received the Spirit at home on her own.

End result is that there is a small group in Rumonge of 10 people at the moment.”

(Ps Sammy reports that he baptised another 8 on his subsequent visit.)

We have put some snaps up on the next page for you.



First day of Bible study – 9 hours!
“They had many questions.”



Daphronse being baptised



Richard praying after baptism with Pastor Sammy and Alexi (first contact)



Our “starting group” in Burundi

RWANDA – ANOTHER NEW OUTPOST

Following his visit to Burundi to find out all about the Revival Fellowship (see story above), Ps Eron has told folk in his group back home. Ps Eron is Spirit filled, as are most of his folk, but from a Methodist background.

Ps Sammy went there recently and reports, “the people in Rwanda were very receptive and keen to be taught”. Let’s see what the Lord does from here.



Ps Eron from Burundi (far left)

ZIMBABWE – YET ANOTHER NEW OUTPOST

As a result of an immigrant family coming to the Fellowship in Perth, Australia, there arose an opportunity to take the gospel message to relatives and friends in Zimbabwe. The country is in deep economic crisis: a loaf of bread costs Zim \$2 000 000!

Ps Eddy of Zambia was asked to go across the border in February and make contact.

Excerpts from Ps Eddy's report:

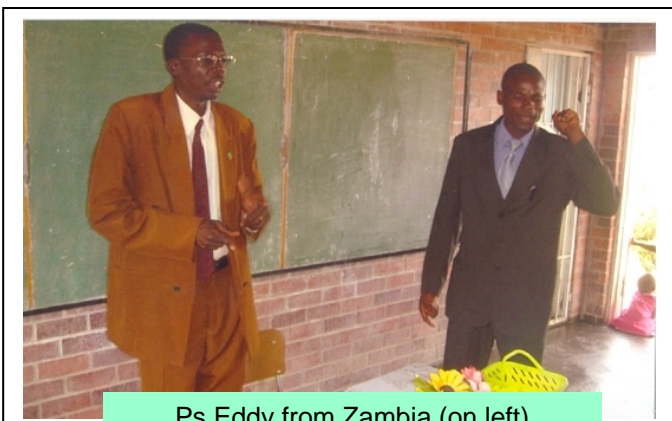
“ ... On 16th February, in the morning, people went to attend to their various responsibilities as bread winners for their families. At 2pm, about 33 came and we proceeded to the river - a distance of about 2km - for water baptism without delay. I baptized all 33 of them, starting with the leader, Terrence.

Thank God, for the great work, about 24 received (the Holy Spirit) & finally I could also distinguish the difference between their native language & speaking in tongues. What a joyful moment! I could see some of them shedding tears of joy & smiling. They could not believe it. It was an amazing moment, praise the Lord.”

Another 3 were baptised after the following Sunday meeting. Since then a total of 66 have been baptised of whom 64 have now received the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord.



Happy saints after the Sunday meeting



Ps Eddy from Zambia (on left) preaching and Terrence (r.) translating



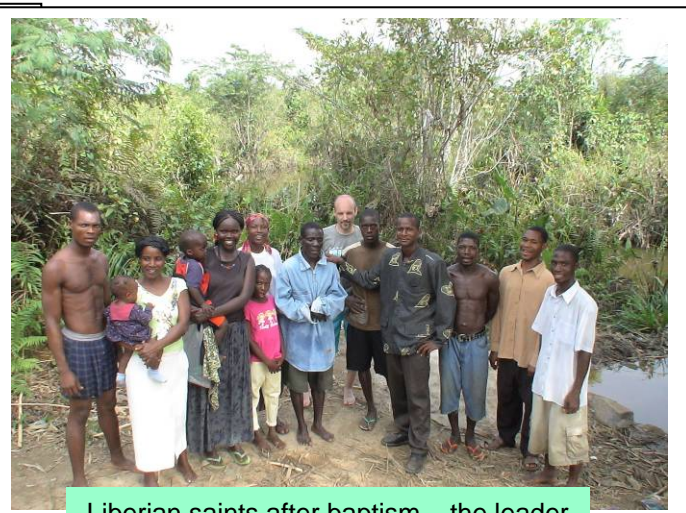
Getting on with all the baptisms

LIBERIA

Ps Ron Carslake and Jan Pieter van Oostende from Holland visited our fledgling assembly in Liberia in February. They baptised quite a few and helped settle the assembly in. The new assembly is doing very well. Praise the Lord. A few snaps to enjoy:



Our Fellowship in Johnsonville, Liberia



Liberian saints after baptism – the leader Augustine is on the far right.
"We had 18 baptisms on the Sunday."

IVORY COAST

The same two brothers also went to Ivory Coast and sent back some more pics:



Ivory Coast saints after the Sunday meeting



Our leader, Wellington, with his wife, Gifty, Jan Pieter, Isaac and Ruth

ZAMBIA.

Our fellowship in Zambia is growing at quite a pace. What a wonderful result!

We will let Ps Ron Carslake from South Africa describe it (excerpts):

“Last month I was in Zambia from the 11th to the 26th April, and visited as many of the saints as possible in that time. There are now 27 assemblies and another 4 groups of 5 people or less. In total there are just over 670 saints in fellowship. We stopped off at 13 assemblies, all in the more remote areas, travelling almost 2400km.

We saw 34 baptisms as we travelled around. In addition, it seems there have been another 80 baptisms throughout the work since January, making a total of over 250 in the last 12 months. Pr Eddie's radio programs are becoming widely known, and as a result, a lot of contacts are being made. We heard more great testimonies of changed lives and healings. One man told us of how his son was healed from a serious snake bite, without any medical intervention.

In the Mwinilunga District 5 new assemblies have been established in the last 9 months, largely through the efforts of our pastor Ledson. There are 13 assemblies in the district now. They are spread out over a distance of some 180km, and Ledson visits all of them regularly, on his push bike! One of our priorities for the immediate future is to purchase a motor bike for him. The bikes which we already have for Pastors Eddie and Millan are now being put to good use, and are a great help.

Just before I arrived our brothers held a mini rally over a 3 day period at Lumwana West, Pr Ledson's home assembly. The main aim was to inspire young men to take up the challenges of evangelism and leadership. The need for leaders continues to be the biggest factor limiting even more revival. From all accounts it was well attended, with representatives coming from about 19 assemblies, and very much appreciated with 12 people being baptised and Spirit filled at the rally as a result of some inspired outreaching.

Our farming projects are also coming on well. In Lumwana West they are harvesting the potatoes, but we are going to keep everything to replant, instead of having to buy seed again. Similarly, the fish which we have at the moment won't be harvested, but will be kept and used for breeding stock. It does mean that we won't have any return for the moment, but we will be able to expand further without too much more cash outlay. The men are also going to dig another pond for more fish, because they are being re-paid for assistance they have rendered to another breeder with some fingerlings of a different variety.

There are also 61 bee hives up and running now.

We are also the proud owners of 6 head of cattle and 2 young oxen which are being trained at the moment to pull our plough and ox-cart. Labour is being supplied by all of the assemblies on a rotation basis at the moment.

Overall, our work here has a good, solid feel. Our main pastors are gaining in stature, and many of the other leaders are well established. The saints are enthusiastic and the Lord is performing great things.”





Ps Eddy stands behind one of the 2 new oxen



Saints at Kasampula proudly display their new Bibles donated from Australia

EURO CONVENTION

"Greetings to you all from Europe."

The Rotterdam convention was held during the long weekend of 1-4th of May 2008. A great amount of excitement was generated resulting in 14 baptisms at the convention and over one hundred follow-ups.

They packed up to 350 people in the Rotterdam hall and even had some sitting upstairs watching the proceedings via a screen and a speaker system. Visitors came from as far away as Germany, Switzerland, France, Ireland, UK, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Sounds like a wonderful weekend. Praise the Lord.



BALI, INDONESIA

The saints in Bali have just taken a long term lease on land in town to build a hall. Praise the Lord. We'll bring you further news on this as it progresses.

AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP CAMP

Wow. "Like Christmas camp on steroids!" was how one participant described the inaugural Australian Leadership Camp. This was held in Adelaide over the Australia Day long weekend 24-28 January 2008, and attracted about 400 participants, from within Australia (one New Zealander also joined).

It was intensive, with "wall-to-wall" classes: various lectures, workshops, amazing testimonies and exercises were used to help inspire many of our up-and-coming leaders throughout the Australian Fellowship.

The participants overall were impressed by the quality of presentations as well as the wonderful between-classes fellowship that resulted. With plenty of Council and other pastors, it was a great time to discuss where we could go to do more for the Lord. Although the theme was squarely aimed - *"Called to go out"* - many who planned to stay in their home assemblies were suitably inspired to help out even more than before.

The plan is to hold another one 6-9th March 2009 in Adelaide.

We pray we will look back in the future at this camp as the awe-inspiring beginning of some wonderful new ministries in the Lord.



400 participants furiously taking down scriptures (and notes)!



Pastor John Kuhlmann addresses the aspirants during one of the sessions

CONVENTION 2008

Well, not long now until the Annual International Convention in Perth, Western Australia (7-9 June).

If you haven't been to Convention before you may not be sure what to expect. It's a collection of over one thousand saints gathered to witness, testify of miracles and healings God has done in their lives, pastors from around the world bringing plenty of inspiring ministry from the Word, lots of entertaining items, and continuous fellowship for a week. It's a small taste of heaven. If you can get there, it's well worth the effort. Perth assembly has offered to billet as many as possible. Get your form in quickly. All the information you need is on the website at www.revivalfellowship.org/convention.

Do you know people who live in Perth, but you can't get there yourself? How about sending them a copy of the Invitation brochure? It's available from Perth assembly, or, for the computer-savvy, an emailable version is on the same website under "Brochure".

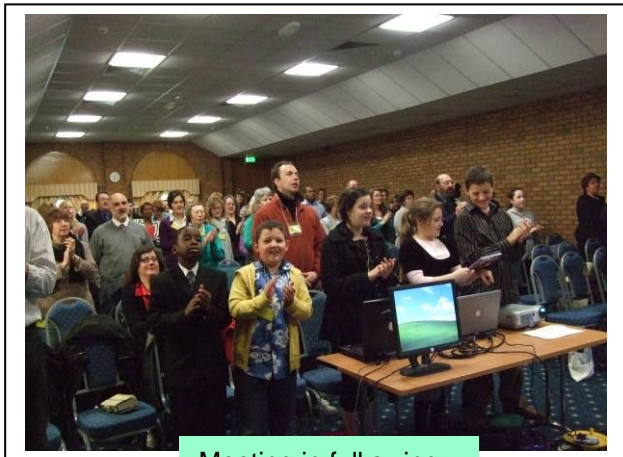


EASTER CAMPS AND RALLIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

U.K. EASTER RALLY

"This year's UK Easter Rally was held in Yorkshire - the theme was *"Where do you stand?"* - and once again it was a great success. About 140 saints came from all over the UK, including Ireland. It all started on the Friday with a soup and fellowship night at a hired hall – about 40 "early birds" were there. The next day things got into full swing with morning and evening meetings and an afternoon of outreaching in between. On Sunday there was Communion in the morning followed by lunch and an afternoon meeting. Monday saw a hardy few brave the elements for the Humber Bridge walk, followed by lunch.

The meetings were filled with testimonies, items, lots of singing and great encouragement from the scriptures."



Meeting in full swing



Some happy saints

NEW ZEALAND

"Just a few pics of our recent camp at Opal Springs, Matamata, New Zealand.

It was a wonderful and blessed camp, we all had a fantastic time Praise the Lord!

Some very uplifting and sharpening talks and meetings in our cosy little hall - many of the unsaved campers couldn't help but hear our singing! We had a few new people to the meetings which was exciting. Also, a blessing the weather was great and we got to spend a lot of time together in unity and fellowship - AND IN THE POOL! All up we had about 65 attend, mostly from the north island.

Praise the Lord we can have these times to build up one another and go away strengthened and focussed and looking forward to when we can see each other again! A fantastic time of spiritual blessings - and incredibly relaxing and rejuvenating!

Hope you all enjoyed your camps wherever that was!"



Meeting in progress



Happy campers...

"Whyalla & Port Pirie saints attended their Easter Camp at Hawker, South Australia. This photo was taken outside the Hawker Institute where we held meetings. There were lots of uplifting fellowship, testimonies, talks, singing items, funny skits & plenty of rejoicing."



HUNGARY

"Over the Easter period we held a Euro camp in Hungary. Some 130 people from all over Europe and the UK attended and there were even some visitors from Australia, very much appreciated. The camp theme was: *Pressing forward.*"



Typical Camp meeting



Oversight meeting

SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

"As always, our Easter Camp proved popular for the saints from around W.A. There were wonderful items, plenty of the Word of God and tremendous fellowship sitting under a tree or down by the river.

Praise the Lord for this great life."



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