

HARVEST / E-NEWS Spring Edition 2006

Dear Church

How the year is racing by, the school holidays are upon us, the chill of winter gone, the flowers and trees are budding as we are introduced to Spring.

I have been delayed in sending the E-News earlier due to being away at the Edge Conference with 20 of our team. May I say it was without question the most amazing week I have ever been to, and may I also appeal to everyone of you to be there next year.

GLENDA WATSON

The term commenced with over 75 ladies impacted by Glenda's restoration ministry, it was the first time women from the Wimmera region in other churches were invited along. Kate and the team have commenced planning a women's conference for 2007 which you will be notified of as we go along. The women's Reach Out ministry and morning tea events have commenced on the first Saturday of the month @ 10:00am see Kate for details.

IRON & CLAY

Thank you to all of you who opened up your home billeting the band Iron & Clay. I won't forget the Sunday night where 6 children walked out to give their lives to Christ. We now have a family of four coming along to church from that event. All these functions cost the church a considerable amount to put on with results like that, it's worth the effort.



WATOTO

Once again another jam packed night in attendance with close to 500 people turning up. The highlight for me was when the children spoke of their dreams and what they wanted to be in life, like you I was touched by the work Watoto are doing. We commend the mission's team for all their hard work in coordinating the event and raising funds for their ministry. You might be interested to know that from their last two visits the people have given around \$12,000.00. Once again a big thank you to those of you who billeted out the Watoto team.

MISSIONS

Our missions initiative was reopened recently and a special thank you to each of you for contributing each month. The **Horsham North Kindergarten** continues to run it's 4 year old program because of your help. I visited there not long ago with Wendy Hobbs who tells me she is coordinating people to help there on a practical level. Wendy and her team will keep us updated with developments every first Sunday of the month. A Big Congrats to Judy Hutchinson for organising the Calorie killing 10km **Watoto Walkathon**, 26 of our audacious & athletic champions crossed the line; \$1500 - \$2000 is expected to be raised from the event, fantastic!

The **CDO** team continues to make inroads as numerous sessions were conducted in several high schools in our region. The team has taken the program into 5 high schools this year 3 more than last year. One staff member came up to Kate and commented, *"I wish a program like this was available in my teenage years maybe I would have been a one woman man."* Great work ladies you are doing an awesome job!

MEN'S MINISTRY

Although we do not have a regular ongoing Men's Ministry I was encouraged by Peter Brunning's Initiative to get the blokes together for a Breakfast at Wartook and have Peter Fitzgerald speak. How good it was to see the fella's turn up bringing new guys along, fantastic!! Well done. A couple of months later 45 men got together for breakfast to hear Mark Mudri, our Interns doing the part time course did an awesome job organising the morning.

CAFÉ HARVEST

Our guest Mark Mudri mentioned how impressed he was with the hospitality and warmth generated by our people. He mentioned to me that one man who as yet has not made a commitment to Christ said, *"Mark, if there was such a thing as brotherly love that is what I feel towards you,"* The gentleman went on to say, *"last time I came to this church (Anzac tribute Night) I walked away a better man, I feel exactly the same way tonight, I'm walking away again feeling a better man for coming."* He said this with tears running down his face. There were also other great testimonies. With all my heart I wish to thank those of you who work so hard on our Café nights, true servants you all are. Once again we spend a considerable amount of money over the year hosting these functions never making any profit, although our eternal reward is immeasurable.

IN BRIEF

Rick Emmerson is seeking some work from December 10th to January 10th if you know anyone who could employ him during that time please contact Sonia at the office.

Kate's commitment to heading up the women's ministry, CDO, overseeing the hospitality team for café nights, Integrative work at Horsham College as well as a mother, let alone looking after this fella has meant that she be released from the pastoral care portfolio. Many thanks to **Shirl Hair who has joined our pastoral team** heading up Harvest Care...for all practical care ie: meals, hardships etc see Shirl.

If you are gifted in office administration and can **help out manning the phone for a day** this would greatly help Sonia during the time she processes our financial reports and data. For those wishing to volunteer their time please see Sonia, your help would be greatly appreciated, preferably a Thursday or Friday.

Jane Moore and the **Children's ministry** team are doing a fantastic job with the kids, they could always do with more help. Those of you offering your support will be rostered on Sunday mornings please see Jane for more details.

Cell Group numbers have been up around the 84 in attendance, if you are not yet attending a cell; please see John Hair for further details.

A big thankyou to all of you who helped sponsor the **interns** to the Edge Conference we are still out by about \$500.00.

Please be sure to book early for the **Edge Conference** next year my personal goal is to see every single one of us attend. The following are comments from the team who went.

"Amazing week, we've been to a lot of conferences but never to anything quite like this" **Bob & Wendy Tucker**... *"Now we know what you've been trying to get through to us all this time, you have to see it to catch it, we're going back next year."* **Ronnie & Lisa Thomas**... *"It was awesome, messages were great but you have to be here to see how these people do church as a team, it's really something."* **Michael & Megan Peterson**... *"The standard of preaching & hospitality was excellent however, what stood out the most was the spirit of the church, the attitude, character & outstanding servant heart of their people."* **Cameron & Sonia Benson.**

COMING SOON

Victorian State AOG Conference September 25th-28th, **Regional Leadership Event** Shane Baxter @ Harvest Friday November 17th, **Prayer & Fasting 7:14pm** Wednesday October 11th, **Big Supper Night with Jeff Usher** Sunday October 22nd 5:00pm, **Bible School Graduation with Guest Speaker Ted Fabianic** from City Life Sunday November 19th 10:00am, **Volunteer Celebration Evening with community guests** Sunday November 26th 5:00pm, **Christmas Eve Presentation** December 24th 5:00pm

STATISTICS

Average amount of people attending church on Sundays / am & pm. These figures are not doubled up rather they are the sum total of different people for the day. These figures do not include large scaled events ie: Johnny Lee / Col Stringer events. It is a joy to report that **53 new people** have been added to the church since July 2005, it's fantastic to know more and more people are wanting to be part of the vision and future of Harvest.

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
207	199	203	208	239

The larger events attracted the following crowds

April 30th	Col Stringer	344
May 21st	Johnny Lee Clary	369
August 9th	Watoto	452 (estimate)

Communication Cards

I am told by Cynthia we have had **60 communication cards filled** out by people either wanting to know more about membership or a request to keep informed about events.

Average Tithes & Offerings: \$3664.00. This amount largely consists of our members who give their tithe (10% of their income to the church). In order to keep doing what we are doing, and to help and serve the people we reach out to, this figure needs to rise to \$4500.00. Please continue to pray and believe with us.

CAFÉ HARVEST UPDATE 05/06 (notice the amount of visitors, many non churchd)

54 visitors on average	28 Aug 2005 Ps Zoran	25 Sept 2005 Kris Young	23 Oct 2005 Jeffrey Usher	26 Feb 2006 Duncan Esler	30 Apr 2006 Col Stringer	27 Aug 2006 Mark Mudri
Regular-Roll	146	116	129	130	138	112
Visitors	22	35	36	50	124	56
Total	168	151	165	180	262	168

To those of you fortunate enough to have the time off during the school holidays have a super break

God Bless

Pastor Zoran & Kate