



# Advent Christian Conference of New Zealand Inc.

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Friends and supporters,

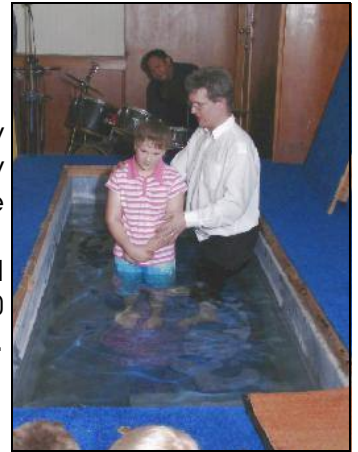
The two themes running through this newsletter are thankfulness and unity. We have so much to be thankful for as Christians. And I have much to thank you for, as you will see.

### Looking Back

Looking back, there is a lot I want to give thanks to God and to all of you for.

Thank you to all those who took part in our celebration service on Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> to mark Rachel Burge's Baptism. The service was followed by a shared dinner. Friends and family from all the ACCONZ churches were there. Thanks for making it such a special occasion for Rachel.

Thanks also to those who supported Christian Screen (Christian video and audio resources to the Pacific), in celebrating 35 years of ministry and 20 years in the Pacific with our Family Movie Night on Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup>. We will definitely be holding another "Family Movie Night" early next year.



### Oro Bible College



Thank you too to all who supported me prayerfully and financially while I was in the Philippines. I could not have done it without you. To those who "kept the fort" while I was gone, "Thank you" too!

After a delayed flight and an unexpected overnight stay in Manila, courtesy of Singapore Air I arrived in Cagayan de Oro to teach a two-week "crash course" on Church Planting and Church Growth (From October 15 to 29). Many Filipinos are very religious (Acts 17:22) even superstitious, but there is little true knowledge of God's Word among the majority of the people. I was thankful to God for the privilege of being associated with the Oro Bible College, which is doing so much to teach young Filipino men and women of God to know and to love his word.

Most of the students are poor in material goods by our standards. Some have made considerable sacrifice to be at College. It is humbling to work alongside such people. I have come home feeling very thankful to be living in a land of plenty such as New Zealand.

I was blessed while in the Philippines to be looked after, by the students and staff at the College (I can't thank you all by name). Thanks especially to Jeff and Rhonda Walsh and their boys, Ben, Isaac and Ethan, with whom I stayed. They made my stay a delight. It was nice to have some kiwi company too, in the person of Grant Aldridge. Thanks Grant.

### The Asia-Pacific Summit

Garry Schäche arrived during my third week in the Philippines for the Asia-Pacific Summit. There were 50-something participants at the summit from countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region. There were four New Zealanders (Grant Aldridge, David Burge, Ernie Schache and Garry Schäche). Many good things came out of our time together. We talked about the need for Advent Christians in our region to communicate more.



We talked about the need for the sharing of resources (not just money) taking advantage of the information super highway.

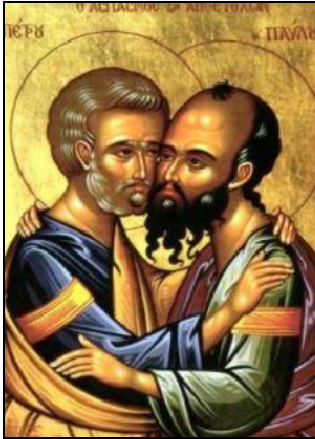
We talked about the need for leadership and the further development of leadership training resources. We were all challenged to follow Jesus' "Servant Model of Leadership" and in turn challenge others to do likewise.

*"You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:42-45).

This is quite a calling!

For more about my time in the Philippines visit "dave's rave" at <http://davesrave.wordpress.com>  
<http://davesrave.wordpress.com/2007/10/> (October Archives)

## Thoughts On Unity



Jesus once warned that, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined and every city or household divided against itself will not stand" (Matthew 12:25).

His prayer for the church was the theme verse for the Summit: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21).

Since coming home I have been wondering. Was Jesus' prayer ever answered? Paul in Ephesians 4 says, "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-

3). Notice that he does not call us to build unity but to keep the unity we already have.

That unity is based on seven foundational truths: The truths of the one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; and the one God (Ephesians 4:4-6).

I am preaching a sermon on each of these at Takani over the next few weeks. May God grant us all a greater sense of the unity we have in Christ.

## Thailand

While on the subject of unity please remember our fund raising efforts on behalf of our brothers and sisters of THE CHRISTIAN MISSION OF BAN NARATCHAKWAI in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. Thanks to those who have contributed already. We still need to raise NZ\$2,000 so that this Advent Christian mission can register officially and continue to operate in Thailand. Will you unite with us, and them, to help this vital work?



## Prayer Points

1. Thank God for Rachel Burge's Baptism. Pray that she grows in the Lord.
2. Thank God for the work of Cliff and Leonie Ireland and the work of Christian Screen (Christian video and audio resource to the Pacific).
3. Thank God for the success of David's ministry at Oro Bible College. Pray for the College, its staff and its students.
4. Pray that out of The Asia-Pacific Summit will come a greater sense of the unity we have in Christ.
5. Pray for a growing sense of unity among our churches here in New Zealand too!
6. Pray for the Thailand Mission and the funds needed for the mission to register officially and continue to operate in Thailand.
7. Pray for the growth of the prayer ministry throughout ACCONZ.

David Burge.