

## Congratulations to Edgar & Newlyn Koopman



Above - The handsome couple.

Congratulations to Edgar and Newlyn Koopman, who were married in our own Royal Oak Church on Sunday 23rd of January. They have waited some time for this special day and celebrated with a church full of family and friends, followed by a lovely reception at the Papatoetoe SDA Church.

Earlier in the year, they travelled to South Africa, where Edgar's family are from, and celebrated their union with family and friends there as well.

We wish Edgar and Newlyn the very best of wishes and all of God's richest blessings as they start their new life as one new family.



Above - Some of the whacky Royal Oak youth at the reception.



Right - The blushing bride and her attendant bridesmaids.

## Pathfinders Re-starts at ROCSDA

Our Adventurers' Club has for several years, been teaching our under tens valuable life lessons through their fortnightly activities program. As our children progress beyond Adventurers, the natural next step is Pathfinders and we haven't had a Pathfinders Club at ROCSDA for some years.

So it was with great excitement that our Pathfinder Club re-started with their first meeting on Sabbath afternoon of 19th February.

But not only the children but parents attended as well, some of whom raising their hands and recited the Pathfinder Pledge and Law.

Thanks to the efforts of mums Diane Fraser and Jeanette Smith, and others, it's good to see our church provide an activities program for our children that focuses on life skills, creative crafts and arts, and social interaction events such as camps and regional meetings with other Auckland or North Island clubs.

Pathfinders is a fun learning environment less formal than school and



focussed more on activities and developing skills then on acquiring knowledge and achieving academic standards.

Above - Our new Pathfinders, stand and recite the Pledge and Law supported by parents and teachers. Some Pathfinders have come up from Adventurers while others have just joined as they've attended ROCSDA.

# Church Family Updates

## Staying Connected & Celebrating our Fellowship



Above - Delivering his second sermon in 12 months, Mario Steven is developing his gift for preaching and teaching, and is becoming a wonderful witness and servant for the Lord. His simple but relevant messages and humour are always well received.



Above - Ivy Parilla continues to bless with her wonderful singing.



Above - Kim, Willie and Ruthy present a wonderful special item.



Above - Christine Fourie with some of her charges in their Adventurers' class on Sabbath afternoon.



Above - Yvonne & Jeanette caught mid-song.



Above - Some more of the Pathfinders and their parents and supporters.

# A MESSAGE FROM LILY WHILE IN SINGAPORE

*Although she's back from her internship in Singapore, Lily sent this short message while still over there and we thought it is still worthwhile to publish it as having come from her while overseas. Timing and publication schedules meant we couldn't deliver her message sooner.*

Hello ROC Church family and greetings from Singapore. :)

I really can't believe how blessed I am to get an internship in Singapore.

This is my first opportunity to live out of home and work in a consultancy. My eyes have been opened to so many opportunities, work practices and to real hard work - the Singapore way. I have also done some traveling to West Malaysia namely to the delicious Penang, busy KL, beautiful Cameron Highlands, Batu caves, Genting and

Malacca.

I would like to thank God for keeping me safe throughout all my solo travels and all the people he has sent my way at work, Church and in my travels that has really turned it from great to awesome.

Church in Singapore has been a blessing also. I have visited all but one church in the whole of Singapore. I am always thinking about ROC though.

My travels are nearly coming to an end. But it won't be called traveling if I do not pay a visit to Thailand. So next week I will fly there just before I come back to Auckland to finish my last year of my degree.

Singapore is a beautiful country with high rise buildings but also

rain forest with monkeys that are ready to attack you if you have food!

I am now addicted to traveling - There are so many amazing places that God has made and Auckland included.

I wish my ROC church family a belated Chinese New Year and hope that we all enjoy God's wonderful creation and each other's company.

I look forward to seeing you soon in March.

Regards Lily Feng



## PRAYER CORNER

A call to all our church family members and prayer warriors, to please pray for...

... **the people of Christchurch**, who have suffered from the earthquake of February 22nd, and continue to suffer from the after-shocks and the on-going uncertainty of the future of their beautiful city. Pray also for those who are helping to search, rescue and recover; those who are helping and serving the community; those who have volunteered their time and energies to help in the clean up. These events bring home the reality that the end of the world, the end of time is here, it's now. We know that these calamitous events are going to happen more frequently, but we also know - and can take comfort in the knowledge - that God will protect and defend His children, and will place a hedge around us, and will provide for all our needs. And if we should suffer from such events and catastrophes, we must remain faithful and trust that God is still in control and is close to us, even

as we endure suffering.

... **Jopio Fourie**, Dion's dad, who is home from hospital but is severely incapacitated and needs constant attention. Please pray for the Fourie family and especially those who will be caring for Mr Fourie senior.

... **Kellie Afa**, Melive's sister who is ill in Australia. Melive travelled to Australia to be with her sister. Please also pray for Melive and the Fautua family as this time.

...**for all our new church members** who have joined recently, either as new baptised members or regular attendees considering baptism. Please remind them that they are part of our family, our extended church family, and we love and care for them. Pray for God's unity to be our unity—one in spirit and purpose.

... **for our CAREGroups**, and our leaders; that God's Holy Spirit will lead and teach, and bless each and everyone that attends.

... **for our church leaders**, both in our church, Conference, Union, Division and our global church, particularly that they might receive divine wisdom and discernment, to guide and direct our

church, the body of Jesus, in the straight and narrow way until Jesus comes again.

Several church members have asked for intercessory prayers for their friends and families. Their names and situations are too numerous to mention here, and some also wish to remain anonymous for personal reasons, but our Lord knows their needs and we invite your prayers for God's will to be done in their lives, and for their best.

## Our ROCSDA Family Birthdays

Mar 10 – Zion Pickering  
Mar 13 – Ake Amosa  
Mar 23 – Franson Amosa  
Mar 23 – Charl Hanekom  
Mar 27 – Lily Feng  
Mar 27 – Stan Koleff  
Mar 28 – Charlene Su'a  
Mar 29 – Jared Govender  
Mar 30 – Connor Fraser  
Mar 31 – Francesca Fabricius

We wish all our March babies the very best wishes for their special day, and pray that our God continues to richly bless and prosper them and their families.



Left - It's great to see young Ben home again, and to have him preach at ROCSDA again. Ben's studying theology at Avondale College in Australia and journeys home for the holidays. We praise the Lord for his dedication and commitment to serving his Lord and master, and in sharing his gift of preaching and teaching with his Royal Oak family. Please continue to pray for God to lead, guide and protect him in his life.

Right - Ben's friend and fellow Avondale student Joel, joined us for one Sabbath.



Right - It's always wonderful and exciting to see new regular attenders coming to join our Royal Oak family and in recent weeks we've enjoyed the company of Sunema (left), and her beautiful daughter and niece Sina (middle) and Carol (right), respectively. They are Samoan and have enjoyed coming to Royal Oak each week so much, they've chosen our church family as their church family. Please take time to get to know them, and to make them feel welcomed, and to feel more than guests, but family.



## Picnic - Long Bay, North Shore



Thank you to Christine Fourie for providing these photos of our church family picnic at Long Bay this month. It was a beautifully sunny day and from all accounts, everyone have a great time. Although we're now heading into Autumn, we can still enjoy quality time together as a church family doing outdoor activities. Why not join in!



# Family Dedication



Above - Zion and Israel (Jnr), look on as Pastor Daniel dedicates their younger brother Jeda'iah, watched by proud parents Fallon and Israel (Snr).

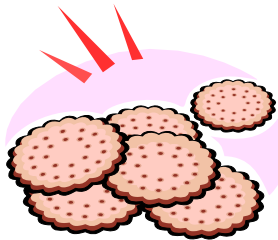
We praise God for Godly parents. On Sabbath 12th of February, Israel and Fallon brought their young son Jeda'iah, along with their two older children Zion and Israel, to be dedicated to the Lord. Although Jeda'iah won't remember the service, the dedication of children is a Biblical principle and practice, that is more about the dedication of the parents, family and extended family - that is our church - in committing to raising and nurturing this young life in the knowledge and love of God. As such, we all participate and commit to supporting Israel and Fallon, and in nurturing and loving their children as our own. We pray that the Lord will richly bless their young family, and that their children will grow to love their Lord as their parents do.

## BURNT BISCUITS

(author unknown)

When I was a kid, my Mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my Mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my Mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my Mom apologize to



my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides - a little burned biscuit never hurt anyone!"

Life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. I'm

not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. But what I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults - and choosing to celebrate each others differences - is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.



If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them. - Phil Pastoret

# If You Never

B. J. Morbitzer

If you never felt pain, then how could you know I am the healer?  
 If you never went through difficulties, how would you know that I am the deliverer?  
 If you never had a trial, how would you call yourself an overcomer?  
 If you never felt sadness, how would you know that I'm the comforter?  
 If you never made a mistake, how would you know that I am forgiving?  
 If you knew all, how would you know that I would answer your questions?  
 If you were never in trouble, how would you know that I would come to your rescue?  
 If you were never broken, how would you know that I would make you whole?  
 If you never had a problem, how would you know that I could solve them?  
 If you never had any suffering, then how would you know what Jesus went through?  
 If you never went through fire, then how would you become pure?  
 If I gave you all things, how would you appreciate them?  
 If I never corrected you, how would you know that I love you?  
 If you had all power, then how would you learn to depend on me?  
 If your life was perfect, then what would you need me for?

## The SEED

An inspiration story submitted by Kim Filipino

A successful business man was growing old and was ready to choose a successor. Instead of choosing one of his Directors, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives and said, "I have decided to choose one of you as my successor. I am going to give each one very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO." Jim was one of the executives and received a seed like all the others. He went home and excitedly told his wife who helped him plant the seed. Every day, he watered it and watched to see if it had grown. After three weeks, some of the other executives began talking about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing grew.

Five weeks went by, still nothing.

Others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure.

Six months went by -- still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, but kept watering and fertilizing the soil - He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally passed and all the young executives brought their plants to the CEO for inspection.

Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick to his stomach. It was going to be the most embarrassing moment of his life, but he knew his wife was right. He took his empty pot to the board room. When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. Jim put his

empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him. When the CEO arrived he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants you have grown, Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO."

All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He asked him to bring it to the front. Jim was terrified. When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed - Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive Officer! His name is Jim!" Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. "How could he be the new CEO?" the others asked. Then the CEO said, "One year (Continued on page 7)

# A Quick English Lesson

A parapsydokian (from the Greek meaning 'beyond expectation') is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part.

A few good ones.....

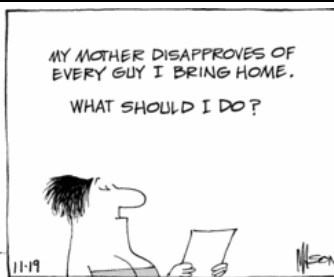
- I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way, so I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.
- Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.

(Continued from page 6)

ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - it was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive Officer!"

- \* If you plant honesty, you will reap trust
- \* If you plant goodness, you will reap friends
- \* If you plant humility, you will reap greatness
- \* If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment
- \* If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective
- \* If you plant hard work, you will reap success

- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
- A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk, I have a work station.
- I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted pay cheques.
- Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
- I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
- There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.
- I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- A diplomat is someone who tells you to go to hell in such a way that you look forward to the trip.
- Hospitality is making your guests feel at home even when you wish they were.
- When tempted to fight fire with fire, remember that the Fire Department usually uses water.
- If we are supposed to learn from our mistakes, why do some people have more than one child?



# POINT OF VIEW

Mark Ryan

This month I was going to write about the life of Job and the lessons that his life teaches us.

My key point was going to be one that Iain Ogilvie made in our class one Sabbath, and that was; even though Job had a solid relationship with God before his troubles, his relationship with God was greater AFTER he endured troubles.

Then on Tuesday 22nd of February, the devastating earthquake struck Christchurch.

We as a nation have entered the growing class of nations who've suffered multiple fatalities in natural disasters.

We see tragedies like this all the time on the news in other countries; quakes in Asia, flooding in South America, volcanoes in Europe, but recently these calamitous disasters have been visited on both Australia and New Zealand.

For the most part, we react by getting involved. We volunteer our time and resources, we donate funds and help raise more, we send messages of condolence and encouragement, and we pray.

The shock and overwhelming impact of this event leaves questions. How did this happen? What caused the earthquake? Why didn't the experts predict this was coming? How could an earthquake-prone country not fortify its buildings and infrastructure against such an event? Can confidence ever be restored in Christchurch as a place to live and work? How can there be, when no one knows what's going to happen next? Who is going to pay for rebuilding on a flood plain that is clearly unstable and perhaps uninhabitable? It's an insurance company's nightmare. I was going to discard my article on

Job, then it occurred to me that Job's story was precisely what we needed to read right now.

Job's troubles were caused by Satan. By extension, sin was equally to blame. God removed his protection from Job, not because of anything Job had done, but because of the sinful condition of the world in which he lived. In fact, God was so proud of Job, he boasted to Satan about his servant; not once, but twice. Job's relationship with God is one that we should emulate and perhaps even envy. And yet, and as Iain pointed out, his relationship with God was deeper and more meaningful after he had experienced the pain and suffering of his troubles. It's as if we cannot fully know joy, until we experience pain. We cannot fully enjoy light until we've experienced darkness. It's by contrast that we fully understand the experience. In the same way, we can't fully appreciate the impact and consequence of sin, until we've come to a full and complete understanding of what it means to be separated from God - which after all are the wages of sin.

The Christchurch earthquake, like all recent disasters, is a consequence of the sinful world we live in. Paul summarises our present condition succinctly in Rom 8:18-30.

*<sup>18</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the*

*creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.*

*<sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

*<sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to son-ship, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*

*<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.*

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who <sup>29</sup> have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

As Christians, we know the reasons for these events. We can share in the pain and suffering of our country, but we can also share the hope and assurance that our faith in God brings. Please continue to pray for those affected by the earthquake.

## Editor

Mark Ryan  
email - editor@rocsda.co.nz

## Photography

Lelane Fourie

## Publisher

Julie Carter  
email - julie.carter@sanitarium.co.nz

For "Connect" in colour, download from our website [www.rocsda.co.nz](http://www.rocsda.co.nz)

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT GC4, INC.



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld

02-16-2009

I'VE TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT HE'S GOING TO BE WITH ME FOREVER, BUT HE JUST DOESN'T GET IT