

The monthly newsletter of the Royal Oak Seventh-day Adventist Church.

CAREGroup -

What do you want to know?

Charlene Su'a & Catherine Bloomfield

In order to understand CAREGroup we need to go back to October 22, 2010. It was the end of the Discovery Seminars and we needed a follow up plan to provide something for all our new friends who were coming regularly on a Friday night to hear the word of God preached. The idea was put forward about running CAREGroup. We prayed and prayed about it and went forward in faith. That's how and why CAREGroup started.

Now the big question is "What is CAREGroup"? "What does CARE stand for?"

- C – Christ's
- A – Attitude
- R – Reflected in
- E – Everyone

CAREGroup is about "building relationships" with God and with one another. No, it's not a dating agency, it's about introducing new friends to Jesus – maybe it *is* like a dating agency. They may not know Jesus personally, or they may know Him already, but for us as a church, we want to reflect Christ's love toward everyone that comes. In Matt 12:34,35 Jesus commands us to love one another, that every man may know that we are His people.

So how do we reflect Christ's Attitude towards everyone? In the book of Acts, the early Christian church gives us a biblical model in how we ought to make

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Above - Catherine Bloomfield (left) and Charlene Su'a (right), our CAREGroup Leaders

Cheri Peters

A Servant of God and a Friend to Man

Cheri Peters blew into Royal Oak Church like a roaring wind driven by a cyclone off the Tasman Sea. A real breath of fresh air; grounded in the Lord and testifying to the power, grace and glory of God. Life didn't start well for Cheri, as told in her book 'Miracle from the Streets', but since the Holy Spirit convicted her of her worth during a suicide attempt, she's been walking and talking with God, and ministering to the drug addicted through her True Steps Ministries (<http://truestep.org>). Cheri, like Leo Schreven, talks at 160 miles -an-hour (or was that 160 kg per hour?), with gusts up to 180. But every word speaks of God's grace, and uplifting Him in every sentence.

For the children's story, Cheri relayed the story of Tattoo Jim, and how they met through the ministering spirit of a 9 year old girl. She then continued his story - as

well as her own - through the sermon, emphasising again and again, how God has pulled her and others from the depths of addition,



Cheri Peters

despair and depression, and into the wonderful light of His presence. The church was filled to capacity because of the work carried out by the New Zealand Christian Foundation (NZCF) in promoting Cheri's visit and meetings. Joanne Davies, with her husband David, founded the NZCF and are its trustees. Joanne hosted Cheri's visit to Royal Oak and helped Cheri present special edition Bibles to some of those who have been witnessed to during Cheri's visit.

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Above - Cheri Peters held the audience's attention throughout her speech, dealing with the often raw issue of addiction in an open, sensitive and sometimes humorous way.

Church Family Updates

Staying Connected & Celebrating our Fellowship

Dedication of Vuniani Brian Tukana



Above - Proud parents, Michelle and Vuniani Snr, making a public declaration of their wish to dedicate their son to God.

Vuniani and Michelle Tukana followed the Biblical example when they bought their baby boy, Vuniani Brian Tukana to be dedicated to the Lord. Pastor Daniel conducted the service and emphasised the difference between dedication and infant baptism. Vuniani (Jr), was not being baptised. He was being dedicated to the Lord which was a public declaration by his parents that they would commit their time, energies and love to raise Vuniani Brian in a clear and uncorrupted understanding of God's love for him. Our church family was also called to be a part of that dedication, and to do all we can to contribute to Vuniani Brian's nurture and care in our wider church family.



Above - Handsome Vuniani Brian Tukana, blissfully unaware of the fuss being made over him.

Peter & Mili's Wedding in Beautiful Fiji

Peter and Mili were married in a beautiful ceremony on Denarau Island in their native country of Fiji. These photos show a simple yet elegant ceremony that was fitting for the hot dry climate of the Pacific, with the bride dressed in a beautiful canary yellow dress, patterned after Fiji's traditional layered formal attire, and printed in bold brown-coloured island motifs. The groom was similarly outfitted in printed motif formal dress. For their reception, they changed into informal outfits. The three tiered cake was the artistic creation of our own Mario Steven. View these photos in colour on our website, www.rocsda.co.nz.



Above and below - Peter and Mili's wedding, celebrated on beautiful Denarau Island in Fiji.



The Gardener's Brief Visit



Above - Philip and Mary-Ellen Gardener, who were members of our church family, and now living in Scotland, dropped in for a Sabbath visit. Their two youngest children, James and Macayla (in front) live with them in Scotland. Their eldest daughter, Linda and her partner Toa (left of picture), live in Auckland with their own daughter, Bailey, pictured above being nursed by Mary-Ellen's mum (right). It was wonderful to see them again and to know they still consider ROCSDA home.

Did you know?...

- Almonds are members of the peach family.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- In most advertisements, including newspapers, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.
- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.

Myers Park BBQ for the Homeless

Lelane Fourie

We woke up Sunday morning with flood warning messages all over the news. Didn't look like the best day for a BBQ. We left early to go set up for the day and the rain was awful. We passed multiple fire trucks pumping water out of flooded houses while the rain was just beating down. Dion phoned to say Myers Park had a river flowing down the walkways and that the rain was just as bad. We had no plan B. We tried to make arrangements for plan B, but everything fell through. The people who arrived at the park early were praying and said it was as if they felt God say "Ok, that's enough now, it's time to be still and know that I am God". A few minutes later Shaun and I arrived and the rain had stopped. The water down the paths had found drainage somewhere and we were able to set up. What an amazing day. The word went out that the BBQ was still on and rough sleepers and guys from the mission made their way to Myers Park. Joanne Davies and Cheri Peters arrived soon and spent the afternoon talking to people and encouraging them. A lot of them had already read her book (that we handed out at the first BBQ), and couldn't believe that we had brought her out just to come and speak to them. A few of them will also be making their way to Royal Oak on Thursday to hear her speak which I am so excited about. After packing up and getting home we saw on the news how badly some areas around Auckland had flooded, Queen street being one of them. We on the other hand, at Myers Park (on Queen street) would never have



Above - Cheri Peters and Jim, one of those who enjoyed the BBQ despite the rough weather.



Above - Susana and cousin Mili preparing bread for the BBQ.

known. God kept the rain away from the park the entire time we were there (few light drizzles every now and then). We want to thank the few who braved the weather making their way to the park in faith. The drive to the park was very wet. It is so easy for us to sit in our dry homes and think "I don't want to go out in this" but for a lot of people around Auckland they have no dry option. The Christmas BBQ we had was very wet and we saw how hard that was. I am truly thankful that God kept us from that this time.



Left - The team of volunteers who braved the wind and rain to set up and cook the BBQ for the homeless and rough sleepers. A big thank you to all our volunteers for their ministry and service. May the Lord richly bless those being ministered to.

PRAYER CORNER

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

... **Jopio Fourie**, Dion's dad, who's been seriously ill, but praise God he's now out of ICU. Please pray that God will bring healing and peace to Jopio and the Fourie family.

... **Muriel Bremner**, who's home from hospital. Please pray for the Lord's grace and healing peace to fall upon her. Pray also for Roger and Greta French and their family as they support and care for Muriel.

... **Kellie Afa**, Melive's sister who is still seriously ill in Australia. Melive has 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 Elder Ted Wilson, our world president, and his wife Nancy who visited New Zealand this month. May they continue to humbly serve and bless us with their leadership.

Several church members have asked for intercessory prayers for their friends and the families. Their names and situations are too numerous to mention here and some 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.

Christmas Play at Royal Oak in Photos



Our ROCSDA Church Family February Birthdays

- Feb 7 – Emma Buckingham
- Feb 9 – Melody Mapepa
- Feb 9 – Mike Parrish
- Feb 11 – Ella Fourie
- Feb 15 – David Schaaf
- Feb 18 – Stan Schaaf
- Feb 20 – Jerin James
- Feb 23 – Alexander McKean
- Feb 26 – Hayley Smith
- Feb 28 – Elesha Newton



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Above - Joanne Davies and Cheri Peters hand out special edition Bibles to Jim, Fiona and Samantha. The special edition Bible contains anecdotes and testimonies from recovering addicts that help encourage and assure those reading it, that there is hope for them, and that they too are valuable in the eyes of God, and of course our Royal Oak Church family.

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Those who received special edition Bibles were Jim, Fiona and Samantha. Andreyia was also supposed to get a Bible, but she didn't attend. Cheri held evening meetings on

Thursday and Friday nights before the morning service on Sabbath 29th of January, and then a final Sabbath afternoon meeting. Cheri's 'True Steps Ministries' is funded by donations and an offering was taken up to benefit her

ministry. If you missed the opportunity to contribute, and would like to do so, visit her ministry's website <http://www.truesteps.org>, and donate online.

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and keep disciples in His church.

Acts 2:46 says "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"

So CAREGroup starts with breaking bread together at 6.30pm. Contributing and preparing the meal together gives a sense of ownership to everyone who attends. It's a simple, delicious and healthy shared meal promoting our health message.

Eph 5:10 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"

A favourable part of CAREGroup is when we sing for our supper – actually, we sing *after* our supper. Everyone gets an opportunity to learn new songs and sing their favourites – a mixture of choruses and hymns. This then leads to the next focus of CAREGroup.

Acts 2:42 says "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

At CAREGroup we not only provide physical nourishment but also spiritual food. The Bible study is relevant and interactive so that everyone can apply something to their lives when they leave CAREGroup. So far in CAREGroup we have covered two series: Biblical Principles about Financial Management

and Personal Testimonies. CAREGroup have just started our third series, "The Ten Commandments", focusing each week on one commandment. CAREGroup study is taken by different people most weeks as it gives teachers an opportunity to grow in the word and to share the word.

2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

After the study we then move into smaller groups for sharing time. It is here that everyone has an opening to contribute what they learnt from the study, ask questions, or share a highlight from the Bible lesson.

It is then we share Praises and Prayer requests with one another. Giving thanks to God for something good that happened to us during the week. We then ask if anyone would like to share prayer requests and we pray for that together as a group.

Galatians 6:2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Thanks to God's grace CAREGroup numbers have been growing over the past three months. Just recently we have had to multiply our CG from one (very) large group, to two groups. We now have a "30 and under" group, and a "31 and above" group. This has given the youth an opportunity to learn more about leading CAREGroups.

Not only is CAREGroup about winning souls for Christ, but it is also about

training potential leaders for our church. It encourages everyone to explore prayer and Bible study, and also teaches relationship building and leadership skills. This is making a new generation of leaders in our church.

So where to from here?

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in coming along, come and see what it's all about. CAREGroup is a relaxed way to introduce new people to the church experience. We start at 6.30pm on Friday nights in the church hall.

If you have a burden to serve God in ministry for 2011, perhaps God is calling you to CAREGroup. CAREGroup is an opportunity for God to work through us, in expanding His kingdom.

Acts 2:47 "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

See you there!

Will Rodgers Witticisms;

1. There are two theories to arguing with a women... neither works.
2. Never miss a good chance to be quiet.
3. Always drink upstream of the herd.
4. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
5. Letting the cat out of the bag is a lot easier than putting it back.
6. One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

QUEENSLAND FLOODS

FROM OUR EMAILS FILE



The recent floods in Queensland caused all manner of wildlife to surface. It also caused the surfacing of human compassion and the caring spirit. Many animals who could not escape the rising waters were rescued by people using unconventional means - kayaks, small boats and other flotation devices. Here are some pictures doing the emails rounds showing just how innovative people can be in helping save lives. Please continue to pray for those who have suffered loss in Queensland, and if possible contribute what you can, when you can. As the Sally ad says on TV; "We're all in this together."



"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."
- Albert Einstein



The Story of the Poor Rich Boy

A rich father, wanting to teach his son to appreciate the wealth and privilege he enjoys, sent him to stay with a farmer on his farm. After the boy spent several days with the farmer, his father picked him up and while they drove back into the city the father asked his son if he learnt anything positive. The son said yes he did.

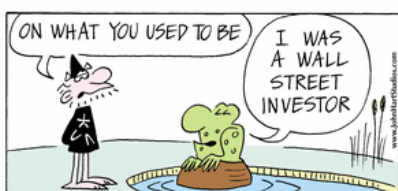


1. We have one dog. They have four.
2. We have a swimming pool as large as our garden and filled with chemically treated water. They have a crystal clear river filled with all kinds of fish and fauna.
3. We use electricity to light up our garden. They have the moon and stars to brighten their fields.
4. Our garden extends to our boundary wall. Their land spreads out past the horizon.
5. We buy our food pre-packaged and pre-cooked. They grow, harvest and cook their food themselves.
6. Our music comes from CDs. Their lives are brightened by a constant symphony of bird song, crickets and other soothing sounds of nature, occasionally interrupted by the voices of neighbours in adjoining fields.
7. We use microwaves and other modern appliances. But our food doesn't taste as good as theirs, which is cooked over a slow burning fire.
8. To protect ourselves, we live behind walls and doors with burglar alarm systems. They sleep with doors unlocked, protected by their neighbours' friendship.
9. Our lives depend on cell phones, computers and television. They are enriched by the sun, the sky, the land, their work, their livestock and families.



The father was stunned by the son's comments. Then the son added, "Dad, thanks for showing me just how poor we really are."

WIZARD OF ID
by parker and hart



Love doesn't make the world go round.
but it makes the ride worthwhile.
(FRANKLIN P. JONES)



To have joy one must share it.
(LORD BYRON)



Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.
(ANON)



Having a place
to go – is a home.
Having someone
to love –
is a family.
(DONNA HEDGES)



POINT OF VIEW

Mark Ryan

Happy New Year everyone!

I watched an interview on TV One's Close Up Program (Tuesday, 25th January 2011 - check it out on <http://tvnz.co.nz/close-up/video>).

Mark Sainsbury interviewed Professor Richie Poulton from Otago University. Professor Poulton is the director of a 38 year long study into the lives of 1,000 New Zealanders. The study is being lauded around the world for its width, breadth, detail and longevity. The study analyses in detail various aspects of the participants lives, giving rise to some interesting results. You can imagine that over three decades, (and it's still going), questions which need time to answer, can indeed be answered.

One of the most recent results released from the study covered the impact of 'self-control' on the success or otherwise of children and adults. More importantly, claimed Mark Sainsbury, the results gave you, as parents the tools to influence that outcome.

The study followed the 1,000 participants from birth until age 32, monitoring their self-control skills as children and proving how it impacts their lives as adults.

Also on the show was psychologist Nigel Latta, one of those praising the research and raving about its results. In the early 1990's, the researchers began studying temperamental traits including low levels of self-control. The study into self-control was spurred on by interest from economists and in particular James Hickman (a Nobel Laureate), whose research focussed on interests from governments in the developed world in trying to understand what factors matter most for long term prosperity and wellbeing in society. IQ and socio

-economic status were already confirmed factors in prosperity and wellbeing, and a third contender, according to James Hickman, was the notion of self-control.

Given the valuable resource at their disposal, the researchers subjected the basic idea that 'self-control matters a lot', to rigorous and robust testing. They discovered that there was indeed a clear correlation between low self-control and negative outcomes, and conversely positive outcomes for those with high degrees of self-control. The analysis for self-control began when participants were aged three. The results showed that even at that early age, right through 'til age 30, self-control played a significant role in the success of participants. Prof. Poulton went on to suggest that early intervention, even as early as age three, would reap benefits through the rest of one's life course, both for the individual and their family, and more broadly, for society.

Psychologist Nigel Latta applauded the result and simplified the principle for clinicians and parents struggling with children, by stating, "If in doubt, teach self-control. If you teach self-control, lots of good outcomes and lots of good things (come from that)."

So how do you teach self-control?

Latta gave the tried and tested principle of, "You can have one chocolate now, or two chocolates later", in other words *deferred gratification*. Latta said, "Instead of giving children bucket-loads of pocket money, you give them a pittance, so they have to save it up, and they can either blow it on two dollar junk, or buy the good stuff."

And it's never too late to teach self-control. Teenagers who use dad's or mum's car responsibly, exercising self-control, can be rewarded with more regular access to that vehicle.

Self-control can be learnt even into adulthood. Behaving responsibly at work, restraining one's emotions on the roads; the old fashioned principle of 'connecting current action and later consequence', 'boundaries, rules and disciplines'. Latta continued, "If you're more controlled, if you resist your impulses, then life will generally be better for you."

Latta's final tip for parents, "It's not your job to satisfy children's every whim. If you satisfy every whim they've got, then all they learn is 'Let's get more and more excited, and we'll get more and more stuff'. If they're bored, then they have to learn to be bored productively. That involves self-control. Don't run around entertaining them constantly. Say to them, 'Look, I'm not bored, you're bored. Go off and find something quiet to do or trouble will come your way. That teaches them to exercise self-control and judgment."

It seems a pity, and a redundant idea, that scientists and psychologists should (re)-discover and now need to teach the principles that God has given in the Bible from the beginning, but that's the world we live in, isn't it?

Proverbs 25:28

Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.

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Thanks to Wilma Melendez

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**SORRY THIS IS A CHRISTIAN BOOKSTORE ...
IT'S ALL NON-FICTION**