

THE SPIRIT OF ANZAC

Inspire

I like to conduct an Anzac service every year with our Sunday church in appreciation for our soldiers that have served. I generally interview a soldier – this year was a man that had risen to the rank of Major in the SAS and had done two tours of duty in Vietnam. We also have the last post played whether it be live or recorded. Then we have a minutes silence and then I read:

"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old, age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning – we will remember them, lest we forget."

I always share on something about the Anzac soldier or war. Let me share the message I spoke at Life Church this year as I believe the qualities of the Anzac are something we need to consider embracing about our lives.

These qualities again need to be ebbed into our society. They need to be part of our churches. Some have questioned me over the years whether the Anzac or war should be part of our nice Christian service. In Newcastle the counsel all want to remove the recognition of those that have fought for our freedom at the opening of counsel meetings along with prayer. Also it was interesting to see on the news the university's Professor questioning the celebration of Anzac and the teaching of it in schools.

Well what do I think of that? What a load of rubbish spoken by the ignorant. I'm proud of our Australian service men and women and our country that stood up against:

German Materialism;
Nazi Dictatorship;
Japanese Imperialism;
Communist Ideology; and
Fanatical Islam.

I'm proud we fought for the freedom of the weaker nation. I wish we had intervened against Adi Armin and the Rwanda uprising a lot more. Because if Germany, Japan, communism or Islam prevailed, the world would be a sadder place.

"Bad things happen because good people do nothing."

So I celebrate the digger. I attend the dawn service, I watch some of the march and I preach on the spirit of the Anzac every year. Because the qualities that brought us victories are qualities we need to rise within our nation again. If anything that can pull our people out of:

- ◆ Selfish drug use and alcohol abuse
- ◆ Out of needless employment
- ◆ Out of senseless violence and crime

And what would stir the spirit of the volunteer to rise in a greater level community group is the spirit of the Anzac.

The spirit of the Anzac is our unseen unpredictable, unquenchable thirst for freedom and justice. The spirit of the Anzac is the cornerstone that underpins our Australian image. Some would say that who we are as a nation was carved out in the trenches of Gallipoli.

"On 25 April, 1915 a new world was born. A new side of man's character was revealed. The Spirit of ANZAC was kindled. It flared with a previously unknown, almost superhuman strength. There was a determination, a zest, a drive which swept up from the beaches on Gallipoli Peninsula as the ANZACs thrust forward with their torch of freedom. As they fell, they threw those following the torch so their quest would maintain its momentum. That Torch of Freedom has continually been thrown from falling hands, has kindled in the catchers' souls a zeal and desire for both our individual liberty and our countries' liberty. That desire has been handed down with the memory and burns as brightly as the flame which first kindled it. (Quote from a war writer)

This Anzac spirit was not confined to the battlefield but live in sporting events, business endeavours, our volunteer army and our ordinary everyday battles. "The Sun invades our bodies and makes us mad, mad for freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of worship and freedom to live and think as you will."

Today we stand safe and free, clothed with all the privileges and rights of citizens in these great free countries. And all these things – liberty, security, opportunity, the privileges of citizenship – we owe to those men who fought, endured, suffered, and died for us and for their country. Their deeds and their sacrifices gave us the invincible, the intangible, the Spirit of ANZAC." (Quote from war historian)

I believe we need to speak of and celebrate these qualities. We need to encourage and teach them into our society, schools and organization, businesses and church, that the next generation would be empowered with the right kind of grit that it takes to overcome at all odds and adversity. Let me share on a few:-

1. Mateship

Comradery and teamwork, a sense of working together, standing up for your brother and sister. I'm one of a few ministers that can claim to have to have a couple of fights a year due to the

people we engage with, by having to say no or bar someone from our premises doesn't always end up with the best results. So the need to defend yourself now and then happens. But what amazes me is that my volunteers are quick to lend a hand.

I have one guy called Mick. If ever I am threatened and are backed into a fight, Mick is quick to flick his specs off and he is ready to back me up. I'm so glad he is not so worried about work place policy and procedures when a mate is in trouble. Now that's the ANZAC spirit! That's the constant picture you see when you think of ANZAC – its Simpson on his donkey or a digger carrying his mate from the battle line. Sadly, in the church, we are known for shooting our wounded, so we don't have to look after them.

I tell you if anything we need to learn to do a little more in the body is to love one another despite our differences. Jesus helps us love one another. John 13:34.



2. Endurance

Battles are tough to come through - so we must develop endurance. Imagine the digger has to get up each day despite the odds and have another go, muddy trenches, the steep hills, the thick jungles, flies dysentery and disease. The soldier had to endure but we were a young nation.

We knew what it was all about. We were only one hundred years old and things were not that set up in Oz – we were still developing. We knew what it was to be resourceful and resilient. We hadn't arrived, become comfortable or established.

This is the sort of stuff that makes you fight, work hard, push forward and build endurance. I think that's what James is trying to say to the early struggling and persecuted church. James 1:2, 3

Here is a picture of endurance from a letter that was written from Chaplain McKenzie after being on the front line burying over 600 + soldiers and seeing many tragic ordeals in his four year service.

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Things are going well with me. I have enough to eat, a place to lie wet, hard and cold; clothes to wear that need washing and the young recruits combed out (lice). I have boots, a steel helmet, a gas respirator, a stout stick to kill rats (here in millions), a brave heart, a chastened spirit, a cool head, a strong fist, a dauntless soul, a gripping faith, a clear vision, a fighting fervour, a love of good things, a hatred of the Devil, a hope of Heaven, a vision of Glory. So I guess I ought to be happy." Chaplain McKenzie – France WWI

3. Courage

Of course a word that is attributed to any soldier is courage! This is for anyone that puts up their hand just to go to war. Poet John Masefield describes our soldier well:

"These 'colonials' fought as they lived bravely, openly, independently, and without fear. They proved that their young countries could produce men equal to any in the world, perhaps the greatest fighting force this world has known – the ANZACs."

How scary would it have been to charge from the trenches of the western front and Gallipoli and to move through the thick jungles of Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. It would have been frightening.

But we read of men like Albert Jacka and McDougall that somehow quenched their fear and allowed courage beyond all measure to take over and thrust them forward.

"but Australians at either end stopped them from continuing to advance. At the northern end Jacka, with several others, tried to evict the Turks, but was beaten back. It was then decided that while a feint was made from the same end, Jacka would attack from the rear. The party waited long enough for Jacka to circle the rear and then threw two bombs and gave covering fire. Jacka leapt over the parapet, shot five Turks with his rifle, bayoneted two others and forced the rest to flee the captured trench."

How many people have stopped advancing in life because they have come under fire?

"McDougall was on watch at a post on the

47th's right flank when he heard approaching enemy. When a Lewis gun team was knocked out by an enemy bomb McDougall snatched up the Lewis gun and attacked two enemy machine-gun teams and killed their crews. He turned one of the captured machine guns onto the enemy, killing several, and routing that wave. Meanwhile, about fifty Germans had crossed the Australian-held railway. McDougall turned his gun on them before they had time to establish themselves behind the battalion. When his ammunition was spent he seized a bayonet and charged, killing three men and an enemy officer who was just about to kill an Australian officer. McDougall then used a Lewis gun on the enemy, killing many, and forcing the surrender of the remaining thirty-three enemy."

We need a few more people that are willing to put their heads above the trench and have a go in life, step out of the boat, put their right foot forward and do something daring!

4. Sacrifice.

Some would question whether we need such a hard attribute in today's world. Some people of the ultra faith belief had said to me that it is not needed anymore. But we need to realize that the road to Calvary was bloody, but the road after was much bloodier from the sacrifice of the saints making a stand for their faith.

Hebrews 11 is not just a chapter on people believing but people making a serious sacrifice for their beliefs. Very little moves forward in life unless a person steps out of their comfort zone whether it is a business person stepping out financially, a person sharing their faith, a minister or leader stepping out in a new Venture, planting a church, taking on another staff member. It is someone stepping out into something they have never done or tried before. Someone getting back up after they have failed.

I love what General Norman Schwarzkopf said about the greatest lesson learnt from the Gulf war..."I think that there is one really fundamental military truth. And that's that you can add up the correlation of forces you can look at the number of tanks, you can look at the number of airplanes, you can look at all these factors of military might and put them together. But unless the soldier on the ground of the airmen in the air, has the will to win, has the strength of character, to go into battle, believes that his cause is just, and has the support of his country...all the rest of that stuff is irrelevant."

Think about the sacrifice made for our freedom and way of life that we and others enjoy today.

Boer War 600 Australians died.

1 st WW	60,000
2 nd WW	27,000
Korean War	339
Malaysian	51
Indonesian	23
Vietnam	521

Now – Iraq and Afghanistan.

To bring it back to a spiritual level it is interesting to note that where the blood of the believer has been spilt it was preceded by a mighty out pouring of God. Around 1905 John Lake was pressured to encourage missionaries to go back home due to lack of financial support. They chose to stay and that year he buried over 20 missionaries. Africa was about two percent Christian population and today it is over 30 percent. It really highlights that verse in Revelations 12:11 "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."

That's extreme I know. In this country we will never have threat of dying for Jesus but we will certainly have the opportunity of making some serious sacrifice of time, energy and money.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship." **Romans 12:1**

Love Kevin
Senior Leader @ Life Church
Email: info@lifechurch.org.au



THE SYNERGY OF THE CHURCHES AND ALCOHOLICS ANONOMOUS - Ted Mayo



Ted 20 yrs ago

Some 3 years ago, Life Church opened their doors to Alcoholics Anonymous. Over this period of time we have been welcomed and involved in Life Church. AA is a self help program. Our primary purpose is to stay sober, but many of us want more than that. Our groups meet every day of the year. Average attendance is around 180 per week, (28 per day). Many have accepted the Lord in their lives through this church. Kevin and Nikki actually do step 4 and 5 with some of us., (clear wreckage of the past). Over the past 3 years about 15 of us have come to believe in the Lord, and were baptized in the faith. At this time 3 of the guys live in

the Life House. For me personally it is the biggest part of my life to serve God through Life Church. Many accepting of us no matter how far down the scale we may have gone. Through God, A.A and this church, we can now benefit others by our own faith, strength and hope. We accept God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves. I pray that God will continue to bless this church, AA, and all of our leaders. If God is for us, who can be against us? Stay strong in the faith.

Ted Mayo

I have been working with Ted for about 4 years. Since he came to faith after coming to the knowledge that Jesus is the higher power. He kind of always knew that but was put off by man made religions that came across as self righteous and were always wanting to argue the point of the higher power and you shouldn't confess you're an alcoholic. When Ted turned up I simply accepted and welcomed him with open arms with no judgment of him or AA. Since then our

friendship has been rich. We serve, pray, and preach together. We have even travelled and ministered together. Ted was an ex military man and has experienced much action. He is a loyal brother who has stood up for me when the pressure was on. I consider him a fellow minister and good friend. I love AA and all the recovery programs because they genuinely help support people. Now we have Gamblers Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Sexaholics Anonymous all operating out of our building.

Kevin & Ted Today





GlobeReach Some of the works we support overseas

BURMA – Donna Byham



HERE & NOW

“Love (mercy) and faithfulness truth) meet together; righteousness (justice) and peace kiss each other.” Psalm 85:10 NIV/KJV

- ◆ A stranger on the bus who sees me with broken shoes and takes me to buy new ones.
- ◆ Three days riding around in the back of a Ute with neighbours, being hammered by water.
- ◆ Shared meals with friends - one time I cooked my favourite (fried noodles) and a neighbour cooked hers (hamburgers!)
- ◆ Buying at the local market and cooking local food, some successes some failures.

- ◆ Sharing a cup of tea with a good friend and a developmentally disabled beggar woman, my friend showed me compassion in action, the woman taught me dignity.
- ◆ 47-degree days and 37-degree nights, minimal power and water and water diarrhoea.
- ◆ Being cared for by my neighbours – local medicines (bitter, sour powder) and remedies (toothpaste and coconut oil).
- ◆ A strong respect of religion and commitment to Buddhism.
- ◆ A rogue cat whose place I've moved into.
- ◆ Cockroaches that kiss you in the night.
- ◆ A friend dealing with the future of living with HIV.
- ◆ Poverty, homelessness, hunger and my small attempts to help.

Slowly I'm finding myself in this city, in my community; also I'm learning people's hopes and heartaches as I share life; slowly I am finding God's heart in this place.

Henri Nouwen says *“The mother of expectation in patience ... our life is a short time in expectation, a time in which sadness and joy kiss each other at*

every moment.”

These are some memories of 10 weeks in Yangon, Myanmar.

Praise Points:

- ◆ I've found myself in a fantastic local family orientated neighbourhood who have really embraced me and I have been building some really good relationships with people here.
- ◆ My Myanmar language is slowly making sense and I am teaching English at the school where I get my visa is going well.

Prayer Points:

- ◆ For the rain to come cool things down, and provide hydro-electricity and water.
- ◆ Team, community and reconciliation of relationships.
- ◆ Stamina in learning the Myanmar language,
- ◆ To grow in showing compassion.

With much love

Donna Byham

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PHILIPINES – Alvin Bautista



Camp Life 2010 at Dad's Vineyard Resort found on Sta. Rosa Marilao

The journey was a bit short as it was only a 25 minute drive from the church, however, we had about 32 children and 17 volunteers, teachers and staff. The trip was a little bit affected because we were not sure what the support would be. By the time we were sure, we really became mobile. We thank God that He brought all those He wanted us to touch. Our theme was 'Kids. Pray.

Com.' The children learnt much as we had different teachers. We categorized the children according to their ages with different teachers. The teachers did a great work. The teachers were very cooperative.

The children slept well. Every child slept on his or her mattress. Concerning meals, the children ate well. Lovely as usual and a big thanks for the support we had. Almost half of camp were new campers. They were given a chance to testify and they felt it was such a blessing to them and they thought that there were not enough days there.

It was good that we did not have many falling sick. In the devotions children would wake to pray and as they were challenged, many responded to the Lord. As we talked to them about different challenges that they go through, many wanted to take a stand for the Lord. Divided in groups of different

ages they made a commitments. Some were baptized in the Holy Spirit as they wanted to repent of things they felt were not right in their lives.

We were so involved with them in different activities that we couldn't help but notice how these three days went by and we felt like one among them. These kids have given us hope that we can also bring about change to whatever problem we have in our life.

We are very grateful for all those who brought these children to this camp. Two things which inspired us the most was their maturity in thinking and their smiling faces in the difficult situations that they face. We want to give all the glory and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alvin Bautista

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CAMBODIA – Linda Chisholm

OUT OF THE ASHES...HOPE

What could be more devastating than to see your mother killed by your father, watch as he burns down the house and then to be asked to stand by the body of your mother while a journalist gets a photo to splash on the front page of a daily paper.

This happened to three girls, all under 11 years old. Their 2 older siblings had previously been given as guarantors to a loan the mother received and they were servants in a town far away.

Freedom Project Leader read of this in a newspaper and PFC swung into action. The 3 girls came to Michael House and ADHOC, a human rights group, was able to bring the older 2 children back to their siblings. The 5 children were desperately afraid of being separated.

Through the cooperation of PFC, Hagar Foster

homes, the police, the village chief and Rescue, these 5 children are now living together at Rescue Village.

The only boy in the family, about 15 years old, was very quiet and hardly said anything but one evening at Rescue as he was hearing for the first time about the God who is a loving father, he decided to accept Jesus Christ.

From great tragedy comes a renewal of hope, an opportunity for a good future and a Father who can be trusted.

A CLASS TO PRISON TO A BUSINESS

He had been in prison a good while so when the opportunity came to enter a class to study electronic repair, he joined the class. Through the education Project staff he became a Christian.

While in prison he met the Reintegration social workers. He successfully completed the course and then he was released. After he went back home he reunited with his family and then found a church nearby. After a few months a small group started in his home to study the bible. He now began to think about his economic future. He remembered what he had been told in prison so he went to Bluegate House and met with the team. He told them he had a plan for a small business, and he had done the costing. Family and friends wanted to help and they gave all but \$150 of what he needed to start an electronic repair business. The Reintegration team decided to help him start his business by making a gift of the \$150. Now a new creation with the bonus of a good business.

Linda Chisholm

Email: Linda@pfcambodia.org



Ozreach Conference - Building Great Churches that Influence Communities



DARRYL GARDINER

Darryl has been involved in youth work for more than 25 years. He ran a boys' home for 16 years. He is part of Incedo, a national youth organization. He is a regular speaker and trainer in New Zealand and overseas.



DAVID & ALIX MORSE

Alix and I share an ever-increasing love for the local church. We are convinced that The Kingdom of God will most effectively advance through the influence of flourishing, empowered local churches; churches just like yours. God is connecting leaders across cities, nations and across the globe so that we can advance The Kingdom to a world that needs its liberating message in increasing measure. www.energizerlifechurch.com



KEVIN WILCOCK

Kevin has pioneered and pastored a number of growing churches. Kevin's realness and relational ability to the Australian culture has allowed him to travel extensively across the nation and beyond. He now serves as Team Leader of Life Church Newcastle and Ozreach Incorporated. www.lifechurch.org.au

When: *Friday 15th & Saturday 16th October 2010*
Where: *Tuggerah Lakes Christian Fellowship, 22 Adelaide Street, Tumbi Umbi*
Register: *Via email to: info@lifechurch.org.au or phone 4961 0211*

Mates in Ministry & Business Ministry

Brisbane

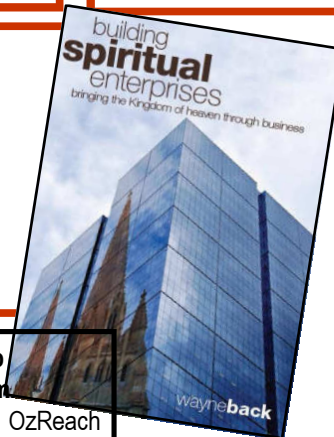
When: Tuesday 22nd June 2010
Time: 12:30am to 2:00 noon
Venue: Coffee Club
Racecourse Road Hamilton QLD
Cost: Lunch & Drinks
Speaker: Kevin Wilcock will be sharing

Wollongong

When: Tuesday 15th June 2010
Time: 12:30am to 2:00 noon
Venue: South Coast City Church
345 Lawrence Hargrave Drive Thirroul NSW
Cost: Lunch & Drinks
Speaker: Peter Starr will be sharing

Melbourne

When: Tuesday 13th July 2010
Time: 11:00am to 1:00 noon
Venue: The Bell Jar 656 Smith St Clifton Hill (Fitzroy North)
Cost: Lunch & Drinks
Speaker: Wayne Back will be sharing on:
'Building Spiritual Enterprises'



To book in for any of these phone
Life Church office on
(02) 4961 0211
or email: info@lifechurch.org.au

Financial Support ARGENTINA—San Juan Ministry Trip To visit Paul & Veronica Harb and spend a week with them

I am planning on going to Argentina San Juan in the first week of July. OzReach and my travel honorariums will cover some of the cost of my travel, but if anyone, or any church or business can assist me financially on this trip it will be much appreciated and needed. I very rarely put it out there for finance but at this point in time I am a little tight. Email if you can help.

I am also going to the Philippines to do a conference in February, 2011. Cost is usually about \$1500. Any Senior Minister that would love to accompany me on either of these trips please contact me on 0407 467 798



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4TH JUNE 2010
8PM - \$45
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