



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Phil 4:13

The Witness

Catholic School of Evangelisation Australia Inc.

January 2012 Newsletter

Year of Grace – Pentecost 2012-2013

During the ad limina visit of the Australian Bishops to Rome last year, Archbishop Philip Wilson, in addressing Pope Benedict, spoke of the decision by the Australian Bishops to celebrate a Year of Grace from Pentecost 2012 to Pentecost 2013 in an attempt to start afresh from Christ.

Through this time the Bishops are calling on us to seek to contemplate the face of Jesus and to listen to his voice at a new depth, in the belief that only Jesus can lead us into the future, that only Jesus can make us one in faith, in hope, in love. Through this year, the call is for us to implore a new sending of the Holy Spirit, who alone can

breathe new life into the Church.

Archbishop Wilson asked the Pope to pray for and bless this endeavour so that the Australian Church may be able to build upon the grace of recent times and work together to build the future founded on the words of scripture, “If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do the builders labour” (Ps 127:1) (Media Release ACBC)

Let’s throw our efforts behind this call from our Bishops with renewed prayer and zeal for evangelisation. The Bishops can make this call on the national and diocesan stage but they rely on us to put it into practice in our own small world. How

can you, led by the Holy Spirit, reach out to the people of your world; family, neighbours, workmates? How can you bring Jesus to these people, many of whom are a long way from God and often who are antagonistic towards the Church. As Archbishop Wilson said, we can only do it with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, reaching out with love to those who seem to be far away from Jesus and trying to see things from their perspective so that we can communicate the Gospel more effectively. We need to pray for the Holy Spirit to give us great love, wisdom and courage.

Pat Kelly

Victorious Joshua Courses



This group from Doveton was one of a number that enjoyed the Joshua course last year. See inside for full reports from Doveton, Adelaide and Narre Warren.

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National Executive Committee:

Patrick Kelly — Director
 Tony Grieve — Deputy Director
 Jacinta Gunn — Secretary
 Len Forster — Treasurer
 And all School Coordinators in Australia.

Julianne Hoffard — Editor

Please direct all correspondence to:

**S.O.E.,
 P.O. Box 168,
 Wonthaggi 3995
 Ph. 5672 2772**

email: pakell@bigpond.net.au

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 School of Evangelisation
 on our web page:*

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The Director and other members of the National Executive Committee of the School of Evangelisation do not necessarily endorse opinions expressed in articles within this publication.

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May God bless you!

School of Evangelisation MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute to the formation of evangelising parishes by offering a formation program which:

- ▶ FORM DISCIPLES
- ▶ TRAIN EVANGELISERS
- ▶ ESTABLISH PARISH EVANGELISATION TEAMS.

Prepare ye the Way of the Lord

Having just celebrated the feast of Christmas we know that one of the central characters in the readings before Christmas is John the Baptist. John was sent before the Lord as a messenger to prepare the way for the Jewish people to receive Jesus.



What can we learn from John the Baptist so that we too can be messengers of hope to prepare the way for the people in our life to welcome Jesus, not just at Christmas time but throughout the year? I want to put before you three ways that we can learn from John the Baptist to be more effective evangelisers.

John the Baptist lived a radical, prophetic lifestyle even to what he wore and ate, "He wore a garment of camel skin and lived on locust and wild honey." We are not required to wear camel skin and eat locust, although wild honey would be nice, but the way we live should mark us out as followers of Jesus. If our neighbours followed us for a week would they come to the conclusion that we must be Christians or is our lifestyle so similar to the lifestyle of our pagan neighbours that there is hardly any difference, except that we go to church on Sunday.

John the Baptist was filled with joy. In Luke's Gospel it tells how John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mother's womb when he encountered Jesus, also in his mother's womb. The number one mark of a Christian witness should be joy. The call to repentance is a call to go from sadness to joy, from misery to hope, from an empty life to abundant life, it truly is Good News. Jesus has come and won for us forgiveness of our sins and promises us eternal life. This news most certainly is reason for joy.

John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit. When his mother, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit so was John, as you would expect with someone called to be a prophet. But John promises that we will all be filled with the Holy Spirit by Jesus. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit that enables us to live a prophetic lifestyle that witnesses to the people in our life, it is the presence of the Holy Spirit that fills us with joy.

As we start this new year I pray that all of us will be so filled with the Holy Spirit, so full of joy that our lives will cry out in the wilderness to everyone, make a place for Jesus in your life.

Pat Kelly



Participants of the Charisms course, Marrickville, N.S.W.

“Amanda’s” Confirmation Story

In September 2011 Fr Francis, our Parish Priest, asked me to assist Amanda to prepare her for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Amanda changed schools at the time she would have normally received the Sacrament at the age of 11 or 12 in Grade 6. She is now about 40 and has a two year old son. Her husband is not a Catholic, but they agreed to baptize the son in our parish Church. It was then that Amanda felt that she needed to complete her initiation in the Catholic Church. She said: “I felt there was something missing in my faith.”

I agreed to help prepare Amanda for her Confirmation in October. We just had five weeks left to prepare. As she was working part-time, we could only meet on Tuesday afternoons. I thought to myself: “How can I prepare Amanda in such a short time?” The answer came very readily to this graduate of the School of Evangelisation: “Let’s present the Six Points of the Kerygma.” That is what we did.

In the first session we talked about the Love of God and this was something Amanda was familiar with, because as a child, her father had shared in our Charismatic prayer group in the late 70’s, and she remembered attending at times, and even that she received her first children’s Bible Story book from the prayer meeting. (Amanda coming to see me was like a seed that was sown 30 years ago, and now was bearing fruit.) Loving God was not new to Amanda, and she felt that already she had a loving and personal relationship with God.

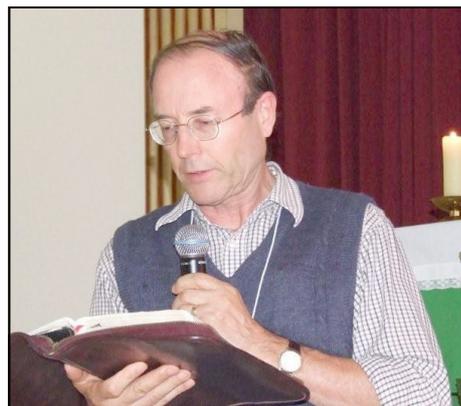
The second session, assisted with the Bible and the Catechism, was on our lack of response to God’s love, through sin, and the salvation which Jesus brought about through his suffering, death and resurrection. We considered how this forgiving, merciful love is demonstrated on the Cross and by

Communion with Him, through His sacramental presence. We also spoke about our faith response and the need to yield our lives to Jesus, through conversion of belief and behaviour.

The third session was on the gift of the Holy Spirit. We looked at the Acts of the Apostles, the Pentecost experience. We read from the Catechism which speaks about Confirmation as the experience of Pentecost for the candidate. I tried to show how blessed Amanda was that she was receiving the sacrament as an adult and therefore had the advantage of appreciating the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit’s release in her life. I suppose I tried to help Amanda fall in love with the third person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit as a real person as her Guide.

The fourth session was so close to Confirmation day, that it became a practice with the children of St Peter’s Confirmation class. Here was Amanda, coming up last after 24 children and their sponsors were going to receive the Sacrament from the Bishop. It all seemed so natural for her, an adult among excited children. But who was going to be her sponsor? As we prayed for this, we realised that the only person she knew was my wife Anne. So on Confirmation day, Amanda and Anne, her husband, parents and little boy, we all sat in a row in Church behind the school children. Amanda, sponsored by Anne, received the laying on of Bishop Tim Costelloe’s hands and prayer for the infilling of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. It was a simple but faith-filled moment of grace. After the ceremony we celebrated with lunch at Milleara Mall.

Later I asked Amanda: “Did you experience anything during the ceremony or afterwards?” At first she did not notice any difference. In our follow-up session though, the following Tuesday, in a debriefing, she reported a distinct



By Adrian Commadeur

experience of a stronger loving relationship with her little two year old. After his birth, because of some health problems, Amanda did not bond well with him, leaving this to her husband. After Confirmation, she began to notice a distinct improvement in their relationship, so much so that the two year old was clinging to her! She reported with joy and thanks that her son sensed a change in her being able to love more, and he responded to this love.

At our debriefing Amanda asked if she could meet with like minded people of her own age, so that the experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit, could become a community experience. It was the Holy Spirit prompting Amanda to express the need as a married couple sharing with others her newly strengthened faith in God. As a couple she was seeking a Spirit filled Catholic Small Faith Community.

This experience has shown me how valuable it is to know, and practice the six steps of the Kerygma, even with one individual, in the context of the sacraments of the Church.

God’s Love – Sin – Salvation – Faith & Conversion – the Gift of the Holy Spirit – the Community of the Church. Each step fell into place. May Amanda and husband continue to grow in the life in the Spirit, loving Jesus, and sharing it with others in her parish community!

Jesus Christ is Christmas

by Tony Grieve, Team Leader Melbourne

It is only on very few occasions that I remember much from a homily. Today the feast of the Epiphany 2012 our parish priest declared that “epiphany” means to announce but he wasn’t going to say anything about the Star of Bethlehem or Three Kings. He would talk about us!

Reflecting upon his sabbatical last year (2011), spent in USA and Central America (Honduras) where religious faith is declared publicly, upon returning to Australia he was struck by how secular our society has become. Jesus Christ doesn’t get much of a mention in Oz. He left us with the challenge of what are we going to do about this?

This theme struck a particular chord with me. Inside the back window of my car I had been displaying since early December 2011 an easily readable sign which read: JESUS CHRIST IS CHRISTMAS
www.schoolofevangelisation.org.au

Before venturing out my front gate for the first time I prayed to the Holy Spirit for courage and strength to leave the sign on my back window.

May I share with you some of my experiences ?

1. Nobody other than family made a voluntary comment .
2. Two family members commented. One commented in the negative, the other had seen my car in a public car park but was not close enough to read it - asked if my car was for sale. I advised what the sign said – no

further comment.

3. During the whole of this time I continued to use my car as usual and I prayed to the Holy Spirit for courage to keep the sign in position.

4. The first day I parked the car at work I did so with a feeling of fear of what people may think of me. I felt a certain iciness and distance from some of the neighbours but after about a week this faded away as I continued to smile, say G’day and continued to relate to them as normal.

5. The same thing happened at the caravan park where we spend our Christmas holidays - aloofness and distance at first but then through smiles and kindness people responded and it was back to normal.

6. On occasions people driving behind me would draw close, read the sign and fall back to a very safe distance - I can’t recall any annoying tailgating for this period.

7. During the whole of the 4 weeks I had the sign up I think I could say I only saw about a half dozen Nativity scenes or Christian Christmas messages. Jesus is certainly missing from Christmas in Australia.

8. One final observation: I don’t think I heard any blasphemous or F- word swearing from anyone within the vicinity of my car during this time.

Was it worth doing?

Most definitely – when we proclaim Jesus Christ publicly, God steps in and showers grace all around. People may not have commented but I reckon it made them think.

Celebrate Emmanuel - 10th Anniversary

Five new presenters brought the entertainment to a new level at this yearly outreach in the Rundle Mall, Adelaide. The Burundi Choir was a drawcard as well as Grace Bawden, a young lady with a big voice. Grace was a finalist in Australia Got Talent 1968 at the tender age of 15.

The Bible Society provided us with a grant that allowed us to provide amazing give away bags for the children. The Nativity procession once again drew in the crowds. Praise God for his Blessings.



Above: Nativity scene and Mum with children enjoying the give away bags.

My Cancer Story by Irene Reed

I am 35 years old and this is my story. This is not just a cancer story but my journey of faith, surrender and survival. On the 10th of October 2010 my whole life fell apart when I was diagnosed with stage 4 Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma after months of excruciating pain. Before this my husband and I were working professionals, we had 2 properties, 2 cars, annual overseas holidays and I had a wardrobe full of beautiful clothes. But most of all we had our beautiful miracle baby – life was sweet.

Chemo started immediately in the cardiac intensive care unit. We were devastated but the doctors were optimistic even though my cousin died from this very same disease ten years ago. My Mum came to stay as I could no longer take care of a toddler. A friend came with a message from the Lord. She said she was praying for me at the grotto when she heard the Lord give her the bible verse Matthew 15:28. It said ‘Woman of great faith, your prayer has been answered, your daughter has been healed’. My Mum and I savoured this message with all our hearts. I felt somewhat confident while I battled nausea, depression, pain and infection.

Two weeks before Christmas I lost the sight of my left eye, the cancer had spread to my brain. Doctors thought it very bad news. They couldn’t guarantee that I could regain my eyesight again. I cried to them that I had a two year old child. I stopped saying the Lord’s Prayer. How could I say “Thy will be done” when I couldn’t bear the thought of my daughter motherless, I wanted to be healed, nothing else. I have always had faith but I had a lazy faith, I had distanced myself from God. I got too carried away with the ways of

the world and maybe He was punishing me.

Just after Christmas I became paralyzed on the right side of my body despite new treatment to the brain. It was as though the cancer was taunting me. I couldn’t move my right leg or arm, I couldn’t even wriggle my toes or fingers. My doctor told us to summon my family from overseas. I remember asking him how I would die and he promised not to let me suffer.

My husband and I made funeral arrangements. I gave him permission to remarry but his new wife would have to love our little girl. My family came to say goodbye, the priest came to give me my last rites. My prayers were torn between “Lord, if you are going to take me home, do it quickly so that my family can stop suffering” to “Lord, you promised to heal me in Matt 15:28, don’t let my little girl grow up without a mother”.

My questions were: Will we miss the people we love in heaven? Will my daughter recognize me when we meet again? Will she know that I was her Mummy and loved her with all my heart? I prayed “Lord, show me heaven.” The doctors started intensive treatment, warned me that they would do two rounds of five day chemo and if I didn’t show any improvements, they were going to let me go.

Late one night on the hospital bed I cried out “Jesus, hold my hand”, then a black shadow appeared, lying next to me and I knew without a doubt that it was Him because of the joy I felt, this indescribable joy that was not of this earth. I surrendered my husband and child to Jesus. I was able to say “Lord, I consecrate them to you” and “Thy will be

done”. I learnt that surrendering did not mean giving up, I still held Jesus to his promise to heal me but if he decided to take me, His Will is more glorious than my will and my family will be all right. I didn’t fear death anymore because I have had a glimpse of heaven and it is pure joy, there are no tears in heaven. We might live to a hundred but we will spend trillions of years in eternity. Life is not fair because earth is not our home.

Bit by bit, I started to see, and use my right arm and leg again. I learnt to walk and write again. The doctors were amazed but after three rounds of heavy duty chemotherapy, I was resistant to it. The mass in my chest which started at 12 by 10 cm upon diagnosis had shrunk but stayed put at 3 by 4 cm, not budging. The doctor called palliative care. We were numb but I held on to the message of Matthew. “Let’s try and harvest your stem cells for a bone marrow transplant” they then decided. But I was unsuccessful twice; my bone marrow was zonked after having three types of chemo. “Let’s try your siblings’ stem cells”. No match from them either and I was in the depths of despair. Then I told myself that when I take Holy Communion, I have Jesus’ blood and cells in my body so the cancer has no chance!

I began to have stabbing pain in my breast and head and I feared the worst, I had been without treatment for six months. I was admitted again in hospital and tests were done. And here comes the miracle. The pain was infection, I was in remission. The cancer had gone on it’s own! The doctors had never seen a case like mine before and they didn’t know what the best course of action was.

Continued page 8 . . .

Joshua Course - Adelaide

... By Josephine Baluyot

On the week-end of 15th and 16th October, 2011, at the Sacred Heart Church, Hindmarsh, we were introduced to the **Joshua Course**. It was presented by Anselmo Ruspicioni from Italy, and Patrick Kelly from Melbourne.

We were taken with Joshua on an incredible journey into the Promised Land. As we travelled with Joshua, we were guided in applying the principles of a victorious mentality that Joshua had learned, to our own life. We can sometimes believe that we are wise, and be convinced that we are successfully established in our lives of the truth we find around us. However, we were taught that God's Word is Life, and will remain true; it stands for eternity, and more than anything else, it is the only path to true fulfilment. It is the only way we can thrive. *"He shall be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."*

Psalm 1:3

It tells us to walk according to God's principles and love and follow His commands. We can search and search for truth and happiness, looking for it in other people, and trying to attain it with each new achievement, but until we establish our lives on God's Word, happiness will always elude us. We must determine to build our life

on God's law...on His Word. Make our life one in which we delight in Him. Then we will be a tree planted by streams of water, yielding fruit for others to enjoy. We will discover the peace, fulfilment and hope that each one of us seeks. He is the God who sanctifies, heals, brings peace, and is more than enough to provide for His people. He is all of these things and more, far more, and we can trust Him. He is our Provider. Those who know His Name trust Him. Just as **Psalm 9:10** says He won't abandon us. He will be our refuge in good times and in bad. We can trust Him to meet every one of our needs.

Often when difficulty comes it's easy to try to solve problems our own way. Worried and anxious we try figuring things out on our own but God hasn't abandoned us He stands with us. Our cries for help and guidance don't fall on deaf ears. God listens to our prayers and He will help us. He commands us, *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Joshua 1:9

We're to act in faith, trusting that God will help us through each day's challenges. It means doing what we know is right, even though we may act alone. It means choosing God's way not our own. We need a dose of Joshua's

courage every day. We pray God will direct us when life seems to overwhelm us and that He shows us what to do, how to do it, and with whom to do it. We can go before Him confidently because time and time again He has shown Himself faithful. He hears our prayers and He will come through for us. We don't give up on hope that we have in the Lord. He is working on our behalf.

The more we learn about God the more our lives change. We learn to rest in the fact that He is God and He is at work. We may not know all there is to know about His ways, but we learn quickly that He is sovereign, in control and willing to guide us at every turn, and what a powerful sense of security this brings to our hearts and minds.

Getting to know Him often includes walking with Him through life's darkest valleys. It is during these times that we gain tremendous wisdom about the heart and mind of God. Some of the greatest lessons I have learned have come as a result of inexpressible heartache. Could God have spared me from disappointment? Yes, but that was not His will, His way, or His plan for my life. He had greater things He wanted to teach me, and they could be learned only through sorrow and suffering.

When it does strike, we are to be still and ask God to show us what we need to learn through the situation.

The prophet Jeremiah tells us to draw near to God, and He will reveal great and mighty things to our hearts and minds. (**Jeremiah 33:3**) He is our loving heavenly Father who wants to make Himself available to us. Just as He called to Joshua, He calls to us asking to draw near and learn His ways, so that we may know and experience the great depths of His love and care.

... Continued page 7



The Adelaide team for the Joshua course.

JOSHUA Course - Doveton

On Sat 8th & Sun.9th October a two day seminar was conducted at Holy Family parish by the School of Evangelisation, at the request of the Parish Prayer group.

An eloquent and Spirit filled Speaker, Anselmo Ruspicioni, from Italy, began from Joshua's appointment as leader by Moses to the stage of Joshua's occupation of the Promised Land.

In Joshua 1:8, God handed over the book of Law accompanied with the instructions, to Joshua. Anselmo explained every stage of Joshua's adventure and the victories accomplished. The secret of success was quite evident because he followed every word and meditated day and night.

Anselmo emphasized our journey as very similar, but we fail to see the power in the Word of

God, where the Wisdom and knowledge is up for grabs.

Today we are more fortunate to have Jesus, God made man, to speak to us and the Sacraments to activate our faith. Secular psychology blinds us from faith in God. Joshua's victory has so much to inspire and emulate. A winning mentality as a result of complete dependence on God and His word was very well articulated by Anselmo.

Pat Kelly and his team dramatized the episode, very practically and symbolically, the conquering and capturing of many kingdoms by Joshua and the ultimate victory was well presented. Joshua had his share of challenges and obstacles, at one stage a prostitute Rahab, rendered assistance.

No body's journey is free from challenges, disappointments, and anxieties, we all have our share of problems, physical, emotional and spiritual. Do we have the faith and obedience like Joshua, a winning mentality?

A combination of explanation and enactment by all participants at the seminar on God's Holy Word, has had a greater impact as many of us remember the great movie, 'Ten Commandments'. We thank the team of the School of the Evangelisation for this great presentation.

We recommend that parishes organize such seminars for our Spiritual growth so that we can adopt a winning mentality for there will always be challenges and confrontation till we reach the Promised Land.

Joe Marvin

Joshua Course - Adelaide . . . continued from page 6

The principles presented in Joshua are not hard to understand, but they may take us by surprise. When we get in step with God, when we began to understand God's mind and the way He works, then we have the right tools to live a life that is full and complete. Understanding His ways and how He works in our lives always leads to hope. We may be standing on the brink of a blessing! May we allow Him to show us how to take hold of it, and walk into a bright new future into the Promised Land of milk and honey. We stop looking at old problems and feeling defeat, fear and anxiety. Suddenly, we realise that the God who gave us life and breath is also the One who has set an amazing course for our life to follow.

This Joshua Course provided the insight we needed to live each day. We were encouraged and challenged to approach life and its decisions, both big and small, by first knowing and considering God's character, as we discovered His relentless commitment to our

well being. "The nearer we draw to the Lord" the more we will know about Him, and His love for us, His good plans and desires for our life. Plus the more intimate we become with Him the better we will understand His ways, and this understanding leads to a deeper longing to know Him better. Then we will learn how to discern His will for our life and the situations we encounter.

Since God chose us to be the holy people He loves, we must clothe ourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. (Col 3:12-14)

The Joshua Course showed me, that Joshua fully understood his full inheritance. We too, in Jesus Christ have our full inheritance. Jesus completed the work of His Father through His

life, death and resurrection. Jesus has freely given to us the Power of the Holy Spirit, to be the church in our homes, community, nation, and the world. Jesus has already won the Victory for us on the Cross, and may we claim that Victory and rejoice and experience joy.

Missionaries of Charity

At the end of January Lucy and Eddie Grasso will be travelling to Darwin for a week to conduct some courses for the sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. They will present New Life, Emmaus and Jesus in the Four Gospels. Please pray for the sisters as they enter this time of retreat and pray for Lucy and Eddie for physical strength and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

It is a great joy for the School to work with the sisters of Mother Teresa and we pray that the Lord will continue to abundantly bless their mission to the poor and needy.

Pat Kelly

My Joshua Experience

by Maria Luff

It had been a while since I sat in on a course as a student rather than as a teacher. I was so excited but also anxious, would I remember what was being taught? Would I be able to write down the words that touched me and spoke to my heart? What would I learn from this weekend?

So here I am at Doveton, Church of the Holy Family together with around 40 participants, sitting together with Len, Christa and Paul, great companions on our journey, waiting for the course called "Joshua" to begin with great expectation! Ready for whatever God had in mind for us, and to learn more about how to live our life with victorious mentality according to God's will.

Anselmo Ruspicioni from Italy began teaching and very soon I felt as if I knew Joshua personally, he was quite a character, his story not much different from ours in many ways. He was fearful, are we not all fearful at times? But God used him in a mighty way because he was willing!! His story in the Bible shows us how to conquer when all odds are against us! It is with the **Word of God, with faith** and a winning mentality. It reminded me of the School of Evangelisation motto **Phil 4:13** "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me" I thought about our very dear Bishop Joe who used to say "St Paul said "I can do all things, **not just some things in Christ** who strengthens me". Sometimes it is good to be reminded of this because in our busy lives we forget we are in the hands of God, who will be with us no matter what.

Pat Kelly was also very inspiring, as well as effective with his personal testimony and teaching. Testimony is a very powerful tool in evangelization!! As we entered into a dynamic at the walls of Jericho that physical activity of breaking down strongholds I found very moving. This dynamic confirmed my convictions that no matter what! - the good, the bad and the ugly - **we praise and thank God** in all circumstances and thank Him for everything He is doing in our lives, with our families, with our children, knowing God is right there in the midst of all our rubbish.

The objective of the course is to gain a winning mentality and to take hold of the blessings the Lord has already given us. God chose Joshua even though he was fearful and weak. He has chosen us even though we are fearful and weak, to use us in His ministry to stand on His word. If he said it, I believe it!! Faith renewed and restored.

We are over-comers through our faith in Jesus. A few years ago I had cataracts removed from my eyes, I can see fine now, but for some reason I developed a fear

of driving to unfamiliar places, and at night, especially on freeways. In the course I asked God to remove this fear, and I believe the healing has started. Recently I offered to drive a friend to the airport which would not normally be a problem. But on that day conditions could not have been worse!! It was a Friday morning when traffic is always bad, raining with thunderstorms expected, and to top it off, road works causing hold ups. My husband, John, suggested organizing and paying for a taxi. If it were not for the Joshua course, I may not have had the courage to face my worst fear, so I stood on Word of God and drove without incident to the airport. Praise God!

I hope we repeat this course and I recommend anyone and everyone to attend. To be with fellow Christians, share daily Eucharist and fellowship, and learn to know and understand God's plan for us, what better way is there to spend a weekend?

Did I remember everything I wanted to? Probably not! Did I write down everything I wanted? Probably not! But one thing is for sure I know I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me. For nothing is impossible for God.

Sing His Praises

My Cancer Story ...continued from p.5

So God had a hand in it the whole time, closing doors that were not meant for me, transplant was not the answer.

I have just finished five weeks of radiation to the chest and head. Who knows what the future holds. Everyday I am alive and can hold my little girl and husband in my arms is a gift. Has cancer made me a better person? I don't think so. I have been hypersensitive and irritable and my husband won't dispute that!

What cancer has taught me is that:

- 1) My Heavenly Father loves me more than I love my little girl.
- 2) God didn't give us diseases, it is part of our broken world but He will use it to bring us closer to Him. I went through purgatory but now when I think about Jesus, sometimes my heart burst with love until it hurts. Some people say cancer is the best thing that's ever happened to them but I wouldn't go that far. One day perhaps I can say "Thank you Lord for the circumstances in my life".

I have told you this story because I want to be Christ's witness to His healing and love. Lord, use my cancer for your glory.

Joshua Course - Narren Warren



My name is Jacqueline. After the two day course about Joshua which took place on the 24th and 25th September in Narre Warren I was asked to describe my feelings about the course.

I have to say that it was very enriching hearing about the promises of God to his peoples. This course has enlighten me in such a way that I will not hesitate to recommend it to anyone who is searching for an answer to the situation they are in, specially if they are in doubt

of things around them.

What I learn also is that since creation God is trying to lead his people to the promise Land. A land where milk and honey flows. It is a shame that some are still closed to this promise, like one of the speaker said, we can either choose to stay where we are or cross the river and have a go in the promise land. It is free for anyone who want to experience true freedom.

Children's New Life Course

On the 5th and 6th of November 2011, my Youth Bible Study Group from the 'United in Love Prayer Group' participated in the New Life Course. It was run by the Catholic School of Evangelisation (Sydney) at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. The program was aimed to strengthen our faith even more and increase our knowledge and understanding of the true meaning of the Gospel. I participated in the children's program.

Over the past two days I can definitely say that we all learnt so much. Initially, my friends and I were a little nervous to participate and somewhat reluctant. However, it turned out to be a wonderful and faith enriching experience. There was never a dull moment. We learnt about creation, sin, repentance and trust, all through cheery songs and games. We drew colourful pictures of the creation story and learnt about how Satan pulls us away from God. We learnt about trust and journeyed

blindfolded around the school just like the blind man whom Jesus healed, trusting our companions to lead us. We learnt about forgiveness and let go of the times people have hurt us. All of these activities were thoroughly enjoyable and taught us so much.

As the New Life Course came to a close, we all felt somewhat sad. It was an unforgettable experience and definitely very unique to any other seminar I've ever participated in. The knowledge we gained during the course is something we will use in our daily lives to live a life of faith, hope and love. The Course was suited to both older and younger children. I was amazed of how the younger kids were able to grasp so much meaning from what

... By Giselle Galam (14 yrs)

we were being taught. The New Life Course is something that I would call "life changing" and I would eagerly participate in it again if I was given the opportunity. Thank you to the Catholic School of Evangelisation Team, especially our presenters and teachers, Deidre Herring and MaryAnn Farrugia, for all your hard work and patience. Our gratitude extends to you immensely.



Cinderella Course: History of Salvation

At the present time the School has twenty-two courses available covering a wide range of topics covering prayer, discipleship, evangelisation, scripture, charisms, and general spiritual formation. Some of these courses are very popular and repeated frequently e.g. New Life, others are what I call Cinderella courses that are hardly ever presented. I think this is a shame as these courses have much to offer. For this reason I thought I would use this Witness to highlight a “Cinderella course” in the hope that it might create some interest.

The History of Salvation course is just what the title says, an overview of the God’s plan for our salvation. The course takes participants on a journey through the Bible. It looks at the different people, and groups, we meet as we go through the Bible and demonstrates how each of them represents us in one way or another. This enables the participants to

make the story of salvation their own as they come to understand God’s plan of love.

The Catholic Catechism gives a clear summary of God’s plan:

- By love, God has revealed himself and given himself to humanity.
- God has revealed himself to humanity gradually communicating his own mystery in deeds and in words.
- Beyond the witness to himself that God gives in created things, he manifested himself to our first parents, spoke to them and, after the fall, promised them salvation and offered them his covenant.
- God made an everlasting covenant with Noah and with all living beings.
- God chose Abraham and made a covenant with him and his descendants. By the covenant God formed his people and revealed his law to them through Moses.
- Through the prophets, he

prepared them to accept the salvation destined for all humanity.

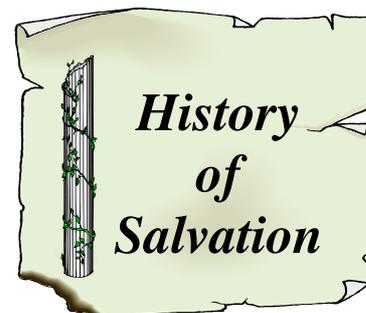
- God has revealed himself fully by sending his own Son, in whom he had established his covenant forever. The son is his father’s definitive Word.

(Taken from paragraphs 68-73)

One great advantage of this course is that it lends itself to be presented over a number of weeks covering one or two of the twelve topics each week.

This allows time for discussion and building of relationships between the participants as they go on this journey together to find their place in God’s wonderful plan.

Pat Kelly



SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION PROGRAM 2012

DATE	COURSE	LOCATION	CONTACT
March 17 th -18 th	New Life	Cranbourne Vic	Pat: (03) 5672 2772 Email: pakell@bigpond.net.au
June 9 th -11 th	Formation of Disciples	Cranbourne Vic	Pat: (03) 5672 2772 Email: pakell@bigpond.net.au
Aug 18 th -19 th	New Life	Hindmarsh SA	Carmen 08 8339 2573
Oct 20 th -21 st	Joshua	Hindmarsh SA	Carmen 08 8339 2573
Oct.—Nov.	Formation of Evangelisers	Cranbourne Vic	Pat: (03) 5672 2772 Email: pakell@bigpond.net.au

Courses subject to confirmation and may change. Please contact local co-ordinator for further information.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF EVANGELISATION — SYDNEY

... By Lucy Grasso

The Catholic School of Evangelisation has been very active in the Broken Bay, Parramatta and Sydney Dioceses, conducting various Courses throughout 2011. We thank God for the many blessings he has poured upon graduates and presenters alike. The Emmaus Course, organised by the Waitara Maranatha Prayer Group, was presented on 27th—28th August at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish at Waitara, with 35-40 enthusiastic participants attending. Bishop David Walker, the Bishop of Broken Bay Diocese, in visiting the Emmaus Course, encouraged the participants to evangelise others as they themselves were being evangelised. Some comments received were:

"Please, give us more; it has refreshed my life",
"A beautiful way of helping someone to experience the Bible";

"An inspiring and uplifting experience - one of the most profound I have had."



Above: Participants in the Matthew course, Greystanes, N.S.W. Another one of the courses conducted by the Sydney team.

Another Emmaus Course was held on the week-end of October 15th—16th at St Vincent Parish, Ashfield, organised by the Ashfield Prayer Group with 70 people attending. The Course, led by people from Sydney and Wollongong Teams, was greatly encouraged and supported by Fr Michael Walsh CM, Parish Priest. Fr John Halloran, a retired Vincentian Priest, attended the whole course and was the celebrant at the closing Mass.

We wish to thank the Wollongong School of Evangelisation Team with Paul Farrugia as Co-ordinator for their assistance in joining our Teams to present teachings and help in facilitating.



Above: Participants of Jesus in the 4 Gospels course, East Gosford. One of the courses conducted by the Sydney team.

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where he is loved,
where he is invited and
where he is awaited."**

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