

CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE SCHOOL RATHMINES



*Held on beautiful
Lake Macquarie*

- Enjoy a full week of fellowship with brethren and sisters, centred on God's word
- Wide variety of Bible studies designed to encourage and revitalize our spiritual focus.
- Separate program for teenagers, 5-12 yrs and pre-school children
- Ongoing accommodation upgrade with ensuites
- Sport & activities
- Song & Praise evening
- Daily café
- Maximum family cost of \$650

**Speakers for the
Spring School 2016**

**Bro. Tim Galbraith
Bro. Stephen Mansfield
Bro. Mark O'Grady**

Dates - God Willing *Book Early to avoid disappointment*

Spring School	Summer School	Autumn School
Oct 1 - 9 2016	Dec 24 - Jan 1 2016 Vacancies	April 15 - 23 2017
Sept 30 - Oct 8 2017	Dec 23 - 31 2017 Vacancies	April 14 - 22 2018

A fantastic week around the word of God, three times a year

The Bible School at Rathmines has served Christadelphians and their families for 50 years now. In fact the recent Summer School marked the 157th occasion since it's inauguration. Throughout this time the main objectives have remained the same - to stimulate and encourage us all to maintain our faith, to develop a greater love for our God and our brothers and sisters, and to shine as lights in a dark world that desperately needs Christ's return. This has been achieved primarily by sound exposition of the word of God and fellowship together with others of like precious faith.

The Bible School Committee would like to thank all in attendance at the recent Autumn School.

Special thanks to the brothers and sisters of the Kemps Creek and Moorebank ecclesias for their efforts as sponsors through the week.

What an incredibly uplifting week it was! Once again our appeal is for you to join with us, particularly if it's been a while since your last visit to the Bible School.

Please note that some of the Schools are booked out but have waiting lists in place. There are currently vacancies at the coming Summer School. Please view the dates opposite and visit our website to book in www.rathminesbibleschool.com



Last School in Review



**Bro. Andrew
Bramhill –**

In the Days of Jeremiah

Jeremiah's mission comes at a time when Jerusalem's days were numbered. Judah's fear grew as a result of tidings from the north, evidenced in the developing power of the Scythians and Babylonians.

The Almighty's intentions were clear and a way of salvation was made plain. Jeremiah, a prophet despised by the priesthood, hated by the authorities and rejected by all, was to deliver this message, but the mission was hard.

An unreceptive people who only wanted salvation on their own terms would not listen to the hard truths of the prophet.

Jeremiah's had to warn of an invasion from the north, and was under great pressure to change his message to make it more palatable.

Salvation was available, but if only men would comply. The Lord Jesus will have been strengthened in his suffering by Jeremiah's determination not to bow to the will of man, and his example of endurance under duress.

We have much to learn from the life of this most wonderful prophet.



**Bro. Anthony
Oosthuizen –**

The Parables of Jesus

It has been truly said that Jesus thought in pictures for his language teemed with images.

In fact, most of the statements which he made were in the nature of parables, whether drawn from the Old Testament Scriptures or from his own observation and experience.

Few were plain statements of fact, for he spoke enigmatically in order to provoke careful reflection on the part of his hearers.

His parables were designed to emphasize the spiritual qualities God was seeking in citizens for his Kingdom and to separate wheat from chaff.

Those who couldn't be bothered to search out their hidden meaning would simply walk away; a small remnant would request explanation and join the little band of disciples.

The issues covered by the parables are wide-ranging, extremely challenging and relevant to our discipleship in 21st century.

It was a privilege to investigate some of the vital lessons together during the week.



**Bro. Matt
Norton –**

The Tent of the Father

After God brought his people out of slavery in Egypt, He revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai the design for the tabernacle (Ex 25:2, 8-9,40).

The tabernacle was a collapsible building that the nation transported through the wilderness.

This tabernacle served God's purpose of teaching his people the daily principles of spiritual life from the time of Moses to Solomon.

It clearly illustrated God's desire to make his dwelling "IN" and not merely "with" his people (II Cor 6:16).

The daily rituals of the ministering priests set forth every individual's long and fulfilling journey of separation from God because of sin to eternal fellowship with him in the kingdom.

The tent of the Father was situated in the middle of the privileged twelve tribes of Israel and served as the focal point of the existence of the Children of Israel.

This interesting Old Testament history represents our daily life in Christ in our focus, service and hope.

Next School to be held from Oct 1-9, God Willing.

Sponsored by Golden Grove Ecclesia (S.A). Secretary – Bro Andy Arnold.

During the Bible School

Kindy Corner



Children 5-8yrs



We all know the Song “There’s 66 Books in the Bible”, but have you ever heard it accompanied by Egg Shakers and Boom Whackers?!

At first you may think it an unusual mix and quite a feat to control a room full of 5 – 8 year olds, but the end result aided to reinforce the learning of all the books of the Bible. And I can here you saying “What’s a Boom Whacker?!” They are lightweight, hollow, color-coded, plastic tubes, tuned to musical pitches by length. All the 8 year olds were given one and strummed out the bass line to the song while all the other children both made and shook their decorated plastic, rice filled egg shakers in time with the music.

Before singing the song the children dramatized a scene at home depicting the family about to do the daily readings. There was much confusion and scratching of heads when the mother told them to turn to Ecclesiastes chapter 12. “I can’t find it!”, “Is it after Genesis?”, “Dad, can you get it for me?” So, mum proceeded to tell them that when she was a little girl she learnt a song that helped her to remember the order of the books of the Bible. She said that Auntie Cynthia Magill from America wrote the song originally for adults, but children can learn it too. What an amazing tool music is! Memorised from Genesis to Revelation the children sang with gusto those “66 books of gold ... 66 BOOKS OF GOLD !!”

During their time together the children were happily engaged with Sunday school type activities, focusing particularly on the dramatic events and teachings around the last week of Christ’s life. Friendships were forged that God willing will last for ever, but one highlight for me and bringing both a tear to my eye and a smile to my face, was a simple passing statement near the end of the week from an adorable 7 year old girl – “... uncle Paul, I wish Bible School could go on for ever”. **Bro Paul Jamieson.**

During the Bible School

Children 9-12yrs

Teaching the 61 children in the 9-12 age group was certainly a highlight of this Bible School.

There were many enthusiastic & well behaved boys and girls who learnt about the last week of the Lord's life.

This gave the opportunity to teach some very important lessons in our dealings with each other (eg: "If we bully someone, we bully Jesus!").

All the children wrote down detailed notes in each lesson, which were marked daily. During the project sessions the children each enjoyed constructing a large Snakes & Ladders game, which displayed snippets from the lessons.

The play that was performed on the prize giving evening was a very moving experience that captured the emotions felt during the Lord's trial, death & resurrection. There were numerous other activities including a special talk on Dinosaurs, talent quest, a kingdom night, Bible marking & craft activities. A big thank you must go to all the Uncles & Aunties involved in preparing & running these sessions & activities. Their efforts will not be forgotten. Finally, it was very evident that many of our families are continuing to regularly read the Bible with their children. May this important tradition continue in our community until our Lord's return. **Bro. David Zammit.**



Teenagers

What an awesome week! 86 teenagers keen to study God's word, to mark up their Bibles, sing praise to God and spend time encouraging each other!

We had two great studies, thanks to Uncle Andrew and Uncle Matt. Uncle Andrew looked at the person witness to Christ's resurrection that the Apostles and early ecclesia showed. Their lives forever changed by the wonder of God's power demonstrated in raising Jesus from the dead. It was this message that they took to the world, it was this message that would convert

and bind the early ecclesia together. He encouraged us to be witnesses to Christ's resurrection, and preach to the world the message of salvation which is everyone's greatest need.

Uncle Matt looked at the Tabernacle. God's desire was to dwell in His people, so all the Tabernacle and its furniture taught them the vital lessons about how God can and will do that. Each part of the Tabernacle represents God's work of salvation in Christ and how we should live before Him.

Throughout the week there were many other activities. We went to the gym on Monday afternoon and then the beach later in the week, which actually turned into a memorable stopover at McDonalds and Dominoes. One highlight was the soccer spectacle. The teenagers took on the oldies and after a final minute goal in extra time snatched a narrow by hard fought win.

As usual the passionate singing of spiritual songs was a feature of the teenagers. There was seldom a moment when the beautiful harmony of their voices was not heard and appreciated by all.

May our Lord Jesus return and bring his kingdom now so that we can be all together in that great day praising God for eternity. **Bro. James McCann.**



Around the Bible School



Photos courtesy of Sis. Rose Stone

A Personal Reflection

As a guesstimate it is some 25 years since Janette and I went to a Rathmines Bible School. In the past the School had served our family well. Our children, Adam and Rebekah, made many friends and it played a major role in leading them to Christ. It was therefore only natural that we would want our six grandchildren to have the same experiences that our children had.

Our grandchildren were not disappointed. They loved the respective sessions they were placed in ranging from the 'none to fours' through to the 'teenagers'. The teachers in the various age groups provided lessons and fun activities. The teenagers were well served with classes by Brothers Matt Norton and Andrew Bramhill and Bible marking by James McCann.

There have been many changes to the School in the past 25 years. Approximately 40% of the rooms have en-suites – a huge improvement over the Spartan conditions of the past. The Galilee Room provides a natural meeting place where good conversation, espresso coffee and cake are enjoyed. We noticed a more relaxed and casual atmosphere in comparison to Schools of the past that enhances the experience of being there.

Very impressive are the many improvements to health and safety; fire prevention, hand disinfecting on entering the dining room and various measures to prevent the spread of disease through the use of the industrial dishwasher for cleaning shared bowls and utensils in the dining room.

Another improvement was the holding of the second Memorial Meeting of the week on Saturday that enables those with no children to leave early and many with children to leave after the children's concert on the Saturday evening.

It was good to see changes but it was also good to see that some things remain the same. The high standard of exposition (at this school provided by Brothers Matt Norton, Anthony Oosthuizen and Andrew Bramhill) remains. The picnic that our grandchildren and all the other children enjoyed with its march past has been retained.

The Bible School functions only because of the large number of volunteers who fill all of those roles so necessary to keep it running and make it. There were many spiritual blessings for those who attended the autumn School and we pray that all the activities were to the glory of God the Father.

Bro. Colin Byrnes

What's Coming Up?

Next Bible School (God Willing)

Speakers and Subjects

Brother Tim Galbraith – Ecclesiastes - What is the Purpose of Being Alive?

Brother Mark O'Grady – Isaac - Man of Faith, Children of Promise.

Brother Steve Mansfield – Aaron the Great High Priest - An outstanding example of Dedication.

5 – 12 years Sunday School: Paul's First Journey

Theme for Week: They shall obtain Joy and Gladness.

Volunteers Needed

For anyone attending the school we would like to run a number of afternoon 'interest' sessions for children aged between 5 and 12. These could be craft related, but we don't want to limit attendees creativity, so if you have a hobby which you would love to introduce children to, please volunteer to run a session on one afternoon.

Please email us now on bookings@rathminesbibleschool.com

Cancellations

If for whatever reason you discover you can no longer attend, please let us know as soon as possible via either email or phone. bookings@rathminesbibleschool.com Phone 0413 919 484.

New Time for the Final Memorial Meeting

The new time for the final Memorial Meeting on the last Saturday morning has been working really well, and as a result the committee have agreed that future Schools will follow that format. The studies will run from Monday to Friday each morning and the children's concert will remain on the Saturday night. The last item on the programme will be a rolling breakfast on Sunday morning allowing families time to travel back to their homes."

What's Coming Up?

Why not join us at the December Bible School?

To be held from 24th Dec 2016- 1st Jan 2017 God Willing
PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

Sponsoring Ecclesia for Dec: LISMORE, NSW

Speakers - Bro. Tecwyn Morgan
Bro. Andy Norton
Bro. Jack Lawson

What's on offer?

- A full week of fellowship with brethren, sisters and young people centred on God's word.
- A variety of Bible studies designed to encourage and revitalize our spiritual focus.
- Programs to cater for all the children, ranging from the pre-school children to the teenagers.
- Sports & activities for all to enjoy.
- Refurbished Premises with Air Conditioning to Dining Room, Auditorium, Children's Class Rooms and Café Lounge

BOOK NOW SO YOU DON'T MISS OUT!

www.rathminesbibleschool.com



CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE SCHOOL RATHMINES

Help us give Bezer its sparkle Sponsor a 'Room Upgrade'

God willing the Bezer Hut make-over is the next major project.
Based on positive feedback of prior refurbishment.

We are keen to commence ASAP, but we need your financial assistance.

We are appealing for donations from individuals and ecclesias. All donations are specifically for this project.

Bezer Hut – 14 rooms ensued @ \$9,500.00 per room.

For further information contact Brethren Kevin Dennis, Peter Davies, James Leckey or Paul Jamieson via email: bibleschoolfundraiser@gmail.com

Donations can be sent to:
Bible School Fundraiser
BSB 062 322 Acc 10294572
Or mail – 26 Woodlake Court,
Wattle Grove NSW 2173

Organised and administered
by the Bible School
Fundraising Committee

Christadelphian Bible School Fund Raising Appeal

NEW - Bible School Bookings Website

Booking in via the Website is easy and makes the booking process much more streamlined.

After much development work and hours of testing, it was great to see so many use it at the school, to update existing bookings as well as make new ones.

It has passed all its tests with flying colours and is now providing an extremely good all in one booking programme, but also an easy to use view of what schools you and your family are booked in to.

Deposit payments of \$20, as well as full payment can be made on the site using either credit cards, or via a programme called Poli – bank transfer straight from your bank account securely. All existing bookings have been transferred to the new program.

The Website now provides the following in one place;

- Information
- Dates
- Bookings
- Payments
- Cancellations
- Check which schools you are booked in to
- Family information including dates of birth etc.

Visit now to check your bookings or to make new ones at Rathminesbibleschool.com

Fees & Bookings

Adults \$185.00

Teens \$185

Children (3-12) \$85.00 Under 3 – Free

Maximum Family rate of \$650.00 (parents with non working children)

Teenage surcharge \$15.00 (for extra activities)

To make your bookings now, book direct via the web page, email or phone us.

www.rathminesbibleschool.com

bookings@rathminesbibleschool.com

0413 919 484