

Number 2 | 2011

Living Water

*-a news-magazine with
inspiring mission-experiences*



Missiontrip
to Kenya



Revival in
Christchurch



Baptismal
Testimonies



Honoring Jesus
in Daily Life

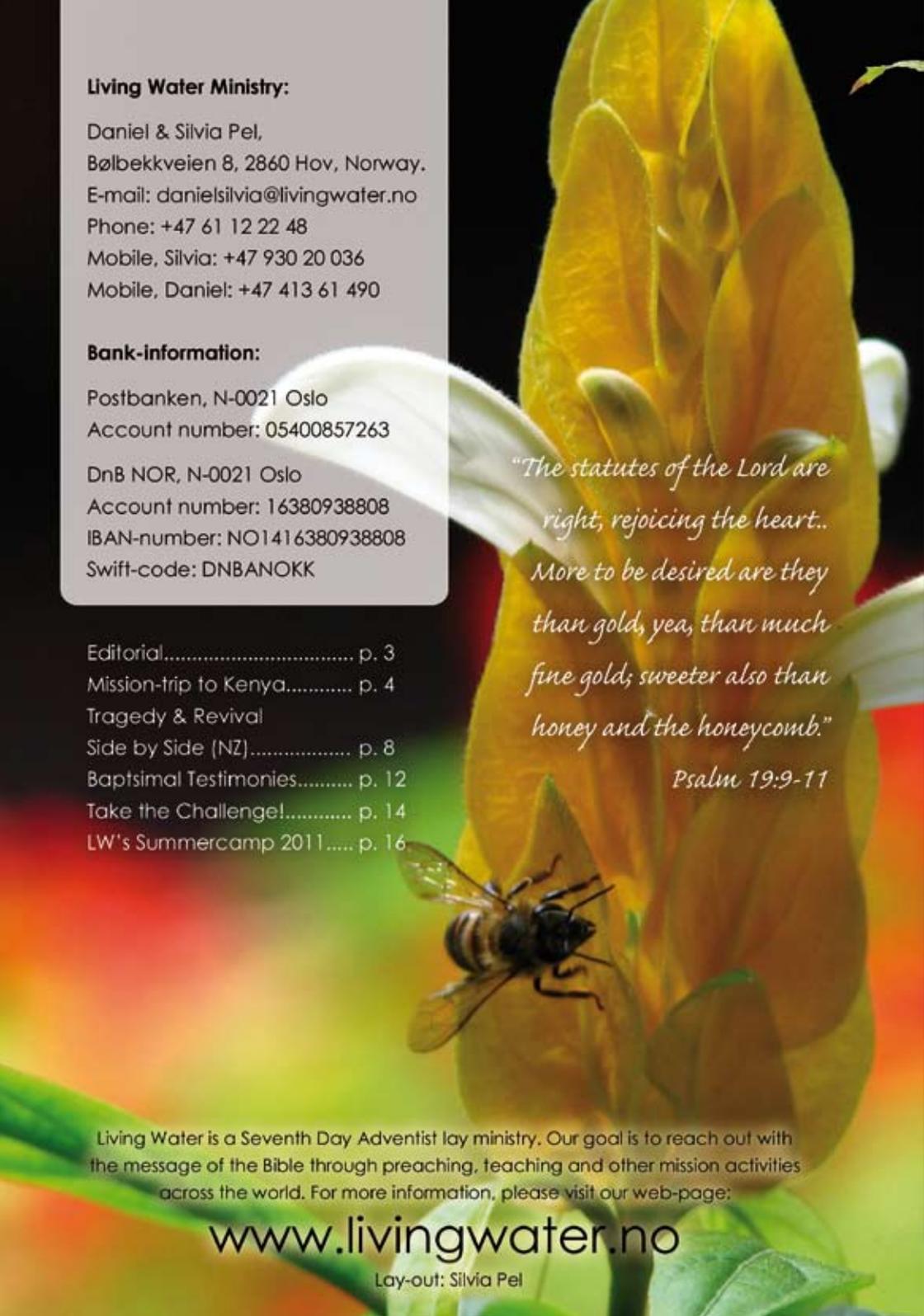
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*"The statutes of the Lord are
right, rejoicing the heart..
More to be desired are they
than gold, yea, than much
fine gold; sweeter also than
honey and the honeycomb."*

Psalms 19:9-11

Living Water is a Seventh Day Adventist lay ministry. Our goal is to reach out with the message of the Bible through preaching, teaching and other mission activities across the world. For more information, please visit our web-page:

www.livingwater.no

Lay-out: Silvia Pel



THANK YOU!

We would like to extend our appreciation to Stine Gro Struksnes for her dedication and hard work in Living Water Ministry since its establishment in 2003. Stine Gro is no longer working for Living Water Ministry. From the beginning of 2011 she founded "Total Health". We wish her God's blessings in her further mission! At the moment she is working as a medical missionary at a health center in South America. You can contact her through e-mail: stinegro78@hotmail.com or mobile phone: (+47) 96705993

Editorial...

The Pharisees plotted how they could get Jesus into a corner and counteract His growing influence and popularity amongst the people. Matthew chapter 22 reveals an amazing conversation between Jesus and His accusers. We read: "Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. "Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? "Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way." (Matt 22:15-22).

The man asking the question was not honest in his pursuit for knowledge of the truth. Thinking he could corner Jesus he was met with a profound answer that made him leave quickly. The conversation is abruptly ended with the pointed words of Jesus echoing in the ears of his listeners; "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." This just begs for a follow up question! "What things belong to God?" Jesus made it plain that the coin belonged to Caesar because it bore his image and inscription. Logically, then, that which belongs to God bears His image and inscription. God said in the beginning; "Let us make man in our image, according to Our likeness." (Gen 1:26). So what belongs to God? You and me! Our lives are His for He has created us. We belong to Him! The coin paid as tax money to Caesar glorified Caesar and his earthly Empire. When we give ourselves to God it is to glorify Him and forward His eternal kingdom!

Over the last months we have been privileged to enter into the story of men and women that have discovered that they belong to God. May you be inspired by the stories shared in this edition of Living Water News and remember that you belong to Him!





The morning had not yet broken as our plane landed at Kenyatta Airport on January 14, 2011. For the fifth time we were back in this beautiful country, which has a special place in our heart.

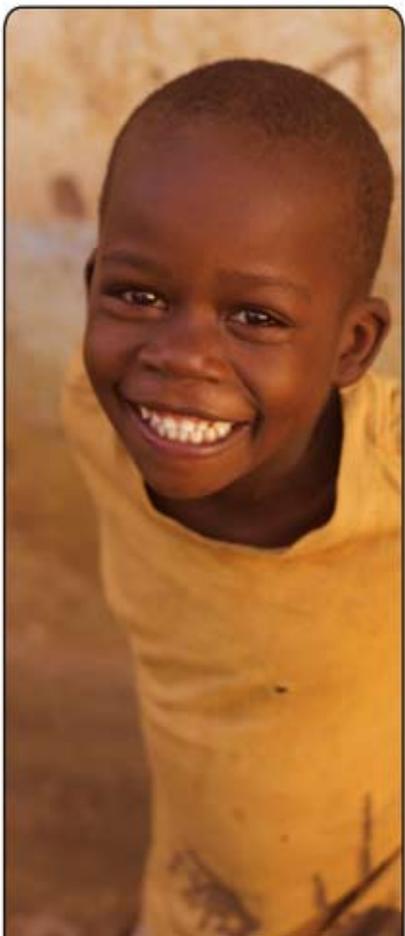
Kenya

By Silvia Pel

A team of four young people joined us – Jechiel, Giovanni, David and Samuel – all excited to experience their first encounter with a third world country.

The first week we spent in Nairobi. We had been asked to lead out in a week of prayer for the youth of Nairobi Central Church. We saw this as a leading of the Lord and a great privilege. At the same time we realized the responsibility as this church is like the heart of the Advent movement in East Africa, and the impulses coming from this church has a widespread influence.

We are convinced that the Spirit was at work. These daily revival meetings were a true blessing both for us and the local youth attending. During the first week we also had the opportunity to have different programs at schools and even two of the



largest Universities of Nairobi. We praise the Lord for this unique opportunity to come in contact with a promising group of youth, which will be instrumental in forming the future of the country.

In the mornings I also held a medical missionary course for interested lay-workers. I really enjoyed these classes. The group was small and personal, and of good quality – eager souls with intention of putting into practise what they learned.

We spent two Sabbaths in Nairobi. Daniel had the divine service in Nairobi Central



and New Life Church, where we were camp-meeting speakers in 2006 and 2007. We were happy to be back among brothers and sisters in the Lord, even though it was hard to recognize the members since the numbers are in the thousands in contrast to Europe.

From Nairobi we continued westward, this time to new and unknown fields close to the border of Tanzania. Countless impressions met our senses as we passed small villages, marketplaces and fascinating nature and animal life. After a long and weary travel along bumpy and dusty roads, we eventually reached Migori.

"The 2011 mission trip to Kenya has been one of the most life changing experiences in my life. Kenya is a country of extreme contrasts; beautiful nature and dirty cities, cell phones and open air butchers, rich and poor living next door, pagan religion and sincere Christianity. On our trip we were emerged in the life of Kenya, we did not stay at one of the fancy resorts on a safe distance of the real Kenya but ate and stayed with the common people, this gave us a unique view of life in this special country.

One of the things that I respect most about the Christians in Kenya is the happiness they carry with them, people are always smiling and willing to help. I praise God for the privilege

I had to travel, preach and teach with such an awesome team!"

-samuel





"Doing mission work in Kenya was an experience of following in the footsteps of Jesus. At times it was not easy or natural. The culture shock was big, but it was something that changed me. Now I know more about the differences between cultures and have learnt vital lessons I will take with me for the rest of my life. The most powerful lesson is that Christ has a message of love and change for the whole world."

-David



The experiences from Migori won't easily be erased from our memory. The next two weeks offered a real taste of the life on the mission field. We divided the team into three, and each day three parallel meeting-series were running, focussing on children, health and Bible prophecy. These were some eventful days, filled with challenges and blessings. When you read a mission report in text and pictures, it appears exciting and even idyllic. The reality can be hard at times. You feel your dependence upon God. Especially towards the end of our stay it became clear to us that we actually were in quite corrupt surroundings. One of our drivers was brutally murdered while he was out during the night. In Heaven we will fully understand the extent of the words of the Psalmist: *"For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways."* (Ps. 91:11)

The closing Sabbath we witnessed 98 precious souls entering into covenant with their Lord in the waters of baptism. By God's grace and your faithful support we were able to equip them and several others with Bibles and other materials, in order for them to grow in the knowledge of Jesus and His truth.

In the mornings we also had classes in health and Bible work, as we saw the need of faithful key workers who would be equipped to follow up and nourish the new believers.

"The mission trip to Kenya was for me a real blessing. It was an experience for a life time. While doing missionary work in Kenya I was able to put into practice what I had learned at the European bible school. I experienced how it is to give bible, health and children presentations in a country where the culture differs from my own country. While working as a missionary I enjoyed to work with the local people, I enjoyed their warmness, there cooking skills and of course I enjoyed the beautiful nature in Kenya"

-Jeichiel



As we look back at our time in Kenya, we can only praise our faithful Lord for His protection, care, power and guidance. The needs of the world are so big, our contribution may seem insignificant. But united by Gods grace we can do our part to make a difference for this life and eternity.

"The mission trip in Kenya left a very good impression on me. I loved the weather, the people were nice, the nature was beautiful... But what touched me the most was the work some people could do for the Lord with so little means, like a team of Bible workers we met: some of them hardly had enough to eat, did not own any other book than the Bible, but kept on reaching out to people. It helped me to realize that working for the Lord cannot depend on circumstances or financial security, nor on anything else. Each one of us has a part to do in God's plan, and my prayer is that we will not let anything prevent us from answering God's call."

- Giovanni

:: Meeting-series & Bibelwork
in Christchurch, New Zealand

Tragedy & revival - side by side

As evening arrived on the 22nd of February we landed in Melbourne city in the south of Australia. We were on our way to New Zealand and planned to fly on the next day. Christchurch, the largest city on the south Island of New Zealand, was our destination. But then we heard the shocking news! An earthquake with the magnitude of 6,3 had hit Christchurch plunging the city into devastation!

By Daniel Pel

It was hard to sleep that night with many thoughts running through my mind. Our prayers went up for the people still trapped inside collapsed buildings. We were on our way to Christchurch to continue a Bible prophecy series that had already started with another speaker and I began wondering how different things would be now.

Several weeks prior to the earthquake, David Asscherick, an international speaker from the USA, had begun preaching powerful presentations on the prophecies of God's Word. The meetings had gained a tremendous momentum! This earth-shaking event on the 22nd of February occurred right in the middle of this mind-shaking event as exciting, fascinating, and intriguing Bible prophecies were being presented to hundreds of people in a large auditorium in Christchurch. Lives had been impacted by the truths of Scripture and people were seeing that the Word of God is to be our foundation in life. Then suddenly in a very real sense the foundation of this earth moved causing destruction, disaster, and death. While some turned away from God or even blamed Him for what happened others sought after Him and determined to know what Scripture tells us about the times we are living in and what place God has in these kinds of tragic moments. What an opportunity to share about God's love and His ultimate plan for humanity!

We arrived in New Zealand on the 23rd of February, a day after the tragedy. Many people were just coming to grips with what had happened to their beautiful city. The auditorium where the prophecy meetings had been held was taken over by the civil defence and used as a base for the rescue workers. Our meetings were cancelled for an indefinite time and we were not even sure if the venue would be available again in the near future. We knew the people in Christchurch needed all the physical help they could get, but we also knew that the Bible could answer a lot of the questions people had during this time of tragedy and uncertainty. The outreach team of Ilam SDA church, which had organized the meetings, had not lost their vision for the city! The following Sabbath, only days after the disaster, the church was packed. The message presented focused on the times in which we are living and how we can understand these events in the light of a Biblical worldview offering hope.

The public meetings were rescheduled and recommenced on the 15th of March. We were thankful that we were able to secure the same venue. Instead of continuing the prophecy seminar where he left off, David Asscherick had two presentations specifically targeting the situation of the city and an-



swering questions related to the earthquake. Questions like: How does God see all of this? How can I have peace in chaotic times? Can good come out of something so bad? Does the Bible have anything to say about what has happened? The presentations were a journey of reflection and discovery providing answers and hope from the Word of God. These relevant presentations were followed up by the prophecy series that had already begun before the earthquake. David decided to stay in New Zealand a little longer than planned. The meetings along with personal Bible studies led to a beautiful baptism ceremony on March the 26th. 9 people were baptized and welcomed into God's Church!

David left and I continued the Prophecy series and launched into a chapter by chapter study of the books of Daniel and Revelation. You can find all audio sermons of both David and I on the following website: www.propheciesrevealingthefuture.com. Together with two other Bible workers, Samuel and Amber, we reached out and visited the people that attended the series. Samuel and Amber recently got married and have committed a year of their lives to work in Christchurch.

The interest has been really great! It is almost like the tragedy has sparked a revival among many. A group of youth from the local university started coming to the meetings and were inspired by what they heard. Together with them we started a Bible group at the university. The students invited their friends and we had up to 30 attentive bright young people attending! A South African couple began coming to the meetings and they were so inspired by what they heard that they shared with another family from the South African church they attended. The family that joined them was so captivated by the Word that they also shared the invitation. It was like a ripple effect moving through this South African congregation.



Biblical truth moves forward like a wild fire. Our prayers are with our new friends as they seek to know the scriptures more fully. Surely the enemy will try to put out these flames but we are confident that the work that has been begun will be completed.

It has been a tremendous blessing to study with dear people all throughout Christchurch from so many different backgrounds. Former Atheists, Catholics, Pentecostals, and even a Hindu young man! They all have one thing in common – A hunger to learn the Word of God. A young man who was an atheist told us how the truth of God's Word had just totally changed his picture of the world around him! A young Philipino couple said the weekly Bible studies in their home had altered the course of their lives and given them a foundation in these shaky times of uncertainty. Another man made the decision to keep the 4th commandment of the Sabbath despite difficulties at his job. He told me that the story of Daniel the prophet in Babylon had given him courage. Daniel had remained faithful when all odds were against him and God blessed him for his faithfulness. Our new friend gained confidence that God would be with him. On our last Sabbath in New Zealand he, together with 4 other precious souls, entered into covenant with Jesus through baptism!

We miss all the new friends we made in Christchurch, but we are confident that they are in good hands. Samuel and Amber, together with Ilam church, are carrying the work forward. We know many of you have been praying for our work in New Zealand and we want to thank you for your concern, messages of encouragement, and above all your prayers. Let me assure you that God has heard them.



Baptismal testimonies

The events that led me on a track which geared me toward God started in my late teens. I went through some serious challenges. Taking on several advanced classes in high school, caused me stress which I was not able to cope with. At the same time my mother was diagnosed with cancer. After a brave battle she died. I struggled with guilt. I blamed myself for not taking care of her as I should and not telling her I loved her, which I actually did. At this time my mental state affected my physical wellbeing. I started to loose hair. My mental and physical challenges affected my social life. I would cry for hours – and for the first time in my life I called upon God, even though I was not religious. A classmate approached me about God, and I opened up. In 2009 I accepted Jesus into my life.



A few months later Samuel Riemersma showed up on my door. He asked if I wanted to do Bible-studies. We studied for weeks, and the truths he pointed out from God's Word made sense. Later Daniel Pel came and did a public series of presentations on the prophecies. I enjoyed the presentations, and since he was preaching in the church it gave me a reason to attend the Sabbath programs. In November 2010 I was baptized in the Seventh Day Adventist Church.



The more I know about the Bible and history, the more the Adventist doctrine and the three angles messages of Revelation seems imperative for our day. I have already started doing Bible studies with others, sharing what I have found in God's Word. I thank God for the people He has brought into my life and for His Word.

- Tyler Bonnett

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation; old things
have passed away; behold, all
things have become new."*

2. Cor. 5:17



I attended the Bible Prophecy seminar by Daniel Pel at Lakeside Middle School in 2009 and 2010. During the seminar last year I also had weekly Bible studies on a personal level with Daniel, Silvia and Samuel. Before this time I had been visiting several Christian denominations, and Biblical concepts had been planted in my mind. At the same time it seemed to be a lot of unconnected pieces, and a blend of human traditions and Bible truths. As we systematically worked our way through Revelation and looked at the doctrines from Gods Word, the puzzle pieces started to come together and a beautiful big picture of Gods character, truth and saving love began to form. December 11, 2010 I was baptized together with my daughter, Leah.

My eyes have been opened to what the Bible says. It gives me comfort and understanding to know that God is in control and He has a plan. Thank you so much for showing me the truth in the Bible! I feel that I am on the right track that leads to salvation and that the Holy Spirit will guide me through the tough times and hard decisions. Ultimately God will always provide for us and protect us. I no longer have the fear of what is ahead. I am so glad that Leah also has made the decision that Jesus is her Saviour, her Passover Lamb, and that the blood of Jesus covers her, and the plagues of Revelation will Passover us.

- Robin Pritchard

:: A testimony about
honouring God in daily life

Take the challenge!

Since I attended the European Bible School in 09/10 my perspective of life has radically changed. In that year I experienced for the first time what it means to find true joy in the service for God and His children.

I am more than thankful and amazed for what God has worked in and through me and realize how much he formed my character during these last 2 years.

As I came back to my home country Germany I decided to apply for Music College to study secondary school education with a major in music. For this course you need to go through an audition in order to be accepted.

My first audition was in Detmold, North Germany. The college organised for me to stay with some students in their apartment for those 3 days I spent there. I was really thankful for the opportunity to meet new friends and I got along quite well with one girl who had the same major I was applying for.

Now the first day of the audition started and the first test was on conducting. Afterwards we had a personal interview with the committee. They asked me several questions on my performance beforehand. At the end of the interview one of the professors looked at me and said: "As I can see on your application form you are a Seventh-Day Adventist. Would you be willing to participate in school events on Sabbaths?"

I instantly prayed to God for wisdom what to answer. Then I first explained why I keep the Sabbath and said that I won't make any compromise in this area because I want to stay faithful. After my answer the interview was finished and I was dismissed. I thought that that was it! But at the same time I felt this inner peace that God was in charge of everything.

By Vanessa Sabo



In the evening I came back to the apartment and went immediately to the room of my new-found friend who was excited to hear how everything worked so far. I told her everything! I told her also of the interview and that I was worried that this would be a reason to reject me.

As I explained her about my belief and convictions she asked what else I believed except the Sabbath. I told her that I believe that Jesus is coming back soon. And again she interrupted me and asked when that would happen! I said that we don't know, but that God gave us signs in his Word that would show us that his coming was near. And again she asked what signs He gave us. So I rushed into my room and brought my Bible and we read Matthew 24 together. I was overwhelmed of joy that she was so interested in God's Word and I prayed all the time that God would give me the wisdom to give her the right answers. Our conversation involved God, the second coming of Jesus, philosophy vs. religion, etc. It was intense!

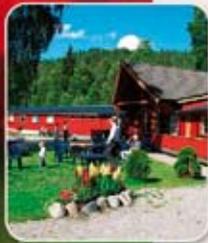
Now finally she asked me what the right way was and how she could know if she was on it. I was reminded that just before I left home I took a copy of Steps to Christ and put it in my suitcase. I was so happy that I obeyed God's voice to take it with me because I reasoned that I wouldn't find an opportunity to give it away. But here was the opportunity and I handed it to this girl, who was looking desperately for so many answers in her life. She looked what it was about and thanked me so much that she could keep the book.

We had planned to go to a piano concert that evening, but God had a better plan. Now I understood why I was asked this question in the interview. It was God's way to open up a path for me to witness!

Living Water's Summmercamp 2011

Time: July 6 - 10, 2011 | **Place:** Camp-ground 'Vatnar', (Reshjemvn. 711, 3800 Bø, Norway) | **Price:** NOK 750,- per person (bed), NOK 500,- per person (tent) | Children under age 12: Half price. Included in the price: Accommodation & food for the entire period. | **Children:** Every day there will be activities and meetings for the children. | **Info:** Contact us for more info! (See contact-info on page 2) | **Sign-up:** If possible before June 20.

Theme & speakers:



Diego and Melissa Silva are a young couple on fire for Jesus. They are running a mission college outside Rio de Janeiro, where they educate young people for service in different branches of the Lords work.

"On the threshold of eternity" is the topic for Living Waters Summer Camp 2011. Diego has a wide spectre of topics related to the times we are living in, global events and the future hope of the Bible. Melissa will be sharing more personal topics related to character development and our connection with Jesus.



Melissa will also bless us with song and lead a choir during the Summer Camp. God has given her strong musical talents. (If you play an instrument, please bring it!)