

Number 3 | 2011

# Living Water

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



Youth on fire  
for Christ in  
Australia



LIVE seminar with  
TV recordings  
in Canada



Powerful  
baptismal  
testimonies

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*"But the fruit of the spirit  
is love, joy, peace, longsuf-  
fering, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness,  
self-control. Against such  
there is no law."*

*Gal. 5: 22-23*

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](http://www.livingwater.no)

Lay-out: Silvia Pel



*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."*

[2. Tim. 4: 7-8]

# *Finishing the race...*

Paul the apostle wrote these words to Timothy - a companion, close friend, and co labourer. Imprisoned in Rome Paul understood that his days were numbered. His second letter to Timothy is like his testament that he leaves with Timothy and the Christian church at large. In this letter he gives final counsel, encouragement, and places the baton in the hands of Timothy to continue preaching the gospel unashamed to a world in need.

Looking back on his life Paul can say with confidence that he has fought a good fight, had kept the faith, and finished the race. Paul possessed this confidence because he knew and preached that Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). Jesus finished the race when he cried out on the cross those last words that rang through out creation: *"It is finished"* (John 19:30). He finished strong casting down all arguments that were arrayed before him ever since the fall of Satan and beginning of the great controversy story. Because He finished strong we can also pass the finishing line empowered by Him. *"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ"* (Philippians 1:6). But how can we be confident of this?

The Bible tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is described in 1 Corinthians chapter 13. We can read this chapter as a description of God. *"Love suffers long, and is kind; love... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* God is love and love believes all things and hopes all things. God believes in you and hopes in you because He knows that when you stay connected to Him He will complete the work He has started in you. God does not give up on us even when we give up on ourselves. He cannot because we are in His heart. And His heart is a heart of love, which believes and hopes all things! God wants us to be able to look back on our lives and say: I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith! This will only be possible when our eyes are fixed on the one that has gone before us and has promised to empower us. This world is coming to a climax. Jesus is soon coming back and we are on the verge of eternity. Let's make each day count so we can finish strong in Christ!





# Urban youth on fire

**Melbourne, Australia:** Skyscrapers, brick buildings, streetlights, smoke, nightclubs, restaurants, shopping-centres, universities... Melbourne is characterised by the same things as most urban cities now days. But in the middle of the hectic city life, beacons of light are shining. During our visit in Gateway, May 2011, we got to know some of these, and had the privilege of working together for Christ.

*By Silvia Pel*

During the EYE-conference in Denmark last year, we got to know Peter Bertrus, who was one of the main speakers. He is actively involved in the Gateway-movement. From a handful of eager youth with a vision to put into practise the Biblical principles of evangelism, three dynamic fellowships have emerged in the city of Melbourne.

During the conference in Denmark Peter shared experiences from the work among young students and drew principles which inspired and motivated us.

Daniel was invited to speak at two of the Gateway churches. On the way back from New Zealand we dedicated a few days to experience and take part in student-evangelism "down under".



# for Christ...

We were picked up at the airport by Tina Wong – one of the founders of Gateway. On the way to the student fellowship in the city centre, she passionately shared about the background, development and the recent projects of Gateway. Their ministry is especially directed towards the multicultural student environment which is prevalent in Melbourne. We shortly got to know some of the young people, and then it was time for action. Pamphlets, books, dvd's and surveys were found and then we headed off to one of the universities in the city.

All the members of the Gateway churches are part of weekly Bible groups meeting in the homes. Here they "break bread" together, enjoy fellowship, singing, praying and studying Gods Word. This is like a refuge place and home for students and families – and every group has to have seekers involved. Friday evening we participated in one of the student groups. This was one of the highlights. We were bound together in a close fellowship. A young seeker shared a touching testimony of how Jesus had lead her into this fellowship, and how the Bible group had given her a home, answers and meaning.

On Sabbath Daniel spoke in two of the Gateway churches. In the afternoon we went for visitation, and in the evening there was a public seminar in one of the university auditoriums in the city.

We are thankful that we have the opportunity to experience, work with and learn from the movement of God all over the world.



"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope that the Lord who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to love one another, to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the gathering of the church together, as is the manner of some, but rather encouraging one another, all the more so much the more as you see the Day approaching."  
Heb. 10: 23-25

## Marienberg & Peine, Germany: *Bible-seminar*



*By Silvia Pel*

The last weekend of May we were back in Marienberg SDA church, Germany – a thriving church with a core group on fire for the Adventist message, our Biblical identity and witnessing.

We had a twofold program, partly adapted to the spiritual needs of the church, and partly focused on reaching out to the community.

Daniel spoke on practical subjects related to the times we are living in, priorities and God's call on our lives. The messages were arousing, appealing to place God's claims and glory first. The prophecies as well as the importance of God's Word as a firm foundation in these times were also emphasized.

Each evening Daniel had public meetings on relevant topics like: "Heaven and Hell", "Prophetic Symbols and the Future of this World" & "A Chaotic World – Where is God?". Several visitors attended and many

hope without wavering, for He  
under one another in order to  
bring the assembling of ourselves  
exhorting one another, and  
approaching."



more watched on live streaming. The congregation was varied, young and old expressed their appreciation for the messages.

We enjoyed the fellowship with old and new friends and the exchange of ideas and experiences with fellow workers in the Lords work. Our host, Stan and Petra Sedlbauer from Amazing Discoveries, have done a marvellous work in bringing quality products to the German population. We also spent time with our dear friends Henry and Solvejg Stober who are doing an incredible work for the Lord. One evening they took us to the city centre of Nürnberg where the statues above, from the book of Daniel chapter 7, are decorating the entrance of the town hall. They will use this as an entering wedge to reach the community with the prophetic message. Through Henry's creation movie "Die Schöpfung" they have reached thousands in Western Europe with the message of God creating heaven and earth in six days, resting on the seventh day, the Sabbath.

Two weeks later we were back in Germany – this time further west in a little church about two hours drive from Bremen. Though the membership was small, we met with a group of eager souls. They had rented a public auditorium and invited other churches, friends and acquaintances.

We spent a whole Sabbath together in worship. Derrol Sawyer – a singing evangelist from the States – was also invited, and the preaching, fellowship, song and music contributed to a spiritually strengthening and unforgettable weekend.



God commanded the Israelites to have yearly gatherings, where worship and fellowship was central. This need has not gone out of date. Following is a short report from the Inspiration week at the European Bible School and Living Water's Summercamp.

# Summer: Camp-meet



*By Silvia Pel*

For eight consecutive years Living Water Summercamp has been held at Vatnar Campground in Telemark. This year we had a young couple from South America as guest speakers. Melissa and Diego Silva have a burden for equipping young people for missionary service, and are running a school outside Rio de Janeiro. Diego spoke on a wide spectre of relevant topics, both related to practical faith life, deep theology and prophetic reflections on the times in which we are living.

Melissa shared a thought provoking presentation on "Modesty – the lost virtue", and with Diego she shared counsels and experiences connected to courtship and marriage. She also blessed us with beautiful song. Esther Femsteinevik and Stine Gro Struksnæs did a thorough job in catering for the youth and children.





## ing time...

One of the highlights of the camp was the testimony meeting Sabbath evening – filled with mission experiences, touching testimonies from everyday life and praises to the Lord through words, song and music.

About a week later we had Inspiration week at the European Bible School in Skotselv. The Inspiration week has deep roots in Scandinavia, and despite of wet weather, we had a good attendance reaching its peak with about 200 attendees on Sabbath.

Alan and Nicole Parker from USA were guest speakers, together with Dan Millares (Sweden) and Daniel Pel. *“Can two walk together, except...”* was the theme for the week, and reflected the main topic for the presentations of Alan and Nicole on human relationships, communication, courtship and marriage. Dan and Daniel spoke on topics like how we can understand God's will for our lives, what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, our picture of God & our worldview, prophetic perspectives etc.

The needs of the children were also met through meetings and activities. During the week we practised a song-program for the local prison. The children made cards for all the prisoners with Bibletexts, drawings and stickers. They did a splendid job!

Each evening was dedicated to worship through song and music. We enjoyed listening to the seminar choir, instrumentals, solos and duets – and could participate in the congregational singing. Before the evening meeting we were also inspired through mission reports from different ministries all over the world. After the sermon the youth gathered around the camp fire, where the speakers were available for questions.

The TV-channel Amazing Discoveries is broadcasting clear and uncompromised messages to millions of potential viewers in USA and Canada. This summer we had the joy of working together to reach out with the gospel.



## FOR SU

By Daniel Pel

On Wednesday the 15th of June we landed in Vancouver, one of the larger cities of Canada, located on the west coast. The ministry "Amazing Discoveries" had invited me to present a series of my presentations, which they recorded in their studio just outside of Vancouver. I was excited to meet the team and reach out to the live audience that would attend the presentations.

As I waited in line to go through customs at the airport in Vancouver I noticed a big screen showing an ice hockey game. Ice hockey is one of Canada's most viewed sports. I could tell many eyes were glued to the big screen. Just as I was about to hand my passport to the man sitting in customs the game ended and Vancouver's team lost. In my mind it was no big deal. But it was a big deal to a whole lot of people in Vancouver. The man in customs handed me my passport back and with a smile he said: "Just be a bit careful we lost a game and it can get a little rough in the city tonight." I thanked him and





## Seminar with Amazing Discoveries in Canada: *Such a time as this...*

walked on thinking to myself; what's the big deal, they only lost a game.

We were picked up at the airport and driven to the place where we stayed. As we walked in the TV was on with life footage of downtown Vancouver. I couldn't believe my eyes! Cars had been set on fire, shops were being looted, and huge amounts of people were battling with police forces. There was chaos everywhere! The man at customs had made an understatement. There was outright turmoil in the streets and this because of an ice hockey game!

It is sad to see people go crazy over things that are so temporal in this life. If only their eyes could open and they could see a greater game, a greater drama, that is being played out and in which the entire universe is involved. It is called the great controversy and we are all part of it whether we want or not. The outcome of this battle has eternal realities and day-by-day we are deciding on which team we are playing. Jesus Christ Himself leads the winning team. For all appearances this team looks like its going to loose. And yet ultimately it will triumph over all the evil hosts led by the great enemy of truth. Satan loves to see people occupied with games here on earth and has them pour out their energy into worldly entertainment while they are oblivious of a greater battle that is raging in the universe.

I had come to Canada to share about this greater battle. I had come to share in particular how we are all involved in this conflict of the ages and what the Bible reveals regarding our identity in a time like this. The presentations given at Amazing Discoveries covered a variety of topics in prophecies, parables, and stories of the past paralleled with our days. The theme running through the presentations was: "For such a time as this". It was a great blessing for Silvia and I to minister to the people that came to the meetings. By studying God's Word we find our purpose of existence. We discover that we are not here by accident but that a loving God has a plan for our lives, and that we are part of a battle that has already been won through Jesus Christ who gave His life for us. The outcome is known and it is up to each of us to take our stand. Jesus invites us to be part of the winning team and to share this incredible victory with the world around us. Now that is a "game" you don't want to miss!

*"And you will seek Me  
and find Me, when  
you search for Me  
with all your heart."*

Jer. 29: 13

*"Those who h*

*W*

hile my husband, Taka, and I had been 'God-fearing' people (I had a Catholic upbringing and my husband a Pentecostal upbringing) yet we knew there was 'greater truth' to be discovered as these viewpoints seemed to stray with what the Bible says.

We had been to a Seventh Day Adventist church a few times before. We had witnessed an SDA baptism and were moved, but not personally convicted by their commitment. I have a friend who is an SDA and she would invite us to church sometimes. One day she invited us to a seminar called 'prophecies revealing the future'. I mentioned it to my husband. He had seen a billboard beside the road advertising it. So we went to the seminar and listened to David Asscherick. We found the first day boring, but came again the second day. It became more interesting, and we kept coming to every seminar until the earthquake disrupted everything.

The meetings resumed after a while and we attended all but the last 2 as my husband had been transferred to the nightshift, but we listened to the audio on the internet. One night, a card was given out asking if people were interested in baptism and attending a church that had the Bible as its only authority. We thought we had gleaned enough truth to say yes to both questions. Toward the end of the series, David Asscherick mentioned that he would be preaching at Ilam church about the 'two witnesses' so me and my husband went to church on that Saturday morning and were surprised to find they were having a baptismal service that day. I was thinking why no one had told us about this as we had wanted to be baptized too! I started to cry and said to Taka: "I want to be baptized today". We felt overlooked by God and thought we had missed out on the opportunity to be baptized. I saw Daniel and Silvia in front of us and thought maybe these people could lead us to baptism as we knew they were



A baptismal testimony of  
Taka & Rona Denny, New Zealand:

# *"Honor Me I will honor"*

part of David's team. We left church that day immediately after the baptism feeling dejected, but God has a plan for those who seek Him in truth!

A couple of days later we got a message on our phone. It was Daniel asking if we wanted to have Bible study. I rang back and said 'yes'. I really wanted to ask questions. Taka rang that night as usual from work and I told him about the Bible study and he wanted to be there too. I arranged a suiting time with Silvia. Bible study with Daniel, Silvia, Samuel and Amber became regular and the Holy Spirit spoke to us over the next few weeks. We followed Daniel's 'Series on the books of Daniel and Revelation' online. We attended Sabbath service a couple of times and eventually met Pastor Mel who would baptise us.

During the pre-baptismal meeting 2 days before the baptism, the issue of Taka working on Friday night was raised. He wanted to tell his boss after the baptism that he would not be working on Friday night anymore which was no easy task as Taka was a supervisor responsible for a staff of 60. However, it was suggested that it would be better to tell the boss ASAP as a step of faith. The baptism was postponed and I was learning to wait on the Lord. Taka that day purposed in his mind to obey the Lord and contacted his boss that night via email. Much prayer went into this matter and it was 5 days before Taka had a reply from his boss requesting a face-to-face meeting the next day. At this meeting, my husband said he was willing to renounce his responsibilities as supervisor and would be a 'worker' in order to observe the Sabbath, but the boss told Taka to re-think his priorities and to come back the next day. This caused me and my husband a little anguish but we were committed to the Lord and as we would find out the next day, the Lord was committed to us!

The boss told my husband that he would move him to the day shift as a supervisor over 120 people. Taka immediately went to a quiet place and dropped to his knees in thanksgiving to the Lord. We had asked the Lord for '1 night off' but He gave us '5 days on' the dayshift. Through faith the Lord had shown us His way and He had taught us patience. *"Those who honour Me, I will honour"* (1 Sam 2:30). We felt as if we were part of the Bible story of Daniel 3:12-18.

We were eventually baptised in the Lord's time and we are more appreciative due to the extra wisdom gained in that process.

We are so grateful to the Lord for showing us his life-saving truths in the Bible through His servants; David, Daniel, Silvia, Samuel and Amber. We continue to study His truth and hope we too will share in the work of spreading the good news. God is so good!

Testimony given by Helene Andersen at her baptism

# *The way back to*



Dear Father in Heaven, in the name of Jesus –

You know that 35-40 years ago I was an active Christian. I had a firm belief in You. I followed Your Word. But things happened, and I turned my back on You. I sinned against You and my fellow men by reasoning away Your Word. I found my own explanations and interpreted Your Word as it fitted me. I still prayed to You every time I came into troubles and needed help. I knew that this was not honest and right in Your sight, my God. Eternal life is to know You – to have a close and continual relationship where You are first. But dear Lord, You knew that deep inside I still believed in You and was yearning for You.

February 14, 2009 a change took place. I experienced a great sorrow. In just a few minutes, totally unexpected, the person that meant most to me from day to day was taken away. While I waited for the ambulance and there was still hope that my husband's life could be saved, I prayed: "Dear Lord, please do not allow that Kjell dies. If you preserve his life, I will come back to You and live close to You". But Kjell died.

In hindsight I know You turned the tragedy to a blessing. Once again I became very dependant on You. I asked forgiveness for my sins, and started to attend church faithfully on Sundays. I read Your Word every day. Thank You that You do not "quench a smoking flax!" This is the promise You have given to us humans.

Dear Lord, Your ways are unsearchable, and You lead in ways we have not thought out ourselves. That's why I am standing here today.

In November 2010 I was health guest at Fredheim. There I met Grete, and she was an Adventist. We became good friends at once. We attended a cooking course in Lier arranged by the European Bible School. Daniel had spiritual meetings afterwards. It was just before

# Baptism, Norway: to God...



Christmas. I also joined Grete at times to the Adventist Church. I liked the Sabbath School. After the meeting-series in Lier, Daniel and Silvia started up a Bible group, and Grete and I attended. Later Dag and Else Britt Norlin continued, since Daniel and Silvia had to travel again. I learnt much during this time.

I started coming regularly to the SDA church in Skotselv. There I received separate Bible classes. Ziemek, the elder, was leading out together with Vibeke, Jon, Henrik, Daniel and Silvia. Dear Lord, I am so thankful for all the education I have received!

All this lead to an inner conviction that the Seventh Day Adventists are taking the Bible seriously. Saturday is the Biblical seventh day and Gods holy day. Advent means to wait. We are waiting for the second coming of Christ. I think Seventh Day Adventist is a very beautiful name.

Dear God, You know it has been very hard for me to make this decision of becoming an SDA. Much seemed hard: Long way to church. My chronic illness. What would my friends and children say? All this was like a great mountain. Resigning from the Norwegian Lutheran Church was also a high mountain. I loved and do love the church in my hometown. I got tired contemplating all these things.

But June 24 I made a decision to be baptised. From that day on I got peace. All the great mountains terrifying me, became a plain. Thank You, dear Lord! Now I stand here, ready to be baptised. It is You, dear Lord, who has lead me, I have not pressed this way. If anybody would have told me in November 2010 when I left Fredheim, that in 10 months You will be a Seventh Day Adventist, I would have told them: Are you crazy, that will never happen!

But Jesus says: I am the way, the truth and the life. He has lead me, and that's why I am standing here today.

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## *Relevant conferences:*



**GJC France:**

### *In His footsteps*

**Time:** October 28 - 31, 2011

**Place:** Clermont-Ferrand, France

[www.gjc-france.net](http://www.gjc-france.net)



**EYE & Matteson Mission School:**

### *Finish the race*

**Time:** Dec. 27, 2011 - Jan. 1, 2012

**Place:** West Jutland, Denmark

[www.endtimeyouthevangelism.dk](http://www.endtimeyouthevangelism.dk)