

THE EDIFIER

Volume 28 Church of God (Seventh Day) Australia November 2022



A magazine dedicated to uplifting
and transforming peoples' lives
through the uncompromised Word of God

THE EDIFIER



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About:

The Edifier is published by the Church of God (Seventh Day) Australia, and is dedicated to sharing the uncompromising Word of God.

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<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofGod7au>

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Cover Photo:

Pastor Phil Kordahi pictured here at the baptism of Michael and Erin Surnak earlier this year.

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It is with great sorrow that we write of the passing of our much beloved Adelaide Pastor, Phil Kordahi, on the 31st October 2022.

For many, his deteriorating health was masked by the boundless energy, enthusiasm and love with which he served our Lord and Church brethren.

Phil was baptised in 1981, serving as both Deacon and Elder before fulfilling his calling as Pastor for 32 years. Additionally he took on many other responsibilities and duties wherever there was a need, humbly leading by example, never by command, even though he had authority to do so.

He was always full of encouragement with an overriding concern for the welfare of others, making himself available anytime day or night. He was a mentor, a counsellor and a wonderful shepherd. He could empathise with brethren's weaknesses, yet was a force to be reckoned with as a watchman protecting the Church and in making difficult decisions. He twice stood ground to prevent the church from splitting and remained ever watchful.

As overseer he was worthy of receiving wages but always refused. He also kept his love for the old Chrysler "muscle" cars in check. While his cars couldn't by any means be described as "muscle", they were certainly old.

This newsletter/magazine was Phil's creation, reflecting the changed direction he was taking the Church, back to our first love and building on that relationship. Christ-centred and Bible-focused, away from current and political events, that also de-emphasised predictive prophecy. As he would often tell us: "What is the point of knowing when the bus is coming if you are not preparing yourself to get on the bus?"

Any photo of Phil will show him with a big smile. His personality just shines through. Genuine, honest, full of integrity and love. A love for both God and His people. This is his legacy for us. Phil demonstrated to us that through submission and obedience to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, it is possible to transform our carnal nature to better reflect that of God's character.

Phil was deeply loved by his local brethren, across Australia and also internationally as the Zone 6 International Ministerial Congress Representative and through his deep and lasting connections with the church in the USA. He will be sorely missed for his fellowship and deep wisdom and understanding.

Knowing his time had come, Phil encouraged us to the end. It was his wish that we were all to complete the race before us.

Some of his last words to us were, "I will see you, when I see you."

*Richard Todd
Adelaide, SA*



THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY

Without understanding who we are, it's impossible to develop self-control. In fact, without identity, life is aimless.

Many today search endlessly for "identity". Seeking personal and societal identity is perhaps one of the greatest issues of our century. We regularly hear about racial identity, political identity and sadly now the issues surrounding increasing gender dysphoria.

In abandoning our Judaic-Christian heritage, like many throughout our Western nations, it seems that we are now in search for a new identity, be it a new constitution, a new ethos, or a new flag with new colours.

Of course, identity is really important – it is at the heart and core of human consciousness.

I recently came across a news report where a young lady learned that she was conceived by a sperm donor. In the course of time, she further learned that she has some 168 siblings!

Not knowing her biological father, her search for identity has been relentless; legal constraints have prevented her from finding all the relevant information she so desperately wants. She has, however, found 12 confirmed siblings, each of whom were willing to participate in DNA tests.

She said that wherever she now goes, she searches the faces of strangers everywhere, hoping to find yet another person who bears a biological resemblance to herself.

Like her, we all have a strong, almost inexplicable sense and will to know who we are, and what is our biological parentage. It's natural to want to know where our unique features come from, our historical roots, as well as generally have a greater sense of personal place within society. Identity and its implications for personality, individual expression, and a sense of place and belonging are powerfully important.

"hoping to find yet another person who bears a biological resemblance to herself."

Today, much of the erosion in matters of morality, ethics and conservative values stem from the voices of dissent that focus on and accentuate sexual or racial identity. For example, because someone aspires to traditional values and are categorised as a white, middle-aged male, they become at the cutting edge of cancel culture, and are often ridiculed and discriminated against. Many choose then not to speak out in favour of traditional family values. Such un-Godly emphasis, from what often is a vocal minority, seeks to control the larger narrative, and further suppress freedoms of speech. We've seen ample cases where the leftists, woke agenda has been advanced into un-holy legislation.

Our nation is on a dangerous path towards tribalism, manifesting itself in opposing group identities such as gender, ideological, political and racial identity. The latter “classing” has been a popular discontented catch-cry, coercing people to believe that they are victims of white oppression. A victim-identity is dangerous and disempowering, because it creates a false sense of self and a perverted view of justice.

Many universities today indoctrinate their students with the notion that society’s tyrants are those allegedly “privileged, white, middle-aged males”, (which is generally representative of the historic Judaic-Christian roots of western civilisation).

The devil’s deception currently pervading the entire world is insidious, relentless and deadly. And, and much of it centres on “identity”. In other words, the real issue is that the devil doesn’t want us to know who we are!

Created in the “*image and likeness of God*,” humans are to become children of God! Of course, the devil knows and fears our identity in Christ; he hates God, he hates the Son of God, because, in Christ, you and I are given a new identity – an identity that frees us from the curse and grip of death.

Paul discussed the equalising nature of our new identity in Christ.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:27-28 ESV)

In being reconciled to Christ, the things that formerly separated us don’t count any more. Raised from the waters of baptism, with the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit, we became a “new creation”. Scripture teaches us that our old self died and was symbolically cleansed at baptism.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:3-4 ESV)

Paul personalised his conversion experience when he wrote to those first century churches.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20 ESV)

We are no longer defined by our sinful past.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,” Jesus explained, we would be able to have all that we prayerfully ask for. Why and how? Because of our identity. Our heavenly Father sees Christ in us. Our identity was formerly sold under sin. The consequence of this was the certainty of the death penalty. God told Adam what his identity looked like because of sinfulness: *“From dust you were taken and to dust you shall return.”* Our identity, likewise, as sinners is worth little more than a handful of soil!

But through the redemptive process available only in Jesus Christ, we have become a completely new creation. Our identity is in Christ. He is our LORD, our Saviour, Redeemer, and the One who justified us by His blood.

In encountering the Lord Jesus Christ, everything about our identity changes. The apostle Paul understood this process.

“my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!” (Galatians 4:19 ESV)

The sin which formerly defined us, now gives way to His gift of righteousness – our lives become conformed to His! The grace and truth in the depth of fellowship offered to us changes everything, as Christ is being formed in all faithful believers.

We have an identity, beyond our physical parentage, what we look like, where we live, and what we do for a living. We can be at peace, knowing who we are. We receive this new

identity by faith. Jesus told his disciples that one day they would fully understand.

In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. (John 14:20 ESV)

The takeaway for us is that in Christ, we are “the light of the world.” John wrote in his testimony, *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”* (John 1:5 ESV)

The illuminating light of God in Christ can never be overcome by the darkness and deceptive narrative of this world! We bring every thought into the captivity and obedience to Christ. This is important to understand, and directly affects our mission and ministry work. We are the closest that most people will come to experience the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ! Our new identity affects everything and everyone around us!

Because of God’s calling and mercy in our lives, we are now more than capable and equipped to face the hellish deception of this age. We know who we are in Christ. We are loved, and because we experience it, we are able to love others. We remember that a great price has been paid on our behalf. Thus, every day we begin each prayer with, “Our Father in heaven...”

Resurrected and clothed in glory, Jesus tells us that one day he will give us a new name – a name that will reflect more fully the identity we have become!

Defined by all the more as we grow up and mature in Christ in this life, therefore becoming more like the person we were meant to be! Thus, we celebrate and proclaim the sobering but joyful reality that Jesus gave up his life so we could have ours!

Our assuredness of faith stems from our identity in Jesus Christ.

*John Klassek
Pastor*



I was first introduced to the concept of giving away Bibles many years ago.

We went door to door with a Bible in hand. We have never asked for a contribution for these Bibles or for any other literature that we have offered. Some at the door have insisted to donate to our church for receiving a Bible from us because they said it was such a precious and blessed gift that they held in their hands.

I love labouring for the Lord because I have been given a special gift of having the ability to give Bibles in expectation of people taking them and reading them as they usually do. They say that you can lead a horse to water but you can’t make it drink. This simply means that not everyone who receives a Bible from me will read it.

After a few years of giving Bibles away door-to-door, we decided to revisit an area believing that people move and house owners minds change from time to time. One lady opened to us and said that two years earlier she received a Bible from us and is only now reading it. Apparently six months ago her mother passed away and the Bible she received from us earlier went straight to sit on the bookshelf. She took it, she said, out of politeness and had no intention of reading it.

Needless to say that it was there when she wanted to find out about how Jesus could help with her grief and if her mother would receive everlasting life. After reading the Word she found herself going to a church near her. It was encouraging to hear her story and how she was led by the Holy spirit to read the

Word! Hearing that story from her was really encouraging.

We have had people come to our church services and Bible studies through this door-to-door ministry; people have needed our help through this ministry, giving people a chance to attend our services if they wanted to.

Also, the shopping centre ministry that I do has led to an interest of one attending our church as well. Not many people reject the free gift of God's Word. Some do say, "No," that they do not want it.

I have found that there are three types of people at the doors. Those who gladly take a copy, those who refuse it and those who say, "Um, I don't know if I'll read it". And it's to those people that I gladly say, "Well, you never know if you may read it one day. Just take it just in case you do. Jesus died for you. He loves you and he is always there for you." I encourage them to just open up his Word and see how close he really is!

While going door to door I am not teaching as such (apart from answering people's questions about Jesus as they might ask); the Holy Spirit does that. The scriptures say that we may plant, we water, but it is God who gives the increase!

*Written
by Mary Rice
who attends the
Adelaide church.*



A NIGHT OF REVERENCE AND RECONCILIATION

I have been attending the Lord's Supper service for over 40 years and I look back on those nights with a feeling of excitement and reverence for what it has represented to me throughout those years.

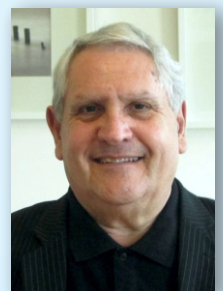
The excitement of coming together with like-minded brethren and sharing the emblems of the bread and wine which are the symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ and not to forget the humility and closeness of the foot washing.

The night is filled with the reverence of our Lord's sacrifice and commitment to restore the lost back to the right standing with His Heavenly Father. The act of reconciliation fills my heart with profound gratitude and love for my Lord and Saviour!

What a privilege and honour for me to know that Jesus invites all believers of all races and genders, to participate in His memorial service and to never forget the Lord's words "Do this in remembrance of Me".

This year's Lord's Supper service in Adelaide had a strong spiritual atmosphere and God's grace was evident by the words spoken by the brethren who led the service. I look forward in anticipation to 2023!

*Written
earlier
this year
by Pastor
Phil Kordabi*



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But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

(2 Peter 3:18 ESV)

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Church of God (Seventh Day) Australia
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