



DANDENONG
**Bible
Education
Centre**

Newsletter December 2005

Christmas is nearly here!

Have you asked any children you know what is coming soon? Some of the younger ones may be able to tell you how many "sleeps" until Christmas. There is a lot of excitement at this time of year – a time of giving and love. Have you ever wondered why we celebrate this festival? Why do we have Christmas trees and decorations? Why do we give and receive gifts? Why is this such a happy – yet sometimes stressful – time?

Christmas – The Birth of Hope

This fascinating two-night course explores the intriguing background to some of the traditions of Christmas. It sheds some light on the true story as told in the Bible and its phenomenal impact on the world. This is a great way to find true meaning and encouragement amongst the festive blur.



Two night course

8:00-9:30 pm

Dec 12th and 19th

Enrol now!

Christmas barbecue and concert

Our barbecue/concert at the Dandenong Park is also coming up fast. Those who came last year really enjoyed it. This year's event is planned for **Saturday December 17th**, God willing, at the soundshell in Dandenong Park. Tea is to start at about 5.30 pm. Join us at the barbecues near the soundshell. The concert will start around 7.00 pm. Why not come and watch the children's drama, join in the community singing and listen to Christmas skits and readings in a relaxed atmosphere?

Christmas service

We are planning to have a meal and Christmas service on Christmas day. God willing, the light meal will start at 5.30pm followed by the service at 7pm. This will involve music, Bible readings, prayer and a talk on the meaning of Christmas.

First Aid course



Don't forget our level two first aid course is starting very soon. If you wish to come you will need to book in very soon. God willing the course will be held on

December 3rd and 10th from 9.00 am – 4.00 pm. Places are limited, so you will need to ring the shop to check that there is a place for you. The cost for the course is \$125, or \$95 for concession, which includes the manual. Ruth attended the last course and she says:

As a mother of a few children, I am glad I went to the last "First Aid course". It is reassuring to know that if the children get hurt, I know what to do, and when to get help. I found the people at the course friendly, and the manual is easy to use. It has a magnet so it is stuck to my fridge, ready for use at any time.

Summer times

Please note that our shop will be closed for a period of three weeks over the Christmas/New Year period. Friday 23rd December will be the last day that the shop is open this year and we plan to reopen on Monday the 16th January.

Dandenong Christadelphians

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The New Life class

Each Sunday from 11.30-12.30 we hold a class which covers a variety of Bible topics. All who come are then invited to stay to share lunch with us. The subjects for December are under the general theme of *Jesus Christ*.

Watch the window of the shop for the topics for January.

- Dec 4: *The Lord's supper*
Dec 11: *What is Jesus doing now?*
Dec 18: *What are the signs of his coming?*
Dec 25: No class.

Christmas quiz

Test yourself ... how much do you remember of the details of the Christmas story as told by the gospel writers Matthew and Luke? (see Matthew 1&2 and Luke 3).

1. Where was Jesus born?
2. Where did Mary and Joseph usually live?
3. Why was Jesus born in a different place from his mother's family home?
4. Who decided what to call this new baby?
5. Who was Jesus' mother?
6. Who was Jesus' father?
7. Who visited Jesus first after he was born?
8. How did these visitors know where to find Jesus?
9. What other visitors came to see Jesus?
- 10.
11. How many wise men were there?
12. What gifts did the wise men bring?
13. What did king Herod want to do when he heard that Jesus was born to be king?
14. How did Mary and Joseph know to leave Bethlehem?
15. Were Mary and Joseph rich or poor?
16. What does "Jesus" mean?

Do you have young children?

Did you know that we have many picture story books about a variety of Bible stories in our library? If you are interested in helping your children to learn the fascinating stories from the Bible, then these books may help. We also have a small number of videos suitable for children too. Come and have a look! If you're not already a member of the library, it costs only \$5 to join.

Plans for next year

Planning for next year is well underway at the Dandenong Bible Education Centre. We intend to send you a leaflet outlining courses for the first term of 2006 in mid to late January. At that time we will send a combined January/February newsletter. The leaflet will include a course enrolment form for your convenience. A highlight of our first term's courses is a beginners' course, which will be offered at a variety of venues across Melbourne on different nights of the week. This allows you to choose a venue and time that will suit you.

If you have primary school aged children, now is the time to start thinking whether you would like them to attend our "Bible Explorers" program. The start of a new year is a good time to start a new activity for your child or children. At Bible Explorers children learn Bible stories, values and lessons for life in an interesting way. Art, singing and drama accompany the lessons, and new friendships can be formed. What a great place for kids to be from 11.30-12.30 on a Sunday!

Watch for the new topics for the New Life Class in 2006 too. Don't forget you can bring your children to Bible Explorers and attend this class at the same time – and it is suitable for teenagers too. Here you can have a wholesome activity to help your children stay "on track" in their lives.

We plan to continue our daytime study class for ladies, our intermediate course, advanced course and our English learning course. All the details will be in your leaflet in January.



**We wish you and your family
a safe and happy Christmas!**