



JESUS IS LORD AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

JOURNEY



JESUS IS LORD CHURCH Australia 35 Years





WIN A PRIZE!!!

BIBLE BRAIN BUSTERS
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Challenge 1: Round the Clock
Challenge 2: Phone Me

Submission Instructions:

- **Email Your Answers:**
Send the complete answers to testimony@jilchurch.au
- **Deadline:** Make sure to submit your answers as soon as possible to increase your chances of winning!



Congratulations to our 4 prize winners in Journey Issue #2!

- Ida Nissa Medina (JIL Blacktown AM)
- Mia Bartolome (JIL Blacktown AM)
- Raelen Purugganan (JIL Adelaide)
- Jane Valdez (JIL Blacktown PM)

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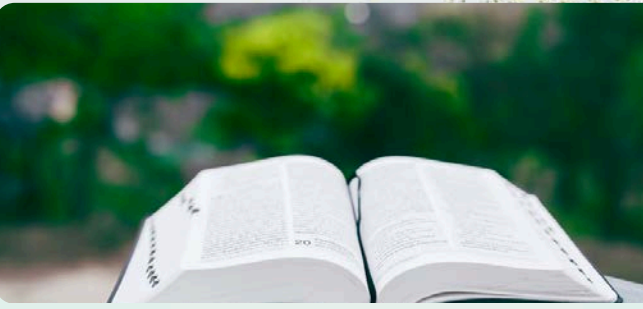
**A VISION FULFILLED: A 35-YEAR JOURNEY
OF FAITH ACROSS AUSTRALIA**

STAY CONNECTED

TOGETHER, WE GROW STRONGER!

PASTOR'S CORNER

A LETTER FROM YOUR PASTOR



PTR JOSE "BONG" PUYAT
PASTOR - JIL MELBOURNE

MY JOURNEY OF FAITH: ANCHORED IN AN UNCHANGING GOD

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." - Hebrews 13:8

There are seasons in life when God's call is so clear and compelling that it demands a response. For my wife Anne and me, that moment came when we felt the unmistakable leading of the Holy Spirit to plant a church in Melbourne. It wasn't a decision we made lightly. It stirred something deep within us, a conviction that obedience to God was worth more than comfort, security, or predictability.

At the time, we were both working in stable, fulfilling careers. I was in a secular role, and Anne had a promising future in her field. We had built a life that was safe and structured. But when God speaks, He often calls us out of the familiar and into the unknown. Saying "yes" to God meant surrendering everything we had built. It meant stepping into a future that was uncertain, but divinely appointed. We resigned from our jobs, packed up our home, and prepared to move our young family to Melbourne. It was a leap of faith, and we knew it wouldn't be easy. But we also knew that obedience to God is never wasted. We believed that if He was calling us, He would also sustain us.

In 2004, we made the move with our three daughters, Jessica Rose (11), Isabelle Rose (8), and Victoria Rose (4). They were young and full of life, unaware of the magnitude of the journey we were embarking on. We weren't just relocating; we were stepping into a spiritual assignment that would shape the course of our lives. Planting a church from scratch is no small task. It requires vision, resilience, and a deep dependence on God. And while we were prepared to work hard, we quickly realised the road ahead would be filled with both triumphs and trials.

There were moments of great joy, seeing people encounter God, watching lives transformed, and witnessing the birth of a community rooted in faith. But there were also moments of deep disappointment. People came and went. Promises were broken. There were seasons of loneliness, financial strain, and emotional exhaustion. Yet through it all, one thing remained constant: our family stood firm. We were united in love, anchored

in faith, and committed to the call. We held tightly to one another, and more importantly, to God. The trials didn't tear us apart, they drew us closer. They refined our character, strengthened our bond, and deepened our dependence on Him. We weren't just surviving; we were growing. We were whole, not because life was perfect, but because God was present.

Then, just when we thought our story had settled into a rhythm, God surprised us with a beautiful new chapter. In December 2011, we welcomed our son, Joseph Daniel (JD) into the world. His arrival was unexpected, but perfectly timed. He was a tangible reminder that God's plans are always greater than ours. JD brought a fresh wave of joy into our lives and reminded us that even in seasons of sacrifice, God delights in blessing His children beyond what we can ask or imagine.

As the years passed, we continued to serve faithfully. The church grew, and so did our family. Today, Jessica and Isabelle are both married to incredible, God-fearing men, Damian and Win. Victoria is growing into the woman of God we always prayed she would be, and David, we believe, is divinely placed in her life. Each of them serves faithfully in the church we planted. Watching them rise up in faith fills my heart with indescribable joy.

In March 2025, our family grew again with the birth of our first grandchild, Elara. Her name means "God is my light." She is the embodiment of joy and promise. In her, I see the legacy of faith continuing.

Now, 21 years later, I look back and all I see is God's faithfulness. **Through every season, mountain high or valley low, Jesus has remained the same. Unchanging. Steadfast. True to His word.**

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
And as for me and my house, we will continue to serve the Lord. Not because it's always easy, but because He is always worthy.

*In Christ,
Ptr. Bong Puyat*

TESTIMONIALS

Voices of Faith:
Real Stories, Real Transformation

By: Bro Oliver Oca
(JIL Hawkesbury)



“HOW OLD ARE YOU AGAIN?” - THE INCREDIBLE FAITH JOURNEY OF 10-YEAR-OLD MZ

An Extraordinary Voice of Faith from an Ordinary Child



If you've ever attended one of our Sunday services and found yourself wiping away tears, smiling ear to ear, or whispering a heartfelt "Amen" during an unexpected moment chances are, you were listening to KEL MUZZIELLE ZION but we usually call her MZ our 10-year-old powerhouse of faith.

Preachers get nervous in a good way! because when she shares, it's so powerful one could say, "Well, I guess we can close in prayer now!" Not once, had a preacher assigned for the day jokingly say, but with full sincerity, "That will be hard to top!" Her words aren't just cute, they're anointed, they carry weight. They come from a heart that has encountered the Lord in a way that many don't normally experience until much later in life. At our Connect Group gatherings, MZ doesn't shy away or sit back passively. She stands up with boldness, always ready to share testimonies of how faithful God has been to her and her family. Whether it's small answered prayers or big moments of grace, she speaks with a conviction that stirs up something in everyone, young and old alike.

In a world where children are often more absorbed with cartoons and video games, this young girl has become one of the most consistent and compelling voices in our congregation. Not just once or twice, but more than a number of times, MZ has stood boldly on the platform, speaking with clarity, conviction and childlike joy, declaring the goodness and greatness of God.

One Sunday after she spoke, someone leaned over and whispered, "Is she really 10? How does she know all of these?" That statement might sound dramatic to some, but not to those of us who have actually witnessed her speak. She's a living, breathing testimony that God doesn't wait for age to use someone. When the heart is ready, He moves. And He is surely moving in the life of MZ.

She's the daughter of two of our beloved servants in the music ministry Brother Mikel, our passionate and ever-faithful church drummer, and Sister Lhot, one of our anointed worship leaders. The fruit truly doesn't fall far from the tree, because MZ has not only inherited their musical talents but also their deep love and reverence for God. But here's the incredible thing about MZ, if you didn't know her, you'd just see a typical 10-year-old girl. She giggles, plays and runs around like any other child her age. But the moment she opens her mouth to speak about her faith, the entire room goes silent. Grown adults lean in. Preachers get nervous in a good way! because when she shares, it's so powerful one could say, "Well, I guess we can close in prayer now!"

What makes her even more remarkable is her genuine humility. She doesn't speak to impress; she speaks to glorify. She doesn't share to perform; she shares to encourage. She doesn't aim for applause; she aims to point people toward Jesus.



And what a reminder she is to us all. MZ reminds us that:

Not once, had a preacher assigned for the day jokingly say, but with full sincerity, "That will be hard to top!" Her words aren't just cute they're anointed, they carry weight. They come from a heart that has encountered the Lord in a way that many don't normally experience until much later in life.

- The Holy Spirit has no age requirement.
- Faith can be pure, strong, and full even in the heart of a child.
- We should never underestimate what God can do through the next generation.

In a world where children are often more absorbed with cartoons and video games, this young girl has become one of the most consistent and compelling voices in our congregation. Not just once or twice, but more than a number of times, MZ has stood boldly on the platform, speaking with clarity, conviction and childlike joy, declaring the goodness and greatness of God.

She is a living example of **1 Timothy 4:12** "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." As a church, we are deeply blessed and inspired by MZ. She has become a beacon of encouragement, a role model to the other kids, and dare we say a challenge to the adults to pursue God with the same fire, freedom and fearlessness that she demonstrates.

She's the daughter of two of our beloved servants in the music ministry Brother Mikel, our passionate and ever-faithful church drummer, and Sister Lhot, one of our anointed worship leaders. The fruit truly doesn't fall far from the tree, because MZ has not only inherited their musical talents but also their deep love and reverence for God.

To the parents out there, we know what you're thinking: "I want my child to be like MZ." And you know what? That's a good aspiration. But more than that, we should pray that every child in our ministry discovers the same God that MZ knows intimately, deeply and joyfully.

But here's the incredible thing about MZ, if you didn't know her, you'd just see a typical 10-year-old girl. She giggles, plays and runs around like any other child her age. But the moment she opens her mouth to speak about her faith, the entire room goes silent. Grown adults lean in.

Let us continue to cover MZ, together with her siblings and parents in prayer. Let's pray that God would protect her heart, enlarge her territory, and continue to use her as a mighty vessel for His glory. Because if this is what God is doing in her at 10 years old... we can just imagine what He can do in the years to come. So next time, you hear her speak, prepare your heart. Don't be surprised if you find yourself asking, with a smile and tears in your eyes... "How old are you again?"

TESTIMONIALS

*Voices of Faith:
Real Stories, Real Transformation*

By: Bro Mark Anthony Condinato
(JIL Blacktown-PM)



FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT: A JOURNEY OF REDEMPTION



The Old Life:

My life as a young adult was defined by a simple formula I called FAMAS: Friends, Alcohol, Money and Addiction to Sex. This is my story, the story of my encounter with Jesus and how He became my One and only Lord and Saviour.

Back in 2003, I was in a relationship with a woman and living in a way that conflicted with my faith, as we shared a home outside of marriage.

She did everything for me, cooked my meals, washed my clothes and took really good care of me. The arrangement had been all nice and convenient for me, she treated me like a king. One day, unexpectedly, she became pregnant with my child. I panicked. Sadly, I sinned against God by convincing her to terminate the pregnancy. This decision brought immense guilt upon me, yet it didn't lead to a change in my lifestyle, and the same situation happened again. Eventually, the relationship deteriorated, and I made the decision to leave and send her back to her family.

The First Miracle:

Years after, in March 2010, I met my wife Barbette Colleen, a believer. We got married in the same year and I brought her with me to Saudi Arabia where I was working. It was in 2012 that I encountered Jesus in my place of Damascus, Saudi Arabia. My wife and I had become faithful servants of God's vineyard since then. We filled our days with ministry work and we shared both challenging and happy moments together.

However, a couple of years passed, and we still had not been blessed with a child. It was then that I come to realise that I may now be reaping the consequences of my actions in the past. We got told by the doctor that we both have fertility problems and that we have a very slim chance of getting pregnant.

We underwent several medications and treatments with no success. We were advised to undergo IVF but we both knew that would be costly.

A pastor then had asked us, "which one would you chose, a costly medical procedure with a slim chance of success or a prayer that costs nothing but has a 100% rate of success?". We didn't have enough money for the procedure, so we were left with prayer.

It was not an easy eight years of waiting. We devoted ourselves to a 5-day a-week of prayer and fasting, earnestly praying for a child. But then I was reminded that I need to be "specific" in my prayers. And so, in the last quarter of 2018, I turned my prayer into this, "Lord, please give me a child before 2018 ends and that child will be our partner in service and worship to You." On 28th December at 4:00pm that year, I received the good news from my wife that **I WAS TO BECOME A FATHER!**

The Second Miracle:

20th July 2019, became one of the most memorable days of our lives when the gift from the Lord came to us. We named him Timothy Roche. Timothy as we know was a co-worker of Paul and we wanted him to be our co-worker in the ministry. Roche, means "rock" or "stone" in French. Timothy Roche means our "strong co-worker" in God's ministry. Timothy brought us unspeakable joy and thrilling challenges as he grew up.



Then on 1st June 2022, he was diagnosed with an incurable disorder. He was advised to undergo at least a year of costly treatment. And the unbearable part is that we were told it can only be managed but not cured, and it was going to be a lifelong condition.

My wife and I broke down in tears seeing our only son whom we've waited for 8 years, facing an uncertain future. As the father and head of the family that the Lord have entrusted to me, I must take the lead in seeking the Lord's second miracle, "to reverse the diagnoses within 6 to 7 months".

Having to go back to work in Saudi Arabia, I left my wife and son in the Philippines so he can have his treatment. There was not a day that I didn't shut myself in my room to praise & worship the Lord and cry out for God's mercy and miracle. In this battle, I held on to the Word of God and His promises as weapons. It was not an easy fight and I had often been discouraged by Satan's deception that the miracle I have been praying for is "a punch to the moon"! But I kept reminding myself Satan was already defeated more than 2,000 years ago and if this is a punch to the moon, then I have God's hand to hit it!

Not long after, on 12th January 2023, at around 11:00am in the country I considered my Damascus, the Head of the Neuro Department announced his final findings reversing the previous diagnoses. My son did not have the disorder he was initially diagnosed with but rather only had a minor disorder that can be easily addressed. Once again, the Lord did not fail us. When I go back to the Lord to ask why He allowed those challenges to happen in our lives, He impressed a lot of things on me. For one, that experience enabled my wife to minister and support other parents who were in a similar situation by drawing on her personal experiences. That challenge also strengthened my faith and relationship with the Lord enabling me to walk in faith even when faced with uncertainties. Today, we are facing yet another great challenge and my family is facing many uncertainties. One thing is certain though, that my God will never leave me nor forsake me. I am a child of God and I am no longer a slave to fear because I have a loving Father who is merciful and faithful.

This is my story, from darkness to light, a journey of redemption with a faithful God. I am now a believer and a receiver of His miracles!

To God be the glory!

TESTIMONIALS

*Voices of Faith:
Real Stories, Real Transformation*

TESTED, TRIED AND TRIUMPHANT: A STORY OF FAITH

By: Sis Melfer Viado
(JIL Liverpool)



Bro Jeffrey Gutierrez's journey of faith began in Dubai, where he and his growing family were living. Together with his wife, Sis Sarah, they were raising their two young children, Ava and Avi. At the time, Bro Jeffrey was a devoted Catholic who attended St Mary's Church every Sunday and prayed the rosary every Wednesday.

Although Sis Sarah was already a Christian, she submitted to Bro Jeffrey's leadership and joined him in attending Catholic Mass.

In October 2019, the passing of Bro Jeffrey's father brought immense pain and anger to his heart. Reunited with his family in Batangas, Bro Jeffrey, being the second of three siblings, mourned deeply and questioned God about his father's death.

Upon returning to Dubai, two sets of friends visited them. These friends, who had been praying for the right moment, asked how he was coping and invited the family to attend Jesus Reigns Forever International Ministries. Bro Jeffrey recalled that during his first visit to the Christian service, he felt a burden begin to lift from his heart. He sensed that God was speaking to him, especially as he grappled with many questions surrounding his father's death. Gradually, his relationship with God deepened as he healed from the loss. As he came to understand the differences between Catholicism and Christianity, he shared his newfound faith with his siblings in the Philippines.

God began to use Bro Jeffrey in the discipleship ministry, where he led a Life Group (LG) in Dubai, while Sis Sarah served in the music team. In November of that same year, they began their application to migrate to Australia.

When Bro Jeffrey's mother passed away in 2022, the acceptance came more easily. However, that year also brought a significant test of faith. His company in Dubai began experiencing financial difficulties, resulting in delayed salary payments eventually reaching five months of unpaid wages. With only his income to cover rent, living expenses, and the children's tuition fees, the family faced a severe financial strain. On top of that, their Australian application required payment for EOI processing and medical fees, adding to the burden.

Holding on to God's promise in Jeremiah 29:11, Bro Jeffrey and Sis Sarah pressed on, trusting in God's faithfulness. They believed that God was leading them to a greener pasture in Australia, especially as the situation in Dubai worsened. Eventually, his company closed down.

True to God's Word and perfect timing, their visa was granted in the last quarter of 2022. They witnessed God's provision through people who supported them financially.



One of the most significant miracles was when Ava's godmother lent them money just before their departure to Australia, a gesture of deep trust in God, as there was no guarantee of repayment.

"After hardship, there's breakthrough!" Bro Jeffrey's family experienced God's abundant provision in Australia. He found work within three weeks, doing the same type of job he had in Dubai, while Sis Sarah secured employment after two months.

Through a Christian friend's referral to Bro Dan of the Dance Ministry in the parent church in Australia, the Gutierrez family first attended JIL Blacktown. Ptr Jerry then referred them to Ptr Tomas in Liverpool. Bro Jeffrey now serves in the Sound System ministry and leads a Life Group called Christians in Action (CIA) in Liverpool. Sis Sarah continues to serve as a backup singer in the music team.

His encouragement to brethren facing trials is: **"Do not give up. Continue to pray for breakthrough. Remain in Him, remain in the faith."**



JIL LIVERPOOL LAUNCHES WOLLONGONG LG



Under the leadership of **Ptr Tomas Dela Cruz**, JIL Liverpool officially launched the Wollongong Life Group (LG) on 24 May 2025.

The historic day unfolded under sunny skies and a stunning backdrop of blue waters near the Wollongong CBD lighthouse an uplifting contrast to the week of rain leading up to that glorious Saturday.

The newly established Wollongong LG will be led by Bro Mark Cunan of CIBAC Phils and his wife, alongside Sis Menchi of Liverpool and her husband. These four were prayed over and commissioned by Ptr Tomas during the launch, witnessed by brethren from Liverpool who came to support the event.

Tracts were distributed on the day, and moving forward, the group will meet twice a month in the park, with fellowship held in hybrid format.

If you know anyone in Wollongong, friends or relatives, you're warmly encouraged to refer them to **Bro Mark Cunan at 0487 906 440**. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

TESTIMONIALS

Voices of Faith:
Real Stories, Real Transformation

CELEBRATING 24 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

By: **Sis Cecille Benneth Sampan**
(JIL Blacktown AM)



On the 25th of May 2025, we had the joy and privilege of celebrating our 24th wedding vow recommitment. We were able to recommit to the vows we took 24 years ago and with our new vows, *we chose to commit to something even deeper: to choose us every single day.*

It was a beautiful day filled with love and laughter in the presence of dear friends and family.

We are deeply grateful to the Lord for making this celebration possible and for surrounding us with such warmth and ease. Truly, **"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us"** (Ephesians 3:20).

This special day was a year in the making a decision we made together to honour the journey God has brought us through. As we stood once again to reaffirm our vows, we were reminded of His unwavering faithfulness, the strength He has given us through every season, and the joy of walking this path together.



Our story began in kindergarten, where we first met. After I moved to Australia following primary school, our paths crossed again at the age of 18, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I had prayed for a husband who would share my faith in God, and the Lord graciously answered that prayer.

Our journey to parenthood was not easy. It was marked by years of waiting, hoping, and holding on to faith. For 17 years, we believed and trusted in God's perfect timing. And in His faithfulness,

He blessed us with our son, Emmanuel, born just a few days shy of 25 weeks. The Lord truly made the impossible possible. As Hannah once declared, **"I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of Him"** (1 Samuel 1:27).



Though the road was long and oftentimes painful, it was in those moments of struggle that we felt God's presence most deeply. His love sustained us, His peace surrounded us, and His promises gave us hope. We came to know not just the God we accepted as Lord and Saviour at the age of 13, but an even greater, more personal God who walks with us through every valley and every victory.



To Him be all the glory!

GRACE UNFOLDED: THE LIFE TESTIMONY OF BRO STEVE SHEARER

By: **Bro Steve Shearer**
(JIL Adelaide Greenwith SA)



Greetings. I am Brother Steve Shearer, and my wife Debbie (Ching) Botio Shearer and I have been attending JIL Church Adelaide for three years, under the leadership of our beloved Pastor Jason Purugganan.

In January 2007, we started a small church in our backyard in Ilog, Negros Occidental, Philippines. By June, we had to return to Australia for vineyard work near McLaren Vale. We entrusted our growing church to Pastor Fernando Jacolbe of JIL Bacolod. Since then, we've been blessed by JIL's biblical and visionary leadership, proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

I was born on March 14, 1955. At 12 months, I was hospitalised with chickenpox and later developed eczema and bronchial asthma. My childhood was marked by frequent illness, especially severe asthma attacks.

TESTIMONIALS

*Voices of Faith:
Real Stories, Real Transformation*

By: Sis Dianne Young
(JIL Adelaide Greenwith SA)



JOURNEY OF GRACE: MY STORY

In one incident at age 8, I knocked myself unconscious during an attack and was rushed to the hospital. I woke up in a plastic-covered hospital bed, with my parents relieved and thankful to God. My parents, Lois and Bevan Shearer, were committed Christians, born again in 1951 under Rev. John Ridley. Despite my health challenges, I enjoyed school, especially reading, drawing, and social studies. I had supportive teachers and learned my times tables early. My mum was a kindergarten director and dad a production manager at Simpson Pope. Both were hardworking, ethical, and deeply faithful.

Though I became more physically active, I struggled socially and academically. I failed Year 12 in Maths, Chemistry, and Ancient History. Determined to improve, I repeated the year and earned A's in most subjects except Chemistry. I chose a teaching scholarship at Sturt College over university due to financial support.

Teachers College in 1974 was a cultural shift, influenced by anti-establishment views and the 60s hippy movement. There was a strong bias against Christian values, but my upbringing kept me grounded. I majored in Art, sub-majored in Health Studies, and minored in Maths, graduating in 1977.

In 1978, I taught Art and PE at Cleve Area School and ran pottery night classes. At 23, I embraced social life, but soon developed unhealthy habits, drinking, smoking, and marijuana, which affected my teaching. I resigned to pursue pottery full-time.

In 1980, I married my first wife and settled in Willunga, SA. We worked on my parents' almond farm and started a pottery business. In 1983, we traveled through Europe and the Middle East, visiting historical and biblical sites like Ephesus and Pergamum. Walking the same streets as Apostle Paul deeply moved me and affirmed the truth of the Bible.

Upon returning, I began reading the Bible. One night, Luke 23's account of Jesus' crucifixion touched me deeply. I tearfully asked God for forgiveness and invited Jesus into my life. I was born again in November 1983. I joined Aldinga Beach Assemblies of God Church and was baptized in 1984. In 1985, I sought the baptism of the Holy Spirit. One morning, I woke unable to breathe and cried out to Jesus. I was rushed to Flinders Medical Centre and miraculously recovered. Later, at Cuddley Creek Easter Camp, I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues.

That same year, Pastor Frank De Smit invited me to help build a church in Bairnsdale, Victoria. Trusting God, we moved in September 1985. Though the church faced internal conflict, a new pastor brought healing and unity. I joined the ministry team, studied through Rhema Bible College, preached regularly, and led worship.

In 1987, a visiting pastor prayed over me and rebuked a curse in Jesus' name. From that moment, I was delivered from asthma.

I believe this healing broke a generational curse linked to my grandfather, a 33rd-degree Freemason. I am now free in Jesus' name. Praise the Lord!

My father narrowly escaped death three times, during World War II, in Lebanon and New Guinea between 1939 and 1941. Though raised an atheist, he had a vision of Jesus Christ that changed his life, leading him to raise his children as Christians. After a bullet wound left his arm useless, he was sent home to recover. Miraculously, six months later, his arm regained full function. It felt as though God was determined I would be born, despite every effort of the enemy to prevent it.

In January 1950, my mother, heavily pregnant with me, developed pneumonia. She was packed in ice and given a brand-new drug called penicillin. With a temperature of 41.6°C, her womb became a deadly environment. They lost my heartbeat. I was declared dead. But my father prayed all night, and by God's grace, I survived.

My childhood was fraught with both common and uncommon illnesses. At age 7, I developed a deadly kidney disease called nephritis, which was untreatable at the time. I was so ill that doctors decided I should remain at home rather than in hospital and "let nature take its course." For three months, I was bedridden and on a strict diet.

In adulthood, I was diagnosed with Level 3 Autism. As a child, it would have been considered Level 2, but in the 1950s, this condition was poorly understood. My school years were traumatic. Because of my decidedly odd behaviours, today considered gifted and talented, I was bullied by both teachers and students. Being left-handed was seen as a crime and a sin. At age 15, having failed Intermediate (Year 10), I took a gap year and became heavily involved in the arts and school plays, where I met others as unique as myself. This boosted my confidence, and I went on to matriculate in 1967. From 1968 to 1969, I was actively involved in the Rotary Exchange Program to the USA and attended the South Australian School of Art.

My first marriage in 1970 lasted six years and blessed me with three children. In 1972, I converted to Judaism and became a single mum in 1976. I became a born-again Christian when I joined a Pentecostal church where I remained for 37 years. Later, I entered a second marriage that also lasted 37 years and brought two more children.

In 2015, my husband was convicted and sentenced to prison. In October 2018, I attended JIL Church Adelaide, where I found my spiritual family. I've been worshipping with them for the past seven years.

When I was born again, I was instantly delivered from smoking, drugs, alcohol, foul language, and an immoral lifestyle. **The Holy Spirit has sustained me for 47 years, and I've received many healings, most notably from vertigo in 2022, which doctors and hospitals could not treat.** On Christmas Eve 2015, I was attacked by a neighbour's dog and spent five days in hospital. I had so many stitches, I looked like a raggedy Ann doll.

God has washed away my anger and bitterness through His mercy and grace. What once weighed heavily on my heart has been lifted by His love. **I am no longer bound by the pain of my past but renewed by the hope of His promises. His forgiveness has not only healed me, it has also transformed me.** Today, I walk in peace, knowing that His grace is sufficient and His mercy never fails. **My story is a testament to His faithfulness, and I give Him all the glory for the redemption I've found.**

TESTIMONIALS

*Voices of Faith:
Real Stories, Real Transformation*

BUILDING OUR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY WITH FAITH AND TRUST IN THE GOD OF IMMEASURABLE FAVOUR

By: Bro Richard & Sis Sylvia Pascual
(JIL Adelaide West)

Joshua 24:5 "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord."

We celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary on 27 December 2024. Each anniversary is a reminder of God's goodness in sustaining our love. Over the years, He has taught us to celebrate the small moments, to cherish our time together, and to honour the vows we made. The laughter we share, the dreams we pursue, and the faith we build are all gifts from God.

In our journey as husband and wife, we have been blessed to witness the tangible and transformative goodness of God in every step, every challenge, and every triumph. This testimony is not merely a recounting of events, but a celebration of God's faithfulness, love, grace, and mercy. No marriage is without its struggles, and ours has been no exception. There were times when misunderstandings clouded our hearts. There were days when communication seemed impossible and tensions ran high. It was in those moments that we turned to God, asking Him to soften our hearts and grant us His wisdom. Through Scripture and prayer, we learned to listen to each other with humility and to speak with love.

Ephesians 4:2-3 reminds us to **"be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."** This verse became our compass in navigating conflicts, guiding us back to understanding and unity.

Like many couples, we too faced financial hardships that at times felt insurmountable. Matthew 6:31-33 reminded us not to worry, but to seek His kingdom first and He truly met our needs. Whether it was an unexpected job opportunity, the kindness of friends and family, or the peace that transcends understanding, God's hand was evident. In His goodness, God provided in ways we could never have imagined.



In June 2017, God opened a door for Richard to work in Australia as a skilled worker, after four years of praying and waiting. During that season of waiting, God taught us to fully entrust everything to Him and to let His will be done. After nearly two years, Richard was able to bring me and our eldest daughter to join him in Australia. Then, in March 2025, we took our oath and became Australian citizens. Praise and glory to our living God!

There was also a season when illness and loss struck our family. In August 2018, I experienced a miscarriage with our second child, and in August 2020, Richard's father passed away due to illness. Yet, in the midst of pain, God's goodness manifested through healing both physical and spiritual. We were surrounded by prayers, the presence of a supportive church family, and the assurance that His plans for us were for good, as Jeremiah 29:11 promises. These experiences not only strengthened our faith but deepened our bond as we leaned on Him together.

While challenges have been part of our journey, they are far outweighed by the blessings we have received. From the birth of our three children, to becoming Australian citizens, and the milestones we've celebrated, God's goodness has overflowed in our lives. Our children are a testament to His goodness and perfect timing. As parents, we have marvelled at how He has guided us in raising them. From their first steps to their growing faith, His presence is always visible. Proverbs 22:6 encourages us to **"train up a child in the way they should go,"** and it has been our joy to see His plans unfold in their lives.

God's goodness in our marriage has often come through the people He has placed in our lives. Our church families in JIL Valenzuela and JIL Adelaide have been a source of encouragement, prayer, and wisdom. Fellowship with other believers has reminded us that we are not alone in our journey, and that **His love is a binding force in all relationships**. The support we've received has been a reflection of His hands and feet working through others.

As we reflect on God's goodness in our marriage and family, we feel compelled to share our testimony with others. It is our hope that by recounting His faithfulness, others may be encouraged to seek Him in their own relationships. Marriage is not an easy path, but with Jesus at the centre, it becomes a journey filled with love, grace, and purpose. If there is one message we wish to impart, it is that God's goodness is unending He is the God of immeasurable favour. Whether you are newlyweds or celebrating decades together, God's love is the anchor that holds steady through all seasons. Trust in Him, lean on His Word, and allow His presence to transform your marriage. Let Jesus be the foundation of your family.

Our marriage is a living testimony to the goodness of God. Through faith, struggles, blessings, and fellowship, we have experienced His love in profound ways. As we continue this journey, we do so with hearts full of gratitude, knowing that every step is guided by His hand.

To God be all the glory, for His love and goodness endures forever. Amen.

TESTIMONIALS

*Voices of Faith:
Real Stories, Real Transformation*

A HOUSE WITH BIGGER WINDOWS

By: **Sis Perla Apolonio**
(JIL Rockdale)



Coming to Australia may be a dream for many, but for me, it was the hardest decision I've ever made. It wasn't that I didn't want to be here, it was just that so much was at stake.

My dad had an enlarged heart and pulmonary disease. There were countless times when he struggled to breathe, and my mum and I would rush him to hospital. He could no longer work, so I had to support the family financially. My salary in the Philippines barely covered daily expenses and my sibling's education. Still, I dreamed of buying a bigger house for the family. We lived in a small home, and I thought that a house with bigger windows might help Dad breathe more easily. In 2007, I had the chance to migrate to Australia as an accountant. I was torn, if I went, I wouldn't be there to take Papa to hospital during emergencies. I'd miss spending time with him and my family. And if he passed away, I wouldn't be by his side. But if I went, I could buy the house that might help him live longer and give my family a better life.

While deciding, I realised the meaning of love: doing what's best for your loved ones, even if it means you won't be part of it. I chose to go, hoping it would save Dad's life. I prayed, "Lord, maybe if I stay, I can still get the house for Papa?" Then I heard a gentle whisper: "Still go." So, I did.

God's Provision

I didn't have the money to apply for the visa. I prayed, "Lord, I need ₱90,000. If You want me to go, please provide." Days later, Citibank increased my credit limit from ₱80,000 to ₱120,000. Thank You, Lord! I used it to pay the visa fee.

A few months later, I received my visa but didn't have money for the flight. I prayed again. Soon, I received ₱37,000 as a sick leave conversion payment the exact amount needed for the flight. Thank You, Lord! Then I needed pocket money. I prayed, "Lord, could my bonus be ₱100,000?" When it was released, I saw ₱160,000 in my account. I said, "Lord, I only asked for ₱100k, You gave me ₱160k." And He said, "Your salary will be on hold for a month. Your family will need it." Thank You, Lord!

Flight to Australia

On the day of my flight, I hit my foot on the couch. It was painful, but I ignored it. On the plane, my leg felt numb. In the lavatory, I saw my leg had darkened from a blood clot. I didn't know what to do. I thought, "Will I make it to Sydney alive?"

When I arrived, I was limping. I had two 20-kilo trolleys and a hand carry. One trolley had lost a wheel. I prayed, "Lord, how will I manage this with one leg?" All my friends in Sydney were working. Then, a friend of a friend Joanne came to pick me up. She said, "I had work today, but I didn't hear my alarm and called in sick." I thought, "The Lord didn't wake you so you could pick me up. Thank You, Lord!"

Joanne was an angel. She was on a business trip and her company paid for her accommodation. She offered her place to me, saying she'd appreciate the company. I stayed with her for two weeks in a beautiful unit in Sydney CBD, for free! Our window faced the Sydney Tower.



I received free medical help for my injury it was a broken toe. I realised the Lord allowed the pain so I could meet Joanne and receive the best welcome-to-Australia gift. I found work within the week, just as my pocket money was running low. And I gained a dear friend in Joanne.

Years That Followed

Before coming here, I didn't even know what Sydney looked like. But I knew the Lord wanted me here, so I obeyed. Seeing the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge for the first time, I felt at home not because they're famous, but because I knew this was where the Lord wanted me to be. I was able to help my family, send my siblings to school, and provide for their needs.

As for the house with bigger windows the reason I came here I was able to get it. My parents enjoyed designing and building it, and gardening together in the bigger space, until Dad peacefully passed away ten years later. Even though I live in another country, I visit my family yearly and speak to them often. I've always made sure they know I love them.

Thinking back, apart from helping my family, what was the impact of moving to Australia? I gained friends and saw new places. But the greatest gain? This is where I became a born-again Christian something that may not have happened had I stayed in the Philippines. That opened doors for me to serve the Lord by sharing His Word, love, and salvation. Serving our King is the greatest privilege anyone can have, and I never imagined I'd be able to do that.

What Did I Learn?

God has a great plan for all of us. Where we'll live, what He wants us to do, who He wants us to meet, His plans are the best. Because they're from our God, the Creator of the heavens and the Earth, who is also our loving Father.

He knew my desire for a house with bigger windows and beyond that, He wanted me to have more.

I pray we hear the Lord's whisper as He directs our paths, and that we follow His leading always. May His name be glorified in everything that happens in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
do not depend on your own understanding.
Seek His will in all you do,
and He will show you which path to take.
Proverbs 3:5-6*

TESTIMONIALS

*Voices of Faith:
Real Stories, Real Transformation*

A JOURNEY OF FAITH, GROWTH AND GOD'S UNWAVERING FAITHFULNESS



By: Sis Abbey Finlay
(JIL Campbelltown)



Looking back on her university years, Sophie faced one of her biggest challenges in managing her time effectively. Juggling academics, church, ministry commitments, her relationship, and family life often felt overwhelming. Yet, these busy seasons taught her how to be intentional with her time, prioritise what mattered most, and trust God's guidance. There were times Sophie considered giving up, moments when she

questioned her course of study or compared her journey to others, making everything seem harder. But her family, especially her Mum, was a constant source of encouragement.

1 Corinthians 15:58 was a verse her Mum often shared with her: ***"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."*** These words, alongside her family's prayers and support, helped Sophie press on. Graduating was a deeply meaningful moment, something she had prayed for, and when it happened, she was overwhelmed with emotion.

It was a beautiful reminder of God's faithfulness. Throughout her university journey, Sophie learned to depend on God. Over time, she noticed the small victories: recognition from tutors, friends confiding in her, and being asked to help with projects. These moments affirmed that God was actively working in and through her. Sophie even invited friends to join their university Bible study, realising that her purpose there was not just academic but also to be a light.

God's faithfulness was evident in moments of overwhelm. Whether during an assignment or a personal challenge, Sophie would pause to pray and always sensed the Holy Spirit bringing peace and clarity.

Looking back, she sees how God used each experience to prepare her for the future and now trusts that He will guide her steps into the plans He has set before her.

This year has been a season of blessings. Sophie and her fiancé, Paulo, have known each other since childhood, but their relationship truly blossomed when they began serving together in Youth Ministry.

After much prayer, they began dating in June 2022, always keeping Christ at the centre of their relationship. They've relied on God's wisdom, surrounded themselves with godly mentors, and strived to honour God in everything.



The engagement season has been one of peace and joy. It's been more than just wedding planning; it's been a time of intentional preparation for marriage. Spiritually, they've grown in trust and dependence on God, realising that this season is about building a Christ-centred marriage.

Wedding planning has come with its challenges, financial pressures, differing opinions, and setbacks from vendors. But through it all, God has been faithful. He's provided financially, and their family and friends have been a tremendous help.



The process has also taught them how to communicate and make decisions together, skills that will benefit them throughout their marriage. Sophie and Paulo have learned that trust in God isn't just about comfort, but about walking through challenges.

In moments of uncertainty, Sophie reminds herself that ***God is the Author of her story, and He knows every detail. Even when she can't see how things will unfold, she trusts that He is writing a beautiful story.***

Sophie encourages others to trust God, especially through challenges.

Faith isn't wishful thinking, it's the confidence that God will be faithful, even when the path ahead is unclear.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating God's Work in our Ministries

MEN'S MINISTRY MEN OF VALOUR (MOV)

By: Bro Ken Olandes
(JIL Blacktown)



NSW MEN'S CONFERENCE: THE REAL MEN



It was an awesome day that the Lord has made.

Despite being the middle of winter, the sun was shining brightly. Around 100 men from across NSW gathered, coming from Auburn, Blacktown, Canberra, Campbelltown, Dubbo, Liverpool, Hawkesbury, Melbourne, and Rockdale.

"Men who, by the strong grace of the Lord Jesus, heard, were entrusted, and remained faithful."

We were blessed with passionate speakers who spoke from the heart and exhorted us on what it means to be "Real Men of God." Here are the key takeaways from our beloved pastors:

Ptr Ricky

- Men as Soldiers - Determined to make a difference. Like soldiers, strong and courageous, moulded to provide and protect, always prepared.
- Men as Athletes - Disciplined, persistent, and never quit.
- Men as Farmers - Hardworking, patient, diligent, expectant of good results, and trusting God for the future.

Ptr Bong

- R - Resilient in Grace
- E - Equipped for the Mission
- A - Accountable in Character
- L - Love in Action

Ptr Jerry

- Men as Image Makers, Destiny Builders, and Garden Keepers

We gathered together in worship and prayer, strengthening our spiritual bond as a community.

Alongside moments of reflection, we engaged in team-building activities that encouraged unity and fellowship. It was a joyful and meaningful time spent together, filled with laughter, connection, and shared purpose.

The Events Team thoughtfully prepared a QR code survey to better understand our attendees. The results revealed that most participants have been part of the church for 2-5 years, with a notable number involved for over a decade. The age range of attendees was primarily between 36 and 50 years old. Encouragingly, many expressed a desire for the Men's event to be held twice a year.

Camping emerged as the most popular activity among the men, and the Events Team is excited to begin planning a future camping experience that will build on the success of this gathering.

Overall, the event was a resounding success, with attendees rating it as excellent. We are deeply grateful to everyone who came, participated, and contributed to the uplifting atmosphere.

Above all, we give glory to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through whom all things are made possible.



EMPOWERED HUB

Transforming lives through Faith and Action!



STEWARD OF TIME

By: Sis Dr. Marietta Claudio Languido
(JIL Blacktown PM)

Time, time, time is flying,
You don't even feel that time is passing,
Time is gold, we are getting old and weary,
Time is precious, make sure you use your time so wisely.

When I was young, time was slow,
I wish I could stretch time and make time go faster,
Now that I 'm old, time is fast,
I wish I could do more things and make more time to last.

Eating, talking, reading, studying, working
These things I have spent more time,
I may not have spent more time travelling, partying or socialising,
People say that I don't have a life and call me boring.

But I am surrounded with people that I truly care and love,
And have spent time loving, caring, giving help to someone in need,
Praying, worshipping and spending quiet time with my God,
Time well-spent, time worth living,
I spent the best days of my youth and strength with my Lord,
Time is great, full of God's mercy and grace,
I am living a full life that I declare!

It is obvious and yet oblivious,
that there are precious things in life,
Money, silver or gold cannot buy,
Time, for, sure, is far more expensive than silver and gold,
Don't forget that your time is most valuable.

I am still hoping, dreaming and awaiting patiently,
while my busy hands are working,
my spirit continuing to seek God,
so my faith keeps growing and serving faithfully,
Time spent well,
For waiting time is never wasted time!

So, therefore, set your goals, reach your dreams,
Only things that you do for the Lord will last,
Run your course and finish the race,
All these things can be achieved with God's love and grace.

Now that my hair is growing grey,
I start to ponder if I have spent my time well or did I go astray?
For I know God's plan is always perfect,
He makes everything beautiful in his perfect time.

To God be all the Glory!

Dr. Marietta Claudio Languido
Author, Copyright 2025

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- On being a servant by Warren Wiersbe
- Spiritual leadership by Oswald Sanders
- Understanding the purpose and power of prayer by Miles Munroe
- 7 pillars of health by Don Colbert
- Purpose Driven life by Rick Warren

COMING SOON!

The Best Is Yet to Come!

WOMENS CONFERENCE (TREASURES)

- JIL Australia National, Local Outreach
- Saturday, 15 November 2025

PASTORS CONGRESS & 47TH ANNIVERSARY

- JIL Australia National
- 6 - 19 October 2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

- JIL Australia National
- Saturday, 25 October 2025

PASTORS RETREAT

- JIL Australia National
- 22 - 24 November 2025

BIBLE BRAIN BUSTERS

🕒 ROUND THE CLOCK

Answer the 12 clues, placing them into the clock, reading inwards. The answers all share the same last letter. Then read round the outer circle to find a phrase from Matthew 21:25.

1. Connect together [Genesis 34:30]
2. Not closed [Revelation 3:8]
3. Ram's bony protrusions [Joshua 6:4]
4. Middle of the day [John 4:6]
5. Indication of direction [Genesis 9:17]
6. Set fire to [Luke 1:9]
7. Conclusion to a prayer [Nehemiah 8:6]
8. Physical discomfort [1 Peter 2:19]
9. Not fat [Genesis 41:24]
10. Ferrous metal [1 Samuel 17:7]
11. Length of a stretched hand [Psalm 39:5]
12. Earth's natural satellite [Luke 21:25]



📞 PHONE ME

The numbers of a telephone keypad have several letters associated with them. If 3683 [John 2:16] is DOVE, can you decode the other 6 birds?

- 72836 [Genesis 8:7]
- 6787424 [Lamentations 3:4]
- 8858873 [Leviticus 11:13]
- 32453 [Isaiah 40:31]
- 7727769 [Matthew 10:29]
- 727874343 [1 Samuel 26:20]



CHURCH UPDATES & EVENTS

Transforming lives through Faith and Action!

By: Bro Jim & Sis Sharon May Maranan
(JIL Canberra)



TESTIMONY OF NEW BEGINNINGS: STRENGTH OF UNITY



What a faithful God we serve! As we reflect on the incredible grace that carried us to the recent JIL Church Canberra's launching/grand opening, our hearts are filled not just with gratitude, but also with awe.

Over the past six months, we've walked through a season of challenge and change, one that has tested our faith, refined our purpose, and ultimately drawn us closer together as a church family. God was at work, quietly weaving His plan through every prayer, every conversation, and every step forward. What once felt shaken has become a foundation for something new: a church rooted not in what was, but in what God is building now.

In the early days of this new chapter, we didn't have a building or a blueprint. What we had was a promise from God and a faithful believers, who chose to serve, and to believe. Together, we carried a shared burden, to reimagine the future with deeper love, stronger truth, and unshakable unity.

Today, we stand as one body, united in Christ, strengthened by grace, and filled with hope. We've seen how God can take what feels uncertain and turn it into a testimony of His faithfulness. Relationships have been restored, trust has been rebuilt, and a renewed sense of purpose is rising among us. This is more than a fresh start. It's a divine invitation to be part of something greater than ourselves. As we move forward, we do so with hearts aligned, hands joined, and eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Let this be the beginning of a new season marked by unity, growth, and the unstoppable love of God.

In those intimate prayer nights, God began to reframe our hearts. He reminded us that He never stops building His Church even when things look different from what we've imagined. God was redeeming for deeper unity. He began to pour out healing. **He brought restoration and a renewed purpose.**



As we gathered week after week with one heart and one mind, the Lord knit us together in love (*Colossians 2:2*). What began as a group of like-minded believers became something deeper, we became a true spiritual family, united in Christ and closer than ever before.

And on the day of our grand opening, as we worshiped together in one spirit, with one voice and one vision, we knew we were exactly where God wanted us to be. It was more than a celebration; it was a testimony. A testimony of God's ability to restore, to realign, and to re-establish His Church.

Right now, we are not just thankful for a fresh start, we are committed to moving forward in unity, humility and faith.

The early church was described as being **"together in one heart and mind"** (*Acts 4:32*), and we believe that same spirit is what God is building here. We are seeing people serve side by side, love without condition, and live on mission with renewed passion.

No longer scattered, we are gathered. No longer uncertain, we are anchored. No longer defined by a split, we are united by a greater call.



We don't take this unity for granted. It's a gift we guard through prayer, humility and accountability. As mentioned earlier, the journey hasn't been easy, but we wouldn't trade it for anything. That's because in every step, Jesus has proven faithful.

To those in the middle of disappointment, to leaders who feel like things are falling apart, take heart. Sometimes, *God allows things to be shaken so that what remains is unshakable* (*Hebrews 12:27*). Sometimes, a painful ending is the soil for a powerful beginning.

We are living proof that what the enemy meant for harm, God can turn for good, for the saving of many lives (*Genesis 50:20*).

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming support we received during our grand opening, especially from our JIL Family. It is truly a testimony to the goodness and faithfulness of God.

We're excited for the road ahead and we are so grateful to be walking it with you, our church family.

To God be all the glory!

CHURCH UPDATES & EVENTS

Transforming lives through Faith and Action!

By: Sis Jezereel Billano-Fabreag & Sis Kristen Macaraeg
(JIL Brisbane South)



5 SUNDAYS OF A VICTORIOUS MONTH

Throughout June 2025, Jesus Is Lord Church Brisbane Southside (QLD) witnessed the powerful manifestation of the theme: **Christ's Victory is the Answer: Breaking Free from Bondage.**

This theme came alive through the anointed preaching of God's Word during each of the five Worship & Healing Services held throughout the month. Every Sunday became a divine encounter, as God's humble servants faithfully delivered His Word to the Church.

In this article, you are invited to journey through the five powerful messages of the Almighty God, each one uniquely used to reveal the victorious and liberating power of Jesus Christ.

1 June
Bondage to Breakthrough: Power of God's Victory
Speaker: Ptr. Marianne Newberry



Key Scripture: Luke 4:18-19
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set a liberty to those who are oppressed, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

"To experience breakthrough, let us follow God's specific instructions. There are no shortcuts. Rely on His power and timing with persistent prayer, unwavering faith, and full obedience," shared Ptr. Marianne Newberry on the first Sunday of June.

Breakthrough is not merely the removal of obstacles, it is the supernatural overcoming of challenges, especially those that seem humanly impossible. Whether it's emotional healing, spiritual renewal, or victory in life's battles, breakthrough begins when we submit fully to God's ways. As Luke 4:18-19 reminds us, Christ came to proclaim freedom for the captives and to set the oppressed free. In Him, no chain is too strong to be broken, and no bondage too great to be overcome.

Though breakthroughs may not always come in the way or timing we desire, Scripture assures us that God is present, working for our good. His process often refines us, deepens our faith, and reveals more of His character and purpose.

Here are Biblical Breakthroughs that inspire our faith:

- 1. David's Victory Over the Philistines** - God broke through like a mighty flood (2 Samuel 5:20).
- 2. The Fall of Jericho** - Obedience and faith led to a miraculous collapse (Joshua 6).
- 3. Gideon's Triumph Over the Midianites** - Victory with only 300 men, showing God's power, not numbers (Judges 7).

- **The Bleeding Woman Healed** - A touch of faith brought immediate healing (Mark 5:25-34).
- **Peter's Release from Prison** - Divine intervention in response to prayer (Acts 12).
- **Paul and Silas in Philippi** - Worship and praise led to an earthquake and freedom (Acts 16:25-26).

Ptr. Marianne emphasized that each of these moments teaches us that God's breakthroughs are unstoppable but they often come through obedience, faith, worship and persistence in prayer.

8 June
From Victim to Victor: Christ Set Us Free
Speaker: Sis. Myra Purganan



Key Scripture: Matthew 27:15-26
"We are victors... no longer victims. We were worthy of death, but Christ set us free!" exhorts Sis Myra Purganan. Jesus Christ stands eternally victorious yesterday, today and forevermore. He conquered sin (John 1:29; 1 John 2:2; Hebrews 9:15); He defeated death and its sting (Hebrews 2:14-15; 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:53-55); and He triumphed over Satan (Luke

10:18-19; Colossians 2:15; John 16:33).

Sis Myra shared the story of Barabbas that serves as a powerful reminder of our spiritual condition before Christ, and the grace we've now received through Him. Barabbas, a convicted criminal on death row, heard the crowd shouting "Crucify him!" and surely assumed they were calling for his own execution. But instead of punishment, he received an unimaginable gift: freedom, bought by the blood of an innocent man, Jesus Christ.

Just like Barabbas, we were guilty, convicted by sin, deserving of death according to the Law. But Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God, took our place. He was mocked, tortured, crucified... and then, He rose again. His resurrection proclaims forever the victory of God over death, sin, and the powers of darkness.

Praise be to the Almighty! Praise Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Redeemer, our Victor!

We have been:

- Saved by grace;
- Clothed in righteousness; and
- Called to remain faithful until His glorious return.

Sis Myra boldly exhorted the Church to live not as victims of circumstances, but as victors in Christ, walking in the freedom and power that His victory has made available to us all.

CHURCH UPDATES & EVENTS

Transforming lives through Faith and Action!

15 June

Freed to Love: Growing in Gifts, Bearing Fruits
Speaker: Sis. Glenda Walker



Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

The goal is not to discover our gift. Instead, the goal is to love one another," stated Sis. Glenda Walker on 15 June when the Church commemorated the 127th Anniversary of Philippine Independence.

It was a powerful reminder that while God equips each of us with unique gifts, our highest calling is love. In a world that celebrates self-promotion and individual achievement, the Kingdom of God calls unity through diversity, with each believer playing a vital role in building up the body of Christ, not for personal recognition, but out of love for one another.

Here are three spiritual truths that anchor this message:

God's Gifts are in Perfect Harmony (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

The **Aramaic** word for gift is **yahav**, rooted in **tawa** (*goodness*) and **tov** (*harmony with God*). This tells us that spiritual gifts are not random abilities, but intentional deposits of God's goodness, designed to strengthen the Church and bring unity among His people. Each gift whether teaching, encouraging, healing, or serving, operates best not in isolation, but in collaboration with others, offered in love.

The Fruit of the Spirit Is a Visible Yield (Galatians 5:22-23)

The **Hebrew** word for fruit is **pere**, which means a yield or harvest. Fruit doesn't appear on its own, it grows from a tree, which starts as a seed. Likewise, the fruit of the Spirit is the visible evidence of God's presence in us.

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, these are not just virtues, but spiritual fruits cultivated in believers through a life rooted in Christ.

Unity Through Diversity Builds the Church (Ephesians 4:16)

Every member of the Church is gifted and called to bear fruit, not for personal advancement, but for the strengthening of the body. When each part functions in love, the Church grows, matures and reflects Christ more clearly to the world.

Sis. Glenda reminded the Church the importance of using our spiritual gifts in love, as a mark of true maturity in Christ.

22 June

Freed for a Purpose: Answer the Call to Go Deeper
Speaker: Ptr. Violeta Aquinde



Key Scripture: Exodus 3:1-10 "The Lord fulfilled His purpose through Moses... and He can fulfill His divine will through you as well. Be willing to experience Him in a deeper sense. The wilderness, challenges, difficulties, solitude, is not the end. It could only be the beginning of something great that God has planned for you,"

shared Ptr. Violy Aquinde.

Are you still searching for the purpose of your life? The story of Moses reveals that God often uses the wilderness to prepare us for our calling.

In Exodus 2:11-23, we learn that after defending a Hebrew slave by killing an Egyptian, Moses fled into exile in Midian. For 40 years, he lived in obscurity, working as a shepherd and wandering in the wilderness. But those years weren't wasted, they were a time of growth, humility, and transformation.

"The wilderness is a place of preparation and revelation. When God calls us in the wilderness, we should respond with a humble and trusting heart," adds Ptr. Violy.

It was in that quiet, rugged place, on the far side of the wilderness, that Moses encountered the living God. In *Exodus 3:1-10*, at Mount Horeb, God revealed Himself in a burning bush, calling Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery. What seemed like a dead end became a divine beginning.

What can we learn from Moses?

- Your wilderness season may feel silent, but God is working.
- God prepares us in private before using us in public.
- When the call comes, we must answer with faith, not fear.

As we learn from Moses' journey, may we also open our hearts to deeper intimacy with God. Even when the path is unclear, believe that He has a plan, and He is faithful to fulfill it. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

Ptr. Violy urged the Church to go deeper, listen carefully and walk courageously into the calling God has for each of us.

29 June

Confidence, Obedience, Courage: Living in Victory
Speaker: Sis. Christine Macaraeg

Key Scripture: Deuteronomy

"Christ's victory is our way out of bondage. When God leads us, nothing can hold us back!" declared Sis. Christine Macaraeg on the final Sunday of June.

Truly, Jesus Christ goes before us in every battle; His victory is our confidence. Just like Israel, we too are facing battles in life, bondages, fears and strongholds. *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57*

CHURCH UPDATES & EVENTS

Transforming lives through Faith and Action!

The final words of Moses to Israel remind us that we are not left alone in our journey. He said, "I am no longer able to go out and come in... But it is the Lord your God who is going before you." Even when leadership changes or the future is unclear, God remains our constant, victorious leader.

God leads us into freedom. [Deuteronomy 31:3]; He gives victory through obedience [Deuteronomy 31:5]; and He strengthens us with courage. [Deuteronomy 31:6].

When God leads, victory is certain. When we obey, victory is sustained. When we are courageous, victory is manifested.

As June 2025 ended, we were reminded through every message that Christ's victory is not just a truth to know, it's a life to live.

Each Sunday built upon the last, revealing different dimensions of what it means to be free:

- Free to overcome the impossible through obedience and faith.
- Free to walk not in guilt, but in grace.
- Free to love and serve with unity of heart and purpose.
- Free to step into our calling, even from seasons of solitude and uncertainty.
- Free to live with confidence, obedience and courage.

Let us go forward as people who are truly free, fully His and firmly anchored in the victory of Jesus Christ because.. **It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1).**



1 AM READY: EXPANDING BEYOND AND BUILDING STRONG

God's most powerful works are born from persistent prayer and is fulfilled in His perfect timing.

For years, the vision of planting a JIL Church in the northern region of Queensland was lifted up in relentless prayer and unwavering faith by the leaders, intercessors, and members of JIL Brisbane. In 2024, that vision came to life and that prayer was answered. Born from the heart of JIL Brisbane Main, JIL Brisbane Caboolture held its soft opening on January 7, 2024, with once-a-month services. By April 2024, God opened the way for us to hold weekly Worship and Healing Services every Sunday.

Since then, **we have witnessed lives transformed, God's promises unfolding, the power of the Holy Spirit moving mightily, and incredible growth not only in faith but also in numbers!**

Fast forward to May 18, 2025, we commemorated our First Church Anniversary, a milestone event held at the SPC Hall



of Caboolture State High School, with the theme:

"1 AM READY: EXPANDING BEYOND, BUILDING STRONG" anchored in **Isaiah 54:2-3**, a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness, the importance of preparation and expectation, and the promise of restoration and growth. **It calls us to trust His plan and be ready to embrace the blessings He has in store.**

The event was a blessing beyond measure, attended by more than **200 attendees**, including brethren from JIL Brisbane Main, JIL Brisbane Southside, and many first-time guests now cherished members of our growing church family.

But as we prepared for this historic celebration, our faith in God was tested. Just days before the event, we received an email from the school manager that our regular venue for service was not available on the day of our church anniversary. Instead of allowing fear and worries to take hold of us, as one church, we turned to God in prayer and with our unwavering faith. In His abundant grace, God opened the door to an even larger hall



a clear confirmation that He is with us. This divine provision affirmed His desire for us to **"Expand Beyond and Build Strong,"** perfectly reflecting the theme of our celebration.

With an even bigger space, the anniversary overflowed with creativity, a spirit-directed worship and service, and unforgettable moments. Highlights included a grand overture by our Triune Movers, the Men of the House boldly carrying



the banners of the Lord's Names, a joyful Majestic Kids dance presentation to "I'm Gonna Let It Shine," and spirit-filled praise and worship led by the Worship and Arts Network—leaving a lasting impact on the heart and history of the JIL Queensland family.

We were especially honoured by the presence of our **JIL Church Oceania Director, Rev. Jerry Ignacio**, and his beautiful wife **Pastor Mae Ignacio**, who graced the celebration with their wisdom, love, and support. Rev. Pastor Jerry headlined the historic event with an empowering message that encouraged and reminded us that "God has commanded us to multiply and grow. **He has called us to bear fruit, as He has chosen us to stretch beyond limits, spread His glory, strengthen our roots, and settle in His purpose.**"

CHURCH UPDATES & EVENTS

Transforming lives through Faith and Action!

Beyond the program and presentations, the heart of this celebration was transformation. Two of our beloved church members, Bro. Irrae and Bro. Venson, courageously testified how



God met them in their darkest, most broken, and hopeless moments and how His love, grace, and power radically transformed their lives. Once lost, they now boldly declare that they are **"READY TO EXPAND BEYOND AND BUILD STRONG."**

Their testimonies reminded us that God is still in the business of healing, restoring, and making all things new. He can meet us right where we are and turn our brokenness into breakthrough for His glory.

We pray, we believe, and we receive that God's greater plans are unfolding for Queensland because when His people are ready to expand beyond and build strong there's no limit to what He can do through them.

As we move forward as 1 church, as 1 body of Christ, with 1 mission and 1 vision, we boldly declare: "1 AM READY: EXPANDING BEYOND, BUILDING STRONG!"

This is only the beginning. **TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!**



**MINISTRY EXPO:
IN THE EYES OF THE MINISTERS**
By: **Sis Jeraldine Carpio**
(JIL Melbourne)

Jesus assignment to the vineyard has begun when he sent out the apostles not individually but in pairs as written

*And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff, no bread, no bag, no money in their belts but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics."
Mark 6:7*

In the life of our Majestics, WAN and SOS ministers in JIL Melbourne, we see the great commission continues in pairs and not in pairs.

Sis. CJ and Sis. Ashley - Majestics Kids

When the student becomes the teacher. To be part of the majestics kid and now both in the other side of the ministry is the fulfillment of the word Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

The journey from neighbours to sisters in Christ, serving in the ministry, started in 2005. We used to live on the same street, so we saw each other daily at school, and every weekend. If you told me that we'd end up leading the Majestic Kids ministry, I would never have believed you. Graduating from the Majestic kids, we served in the music ministry together, we understood what it means to have a servant's heart life, to be obedient and disciplined.

servant's heart life, to be obedient and disciplined. Both of us being the eldest naturally cared for the children. We started serving in the Majestics because even though the kids are young, they need spiritual feeding too. As heads of the ministry, where the Majestic Kids is today is hard work. We believe that parents involvement in their children's faith walk and the Majestic Kids is not a Sunday daycare. We make time to know the parents and adjust the curriculum as we go, making sure that no child left behind. We love our ministry, it has taught us to grow the fruits of patience, kindness, and gentleness. It has helped us adapt in the way we teach and makes us touch base on the basics, to learn new things from the same stories. We have the honour in watching our kids grow in faith and in the love of the Lord. It is a blessing to serve in the Majestic Kids ministry.

After being active in the Majestic Kids for many years, we decided to join the expo to expand the team. We thought the best way to market the booth was to make it have a focus on the person serving in the ministry. Working in the Majestic kids requires the fruit of patience, kindness and gentleness. You really need these fruits if you want to be in the Majestic Kids, as ages vary, different kids have different skills and understandings. If you've ever said you want to be patient, this is the ministry for you, because kids are kids, sometimes throw tantrums and don't listen but you can still get your lesson done if you exercise your fruits. We also tried to recruit people by appealing to those trying to start a family, helping them understand how to look after kids. While the Majestic Kids is about teaching our children the lessons in the bible, its to make sure that they are thriving and okay in the community they are in. Making sure that they are heard when they are having a hard time, that everytime they walk into the Majestic Kids room, the abundance of God's love follows. I learnt that people think it's hard to be in the Majestic Kid ministry, they're willing but don't believe that they have the patience but like a fruit, it can be grown if taken care of. The expo showed all of us that we were willing to be patient and adapt for our ever growing kids.

Sam- Majestics Asst.- Education Intern

The ministry expo was fun and meaningful. Each ministry had its own booth filled with decorations, activities, and smiling volunteers. Each one walked around to learn more about the different ways they can serve at church. It was a day full of joy, laughter, and connection. I got to help in three different ministries. First, I joined the Majestic Kids booth with Ate CJ, Ate Ashley, and Ate Juvi. We had a word search activity for the children, everyone was excited to find words like "God," "pray," and "love." I sat with the younger kids and gave clues, encouraging them. I saw how the love of God was being shared through kindness, patience, and the joy of learning more about Him. It reminded me that the simplest activity makes a child feel seen and loved by God.

Later, I helped in the Finance Ministry with my Mum and the Education Ministry booth. People enjoyed the spinning wheel game: the Who, What, Where When, Why and How in the bible and is it true or False. It was fun seeing people light up when they answer right. Amidst all the laughter and conversation, we were still pointing people back to God's Word. Mum shared how the Finance Ministry helps the church in using resources wisely, showing the love of God in practical ways. Small things like the spinning wheel created Bible literacy (Education). Serving in three ministries helped me experience how the love of God can be shared in different forms, through teaching, playing, giving, and simply being present. The expo reminded me that no matter where we serve, God's love is at the centre of it all. **"Let all that you do be done in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:14**

CHURCH UPDATES & EVENTS

Transforming lives through Faith and Action!

Chris and Joy - WAN ministers

We began serving the Lord in JIL Victoria WAN as a married couple in 2020. We are truly grateful for the opportunity to serve together. Serving the Lord as a couple in the same ministry is deeply fulfilling and spiritually enriching. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 highlights the strength found in partnership:

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.”

Being a couple in the WAN ministry comes with both joyful moments and challenges, reflecting our shared journey of faith and service. On the positive side, working together strengthens our bond and creates a shared purpose. Supporting each other deepens our emotional and spiritual connection. Leading worship brings us great joy and fulfilment, especially when we are both leading people in worship. However, we also face difficulties in balancing ministry responsibilities with personal life. At times, we have different goals and ideas within the ministry. Yet through prayer, open communication, and the Word of God, and by His grace, we are able to navigate the highs and lows of life. We focus on the joy of serving the Lord together and supporting one another.

Serving together allows us to share a spiritual journey and a common purpose, deepening our relationship with God and glorifying Him through the talents He has gifted us. Ultimately, it's an opportunity for us to model the love of Christ and the unity of His body to others.

Ton and Mye- Dance Coordinator

Being part of the WAN Ministry, this was our first time participating in a Ministry Expo. It was truly a wonderful and joy-filled experience. Our initial thoughts about the event centred on how we could be creative. But God reminded us that whatever we do, and whatever the outcome, we are doing it for His glory, not to please others.

We joined the ministry to serve and to share the talents the Lord has entrusted to us. We both began serving when we were single, and doing it together as a married couple has drawn us closer to God. As we lead and witness the congregation dancing for the Lord, we are encouraged to continue doing what we do for Him.

Through the Ministry Expo, we were able to encourage both long-time and new church members to be part of the ministry, where they can serve the Lord using their God-given talents and skills. It's a way to introduce the ministry and a gateway for people to take an active role in the church.

As a couple in ministry, it's normal to have disagreements, although most of the time we are in agreement. We always believe that as long as the Lord is at the centre of our service, we can overcome any challenges that may arise. Our service will always be for the glory of the Living God.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Hazel-WAN Coordinator

Glory to our Living God for the gift of co-workers in His vineyard, those who share the same heart and passion to love and serve Him through the WAN ministry. Jay and I, Joylheen and Christopher, Ton and Mhye, were among the first workers in our respective churches across different parts of the world, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and the Philippines.

As His Word says, we may plan in our hearts, but the Lord determines our steps. And here we are now, united in Jesus Is Lord Victoria. After arriving in Melbourne and meeting one another, we gradually built friendships. Over time, it became clear that this was the Lord's plan for us, to walk together as young adults who love God.

Fast forward to today, we are now co-workers in the WAN ministry here in Melbourne, and we are excited for the greater things He will do in our church. We remain friends as we serve Christ in the callings He has placed on our lives. Praise be to God for the amazing gift of friendship and for allowing us to be co-workers with one goal: to become more like Christ, to share His love and salvation, and to be used in His Kingdom for His greater glory.

SOS- Bro. Noel

Joining the Ministry Expo was a special experience for me. I chose to participate because I love the church. Being part of the church feels like being part of a big family, and I want to play my part in helping it grow and stay strong.

One thing I realised during the Expo is that serving isn't just about lending a hand, it's about being part of the body of Christ. Each of us has a role to play. We're connected, and when we serve, we grow together. I came to understand more deeply that the church needs all of us, not just a few, to be complete and healthy.

This experience made me even more excited to serve. It opened my eyes to the fact that there's always room to grow. It's not just about completing tasks; it's about giving your heart fully to God and to His people. I feel like my service has reached a new level because now, I'm not just doing things for the sake of doing them. I'm doing them out of love for God, love for the church, and with a deeper sense of purpose.

I'm excited to continue serving, and I pray that through this, God will use me even more to bless others.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING SEMINAR

On the 7th of June, we hosted a one-day Mental Health & Well-Being Seminar at JILB, aimed at equipping our church leaders and members with a deeper understanding of mental health through a biblical perspective.

The event featured three distinguished speakers:

Paul Burke – Church Leader, Resilience Instructor and Coach, and Community Mental Health Champion

David Barter – Pastoral Leader, Certified Mental Health First Aid Trainer, and Mental Health Advocate

Laura Howe – Founder of Hope Made Strong, Clinical Mental Health Social Worker, Addictions Counsellor, and Project Manager



The seminar was a resounding success, with participants gaining valuable tools and perspectives to support mental health within their communities. We are deeply grateful to our speakers and attendees for making this event both impactful and memorable.

CHURCH UPDATES & EVENTS

Transforming lives through Faith and Action!

UNCHANGABLE
YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER - HEBREWS 13:8

JESUS IS LORD CHURCH DUBBO 6TH YEAR THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Our brothers and sisters in JIL Dubbo come together in heartfelt gratitude for the abundant blessings in their lives. To honour the spirit of the occasion, attendees are encouraged to wear orange attire and to dress warmly in preparation for the cold weather.



JESUS IS LORD CHURCH CAMPBELLTOWN 6TH YEAR THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

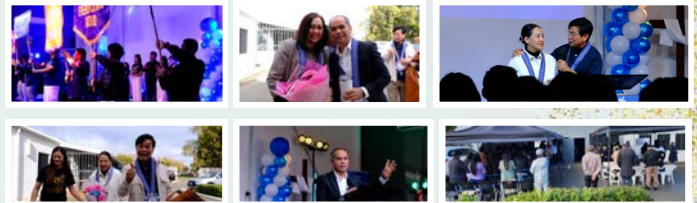
"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." - Isaiah 40:31



Our brothers and sisters in JIL Campbelltown joyfully celebrated their 6th anniversary, determined to make a lasting impact. Guided by this year's theme from Isaiah 40:31, they are soaring like eagles, rising with renewed strength and purpose

JESUS IS LORD CHURCH PERTH 10TH YEAR THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Corinthians 15:57



JIL Church Perth joyfully commemorated its 10th Year Thanksgiving Anniversary, a decade marked by God's unwavering love and faithfulness. The celebration was graced by the presence of Oceania Director, Ptr Jerry Ignacio, and Sis Mae Ignacio, whose participation added great significance to the occasion.

This year's theme was anchored in the powerful verse from **1 Corinthians 15:57: "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."**

Following the worship and thanksgiving service, the congregation gathered for a fellowship meal, which was richly enjoyed and blessed by many. It was a heartfelt time of unity, gratitude, and reflection on the victories the Lord has granted over the past ten years.

To God be all the glory and the highest praise!

JESUS IS LORD CHURCH LIVERPOOL 26TH YEAR THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." - 1 Corinthians 15:58



JIL Church Liverpool joyfully marked its 26th Year Thanksgiving Anniversary on 27 July 2025. The celebration was graced by our special guest speaker, Ptr Rene Sanqui, and centred around the powerful theme from 1 Corinthians 15:58: **"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."**

It was a day filled with gratitude, worship, and reflection on God's faithfulness throughout the years.

CHURCH UPDATES & EVENTS

Transforming lives through Faith and Action!

STUDENT CONNECT : 2ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On June 29th, our church had the joy and privilege of celebrating the second anniversary of the Student Connect Ministry. It was a beautiful and memorable day, filled with heartfelt fellowship and gratitude.

We are truly thankful for the generosity of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Your support is a tremendous blessing to our students, and I'm deeply grateful for every act of kindness and contribution. From the delicious food to the exciting raffle prizes and thoughtful giveaways, every detail made the celebration feel extra special.

Thank you, dear brothers and sisters, for being part of this milestone and for helping us create such a warm and welcoming atmosphere. **May God bless you abundantly for your continued love and support!**



JIL TREASURES WOMENS MINISTRY: LIPS (LADIES IN PJS) & MOVIE NIGHT



On Friday, 11 July 2025, the **Treasures Women's Ministry** gathered once again for a vibrant and spirit-filled evening at JIL Blacktown Church. The event, titled **LIPS (Ladies in PJs) & Movie Night**, was a beautiful blend of faith, fellowship, and fun.

The night began with an energising session of *Praise and Worship Zumba*, setting the tone with joy and movement as we lifted our hearts in praise. Following this, we settled in to watch the inspiring film **Miracles from Heaven**, a powerful story of faith, healing, and hope that deeply resonated with everyone present.

This special gathering also served a greater purpose, a fundraising collaboration in support of *Destiny Rescue* and *CYN Mission*, and through the generosity and support of those who attended, we successfully raised \$548 towards these life-changing causes. We are truly grateful to everyone who joined us, donated, and prayed with us.

JIL TREASURES WOMENS MINISTRY : NOURISHED FUNDRAISING EVENT

JIL Treasures Women's Ministry came together on April 5, 2025, for our **Nourished: BODY.SOUL.SPIRIT - Walk, Jog, and Run Fundraiser** in support of **Destiny Rescue**, an organisation dedicated to rescuing children from trafficking and exploitation.

It was a joyful and successful event, filled with laughter, unity, and hearts ignited for a cause greater than ourselves. We are deeply grateful to everyone who joined us, gave generously, and lifted us up in prayer. Together, we've raised \$1,917 in support of **Destiny Rescue**, a powerful step toward freedom and hope for those in need.

Your support is creating real, lasting change.

Let's keep running with purpose, for **freedom**, for **justice**, and above all, for **love**.



Hey Treasures!

You're warmly invited to our **JIL Australia Treasures Women's All-Day Conference**, a day designed to uplift, empower, and ignite your spirit!!!

- 🕒 Starting at 9:00 AM/Saturday, 15 November 2025
- 📍 Location: JIL Church Sydney Australia
- 🌟 Theme: Flourish

"The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
Shall flourish in the courts of our God." - Psalm 92:12-14

Let's gather as women of faith, rooted in God's love, ready to grow, bloom, and flourish together.

We can't wait to celebrate this beautiful day with each of you!

ECHOES OF FAITH

Remembering His Faithfulness

JOURNEY NEWSLETTER: SECOND RELEASE ACROSS JIL CHURCH AUSTRALIA OUTREACHES



ECHOES OF FAITH

Remembering His Faithfulness

A VISION FULFILLED: A 35-YEAR JOURNEY OF FAITH ACROSS AUSTRALIA

By: Sis Desiree Pujante
(JIL Blacktown AM)



The Vision and the Declaration

In 1984, during the JIL Council of Leaders meeting in Bunlo, Bocaue, Bulacan, Bro. Eddie Villanueva cast a vision that the JIL fellowship (as it was formerly known) would reach many nations. This vision aligned with a promise written in **Habakkuk 2:2-3**:

Then the Lord said to me, "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end, it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay."

In the same year, at Araullo High School in Manila, Philippines, a powerful declaration was made: "Jesus is Lord all over the world." It marked the beginning of an echo, a call for every believer who heard it to prepare and be part of the great move of God. Sunday after Sunday, Bro. Eddie would begin naming different countries and continents around the world, and Australia was among them. "The vision awaits its appointed time."

The declaration resonated deeply and became etched in the hearts of many faithful believers, including members and workers of the JIL Church who migrated to Australia. The vision was humbly embraced, and the declaration was upheld through prayer, unaware that its fulfilment was slowly unfolding. That powerful declaration, spoken boldly and in faith by Bro. Eddie Villanueva, became the seed of a movement that would grow into a vibrant, multicultural congregation known today as Jesus Is Lord Church Australia.

From its inception, the church has embodied the vision of being "a glorious church evangelising and discipling Filipinos and all peoples of the world through teaching, preaching, and living out the full Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." This vision has guided every step of its journey, from humble beginnings, through seasons of growth, to the expansion of God's kingdom across Australia.

The Beginning of Yesterday (1987-2005)

The journey began when Pastor Ricky Rontale migrated to Australia in 1987. He met fellow believers who were also members of JIL Philippines, it felt like a reunion of JIL people in Sydney. Initially, they attended a local Christian church in Girraween, which paved the way for household Bible studies in nearby suburbs. While waiting for the opportune time, the membership grew by God's grace. These gatherings laid the foundation for what would become the Jesus Is Lord Fellowship. In 1989, Sis Lourdes joined Pastor Ricky, and together they led Bible studies and prayer meetings in suburbs such as Toongabbie, Seven Hills, Dean Park, and Harris Park.

A pivotal moment came in December 1990 when Bro Eddie and Ate Dory Villanueva were invited to Australia to pray for a sick friend. Despite initial fears due to a recent bomb threat in the Philippines, God's plan was never thwarted. The couple met with the first JIL leaders, and Sis Dory recognised them from Araullo High School. "The vision and declaration finally came; it did not delay."

The small initiatives and passionate efforts of the pioneers were acknowledged and supported. Thus, Jesus Is Lord Australia was commissioned, and the appointed leaders were officially recognised by Bro Eddie and Sis Dory, marking the official birth of the fellowship on this continent.

Jesus Is Lord over Australia, a fulfilment of the prophetic declaration for Australia's spiritual destiny: **"The Great Southland of the Holy Spirit."**

Key Highlights of the Journey (1991-1995)

1991 - Moving Towards the Vision

- First Sunday worship service held at a tyre factory in Girraween, later moved to Westmead Community Hall.
- More Bible studies were opened, and JIL people gathered as one fellowship.
- The soul-winning ministry was central to the vision, creating opportunities to reach out and win souls for the Lord.

1992 - Year of Breakthrough

- The fellowship was legally and officially registered as a church under the name Jesus Is Lord Fellowship Australia, Incorporated.
- Appointment of the first Board of Trustees.
- Breakthrough in the music ministry, with Pastor Jeth Salindong leading the team. He guided the formation of the first worship team, with Sis Heidi Abella as the first JIL worship leader. The ministry cultivated a culture of passionate, Spirit-led worship that continues to impact lives today.
- Bro Eddie and Sis Dory's second visit to Australia affirmed God's goodness and the declaration that Jesus Is Lord in Australia.
- The year concluded with remarkable expansion and a clear outpouring of God's provision. Indeed, God was blessing the good work He had begun.

1993-1994 - Years of Sanctification, Equipping, Empowerment, and Growth

- More Bible studies were opened in suburbs such as Berala, Carlingford, Fairfield, and Marrickville.
- Bro Eddie sent two dedicated JIL pastors from the Philippines to train and equip the leaders and workers.
- Over two years, thorough leadership training was conducted, and a leadership management team was formed.
- Sanctification produced commitment and sacrifice. Equipping developed passion and confidence. Empowerment created momentum, and growth became the greater challenge.
- These years also marked a season of realisation, the leadership recognised the need to stay connected and aligned with JIL Philippines, our mother church.
- A proposal was made for JIL Philippines to send a pastor to lead the growth of JIL Australia.

In 1995, Pastor Jerry Ignacio accepted the appointment to lead JIL Australia. His being granted permanent residency was a testimony of God's provision. Pastor Jerry's appointment as the first full-time JIL pastor for Australia confirmed that God had a greater vision and plan for the ministry.

During Pastor Jerry's early years of leadership, new church coordinators were appointed and empowered. Church planting and extensions of Worship and Healing Services were established. More opportunities to serve God strengthened the foundation for ministry growth. The following outreaches were opened:

- **1997** - Pastor Ricky led a team to start an outreach, extending Worship and Healing Services from Lakemba to Granville, eventually settling in Auburn.
- **1999** - JIL Liverpool was started, led by Pastor Danny Mendoza, and later transitioned to Pastor Tomas Dela Cruz.
- **2003** - A remarkable year as JIL New Zealand was pioneered, led by Pastor Jerry and Pastor Ricky.
- **2004** - JIL Melbourne was planted, with Pastor Jose "Bong" Puyat as the current pastor.

ECHOES OF FAITH

Remembering His Faithfulness

Also in 1995, the leadership agreed to establish JIL Church Australia's main church in the suburb of Blacktown, where a growing population of Filipino families was settling.

In May 2005, the church moved into its current building in Arndell Park, officially inaugurating our JIL Blacktown church.

Expansion and Establishment (2005-2025)

The past two decades have been marked by extraordinary growth, strategic development, and a deepening of the church's mission across Australia. From a single location in Blacktown, the Jesus Is Lord Fellowship has expanded its reach, planting churches interstate and acquiring properties to support the growing congregation and ministry needs.

Each new location has become a beacon of hope and a centre for worship, discipleship, and community engagement:

- **2005** - The move to Arndell Park marked a significant milestone, establishing a permanent home for the JIL Blacktown main church and enabling larger gatherings, ministry training, and outreach programs.
- **2020** - Despite the challenges of the global pandemic, the JIL Adelaide church was established, demonstrating resilience and faith. It provided spiritual support and connection during a time of uncertainty and isolation.
- **2022** - The JIL Perth church extended JIL's presence to Western Australia, reaching new communities and fostering unity among believers across the state.

These physical spaces have enabled:

- Greater community engagement, allowing the church to respond to local needs through outreach, counselling, and social support.
- Diverse worship experiences, reflecting the multicultural nature of Australia and the richness of Spirit-led ministry.
- Strengthened infrastructure, supporting leadership development, youth and children's ministries, and long-term sustainability.

Throughout this period, the mission has remained clear and unwavering: to spread the Gospel and empower lives across Australia. The expansion is not merely about buildings, it is about building lives, transforming communities, and fulfilling the vision of a glorious church that reaches Filipinos and all peoples with the full Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Churches and Their Establishment Years

Here's a list of JIL outreaches in Australia and their shepherds:



Jesus Is Lord Church Worldwide
Spiritual Director and International President
Bishop Bro. Eddie C. Villanueva



JIL Blacktown - Established 1995
Pastor Jerry Ignacio
Oceania Operations Director
Australia Country Pastor



JIL Auburn - Established 1995
Pastor Ricky Rontale
State Pastor (NSW)



JIL Liverpool - Established 1999
Pastor Tomas Dela Cruz (2023-present)



JIL Liverpool - Established 1999
Pastor Danny Mendoza (1999-2023)



JIL Melbourne - Established 2004
Pastor Jose "Bong" Puyat



JIL Canberra - Established 2011
Pastor Freddie Mendoza (April 2025 - current)



JIL Canberra - Established 2011
Pastor Eric Marquez (2011-April 2025)



JIL Hawkesbury - Established 2012
Pastor Jeth Salindong



JIL Rockdale - Established 2012
Pastor Rene Sanqui



JIL Brisbane North - Established 2012
Pastor Julius Aquinde
State Pastor (QLD)



JIL Adelaide - Established 2014
Pastor Jason Purugganan
State Pastor (SA)



JIL Perth WA - Established 2015
Pastor Tony Vargas
State Pastor (WA)



JIL Dubbo Regional NSW - Established 2019
Pastor Manny Dequina

ECHOES OF FAITH

Remembering His Faithfulness



JIL Campbelltown - Established 2019
Brother Andy Esmana



JIL Brisbane South QLD - Established 2021
Sis Marianne Newberry



JIL Mt Barker SA- Established 2021
Sis Sath Estabillio



JIL Darwin NT - Established 2023
Bro Ed Malagno



JIL West Adelaide - Established 2023
Bro Richard Pascual



JIL Caboolture QLD - Established 2024
Bro Alex Como



JIL Blacktown AM Service
Pastor Cliff Baptista

Stories of Faith and Divine Favour

One particularly memorable account is that of Pastor Jerry's visa approval. Initially, he was sent from JIL Manila to Australia on a visa valid for less than one year. However, through God's remarkable provision, the Department of Immigration advised him to apply for permanent residency, so he would no longer need to renew his visa every six months. **Pastor Jerry's purpose met destiny, God had aligned and worked behind the scenes to bring about this divine favour,** culminating in the granting of permanent residency.

This guidance coincided with a heartfelt request from the congregation, who earnestly desired Pastor Jerry to remain as their permanent pastor, recognising the church's pressing need for consistent spiritual leadership.

Rather than facing ongoing visa renewal challenges, Pastor Jerry was granted permanent residency, a clear and powerful testament to God's favour and faithfulness.

Another unforgettable moment was the divine encounter during Bro. Eddie's visit. What began as a time of uncertainty and fear was transformed into a powerful experience of fellowship.

In a truly miraculous turn, a door, both literal and spiritual, was opened, ushering in a new chapter for JIL Australia. It was a moment that marked the beginning of something extraordinary, a clear sign of God's hand at work.

These stories serve as powerful reminders of God's unwavering faithfulness. As **Hebrews 13:8** proclaims, **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."** Through every season, whether of challenge or celebration, God has remained steadfast, guiding His people with love and purpose.

Looking Ahead

As Jesus Is Lord Church Australia commemorates 35 years of ministry, we are filled with awe and gratitude for the journey that has unfolded. The theme for this milestone, **"Christ is the Answer, He is the same Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow,"** carries profound significance. It is a declaration of unwavering faith in the eternal nature of Jesus Christ, unchanging in His love, power, and promises. In a world that constantly shifts, this truth anchors us. It reminds us that no matter the season, challenge, or triumph, Christ remains our constant source of hope, strength, and direction.

This celebration is not merely about marking time; it is about honouring the faithfulness of God and the obedience of His people. From a humble beginning, a small Bible study gathering in a living room, JIL Australia has grown into a vibrant network of churches spread across the nation.

Each congregation, each testimony, and each transformed life is a living witness to the power of the Gospel and the grace of God at work. The journey has been marked by prayer, perseverance, and the passionate pursuit of God's calling.

The story of JIL Australia is a beautiful story woven with divine provision and human faithfulness. It is a testimony that echoes the promise found in **Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."** This verse has been a guiding light, reminding us that the work God started in this ministry is far from over. He continues to build, to refine, and to expand His kingdom through the lives of those who serve and worship under the banner of Jesus Is Lord.

As we reflect on the past 35 years, we do so with hearts full of gratitude. We thank God for every pastor, leader, volunteer, worker and member who has poured their time, talent, and treasure into the ministry. We honour the sacrifices made, the prayers lifted, and the victories won. And while we celebrate the past, our eyes are also fixed on the future, with great anticipation for the mighty works God will yet do. We believe that the best is still to come.

This anniversary is a call to recommit ourselves to the mission: to proclaim that Jesus is Lord over every heart, every home, and every corner of Australia. It is a time to renew our passion for evangelism, discipleship, and community transformation. As we move forward, we do so with bold faith, knowing that Christ, our answer yesterday, today, and tomorrow, goes before us.

Here's to 35 years of God's faithfulness, and to many more years of fruitful ministry. With **one voice,** we declare once again: **Jesus is Lord over Australia!**

May His name be lifted high, His kingdom come, and His will be done in and through JIL Church Australia.

STAY CONNECTED: OUR OUTREACHES



Together, we grow stronger!!

AU ACT-CANBERRA

PTR. FREDDIE MENDOZA

SUNDAY

9:30AM (AEST/AEDT)

-  Unit 14/4 'Dusk' Grazier Lane, Belconnen ACT 2617
-  <https://www.facebook.com/JILCanberraAustralia>
-  Ptr. Freddie Mendoza: 0402 912 852
-  Newsletter Coordinator: Sharon May Maranan

AU NSW-BLACKTOWN

PTR. JERRY IGNACIO

SUNDAY

10:00AM & 5:00PM (AEST/AEDT)

-  7 Wrightland Place, Arndell Park, NSW Australia 2148
-  <https://www.facebook.com/JILSydneyAustralia>
-  AM Service: JIL Church Australia Publishing Ministry
-  PM Service: Eva Soriano Gonzales

AU NSW-DUBBO

PTR. MANNY DEQUINA

SUNDAY

10:00AM (AEST/AEDT)




-  1st Dubbo Scout Hall - 5 Welchman Street, Dubbo, NSW 2830
-  <https://www.facebook.com/JILDubbo>

AU NSW-LIVERPOOL

PTR. TOMAS DELA CRUZ

SUNDAY

10:00AM (AEST/AEDT)

-  Unit 4 5 Lyn Parade, Prestons NSW 2170
-  <https://www.facebook.com/JIL.Livo>
-  Newsletter Coordinator: Melfer Viado

AU QLD-CABOOLTURE

BRO. ALEX COMO

SUNDAY

10:00AM & 3:00PM (AEST/AEDT)

-  Caboolture State High School, 7/69 Lee St. Caboolture QLD 4510
-  <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563388928012>
-  Newsletter Coordinator: Guadalupe Gonzales

AU NSW-AUBURN

PTR. RICKY RONTALE

SUNDAY

1:30PM (AEST/AEDT)


-  44A Auburn Community Centre, Macquarie Road, Auburn, NSW, 2144
-  <https://www.facebook.com/JIL.Auburn>
-  Newsletter Coordinator: Dan Caleb Paje

AU NSW-CAMPBELLTOWN

BRO. ANDY ESMANA

SUNDAY

1:30PM (AEST/AEDT)

-  4/5 Lyn Parade, Prestons, NSW 2170
-  <https://www.facebook.com/JIL.Auburn>
-  Newsletter Coordinator: Abbey Finlay

AU NSW-HAWKESBURY

PTR. JETH SALINDONG

SUNDAY

10:30AM (AEST/AEDT)




-  Sirius Road, Bligh Park, New South Wales, 2756
-  <https://www.facebook.com/JILHawkesbury>
-  Newsletter Coordinator: Oliver Oca

AU NSW-ROCKDALE

PTR. RENE SANQUI

SUNDAY

4:30PM (AEST/AEDT)

-  432 West Botany St Rockdale NSW 2216
-  <https://www.facebook.com/JILChurchRockdale>
-  Newsletter Coordinator: Tiffany Lumbre-Balgos

AU QLD-BRISBANE MAIN

PTR. JULIUS AQUINDE

SUNDAY

3:00PM (AEST/AEDT)

-  19 Marsden Road, Kallangur Qld 4503
-  <https://www.facebook.com/JILCBrisbane>
-  Newsletter Coordinator: Noemi Austria



STAY CONNECTED: OUR OUTREACHES

Together, we grow stronger!!

AU QLD-BRISBANE SOUTH

SIS. MARIANNE NEWBERRY

SUNDAY
3:00PM (AEST/AEDT)



 210 Evans Road, Salisbury, QLD 4107
 <https://www.facebook.com/JILBrisbaneSouthside>

 Newsletter Coordinator: Jezereel Louise Billano-Fabreag

AU SA-ADELAIDE

PTR. JASON PURUGGANAN

SUNDAY
10:30AM (AEST/AEDT)



 1681 Golden Grove Rd Greenwith, SA, Australia 5125
 <https://www.facebook.com/JILAdelaide>

 Newsletter Coordinator: Ar-En Favie

AU SA-MT. BARKER

SIS. SATH ESTABILLO

SUNDAY
4:30PM (AEST/AEDT)



 2 Hampden Road, Mount Barker, SA, Australia 5251
 <https://www.facebook.com/JesusIsLordMountBarker>

 Newsletter Coordinator: Ar-En Favie

AU SA-ADELAIDE WEST

BRO. RICHARD PASCUAL

SUNDAY
3:00PM (AEST/AEDT)



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 Newsletter Coordinator: Ar-En Favie

AU VIC-MELBOURNE

PTR. BONG PUYAT

SUNDAY
3:00PM (AEST/AEDT)


 139 Churchhill Avenue, Braybrook, VIC, Australia 3021
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 Newsletter Coordinator: Jeraldine Carpio

AU WA-PERTH

PTR. TONY VARGAS


SUNDAY
10:00AM (AWST/UTC+8)

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 Newsletter Coordinator: Genrev Perez

AU NT-DARWIN



BRO. ED MALAGNO

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BRO. ALLAN BILLONES

SUNDAY
10:00AM (PGT/UTC+10)

 2F, Soare Point Building, Ume Street, Gordons, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 121
 <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093962734987>

 Newsletter Coordinator: Ciolen Grace Gurat



Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

IF YOU'D LIKE TO UPDATE OR AMEND THE CONTACT LIST, PLEASE REACH OUT TO:



Jenet Andrade
Executive Secretary, Oceania Director's Office
MIS Head, JILCWW Oceania Operations

 church@jilaustralia.org
 0412 119 852

Here at Jesus is Lord Church we are a Christ-centred church with a focus on life, family and church, 100% devoted to the great commission: Winning, making and sending disciples.

Our Vision

To bring all people to the kingdom of the living God regardless of race, colour, nationality, and religious affiliation through the saving, healing, and delivering knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Mission

A glorious church evangelising and discipling Filipinos and all the people of the world through teaching, preaching, and living out the full Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Core Values

Passionate Love for GOD

An intimate and wholehearted devotion, reserved to GOD alone, that is steadfast and unparalleled, evidenced by absolute submission and obedience to GOD's will and commands (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Integrity

An uprightness of character that is beyond reproach, in private and public life, through the uncompromised principle of upholding truth, transparency and consistency in word and in action (Psalm 78:72)

Love and Compassion for Others

A compelling urge that eventually becomes a natural inclination to selflessly care for others as He cares for others, becoming GOD's channel of unconditional mercy and grace (Mark 12:31)

Faithfulness

An authentic loyalty to GOD with a sense of responsibility as stewards to the various roles, relationships and resources entrusted by GOD (Matthew 25:21)

Excellence

A quality of character that rejects mediocrity and commits to GOD's highest workmanship (Daniel 6:3-4)

I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds

Psalms 9:1

Connecting Hearts, Inspiring Lives

Join us on Our Journey Together!!!

JIL Church Australia Publishing Ministry

- Desiree Pujante
- Rachele Tabinga
- Rey Anthony Que
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