

Ministry Report
Westport, New Zealand – 1-4 October 2015

Early in 2015, I received an email from Steve Wockner, whom I knew as a Lutheran pastor in the Lutheran Church of Australia, but who serves now as the Anglican Vicar of the St John's congregation in Westport, New Zealand. He inquired whether it would be possible to have a Holy Spirit seminar in his parish. After consultation with our elders and prayer, we agreed to come and, in the end, a team of twelve people from Living Grace Lutheran Church, Toowoomba made the trip in October for four days of ministry among the Anglicans of the area and other Christians, including Pentecostal pastors.

After the main day – Saturday – Steve said: "I've waited for a day like this for six years. This was better than in my wildest dreams." A Pentecostal minister happened to stay at the place next to us and he said: "Today was like in the old days." God was incredibly good to us.

About 54 people had registered and this was a big number for a small place like Westport (4000 people). The aim of these conferences is always to bring people into an encounter with God. Therefore, we do not only preach but also pray for everyone and offer to pray repeatedly for the same person throughout the day. There were about six designated ministry & prayer times but we also had one husband & wife team which was always available for personal prayer. Sometimes there is much to process for people and sometimes God stirs up things from the past or present which need time for repentance and healing.

At every prayer ministry, people ended up on the floor by the power of the Holy Spirit and others received from God standing up ☺ Many were filled with the Holy Spirit and God released fresh hope and encouragement and renewed many in their first love for him. Some experienced healing and there were again a few cases where people became free of unclean spirits. One of them actually spoke to us questioning what we were doing. However, there is victory in the name of Jesus Christ.

The miracle of receiving gold sparkles on the skin, mostly the hands, brought great joy. No one seemed to be doubtful or confused about the miracle. On the contrary, there was great enthusiasm and eagerness to experience this touch of God's love and it was Clenda, Steve's wife, that encouraged me to pray for the miracle early. Tatjana saw two men welling up with tears when they saw the gold sparkles on their skin. Steve surprised me with his hunger and deep-seated pursuit of God. In my limited experience of travelling ministry, he was the first pastor who played with the idea of praying for the gold sparkles himself after our departure. When I heard about this, I encouraged him immediately to do so on Sunday night which he did. And God granted us the miracle again. He is dreaming now about St John's becoming known in the community as the church of the gold dust and bringing in a harvest of souls through this miracle.

There was joy throughout the four days. I always love talking about Jesus and his wonderful promises to us. And Steve is not shy in expressing his heart for God in dancing. He had all of us dancing to a praise song and I think that God enjoyed the praise.

Tatjana and I rejoiced that our two daughters, Dominique and Francisca, and Sha, Dominique's boyfriend, had also been keen to come along and serve in ministry. Our entire team – Helen Moohen, Pam Blunt, Dion & Tina, Jared, Jesse and Joshua David, our family and Sha – worked well together and enjoyed one another. A few of us did things for the first time but God confirmed his word and confirmed the call that is on us.

Steve is now planning to pay Living Grace a visit and we look forward to further connections in the future. To God be the glory. Blessings, Edgar.



8 The West Coast Messenger Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Westport Anglicans to host author

by Rose O'Connor-Neilson in Westport

After recently hosting the Anglican synod for over 120 Upper South Island clergy and representatives including the Bishop of Nelson, the small but active parish of St John's Anglican in Buller is set to host an international author next month.

The Reverend doctor Edgar Meyer, a Lutheran from Australia, who is in his early 40s, will speak about a spiritual journey which inspired him to write his book, *Surprised by the Holy Spirit*.

"It is an inter-denominational seminar and parishioners from the other local churches are welcome to attend," Westport Anglican vicar, Rev Steve Wickham, said. Members of the other Anglican parishes throughout the West Coast were also invited. "It will be of interest to everyone," he said.

Rev Wickham said that while Dr Meyer had holidayed previously in New Zealand, he had not spoken at organised events here before. He is being accompanied by his wife, Tatjana, two daughters and three other members of the Living Great Lutheran Church, from Queensland.

Dr Meyer will speak at three "informal" evening services at St John's church on October 1, 2, and 4 and will run an interactive seminar from 9am - 4pm on Saturday, October 3.

"Although the services are free, there is a cost for the Saturday seminar," Rev Wickham said. "Those interested in attending were asked to contact the Rev Wickham at St John's vicarage to book a place, and there will be a fee."