



DANDENONG
**Bible
Education
Centre**

Newsletter November 2005

Another baptism

We rejoiced again with the angels in heaven on Saturday 22nd October, when a lady, Jackie, was baptised. She now starts a new life, having been washed clean from her sins.



Open day a success

We were happy to be able to share our open day with so many visitors. The children loved the face painting and craft activities. The old Bibles were examined and found to be interesting - especially the tiny Bible which needed to be read with the magnifying glass or by a pair of young eyes! For those who work during the week there was the opportunity to browse or buy books, and to enrol for courses or become a library member. Many also enjoyed a sausage from the barbecue, and stayed to chat to the friendly cooks!

Did you know?

The oldest man recorded in the Bible was Methuselah. He lived for nine hundred and sixty-nine years! See Genesis 5:27.

Planning for Christmas

As anyone knows when looking in the shops, Christmas is coming up in a few weeks. Have you ever wondered about the origin and meaning of Christmas? We are running a two-week course to answer these questions. God willing they will be running from **8:00-9:30 pm** on **December 12th** and **19th**.

Oldest Bible Competition

We had a few entries into our oldest Bible competition. The winning entry was a German Bible (Luther's translation), which was printed around 1800. That's pretty old! The first edition of this Bible was printed in 1775. An even older book that was brought in was a Czechoslovakian prayer book dating from 1742. This was particularly interesting as it was handwritten. One of the problems with such old books as these is trying to preserve them so they don't just fall apart. Therefore when the Bibles were judged, there was a talk about the care of Bibles and old books.



The winning entry, a German Bible about two hundred years old, is pictured above, with its owner on the left.

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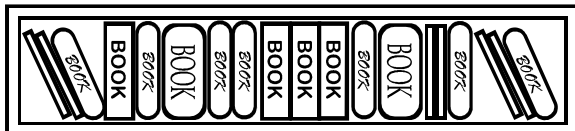
Concert in the park



Due to the success of our barbecue and Christmas concert in Dandenong Park last year, we have decided to have another concert.

This is planned for **December 17th**, God willing, at the soundshell in Dandenong Park. Our plan is to start the barbecue at about **5.30 pm** near the soundshell, and then start the concert around **7.00 pm**. Why not come and watch the children's drama, join in the community singing and listen to Christmas readings in this relaxed atmosphere.

Have you seen our library yet?



There is a varied selection of books available at the shop for borrowing. Whether you want some study aids to help you find out more about the Bible, or a storybook for your child, or maybe a novel to read in bed, this library is for you! Videos are available too. Whilst these can be viewed in the shop, you may prefer to watch them at home.

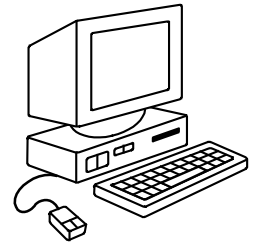
The New Life class

Each Sunday from 11.30-12.30 we hold this class which covers a variety of Bible topics. All are then invited to stay to share lunch with us. The topics for November and December have a general topic of *Jesus Christ*

- Nov 6: *The relationship of God & Jesus*
- Nov 13: *The sermon on the mount*
- Nov 20: *The Lord's prayer*
- Nov 27: *The sacrifice of Jesus*
- Dec 4: *The Lord's supper*
- Dec 11: *What is Jesus doing now?*
- Dec 18: *What are the signs of his coming?*
- Dec 25: No class.

Email Newsletter

Don't forget that you can receive our newsletters by email if you prefer. To let us know, email us at ask@dandenongbec.org.au or contact us using the details on the front of this page.



What do you notice when you read the newspapers? Are they full of great happiness, good news and joy? Most of what is in the newspapers is bad news. Maybe there has been a terrorist attack, or perhaps more people have died of bird flu, and many more chickens have been slaughtered. The papers are full of car crashes and police reports, of earthquakes and arguments between politicians, of tsunamis and fires.

How do you feel when you read a happy story? Does it make you feel better when you read of the lady who returned the wallet that she found in the street to its owner instead of becoming \$200 richer? What about the reports of people busy delivering meals to elderly citizens or knitting rugs for the homeless? Most people feel better when reading these heart-warming stories.

You can make a difference to the lives of those living around you. In 1 Corinthians 13 we read of **love**.

"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude."

This is the start of the description of love. You can read more in this chapter. So how can you brighten somebody's day? Try a smile and a warm greeting. Look to see who needs you. Maybe you could cook an extra serve of dinner for the old lady next door. Maybe the man down the street who doesn't drive needs you to take him to the doctor. Perhaps you need to listen patiently to your friend's long saga about her troubles, knowing that a listening ear is often helpful. As we get closer to Christmas, the time when we remember the birth of God's son, we can all find ways (big or small) to help others with kindness.