

# LCAWA District Convention at Concordia 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Concordia turned into Gilgal over the last weekend in March. The Convention started on Saturday morning with 12 pastors – representing 12 “tribes” – congregations of LCAWA carrying rocks marching into Concordia with President of LCA Mike Semmler leading the way. During the procession over the background sound of didgeridoo the words from the Book of Joshua were read:

***“And Joshua said to the people, Make yourselves holy, for tomorrow the Lord will do works of wonder among you. And give orders to the priests to take up the Ark of the Covenant. Take twelve men out of the tribes of Israel, a man from every tribe.***

***And when the feet of the priests, who take up the ark of the Lord, come to rest in the waters of Jordan, the waters of Jordan will be cut off, all the waters flowing down from higher up, and will come together in a mass.***

***When those who took up the ark came to Jordan, and the feet of the priests who took up the ark were touching the edge of the water the waters flowing down from higher up were stopped and came together in a mass a long way back; and the waters flowing down, were cut off: and the people went across opposite Jericho.***

***Now the Lord said to Joshua:***

***Take up from the middle of Jordan, from the place where the feet of the priests were resting, twelve stones, and take them over with you and put them down in the place where you take your rest tonight.***

***So that this may be a sign among you; these stones will be a sign for the children of Israel, keeping it in their memory for ever.***

***Today the shame of Egypt has been rolled away from you.***

***So that place was named Gilgal, to this day.***

***So the children of Israel put up their tents in Gilgal; and they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, in the lowlands of Jericho.***

***And on the day after the Passover, they had for their food the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and dry grain on the same day.***

***And there was no more manna from the day after they had for their food the produce of the land; the children of Israel had manna no longer, but that year the produce of the land of Canaan was their food.”***



Then Pastor Milo Velebir welcomed all with these words:

“Welcome to Gilgal. Gilgal – it is the name a place where the Israelites crossed the Jordan River. It is the place where their feet touched the Promised Land for the first time. It is the place where they entered into the new future.

It was a place where manna, the food of the desert stopped, and they started to enjoy the milk and honey.

It became their campsite. Headquarters during the conquest in the times of Joshua.

It is a place where they renewed their covenant. 12 rocks representing 12 tribes of Israel.

We have more rocks/pebbles in the foyer – and there are many RE- words written on them.

Remind, renew, rejoice, remember, repent, restore, revere...

These rocks are reminders of what God has done for them, for us in the past.

We are gathered here to remember what God has done for us in the last year and renew our covenant with each other.

We belong together as people of God, as people of one common faith, of the Lutheran confession in this district. We are here to remind ourselves and express in some way who we are, why are we here.

There is a river flowing from the cross. The blood and water went out of Jesus’ side on the cross.

Jesus spoke of living waters flowing out of us.

River Jordan was stopped and divided and rocks taken from the middle of the river where the feet of the priest were.



Gilgal in Hebrew means ‘a place of rolling’ – the past sins are rolled away, and we stand now on a new resurrection territory and we can rejoice.

Gilgal – round circle was also a reminder of circumcision = covenant made with Abraham. Before they entered into the Promised Land they had to renew the covenant.

So look at these rocks and remember: Who we are, what the Lord has done for us (sins rolled away), let’s renew our covenant, our love towards each other and enter into the promises of God.

And in 2 weeks time we will together remember another rock that was rolled away as well – Resurrection rock, from Jesus’ tomb.

So welcome to Gilgal.”

A.V.



And now 17000 words (a picture speaks for a thousand).



Pastors from the district leading the worship. What a band!



Our chairman Louise Hampel welcoming the delegates.



Girls from Ocean Keys – Catalyst, catering for lunch on Saturday.

Gilgal – top view →

The Velebirs – ohoo



Mayor Troy Pickard and Pastor Hardy Chrulew greeted the convention on behalf of the City of Joondalup and local ministers' fraternal.



Our dear ladies serving the Lord and His servants.

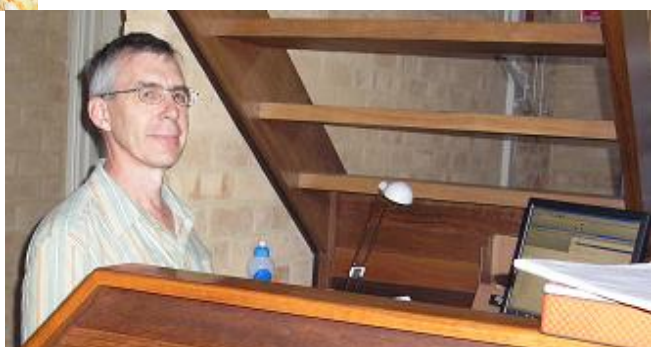


One of those who worked the hardest. Thank you, Lester.

Thank you!



Jonathan Krause's presentation from ALWS (Australian Lutheran World Service) touched us deep in our hearts.







Young ambassadors for Christ/ mighty little men made in Christ.



And this is all of us (well, nearly).



Even the president of the LCA has to register. Honouring our leader with prayer - Hebrews 13:17



We finally found out who is the true boss of the LCA –  
Larissa McKenzie;  
she runs the head office!



At the end of Convention President Mike Semmler prophesied that we in WA District are at the verge of something new and exciting. Great things are going to happen for us. Amen to that! We are re-entering the Promised Land, renewing our zeal for the Lord. Being refreshed by the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can bear much more fruit for the Kingdom.

President Rev Mike Semmler and our newly elected District President Pastor Greg Pfeiffer.

