

Oceania Summer Bible Conference 2022

By God's grace, we had Oceania Summer Bible Conference 2022 at El Kanah Christian Centre, near Melbourne in Australia, between 9-11 December. Attendants were from Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Auckland (New Zealand), and also from USA, Korea and Germany. Total registered attendants were 76 (63 in person+13 in zoom). The conference was supposed to be held in person, but just before the conference, corona virus attacked some missionaries and several next generation leaders who were even lecture speaker, person for baptism, and testimony speakers. Due to the influence of corona, 13 people who registered could not attend, and so, we arranged the conference in hybrid system, and prepared zoom service as well. Under the unstable situation, however, God made the conference joyful, inspirational, encouraging and empowering.

The conference was a historical one in that the number of young leaders and students exceeded that of missionaries for the first time; and also all main lecture speakers and life testimony speakers were composed of young leaders for the first time. In this historical point, we praise the Lord who blessed the faith and devotions of all our missionaries over the decades. In this conference, our next generation leaders showed their growth in God's word and ministry. They devoted themselves not only for preparation of messages and testimonies, but also for group Bible studies, presiding, music, performances, serving guests and more. This report mainly focuses on the next generation.

1. The words of God were declared all by next generation speakers.

S D*aniel Y*ang (final year, Commerce), delivered Opening message (Mt 4:18-22) 'I will send you out to fish for people'. He explained how Jesus' calling his disciples at Jesus' time can apply to us. We saw his tears of shepherd heart to his friend and Jesus' sheep M*atthew G*ong whom he has cared for last 9 years. Daniel thanked God who used him as a fisherman when Matthew decided to be baptised.

A*usten H*arris (Graduated in 2022, Sports Management) delivered Lecture 1 (John 3: 1-21) 'You must be born again'. Three days before the conference, the original speaker S P*hilip M*anning for this lecture was tested COVID-19 positive and became very sick, unable to attend the conference. A*usten accepted the role of lecture speaker with a short preparation time, and he carried out this role well by God's grace. He was like Simon from Cyrene, who took Jesus' heavy cross, on the way to the Golgotha hill. He had been invited to Bible Study by his high school friend P*aakofi 3 years ago and since then faithfully attended GBS and gradually grown up spiritually. For his message, he testified the truth of being born again and the evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit, with calm and confident voice.

D*avid *Kang (Year 2, Pre-Med) delivered Lecture 2 (John 4: 1-26) 'Jesus, the living water'. D*avid testified how Jesus, who introduced living water to the Samaritan woman, has gradually become the answer to his sense of loneliness and filled the void for intimacy that he longed for. We saw his graceful spiritual journey as a 2nd gen, to maintain the relationship with Jesus since childhood, and in this message, his renewing his faith in the living water that is far greater than all the worldly things that provide only temporary or incomplete satisfaction.

S P*atrick R*ufangura (PhD in 2022, Science) delivered Lecture 3 (John 4: 27-42) 'Open your eyes and look at the fields'. P*atrick explained spiritual food that is to do the will of God and declared Jesus' calling us to open our eyes and look at the ripe spiritual fields. He challenged our comfort zone and encouraged us to get ready to participate in the harvesting season, and to share the good news in the Oceanian mission field (14 Oceanian countries).

S N*ick L*ivingstone (MA, Graduated in 2017, Clinical Counselling) delivered Lecture 4 (John 21: 1-25) 'Feed my sheep'. N*ick has established house church recently and willingly used his house church to take care of campus sheep of Jesus. In his message, we saw how much he tried to love and take care of Jesus' sheep, even a sheep who gave him hard time. N*ick testified that though he failed in his weakness, he is thankful that God can use such time to help him to learn Jesus' shepherd heart, and that the ultimate question should be 'Do we love Jesus?'.

2. Bible study groups were divided into next generation groups and senior groups. There were 4 next generation groups, and were led by A*нна, S*arah, D*ebbie and P*aakofi. There were 3 Bible studies, and each group had testimony sharing time based on lecture 2.
3. After each lecture, Bible testimonies were presented by next generation. We had 9 next generation life testimony speakers: J*oanne, F*elicity, P*aakofi, D*aniel, K*erri, S*helley, M*itchell, R*udra and J*osef. Life testimony speakers were very sincere in finding themselves before the word of God. They revealed the glory of God by testifying that how much they were spiritually desperate and how they have found the light of life through the words of God; how much they struggled to grow their faith through Jesus' unconditional love and his words. Their sincere and honest spiritual journey touched attendants' hearts to tears.
4. There was Symposium on the first day night. The 3 next generation Symposium speakers had their own themes and topics, which were about 'spiritual warfare' by Amelia, 'work as calling' by E*sther Jr and 'shepherding' by F*ei. These were creative, and practically useful for Christian life, as shown by the topics. During the symposium, attendants had a discussion time with regard to caring people. In particular, S E*sther S*im Jr as a symposium speaker and M D*avid P*ark Jr as the coordinator of the Symposium showed a good example of workers as calling, by carrying out this task, under the heavy load of work as medical doctors.
5. We had a baptism ceremony in the conference for M*itchell C*hamberlain, baptised by P R*on W*ard, followed by M E*sther Sim's prayer for M*itchell. M*itchell testified that M E*sther invited him twice at the same empty classroom and he accepted Jesus in 5 years since then. There was a separate baptism after the conference for M*atthew Gong, baptised by P R*on W*ard, followed by D*aniel Y*ang's prayer for M*atthew. M*atthew testified that he was invited to learn Jesus by D*aniel his friend and Bible teacher. The baptisms were joyful and graceful to celebrate the new family of God. We pray that God may save many more Oceanian young souls in 14 Oceanian countries.

6. We had Oceania Night on the last night of the conference. It included traditional bush dance from Brisbane, short video 'Do you love me' from Canberra, the hymn 'How great thou art' in English and Maori language from Auckland, chorus from Melbourne and skit from Macquarie. Macquarie UBF performance vividly expressed the power of Jesus' cross and love to save a wandering soul from the people under the Satan. The session also included an introduction speech and video for ISBC 2023 by P J*ohn S*eo from Chicago UBF, and we prayed that God may reveal his glory through all the preparation and the conference. S C*hris B*eaumont in Macquarie UBF served audio system for the Oceania night.
7. We had a special session for Pastor R*on W*ard's new year message based on Romans 15: 1-13, titled 'With one mind glorify God'. In the message, we heard, 'When we remember that Christ accepted us unconditionally, we can accept others too'. With the message as a new year direction, we prayed that with Christ mindset we may continue to love and accept one another and make disciples of all nations.
8. We also had Post-conference activities that included next generation dinner at M J*oseph Y*ang's house, and missionary/guests at M J*oseph S*im's house. Brisbane, Macquarie and Canberra had one or two further nights at Melbourne to have tour and fellowship within their chapter members.

Overall, the conference showed a good sign that our Oceania next generation has grown a lot for succession of the future Oceania campus mission. As mentioned above, it is notable that the number of next generation leaders exceeded the number of missionaries at the conference. We will keep praying that God may empower our next generation to become good shepherds and useful co-workers in this generation.

We give thanks to everyone who has served this conference, with time commitment, energy, gifts, prayer and labour of love, with God's given talents, knowingly and unknowingly. We also give so much thanks to P R*on W*ard who served the conference so gracefully, even in his weak physical condition; P J*ohn S*eo who accompanied P R*on W*ard and actually became a good prayer co-worker for Oceania; S E*lijah A*hn who served the conference as Korea-Oceania coordinator; also other overseas guests including S D*avid & M*aria P*ark, S S*tephan A*hn and S H*yeongjun & Blessing S*arah J*eong from Korea; and an excellent CBF teacher J*osef K*ang from Germany, who served CBF children with God's words, air tube playground, toys and soap bubbles, making all children so happy with his class and play time. Our special thanks to Melbourne UBF, host chapter, who served everyone with generosity and abundance, and especially S A*nna S*im who has participated in monthly directors' preparation meetings for the conference and served next generation GBS and conference music. Praise God who used Melbourne missionaries to raise up the most next generation leaders in Oceania and brought them to the conference. We also give thanks to New Zealand missionaries' great devotion for the conference in the difficult times when M P*aul K*im's daughter had a big surgery in Korea. We thank God who gradually recovered her. Special remarks and thanks to new raising young spiritual leaders in Macquarie UBF, Auckland UBF and Brisbane UBF: M*ary L*ee Jr, daughter of M D*aniel and M*ary L*ee in Macquarie UBF, who entered medical school by faith this year, attended in person this conference and deepened her personal relationship with Jesus;

J*oanna L*im, a daughter of M N*ehemiah and H*annah L*im, and J*oseph K*im, a son of M P*aul and M*aria K*im, in Auckland UBF, attended in person the conference, showing that they deepened their love toward Jesus and got new vision from God through this conference; D*aniel H*o who just graduated high school and will start uni campus life next year. He has been a good co-worker to his parents, M M*icheal and C*arol H*o in Brisbane UBF, proven mature enough to deliver his life testimony revealing his personal connection with Jesus as his Saviour. Most of all, I give my sincere thanks to Oceania chapter directors, who had participated and supported everything from organizing to completing the conference, over the whole year. And last but not least, we are so grateful to P. K*evin A*Ibright for his valuable comments on the conference passage drafts and messages from the beginning and to the last stage of the conference. We give all our thanks to God who revealed His glory throughout all the way of the conference.

By J*oshua L*ee,
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