

## December 2014 - ACCR Sign of the Times



### A Message from Anil, ACCR Chairperson

‘For a child is born to us, a son is given us’ Is 9:5 (CCB)

One of the focal points of Christmas is that Almighty God comes into our world as a little child. God gives us a gift of himself. His journey on this Earth was a total act of self-giving. At the last supper he said “this is my body broken for you” again the gift of himself. On the cross he gave himself to be crucified for our sins so that we may have eternal life with our Father in heaven.

During the Christmas period we are encouraged to give gifts by all the retailers. Messages bombard us on TV, internet, smart phones and newspapers. It is one of the most stressful times for individuals and families. Many people who have just finished paying for last Christmas will max their credit cards to buy gifts for this Christmas and will end up paying off the debt through the whole year. Rather than giving external gifts we may try and give our loved ones the gift of self, being there for them in their need, listening to them, serving them and just enjoying their company. Let us not make this a season of food and drink but a season of joy and peace. “The kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” Rom 14:17.

This year has been a challenging year for the ACCR. Many of the things that we took for granted are not there anymore. However we have to move on. Our faith does not require us to look back but to move forward.

One of the things the Service Group did this year was to visit most of the prayer groups. It was an enriching experience both for the SG members and the prayer groups themselves. We hope to continue this exercise next year as well. We also intend to work with the prayer groups to see how we can best help them with their spiritual growth.

**On behalf of the Service group I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you and your family a Blessed Christmas and a bright 2015. May God bless you and your family abundantly. If you are going away for the holidays please travel safely and come back refreshed.**

God Bless,  
Anil

## **Note these dates (More info below for some events)**

**6<sup>th</sup> Feb** Waitangi Day Seminar. Three Steps to Divine Healing

**18<sup>th</sup> Feb** International CCR Youth prayer hour

**27<sup>th</sup> Feb** ACCR Mass with the Bishop, St Bens.

**Feb/March** Life in the Spirit Seminar in the Eastern suburbs

**14<sup>th</sup> March** Prayer Group leaders meeting with Service Group

**23<sup>rd</sup> May** Pentecost Vigil celebration

### **Three Steps to Divine Healing: Waitangi Day, Friday Feb 6<sup>th</sup>**

This retreat day is being organised by ACCR and is open to all. The retreat will be led by Aneel Aranha, an international Catholic speaker from Dubai. This is a powerful retreat that impacts lives so that most people attending want to deepen their relationship with God. In 2002 Aneel had a powerful encounter with Jesus that transformed him from an unbeliever to a fiery proclaimer of the gospel across the globe. He comes to Auckland after his second outreach visit to Australia. Venue St Marks Catholic Church, Pakuranga. **More info will be emailed soon. Please spread the word.**

### **International CCR Youth prayer hour 18<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Can you imagine what will happen when thousands of youth will pray in every little corner of the world for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

Every young person, teenager or young adult, is invited to join this prayer!

Find [here](#) a letter of invitation with the details (English version) or go to <https://www.facebook.com/youth.ccr?sk=notes> (Spanish will be there too).

### **What's happening in Catholic Charismatic Renewal around the world? Some holiday reading.**

As we don't have Tongues of Fire at present to keep us up to date here are some links for those who are interested.

Voice of the Spirit: The official newsletter of NSW CCR (12 pages)

<http://www.ccrnsw.org.au>

ICCRS Newsletters for 2014:

[http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/nl5en\(1\).pdf](http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/nl5en(1).pdf)

[http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/NL14-1\\_En.pdf](http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/NL14-1_En.pdf)

[http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/NL14-2\\_En\(1\).pdf](http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/NL14-2_En(1).pdf)

[http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/NL14-3\\_En.pdf](http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/NL14-3_En.pdf)

<http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/nl4en.pdf>

Note: ICCRS also produce a leaders bulletin but you need to pay a subscription. Click on the following link to download the Subscription Form:

[http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/NL\\_Subscription\\_En\(1\).pdf](http://www.iccrs.org/public/userfiles/file/NL_Subscription_En(1).pdf)

**Intercessory Prayer:** Please pray for

Preparations for Aneel's visit  
LSS preparations for 5 Eastern Auckland parishes  
For Youth, particularly those involved in our prayer groups  
International CCR Youth prayer day 18<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Jesus Youth camp/retreat 5 – 9<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Encounter team

**Follow up from Scotland to last months prayer request for Amy. Thank you for your prayers, please keep them up.**

Amy had a scan on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December and TBTG, the results have shown that there is a 10-20% reduction in the bowel and liver tumours as compared to the first scan at the start of her illness and baby is doing well. He was 33 weeks yesterday (Thursday) and the doctors are aiming for a 37 weeks delivery. Amy had lost a great deal of weight and has been on a feeding tube to which she has responded well. She's due to have another two lots of chemo which will take her up to the end of the year. Should she lose weight again or if baby stops making progress over the next couple of weeks then delivery date will be brought forward.

**Please continue to pray for side effects from the chemo to be few, her weight to keep increasing, her energy levels to rise and baby to remain safe in the womb for another few weeks.** The Lord is answering prayer in such an amazing way. Thanks and praise to Him always.

Please thank everyone for their continuing prayers.

Have a happy and holy Christmas.

God bless.

Linda Fairley

**Finally: A possible Christmas present**

Take a Walk on the Wild Side, by Janet Balcombe.

The true story of a young NZ woman who got caught up in the drug world but later found freedom through God's redemptive love.

Available from Christian bookstores or [www.wildside.com.mx](http://www.wildside.com.mx)

