

Multiculturalism Matters

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA | PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH MORETON | 12 NOVEMBER 2014



Taiwanese celebrate 24th anniversary



ABOUT 300 people packed into the Brisbane Taiwanese UC at Hillcrest to mark the congregation's 24th anniversary last Sunday. It was a joyful service, with three testimonies, special music and video highlights of the past year, followed by a shared lunch and anniversary cake.

The photos show: *(above)* the congregation in party mood; *(below left)* an aerial photo of the people forming an anniversary message on the church lawn; *(below right)* youth member Cindy Chen sharing her testimony.

Photos: Daniel Chang



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Multiculturalism Matters is published fortnightly and emailed with the Presbytery Newsletter. You are welcome to email, or copy and distribute. Each issue can also be downloaded from the Presbytery web site: <http://www.southmoreton.org.au>. Please email David if you would like to receive the newsletter directly by email. Submitted photos and stories reflecting the cultural diversity of the South Moreton Presbytery are welcome.

Starring role in 'Lion King' marks the genesis of stage career for Exodus

EXODUS Lale would have had one of the thinnest portfolios of performance experience of any child auditioning for a part in the Brisbane production of *The Lion King* in June.

He has an outstanding voice, and loves singing at school and in worship with his Samoan congregation at Sunnybank UC. He sings solo and in choirs, and competed as a soloist with the church choir at the 2013 Qld Samoan Choir Competition.

But singing for church and school probably didn't seem much on paper—and, besides, he was a year younger than the minimum age required.

Yet his uncle Jerry Lale had urged Exodus to apply in response to the "open cast" call, and the talent scouts must have sensed something special in him because they invited Exodus to come in for an audition.

It was held on a Sunday and auditioning meant Exodus would miss church, which is central to their lives. But the family decided that he should do the audition, as an opportunity to express what they believe are Exodus' God-given gifts in music.

The rest, as they say, is history.

From over 100 boys, Exodus was chosen as one of four to play young Simba—at 9 years of age, the youngest ever to be chosen in any production of *The Lion King* and one of the least experienced.

But the audition was the easy part! Nicola Lale, his mother, quit her job in order to accompany Exodus to Sydney where he was to experience and perform in the Sydney show.

Nicola says that another job opening up for her when they returned was one of the many amazing ways that God has provided



Exodus Lale. Below is how he is described in the official program

for the family through this exciting, unexpected but disruptive period.

Since the show started at QPAC on September 26, Exodus has needed to be on deck for four performances per week, matinee or evening.

Exodus is thrilled with his role and loves the singing and performing. Apart from a lot of dialogue, he sings one solo, *I Just Can't Wait to be King*, plus *Hakuna Matata* as part of an ensemble.

He consciously brings his Christian faith into his preparation: "I pray to calm my nerves, and I feel God giving me the strength when I'm dancing and acting," he says.

In fact, says Nicola, Exodus started

a prayer revolution backstage in Sydney when, feeling really nervous, he sought other Christian cast members to pray with him before performing—a practice of prayer together that continues in Brisbane.

His family also surrounds each of his performances with prayer, and there's a family member in the audience each time Exodus is on.

Exodus may be asked to be part of the Melbourne cast next year, and he would enjoy other opportunities in musical theatre. But he recognises the unique privilege of this role.

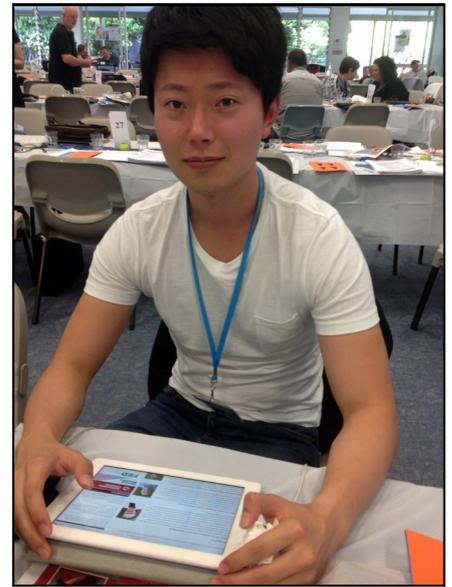
"Whatever my talents, they are a gift from God, and I want to give Him the thanks and praise," he says.



Exodus Lale YOUNG SIMBA

Birthplace Brisbane, Australia **Training** Piano, Sunnybank Uniting Samoan Church Choir, Stretton College Junior Choir, Traditional Samoan Dance **Other** He performed a solo at the 2013 Brisbane Samoan Church Choir Competition. He loves playing the piano, singing, swimming and playing club football. *The Lion King* is Exodus' musical theatre debut.

Synod thoughts from an emerging multicultural leader



Pastor NOAH KIM of Sunnybank UC attended his first Synod last month, so we invited him to share some brief reflections.

IT was a sound experience of being a part of church in a bigger picture.

I was truly excited to welcome our new Moderator and General Secretary, feeling hopeful and energised about the next season of the Uniting Church.

The “Open Space” conversation sessions successfully created a safe environment for Synod members to explore issues and potential that they currently have in their churches, and offered opportunity for support and encouragement.



Many stories I heard from people showed how God was alive through His Spirit and His grace. These stories captured my heart and refocused my eyes upon Christ and His work in and through His Bride, the church.

“Re-think,” “renovation,” “revival” and “investment in a younger generation” are resounding words, powerfully remaining in my heart.

It impassioned me that I prayerfully and humbly hope to bring what I have received from the Lord to serve His church for its bigger cause in our community and the world.



Stories shared at men's health forum

POWERFUL personal stories blended with well-presented clinical information to deliver a successful multicultural men's health seminar at Logan UC on November 1.

The seminar, held at the start of Men's Health Week, was organised by the Synod's Multi Cross Cultural Committee in conjunction with the Ethnic Communities Council of Qld.

Fijian-Chinese Australian, Devlin Chung, spoke about his experience with diabetes and prostate cancer, and UnitingCare Community's state-wide Multicultural Adviser, Stella Miria-Robinson, spoke about her late husband's experience to illustrate the impact of men's health issues on wives and family, and the need for men to be proactive about their health care.



PHOTOS show (top) the seminar in session; (above) Stella Miria-Robinson tells her late husband's story.



THE Synod meeting last month lent support to the Recognise campaign, which calls for recognition of First Peoples in Australia's Constitution. The national Journey to Recognition, which is taking the campaign to every part of the continent, comes to south-east Qld this month, with key events at the Gold Coast (November 24), Logan (26) and Brisbane city (26-28). Details are on their web site: www.recognise.org.au/timetable/calendar/.

Bringing Living (and running) water to North Korea



INSTALLING solar panels, water tanks, pipes and taps at two nursing homes in rural North Korea recently was also an opportunity for Rev. David Won Kim to tell local people about the Living Water, Jesus Christ.

David returned to his former trade as a plumber, as part of a 5-person technical work party, organised by the USA-based mission agency, Christian Friends of Korea.

Working with dozens of local staff and volunteers over 21 days, the team overcame significant logistical and terrain problems in both sites to install a total of 22 solar panels, three 2500-gallon water tanks with pumps, many hundreds of metres of underground pipes, and 18 hydrants.

David said God's faithful provision throughout the project, and the



opportunities which arose for witnessing, reminded him how much God loves the North Korean people and wants them to know about Jesus.

PHOTOS show David installing a solar panel (top left) and a water tank (top right). Above is one of the completed projects.

Qlders take the helm at Samoan National Conference



SAMOAN UC members from across Australia, including a large contingent from Queensland, gathered for the triennial Samoan National Conference last month. Photos show (above) a group of young people with Qlders wearing maroon shirts; (top right) newly-installed SNC President, Rev. Tino Scanlan (left) and Secretary, Pastor Siasoi Semaia, both from Brisbane; (right) UCA President Rev. Dr Andrew Dutney speaking at the conference.