



The Word

November
2014

Welcome to our November Issues of THE WORD. We are a little late in this edition as you will see, we have been doing many things. Our couples were so happy to welcome Poncho and Adriana last week, for a week of formation specifically for couples. It bore a lot of fruit and we look forward to the next stage!

This coming Saturday is our ADVENT RETREAT. There are still places available if you would like to come along and join us. We will be starting at 9.30am in Mary's Chapel.

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Prayer for Peace



Wollongong Activities



Poncho and Adriana visit Sydney

From November 19 to the 25th, we were blessed to have Poncho, Adriana and Alan visit us here in Sydney. They are a Missionary couple in our community who have been missionaries for 20 years. They have four children and their eldest, Alan, came with them to give formation to our couples group.



The brief but very rich experience of the Friday evening talk by Poncho and Adriana revealed to us that the Joy of our Marriage is possible. At the start, we learnt there were some overarching phases of marriage, with disappointment, power struggles and then acceptance. I (Stephen) noticed from my experience that this also applies to smaller issues like in-laws, parenting, control of finances, etc.

The couples retreat by the Missionary couples was great as it was a conducive environment to open up and share with the spouse. We took that opportunity to go deeper into our emotions and vulnerability and was prepared to hear the spouses perspective on the issues. This has opened the door of possibilities to improve our marriage relationship.

From this retreat, we received guidelines and formation. We realised the importance of being ONE, more so than ever. We've heard and known about this stuff or inferring to that, from many places, people and courses but it really just grabbed us now after 13yrs which we have experienced a lot of struggles, disappointments and brokenness.

Talking on the side with Poncho and Adriana about family and missionary life, we have realised that living a prayerful life in the Verbum Dei charism is an achievable possibility for ordinary people (like us), not just those aspiring to become Saints or Consecrated. We suppose we can never give up and stop praying no matter what situation we are in or how long till we see the fruit of our prayers.

Anita and Stephen

The Joy of Marriage

Is it possible to
integrate married life
and also take part
in the mission of the
Verbum Dei family?



It was a privilege to have this opportunity to meet with Adriana and Poncho. We learnt a lot throughout the retreat, not only through the preaching and formation, but also through their lives and personal experiences. We received so much light and joy that they shared amongst all the other couples.

Both Adriana and Poncho showed us how they can be one with God through prayer and their personal relationship with God. Their preaching was simple, but rich and clear. We are encouraged to work towards the same mission that is 'to be ONE' as a couple and in our own family first. Then, we would be able to do mission and share our joy to others. Thank God for allowing us to draw that love and joy from this retreat.

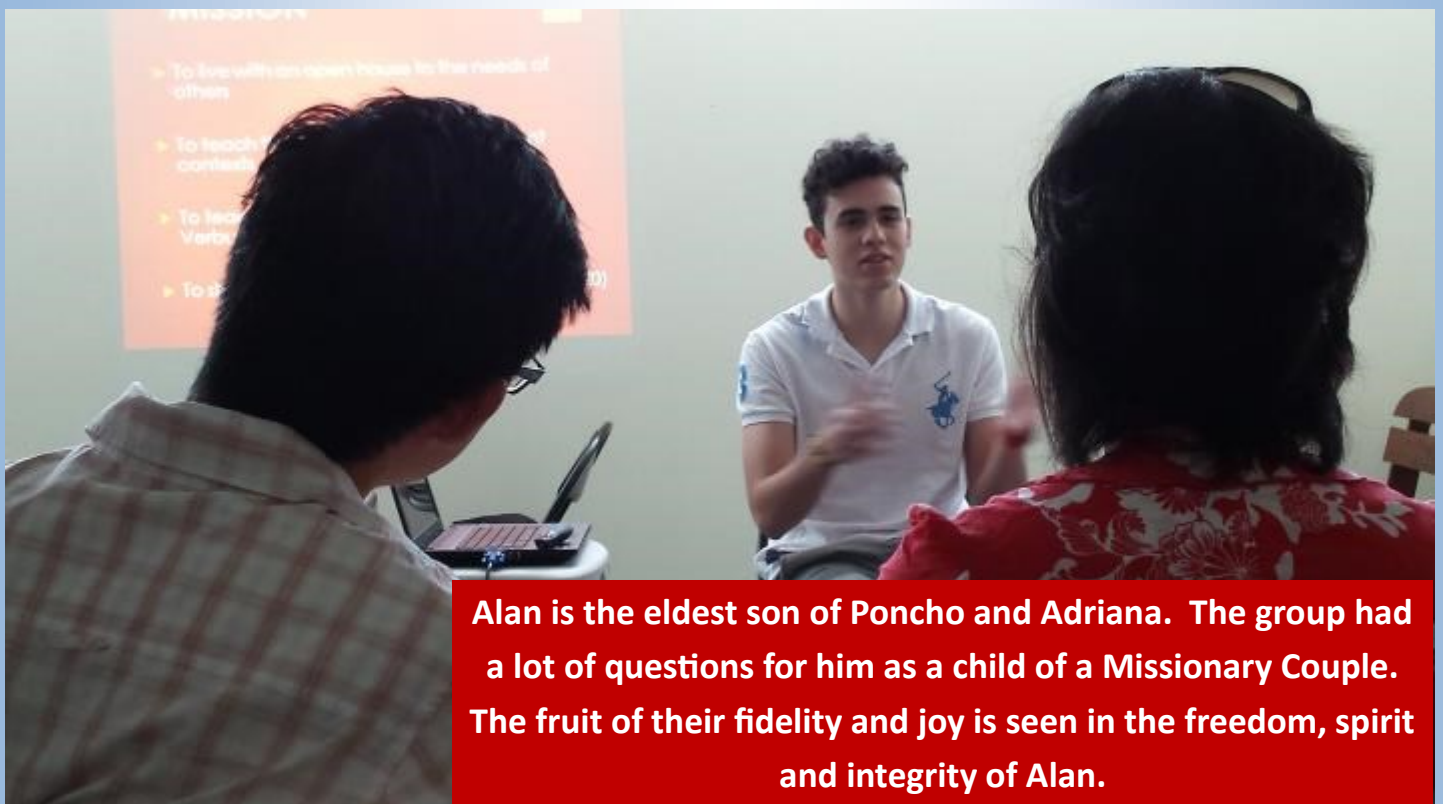
From "Mam and Justin"





Stages of Married life:

1. Falling in love
2. Disappointment
3. Power Struggle
4. Acceptance of the other
5. Communion



Alan is the eldest son of Poncho and Adriana. The group had a lot of questions for him as a child of a Missionary Couple. The fruit of their fidelity and joy is seen in the freedom, spirit and integrity of Alan.



**Joy comes from the Lord
and you can still experience
joy during trials and
suffering**

Joy is true contentment that
comes from internal factors. It is
the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our
hearts. (Gal.5,22)





Life and Love Youth retreat



Longing

Silent Retreat // 10-12 Oct







Prayer
for
Peace





Congratulations to Deacon Stephen Varney (originally from the same parish as Kylie) Stephen was ordained to the Deaconate in Wollongong last month.





International Cultural Mass in Wollongong





Day Retreat Wollongong







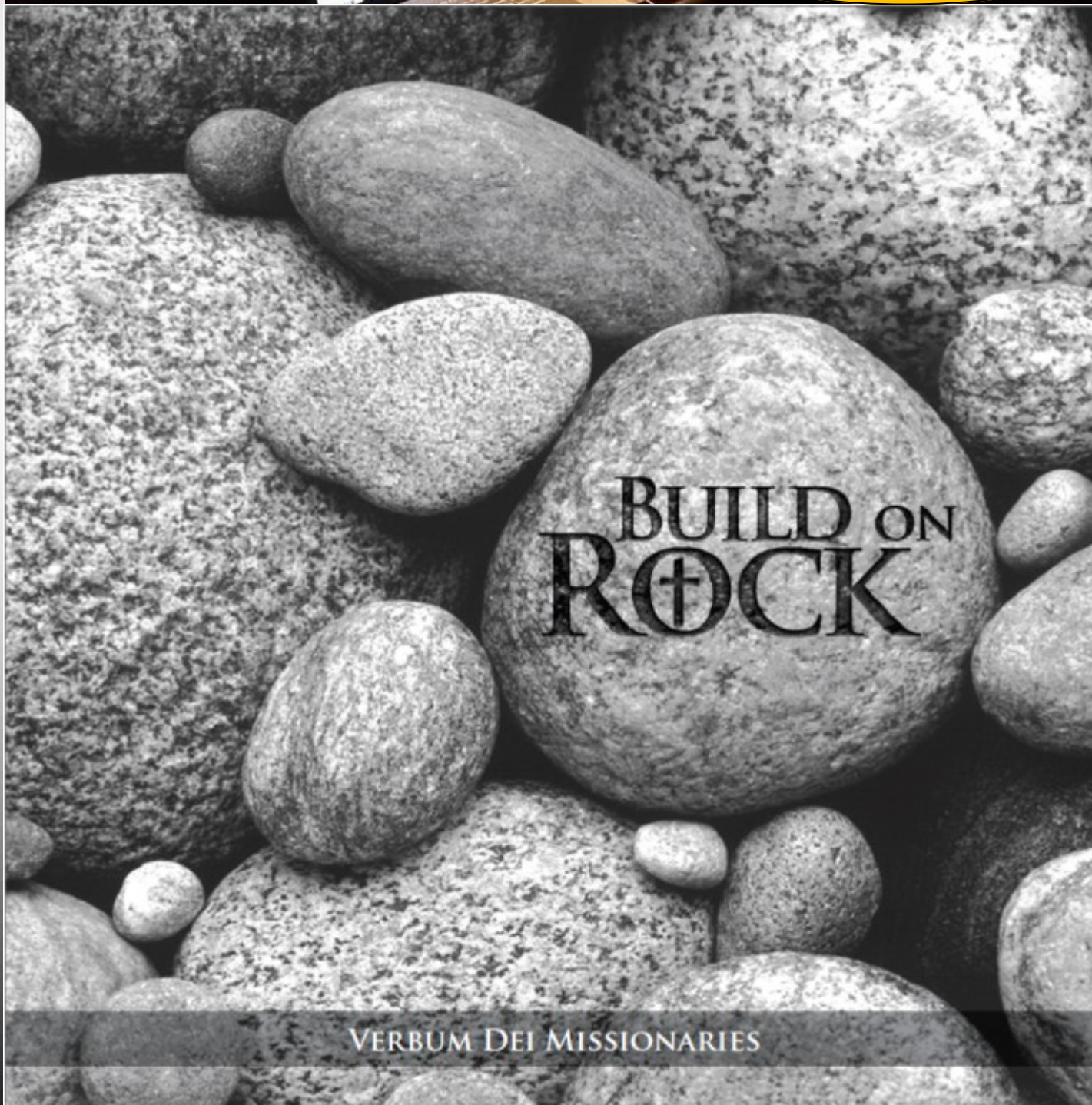
School of
the Word
Wolongong





New
CD
Taking pre
orders

Contact
mariachaplain@hotmail.com



BUILD ON
ROCK

VERBUM DEI MISSIONARIES



Thank you to Ana for organising a very successful HIGH TEA for our fundraising of Built On Rock.

Final Youth Mass



Thank you Snez for these past three years of dedication to the children, pre teens and teenagers. The love that you have invested into the activities week after week have sown so much fruit in the lives of the children. May God be your reward!



“Let the little ones
come to me.”



Amanda



Sienna



Celeste

