

**Prayer for CS National Conference 2011
"The Offensive"**

The theme for this year's Tribal Gathering is the Offensive. Pray that this Easter we learn about what this standing in victory really means.

God has given us the battle. He fights for us. He just asks us to stand at the battle line.

- Stand for the truth
- Stand against injustice
- Stand firm in our love for the narrow path
- Stand boldly in our worship of Him
- Stand confident He can do more than we could ever ask or imagine
- Stand in His rest and let His peace just wash over us

The prayer of the National Team is that CSA becomes a group of brothers and sisters not covering in the defensive but bold in the offensive.

We don't run behind the battle and hope God can rescue us from the next disaster. Rather IN ALL THINGS CHRIST ALREADY HAS THE VICTORY.

But even as I write this I realise that this often seems just like the same old clichéd Christian babble, and the victories and battles we read about in the Bible seem so far removed from real life, and more like just odd little stories. (Like who kills a giant with a stone? Sounds like Shrek ...)

My prayer for this Tribal Gathering is that we learn what God's victory over everything really means for us. We would love for you to join with us in the lead up to this year's Gathering and pray for these things:

FOR THE RUN UP TO CONFERENCE

- Pray God's hand is powerfully upon SA Regional Coordinator Justin Monaghan and his wife Liana as they prepare for this conference together. Pray especially for protection as he faces the spiritual battle!
- Pray for unity and passion in the team that's involved in organising.
- Pray for financial wisdom and for all the details to be stitched up.
- Pray for the area of Victor Harbor. Pray God would start knocking on the hearts of that local community as they are set to collide with a bunch of moderately freaky Christians this Easter. Pray it is a life-giving collision!

FOR WHERE GOD IS TAKING CSA

- Pray for the planning that will happen for the year ahead at the Tribal Gathering.
- Pray we are an organisation that bears much fruit. That trusts God for provision, and sees His great hand at work. That is generous not just in finances but in time and in acts of friendship and mercy.
- Pray for new opportunities and strengthened relationships in the surfing community at all levels.
- Pray for staying power for our leaders from the International Director down to the local leaders on the front line.

FOR WHAT GOD DOES IN US AT THE TRIBAL GATHERING

- Pray for the speaker Neville Strachan: for boldness, compassion, knowledge and wisdom.
- Pray for encouragement for those that feel at the point of giving up.
- Pray that Tribal Gathering injects an extra boost of excitement into the ones of us that just feel worn out and bored by the day to day.
- Pray for new wisdom and strategy for those who are busting to crack the façade and surface level of the world around us and share Jesus in a way that rocks people's worlds.
- Pray for hope for those in despair.
- Pray for a real touch from God Himself to those that wonder if God really cares at all.

For more info email Nerida, National Prayer Coordinator: prayer@christiansurfers.org.au



NSW South Coast regional camp goes off

Sixty-five+ groms, leaders and ankle biters got together at one of the favourite spots on the South Coast, Burrill Pines, in November 2010. The weekend started off with rain Friday night but evolved gradually so that our last session on Sunday was offshore 3-foot peaks with even a few barrels scored.

Great to have crew from all CS missions on South NSW including the beginnings of a girls' crew from the Gong – on ya Kat! Jodene extracted herself from her new centre of the universe to join us, and it was a blessing to have her angelic presence in the camp.

Stanni took home the trophy for the Team Challenge comp again for the fourth year in a row. Strategic planning is fervently taking place to pull the perch from them at some time in the future. Great to see so many groms from our "south north coast" crew with their young dynamic leadership team. On ya Kenno and boys!

Glenn Seddon, Batemans Bay youth worker, took on the challenge of verbalising the gospel for all and did an awesome job. Camp singlets and t-shirts posing the question "What would Eddie do?" intrigued us and then Glenn shared about sacrificial love, and the ultimate example of this kind of love, that we have in Jesus.

So lots of effort was rewarded by a fantastic weekend; thanks everyone – looking forward to 2011!

Mal MacCallum
Caretaker RC South NSW



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INSIDE

Christian Surfers Australia Newsletter – Issue 10 Autumn 2011

Gathering 2011
SA Victor Harbor

CSA Girls
Rising up for Jesus

Q & A with
Serena Gallagher



TOP LEFT - CSA TRIBE AT 2010 GATHERING IN LENNOX HEAD, NSW. ALL OTHERS - SA GATHERING VICTOR HARBOR 2004. PHOTOS BY THESEALIFE.COM.AU

Tribal Gathering 2011 SA Victor Harbor, April 21-25

Be empowered to share your story in your surfing community

I am very privileged that I get a sneak peek at the new *Inside* before anyone else and it was great to read Serena's Q and A. God uses our story so much that people always want to know why you do what you do. It can be your most effective tool in sharing what Jesus has done in your life.

I was reading 1John chapter 4 and verses 12-16 caught my attention, I love the way verse 14 is worded "and we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world". One of the foundations of our own testimony is that point in time when we believed this truth and accepted it in our lives.

I felt God has been pressing on me about how we as a mission are telling people about Him. I feel challenged in my own life of how bold I am in sharing about Jesus; do I pray and ask the Lord to bring people across my path that I can share this life-changing truth with?

There is a guy named Jack Van-Eck who was the Mission Coordinator in Geraldton, WA for a few years, and Jack's enthusiasm for sharing the gospel always encouraged me and pushed my comfort zone. He would ring me up and say, "I prayed this morning that God would bring some people across my path that I can talk with about him," and then the testimony

would follow – I talked with this person sitting next to me on the plane and she gave her heart to Jesus. Stories like this were common from Jack. The testimony of what Jesus had done in Jack shone through and changed lives as they heard that Jesus could transform their life as well.

If someone asks you – what is your story, why are you a Jesus follower, can you answer without hesitation? I encourage you to know this, practise it in the mirror or in your core groups and know how to share your story and the life-giving gospel that has transformed you.

With CSA national Tribal Gathering coming up in April, I'd like to invite you to come and be encouraged in your faith and in your ministry to your surfing community. Meet Jesus followers who surf from all over the country and hear their stories. And no doubt, by just being in the CSA community, praying, learning and surfing together will empower you to share Jesus' love more passionately.

God bless,

Steve Bailey
National Director
Christian Surfers Australia



No ordinary family reunion

The gathering of the CS tribe is almost upon us and it is an opportunity that you don't want to miss out on. Having been to two CS Tribal Gatherings (Sydney 2007 and Port Campbell 2009) I can say that the stoke levels at a Gathering are huge and will fire you up for God's work in CS for the year to come.

There are people from all over this great south land that will be gathering in His name and as His children. We are one big family in CS and this is the best family reunion you'll ever go to. But it's no ordinary family reunion. Of course, there's the usual family reunion stuff like lots of food and people to catch up with, but there are also heaps of new totally rad people to meet and get 'shacked off your brains' (tubed) with. So get off your butt, fill your car with groms and come on down to SA for an amazing five days.

Many of you may be wondering why on earth you'd want to come to SA when you've never heard of good waves or surfers coming from here. Let's just say that us South Ozzies are very good at keeping secrets and we have no need to go anywhere and become famous surfers when we have the best surfing playground in the country right at our back door. Just in the Victor Harbor area alone there are waves ranging from great learner beachies, to an amazing longboarding point, to the best body boarding break in Oz (Knights, photo above), to hectic slabby beaches and some pretty epic secret reef breaks too. And we're ready to take you guys out there and surf the lot. This is your best opportunity to get driven to and shown the most excellent waves in SA.

One of the best things you'll experience at this year's Tribal Gathering is the dawn paddle out on Easter Sunday. This year it will take place at the most incredibly breathtaking location you'll ever lay eyes on, King's Head. It's a mix of sweeping green paddocks, gnarly cliff faces and deep blue ocean as far as the eye can see, with a sick ledge hollow wave off the point. This paddle out will be a truly grand experience.

The theme of this year's gathering is *the Offensive*. Neville Strachen will speak on being on the front foot in your prayer and ministry. Neville has huge amounts of experience in church planting and overseas ministry and will share some of his wisdom about working in *the offensive* for JC.

So what are you waiting for!! Register now and come get shacked, stoked and transformed this Easter at the CS Tribal Gathering 2011. See ya there. Peace out!

Andy Story

Register for 2011 CSA Tribal Gathering at christiansurfers.org.au



CSA Girls: rising up for Jesus

Jodene Watling

Being a girl in CSA is not just about having the gender-specific right to put pink CS stickers on your board and car; it's about being a light to the world amongst the female surfing community of our nation. There has been a kaleidoscope of light and love radiating from our CS girls across our vast continent.

South Oz girls have been turning trash into treasure by collecting unwanted goods and then holding garage sales which raised money to support Compassion sponsor children, the QLD flood appeal and their CS Girls events. Their love for Jesus, ingenuity and desire to *be* the difference makes such a difference.

Our Indian Ocean sisters (WA girls) have been faithfully praying up a storm over the past months as they move into a season of surf days and camps. It's encouraging to see their heart for God and CS. I look forward to seeing them at their Regional Camp (5-6 March at Margaret River).

The east coast girls have been enjoying summer holidays, road trips, camps and all hanging out in various combinations! A shout out to our sisters in Cronulla whose crew is continually growing and building in strength. Their program strategy? ... LIFE! Just doing life together consistently and with quality (plus coffee!).

Sisters, I urge you to come to our CSA Tribal Gathering in Victor Harbour (South Oz)! It is a mind-blowing experience that will set your heart on fire for Jesus and your mind ticking over about mission. If you're short on the pesos, bust out a garage sale, a car wash, ice-creams or a cake stall at church; or speak to your church about backing you. Half the fun is the process to get there!

At this Tribal Gathering, I will be launching a CSA Girls movie series called "Rise Up" – a multimedia smorgasboard for the senses which will share stories of faith from our CSA Girls and friends across Australia. They are 30-minute themed episodes where basically we froth about Jesus, life and anything froth-worthy! They'll be free (yes ... FREE!!) and available online by Easter. Can't wait to get these hotcakes out the oven as a resource to atomically bless and inspire girls across this nation to *rise up* to the life God offers us all.

We're holding our first-ever CSA Girls Fundraiser on Saturday the 19th of March at Cronulla with special guests Brett and Gill Davis; there'll be a great vibe and mandatory dancing (it's how I roll, you should know that by now!). But the focus is to offer an opportunity for us as a movement to get behind CSA Girls in prayer and financial support for the sustainability of our mission long term. If you want to go fast, go alone – if you want to go far, go together. We need your help!

For information on tickets or if you can't attend but would like to support the mission of CSA Girls contact: jodene@christiansurfers.org.au



Q & A with Serena Gallagher

Mission Coordinator
Byron Bay

Tell us a bit about yourself, where did you grow up?

I teach Scripture at Byron Bay High School, I don't keep plants alive very well, I do drive a car that can seat up to eight people, I was born in Darwin and grew up predominately in Lismore, NSW.

When did you start surfing?

I started surfing when I was 17-18; a friend of mine decided she was into it, so I thought I'd give it a go too.

What does surfing mean for you personally?

Um. Well, it can become one of those things that you do because of whatever, exercise/friends etc, but I've always loved the beach and the ocean, so essentially it's a way to be in that space.

Your best surf session ever?

I'd have to say surfing Whytes Beach with three others in clean 2-3ft peaky waves was fun, or all the times when I lived on the Gold Coast and I would surf till it got dark ... or when Broken Head sand banks were great three summers ago and ... oh man, now I am remembering a whole bunch of others!

What brought you to CS?

I somehow fell into being the Mission Coordinator two and a half years ago because I was looking for a group that was equipped to have grommets come and surf with Jesus-loving types.

How do you see God work in the Byron area, through CS?

Well, until last year CS was simply me taking kids from the local high school surfing every Tuesday afternoon. It was a super cool way to get to know the kids outside of a teaching context for me, but it was limited in growth due to available leadership in the area. But last year God brought along a great bunch of leaders! Which is amazing! 35 kids from the Byron area came on our Regional Camp in November, and I had a leader with every car full! These leaders were awesome; they hung with the grommets, shared their lives and the kids were STOKED! They were all so pumped on the experience that we are planning our own Byron CS Camp in March, and a few of the leaders still catch up and surf with the grommies they connected with on the regional camp. It's exciting seeing God use CS as another means to pour out His love towards our local kids! God is so kind and intentional, and they are all getting lined up to experience Him for themselves!

From your experience in Byron, are there any specific stories that you could share as an encouragement for CS mission leaders around Australia?

I was blown away at the camp in November to see God working in the Byron High kids' hearts. I had one girl come along who doesn't surf, none of her peer group came on the camp and she is not from a Christian background, and yet when she heard of the camp she knew that she needed to go, so she did! On the Saturday night God's Spirit was knocking on the door of her heart, and she came up to me and said, "I didn't know why I came on this camp, I just knew I had to, and it all feels so right being here." And basically I think after Steve gave his talk she realised this is it – it was so cool to pray for her! She really encountered Jesus in a massive way! So the encouragement is – He is more than able to start a ground swell anywhere, and He is the One that put the knowledge of Him in our hearts in the first place and it's His desire to reveal Himself to everyone. So I can trust that He will! It's such a relief that I don't need to strive or try and drum up whatever, but knowing that simply loving on people is very powerful, and that I can just enjoy Him and He does it all! Hooray for Jesus!

Something that makes you laugh?

Why did the one-handed skeleton cross the road?

To get to the second-hand shop!

(Kind of lame hey ... I found that on the net especially to answer that one.)

Any funny CS stories?

One camp we tried to travel in convoy the whole way to Minnie Water, except one guy missed our "stick together stop" as he thought, "yup, I know where to go!" He ended up taking the road we had talked of taking, but when we got there, we realised it was the wrong one, so we didn't. Someone phoned him to let him know that it was the wrong one, but as they were about to say so, he dropped out of range. So he was left to his own pursuit of the "short cut road". He had to drive on a bumpy-as old gravel road through massive puddles of water, dodging cows, stopping to move trees off the road, all with a bunch of 14-year-old girls freaking out until they eventually found solace in singing "Jesus Loves Me This I Know", until he reached the very end of the road to find a sign that said, "If you go any further, I'll shoot you!" – then he got the picture that he had the wrong road!

How can we be praying for you?

I would like the increase of His presence and the continual pleasure of seeking His face ... Also, pray that God would continue to equip us as mission leaders, but more than that, that He would make His face shine to every kid we have the pleasure of hanging with. Thanks :-)

Giving back

The end of 2011 was filled with much anticipation and longing as I and two other surfer chix from WA headed off for our long-awaited surf trip to Bali and Lombok. For

Rosie and me it was a return trip that we had been dreaming of and saving for since our trip the year before. For Amy this was a chance to travel and explore a country she had vague recollections of as a child travelling with her parents.

Lombok holds a special appeal for us as it has awesome surf and has been mainly untainted by the many crowds that flock to the shores of Bali. We decided this time that we wanted to give a little back to the people who have been so hospitable and generous to us.

Through contacts we set up a chix surf camp for some of the girls who attend an international school north of Mataram, the country's capital. It was an incredible weekend of surfing, hanging out and doing what girls do best. As a surf coach I was able to teach these girls who live in the most amazing place just how to enjoy the ocean a bit more.

We had a wide range of girls from all parts of the globe who are all living in Lombok for varying lengths of time. We kept it pretty low key with the God stuff as we needed to be quite careful. That was a challenge but what it made me so very aware of and so grateful for was the freedom we have here in Australia, to practise openly without fear of persecution.

One of my most memorable moments was our beach games that attracted pretty much the whole village where we were staying! We had started some games to entertain the girls while we were waiting for our beach BBQ to be ready. The next thing, all the kids who had been trying to sell us bracelets and other trinkets had joined in and were eagerly participating alongside the girls. I was busy taking photos and shouting encouragement and I had seen a gradual crowd start to emerge till it seemed that the whole town had come to witness the goings on. They had all lined up along the beach and were people of all ages, some lounging on bikes, many smoking and goofing around, but all were intrigued by the games we were playing.

As darkness descended they gradually disappeared but it was a moment that reminded me that even the simplest things can make a difference. No trip to such a country for 3 weeks goes without its mishaps. Sickness plagued us the whole trip, but we did get some incredible waves and have returned with some great photos and memories. My hope and prayer is that the girls we took surfing that weekend will have seen Christ in us and will have begun to ask questions. It was such a little thing to give but I pray it makes the biggest difference in their lives.

Ellen Smith

