



ASSEMBLIES
Outreach

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April 2022

**“Therefore go and make
disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of
the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit, and teaching
them to obey everything
I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you
always, to the very
end of the age.”**

Matthew 28:19,20^{NIV}

In this issue: News of Commended Workers
Is that all there is?
A Book Review
“Searching for God” (2 excerpts)
Praying for Seafarers
A tribute to Basil Connell
The Great Commission
Internet Corner (... and more)

Assemblies

Outreach

Magazine Vol. 51, No. 2

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Evangelistic Mission (NSWAEM)

The NSWAEM publishes this bi-monthly magazine to offer opportunities for NSW Commended Workers, Assemblies, Para-Assembly activities and other kindred bodies, to share information about their ministries, to encourage others, and to encourage prayer.

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Written contributions to *Assemblies Outreach* magazine are welcome and actively sought from NSW Assemblies and any associated ministries and individuals.

Please submit your assembly news, people profiles, letters, etc, for the **June 2022 issue on or before 13th May 2022.**

Contributors enjoy reasonable liberty in their expression of opinion and exposition of Scripture within the boundaries of a biblical evangelical Christian faith. Neither the Editorial Team, the Board of NSW Assemblies' Evangelistic Mission, nor Commended Workers are to be held responsible for every view that may be expressed in these pages.

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Awake to Israel

History ● Current Events ● Prophecy ● Evangelism

20 years
in 2021

...To declare unto you all the counsel of God. Acts 20:27

Meetings are held monthly,
February to November

Second Saturday, 2:30pm
at Epping Gospel Chapel

Cnr Carlingford Rd & Duntroon Ave,
Epping, NSW

Also Streaming via ZOOM

Contact richard@awaketoisrael.org for the link

For further information:

www.awaketoisrael.org

www.facebook.com/AwakeToIsrael

Our purpose:

- ✧ Supporting selected Christian Ministries in Israel
- ✧ Witnessing to our local Jewish Community
- ✧ Teaching believers what the Bible says about end times.
- ✧ Promoting awareness within the local church of Israel's part in God's future plans.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come together and search the Scriptures.

Awake to Israel is a ministry of Epping Gospel Chapel and combined Brethren Assemblies of Australia.

First Glance

by Colin Winrow, Editor.



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this April 2022 edition of the *Assemblies Outreach* magazine.

As I write this, I'm conscious that the glorious season of Easter has come and gone before you read my ramblings again. I do hope it was a precious time for each of our readers and their churches. It can be a marvellous time of remembering all that our Lord went through, so that we could be added to God's family. We ought to be so grateful and keen to share our joy with those who have not grasped and believed what happened at Calvary and His Resurrection, that followed on the third day.

I hope what you read in the following pages will help in your journey with the Lord until we are all united with Him in his Glorious Kingdom. And I hope it helps you share the Gospel Good News with family, friends, colleagues and strangers as you travel, guided by the Holy Spirit.

However, I have to admit to being a little sad at the lack of 'stories' in this

issue from Assemblies and Community Churches in NSW.

Are we so autonomous that we can't share our stories of successes or failures during our journeys with the Lord, for mutual benefit? And it can't be just because of Covid. I've been reminded by a friend that previous editors have also struggled to glean stories, lessons, or wisdom from their readers. One used to often quote the Bible verse Deut 28:23 "And the heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron"...because it was hard work to winkle out even a couple of sentences from churches about what they were doing!

Please keep in mind that by sharing, and requesting prayer, you are potentially harnessing the prayer power of dozens of like-minded brothers & sisters in Christ.

Maybe a few weeks or months down the track? Maybe next year? 

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'Out and About' in NSW Assemblies & Churches

compiled by Colin Winrow

If you attend a NSW assembly, or you work with any associated Christian Brethren ministry, please feel free to submit your local news or event dates to this 'Out and About' section so we can inform and encourage people in all our assemblies and churches.

Short items (even if only one sentence) are welcome and can be mailed to this magazine at PO Box 20, Pennant Hills, NSW 1715, or better still, e-mailed to:

outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

* * *

CCCAust(NSW) issued its latest newsletter by email on 14 April. In it Glen Baigent reported that the BUILD 2022 Men's Conference held on 25 & 26 March was an insightful weekend and a time of good fellowship and fun. "The Friday night commenced in good spirit with a great meal provided by CCC Central Coast staff. The theme of the weekend was "Standing Firm" and we certainly felt the support and encouragement from each other as we sang in worship together. The crew from Raymond Terrace Community Church provided encouragement through music and strong vocals. CCC Central Coast did a magnificent job of hosting us, and included fun extras like the popcorn machine. Mal Gill's first message on Friday night reminded us to guard the deposit that has been entrusted to each of us."

Saturday morning was a busy start with a hearty breakfast and full camp of 126 men. In the next teaching session, Roy Gomez inspired us to remain faithful and find the right person to

pass the gospel on to. He reminded us to work hard, and that anyone who wants to pass the gospel in its truth knows that it is hard work.

During the morning tea break, they heard from the team at CCCAust(NSW) who talked about the future of our movement. Also James Dawson spoke about the work that is taking shape in the Northern Beaches of Sydney, through a new church plant. If you wish to know more about this plant or to pray for them, find more information here:–

www.anchorchurch.com.au/locations/northern-beaches

The next sessions from Roy and Mal again came from 2 Timothy and spoke clearly to the need for strong men in our homes and churches. After a light lunch the men were challenged to enter the father/son competition of Laser Tag. The fathers were victorious this year and won the trophy, so there is a need for more young men to challenge the fathers next year!

The final teaching session reminded us that God has a reason for all men in all situations. A challenging but inspiring time was had by all.

* * *

The newsletter also contained an advert by CCC Camps who are looking for a Customer Service Coordinator (CSC) at their Blue Mountains & Central Coast centres. The CSC plays an important role in the operation of CCC Camps. This person is the first point of contact for all who visit the centres. The CSC is 'Camp Host' ➤

for any bookings, and their main responsibility is to do everything they can to ensure customers have Life Changing Adventures when they come to CCC Camps.

This role is a permanent full time position, Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 5pm, with occasional weekend hosting.

For more information, or to apply, please email:-

renee@cccamps.org.au

* * *

Camp David: This amazing Christian camp for adults with an intellectual disability is on from May 22nd to 27th and needs volunteers.

It will be held at the beautiful CCC Camps Hawkesbury site, on the Nepean River. It provides an engaging activity program for campers to ensure they have an enjoyable experience, giving their parents/carers the opportunity for a week of respite. The week will include crafts, games, activities, Bible talks, outings and amazing times to connect with our campers!

To be able to run Camp David, a team of volunteer leaders is needed for the 6 days. People who are passionate about people and sharing Christ's love with those at Camp David in a very relaxed atmosphere that is full of joy. More volunteers, both young and old, are needed, so please get in touch and get involved. Leaders will need to have an NDIS worker check to serve at camp. This is like a Working With Children Check but it is for people working in the disability industry. It is free for volunteers and will need to be linked to the Hands & Feet organisation. It

can be done at Service NSW. Camp David is 100% cost free for the team of volunteers, so please consider if you can give your time to support this great ministry. People can register for the camp now at:-

handsandfeet.venueregistrations.net/camp-david-may-22

or they can call Reuben Torrance on 0426 797 382 for more information. If you know of anyone who would be interested in attending as a camper, or a leader, please let Reuben know.

Meetings & Events

Please note that because of the ongoing uncertainties caused by COVID-19, any dates published in this section may be subject to change, even at short notice.

If in doubt, contact the organisers or view the website of any event(s) you are interested in below.

(Note: for **the latest details** of the Events listed below, please also be sure to check on the organisations' websites.

May 2022:

22nd-27th **Camp David** at CCC Hawkesbury – see adjacent column for more details.

September:

9th-11th **Camp Sam** at CCC Hawkesbury. Camp Sam(uel) is a Christian camp for young adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. It aims to provide such young adults with a fun, activity-filled weekend. Enquiries: 1300 75 72 76





Ariel & Beverly Cinco
12 Berry Street
Mt Druitt NSW 2770
25 March 2022

Greetings in Jesus' name.

I thank God and praise Him for the NSWAEM's continued support in our church planting.

Your generous gift is really appreciated and big help and blessings as we served the Lord in the community of Mount Druitt.

Praying for you and the Board that God will continue to bless you and keep you as you pray and support church workers in the mission field.

Thank you and God bless.

*In Christ,
Ariel*

Gary & Joanne Akehurst
PO Box 1100
Five Dock NSW 2046
2 March 2022

Dear email prayer partners,

Joanne is slowly improving and Gary is back to normal, after having covid. Joanne had a couple of nights in hospital, but the wonderful thing was that she tested positive for covid on the Friday and we sent an email to the myeloma nurses at 8.30pm that night, expecting not to hear back from them until Monday. Amazingly, the email made it to Jo's specialist as she was on call. She rang Jo and booked her in for an infusion of Sotrovimab, an antibody given to those most at risk of covid, on Sunday afternoon. The Sotrovimab was supposed to take 24-48 hrs to work. Her temperature was 39 degrees that night, so

off to hospital she went, but she improved dramatically within 24 hours and was out of hospital Tuesday morning. We are so thankful to the Lord that He had and indeed has His hand on her. We thank you again for your prayers.

The Lord has also blessed with PromiseBoxAudio.com, which has been professionally rebuilt, which not only makes it more user friendly on mobile phones, but Lord willing makes it less likely to be hacked or crash. As a result of the rebuild Gary has a fair bit of work to do, updating old code, fixing photo links and adding recordings as quickly as we can.

Since the last newsletter we have added recordings from the following speakers to PromiseBoxAudio.com. The first number is the number of new recordings at the top of the speaker's page and the number in brackets is the total number of recordings now on the speaker's page: Don Adams 5 (20), Manoli Allen 2, Trevor Allen 5 (8), Len Allwright 1 (11), Jon Ayoub 1 (49), Alan Bailey (Adelaide) 1 (23), Des Baird 1(10), Steve Baird 4 (9), Malcolm Barrow 1(34), Derek Bingham 13 (17), Ted Boyce 3 (12), Jack Boyens 3 (29) and Nilesh Goundar 9 audios and 3 PDFs.

Below are more encouraging responses from those listening to the recordings.

Richard, KENYA, "Sir, I am much privileged to see the Bible studies in the website, it has. Many good news it will improve my Bible study and give ways of preaching the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. More also it will give ways of preaching to many friend. I will be down- ➤

loading and give studies to friends who are in need."

Judith, KENYA, "I am listening and attending to this lessons nicely in the late evening hours pastor because of some assignments during day time hours. It's so touching teachings that is also good guidelines to enable us through the power of the holy spirit know the ways of God and His doings in the Bible."

Pouna, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, "Hi Aunty and uncle I'm Pouna, I was one your member when I was a little kid. I was reading my bible and saw the book mark you send some 25 years ago" (It is very rare that we hear from the old Queensland Mailbox Bible Club members, who all called us aunty and uncle. Fancy Pouna finding one of the bookmarks he received from QMBC as an award, about 25 years ago!)

Duncan, KENYA, "its by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that i have visited the internet and i was privileged find your contact. After prayerful and studying your webpage. I was spiritually changed, moved and thrilled in my spiritual electricity went stronger to find what you have for spiritual growth to our bible study group. Right now i do not feel like my feet are touching the ground because of the DESIRE that has been ignited in me by reading your website. I humbly pray that the Holy Ghost continue visiting your hearts has its been, and spend time with us, as a spiritual mentors, to bring more lost souls to come to Jesus Christ . We hunger and thirst for your fellowship as together we can make by His power for our orphans and saints in Kenya to come to Jesus Christ ."

Danny, KENYA, "I do follow this teachings keenly and they do encourage me especially during this hardship time am in through,,, God bless "

Tonny, KENYA, "Many thanks indeed for the messages you sent me I am blessed because I am able to share the messages with my congregation and, the entire ministry at large in Kenya and Africa."

Matoke, KENYA, "Thank you brother to you too writing through Whatsapp. We always need the Bible teachings and lack the word of God so much. I will use those bible teachings to teach our Church us I will receive them from you."

May the Lord bless and keep you all.

Gary & Joanne

Aaron & Shelly Daniel
6 Talavera Close
Raymond Terrace NSW 2324
18 March

Dear Friends,

Married 22 Years Today!

Thanks for sharing Life with us!

Thank you for your continued partnership. Please also pray for our 2022 EvangelismSHIFT facilitators.

Andrew Cowell and Mike McGarrity,
Co-facilitating at Journey Church,
Sydney NSW.

Ron and Rosemary Flynn,
Co-facilitating at Cherrybrook Baptist
Church, Sydney NSW,

Josh Bloomfield, Co-facilitator at
Nollamara Church of Christ in Perth
WA.

John & Irene Hills
16 Stewart Street
Campbelltown NSW 2560
24 March

Its been a busy month, I had to catch up on our Satellite programs, we broadcast still to the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey, and recently we started broadcasting to India as well.

I have been working with Al Watson from Walk Thru the Bible for some time, recently we recorded the start of a series on the Old Testament.

This involves using a Green Screen, and using various backgrounds to enhance the communication.

It involves a lot more careful filming and editing but we got the first 4 of 40 segments shot and edited.

These videos are used online to teach the Overview of the Bible. We completed a series on the NT some time ago.

Al lives in Victoria and we are relying on his visits up here to film as well as a few visits by me down to Victoria.

Pray that this all goes well.

Thank you

John and Irene

Brendon & Sarah Walker
1 Shannon Street
Lalor Park NSW 2147
29 March

Connexions Conference was a little different this year due to Covid 19. It was split into states as well as people zooming in from home. However, it was still a helpful time away reflecting and connecting with God and having fellowship with other missionaries. Brendon was the only one in our family who went

in person due to the high number of covid cases in NSW at the time, but the rest of the family were participating on zoom.

Back at School: Brendon has hit the ground running with lots of welfare issues happening all at once. A lot of students came back to school with major health concerns, both physical and mental, friendship and domestic issues. Brendon has been involved in most of these incidents supporting the students and families during this time. He also continues to support staff members after hours including visiting them at home and hospital visits when needed as they struggle with both mental health and general life issues. This has led to a conversation with the principal who asked, "Why are staff and students coming to you for all this support?" I was able to share the love I have for them because of the love God has for me and it overflows into their lives as they get to experience Jesus' love for them. This comes in the form of relationships and practical support by being present and available for them. What an opportunity to allow God to speak into this situation as God softens her heart.

Please pray for Brendon as he supports the students, staff and families, particularly those who don't have any other support network. Pray that he will have the wisdom to be able to know what support he is able (or not able) to offer and that he won't take these situations home with him.

Pray that God will continue to work in all these situations as people try to find meaning and hope in their lives.



Is That All There Is?

by Rita Galieh

“Don’t make any important decisions for at least a year,” they said. And this, “Don’t be impetuous, just take things slowly.” They were right as this was new territory for me. Yet at the time a silent hug meant so much more than words.

I finally adjusted to the fact that my life – as a former musician/artist along with my violinist evangelist husband now with the Lord – the sense of being “at a loose end” – was very real.

It’s widely known that people who have no relationship with God and have reached the pinnacle of their lives, either in business or the entertainment arena - despite having everything they’d ever aspired to accomplish or possess – often come to realise ‘is that all there is?’ That’s a sad commentary. And worse when many take their own lives as a feeling of emptiness fills them. (Perhaps a ‘no more worlds to conquer’ syndrome.)

However, there’s a danger of this happening in the Christian sphere as well. Maybe it’s the ‘empty nest’, or a ministry comes to a screeching halt, or future plans come to a dwindling end.

But the good news is this, “If you’re not dead, you’re not done,” to quote Dr David Jeremiah. For a Christian there is always an avenue of service ahead if you’re willing to step out in faith.

My life’s verse; *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths*, took on new meaning for me. The Lord had proved His loving-kindness

in so many ways, so I talked it over with Him.

“Well, Father, if you have something else for me to do, then I’m willing to do it. You know my strengths and my weaknesses. I can’t think what you will want of me, but if you do, I am certain I’ll love doing it!” And I left it at that.

A mere two weeks later I received a message with a Christian lady’s enquiry if I could do a presentation for a group of seniors in a community hall. I could only answer with mounting anticipation, “That sounds like an answer to prayer. So yes, I’ll come. Just give me awhile until I choose a theme and I’ll get right back to you!” And almost immediately I grasped an idea. A few months before I’d invited a group of ladies to my home for a *Keepsakes Koffee Klatch*. Each agreed to bring a personal keepsake and share what it meant to them. Well, we had an enjoyable time over tea/coffee and goodies. And it became a truly moving experience as each opened their hearts. I knew then my theme would be that if we know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour, we are *God’s Keepsakes*. And many Bible verses backed this up!

I have already shared a happy time with the seniors group and recently with Ann Gray in her home, and whose gift is obviously one of hospitality. This lady was actually a Sunday School pupil of mine from past years. Nine ladies and four children attended with many from her own family, plus other ladies from her KYB group and a book club. Several male relatives >10

Is That All There Is? (cont'd from p 9)

escaping this ladies-only event, took themselves up to the Carrington Hotel for afternoon tea.

I was blessed to be able to 'christen' my own small portable karaoke used with flash drives for my music, and the young ones were only too willing to join me in a bright opening song. In Ann's own words; "The ladies and girls all were encouraged and so appreciative of the event. Each of them shared with me what a joy and encouragement it was. They especially loved the Tapestry song. Most carry scars and pain of some sort and the coming together in that way reminds them they

are precious to God and special in their own way."

Another girlhood friend of mine, Roslyn Frizelle, has invited me to her Gold Coast home in May where I'll share in another mixed group. And in September I'll be the speaker at a ladies' house party with its theme – *Little Things*.

Yes, for the Christian, there's far more to life when we ask our heavenly Father, 'Is there something else for me, Lord?' For those dear ones still haunted by the question, 'Is that all there is?' We can say unequivocally 'No'.

If other groups are interested in this informal type of sharing, Rita's contact details are as follows:–

Rita Galieh ph: 9600 7292

Email:

ritagal@optusnet.com.au

Post: PO Box 101,
Moorebank, NSW 1875



A lady showing her treasured possession of her great grandmother's portrait.

Rita and Ann Gray, our hostess, sharing with a lady after our Koffee Klatch.



Is That All There Is? (cont'd from p 10)



This lady treasures her grandmother's personal journal.

Fingering pearls that once belonged to her mother.



Even youngsters have their precious keepsakes.



ASSEMBLIES OUTREACH MAGAZINE

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1. Annual subscription – for 6 issues of the normal printed-on-paper version. **\$32**
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3. Annual subscription - for 6 issues of the emailed PDF version alone. (This can **only** be ordered by individuals, via email.) **\$6**

Reminder Invoices were issued to all current subscribers in February 2022.

Payment can be made by Cheque, Money Order, or by Direct Deposit to BSB 062-212 Account 0090 2021 (Commonwealth Bank) Please put the words "AO 2022 mag for <your surname or Assembly name>" in the 'Description' field.

A 2nd excerpt from “Searching for God in Christianity”

by Sean Nolan

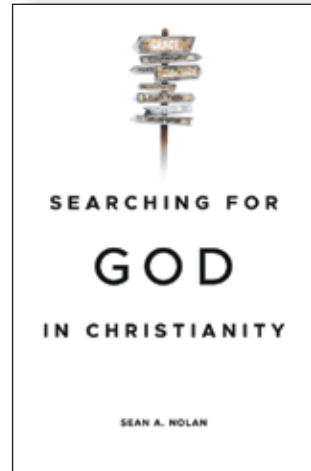
Hopefully this book will be released in the USA and Australia in April 2022.

“So I warn you, especially those of you who will become teachers and guides of consciences, to . . . bring them from the law to grace, from active and working righteousness to passive and received righteousness, from Moses to Christ.”

A quotation from Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*, c. 1535 (emphasis added)

There is an unspoken powerlessness in the Christian community. I remember hearing one of the best Bible preachers in America say that he realized something was very wrong when the same people, week after week, year after year, came down the front each Sunday to unendingly rededicate. These people were not experiencing anything exceptional. They were experiencing the same thing any worldly change-system could give them and wondering where this power Christianity proclaims was.

Is it in the seminary? Let me go there. Is it in strict dedication? Let me try this. Is it in conforming to my local church’s dress code, cultural form, and Bible translation? I’ll try that. Is it in the new ministry that is down the road? I guess I should go there. Where is it? Oh, it is just Jesus. Well OK, I get that—but where is He? He is in His Word—but that is just a book? No, sorry, let me rephrase that with more theological nuance: it is through



the written Word that we come to the living Word—oh, OK, well how do I do that? Through faith—OK, what is faith? It is believing—but faith and believing are the same word in Greek? Oh, then it’s through prayer—I pray and nothing happens? You need to pray in obedience—oh, OK, I’ll do that. But nothing remarkable happened? Yes, it did, you just need to believe that it did—but isn’t that just works and not grace? I’ll get a theologian to come and talk to you—I’m going to the footy . . .

In John 18:36, Jesus said to Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world.” This statement has inspired much theological thought. Augustine picked this theme up 1,600 years ago and penned a foundational work of Christianity, *The City of God*. Martin Luther picked up this theme with varying metaphors. In Copenhagen in the nineteenth century, Soren Kierkegaard wrote about it; the final major voice was Karl Barth in his ➤

Church Dogmatics. Kierkegaard and then Barth unpacked Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of God with the idea that Jesus' eternal kingdom and our reality are infinitely different.

... Kierkegaard wrote of the divine assistance that the eternal kingdom sent—about how in the two natures of Jesus' one person, we see the chasm closed, the divide mended, and disappointment appointed an end. Only in Jesus' humanity and divinity dwelling together do the two absolutes

break down. The infinite difference between the kingdom of God and the existence of men is reconciled. The contradiction between the kingdom of God and the world of humanity is answered. The distance between the eternal and earth closes, the outcome for us being that the believing Christian is afforded a new organ, sense, way of communicating, experiencing, and knowing "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor. 4:6,^{NET}). □

NSW WOMEN'S MISSIONARY PRAYER & SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP

It was in recognition of overseas missionaries as wanderers, living away from their homeland, and frequently finding themselves in difficult, painful circumstances, that the NSW Women's Missionary Prayer & Support Fellowship began, and continues. Priority is given to women's needs publicised in the AMT Global Prayer Matters, supplemented by information shared in private correspondence. Missionaries commended by NSW Assemblies are more intimately known so are remembered more frequently during our prayer times. Meeting with missionaries on furlough is an enjoyable highlight.

Meetings are held on the **second Friday of each month**, from **February to December**. Two home groups are available for anyone interested, one at Cherrybrook, and one at South Hurstville. Tea and coffee are provided at 10am before a prayer session from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

At Cherrybrook: in the home of Mavis Winrow, Elouera Gardens, 1/9 Julia Close, Cherrybrook.

Contact Lil Fleming ph 9858 5436 email: lflem@bigpond.com

At South Hurstville: in the home of Margaret Hind, 2/14 Rickard Road, South Hurstville.

Contact Margaret Hind ph: 9546 8545

email: margarethind@gmail.com

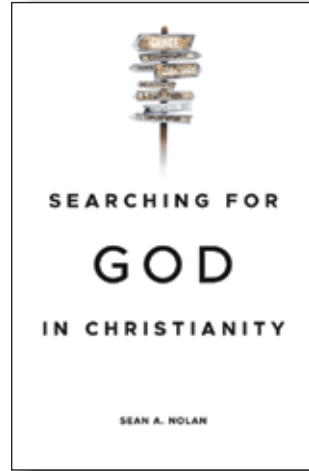
A 3rd excerpt from “Searching for God in Christianity”

by Sean Nolan

Many years ago, Hudson Taylor, the founder of the China Inland Mission, asked in honest frustration: How do we get the vine to give us its sap, its life, and its goodness? Hudson verbalized the tussle between the promise of peace, rest, and freedom and the actual experience of it. For God’s promise of peace and rest to be valid it must be experienced. The reason so many people don’t experience complete peace and rest is not the promise itself—it is the way in which we seek to partake of it.

I previously covered Karl Barth’s writing on the concept of invocation, and it is this concept that solves this critical problem and does so in a balanced, biblical, way. Barth highlights that John Calvin, in his work *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, begins his section on prayer by calling invocation the “chief exercise of faith by which we daily receive God’s benefits,” and that “our only safety is in calling upon His name.” Barth himself stated, “prayer is the most intimate and effective form of human action. . . . When the Christian wishes to act obediently, what else can he do but that which he does in prayer.” Prayer is “the renewing and inward empowering of the Christian . . . the true and proper work of the Christian.”

This prayer needs to be centred around asking God to act in us or, as Paul said, asking God to “take hold.” Did you notice that in Philippians 3:12 God is the one who takes hold—that He is the one holding you? You



cannot hold yourself in an alien righteousness, so stop trying. Only through Scripture-based prayer requesting the Father to “take hold” can you be stable and certain in the utterly alien righteousness of God—a righteousness not found in you but obtained through faith in Jesus Christ.

We obtain the promise of the Gospel through invocation. Forget what is behind, forget the law, the religion, the obligatory service, the ritualistic prayer, and the self-chastisement. Forget all these things and come, once and then forever daily, to God through the resource of prayer, and experience the truth of the Christian claim. Remembering that when the Lord pulled much out of the temple, the one thing He wanted left in was prayer: “My house will be called a house of prayer” (Matt. 21:13).

When you begin to comprehend the magnitude of what is offered here you begin to see grace. You do not have ➤

to live the Christian life; you have to be dedicated to asking each day for Christ to live it through you. When this realization takes hold and you experience the power and closeness of Christ acting in you—when this happens—you begin to comprehend the offer that God has made humanity. The words of Paul in Romans 7:25 then make perfect sense: “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

The Greek philosopher Socrates asked a question that has echoed through the ages of civilization: “What

does it mean to be a human being?”

The Danish theologian Soren Kierkegaard used this statement to ask, “What does it mean to be a Christian?” To be a human is to be created in the image of God; to be a Christian is to be one who recognizes the mighty claim God has upon your whole life and daily give yourself to it (Gen. 1:27).

Excerpt from the book
Searching for God in Christianity.
www.hopesociety.org.au
By Sean A. Nolan, PhD
(candidate) Theology, MTh.

Lord Jesus Christ, who is like unto Thee?
That You would love a sinner, even me.
I lived a life estranged from Thee
But in Your life, God’s love I see.

God’s Spirit guided Your earthly walk
The trials, temptations, Satan endeavoured to baulk
The tempter tried his crafty evil skills
To create doubt, to break Your will.

Filled with God’s Spirit, You did not fall
You are the Christ, Lord of all.
Communed with people of every kind
The rich, the poor, the downcast, the blind.

Your compassion poured out, to those in need
The climax, the cross Your life drained to succeed.
The tempter has failed, You have won Your cause
As a redeemed sinner, I offer my applause.

Lord of glory, the trumpet soon will sound Your return.
In patience we wait, within our hearts burn
Our eternity safe with You, Your promise is firm
Oh come Lord Jesus, for this we yearn.

Francis Williams, 2021

Some Church Approved Sins?

Imported from USA and edited by C.H. Winrow

I was trained as an electrical engineer and have learned over the years that it is often the 'small' things that cause massive problems. The small stone that smashed your car windscreen; the mosquito bite that led to an extensive skin rash; the mice chewing through electrical wiring in the roof cavity that led to a serious house fire.

I think there's a lesson here for the Christian church. What if the big sins, the ones you try hardest to avoid, aren't the greatest threat to your joy and the church's mission?

Maybe it's the sins lying underneath, the ones considered normal or acceptable, the ones going undetected, that are affecting the church the most. I want to mention some of these sins.

1. FEAR

The phrases "do not fear" and "do not be afraid" appear about 365 times in the Bible. Ironic? I think not.

And here's what I think the church misses about fear. What is the opposite of fear? Courage? Bravery? No. The opposite of fear is...LOVE. Add to this the reality that God is love. So, according to the transitive property of mathematics, the opposite of fear is... God.

If you're a child of God, the one sin that shouldn't plague you is...fear.

Yet, Christians can be the most fearful people on earth. Even our salvation can be rooted in fear. Does it bother anyone that the primary method of bringing people to Jesus has been to scare them away from hell?

That's fear language, the antithesis of God. Look at what John says.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. 1 John 4:18

The church is scared to make decisions out of fear. Christians are hesitant to step into dangerous situations out of fear. The catalyst for our obedience is fear. Where's the love?

I would like to remove the words "fear, scared and terrified" from my vocabulary. Maybe you should do the same. It could change how we see the world. And God.

2. APATHY

Apathy's best friends are passivity and entitlement. Together, they're a vicious threesome.

There's nothing mediocre or normal about God. His power is beyond comprehension. His beauty is beyond description. His love is beyond measure. The same God who created the universe and formed the stars desires a relationship with you.

Yet, the attitude is often, "OK, God loves me. That's great. What's for lunch?" No. You don't get it, brother. God loves you. And cannot be content with, "That's great."

Our apathetic approach to God may explain a lot about why people in Australia aren't lining up to become Christians.

I mean, think about it. How many Christians have you met that left you thinking, "Wow, I want to be like them?" But this should be the norm, right? ➤

Am I way off here? Shouldn't you and I be so transformed by God that people want to ask about our lives, even if they hate God?

In Scripture, when men and women truly experience God, everything changes. Everything. So, that prompts a question, "Have you experienced God?"

3. WORRY

The great philosopher Van Wilder once said, "Worrying is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere." That's right. But Van Wilder isn't the only one who talked about worry. Jesus said you shouldn't worry about anything (Matt. 6:25-34). But Jesus wasn't serious was He? I mean, really Jesus? Anything?

O YES He was serious. You see, worrying is symptomatic of a larger issue...lack of faith. And for followers of Jesus whose primary mission is to show the glory and nature of God to the world, worrying is a problem.

Recently, I asked a good friend why worry plagues the church, and he said something profound, "My greatest concern is that we don't want to need God. We're Aussies. We're independent." That's hard-hitting stuff right there.

Many of us are keen to do anything to maintain the illusion of control and responsibility, so no wonder worry plagues us. Worry is the by-product of bearing a weight only God can bear.

Do you see the irony here? The more independence you desire, the more worry you will experience. So, why not give everything to God and let His peace reign over your life?

4. FLATTERY

Some people like performing. And while there's nothing wrong with the spotlight, there's a lot wrong with making oneself the centre of it.

If your identity is tied to man's praise, you'll be eternally discontented. People are fickle. They're here today and gone tomorrow. They're for you one day, against you the next. They love you when you agree with them, dislike you when you don't.

Yet, we love human praise; at least some do. Exhibit A: Instagram, SnapChat and Facebook. While social media can be helpful, they're also platforms that perpetuate flattery. You post pictures about your life hoping the world will "like" it. Who cares if it's not the real you? You need the approval. So, even if you need 30 minutes to find that perfect 'selfie', it's worth the time.

Jesus, however, didn't need the praise and glory of men. He didn't care what they thought. His only concern was doing the will of God. This attitude is what the world is desperate to see. Let's be honest, it's hard to point people to Jesus if you need their approval.

5. COMFORT

Comfort might be the patriarch of this "church approved" sins-family. When the church becomes comfortable, Christianity starts to die.

Christians must be extremely intentional with their thoughts and actions to avoid comfort. If not, you become resistant to change. You start making secondary issues primary. You begin to see the mission as catering to insiders rather than reaching outsiders. >18

And here's the thing about the sin of comfort. Once it shows up, it's extremely difficult to remove. When you challenge comfort, people don't just get angry. They can get fighting mad. Comfort will even tell you to crucify an innocent man.

The church can't be missional and comfortable at the same time. It's time to make a decision.

6. CONSUMERISM

God's nature is generous giving ... remember, He gave his Son (John 3:16)

If we want to follow Him, we must get rid of all desire to accumulate possession for their own sake, so that they don't become a snare.

So, are you sharing with others (especially your fellow-Christians) of what God has given you? Or are you trying to keep it all for yourself?

7. LYING

Lying is the 'elephant in the room' no one sees. Lying is so socially acceptable, even in Christian circles, that it often goes undetected. We're desensitized to it. And here's why this is dangerous for Christians.

There's a rarely-discussed passage in Matthew 5:33-37 where Jesus confronts the Pharisees about oaths.

Most of us only hear the word "oath" when a celebrity lies in court (under oath). But Jesus isn't talking about oaths in this passage. He's talking about INTEGRITY.

Here's what Jesus is saying. You should live with such high integrity that your word doesn't need attachments to make it legitimate. So, typical phrases

like, "I promise," "I swear" and "I put it on my mother's grave" should never come from our mouth.

These words are a kick in the pants, right? Do you say things all the time and never follow through? Do you lie to make yourself sound better? Do you lie to stay out of trouble? Do you lie to get ahead? Do you sometimes lie just for a 'bit of fun'?

Jesus says there's no place for that if you're a Christian. Your word matters. If you say something, God expects you to do it. It's better to tell the truth and lose your job than lie and keep it. How serious is this? Jesus says anything more than our word is from the evil one, Satan. That's real.

I think sometimes the undetected sins are the most toxic. My hope is we will see this as an opportunity to grow and really recognize what is sin.

I realize there could be some more "church approved" sins that aren't mentioned above.

So, dear readers, over to you. It's your turn to tell us about they might be. Please write to me (the editor) in the coming weeks.



Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the June 2022 magazine on, or before, 13th May.

Sadly, no reports have been received from specific church congregations this month. I wonder why? Nevertheless there are some matters for prayer that have come to our attention.

Two fairly well-known brothers in Christ have passed away in the last month and our condolences go to both families and our prayers are needed for them.

William (Bill) McCrindle died on 15th March, aged 90. A Thanksgiving Service for his life was held at West Pennant Hill Community Church on 30th March. Please pray for his wife Lyn, and their family. We may have a eulogy for Bill in the June magazine.

Basil Connell died on 26th March, aged 85, and a Thanksgiving Service for his life was held at Riverstone Community Church on 7th April. Please pray for his widow, Faith, and all their family in the coming weeks and months. A tribute to Basil's work with ECS is printed on page 23.

Many residents of the Elouera Gardens Retirement Village and the Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre were saddened when they heard of Mary Arnold's passing on 29th January at the age of 69. She had been the much-loved head of their pastoral care team, until her retirement in 2020.

Please pray for Ted Davis in hospital having a difficult time recovering after his major back operation some weeks ago. He has to have ray-treatment, plus lots of rehab to strengthen all his body. He also has a rare stiff-neck condition which is very painful.

Please also pray for Doug McNaught who is now at home but still suffering the effects of Shingles, and Bells Palsy. and he too needs lots of rehab to rebuild his strength and body weight.

Some General Prayer Points:

- > Pray that our churches can be salt and light in our changing world; that we can show the love of Christ through the way we interact with our neighbours, friends and family.
- > Pray that our churches will not forget that even though society changes, we have a sovereign Lord who is in control and we, His people, need to be taking the Good News of Jesus to a world of people who need this wonderful news.
- > Pray that our pastors and church elders will have wisdom as they lead our local churches, especially as we recover from the disruptions caused by COVID -19.
- > Pray for our urban and rural communities as they emerge from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated safety measures mandated by State and Federal governments. Also as they recover from the effects of natural disasters.
- > Pray that the Lord will have mercy on the people of our nation, and that many unsaved people who have heard the Gospel over the Easter period will be saved in the near future.



Praying for Seafarers contacted by SCFS

by Rob Flinders

The Seamen's Christian Friend Society (SCFS) has two aims: firstly, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to non-Christian seafarers and, secondly, to provide encouragement, support and resources to Christian seafarers so they too might proclaim the gospel to their non-christian crewmates. This they do by their witness and by establishing and leading group Bible Studies for their crewmates while their ships are voyaging between ports.

The opposite page shows pictures and a few details of six of the sixteen Christian seafarers I am endeavouring to encourage and support.

Of the 16, 13 of the men are Filipinos, and one is from India. Hamish is from Ghana and Terence is from Papua New Guinea. With the exception of Jing, all the others are still active as seafarers. 10 of the men are faithful in establishing and leading evangelistic Bible Studies onboard their ships for their unconverted crewmates but the others have not yet come to that point.

Life is hard and lonely for all seafarers. They are contracted to remain onboard their ships for periods up to 9 months and, for over 80 percent of that time their ships are at sea, voyaging between ports. Times in port are often brief, 36 hours or less, and during those times the seafarers are often obliged to work for 12 hours each day. Even in normal circumstances, opportunities for seafarers to go ashore are very limited and now, since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, all shore leave is forbidden until further notice.

I regularly meet seafarers who tell

me they have not once stepped ashore since the day they joined the ship, sometimes as long as 10 months ago.

For a Christian seafarer there are additional trials. For the duration of his contracted time onboard his ship, he will almost certainly be unable to attend a church and he is unlikely to be visited by a chaplain or port missionaries except on rare occasions.

Communication with his family and other Christians via the Internet may also be limited, depending on whether his ship is at sea or in port and the conditions under which his shipping company permits Internet access to its employees. Often there are costs to the seafarer who wishes to access the Internet while onboard his ship.

Protracted times of absence from their families and churches - deprived of Christian fellowship, corporate worship and Bible teaching - little or no encouragement - collectively all these factors combine to make Christian seafarers very spiritually vulnerable.

It is for that reason that the Seamen's Christian Friend Society endeavours to support Christian seafarers by praying for them and providing them with fellowship, good teaching, and theologically sound resources, both for their own edification and to enable them to boldly proclaim the gospel to their crewmates. ➤

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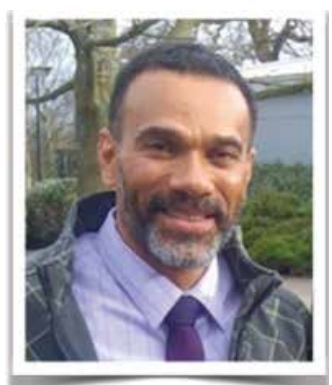
Eli - age 30
1st Engineer

*In September 2021 Eli joined bulk carrier **CMB Rubens** trading world-wide. Leading an onboard Bible Study. Contract due to end in approx June 2022.*



Gilberto - age 54
Motorman

*in the Engine Room onboard **Maersk** container ships. He is a new believer in Christ since 12 June 2021.*



Hamish - age 58
1st Officer

*Is on a 6-month contract onboard **Pacific Encounter**. Is currently proactive in revitalizing and leading the **Pacific Encounter Christian Fellowship***



Joernie - age 28
2nd Engineer

*This year he and Roger have been together onboard **Cape Laurel** for the last 10 months running Bible Studies.*



Nelson - age 44
Elect Engineer

*On container ship **Maersk Kiel**, trading between ports in Europe, the Middle East and Southern India. Contract due to end in April 2022.*



Terence - age 41
Engine Motorman

*onboard container ship **Shaoshing** trading between ports on the eastern seaboard of Australia and the Pacific Islands. Contract to end early September 2022. □*

“Grill a Christian” – by Roger Carswell

a Book Review

Published by **10 Publishing** and obtainable from Koorong Bookstore as a paperback for \$13.99, or as an ebook for \$2.58.

As the publisher wrote on the book’s back cover “Wouldn’t you just love to grab a Christian, sit them down in the hot seat and grill them mercilessly on the tough questions about God, the Bible and the world?”

“There are those tricky questions that everyone asks, like ‘Why does God allow suffering?’ and ‘How can a God of love send people to Hell?’

“Or perhaps you have more specific ones, such as:

Who did Cain marry?

Was Jesus really born by a virgin?

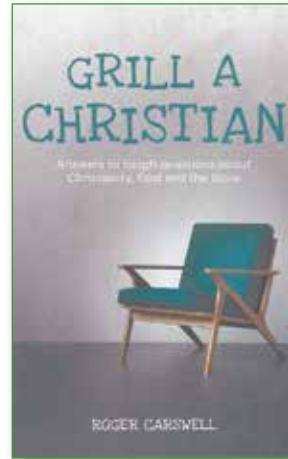
Does God care about my carbon footprint?”

In “Grill a Christian”, international speaker and author Roger Carswell gives straightforward, no-nonsense answers, from the Bible, to these burning questions and many more.

If you have ever wished you could have **your** question about God answered, or perhaps the questions people ask you and you’re not sure what to say, then this book is for you.

It probably has the answer! It contains 56 questions, each with answers from the Bible. The answers vary in length from a half page to **twenty** pages in the case of the question “Isn’t faith a leap in the dark, and aren’t atheists really on the right track?”

Many of Carswell’s answers include the Gospel in the process!!



And thankfully, the tenth and last Section of the book is called “My Question to You”. Here Roger asks the reader “Who do **you** say Jesus is?” He then simply explains the Gospel and how to be saved, and then points to his website if the reader has more questions.

Roger Carswell was a secondary school teacher. For 25 years he has worked full-time in the U.K. speaking to students and adults about the believability of the Christian faith and its relevance to the modern world.

He has written eleven books including these three:-

And Some Evangelists.

Where Is God in a Messed-up World?

Why Believe?

Roger’s website is:-

www.tell-me-more.org



A tribute to Basil Connell (18/8/1936 to 26/3/2022)

by Eric Gordon

Emmaus Correspondence School (ECS) was originally started around 1951 under the umbrella of Emmaus Bible College and was run in its premises at Ray Road, Epping. Later ECS moved to an office in West Pennant Hills Community Church and Faith Connell took over the responsibility of the work, with help from Bruce and Florence Adams. After her husband Basil's retirement he also joined in helping. In August 2016 Basil and Faith were advised that Emmaus Bible College would no longer support the ECS ministry and the stock of all current courses would be distributed between the Sydney and Brisbane Offices. It was then necessary to establish a separate Company and set up the appropriate procedures to function in a different way. Basil did most of this work, establishing a company with directors, Ted Davis, Ron Morsillo, Chris Watkins, and Basil and Faith Connell.

Altogether, Basil and Faith were involved in the Emmaus Bible Courses prisons ministry for 20 years.

They were largely instrumental in bringing me into the ministry, because of their dedication and enthusiasm for this wonderful ministry of the Lord.

I volunteered to become one of the team that mark the courses returned from some prisoners. I corrected their exam sheets, wrote a letter of explanation for any incorrect answers, encouraged them to continue with the courses - and returned them to the



administration office at West Pennant Hills Community Church.

Here the real work was done – the keeping of records; making out and sending back the certificate of each prisoner's mark; acknowledgement of course completions, mailing the next course, and answering any queries the prisoner may have. This was done by Basil and Faith who ran the Administration office efficiently. The ministry was conducted by them with love and vigour, as a faith ministry.

Additionally, they arranged the distribution of free calendars to the various prisons (some 24,000 calendars in total) in NSW, Victoria, S.A. and W.A. each year. They also arranged the sale of calendars to many churches, as a fund-raising exercise to help offset the running expenses of the prison ministry.

Basil and Faith personally delivered the calendars to some of the country prisons in NSW. This involved much >24

A tribute to Basil Connell (cont'd from p 23)

time, country travel, and heavy lifting.

As a marker of ECS courses, I had the privilege of seeing quite a few prisoners come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. This, when you consider the jail environment they come from, and the possibility of persecution by other inmates, was a real challenge for them. They needed all the encouragement we could give them!

Also, as a marker of the courses, I saw Basil and Faith work as a labour of love for our Lord, and I saw them work tirelessly. They showed dedication, eagerness and fervour for the Lord's work. It was a real inspiration to



Basil and Faith Connell – a team

markers such as myself. I am sure there will be a special reward in heaven for this work they have done to the Lord's honour and glory. □

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ORANGE Sunday 7pm

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Read Matthew 28:16-20

The Time Frame

A simple reading of Matthew's gospel may lead us to believe that these events happened almost straight after the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, but if we look at all four gospels we can get a better understanding of the time frame.

The Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on a Friday and buried before sunset on that day. That was the first day, the Saturday was the second day and then the Sunday was the third day (see Acts 10:40).

In verse 10 of this chapter we read that the Lord Jesus Christ told the women who came to the tomb to tell His disciples to go to Galilee. We also know that He met Mary Magdalene outside the tomb, then He walked along the Emmaus road with two people, and He saw ten of His disciples in a closed room in the evening.

Eight days after that the Lord saw all the remaining eleven of His disciples in the same room. At this stage they were still in Jerusalem. However, they did return to Galilee and John 21 relates the incident when some of the disciples went fishing in the Lake.

Luke's gospel doesn't mention the Lord's ascension, but he does discuss it in Acts chapter 1. We discover that the Lord ascended to heaven forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3).

These Forty Days

These forty days are very important because some people try to say that the

Lord Jesus Christ didn't rise from the grave. In Matt 28:11-13 we discover that some people said that the Lord's disciples stole His body from the grave even though soldiers guarded it. Other people say that the early Christians knew that He was really dead but they felt like He was still alive in their hearts, so they made up the resurrection story. However, we see that Luke, who interviewed eyewitnesses and decided to write an orderly account (Luke 1:2, 3), said that the Lord showed many proofs that He was alive and did this over a period of forty days. Each of the other theories is wrong because the people who made up the first story just had to find the body (but didn't) while the people who made up the second story didn't do so until much later in history.

In Luke 24:49-53 we find that the Lord Jesus Christ went out to Bethany, near Jerusalem, to ascend into heaven. Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived in Bethany and it was about 3.2 km away.

This means that the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciples went up to Galilee and then came back down to Jerusalem during the forty days that He was alive. This would allow many more people to see that He had risen from the dead and that the disciples hadn't stolen His body.

The Great Commission

There are actually three different versions of the Great Commission given >26

in the Bible; the Great Commission that we read from Matthew 28:19, 20; then in Mark 16:14, 15 we find the second version, and in Acts 1:8 we find the third version. However, there is no contradiction between these three versions because the Matthew version was given on a mountain near Galilee, the Mark version was given while they were eating a meal in Jerusalem, soon after the Lord rose from the grave and the Luke version was given just before the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven at Bethany.

The first thing to notice about this episode on the mountain is the fact that the disciples worshipped the Lord Jesus Christ and He accepted their worship. In Rev 22:8, 9 we see that John wanted to worship the angel, but the angel forbade it. However, God is qualified to accept worship from men and women, so this shows us that the Lord Jesus Christ is God.

The Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples that all authority in heaven and on earth had been given to Him. This was not a result of His death and resurrection but because He was already God before the world was created (see John 1:1) and we can compare this with Phil 2:5, 6. It is very important for us to understand that we serve the true and living God.

It is interesting to notice that some doubted at that time. The Lord Jesus Christ still commanded them to do the job that He had for them because He knows that the force of the message doesn't rely on our doubts, or us, but

on the work that He has already done.

The Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven to earth to save sinners. In order to do this, He became a man so that He could die for our sins. However, as a man, He was restricted in time and space, so He didn't travel all over the world to tell everyone the gospel. Instead, He trained His disciples so that they could do that job for Him. He did this because He is gracious and knew that we all need to have purpose in our lives.

The Matthew version of the Great Commission is the strongest of the three. The Acts version is just a matter of showing by our lifestyle that our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, died and rose again, He went back to heaven, is alive today and is coming back to take us to be with Himself forever. There is a challenge in this because we are witnesses whether we show the truth of His sacrifice in our lives or not. In fact, if we are not careful, we can drive people away from everlasting life rather than drawing them towards the Lord Jesus Christ.

Preaching the gospel is just the first step in satisfying the Great Commission. This was given by the Lord while He was eating with His disciples soon after He had risen from the grave, He didn't put too much pressure on them, at that stage. They were happy that He was alive, and He told them to make sure they let everyone know that He had died and was now alive. After all, there were still nearly forty days for Him to give them further instructions. ➤


Some versions say that the Lord commanded His disciples to teach all nations while others say that he commanded them to make disciples of all nations. There isn't much difference between these two statements. A disciple is someone who is under discipline. That is, they are following a set of principles. The Lord Jesus Christ had the authority to command this because all authority had been given to Him. After a person has heard the gospel message and accepted it, then this message should make a difference to their lives, that is, they should become disciples. A person who is being taught is also a Disciple. When the Lord sent Moses to set His people free from slavery in Egypt, He told Moses "Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say." (Exodus 4:12) Moses had to change his behaviour and the way he talked.

This mission, the Great Commission, is all about training people who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour to accept Him as their Lord as well. He has authority to command us what to do but we have to be taught what to do before we can do it. He gave the commandment first and we are to keep the message going all over the world.

The Lord Jesus Christ said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Self-denial involves changing our attitude from self-indulgence to one of obeying His

commandments, but taking up our crosses is an outward demonstration of an inward change. Being baptised is part of the process of letting the people around us know that we have decided to become one of the Lord Jesus Christ's disciples.

Not only are we to make disciples, we are to teach Christians to observe whatever the Lord has commanded us. We have all His teaching written down, so we don't have to rely on our memories.

Also, the Lord Jesus Christ didn't just leave us to do the job; **He promised us that He would be with us until the end of the world.** 

**“God is looking
for those with
whom He can do
the impossible —
what a pity that
we plan only the
things that we can
do by ourselves.”**

— A.W. Tozer

Declare: 'This Is Working For Me'

From TWFT over 18 months ago

'Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.' 2 Corinthians 4:17 ^{NIV}

In a survey carried out in the USA, pollster George Barna reported that two out of three Americans call themselves 'casual Christians'. It's an interesting term that, in essence, means uncommitted... hit-and-miss... when I feel like it.

But here's how the Apostle Paul describes the Christian life: *'We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.'* (2 Cor 4:7 ^{NKJV})

Note the word 'treasure'. Paul treasured what God had put within him; he protected it, rejoiced over it, and maximised it. Does that mean the Christian life will be easy or trouble free? No, Paul continues: *'Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing... the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more*

exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.' (2 Cor 4:16-18 ^{NKJV})

Notice that 'our... affliction... is working for us'. God uses life's experiences—good and bad—to enrich, sharpen, deepen and stabilise us. Here's another important truth: what we believe and speak during difficult times determines the quality of our spiritual life and future. *'Since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak.'* (2 Cor 4:13 ^{NKJV})

So instead of seeing your situation as working against you, stand up in faith today and declare:

'This is working for me!'



For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Romans 1:20 ^{NIV}



As usual in this column, we mention Christian items on the Internet and World Wide Web which readers may find interesting or helpful, and worth a visit via their own computer, smart-phone, tablet or other device.

As mentioned in previous editions of this column there seems to be a growing amount of Christian material available to help us study the Bible; and to worship; to teach the children; and explore a range of issues impacting on Christians, the Church, and humanity in general. I hope you can find the time to explore some of the websites we mention, and these will no doubt refer you to others that you may find useful.

* * * * *

Please Note: to make it easier to visit these websites they have been included as 'hot-links' if you use the PDF version of this magazine. The PDF version is available to subscribers at the rates shown on page 11.

If you try out any of the following websites **please send me feedback** on your experience whilst using the specific website or product itself. With your permission, I may have room to pass on your thoughts to help our readers in future issues of *Assemblies Outreach* magazine, or via our website page:-

nswaem.org.au/Mag/overview.html

* * * * *

Some years ago the NSWAEEM built and managed a website on behalf of the Christian Brethren Assemblies in NSW

but it became a burden and we let the hosting lapse. However the NSWAEEM did continue to own the 'rights' to the website's domain name, which is:

christianbrethren-nsw.org.au

This 'right' will lapse in about 12 months time, and it will then be on the 'open market' for anyone to register.

We prefer it should stay in genuine Christian Brethren hands of course, so if you wish to use this name for a website please let me know, and we can initiate the process to transfer it to you, as soon as practicable. It was originally registered via Netregistry, but this company is now called Webcentral.

* * * * *

Regular readers of this column will have seen previous mentions of the organisation Logosdor and its website Max7.org. Their vision is to see children everywhere walking with Jesus.

They have just developed 23 different new resources, some in conjunction with the Bible Society's "JESUS All About Life" Easter campaign. The resources include videos, board games, Chatmat (a placemat designed to spark conversation), Bible lessons, and ideas of things to do with your neighbours. They are available free via the Max7 and Bible Society websites:-

www.max7.org

www.biblesociety.org.au

* * * * *

>30

Have you heard of **Peacewise Training**? For more information on this Training, whether in person or online, visit the website:-

<https://peacewise.org.au/>

In this context you may ask “what is a peacemaker?”

Well, quoting from the website’s Home Page:-

“A peacemaker is someone who is equipped to bring peace to conflict, restoration to damaged relationships, and the hope of Jesus in difficult situations.

“We help individuals, organisations and communities learn life-changing biblical peacemaking principles and build cultures of peace.

“We invite you to join us in this journey.”

PeaceWise Limited (ABN 50 125 667 067) is a Not For Profit charity.

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Do you need more Worship Music, but don’t have much of a music budget to purchase stuff?

You can check out websites and programs like **Spotify** and **noisetrade** that legally offer music for free.

www.spotify.com.au

www.noisetrade.com

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This is the YouTube of Martin Luther King Junior’s speech – known as “I have a dream” (17m:37s) in B&W:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnklfYs>

This is the ‘I have a dream’ Full Speech with subtitles that moved the world. ‘I have a Dream’ is a public speech that was delivered during the ‘March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom’ at the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. The speech has a significance in American History as it shows the fight for civil rights in America was not easy. Racism was deep-rooted in the society but it later got abolished due to such great personalities constantly fighting for the civil rights of the people. Civil Rights Movement leader, Dr. Martin Luther King had a very troublesome lifestyle and many in the USA honour him for all his hardships and giving to humanity.

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“Hope Behind Bars” is a video available on YouTube which was prepared by Jazmyn Gillies, a granddaughter of David Gillies (Founder of CLO Ministries to prisoners), as an assignment for her degree in 2021.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNLfAarMy44&t=30s>

It was well received by the university examiners and earned her high marks.

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Please submit any items for the June 2022 magazine on, or before, **13th May.**

NSW ASSEMBLIES' EVANGELISTIC MISSION (NSWAEM)

ABN 81 001 037 690

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AIMS

- To support the expansion of evangelism and church growth, primarily among Christian Brethren Assemblies.
- To offer opportunities in this *Assemblies Outreach* Magazine for Commended Workers, Assemblies, Para-Assembly Activities and other kindred bodies, to publicise and explain their ministries.
- To generate funds, through the Christian Outreach Book Service and other means, toward the support of NSW Commended Workers.
- To provide appropriate teaching for Christians.

Further information about the Mission can be obtained via the website:–
www.nswaem.org.au



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Christian Brethren Community Services

Providing communities of continual Christian care
Residential and specialist care provided to the aged, frail aged and those
living with dementia.



Elouera Gardens



Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre



Glenhaven Gardens



Carinya House



Lynden Grove



Groves House

Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, Cherrybrook NSW

Elouera Gardens comprises 75 independent living units with 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units, surrounded by pleasant gardens. It offers a wide variety of styles and sizes of units and a supportive Christian community.

Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, Cherrybrook NSW

Set in well established gardens, and with an enviable reputation for delivering a high standard of care, the 120 bed Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre provides high and low level care and special support for people living with dementia.

Glenhaven Gardens Retirement Village, Glenhaven, NSW

Glenhaven Gardens offers modern and spacious 2 and 3 bedroom villas. The village comprises 24 air-conditioned and private units, with either a garage or carport. All units are wheelchair accessible for those who need a little extra room to help with their mobility.

Carinya House, Glenhaven NSW

Carinya House is a 60 bed care centre providing high and low-level care support in a setting where residents enjoy the tranquil bushland setting and partake in a very full and stimulating recreational program. It includes a secure dementia support area and also offers ageing-in-place.

Lynden Grove Retirement Village, Cardiff Heights, NSW

Lynden Grove has 44 modern 2 and 3 bedroom villas. It has a semi-rural outlook with picturesque Mount Sugarloaf as a back drop. It is in a pleasant and quiet bushland setting, yet close to local shopping centres.

Groves House, Cardiff Heights NSW

Set on a ridge with panoramic views to the mountains, Groves House is a 60 bed care centre providing high and low-level care, dementia care and ageing-in-place to the people of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the surrounding districts.

For more information about any of our services please don't hesitate to call our Client Services Team on 02 9842 4111.