



ASSEMBLIES  
*Outreach*

Price: \$32 per annum  
or \$5.50 per copy

**August 2019**



In Loving Memory of

*Richard Joseph Saxby*

25 July 1931 – 8 August 2019

**Eulogy — pages 27-28**

**Also in this issue: Prayer for NSW Assembly works  
News from Commended Workers  
And can it be...?  
WMC 2019 report  
Book reviews  
Internet Corner ( ... and more)**

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.

You are free to make use of the information in this publication and to reproduce it for your personal use or for the church you attend. Material must not be sold or republished for commercial purposes unless you obtain written permission first.

If material from this publication is used or quoted in any other publication (including websites) due acknowledgment should be made. Please contact the Editor (refer p31) with any inquiries about reproducing this material.

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 **October 2019 issue on or before 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019.**

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.

Editorial & Production Team:

Mr C. H. Winrow, Mrs M. J. Winrow,  
Mr D. Gordon

Subscription costs are shown on the cover & at [www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem/Mag/subs.html](http://www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem/Mag/subs.html)

Printed by Print Direction Pty Ltd  
PO Box 46, Frenchs Forest NSW 1640  
ph: 0414 264 064

# Awake to Israel

History • Current Events • Prophecy • Evangelism

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

Meetings are held monthly,  
February to November  
2nd Saturday, 2.30pm at Epping  
Gospel Chapel.  
Cnr Carlingford Rd and Duntroon Ave,  
Epping, NSW

For further information:  
[www.awaketoisrael.org](http://www.awaketoisrael.org)  
[mail@awaketoisrael.org](mailto:mail@awaketoisrael.org)

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

## Our purpose:

- To stir each other to study what the Word of God says concerning Israel and our relationship with Her, as gentile believers, both now and in the future.
- To encourage the believers in Israel in whatever way we can.
- To facilitate and be involved in evangelism and discipleship of Jewish people.
- To pray for Israel.

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



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this August 2019 edition of the *Assemblies Outreach* magazine.

Part of me wants to say sorry to you for this edition being quite late this month. But another part of me is glad it was delayed because it allowed us to change plans a little and include a Eulogy for our dear brother Richard Saxby. He is surely well known around the Assemblies in NSW and indeed throughout our nation, due to his service for the Lord in the Chad for 14 years with Mavis and their young family. And also, of course, because of his long service, for over 20 years, as the Secretary of the AMT organisation when it was based in Sydney, caring for other missionaries in many ways.

By all accounts he has been a good and faithful servant to the Lord, as well as a devoted husband, father, and friend to many throughout all those years.

Please pray for his family at this time, and in the months to come, as they feel bereft, especially Mavis, but also Brenton, Philip, Eleanor and

their families. May they all draw comfort from the knowledge that he is now safely in heaven, pain free, with the Good Shepherd and his mighty Saviour, Jesus Christ.

### Psalm 100

*A psalm. For giving grateful praise.*

- 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.



## CONTENTS of this Issue:

‘Out and About’ in NSW.....	4	The Importance of Books .....	20
Praying for NSW Assemblies .....	6	Bible Conference at Lithgow.....	24
Two hindrances to Prayer .....	8	Are Christmas Trees evil?.....	25
News of Commended Workers... 9		Does Life have any meaning? ...	26
‘And can it be?’ .....	13	Eulogy for Richard Saxby .....	27
WMC 2019 report .....	16	Internet Corner.....	29
How do I get out of my Bubble?. 19		Adverts.....	31

# 'Out and About' in NSW Assemblies

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 the Mission office at PO Box 20, Pennant Hills, NSW 1715, or better still, e-mailed to:

[outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au](mailto:outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au)

Also, please email your wording for **Notices** or **Coming Events** to be included on the NSW Christian Brethren website to:- [webadmin@cb-nsw.org.au](mailto:webadmin@cb-nsw.org.au)

\* \* \*

## Please Note:

1. The latest new phone number for Stewards Foundation is (02) 8775 3100, and their fax machine is no longer in use.
2. The NSWAEEM landline phone at Burwood has been disconnected. Instead please phone the Company Secretary on 0412 596 104.

\* \* \*

Thanks to brother David Angus at Wallsend we've heard of the home-call of Mrs June Nevill on the 12<sup>th</sup> April, at the age of 84. Our condolences and prayers go to her husband Larry, and family members Kay, Ros, Chris and Karen.

I understand that many years ago June & Larry were house-parents in the Lutanda Children's Home in Pennant Hills, NSW. More recently they lived in the Central Coast region of NSW. A Celebration Service for June's life was

held on 17<sup>th</sup> April in the Gwandalan Community Hall, and Pastor Patrick Dejde officiated.

Anyone who served the Lord at Lutanda must have an interesting life-story. I hope someone who knew June well will write down some of that story and share it with us in the near future.

\* \* \*

Many readers of this magazine would have known brother Richard Saxby who served the Lord for many years with his wife Mavis in the Chad, North Africa.

He was 'called home' on Thursday evening, 8<sup>th</sup> August at the age of 88 after a tough battle with Parkinson's disease.

Again, our condolences and prayers go to Richard's wife Mavis, daughter Eleanor, sons Brenton, Philip, and to their families.

After a private burial service in the morning at Castle Hill, Richard's family held a lovely Memorial Service at 2pm on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, in the Community Room of Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village in Cherrybrook. It was well attended by family, friends and residents (over 170 people). Stewart Randall led the meeting and read the eulogy, a copy of which is included on pages 27 and 28 of this magazine. Others who took part were Alan Simmons, Alan & Lorraine Wheeler, James McSeveny, Helen Friese, Eleanor Mitchell and Greg Clark.

\* \* \*

At the last Coordinating Conference on August 1<sup>st</sup>, we heard from Chris Thomas of Raymond Terrace Community ➤

## 'Out and About' in NSW Assemblies (cont'd from p 4)

Church, via a video. Chris talked about the growth of Raymond Terrace Community Church, and their desire to plant a new church in Karuah, a small community located about 30km NE of Raymond Terrace. They already have a small group up and running in Karuah and are praying about committing to a church plant. If you would like to view Chris' video go to this Youtube address:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIUiX5D4\\_4g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIUiX5D4_4g)

CCCAust(NSW) has now set up a Church Planting Initiative, to seek out opportunities, and is keen to form a revitalised Pastors Network, with passionate Pastors working together to champion church planting processes. The first meeting will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September at Burwood, hosted by Chris Thomas, and will be a brainstorming session. Pastors will be accessing what resources we have, what we need to do to be church planting and then setting goals and objectives to allow this to happen. Please pray that this meeting will be a time of great encouragement for all who are involved, and that positive outcomes will be produced.

### Meetings & Events

(Note: for the **latest details** please be sure to check on these two web pages:-

[www.cb-nsw.org.au/events.html](http://www.cb-nsw.org.au/events.html)

[www.cccaustnsw.com/events](http://www.cccaustnsw.com/events)

### 2019:

31 Aug 'Pathfinders' at West Pennant Hills CC; 7 pm start; - "Songs we sang in Sunday School."

- 1 Sept **RENOVO Youth Conference.**
- 21 Sept **"And God said..." Bible conference,** Lithgow Bible Church, 10am to 3pm.
- 29 Sept **"Sunday Night Lights"** 5pm start at Riverstone CC
- 30 Sept **M2MAD - Primary Camp** at Winmalee. Enq: Jessica ph: 0456 159 670.
- 7-11 Oct **Inspire Teen Girls Camp** at Blue Gum Lodge. Enq. Jessica ph: 0456 159 670.
- 18 Oct **Spring Fashion Parade** of Ladies Summer clothes for residents, family & friends at 10am, Elouera Gardens, Cherrybrook.
- 24 Oct **Fund Raising event** for Hands & Feet.
- 27 Oct **"Sunday Night Lights"** 5pm start at St Clair CC
- 1 Nov **Coordinating Conference;** 7.30pm at Burwood.
- 2 Nov **'Inspire Conference'** The Connection, 30 Shoreline Drive, Rhodes. For more information contact Inspiring Hope on 0456 159 670.
- 9 Nov **Christmas Shopping/ Coffee Confab** at Elouera Gardens, 9am to noon.
- 24 Nov **"Sunday Night Lights"** 5pm start at Riverstone C.C
- 30 Nov **'Pathfinders'** at West Pennant Hills CC; 7pm start; Christmas Celebration.



*Please take some time-out to pray for our churches, assemblies and para-assembly ministries and the work of God in our nation.*

## 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. May people see Christ in us.
- ☆ Pray that we as churches will not forget that even as society changes, we have a sovereign Lord who is in control and we as His people are still on the offensive, taking the Good News of Jesus to a world of people who need this wonderful news.
- ☆ Praise for the election of a new Prime Minister and government, and that we live in a country with peaceful democracy. Continue to pray for those in leadership. Romans 13:1 - *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.*
- ☆ Praise God for the recent rain in some drought-affected areas of Australia.
- ☆ Pray that our church elders will have wisdom as they lead our local churches.
- ☆ Pray for the work of Hands & Feet, and God's protection over that ministry.

Pray for the Boards of our para-church ministries as they lead and provide vision for these ministries. CCCAust(NSW), Lutanda, Stewards, ACCS, Hands and Feet, CBCS, CCM, GLO, CMS, AEM, ACM, AMT, WMC.

## Toormina Christian Fellowship

Pray for the church leadership: Peter Archibald, Andrew Sales.

Toormina Christian Fellowship is very small in numbers but we continue to operate and witness where we can. Our main outreach at present is the weekly children's program and Scripture teaching in the local public schools.

Praise:

- ☆ We praise God for the unity among us.
- ☆ Also for the children that have been coming regularly to our weekly children's program.

Prayer:

- ☆ For guidance in decision making as to how we may be more effective in reaching our community.
- ☆ We would love some more people to join with us so that there might be a witness to our Lord here in the years to come.
- ☆ Contentment to wait on God for His timing in all things. ➤

### Waitara Gospel Chapel

Pray for the church leadership:  
David Walker, Roger Weir, Colin  
Winrow.

Praise:

- ☆ We are thankful to God for the long-term members of our congregation and the warm fellowship we share, plus we are glad to welcome a few new visitors nearly every week, no doubt from the growing number of high-rise units around the Chapel and in local areas.
- ☆ We are also thankful for fellowship with several Christian groups from non-English speaking backgrounds. We have shared our chapel with a Spanish speaking group for over a year, and now we have a Korean speaking group sharing the facility, as well as meeting with the main English speaking congregation on a regular basis.

- ☆ We are also thankful we have been able to provide office space for the Inspiring Hope group on a long-term basis.

Prayer:

- ☆ Please pray for more families to join us, especially with young children. We re-started Sunday School last year and now have six primary school children attending fairly regularly, but more would be very welcome.
- ☆ We also re-started an ESL conversation class last year with the help of a lady from another local church. Please pray we can find a replacement for her whilst she's away on holidays from 25 August to 7 October this year. The class is held for 2 hours on Friday mornings during school terms.



## Common hindrances to praying

---

The two most common hindrances to praying successfully are: (a) your mind gets easily distracted, and (b) you get tired.

When John Ortberg shared these frustrations with a friend, he suggested John go outside alone and simply invite Jesus along with him. Ortberg writes: 'The next day I went to the ocean, took off my shoes, started to run and invited Jesus to come along. I found the strangest thing. When I thought I was supposed to be talking to Him,

I had found it effortful and difficult. Now that all I had to do was invite Him, I couldn't stop thinking about Him. My mind kept reflecting on His being with me. I found myself wanting to point out the pelicans and the waves to Him. People and concerns would pop into my mind, and I would find myself telling Jesus about them. Everything changed.'

So, invite Jesus to come along with you today and share each thing you do with Him.





Listen to

vantage point



Wed 8.15pm



GRAFTON Sunday Evening

or

on line  
at



Sun 3.30pm



ORANGE Sunday 7pm

[vantagepointradio.com.au](http://vantagepointradio.com.au)

## 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.

An offering is taken each month for gifts to encourage missionaries. A feature is a gift for a 'special treat' for missionaries' children when the family is on furlough.

To cater for scattered communities, our groups meet at two venues: Cherrybrook and Oatley, on the **second Friday of each month**, generally from February to December. Tea and coffee are provided at 10.15am before prayer from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

**Northside venue:** Elouera Gardens, Kitchener Road, Cherrybrook.

**Contact: Lil Fleming** ph 9858 5436 email: [lflem@bigpond.com](mailto:lflem@bigpond.com)

**Southside venue:** Oatley Gospel Hall, River Road, Oatley.

**Contact: Jackie Sardar** ph 9785 3439 0410 683 174

email: [cherylsardar@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cherylsardar@optusnet.com.au)





*Beverly, Joshua, Kendelle, & Ariel*

## **Ariel & Beverly Cinco**

**12 Berry Street**

**Mt Druitt NSW 2770**

**12 August 2019**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*I am currently serving God at Kings Park Community Church looking after the community evangelistic outreach and the Filipino Fellowship. God also allowed me to serve with Christian Brethren Community Services at Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, as part of the pastoral care team visiting and walking alongside the residents to provide emotional support and spiritual encouragement. With these roles, we always pray to God the Bible passage in Colossians 4:2-6 that says :*

*“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”*

*Pray for us that God may open a door for our message so that we can proclaim the mystery of Christ as clearly as we should.*

- \* God has allowed us to reach out to our community in Blacktown by providing food to their families in partnership with the Hands and Feet Ministry. This allows us to share the gospel with 35-45 unchurched people every Thursday.*
- \* Our evangelistic connect group on Thursdays created an atmosphere of open-hearted sharing and discussion about God and His plan of salvation.*
- \* When they are unable to come into the church to get their food due to illness, we visit them and deliver the food in their homes. This has allowed us to see their real condition and pray for them.*



- \* Some of them have started coming to church occasionally and attended our special church events.*
- \* Our Filipino group leaders are reorganising and implementing strategic plans to perform evangelistic outreach events and engage with >10*

*the larger population of Filipinos in the Blacktown area.*

*Pray for us that our conversations with others will be always full of grace, seasoned with salt.*

- \* *Having compassion like our Lord Jesus helps us to communicate with the non-believers with gentleness, being sensitive to their situation, making our conversation more meaningful and helpful.*
- \* *In our ministry, the people that we have helped have testified that they were treated with dignity and were never felt discriminated against regardless of their situation. This is because we make them feel that they matter to God with the way we talk and treat them.*
- \* *Being a good listener, observant and sensitive to their needs provides clear guidance on how we can provide emotional and spiritual support to the person that we are looking after.*

*As we share the message of hope in Jesus and look after the vulnerable, the needy and help those in trouble, Isaiah 58:10 comes to mind: "Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon."*

**Please submit any news-items, letters, adverts or short articles for the October 2019 magazine on, or before, 13<sup>th</sup> September.**



**Doug & Jenny McNaught**  
**46 Barnetts Road**  
**Winston Hills NSW 2153**  
**20 August 2019**

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

*Thank you for your love, fellowship, prayers and support over the last couple of months. We appreciate everything that you do for us.*

*I have often thought about our Saviour's options as He was led away to the cross. We read that, when the soldiers and others, from the religious leaders, came to arrest Him outside the garden, He asked them who they were looking for and they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." He replied, "I am He!" and they all fell to the ground. (See John 18: 3-6) At that stage, He could easily have spoken with greater force and they would have fallen to the ground dead (compare Rev 19: 21). He told His disciples that He could call on more than twelve legions of angels to deliver Him but He didn't call them (Matt 26: 53). On the other hand, in Col 1: 18 we are told that He holds all things together. If He had stopped doing that, when the soldiers came, everything would have disappeared into a chaotic void. However, He was saving sinners and chose not to save Himself. Our Saviour chose to take the hard way, for Him, in order to provide this great salvation for us. Hallelujah, what a Saviour.*



Since I last wrote we have been up to Brisbane for Jenny's nephew's wedding. We took a few days to travel back and stayed in Glenn Innes where we saw some snow falling over the tablelands.

After we came back, Jenny had a dose of the 'flu and I had a bout of bronchitis but we have both recovered from that.

Jenny has now gone back to some exam supervision, doing the HSC trials at OLMC. She will supervise year 11 finals and then HSC over the course of the next few months.

The football season has come to an end for the Two Blues. We didn't make the finals in any of the mens teams but the women are still competing. It has been a hard year for the club as we lost a few players to other clubs at the beginning of the year. Please pray that I will still be able to be an influence for eternal good among the players, club officials and volunteers.

We struggled through a busy June, in spite of the dreaded winter problems. July and August were also full months. If the Lord tarries, we look forward to a busy September, including two evening trips up to the Central Coast.

Thanks again for you love, fellowship, prayers and support.

Much love,

Jenny and Doug

**Colin & Mavis Winrow**  
**1/9 Julia Close**  
**Cherrybrook NSW 2126**  
**10<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

To our dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
Firstly we want to say a special 'thank



you' to all those who have been uphold- ing us so faithfully in prayer. We are so thankful to know that many pray for us and also help us in other ways.

Life continues to be very busy as we seek to serve the Lord at Waitara Gospel Chapel, in NSWAEM, with the prison ministry of Christian Literature Outreach and with LinC (Love in the Name of Christ) in the Hornsby region.

We are happy to report that ALL repairs to our unit at Elouera Gardens have been completed and we are well and truly back to 'normal'. Having all the storm damage was not fun, but we are certainly now enjoying the new carpet.

The assembly at Waitara Gospel Chapel continues to faithfully remember the Lord each Sunday morning and teach His Word, and we now have quite a few Koreans joining us. They are such a lovely group and have fitted in so well. They also hold a Korean service for an hour in the chapel once we leave.

The prison ministry seems to be on the increase and regularly new prisons are being opened which gives us more oppor- tunities to get Christian literature into another area. We would still love to have more help from some slightly younger Christians, especially on the days when we seal the boxes for delivery to the prisons. If you would like to come out to Dural and see the work that is being

>12

done, please give Mavis a call (0402 107 724), and she can let you know when we will be there.

Our work with LinC Hornsby seems to on the increase also – there are always people who need help and it is so good to be able to assist in small ways.

Last time we wrote here we quoted from Psalm 139:16, “the days the Lord has given us to serve Him are not up yet and so we journey”. At our Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting last week we were reminded that we need to “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalm 46:10). Many times lately we have felt concerned about the direction our nation is going and just how things will turn out, but we rest in a God who is our “refuge and strength”, who is still in control, and sometimes we need to just sit quietly and remember who HE IS, and give Him the praise that He rightly deserves.

Many blessings,  
Mavis & Colin

**Geoff & Liz Folland**  
**4 Oronga Avenue**  
**Baulkham Hills NSW 2153**  
**16 August 2019**

I (Geoff) have been very encouraged by the stories of students who have been stepping out in faith this week. Let me share a couple, and please let me ask you to keep praying for them.

Last Thursday at USYD, T shared: My faith goal is to have a spiritual convo with my friend Steven next Monday. We're pretty good mates but we rarely

have spiritual convos. Please pray that God will give me helpful and clear questions to ask and the courage to initiate.

On Wednesday, he reported: So, I managed to ask Steven about his religious backgrounds and beliefs. He reciprocated the questions and I managed to share my testimony with him! The convo didn't go far but this is the first time in the last 3 years that we had a convo where he seemed actually interested in my beliefs! Praise God!

D shared: Hey guys! So my faith goal is two fold this week, that I would be able to trust in God to give up time to spend with Him (something I often find quite difficult) and also that I could encourage my friend Janet to come to the Well this week and my friend Kimmi to come to the Well next week.

Another fun story I heard at UND is that 6 of our senior students are in the one Poetry class - 6 out of 30 students. This week they decided to spread around the room, rather than sit together, so they would be able to build relationships with more of their classmates!

Please keep praying for our students as they take a step of faith each week for four weeks: 4FOR4.

Thanks again for praying for us!  
In His grace,  
Geoff & Liz

Please encourage any students whom you know are coming to either of my campuses to consider connecting to Power to Change online at:

[www.facebook.com/powerchangeUSYD/](http://www.facebook.com/powerchangeUSYD/)  
or  
[www.facebook.com/powerchangeBroadway/](http://www.facebook.com/powerchangeBroadway/)



## “And can it be ... ”

### **v1. And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood?**

An expression of awakening surprise, from the newly converted Charles Wesley, that he should be the recipient of such a stupendous thought: that he should not have just a curious interest but a vital life-giving interest in the Saviour's blood, for without the shedding of that blood there could be no forgiveness of his sins, no new life for him.

### **Died He for me who caused His pain? For me, who Him to death pursued?**

A question of absolute surprise, that He should die for me, the cause of His pain. Yes, indeed, for the truly repentant sinner sees himself as the primary cause of all that Jesus suffered – Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the foremost / the worst – says Paul. But how could Wesley (or me) pursue Him to death? I can only say with another writer, “Ashamed I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers” for had I been there I would certainly have been among those who cried out “crucify Him, crucify Him” to think otherwise would show that I have never come to terms with the depth of degradation of my own unregenerate heart.

### **Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God should die for me?**

The wonder of it all lingers or increases as he realises that it was truly My God who died for me. For, said Paul, “the church of God which He

purchased with His own blood” Acts 20:28.

### **v2. 'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies! Who can explore His strange design?**

That ‘my God should die’ is continued into this second verse. Isn't He immortal? How can we attempt to understand His mind? Why, the prophets and even angels long to look into these things said Peter, 1 Pet.1:12 Strange to us and to the heavenly beings, yet we can say with Paul again “O, the depth of the riches... how unsearchable... His paths beyond tracing out...for who has known the mind of the Lord?...to Him be the glory forever.” Rom. 11:33-36.

### **In vain the first-born seraph tries to sound the depths of love Divine!**

If angels long to look into these things, was Wesley thinking of Michael, the Archangel or the mighty angel who had the power to bind Satan with that great chain. (Rev. 19) Given that we understand ‘first-born’ to mean ‘head of’ as in the case of our Lord in Col. 1:15, we take it to mean that even the most senior angel cannot understand the mystery of divine love. How could their eternal, holy, righteous One; He who was the personification of purity, possibly love vile, filthy sinners like the sons and daughters of Adamic progeny, as described in Romans 5. (powerless, ungodly, rebellious enemies and sinners.)

>14

**'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, Let angel minds inquire no more.**

Ah yes, it's all of mercy, for had not the Psalmist used that term again and again, "loving-kindness and tender mercy" so often just translated "love" today. It's been said that only those who have been the recipients of Divine mercy, grace and love can understand what grace has done for hell-deserving sinners like Wesley, you and me. No wonder that in the ages to come we will be a display before the heavenly hosts of what Divine grace has done. Eph. 2:7

**v3. He left His Father's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace!**

"You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich yet for your sakes He became poor." 2 Cor. 8:9. How rich? How poor? All for me in grace. Amazing grace! We can only imagine "the glory I had with you before the world began". John 17:5

**Emptied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race!**

And now, can we find a theological error in this master hymnist (? I don't like 'hymnologist') Could he have strayed in his early theological thoughts? Did Jesus empty Himself of all but love? I grant him some poetic licence; ah wait, for has not that great apostle just told us how poor He became, and does he not go on to tell us that he emptied himself – made himself nothing, so "even death on a cross" conveys that He had truly emptied Himself of all but love. The sacrificial lamb was "burnt wholly to ashes for me." but was "accepted, O Father, by

thee" to quote another author. While here on earth He never ceased to be what He always was, the eternal Son of God. But He laid aside the glory of it and took my place under the judgement of a righteous holy God, for me; yes, for all of Adam's race.

**'Tis mercy all, immense and free; For, O my God, it found out me.**

Another author supports this thought: *Mercy there was great and grace was free, Pardon there was multiplied to me. There my burdened soul found liberty; at Calvary!*

**v4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay fast bound in sin and nature's night;**

One of the great and terrible descriptions of the soul without God and without hope. The soul, the will, is free only to follow the dictates of the fleshly nature. Darkness pervades the spiritual 'dungeon' until:-

**Thine eyes diffused a quickening ray; I woke – the dungeon flamed with light!**

The light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus enters and illuminates. He is the Light of the world and lightens every man... John 1:3-9. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life. John 8:12. *"... sweetly that light has dawned upon me; Once I was blind but now I can see; the light of the world is Jesus!"*

**My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.**

Imprisonment and darkness have now given way to freedom, not only from the bondage but also, as the next

verse says, from the condemnation of sin. From the dungeon and the darkness to the glorious liberty of the children of God. Reminds us of Psalm 40 where David takes us from the pit to the praise; from the cry to the rejoicing.

### **v5. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!**

Wesley has now entered Romans 8, that great chapter where we are not only freed from the law of sin and death but have all that Jesus came to give us through His cross-work and resurrection. We are predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son ... called ... justified ... glorified ... conquerors ... and nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Jesus and all in Him is mine!)

### **Alive in Him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness Divine,**

“And you has He made alive who were dead ...” He, now our living Head, and we the members of His body. It takes all of Ephesians and more to express all that comes to mind through this line alone. Then we find that He is our righteousness, 2 Cor. 5:21 as Paul is quick to point out, “this

righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ” Rom. 3:21-22.

### **Bold I approach th’eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

From the darkness of sin and nature’s night to the boldness or confidence to approach the eternal throne – what a transformation in circumstances and in confidence for he now knows that he can draw near by invitation for “*we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand*” Romans 5:2. “*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need*” Heb. 4:16

**But, O brother Wesley, do you wish to claim the crown? Will He not graciously give those crowns to those who love His appearing; or have joy in fruitful service; or to those who love Him or have suffered for His sake? Yes, indeed, no poetic licence needed; for with Paul, James and John (in Revelation), we too, hope and trust to be able to cast our crowns before Him who wore a crown of thorns for us.**

**He is Worthy!**



## WANTED

Christian men to join The Sydney Festival Male Voice Choir ... must be active in Christian service, and desirous of evangelistic involvement. They must also be able to sing and learn the appropriate part (that’s why it’s a choir!). Practices are (usually) every Friday night from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Riverside Baptist Church, 10 Lawson St, Ermington, from late Jan. to early Dec. each year. Gospel presentations are throughout the year, during the week and at weekends. For more information, please contact the Secretary (David Gordon) on 0400 426 373.

# “Until the Whole World Hears”

## NSW Women’s Mission Convention 2019

by Mandy Juraev

*“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”*  
(Matthew 24:14)

This year’s NSW Women’s Mission Convention was an uplifting and encouraging day. Held at Kings Park Community Church on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the theme of the day was “Until the Whole World Hears”. Five speakers, each at different stages in their journey of faith and mission, shared with us the part they play in bringing the gospel of the kingdom to the nations.

First of all, Allison Howell spoke to us of her 37 years of ministry in Ghana from which she has recently semi-retired. Allison has been involved in teaching and training Christian leaders from across Ghana and a range of other African countries and has seen the

regenerative power of Jesus changing lives. It was encouraging to hear of the quality and calibre of African Christian leaders and the practical outworking of their gospel-centred ministries.

Next we heard from Eva Kennedy who is preparing to go to Spain with WEC. A small town girl from Tasmania, Eva grew up seeing missionaries as superheroes. Yet God has taken her on a journey of discovering that we all have something to offer and that He uses different kinds of real people. Her love for Spain, its people, culture, language and food, was obvious, as was her willingness to follow God’s call, desire to serve, and love for the lost.

At the other end of the journey was our next speaker, Sandra Callister, who, along with her husband Bill, has just resettled in Australia after 40 years of Bible translation ministry in ➤



Our speakers L to R: Eva, Emily (didn’t want her face shown), Sandra, Shelley, Allison.  
[photo by Juliette]



## “Until the Whole World Hears” (cont’d from p 16)

Papua New Guinea. Sandra shared the many things she had to learn over the years – to be generous and love people in culturally appropriate ways, to stop and be laid back, to be humble, patient and joyful and to have an attitude of gratitude. What a wonderful testimony to the truth that it’s not what we do for God but what He does in us.

After lunch, Shelley Moss recounted in entertaining fashion the story of her “tree change” to a new area of ministry in North West NSW. Previously missionaries in Colombia, Shelley and her husband Allan moved to Moree in May this year. She shared how God is at work in outback NSW though men and women who have been faithfully serving for many years. Shelley reminded us that when we are available to God, nothing is wasted and that wherever God is working, He wants us to join with Him in reaching out.



*Shelley Moss [photo by Lara Penrose]*

Leaving in less than three weeks, Emily will be returning to the mission field with her husband and two primary aged children. Having previously lived in a “creative access” country for two years, they have just completed a year of training in Bible and intercultural studies. They will be returning to live and minister in the same city where they plan to share life with people in a range of contexts with the purpose of being and making disciples. >18



*Rhannah Torrance praying for Eva following her talk. [photo by Lara Penrose]*


## “Until the Whole World Hears” (cont’d from p 17)

The day concluded with a powerful keynote address from Allison Howell from Matthew 24:1-14 and Revelation 5. Allison’s message reminded us that wherever we are, we are in the context of mission. Our role is to proclaim the good news of the kingdom throughout the whole world before the end comes. Our responsibility is to take up the role for which Christ purchased us, to be His priests in whatever context He places us, to be open to the creative powerful way God brings people into our lives and to strive first for His kingdom and His righteousness until He comes.

If you would like to know more about our events in future, please

follow Women’s Mission Convention on Facebook or email

[nsw.wmc@gmail.com](mailto:nsw.wmc@gmail.com)

to be added to our mailing list. 



*L to R: Grace Penrose, Sherelle Shuttleworth, Robyn Bollom, Karen Rodgers, Sophia McCrindle.*



*Interserve rep Christine Mao and display table. [photo by Juliette]*



*Friends sharing lunch and fellowship*



# How do I get out of my Christian bubble ?

by John North, AFCI

A few years ago God convicted me that I was not living as a witness in my daily life. I was not trying to help people find Jesus as part of my everyday encounters with them.

As I thought about starting to live as a witness for Jesus I realised I had a big problem. I worked for a Christian organisation, my family were all believers in Jesus, my friends all knew the Lord, my ministry was to church leaders, and all my activities were organised around church or these Christian relationships. Was I supposed to give up my Christian activities? Who would I be a witness to?

Does that sound familiar? Maybe you work in a secular environment, but you don't feel it's appropriate to talk to people about God there. And all that you do outside of work is among Christians. You love your time with the Christians around you, but you wonder if it is even possible for you to be a witness the way your life is organised.

Probably the answer is no—it's not possible. Your life will have to change if you are going to get out of the Christian Bubble and start having gospel conversations with people who are totally secular and out of reach of the organised church. You really can't bring personal evangelism into the Christian Bubble.

Here's what needs to happen:

## 1. You will have to make the conscious choice to step out of the Bubble.

Here's the truth—nobody drifts

towards evangelism. The Bubble is what's comfortable; it's what you are used to; it is the known. We fear the unknown and avoid it by nature. That means that stepping outside of the Christian Bubble is stepping outside of your comfort zone. It won't happen just because you know it should, or just because you want it to.

You have to decide, "This is God's purpose for me on earth. The Great Commission isn't just for missionaries — it's for every Christian and that includes me. Jesus modelled getting out of the bubble even when the religious people thought He should only be spending time with them. He said, 'It is not the well who need a doctor, but the sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.' Decide I'm going to start building relationships with people who need God."

That decision is the start of the journey!

## 2. You will need to think of secular environments that are relational and put yourself regularly into at least one of them.

Don't choose something you won't enjoy—choose something that interests you! A sports team, a hobby group, a four-wheel drive club, a charity, a book club, or simply relationships with neighbours. Maybe something you have always wanted to do but never got around to. Just make sure it has lots of people involved who need to encounter Jesus Christ.

>20

How can you fit it in? Not willing to give up any of your existing relationships with Christians to make time for it? Why not invite one of them to join the group with you? Go together with the purpose of building redemptive relationships. Pray together for the people you get to know.

### **3. Have fun with secular people (without compromising) and also go past the surface with them.**

Build real relationships. Don't just spend time with people to preach to them. Enjoy your time together. At the same time, ask questions that go past the surface so that you really get to know them. This is when you will see their brokenness and can talk openly about aspects of the Christian life that bind up the wounds of that brokenness.

You can start talking about Jesus.

### **4. Enjoy life outside the Bubble and invite more and more Christians to come outside with you!**

The more you spend time outside the Bubble, the more you will see Jesus empowering your Christ-like lifestyle with those outside. You will sense His pleasure and know that this is His purpose for you. He is sending you outside the Bubble, just as His Father sent Him!

### **Last thoughts**

You miss the best part of the Christian life when you live in the Christian Bubble. Jesus lived outside the Bubble and He wants to keep doing that...through you!



## The importance of Books in Christian History

---

by Greg Forster

### **The Way We Understand the World**

Books have been a critically important part of human life as far back as history records. Lately, new technology has changed the way people access information. You may have heard about this somewhere or other, but there is good reason to expect books will continue to play a central and indispensable role in the way we understand our world. And there are particular reasons to think their role in the church, forming us for Christ-likeness, will continue as well.

Of course, to say books have been important "as far back as history records" is cheating a bit. History

was never recorded at all until it was recorded in books! On the other hand, just think what that very fact tells us about the importance of books as a crucial medium for organizing and understanding information.

When Job cried out in his anguish, one of the more memorable things he pleaded for was a book to carry his message on to future generations:

"Oh that my words were written!  
Oh that they were inscribed in a book!

Oh that with an iron pen and lead  
they were engraved in the rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.



And after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
yet in my flesh I shall see God,  
whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes  
shall behold, and not another.

My heart faints within me – Job 19:23–27

These verses are familiar to many because of the famous passage where Job proclaims that his redeemer lives, and that he anticipates a resurrection of the dead (one of the clearest references to this in the Old Testament) that will unite him with his Saviour. But notice also that Job doesn't just make this declaration. He longs for it to be recorded in a book.

From ancient times, books have had a profound and mysterious power to move us. We find this in every culture and in every time period. It's a power that other methods for organizing information don't have.

### Books Are Primary

And the importance of books for organizing and understanding information—as opposed to just having access to it—has not been displaced, even in our Internet age. Scholars, pastors and others whose jobs centre on grasping “the big picture” in some field will often have conferences about books. They rarely write books about conferences. They write articles about books but they don't write books about articles. The books are primary.

C. S. Lewis, in the epilogue to his masterpiece *An Experiment in Criticism*,

asks: What are books for? He rejects the view, common among Christians, that the main goal of books is moral edification. It is not obvious that reading tales of great men who are brought to their doom by a thirst for revenge will actually help me become a more forgiving person, yet this fact does not make Homer's *Iliad* or Shakespeare's *Hamlet* a worthless waste of my time.

Lewis suggests that books allow us to see the world through other people's eyes. Through a book I can view the world as someone else sees it—experience their view of the world “from the inside.” This is what gives

books their profound and mysterious power.

### Bridging Our Gaps

We each see the world through our own window. As creatures bearing the image of God, we are conscious of ourselves and of the world in a way animals aren't. We think, we feel, we act with real agency.

We experience this consciousness of our world individually. But we are made for life together: “It is not good that the man should be alone.” So we spend an enormous amount of our lives straining to see the world through other people's eyes, trying to see their worlds “from the inside.” And we mostly fail.

Books overcome the chasm between >22

‘ From ancient times,  
books have had a  
profound & mysterious  
power to move us. ’

us more fully than anything else. I don't know C. S. Lewis, I don't know what it was like to know him. But I know what the world looks like to him—I know it better than I know how the world looks to the person who works in the office next to mine.

This is why books have always been essential to organizing and understanding information—to making a pile of information into something more than just information. Using other media, I could communicate to you all the information, simply as information, that's inside Gene Edward Veith's classic *God at Work* or Tom Nelson's *Work Matters*. But you won't know what the Christian vocation to our daily work really looks like to Veith or Nelson until you read their books.

Job wanted his words written in a book because he wanted that kind of unique power to share his vision of God as his redeemer. He didn't just want to record his complaints. He said he longed for his words to be written in a book "*for I know that my redeemer lives.*" He wanted to invite all humanity to know God as their redeemer.

Note that it's a profoundly personal vision: "I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another." This is a rebuke to pantheists who long for the annihilation of the self.

But the fulfilment of that individual vision is to share it with others, not

heard it for yourself. Job is pointing eschatologically toward the fulfilment of all things in the resurrection. The beatific vision of God in eternity is a collaborative experience. (We also see this in Revelation 21–22, for example.)

### A Sneak Peek

And books are one of the ways in which Christians today get a sneak preview of the eternal blessedness that awaits us in that fulfilment. They allow us to enter into one another's visions of God our redeemer.

But now I come to the most profound point of all. The irony of Job's line here is that he's crying out for his words to be written in a book, and we're reading it in a book! His words did end

up being written in a book, even if he never knew it.

And not just any book.

Once we see that books have this profound and mysterious power to transform us by allowing us to see the world through others' eyes, we gain a new perspective on the fact that God's special and redemptive revelation of himself and his work comes to his people through books.

When we read the Bible we are getting to see the world through the eyes of the human authors like Paul and Moses, for example. But also, thanks to the inspirational work of the Holy Spirit, in a creaturely way *we are getting to see the world through God's eyes.* ➤

‘ *When we read the Bible ... we are getting to see the world through God's eyes.* ’

### A Tool for Transformation

Obviously we know that the Holy Spirit is at work supernaturally in our hearts as well. The Bible is not some kind of occult magical item. But once we appreciate that books have been central to the organization of human thought and culture throughout history, and that they do this because they have a profound and mysterious power to allow us to enter into the lives of others “from the inside,” I think we get a fresh perspective on the occasion and mode of the Spirit’s work in using the Bible to transform God’s people.

And I don’t think God looked at us and said, “Hmm, how shall I reveal myself to these humans? They seem to really be affected by books, I’ll use that.” No, God made us from the beginning with all His ends in mind.

The shoe is on the other foot. Books have had this profound and mysterious power over us through all history because God made us to respond to books in this way. He built this power of books into our nature, knowing that He was going to use that power for His redemptive purposes.

And, of course, once we are transformed by God’s books, we get our own personal, individual visions of God as our redeemer. Like Job, we’re moved to share this redemptive vision with the world: “Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! For I know that my redeemer lives.”

Which is why Christian publishers don’t just publish Bibles, but other

books as well. And those of us who write books are very thankful for that!

Obviously God uses many different means to build up the church. I’m not slighting or snubbing any of the other means God uses. But books have always been, at every stage of church history, one very important means God uses to build up the church.

It is a means that, humanly speaking, we really couldn’t do without. Where would we be today without Irenaeus’s *Against Heresies*? Without Augustine’s *On the Trinity* and *City of God*? Without Anselm’s *Why the God-Man*? Or Aquinas’s *two summus*? Without the books of Luther, Calvin and Wesley? For that matter, where would we be without Bonhoeffer’s *The Cost of Discipleship* or the whole library of C. S. Lewis?

Books have a power that nothing else has. So whatever changes may come in the technology people use to access information, or the business model of publishing, books will continue to carry forward a vital role in the building up of God’s people.

[The author of this article, Greg Forster (PhD, Yale University), serves as the director of the Oikonomia Network at the Center for Transformational Churches at Trinity International University. He is a senior fellow at the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, the editor of the blog *Hang Together*, and a frequent conference speaker.]



And God Said...  
BIBLE CONFERENCE

LITHGOW  
BIBLE CHURCH

# Can we still believe, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?

10am - 3pm, Saturday 21st September 2019,  
Lithgow Bible Church 1 Col Drewe drive, Lithgow  
(Opposite Lithgow Hospital on highway)

## Sessions

Amazing Evidence  
Astounding Denial  
Awesome Creator

Phil Gummerson  
Phil Gummerson  
Andrew Cowell

Free Admission Refreshments and creche provided (please advise numbers), RSVP Friday  
13th Sep. to David Scott (M: 0419 622 860; E: david@ipc.com.au)



# Are Christmas Trees Evil?

---

(author unknown)

In just four months it will be the season for our wonderful Christmas traditions. While each family has its own unique and special traditions it holds dear, as a culture we share many holiday traditions: wrapping gifts, singing our favourite Christmas songs, and maybe decorating a Christmas tree. But what's behind this tradition of putting a dead (or fake) tree in your living room and covering it with lights and shiny baubles?

Honouring the evergreen tree is an ancient pagan tradition. Because pines, firs, and holly stay green during the winter, they were viewed as representing the return of life and greenery in the spring. Some pagan traditions, from both Europe and the East, involved decorating indoors and out with evergreens, to ward off evil and celebrate life. Many pagan Germanic and Scandinavian cultures worshipped trees of all sorts.

The ancestor of the modern Christmas tree tradition is said to have originated in Germany in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Many say that the Protestant Reformer Martin Luther was the first one to add lighted candles to an evergreen tree.

Over the next couple of centuries, the tradition grew and spread. Many areas associated the Christmas tree with only the wealthy or the upper class, as they were the ones who could afford extra candles to put on the trees. Trees were often decorated with fruits, nuts, and other small edibles, which served as treats for the children. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Christmas tree was a commonplace tradition in private homes, public places, and churches.

For many, the evergreen tree still symbolizes eternal life as it did for the early pagans – but the eternal life that Jesus brings, not merely a return of sunlight after the winter solstice. Decorations like a star or an angel on the tree top symbolize Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Lights on the tree (first as candles, now as electric lights) symbolize Jesus as the Light of the World.

So, is the Christmas tree a pagan or a Christian tradition? Are you honouring pagan spirits or Jesus if you put up a decorated tree in your home? The past several centuries have seen the Christmas tree adopted as a Christian tradition – but what's more important than tradition is the attitude of our heart. The Bible teaches us not to have idols – anything that is more important in our life than God.

If you worship the created evergreen tree instead of the Creator, then the tree has become your idol. If you value the modern trappings and traditions of the Christmas holiday more than God and His Son, then that is your idol.

But, if you love and honour and worship Jesus, and merely use the Christmas tree to bring joy and pleasure into your family's life, and as a reminder of His birth much as you do with a Nativity scene, then it is not an idol.

God wants pure hearts that love and obey Him. If a Christmas tree distracts you from the real meaning of Christmas, then don't have one in your home. If a Christmas tree helps you to focus on the real meaning of Christmas, then by all means, enjoy your tree.

Whatever traditions you participate in to celebrate Christmas, always keep Jesus as the reason for the season. □

Available as a Paperback from Christian Book Shops for about \$10

**John Blanchard's** writings are some of the most popular for serious yet accessible contemporary evangelism. A reliable author who has spent much time learning Scripture and defending the faith, his outreach-related booklets and books are always worth the price of admission. This new little book is no exception – an excellent resource and an enjoyable read for the believer and unbeliever alike.

Here is a copy of Blanchard's "Introduction," just to give you a taste.

"The story is told of a policeman patrolling one of London's bridges over the River Thames when he saw a man climbing on to the railing. Pulling him back, the policeman asked him what he was doing. The man replied, 'I am going to drown myself, because there is nothing worth living for.' The policeman gradually calmed him down, then said, 'Let's talk about this. Tell me exactly why you feel that life has no meaning'—and when they had talked together for ten minutes they both jumped off the bridge ...

"The story may be no more than that, but the subject is seriously important. Searching for a meaning to life seems to be programmed into us as human beings. We may sometimes try to brush the subject aside, but time and again we still wonder whether there is any point in all our activities, experiences and emotions. Why are we here? What is life all about? Are we part of a bigger picture, or just specks of dust swirling around in a mindless universe?

"One of America's best-known movie directors complained, 'If I had never lived, if the sperm that hit the egg had missed,

it would have made no difference to anything.'

Can we settle for that? Is there a road map that will help us to find our way through life—or are birth, life and death nothing more than isolated markers in a meaningless desert? Can we be sure that we are more important than peanuts or pilchards? Why do we claim to have any dignity or rights? Is doing so no more than pointless prattle?

"If life has no meaning or purpose, what is the point of getting involved with the needs of other people? Why should we help those who are disabled, seriously ill, homeless, intellectually challenged, psychologically damaged or desperately poor? Why should we be concerned about the victims of war, genocide or persecution? If their lives are as meaningless as ours, what is the point of trying to help them?

"These questions lead to others. Where can we find a basis for morality or responsible behaviour of any kind? On what basis can we differentiate between good and bad, right or wrong, fair or unfair? Can we sail through life without moral responsibility of any kind? If we are nothing more than biological accidents, cobbled together from bits of our ancestors, what is the point in speaking about human values or the quality of life? These are big questions, and it makes no sense to ignore them.

"It has been said that the two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why. This book aims at helping you to focus on the second." □

# Richard Joseph Saxby (25/7/1931 – 8/8/2019)

---

Most of this Eulogy was read by Stewart Randall by the Saxby family  
at Richard's Memorial Service on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Richard was born in Ashfield. The family moved to Broken Hill where the NSW Government had posted Richard's father. After a year the Government brought the Saxbys back to Sydney for a brief period before appointing Mr Saxby to superintend the Child Welfare farm at Yanco. This had been set up as a reform school/farm for delinquents aged 16 – 18. The farm life was idyllic for the Saxby family – giving free access to the orchards, vineyards and gardens – all irrigated by the canals of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation system. They attended the local school.

At the outbreak of World War 2 Mr Saxby was appointed Superintendent of Child Welfare for the State of NSW and the family settled in Haberfield, Sydney. Next to the school in Haberfield was a large seedling nursery. Richard was already showing his interest in everything growing and in glasshouse cultivating particularly. The nursery employed several local young fellows to work with the boxing of seedlings on Saturdays and holidays, and Richard enjoyed this tremendously.

On leaving high school it was little wonder that Richard enrolled for the diploma in the Horticultural course at Sydney Technical College. The three year course enabled the students to complete a diploma and, at the same time, to do part-time work in local nurseries. It was a fine introduction into the horticultural world.

After several years of employment as propagator of exotic and indoor plants

at a large nursery in Ashbury, Sydney, Richard had a year off and spent time in Britain - the firm agreed to this and paid for his return fare via USA and Honolulu where he bought for the firm some rare plants which were coming on the market as houseplants. The plants were nurtured in a special quarantine glass house in the nursery. It was a wonderfully satisfying life.

Richard and Mavis were married in 1956. Two years later the visit to Bexley Assembly of a missionary from the Chad Province in Nth Africa explained the need for young couples to assist in the work here, where there were hundreds of new Christians needing to learn to read and be taught from the Scriptures. Some of these had no written language and thus no Scriptures.

So, feeling called, Richard and Mavis spent 3 months at the Summer School of Linguistics in Victoria. This was followed by 11 months study of the French language in Paris and they arrived in Chad in July 1960. Chad was becoming an independent nation but French was the language used in schools. Richard preached and taught in French at the French speaking church meetings and in the local high school. Two years were spent with senior missionaries where they learned and used the Sara-Mbai language, and Richard was visiting bush churches.

In 1962 Colin Price and Richard made a long journey among three language groups who were needing help and were keen for someone to live among >28

them. As a result Richard and Mavis moved to live and work at Pala where there was a three room mud-brick house built for Colin Price when he visited. The church in Pala was multilingual, with a translation at every meeting. Richard was able to speak at both the French service and multilingual service using the Sara-Mbai language. He visited the bush churches and in 1965 established a Bible school for the bush church leaders during their weeks free from working in their fields. This was for the Kad'au tribe whose language was unwritten. Gradually the Gospels and the book of Acts were translated and circulated.

Mavis worked with the women in Pala by teaching reading and giving short Bible messages using the Sara-Mbai language. She began the education of Brenton and Philip who later attended a Sudan United Mission school three hours away. In 1971 Margaret Mansfield came to teach the children, who also included Eleanor, the 2 Hewlett boys from N.Z, and Timothy Graham (the son of the MAF pilot) came to live with the Saxbys and attend the school. Brenton later went to Nigeria for 18 months high school. Richard and Mavis returned to Australia in 1974 for the high school education of their three children. They settled in Willoughby and attended the Assembly there.


During the latter part of 1974 Richard made several visits to his previous employers, in the same nursery where he had worked before going to Chad. The two owners of the business, Don and Malcolm Spry, warmly encouraged

Richard to continue his work as propagator of exotic and indoor plants.

At the same time Richard and Mavis were invited by the Board of the Australian missionary servicing group to use their skills and experience in the servicing of over 100 Brethren missionaries around the world. Richard and Mavis made the decision to take that offer.

Richard also had more work to do to finalise the translation of the New Testament in the Kad'au language. He returned to Chad alone and after three months brought all the completed manuscripts of the translated New Testament back to Australia.

After his retirement in 1996 from being Secretary of Australian Missionary Tidings, Richard and Mavis moved to a townhouse in Mt Colah, closer to their daughter Eleanor and family. They began attending Waitara Gospel Chapel and quite soon (in August 2001) Richard was invited to join the eldership there.

After a number of happy years at Mt Colah, Richard and Mavis moved, in April 2013, to Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, Cherrybrook, and enjoyed their new neighbours and many dear friends. But the effects of Parkinson's disease, and his declining mobility, led to another move for Richard to the adjoining Bethshean Nursing home, at the beginning of 2019. This move was challenging for all concerned, but Richard made many new friends with the nursing staff and other residents in Bethshean, and passed away peacefully just a few days after his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday – surrounded by Mavis, Eleanor, Tom and Elise. 



Here are more 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 or other device.

Please Note: to make it easier to visit these websites they have been included as 'hot-links' in the PDF version of this magazine. They are also included as 'hot-links' on the NSW Christian Brethren website at this web-page:-

[www.cb-nsw.org.au/useful-links/Links-AO.html](http://www.cb-nsw.org.au/useful-links/Links-AO.html)

\* \* \*

The Logosdor Newsletter for June 2019 mentions a large gathering of 360 key leaders from 98 countries to attend the launch of many new resources to assist them in ministry work. 1200 resources were released - 1,300 people from 174 countries contributed to them!

You'll find all this FREE material, in multiple languages in the ReadySetGO Resource Library at :-

[ReadySetGO.world](http://ReadySetGO.world)

This site is built on the Max7 platform.

ReadySetGO is the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20) for sports people. This website is a library of free sports ministry resources (and more) that are ready to use! It is as simple as Ready, Set and GO!

**Ready** is the process of gathering and envisioning people to make disciples for Christ in sport and play. **Set** prepares everyone to be a disciple-maker. **GO** gives us strategies to make disciples in the world of sport and play. There is something for every type of worker, even sports chaplains!

Some readers who regularly read the Bible Society's *Eternity* newspaper may have noticed that the July issue never came out. The decision to cut that particular edition was made after June's had gone to press. So it created some puzzlement for regular readers. In the August edition there is a mild apology from John Sandeman, but apparently the cancellation was necessary. He said "as we are about to turn ten years old (in October) it's high time to have a good look at how *Eternity* runs." He added "We are finding some of our good friends who we thought only read the print edition are commenting on our online articles. If you need a regular *Eternity* fix, think about visiting :-

[eternitynews.com.au](http://eternitynews.com.au)

or sign up for our popular weekly newsletter at :-

[eternitynews.com.au/subscribe](http://eternitynews.com.au/subscribe) "

I did, and I was pleasantly surprised. I think you will be too!

\* \* \*

Here is another interesting website to visit:-

<https://factsandtrends.net>

The site is based in U.S. but has some interesting news stories which would be helpful in most westernised countries. The About section for the website says this about its Purpose: "Facts & Trends is designed to help pastors and other Christian leaders navigate the issues and trends impacting the church by >30

providing information, insights, and resources for effective ministry.

“We see the church as God’s missionary agent. Through the ministry of the church, the mission of Jesus is extended, for it is His body—called to make disciples of all nations.

“It is because of this call that we want to be a resource to church leaders as they make and grow disciples who make disciples.

“In addition to the latest findings from LifeWay Research, you’ll find articles about leadership development, effective church ministry, and practical resources you can use in your church.

“We also want to give a voice to what God is doing in and through the local church. If it helps the church, you’ll find it here.”

As usual at such websites you can sign-up for a regular free Newsletter which delivers “Never miss anything from Facts & Trends and get exclusive content delivered to your inbox.”

A special App called “LifeWay INSIGHTS” is also available for your smart phone or tablet from iTunes App Store, Google Play, and Amazon Appstore.

\* \* \*

Another website you will possibly find useful is:-

[www.adeffenceofthebible.com](http://www.adeffenceofthebible.com)

It is basically a very informative Blog by Dr Gary Baxter who holds a PhD in Organic Chemistry and has studied the Bible for over 30 years. He is a speaker, author and preacher.

This is a biblical apologetic website

that provides information to support the fact that the Bible is true and can be trusted. It equips Christians with reasons as to why they can believe the Bible and will equip them to defend it.

Once or twice a month Dr Baxter posts a article covering a range of topics which are consistent with the theme of apologetics and an occasional social comment. If you’d like to receive these articles, please scroll down the Home page and complete the Blog Subscription form (LHS) to join their regular emailing list.

He has large number of articles on a range of subjects. For example Archeology, The Bible, Evolution, Science, Prophecies, and Social Comments.

\* \* \*

Christian Media Services Inc is doing a great job spreading the Word around the world via video recordings. These are broadcast in English and Arabic, thanks to the efforts of John Hills and Jamil Choucair. The programs go to air three times a week on 3 satellites covering a large area of our Earth. They are also broadcasting on the Internet via their own App, and Youtube and Facebook. Discover more on:-

[www.christianmedia.net.au](http://www.christianmedia.net.au)



**Please submit any news-items, letters, adverts or short articles for the October 2019 magazine on, or before, 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

## NSW ASSEMBLIES' EVANGELISTIC MISSION (NSWAEM)

ABN 81 001 037 690

### **AEM OFFICE & CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOOK SERVICE**

P.O. Box 20,  
Pennant Hills NSW 1715

Ph: 0412 596 104  
Email: admin@nswaem.org.au

**CHAIRMAN of BOARD**  
David Gordon

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Philip Bower, Kevin Price,  
Mavis Winrow, Colin Winrow

**MAGAZINE**  
Editor - Colin Winrow  
0412 596 104  
Email: outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

### **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 webpage:-  
[www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem](http://www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem)



*We understand the importance of family and it shows in everything that we do.*

**Richard Spiteri**

**Family owned and operated**

**340 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill 2154**

**(02) 9659 0900**

# 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.