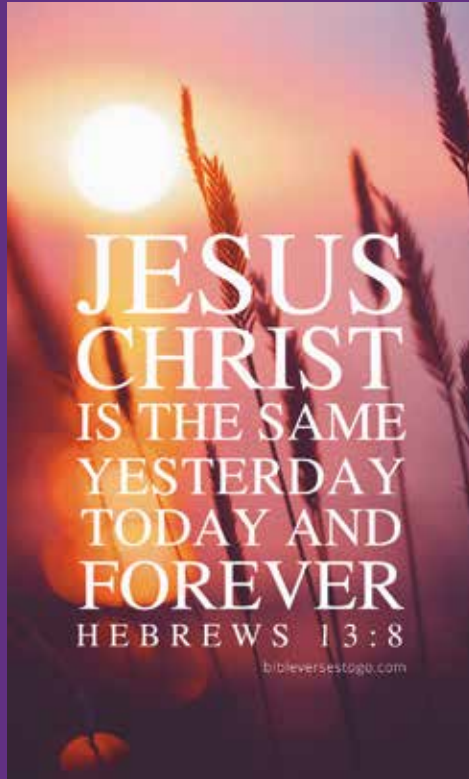




ASSEMBLIES  
*Outreach*

Price: \$32 per annum  
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**August 2020**



**Also in this issue:** Prayer for NSW Churches  
News from Commended Workers  
News from Campbelltown CCC  
News from Lithgow BC  
News from Armenian EBC  
Mary outside the Tomb  
An Inspiring Hope update  
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.

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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 **October 2020 issue before:- 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020.**

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

*...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 & Epping,

For further info  
[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's relationship with Her, as gentile both now and in the future. We will encourage the believers in Israel in every way we can. We will pray for their well-being and be involved in their spiritual growth and discipleship of the nations people.
- To pray for Israel.

**Normal Programmes will return as soon as possible!  
Check ATI Website for ZOOM session dates!**

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



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this August 2020 edition of the Assemblies Outreach magazine. I hope and trust it finds you all well.

Our COVID-19 pandemic has changed much worldwide and not always for the worse. New ideas for ministry have emerged. New ways of holding worship services have sprung up and it seems that often more people are involved than would normally enter our churches. Praise the Lord! Some examples are mentioned on the following pages.

I'm very thankful to all the people who have written things to be included in this issue. They will inform our readers, and I hope the articles will inspire some too. God has surely put us in the present situation for reasons which will ultimately be good for us. Let's be in constant prayer to the Father so that we each will know what He wants us to do, and that we will be obedient, and DO it. Am I, are you, here right now, in Australia, in this pandemic, "for such a time as this"? (Esther 4:14). "And we know that in all

things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28).

After you have read and thought about the articles in this issue, I would love to hear your thoughts on the current situation and what God is doing in your personal life, or church, or ministry, as a result. Furthermore, I would be "over the moon" if you would permit me to publish some of your thoughts in the October or December magazines!!!!



*Lord, please keep Your arm around my shoulder and Your hand over my mouth.*

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**If you attend a church or assembly associated with CCCAust(NSW), or you work with any associated Christian 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-mail them to:**

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

\* \* \*

The most recent quarterly Coordinating Conference took place as another Zoom Video Conference on 6<sup>th</sup> August, and the next meeting, on 5<sup>th</sup> November, will be either using Zoom, or in person at Burwood, depending on what the COVID-19 health regulations allow at that time.

There were 26 participants on-line from 15 churches and 3 para-church ministries.

The Minutes of the meeting were emailed out to church leaders on 19<sup>th</sup> August, and a recording of the meeting can be made available if you would like to hear it. Please email Ms Jess Weldon if you would like the link of the recording to be sent to you.

[jess@cccaustnsw.com](mailto:jess@cccaustnsw.com)

The main business matters included Philip Gummerson giving a presentation on the EvangelismSHIFT course being run at Riverstone Community Church by AFCI; Jess Weldon giving a presentation on the

new Zoom Saver Account available from Stewards Foundation; and Elleker Cohen (Child Safe Organisations) speaking about opportunities for faith based child safety training. Resources about this are available by contacting Elleker.

SRE update: There is a need for more teachers, because Covid restrictions are impacting our more vulnerable teachers.

Church updates: Two churches are in the process of affiliation. Graceway church was ratified by the meeting. It was proposed to change the church affiliation process required by CCCAust(NSW) to include:

- a twelve month probationary period to provide an opportunity for churches to get to know the new church;
- the voluntary affiliation fee will now become compulsory for new churches as a way of sharing in fellowship with other churches and to indicate the level of commitment the new church has to the movement in the sense of wanting to participate in the movement.

Para Church Reports:

CCC Camps: Nelson Green explained these are under financial stress. Please pray for relief from COVID-19 related cancellations and for more patronage from CCCAust churches. A camp flyer is shown on page 13.

CCC Camps: Caitlin McInerney talked about leadership training for camps and about holding a youth night to encourage CCCAust(NSW) youth to be➤

involved in the CCC Camps ministry.

\* \* \*

Hands and Feet: Give your time to one of our projects such as Hands and Feet Sydney. You can help us pack food packs for distribution on Friday nights, deliver food packs to the homeless on Friday nights or help make sandwiches for the homeless on Thursday nights.

Become a partner church and distribution centre of Hands and Feet Sydney. We have a desire to see this work spread and if churches can distribute to people in crisis in their community that would be great. We can deliver food to your church or you can have someone pick it up.

If you have a heart to reproduce Hands and Feet Sydney in another State or regional area, then we would love to work with you to see this realised. Fill in a proposal paper at:-

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

Services:

Hands and Feet currently offer a range of services as shown below; we are in the process of growing our organisation to offer more services to a wider range of people.

Household tasks

Yard work

Transport

Purchasing consumables

Respite

Community Access

Camps

If you are interested in accessing NDIS services through Hands and Feet contact Reuben Torrance.

\* \* \*

## **Future Meetings & Events**

(Note: for **the latest details** please be sure to also check on this web page:-

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

### **2020:**

The following conferences have been postponed to 2021. Precise details will be determined in due course. Keep an eye on the related websites.

BUILD 2020

THRIVE CITY 2020

THRIVE COUNTRY 2020

National Conference 2020

**Hopefully normal programmes will return as soon as possible, as restrictions on meetings and travel are gradually relaxed in coming months!**

**Please contact the meeting organisers to ascertain if alternative arrangements are planned.**

**Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the October 2020 magazine on, or before, 18<sup>th</sup> September.**

# Praying for NSW Churches and ministries

---

Please take time-out in coming weeks to pray for our churches, assemblies, and para-assembly ministries, and for the work of God across our State and Nation at this difficult time for most people.

*If you have any matters on your heart (praise or prayer) relating to your congregation, your ministry, or the Christian organisation you work with in NSW, and if you would like to share them with our readers – **please** write to “The Editor, AO magazine, PO Box 20, Pennant Hills 1715” or simply email to:*

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

*Many thanks to those assemblies who have written for this issue - please see pages 11 to 13, and 22.*

*We will do our best to include your matters in the next issue of this magazine – which will be printed in mid-October. Failing that, it would have to be in the December 2020 issue – so please always include your contact details in case I need to verify if a matter is still current.*  
—Editor

\* \* \*

Our nation needs us all to continue praying, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a strong impact on our nation and the nations of the world.

We could pray:–

\* for those working on the development of a vaccine, and that they would succeed in record time, and be able to

test, manufacture, and distribute it widely this year.

\* for all Australians to remain calm and act wisely obeying all instructions put out by our Governments, as difficult as that may be at times.

\* for the Australian economy to be protected from long-term damage.

\* that our leaders and decision makers would be given great wisdom to know when to impose restrictions upon us, but also to know, and have the courage, to lift them at the appropriate time.

\* giving thanks for Zoom and other software programs making possible new ways to fellowship, teach, mentor and worship.

\* for wisdom as some congregations gradually move back into using their church buildings for worship and/or other meetings.

\* for our missionaries overseas or stranded here after furloughs.

\* for our elderly brothers and sisters who are perhaps more vulnerable to viruses. Pray they will be well cared for and fully at peace in the hearts.

If you would like to pray for our nation in greater depth and/or wish to become a member of the Australian Prayer Network you could sign up on the website:

<https://www.ausprayernet.org.au/members/24-hour-prayer-watch/>



**Hands and Feet** is associated with the Christian Community Churches of Australia, which have 230 evangelical churches across Australia. We have a long history of providing help to the helpless and bringing change to communities through the local church.

God, through His word, places a high priority on us as His creation to help people in need. For example

1 John 3:17 (NLT) *If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?*

Acts 20:35 (NLT) *And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’*

Deuteronomy 15:11 (NLT) *There will always be some in the land who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with others in need.*  
COVID-19 Update:

In this difficult time, a lot of people are struggling to get what they need to survive day to day. Hands & Feet are committed to continuing to help in this troubling time. Our distribution centres are still up and running and ready to help out their communities. Each distribution centre is receiving updates from our head office about new government regulations that they need to conform to, and they have put precautions into place to ensure the safety of everyone that comes to collect food.

[www.handsandfeet.com.au](http://www.handsandfeet.com.au)



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# Christian Outreach Book Service (COBS)

is at your service – for this year,  
and the New Year, 2021 (DV),  
raising funds for NSW Commended Workers.

In a couple of months we **should have** Bible Gems  
calendars in stock for 2021.

However, sadly, we **cannot obtain** copies of the  
KJV Choice Gleanings calendars for next year.

phone: 0402 107 724 email: aemcobs@gmail.com

Postal address: PO Box 20, PENNANT HILLS NSW 1715

## 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 was formed. The Fellowship is given to women who are interested in the study of Bible Matters, and who desire to support the work of the Fellowship. The Fellowship is given to women who know the value of prayer and who desire to pray for the needs of the Fellowship. Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month.

An offering is taken at each meeting. A feature of the Fellowship is the far-reaching prayer ministry. To cater for the needs of the Fellowship, groups meet at two venues: Cherrybrook and Oatley, on the second Friday of each month, 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

**Southside venue:** Oatley Gospel Hall, River Road, Oatley.  
**Contact:** Jackie Sardar ph 9785 3439 0410 683 174  
email: cherylsardar@optusnet.com.au

**COVID-19 prevents us meeting together as normal, but cannot stop us praying. If any more women would like to join us in prayer - please use the contact details below.**



## Snippets of News from Commended Workers

---

**Greg & Sarah Clark**  
**7 Emmaus Road**  
**Ingleside NSW 2010**  
**22 July 2020**

*Thank you so much for your kindness and prayers. We were very thrilled to be able to run two camps over the School Holidays, albeit they were smaller with lots of COVID restrictions. The Gospel was faithfully proclaimed and I know that the young people were challenged strongly with regards to their relationship with God and being seriously committed to the Lord. Our prayer is that God's spirit will continue to bring these challenges to their hearts over the next while. Our family are all well and we both continue to have much joy over the recent arrival of our two grandchildren.*

*Thank you for your prayers and generosity.*

*God bless. Greg*

**Ariel & Beverly Cinco**  
**12 Berry Street**  
**Mt Druitt NSW 2770**  
**28 July 2020**

*God is good and generous in providing the needs of His children.*

*Thank you very much for the love gifts and support.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to request for your prayers. In spite of COVID-19 we try our best to maintain the mission "heat" in our church, we have an upcoming event this Saturday, 1 Aug called PLUG IN. It is a youth gospel event and on 8 Aug we have a Women's ministry "Pamper Day".*

*Please pray for safety and that people will come to hear the gospel of Jesus.*

*I will send an update on our church plant ministry after these events for the OUTREACH Magazine .*

*Thank you and God bless,*

*Best regards,*

*Ariel Cinco, Pastor*

*Christ Centred Community Church*

### **20 August**

#### **RESTRICTIONS TO REVITALIZATION**

*Philippians 1:12-14*

*"And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear."*

*The COVID-19 affected the way we reach out and proclaim the gospel to our community. It was a daily struggle in prayer and planning the way forward. The strategy that we put in place before the pandemic is not working and we need to Reflect, Re-set, Re-invent and Revitalized our thinking and actions to be taken in the next months ahead and looking forward to the Re-launching of the church after the pandemic ends.*

*With these concerns, we looked into Apostle Paul's letter to Philippians to encourage us as we move forward and keep the mission heat in the hearts of our church planting team. Paul said that "I am in chains because of Christ", "imprisoned" - there is a sort of restriction in his* >10



life to do his task in spreading the gospel and yet the restrictions revitalized the believers to be more confident and boldly speak of God's message without fear.

The last few months, we tried to sustain the mission heat in the hearts of our church planting team, in spite of the current situation God gave us an opportunity to engage with the community and encourage the church membership by holding events. Please pray for us as we implement our different ways and means of our church ministries.

**The Catalyst:** Our youth group initiated to connect with their friends by holding evangelistic outreaches - the 'Unpack 2020' and 'Plug into Jesus'. Because of these events they were able to establish a relationship with some non-Christian young people who showed interest in coming back and be part of the Catalyst.

**The Bloom Women's Ministry – Pampering Day:** Getting together to encourage others into a flourishing relationship with Christ, Our Women's group held their 1st Pampering Day to catch up and enjoy time of caring for each other.

Blessings, Ariel.

**Jamil & Jocelyn Choucair**  
281A Miller Road  
Bass Hill NSW 2197  
July 2020

Jocelyn and I appreciate your support and your generous gift. A few new people joined our Tuesday night Bible study, and we are happy to see the hunger and thirst for the word of God. The Facebook daily outreach is still on and the impact is very encouraging. Thank you again for your prayers and support.

In Christ, Jamil.

**Doug & Jenny Mc Naught**  
46 Barnettts Road  
Winston Hills NSW 2153  
25 July

Dear friends,

Essentially, I (Doug) have been in lock down since I had my stroke at the end of September last year and the doctors discovered that I was suffering from chronic heart failure.

After the heart surgery, I had to learn how to write and type again. I am still slowly getting those skills back but I am also struggling with walking. In spite of that, I have been collecting work that I did over the last twenty or so years to show that the most important question, for every Christian to consider, is "How good is my Saviour?" If we devote time to that question every day, then everything else will gain a proper perspective.

Thanks again for thinking of us. May the Lord bless and keep you and yours.

Jenny and Doug.



Jesus said:-

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28 NIV

Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the October 2020 magazine on, or before, 18<sup>th</sup> September.

# Campbelltown Christian Community Church

by Michael Riethmuller

Campbelltown Christian Community Church is on the outskirts of south-western Sydney. We generally have up to 50 adults in regular fellowship.

It has been an interesting year with the COVID-19 crisis. During the enforced closure of churches throughout April and May we recorded all our sermons during the week before and uploaded them onto YouTube in time to be viewed on Sundays. It has been encouraging to know that other churches and the people in the community have been watching these sermons.

We resumed mostly normal activities in July since our numbers were within the required limits. We had several members willing to leave the premises if we were over the limit. In the end this precaution was not required.

Our four mid-week Bible studies have restarted, with one using Zoom and the other three using the church premises instead of homes. We are involved in SRE in a number of local schools and we have now resumed this with the opportunity to share the Gospel once again with local students. The schools have generally been very co-operative and many students are listening well as we share God's word with them.

The one area that has taken a heavy hit is our Playgroup with mothers and children from the local community each Friday morning. The difficulties of operating the Playgroup under the

current restrictions mean it is yet to restart.

It has not been easy making our church 'COVID-safe'. However, our members continue to take the changes in their stride. We are now registered as a 'COVID Safe Business' and are attempting to do what is expected of us by the NSW government.

## Praise points

1. Our existing TV ministry through John Hills has enabled us to post sermons onto YouTube where more than just our congregation have viewed them. This ministry is continuing.
2. Our new and younger deacons are providing fresh eyes and great enthusiasm in the responsibilities given them.
3. That in spite of the uncertain world we face, Christ is our certain hope.

## Prayer points

1. That the leadership of the church will be granted godly wisdom to lead the church as we face an uncertain world.
2. That SRE will continue to be allowed to deliver the Gospel in NSW schools.
3. That those who have ongoing health issues will continue to trust in God's goodness.
4. That the young parents in our church will raise their children in a godly manner.



The year 2020 began, or rather 2019 ended, with devastating bushfires in our local area. Whilst no members of our church were directly affected by loss of property, Lithgow is a small community and everyone was touched by the destruction. Through extra giving by church members and money sent from Stewards Foundation, the church was able to assist four families with a gift for them to use however they needed at the time.

As the bushfires began to fade, the much needed rain finally came and we were very thankful. As a church, we began to look to our vision for 2020 and beyond, with a focus on children and youth as the future of the church. We celebrated two baptisms within the space of a few weeks, which was very encouraging for everyone.

Then, of course, COVID-19 hit. Our focus had to quickly become how we would keep Church going during lock down. Like every other church, we had to decide how to provide worship services using the resources and technology we had and most importantly how we would care for church members, especially those on their own.

We held our last service in the church building on 23rd March and the first online service was on 5th April, with a weekly service since. Each week, the elements of the service are prerecorded and shared via a link on the website. One of the suggestions early-on was that since we could not see or visit each other, it would be good to have an

interview with someone each week. For many, this is now the highlight of the service! It's great to hear how people are going during this time.

At the time of writing, we have not yet resumed normal church services. However, now that we can have visitors in our homes, some people are taking the opportunity to gather as a small group and watch church together.

All our Home Groups were put on hold as well, and some groups chose to continue via Zoom. Once the restrictions eased, some groups returned to meeting in homes. Other groups now run a combination group – for example, one group meets face to face, but still has a Zoom link for the members of the group who live out of town and find it difficult to come into town, especially on a cold winter's night.

The main outreach of our church is the 'mainly music' group\* for children. Along with many other mainly music groups around the country, we had to suspend face-to-face sessions when COVID-19 restrictions came in. The main priority then was to keep connected with the 45 families who are part of the group. This was done through a private Facebook page where the 'mainly music' Team Leader posted an online session each week for the families to engage in at home. We also sent every family a book at Easter—normally these would be handed out at the session.

At the beginning of Term 3, mainly music sessions resumed, carefully ➤

following all the current health guidelines. Having to restrict numbers meant that we needed to divide our families into three groups on a three-week rotation. Having less families each week is proving to be a blessing, as it allows the team more time to spend with the mums, dads or grandparents who also come along each week.

**Prayer and Praise Points**

mainly music: This is our main point of connection with the community. Praise God for the technology that allowed us to keep in touch with families during lock down. Please pray that we will be a light to the families who come along, that we can show

them love in a practical way and that there will be opportunities to introduce them to Jesus.

Children and Youth: As a church, we want to continue to focus on the young people. Over the last year, there have been some families move away, and now there are very few children and teenagers. Praise God for our Kids Church teachers and Young Teens leaders who remain faithful with a small number. Pray for more families to join our church. Pray for wisdom in how to cater for the young people.

\* Footnote: to learn more about 'mainly music' groups visit the website:-

[mainlymusic.org](http://mainlymusic.org)



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Calling all  
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- \* We would appreciate your continued prayer for the Lord's blessing on our work
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- \* If you would like to support us financially, we would love to have a conversation with you.

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*...Do not be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God's*  
- 2 Chronicles 20:15




# Mary outside the Tomb

Another in “The Forty Days” series

by Doug McNaught

*Read John 20:11-18*

## **An Eyewitness**

This section looks at the first recorded meeting of the risen Lord Jesus Christ with one of His followers. We’ve had to deduce what He was doing before this time from looking at other evidence but now we have a direct eyewitness account of this meeting. We know that this is an eyewitness account because in the previous chapter John said that, as an eyewitness to these events his testimony was reliable (18:35). Earlier, in chapter twenty, he recounted how Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and came to speak to him so we can be confident that she told John about her meeting with the risen, glorified Lord Jesus Christ after he left her at the empty tomb.

We know from John 18:25 that this Mary witnessed the Lord’s crucifixion. We also know that John took Mary, the Lord’s mother, away from the cross before the hours of darkness but there is no evidence to suggest that any of the other women left, who were there at the time. We know from Matthew 27:59-61 that Mary Magdalene went from Calvary to the grave, so we know that she witnessed the Lord’s crucifixion in its entirety.

## **A Different Reason**

The Lord’s disciples followed Him because they knew that He had the words of eternal life (see John 6:67, 68) but they also hoped that He would

be the one to restore the kingdom to Israel (see Acts 1:6). However, Mary was attracted to the Lord for a different reason.

In Luke 7 the Lord told a parable about two debtors and the point of the parable was given in verse 47. In the very next chapter (see Luke 8:1-3) we discover that Mary Magdalene devoted her life to the Lord Jesus Christ because he delivered her from seven devils. We don’t know why she was possessed by seven devils, but we know that the Lord healed her, and she loved Him greatly because He had done everything to deliver her from the terror and horror of her affliction.

It is not a wonder that Mary stood outside the tomb and wept. She loved the Lord greatly and she had seen Him brutally murdered in a grave miscarriage of justice. Not only that, she now believed that His enemies had desecrated His body. Even today there are people who will go to the grave of someone they have dearly loved just to feel close to him or her. She believed that even that, very small, comfort had been taken away from her.

It is not a wonder that Mary stood outside the tomb and wept. At first, she had something to occupy her as she went from the tomb to find Peter and John but now that she had returned with them and they had looked into the tomb and left, she was utterly alone and without anyone to comfort her. She would be an outcast in her ➤

society because she had previously been possessed by seven devils, so there was no one else for her to go to for comfort. Eventually she found the courage to look into the tomb; before this she had just seen that the stone was rolled away and she left to call the disciples (see John 20:1,2).

When she looked into the empty tomb, she saw two angels. In this case the angels are simply messengers and not necessarily majestic heavenly beings as described in (say) Isaiah 6:1, 2. However, there had been a mighty heavenly-being come down earlier that morning to roll the stone away (see Matt 28:2-4). But that angel was so majestic and powerful that the soldiers who guarded the tomb fell into a deep faint for fear of him.

However, Mary was not afraid of the two angels she saw. It is interesting to note that the Israelite high priest was not allowed to tear his garments in despair for the dead (see Lev 21:10). The reason for this was that the high priest went into the presence of the Lord once a year and anyone who has been in the presence of the Lord can have no reason for total despair. The people in those days would tear their clothes for the dead, out of despair. Mary may, previously, have had reasons for despair when she was possessed by seven devils but since then she had been with the Lord Jesus Christ and He had healed her, there was nothing for her to fear from these angels.

One angel sat near the place where the Lord's head had rested and the other near the place where His feet had rested. She knew this because the grave clothes were still there as they had been while they held his body, but were now empty. There was no body there because the resurrected, glorified Lord Jesus Christ had taken that body with Him, as she would soon discover.

The angels treated Mary with compassion, they knew the truth and they tried to give her the message. At that stage, she wasn't ready to understand the truth. She believed that she was still alone with no one to comfort her.

### **Nothing Inside**


There was nothing for Mary inside that empty tomb, so she turned away and saw a man standing outside the tomb. The last time that Mary had seen the Lord Jesus Christ was when He was taken down from the cross. At that stage His body was battered, bruised and brutalised, so much so, that He was scarcely recognisable as a man (compare Isaiah 52:14). The man Mary saw, however, was clean and bore evidence of no wounds on His face. Jesus was now in His resurrected glorified form. It is not a wonder that she didn't recognise Him. She spoke to the man and asked Him if He knew where the body of the Lord had been taken. Later that day two disciples would recognise the Lord when He broke bread (see Luke 24:30, 31). But in Mary's case the Lord Jesus Christ

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proved the words of John 10:3, 4. Mary is one of the Lord's sheep and she knew His voice.

Before the Lord went to the cross, He plainly taught that He was going to die and rise again after three days (see Matt. 16:21). We saw earlier how Mary was with the Lord during the time of His ministry – so she would have heard this teaching. The angels had told her that He was alive, but she didn't believe them. However, when she heard the Good Shepherd's voice, she knew the truth at last.

Notice that the Lord Jesus Christ didn't rebuke her for not believing the angels or remembering what He had taught earlier, He reminded her that He was now resurrected and glorified, and things were not the same as they had been before. He knew that her situation didn't depend on what she could do but on what He had already done.

**It's no wonder that after her meeting with the Lord she went and proclaimed the good news!** 

## Back in the Upper Room

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Another in "The Forty Days" series

by Doug McNaught

*Read John 20:19-29*

### Finally

After the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the grave, He didn't see His twelve disciples straight away. He had other things to do but He finally came to see them on the evening of the resurrection day. The Lord Jesus Christ wasn't trying to punish them but waited for them to come together so that He could see them together. The Lord Jesus Christ finished the work of salvation when He died on the cross, but He rose again to supervise the work that He had begun. He was the final person needed before the promise God made to Abraham, when He first called Abraham, could be satisfied (Gen. 12:3). However, the mission could not be completed without the disciples as the Lord Jesus

Christ was going back to heaven and they were staying on the earth. This ministry was satisfied, by the power of the Holy Spirit, when Paul wrote his letter to Colossae (see Col. 1:5, 6). The Lord had told His disciples to "teach all nations" (Matt. 28:19) and Paul's statement shows that this was satisfied.

### On The Same Day

The wording makes it quite clear that the Lord came to see His disciples on the same day that He rose from the dead. This was probably the first time that they were together after the resurrection. We know that Peter and John had been together earlier in the day because Mary had found them and taken them to the empty tomb. This section makes a mockery of the theory that the disciples stole the body of the ➤



Lord earlier that day (see Matt. 28:12, 13). The disciples were scared and confused, this is why they had shut the doors. It would be difficult to imagine these scared men mounting an attack against an armed contingent of soldiers.

The men were not only grieving but also confused because they had heard that the Lord's body was no longer in the tomb. They were probably trying to discuss how to deal with this situation but were stunned with grief and confusion and couldn't really do much talking. As they were there – the risen, glorified Lord Jesus Christ stood in the middle of the group. At this stage, the Lord Jesus Christ, who had conquered sin, death, the grave and hell, was no longer restricted in time and space; He was able to come and go as He pleased without worrying about simple things like walls or doors.

Before He died even, we know that the Lord Jesus Christ knew what people were thinking (compare Mark 2: 6-8, for example) so He had no trouble knowing what His disciples were thinking at this time. When the Lord Jesus Christ stood in the middle of the group of disciples, He greeted them by saying, "Peace be unto you." This was a standard greeting of the time, but it carried extra significance for those men because they were about as far from inner peace as a person could ever be.

Undoubtedly, their reaction was similar to what they had shown when the Lord walked to them on the sea during a heavy storm (see Matt. 14:25, 26) they thought that they were seeing

a ghost. However, the Lord Jesus Christ quickly dealt with the issue by showing them the scars made by the nails in His hands and feet and the scar of the spear in His side. We know that earlier in the day Mary Magdalene hadn't recognised the Lord when she saw Him outside the empty tomb because there wasn't any blood on His face and body; however these scars still remained. Later, when the apostle John had his vision concerning the future (see Rev. 5:6) he saw that the glorified Saviour showed evidence of having died, this evidence was probably the scars of the wounds that He showed the disciples earlier.

### **His Hands and Feet**

The Lord spoke, and showed them His hands, feet and side, and that was enough for them. They were glad when they saw the Lord. In Psalm 118:24 this day was prophesied and now that prophecy was fulfilled. But, what does it mean to be glad? When Moses was told to deliver Israel after he saw the Lord in the burning bush in the Arabian Desert the Lord told him that his brother Aaron would be glad to see him (see Ex. 4:14). This tells us that being glad is when hearts are satisfied that we have enough information to resolve whatever issues are troubling us. On the other hand, to rejoice is a much more emotional issue. We are glad when we know the truth and that can lead to rejoicing.

The Lord's disciples had heard, during that day, that His body was no longer in the grave. They hadn't taken His body from the grave, so they had >18

no idea where it was. They were also grieving about His death when they believed that He was the Promised One from God. All these things added up to grief and confusion. In fact, they were probably in a state where they were close to total emotional collapse. After the Lord came into the room they had sufficient knowledge to satisfy all the questions and problems that troubled them at that time. Knowledge of the facts will always give us comfort and peace in our hearts (compare Phil. 4:6, 7). This gladness is available to every Christian who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ and is saved, for Christianity is a religion of facts; owing to the fact that the work is finished.


The Lord Jesus Christ then wished peace to be on them again. The first time that He greeted them with a wish for peace they were a long way from knowing peace but this time they had peace.

There is some confusion about the meaning of the next section. Some people suggest that the Lord was preparing the disciples to accept the Holy Spirit while others suggest that the Lord was preparing the Holy Spirit to come into them. However, if we look at John 16:7 we realise that the Lord Jesus Christ had to go away before the Comforter came and (see John 15:26 as well) that He would send the Comforter from the Father. This means that the Lord Jesus Christ was giving the Holy Spirit to His disciples, but the Holy Spirit would not come to them until the Lord Jesus Christ had finally gone

back to the Father so that He could send the Holy Spirit. He also promised them that they would have authority to forgive and withhold forgiveness of sins. This does not mean that the successor of the disciples would have some extra authority to forgive sins because the Lord Jesus Christ said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). This means that the disciples would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel and give anyone who heard the opportunity to believe or reject the gospel message.

### **Wasn't There**

Thomas, one of the disciples, wasn't there when the disciples met the Lord Jesus Christ on that day. The facts were actually unbelievable; no one could imagine that a recently crucified man would come back from the grave and neither could Thomas. He is just like every other person on earth, without seeing or being convinced by the Holy Spirit there is no chance of believing the message (compare John 16:7-11). This is the work of the Holy Spirit in any sinner.

When Thomas saw the risen Lord eight days later, he too was convinced. He bowed before the Lord in absolute submission. This reminds us of the importance of having a vision of the risen, glorified Lord in our Christian service; it is this vision, by the power of the Holy Spirit, which will enable us to carry out the Great Commission. 



**This is the cover of an A5 size, 12 page booklet, titled “The Way”, which is the most recent of Ken Harding’s writings to provide tools for evangelism.**

### **Four copies for \$10 (inc. p&p)**

Available directly from Ken Harding, email: [ken12@tpg.com.au](mailto:ken12@tpg.com.au)  
phone: 0403 859 904

This interesting booklet, published earlier this year, brings together the stories in the New Testament of the ‘Rich Young Ruler’ and the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, who became the Apostle Paul. It is written in the ‘first person’ as though Paul has written directly to tell us his conversion story.

Ken Harding has written in simple English and it’s printed in a font size that is easy for anyone to read - young or old. Where appropriate he has given references to passages of scripture, 30 in all, which are listed on the last page.

Ken also includes two pages giving the outline of his own journey to Christ and concludes with a request for the reader to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. He includes a simple sinner’s prayer to help in that respect and offers to pray for anyone who does that.

I understand Ken wrote this booklet as an evangelistic tool with the idea of

writing a good story for people who might know a little of the Bible but have never committed their lives to the Lord Jesus.

It’s not for the theologians (he said) but for people who will at least read it and hopefully some of them will come to Christ. You may have neighbours or family members on your prayer list who would benefit from reading this booklet. One brother put a copy of it into each letterbox in his retirement village. He included a note to this effect: “Dear Neighbour and Friend,

“Since we are all somewhat shut-in by COVID-19 restrictions and winter’s cool weather, I’d like you to have a complimentary copy of this story and I hope you enjoy it. Feel free to discard it, pass it on to someone, or slip it back into my letterbox should you wish to dispose of it.”

Over to you - dear magazine readers!  
from Colin (Editor)

# An Inspiring Hope update

by Jeanette Nolan-Formosa

Inspiring Hope has taken the opportunity to open a new platform to broaden our support and impact for children in out-of-home care.



During this COVID-19 'season' Inspiring Hope had the opportunity to make our teen-girls mentoring program available for teens across all of NSW, enabling them to participate in weekly mentoring support via the online video platform Zoom. This opportunity has given girls who live in remote areas access to this powerful mentoring program at a time when they were desperately needing guidance, support, and encouragement. The program has had a huge impact. For example, one participant said that the program has been a lifeline and has provided them with the encouragement and support needed to engage in schooling as well as building healthy relationships in their lives.



"Thank you for taking the time to listen and support me, my anxiety and stress have been so much better and I just can't thank you enough for your support and how this mentoring has changed my life completely for the best!" – Ingrid, a mentor program participant.

This winter Inspiring Hope was also able to run a unique but powerful Made to Make a Difference program for primary kids in out-of-home care during a week in the school holidays. We encouraged, inspired, and supported primary age children in overcoming current challenges and, most importantly, created a place for them to learn about God. We have also continued to see those who have ➤

## An Inspiring Hope update (cont'd from p 20)

been impacted as campers in our Inspire Teen Girls program come to our primary camp as leaders. They were able to pass down their experience, and the impact which God has had on their lives, to those younger than them.

In June this year, Inspiring Hope celebrated its 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday. We are completely 'blown away' by what God has done through us in the past 9 years. We are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us over the next 9 years! We are so thankful to everyone who has prayed, supported and gifted their time to see God move powerfully in the lives of those who come through this ministry. □



L to R: Team members Jessica Stone, Jeanette Nolan-Formosa, Narelle Harris, baby Blossom Nolan-Formosa, and Natalie Koutsos.

# Praising the Father in all things

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A letter from Harry Kiujian,  
Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church,  
Castlecrag

July 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

We welcomed the year 2020 without knowing what it would bring. 2020 will always be remembered as the year that changed the world, and we wonder if things will ever be the same again. The good news is that the Lord never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

COVID-19 came as a complete surprise. None of us ever imagined that anything like this could happen. Family lives have been changed, work has changed, businesses have changed, travel has changed, shopping has changed, and even worship has changed.

Praise the Lord that from Day 1 we started using the Zoom software and this has proved the right thing to do. In the past, believers have worshiped in caves, in the bush, or hiding in dug-out holes, but today the Lord speaks to us through the internet. Zoom has been a blessing; our numbers have doubled. We are very encouraged to see new people joining. Through this method we are able to invite guests from overseas and have translators to translate without any difficulty.

Our Bible study group has tripled, and we are encouraged to see new faces joining us daily. We have also started a men's prayer group every Monday, also on Zoom. We encourage the men to bring a thought from the Scriptures to share, and this has been very encouraging.

We had been concerned about

the spiritual impact. What would happen when we could not be together physically? However, we praise the Lord that where two or three are gathered to the Lord in His name, He is there among them to bless them – even through the internet.

While we are keen to continue the Bible studies on Zoom and to encourage people to join us, we are also keen to worship the Lord on Sundays without any restrictions, when the church will again be able to unite to break bread together and praise His holy name.

I was concerned with the lock down and burdened with the daily walk of our members and concerned with their daily spiritual growth. The Lord burdened me to send out a devotion one morning. The response was very encouraging; they encouraged me to send it out on a daily basis and they started sharing it with others.

As I write, Devotion #113 is in circulation. It is all in the Armenian language and has all happened because of the pandemic.

The church has not stopped but has been active throughout the pandemic. As many will know, our major mission outreach is to Armenia through Armenian Christian Mission Incorporated (ACM Inc.). ACM Inc. supports a number of poor and needy people and helps to reach these people, and others, with the gospel.

Assistance includes sending containers with much needed humanitarian ➤

## Praising the Father in all things (cont'd from p 22)

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goods. We have just sent container #19 to Armenia and are now working on a 40ft container which will go to Moldova for Christian Mission International Aid (CMIAid) to be distributed among the needy and the poor in Southern Moldova.

Because of the decline of the Australian dollar against the American dollar, we at ACM Inc. Armenia have had to reduce our expenses to be able to help those suffering from COVID-19. We had to close our rented office space in Yerevan, and reduce our support of some we have assisted. There are many people who are without food and many children without milk. We have many needy families asking for help. Should anybody want to know more about this work, and possibly assist, details can be

found on our website:

[www.acmaust.org](http://www.acmaust.org)

Again, as here in Australia, all our meetings are held on Zoom. However, our workers continue each month to distribute food and, in some cases, give financial support.

Please pray for Armenia, the need is overwhelming. On a per capita basis, Armenia is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> worst in the world for COVID-19.

Let us continue praying for each other, because the Lord's second coming is near.

We will always praise His wonderful name, and nothing will ever hinder or stop us from serving our loving Master.

In Him,

Harry Kiujuan

[hkiujuan@acmaust.org](mailto:hkiujuan@acmaust.org)



*Orphan children in Gyumri, Armenia, gathered at ACM Cornerstone chapel, exposed to the Gospel for the first time.*

# Bread of Life Gift Cards

by Jody Kubo, working with International Students  
in *Power to Change*.

In April, we heard about a Christian couple who just arrived in Sydney from Nepal. The husband planned to work in order to support his wife as she studied towards a Masters degree in Public Health. They arrived with happy expectations—they didn't expect a pandemic lock down.

I called John and Jane (fictitious names). Jane said she had yet to set foot on her campus because of the lock-down and her husband couldn't find work. They were living in a cramped share-house and were still in need of basic items while struggling with cultural adjustment. Our team sent them a Care Pack.

Like other Power to Change ministries in Australia, our Macquarie Uni team began giving away "Care Packs" of basic food stuffs, face masks, sanitiser, and toilet paper. But by May, we were hearing stories about students who'd lost part-time jobs and were having trouble paying rent, as well as worrying about their families back home. A new believer in our ministry said that her dad lost his job in Sri Lanka because of the virus. Students are very stressed.

As good as these Care Packs were, I wondered how we could help those who had larger needs. We weren't a relief organisation that was set up to distribute money, but there had to be a simple way to help those with more substantial needs.

Then the idea came. "What if we used ministry funds to offer larger-amount grocery gift cards?" A free gift card could take care of grocery bills, freeing students to pay for rent with their regular grocery money. I sent an email to a couple of Power to Change leaders and got immediate approval. After a few weeks to work out a system, **Bread of Life Gift Cards** was launched!

I phoned Jane to see how she and John were doing since we last talked. She said she found a restaurant job but customers and working hours were few. Her husband got a job with a delivery service but in order to work, he had to rent a bicycle, plus buy bicycle insurance. Money was very tight. "Would a Bread of Life Gift Card help you?" I asked. Before I could finish explaining the concept, she said, "Yes! With a gift card, we could use what we usually spend on groceries to pay our rent." Her words confirmed that this was an idea from God.

A week later, Jane sent this photo;



*Some Nepali students eating happily* ➤



and this note:

“My dear friends in Christ I don’t know any of you personally but your love care and compassion for us in this new land and in new season of life has filled my heart with joy. When me and my husband arrived here in Australia in the midst of the corona situation, fourteen days of self-isolation, and not being able to go out and explore, really affected our physical and mental health. Less job opportunities also created a financial burden in our life. But we are thankful that your kind and generous support has helped us a lot. We can now afford to buy our groceries which is very essential in this situation of crisis. I pray blessings upon your family for opening your hand to help people like us. Praise God for giving hearts.”

As of this writing, more than \$6,500 worth of Gift Cards have gone out to students from: China 1, Hong Kong 1, India 6, Malaysia 1, Nepal 9, Pakistan 1, Singapore 2, Taiwan 1, and Australia 1.

Nepali students at Macquarie Uni have a tight community. As we have given away BOL cards, Nepalis spread the word to help their student friends who are in similar financial need. Bread of Life has gone out ‘friend-to-friend’. International students are quick to express appreciation. Two of our workers got a home cooked meal as a way of receiving their thankfulness. While they learned to eat Nepali food with their hands, they got to share about a man named Jesus. The Good News is going out, friend-to-friend.

A non-Christian Nepali student wrote: “I am really thankful to your team and team members for your help and support during this critical situation. The gift card which I received from Power to Change was really helpful to me. With the help of gift card I was able to purchase grocery things which I needed. It has supported me financially in this critical situation. It has reduced financial pressure too. I really appreciate your work, support and care to needy international students like us. Thank you, Power to Change team!”

An international student in Perth wrote: “I have received the gift card from you and I would like to thank your generosity and concern for me during this time! It is hard, but I believe God will always provide.”

Bread of Life Gift Cards are available to international students in our Power to Change ministries throughout Australia and to local Australian students who are living away from home and doing it rough.

God has opened doors that we could not. He is leading us into new communities that are starting to join our faith community.

*“And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ...”*

Colossians 4:3



**Lost? Use GPS.**

(God's Plan for Salvation)

# Why preparing sermons takes me so long

by Joe McKeever, via SermonCentral.com

When a pastor friend confessed that he frets before preaching a series in another church—"Should I preach this? Or that? Or the other?"—I smiled in memory of doing the same. I must have given myself ulcers from the anxiety of those days.

What cured me? **Prayer.** I'm not in the least implying my friend does not pray sufficiently; I'm only confessing that prayer changed everything for me. Once I know what the Lord is telling me to preach, I do not ask again but get on with the preparation.

Second is doing the **Bible study.** Let me illustrate from a real-life example of preparing a message from Romans 12. I already had the basic outline: this chapter, I am fully convinced, is a well-rounded description of a healthy church. The first two verses—"present your bodies a living sacrifice"—deal with the most basic of considerations, the personal commitment of every person to Jesus Christ. Verses 3-8 describe a congregation in which the members all have spiritual gifts, know what they are, and are exercising them well. And verses 9-21 present the various kinds of relationships among the members. I aimed to intertwine and interrelate these themes so the listener could easily see how God's people are to be related to Him and to one another.

Clearly, just the Bible study portion of this sermon could easily take an hour. However, a pastor/teacher simply cannot tell everything he knows about a text in a single sermon.

Otherwise, the pastor's preparation will extend beyond reckoning, and the actual sermon will extend into Sunday afternoon!

As I reflected on the Romans 12 text each morning during that sermon's preparation, it occurred to me that I am the product of a healthy church, which was the role model for the seven churches I've served for nearly a half-century of pastoral ministry. What's more—and this was the insight which made me realize it was from God—I was present on the night that church began to self-destruct. I actually witnessed my home church beginning to die, and even today, the memory of the experience saddens my heart.

Telling these two stories in a sermon could take 15 minutes each, easily. And I did plan to tell them. These two experiences were crucial in the formation of my heart's burden about this message—and that's often something that does not appear through the fog of my brain until a couple of weeks into the preparation. Only with this realization could I settle on the message's focus of helping the congregation treasure, work for, and protect the health of their internal relationships.

I should interject here that this was not the only message I was working on at the time, nor do I usually work on only one sermon at a time. Each morning after working on the Romans 12 sermon, I would move on to other messages, all of them in various stages of preparedness. ➤

Finally, on the Thursday before the Sunday I preached the sermon, the Lord showed me the outline for the sermon. (I am not saying loosely or casually that “the Lord showed me.” I believe He is in charge of every detail of a sermon, if the preacher will lean on Him sufficiently.) He gave me three points to illustrate the themes from Romans 12: Foundation, Framework, and Finishing.

I organized the supporting statements from the passage for each of the points, and only then did I begin to craft the actual text of the sermon.

Now, was the sermon ready to be preached? Not even close. If I had stood at that moment and preached the sermon as it existed in my head and heart, it would have easily taken two hours. I was a long way from preaching it.

At this point in the process, I typically take some walks or a drive—solitude in the car is a great time to go over a sermon—and preach through the message several times. Each time, I get a better feel for what needs to be included, emphasized, or omitted in the sermon. I also comb the books in my study looking for supporting insights, in this case on church health. Some were helpful, but most were not. This research does not consume a great deal of my time; it is frequently done in spare moments when I am taking a break from something else. This last portion of the preparation—practicing and refining the message—is just as Holy Spirit-dependent as any

other part. “Unless the Lord build the house”—and that’s what I was trying to do in this message with the Foundation, Framework, and Finishing—“they labour in vain who build it.” (Psalm 127:1)

Suffice to say, preaching is hard work and not for sissies. It’s definitely not for the faint of heart or couch potatoes.

**Now you see why we keep encouraging churches to pray for their pastors/teachers!** □

### Your Reference Group

Have you ever noticed that whenever you read that the richest people in the world, like Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, have made another billion dollars this year, that it has little effect on you, but when your neighbour buys a new European car you are overtaken with envy? It’s odd isn’t it?

That’s because we don’t compare ourselves with everyone in the world, not the poorest nor the wealthiest. We have a reference group that we use as a benchmark on how we are doing in life. If we fall behind our reference group we feel depressed.

It’s foolish really. There are billions of people far worse off than us but we take our cues from a small number of people in our reference group to determine our wellbeing.

It is why the Bible tells us to learn to be content with whatever we have.



This “Corner” (normally two pages) has again been expanded by 50% because of the continuing need to work and communicate on-line which has become necessary for many people.

As usual in the 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 or other device.

**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 as usual **but**, as a ‘Covid Special’, this August issue will also be available to those subscribers who normally only purchase a paper version. Just send me your request via email and you will receive a PDF copy within a day.

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

[nswaem.org.au/Mag/overview.html](https://nswaem.org.au/Mag/overview.html)

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No doubt most readers would have heard by now of the online resource **ZOOM**. It is a very extensive ‘platform’ used in many countries of the world, in the fields of education, business of many types and sizes, and of course

church meetings and home groups. You can learn much about it on the main website:-

<https://zoom.us>

There you will find lots of helpful material, training videos, and technical information, plus the download page to obtain your free copy of the program for a wide range of computer operating systems and mobile devices.

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**Cyndee Ownbey** serves as a mentor to thousands of women’s ministry leaders through her website Women’s Ministry Toolbox.

[womensministrytoolbox.com](https://womensministrytoolbox.com)

This virtual toolbox provides practical tips, encouragement, and resources gleaned from almost 20 years of ministry experience. She assists leaders in creating relevant events and activities that meet the changing needs of the women in their church and community. Cyndee is passionate about pointing women to Christ and teaching them how to dig into the Word of God.

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“**Faithit** is on a mission to tip the scale and shed more light in dark places.”  
The website:

[faithit.com](https://faithit.com)

has hundreds of uplifting true-life stories in these categories:-

Spiritual; Relationships;  
Parenting; Inspirational;  
Entertainment; Causes.

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Many readers would know of **John and Sharon Thomson** who work with Wycliffe Bible Translators. John is a 'whiz' on software development for use by missionaries. In recent years the program **Bloom** has grown in importance and scope. It makes it easy to create simple books and translate them into multiple languages. Visit:

[bloomlibrary.org](http://bloomlibrary.org)

Praise God: there are now 6,193 books available to use and translate in the Bloom library!

Pray for Sharon's renewed efforts to write more regularly in her blog:

[ashighastheheavens.blogspot.com](http://ashighastheheavens.blogspot.com)

\* \* \*

**Youth For Christ** in Australia has launched a strategy called "Save the Lost Boys" which is providing resources for engaging in the spiritual battle for our young men. Scripture warns that the enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy and this is exactly what is happening to our young men - anxiety, porn addiction, suicide and confusion. In her new book, **Lost Boys**, the National Director, Cindy McGarvie, uses her military background and extensive research to illuminate the current cultural situation and encourage the church to engage in this epic spiritual battle. Read more at:

[yfc.org.au](http://yfc.org.au)

YFC also has another project — **The Jesus Campaign** — to Identify, Train and Release 156 Missionaries to Australian young people over the next 36 months! That's one missionary for

each federal electorate (151 regions) in Australia and five online evangelists.

The third major initiative is the **Hope Project**. YFC want to provide young people with opportunities to discover and explore the hope of Jesus through their social media channels.

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The **Church Leaders website** puts out regular emails of interest to help and inform various parts of a church's leadership team, but is perhaps somewhat biased towards the USA churches scene:-

[churchleaders.com](http://churchleaders.com)

It also includes a Podcast section.

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If you have an interest in writing about Christian issues via prose or poetry, and especially if you are a woman, you may well gain by reading the Pia Horan-Gross website:-

<https://piahorangross.com>

She has a section called "Resources" which has useful items for would-be authors. Here is one resource, from Max Lucado:-

[maxlucado.com/writing-corner-tips-tools-aspiring-authors-artists/](http://maxlucado.com/writing-corner-tips-tools-aspiring-authors-artists/)

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In an email from CCCVAT on 3<sup>rd</sup> August it mentioned there are some music videos, by church music teams in Victoria, that we can use on line, or in our normal church services, for free. These are at:-

[cccvat.com.au/church-support/videos/music](http://cccvat.com.au/church-support/videos/music)

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The **Eternity** newspaper is still published in print as part of a Bible Society publication, but not as frequently as the online version which comes out weekly as an email, usually on a Friday. You can subscribe (free) to **Eternity News** by visiting the website:-

[www.eternews.com.au](http://www.eternews.com.au)

You can also follow all the news articles there, or on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube if you wish. There is a wide range of articles, uplifting stories and news from within Oz and all over the world.

The issue on 12<sup>th</sup> August contained an interesting interview with Martyn Iles, the new Managing Director of the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) based in Canberra. Martyn took over the reins of ACL from Lyle Shelton, who recently resigned to pursue a career in federal politics.

Martyn is the youngest of five children, and his father was a doctor in Brisbane. Martyn said "My family is very Christian. Church was a very key part of our life. We went to a church where most of the ministry staff were lay pastors and lay ministry people, and Dad was one of those – he was an elder and a Bible teacher. So, I was influenced all the time by that stuff, and became convicted about it very young." (They were Christian Brethren!)

"I'm named after Martyn Lloyd Jones, who was a very famous preacher in London in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, and a theologically very robust guy. So, when I was in my early teens I got stuck into Martyn Lloyd Jones, listening to

his sermons, and that really lit a fire within me."

It is an interesting story how Martyn ended up studying law at the University of Queensland and got his Bachelor's degree in Law. He then went to Canberra where he was offered a role with the Australian Christian Lobby as Chief of Staff, which he did for two years. "Then I moved into the Human Rights Law Alliance, which is the legal arm of the ACL – a new initiative where they take on cases where Christians get into trouble with the law for living out their faith."

Martyn is a very articulate man. The whole article is very interesting and can be read, or listened to, here:-

[www.eternews.com.au/australia/who-is-martyn-iles/](http://www.eternews.com.au/australia/who-is-martyn-iles/)

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The August edition of "New Life" – Australia's Christian newspaper – "TELLING THE GREAT WORKS OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD TODAY" is available online in PDF format here:-

[www.nlife.com.au/PDFs/NL\\_2020-08-15.pdf](http://www.nlife.com.au/PDFs/NL_2020-08-15.pdf)

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**Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the October 2020 magazine on, or before, 18<sup>th</sup> September.**

## 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 on the website:-  
[www.nswaem.org.au](http://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.