



ASSEMBLIES  
**Outreach**

**December 2014**



## **Camp Kedron report** (see pages 9 & 10)

**Also in this issue:** Prayer for NSW Assemblies  
News from Commended Workers  
CBCS Annual Report 2013/14  
Women's Mission Convention 2014  
Internet Corner  
(... and more)

The NSWAEM publishes this bi-monthly magazine to offer opportunities for NSW Home Workers, Assemblies, Para-Assembly Activities and other kindred bodies, to share information about their ministries, to encourage others, and to foster 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 **February 2015 issue before:- 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015**

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# First Glance

by Colin Winrow, Editor.



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this December issue of the NSW *Assemblies Outreach* magazine. I trust you will receive your copy well before Christmas, so that my wishes – for you and your family to have a wonderful and worshipful Christmas & New-Year holiday period – will reach you in time. These wishes also come from everyone associated with its production.

In October, this column mentioned a hope to encourage younger people to not only become readers of the NSW *Assemblies Outreach* magazine, but also to contribute by sending text and pictures about things in which their generation will be interested and encouraged. One brother wrote in an email “With regards to your request for readers of our younger generation, I suggest Youth Leaders be invited to submit reports of their activities including testimonies and articles to which they can relate. Maybe allocate a couple of pages for their contributions.”

I’m happy to do that, and in this context, I’m keen to see what results from the VITAL 2.0 conference at Camp Toukley in January. I hope all readers will pray for the attendees of that conference, especially the younger ones, and for the people organising it.

This season is one of much giving and receiving of presents - perhaps more than at any other time of year.

It causes me to think a lot about how God sees giving and stewardship of all the good things the Lord has put in our care. Here are just a few passages of Scripture you may like to read about His Kingdom values:-

- Luke 21:1 to 4; Luke 16:10 to 13
- Luke 12:13 to 34; Math 5:40 to 48
- Matt 6:1 to 4; Luke 6:29 to 38
- Acts 20:35; James 4:2b to 3
- 1 Peter 4: 7 to 11; John 10:11 to 18.

God Bless.



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# '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 640, Burwood, NSW 1805, 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)

\*\*\*

On 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, the current assemblies at **Burwood Gospel Chapel** celebrated 50 years of continuous witness in that building. A joint Thanksgiving Service was held to praise God for His faithfulness in all that time.

In early January, the two congregations, English speaking and Korean, will be temporarily re-locating to worship in the Abbotsford Gospel Hall whilst the Burwood site undergoes major redevelopment. The owners, Stewards Foundation, expect to make an announcement very soon that full approval has been received to start. The plan is to have a new church rebuilt on the ground floor of a high rise building. It will also contain space for Emmaus Bible College and Stewards and CCAust offices (plus others) but will mainly contain residential units.

\*\*\*

A Note from Sanctuary Christian Church, Rouse Hill: – Lyn Vergera wrote:-

“Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, we’ve had to postpone the **Restore Concert** that was to be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 at Rouse Hill Public School, Clower Avenue.

“My apologies for the inconvenience this may cause for those you have informed and may wish to attend and I hope everyone will remain supportive of our cause. The new date will be Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2015.”

\*\*\*

This issue of *Assemblies Outreach* Magazine contains a removable copy of the Annual Report of Christian Brethren Community Services (CBCS), which operates four large facilities offering support and care for people in retirement. The report mentions that Peter Mackie, the long-serving CEO, retired in November and has handed over to a new General Manager, Mr Martin Watkins.

\*\*\*

The “Awake To Israel” (ATI) ministry in NSW has enjoyed good ministry of God’s Word this year, including a visit by the BeerSheva pastor, Howard Bass, in October, and at the seminar in November, titled “Kings & Prophets”. The meetings will continue next year, starting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in February, as detailed in the list of “Meetings & Events” opposite. Another camp is being planned for July 2015.

\*\*\*



## Meetings & Events

(Note: for the **latest details** please be sure to check at these websites:-

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

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

### 2014:

25 Dec **CHRISTMAS DAY.**

### 2015:

16 Jan **Vital 2.0 Youth Conference** at Lutanda Camp  
to  
18 Jan Toukley.

5 Feb **NSW Coordinating Conference;** 7.30pm at Emmaus Bible College, 82 Waterloo Road, Macquarie Park. (This meeting includes the election of the Chairman.)

14 Feb **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

15 Feb **National Day of Prayer & Fasting**

18 Feb **Prayer for Israel** at Epping Gospel Chapel; 10am to 12.

28 Feb **'Restore' Concert** at Sanctuary Christian Church, Rouse Hill.

14 Mar **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

21 Mar **"And God Said ..." Bible Conference** at Lithgow Bible Church.

27,28 Mar **Build 2015, Men's Conference** at Camp Toukley.

11 Apr **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

7 May **NSW Coordinating Conference;** 7.30pm; venue TBA.

9 May **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

13 Jun **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

20 Jun **"And God Said ..." Bible Conference ;** venue TBA.

11 Jul **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

6 Aug **NSW Coordinating Conference;** 7.30pm; venue TBA.

8 Aug **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

29 Aug **"And God Said ..." Bible Conference;** venue TBA.

12 Sep **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

10 Oct **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

5 Nov **NSW Coordinating Conference;** 7.30pm; venue TBA.

14 Nov **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.



**Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the February 2015 magazine on, or before, 19<sup>th</sup> January.**

# Prayer & Praise requests from NSW Assemblies

compiled by Brad Scott & Sonny Ng

## General Prayer Points:

- ☆ Pray for our Church leaders that they will be open to the Spirit's leading as they lead our churches.
- ☆ Pray for our Government officials, that they will honour God by the decisions that are made.
- ☆ Pray for SRE (Scripture) in NSW as it is about to be reviewed by our Politicians.
- ☆ Pray for the Christians in Iraq, Syria and the Middle East who continue to face severe persecution for their faith and for our Government as they commit to protecting the vulnerable.
- ☆ Pray for those adversely affected by gambling in our communities.
- ☆ Pray for the Boards of our para-church ministries as they lead and provide vision for these ministries: Lutanda, Stewards, Emmaus, CBCS, GLO, CMS, AEM, ACM (Armenian Christian Mission).
- ☆ Pray that we as churches might be balanced in serving our Lord. In the Word, obedient to the Spirit and acting in mercy to those around us.



## Campbelltown Christian Community Church

### Our Congregation:

- ☆ Pray for spiritual growth that we may become increasingly like our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, walking in step with the Holy Spirit.
- ☆ Praise that there is spiritual evidence in the lives of many within our congregation

### Our Elders and Deacons:

- ☆ Pray that they might lead and serve our church with spiritual wisdom and humility, faithfully holding the truths of the Word of God.
- ☆ Praise for the harmony that is evident as they work together

### Our Young People:

- ☆ Pray for the many who have been or soon will be married
- ☆ Pray that God may be the centre of their relationship.
- ☆ Praise for their spiritual growth.

### Our Outreach:

- ☆ Pray for our witness to our community through personal contacts and activities such as School Scripture, Playgroup, TV & Radio ministries.
- ☆ Praise God for those willing to work in these ministries and the impact that is already evident.
- ☆ Pray that our witness might have an impact on those who hear the preaching of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ➤

### **Campsie Community Church**

#### **Praise God for:**

- ☆ The number of people coming to Christ and for those who have been baptised.
- ☆ The spiritual growth in these people as they live by the Spirit, despite past oppressive lifestyles.

#### **Pray for:**

- ☆ Protection for the church leaders as they present Christ and come under attack from Satan as they wrestle for souls.
- ☆ Protection from the evil one for those who are learning to walk the Christian walk.

### **Cartwright Gospel Chapel**

#### **Praise God fo:**

- ☆ Sending to this church an enthusiastic young gifted Bible teacher (which this church has needed for a long time).
- ☆ The commencement of the new Young Adults ministry and the renewed enthusiasm it has already created.

#### **Pray for:**

- ☆ The new Young Adults ministry - which includes a monthly meeting for Bible study & activities - pray for spiritual growth.
- ☆ Cartwright Community - pray for outreach opportunities.

- ☆ Alcoholics Anonymous Group - pray for opportunities to reach out to this group which is expected to commence meeting in our church building in the new year.

### **Macquarie Hills Christian Fellowship**

#### **Praise God:**

- ☆ That the church name change from 'Cardiff Gospel Hall' to 'Macquarie Hills Christian Fellowship' went through with minimal disruption. We trust that blessing will follow this change.
- ☆ For the encouragement received in the past year from visiting guest speakers; missionaries; our Spring Conference; and growth of the ladies KYB and youth program.

#### **Pray for:**

- ☆ Sunday School and Youth Group final program for 2014 and for a safe holiday as they break for Christmas / New Year.
- ☆ Elders – as they plan for the 2015 programme.

### **Faith Community Church, Blacktown**

**Brief Report:** The church is having a slow progress this year; the Elders & members have been praying and trying to find open doors to reach out to the local schools and the people in the neighbourhood. The number of Muslim and Hindu families has grown >8



big. There was a little success but no opportunity to carry out a permanent outreach ministry yet.

However, God is able to open up other opportunities for our Church workers to serve other Christian fellowships through the preaching and teaching of His Word. Sad to say that there has been no baptisms yet for this year; but we have many visitors who came to look us up.

**Praise & Thanks To Our Gracious God for:**

- ☆ His faithfulness in keeping the fellowship going and united through these tough months. Though some families have left the fellowship, the core still remains warm and strong in the Lord.
- ☆ His abundant grace and help to our members who are able to find work and support their families; and also to support the Christian workers in our midst. (CCCAust has stopped supporting three of our workers due to a change of policy on funds distribution.)

**Pray for:**

- ☆ Our church members to grow in the knowledge of God and in our faith. Pray for some families who have gone spiritually cold – that God will revive their faith and love for Him and His people.
- ☆ Support for our Sunday School teachers in their good work for

the small group of children. They are Steve Walker, Mui Kiang, Sandra Barrington & Remy Tan.

- ☆ Pray for John & Remy who are praying for God's confirmation regarding the plan to join Wycliffe Ministry in Victoria in the coming year.
- ☆ Bible Teaching Ministry – pray for Steve Walker who has been helping at North Parramatta Church once a month; Also for Steven Yew who has been preaching once a month at the Filipino Fellowship in Blacktown.
- ☆ Pray for our senior members' health - Laurie Cowell & Margaret, Sonny Ng & Juno. Praise God they have been feeling good for this whole year.
- ☆ Pray for the church leaders – Richard, Johan, Steve, Sonny & John (chairperson) in their pastoral ministry and for leadership. We need courage and good teamwork to encourage the church to grow in numbers and spiritual matters.



**Please submit any news-items, letters, adverts or short articles for the February 2015 magazine on, or before, 19<sup>th</sup> January.**





*'Aerobics with a Difference!'  
on Leadership Camp*

This year, 2014, has been a very happy one at Camp Kedron as many young people have passed through our doors and heard the Good News of salvation as well as having many exciting and fun experiences. We are particularly thankful for safety and protection of each camp worker, leader and camper, and we thank the Lord for His blessings upon us.

Throughout the year on weekdays, a steady flow of school students have visited for 2 or 3 day camps. Many are band camps where a cacophony of music emanates around the buildings from a variety of musical instruments. Either Greg Clark or Bruce Marlin have the great opportunity to explain the Gospel to each of these groups at a "Christian Life Education" session where an invitation to come to a holiday camp(s) is also given. A bonus is that some teachers who supervise the

*'...a steady flow  
of school students  
have visited...'*

children, also hear the message. Most school groups re-book to return every year so a very good rapport develops between our camp staff and these school groups.

During the year large playground equipment was offered to our campsite free of charge by a South Coast Council. After many hours of hard work, Dave Smith from St Ives Community Church, using his heavy earth-moving equipment, levelled a suitable area upon which the structure was erected with some further hard, hot work from camp staff. Now we have an attractive playground where younger campers enjoy themselves during "free time".

Presently, upgrades are being undertaken to the climbing wall equipment to make it challenging and safer for climbers who so enjoy the challenges provided. The gymnasium is

always a sought after venue for competitive games as well as the popular table tennis area.

The archery range, which has to be carefully supervised, provides another excellent activity as well as variety for campers to enjoy.

During September, there was a high demand for places in our Primary camp, so much so, that every place was taken up on the first day that registration was offered. The theme was 'Down On the Farm' and campers

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delighted in the bus trip to Annangrove to experience a working farm where they had opportunities to milk cows and pet a variety of farm animals as well as many other activities. Studies were led by Neil Clark who presented the Gospel clearly each day using puppetry and a variety of interesting visual aids.

The High School camp which followed, was also well attended with a great attraction being camping out at Windsor and water skiing during the day. Bible teaching sessions by Ben Grisez, were very challenging and appreciated by the teenagers.

Our catering staff provide interesting and delicious meals for all campers, often transporting cooking and refrigeration equipment, plus food, to off-site venues where hunger prevails after physical activity. Young people are generally voracious eaters!

In conclusion, we offer praise to our faithful and wonderful God for giving so many opportunities throughout the year to present opportunities to lead young people to Jesus Christ as Saviour and for His goodness in so many ways.

For more information about this campsite and its ministry, visit:-

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

and its Facebook page.

The camp site is on Emmaus Road, Ingleside, NSW, and the phone number is (02) 9450 1296.



*Team activities and challenges*



*Plenty of fun*



*Camp leaders, Tash and Tessa*



# Logosdor - provides resources for children's ministry

by James Gow

**Logosdor**, based in the northern suburbs of Sydney, is a creative, innovative and unique children's ministry agency serving children, leaders, churches and other agencies in almost every nation on earth. The vision of Logosdor is to use contemporary, cutting edge creativity to communicate Jesus to the 2.2 billion children of the world.

Logosdor's creative work spans live productions, video, internet, sports and games outreach, animation, curriculum development, graphic design, music, training and much more.

After a number of years doing large-scale productions for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and writing, producing and exporting Children's Ministry resources, we came to realise that most people around the world can't access quality resources for children's evangelism and discipleship.

Consequently in 2007 Logosdor decided to give away everything that it creates. Now, through technology, partnership, a serving spirit and a willingness to give resources freely, millions more children are being impacted. We are challenging the way the body of Christ typically thinks about ministry.

It is estimated that in 2013 over 15 million children heard the gospel message as a consequence of the work of Logosdor. In addition to that we trained 60,000 leaders in how to engage with children and young people for the sake of the gospel. These leaders are now training others and running children's ministry outreach events across the globe.

KidsGames, an outreach movement that ties a Bible curriculum to a sports and games programme is one example of the work Logosdor is involved in. KidsGames has a flexible structure, varying from a week-long holiday-club type outreach to a 10 week summer holiday programme in some nations. As an example of its scale – in just the first 3 months of 2014 over 500,000 children attended KidsGames in India alone.

Logosdor trains leaders all over the world in how to host KidsGames events. David, one of Logosdor's team, first visited Peru in April 2012 to do KidsGames training and to help build a local team. From that initial work KidsGames started to spread across the country – within 4 months KidsGames was occurring in the Peruvian jungles as well as the capital, Lima. The impact of the leadership training and KidsGames in Peru has been profound with more and more local leaders interested in being equipped so they can reach out to children.

David recently trained 36 leaders from 23 churches across Lima with very positive feedback.

"We see the hand of God. As a church we have been praying to build a youth ministry that can impact this generation and then here you come with your teaching and resources. Incredible teachings over everything we want to learn. With new creative ways that impact lives. Glory to God. Thank you for everything." Maria, La Mies, Cuzco.

**KidsHubs, another idea Logosdor is working on**, is about helping children >12

understand how Jesus is part of our ordinary lives. The KidsHubs concept is designed to train children at a younger age with life skills (for example – media, sports, computers, cooking, puppetry, market gardening, drama) so they are leaders in their community for the gospel.

Recently two of Logosdor's team travelled to Africa to train local leaders in KidsHubs discipleship lessons. Here's a quick snapshot of some of the outcomes from the trip.

**Uganda** – Logosdor trained 40 leaders from 4 countries and 18 children in KidsHubs Media. The following day these newly trained leaders filmed and interviewed a number of children who are part of a local KidsHub in one of the slums of Kampala. A young boy of 16 years who is part of the KidsHubs, helped them film a segment on how to make coal briquettes for fuel. He presented a 'Let's Do it' segment showing how they take dried banana leaves and turn them into fuel bricks they can sell to raise funds for their school fees.

The leaders trained spoke of previously have been overwhelmed at the idea of creating their own videos, an impossible task with expensive equipment they did not own. However after the training they shared how their views had completely changed – they were returning home to make use of their mobile phones, simple cameras and free editing software to create KidsHubs videos to share.

**Kenya** – A young woman from Kenya who manages a children's curriculum organisation went home to start KidsHubs amongst children at a hospital in Nairobi, many of whom have been abandoned by their parents. She said that with KidsHubs her whole perspective in how to engage children with the Gospel had changed – that it need not just be in churches but could be anywhere in the community, wherever children are – with KidsHubs it is possible.

**Tanzania** – Logosdor met with a team running a radio programme hosted entirely by children. Joyce, manager from Top Radio Tanzania, said "KidsHubs has changed the approach of the radio show. We used the principles of KidsHubs and involved the children; we let them run the entire one-hour show. We were amazed to see the results."

**Liberia** – About 80 leaders and 60 children in Monrovia were trained in media and discipleship – just days before the borders closed due to the Ebola virus.

The leaders who attended had never been to a ministry training of this kind before. Learning about KidsHubs expanded their vision to reach out to children and be an influence in their homes and in their society.

[Information websites for Logosdor and its activities are included in 'Internet Corner' on page 26 – Ed.]



# News from some Commended Workers

## Ken & Daphne Harding 7 October 2014

Sorry to be so long in replying to your request but here are a few points for praise and prayer.

We have been through a very busy year so far. This has included four trips by car to Brisbane. Three for family funerals, one included a wedding, and one to look after an elderly relative in order to give her family some respite.

Then too, I'm constantly away for ministry, Gospel preaching and conferences. Some have just been one message while others have been a series of several during a weekend. So far this year we have been to Newcastle three times, and then to the Central Coast, South Coast, Canberra, Dubbo as well as across Sydney and Blue Mountains. We do so appreciate the prayers of all the Lord's people. Thank you for caring for us.

Praise:

- For protection in travel.
- For blessing in service including some who have come to Christ.
- For the necessary health and strength in spite of Ken's back problems and Daph's heart issues.

Prayer:

- For freshness in our ministry which only comes as we wait on God and spend adequate time in His word.
- For continued health - we're hoping to avoid Daph needing a pacemaker. She saw the specialist this month and he will see her again in early 2015. Please pray Daphne can stay well and at peace

about the situation, and avoid having to have a pacemaker fitted.

- For fruit in the outreach here in Riverstone, and for spiritual and numerical growth in this assembly.

## Daya & Mary Nand 10 November 2014

May I firstly thank you for the Assemblies Outreach Magazine for its publications of news of workers and the Lord's work as well as the other general contents including the editorials. With regards to your request for readers of our younger generation, I suggest Youth Leaders be invited to submit reports of their activities including testimonies and articles to which they can relate. Maybe a couple of pages for their contributions.

The Assembly at the BANKSTOWN GOSPEL HALL has struggled through the year, with the determination of the small group, to "keep the doors open" for evangelism and biblical teaching. Believing that ONE child is important, the Sunday School has continued with only a few children. Among them is a Chinese lad who had no knowledge of God but became a believer and began witnessing at his school. We have also welcomed into our membership a Filipina widow who was a Roman Catholic with confused doctrines but was delivered with the powerful gospel of Christ. She recently distributed tracts in her street and regularly assists in some duties in the church and is very keen in learning more. The ministry of "Hands and Feet" with the distribution of food has commenced weekly and people served





have been making enquiries regarding spiritual issues. A few of our members are assisting with this practical service meeting the needs of the poor. Although small in number we recently contributed financially to missions and workers and were so encouraged to receive acknowledgements of needs being met.

We also were really blessed by the performance of the Sydney Festival Male Voice Choir who came knowing we were only a very small group but reminded us of the special bond that exists between us, because the Choir actually was formed at our Gospel Hall many years ago!

On a personal note of praise to the Lord, is the return of our daughter and husband to an Assembly after an absence of many years.

Future plans include Sunday afternoon Bible Studies and improving our Sunday Gospel Services and welcoming fellowship with the Samoans and Fijians.

Please continue to pray for us and we trust you will all have a wonderful Christmas and a coming year of the blessings of the Lord.

**Aaron & Shelly Daniell**  
**4 November 2014**  
(email extracts)

Dear Friends

For some time now we (at AFCI) have been praying and working hard towards launching EvangelismSHIFT, a two year initiative with local churches to change the culture of their congregations to one of living as a personal witness for Jesus.

Well, this month we have officially started EvangelismSHIFT in our first church! Recently we travelled to Perth (WA) to share our vision for EvangelismSHIFT with the Elders of Woodvale Baptist Church.

It was wonderful to experience the unity as a group of 47 elders, pastors, ministry leaders and small group leaders came together on a Saturday for purposeful conversation around developing their church in living as a witness. And then, on Sunday to be with the wider church body to worship our Lord together.

Thank you for the part you play in supporting us in the Lord's work and making this possible. The pastor of Woodvale Baptist commented:

"Thank you so much for your ministry to our people and to me personally, over the last weekend. I believe the Lord has brought us together for such a time as this. As one of our staff members pointed out this morning, this will impact more than just our evangelism but also how we see every person around us!"

Happy Birthdays: Shelly for the 11<sup>th</sup> October and our son Jacob for the 20<sup>th</sup> October. We praise God for His faithfulness and for another year sharing life's adventure together. Jacob loves being almost as tall as his mum.

Please Pray:

For God's continuing provision and protection over us as a family and the ministry of AFCI;

For wisdom, discernment and a sensitivity to the Lord's leading with increasing opportunities.





**Geoff & Liz Folland**

**24 October 2014**

(email extracts)

*Summer Project...*

We are so excited that so many of our new students have decided to go on SummerSalt Central Coast this summer. We have so many first year students involved at Sydney Uni and Uni of Notre Dame - students who hadn't heard of Summer Project before last July - that we are amazed God has drawn so many of them to this vital project where they will get to meet student leaders from other campuses and learn key ministry skills.

We look forward to seeing the fruit of this on campus next year.

**28 Nov 2014**

*Upcoming Trip*

We are excited to be catching up with so many friends and ministry partners on our upcoming trip to the US as we celebrate Liz's 30 years in ministry and my 20 years. We've planned four "open houses" in the US and hope that everyone who is near one can make it. You can find the details in our October prayer letter.

Please pray for safety and health as we travel to these States: NY, IN, CO, WY, MT and AZ on this trip.

*Pray for Summer Pulse*

Summer Pulse is a gathering of current and new uni students from across Sydney. It'll be a great opportunity for students to make new friends who will help them settle into their campus well. Please pass on the invite to anyone you know who may be starting uni in 2015. The first one

is being held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. For the latest information, check out the Facebook event. Other gatherings will be on 15<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

*Study Abroad with Cru*

Finally, I've been talking with Cru in the US about their study-abroad program. If you know any students who are heading overseas on exchange - whether they are US students heading to Sydney or Aussies heading elsewhere - then encourage them to check out this website:

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

[You can read more about Cru, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ in "Internet Corner", see page 25 in this magazine. — Ed]

We really appreciate your prayers and your partnership with us. We couldn't do this ministry without you!

**Colin & Mavis Winrow**

**5 December 2014**

We continue to enjoy all facets of the ministries which the Lord has given us, but we are looking forward to the short break at Christmas.

We will take a brief trip by train to Queensland for Mavis' sister Joan's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Then (DV) we hope to spend almost three weeks in January/February at our daughter's home in Traralgon, Victoria.

Please continue to uphold us both in your prayers, we value this so much.

May God bless you all abundantly at this Special Season as we all celebrate God's love to mankind in sending the Lord Jesus Christ to earth.





Some say we are not commanded to observe the day of Christ's birth while others are actually opposed because according to them it is of a pagan origin. In contrast, the vast majority of Christians observe it with much joy, with family gatherings, holidays, feasting and presents. Still others think that the real message of Christmas is really lost because it is too commercialized and profiteering.

As a guide we have the principle of God's Word in Romans 14:5ff: "one man esteemeth one day above another ... let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind ... he regardeth it as unto the Lord ... why dost thou judge thy brother ... follow after peace and things wherewith one may edify one another."

We can surely rejoice that Christ is preached through Christmas cards, carols in shops and in parks, TV messages and literature and of course by personal evangelism.

It is so important to differentiate between doctrines that are Scriptural, unscriptural and non-scriptural. We agree that the Christmas story is non-scriptural because its observance is not commanded but the contents are very Scriptural. The cults are so opposed to it for obvious reasons!

Let us connect the command of the observance of the Lord's Supper to that of Christmas.

The emblems of bread and wine represent the body and blood of Christ. Therefore the Incarnation (God becoming a real human being) is embedded

inseparably with the emblems. Our Lord did not take upon Himself the nature of angels. So this essential doctrine of "God manifest in the flesh ... made in the likeness of men" are truths clearly declared in some of the carols. "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the Incarnate Deity, pleased as Man with men to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel (God with us.) The angelic host rejoiced at the announcement of the birth of Christ and so should we.

Some of the fundamental doctrines of the Christmas story are:

\* Christ's virgin birth which also confirms the trustworthiness of the Holy Scriptures because of its prophetic and literal fulfilments. The virgin birth testifies to the absolute purity, sinlessness and perfection of Christ which were so essential to qualify Him to be the supreme Sacrifice and Saviour of the world.

\* The great love of God in sending His beloved Son to save sinners.

\* The union of the two natures of Christ as the God-Man.

\* His incarnation enabled Him to be the spotless Lamb of God.

\* His becoming Man led Him to shed His precious blood as the only means of the forgiveness of sin and redemption.

\* He was the promised Seed of the woman to destroy the power of Satan and death.

\* He was the promised Seed of Abraham through Whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed. ➤17

The observance of Christmas supersedes traditions and interpretations.

Let us "Rejoice and be glad, the Redeemer has come, go look at His cradle, His cross and His tomb"

Add your contribution to these tremendous truths and refrain from wrapping them in swaddling clothes and confining Him to the manger!

The Lord Jesus Christ's command to His disciples was (and is) to preach the Gospel in all the world – which command most certainly includes the Christmas story!



*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will  
be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.  
Of the greatness of his  
government and peace  
there will be no end.*

*(Isaiah 9:6-7a. NIV)*

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# Are your volunteers Disciples or Disposable?

by Steven Caton, a writer for  
Christian Computing Magazine

Think of a Sunday morning service where you see the pastor get up on the platform and ask for children's ministry volunteers. There is a twinge of hesitation in his voice (he's thinking... "are we really doing this AGAIN?"). But, they need volunteers for the children's ministry. It's getting to be a 'war zone' back there with just Rhonda and Debbie. Someone — anyone — please volunteer.

How compelled would you feel to oblige? How compelled do you think the person sitting next to you feels — he's awkward with children!

This is the approach many of us take, consciously or not, toward ministry in our churches: we have X slots to fill, so let's get people into them. It's robotic, it's impersonal, and it doesn't work very well.

Only the truly committed person volunteers when they're given a general call to serve from the pulpit — and many of those people still burn out quickly. Yet this is the reality in so many churches. Why? It's all because we're looking at volunteer ministry the wrong way. We see it as a way to get work done rather than a way to help people become more like Christ. If we shift our thinking, God can shift our results. He doesn't **need** to work through us; He **chose** to work through us because it helps us grow. God's not shoe-horning random people into a calling because He needs to fill a quota, so why should we do it?

If we want to transform our volunteer ministries, we have to move

towards inviting people based on where they will be fulfilled, rather than just where we need bodies. We have to develop the mindset that we are growing more than a volunteer army — we're growing disciples.

## Moving from 'filling slots' to 'growing disciples':-

**1. Know about them before asking them.** Frequently, the only information we go out of our way to collect about the people in our church is their contact information. We might also keep track of who's in their family and which of their kids has a debilitating peanut allergy, for example. But very rarely do we proactively go and collect information that will tell us who they are, what they're passionate about, or where they have skills they could use in ministry. The first step to knowing is figuring out what you need to know. What ministry opportunities are your people most passionate about? Where have they served before? What job skills do they have that could be applied to something unique, like a ministry performing free oil changes for single mums?

**2. Make what you learn usable.** Now that you have a framework of the types of information you want, the next step is obviously filling in those blanks with real information about people — but it's important to keep it where it's accessible. If Mike is getting to know David and Joe really well, but is keeping all that information in



his own head, what happens if there's a ministry opportunity that would be perfect for David but Mike hasn't heard about it? Or what if Mike moves away? It may feel impersonal to write down what you know about people in a centralised place — but it's actually the opposite. This is actually the key to connecting with them in a very personal way.

**3. Extend a personalised invitation.**

It's easy to find a ministry opportunity that will suit someone when you know what their passions, skills, and gifts are. Extend a personal invitation for them to serve somewhere you believe those passions and gifts will be used. People are much more likely to get involved and stay involved when they know you cared enough about them to extend that personal invitation to an opportunity that fits them well, rather than just announcing a need for volunteers from the platform.

It's true that you won't always land on the perfect opportunity right away, and sometimes your invitation will be declined. That's actually a good thing — listen to what they're saying! This is a chance for you to learn more about them as a person and find a place where they will really be happy to serve. It's always more important to find someone the **right** fit than just a fit.

**4. Stay connected.** Getting someone to say 'yes' to volunteering is not the end goal. It's the beginning of a new process. It's just as important to know how people are doing spiritually and in their new role as it was to learn

about them beforehand. If someone is getting burnt out, or feeling like a poor fit where they are, you want to know before things get worse! Continuing to pour into your volunteers is important for both the spiritual health of the people in the church and the health of the ministry as a whole. It lets people know you really do care about them, not just what they can do for you. It tells them you're invested in their discipleship.

**5. Avoid silos.** Those last four points are all about good process, and it is important to keep that consistent across every ministry in your church that develops and leverages volunteers. Don't implement these ideas just in your children's ministry but not in other areas. Make these principles consistent across the whole church so people have a great experience regardless of where they serve. Finally, try your best to support the process with your church's admin system.

There are probably many people in your church just waiting for the right opportunity to make a difference in ministry, if you just take the time to make it personal.

It's time to stop inadvertently treating volunteers as disposable and start pouring into them as **disciples of Jesus**.

**Invest the time and energy** into the lives of the people in your church, looking for a place where each one of them individually can thrive and grow, and your whole church will grow with them. □

# “Grace Amid Injustice”

Women’s Mission Convention 2014

by Mandy Juraev

On Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014, around 130 women from all over New South Wales gathered at Campbelltown Christian Community Church for the annual Women’s Mission Convention.

The theme for this year, “Grace Amid Injustice”, was introduced by our keynote speaker, Allison Howell. She traced the themes of grace and injustice through the Old Testament, coming to the conclusion that “The only way to overcome injustice is the path of God’s grace and reconciliation”, ultimately revealed in Jesus Christ.

She then moved into the New Testament, highlighting the terrible injustices faced by early Christians and quoting 1 Peter 1:6: “though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials”. The word translated as “all kinds” actually means “many colours or shades”. There were many colours of injustice suffered by first century Christians, including political, social, psychological and emotional.

However, in 1 Peter 4:10 they are encouraged to “serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms”. The word for “various forms” is the same word meaning “many colours”. So, “God has a colour of grace to match every colour of trial” and it is the service of His people that overcomes injustice in this world.

Whether it is running a development project for poor families in Mongolia, bringing God’s word to unreached river valleys in the Philippines, providing mental health care to remote islands in Indonesia, ministering to disabled children and their families in Central Asia, training ambassadors for the Creator God in Ghana, or living as servants of Christ here in Australia, “We are to be ministers and ambassadors of God’s grace amid injustice”.

Pil Soon Jennings spent eight years working in Mongolia with husband, Mark, from 2005-13. Christianity in Mongolia is only twenty years old and



sharing the gospel openly is not permitted. Pil Soon and her team used a community centre to make connections, including running a feeding program, educational project, library, family development and parenting program and elderly persons project. Pil Soon is now studying at WEC's Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies in Launceston, Tasmania, where Mark is teaching.

Our next speaker, Julie Ward, together with her husband, David, has been reaching out to a remote group in the Philippines known as the Palawanos who live in family groups along a river valley. After years of learning the language and culture, she recounted with tears how the people understood for the first time what God had done for them in Jesus' death and resurrection as God's word touched their hearts and changed their lives. They now no longer live in fear of the spirits in the trees because they know God's power.

Before lunch, Julie Loudon shared briefly that letters written by veteran

missionary Noela Elvery from 1961 onwards, and by Julie over the many years they have worked together, are to be published as a book, 'Letters Home', a fascinating and encouraging history of the faithfulness of God. [see page 23]

Following a fabulous lunch, Tricia Brown interviewed Ruth Pollock who is currently preparing to go to the isolated Maluku Islands in Indonesia to work in a clinic with Peter and Esther Scarborough. Ruth is a nurse and her husband, Leslie, is a clinical psychologist. They will be involved in providing a range of healthcare, including counselling abused children and teaching basic mental health, but need to build a team of financial supporters and prayer warriors before they go.

Sophia McCrindle returned to Australia a year ago after many years of service in Central Asia with her husband, Peter. She shared her reflections on the difference between God's kingdom and kingdoms of this world, using some examples from Central



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Asia where our brothers and sisters in Christ experience jail, death threats and bureaucratic harassment. In this hostile environment Christians are extending God's love in a practical way to disabled children and their families who are seen as being under a curse, and so they suffer shame, fear and isolation. She also challenged us on how we in Australia are standing against injustice, reminding us that grace is not deserved and we all need it.

Finally, Allison Howell shared with us from her thirty-three years of experience in Ghana where she has this year moved from a teaching to a research role at Akrofi-Christaller Institute. She shared a very appropriate quote after all that we had heard – "Mission

means to recognize what the Creator-Redeemer is doing in this world and try to do it with Him."

She gave examples from Ghana of the five marks of global mission: proclaiming the good news, teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers, responding to human need by loving service, seeking to transform unjust structures in society and striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain the earth.

The day ended with a challenge to us all to live our lives as ambassadors for the living Creator God wherever we are, administering His multi-faceted grace amid injustice.





## 'Letters Home' — a book review

A new book written and published by Noela Elvery & Julie Loudon;  
Reviewed here by Bronwen Cruikshank

In *Letters Home* **Noela Elvery** and **Julie Loudon** have opened a window into the story of their lives in ministry. First we set off to the Philippines in 1961 with Noela, and then we follow her recording work in many countries, even including war zones. Julie became one of Noela's trainees in 1984, and then the book includes her story. From 1992 Noela and Julie have been co-workers in audio ministries. Following the massacre in Nyankunde, DR of Congo in 2002, the Lord led them to add humanitarian work to their already busy schedule.

Noela and Julie have compiled and edited personal letters, diaries and newsletters into a very readable account of God's guidance and faithfulness as they willingly followed Him. The inclusion of personal letters to family gives insights into details of their lives which missionaries are not usually able to share with wider audiences.

Since the book covers a period of fifty-three years, it brings alive the conditions on the mission field before modern day communications, health care and relatively inexpensive air travel were available. One heartfelt plea for prayer not only provides many prayer matters but succinctly illustrates the daily challenges facing a 'field recordist', *"We need your prayers for patience, wisdom, adaptability, insight and foresight, right methods of approach in working with informants and missionaries, correct translations, excellent recordings,*



*Working Together, L to R: Julie Loudon, Acira and Berocan from DR of Congo, and Noela Elvery.*

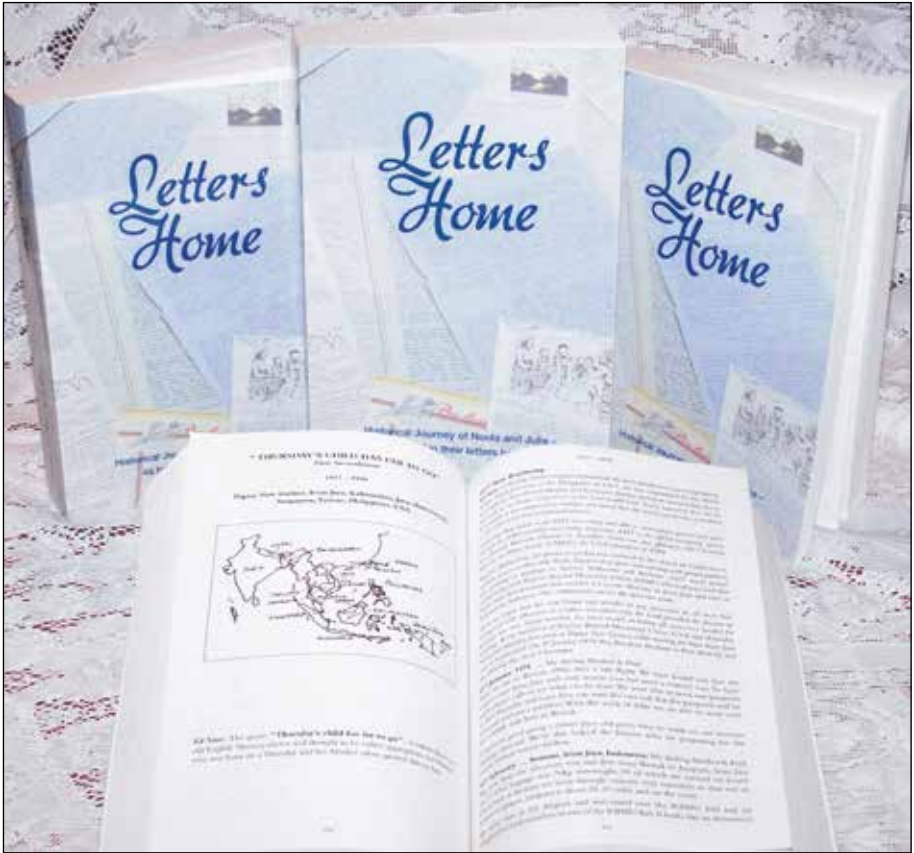
*recorders free of mechanical troubles and of course our health and protection. A week ago one of the buses careered off the windy mountain path and tumbled over a huge waterfall and lodged in seven fathoms of water. All were lost."*

Some sections of the book seem to be repetitive, but this helps to convey an accurate picture of the sheer hard work and the repetitive nature of their travel and ministry. Noela once wrote, *"Often we feel like Paul, "Pressed out of measure, beyond strength". I can't tell you all, it would fill a book!!!!"*

Now that they have filled a book, readers will be both inspired and encouraged by their record of how the Lord has led and used them in His service. They certainly give Him the glory for "It is His work." This book is well worth reading.

Please see overleaf for details on how to obtain this book.

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*'Letters Home'* is a 430 page book, selling for \$20 a copy (plus postage, if applicable) and is available through the following outlets:

Christian Outreach Book Service,  
PO Box 640  
Burwood, NSW 1805  
Phone: (02) 9715 5520  
Email: aemcobs@gmail.com

or

Julie Loudon – (02) 9546 4111  
Email: jlloudon@mail2me.com.au

AMT Office,  
PO Box 565  
Mt Gravatt, QLD 4122  
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or

Keith Cruickshank - 0412 020 457  
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\*\*\*

Information about **Logosdor** (see page 11) is on its main website:-

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

**Max7.org** espouses a strategy to resource leaders for the ongoing discipleship of children, helping them to follow Jesus 7 days a week.

Max7.org provides many of the resources needed to help disciple children – these resources are all free and are provided in multiple languages.

[www.max7.org](http://www.max7.org)

To date there have been over two million resources downloaded from this website.

The free **Max7 App** (short for “application”) allows users to now access the Max7 materials from a mobile device such as a smartphone or a Tablet.

**KidsHubs.com** is where you can learn more about KidsHubs discipleship lessons and access all the lessons. Why not start your own KidsHubs today?

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

**KidsGames.com** provides everything you need to know about running a KidsGames event as well as sharing news of KidsGames events around the world.

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

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Talking of resources for children's ministry, readers may want to visit the website:-

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

Dates in 2015 for Kidswise Training sessions for volunteers are now published for various locations in NSW. The specific web page is:-

<https://www.kidswise.com.au/training/kidswise-training-days>

The site claims "Quality resources at affordable rates that teach children the good news about Jesus."

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Briefly, some other sites worth visiting (or re-visiting) are:-

\* Creation Ministries International

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

\* 'New Life', Australia's Christian Newspaper is now available free by email or for downloading from:-

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

\* Christian Article Registry Depository (C.A.R.D.) - is a unique research site for Christian writers and editors. Just launched - it is an extensive online listing (easy to search) of Christian writers with their experience, writing genre, testimonials, samples of previous work, and contact details.

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

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Could the new NSWAEEM web site be operational by Christmas? Keep checking at:-

[www.nswaem.org.au](http://www.nswaem.org.au)



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- 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 read on the NSW Christian Brethren website at:-

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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.