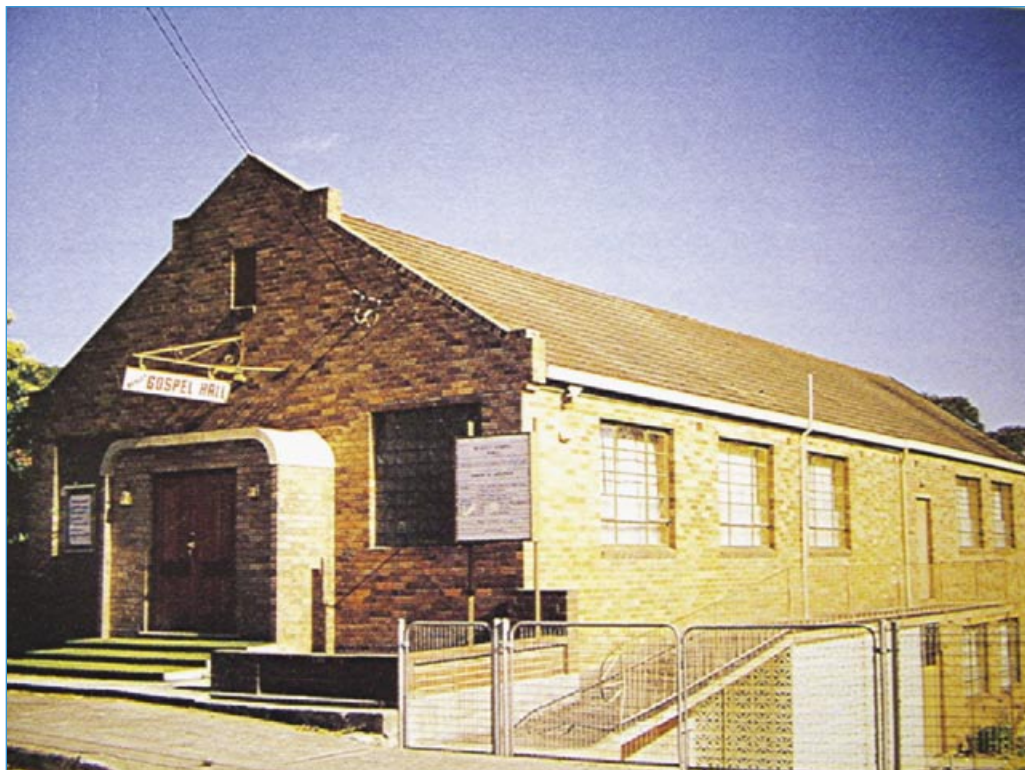




ASSEMBLIES
Outreach

February 2008

History of Bexley Christian Assembly (page 7)



Also in this issue:

**'Out and About' in NSW
William MacDonald obituary
News from Home Workers
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 and to foster prayer.

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Please contact the Editor (refer p31) with any inquiries about reproducing this material.

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

Please submit your assembly news, people profiles, letters, etc. for the **April 2008 issue before:-**

14 March 2008

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 Home Workers are to be held responsible for every view that may be expressed.

Editorial & Production Team:

Mr C. Winrow, Mr G. Hayden,
Mrs. D. Hayden, Mrs. M. Winrow.

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STEWARDS FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN BRETHREN

A Corporation Constituted in NSW by the Stewards' Foundation of Christian Brethren Act 1989

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Christ IS Coming

by Bruce Adams
reproduced with permission

For centuries Christian believers have expected the return of Christ in their lifetime.

It's still the same today as we respond to the teaching of Scripture that our Lord will return very soon. It's the message that drives many to Christ so that they will be ready and waiting for His return.

So where has He got to? And why the delay?

A careful reading of the parable of the ten virgins, which Jesus spoke concerning His coming, indicates delay.* There are also a number of reasons we glean from Scripture that explain the delay. Firstly, it is God's will that none should perish and that all men might be saved.**

God is exercising His prerogative as a gracious God in extending this period of grace so that no one should miss out.

The second is in line with the first. It's so that the gospel may spread to all corners of the earth – in order that everyone, everywhere, may have the opportunity to hear the good news of Christ.

Every missionary that ventures into a new field of service brings the day of Christ's return closer. We need not despair as His promise is sure, and it will arrive at a time least expected.

So, let us all make the best use of the time left – to spread the news of Jesus.

* cf. Luke 12:45, Matt 25:5

** 1Timothy 2:4

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'Out and About' in NSW Assemblies

If you attend a NSW assembly or 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 encourage people in NSW Assemblies. Short items (even one or two sentences) are welcome and can be mailed to the office at PO Box 640, Burwood, NSW 1805, or faxed to 9484 6054, or preferably e-mailed to:-

outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

Please e-mail your wording for Notices to include on the web site to:-

webadmin@cb-nsw.org.au

The first NSW Coordinating Conference for this year was held on 7th February at the Emmaus Bible College premises. Martin Johnson, from the Bible Society, NSW, brought news of the **JESUS, All about Life** campaign that will run in the Sydney area in the Sept/Oct 2009 period. A short overview on DVD was shown and copies of this, and an explanatory booklet, were given to those who attended. More information can be found by phoning 9888 6588 or visiting the web site:

www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au

After this, Brother Harry Kiujian from the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church at Northmead, showed pictures and spoke about their ministry in Armenia which takes many forms.

Two families were then recognised and prayed for as commended workers in NSW. Daya and Mary Nand are now commended by Bankstown and

Concord assemblies, and Tim and Carolyn McLaughlin are commended by President Avenue Community Church. The meeting was informed that due to declining health, Garry Warren has resigned from being pastor at St George Community Church, but the elders request on-going prayer for him and his family.

The NSW Christian Brethren Assemblies 2008 Information Handbook has now been published and will be mailed out to assemblies that could not collect it at the meeting. Extra copies can be obtained from Brad Scott, 9626 0055.

The above, and all other matters discussed at the meeting, will be covered in the Minutes to be issued shortly.

Meetings & Events

[Note: For the latest and more complete information please check the 'Coming Events' page on the NSW Christian Brethren web site at:-

www.cb-nsw.org.au/events.html

2008:

- 28 Feb to 1 March Gospel Meetings in the Christian Centre, Chullora, with Peter Brandon.
- 8 March 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 10-14 Mar Autumn Festival Retreat at Mt Victoria; ph 1300 733 189.
- 14 March Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.



- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| 21,23 Mar | Easter Conference Meetings at the Bexley Gospel Chapel; see pg 6. | | Conference at Phillip Island in Victoria – details are on pages 16 to 18. |
| 5 April | Research Fellowship meeting at Emmaus Bible College, 10.30am. | 13 June | Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545. |
| 11 April | Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545. | 13 June | Emmaus Bible College 1st Semester ends. |
| 12 April | 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm. | 14 June | 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm. |
| 12-17 Apr | Ministry of the Word, by Phil Coulson (UK) at Bexley Gospel Hall (see page 6). | 11 July | Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545. |
| 12-27 Apr | Emmaus mid-semester break. | 12 July | 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm. |
| 9 May | Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545. | 28 July | Emmaus Bible College 2nd Semester begins. |
| 9,10 May | Toukley Men's Conference, "Focus-Eyes on Eternity". | 8 Aug | Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545. |
| 10 May | 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm. | 9 Aug | 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm. |
| 12-16 May | Autumn Festival Retreat at Yarramundi; ph 1300 733 189. | 15-15 Aug | 'Reachout 2008' Missions Conference at Katoomba. |
| 31 May | Dr Rod Wilson (Canada) is speaking for 2 sessions at Riverstone Community Church. | 12 Sept | Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545. □ |
| 4 June | Dr Rod Wilson (Canada) is speaking at Raymond Terrace Community Church. | | |
| 6-8 June | Inaugural National Brethren | | |

PLEASE submit your items
for the April 2008 issue of
this magazine
BEFORE 14 March

AN INVITATION TO BEXLEY CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

**18 Abercorn Street, Bexley NSW 2270
Telephone enquiries (02) 9527 1203**

MARCH MEETINGS

EASTER CONFERENCE: FRIDAY 21st March (Good Friday)

4.00pm - 5.30pm Ministry
5.30pm - 6.30pm Refreshments
6.30pm - 6.45pm Spiritual Songs
6.45pm - 8.00pm Ministry

Speakers: MR ANSELEY FORGUS (W.A.)
MR GORDON LIDDLE (Bexley)

SUNDAY 23rd March (Easter Sunday)

4.00pm - 5.30pm Ministry
5.30pm - 6.15pm Refreshments
6.45pm - 7.45pm Gospel

APRIL MEETINGS

Speaker: MR PHILIP COLSON (UK)
Ministry of the Word -

**SATURDAY 12th April to THURSDAY 17th April at 7.45pm
(except Sunday 13th)**

LORD'S DAY 13th April - Gospel at 6.45pm

**All are given a cordial invitation to the above meetings
to be held in the will of the Lord**

The History of Bexley Assembly

by Victor Wilson

On 29th April 1770, when Lieutenant James Cook commanding the HM Bark *Endeavour* sailed into Botany Bay, he would have seen rising up from the western shore a great area of forest bounded by a long ridge. That area today is known as the St George District, and Bexley is one of the suburbs lying astride the summit of the ridge.

1946 was a year of social change as World War 2 had drawn to an end, and it was then that a small group of believers met for their inaugural meeting in the Bexley District Band Hall – a small fibro cement tin-roofed structure, to ‘break bread’ on Lord’s Day, 15th December 1946. The eighteen believers who came together were residing in this area and came from four assemblies – Arncliffe, Leichhardt, Rockdale and South Hurstville.

The elders requested prayer for this new venture, to the end that the testimony raised there to the glory of God would be productive of blessing to both saint and sinner, and that the Lord’s name thereby be glorified in the district.

The Bexley assembly grew with others joining, some from surrounding assemblies and perhaps of greater joy and importance, some local residents being saved and added to the assembly. From the beginning God blessed the testimony. It was not long before a search was made for a more suitable venue. A site, 18 Abercorn Street just down the street from the Band Hall,

was purchased for the construction of the Gospel Hall. Building of the hall was carried out entirely by brethren of the assembly. The assembly met for the first time six months later in the new hall on 14th February 1954. At the thanksgiving meeting on 9th April 1954, the theme of the ministry was a series of golden rules for the maintenance of Christian unity, Philippians 4:4-8,

1. Have the joy of the Lord in your heart, v4.
2. Let your sweet reasonableness be known to all men, v 5.
3. ‘The Lord is at hand,’ a watchword of the early Christians wherewith they rallied each other’s faith, calling to remembrance not only the blessed hope of His coming again but the glad thought of His continual presence in our midst. (Matt. 18:20)
4. A prayerful spirit, v6.
5. Lastly, harbour gracious and ennobling thoughts, v8.

In 1961 the original building was extended, doubling the hall space, and providing a lower hall suitable for Sunday School work. In June 1984 the assembly gained title to the vacant land adjoining the hall property. This was the Lord’s provision to meet car parking regulations. In 1987 a double garage was added for the assembly bus and storage, etc.

From the first Sunday School with nine children, numbers built up to 125 in 1961. The attendance declined over the following years but has remained >8

steady up to the present.

In the 1970's children's work in the Rally movement was commenced during the week-nights and this was productive of much spiritual fruit. In 1996 a change was made to combine boys and girls outreach, juniors meeting at 6pm and seniors at 7.30pm on Friday evenings. These are now called - Treasure Seekers and Friday Youth respectively.

Every Sunday evening since the commencement of the assembly, a gospel meeting has been held in keeping with the scripture - 'Preach the Gospel', and the Gospel Hall sign, with much blessing over the years.

Since 1981, overseas and Australian brethren have been invited for a series of gospel or ministry meetings at Bexley. These have included brethren - Sidney Schlosz and Alfred Dudley from South Africa; Albert Leckie, George Waugh and Jim Baker from Scotland; James Hutchinson, John Flynn, Sam Jennings, Albert Aiken and Robert McLuckie from Northern

Ireland; Peter Brandon and Roy Hill from England; Rowan Jennings from Canada; Ian Irvine and Willie McVey from Australia.

Easter Conference meetings were inaugurated at Bexley in 1988 and are held on Good Friday and Easter Sunday afternoon - with overseas and Australian speakers participating. The meetings usually continue in the days following with ministry or gospel meetings. For full details of meetings for 2008 please see the invitations sent to assemblies or ring Sydney (02) 9527 1203.

The Assembly has always been mindful of the 'Great Harvest Field', being active in prayerful and practical support of full-time workers, with commendation of some to overseas and local areas.

Other fruitful outreaches include: monthly, a Gospel Tuesday Outreach meeting (11.30am - 12.30pm) with an average attendance of 60. This is followed by lunch. Fortnightly, a Craft meeting and an English Language >



Lunch time after one of our monthly Tuesday Outreach Gospel Meetings



Sisters who meet monthly for prayer

class for overseas students. Yearly, a 'Treasure Seekers' Week for children. In recent years the assembly has been enriched and strengthened by the addition of families from Asia.

The assembly has continued to thrive over the years, because of the emphasis on basic doctrinal teaching, gospel preaching, prayer, and strong

leadership, and the recognition of the unity of the local body – young and old working together in happy fellowship for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 3v5

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.



NSW Assemblies Evangelistic Mission Homeworkers Fund Treasurers' Report

Your Treasurers report that we have distributed your gifts for:-

	2007	2006
January - October	\$72,448	\$69,177
Nov: from Assemblies	\$2,024	\$2,610
Christmas Gifts	\$16,358	\$350
from NSWAEM	\$1,000	\$1,000
from other sources	\$55	\$41
	\$19,437	\$4,001
Dec: from Assemblies	\$2,075	\$3,735
Christmas Gifts	\$18,245	\$29,237
from NSWAEM	\$0	\$2,500
from other sources	\$47	\$51
	\$20,367	\$35,523
Totals	\$112,252	\$108,701

The funds this period, except for designated gifts, have been divided between 15 workers.

Please make cheques payable to the NSWAEM State Home Workers Fund

Your gifts and letters should be sent to
The Treasurers, NSWAEM State Home Workers Fund,
P.O. Box 640, BURWOOD NSW 1805

“A Case for a Creator” by Lee Strobel

(subtitle: “A journalist investigates scientific evidence that points toward God”)

Book Review by C.H.Winrow

Paperback; 11 Chapters; 428 pages.

published by Zondervan, 2004

(a New York Times best seller)

Occasionally one comes across a book that resonates a little with one’s own experiences. This is such a book for me. Like its author, I loved learning science when I attended High School, especially what I considered as the ‘exact’ sciences of Physics and Chemistry and their associated Mathematics. That interest grew into my attending university and becoming an engineer by profession and is reflected even now in retirement by my reading of current science articles in Time magazine, New Scientist and Scientific American. Also somewhat akin to the book’s author, during the early years of adult life I was too immersed in science and engineering to have any further interest in the God I’d heard about as a child when taken to church.

Lee Strobel’s book “The Case for a Creator” begins with an account of his assignment as a rookie newspaper reporter in 1974 to cover the boycott by Christian parents and other citizens of the schools in Kanawha County, in West Virginia, USA. They were vigorously opposed to many of the textbooks being used in the schools. They called the books “anti-God” and were outraged at the ‘situational ethics’ propounded in some of them. God was out of the classrooms, the Bible treated as fable, and Christian teaching ignored. Things were turning violent in that school District, and what was happening reinforced his

dislikes of Christianity and the Bible, that had grown in him from the age of 14 when he began to study science at high school in the 1960s.

His admiration for scientific thinking grew at the same time as his confidence in God waned. In Sunday School and Confirmation classes, his ‘why’ questions were not always welcome. He needed reasons to trust the Bible but, more often than not, his quest for answers was rebuffed. He was required to read, memorise and regurgitate Bible verses and the writings of ancient theologians such as Martin Luther. At school and college, he grew to have no use for the “soft” issues of faith and spirituality; rather he gravitated toward the “hard” facts of science and the logic of the Law. The back cover of the book states “Lee Strobel became convinced that God was outmoded, a belief that coloured his ensuing career as an award winning journalist at the *Chicago Tribune*. Science had made the idea of a Creator irrelevant – or so Strobel thought.”

His comfortable world of atheism was rocked in about 1979 when his wife became a follower of Jesus! He saw her character begin to change and her values underwent a transformation. Something (or Someone) was changing her for the better. With his background in journalism and law, he just had to investigate what was going on! Does contemporary scientific research contradict or affirm his decision in youth to be an atheist? ➤

Strobel chose to document his cross-examination of recognised authorities in various scientific disciplines about the current findings in their particular fields. He was trained not only to ask questions but also to go wherever the answers would take him. He writes: "Scientists themselves will tell you that this is entirely appropriate. 'All scientific knowledge', said no less an authority than the National Academy of Sciences, 'is, in principle, subject to change as new evidence becomes available.'"

He goes on ... "What does this new evidence show? Be prepared to be amazed – *even dazzled* – by the startling narrative that science has been busy writing over the past few decades" and "My road to atheism was paved by science (particularly the teaching about evolution) ... but, ironically so was my later journey to God".

Lee Strobel has chapters on "Doubts about Darwinism" and "Where science meets faith" before he proceeds to document in six more chapters his interviews with eminent scientists – one in each of the following areas: Cosmology, Physics, Astronomy, Biochemistry, Biological Information (DNA), and Consciousness.

He pulls all these threads together in a final chapter entitled "The cumulative case for a Creator". Each chapter goes somewhat 'deep' into the area of science in question but is written in accessible language for the layman. It makes for a good read and brings one up-to-date rather than be stuck with the information propounded as 'solid facts' the textbooks we all probably studied

at school or college. Sadly, much of the modern science over-viewed in Strobel's book has not yet entered into the current textbooks in schools. These still contain old, incorrect, unsound, science that often overtly or subtly points away from God.

His book also contains a comprehensive Index of topics and people, and lists detailed references for the literature sources quoted in each chapter, so the reader can continue with their own personal study & research if they wish. There is a section at the end of the book with "Questions for Reflection or Group Study" which might be useful.

Incidentally, Strobel did become a Christian after his years of investigation of these and other related topics! He has also written the Gold Medallion-winning books *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for Faith*. He's been a teaching pastor at two of America's large churches.

A word of caution – don't expect this book to align with every word of the creation account in Genesis. It does not pretend to argue for the infallibility of Scripture in that area. The language used by some of the scientists interviewed shows they still believe in a very old universe and earth. But I don't think this detracts from the book's coverage of a large body of evidence which science is revealing – that there is in fact a Creator God and that Darwinism can't account for the observable facts all around us – either at the microscopic level or across the cosmos.

I'd be very interested to hear the opinions of others who have read this book. □

AWAKE TO ISRAEL

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

The Purpose is to: Study the Scriptures under the leadership of competent Bible teachers; Communicate with workers in Israel, particularly Brethren assemblies, to encourage and uphold them in prayer; Review current events; and Pray for the "Peace of Jerusalem" – recognising the promise "... they that love thee will prosper". For further information phone (02) 9869 7164.

All are welcome and are encouraged to come and together search the Scriptures. For further information phone (02) 9869 7164.



"He explained to them the Passages in every part of Scripture which referred to Himself."

Luke 24:27

Emmaus Bible College

When Emmaus began in 1959, the vision was to prepare young people for overseas missionary service or for lay ministry within Christian Brethren churches. Though over the years different programs have been followed, this vision remains central to the work of Emmaus. We want Christians to be effective in their witness within their local churches and in reaching non-believers.

Courses can be taken for credit or audit, full or part time.

Please contact us for a Prospectus

Come to Emmaus and learn to love the Word of God and the God of the Word.



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William “Bill” MacDonald (7-1-1917 to 25-12-2007)

“Unknown and yet well known...” 2 Cor 6:9

Many readers would be familiar with a wonderfully helpful commentary on the whole Bible called *Believers Bible Commentary*. Its author, William MacDonald, went to be with the Lord last December. You may be interested to read more about his life and work – as told by friends in California to the local newspaper and at his Memorial Service.

“He was a simple man – quiet and reserved – who lived in a one-bedroom apartment in San Leandro, had a home church in Fremont, California USA, and spent his entire life devoted to God. But with 84 published books to his name and scores of other writings and spiritual messages spread throughout the world, people viewed William “Bill” MacDonald as a giant of a man.

William MacDonald, just days before his 91st birthday, died on 25th December 2007 of complications from surgery after a fall last month. His death took many by surprise, friends said, because MacDonald spent much of his time – even until recently – preaching, and corresponding with and praying for friends and families he had met. Nonetheless, people have been returning the favours in abundance since hearing about his passing. The thousands of postings that have been left in a guest book set up on the web site for Calvary Bible Chapel, MacDonald’s home church in Fremont, represent the legacy MacDonald has left, friends say. MacDonald never married and has no surviving relatives in the United States.”



Mr MacDonald was born 7th January 1917, in Leominster, Massachusetts. His family moved to the Isle of Lewis in Scotland shortly after, and lived there for a while, then returned to the United States, where he attended Tufts University and received his master’s degree in business administration from Harvard.

He gained personal faith in Christ at 18. But those close to Bill call attention to his affinity for God at a young age, which he often wrote about in the works he later published. In his most acclaimed book – *Believer’s Bible Commentary* (BBC), a one-volume explanation of the Bible, he recalls an experience as a boy in Scotland when he was stricken with diphtheria, a disease that causes respiratory difficulty.

His mother had given up all hope for him, he wrote, when suddenly his uncle arrived and said the boy would not die because God spoke to him after he read Psalm 91. “God delivered me from death that night; He saved my soul thirteen years later, and He has satisfied me with long life,” MacDonald wrote. “So you will understand why I refer to Psalm 91 as my Psalm.”

>14

After working as an investment analyst from 1940 to 1942, Bill enlisted in the US Navy and served in the Pacific until the end of World War II.

He began evangelistic Bible studies amongst military personnel and shipped many Bibles to those fighting in the Pacific. After the war, in 1947 Bill was commended full-time by Bethany Gospel Chapel, Oakland, and he joined the faculty of Emmaus Bible School (now College) in Oak Park, Illinois. He was appointed President there in 1959, a position he held until 1965.

After the time at Emmaus he began an extensive itinerant Bible teaching ministry in the USA, Europe and Asia, often with Operational Mobilisation. He made many friendships, in many countries, which lasted most of his life.

Mr MacDonald then teamed up with Gene Gibson and Jack Davies at Fairhaven Bible Chapel, San Leandro, to develop a Discipleship Intern Training Program for young men and elders. He taught the program for 23 years until 1996 and inspired hundreds of ministers throughout the world. During that time he also wrote and published the 2000 page BBC. He did not rest after that achievement, but began a translation effort of the New Testament part of the BBC. It is now in 21 languages and the work is still carried on by others.

In his lifetime MacDonald wrote 84 published books, plus numerous magazine articles, short papers and sermons. Don Robertson, one of MacDonald's long-time friends, said

"Bill left each one of us a legacy ... his writings ... that treasure is available for the taking!"

Above all else, friends say, Bill lived what he preached. While he has sold more than a million copies of his books, which have been translated into several languages, he never took any royalties. Such acts of humility were Bill MacDonald's trademark.

After 1996, and until he died, arthritis made things difficult but he gave his full attention to teaching and an active correspondence with the many friends and contacts he had made over the years.

"For the amount of impact he had on millions of lives, he would always refrain from any kind of praise or glory to himself," said Don Robertson. "He was quite content with being unknown, but an awful lot of people knew him. He lived a simple life," Robertson said. "And he died in simplicity, as well."

His funeral was held at The Chapel of the Chimes, Hayward, on 29th December, and a memorial service was held on 12th January at Fairhaven Bible Chapel, in San Leandro.

A lot more can be gleaned about Bill from the web site of Calvary Bible Chapel in Fremont:

www.fremontcalvary.org/williammacdonald.html

Video of the Memorial Service and the Graveside Service can be viewed via the web site too. The Services were recorded and broadcast via the Internet as a help for family and friends overseas who could not attend. □

Emmaus Bible College – Epping, NSW

Research Fellowship:

After Joshua replaced Moses as Israel's leader the LORD said to him, "this book of the Law should not leave your mouth and you must meditate on it day and night so that you can do everything that is written in it." (Joshua 1: 8). This was the secret to Joshua's success as Israel's first leader in the Promised Land. At the end of his life we read that Israel served the Lord until Joshua and all his contemporaries were dead (Joshua 24: 31). This was because that entire generation of leaders committed themselves to the book of the Law every day of their lives.

It is our vision at Emmaus Bible College to revive this spirit among our local assemblies and churches. We plan to do this by teaching Bible courses at the College and wherever requested, and by running forums where interested people can present papers for teaching and discussion. The papers will be reviewed by a qualified panel and made available in an electronic journal for wider interest. Not only will this encourage thoughtful Bible study, it will be an important step for any who may be interested in having a career in Biblical Studies. Please pray for these meetings that they will have an enthusiastic following.

The Research Fellowship meetings for 2008 will be held on Saturday, 5th April and 20th September at 240 Beecroft Road, Epping, 10:30am to 2:30pm. Lunch will be provided.

Prayer Parents:

Are you interested in being involved in the life of an Emmaus student? The role involves getting to know the student, praying, encouraging and perhaps meeting with them. This program has proven very successful in the past for both Prayer Parents and students and is a vital part of College life. If you are interested please phone 9876 4370 or email ...

admin@emmaus.edu.au

Semester One 2008 Subjects:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10.00am to 1.00pm	Early and Medieval Church History (M. Lepke)	Reading & Interpreting the Bible (D. McNaught)	Deuteronomy (S. Walker)	The Lukan Literature (D. Stormer)
1.30pm to 4.30pm	Introduction to Biblical Languages (D. McNaught)		Local Church Life & Worship (L. Smith)	OT Introduction and Survey - the Historical Books (D. McNaught)

June 6 - 8 2008 Conference

Presented by the Christian Brethren
Fellowships throughout Australia



Key Features include:

- Saturday evening Concert in the PIAR auditorium
- Worship times led by Tim Kirkegard of West Pennant Hills Community Church in Sydney
- National Forum of representatives from all States to establish a national network of churches
- Keynote addresses by Rod
- Vicki will speak Saturday morning and Mark will speak Sunday morning.

IDENTITY: Who am I?

Discount Family Packages
Discounts for early registration



Special Guest Speakers

Rod Wilson Mark McCrindle Vicki Mustafa

REGISTER NOW

For Further Information Contact:

Geoff Whittaker
Phone: 9761 4385 Mobile: 0431 251 871
Email: geoff@cbfv.org.au

Location

The conference will be held at:
Phillip Island Adventure Resort
1775 Phillip Island Rd
Phillip Island

(Approx. 120ms from Newhaven, next to "A Place 'n' Things")

Key Features include:

- Saturday evening Concert in the PIAR auditorium
- Worship times led by Tim Kirkegard of West Pennant Hills Community Church in Sydney
- National Forum of representatives from all States to establish a national network of churches
- Keynote addresses by Rod

Session one: Who Are You When Nobody is Looking?

He will focus on a number of themes including the important distinction between identity and performance, the role of one's family in the formation of identity, the influence of grace and our identity in Christ.

Session two: Who Are You When You Are Not Working?

He will focus on Sabbath and identity and the importance of finding shalom in rest and tranquility. Part of this will be a call to lead a life that blends activity and serenity rather than one that is frantic and frenetic.

Session three: Does Your Church Have An Identity?

He will focus on the need for churches to be less concerned about their name and denominational affiliation and more concerned about what it means to have a spiritual identity. He will give a brief summary of various spiritual traditions

- Vicki will speak Saturday morning and Mark will speak Sunday morning.
- Fun children's program for primary aged and preschool children during the teaching sessions.
- Commences 7:15pm on Friday with Dinner
- Concludes 3:30pm Sunday



Profile of Mark McCrindle

Mark McCrindle was trained as a Psychologist and his research into the emerging global generations is now recognized internationally. Mark is a Social Researcher and he is accredited with the Industry's highest accreditation Qualified Practicing Market Researcher. He is the

Director of McCrindle Research which counts amongst its clients over 50 multinational organizations and 100 of Australia's largest corporations. His highly regarded research and reports into the changing times and emerging trends have developed his reputation as a futurist, demographer and a social commentator. Mark is renowned for his engaging presentations and he often delivers keynote addresses at conferences but he is equally at ease in delivering his expertise in workshops or facilitated forums. Mark graduated from the University of NSW with a BSc (Psychology) and he has completed a Masters degree majoring in Social Trends.

IDENTITY: Who am I?

Profile of Conference Speakers



Profile of Rod Wilson

President and Professor of Counseling and Psychology, Regent College, Vancouver Canada B.Sc. (University of Toronto), M.A. (York University), M.T.S. (Conrad Grebel College), Ph.D. (York University), D.D. (Hon.) Trinity Western University

Rod Wilson is in his sixth year as President of Regent College. Originally trained as a clinical psychologist, he pursued theological training after the completion of his doctoral work. He has been involved in the field of counseling and consulting for over 25 years and held various positions at Tyndale College and Seminary in Toronto from 1978-1995; Professor; Dean of Students, Vice-President and Academic Dean. From 1995-2000 he was the pastor of a growing church in the suburbs of Toronto, Canada. Rod received an honorary doctorate from Trinity Western University in recognition of his gifts of leadership and acuity of vision and the leadership award from Atlantic Baptist University. He is the author of Counseling and Community (winner of the non-fiction book award in Faith Today's 'God Uses Ink' competition, 1996), *How Do I Help a Friend?* and the co-author of *Exploring Your Anger and Helping Angry People*, as well as numerous published articles. He is a sought-after speaker for conferences, conventions and retreats. He lives in Burnaby Heights, BC with his wife Bev.



Profile of Vicki Mustafa

Vicki, born in Australia, was a Muslim for the first 21 years of her life. Her teenage and young adult years led her into occultism, alcohol and drug abuse plus several suicide attempts. She is a qualified Secondary School teacher. When a university student she was saved through God speaking directly to her through a verse of Scripture whilst

contemplating suicide in a garden in Jerusalem, Israel. After seven very difficult but necessary years of preparation by God she spent nearly 20 years in the Middle East sharing the Gospel and serving the people through MECO (Middle East Christian Outreach). Health issues saw her return to Australia where God transitioned her from overseas missionary to home worker. In the past 10 years God has moved her from Australia-wide Deputationist for MECO, to Youth Pastor and Associate Pastor at Eastleigh Community Church until her last appointment (4 ½ years ago) as Senior Pastor at Glen Hill Community Church. She is passionate about the teaching of God's Word, the Western Bulldogs footy club, and loves to travel. She enjoys doing jig saw puzzles, cryptic crosswords and reading crime thrillers. The most challenging, yet life transforming experience of her relationship with God is His unconditional love. For Vicki the three most powerful words of truth are: "God is Love".

The content of pages 16 and 17 has been derived from parts of the Conference brochure, copies of which have been sent to all Assemblies. If more are required – please contact Bradley Scott on 02 9626 0055.

More information about the Conference and Rod Wilson's speaking engagements is given on the next page.

National Christian Brethren Conference 6 - 8 June 2008

Come and fellowship with Assemblies Australia-wide at our inaugural National Conference being held at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort, Phillip Island.

Dr Rod Wilson, (President and Professor of Counselling and Psychology, Regents College, Vancouver, Canada) will speak on:-

Who are you when nobody is looking?
Who are you when you are not working?
Does your church have an identity?

Mr Mark McCrindle and Ms Vicki Mustafa will also be addressing the conference.

Application Forms have been sent to each Assembly but if you need more please contact Bradley Scott (02 9626 0055).

We have organised a coach for those who would like to travel together to Phillip Island. The cost is \$100 return, with the bus leaving Sydney at 7.00am Friday morning and returning late Monday night. Seats are limited so book in early. Contact Bradley Scott.

An Evening with Dr Rod Wilson

Dr Rod Wilson has agreed to speak to NSW Assemblies prior to the National Conference. He'll be speaking in:

Sydney Saturday, 31st May 2008
Newcastle Wednesday, 4th June 2008

His topics will include:

Are you an encouraging leader?
Are you an encouraging church?

Venue, times and more information will be sent to Assemblies soon, or check the Strength in Unity web site for details in coming weeks.

(www.strengthinunity.org)

News from commended Home Workers



Graham & Betty Hayden 25 January 2008

Dear Friends,
Our first point to mention in this overdue letter is to thank you all for the



many expressions of Prayer support we have received. Your cards, letters and phone calls have given us great comfort. Previously we reported the continuing saga of the almost unidentifiable cause of what appeared to be a cerebral bleed in Betty's head in mid October.

All appeared well until a second bout of head pain happened in early December. This called for a small craniotomy procedure to "debulk" (or remove) the supposed blood clot and take a sample of tissue for a "needle biopsy". After extensive Histology studies, it has now been identified as a malignant brain tumour.

However the Histology results were not conclusive even after MRI and Head scans done in early December. On the 8th January Betty lost strength in her left arm and signs of a fit occurred. At that time she dropped a saucepan of boiling beans and water on her leg and instep, whilst cooking at home. This caused second-degree burns that have not really healed as yet.

The new symptoms called for a radical craniotomy and the "debulking" of a fast growing neoplasm on her brain. This was

after initial treatment at Wyong Hospital and a midnight ambulance trip to the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle, where she was admitted for that surgery the next day. After a week's stay in hospital, Betty returned home to plan dates for future treatment with the specialists in Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology.

The exact type of tumour was still in doubt and no chemotherapeutic agent was considered suitable for Medical Oncology. A three to six week course of radiation therapy was suggested to give extra time. There is a four week waiting list for such treatment.

But, wonder of wonders, (prayer - all around) the Mater Hospital phoned us the day after the above conferences to tell us that, if we wished, Betty could start on the 4th of February with the Radiation Therapy! Would you believe they contacted us again the next day to say that there was now a greater clarity on the type of tumour involved and that Medical Oncology could be started at the same time as the Radiation!!!

Betty requests that you pray that she might have courage, faith, and trust in the Lord, to face the unknown reactions that might occur whilst receiving the proposed medications and radiation.

'May the God of hope fill you with Joy and Peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' - Romans 15:13.

Yours very sincerely in the Lord,
Graham and Betty Hayden

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[Addendum: via email on 8th Feb we learned Betty started daily radiotherapy on Monday 4th without any complications. She has appointments each day for two more working weeks between 2 and 3 p.m. Betty is also taking Chemotherapy medications which made her a little nauseous but that's settling down. She reports being overwhelmed by the caring support of her family and she says "the prayer support of so many of our friends is so encouraging. God is holding me."]

Daya & Mary Nand 21 January 2008

Maranatha and greetings in His precious and powerful Name. Please note that our new address is:

45/2 Macquarie Road, Auburn 2144

I am continuing with meetings this year at the invitation of the assemblies. I conducted a marriage service at the Concord Community Church



and it was a great opportunity to share the Gospel with about 60 present. Some had a Roman Catholic or Jehovah Witness background while others were from a nominal Christian one, and some were assembly members who had not attended meetings for several years.

Brother Edward Lalabalavu shared the service with me and we had opportunities to talk to several people. I met a young man who had been in our Sunday School in Fiji nearly 50 years ago and we pray he and his wife will begin to attend the Concord Assembly.

Please pray for this Assembly which is

actively engaged in serving the Lord – that others will join them – as they are only a few in number.

A very happy spirit of involvement is also present at the Bankstown Assembly. It was so encouraging to see some older ones present at the Sunday School break-up. Every month a Family Service and Ladies meeting are held, plus the regular Sunday School, Worship and Gospel meetings. On Monday evenings we have a prayer and Bible study meeting.

I was truly encouraged last year with the meetings, also at Eastwood, Oatley, Wollongong and other activities. Please pray for my first visit to the Balmain Assembly in March and Eastwood in February.

The Lord bless you and your service for Him. Daya and Mary Nand.

Allan & Kerry Driver 31 January 2008

We thank the Lord for His continuing help as we serve Him at St. Clair/Erskine Park.

Last year was busy and a year of change for us and the Assembly. Steve (an elder) and Lai Yan Walker took a 6 month break at the start of the year and believe the Lord has called them to serve Him with the Blacktown assembly and GLO.



Allan continued to lecture and also completed his honours studies and now is considering if he should do further academic studies.

We are just now getting back into the swing of things following the Christmas

and New Year period, continuing in our ministries and pastoral care. Allan will be lecturing at GLO Smithton in late February and early March and in the latter half of the year at Emmaus.

The assembly is facing decisions regarding the recognition of more elders this year so we would appreciate prayer for the assembly in this process. Please pray as a number of families in the assembly are facing testing times with health and other matters. It has been exciting having one of the older young people doing a Christianity Explained course, which will end mid February; pray Brian will not only see the truth but respond to the Gospel.

Joining the ranks of being grandparents is a special blessing, pray for our daughter Stacey and son-in-law Shane and our grandson Axel. Pray for our daughter Jacqueline. She is considering her future in all areas of life.

We thank the Lord for the good health we have enjoyed and His continuing provision.

Now, news of two more families collected by Don Crane for the February Outreach Prayer Requests bulletin:-

Stephen & Katrina Torrance

We praise the Lord for the opportunity to serve in the Barnier Public School two days a week, and for the relationship that the church has with the School Administration. There have been relationships built with some of the parents over the past years.

Please pray for opportunities and

boldness to share our faith in a real and effective way. "The Chat Room" presents parental issues from a Biblical base. Pray especially for this.



Pray also for a new influx of Kindergarten parents to come along. As we will be inviting our contacts to attend the Easter Services, please pray that the invitations will be received positively.

Please continue to pray for us, as a family, for Agnas (15), Caleb (13), Reuben (11) and Rhyannah (9).

Don & Helen Stormer



are grateful to the Lord and to the many believers who have been praying for them over recent weeks.

Don was initially booked for prostate surgery on Dec 20th, but a CT scan of his chest suggested a more urgent problem. We thank the Lord, that the two biopsies performed early in January, showed a non-malignant result, although Don has been referred to a respiratory physician for ongoing monitoring. The original operation is now re-scheduled for March 6th.

Helen continues to provide part-time help in the Christian Mission International Aid (CMIAid) office. The office is relocating in February to Dural, which will be closer to home for her.

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She continues to be active in music at Waitara Gospel Chapel and Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village – and a number of other places as she is able. Don continues to preach most Sundays and will be teaching at Emmaus Bible College this coming semester. Pray that the program for students will not be disrupted too much by his upcoming surgery.

Jane Mayhew
14 January 2008

Hello everyone!

I trust that each of you had a fantastic New Year. It is always so exciting at the start of a New Year with so many new possibilities. I pray that the Lord may bless you richly as we head further into 2008. Thank you so much for all your prayers throughout 2007. My newsletter #9 "Into the Barrow" (sent to some people by email) has a review of 2007, which has some of the highlights of the year for me! Praise the Lord for all He has done in 2007 and I am eagerly awaiting all that He is going to do this year!



I also have a prayer card for your fridge. If you would like to receive one and/or my newsletter then please contact me on 0423 621 990.

Thanks for your prayers and I pray that the Lord brings you encouragement as you read all that He has done in 2007!

With love,
Jane Mayhew.

Geoff & Liz Folland
21 January 2008

Hi, it is now 13 days since we returned to Sydney from the USA. We recovered from the jet lag in only a couple of days – just in time to attend our regional missionary retreat last Tuesday to Friday. Our retreat was held at a place called Riverwood Downs, a kind of farm stay place by a river. With 19 missionaries, 2 child carers and 5 children it was certainly a busy group. The focus of the time was to reconnect with each other and with God. Studies have shown that the main reason for missionaries leaving the field is interpersonal conflict with other missionaries. This retreat was important in allowing people to reconnect.



Now our focus is turning to the year ahead. Over the coming weeks we will be looking to connect with the thousands of new students entering campus. Please pray specifically that we would be led to students who are ready to hear and respond to the gospel, and to Christians open to serving God on campus. From a regional perspective, my priorities are to help Macquarie Uni and Sydney Uni missionary teams launch the year well, and assist the student-led movements at UWS, UNSW and Newcastle Uni as much as possible. I would really appreciate your prayer support as my focus continues to broaden beyond just Macquarie University.

In His love and grace. Geoff & Liz.

A Horse! A Horse! My Kingdom for a Horse!

by Bill Archbold

The title above contains some of the most quoted words emanating from the pen of the Bard of Avon. Shakespeare was so prolific and wrote so many pieces that even the experts have lost count, this quotation is from his celebrated work called "Richard III."

During my youth I spent many hours on horseback, often returning at evening quite saddle sore and weary. One would think that after several falls and some quite scary moments clinging furtively to the neck of bolting horses, I would never want to come within coo-ee of another horse for the rest of my life.

It is difficult to find humour in a bolting-horse story, but I thought I should at least share one experience with you. My boss gave me an aged grey mare to ride and I found it difficult to get her interested in anything more than a casual walk. So I went and complained to him – saying something like; "this must be the Old Grey Mare who ain't what she used to be."

So with a wink to a roustabout he told him to bring out "Ginger" – a big chestnut gelding. There is an old adage amongst horsemen and it goes something like this. "Don't ride chestnut geldings or black mares, if you do, you do it to your peril." With that in mind I threw my leg over Ginger and I was soon to discover that he was Ginger by name and by nature.

I rode him out into the main street of town and suddenly he took the bit



between his teeth and bolted. When he reached full gallop there were two teenage girls walking down the centre of the road, I pulled the left rein and he didn't turn and then I tried the right, but unfortunately he did not respond. So I closed my eyes and he went straight between the two of them. Fortunately neither of them was hurt.

There was an older woman watching this drama unfold, and at this precise moment she came up with a priceless piece of advice. At the top of her voice she yelled out, "Young man you are riding that horse too fast." Even in a desperate moment like this I was not short of my renowned repartee. So I yelled back at her, "Lady, try telling that to the horse not me."

However, there have been several occasions on my trips out west that I would have readily swapped my "Iron" horse for the type that has four legs. I thought that I would share two of those experiences with you.

In the month of October sometime in the late sixties, Alf Magrath, Michael

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my older son and myself had just spent about ten days travelling with what the Aboriginal Christians called their "Itinerant Conference". Then, like the well known song says, "I've been everywhere man," we had been just about everywhere. This time of fellowship with them culminated with a weekend at Brewarrina. These meetings were fruitful and we had an exciting Gospel Meeting on the Sunday evening with several committing themselves to the Lord. We had advised the people that we would leave after preaching at the meeting, as we were planning on sleeping at Nyngan that night on our way home.

Duncan Ferguson decided to share his local knowledge with us and told us of a "short cut" that he had discovered some years ago. In a moment of unbridled insanity we decided to take Duncan's well-intentioned advice. So we set off on "a road never crossed 'cept by folks that are lost", travelling in the black of night with no map and only with his scant directions to guide us.

The "Road" proved to be a dirt track that was littered with stones as big as house bricks. Despite my best efforts to the contrary we kept hitting these large stones and they were being thrown up crashing into the underside of the car with great force. Suddenly we heard a loud bang followed by the roar of an engine that had no muffler. I had no idea how effective the muffler system was until we were suddenly without it. The noise was deafening.

We thought that we should stop and

survey the damage. To our dismay we found that the muffler was loose and dangling in the dirt, and as we drove along it was throwing up a shower of sparks. We also noticed that there were three small cracks in the petrol tank that were leaking. This looked like a recipe for disaster so we thought we should do some running repairs.

Alf took off into the darkness to try and find a piece of fencing wire to hold the muffler up. He returned after about ten minutes with a piece of wire, but while twisting it to break it off, it sprung back at him like a striking viper, and hit him on the face – which was then bleeding profusely.

Michael, who was about 5 years old at the time, had been fast asleep on the back seat. Suddenly because of all the activity he woke up and asked, "What's wrong Dad?" Well, we had just spent ten days of our annual holidays rushing from one camp to the next, sleeping under the stars and eating my crook tucker etc. So I was a little more than dispirited with this new turn of events.

In reply to Michael's question, I repined, "Oh, nothing son, we only have a busted petrol tank, the muffler is hanging down and Uncle Alf has blood pouring out of him". Without even taking time to think Michael spontaneously broke into song singing, "Praise the Lord, praise the Lord let the Earth hear his voice. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord let the people rejoice." I think it was Isaiah who said, "A little child shall lead them". ➤

We limped into Nyngan, pulled our swags out of the boot and bedded down on the side of the road. Before I dropped off to sleep, the words of the Bard came back to haunt me. "A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse," but we rested knowing that the Lord had blessed our trip. The following morning we did some further repairs and ultimately we arrived safe and sound back at our homes in Sydney.

On another trip when we were returning home from Brewarrina we had another slight mishap. We had left home on Friday morning around 3 a.m and arrived at Bre around 3 p.m. The purpose of the visit was to spend the June long weekend preaching the Gospel. We had several open-air meetings standing right opposite one of the pubs in the main street of Bre. Then we went back to the Chapel where we preached on the Saturday and Sunday nights.

We left soon after the Gospel Meeting ended, as we had to return to our jobs on Tuesday morning. We decided not to take any "Shortcuts" this time, but stick to the main road that we were familiar with. Everything went along smoothly until we were just on the outskirts of Lithgow.

Our timing was just perfect, as we had just reached a slight bend in the road at a place ironically called "Sunny Corner" when the road became covered with "Black Ice". As we went to negotiate the slight bend we lost all ability to steer and brake. The car went straight through the bend and finally came to rest on a large fence post. We

had just time to recover from this eerie experience when down came the snow and it was freezing.

Fortunately we had our swags in the back seat and the three of us wrapped ourselves up to sit it out until daybreak when we could see what damage we had done. This is yet another occasion when the words of Shakespeare came to mind, "A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!" We'd just got reasonably warm when Michael felt the call of nature. I had no heart for getting out into the cold so we had to make a quick compromise. We had a biscuit tin that was full of Scotch Fingers, we quickly emptied out the contents and the tin did the job admirably.

At the break of dawn we got out to survey the damage. The radiator had several holes in it and the front of the car had been rearranged. We managed to limp into Mt. Victoria by constantly filling up the radiator with the water generated by the thawing snow. Alf who was an old bushy said that when they had holed their radiators they would crack an egg into it and as it cooked it would fill up the holes.

So off I went and bought a couple of eggs at a local shop. We just happened to be parked right opposite the entrance of the local pub. I lifted the bonnet and was in the process of pouring the cracked egg into the radiator when a bloke well under the weather noticed what I was doing. He came and stood beside me and asked me what on earth was I doing cracking an egg into the radiator.

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I mentioned earlier about my penchant for repartee so I turned to him and asked, "How else was I going to cook the eggs for our lunch." He shook his head and replied, "You've got a point there mate," and staggered off into the distance.

There were other incidents we had with kangaroos, wombats, deep holes, big rocks, losing our trailer, and flat tyres, all too numerous to quote. However, there have been many moments in my life when I have wondered why we were so susceptible to car problems. As we are all aware,

the Australian outback can be quite challenging to the motorist, but I don't think that this was the cause.

These trips proved very fruitful and we believe that there were those who made meaningful and lasting commitments to the Lord. Then also there were those who were built up in their faith and in the knowledge of Christ.

We have formed the considered opinion that "Someone" was trying hard to discourage us. What do you think? □



The logo features the word "Jesus" in a large, stylized, orange-to-yellow gradient font. Below it, the words "ALL ABOUT LIFE" are written in white on a dark blue rectangular background. To the right of this, the words "SYDNEY 2009" are written vertically in a smaller, dark blue font.



The logo consists of the words "Bible Society" in a blue, sans-serif font. Below this, "NSW" is written in a smaller, blue font. Underneath "NSW", the tagline "Making the Bible heard since 1817" is written in a smaller, blue font.

The NSW Council of Churches together with key denominational and church leaders have come out in support of Bible Society NSW's

Jesus. All about Life (JAAL)

media campaign for Sydney in
September/October 2009

To find out more about JAAL, and reports from campaigns in other Australian regions, visit:

www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au

and

www.biblesocietynsw.com.au

Allan – another seafarer, but born again

by Rob Flinders

Port Missionary with SCFS



Allan is a 28 year-old seafarer who comes from Cebu, in the southern part of the Philippines. I first met Allan in May 2005 when he was working as an Ordinary Seaman onboard the container ship mv Kamakura. This ship trades between Malaysia and Singapore and four ports in Australia - Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Fremantle.

Every month, when Allan's ship returned to Sydney, I made a point of visiting him. As we spent time together we began to develop a friendship. I discovered that before Allan became a seafarer, he lived in very squalid conditions in a slum area of Manila that was frequented by criminals, prostitutes and drug users. Life for Allan and his family at that time was very difficult and painful.

On one occasion when I talked with Allan about his religious experiences, he told me he was disillusioned by the multiplicity of different religions in his country and the quarrelling between them. He said, "I despaired

of knowing which religion or church I should belong to. I didn't believe the church any more because some people say the church is only a business. So I just prayed direct to God if I had problems in my life."

Despite this, Allan responded positively when I offered him a Bible and an Emmaus Bible Correspondence Course entitled, "The Word of God." He achieved an excellent score and this prompted me to give him a second course entitled, "What The Bible Teaches." This course contains 12 lessons that collectively provide a comprehensive explanation of the gospel. I believe that while Allan was studying this particular course, the Spirit of God used the Word of God to draw Allan to Christ.

In February 2006 Allan completed his contract onboard mv Kamakura and he returned home to the Philippines for a well-earned vacation.

Sometime later, while onboard another ship that does not visit Australia, Allan wrote me a letter. In it, amongst other things, he said, ...

"Don't worry Rob, even though I have no voyage to Australia, everything you told me and what I learned from you is in my heart and mind always.

You planted it in my heart and soul and I will take care of it by watering it in the Word of God, the Bible. I will continue reading and understanding the message of God because this is my only weapon when facing loneliness at sea."

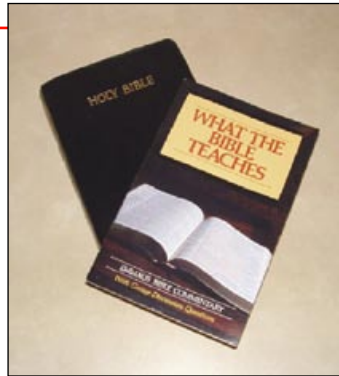
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Allan finished his letter with a Bible reference - **Colossians 1:13-14** "He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son in whom we have redemption the forgiveness of our sins."

Since I received Allan's letter, I have written to him and also telephoned his home in the Philippines several times, but I have been unable to make contact. I do not know where Allan is or how he is.

Now and again it seems that God gives me a deep affection for some seafarers, especially those that are new-born brothers in Christ. Allan is one of those. To use the words of Philippians 1:7 "I have him in my heart."

My heart aches that I can't contact him and encourage and strengthen him.



Please pray for Allan and for me that we will be able to re-establish contact with one another. Pray that, in the meantime, Allan will keep reading and studying his Bible and that the Spirit of God will use the Word of God to protect, strengthen, comfort, teach and guide this dear brother.

Please pray that I will hold onto God's promise that "... He who began a good work in Allan **will** bring it to completion at the Day of Jesus Christ." **Philippians 1:6.**

Thank you!



Everything I need to know from Noah's Ark?

Don't miss the boat. Remember we are all in the same boat.

Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

Stay fit. When you are over 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something big. Build your future on high ground.

Don't listen to the critics, just get on with the job that needs to be done.

For safety sake, travel in pairs. When you are stressed, float awhile.

Speed isn't always an advantage; snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Remember the ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals.

No matter the storm, when you are with God
there is always a rainbow waiting.

PLEASE submit all items for the April 2008 issue of this magazine

BEFORE 14 March



Note: To make it easier to visit web sites mentioned in this section, they have been included as 'hot links' on the NSW Christian Brethren web site:-

www.cb-nsw.org.au/useful-links/Links-AO.html

and they are also 'live' in the PDF version of this magazine which can be purchased in 2008. Some previous issues are now stored on the web site in PDF format for anybody to read.

Change of Email address from Ben and Lynette Saad:

"Our new email address is
bensaad2c@yahoo.com.au.
would love to hear from you."

Internet Evangelism Day is an initiative of the Internet Evangelism Coalition (IEC), a group of major ministries involved in web ministry, based at the Billy Graham Centre, Wheaton.

www.InternetEvangelismDay.com

Internet Evangelism Day is here to tell you about ...

- * what God is doing on the Web
- * outreach strategies that work online
- * how you, your church or Christian group can use the Web for outreach – and how to make effective church websites reach into the community
- * planning an Internet Evangelism focus day for your church, Bible college or Christian group.

In other words, this web site works

at two levels. It demonstrates that the coming years are the 'day' of digital outreach. And it provides free downloads to enable you to create your own web evangelism awareness day for your church or Christian group, on (or near) 27 April.

The IEC Newsletter - January issue – includes...

- Internet Ministry Conference 2008 - now booking;
- GodTube - latest developments;
- Pew Internet Project: Teens and Social Media;
- Internet and Culture News & Information.

www.webevangelism.com/index.php?id=110

The new **SGM Lifewords** web site introduces itself:

"The Bible's life words always contain the seeds of possibility, of hope, and of change ...

On this site, find ways to make imaginative connections with the Bible's life words for yourself and your community, explore fresh perspectives on the Bible and culture, and learn how you can partner with us, working hand-in-hand with some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

Share, speak, live, be life words ... join the conversation"

SGM Lifewords now has the same web address globally, but it automatically directs users to the relevant world region - in our case Australia.

Erica Cole Calfas, Communications Manager for Australia/NZ wrote:

"We would greatly appreciate your feedback on the new website. There are still a few glitches we will be addressing this week."

Thanks to Geoff Folland for passing on this one ...

"Here's a link to **e-news from Australia's National Church Life Survey** with some useful articles on latest trends in church attendance in Australia ...

www.ncls.org.au/default.aspx?sitemapid=6113

I have mentioned the 30 page Christian Computing Magazine (CCMag) before. It has been published since 1989 and is now distributed digitally. It's a free download if you wish to visit its web site and click on the link to sign up:

www.ccmag.com/

If you do, you'll receive a monthly email with a hyperlinked table of contents and an introduction to each

article. All of the articles are provided in PDF format, ready to read on your screen or print out on your printer.

The first issue for 2008 has over ten useful articles for all levels of computer or Internet expertise. For example there is a News Brief, a review of the *PC Study Bible* version 5, Top Ten Tune-up Tips for your PC, and an article on John Butler's *Bible Biography* series (now issued in electronic format by WORDsearch) and explains his extensive use of "alliteration". If that word is a puzzle – it's explained clearly in the article:

www.ccmag2.com/2008_01/ccmag2008_01wordsearch.pdf

Internet Trivia:

The population of Australia reached 21,000,000 on 4/12/07 ... **and** ...

just before that, in the week ending 30/11/07, we achieved 1,000,000 Australian (.au) domain names registered!



The brethren at Riverstone Community Church would like a little help !

There is a plan to design and produce a 'glossy' publicity brochure-type 'thing' which could be handed out to people in their district, to advertise their church and what it does.

They know some other assemblies have such material, and they would be very grateful if they could see a range of examples.

If your assembly has a publicity brochure or equivalent, please mail a copy to Mr Ken Harding, 93 Piccadilly Street, Riverstone NSW 2765.

THANK YOU

N.S.W. ASSEMBLIES EVANGELISTIC MISSION

ACN 001 037 690

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AIMS

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

Further information about the Mission can be read on the NSW Brethren web site at:- www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem/

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