



ASSEMBLIES
Outreach

February 2009

Pilgrims - past and present (page 7)



Also in this issue: Out & About in NSW Assemblies
Emmaus Gospel Fellowship
News from NSW Home Workers
CBCS 2008 Annual Report (pull-out)
(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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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 2009 issue before:-**

13 March 2009

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.

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Subscription costs for 2009 are shown on the web site & on page 20 of this Feb. 2009 issue.

Printed by Dominion Colanco Print Group.
PO Box 6999, Silverwater NSW 2128

Phone: 02 9648 2888

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First Glance

by Colin Winrow, Editor

Dear Readers,

As I start to write this column, my heart and mind are full of sadness for the terrible losses people have suffered in the devastating bushfires in NSW and Victoria in the past week or two. Our youngest daughter and her family live in the Latrobe Valley. Thankfully, they have suffered no direct loss thus far. However, like most people in the area, they have friends who have lost homes, property, livelihoods, and even family members or neighbours. Everyone is in shock to some degree and having to cope with changed life circumstances – be it as simple as the soot covering everything, or as tragic as the loss of a beloved spouse or child.

Please join us in praying to Almighty God for the people impacted by these fires, in many areas, and let's resolve to do all we can, as individuals and churches, to help them recover in the months and years ahead.

Welcome to the beginning of another year (DV) of the *Assemblies Outreach* magazines and we hope you will continue to find the content interesting



and useful. This first issue contains an extra four pages which comprise the 2008 Annual Report from the Christian Brethren Community Services organisation. The report is in the centre of the magazine and can be separated, if you wish, by a gentle tug.

Another Christian fiction writer has emerged – this time a man. See pages 18 and 19 to read about his first book.

Also we have another thought-provoking article from Bill Archbold, beginning on page 25, plus the regular features of local news about assembly related activities; letters from NSW Home Workers; etc.

Sadly we are lacking in-depth articles about NSW assemblies and Home Workers. I pray this can be corrected in subsequent issues. I sense there are some great things to be shared. □

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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 9715 5528, or preferably e-mailed to:-

outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

Also, please e-mail your wording for **Notices** or **Coming Events** (to be included on the NSW Christian Brethren web site) to:-

webadmin@cb-nsw.org.au

Continued prayer is sought for **Peter Mayhew** (an elder in Green Valley assembly) and his family, following the emergency heart operation he underwent in mid-November 2008. Praise God - Peter has made steady progress since then and was able to walk his daughter Jane down the aisle when she was married on 10th January (see page 24).

Prayer is also sought for **Laurie Cowell** (Blacktown assembly) who had a heart attack on 30th January. He had to have a stent inserted in an artery and the news on 5th February is that he is now at home recuperating.

Emmaus Bible College is 50 years old this year! Special events are being planned and details will be published and circulated as they become available. Meanwhile more students are very welcome to enrol and the first semester starts on 23rd

February. For a 2009 prospectus please phone the College on 9876 4370.

The NSW Assemblies **Coordinating Conference** was held at Emmaus Bible College on Thursday evening 5th Feb. with an extensive agenda. Probably by the time you read this the detailed Minutes will have been issued by Brad Scott (ph: 9626 0055) but here briefly are a few items from the evening:

- **Mr Ross Bunyon** was re-elected unopposed to the role of Chairman for the next two years.

- There was an update presentation on JAAL (see page 13) from Steve Peach representing the Bible Society. He encouraged churches to register as soon as possible.

- **Len Smith** reported on Emmaus Bible College matters including the appointment of **Graeme Janes** as the General Manager, and of **Rodney Trinidad** as Youth Services Coordinator. Rodney's role is to assist and encourage youth ministries in as many of our assemblies as possible. He makes it clear that his passion is to serve local churches and would welcome invites to speak at youth events, youth camps, and at Sunday meetings - anywhere in NSW!

- The Emmaus Board is still seeking a new Principal.

- Training materials are gradually being made available via the new Christian Brethren Training Site. The first component on the website relates to Child Protection legislation and associated church responsibilities.

- It was a delight to hear from **Tom** ➤

Meredith about another new church plant as a result of reachout from the Samoan assembly at Whalan. This one is at Pendle Hill and started in October last year.

- **Stewards Foundation** reported that three directors retired last year and have been replaced by Ross Bunyon, Nathan Fredricks and Martin Watkins. Ross is the Chairman, replacing Basil Connell who served for many years.

Rob Flinders (SCFS) is thanking God for a wonderful answer to prayer. The booklet "The Gift of God" he had printed for seafarers (see our October 2007 issue) in EasyEnglish and Tagalog is to have a much wider distribution. The Naval Military and Air Force Bible Society (www.nmafbs.org) distributes Bibles and Christian literature worldwide and has agreed to take on the responsibility of printing and distributing copies of the booklet in both languages at no further cost to the SCFS!!!

Rob asks if we would please pray that, as the booklets come into the hands of more and more seafarers, and as they read the Scriptures in it, the Holy Spirit will convict them about sin and righteousness and judgement.

Meetings & Events

For the latest please check at:-

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

2009:

13 Feb Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.

- 14 Feb 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm. ph: 9869 7164.
- 23 Feb Emmaus Bible College – 1st Semester starts.
- 28 Feb Word of Life's Leadership Development Conference for youth leaders and teenagers. ph: 9680 8195
- 1 March Emmaus Bible College – Commencement Service; 3pm.
- 2 Mar Women's Missionary Convention Coffee & Dessert Night; West Pennant Hills. 7.30pm phone 9894 4264.
- 3 Mar (ditto) at St George CC.
- 3 Mar Launch meeting of NSW Assemblies Youth Committee. More information from Rodney Trinidad 0414 722 877.
- 13 Mar Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.
- 14 Mar 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm. ph: 9869 7164.
- 11 Apr 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 29 Apr International Brethren Conference "Count Me In!" (PITH 2009) for assemblies in Asia-Oceania; in Selangor DE, Malaysia. www.pith-ao.org
- to 2 May

- 8, 9 May Toukley **Men's Conference**.
ph: 4396 4336
- 8 May Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.
- 9 May 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 16 May **Missions Convention** at West Pennant Hills Community Church. ph: 9872 4200.
- 5 June '**To Die For**' big combined Youth Event for NW Sydney area. More info from Rodney Trinidad 0414 722 877
- 12 June Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.
- 13 June 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 10 July Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545
- 11 July 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 18 July **Missions Convention** at Bexley Christian Assembly. ph: 9527 1203.
- 24 July to 26 July **Bible Prophecy Teaching Camp** at Merroo Christian Centre, Kurrajong, NSW. ph 4751 9602 (after 6pm)
- 8 Aug 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 14 Aug Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.
- 4 Sept '**To Die For**' big combined Youth Event for SW Sydney area. More info from Rodney Trinidad 0414 722 877.
- 4, 5 Sept **Women's Conference** at Toukley.
- 11 Sept Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.
- 12 Sept 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 3,4,5 Oct Initial Australian Brethren **Youth Leadership Development Conference** to be held in Parramatta. Details tba. Ph: 0414 722 877.
- 9 Oct Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.
- 10 Oct 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 13 Nov Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.
- 14 Nov 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 11 Dec Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.



Andrew walks 'The Way of St James'

by Andrew Collins

As I walked the rain misted, the cobbled stones were tough on my tender feet, the alleyways enticed exploration but before me was a goal I had been planning for months to reach, spent weeks in training, and now I had spent 31 days walking to reach this goal, to walk into the 13th century Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, in north west Spain. The terrain ranged from just a couple of hundred metres above sea level to over 1500 metres (ie 5,000 feet), through valleys, over passes, through sunshine, snow and now rain.

The Camino de Santiago de Compostela, also known in English as 'The Way of St James', is a collection of old pilgrimage routes which cover all Europe. They all have Santiago de Compostela in north west Spain as their final destination. For more than one thousand years pilgrims have been walking along the Camino de Santiago. The main route which I walked is more commonly known as the Camino Frances. This part of the Camino de Santiago traditionally starts in St Jean Pied de Port in southern France and finishes in Santiago de Compostela about 780 kms later, after travelling the breadth of Northern Spain.

765 kms to go!



The first day of this Camino crosses the Pyrenes, so all those images from the Tour de France suddenly became reality as I hiked from a couple of hundred metres to the pass at 1430 metres (5,700ft). At the end of the day, after I checked into an albergue (dormitory) with 100 beds in the village of Roncesvalles I wrote in my journal, 'I am so PUMPED'. I was so excited to actually complete this first day's walking and I still felt in pretty good shape!

For a number of years I had contemplated completing this Camino. I have a relative who completed it in 2002, International Teams missionaries operated a coffee shop in Santiago for a number of years and another International Teams couple are currently researching having an accommodation place there. I did not join an organised group; I walked the Camino on my own. However there were many people around me as close to 100,000 people walk the Camino each year, most in the summer months. For me it was mid October to mid November.

It is thought that Helena, mother to Constantine made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 326. After Jerusalem, Rome is the second most sacred site for Christians and Santiago is the third, and has become the most popular in recent centuries. The Bible records some Bible characters doing long walks. Abram, when he left Ur; Moses as he led the children of Israel from Egypt; Paul on his various missionary journeys all involving considerable walking. We have also learnt over the

>8

years that as followers of Jesus we are aliens in this world, in fact our citizenship is in heaven. Packing your pack before going was an exercise to remind me that I was a traveller.

With my research I learnt that you should not have a pack more than 10% of your body weight! That was less than 10kgs for me. So what did I really need for this walk for five weeks? After some of my training walks (I walked over 200kms before leaving, to help prepare my body) I came home and went through my pack to see what did I really need and what I could take out.

This happened on two occasions. I started with my pack weighing 12 kgs dry weight. I had the satisfaction of using everything in my pack that included all the clothes but also many of the Band-Aids, Dettol ointment, needle and thread (used to relieve the

pressure of blisters) and the bandage.

Looking through the Old Testament there were many times that piles of stones were left as a reminder to generations following indicating that this place was sacred. Being from a stream of Christendom that does not emphasise sacred places, I came to appreciate the sacredness of places where people had walked before me. The sacredness of the place where James the Apostle is buried (Santiago is Spanish for James) and reflect on his martyrdom; the wonder of walking a road built by the Romans and one that James may have walked and Paul may have walked if he got to Spain. Also, the sacredness of the place where millions of people have walked over the centuries – many in a quest to know God and to experience him more fully.

One thing I did not have to carry ➤



or need was a tent and cooking equipment. There are many locations along the pilgrimage route where you can stay, hostels called Albergues and Refugios especially for pilgrims. They varied in cost from €3-8 (A\$6-\$16) per night and a bunk bed with pillow is provided and usually a hot shower. On average there was a village every five to six kms. Often you could use the Albergue's kitchen to cook a simple meal, usually pasta with some canned fish for protein. This always was cheaper but was basic. Alternatives were the local bars and restaurants that offered a 'Pilgrim Menu' for €5-10 per person, usually it was quite a hearty three course meal.

The early pilgrims had not only the tough terrain to contend with but also robbers and there were certainly no paved roads in centuries past. For pilgrims during the middle ages the journey would have taken between six months and up to three years. I walked on a variety of surfaces including paved roads and paths, cobblestones, gravels roads and dirt, and muddy paths after any rain. Many kilometres were along farm paths that included mud and animal manure all adding to the ambience of a walk through a rural setting. I learnt to take good care of my feet being careful to walk on surfaces that did not hurt as after walking 25kms in a day I found my feet were very susceptible to the smallest stone. The distance I walked on any given day varied from about 20kms up to the 40kms I walked one day. I did get some blisters and it took me a few days



Stepping out...

to work out appropriate care of them. With no pain from blisters I began walking some long distances and then discovered I developed tendonitis in my left leg that felt like someone had kicked me in the shin. A week from the end a German Shepherd dog ran past me and bit my right calf leaving a couple of nasty gashes, something I was able to attend to with some basic first aid.

There were several reasons I wanted to do the walk. One was to disconnect from my previous role as National Director of International Teams. The walk certainly achieved that. I did not take a mobile phone with me, I did not take an iPod; the only thing electronic that I took was my camera. I wanted to disconnect completely and not hold onto responsibilities of my previous role. The other thing I wanted to do was to be away from the office so my successor, in this case Janice, could have a free hand at establishing her role in leadership. The third reason I walked the Camino was to do something big physically while >10

I could. Another reason I wanted to do the Camino was to slow life down a little for myself. I have experienced life in the fast lane for a while and wanted to create some time for God to speak to me if that is indeed what He wanted to do. I appreciated the opportunity of just walking and not to have the pressure of our western lifestyle.

My wife Janice joined me for the last 111kms. This was recommended to us and certainly was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect and talk though our separate experiences. Sadly, Janice's father had passed away while I was walking the Camino. It was



a thrill to be able to have the luxury of time to be able to walk and talk with my life's companion.

What did I learn as I walked? For the past 18 months I have had a mentor and he prepared a list of questions and statements for me to think through as I walked. These questions helped me reflect on my previous ministry and helped me to prepare for my next ministry. For example, What have been the high points of my ministry? What have been the obstacles? How do I rest,

calm and coast? Who is God calling me to serve? These questions can easily occupy thinking time and I reflected on them as I walked. I kept a blog while I walked (www.andrewonthecamino.blogspot.com), this was a wonderful way to keep people informed as to my progress and I loved reading people's comments, they were an inspiration to me.

I also learnt to appreciate the time I have with people, never knowing if walking companions I had one day would be with me the next or even if I would ever see them again.

I met some amazing people; some had walked from near Berlin before commencing this part of the Camino, some 2100kms. One older couple from Australia were doing the walk a third time. A Canadian guy was walking the Camino for a second time and just again wanted to experience the slowness of the pace of life rather than the speed at which western life often demands us live it. Others had walked to Santiago and were actually on their return trip.

Arriving in Santiago was an exhilarating experience. After so much planning, anticipation and walking to actually arrive at the huge Cathedral, to see a statue of St James, in fact to be able to hug him, and to see the crypt where it is alleged he is buried, was a moving experience. At midday every day there is a pilgrim mass in the cathedral. To listen to the singing, to hear the Bible being read, to hear a sermon (all in Spanish of course) and then to catch up with other pilgrims who ➤



Cathedral in Santiago

themselves had just arrived in Santiago, was a wonderful experience.

Whilst Santiago is where most people finish, some then catch a bus to the east coast to the town and cape at Finisterre. This word means 'the end of the earth' and is the most westerly point of mainland Europe. Many burn

some of their clothes, many sit and watch the sunset, many sit on the cliffs and reflect on their journey to date and, as they look across the vast Atlantic Ocean, they wonder what the future might hold and how best to act on decisions made or act on promptings made by the Spirit of God as to future moves and directions.

I now have many memories of my walk and 1100 photos to remind me of my Camino experience. I have my 'Passport' with stamps from the places I stayed; I have my Compostela Certificate as proof that I have completed the walk.

I also have recollections of having been in a place where it was God and I – with nothing else to crowd in and interfere. Just as in our marriage there are times of quiet silence where Janice and I can rest in the contentment of our relationship, I had that time with God as I walked. It was a wonderful experience and one that I will treasure and hope to nurture. □

Women's Missionary Convention Coffee and Dessert Evenings

Monday, 2 March, 7.30pm

at West Pennant Hills Community Church

and Tuesday, 3 March, 7.30pm

at St George Christian Church

The guest speakers are:-

Simone Ghali and Sophie McCrindle

Enquiries to Mary Arnold ph: 9894 4264

NSW Assemblies Evangelistic Mission Homeworkers Fund Treasurers' Report

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

	2008	2007
January - October	\$71,519	\$72,448
Nov: from Assemblies	2,867	2,024
Christmas Gifts	15,055	16,358
from NSWAEM	2,600	1,000
from other sources	52	55
	\$20,574	\$19,437
Dec: from Assemblies	3,617	2,075
Christmas Gifts	21,512	18,245
from NSWAEM	2,600	0
from other sources	29	47
	\$27,758	\$20,367
Totals	\$119,851	\$112,252

The funds, except for special designated gifts, have been divided between 17 workers and their families.

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

Dr John Angus recently took part in a conducted tour of several countries to visit significant places mentioned in the Bible. He took a lot of video during the tour and has produced a set of 3 DVDs, about 5 hours running time in all. The set is a record of the tour and his companions in Jordan, Israel and Egypt. The sites include Mt Nebo from which Moses saw the promised land, Baptis-mal site on the Jordan River, the Shepherds' fields, Gethsemane, Golgotha, the Garden Tomb etc.

The cost for the attractively presented set of DVDs is \$30 posted.

Contact: Mr John Angus, c/o Christian Media Services Inc.

35 Bandicoot Drive, BLACKBUTT 2529, or phone (02) 4295 7590.



Bible Society NEWS UPDATE January 2009



The big news is that the **Sydney** 'Jesus. All about life' campaign will start on September 15th this year across the Sydney metropolitan area. We already have 200 churches signed up and hope to reach the 500 mark by the end of our 'Sign Up' week (see below). Please encourage your church and others you may have contact with to log on to www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au and get signed up.

As well as the Sydney area, we have local committees working on the **NSW Central Coast** and the **Illawarra** and **South Coast**. The Central Coast will see the campaign from Sydney whilst the Illawarra and South Coast will need to do a local media buy to tie in with Sydney.

The **Hunter** 'Jesus. All about life' campaign will start on Good Friday, April 10th and will run until Pentecost. Please pray for Major Topher Holland and the team as they promote the campaign to local churches

The **Western Australian** 'Jesus. All about life' campaign is likely to run at the same time as the Sydney campaign. Imagine the name of Jesus being heard on both sides of our nation at the same time!

Speakers are available if you would like someone to come and explain to your church about how they can get involved with the campaign, please contact us. We'd be delighted to come and share how your church can be a part of this city-wide campaign.

Central West: We have had some strong interest from the Central West of NSW and are looking to hold some information evenings in Orange and Bathurst in early February. Please contact us for more information.

Sign Up week: February 15th - 21st has been designated 'JAAL Sign Up' week. We are working with Sydney Christian FM station 103.2 which will heavily promote this on-air. The aim is to encourage as many churches as possible to sign up for 'Jesus. All about life' during that period and reach 500 churches by the end of the week, or you can sign up now at www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au

Already Signed Up? Thank you to churches who have signed up. You should have received your information pack and training DVD by now.

Extra copies of **JAAL Churches Calendar** for the Sydney campaign are available on-line. Make sure your church has one to help you plan for the campaign.

(The above news was extracted from the January newsletter issued by Rachel Hockings, Project Manager - Jesus. All about life.)

STAY IN TOUCH with details at www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au

Emmaus Bible College

- ◆ Courses in Theology and Ministry
 - ◆ Christian Brethren affiliated
 - ◆ Academic and Vocational
 - ◆ SCD and DET accredited
 - ◆ Fee-help available

Registrations for 1st Semester close on 23 February

240 Beecroft Road, Epping Phone: (02) 9876 4370
Web site: www.emmaus.edu.au E-mail: registrar@emmaus.edu.au

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

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

Luke 24:27

AWAKE TO ISRAEL

History ◦ Current Events ◦ Prophecy ◦ Evangelism

Meetings are held monthly, February to November
2nd Saturday, 2:30pm at Epping Gospel Chapel
Cnr Carlingford road and Duntroon Ave, Epping.

Our Purpose is as follows:

1. To stir up each other to study what the word of God says concerning Israel and our relationship to her as gentile believers both now and in the future.
2. To encourage the believers in Israel in whatever way we can
3. To facilitate and be involved in evangelism and discipleship of Jewish people.
4. To Pray for Israel

For further information phone (02) 9869 7164

All are welcome and are encouraged to come, and together search the Scriptures.

Awake to Israel is a Church based ministry of Epping Gospel Chapel

The Emmaus Gospel Fellowship

The Emmaus Gospel Fellowship (EGF) has organised Sunday evening meetings on the Emmaus Bible College premises for several weeks and held its Christmas service and final meeting for the year 2008 on December 14th. It was a wonderful celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with Christmas carols and short messages delivered by the students.

Bro. Joshua Miles led and then Bro. Jack Khatchoyan followed by Bro. Joshua and then Bro. Eddy Ohanesian presented the Christmas message in tag team style using the passages Isaiah 9:1-7, Luke 2:1-7 and 2:8-20.

The meeting was followed by a BBQ tea. After all had been introduced and made to feel welcome Bro. Frank Caguin shared his powerful testimony regarding his time in Saudi Arabia with his wife and little children, when he was imprisoned for his faith.

It was a wonderful evening to finish the year, and everyone was most blessed and praised God.

The Fellowship resumed in January 2009 with two meetings on January 11th and January 18th, each followed by a light supper.

From February the EGF meetings will be run only on the first and third Sundays of the month. There will be a guest speaker on the first Sunday and wholly student participation on the third Sunday (see page 16). We have made this change because many of the students have difficulty juggling their desire to participate with the EGF and their roles and responsibilities in their home churches.



L to R: John Hajakian, Jack Khatchoyan, Frank Caguin, Eddy Ohanesian, Robert Grigorian, Joshua Miles.



L to R: Armine Grigorian, Therese Hajakian, Susan Khatchoyan, Elizabeth Webb, Sonya Ohanesian, Catherine Ohanesian, Malou Caguin.

emmaus

gospel fellowship

An Emmaus Bible College student outreach ministry

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings of each month
6pm-7pm followed by refreshments

Car parking available

Praise & Worship



Preaching the Gospel



Open to everyone
Bring family, friends, and church

Prayer & Testimonies



Coffee & Fellowship



Emmaus Bible College
Ground Floor, 240 Beecroft Road
Epping NSW 2121
Enquiries Phone: (02) 9876 4370
www.emmaus.edu.au

As Chairman and Chief Executive of CBCS, we present this short report on behalf of the Board, highlighting significant activities for the 2007/08 financial year. This will be the last report by Ted Davis as Chairman, having completed his tenure in that position at the last Annual Meeting of the Company. Tony Folland has accepted the role of Chairman for the ensuing year.

Board of Directors

In September 2007, Sam Arnold was appointed to the Board. Sam is an accountant with extensive experience in the aged care sector.

After more than 30 years of service, Norm Polyblank resigned from the Board in December 2007. His dedicated service has been greatly appreciated by the Board. In addition to his role as Secretary/Treasurer of the Company through most of its existence, Norm also spent some time as the voluntary manager during the organisation's early days. Norm's role as Secretary/Treasurer has been taken by Sam Arnold.

Graham Kindt, who had been a Director for more than nineteen years, did not seek reappointment to the Board at the last Annual Meeting. For approximately one third of his time as a Director, Graham held the position of Chairman. We recognise and thank him for his dedicated service to the organisation and its residents.

Bethshean Nursing Home Ltd

Bethshean Nursing Home Ltd has not traded for some years. With the ownership of the nursing home being transferred to CBCS and then Bethshean being amalgamated with Yurana House to form Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, it was decided to deregister the company. The deregistration was officially recognised by ASIC in March, but of course the tradition of quality care continues through the Bethshean Wing of Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre.

Facilities

As mentioned in our 2007 report, Carinya House, our new 60-bed aged care facility at Glenhaven, commenced operation in August 2007 and was officially opened in September of that year. The facility is owned by Stewards' Foundation of Christian Brethren and is operated under a lease arrangement by CBCS.

Also in August 2007, the Administration Offices for the company were moved from the Elouera Gardens site to an office block in the Norwest Business Park at Baulkham Hills, a location that is almost equidistant from the two sites currently operated by CBCS.

A major extension to Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, comprised of a two-storey 28-bed wing and a large extension to the Community Room, was

completed in October 2008 at the cost of approximately \$5 million. This extension has added greatly to the amenity of the residents.

Despite many setbacks, construction of a further 60-bed facility at Cardiff Heights in the Newcastle area appears to be nearing commencement. An amended Development Application was finally approved by Lake Macquarie Council in May 2007 and detailed planning and documentation commenced immediately. An agreement was reached between the Stewards' Foundation and CBCS for CBCS to purchase the land for the facility from Stewards' and the purchase took place in October 2007. CBCS is now working with our architects to finalise the plans for the facility and to select a builder for the project. It is expected that construction will commence in the second quarter of 2009.

Operations

A significant concern to the Board continues to be the level of vacancies in self-care units at Elouera Gardens. Throughout the year we have had an average of approximately 10% of our units vacant. This appears to be a common experience throughout the industry, but we are not prepared to accept that as an excuse for continuing vacancies. A number of new marketing strategies have been and will be introduced in order to attract new residents. One of these strategies has been the introduction of rental agreements for some of our units.

The Federal Government introduced a new funding system for residential aged care in March 2007. A stated aim of the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI) is to move funding more in favour of high care residents than low care residents. Although CBCS has fared reasonably well from the new system so far, the future may not be so bright for us unless further changes are made to the way Government subsidises care and the way it permits providers to charge residents to cover the costs of building new facilities. The increasing trend for people to take advantage of Community Aged Care Packages and stay in their homes is also starting to have an effect on the number of enquiries for low care admissions, and although we are not yet seeing significant vacancies, we expect that like many other facilities, we will start to experience vacancies in coming months unless appropriate policy changes are made by Government.

Speaking of Community Care, CBCS has again decided to apply for an allocation of packages in the latest allocation round from the Government. It is hoped that we will be able to commence a service in 2009 if, within the will of God, we are allocated the places.

Quality of care continues to be a major consideration in aged care. The Accreditation Agency has made four visits to Carinya House and three to Cherrybrook in the last year. Although these visits can be stressful for staff, it is very pleasing to report that following every visit we have received very favourable reports and we continue to operate facilities that comply with all expected outcomes under the Accreditation Standards. As part of our commitment to provide quality care, our facilities regularly participate in a national quality

benchmarking program and our results are usually in the top grouping.

Finance

The Company recorded an operating loss of \$443,867 for the year. This disappointing result was largely due to the establishment and start-up costs associated with opening Carinya House. The mix of residents and their length of stay did not meet the expectations that had moulded our budget and underpinned our staffing strategy. It was not until the end of the financial year that we were able to have the new facility operating at near break-even level. However, it is pleasing to report that Carinya House is now showing a positive financial result.

The non-operating income that helped give us an overall surplus was due to the fact that the bed licences at Carinya House were brought to account as an asset worth \$2.1 million.

Overall, the Company continues to be in a strong financial position, with net assets of almost \$22 million. However, our continuing financial viability is a major concern of the Board, considering the current world economic climate and the increasing gap between costs of providing accommodation and care and the regulated levels of income that we face. The Board is actively pursuing ways to ensure that we are able to continue providing quality care into the foreseeable future.

Staff

Unfortunately, with the financial pressures at Carinya House, we were faced with the difficult decision of having to implement redundancies of staff throughout the year. We were sorry to lose some very talented staff, but are thankful to those who continue with us for taking up the challenge of changed work responsibilities. The original manager of Carinya House, Robyn Worsley, who had done a wonderful job of setting up and running the facility, decided to leave us in June. Her replacement is Gail Summers, who is also proving to be a very capable manager.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all the staff of CBCS, both paid and voluntary. Without such dedicated staff we would not be able to provide the high quality care for which we are known. We pray that together, as “Christ’s love compels us”, we will be able to continue to offer care to many more elderly in the future.

Conclusion

Having a strong membership of the Company is important to the future of CBCS. As we look to God for His continued blessing of CBCS, we take this opportunity to invite you to support the ministry by becoming a member of the Company.



Ted Davis
Chairman



Peter Mackie
Chief Executive Officer

CHRISTIAN BROTHERN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Balance Sheet as at 30/06/08

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets	15,401,930	13,140,555
Fixed Assets	33,033,105	29,842,041
Property Investments - Adjoining Properties	593,934	598,507
Intangibles - Bed Licences	<u>2,350,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>51,378,969</u>	<u>43,831,103</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	29,211,579	23,471,156
Non-Current Liabilities	<u>194,088</u>	<u>127,131</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>29,405,667</u>	<u>23,598,287</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>21,973,302</u>	<u>20,232,816</u>
EQUITY	<u>21,973,302</u>	<u>20,232,816</u>

Profit & Loss Statement for the Year Ended 30/06/08

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Administration	61,513	94,419
Carinya House	1,851,504	0
Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre	4,749,491	4,752,701
Elouera Self Care	<u>1,187,110</u>	<u>1,268,193</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>7,849,618</u>	<u>6,115,312</u>
EXPENSES		
Administration	89,551	140,574
Carinya House	2,879,933	104,226
Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre	4,600,336	4,424,250
Elouera Self Care	<u>723,666</u>	<u>692,957</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>8,293,485</u>	<u>5,362,007</u>
OPERATING PROFIT/LOSS	<u>-443,867</u>	<u>753,305</u>
Non-Operating Income	2,165,269	496,993
Non-Operating Expenses	-19,084	10,685
NET PROFIT	<u>1,740,486</u>	<u>1,239,613</u>

Why Emmaus Bible College?

by Hagop (Jack) Khatchoyan
haskinengineering@optusnet.com.au

This is a student's testimony given at the College's 2008 end-of-year Celebration Service on 23rd November.

Firstly, I would like to praise our Lord and thank Him for the grace and kindness He has shown me through the forgiveness of my sins and by accepting me as His own.

Good afternoon. My name is Jack and I am a first-year student at Emmaus College, at the very young age of 58! The course that I am doing is Diploma in Theology, part time, as I am full time self-employed. God willing if I did manage to complete 2 subjects in each semester, that is 4 subjects per year, then I should finish in four years

It was a huge challenge for me to begin studying here as a student. I had all kinds of excuses lined up and I used each one. My family, travel distance, finances and lack of previous education were just some of the reasons I clung to, in order to justify myself.

But God had a plan for me. And because God had a plan for me, all my excuses were shattered. My family encouraged me to go to college. Financial issues were resolved due to the government grant which is available for any college student.

So I then thought about studying website design at TAFE. But God was persistent. He won.

My last excuse was the matter of distance. Don't ask me how I overcame this problem. I don't have an answer. My excuse simply disappeared.



I have just finished my first year and am looking forward to my second year of college. Studying God's Word is challenging in itself, but it is even more challenging at Emmaus College. I always thought I had a relatively solid grasp of the Bible. However, through our lectures, and the questions that are put forward, that make you think, I have come to realise that there is a lot I do not know.

I love this college. I appreciate the friendliness and openness of the lecturers, the staff and the students. The college is very accommodating to our needs. Communication is open between us and our lecturers, the staff and our principal. They are always accessible, always willing to listen and always ready to help where there is a need.

Two months ago, the students of this college came forward with a proposal to have fellowship meetings on Sunday nights. This idea eventuated due to the collective desire of the students >18

to praise and worship God together. It also was envisioned as an outreach ministry to the local community, and an opportunity for prospective students to see the college and consider it as their school of choice.

The proposal was put to the principal and it was not long before it was accepted. I think this demonstrates how the students here at Emmaus are valued individuals. Our ideas are considered and encouraged.

However, what I appreciate the most about this college is that, while we are taught many different points of view and interpretations of the Bible, the teaching and doctrine are solid and clear.

As students we do need to have an open mind. It is often the common experience that we are exposed to one way of teaching throughout our Christian life. Coming to college, we are faced with issues and problems that challenge our understanding and help us grow in our knowledge of the Scriptures and of the Lord.

This college has a particularly significant name. It comes from Luke 24, where we read of two disciples who are on their way to Emmaus discussing the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. Jesus appeared to them on that road and wanted to know what they were discussing. Finally, Jesus explained to them what was written in the Scriptures about Himself.

Wow! Wouldn't you like to have Jesus as your Teacher? Here was Jesus, the greatest and most qualified theologian, teaching these disciples! That was real college on the go!

And what about these two disciples? We know the name of the first. Cleopas. But what of the name of the second? His name is your own name. His name is your name and my name. We need to study the Scriptures so we can have a better understanding of Christ. Emmaus Bible College is this place for me.

What about you?

Don't make excuses.

Trust God. □



The first published novel by this NSW author

Careful readers of this magazine will recall that this book got a brief mention in Internet Corner in the December 2008 issue. That was because it's available for purchase via the author's web site:

www.babylonthegreatnovel.com

The Forward of the book was written by Pastor Gregory Willis of Timeline Ministries. He begins "This novel by Paul Howell is captivating, thought provoking and absolutely enthralling; it is one of those books you find hard to put down. Paul has taken Biblical prophetic >

realities and placed them in our modern world, whilst creating a wonderful Australian flavour – making this a very unique prophetic novel.

“One of the qualities or virtues in this book that I found so refreshing, uplifting and encouraging was how Paul Howell has remained true to the Word of God.”

Well, that alone might be enough to make some people want to read “Babylon the Great”! But if you prefer more information before making a purchase, the author has kindly provided a summary of the plot and his reasons for wanting to write this story. Paul Howell said:

“The story is set in the New England region of NSW, Australia. It is a novel based on the end-times prophecies of the Bible, with a particular emphasis on the woman riding the beast in Revelation 17. As someone who was raised in the Roman Catholic Church (RCC), I have found that there is much evidence to identify the RCC with this particular prophecy and felt that there was a need to write a novel to help expose the heresies of the RCC as well as the true nature of this church and to lead Catholics to a true understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

“Though primarily set in Australia, the novel also has characters in Europe, the USA and Israel. It is the story of a couple of maverick Catholic priests who dare to question their superiors about some of the teachings and practices of their church. Though completely unaware of how near the second coming of Christ is, they both

make the search for Biblical truth a priority. Meanwhile in Europe, the architects of the New World Order have found a candidate with a bold plan to unite the world under the governance of 10 kings. He also has astonishing supernatural powers which he confers upon the newly elected Pope Peter II, a conceited man who is mesmerised by the candidate, Salvatore Romeo, and by the powers he has received from him.

“At the same time the world is teetering upon the brink of a nuclear showdown between Israel and Iran. As the world awaits the worst-case scenario to unfold before them, in an instant, multiplied millions of people completely vanish from the face of the earth in every country. The rapture of the church has occurred. Seizing the moment, Pope Peter II introduces the world to Salvatore Romeo - the only man with a plan and a vision to bring about a peaceful and secure world. Most of the world have some concept that the pope is God’s spokesman and would surely be leading them in the right direction. And with an ability to perform miraculous signs, the world at large follows the pope and the “saviour” he is endorsing. However, there are a few people who are not fooled by the counterfeit going on. They have found a knowledge of the Bible’s truth about just who these men are - and they are willing to risk all to stand against them!”

This book is published by Book Pal, Australia, and costs \$25 plus postage.



ASSEMBLIES OUTREACH MAGAZINE
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THIS YEAR

became due in
January 2009

The 2009 subscription prices are still the same as last year...

Annual subscription – for 6 issues of the normal printed-on-paper version. \$25
(Price includes P&P anywhere in Australia and can be ordered by individuals or in bulk through assemblies and other organizations.)

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(This can **only** be ordered by individuals, via email, whether they receive the magazine personally or via their assembly. In the latter case, the email order must include the assembly name and be paid for separately from the magazine.)

Annual subscription - for 6 issues of a PDF version alone. (This can **only** be ordered by individuals, via email.) \$12

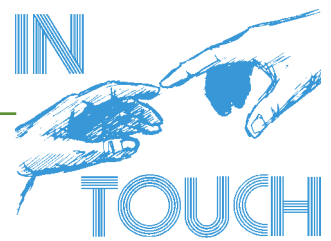
We request that you please forward your payment for 2009 promptly to the NSW AEM office to enable regular printing and postage costs to be met. Payment can be paid by Cheque, Money Order, or by Direct Deposit to BSB 062-212 Account 00902021, and please put the words "AO mag for <your surname>" in the 'Description' field.

Advertising Space can now be booked for the magazines in 2009. The total space allowed for adverts in each issue is limited and will be allocated on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

More information and the rates (either for a year or a single issue) have been updated and are listed on the web-page:
www.christianbrethren-nsw.org.au/aem/Mag/adverts.html

News from NSW

Home Workers



Daya & Mary Nand 31st December 2008

Happy New Year. We pray for you to experience God's guidance and blessings. "Praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come."



We have appreciated your fellowship, your love and prayers and would value your fellowship as we continue in His service. From Friday 2nd to Tuesday 20th January we trust to be New Zealand. Timothy (Gwen's son) is getting married on the 10th and Daya will be turning 70 on the 9th and celebrating at the Eilerslie Bible Chapel in Auckland on the 4th as well as on the 9th in Hastings at Gwen's home. Pray for his teaching meetings in Auckland and Hastings. Pray too for our health and for travelling mercies.

*With much love and warm thanks,
Daya and Mary*

Ken & Daphne Harding 17th January 2009

Our reading today from Spurgeon's 'Morning' was based on Isaiah 41:14 and was so precious. Just a quote from it: "It is a small thing for ME, your Lord, to help you. Consider



what I have done already. ... If you needed a thousand times as much help, I would give it to you. You require little compared with what I am ready to give." So this year we are asking for much help from the Lord for a heavy programme of ministry in Perth (twice), Malaysia (twice), Korea and many meetings locally in NSW.

Last year was a busy one and we faced the sad loss of Daph's Mum as well as a number of friends.

Then we had a great visit from Sue and our grandchildren from Dallas, and later David fitted in a visit along with a business trip. Our two daughters, Alison and Rachel, live close to us and are a joy indeed.

Riverstone assembly continues to give us much joy and then there are the usual pastoral and care issues that keep us on our toes (or knees). A team of eight have just come back from Myanmar where they had a good time of mission and encouragement.

Our time in Perth, will be for a GLO Impact with the Assemblies. Malaysia for meetings and lectures at the GLO Centre and Korea will be for lectures at the GLO Training Centre also. As you can imagine the preparation is considerable and just now I'm thinking about 120 new lectures or addresses so the pressure is considerable.

Daph and I both have a few health issues which are being investigated but >22

we have been able to carry on regardless; hence the emphasis on the help from the Lord on which we rely. Together with your prayers and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:19) we can look forward with confidence. Thank you so much for your Christmas gift (through the NSW Home Workers Fund) and for your encouragement and prayers.

Ken and Daphne Harding

Geoff & Liz Folland

19th January 2009



G'day, welcome to our first ministry update for the new year. On Saturday afternoon Liz and I arrived home from two weeks away. The first week was a delightful time of camping at a lagoon. It was our first time camping as a family and it was full of 'firsts'. Katrise & Philip caught their first fish each. They were kissed by a seal. Philip learned lots of tricks on his bike. They caught butterflies. Philip went for his first canoe ride. It was a lot of fun... and I only got sunburned on the last two days.

We packed up the camp and went straight to Nexus - Student Life's national missionary conference - on the Sunshine Coast. This was a very full week where the kids were in wonderful childcare for most of it (but missing us terribly!) We had lots of meetings outside of the main sessions - discussing missionary's future plans, strategies

for reaching a particular campus, and thinking about the movement as a whole. It was a fourteen hour drive home and we returned exhausted. Tomorrow my summer project begins. I leave for Newcastle (two hours drive north) to work with another missionary and three students in preparing the way for the launch of the Student Life ministry there this year. Although the project runs for 2.5 weeks (right up until before classes begin), I'll be returning to Sydney regularly to connect with home again.

During this time, I am also planning for our upcoming student conference: CM2009. Registrations have been (predictably) slow over the Christmas break. We really need students to register online over the next two weeks - and I would appreciate your prayers toward that. Thanks for partnering with us in this ministry. Your prayers make a difference.

In His love and grace,

Geoff

P.S. One of the Macquarie students, who went on the December summer project, went overseas with her family to visit a closed country. While there she decided to try to put into practice some of the things she learned on project. In doing so, she stumbled across the local Campus Crusade (Student Life) student group... students just like her - praying for and reaching out to local students. She was so excited that she emailed a whole bunch of us. It truly is amazing being part of this organisation - and the whole body of Christ!



Allan & Shelley Moss
December 2008

(extracts from a Christmas Letter...)



Dear Friends,
How great is our God and great is His faithfulness. Living in Ballina is what we thought it would be like when we went to Choco years ago!! Maybe

God knows that some things just won't be appreciated until we've had some work done in us first!

Anyway, we're really enjoying the fellowship with the Christians here. They're a hard-working group and at times rather innovative when it comes to outreach. We've been blessed by times of prayer with each of the believers and we've seen God answering those prayers. As individual families we're all striving to reach out to our next door neighbours as well as the neighbours in the area around the hall. With everyone working together we've been involved in Kids Clubs, Camps, Bible teaching, Youth groups, Ynot Drop Inn (street kids drop-in), Bible studies, Discippling and even a Men's canoe trip which Allan greatly enjoyed, mainly because his body didn't quite fall apart!

A lot has happened in our families during this past year. Allan is now a Marriage Celebrant but has yet to officiate at an Aussie wedding. Looking at all the paper work involved, a wedding here is waaaay different to a

wedding in Colombia. Shelley had the opportunity to do a 13 week course called Divorce Care which we hope will enable us to help people in this situation. Allan is also doing a Diploma in Theology through the Evangelical Bible College of W.A. He's enjoying learning and the assignments to date haven't been too hard. Bike riding and swimming are our desperate attempts to ward off "The BULGE" but... tiredness seems to be our worst enemy.

Sherrin has completed her B.A.B.E. and is now studying (at her own pace) for her Masters. She is kept pretty busy working on the Girls4God magazine, teaching Spanish classes, working part-time at Myers as well as doing contract work with the Uni teaching groups of overseas students.

Since July, Keziah has been living with Sherrin, so we don't get to see our girls all that often. Keziah works permanent casual hours restocking shelves at Big W and she's very happy to be accepted into Uni for 2009. She'll be studying a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Drama with the possibility of adding a further year of study with a Dip. Ed.

Jared is still here in Ballina although he does enjoy the odd trip back to his old stamping grounds in Buderim. He has almost finished his Cert III in Early Childhood and he does quite a few volunteer hours at the local Pre-school as well as his paid job in the restaurant of a large charity organisation. Jared is actively involved in the Kids Club and Youth Group as well as being a 'big brother' to a young teenager.

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In 2008 Tarrant (TJ) enjoyed the last year of his primary education and he's looking forward to High School. He's been very busy with school competitions, swimming lessons, touch footy and the end of year drama called 'Repugnant'. He's also very excited and proud to have been included as a helper in Sunday School.

For all those who have faithfully prayed for our parents we'd like you to know that Shelley's Mum has survived two open heart surgeries and she's now much stronger and healthier than she's been in years. Her kidneys are still cause for concern but we're trusting in the Lord to hold off dialysis for as long as possible. Her Dad is older, greyer, less hair but still very healthy for which we praise the Lord. Al's Dad seems to have recovered well from his bout with cancer and it's just as well too because Mum has been sick with clots on her lungs and debilitating pain caused by degenerative discs but, things aren't quite so bad now as they were a few months ago.

We thank you for your prayerful and practical support throughout 2008. May you be blessed as you reflect on all that the Lord has done in and through you last year.

January 2009

The only bit of further news is the engagement of our eldest, Sherrin to Chris and they hope to marry in September.

Also we're getting revved up for the

start of all our activities, Sunday School, Kids Club, Youth Group, Ynot Drop In (street kids drop in), visitation and Bible studies with various people.

With love in our risen Lord,
Allan, Shelley and family

Jane Law (nee Mayhew) January 2009

In due course, Jane will no doubt write and tell us in her own words all about her transition from being a single woman to being the wife of a fine young man, James Law. Meanwhile here are a few comments from a guest at the wedding ceremony.

It all came to a climax on a beautiful, sunny Saturday afternoon, the 10th of January, in St Annes Anglican church, Ryde. The church was packed with family and friends to witness the happy couple take their vows and to pray for their future happiness together in marriage and service to God. During sumptuous 'afternoon refreshments' photos were taken - here is a very amateur one of Jane & James with her parents, Sue & Peter:



PLEASE submit items for the APRIL magazine BEFORE 13th March.

I Have A Dream – Luke chapter 16

by Dr W.D. Archbold

Who was it that said, “**I Have A Dream**”? It was the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, in Washington, USA, on 28th August 1963. In a nutshell, what was his dream? His dream was the abolition of racial discrimination. Unfortunately, he was assassinated in 1968 with much of his dream unfulfilled.

The Apostle Peter said (Acts 2:17 NIV) “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”

We tend to think that we are approaching or even in the “**Last Days**”, and if we are, we should be having dreams and visions, but are we? Have we stopped dreaming dreams?

Have you ever had a dream similar to this? One Sunday morning you arrive at the Chapel at about one minute past ten, and the people at the door greeting say, “I am sorry, but there are no seats left inside, but you can listen in from the youth hall.” Do you dream those kinds of dreams?

Have you discovered that it is much easier to dream dreams than to actualise them? Generally speaking, dreams are not our main problem, but **translating them into action is**.

My 1st cousin four times removed, George McIntosh, had a dream. Let me tell you how he went about putting it into action. George was born in 1833. His family were of good Anglican stock and early pioneers living at Gordon, NSW. But even the best of families



have the odd ‘black sheep’. Amongst other things, George had the reputation of being quite a handy bare-knuckle boxer.

But strange forces are often at work in our lives and at the age of 44, George left the “**Canvas**” for the “**Cloth**”; he became an Anglican minister. His first appointment was to a Church at Kurri Kurri.

George and his family duly settled in, and bright eyed and bushy-tailed he turned up to take his first Sunday service. There was literally a man and his dog there. But George had a dream, so he decided on a plan to bring it to fruition.

In those early days Kurri was a coal-mining town and the lads were big on boozing. So on Saturday afternoon, George went down to the local pub, stood up on a chair and called for attention. He introduced himself as the new minister of the Anglican Church. Then he asked the men, who was the best fighter in the town? There didn’t appear to be any doubt about the answer, and they said, “**Big Fred**”. George reached into his pocket and pulled out a fiver and put it on the bar. Then George said, “Come on Fred, outside, and if you are the one

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left standing the fiver is yours, but if I am the one left standing you have to come to Church next Sunday”.

When it comes to a stoush the amateur is no match for the Pro, and George disposed of Big Fred in no time at all. From that time until George was moved to another church he preached to a congregation with standing room only. What did George do? He got the men of Kurri to play the game according to his strengths, not theirs, and it worked for George.

I am not going to suggest that we get someone relatively fit and pack him off to the pub to take on the world. In fact I'm not going to suggest anything, but I am going to show you something that Jesus suggested.

(Luke 16:1-8 NIV) Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg — I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ‘Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.’ Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you

owe?’ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.”

The Parable

Basically the parable that Jesus told is one of a commercial nature. It is about some dialogue between an owner of a business and his manager. It had been brought to the owner’s attention that his manager was the Jim Selim of Jerusalem, and he was not doing a good job, he was wasting the owner’s possessions. So to use an old Aussie idiom, he gave the manager the “hammer and tack”.

Have you ever been given the sack? It can be quite a traumatic experience, and so it was for the manager. His plight is emphasised in verse 3.

(Luke 16:3 NIV) The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—’

Because of his incompetence he believed that it would be very difficult to pick up another job. So what did he desperately need? He needed friends!

At least he had learned a very important lesson, if you want to have friends in business, you have to splash the money about a bit. Long lunches, gifts, etc. they are all calculated to win friends. It puts you in a position of ➤

power to have people owing you a favour.

Let me tell you it is a lot easier to splash the money around, when the money isn't yours. I have found that people are most generous when they are giving money away that is not theirs!

So the manager devised a rather shonky plan to urgently win some friends. As far as I could see there was no thought that these debtors could not, in the normal time frame, pay their entire debt. But the manager decided to conduct a 'fire sale' and offer discounts to all and sundry.

We must clearly understand why he did this. As we have seen, there was no thought that the debtors could not pay the entire amount, **so he was not motivated by compassion**. He obviously didn't have the owner's interests in mind, for he was giving his money away, **so he was not motivated by astute stewardship**. It seems clear that he had his own interests at heart.

By offering them discounts he was trying to buy some urgently needed friends. Friends he could call on to provide the badly needed job. Anything was better than digging ditches or worse still, begging. So off he went offering discounts of between 50% and 20%.

Now we come to a minor difficulty, (verse 8) "**The master commended the dishonest manager**". The question is, "**Who is the master**" here? Some think it was Jesus because Luke used the Greek word "Kurios" which is generally translated "**Lord**". (KJV)

But it is also translated; owner, master, Sir, etc (NIV). It was a general term of respect. The meaning here is put beyond doubt by Jesus' words in verse 9. He said, "**I tell you** use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings."

With these words Jesus was contrasting what someone else said with what He was about to say. So Jesus was not the one making the commendation, it was the owner of the business.

One must ask, what did the owner find in this devious manoeuvre to commend the manager for his "**shrewdness**"? The thought here is one of cleverness, or clever like a fox. We admire the fox for his cleverness, but who wants a fox for a friend? But notice the owner had no intention of re-hiring him. So it appears to be more of an "**observation**" than it is a "**commendation**".

Note the sentence, (verse 8) "For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light." This serves as the bridge that is used to cross over from the parable to the Lord's explanation of it. The Lord is going to talk about the management of our resources in respect to winning friends.

But the meaning of this phrase is quite clear, Jesus is saying, that the people of the world use their assets better to win friends than the Christians do.

The Explanation. Verses 9 – 13:

The first thing Jesus would have us understand about **“Worldly wealth”** is that it’s not meant to be stored up, and only used for yourself, for one day it will be left behind. Wealth can serve a much more nobler purpose.

The purpose that Jesus had in mind, is for us to use **“Worldly wealth”** (or, our resources) to make friends that can be helped into the Kingdom of God.

The phrase, verse 9, **“So that when it (the money) is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings”** simply can’t mean that by so doing you buy your way into Heaven. Then what does it mean? Quite a few translate the words “You will be welcomed” this way, **“They will welcome you”**; “They” being the people you have helped to get into the Kingdom. These are the words of Samuel Rutherford;

Fair Anworth by the Solway,
To me thou still art dear,
E’en from the verge of Heaven,
I drop for thee a tear.
Oh! If one soul from Anworth
Meet me at God’s right hand
My Heaven will be two Heavens,
In Emmanuel’s land.

The question that Jesus was putting to the disciples in verses 10 – 12 is, could they be trusted to follow His teaching and example, and also would they demonstrate the shrewdness that the manager did in the parable and use money to win friends for the kingdom?

(Luke 16:10-12 NIV) “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be

trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

The Lord’s use of this incident as an example to the disciples is the second difficulty we have to address. But the emphasis is not on the manager’s underhandedness or duplicity, but on his **“use”** of the money – to win friends. So Jesus commended his **“motive”** not his **“method.”**

Jesus summarises his application of the parable with these words: (Luke 16:13 NIV) “No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”

There is no doubt what the Lord means here, **“Worldly wealth”** can either be used to extend the Kingdom of God, or it can be used to further one’s own interests. The choice is ours – God or money? It can’t be both.

Conclusions:

Think: In what ways can I use what I have to win friends for the Kingdom? Then when you come up with some answers, convert them from dreams into action.

*It’s not what you’d do with a million
If riches should e’er be your lot,
But what you are doing at present with
the dollar and quarter you’ve got.* □



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' links in the PDF version of this magazine which can now be purchased cheaply. Ten (10) previous issues in PDF format are stored on the web site for anybody to read – **October 2008** is the most recent:-

www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem/Mag/previous.html

As announced at the last NSW Assemblies Coordinating Conference, a **Christian Brethren Training** web site has been established by Emmaus Bible College at:

<http://brethren.able.edu.au>

Currently, the only material available relates to Child Protection matters, but more training modules will be added gradually.

Rodney Trinidad mentioned he wants to launch a web site for **Youth activities**. If anyone has thoughts on that, or would like to help, please give Rodney a call on 0414 722 877.

The **Centre for Public Christianity** (CPX) web site has been mentioned several times recently:

<http://publicchristianity.org/>

In January some new features were added – including a blog to share the thoughts of Greg Clarke, John Dickson and Simon Smart plus the occasional

special guest. In addition, there is new material:

- Greg Clarke interviews New York writer Eric Metaxas to find out what is so funny about Christianity.
- Richard Shumack calls Westerners to better understand their multi-faith societies.
- Steven Micklethwaite reviews Richard Holmes' book 'The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science'.

Darren Lewis, from Townsville, North Queensland has been involved with men's ministries since 2000. He emailed to advise that they have launched a ministry, called **Fathering Adventures**:

www.fatheringadventures.com.au

The next five-night father-son adventure will be held from Saturday afternoon, July 4th, to Thursday morning, July 9th. Full details can be found on the website.

The aim of this ministry is to help turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. It's a quest to help men and their relationships become all that they were created to be.

Darren wrote "My desire is to see men from all around Australia, bring their Dads, sons, and significant male others (e.g. uncles/grandfathers/mentors/proteges/coaches/teachers) along." >30

He also mentioned an anonymous sponsor has offered to sponsor a pair, or two half pairs, who would not normally be able to participate in such an experience due to financial hardship. If you know of such a family or two, please contact Darren.

Internet Evangelism Day (IE Day) is a day set aside in April (or any other time you choose) as a focus for your church as to how you can use the Internet for God. It's web site has changed URL to:

www.internetevangelismday.com

The web site works at two levels. One is to provide resources for download, and the other is to tell people 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.

I've been told about an Aussie website that targets the 'unsaved':

www.lifeconsideration.com

The purpose of LifeConsideration is to provide Christians with an easy way to share their faith with the unsaved – by simply giving a brochure or card referencing this website to someone, and allow the website to (hopefully) prompt the unsaved individual to rethink their life and consider Christianity.

In July this year there is going to be a **Bible Prophecy Teaching Camp** at the Merroo Christian Centre, Kurrajong. The guest speaker is Dr Thomas Ice who is the Executive Director of The Pre-Tribulation Research Centre, located on the campus of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. He has served as a pastor for 15 years and is a prolific writer of books and articles. To learn more about The Pre-Trib Research Centre visit its web site:

www.pre-trib.org

There is a lot of material archived on this site, so on your first visit please be sure to take the "Site Tour":

www.pre-trib.org/tour.php

which will help you find the items which interest you.

"**Emails from above**" is a web site collection of emails that the site's creator has received over the years, and which he believes God has used to speak to him.

<http://emailsfromabove.com/>

On the Home Page he says: "God talks to us in many ways.....but we must pay attention to hear Him. God speaks through friends, foes, family and even those that we don't know. I have received many emails from such sources. The arrival times of some of these emails have been almost scary. Just when I needed it the most someone sent me an email that made a difference. If only for that moment or that day, it provided hope, humour and spiritual guidance. I truly believe God uses email ! I hope some of these add something to your day." □

N.S.W. ASSEMBLIES EVANGELISTIC MISSION

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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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“Christ’s love compels us” 2 Corinthians 5:14