



ASSEMBLIES *Outreach*

June 2009



Norm & Heather Propert (page 12)

Also in this issue: Out & About in NSW Assemblies
Prayer requests from Assemblies
News from NSW commended 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, to encourage others, 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 **August 2009 issue before:-**

10 July 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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Mr C. Winrow, Mr G. Hayden,
Mrs. M. Winrow.

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the June *Assemblies Outreach* magazine which we hope, as always, contains items which will be helpful to you in some way, either in your life, or in your Assembly, or in a ministry with which you are associated.

Personally, it is an encouragement this month to be able share information from Norm and Heather Propert who have felt the call once again to return to a faith ministry. Their desire to serve the Lord in various ways is shared on pages 12 and 13.

The editorial team of this magazine continues to seek articles about people and organisations in NSW, associated with the Christian Brethren Assemblies, that are currently serving God. We believe publishing such material brings encouragement to many others – something the Scriptures tell us to do. (Without such articles, as editor I have only two choices, either leave pages



blank, or include some ‘filler’ material from my ‘botton drawer’ as, sadly, I had to do in this issue!)

For example the apostle Paul says “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” (1Thes. 5:11).

The ministry of Encouragement is very important for all believers, of all ages. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews says “But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness” (Heb. 3:13). And again “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:25). □

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'Out and About' in NSW Assemblies

If you attend a NSW assembly, or you work with any associated Christian Brethren ministry, please feel free to submit your local news or event dates to this 'Out and About' section so we can inform and encourage people in 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

Fervent, urgent prayer is requested for Mrs Gill Gibbs whose health is failing due to cancer. She has improved sufficiently to be cared for at home while undergoing further chemotherapy. She and Cedric thank all for their prayers, but ask that we please continue to pray for Gill.

The most recent NSW Christian Brethren Coordinating Conference was held on the 7th May at Emmaus Bible College. Twenty three people attended, representing 13 assemblies and 4 organisations. This is a reasonably good turn out, but one agenda item raised the possibility of using two-way video conferencing in future so that more people can participate from places too far away for an evening's travel. The Secretary, Brad Scott has been exploring options for what equipment would be needed and what it might cost. The results are documented in an attach-

ment to the Minutes he circulated in late May. If you would like a copy please contact Brad.

Using such technology is fairly commonplace in business today and not only saves on travel costs, but provides a wider range of input to the decisions made at meetings such as our Coordinating Conference. It would allow people from Assemblies in regional areas, and metro areas away from Sydney, to participate in the meeting from their home or at a convenient location.

The meeting was keen to get feedback from such churches as to whether they would be interested in using this technology to be involved in the meetings? Please send your comments to Brad Scott's email:-

bradstc@bigpond.com

A number of independent churches have made enquires about joining our network of Assemblies. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Coordinating Conference, plus two other respected men, would interview any church interested in joining us and then make recommendations to the Coordinating Conference on the church's suitability. The following people made themselves available to help out in this process: Alan Driver, Alex Worley, and Bruce Buckley.

Allowera Baptist Church - soon to be called Allowera Community Church - is already cooperating with Riverstone Assembly in local ministries, and its written application to our network was tabled and discussed at the meet- ➤

ing. Those present agreed this church could be included in our official list of assemblies in future.

Andrew Green (Cambridge Park) told about the church property which has been given to this Assembly. The building was originally an Anglican church but the congregation made a decision to be independent and purchased the property as a church. Their numbers have since dropped and they have asked Christian Community Church Cambridge Park to take over the property and run the church. They now run the services and own the property. This new church plant is growing and presently looking at ways to effectively outreach to the local community. It is called Wallacia Christian Community Church and is to be listed as a separate Assembly in our records.

West Pennant Hills Community Church has made application for Tim Kirkegard to be appointed as a Marriage Celebrant. Bruce Buckley has reviewed the supplied application and interviewed Tim over the phone and as a result recommended that Tim be approved for a Marriage License. Brad Scott is to make application to the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages.

As reported previously, Geoff Folland has relinquished the Brethren chaplaincy role at Macquarie University, in order to complete his Masters Degree at Denver Seminary.

In cooperation with Emmaus Bible College, Rodney Trinidad has been appointed into this role. He spoke at

the meeting and acknowledged Geoff's highly effective input at Macquarie Uni and the great shape that Geoff has left the ministry in. Rodney will share his time each week between the University, Emmaus, assemblies and schools.

The Conference chairman has written to the University as follows:-

"After almost fifteen years of service to Macquarie University, Mr. Geoffrey Folland has moved out of the Christian Brethren Chaplain position effective from 31st March 2009. Geoff has been highly effective in this role and we have valued his ministry and are committed to seeing the position continue to develop. For this purpose, we have appointed Mr. Rodney Trinidad as Christian Brethren Chaplain effective from 1st April 2009.

"Rodney has many years of experience working with youth, youth leaders and as a school chaplain. We believe he will provide valuable skills to the university community and will be able to serve all students well."

Rodney told the Coordinating meeting about some of the Youth Ministry activities being planned in conjunction with Emmaus.

He believes Emmaus is an organisation which supports young people in their spiritual development. For example in 2010 the "Gap program" for 18-23 year olds, called "Emmaus Road" is being introduced. The course provides opportunities for young people to spring into the rest of their life. The course works with churches in developing their youth. The course

>6

will cover the Bible, Mission, Life skills, Discipleship, and Ministry which all leads to an Accredited Level IV Certificate.

Rodney also mentioned the VITAL'09 Youth Leadership Conference (see pages 22 and 23 for details) and a Camp for Teenage Girls in early October, where Hannah Dixon (USA) will minister through music and testimony.

Phil Adams (Stewards Foundation) reported that the Bush-fire Appeal has handed out over \$150,000 (via Victorian assemblies in the affected areas) due to the great generosity of Assemblies, Australia wide. Also \$12,000 has been distributed to Queensland flood victims.

The meeting was reminded that Faye Loudon has been on the ICCOREIS Board for a number of years and her input and representation has been greatly appreciated and acknowledged by the meetings. Faye is looking to step down from this position later this year, so the Conference is looking for someone to take over her role at the ICCOREIS meetings. If anyone is interested please contact Bradley Scott.

Hospital Chaplaincy: Alex Kennedy has continued his research into setting up a system for people to be trained and recognised by the government as Chaplains thus allowing open access for pastoral care work in hospitals. A Paper outlining his findings will be issued in the near future

The AGM of the Emmaus Bible College was held on 17th May. It was

noted that 2009 is the College's 50th Anniversary and several events will be organised to mark this milestone. One event is a celebratory dinner in October – see page 14 for details.

In previous issues we have mentioned Rita Stella Galieh's Christian writing talents. Her first major inspirational novel, "Fire in the Rock" was released in September 2008.

Well, she has just heard that her next book in this genre will be published by Ark House Press later this year. It will be titled "Signed, Sealed and Delivered".

Gary Akehurst is making good progress with conversion of Bible teaching tapes to MP3 files on a web site (& CDs if requested) – see p30.

Meetings & Events

For the latest please check at:-

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

2009:

29 June to 26 July Emmaus **Mid-year Break.**

4 July **Garage Sale & Cake Stall** at Elouera Gardens Retirement Village. 8am to 1pm.

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

11 July **'Awake to Israel'** meeting 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.
- 14-16 Aug **'ReachOut 2009'** Missions Conference at Katoomba.
- 29 Aug **Church Leadership** Conference - organised by SIU and Emmaus. Details tba.
- 4 Sept **'To Die For'** - a big combined Youth Event for SW Sydney area. More information from Rodney Trinidad 0414 722 877.
- 4, 5 Sept **Women's Conference** at Toukley. Theme "Unto Him" - more details soon.
- 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.
- 18,19 Sept **VITAL'09 - Youth Leadership Development Conference** in the Collaroy Centre - see p22. ph: 0414 722 877.
- 19 Sept Emmaus Bible College **Open Day** (10am to 2pm).
- 25 Sept **Spring Fashion Parade** of Ladies Summer Clothes in the Community Room, Elouera Gardens Retirement Village, Cherrybrook; \$5; 10am start, with morning tea.
- 5 - 9 Oct **Camp for Teenage Girls.** For more details 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.
- 31 Oct **50th Anniversary Celebration** Dinner for Emmaus Bible College. (See page 14 for details.)
- 6 Nov **'09 GLO Open Day** - at Riverstone Church and Sports Centre; 10am to 4pm. ph: 02 9838 1595
- 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.
- 22 Nov Emmaus Bible College **Celebration Service** (3pm).
- 11 Dec Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545. 

Some considerable time ago the NSW Strength in Unity (SIU) movement began to encourage individuals and assemblies to set aside a time for Prayer and Fasting on the first Tuesday of each month. Since then Brad Scott has sent out a reminder e-mail each month and has included some suggested prayer and praise points. This year these have included prayer points from assemblies in NSW.

If your assembly would like to send such requests in future, please contact Brad on 9625 0055 or email bradstc@bigpond.com, meanwhile here are some prayer points from recent months. We are sure these assemblies would appreciate more prayer by our readers!

Green Valley Gospel Chapel:

- Jane Mayhew was married in January and has moved into a new Student Life Ministry in Melbourne. Pray for Jane and her husband in this ministry.
- Praise God for Peter Mayhew's continued recovery after his heart problems. He is now back to 90-95% health.
- Pray for the Youth Group Ministry at the church.

- Pray for a Men's Group that the church is about to start.

Guildford Gospel Chapel:

- The Elders have asked us to pray for wisdom as they lead the church.
- Pray for the Sunday School Children and their teachers.
- Pray for the Ladies Ministry and effectiveness as they study God's word.
- Pray for new families to join and help in the Ministry to the community.

Kingsgrove Gospel Chapel:

- Pray for the church as they look for a Full Time worker for the English side of the church.
- Pray for the church family as they struggle under various trials including cancer. Pray for a peace from God for those suffering.

Lismore Gospel Hall:

- Pray for growth in the Assembly.
- Pray for Phil Walker from Taree who is having treatment for cancer.



**God promises a safe landing,
not a calm passage.**

PLEASE submit your items for next issue of this
magazine **BEFORE 10 July**

As I face the challenges of life, I sometimes need to ask myself: "How real is my faith?" I know God cares and provides for me, and I constantly thank him, but when the challenge is serious why does my blood pressure go up over a relatively sustained period?

I've been thinking, firstly, about the disciples in the storm on the Lake of Galilee (Mark 4:35-41). This was life-threatening: this was real. I'd have been the first at Jesus' side. But wait: Jesus was tired. Would God let his Son and friends drown? What did Jesus say? "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

In the Bible we read about being "still" before the Lord (Ps. 37:7). God wants us to "grow up in our faith" (1 Peter 2:2), and James tells us to "consider it pure joy" when we face trials of many kinds, (James 1:2) because it helps to develop perseverance, and that leads to maturity. So, when the waves of stress are mounting around us, are we able to rest patiently and perseveringly if it feels to us that the Saviour is asleep?

Then there was the Canaanite woman (Matt. 15:21-28). She was not schooled in the Jewish religious tradition, but she recognized the absolute uniqueness of Jesus – someone she could put her faith in. That was a very valuable discovery for her because she

had a daughter who was "suffering terribly." Jesus was not sleeping on this occasion, but he still wanted to assess the quality of her faith. The disciples didn't care about her, and Jesus rebuffed her to a point where he was approaching the perimeters of our social politeness. Even so, she responded with humility, perseverance and insight, which earned from Jesus the commendation of: "Woman you have great faith," and, more importantly for her, her daughter was healed. How would you and I have handled that situation?

The woman from Canaan was noisy and expressive as she made her need known. I heard recently about a little girl of eight who had had her adenoids and tonsils removed. Her need was not as compelling, but when her grandfather assured her of his prayers, she said "With so many people reminding him, God won't forget me."

Then I thought about Mary, the mother of Jesus. She understood better than anyone how the natural and the spiritual were "knit together" in her womb (Ps. 139:13) in the person of Jesus. She knew, at the age of 12, how compelling his need was to do his father's will in ALL things. Now, he was 30. No doubt he had been the prime problem-solver in her family. She knew there was something

How real is my faith?

unprecedented ahead of him, but I doubt, with her Jewish thinking, that she was in any way anticipating the Cross.

She was among friends, perhaps relatives, at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11), and she felt empathy for the embarrassment of the host when the wine ran out. Her first thought was of Jesus, her problem-solver; but at that point of time Jesus had received no indication from his Father that this emergency was to be his first public miracle. Yet, in spite of that, Mary said to the servants: "Do whatever he tells you." I believe that Mary spoke by faith, as she was led by the Spirit,

fortified by her experience of living with Jesus. Could it be that at that moment God honoured her faith and faithfulness, and Jesus perceived that it was now his Father's will for him to supply the much needed wine – good wine, plentifully, and so perform his first public miracle? Could we even say that God bestowed on Mary the wonderful privilege of putting in motion Jesus' public ministry?

I continue to ask, seek and knock in the quest for a faith just a little like the faith of the mother from Canaan. Mary's seems beyond my reach. She "found favour" with God in a very special way (Luke 1:30). □

NSW MISSIONS CONVENTION

Saturday, 18 July 2009

4pm to 5.30pm and 6.30pm to 8pm

Bexley Christian Assembly

(18 Abercorn Street, Bexley, NSW)

Speakers include:

Rodney Moss (South America) and Gary Akehurst (QMBC)

For further information phone 9527 1203

AWAKE TO ISRAEL

2009 BIBLE PROPHECY TEACHING CAMP

Friday 24th to Sunday 26th July

**REGISTER
NOW**

*Featuring
Camp Guest Speaker*

Dr Thomas Ice



Dr. Thomas Ice
Executive Director,
Pre-Trib Research Centre

Dr. Ice is Executive Director of The Pre-Trib Research Centre and on faculty at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. He founded The Centre in 1994 with Dr. Tim LaHaye to research, teach, and defend the pretribulational rapture and related Bible prophecy doctrines. The Centre is currently located on the campus of Liberty University. Dr. Ice has co-authored about 30 books, written hundreds of articles, and is a frequent conference speaker. He has served as a pastor for 15 years. Dr. Ice has a B.A. from Howard Payne University, a Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary, a Ph.D. from Tyndale Theological Seminary, and is a Doctoral Candidate at The University of Wales in Church History.

Visit our website at www.awaketoisrael.org to download a registration form and for further camp information.

www.pre-trib.org

Camp Venue



MERROO

Merroo Christian Centre

www.merroo.com.au

You'll love the 2009 Bible Prophecy Teaching Camp's combination of great indepth teaching, comfortable accommodation, good food, and the peace and tranquility of Merroo's country setting...We hope to see you there. Email enquiries: campinfo@awaketoisrael.org

We wish to thank the *Assemblies Outreach* magazine for publishing in its last issue our letter of commendation to full-time Christian ministry.

Some people may be aware that this is a 'second time around' for Heather and I. We were in full-time international ministry from 1985 until 1996 when we returned to secular life. After several years, we have felt the call once again to return to a faith ministry. We are both really excited about this move.

The nature of Norm's ministry hasn't changed too much, the emphasis is still on mission and evangelism, both through training and practice. Indeed, for the last three years, we have been serving in this ministry through lecturing at the GLO Training Centre in Tasmania and visiting churches as our schedule has allowed, and once again we are enjoying our relationship with GLO.

What has changed however are the times in which we live. Norm is aware of the difficulties that we face in a post-modern, multi-cultural society and is concerned to communicate goals and strategies to address the challenge of reaching modern society for Christ.

A part of this concern is the role of Christian Apologetics and the relationship between apologetics, evangelism and mission. The apostle Peter advised us to be ready to give a reasonable and rational defence of our Christian hope to anyone who asks (1 Peter 3:15). This ministry has become increasingly pertinent in a secular humanist society.



Second, we are excited at the prospect of sharing with churches the variety of evangelistic methods that are currently available and exploring new ways and resources to reach our communities. We've heard the old adage, "The Gospel message can never change, however methods can and must."

Third, as an evangelist, Norm intends to be actively engaged in evangelistic outreach activities. We believe God's vision for His world is clearly seen in the Great Commission. God's vision is our passion!

Fourth, and importantly, we believe that who we are empowers what we do, so part of our ministry is in the area of renewal, restoration and revival. Busyness and the pressures and temptations of modern life can wear us down and rob us of spiritual motivation. Through God's power, we can change.

Norm & Heather's ministry is itinerant, and we are looking forward to getting around churches wherever we are invited. Conducting seminars is attractive to us, however we would be delighted to spend time with Christians for however short or long time allows. ➤

You can contact us by phone or email. We don't have a website as yet, but plan to in the near future.

Heather has a ministry of mercy and encouragement and she complements Norm as we travel together. We make our home at Rankin Park in Newcastle, have two children and two grandchildren. Our home church is Tingira Community Church where Norm is currently an elder. Because we are engaged in a faith ministry, we look

to God and His people for support in whatever way is appropriate and we will be most thankful.

Norm and Heather Propert,
4 DeGuerry Avenue,
Rankin Park, NSW 2287.

Phone: 02 49 521324,
mobile: 0412 054 892.

Email: propertn@yahoo.com.au



NSW Assemblies Evangelistic Mission Homeworkers Fund Treasurers' Report

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

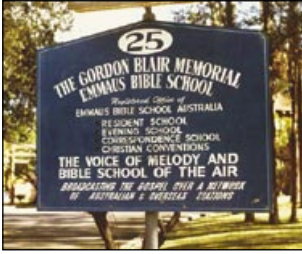
	2009	2008
January - February	\$15,546	\$14,401
March: from Assemblies	5,285	4,184
from NSWAEM	2,700	2,500
from other sources	15	37
	\$8,000	\$6,721
April: from Assemblies	1,935	3,217
from NSWAEM	2,700	2,500
from other sources	4,322	3,335
	\$8,957	\$9,052
Totals	\$32,503	\$30,174

The funds, except for special designated gifts, have been divided between 17 workers (in 2009) 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

Emmaus Celebrates its 50th Anniversary



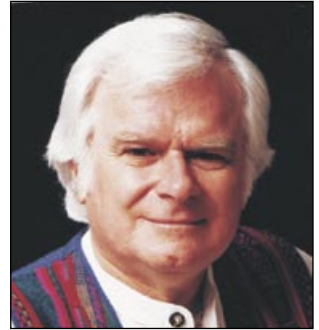
circa 1959

Emmaus Bible College, located in the north-west of Sydney – at Epping, this year celebrates its **50th Anniversary** of providing quality educational tuition to members of the Brethren Assemblies throughout Australia.

To celebrate this significant milestone, the College is organising a 50th Anniversary celebratory dinner to be held on Saturday, 31st October, of this year.

Mal Garvin AM, the founder and current National Director of Fusion Australia and a past student of Emmaus, has agreed to present the keynote speech for the night.

For further information or to ensure that you receive your invitation, please contact Robyn Buckle at the Emmaus Bible College offices on ph 02 9876 4370 or email Robyn at admin@emmaus.edu.au



Emmaus Bible College

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240 Beecroft Road, Epping Phone: (02) 9876 4370

Web: www.emmaus.edu.au E-mail: registrar@emmaus.edu.au

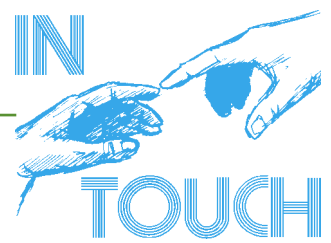
Offering quality theological training since 1959

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

Luke 24:27

News from NSW

Home Workers



in Kuala Lumpur

Ken & Daphne Harding 7th June 2009

Dear Praying Friends,

It's about time we took a few moments to bring you up to date with our activities so far this year and we appreciate your prayers for us and for the ministry which we have received in the Lord.

Our year has been a mixture of happy service and occasional trials. First a trial when we helped pull a tree from our back yard at Christmas and Ken had a few weeks of back discomfort culminating in a further visit to his neuro-surgeon. Thankfully he was able to proceed with three weekends' ministry in WA. While there we visited many of the assemblies for ministry of the Word and planning for the "GLO Impact" to be held there in July. This was a precious time of renewed fellowship with many of the Lord's people. Then Daphne went down with a mystery illness which the GP thought was cellulitis of the mastoid and she was rushed into hospital, put on an antibiotic drip and CT scanned. However she recovered in just over two weeks.

We praise the Lord for this as Ken was to be in Malaysia for Easter meetings at The Life Chapel in Kuala Lumpur (KL) followed by two weeks of lectures and meetings up in Taiping. In all he took 14 meetings and gave nearly 50 lectures in two and a half weeks. It was a thrill to see a number come to Christ in KL.

Last weekend The Life Chapel brought us back to KL (this time including Daph) to speak at their retreat at Fraser's Hill – about two hours North of KL – and it was good to see some from the Easter meetings bring others to the Assembly who need the Lord.



Ken preaching at the Retreat

About 150 attended the "camp" including some from other religions. A major break-through occurred when a senior businessman trusted Christ though he had previously vowed never to change his religion. God still answered the earnest prayers of his people and family. They had prayed for about 15 years. As we left, he asked for baptism. >16

Meetings at Riverstone and other Sydney Assemblies, as well as weekly Bible study groups, pastoral care and visitation have given us plenty to do. This month we look forward to having our son David and his wife Sue and children Emma and Erin home from Dallas. We can't wait to see our only two grandchildren!

Then to Perth for the GLO Impact in July. August will see us back in Sydney and in September, Lord willing, Ken goes to Korea for lectures.

We just ask the Lord to make us a blessing to His people wherever we go and to give us the strength to serve Him acceptably. Your prayers are so important to us and we thank you sincerely.

Warmly in the Lord,
Ken and Daphne Harding.

Graham Hayden 12th June 2009

Prayers for Graham will be much appreciated over the next few weeks. As well as his regular duties with the Mission at Burwood, he is organising the AGM for 23rd June, and has a prostate operation scheduled for Wednesday, 15th July. This will be done in the John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, and he will probably be there for 3 to 5 days.



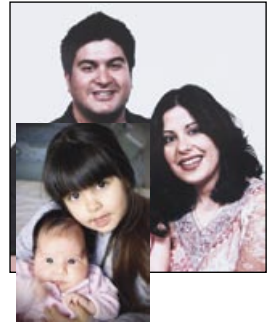
Rodney & Marian Trinidad 8th June 2009

Our newest addition to the family was born on 9th March, 2009.

Her name is Amaris K (Amaris from a Latin root word meaning 'loved').

In the photo overlay you can see Amaris with her BIG sister Jaelyn Riley who now goes to pre-school. Marian and I are thankful to God for our children.

Please know that your prayers and support are appreciated. We would love to hear from you so please email us at:-
rodney.trinidad@emmaus.edu.au



Geoff & Liz Folland 7th June 2009

Geoff and Liz and their children are now safely in the USA, living on campus at the Denver Seminary.

Geoff emailed "I just thought I'd let you know I updated my blog. The latest entry, titled "Nineteen Days in Denver", reports on our experiences since our last update and reflects on some of the differences that time and culture have caused." Geoff's on-line diary (blog) of their time in Denver is at:

<http://geoff70.blogspot.com>

and it's updated about twice a month.



On the page opposite we have brief news of three of the commended Home Workers partially supported by the NSW Home Workers Fund. On this page we have photos of the other 14 supported Workers to remind us to pray for all these people and their families. In the next issue of this magazine we hope to have a pull-out supplement giving the latest details of all the commended workers in NSW.



Jean & Bill Archbold



Glen & Gabby Baigent



Bruce & Helen Buckley



Andrew & Janice Collins



Margaret & Laurie Cowell



Alan & Kerry Driver



George & Rita Galieh



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Tim & Caroline McLaughlin



Juno & Sonny Ng



Agnis & Edward Royal



Lai Yan & Steve Walker

A Grief Experienced

by Dr John Angus

In his book, *A Grief Observed*, C.S. Lewis, the great Christian philosopher recounts his experience when his dearly loved wife of just a few years of marriage died. He comments that grief cannot be easily understood at a distance, it is only when it occurs in one's own life that the impact is understood. Lewis writes:

"I knew already that these things, and worse, happened daily. I would have said that I had taken them into account. I had been warned – I had warned myself – not to reckon on worldly happiness Of course it is different when the thing happens to oneself."

I wish to share some personal feelings and the deep grief that I have experienced following the loss of my own dear wife, Valerie, after 53 years of marriage. I do this in the hope that the reader may gain a little understanding of those who suffer deep grief and have some advance warning of what most of humanity will go through at some time in their life. I also hope that it may encourage us all to be better able to provide comfort to those who are grieving. Allow me first to share my personal experience and then to draw on that experience in order that it might be of help to some.

My wife, Valerie, suffered a stroke and a heart attack almost simultaneously. Major surgery was undertaken and the triple bypass of the heart arteries appeared to be most successful.

However further complications arose and epileptic seizures followed – leaving my dear one without speech and virtually paralysed. What made this whole period so distressing was Valerie's apparent recovery and the improvement following the operation. I agonized in prayer pleading with the Lord for her restoration but ultimately had to say "Thy will be done".

Five hospitals and 11 different hospital wards were all part of this long drawn-out process lasting over 12 months. Valerie's home call came in the Mt Warrigal Nursing Home on the 3rd of May 2008. Prior to this, I visited her as often as I could, sometimes three or four times a day and grieved deeply over this period, assuring myself that if the Lord were to call her home most of my grieving would be over. How wrong I was!

It is often said of young people that they see themselves as 'bullet proof'. I believe we all have some degree of this kind of thinking, believing that life will continue on just as it is at the present. Yes, we give assent to the fact that we will all die, unless the Lord comes first, but our own death or that of a close loved one is not a constant thought. In itself, this positive and optimistic thinking is a good thing and an important part of life. However, when our time comes to experience loss we are not usually prepared for the situation. Some take the view that as Christians we should not grieve like ➤



the non-Christian since we have the knowledge that our loved-one is happy and with the Lord. While this is true it does not take away the strong sense of loss and it is certainly not helpful to be told by a well meaning Christian that because our loved one is with the Lord we should not grieve. Grieving is a normal and natural process affecting all of mankind, of whatever faith, be it Christian, Muslim or Atheist.

Consider Abraham, the man described as “the friend of God”, when his wife Sarah died, Abraham went to mourn and weep over his loss. We also learn that Isaac, Abraham’s son, was comforted by his wife Rebekah. The loss of a wife may be more significant than the loss of a mother or father, since in the ordinary course of events we outlive our parents, but not necessarily our spouse. My own experience has been parallel to that of Abraham and Isaac. The passing of a dearly loved mother brought grief but I had the comfort of a wife, but when my wife died I felt alone and the grief was greater even though Jesus was there, and our God is the God of all comfort.

Jesus was always touched by those who grieved. The New Testament records the visit of Jesus to the home of Mary and Martha after the death of their brother Lazarus. Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus, and when He came to the tomb and saw the mourners Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and wept. He empathized with the grieving sisters; He understood their sorrow, and tears ran down his cheeks (John 11:35).

At the town of Nain, when a grieving mother (who was also a widow) was accompanying her only son’s body for burial, Jesus’ heart went out to her and He said: “don’t cry”. The young man was raised from the dead and Jesus gave him back to the mother (Luke 7:11-15).


Many books have been written to describe the grieving process and the various emotions that some may pass through such as denial, anger, guilt and eventual acceptance, but grieving is personal and differs greatly from one person to another. I am convinced that the depth of grieving is closely related to the depth of love and emotional attachment to the one who has died.

Christians who have not experienced the deep loss of a marriage partner do not understand. How thankful I am for those who visited me in my bereavement, some travelling long distances others writing letters telling me of their prayer on my behalf or making a phone call. How hurt was I by people who lived close by but made no contact!

>20

As I reflect on my own life, and consider friends who have grieved the loss of a loved one, I feel guilty because of my own neglect of grieving people in the past. I now understand what I should have done! I therefore make an appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, to be like Jesus, visit the sick and the bereaved. Some may feel that

they would not know what to say or what to do. The grieving person does not need you to say anything. Going to listen and to show you care, allows the person to talk about the loved one they have lost. Remember the Lord's words "whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine you did for me" (Matt. 25:40)



WITH THE LORD

Kevin Turnbull, late of Raymond Terrace, passed suddenly into the presence of His Lord on 3rd February, 2009, at the age of 74.

He was an avid Bible student most of his life, having an excellent memory of the Scriptures. His Bible knowledge was a great encouragement to many during his lifetime.

Kevin started preaching the Gospel from the age of 21, and later was an Elder at the Campbell Gospel Chapel in Canberra, and Bible Teacher and Elder at the Raymond Terrace Community Church for many years until his retirement.

He also had, for many years, an Internet Ministry with weekly Bible Studies being sent to many countries around the world.

He is survived by his wife Mary, and his brother and five sisters. Mary and Kevin married in 1955 and had a wonderful Christian marriage for nearly 54 years.



Bible Society NEWS UPDATE June 2009



857 churches have now registered for JAAL!

Join us in praying for more churches to join the JAAL campaign so that more people may be reached by Jesus.

Hundreds of churches will come together next month for **JAAL Giving Sunday**. This is a great way to mobilise your congregation to become more involved with the JAAL NSW campaign to introduce the whole state to Jesus.

The success of the campaign depends heavily on the support of individual churches.

All you have to do is **dedicate July 12 or 19 to JAAL Giving Sunday**.

A JAAL Giving Sunday pack will be distributed to all churches in NSW and gives you all the tools you need to hold a successful weekend.

Already less than three months away, September will be here before any of us know it! Now is a great time to start developing your event ideas and begin planning for the big launch in September. We've made it as easy as possible for you to get involved. Whilst you are welcome to make the JAAL campaign as big and original as you like at your congregation, you can also simply tag it on to an existing event in your calendar. The choice is yours.

Why not share your ideas with the rest of the JAAL campaign supporters on our Facebook or Twitter profiles?

Calendar of Events

Don't forget to go to one of the information and training nights for even more inspiration! The sessions have been designed to help you learn more about the JAAL campaign and how your church and community can be involved.

There are four dates and venues to choose from:

Event I: 28 July 2009, 7pm – 8:30pm

- Penhurst Anglican Church, 2 Carrington Street, **Penhurst**

Event II: 29 July 2009, 7pm – 8:30pm

- St John's Cathedral Parramatta, 187 Church Street, **Parramatta**

Event III: 5 August 2009, 7pm – 8:30pm

- St John the Evangelist, 754 Pacific Highway, **Gordon**

Event IV: 6 August 2009, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

- Wesley Institute, 220 Pitt Street, **Sydney**

Enjoy a light supper while being inspired by the vision of the JAAL campaign that's united churches throughout NSW under the banner of Jesus. For further information & to register your attendance, **email: events@jesusallaboutlife.com.au**

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

ONE PASSIONATE PURPOSE

Vision • Integrity • Teaching • Action • Leadership

Speakers: John North, Mark McCrindle



Friday 27th to Saturday 28th, November 2009

The Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach, Sydney NSW

www.vitalconference.com

Registration Form:

1 Contact Details:

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ State: _____

For more information go to:
www.vitalconference.com

email:
info@leadership.org.au

phone:
02 8824 3422

fax:
02 8824 3566

2 Attendance Details:

Friday attendance	Full program	Full program	Full program
- no accommodation	- no accommodation - lunch and dinners included	- with Friday night accommodation - all meals included	- with Friday and Saturday night accommodation - all meals included
= FREE ■	= \$59.00 ■	= \$85.00 ■	= \$125.00 ■

3 Payment Details:

CHEQUE enclosed for \$ _____ (Please make payable to Australian Leadership Foundation)
OR Please charge my

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EXPIRY DATE

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Deposits can be made to the account below (please fax or email remittance):

ACCOUNT NAME: The Australian Leadership Foundation - **BSB:** 032-078 - **ACCOUNT NO:** 225580
Please fax this form to or email to info@leadership.org.au

4 Mailing Address:

Either fax this form to 02 8824 3566 or mail to:
Australian Leadership Foundation - Suite A39, 24 Lexington Drive, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153, Australia
Please Note: Vital Conference is generously supported by several Christian organisations and all registrations are significantly subsidised.

VITAL'09 Conference

Information supplied by Rodney Trinidad

Vision-**I**ntegrity-**T**eaching-**A**ction-**L**eadership

Six simple words. Six life essentials.

If our lives are to be influential, if our society is to be impacted and if the next generation is to be inspired to serve Christ alone, then these words must be lived out.

The theme for the Vital Conference'09 is

One Passionate Purpose

It is a time of great change and uncertainty, in a society searching for meaning and with a generation looking for a defining cause. We can praise God that He is our one passionate purpose.

Invest half a weekend with us at **VITAL'09** to have your vision rekindled and your compass reset.

VITAL has always been about solid and passionate Bible teaching, meaningful and fervent worship, and authentic and encouraging community.

VITAL Conference is a ministry of Ambassadors for Christ and the Australian Leadership Foundation and proudly supported by the Association of Christian Community Churches of Australia (NSW Christian Brethren Churches).

The Speakers are John North & Mark McCrindle

John is a well known Bible teacher and Evangelist with Ambassadors for Christ International, and the author of the LifeWorks and GrowthWorks Christian resources. John was born in India, he trained for ministry and began his pastoral work in the USA, but for the past 12 years he has been based in Sydney. He is best known for his clear, challenging, biblical preaching and teaching. John is married to Louise and they have 4 children.

Mark has a background in Psychology and he runs a research agency which specializes in analysing the generations, demographics and cultural trends. However he has qualifications from Moore Theological College and Morling College and, beyond his commercial work, Mark is passionate about equipping Christians for effective ministry through clear Biblical teaching. Mark is married to Ruth, they have four young children and he is an Elder at West Pennant Hills Community Church. □

My name is Paul Howell and although having been within Brethren circles for a decade, this year was the first time I had attended the annual men's conference at Camp Toukley. I have been asked to give a bit of a review of the camp. So here goes.

Those who organised the camp need to be congratulated for choosing a great theme: "Power; Show yourself a man!" The topic is a very timely one at a point in history where, maybe more than ever before, families are needing a strong father figure who will not compromise on the Gospel, but rather will be interested in developing the relationship he has with the Lord and wanting the blessings of that relationship to spill over into his family. The topic was broad enough to cover those of us who are either unmarried or not fathers as well. What the world needs most are those men who will make a stand for God in the work place or the neighbourhood or anywhere for that matter.

The camp speakers, Bill Thorburn and Malcolm Gill, provided solid Biblical teaching to equip men to be men of God at home and in the world. The teaching was easily understood and practical in its application to our lives. I particularly liked the exhortation to be men of God's word. But the other topics of the power of choice, the power of forgiveness and the power of the Holy Spirit were also essential to walking with God as He intends us to. I intend to keep all of



*Registration Desk – Drew Edwards
(Holiday Camp Team)*

my camp notes and to revise what was taught and get a deeper revelation of all these teachings in my own life.

The venue was great. Clean facilities were provided and definitely value for money. The entertainment was top quality, as was the food and the fellowship. A lot of attention to detail was taken to create an atmosphere which reflected the theme of manhood. The organisation of all details was so tailored. I was amazed at how quickly we were all served dinner. I was impressed by the gift (which was unexpected) as well.

In summary, I can recommend the men's camp next year to others who, like me, may have been a 'bretho' for years and have just not got around to going to one. Sitting under godly ➤

teaching and fellowshiping with godly men in a setting like this, where the teaching and fellowship are concentrated, can lead to growing in a

way not possible in our normal weekly setting. Guys, I recommend this camp to all of us!



*“Mood & Food”
Friday Night at Camp Toukley*



Spiritual 'One Liners'

Peace starts with a smile.

Many folks want to serve God,
But only as advisers.

If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

If a church wants a better pastor,
It only needs to pray for the one it has.

Don't let your worries get the best of you;
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

The Will of God never takes you to where the
Grace of God will not protect you.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus,
the middle of the road, And the back of the church.

"Be ye fishers of men." You catch 'em - God will clean 'em.

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

Visit our website www.awaketoisrael.org or email: mail@awaketoisrael.org
Everyone is welcome, and encouraged to come and together search the Scriptures

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

I saw him in the church building for the first time on Wednesday. He was in his mid-70's, with thinning silver hair and a neat brown suit.

Many times in the past I had invited him to come. Several other Christian friends had talked to him about the Lord and had tried to share the good news with him.

He was a well-respected, honest man with so many characteristics a Christian should have, but he had never put on Christ, nor entered the doors of the church.

"Have you ever been to a church service in your life?" I had asked him a few years ago. We had just finished a pleasant day of visiting and talking.

He hesitated. Then with a bitter smile he told me of his childhood experience some fifty years ago.

He was one of many children in a large impoverished family. His parents had struggled to provide food, with little left for housing and clothing. When he was about ten, some neighbours invited him to worship with them. The Sunday School class had been very exciting!

He had never heard such songs and stories before! He had never heard anyone read from the Bible! After class was over, the teacher took him aside and said, "Son, please don't come again dressed as you are now. We want to look our best when we come into God's house."

He stood in his ragged, un-patched overalls. Then, looking at his dirty

bare feet, he answered softly, "No, ma'am, I won't – ever." "And I never did," he said, abruptly ending our conversation.

There must have been other factors to have hardened him so, but this experience formed a significant part of the bitterness in his heart. I'm sure that Sunday School teacher meant well. But did she really understand the love of Christ? Had she studied and accepted the teachings found in the second chapter of James? What if she had put her arms around the dirty, ragged little boy and said, "Son, I am so glad you are here, and I hope you will come every chance you get to hear more about Jesus."

I reflected on the awesome responsibility a teacher or pastor or a parent has to welcome little ones in His name. How far-reaching her influence was! I prayed that I might be ever open to the tenderness of a child's heart, and that I might never fail to see beyond the appearance and behaviour of a child to the eternal possibilities within.

Yes, I saw him in the church house for the first time on Wednesday. As I looked at that immaculately dressed old gentleman lying in his casket, I thought of the little boy of long ago.

I could almost hear him say,

"No, ma'am, I won't – ever."

.... and I wept.



Christian ways to relieve stress

1. Pray.
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day un-rushed.
4. Get enough rest.
5. Eat right.
6. Delegate tasks to capable others.
7. Take one day at a time.
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
10. Slow down, remind yourself that you are not the General Manager of the universe.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.
13. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
14. Get organized so everything has its place.
15. Every day, find time to be alone.
16. Listen to a tape or CD while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
17. Write down thoughts and inspirations.
18. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.
19. Make friends with Godly people.
20. Keep a folder of favourite scriptures on hand.
21. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good 'Thank you Jesus.'
22. Laugh. Then laugh some more!
23. Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.
24. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
25. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
26. Sit on your ego.
27. Talk less; listen more.
28. Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.

GOD HAS A WAY OF TURNING THINGS AROUND FOR YOU.

'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (Romans 8:31)





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

They are also 'live' links in the PDF version of this magazine which can now be purchased cheaply. Eleven (11) previous issues in PDF format are stored on the web site for anybody to read – **February 2009** is the most recent:-

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

The NSW Assemblies are getting more **Internet 'savvy'**. In the list of 73 assemblies in the NSW Christian Brethren Assemblies 2009 Information Handbook, there are now **15** assemblies that mention having their own web site (and an email address, of course) and another **52** which have an email address. So that's at least **67** using the Internet in some way!

Last issue we mentioned an **on-line Christian bookshop** being created by CMIAid. It has now been officially launched and can be visited at:

<http://www.bldpublications.org>

It's called BLD Publications and is based at the CMIAid Office, Unit 37, 276 New Line Road, Dural. Christian books and tracts can be either purchased via the web site or at the Dural office itself. Phone 02 9651 6477.

The Emmaus web site has been upgraded and can be viewed at:-

<http://www.emmaus.edu.au>

Geoff Folland and his family are now at Denver Seminary studying for a year or so. He has decided to record the experience in his Blog (see also page 16) that you can read at:

<http://geoff70.blogspot.com/>

He not only writes about life on campus, but also about his studies, and the blog has some deep theological stuff. Geoff has also supplied his new contact details :

Email: geoffolland@live.com.au

Denver home phone: 720-897-7728

Liz's mobile (cell) phone:

720-833-1997

Sydney: 02-8003-4969 (This is handled via Skype on the Internet. Don't worry about calling at a time when they might be asleep. They turn the computer off before bed and Skype takes a message!)

JAAL Sydney is getting closer! We have a news update on page 21 where the JAAL web site is mentioned as a source of information and resources:

<http://www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au>

The JAAL team reports it had a very exciting and busy four weeks in May. "Our design team has been working around the clock to refresh our logo, revamp our newsletter and complete our website. Please visit the new website (see above) for upcoming JAAL events and for how to get involved."

The Sydney Anglican churches had already planned an evangelistic outreach program this year called >30

'Connect'09', but it dovetails nicely with JAAL and uses some similar resources. For example the Gospel of Luke is a major 'handout' in both campaigns. It should be easily possible for local churches to cooperate on some local activities which come under either 'banner'.

The common ground between JAAL and Connect'09 means, in my view, that some of the Anglican web sites have useful resources from which we can benefit, if we wish. For example, 'The Essential Jesus' Bible Studies, on the Sydney Anglican web site, at:

<http://www.sydneyanglicans.net/ministry/biblestudy>

Also, you could have a look around the Connect '09 web site:

<http://www.connect09.com/>

Christians in the Media is a ministry and church located in Sydney, Australia. They aim to both build God's people and reach people for Christ in the Inner West and in media work places through the transforming message of Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Through their gifts and skills they hope to produce helpful resources for other followers of Jesus. The 'Christians in the Media' web site is:

<http://www.christiansinthemedia.org/>

Andrew Price attends a Baptist church in Melbourne, Australia, and has written some Christian songs which he wants to share with the wider Christian community. He emailed "This is not a commercial activity and

the songs are available for **free** at my website

<http://www.andrewpricesongs.com>

from which audio files, words, guitar chords and sheet music can all be downloaded. The songs are suitable for congregational singing, and are intended to help people in their worship of God and to encourage them in their Christian faith. They are Bible-based and would have appeal for a wide range of ages."

"I can be contacted at:

aprice2904@optusnet.com.au

or through my website."

Gary Akehurst, in his newsletter emailed on 19th May, tells us more about his current work for the Lord – transferring recordings of Bible teachers from cassette tapes to CD and MP3 formats. He wrote "The recordings are from Des Baird, Sound Words Ministries Queensland, and from Hugh Fletcher (Outreach Tape Ministry). Lord willing, we will eventually have over 5,000 recordings made by both these men, who have devoted the better part of their lives to recording the ministry from some of the best Australian Bible teachers and some overseas teachers who visited. There are recordings from 324 speakers on just about any subject or book of the Bible you wish to name.

"These, and more resources, will be available in due course on my website 'blessedassurancepromisebox.com'. Please contact me if you require any of these resources before that." □

N.S.W. ASSEMBLIES EVANGELISTIC MISSION

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MAGAZINE

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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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Beautiful Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, Cherrybrook NSW

75 architect designed 1, 2 and 3 bedroom self-care village units. A wide variety of styles and sizes to choose from. Comfort, friendship and a wonderful new life awaits at Elouera Gardens.

Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, Cherrybrook NSW

With an enviable reputation for delivering a high standard of care, Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre incorporates Bethshean, Yurana and Jacaranda wings, offering residents the opportunity to remain with us through all care stages. Well established gardens and courtyard areas and overlooking Elouera Reserve, are just some of the reasons our residents call Cherrybrook home.

Carinya House, Glenhaven NSW

Opened in 2007, our 60 bed care centre provides low-level care support in a setting where residents enjoy the tranquil bushland setting and partake in a very full and stimulating recreational program. Carinya House includes a secure low-level care Dementia support area and also offers ageing in place.

For more information about any of our services please don't hesitate to call our Client Services Team on 02 9842 4111.