



ASSEMBLIES  
**Outreach**

Price: \$32 per annum  
or \$5.50 per copy

**June 2018**

(Jesus speaking) “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. (Luke 8:11-15; NIV)

**“Sowing” - see page 3**

**Also in this issue:** **Out & About in NSW**  
**News from Commended Workers**  
**Report on Hands & Feet**  
**Inspiring Hope - camps report**  
**Read stories of changed lives**  
**Dating a non-Christian**  
**Internet Corner (... and more)**

Assemblies

# Outreach

Magazine Vol. 47 No. 3

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Evangelistic Mission (NSWAEM)

The NSWAEM publishes this bi-monthly magazine to offer opportunities for NSW Commended Workers, Assemblies, Para-Assembly activities and other kindred bodies, to share information about their ministries, to encourage others, and to encourage prayer.

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

Please submit your assembly news, people profiles, letters, etc, for the **August 2018 issue before:- 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018.**

Contributors enjoy reasonable liberty in their expression of opinion and exposition of Scripture within the boundaries of a biblical evangelical Christian faith. Neither the Editorial Team, the Board of NSW Assemblies' Evangelistic Mission, nor Commended Workers are to be held responsible for every view that may be expressed in these pages.

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Subscription costs are shown on the cover  
& at [www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem/Mag/subs.html](http://www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem/Mag/subs.html)

Printed by the Blue Star Print Group.  
81 Derby Street, Silverwater NSW 2128  
Phone: +61 2 8748 2312

# Awake to Israel

History • Current Events • Prophecy • Evangelism

*...To declare unto you all the counsel of God. Acts 20:27*

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

For further information:  
[www.awaketoisrael.org](http://www.awaketoisrael.org)  
[mail@awaketoisrael.org](mailto:mail@awaketoisrael.org)

Awake to Israel is a ministry of Epping Gospel  
Chapel and combined Brethren Assemblies of  
Australia

## Our purpose:

- To stir each other to study what the Word of God says concerning Israel and our relationship with Her, as gentile believers, both now and in the future.
- To encourage the believers in Israel in whatever way we can.
- To facilitate and be involved in evangelism and discipleship of Jewish people.
- To pray for Israel.

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



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this June 2018 edition of the *Assemblies Outreach* magazine.

As material was supplied for this edition by the Lord's servants in recent weeks, the word "sowing" seemed to be striking me more often than usual.

Also in this period Billy Graham died and much was written in the media, both Christian and secular, about him and his spiritual legacies such as his family and the on-going ministry of the BGEA (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association).

You may care to watch a short video prepared by BGEA back in 2012 on YouTube:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sLU91uDoQo>

Much was written in Australia about the wonderful on-going results of his crusades here and many writers mentioned that Billy was often reaping the harvest of what many others had 'seeded' and nurtured in the years before he came.

A phrase is mentioned in the pages of this magazine by one person in particular - "Sowing seeds of the Gospel".

I don't think it can be found in the Bible in that form, but we all know what it means and how important it is. There can be no harvest without seeds being sown beforehand. And we know from Jesus' 'parable of the sower' that many seeds do **not** fall in good soil, but that is no reason to be discouraged and stop sowing!!

Other articles you will read here mention sowing too, and that's why the cover emphasises it. Suitable pictures are hard to come by, so I will ask you, the readers, do you have some examples to share of current "sowing seeds of the gospel" (with photos, would be an extra blessing) that we could print in future issues? If so, **please** phone, or email:-

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

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If you attend a NSW assembly, or you work with any associated Christian Brethren ministry, please feel free to submit your local news or event dates to this 'Out and About' section so we can inform and encourage people in all our assemblies and churches. Short items (even if only one sentence) are welcome and can be mailed to the Editor at PO Box 20, Pennant Hills, NSW 1715, or better still, e-mailed to:

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

Also, please email your wording for **Notices** or **Coming Events** to be included on the NSW Christian Brethren website to:-

[webadmin@cb-nsw.org.au](mailto:webadmin@cb-nsw.org.au)

\* \* \*

The second Coordinating Conference for 2018 was held on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, in Kings Park Community Church.

The minutes have since been distributed by Bradley Scott (mb: 0400 260 077) but some of the main business matters are mentioned briefly in the next column.

Prior to the conference brother Edward Lalabalavu from Concord Community Church passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> April. The funeral was held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Chairman Alex Worley spoke highly of Edward who has served on the Ministry Support NSW committee, the CCCAust(NSW) Committee and was one of the founding directors of Hands and Feet. The Committee wants to honour Edward for his service and passion to see God's kingdom expanded.

\* \* \*

Two new marriage celebrants were proposed and accepted; Brendon Walker for West Pennant Hills Community Church, and Ben O'Donoghue for St Ives Community Church.

Jacob Mitchell gave an update on the Youth Work. He had run the youth session for the teenage boys at the Build Conference. He has also been working with Campsie to relaunch their youth group. Jacob is working on material to help train youth leaders in our churches. He will be ready to run this in coming weeks.

Sean Nolan gave information about the Awake Sydney event in March. It was a combined prayer event with youth leaders from ten denominations. In a meeting afterwards the youth directors were keen to keep this 'team' together and are now planning a Sydney-wide evangelistic event - possibly in 2019.

Sean also reminded us **Unite 2018** is a night time event for youth. Samoan churches will host the event at KPCC in June. It is a free event and encourages personal growth in our Lord.

**Renovo** is a day conference held at WPHCC and is centred around missions. It brings young people into contact with opportunities for them to serve and prepare for missions. Great to see young people wanting to connect into this.

The **Youth Council** is made up of youth leaders from our churches and they meet 4 times a year to help plan Renovo and Unite. This helps form identity within our church family and is helping young people find enjoyment in being a part of our church family. ➤

**Lutanda** continues to see growth in the camping work. More kids are attending camps and we are seeing many of these kids touched by God's hand through the camp programmes.

**Churches** are encouraged to get involved in the Lutanda Camps by encouraging their **young people** to get involved. Contact Lutanda (Alex Worley) if you would like more information. Lutanda serves the CCCAust churches by giving discounts for church camps. The campsites are being upgraded as pricing allows.

#### **Work Health and Safety (WHS)**

A new policy has been loaded onto the CCCAust National website. Please note: Churches who employ people under the law need to implement a WHS policy in their church. A policy template can be downloaded from:-

<http://cccaust.org/helping-churches/church-admin/policies/>

#### **Child Protection Policy**

All churches that run children's programs need to have such a policy and to undergo training. The latest Policy is on the CCCAust National website and it can be found at:-

<http://cccaust.org/helping-churches/church-admin/policies/>

There is an information and training session that Brad Scott can take your leaders or children workers through to help you understand and implement a Child Protection system in your church.

**New churches:** Brad met with Glenorie Mission Church and spent some time discussing who we are and how we operate. Mark Holt was at the May meeting as an observer.

## **Meetings & Events**

(Note: for **the latest details** please be sure to check on these two web pages:-

<http://www.cb-nsw.org.au/events>

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

### **2018:**

- 23 June **WMC 2018**, "Hearts for the Harvest" at Campbelltown Christian Community Church, 18 Alderney Street, Minto. 10am to 3pm.
- 29 June **UNITE 2018** at Kings Park
- 14 July **Awake to Israel** meeting at Epping Gospel Ch, 2.30pm
- 21 July **SHU Conference**: cancelled.
- 2 Aug **Coordinating Conference**. at Grace Point Community Church, Mt Druitt; 7.30pm
- 11 Aug **Awake to Israel** meeting at Epping Gospel Ch, 2.30pm
- 25 Aug **'Pathfinders'** at West Pennant Hills C.C; 7 pm start; - Variety Night.
- 1 Sept **RENOVO 2018 Youth Mission Conference**; from 9am at West Pennant Hills Community Church.
- 19 Oct **Spring Fashion Parade** at Elouera Gardens; 10 to 12.
- 1 Nov **Coordinating Conference**. Venue TBC.
- 10 Nov **Christmas Shopping** at Elouera Gardens; 9 to 12.
- 24 Nov **'Pathfinders'** at West Pennant Hills C.C; 6pm start; Christmas Celebration.



*Please take some time-out every week to pray for our churches, assemblies and para-assembly ministries and the work of God in our nation.*

## General Prayer Points:

- ☆ Pray for our Church family as we seek to make our Lord known in our communities.
- ☆ Pray that our churches can be salt and light in our changing world, that we can show the love of Christ through the way we interact with our neighbours, friends and family. May people see Christ in us.
- ☆ Pray that we as churches will not forget that even as society changes, we have a sovereign Lord who is in control and we as His people are still on the offensive, taking the Good News of Jesus to a world of people who need this wonderful news.
- ☆ Pray that our church elders will have wisdom as they lead our local churches.
- ☆ Pray for the Boards of our para-church ministries as they lead and provide vision for these ministries. Where applicable, may we see the Boards of these organisations support and provide services that help connect churches to the community. May these boards support our local churches as they share Christ in their communities,

CCCAust(NSW), ACCS, AMOS, Lutanda, Stewards, CCM, Hands and Feet, CBCS, GLO, CMS, AEM, ACM, AMT, WMC.

## Green Valley Gospel Chapel

Pray for the church leadership:  
Paul Howell

Praise:

- ☆ Thank God for the way the whole church has worked together on working bees and in prayer meetings and other church activities.
- ☆ Thanks to God for the influx of young adults in the fellowship, including deacons David Barry and Stefan Varlet who have joined the Bible teaching ministry on Sundays.

Prayer:

- ☆ Could you please pray that God will bless our ministry to Middle East refugees, that we will meet their practical and spiritual needs.
- ☆ Also please pray for the outreach by deacons David Barry and Stefan Varlet and others.

## Guildford Arabic Gospel Chapel

Pray for the church Eldership:  
Khaled Audi, Jamil Choucair





Praise:

- ☆ In Guildford we give thanks to God for the many blessings He has given us from the time we moved here.
- ☆ The meetings in the middle of the week (Tuesday and Friday) are showing progress – with an increasing number of visitors from the area and also spiritual knowledge.
- ☆ The Sunday meetings are a great blessing especially to believers. It is a spiritual mix of praising, singing and anointed messages about remembering the Lord.

Prayer:

- ☆ Prayers are needed for the souls that attend from around the area that the Lord may open their hearts and believe in the name of the Lord.
- ☆ Prayers are needed that the Lord may provide special help to the needy and the sick and immigrants.
- ☆ We give thanks to the Lord because He hears our prayers and trust that He will supply all needs.

### Hope Society Church

Pray for the church leadership:  
Jeanette Nolan, Sean Nolan,  
Nathan Telfer, Ovi Tudosa

Please:

- ☆ Pray for our leadership team

as they manage growth and disciple a growing group of young people saved through our Inspiring Hope programs.

- ☆ Thank God for growth, especially in young people being saved from extreme backgrounds.

### Katoomba Christian Community Church

Pray for the church Elders:

Dr Harry Box, Ray Fuller,  
Graham Geddes, John Stoodley

Praise Points:

- ☆ Youth Group: 3 young people made commitments at the recent KYCK event in Katoomba.
- ☆ Pentecost Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>: 14 churches from our community got together at Mountains Christian College at Blackheath for several hours of praise, worship, singing, and prayer. It was fantastic.

Prayer Points:

- ☆ Ongoing Youth Group activities.
- ☆ Outreach into our community; we have a Movie Night coming up in a week or so.



**Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the August 2018 magazine on, or before, 13<sup>th</sup> July.**

We have much to praise God for. In the last month we have relocated to a **new warehouse**. This has been achieved through the generous support of Stewards Foundation, the support of Christian businesses working with us to refurbish the building and individuals who have slaved late into the night helping prepare the building for service.

This week, Hands and Feet have run their **first disability camp**, taking over the mandate from Lutanda. The existing team, some of whom have served in these roles for over 30 years, serve these campers with love and humility showing God's love and grace. It is a happy place where the Gospel is shared in a delightful way. This is an amazing ministry and we could use your help in serving those who attend.

For the first time ever, after praying and seeking approval, our team in **Moree** has been granted access (invited) onto the Aboriginal reserves (yes two of them) to run a church service for those living on the reserve. We praise God for the work that Paul and Erin and their team are doing. Please pray with us that these opportunities will see the church growing and bringing change to this marginalised community. We also thank Allan Moss and the other faithful travellers who have supported the conference circuit, travelling to remote Aboriginal communities sharing the Good News about Jesus.

Please pray for **Brewarrina**. Ike

Gordon and his team have been working to overcome the suicide epidemic in Brewarrina. The town was burying young Aboriginals on a monthly basis. For the last 14 months there has not been one suicide and the youth work has grown massively with over 70 young people regularly attending Bible studies. The culture of the town is changing because of the Gospel.

Hands and Feet have been working with Ike to prepare a building that can be used to disciple these young people, provide a place of respite and a place they can congregate. What we thought would be a simple process has turned into a number of hurdles. The building we are upgrading requires asbestos to be removed and the current cost to meet Council requirements is more than \$200,000. We are currently applying for a grant to help us cover this cost and would ask the church to pray with us that we may be granted these funds or that God will provide in another way.

The work of **distributing food** to churches in NSW is growing – with Campsie Community Church joining the family of churches connecting to their community through food distributions. City Light Church (Balmain) is seeing people, who have come for food, congregating to discuss who Jesus is. All very exciting.

Please pray with us that we would find additional **volunteers** to help us in this ministry. We are looking for drivers to help us collect food and deliver ➤



food to churches. We are looking for office staff to help us maintain the administrative requirements of the work we do. We are in discussions with a number of other churches who would like to participate in these programs.

We have been granted further approvals to provide **NDIS services**, which we can now provide through local churches. We have our first client in Sydney and would ask that people could pray that we would see

100 clients on our books by Christmas.

As you can see, God is doing some amazing things through the Hands and Feet ministry. Please pray for the Board as they provide **leadership and direction** for growth as we aim to serve the churches in helping them connect with their communities.

Please visit the Hands and Feet website to get regular updates, and please keep praying for us.

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



## “Perception is Reality”

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### *A note to our Young Adults*

I was once told by a godly man that “perception is reality”. I wonder if we ever stop to think about how our young people perceive God in our Churches and in our world. The Biblical view of God is one of a loving Father on a rescue mission, dedicated to saving His children from destruction - “For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.”

I wonder if we ever step back to think how well our services, prayer meetings and witness convey this truth in a way that is relatable and digestible for our emerging generations. McCrindle data suggests that people are open to the message of Jesus, but yet the Church is shrinking in our nation. Some part of this is honestly increasing secularism and people’s hardened hearts, but

another part has to be seen as the responsibility of the Church.

I love the saying: “marry your message and date your methods”. Our message of a loving God on a rescue mission is timeless, but our methods, service formats, weekly Church schedules etc should always be assessed in the light of how well they are allowing us to convey the message of the Bible to those who need to hear it today.

If our methods are out of date young people will perceive that Jesus is ‘out of date’, old fashioned and ‘boring’. Let’s be ‘living water’ Christians in our inner life as well as our outer methods, bringing a timeless message through fresh methods.

Love and blessings,

Ps Sean Nolan.

Youth Council Chairman. MTh.



**Doug & Jenny McNaught**  
46 Barnetts Road  
Winston Hills NSW 2153

23 May 2018



Dear Brothers and sisters,

Thank you for your prayers, love, fellowship and support during the last month. The Lord has gone with us and we have travelled safely wherever we have been. Our local assembly at North Parramatta closed down recently. We have been visiting other assemblies most weeks since then and, on the occasional free weekend, we have attended the Korean Church that is using the building during the day on Sunday, sometimes to speak there. We have also visited our son and daughter-in-law at their assembly. At this stage, we have made no final decision concerning our future.

This month has been a busy month, we had a break on Mothers' Day, which was good for Jenny. She was able to go out on Saturday night with the girls from our family and they had a good time together.

Jenny also supervised the NAPLAN exams at OLMC. She is part of a good team of ladies and enjoys herself down there. Jenny still keeps in contact with ladies from the old North Parramatta church with visits or, at least, a phone call. We both are looking after grandchildren three days a week this term.

We also look forward to a busy month in June, if it is the Lord's will. We have plans to visit somewhere on each Sunday.

When I first started working with Sports Chaplains Australia I was told that my job with the Parramatta Two Blues was like "loitering with intent".

In fact, I have found it is more of having many conversations with many different people. The focus is more on sowing the seed than reaping on a regular basis. When the Lord Jesus Christ was here on earth, He told His disciples, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." (John 4: 35) By the time He went back to heaven, He had appeared to, resurrected and glorified, more than five hundred people at one time and there were about 120 people gathered together waiting for the promise of Acts 1:8 to be fulfilled. (see also 1:15)

After that more than five thousand people were added to the church. The Lord Jesus Christ spent more time sowing the seed than He did reaping. However, the post-modern church, with its doctrine of "more effort" thinks that reaping is the most important task and so they focus on that much more than on sowing the seed. A broader issue in the post-modern world is the fact that people think the only important people are those who can help them achieve their own goals. No one else is worth any effort at all.

There seems to be a similar attitude in parts of the church today, the only person who matters is the person we can reap. On the other hand, the Lord said, ➤

*"One sows and another reaps" (Jn 4:37). The Apostle Paul said, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (1 Cor 3:6).*

*Everyone is equally important in our own field of service. Gideon's father said, to the people of his home town, "... if he be a god, let him plead for himself" (Judges 6:31). The question we face, in the world today, is are we willing to treat everyone with compassion, sow the seed, and leave God to bring the increase; or do we focus on reaping and ignore some people in our portion of the field?*

*Thanks again for your love, support, fellowship and prayers.*

**Geoff & Liz Folland**  
**4 Oronga Avenue**  
**Baulkham Hills NSW 2153**  
**1 June 2018 (extracts)**

*I love being part of a ministry where we see students leading their friends to Jesus. Would you join us in praying for the following friends of students?*

*James (I shared his story in March), Amy (doing CE with Eva and Jackie), Thomas (friends with Tobie, came to Connect Retreat),*

*Elias (friends with Mitch and others), and*

*Alex (friends with Chelsea & Nick, and comes to Friday Core Group).*

*There are many others, but these are friends that our students have committed to praying for regularly.*

*We are now looking forward to Mid-Year Conference in Wollongong. If you know of any university students who would benefit from the conference, please*

*send them this link:-*

**<https://powertochange.org.au/campus/events/mycwollongong>**

*Also, we have seen God provide \$1,700 of the \$3,000 we are seeking to raise to scholarship new and needy students to conference. If you would like to give a special gift towards this, please let me know.*

*Financial News: This time of year Liz and I review our financial situation. We are thankful for each of the three dozen or so people and families who partner with us in ministry. And we understand when someone's circumstances change and they have to finish their financial partnership. This has happened to several people over the past six months, so we have been behind and are looking to make up the shortfall. (If you want to know details, please email me!) As you can imagine, after 22 years in ministry (for Geoff, 32 for Liz) we've talked to everyone we know many times about financial partnership. (If you have someone you'd like to introduce us to, please email me!) As we look to find new ministry partners, would you pray that we would continue to step out in faith, trusting God to provide. We are trusting God for His provision for the ministry ahead.*

*We also really appreciate your friendship, encouragement, prayers and support. We couldn't do this ministry without you.*

*In His grace,*

*Geoff & Liz Folland*

*Power to Change Australia*

**[geoff.folland@powertochange.org.au](mailto:geoff.folland@powertochange.org.au)**



Hi, my name is Brendon Walker. My wife Sarah and I have been married for 12 years and have 4 children (one is in heaven). We have been seeking the direction that God has wanted us to go in over the years and have been listening to His voice. My passion has always been centred around youth, whether its training or in relationships as a friend.

Sarah is trained in Early Childhood Education and I am a Youth and Young Adults Pastor at West Pennant Hills Community Church. I was also a chaplain for two years at Cumberland High School working for an organisation called **Power to Change Australia** (formally known as Campus Crusade for Christ Australia).

I am still working in the Youth Strategy of Power to Change, training high school students how to make disciples in their context across Sydney. We have been invited into high school Christian lunchtime programmes where we spend 7 weeks (once a week), training students in a resource called **First Steps!** The program in NSW has been running for two years and has done 4 High Schools already, with a fifth starting soon.

First Steps is a resource by which a person can be trained to be able to take another person through when he/she first becomes a Christian. Instead of just taking their friend to the chaplain or youth pastor to disciple, we give the students the ability to rely on the Holy Spirit.



This training looks at many topics including:

- Assurance of Salvation;
- How do you know for sure you are going to heaven;
- Experiencing God's love and forgiveness;
- Sharing Jesus with others;
- Growing spiritually;
- Who is the Holy Spirit; and
- Living in God's power.

This programme has also been made into a free App (First Steps) that anyone with a smart phone can download from their particular app store - Google or Apple.

Each week in the school we go through these topics in a framework of LOOK UP, LOOK BACK and LOOK FORWARD. LOOK BACK revisits what we studied last week and reminds us of the last topic and keeps us accountable for its application. LOOK UP explores the next topic and what the Bible teaches us about it, and LOOK FORWARD is the application in the coming week from this session. ➤

By the 4th week the students themselves are running this model with each other without much input from the two leaders. We do this so the training is transferable for them to use in future and not rely on the chaplain or trainers, but rather to rely on the Holy Spirit.

When we start at a school we ask students the questions “Are you ok with your friends not knowing Jesus?” And if the answer is ‘no’, “what are you doing about that?” There have been some interesting responses to these questions including: “I want to say no, however, I don’t live like that so I guess it’s a yes, but I don’t want it to be.”

This sets up a helpful start to the training that motivates the students to share their faith with their friends and to being open to the opportunities God gives them.

We have recently been down to MacArthur Anglican School running First Steps with 22 of their Christian lunch-time leaders. At the end of our time there we brought in our performance (music) team who played for over 150 students and then shared a message about Jesus. At the end of that time 60 students said they gave their life to Jesus (praise God)!

However, that is a lot of students for a chaplain to follow up. This is where First Steps training comes in! The students who were now confident sharing the truth of Jesus were able to do this with their peers in the weeks after the performance.

We don’t charge anything for this



training – so it can be available to all students. In saying that, the small team of missionaries involved in this training rely on people partnering with them, both in prayer and financially, on this journey in High Schools. Personally, my wife and I are currently needing more people to partner with us so we can continue this training ministry. We’ve had to put the brakes on rolling out the First Steps program to more schools at the moment to focus our time on finding more people to financially and prayerfully partner with us.

We are hoping for a number of individuals or families or organisations who will commit to \$20 or \$50 (say) per month in order to achieve a total of about \$2,000 per month.

If you would like to know more information about this ministry or how to support us in this journey, I would love to have a conversation with you!

Please feel free to contact me:–

Mobile: 0439 864 033

Email: [brendon.walker@powertochange.org.au](mailto:brendon.walker@powertochange.org.au)

or:

[brendon@wphcc.com](mailto:brendon@wphcc.com)



**Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the August 2018 magazine on, or before, 13<sup>th</sup> July.**



# Inspiring Hope - camps report

by Narelle Harris

This year God has opened doors for us to add additional camps to our calendar. We are so thankful to be able to partner with Winmalee Christian Conference Centre in order to create even more opportunities to share the Gospel with kids in foster care.

These last holidays we ran two camps, a Made to Make a Difference (M2MAD) camp for primary aged children and an Inspire Teens camp for teenage girls.

Across the two camps we were able to host 145 campers. These precious young lives are such fertile soil for the seeds of the gospel. We had the privilege to lead 57 campers in first time decisions and see 58 campers recommit their lives.

Our team of 54 leaders invested the

love and grace of God into campers and as a result saw the transforming work of God at work in their lives.

This is a testimony from one of our leaders:

“My Name’s Mikayla, I was a volunteer leader for Inspire Teens ‘Beautifully You’ Camp. I saw God move through us to the girls and also through me. The program included a few days of empowerment and inspiring hope, through the speaker’s words. In particular, on our salvation day I heard every girl sing each song with a fiery passion and almost every girl accepted Jesus or made a recommitment. I saw the transformation in the girls, when they came to us all of them were angry, ➤





sad, or shy. When we were sending them off they were all much happier and had opened up.

“And also, I saw God change something in me. My leadership skills have increased, and my faith refreshed. I came away different, with a stronger sense of calling to mission.”

We love creating opportunities for people to be on the front line of God’s mission and have the opportunity to see first hand the power of the Gospel to transform lives. We are passionate about not only seeing the campers come to know God, but also about seeing leaders grow in their understanding of who God is and the calling that He has placed on their lives.

*Chapel time, Inspire Teens camp*

If you are interested in joining with us to invest in the lives of the next generation, please contact the Inspiring Hope office on 0456 159 670 or email

[admin@inspiringhope.org.au](mailto:admin@inspiringhope.org.au)

*Small group activity and mentoring after chapel session*



*Messy games fun*

*Colour fight with paint powder*

# A report from the Sydney Festival Male Voice Choir

by David Gordon

If we thought 2016 was one of our busiest years, 2017 was even busier: our heavenly Father provided us with eighteen opportunities to “proclaim Jesus – no other name”. Besides the Festival of Male Voice Praise in September, the choir travelled to Forster in April and presented two programs at the Baptist Church, visiting the CBCS facility *Groves House* (in Cardiff Heights) on the return journey to Sydney. Included in our engagements were singing at Scripture Union’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in October, presenting the gospel at four Uniting Churches, two Baptist Churches (besides Forster), and five retirement villages or nursing homes.

One of our members attends Windsor Baptist Church, where the CEO of Anglicare is also a member. When the choir member told the CEO

about the choir, he sent a message to all Anglicare villages to let them know. In April 2018 we visited *Elizabeth Lodge* at Rushcutters Bay, and the Pastoral Carer at *Elizabeth Lodge* sent us this comment afterwards:-

“Many thanks to the Choir for coming and singing to our residents ... We appreciate the effort, commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism of the volunteers in the Choir.”

“We had some great feedback from the residents who could communicate their appreciation and I was able to observe the smiles on some of the residents who aren’t always able to verbally express their thoughts. In particular, one such resident can often become unsettled and doesn’t like to sit in one place for a long time – but she didn’t move throughout the performance and was smiling the entire time.” ➤



*Some members of the SFMV Choir at Dudley Foord House*



Alex Key introducing an item



Judy Bolas at the piano

One of the workers at Elizabeth Lodge is a Buddhist, who hadn't heard the gospel; she willingly accepted a copy of a New Testament. Please pray that her interest may continue, and that she will be drawn into the kingdom of God.

In May we visited *Dudley Foord House* at The Ponds, where the folk were very appreciative of the presentation, and would like the choir back this year for a Christmas program. One of the residents said that she was "in her seventh heaven", and two residents publicly thanked the choir for visiting, after which the Chaplain prayed for the choir and its work.

Lorna, one of the residents, said, "My husband and I enjoyed the choir visit very much. We had an opportunity to sing to the Lord and honour Him. We are looking forward to seeing them again. They are an amazing group. Thank you so much for coming."

Also in May we sang at BaptistCare's *Aminya Centre* in Baulkham Hills, where the residents were very receptive to the program and the message in song. Wendy Toscan, the Lifestyle Coordinator, told us that on the following Monday the residents were still

talking about the Choir's visit. She purchased a DVD and CD of the choir for the library, and played the DVD on Monday afternoon for 14 residents - they clapped after every item! They have also enjoyed listening to the CD.

On 13 June we will be singing at another Anglicare residential village - *Mildred Symons House* in Jannali.

On 8 September the Brisbane Festival Male Voice Choir will be holding a Festival of Male Voice Praise, and twelve men from the Sydney choir have expressed a desire to participate and to encourage the Brisbane choir.

We praise God for all these opportunities to witness to Him. Please continue to pray for the hearers, the Choir, and for further opportunities to sing of the salvation that He has so freely made available.

The choir currently has 24 singers - but is always on the lookout for new members. If you would like to join, please contact David Gordon, choir Secretary, on 0400 426 373. If you'd like a choir prayer letter, or if you'd like the choir to visit your church (or residential care facility, etc), or if you'd like to purchase CDs or DVDs, David will be happy to assist you. □

# Read stories of how Christ has changed people's lives.

by John, AFCI

Is your passion to share Christ with the people around you growing cold? Reignite it by reading and sharing stories of how Christ has changed people's lives!

My family and I have a daily practice that has had a big impact on my passion for evangelism. A couple of years ago we signed up to receive the monthly **Challenge newspaper**. The paper is designed to be given to, or picked up by, secular non-churched people. It is packed with gripping stories of people who have encountered Christ. None of the article titles sound 'churchy' and the writing style is very engaging.

More than 4 million people read this paper and many, many have put their faith in Christ as a result. Non-Christians are the target audience of Challenge. But we use it for a different purpose. We want our kids to grow up with the absolute confidence that no matter what happens in their lives, Jesus can change them and their circumstances. We also want them to have the confidence that no matter how hard or worldly the people in their lives are, God can reach into their lives and rescue them.

So, every morning before I head to the office we get the kids up and read together one of the stories of people whose lives were falling apart, and Jesus brought new life, real love, new hope and new meaning into their lives. Some of the stories are truly amazing—the level of brokenness and hopelessness that God transformed. Then we read a story from the Bible.

## God is at work in our world!

This practice has given me such a passion to share Christ with people. I know that without God people's lives are far from whole. No matter what they portray on the surface there is some level of desperation. We were made for God and our lives are not right without Him. What's more, I have an absolute confidence that God can change any desperate situation that seems completely hopeless, when a person turns to Christ.

Growing your passion through stories of Christ changing lives can also be accomplished by having people in your small group share their story of finding Jesus.

However you accomplish it, I encourage you to regularly read and share stories of how Christ has changed people's lives.

If you want to sign up for the Challenge newspaper, head over to their website:-

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

or download the order form directly:-

[http://challengenews.org/public/clf/Challenge\\_Order\\_Form.pdf](http://challengenews.org/public/clf/Challenge_Order_Form.pdf)

[Editorial note: I know of one NSW assembly that has been using Challenge newspapers this year in a local Medical Centre (mainly) as well as in its own church. On average, 100 free copies have been taken each month. This is part of a 12 month trial of 'sowing the gospel seed' in a local community. Do you know of others doing a similar thing? If so, please let me know.]



When the Bible talks about Christians being witnesses in the world around them regarding Jesus Christ, it assumes that people will be asking us questions about our faith in Christ. Peter tells us that we should always be ready to answer those who ask us about the hope we have. Paul talks about how we need wisdom to know how to respond to each person.

The Bible expects that our Christianity will be open, that we will be talking with people around us on the deeper level, asking them questions and sharing what Christ means in our lives. As we do so, we can be sure that people will have difficult questions about God and our faith.

The more I have grown as a witness, the more I have encountered such questions. One woman on a plane wouldn't even consider turning to God because she knew someone whose baby was born with a terrible sickness. Another person told me that the beliefs of Christianity were like witchcraft. An athlete told me that the hindu girl on her athletic team seemed to see her God doing things for her and so her faith must be as valid as ours.

I used to dread these questions. First, it's impossible to memorise answers for the countless different questions people may ask, and it made me nervous that I wouldn't have answers for people. Second, there was the fear that someone might ask a question that would make me doubt my own faith! But now I look forward to these questions. Here's why:

**Hard questions show that the person is grappling with the issue of faith in Jesus.**

This isn't always the case. The guy who said Christianity was like witchcraft was not open at all to Christ. When a person has this attitude, don't invest emotional energy and time on it. You never see Jesus chasing down people who weren't interested, trying to persuade them to give him another chance. Rather, look for those who are truly searching and invest in them.

But this is rare. Usually when someone expresses a hard question, it is something they struggle with. The woman on the plane whose friend's baby was born sick was angry with God about that. How could she trust Him? She wanted to talk about it, not sure if there was any meaningful answer, but needed to work through it. She started out very negative, but ended the conversation so thankful for our discussion.

The man who thought his wartime activities made him too sinful for God was quite emotional as I spoke with him about what God's grace through Jesus meant for him and his past. He put his faith in Christ and so gladly received God's forgiveness.

Don't think that someone's hard question means they are not open to God. Rather, it shows they are grappling with what it means for them to turn to Him.

**Hard questions help me understand the issues holding this person back from trusting Christ.**

Sometimes I will even draw these questions out by asking a person, "What is holding you back from trusting in Jesus?" When they raise their hard question, it could be a smokescreen hiding the real issue, but very often it is something >20

that is standing in the way of their faith. I might talk with them until I am blue in the face, but until they get past this issue they will never put their faith in Jesus.

So I am grateful when they let me know what the issue is. I may have to come back to them later after thinking, reading, and talking to others about their issue, but now I know what it is that they need to get past, and that is great.

**Hard questions are an incredible opportunity to help this person overcome the big thing that keeps them from turning to God.**

When someone expresses their question or objection to faith in God/Jesus, they may express it in an angry way or as a heartfelt question, but what you need to recognise is that they have given you an incredible gift. They have given you

an opportunity to help them get past the thing that keeps them from turning to God.

So when someone asks you that question, get excited! This is a huge opportunity. Immediately start asking God to give you wisdom in the conversation. Think of meaningful questions you can ask to get a deeper understanding of why that issue is so big and what may have triggered it. Take them to Scripture. Think of things that have helped you answer that issue. And be willing to say, "I would love to think about that a bit more and have another good discussion about it. Is that okay?"

So, don't fear hard questions, but welcome them as an opportunity from God and from the person, to help them deal with the things keeping them from God!



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## Emmaus Correspondence School (NSW)

extracts from ECS Quarterly News by Faith Connell

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W: [www.ecsnsw.org.au](http://www.ecsnsw.org.au)

If you would like to partner with us in this ministry you can donate online to: Emmaus Correspondence School (NSW)

BSB: 032 087 Account: 123703

ECS (NSW) exists to bring Glory to God through the supply of free courses to inmates in the many Corrective Centres in NSW. We

also send courses to anyone in the wider community who wishes to enhance their study of the Word of God through the use of ECS courses. Courses are available for each book of the Bible and hence many folk purchase them for use in their Bible Study Groups

THE FREE COURSE FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR IS "SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD"

**WHY NOT REQUEST YOUR COPY TO-DAY?**







## CALENDARS FOR 2019

We are almost ready to send out our invitation to order the Bible Gems calendars for 2019. We appreciate the continued support in this regard from many churches and friends but falling order numbers has put a large strain on our resources to fund the prison work.

For the first year since we have been involved (nearly 20 years) we have had to draw on our reserves to meet on-going costs. At this stage we may need to drop off some prisons where we have no students, enabling cost cutting to ensure the work can continue.

As a further adverse effect, prison numbers continue to increase, and our printer has informed us that there will need to be a price rise for the calendars. Thankfully God is in control of all these issues and we look to Him for wisdom for the way forward.

Some 35,000 calendars were distributed last year at a cost of \$40,100; 24,000 calendars went to prisoners, mainly in NSW, but also to Tas, Vic, SA & WA.

It's a rewarding work and we receive regular comments/letters from prisoners about their new found faith. (One of these letters is included below.)

## ANNUAL REPORT

Now that we are operating as a separate company our accounting period end has changed to 30<sup>th</sup> June. Our Annual Report will be issued as soon as possible after that date.

## BIBLE STUDY

A program of Bible study using the ECS courses has been established in the USA and also by our Queensland Registrar. It is structured so that it can be used in a group format. This could be for a church or a small group. Should you be interested please contact us and we can provide more details.

## PRISONS

We are currently trying to establish where the Corrective Services Dept. is at with the establishment of new prisons in NSW. We know that there have been extensions begun at a number of existing prisons like Parklea, Cessnock and Wellington, and it would appear that whilst these are adjacent to existing compounds they are being given different names. We urgently need to know what effect this might have on our numbers as we commence the substantial task of co-ordinating the calendar mail-out next month.

## OFFICE

We apologise if anybody has had difficulty in contacting the office in May. Unfortunately we have not been able to access our normal office as the church roof over our area has had to be replaced. Whilst a lot of the ECS work can be carried out from iPads and smart phones, the data base is not transportable – so certain types of work were not possible during that period. The roof work is now finished and we are back in the office.

➤22



### Comments from a Student in prison

“Hello my name is (name withheld), And my soul is lost and my heart is growing cold. I’m looking for a better and bigger path in life - something that’s going to help me find my soul and warm my heart. I’ve never been a godly person but after reading and deeply thinking about all the Bible quotes in your 2018 Calendar I’m so hoping your courses will finally help me find myself and find a better and bigger path in life. Recently I’ve been reading the Bible, but I had started at the first book of the New Testament, Matthew, and am now hooked on the whole story of Jesus. Being in here there are so many pages missing because of smokers ripping them out to use as rolling paper, me not being a smoker, I find this hard to understand. So what I’m asking for is if your school can post me a fresh new Bible of my own so no one can use it for anything else but to read for guidance and I really like to be a part of your correspondence school and help me find myself and to get a better understanding of our Lord God and to really understand God’s sacrifice of His only Son and how that Son became the one true Saviour of the people whom I love and treasure. I’m truly interested in understanding God’s plan for our salvation and after reading parts of the Bible I have. I’m excited for the first time in my life about God. Please send me or except me in your school and send me the first lesson as soon as you can, and please find it in your heart to send me a Bible too. I’ve

started praying to God and read what I can of the Bible every night at the same time every night - it’s what I call my time with Him. Anyway I hope you can do this to help me find my path to God and this letter comes to you fast and you reply fast. I thank you with all my heart.”

### ECS Praise Points:

- ☆ For the number of released prisoners who are continuing with their courses;
- ☆ For continued dedication of all the course markers;
- ☆ For the salvation of many students and their encouraging letters;
- ☆ For the evidence that God is at work in this ministry.

### ECS Prayer Points:

- ☆ That born again prisoners can on release:–
  - Be re-established into families;
  - Find work;
  - Find an evangelical local Church ;
  - Cope with changes in society.
- ☆ For extra staff in the office on Wednesdays & Fridays;
- ☆ For the 2019 Calendar promotion to be taken up by churches;
- ☆ For continued access to be permittrd for our materials into the prisons.

### Fund a Prisoner’s Courses?

On average it costs \$15 per month to maintain the free ministry to a prisoner. Could you help with this?



# The more you share Christ with people... the more you will want to!

by Aaron Daniell, AFCI Blog

Recently I have been asking God to give me a renewed passion and burden for people who don't yet know him. I've been asking Him for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with others. And I have realized that the opportunities I've been asking for are the very things that God is using to keep my passion for evangelism alive.

Today I was on my way home when I met a man who asked what I did for a living. I told him that I train church leaders to live out what they believe so they can help their people do the same. We had some small talk where he clarified I was a Christian and likened me to a "church father". It was at this stage I knew God was at work in this man's life, so I prayed for God to help me in this conversation.

I asked the man "What is your spiritual belief?" He informed me his family had a Hindu background, but he liked some of the Buddhist beliefs. The man then asked me "What do Christians believe? Do you have rules you need to live by?" What an opening! I couldn't believe he asked this question. Earlier in the day I had placed some tracts in my pocket so I could reach them easily if an opportunity came. The particular tract I had was based on Romans 6:23 and talks about rules (ten commandments) we have broken separating us from God. It talks about God's gift of restored relationship

and eternal life through Jesus Christ. By God's grace I took out the tract, gave one to this man and took time to explain the good news of Jesus Christ.

To my surprise when I had finished answering the man's question he explained to me that about two months ago he sat next to another guy who was travelling to do some training with church leaders and he told him the same things as I had just told him. I asked the man "What does that tell you? ... It tells me that God is trying to get your attention." I asked him "If you died today where would you spend eternity?" He was unsure. I assured him that he can be certain of eternity with God when he places his faith in Jesus Christ and invites Him into his life.

He then asked me what my experience has been like as a Christian and I was able to share my faith story with him and again encourage him with the truth of a real relationship with God.

While to my knowledge the man didn't surrender his life to Jesus, he was eager to know more. I gave him my details and I'm praying for an opportunity to meet up again with him soon.

This experience impacted me in several ways. First, it showed me that God is already at work in a person's life long before I share with them. Second, it taught me how God can take an ordinary situation and turn >24

it into a divine encounter with the Truth of Jesus. Lastly, it gave me great joy knowing I had joined God in His mission for this man and increased my passion to share again with others.

With a renewed passion I was on the lookout for more opportunities to share with people and within hours God gave me another opportunity – this time with a man whose father “calls himself a Christian but doesn’t

practice”. Again, this encounter taught me much, has strengthened my faith and increased my boldness for Christ.

Today, be encouraged. If you want to keep your passion for evangelism alive, pray and look for opportunities to share Christ with people. The more you share Christ with people the more you will *want* to share Christ with people. □

“Thinking Christianly’ is thinking by Christians about anything and everything in a consistently Christian way – in a manner that is shaped, directed, and restrained by the truth of God’s Word and God’s Spirit.” — Os Guinness

## WOMEN’S MISSIONARY PRAYER & SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP

Under this banner two groups meet each month, except January. The weekly Global Prayer Matters issued by AMT form the basis for focussed prayer. These points are amplified by information from personal letters received from missionaries.

Whenever a missionary on furlough is available, as many as possible from both groups meet at Eastwood Chapel, and after the prayer time continue fellowship at Page’s Cafe (in Koorong Bookshop, West Ryde) over lunch. More information may be obtained from:–

**Lillian Fleming 9858 5436 or Jackie Sardar 9785 3439**

### Meetings still to be held in 2018

The time slot is 10.30 am to 12.30 pm, with a cuppa available from 10am. Tea and coffee are provided.

**Cherrybrook Christian  
Care Centre**  
(on Fridays)

**Oatley Gospel  
Chapel**  
(also on Fridays)

**13 July  
12 Oct**

**10 Aug  
9 Nov**

**14 Sept  
14 Dec**

## Is dating a non-Christian a good idea?

Single people of all ages and from all walks of life often wonder if dating a non-Christian is a good idea. Often that question arises when the person already has a non-Christian in their life whom they like, but are unsure of whether to go ahead and develop a more significant relationship.

The Bible doesn't give us a bunch of rules we must follow when we start dating, but it gives us a clear picture of what it means to be 'in the world and not of the world' as a Christian.

For example, when the people of Israel entered the Promised Land, they were given many commands from God. One in particular is repeated over and over: "Do not intermarry with [the pagan peoples around you]. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons."

God spells out His reason for this command in Deuteronomy 7:3: "They will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods...."

This played out tragically in the life of King Solomon, whose pagan wives led him into idolatry, and ultimately contributed to the fracture of the kingdom.

In the New Testament (2 Cor 6:14,15) the Apostle Paul writing to Christians said "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?"



Paul also wrote "A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord." (1 Cor 7:39)

### **What does it mean to be a Christian?**

If you are a believer and profess to have a relationship with Jesus Christ, there is no getting around the fact that this is by far the most influential relationship you will ever have.

It's a relationship that will shape your identity, form your beliefs, influence your choices and guide the entire purpose of your life. It's a relationship that will not just change you, it will re-create you. You are made absolutely new. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Being a Christian is about so much more than just being a moral person. Being a believer means that your relationship with God has absolutely, entirely, and clearly changed your life.

This article is about "dating" but let's jump ahead to marriage because even if you're not sure that is where your relationship will end up, that possibility should be a consideration when you're deciding whom to date. ➤26

### What is marriage?

God designed marriage. That means that He knows best how it should operate. His word gives us the principles we need for satisfying marriages. It takes three to make a good marriage: God, the man, and the woman. For a Christian to marry an unbeliever is to enter marriage lacking something essential. Marriage has been described as a triangle with God at the top: the closer each partner moves to God, the closer they move toward each other. The further each moves away from God, the further they move from each other.

### Building a life on two different foundations.

As a Christian, your life is built on a desire to trust and follow Jesus to the ends of the earth. For the other person who is not a Christian, it is very likely that they have built their life on a desire for career success, money, health, etc. Things that may be good, but not necessarily heavenly. Somewhere, at some point in your early relationship, you will realise that you are building a life as a couple on two different foundations.

And if dating turns into marriage, this will cause a lot of disagreements around finance management, your children's education, and religious beliefs.

### Consider carefully

It was not the aim of this article to tell you whom you should or shouldn't date. That is your responsibility. But please make sure you talk about it with your family, and people you trust or who are responsible for your spiritual growth (your pastor, youth leader, etc). When you have done so, challenge yourself with the following questions.

How do you imagine your life in the future?

Do you imagine yourself serving the Lord wholeheartedly?

Do you imagine being involved in Christian ministry?

Do you imagine attending church with your husband/wife?

Do you imagine your children growing up to love Jesus?

If you imagine yourself living a devoted life for Jesus, dating a non-Christian now might get in the way of that life! Do you want to pay that price?



*“We are no more responsible for the evil thoughts that pass through our minds than a scarecrow for the birds which fly over the seedplot he has to guard. The sole responsibility in each case is to prevent them from settling.”*

— John Churton Collins



## New book: “The Bible In Australia: A Cultural History”

*Published by NewSouth Books and is available  
in all good bookstores.*

This new book is offering an alternative history of Australia with the Bible as its central character.

Written by historian and author Meredith Lake, this book was released in April this year and is available in good bookshops like Koorong.

“Once I started to think about the Bible and what Australians have thought about it, how they’ve acted on it, how they’ve fought over it, argued with it and about it, I uncovered a really rich seam of stories that have great explanatory power. It really helped me make sense of the society I’m living in,” Ms Lake told *Eternity* newspaper, which published a review in its May edition.

“People who’ve taken the Bible as God’s word have changed Australia. And the influence of the Bible in the hands of people who aren’t straightforwardly Christian is also fascinating.”

“The Bible is everywhere, in very surprising places,” said Ms Lake. “And people make all kinds of interesting interpretations of it.”

“This book is an alternative history of the big things in our nation’s life: whether it’s Mabo, the Anzacs, women’s right to vote – whatever it might be, there’s an angle on all of those things where people have taken Scripture and tried to link it to the questions of their times. And they’ve had extraordinary results.”

The author argues that an understanding of the Bible “is crucial to understanding the way those arguments were made”.

Yet, she says, biblical literacy is at an

all-time low. “Instead of editing that part of history out, we just need to get to know the stories.”

Ms Lake says her book isn’t a history of churches; nor is it a history of Christian social movements.

Rather, she has attempted to place the Bible at the centre and look at people’s interpretations of it to “get quite a different perspective of what kind of society Australians have been building.” She asks “What are the options for building a good society now?”

In an age when Christians are a declining proportion of society, Ms Lake says the Bible still offers a reservoir of thought, reflection and wisdom that’s worth staying in touch with – both within the pages of the book itself, and in the lives and actions of people influenced by its words.

“I think it would be foolish to shut ourselves off from a tradition that is as rich and as diverse as the Biblical one. It’s not the only thing we should draw on – but it is one resource that we would do well to be attentive to in the face of the big challenges that continue to face our society.”

One reviewer wrote “At a time when public discussion of religion is deeply polarised, Meredith Lake reveals the Bible’s dynamic influence in Australia and offers an innovative perspective on Christianity and its changing role in our society. In the hands of writers, artists, evangelists, unionists, Indigenous activists, and many more - the Bible has played a defining and contested role in Australia.” **A must read for everyone.**



# Why we are best as a minority

by Tim Costello, *Eternity*, May 2018

There are some in this nation who despair that Christianity has lost its ability to dominate or define the political and social landscape.

Increasingly loud voices from the Christian barricades are insisting that we must adopt the militant tactics of successful non-Christian lobby groups to fight an “erosion” of Christian values and gain more legislative and political power.

**That is a philosophy that I believe is self-defeating.**

There are those, from the Emperor Constantine on, who have celebrated religious faith as a legislative and social norm.

Yet, we know that the kingdom of God cannot be voted in or legalised into existence.

There are those, and I count myself amongst them, who believe we Christians are always at our best when we are in the minority. When we are not fighting for dominance with the law and the power of the state.

Christianity’s explosive early growth occurred at its greatest period of vulnerability and political weakness. This minority group attracted followers because it was compassionately responding to basic, deeply felt human needs.

Christians have an off-kilter view of the world – love your enemies, turn the other cheek, live without anger or lust, be strong in the broken places.

We can actually celebrate being a faithful and discerning minority, not beholden to culture, legislators or power brokers.

As historian Arnold Toynbee has said, the fate of a society always depends on its creative minorities. Of course, we never celebrate the loss of religious freedom, but the face of Christianity should not be the face of fear and militant resistance. If Christians are known primarily for defending their institutions or morality, we will become just another aggrieved minority.

Jesus’ revolution was marked by service to others, not with bombs, politics or legislation. He proved that social change could only occur when hearts were changed.

The integrity of the church is jeopardised when it bends to the will of the state or culture. We have created a workable system where church and state are separated to protect them from one another, not to diminish the role of either.

The church should not be neutral when it comes to social change. We should sting the national conscience, speak truth to those in power, and be a prophetic witness for Biblical values and obedience to Christ.

But, as “resident aliens,” we should focus on developing Christian life and community rather than attempting to win the culture wars. Our quest is to live lives that model the love of Christ. □

Please submit any news-items, letters, adverts or short articles for the August 2018 magazine on, or before, 13<sup>th</sup> July.



Here are some more items on the Internet and World Wide Web which readers may find interesting or helpful, and worth a visit via their own computer, smart-phone or other device.

Please Note: to make it easier to visit these websites they have been included as 'hot-links' in the PDF version of this magazine. They are also included as 'hot-links' on the NSW Christian Brethren website at this web-page:-

[www.cb-nsw.org.au/useful-links/Links-AO.html](http://www.cb-nsw.org.au/useful-links/Links-AO.html)

\* \* \*

As you might expect the CCCAust (NSW) website has a lot of useful material for both individuals and church groups. For example it has audio recordings of the principle speakers at all the Conferences CCCAust has held in NSW since 2013. These can be downloaded as MP3 files from:-

<http://cccaustnsw.com/conferences/downloads/>

PDF copies of the written Notes from some of these conferences can also be downloaded.

Many people find it difficult, awkward or confronting to talk about death and dying. Just starting a conversation about it can make some people feel scared, anxious, guilty, and embarrassed.

The CareSearch team at Flinders University are running a free, online course to help people overcome some of the difficulties in talking about death,

and learn about what help and support is available. You can register here:-

[www.caresearch.com.au/Dying2Learn](http://www.caresearch.com.au/Dying2Learn)

or email

[dying2learn@flinders.edu.au](mailto:dying2learn@flinders.edu.au)

for more details.

\* \* \*

A letter from the Logosdor organisation in Hornsby, NSW, said this year marks ten (10) years of operation for its Max7 website. "That's 10 years of providing resources for children's ministry—free of charge, free of brand, and released from copyright."

Here are some stats to highlight the scale of **www.Max7.org** :-

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Resources downloaded                      | 3,259,407  |
| Resources distributed by<br>USB or CD/DVD | 59,077,400 |
| Bible lessons available                   | 15,085     |
| Contributors in the world                 | 453        |
| Volunteer translators involved            | 321        |
| Languages used on the site                | 64         |
| Dollar amount paid by users               | 0          |

Logosdor invests in Max7 because the staff know the impact it makes globally – putting contextualised resources into the hands of leaders, who otherwise have nothing, so that children can know and grow in the Gospel.

Right now Logosdor is looking to raise \$50,000 to continue development of Max7 and expand its features.

➤30

At present Logosdor is developing Max7 'channels' that enable individuals and organisations to brand, organise, and share their own resource library with other leaders around the world.

And so, for example, a 'families channel' is being developed which will meaningfully organise and present all the resources in the Max7 library relating to families.

All donations to this work are tax deductible.

Contact Logosdor Ltd on 9477 3961 or 'email@logosdor.com' or by mail to PO Box 809, Hornsby, NSW 2077; or visit website:

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

\* \* \*

Our cultural landscape is changing—rapidly. It's more crucial than ever for Christians to engage with the thoughts, beliefs, and experiences of people they're trying to reach with the Gospel.

In Facts & Trends magazine—and at FactsAndTrends.net—they aim to provide information, insights, and resources for effective ministry and tackling cultural challenges. To quote them "But we know with busy lifestyles, it's hard to filter the headlines to find the stories that truly matter.

"We can help. We'll soon roll out our free "Daily Insights" email with fresh content addressing current topics and breaking news, written to emphasize their relevance to the church.

"Daily Insights" will include informative and engaging videos and podcasts that capture conversations with lead-

ing ministry experts who tackle the topics impacting you in the home, the workplace, the campus, and the public square.

"As a Facts & Trends email subscriber, you'll also get these exclusives:

- A free download of "18 Important Stats for Ministry in 2018,"
- An exploration of key research projects dealing with the church and culture. Along with these vital, informative statistics, this download includes questions to help guide conversations with your staff, leadership team, or small group as you meet to map out the next season of ministry and equip yourself to engage with the world around you."

\* \* \*

You are probably used to bookmarking your favourite websites for easy access, but the web goes much deeper than the top domains you're familiar with. From your social networks to your email box, having the right URL on hand can enable you to jump right into the page, feature, setting, or search you need. Here are 10 of the most useful ones:–

<https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2018/04/10-hidden-urls-to-help-you-rule-the-web/> 

Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the August 2018 magazine on, or before, 13<sup>th</sup> July.

# NSW ASSEMBLIES' EVANGELISTIC MISSION (NSWAEM)

ABN 81 001 037 690

## AEM OFFICE & CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOOK SERVICE

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## AIMS

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

Further information about the Mission can be obtained from its website at:—  
[www.nswaem.org.au](http://www.nswaem.org.au)

## A TRADITION OF CHRISTIAN CARE & CONCERN



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*Richard and Deborah Spiteri, proprietors*



## Christian Brethren Community Services

Providing communities of continual Christian care  
Residential and specialist care provided to the aged, frail aged and those  
living with dementia.



Elouera Gardens



Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre



Glenhaven Gardens



Carinya House



Lynden Grove



Groves House

### **Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, Cherrybrook NSW**

Elouera Gardens comprises 75 independent living units with 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units, surrounded by pleasant gardens. It offers a wide variety of styles and sizes of units and a supportive Christian community.

### **Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, Cherrybrook NSW**

Set in well established gardens, and with an enviable reputation for delivering a high standard of care, the 120 bed Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre provides high and low level care and special support for people living with dementia.

### **Glenhaven Gardens Retirement Village, Glenhaven, NSW**

Glenhaven Gardens offers modern and spacious 2 and 3 bedroom villas. The village comprises 24 air-conditioned and private units, with either a garage or carport. All units are wheelchair accessible for those who need a little extra room to help with their mobility.

### **Carinya House, Glenhaven NSW**

Carinya House is a 60 bed care centre providing high and low-level care support in a setting where residents enjoy the tranquil bushland setting and partake in a very full and stimulating recreational program. It includes a secure dementia support area and also offers ageing-in-place.

### **Lynden Grove Retirement Village, Cardiff Heights, NSW**

Lynden Grove has 44 modern 2 and 3 bedroom villas. It has a semi-rural outlook with picturesque Mount Sugarloaf as a back drop. It is in a pleasant and quiet bushland setting, yet close to local shopping centres.

### **Groves House, Cardiff Heights NSW**

Set on a ridge with panoramic views to the mountains, Groves House is a 60 bed care centre providing high and low-level care, dementia care and ageing-in-place to the people of Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and the surrounding districts.

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