



ASSEMBLIES  
*Outreach*

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

**June 2021**

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—  
*Therefore* confess your SINS  
to each other and PRAY  
for each other so that you may  
be HEALED. The PRAYER of  
a righteous PERSON is  
POWERFUL and EFFECTIVE.

—  
James 5:16

**In this issue:** Praying for CCAust(NSW) affiliates  
News from Commended Workers  
Five things God never said (part 2)  
Update from North Ryde C.C.  
Women's Mission Convention  
The Power of Prayer  
American nurse's COVID experience  
Internet Corner

( ... and more )

# Assemblies Outreach

Magazine Vol. 50, 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 2021 issue on or before 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021.**

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.

Editorial & Production Team:

Mr C. H. Winrow, Mrs M. J. Winrow,  
Mr D. Gordon

Subscription costs are shown on the cover,  
& at [www.nswaem.org.au/Mag/subs.html](http://www.nswaem.org.au/Mag/subs.html)

Printed by Print Direction Pty Ltd  
PO Box 46, Frenchs Forest NSW 1640  
ph: 0414 264 064

# 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**

by Colin Winrow, Editor.



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this June 2021 edition of the *Assemblies Outreach* magazine.

I hope you enjoy reading its content, much of which has turned out to be about Prayer and Praying. I hope these topics will encourage all of us to pray more in the coming days, and consequently to draw nearer to our Heavenly Father in the process. In the Gospels, Jesus set us a wonderful example of praying to the Father in many different situations, and yet He was closer to the Father than we can ever hope to be!

In a way, praying is a complex 'mystery' but God has built this ability into each and every one of us. It's a bit like the modern aeroplanes which can fly all over the world – often very far away from the factory that made them. BUT each aircraft is regularly transmitting data back to the manufacturer, and the owner, about the plane's position, height, speed, attitude, engine temperatures, fuel flows, cabin pressure, and dozens of other parameters! Such information

can be vital in helping save the aircraft and its passengers if a fault occurs on the journey.

It is also helpful to maintenance crews when they service each aircraft, because they can make adjustments, or replace components, before they fail in flight. In the longer term, the information is also useful for designing the next generation of aircraft to be safer, more fuel-efficient, etc.

I can see parallels with us staying in touch with our Maker all the time for daily living, and transferring our life experience of prayer onto the next generations of Christians.

I don't have to know the technical details of the aircraft to benefit from the safer aircraft, but I'm sure glad it's all in place!

Likewise I don't have to understand how the 'prayer-line' to the Father works, so long as I **use** it and **enjoy** the benefits and **thank** the Maker for such a wonderful feature of human life. □

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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 this magazine 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)

\* \* \*

CCC Camps are urgently looking for leaders and directors for their upcoming camps. If you or anyone in your church would be interested, please contact Martyn Buckland:

email: [martyn.centralcoast@cccamps.org.au](mailto:martyn.centralcoast@cccamps.org.au)

phone: (02) 4355 3510

\* \* \*

Many readers will remember **Bruce and Margaret Crowther** who were missionaries overseas for many years, including on the Doulos mission ship. When they returned to Australia Bruce was a lecturer at Emmaus Bible College in Epping for a number of years before moving to settle in Ourimbah on the Central Coast of NSW. Bruce died in May 2015 and we have now heard that Margaret has joined him in heaven (with the Lord) on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021, aged 84. Our condolences go to their large family of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren - many of whom were at her Memorial Service on 7<sup>th</sup> June. This was held at The Lakes Church NSW in Tuggerah, starting at

1.30pm. The service was recorded and can be found on the church's YouTube channel at this link:-

[www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=wEjEKPMxpIY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR33oC20WcrWNdFMe8Gbgmk8Wt3qNVIRgrFwT94cid1TWFH26HzUgLCgAk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=wEjEKPMxpIY&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR33oC20WcrWNdFMe8Gbgmk8Wt3qNVIRgrFwT94cid1TWFH26HzUgLCgAk)

\* \* \*

The most recent CCCAust(NSW) Coordinating Conference was held at Burwood in the evening on 6<sup>th</sup> May and 13 Churches, and 5 Para-Church ministries were represented. Several more attendees came in via Zoom. The Minutes of the meeting were circulated by email on 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Several things struck me as worthy to note:-

- Hands & Feet has been producing monthly News videos. Brad Scott encouraged attendees to show these videos in their church services to help share about what the Hands & Feet organisation is doing in several Australian states.
- 10 new scripture teachers have joined CCCAust(NSW) in the last two months; 4 of these are under the age of 30 (a praise point!).
- Nelson Green reported from CCC Camps that School camps are increasing, which provides an opportunity for sharing the gospel. However there has not been many Church Camps.
- Juliette Hackett reiterated the ten principles of Child Safe Standards. She is available to assist individual CCCAust(NSW) ➤

churches with reviewing and editing their Child Safety Policy.

- The Men's Conference "Build NSW" went well. Over the course of the weekend, 89 men attended, all were glad to be together again, after BUILD 2020 had been cancelled.
- Alex Worley is stepping down as the Chairman of CCCAust(NSW). He has led the movement in NSW for over 8 years. Nominations for new candidates to fulfil this role can be sent to:-

[glenn@ccc Aust nsw.com](mailto:glenn@ccc Aust nsw.com)

with a letter of support from the church leaders of the candidate's home church.

\*\*\*

**It is unsettling** to report that, as of 15<sup>th</sup> June, 14 churches/assemblies have not paid their annual magazine subscription cost for this year, nor have 13 individuals. That represents 108 magazines each month that did not need to be printed and posted this year. This is nearly one third of the magazines we print. **Please** let the Mission know if you don't want any more magazines this year and then we can stop wasting these print, post, and packing costs.

## Meetings & Events

Because of the ongoing uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, any dates published in this section may be subject to change, even at short notice.

If in doubt, contact the organisers of any event(s) you are interested in.

(Note: for **the latest details** of the Events listed below, please be also sure to check on the organisations' websites:-

**2021: (reserve the dates)**

- 2-4 July **Inspire Teens** holiday camp - Camp Fletcher.
- 5-9 July **M2MAD** holiday camp - Camp Fletcher.
- 10 July **Prophecy Seminar** (Awake to Israel) at Epping Gospel Chapel, from 9.30am to 5.30pm. Topic is "Ezekiel's Headlines" given by Andy Woods in the USA.
- 23-25 Jul **CCCAust National Conference** at Muller Christian Church, Redcliffe, Qld. Keynote Speakers: Steve McQuoid, David Henry, Tim Myers.
- 13 Aug **Inspire One Night** - online.
- 28 Aug **Pathfinders** at West Pennant Hills CC, starting at **2pm**.
- 27-29 Aug **M2MAD** mid-term weekend camp - Camp Fletcher.
- 11 Sept **Hope & Mental Health** conf at Riverstone CC; 9:30am to 2:30pm.
- 17-21 Sep **M2MAD** holiday camp - Camp Fletcher.
- 20-24 Sep **Spring Primary Camp**; at CCC Camps - Central Coast,

**Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the August 2021 magazine on, or before, 16<sup>th</sup> July.**

Please take some time-out daily to pray for our Assemblies and para-Church ministries and all the work of God in our nation.

## General Prayer Points:

- > 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 continuing work of Hands & Feet in NSW, and for God's protection over that ministry as it expands into Brisbane and Perth.
- > Pray for all the people and communities still recovering from effects of bush fires and floods over the summer season.
- > Pray for rain to fall in those parts that are still suffering the effects of drought.
- > Pray for our urban and rural communities to be revitalised as they emerge from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated safety measures implemented by our State and Federal governments.
- > Pray that the Lord will have mercy on the people of our nation, and that many more people will hear the Gospel and be saved.

*If you have any matters on your heart (praise or prayer) relating to your congregation, your ministry, or the organisation you work with, and you would like to share them with our readers – please contact “The Editor, AO magazine, PO Box 20, Pennant Hills 1715” or simply email “outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au”.*

*We will do our best to include such matters in the next issue of this magazine – which will be printed in mid-August 2021 (DV).*

*Failing that, it would have to be in the October 2021 issue – so please always include your contact details in case I need to check if a matter is still current.*





## COVID-19 at North Ryde

COVID-19 caught us by surprise. All our activities at **North Ryde Christian Church** were going as usual until 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020, when they were either suspended or moved online. Our Sunday service (Revive) was prerecorded and streamed on the Church Online platform via a private link. This also enabled distant friends and family to watch and afterwards there was chat on Zoom. All giving was electronic. The Open worship meeting ceased, and the Lord's Supper moved to Revive; and our Discovery groups were sustained on Zoom.

Our Outreach Poster for April 2020 said, "This will be hard, but there is hope."

Care packs were collected, prepared and delivered to our congregation and to the local community via North Ryde Community Aid. During the shutdown renovations were made at our church hall and at Winmalee Christian Conference Centre. Our giving increased

— by George Hawke

and our teens ministry grew. Because our annual Kids Camp in July was cancelled, a 3-day Holiday Club was held for children in September, still under some restrictions, but was a fun time for all.

Face-to-face activities resumed in July 2020. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, Revive was streamed to TV monitors outside the hall and online via a private YouTube link. Fabric masks were made available at church. There are still some of our congregation unwilling to risk meeting in person. By continuing to stream our service we are supporting our church family to stay connected. As some new people have joined us, attendance is back to pre-COVID levels.

Our regular activities have now resumed, and most of our congregation is now comfortable to meet in person. Our theme for 2021, "Arise and build" (1 Chronicles 22:19), is appropriate as we strengthen our congregation >8

after the challenges of the past year and prepare to celebrate 60 years of ministry. We have increased our leadership team to five elders and four deacons, and we are catering to the life needs of the congregation by focusing on Discovery Groups, and on topics like marriage and parenting.

On our Vision Sunday we were reminded that we all are called to build together to be equipped for works of service, to be built towards unity in the faith, to grow in the knowledge of Christ, and to become mature (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 3:9-10). A church that serves God together, stays together. □

**The following is the bulk of our Blog page on 6 April 2020:—**



The headline didn't shout. It didn't need to. This wasn't a slow news day. It read, 'In one week 10% of Australia's workforce have lost their jobs'. In India, a nation of 1.3 billion people were given four hours notice to lock down inside their homes for 21 days. People found outside afterwards were subsequently beaten.

Always, in the world somewhere, there's an extreme situation – a flood, a famine, a war. Less frequent, though, are situations involving the whole

world. The COVID-19 pandemic is such a time.

Perhaps, for Australians, the shock has been greater than for those who live with poverty and uncertainty each day. Now, we share that experience ... anxious about what happens if we catch the virus or whether we'll have a job, or even if society will hold together. So far, our government has met these fears with hope – with a program of social isolation and the 'JobKeeper' and 'JobSeeker' packages.

But it would be a mistake to put all our 'hope eggs' in the government basket. Australians, indeed all people, need a hope that transcends the weakness of governments. We need a hope that lasts beyond death. And the only hope worth having is in Jesus.

In His famous 'Sermon on the mount', Jesus said,

*"... I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you far more valuable to Him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"*

(Matthew 6:25-27)

In the West, death is something that happens mostly in nursing homes to people we don't spend much time with. But COVID-19 confronts us with our mortality ... reminding us that all must face God eventually. ➤

## Praying for CCAust(NSW) affiliated churches (cont'd from p 8)

While the pandemic is at distance, we should take the time to get our hopes into proper shape. The promises of government and medical technology can only ever be temporary – but the Bible speaks of ‘new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead’ (1 Peter 1:3). That’s an ongoing and exciting hope where death is not the last word but a portal into a close and complete existence with our heavenly Father.

So, “... put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world”

(1 Peter 1:13).

Prayer: Dear God please help me to put my hope fully in Jesus.

Bible verse: 1 Peter 1:13 “... put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world”.

Acknowledgement: This article was sourced from Outreach Media, Sydney, Australia.

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Gary and Joanne Akehurst

PO Box 1100

Five Dock NSW 2046

ph: 0416 089 323

bapb@iinet.net.au

June 2021

(The following is the bulk of their June Prayer Newsletter for their ministry of providing free copies of thousands of recordings of Bible based teaching and preaching, via two websites:

PromiseBoxAudio.com &

BlessedAssurancePromiseBox.com

Dear prayer partners,

Joanne continues to keep fairly well, though she has had an ulcer on her leg for a couple of months. It seems to be just about healed, nevertheless, we have thought that a couple of times before.

We've just got back from a week in Brisbane, and we thank the Lord that we were able to see Tim and his wife, Wai Wai, our friends at QMBC and other friends. We had a couple of weeks at Cabarita Beach, on the Tweed Coast spent with Mel and Tim & Wai who enjoyed a week holidaying with us. The 2 weeks at Cabarita Beach were to quarantine from Sydney, in case covid broke out again, which it did. Thankfully, it was only short-lived, allowing Melanie to come up from Sydney.

As usual we brought more back than we took, including 2 collections of cassettes and a DVD copier that was no longer being used at a Christian school. We are yet to see if or when we can go back to posting DVDs as we did, or whether by then, the poor in other countries are better suited to SD cards or USB sticks. At the moment, it seems the poor-

est and less tech savvy are more likely to be able to use DVDs. It is also the cheapest way to send recordings.

In the meantime, Whatsapp is still proving to be more effective than we had imagined. Most of the responses we have below are from those receiving links through Whatsapp. If anyone would like to receive links to recordings by subject or passage from the Bible to their phone, please text us and we will add you.

We have only posted 1 DVD and 1 CD in the last 3 months, due to continuing postal problems in the countries we used to post to regularly, due to covid.

Since the last newsletter we have added recordings from the following speakers to PromiseBoxAudio.com. The number in brackets is the total number of recordings now on the speakers' page: Alan Bailey videos 8 (13), Tom Ball 5, Nayan Sukh Borde 1, Ben Carpentier 1, Gordon Darnell 1, Keith Goh 5, Joy Jarman 2, John McKee 1 (6), Ray Stanton 6, David Walker 6, Graham Watkins 1, Martin Watkins 34, Roger Weir 6, and Colin Winrow 11.

Be encouraged by the Christians in other countries, who are in many cases, keener than we are to listen to Biblical teaching.

**Augustine, LIBERIA,** "Thanks



Saint Of God. I am going to download them and also share them so others brethren can be a blessed from these messages. I had started listening to them already. ➤

*I appreciate you all and I pray that God grant you people more insight for his glory so that the world can be impacted positively by you all. In Jesus Christ name Amen!"*

**Bishop Chinkoda, MALAWI,** "Hello



*thanks for the teaching this teaching is very powerful and we are so happy here in Malawi Africa. We have those Audios to other Groups and we want to put this*

*teaching to the Radios."*

**Israel, ZAMBIA,** "Thanks for all



*messages you're sending to us in Zambia people always listen this gospel and we're blessed continue sending and God bless you."*

**Simon, KENYA** "Thank you very



*much brother for sharing all these. They really helped me a lot to grow in Christ. Amen... Continue sending me more brother."*

**Blessed, UGANDA,** "Am humbled



*on your recordings and message my life has been transformed and lifted to another level"*

**Twingirwe, UGANDA,** "When I



*started following your teachings it changed my life and my the ministries had gone forward."*

*May the Lord bless and keep you all,*

*Gary & Joanne AKEHURST*

**Colin & Mavis Winrow**

**1/9 Julia Close**

**Cherrybrook NSW 2126**

**30 May 2021**

*To our dear brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*Both Colin and I are very grateful to those who faithfully uphold us in prayer. We really value your prayer support.*



*When we last wrote we were preparing to travel to Traralgon in Victoria to look after our 2 grandsons while our daughter Tonya was with her husband Thane who was in an induced coma in The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. That was six months ago and so much has happened in that time.*

*We spent over 3 weeks in Victoria and during that time our son-in-law came out of the coma and was eventually transferred to Latrobe Regional Hospital and was able to go home and join us for Christmas Day. As you can imagine this was a very special occasion.*

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During the months since then he's had multiple medical visits, some in person and some via Telecheck. Many of his injuries have healed but the compound fracture to his right clavicle has been a constant problem. The wound took many weeks to heal and they could not do surgery because of that. The latest x-ray has shown that the fractures have not healed and he will see the ortho specialists at the Alfred Hospital on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The after-effects of his traumatic brain injury continue to cause problems at time. He still has many numb areas on his body, and he suffers emotionally, gets tired very quickly and has lost his sense of smell and taste. Still, there have been so many things to be thankful to the Lord for. He has answered so many of our prayers in a wonderful way e.g. the injury to his right kidney has totally healed – something the doctors thought would not happen. For all who have prayed, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please continue to pray, as there is still a long road ahead, but each report we get encourages us.

On the home front, both Colin and I are well and continue with the work the Lord has allowed us to do for Him. Colin's sinus surgery in January went very well and the surgeon was pleased with the outcome. He will see the ENT specialist next month for what we hope will be his final visit. Mavis's aortic stenosis is being managed by her cardiologist. Surgery appears to be a long way off, for which we are thankful. She has needed increased medication for her rheumatoid arthritis, and this seems to be having the desired effect.

We continue with our work for LinC Hornsby (Love in the Name of Christ) but the number of 'job requests' has decreased greatly in the past year.

Our work with Christian Literature Outreach – sending resource materials to the chaplains in the prisons so they can be used by the inmates, keeps us just as busy as ever. It has been a very challenging few months with Covid causing many shipping delays for the resources and much frustration at times. We really value your prayers for this work as we face regular setbacks and feel that the devil is really trying to thwart the work, but we know our God is greater and so we push on.

It has been good to be able to see some activities restart at Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village where we live, and this is an encouragement to everyone here.

Thank you all again for your loving prayer support. It is greatly valued.

With love in our Lord,  
Mavis & Colin

**Brendon & Sarah Walker**  
1 Shannon Street  
Lalor Park NSW 2147  
16 May 2021  
(extracts from email)



Greetings friends and supporters,  
**Glenwood High School really needs God's love.**

There are students struggling with identity, acceptance, peer pressure, family pressure, exams and general schoolwork which sometimes leads to issues with drugs, vaping etc. ➤



*We live in such a broken world that is so clearly in need of Jesus and His love to provide hope and meaning. We are so blessed to be able to be God's hands and feet at Glenwood and see what He is doing there. We daily see God's hand at work in the conversations Brendon has with teachers, students, staff members and parents.*

***There was a major incident** last week at Glenwood as you may have seen on the news. Ongoing tensions amongst students recently led to a stabbing at school. This has led to a lot of unease in the school and in the Glenwood community. A lot of people are feeling hurt, confused, angry and scared over this whole situation and not knowing what to do. Because of the severity of the incident there is a large amount of counselling that is required for both students and staff around this situation. This is the majority of Brendon's time at the moment, so please be in prayer for wisdom and discernment as he works though these issues carefully and lovingly.*

*Pray that people will see that this is the space God works best in – when there is no other option but to turn to Him.*

### **Conversations with Teachers**

*Over this term there has been some great conversations at school particularly with members of staff. From asking about my faith and the existence of God, to asking advice on what to do in certain situations with their family. One teacher after school was sharing with me that she had converted to Catholicism because of her partner. I asked her what that involved which led to a two hour conversation in which I was able to answer a lot of question she had about God that people haven't been able to answer for her. Our relationship has deepened after this time and she feels that she can ask more questions without feeling judged.*

*As a family we have been reading a devotion each night about the treasure God sees in people and how we can show people Jesus through the treasure they have within them. After a conversation I was having with a teacher about her family I felt God leading me to give her the same book, as I thought they would find it helpful for their family. God's hand has been clearly evident in these conversations.*

*Please pray that the Holy Spirit would continue working in their lives.*

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However, not all conversations are so positive. Last week when one of the teachers saw that I was looking for a student they asked “Are you going to shove religion down their throat? Do you know what I think of religion?” They then pulled religion out of their pocket and threw it on the ground and squished it with their foot and pretended to spit on it, they then walked off before I could get a word in. I was in shock and confused, hurt and sad that this is what they thought I do and who God is. In that moment I was reminded that this was a result of them not knowing God and not having hope.

Pray that I will have more opportunities with this teacher so they can experience what Jesus can do for them.

**God is at work changing the lives of young people one at a time!**

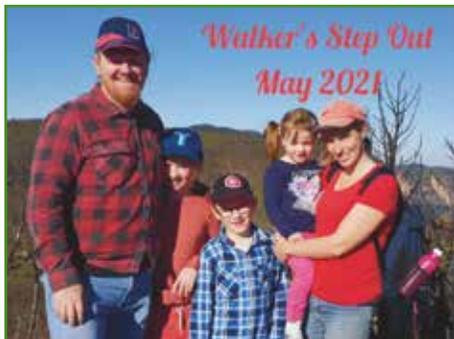
**Lunch time group**

We started our first lunch time group this week and it was just a few students who came along but seemed keen on it getting off the ground again. I was able to share my testimony which they had lots of questions about and were wanting to hear about the next part of the story. Please pray for this group as we rebuild after such a long break.

**Jesus says:-**

“I am leaving you with a gift— peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid”

John 14:27



**Family**

As a family we are all feeling pretty drained at the moment and really thankful that we are able to go away next week for a beach holiday. We are really looking forward to some quality time as a family where we can rest and be refreshed.

**Prayer**

\* Please be praying for the transformation of Glenwood High, that God would be at work changing the lives of students, staff members, families and the community.

\* Lunchtime group – that the time would be protected each week so that it can go ahead, and for the lives of the students who come.

\* We are currently down nearly \$2000 a month in financial support. Please be praying that God would clearly open doors to the people He has prepared in advance to partner with us in this way.



## Five things God never said (part 2)

by Dr Larry Moyer  
on SermonCentral

[This series began in our April edition, with this list of five misconceptions of God's Word you'd be wise to spend a Sunday's ministry addressing. In fact, Dr Moyer thinks you'd be wise to give one Sunday to each of them.

They are:-

1. "If you don't know the date you were saved, then you are not saved."
2. "If you want to be saved, just invite Jesus into your heart."
3. "When you miss an opportunity to share Christ with someone, it's your fault if that person goes to hell."
4. "If you come to Me (God), I want either all of your life or none of it."
5. "If you're not willing to confess Christ publicly, you cannot be saved."

He said "I assure you, these five are so rampant that you could easily give a 30-minute message discussing each one.

"Most unfortunately of all, every single one of them in some way adversely affects our outreach to non-Christians."

Items 1 and 2 were dealt with in the April magazine, and items 3 and 4 are dealt with below. The fifth and final one will be included (DV) in the August edition.]

### **3. When you miss an opportunity to share Christ with someone, it's your fault if that person goes to hell.**

Many believers don't enjoy evangelism. When they do practice it, they often do it out of guilt, not grace. One

reason people feel guilty is because they've been told that if they're given an opportunity to share Christ but they don't take it, they are forever responsible if that person goes to hell. This false teaching is often based on the misuse of Ezekiel 3:18-19. There we read, "When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul."

This passage has nothing to say about evangelism. God appointed Ezekiel a watchman (Ezekiel 3:17). His job was to warn of impending danger. The nation was doomed, and only through heeding their watchman could they survive. Chapters 4 to 24 of Ezekiel contain his cry of alarm, which gave those outside the walls opportunity to seek protection. It also gave the people time to secure the gates and man the defences. The death spoken of in Ezekiel 3:18-19 is physical, not spiritual. The context is the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem that Ezekiel predicted.

A person refusing to heed God's warning from Ezekiel could expect physical death. Ezekiel was to warn the righteous, not just the wicked. If Ezekiel refused to speak God's message to people who came to his house, he'd >16

be guilty of murder. This is the meaning of "...but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand." By giving a warning, Ezekiel delivered himself from the responsibility of the coming judgment. Those who ignored his warning could only blame themselves. One can see the danger when this idea is applied to evangelism; all of a sudden, we become responsible for someone's eternal destiny.

But bringing people to Christ is a God-sized job. It's our job to bring Christ to the lost; only God can bring the lost to Christ. John 6:44 reminds us, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." Evangelism now becomes exciting. I do it recognizing that God is not holding me responsible for the results.

#### **4. If you come to Me, I want either all of your life or none of it.**

This one is said in different ways, but the meaning is the same. There are those who exhort, "You can't meet God halfway. If you want to come to Christ, you must completely surrender to Him. God will only do business with you if you mean business with Him. He's going to get all of your life, or He doesn't want any of it." What's the problem here?

Look at the language in John 3:15-16, 3:18, 3:36, 5:25, 6:47, 11:25-26, and 20:31. All of them make it clear that salvation is based on one thing: believing and trusting in Christ alone as our only way to heaven. The moment we trust Him this way, we are as certain of heaven as if we're already there.

This misconception is, again, often based on a wrong handling of Scripture. To support it, verses are cited that speak of discipleship, not salvation. Every Christian should be a disciple, but unfortunately, not every Christian is. In fact, Christ warned people about the cost of discipleship before encouraging them to 'sign up' (Luke 14:26-27). Salvation is free, but discipleship involves a cost.

Here's where the misconception becomes so defeating: Who of us at any given moment would say every single aspect of our life belongs to Christ? All of us have those aspects we hold back, and even if we do give them to Him, there are moments we take them back. If indeed He has to have control of my entire life, how can I speak to someone else about their salvation? This misconception presents new Christians with conditions that, as unsaved people, they're not even remotely prepared to meet.

Encourage your congregation, when they speak to the lost about Christ, to explain that salvation is instantaneous, but discipleship is a process. Once they decide to trust and believe in Christ for salvation, wholehearted surrender and 'Christ-likeness' become a goal to achieve with the help of the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of believers.

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[In August we will deal with the last of these misconceptions:—

#5 "If you're not willing to confess Christ publicly, you cannot be saved."

— Editor]



On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March, the Women's Mission Convention hosted an online conference via Zoom. We heard from three incredible women: Bethany Kapezya, Denise (surname withheld) and the keynote speaker, Allison Howell. These three women have been serving, or are currently serving, the Lord and his people in Africa.

The theme of the conference was **'The Power of Prayer'** and the speakers gave us an encouraging insight into how prayer helps them in their missionary work.

There were over 100 women who tuned in to the program, via Zoom Video Conferencing, representing 30 churches, including interstate and international viewers.

If you would like more information on the conference, or to receive emails about future conferences, please email:

[nsw.wmc@gmail.com](mailto:nsw.wmc@gmail.com)

or "like" us on Facebook by searching for 'Women's Mission Convention'.

[Please see pages 18 to 22 for the full text of Allison Howell's message.]

## NSW WOMEN'S MISSIONARY PRAYER & SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP

It was in recognition of overseas missionaries as wanderers, living away from their homeland, and frequently finding themselves in difficult, painful circumstances, that the NSW Women's Missionary Prayer & Support Fellowship began and continues. Priority is given to women's needs publicised in the AMT Global Prayer Matters, supplemented by information shared in private correspondence. Missionaries commended by NSW Assemblies are more intimately known so are remembered more frequently during our prayer times. Meeting with missionaries on furlough is an enjoyable highlight.

An offering is taken each month for gifts to encourage missionaries. A feature is a gift for a 'special treat' for missionaries' children when the family is on furlough.

To cater for scattered communities, our groups meet at two venues: Cherrybrook and Oatley, on the **second Friday of each month**, from February 2021 to December. Tea and coffee are provided at 10.15am before prayer from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

**Northside venue:** Elouera Gardens, Kitchener Road, Cherrybrook.

**Contact:** Lil Fleming ph 9858 5436 email: [lflem@bigpond.com](mailto:lflem@bigpond.com)

**Southside venue:** Oatley Gospel Hall, River Road, Oatley.

**Contact:** Jackie Sardar ph 9785 3439 0410 683 174

email: [cherylsardar@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cherylsardar@optusnet.com.au)

## James 5:10-18 <sup>NRSV</sup>

“As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “Yes” be yes and your “No” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.”

James was writing to Christians in diverse situations of suffering, cheerfulness and sickness (5:13). His recommended response in all three situations is prayer, as singing is also prayer in the format of praise.



*The power of prayer lies in the fact that prayer encompasses every situation in life.*

The word ‘suffering’ (*kakopathēō*) relates to all the various problems and afflictions Christians at that time faced. They were akin to the prophets’ experience that James alludes to in 5:10. James remarks that the prophets were called blessed because they ‘showed endurance’. This implies that in the prayer related to suffering, the emphasis is on both the strength to endure suffering and a release from suffering.



*The power of prayer is in the ability to pray for strength to endure suffering as well as experience release from suffering.*

The word 'cheerful' (*euthuméo*) refers to an attitude of mind that enables a Christian, even while suffering, to experience joy and a sense of well-being. It also means 'courage'. When Paul and his fellow travellers on the boat were in danger of drowning, he told them to 'keep up your courage' (*euthuméo*) (Acts 27:22, 25). Often when everything seems to be going well, Christians let prayer diminish. James urges them to rather sing praise songs and psalms. These are prayers of gratitude to God. Paul knew the power of prayer that comes through singing, even in a Philippian prison (Acts 16:25).

*The power of prayer enables a Christian to be cheerful, to have courage and to sing praise to God even when things do not seem to be going well.*

James links sickness (*asthenéo*) and prayer. He instructs the sick to request that elders of the church come and pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord (5:14). In Jewish tradition and in the early church, leaders used oil to anoint the sick or injured (Luke 10:34). It was possibly used as a medicine and here James is encouraging its use in conjunction with prayer. Oil was also used to consecrate items or persons to God in his service, so it is possible that James is encouraging the sick to call the elders who were to pray and, using the oil, consecrate the sick to God for his care. James emphasises that the prayer is the prayer of faith. This is very fervent prayer (5:15), but the key aspect is faith.

James writes that the prayer of faith 'will save the sick' person and 'the Lord will raise the person up'. Apparently, James' belief was that the prayer of faith in the Lord would result in physical restoration. James's comment that '...



➤20

anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven' relates to people's belief in that context that sickness resulted from sin.

Praying a prayer of faith against sickness does not necessarily result in automatic healing. A prayer of faith knows that although God has the power to completely heal, there may be times when it is not God's will to take away a sickness or a problem, as in Paul's case (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).

*The power of prayer involves the understanding that faith is a gift of God and while the prayer of faith saves, it is the Lord who heals and raises a person up.*

In my experience with sickness and facing life-threatening conditions, my understanding of the prayer of faith and anointing with oil is that, ultimately, healing is as the Lord wills it. To pray and not experience complete healing does not mean that there is a lack of faith. For me, the critical aspect is faith in the Lord. I believe that whether I experience full healing on this earth or not, the Lord is present with me and walks with me through each aspect of life. This awareness of God's presence has given me a deep sense of peace. It has raised my focus beyond the physical conditions of losing a limb and living with disability.

*The power of prayer helps a person's mind to soar above their circumstances.*

James writes about Christians confessing their sins to one another



(5:16). This is no easy practice. The purpose of mutual confession and prayer is 'that you may be healed'. Again, this seems to relate to physical and possibly emotional and social healing and implies, therefore, that the sins confessed are those sins that blocked healing.

*The power of prayer is linked to the confession of sins that hinder healing.*

James points out that the 'prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.' He illustrates this with the example of the prophet Elijah (5:17-18; 1 Kings 17, 18:41-46). The context of Elijah's prayer is the drought that God declared through Elijah because of King Ahab and Israel's disobedience. When Elijah prayed God answered his prayer.

You may well be saying in your mind, 'This is all very well to refer to Elijah, but I am not the prophet Elijah and when I pray, God doesn't seem to answer or heaven seems to be silent. And, quite frankly, why should I continue to pray? Where is the power of prayer?'

*The power of prayer is demonstrated ➤*

*through a righteous person, and a righteous person is one who seeks to obey the Lord.*

In mentioning 'those who showed endurance', James specifically refers to Job and how he endured (5:11). Job suffered greatly and not because of his own wrongdoing. He makes a sustained and harsh lamentation about his suffering. He is not backward in complaining about God. He even cursed the day he was born and described God's creation as meaningless (Job 3).

If we look carefully at God's response in Job chapters 38 to 41, we will see that He does not rebuke Job or deny that Job really suffered. Rather, God gives a glorious vision of a creation teeming with life and invites Job to have a radical new understanding of what it means to be made in the image of God. God does not require a person to be silent. Instead, God opens the way for humans to lament to Him, particularly when they experience or observe inexplicable suffering or injustice.

*The power of prayer is based on God's provision of a way for us humans to lament to him about the suffering and injustice we experience or see around us.*

Job's view of himself as made of 'dust and ashes' before God led him to believe that when he called out to God in prayer, God did not answer because Job was just 'dust and ashes' (Job 30:19, 20). So, what could Job do about God's silence? Abraham, on the other hand, who also saw himself as 'dust and ashes' before God, did not

stop questioning God when he said he was going to destroy Sodom (Genesis 18:27).

However God did not leave Job alone; nor was God really silent. God's response out of the whirlwind transformed Job's understanding about the meaning of 'dust and ashes'. God did not only create humanity in His own image, but he imbued humans with power and the responsibility to act on his behalf in this world. God made humans his partners.

*The power of prayer is based on God making us in his image and calling us to be his partners.*

When we pray, it is true that we come before God as 'dust and ashes' because we are human. Yet, as Christians, we are also made in God's image. God is waiting for us to come to Him and wants us to come to him all the time in prayer. When we come before God in prayer, he hears what we say, whether we are praising him or are so angry that we want to shout and rant about some evil or injustice that we may be experiencing or we see someone else experiencing. God hears our words of protest and sees our acts of resistance. He does not mean for us to be silent.

That is why at the end of God's response, Job is able to say to God, '... now my eye sees you' (42:5). The NRSV translates Job's final words as, 'Therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes' (42:6). The word used for 'despise' there is better expressed as 'retract' or 'repent' or 'change my mind'. So the theologian >22

Samuel Balentine suggests that Job's words could be translated as "Therefore I retract [my words] and change my mind concerning dust and ashes."<sup>1</sup>

Balentine points out that this manner of crying out to God 'draws him into the fray of human pain and trouble, and as a result, he must do or be something new.' He brings out that obedience to God is 'more than "docile submissiveness", it is also "bold protest."<sup>2</sup>

*The power of prayer lies in God expecting us to 'draw him into the fray of human pain and trouble' and in so doing God will do or be something new.*

After Job's speech, the Lord rebukes Eliphaz the Temanite, one of Job's three friends, and indicates that Job will pray for him, saying, 'For I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly' (42:8). Job's three friends thought they were speaking in God's name, whereas some of the things they said were false. Job had every right to be bitter about his three friends because of what they said to and about him. However, when those three friends who had criticised him came to him with the burnt offering that God had instructed them to bring, Job prayed for them. We are told, 'and the Lord accepted Job's prayer' (42:9).

*The power of prayer is in being able to pray with and for those who criticise or accuse us of wrongdoing when we are innocent.*

This means that *the power of prayer is based on forgiveness.*

The purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection was to offer us the forgiveness of our sins. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, there is hope that any desire we may have for personal vengeance against anyone is transmuted. Even with the feelings of hatred and anger against evil, as Christians we can genuinely experience that power of the Spirit's release that then enables us to bless those who curse us and to leave room for the wrath of God (Romans 12:14-21).

***The power of prayer stems from Jesus' forgiveness of our sins and the ability He gives us through the Holy Spirit to forgive those who wrong us, so that we all together may be transformed.***



### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Balentine, "What are Human Beings that you make so much of them?" Divine Disclosure from the Whirlwind: "Look at Behemoth" in Tod Linafelt and Timothy Beal (eds.), *God in the Fray* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998):259-278 (275).

<sup>2</sup> Balentine, (p.259)



Well, I guess that's it, huh? CDC (Centers for Disease Control) in the USA said we can go without masks (to the vaccinated), and we see businesses everywhere taking down their "masks required" signs. Disney World is taking advantage of our good numbers in the U.S., and while I'm just as excited as anybody to return to a normal pre-covid world, I'm also having a hard time.

Who doesn't know someone who thinks COVID-19 was a political ploy?! I could probably count on both hands, and have to take off my shoes too, to total my Facebook friends who are certain the pandemic was an attempt at government control of its people; without them even noticing that a lot of the behaviour in 2020 proved maybe a little government overreach was necessary. But that's another topic. No wonder the Podcast I listened to earlier called social media "Satan's cesspool."

The point is, as the pandemic blows over, the chance of forgetting its seriousness flies away like the wind as well. It's easier to lessen the virus when it's not affecting anyone you know. When it's a distant news story from India, it's fairly simple to blame governments for going overboard to keep people safe. Heck, you could even believe COVID-19 was never really a big deal. Except... it was! **To me, it was!**

I am a critical-care nurse, and in the year 2020 I experienced the worst year of my nursing career. I would even

go so far as to say it was worse than my time in the military, and in a post 9/11 world, watching scores of young men medi-vacced to my facility with only one limb remaining. At least the brave soldiers I saw in my care in the USA lived. Not so with the Covid pandemic.

I personally saw hundreds in our facility's care die. Not just old people, or people with multiple health problems. I especially remember the mother of three children who was younger than me. I tried to warn her she might die if she didn't lie in a prone position. At the time, it was the thing that seemed to help those patients the most. The next day, she was intubated. A week later, she was dead. It was like that for way too many patients this past year.

I watched my co-worker dress out in PPE to hug her husband goodbye before he died. I cried on the phone with more family members than my heart could take. I saw the hope go out of otherwise strong men's eyes. Each day they fought in vain to breathe, the light in their eyes dimmed more and more. It was a fight they couldn't win. And sadly it was a fight the nursing community couldn't win either.

As a nurse, my job is to make people better. In my twenty years of nursing, I did a two year stint in Hospice Nursing. I loved it. It was extremely rewarding to care for patients and families during a difficult end-of-life experience. I was able to prepare, support, and comfort them. All that >24

to say, it wasn't the morgue being too full to take any more bodies that got to me. As a nurse, I can handle patients dying. The problem with the past year was, **they nearly all died**. If you came into the intensive care unit, you were only going to leave in a bag! Back to the counting fingers ... I can count on one hand how many patients got to leave my critical-care unit alive. That's bad odds.

Nursing care is about helping. No one wanted to die of COVID-19! They wanted to live! And when we became (like) Hospice nurses to patients and families who had not requested those services, it was debilitating to the morale. Believe me, I still have PTSD-like response from 2020. My actions, even now, as the virus statistics improve, are impacted negatively by the trauma I experienced whilst watching many patients die, every shift, day after day.

I am a woman of faith. When churches began to open back up, I didn't take my family back. I had seen too much! It wasn't fear winning out over my faith. It was my trauma response. But you haven't heard the worst part. I still haven't taken my family back to church, but it's no longer the corona virus that whispers to me to stay at home. It's a whole other form of PTSD. It's the response of people that has given me a lasting trauma. With the vaccine, time, and herd immunity, I can move past COVID-19 – but the careless words, hateful attitudes, and selfishness of some fellow Christians

has created a lasting trauma in my life. It's hard for me to share in fellowship with people who laugh at a virus that made 2020 the worst year of my life as a Registered Nurse. I've been worshipping God at home with my husband. God, my spouse, and my fellow critical care nurses seem to be some of the few who understand why my heart was broken into pieces this past year.

Certainly, I'm glad we are returning to a life without a pandemic. I'm happy to see my patients transfer out of critical care, and on their way to recovery again! I want my children to play with other kids, and I want my loving husband to go back to striking up friendships with strangers. I miss his outgoing self! I think these things are possible. I know they are! But then there are the things that I don't think can return to what they were before.

I can't forget the way people spoke so nonchalantly and uncaring about the death of >550,000 American citizens, or over 3 million people worldwide! I watched friends be more concerned with having to wear a mask over their face for twenty minutes of shopping than they were for the possible health outcome statistically of their neighbours over 65 years of age. Citizens worried more about their "personal rights," as they perceived them, than they were staving off the spread of a disease that had healthcare workers going beyond the possibility of what they could do. I remember reaching a "wall" of what I felt I could ➤

cope with as a nurse in 2020. Then we busted right through that wall, to the point I recall in tears asking a co-worker, “is this real life?!”

We were drowning, and no one cared! Our patients were dying, and no one cared! And now, things are getting better, causing some folks to say COVID-19 wasn't a big deal. And no one seems to care!! Except me, my co-workers, and the families of the 3 million dead people. We seem to care. We seem to remember the past year wasn't just a political ploy to oust Trump, reform gun control, or God-forbid, raise petrol prices.

I don't guess I have much more in me to say right now than that. It's exhausting and it's heartbreaking. Just when I think my heart is healing, callous words step on the broken pieces.

My husband told me earlier, “Brie, people just don't know. They're ignorant.”

To which I replied, “I wish I was too. I would rather be ignorant to the reality of a pandemic than have gone through what I did as a nurse in Covid Critical Care in 2020.”

So, if you see a nurse friend with a distant, haunted look while you discuss the government's mishandling of the pandemic, try and understand why. It was so much more than you'll ever know to those it touched personally. I do believe politicians play circumstances like a fiddle, and I know things were, and are, still mishandled in regards to COVID-19, but we have to be bigger than that.

We, as human beings, have to rise above politics and the noise of this world to care compassionately about one another.

**If anything should return to normal after a pandemic, maybe it could be that.**



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### Tell someone about Jesus

Josh McDowell tells of a corporate ‘head-hunter’ who liked to get potential executives relaxed, then look them square in the eye and ask about their purpose in life. Most were shocked and fell apart under the question. One day, after talking for a while to a man named Bob, the head-hunter leaned over, looked into his eyes and said, ‘And what's your purpose in life?’

Without blinking, Bob replied, ‘To go to Heaven and take as many people with me as I can.’

The head-hunter said, ‘For the first time in my career I was speechless.’ Today, someone's eternal destiny may rest on your willingness to share God's love with them. That's your God-given assignment—tell them about Jesus.



# The Pocket Testament League

- changing lives through God's Word

by Jordan Jamieson,  
VP of TPTL

## What is The Pocket Testament League?

Many people within the Assemblies throughout Australia will be familiar with the work of TPTL, and have supported it over the years. TPTL began in 1893, led by a 12-year old girl. One night, at a meeting, she gave her life to Jesus. She was so excited she went to school and told her best friend that she, last night, had become a Christian! Her best friend said, "I'm a Christian, I go to church." Helen is said to have responded, "I don't think going to church makes you a Christian." She must have said it with kindness. The next day Helen took her Bible to school, and the two of them read it. Helen's friend read a little more at home and prayed to receive Jesus. The two of them set out to invite everyone in their school to read the Bible with them. Eighty students accepted Jesus!

Helen was Helen Cadbury, daughter of the president of Cadbury Chocolates. She was so excited about the power of God's Word that she organized a group of girls who sewed pockets onto their dresses to carry the small New Testaments her father had provided. The girls called their group "The Pocket Testament League." Using small membership cards, they pledged to read a portion of the Bible every day, pray, and share their faith as God provided opportunity. That same vision still drives the ministry today.

In 1904, Helen married evangelist and song leader Charles Alexander,



*Helen Cadbury*  
1877 - 1969

who officially organised TPTL with Dr J Wilbur Chapman in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in March 1908. Alexander had been associated with the prominent evangelist Dwight L Moody. His experience in worldwide evangelism gave huge impetus to TPTL, which soon spread to other parts of the world including Australia; many Christians joined TPTL, promising to read, carry and share the Word of God.

Throughout the years, TPTL has seen many people come to saving faith in Christ Jesus as a result of receiving a copy of the Gospel of John, and also through completing the correspondence course on the Gospel of John, which helps them to understand who Christ Jesus is and how they can be saved by God's grace through faith in him (John 20:31).

Today TPTL is still providing God's Word to people in Australia and in many other countries around the World. TPTL is able to continue this ministry by God's grace and through the generous support of God's people who feel led to give so that others can receive a portion of God's Word and find salvation in Christ Jesus.

At the present time TPTL is looking >

for a new field officer to visit churches and other church groups to promote the work of TPTL. Additionally, TPTL is looking for volunteer field officers to represent it in churches in their area in different States throughout Australia. If you believe this is something God would like you to be involved in and part of, you can obtain further information about what is required

and how you could be involved by contacting TPTL Board Member Amy-Mary Coleman on 0400 583 589 or by email [amymarycoleman@gmail.com](mailto:amymarycoleman@gmail.com). In your prayers, please continue to uphold TPTL and the work it is doing. Please contact the office on 02 4753 6277 if you would like to receive the quarterly TPTL newsletter so that you can pray more specifically for the work.



## A hint on how to share the Gospel

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– Talk about what it's like having a close personal relationship with God

by John North

This morning I met with my doctor. I meet with him for checkups every four months. When I started these meetings, I knew that God had sent a Christian (me) into his life because God is reaching out to him. We have had many good spiritual conversations over the years and have built up a friendship and a level of trust that means we have very open conversations and talk freely about personal and spiritual issues.

Our conversations range over many topics, but I have noticed that he is especially interested whenever I share about what my own close personal relationship with God is like. Our gospel conversations make the biggest impression on him when we also talk about my relationship with God.

This shouldn't have been a surprise to me. Personally, before I make any major purchase, I scour the internet for reviews of people who have actually used the product and brands I am

considering. I don't just want to read the advertisements—I want to know if it really works and lasts. I want to know the experiences of people who have already bought the product.

Why would it be any different for someone considering Christ?

**As you reach out to people in your life who don't yet know Jesus, be sure to mix your gospel conversations in with sharing about what it is like having a close personal relationship with God. People want to know!**

Sharing your experience of God, and what it is like to have a growing relationship with Him, not only opens people's hearts to Him, but it also makes the gospel more believable to them.



Please submit any items for the August 2021 magazine on, or before, 16<sup>th</sup> July.

# “Why is the Lord’s Supper So Important?”

## - a Booklet review

by C.H. Winrow

This booklet of 65 pages is one of the most recent in a series published by the 9Marks company and called the ‘Church Questions’ series.

[www.9marks.org](http://www.9marks.org)

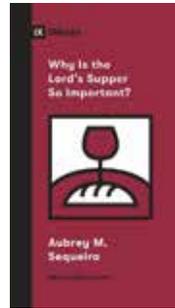
There are many titles in the series and Koorong Book Store has most of them in stock except this one, because it was only published this month - June! However the EPUB version is available, right now, for \$4.59. (The printed paperback version will cost \$9.99 and is due in stock in about five weeks.)

**Church Questions** is a series of booklets that seeks to provide ordinary Christians with sound and accessible biblical teaching by answering common questions about church life. Each volume offers biblical answers and practical applications with the goal of nurturing healthy church practice and commitment.

The Publisher’s notes for this particular volume say that “for a new Christian, or even someone who has followed the Lord for years, the Lord’s Supper may feel somewhat mysterious. This leads some to simply go through the motions without ever knowing why it’s done.” In this short booklet the author, pastor Aubrey M Sequeira, explains five ways the Lord’s Supper is important for the local church.”

The ways are summarised near the end of the book in a section called “A Quick Review” thus:-

“Here is a quick five-point summary of what we are doing at the Lord’s Supper each time:-



1. We look **backward**: We remember Christ’s body and blood given for us at the cross; we remember that His death has brought us forgiveness and eternal life.
2. We look **outward**: We celebrate the family bond we share with brothers and sisters in Christ in the local church.
3. We look **upward**: We realise that we are lifted up to be seated with Jesus our Heavenly Host, the One to whom we bring our hungry hearts for nourishment with the grace of the new covenant.
4. We look **inward**: We examine our hearts to ensure that we are walking in faith and repentance, and living with love for our brothers and sisters in Christ.
5. We look **forward**: We wait in hope for the glorious day when we will celebrate the fulfillment of all God’s promises at his heavenly banquet.

The booklet ends with a list of recommended books on the Lord’s Supper for further study at three levels, Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced.





As usual in this column, we mention Christian 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, tablet or other device.

**Please Note:** to make it easier to visit these websites they have been included as 'hot-links' if you use the PDF version of this magazine. The PDF version is available to subscribers as usual **but**, as another 'Covid Special', this June issue will also be available to those subscribers who normally only purchase a paper version. Just send me your request via email and you will receive a free PDF copy within a day.

\* \* \*

If you try out any of the following websites **please send me feedback** on your experience whilst using the specific website or product itself. With your permission, I may have room to pass on your thoughts to help our readers in future issues of *Assemblies Outreach* magazine, or via our website page:-

[nswaem.org.au/Mag/overview.html](http://nswaem.org.au/Mag/overview.html)

\* \* \*

An email from ODB Ministries on 12<sup>th</sup> May informed of possible delay in distributing copies of the next "Our Daily Bread" devotional booklet. It said in part...

"We apologise for any inconvenience the delay may cause. If you don't want to miss out on any devotions, you can still read or listen to Our Daily Bread online."

"While waiting for your copy of *Our Daily Bread* to arrive in the mail you might like to listen to our new **God Hears Her** podcast for women from our friends at Our Daily Bread in the US.

Hosted by ODB author and speaker, Elisa Morgan, and Eryn Eddy, this weekly podcast with special guests covers topics including mental health and self-awareness, the issue of comparison, the gift of living creatively, and the joy of finding beauty in everyday life. The conversations all centre on how each topic works out in the life of a Christian woman, and what God has to say about it."

To subscribe and find out more, please visit the "God Hears Her" website:-

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

\* \* \*

In late April the Bible Society in Australia emailed most churches with the message:-

"As you know, our world continues to hunger for God's saving words. We are delighted to let you know we have added an additional 13 international projects to our Missions portfolio for 2021. As you look through this email, you will see opportunities for you to support Bible mission with our nearest neighbours in PNG, the Asia Pacific and Nepal, and further north to Vanuatu and Vietnam; or you can travel across the Atlantic to Kenya, Rwanda, Cameroon, The Gambia, South Sudan, South Africa and the tiny nation of Togo. We invite you to >30

immerse yourselves in the needs and prayer requests of these projects. There is much still to do as together we Open The Bible to all people everywhere."

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

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An article in the **Eternity News** emailed on 14<sup>th</sup> May spoke about:-

"**Urbanrevs** is an online training ministry seeking to train and mobilise everyday Christians to be community chaplains wherever God has placed them." Visit website:-

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

and you will see...

"Welcome to Urbanrevs online training!

"We live in an ever complex and challenging world. Many followers of Jesus and faith leaders are passionately seeking out the 'how to' when it comes to seeing Jesus' kingdom come. At Urbanrevs we are passionate about helping the local church grow every follower of Jesus to be authentic and effective when it comes to living out the kingdom. Whether you're a protagonist passionate about leading change in local communities or a campaigner stirred in mission to make grace imminent – Urbanrevs will inspire you to genuine influence" says Cameron Butler (who is Urbanrevs' Director and Former CEO Sports Chaplaincy Australia, & Melbourne Football Club AFL Chaplain).

A Trial Course (on-line) is offered for \$0; and a Level 2 - Urbanrevs Chaplaincy Certificate costs \$99, for

example, and there are many more courses available.

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Anyone interested in the Postal Sunday School Movement (PSSM) would probably have received a letter and/or email in early June in which their website's content was described and recommended.

It has lots of information, video descriptions, testimonials from teachers and students, etc, etc. Anyone who lives in a rural area (away from a big town or city) may find this website very useful.

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

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In May the **Faithit website** emailed a post about an article from Lieryn Barnett on "Christians with mental illness". The full text is at:-

<https://faithit.com/4-encouraging-truths-for-christians-with-mental-illness>

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A recent issue of the Challenge newspaper had an article about **Sarah Bryant** and her remarkable escape from a suicidal lifestyle and attitude to becoming a born-again Christian who now helps others escape and gain hope. She has a web site:

<https://joyandhoperestored.org>

where you will find testimonies from other women who have gained the same hope. 

Please submit any items for the August 2021 magazine on, or before, 16<sup>th</sup> July.

## NSW ASSEMBLIES' EVANGELISTIC MISSION (NSWAEM)

ABN 81 001 037 690

### AEM OFFICE & CHRISTIAN OUTREACH BOOK SERVICE

P.O. Box 20,  
Pennant Hills NSW 1715

Ph: 0412 596 104  
Email: admin@nswaem.org.au

### CHAIRMAN of BOARD David Gordon

### BOARD MEMBERS

Philip Bower, Kevin Price,  
Mavis Winrow, Colin Winrow

### MAGAZINE

Editor - Colin Winrow  
0412 596 104

Email: outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

### 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 via the website:-  
[www.nswaem.org.au](http://www.nswaem.org.au)



*We understand the importance of  
family and it shows in everything  
that we do.*

**Richard Spiteri**

**Family owned and operated**

**340 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill 2154  
(02) 9659 0900**

**[www.christianfuneralsosydney.com.au](http://www.christianfuneralsosydney.com.au)**

# 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.