



ASSEMBLIES  
*Outreach*

**October 2008**

## **Women's Conference at Toukley** (pages 10 to 13)



*Here is the dining room "looking good" before the Celebration Dinner*

*photo by Josh Baker*

**Also in this issue:** Out & About in NSW Assemblies  
News from NSW Home Workers  
A Church on the Oceans  
Women's Missionary Conference  
(and more ...)

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

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

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

**14 November 2008**

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

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Dear Readers

I often write this *First Glance* column after having compiled the bulk of the magazine. I stand back (so to speak) and take stock of what the Lord has provided through His people. In the case of this particular issue I have been struck by the amount of material which is about women's activities around the NSW assemblies and beyond.

It wasn't planned to be this way but it is one of those pleasant 'coincidences' that God seems to delight in springing on us from time to time.

It comes perhaps as somewhat of a timely reminder of the very wide range of service and ministry that women, of all ages, provide within, and on behalf of, our assemblies and of course this applies to the church at large.

Sadly, over the years there has been dissension in many branches of the church universal about the correct biblical role of women. It still continues today, but surely no-one could deny the God-giftedness of the women's activities described and alluded to at

the Toukley Women's Conference and the Women's Missionary Conference?

A list would include music, art, writing, hospitality, scripture teaching in schools, compiling news and prayer sheets, secretarial, caring, compassion, visitation, counselling, overseas missions, etc, – not to mention many more. Perhaps some of these can also be done by men, but some definitely could not, at least not half-so-well, in my opinion.

No, I believe the work our ladies do is often not recognised and appreciated as much as it should be.

Another thing; a lot of photographs (the majority taken by women) were supplied by the women authors. In fact one writer said please use them – "a picture says as much as a thousand words". She's right. So, as we look at each picture, especially those of people, let's think about all that the person (and their colleagues in the Lord's work) are doing for the Lord, and let's PRAY for them all the more fervently.



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# 'Out and About' in NSW Assemblies

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**If you attend a NSW assembly or work with any associated Christian Brethren ministry, please feel free to submit your local news or event dates** to this 'Out and About' section so we can encourage people in NSW Assemblies. Short items (even one or two sentences) are welcome and can be mailed to the office at PO Box 640, Burwood, NSW 1805, or faxed to 9715 5528, or preferably e-mailed to:-

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

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

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

It is with sadness that we have to advise readers that Alan Riseham, the beloved husband of Cynthia Riseham, (who's the mainstay volunteer in the Outreach Book Service at Burwood) died on 4<sup>th</sup> August. His funeral service was held in Woronora on 11<sup>th</sup> August, where a large group of family and friends gathered to pay their respects and offer condolences and love to Cynthia. Alan is now safely with the Lord and free of the rigours of kidney problems which he suffered for many years.

In the August issue of this magazine there was information about the first Christian fiction book written by Rita Galieh. It is called "Fire in the Rock" and was officially launched at the Toukley Women's Conference as part of the first evening's program on 5<sup>th</sup> September. You can read more about that here, starting on page 10.

Since the story is an Australian historical with a Christian emphasis, Rita has a vision to provide a copy to the library of as many Australian Christian Schools as possible, where it is suitable for Year 10 and upwards. It has already been placed in over 20 such schools. If anyone would like to sponsor a signed copy to a school of your choice, please contact Rita. The cost is \$25.35 including postage.

The Chaplaincy ministry at Macquarie University (led by Geoff Folland) had a stall on the campus on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August, as part of the MacFest, an event aimed at informing new students about all the on-campus activities. Several brothers and sisters from Gideons and from local assemblies helped to give away literature and to answer student's questions. The stall was in a prime location for students walking by. Hundred and hundreds of New Testaments were distributed, many to students from overseas, some of whom had never seen a Bible of any sort and were excited to have one, even promising to read it! Please pray for the on-going work that the Word of God can accomplish in the students' lives.

Emmaus Bible College hosted an Open Day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September to allow potential students to learn something about the college. Afterwards, the Acting Principal, Don Stormer wrote: "A time of warm fellowship was enjoyed over a barbecue and there were some interested enquirers. Even if you missed the Open ➤

Day it is not too late to make enquiries about attending the college in the coming year.

“One exciting development for next year is the introduction of VETAB type courses. These courses are vocationally directed and are geared to cater for a wider range of needs than our academic courses do. Full details will be available within the next few weeks, but anyone who is interested should contact the Registrar ([registrar@emmaus.edu.au](mailto:registrar@emmaus.edu.au)) or the Principal ([principal@emmaus.edu.au](mailto:principal@emmaus.edu.au)) to receive information as it becomes available.

“One of the advantages of the new programs is that they can be delivered in any suitable location. If there are a number of interested students in one area Emmaus may well be able to offer a class that suits the needs of those students.”

**Please note** that the date for the end of year Celebration Service at Emmaus has been moved earlier – to Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, starting at 3 pm.

**Wait there's More!** On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October, students at Emmaus are starting a series of weekly gospel focused services (6pm to 7pm) on the college premises in Epping. Everyone (any age) is welcome – particularly people who may be nervous at going into a 'church' building. These nights will have Praise and Worship, Preaching of the Gospel, Prayer and Testimony, followed by Coffee and Fellowship. Once per month there will be a guest speaker. Car parking

is available alongside and under the building. The College is only a short walk from Epping rail station.

## Meetings & Events

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

[www.cb-nsw.org.au/events.html](http://www.cb-nsw.org.au/events.html)

- 6 Nov '08 NSW Assemblies Coordinating Conference at Emmaus Bible College, 7.30pm.
- 8 Nov Elouera Gardens - Ladies Auxiliary Cakes and Gifts stalls and Outreach Book Service stall. (9.30 to 12.00)
- 8 Nov 'Awake to Israel' at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 14 Nov Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545.
- 15 Nov CMIAid Dinner - Sydney; Pacific Hills Christian School. ph: 9651 6477
- 21 Nov Emmaus Bible College – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester ends.
- 23 Nov Emmaus Bible College – Celebration Service, starting 3.00pm.
- 28-30 Nov Young Adults Retreat at Toukley. ph: 1300 733 189.
- 12 Dec Ladies Missionary Prayer Meeting at Burwood Chapel. 10.30am ph: 9477 7568 or 9546 8545. □

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

Luke 24:27

## NSW Assemblies Evangelistic Mission Homeworkers Fund Treasurers' Report

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

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>January - June</b>	<b>\$40,890</b>	<b>\$44,487</b>
<b>July:</b> from Assemblies	2,817	3,066
from NSWAEM	2,600	2,500
from other sources	3,343	3,193
	\$8,760	\$8,759
<b>August:</b> from Assemblies	2,967	3,112
from NSWAEM	2,600	2,000
from other sources	43	54
	\$5,610	\$5,166
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$55,260</b>	<b>\$58,412</b>

Currently the Homeworkers Fund supports 16 workers and their families.

**Please make cheques payable to the NSWAEM State Home Workers Fund**

Your gifts and letters should be sent to

The Treasurers, NSWAEM State Home Workers Fund,

**P.O. Box 640, BURWOOD NSW 1805**

# News from NSW

## Home Workers



### Laurie & Margaret Cowell 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008

*Our hearts are always moved with appreciation and thankfulness for gifts coming to us from caring people via the NSW Home Workers' fund. We are grateful and praise the Lord that by these means and prayer, we are all workers together with the Lord.*

*About this time last year one of the students learning English at Riverstone made a decision for Christ. That was special, but to add to our on-going joy she is now making steady and positive growth in her faith and is in training with His harvest fields in mind. Three more students have made decisions this year and are going on for the Lord.*

*A number of co-workers serving in teams in Blacktown and Burwood are involved in outreach, discipling and church planting. They are special and encourage us greatly.*

*There is the multi-cultural English speaking assembly and a Tagalog speaking assembly at Blacktown and work being done in the English speaking and Korean work at Burwood. People are being saved, disciplined, baptized and brought into these church fellowships.*

*Laurie has numerous mission*

*responsibilities in GLO's wider ministries and has recently returned home from lecturing for two weeks in South Korea and visiting national workers in Myanmar and Mongolia. He was lecturing in Tasmania last week at the Training Centre in Smithton. As well as GLO Administration responsibilities, pastoral care and eldership in Blacktown Assembly, he is part of the team lecturing in the internship program at Blacktown. Margaret helps where she can, is also involved in ladies and children's ministries and has some good contacts in our local community.*

*Our grateful thanks once again for everyone's faithful care and prayer support.*

*Our Christian love,  
Laurie and Margaret.*

### Daya & Mary Nand 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008

*"Come join this happy band and on to glory go" is one way to describe the smaller assemblies I have the privilege and joy of visiting and sharing the Word of God.*



*Recently it was at Guildford and it was such a blessing to see this faithful remnant so joyful in their witness for the Lord. Of special joy was the participation of the young men.*

Bankstown Assembly continues with a fairly good attendance at the monthly Gospel effort on their family night.

Eastwood also has an active outreach on their "International Nights."

Recently I have been teaching at the Concord Assembly every first two Sundays of each month and there is good blessing from the Lord. The meetings commence with lunch and a time of fellowship.

A Catholic man has been regularly attending and really impressed with the close fellowship. Also a Buddhist lady is very interested. We had a special roast lunch on Father's Day and use opportunities like that for an outreach.

Members are keen to serve the Lord. At 4pm a Punjabi-Urdu service is held and what an exciting time is enjoyed there. Please pray for approval from the Council for a new building to be erected.

In the will of the Lord, Mary and I trust to go to New Zealand for 3 weeks starting in early January for a family wedding, and I then expect to be ministering the Word at Wellington, Hastings and Auckland.

Thank you for your prayers. Daya.

### Geoff & Liz Folland

7<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Thanks again to everyone who prayed following our last update.

My Greek exam went much better than expected. The conference Liz spoke at yesterday went really well also. She spoke three times during the course of the day, sharing



about our experience of adoption and comparing/contrasting that with God's decision to adopt us as His children. As you can imagine, she is still exhausted.

We also had a great Father's Day, even though Katrise (who needs to learn how to keep a secret) had told me about my presents as soon as they were bought!

### 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008

There is plenty of variety in my new role. Last Tuesday, for example, I spent time training new missionaries, meeting up with a student leader to talk about the summer project this year; caught up with Ian (who leads the Macquarie Uni ministry now); and spent 3 hours in class studying Greek verbs while talking with a current Bible college student about working with international students next year.

With things settling down, I have also been able to pay some attention to our financial situation. The rise in interest rates, exchange rate and petrol prices (combined with extra tuition fees) over the past 12 months meant that we did not have enough monthly support to cover our budget. Although we had made some initial efforts to raise more support, the transition out of the old role and into the new role took higher priority.

Still, these past two weeks I have been able to take the initiative with some people. A funny story was that on the first night I picked up the phone to make my first phone call... the phone rang! It was a former student calling to say they

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# An Opportunity to be HEARD

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by James Kelly

## FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 2008 I attended the launch of a discussion paper regarding a project being sponsored by the Australian Human Rights Commission about the current state of freedom of religion and belief in Australia.

There are a number of international treaties to which Australia is a signatory, and our own Commonwealth Constitution, which recognise that freedom of religion and belief is a fundamental human right. A report to the Australian government in 1998 entitled "Article 18: Freedom of Religion and Belief" made certain recommendations to the government about this issue. Some recommendations were adopted while others were not.

The project will deal with issues like; the involvement of churches in school curriculums, religious views about scientific research, the impact of Islam in the community, how religion deals with moral issues such as homosexuality and abortion, the right to abstain from voting on religious grounds, and discrimination against women and minority groups. All of these and many other issues intersect with religion and belief and human rights in our society.

There is an opportunity to make submissions to the project team. I will be drafting the submission for the Assemblies, and therefore, I would be pleased to hear from anybody who has ideas and views about these matters. I can be contacted on:

[jdk@owenhodge.com.au](mailto:jdk@owenhodge.com.au)

or 02 9524 9283.

Information about the project, the discussion paper, and the 1998 report are available on the website:

[www.humanrights.gov.au/frb](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/frb)

Submissions are being sought from individuals, churches and organisations. Submissions close on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009. Once the submissions have been reviewed, but before preparing their final report, the project team will travel to the various States to interview some of the people and organisations who have made submissions.

The question is – **why bother responding** to this invitation? It's clear that the government is looking for ideas to formulate policy for the future which involves religious belief and practices. Unless we as individuals, churches and as a movement take a pro-active position, the process will be dominated by minority groups who are well versed in promoting their causes and we as the 'silent majority' may see the rights and privileges we enjoy in this country eroded to limit the spread of the gospel.

**This is a rare opportunity to be heard** and to express our views about something which we may have taken for granted in the past but reflects our Christian heritage and which we as a country wish to secure for the future until the Lord returns.



# Women's Conference - Toukley 2008

... a storytelling, a gathering ....

by Denise Lloyd  
Lutanda Children's Services

"So encouraging – so many opportunities."  
"Inspiring, challenging, confronting, sobering – I can't find the words to explain it."  
"It's awakened me to new possibilities of service."  
"I'm really moved by the desperate need of people in my city, my country."  
"Lord, use me. I can't stay safe and comfortable when so many are yet to hear about Jesus!"

These are just some of the words women used to describe the impact of our 'gathering' in early September at Camp Toukley.

Proverbs 31:30b says "*... a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.*" As our four key speakers shared their stories, they showed us what can be accomplished when ordinary women in ordinary churches are submitted to the Lordship of Christ and His call on their life. These women are not seeking praise – they're diligently working to bring positive change in the lives of OTHERS and Glory to our Lord and Saviour; all involving willing sacrifice.

It wasn't so much about preaching the Word, but about the Word in action and service in the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord. In the process other women shared of their story of struggles and triumphs as they submitted their lives and situations to Him. And each praised



God for His faithfulness through this continuing journey.

Despite the wet and windy conditions, the weekend started with a wonderful celebration dinner and Toukley never looked so good! We wanted the ladies to feel special and spoilt. We had mocktails and nibbles in the 'Gatherings Café' where mood lighting and two gifted musicians created a great ambience. After a superb dinner Marilyn Smith welcomed the ladies and set the scene for the weekend.

The launch of Rita Galieh's first book was a highlight of the evening. ➤



'Fire in the Rock' is a story that reawakens us to a previous era in Australia of diverse cultures and strict social conventions. Filled with adventure, faith and romance, it really highlights the characters and challenges that helped forge this great nation of ours. It's a very insightful and enjoyable story.

Saturday sessions were held in the newly refurbished Rec Hut – now the 'Lakes Auditorium' – and it was the perfect environment to worship and praise the Lord with wonderful music provided by ladies from Mascot and Riverstone Assemblies, and where our speakers challenged us to a new understanding of the 'fear of the Lord'.

How do you reach out to people who are desperately isolated and lonely – people with virtually no English skills and negligible support base? Alison Heath explained how they do it in the Inner West amongst immigrants, refugees, single parents and the lost – by running playgroups and English classes; creatively building relationships and sharing the genuine love of Jesus.

Sue Davies and Marie Murphy shared from their experience in the Northern Territory, amidst the challenges of isolation and associated social concerns of poor health, nutrition and tradition. The basic necessities we take so much for granted are just not readily available to these outback communities. Sue's slides brought home the great gulf between our worlds.



Marie told her amazing testimony using a painted canvas to graphically illustrate how Jesus had saved her. Marie and Sue showed other canvases and read from the Aboriginal Creole Bible, giving us just a taste of how they share God's Story to those of 'their territory'.



The business community is no less isolated; no less troubled by social issues – going to a no lesser lost eternity. Kathryn McLay challenged >12

us to always deal with integrity; show respect, even in confronting challenging behaviours; to take time for others, giving others permission to shine and to reflect the love of Jesus. Values we can display in our everyday work place – our community.

Over 140 ladies shared in the fun, fellowship and a special memento gift of the weekend. We also prayed that we can share our story – our testimony – what Christ has done for me He wants to do for you!

In a self-addressed envelope, we noted our observations and commitment, to be posted to us to challenge and remind us in the future – what would God have me do for His service? What am I going to do differently as a result of the conference? How can I share the Good News of Jesus to the people in my community? What are their needs? How can I be Christ to them? ➤



*Clockwise from top left: Kathryn McLay and CDs; Felicity Marlow; Carolyn; Jeanette, Logan & Helen.*

## *Toukley Women's Conference (cont'd from p 12)*

So, please, make a note in your diary for next year – Toukley Women's Conference 2009, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September. If you thought this year was fantastic – well just wait till you see next year! Book early; you won't want to miss it.

Recordings of the weekend are available on CD by contacting the Lutanda office on 1300 733 189. The

cost is \$20 plus postage and handling. Magnet mementos are also available for \$4.50.

Special thanks go to Stewards Foundation and Emmaus Bible College for their support in making Sue and Marie's participation possible. □



*Sue Blanch*



*Catering's finishing touch!*

## *News from Home Workers (cont'd from p 8)*



wanted to support us! God is a very gracious provider.

I would also ask you to pray for:

1) an upcoming chaplains meeting I am running at Macquarie Uni where we are establishing guidelines that all chaplains will operate under in the future; and

2) the upcoming Passion Conference. I'm working with two other young adult ministry leaders to bring others together

to pray for the mission of reaching Sydney, and Australia's, young adults.

Finally, if you would like to see what I have been thinking and blogging about lately, check out my blog at:

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

Thanks for your partnership in this ministry. We couldn't do it without you.

In His love and grace.

Geoff □

# Women's Missionary Conference - a report

by Juliette Hackett

How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1



*Part of the President Avenue Ladies music team at the Panania Conference*

Over 120 women gathered in the southern suburbs of Sydney, on a sunny Saturday in June (21<sup>st</sup>) in the premises of Panania Christian Church to hear about the depth of our Father's love, in particular for Muslims. It was challenging and encouraging to hear from women of different ages and circumstances, all being used by God to build His kingdom for His glory.

Jan and Donna brought the reality of women's lives in very different parts of the Muslim world to us and shared some of their joys and hardships of ministry. ➤



*Donna Cowell*



*Jan Badcock*



*Julie Loudon*

After 47 years in cross-cultural service, Noela Elvery was permitted a small trip down memory lane, but what was inspiring was to hear how this grey-haired lady is still fired up for God and how He has used her and Julie Loudon in ministering to the Rendille people group of northern Kenya (amongst many, many others). What a blessing for them to see a growing church emerge from a group of non-readers who did not even have a written version of their language when Noela and Julie first went there, but who were able to hear and respond to the word of God as they listened in their own language.

It was sobering to be reminded by Vicki Mustafa of the costs women in particular face in coming to Christ from a Muslim background. We live such comfortable lives as Australian Christians that it is hard to comprehend how others have to count the



*Vicki Mustafa*

cost of following Christ, but Vicki brought tears to many eyes as she challenged us about it. It was great to be encouraged to reach out to Muslims around us with the love of Christ even though it might be different, difficult or dangerous. Christ has called us to follow Him out of our comfort zone.



*Sandra Bunyon interviewing  
Agnis Royal*

It was also wonderful to hear how God is using Agnis Royal and her husband Edward, refugees from Iraq in the 1990's, to reach out to people from all over the world who have made their home here in Sydney. What a blessing to have a couple, who are so full-on for God, come and make their home here in Australia! □

# Parklea Markets Outreach – Aug & Sept '08

by John Kennedy



'Parklea Markets Outreach' operates on the first Saturday of each month. It is a ministry of a small group of enthusiastic members of West Pennant Hills Community Church (WPHCC). Their objective is to undertake evangelism and encourage members to share their faith in nearby public places such as markets.

In October 2004, this magazine (on page 30) published a short account of the ministry which is undertaken at Parklea Markets, just 7 minutes drive from Blacktown, NSW.

The following is compiled from the concise reports from the team to their church after their efforts in the last two months.

## **Saturday, 2nd August:**

The team was Paul Walker, Doug Smith, Nelson Padilla, Keith Grace and John Kennedy.

- Praise God for a double site this month – for the price of one site! It was well lit and located. The site was situated between two stalls for tarot card readers – so we were a light in the midst of darkness!

- Doug met a Christian couple who had Japanese people staying with them. They took a few Japanese tracts for their visitors to read plus some that they could give to their friends.

- An elderly couple stopped to look through our literature. When the woman realised what the material was she pulled the man away, in spite of his obvious interest.

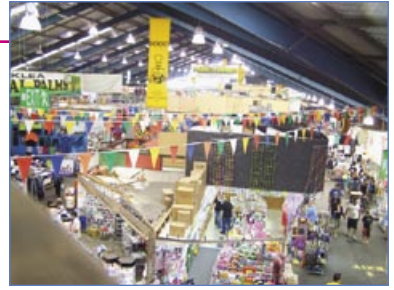
- A stall-holder opposite came over to look more closely and told us that he was a Lebanese Catholic. He showed an interest in some leaflets including Our Daily Bread booklets. Paul shared the Saviour with him and His love for him and God's desire to have a personal relationship with him, and that material possessions have no Eternal value. The man also took a Jesus DVD.

- Paul met a previous business acquaintance who stopped to talk. He received some Japanese tracts and a Bible for some friends. He worked in the garden nursery industry with Paul.

- Colin & Mavis Winrow stopped for a time of mutual encouragement with us.

- A lovely young mother of Maori origin with her first baby strapped to her front in a pouch (a baby boy) took a New Testament (she asked why it was at no charge – we told her it was because of God's Love for her and her newborn). Her young husband of Filipino origin also took some literature. ➤





• Elaine, a lady married for over 50 years, who had four children and ten grandchildren, stopped to engage us in conversation. She wanted to know why we had left the true church, founded by the first Pope, St Peter. She goes to St John the 23rd at Glenwood in the city of Blacktown. She took two tracts with her – including the ‘Father’s Love Letter’.

• A Christian couple of German origin were interested in and took a German New Testament written in High German, similar to our Authorised King James Bible. They were so engrossed in what we were doing that both of them took the opportunity to explain the Gospel to some who stopped to look at our stand.

• Mary Miriam, an English teacher visiting from Iran with her local Iranian cousin, took 2 Jesus DVDs, 2 New Testaments and as much literature as they could carry. She wanted to know how Jesus would return and we read Revelation 19 to her. She also wanted to know what Heaven was. We told her it was where God lived. Both women were Muslims and the literature was heading back to Iran where the teacher lives and teaches!

### **Saturday, 6th September:**

The team was Paul Walker, Doug Smith, Nelson Padilla, Sue Keevers & John Kennedy.

• One fellow discussed Eternal Consequences with Nelson and then declared “*I don’t want to know*”.

• A lady took a tract and said she was the only Christian in her family. She asked for prayer for her family.

• Three young Christian men from a small church near Hornsby stopped by and showed great interest in our material. They took a DVD, a New Testament and some other literature which they said they would share with their friends.

• A number of Christians stopped to encourage us in our Ministry.

• One man, who said he was an avowed atheist, stopped to challenge our stand.

• A lady who now lives close to WPHCC said she is considering coming to the church and bringing her children to Sunday school, as the church she used to go to is a considerable distance away.

[Hopefully the above comments will help readers to understand more of the nature of the market outreach ministry and will encourage us all to uphold it in prayer each month.

Also, this magazine’s editor is wondering if similar ministry is occurring elsewhere in NSW? If so he would dearly love to hear details - with a view to publishing reports from time to time. — Ed]



# A Church on the Oceans – mv Cap Byron

by Rob Flinders, SCFS



**Cap Byron** is a container ship that visits Sydney every three months. The crew onboard comprises a mixture of Germans, Poles, Ukrainians and Filipinos.

After departing from Sydney the ship calls at Melbourne, and then three ports in New Zealand - Port Chalmers, Tauranga and Auckland. After leaving New Zealand the ship makes a 14-day voyage across the Pacific Ocean to Panama. After passing through the Panama Canal the ship calls at Cartagena in Colombia and then two ports on the eastern seaboard of North America - Savannah and Philadelphia.

After leaving Philadelphia, Cap Byron makes a 10-day voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean to Tilbury in the United Kingdom, followed by Bremerhaven in Germany and Antwerp in Belgium.

Antwerp marks the halfway point of the voyage. 47 days will have elapsed since leaving Sydney. During the next 47 days Cap Byron will voyage back to Sydney, calling a second time at each of the ports previously visited.

During her 84-day voyage Cap Byron enters port on 17 different occasions but only stays in each port for an average of 16 hours. In 84 days the total time in port amounts to only 11 days. For the remaining 73 days the ship is at sea.

Cap Byron was last in Sydney on July 12. When I visited the ship I made an extraordinary discovery. God had brought together, on this one ship, three Filipino seafarers that I knew well from my visits to three other ships during the last 18 months.

I met Bosun **Sonny** onboard mv Santa Federica earlier this year through Ramil, a Christian brother I knew onboard that ship. I discovered that Ramil had been very faithful in sharing his faith with Sonny. As a result of Ramil's introduction, I was able to provide Sonny with two Emmaus Bible Correspondence Courses that he completed before leaving the ship.



It seemed to me that the combination of Ramil's witness and the study of two Emmaus courses had brought about a significant increase in Sonny's understanding of the way of salvation.

He is married to Evangeline and they have three daughters. ➤



I first met **Arnilo** in October 2007 when he was working as an Able Bodied Seaman (AB) onboard mv Santa Elena 1. Over the course of the next seven months Arnilo completed

four Emmaus Bible Correspondence Courses, always with very good results.

Like Sonny, Arnilo also seemed to grow in his understanding of the way of salvation as a consequence of his Bible Studies. Arnilo is married to Mirasol and they have three young sons and one daughter.

**Alvin** was working as an Ordinary Seaman (OS) onboard mv Sean Rickmers when we first met in May 2007. By the time he completed his contract at the beginning of 2008



Alvin had completed six Emmaus Bible Correspondence Courses. He too consistently achieved high scores in his studies.

Alvin is married to Analiza and they have one son, aged 4.

Not only did God bring these three men together to serve on the same ship. He also provided a 'pastor' for them!

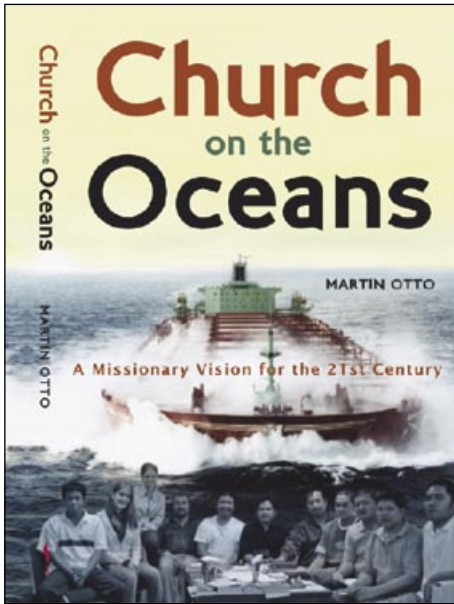


**Arnel** is the second Officer onboard Cap Byron. More importantly, however, he is a Christian brother with a desire to share his faith with his crewmates aboard each ship on which he serves.

I first met Arnel when Cap Byron arrived in Sydney in July. He is 41 years old and is married to Maria Cristina. They have two young children, a boy aged 5 and a daughter aged 4.

My time with Arnel was necessarily very brief but long enough to discuss his desire to establish a Christian Fellowship onboard Cap Byron and the ways I might be able to assist him to do that. I think Arnel was encouraged to hear from me that three of his crewmates, Alvin, Arnilo and Sonny, had each been studying Emmaus Bible Correspondence Courses during their previous contracts on other ships. For my part, I was greatly encouraged to know that these three men might be incorporated into the Christian Fellowship that Arnel would be shepherding onboard Cap Byron.

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**'Church on the Oceans'** is a book written by Martin Otto, an SCFS port missionary in Hamburg. It describes how Christian seafarers can plant and establish 'churches' onboard the ships on which they serve.

I was able to give a copy of this book to Arnel prior to the departure of Cap Byron from Sydney. I was also able to supply him with a number of Filipino Bibles, some Emmaus Bible Correspondence Courses, some Christian Teaching on DVD and a number of evangelistic films, also on DVD.

Two weeks after leaving Sydney I received an email from Arnel onboard Cap Byron in the mid Pacific Ocean, making its way to Panama. Arnel told me that on each of the previous two Sundays, between 6 and 7.30 pm, he and 9 other Filipino crewmembers, including Sonny, Arnilo and Alvin,

had met together as a 'Church on the Oceans.'

From what I can gather their fellowship meetings consist of times of singing and prayer, interspersed with the delivery of a Bible message, the giving of a personal testimony and a time of sharing.

Arnel told me that to-date he and another born-again Christian in the group have taken responsibility for preparing and delivering the Bible messages. Some of the other members of the group, with the help and encouragement of Arnel, have taken responsibility for organising the singing of songs, leading in prayer and for sharing their personal testimony. Arnel also told me they have even constructed a 'pulpit' (lectern?) for use in their meetings!

It has been a blessing and a privilege for me to be able to respond to Arnel by email and to offer him encouragement and to assure him of our prayers. At his request, I have also posted a few Christian Songbooks to the ship. Hopefully Arnel will receive these when Cap Byron arrives in Tilbury, UK.

Regardless of whether Cap Byron is at sea or in port, most of the crew work between 10 and 12 hours every day, seven days every week. The men in the 'church on the oceans' onboard Cap Byron have cause to be thankful that Arnel, despite his heavy workload, has committed himself to be their 'pastor' and to facilitate their teaching, praise and fellowship. ➤



**Please thank God -**

> for bringing these seafarers together onboard Cap Byron to be 'a church on the oceans'.

> for providing Arnel to be their 'pastor' for the duration of their contract.

> for the good teaching that Emmaus Bible Correspondence courses provide for seafarers.

**Please ask God -**

> to keep reminding Arnel to be a servant to the men committed into his care and to 'preach' to them Jesus Christ as Lord. *2 Corinthians 4:5*

> that each man in this 'church' might grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Peter 3:18*

> that some of the men will learn from Arnel and their church experience onboard Cap Byron to the extent that they will be encouraged and emboldened to initiate and establish churches onboard other ships in the future. *2 Timothy 2:1-2*

**Thank you.**

Rob Flinders, August 2008

Since the above account was written, Rob has emailed that Cap Byron arrived back in Port Botany at the end of September, having been away three months. The ship was here for 36 hours and he was able to have Arnel and Sonny in his home for a brief time of fellowship and encouragement. Before the ship sailed again, Rob also marked the

Emmaus courses given to seven men in July and supplied new courses, plus he loaned more Christian DVDs to replaced those already viewed.

Arnel told Rob that the Christian fellowship that began in July with seven or eight attendees has now consolidated to just four men – Arnel, Sonny, Erwin and Richard – but they are not discouraged about this. God is sovereign! It seems to Rob that Sonny especially is continuing to grow in his faith and to be benefiting from Arnel's teaching and his fellowship with Erwin and Richard.

Interestingly, prior to Cap Byron's arrival in Sydney, Arnel emailed Rob with a request to supply him with a selection of evangelical materials in Polish, Tagalog, Russian and Spanish.

Rob comments, "I knew there were Poles, Filipinos & Russians amongst the crew onboard Cap Byron but I was mystified as to why Arnel wanted Spanish materials. I asked him about this and he replied, 'Oh, we give them to the dockside workers when we pass through the Panama Canal!'

Cap Byron - taking the gospel to Panama, by ship!"

**Please keep praying** for these four brothers in Christ – Arnel, Sonny, Erwin and Richard and the other men they contact, either onboard or ashore in various ports. □

## **Holiday Rental - Culburra Beach**

on NSW South Coast – 2.5 Hrs from Sydney  
Reasonable rates available for school holidays and weekends.

Families or youth groups. 15 mins walk to beaches.  
House accommodates 8 people - all b/rooms upstairs

Please phone **Esther 0413 361 801**  
for bookings or information

*Some bookings still available over January 2009*

# AWAKE TO ISRAEL

**History ◦ Current Events ◦ Prophecy ◦ Evangelism**

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

### **Our Purpose is as follows:**

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

*For further information phone (02) 9869 7164*

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

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

## PLEASE

Submit items for next issue **BEFORE 14 November**

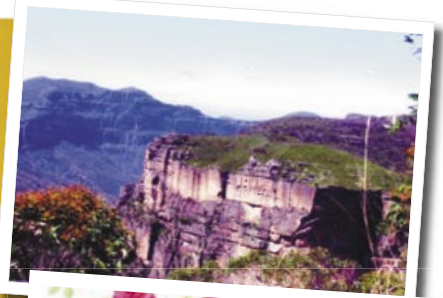
# Outreach Book Service @ BURWOOD

This year please consider buying your 2009 Calendars (Choice Gleanings, Easy to See, Bible Gems), Christmas Cards, and other Greetings Cards from us. They are reasonably priced and the profits help support our NSW Home Workers.

Phone (02) 9715 5520



## Choice Gleanings



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Monday** **JANUARY** **1**

DAILY READINGS: Job 1:1 to 2:10; Matt. 1; Gen. 1:1 to 2:5

**Yea I have loved thee with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3**

Look back. Past the time of Christ, past creation, out into the aeons before God laid the foundations of the earth. Look until your gaze is deflected by the trackless reaches of eternity past. Now look ahead, past the rapture, the millennium, the new heaven, the new earth. Go forward until the finite staggers at infinity. Now listen. The Author and Upholder of it all says, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." See how what fills those shoreless seas of eternity. His love—deep, vast, immense, unfathomed, profound. And in the midst of the infinite reaches of His love, 2004 is unfolding, and our lives with it. In our darkest moment His love will prove enough. —S. McEachern

*Like shoreless seas, Thy love can't know its bounds. Thus loved me! Deep, vast, immense, unfathomed, Lord—profound, Lord, I love Thee!*

Christian Outreach Book Service

FROM:

Christian Outreach Book Service  
(rear) 29 George Street,  
BURWOOD 2134  
(P.O. Box 640, Burwood 1805)  
Ph: (02) 9715 5520  
Fax: (02) 9715 5580



## Bible Society NEWS RELEASE



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008

Sydney's church and denominational leaders joined together yesterday to launch the "12-month countdown" to the 'Jesus. All about life' media campaign, scheduled for Sydney in September 2009, and to declare individual church registration open.

Sydney Christian leaders have united in an unprecedented show of support for 'Jesus. All about life' (JAAL), a six-week, prime time television advertising campaign, supported by radio and print advertising, that seeks to raise awareness of Jesus and encourage people to find out what Jesus 'had to say about life' and to motivate quiet Christians to share their faith.

Daniel Willis, CEO of Bible Society NSW, was delighted with the initial support in Sydney and proudly declared the official registration for churches 'open'. He said "The Jesus. All about life' campaign goal is for 1,000 Sydney churches to register their support in the lead-up to the campaign. We are delighted with the overwhelming support for the campaign from many Sydney Christians already and are excited about what will unfold over the coming year in the lead-up to the campaign."

Program Director, Rev Karl Faase said that the campaign will seek to reach four million Sydneysiders when it runs next year. "90% of Sydney will see the campaign at least ten times in its six week duration. We want people to engage with the person of Jesus and we are bringing the message of Jesus into the community," he said.

The success of the campaign relies upon **individual church participation** in order to engage with communities and individuals at a local level. The Sydney campaign follows successful campaigns already run in Adelaide (2005), Canberra (2006) and Tasmania (2007).

For a small registration fee of \$100, churches receive a registration pack which includes samples of the 'Jesus. All about life' response material, a 'Getting Ready for Mission' church training DVD, a promotional DVD to be shown in services, a calendar for the 12-months leading up to the campaign and details of other resources that will be available in 2009.

**Regional Campaigns:** We're working with churches in the Central West of NSW to help them run a campaign in their area as part of the Sydney 2009 Campaign. The Hunter Region Campaign is also underway - details on the JAAL web site.

If you live in a regional area and would like to discuss running a 'Jesus. All about life' campaign in your area - please get in touch with us.

**Martin Johnson**, Director - Jesus. All about life project

**Bible Society NSW** p: 02 9888 6588 m: 0417 028 438 d: 02 9870 5624

STAY IN TOUCH with details at [www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au](http://www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au)



# Creating a church Web Site

by Carolyn Thomson

In January the 'webmasters' at those NSW assemblies which have their own web sites were invited to give feedback from their experience – in order to inform and help assemblies which may be contemplating having a web site. Here is the first response.....

We launched the Riverstone Community Church website in 2005. I had a little time for a hobby, so I decided to teach myself some HTML (the basic web page development language). I first 'played around' with a website for our youth group, and eventually one for our church.

We built it then for a few reasons:-

1. I was willing to dedicate the time to it.
2. It would be a useful place to store resources, such as events calendars, rosters, sermon downloads and announcements.
3. We wanted people seeking a church to be able to find us on the Internet.

You need someone willing to put in the time and effort not only to set up but also to subsequently maintain a website. Besides the obvious time needed to create it and input the initial data, you need to dedicate time each week for 'house keeping' tasks such as:- delete obsolete information, upload new information, create new graphics and generally keep it 'fresh' looking.

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Riverstone Community Church - Mozilla Firefox  
http://www.rivochurch.com/

Latest Headlines | Let My People Think (... | Desiring God Sermons | HTMLHelp Forums -> | Riverstone Communit...

Believe Belong Become

RIVERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ABOUT | SUNDAY | ACTIVITIES | CONTACT | ROSTERS | PODCASTS | MISSIONS | LINKS

**Welcome to Riverstone Community Church**  
At Riverstone Community Church we believe that there is purpose to this life. All our desires can be fulfilled and serious questions answered by a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our job is to worship Him and show others how awesome He is.

**Listen to talks as MP3s ONLINE!**  
Listen to our previous sermons via the net. It's so easy! [Click here](#) for our Podcast and be notified when it's updated if you like.

Or, for those of you who prefer not to use itunes, [click here](#) if that doesn't work, open a new window and copy and paste in this link:  
[www.rivochurch.com/audio/mp3/tcc\\_podcast.xml](http://www.rivochurch.com/audio/mp3/tcc_podcast.xml)

See the [Podcast Help](#) page

**Prayer Times**  
Bring your kids to Fusion and then join us for prayer.  
**Sunday Morning 9am @ Church**

*I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it.*  
- John Weasley.

**Quicklinks**  
[Home](#)  
[Rosters](#)  
[Calendar](#)  
[Sports Centre](#)

“ Riverstone Community Church is a place where I find the people friendly and down to earth and the leaders are caring and encouraging. This is important to me as I need support and friendship to help me stay strong in my faith. I also love that the things we do as a Church are based on the Bible, not just on tradition. ”  
Carol - 27

At probably 2 hours a month, I don't put near as much time into our website as I should. If you want to keep it fresh and informative, it would be ideal to put a couple of hours in every week to gather and present information, upload blogs and more pictures.

While I am primarily responsible for website maintenance, including general changes and special notices etc, two other people regularly access the website to upload files for which they

are responsible. Stuart Waller uploads an MP3 file containing each week's sermon, and Phil Gummerson uploads PDF's containing the church activities calendar and the preaching roster.

If you can disperse such maintenance work over a few different people with distinct roles it can work well and reduce the individual workload.

If you can't afford much time in maintaining the website, but you'd like to have a presence on the Internet, set it up with information

that doesn't change. Give information on the types of things you do, rather than dates and times, and give details on who to contact for more specific information.

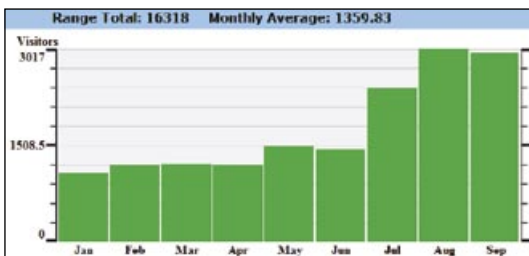
We found that storing rosters (general church duties), as well as youth group events calendars and church calendars was helpful for people in our church. How often have you received a paper copy of the rosters or the youth group term program and lost it? If the information is also on the web site, it's a useful resource, and also one that can be easily updated, as changes are necessary, to keep people informed. ➤

The screenshot shows a website interface for an audio podcast. At the top, there is a yellow box with a 'Subscribe to this podcast using' section. It includes a 'Live Bookmarks' dropdown menu, a checkbox for 'Always use Live Bookmarks to subscribe to podcasts.', and a 'Subscribe Now' button. Below this is the main content area for the 'Riverstone Community Church - Audio Podcast'. It features the church's logo, which depicts a cross and a sun over a landscape. The first sermon entry is titled 'Godly Men' by Linc Marlow, dated 7/09/08, with the description 'Father's Day Message.' and a list of five points: 1. Power to Influence. Our Wives and Children. 2. Overcoming pitfalls of men. 3. Absent Fathers and Husbands. 4. Aloof Husbands and Fathers. 5. Arrange priorities of their lives. A media file link is provided: 'LincM20080907.mp3 (MP3 Audio, 18.9 MB)'. The second sermon entry is titled 'Noah's Ark' by Rod Walsh, dated 31/08/08, with the description 'Rod Walsh from Creation Ministries talks about Creation and Evolution. He Talks about Noah's Ark and his journey with Ark. Telling people everywhere about the evidence for Creation.' and the note 'Well worth a listen.' A media file link is provided: 'RodW20080831.mp3 (MP3 Audio, 27.0 MB)'. The entire screenshot is framed with a thin black border.

Another resource that came later, is an MP3 podcast. It's a great resource for listening to a sermon that you missed, or that you want to hear again or that you want to share with others. It's not my area of expertise, but it is Stuart Waller's. He has lots of experience recording and dealing with audio files, and he's put a lot of time into figuring out how to set up our 'podcast' for this purpose.

As well as that, he takes time every week to work with the sermon audio file. He needs to remove unwanted noises in the file, normalise it, convert it to MP3 format, tag it, edit the podcast XML file, upload both to the server, and lastly check it's all working.

So this facility is not something you can create and then forget. But in August we had 2,965 hits on the podcast page – compared to the rosters page at 332 hits. Hence it's by far the most accessed page on our site!



People with access to the Internet don't use the White Pages phone book much any more – at least I don't. It's all up on the web. If I want to find a shop, a product, an organisation or a church, I don't just drive around looking for it. The first place I look is on the Internet via a search engine such as Google.

We wanted our church to have a 'presence' on the web, so that if people were seeking a church for the first time, or if people were new to our area, they could find us more easily. They could also discover something of what we're about, hopefully get a good impression of us, and be convinced to give our church a try. This was not our website's main purpose for being, but could we afford not to keep up with the times?

For its first couple of years I doubted the website's usefulness. But it has steadily become higher in the Google search rankings, and in August '08 we had a daily average of 97 visitors.

Just this year we got a really encouraging call from a lady who said "I'm looking for a church to go to, and I found your website. Your church looks like the kind of church I'd enjoy being a part of." Unfortunately she didn't live near us, so we gave her details of a church in her area. What a kick though, to be involved in helping someone find a church! I've also realised that some people in our church count on the rosters being up to date – an encouragement to keep them that way!

If you're starting out to develop a website here are some tips:

You'll need two main things; a webhosting plan and a domain name. A webhost is a company who provides some storage space on their server (a computer) for your web pages and serves your pages up to the Internet for you. The domain name for your web site is what people will type into a >28

browser program to access it. We have a gentleman in our church who sells webhosting and generously donated the web space and the domain name:

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

If you don't happen to have a generous benefactor, then do a search on the web for hosting companies. You can find hosting plans between \$5 and \$15 per month that should suit the average church. The price depends on a mix of features, including the storage space you need for the web site and how much data 'traffic' it will experience when people use it. Our last month's traffic was about 3 GBytes, (which includes the audio streaming) and there are very reasonably priced plans which will allow you up to 100 GBytes of data traffic.

Domain name registration can often be done through the same company as the hosting and the cost ranges from \$10 to \$70 per year depending on how many years you pay for, and whether you buy '.com' or '.org.au,' etc.

You will also need a software program to create your website. I use Dreamweaver, but Microsoft Office Frontpage will do the job for a fairly simple web site, and is relatively easy to learn.

We have around 15 pages on our site including Home, About Us, Sunday, Activities, Contact, Rosters, Podcasts, Missions, Youth Group, Playgroup and Links.

Of course you'll also need Internet access, and if you're uploading big pictures or other large files, such as video or audio, you'll want a nice

fast connection with a relatively fast upload speed - usually associated with a 'broadband' connection. Shop around and ask people in the know. Some phone companies give a good deal if you bundle phone services and a broadband Internet connection in the one contract.

Not a whole lot of initial planning went into our website, at least no more than me personally sketching it out, putting something together on my computer as a demonstration, and running it past the elders.

It is a good idea though, if you can get at least a few heads together to discuss and decide what the purpose and aim for your particular website is to be, and how best to fulfil that (without too many unnecessary and time-consuming sidetracks).

Also, you'll need to decide the content for the META Tags, which are hidden in web pages for browsers and the search engines to use. For example ask around to see what words different people might type into a search engine when searching for a church. These words can then be embedded in your web pages, either in a META Tag or in the visible text of your web pages, particularly the first page people see.

In case you are wondering, I now do website design as a portion of my part-time business, but when I started it was purely a hobby. My background is in graphic design. No IT training at all.

Website design is a skill that God has given me (limited as it may be at present), and I enjoy using it to edify and inform our church members. □



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

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

and they are also 'live' links in the PDF version of this magazine which can now be purchased cheaply. Nine previous issues in PDF format are stored on the web site for anybody to read – **June 2008** is the most recent:-

[www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem/Mag/previous.html](http://www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem/Mag/previous.html)

The promised **National Christian Brethren web site** was launched at the end of September as advised in a letter circulated to all assemblies by the National Committee chairman Ross Bunyon. Its URL is:-

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

The web site accesses a data base of all participating Australian assemblies to provide a rapid method for visitors searching for one in any locality they choose. It links to Google Maps to show the street location, and in most cases street photos of the church are also available in Google.

The web site also contains a growing body of information about Christian Brethren para-assembly organisations such as camp sites, schools and Bible Colleges. Currently it seems NSW has the most information loaded but other States's data will be added progressively in coming months.

Another issue of the free **Christian**

**Video** magazine, mentioned in this column in August became available in September and can be downloaded from:-

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

You can sign up to receive it in future as a PDF attachment to an email.

We have mentioned **Internet Evangelism Day** several times before and news has come that it is planned again in 2009 on 26<sup>th</sup> April. More can be read about the plans, and about previous IE Days, at:-

<http://ied.gospelcom.net/planning.php>

Maybe this is the time to consider adding it to your church or ministry program?

There are more web evangelism ideas and resources available in the monthly **Web Evangelism Bulletin** (WEB) and the latest one on-line is August '08, which can be read at:-

<http://guide.gospelcom.net/resources/webull08aug.php>

From here you can also access previous issues of the WEB back to 2004 and you can subscribe to future ones via an RSS feed simply by adding this URL to your RSS reader:-

<http://guide.gospelcom.net/resources/bullfeed.xml>

In mid-September an email advert arrived here from **Jumpstart Ministries** in the USA which may well be something you can use:

[www.jumpstarthome.org/index.html](http://www.jumpstarthome.org/index.html)

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This web site states “**Jumpstart** is one of the most powerful international ministry resources available today. With over 45 years of ministerial experience, Jumpstart will assist your ministry in many ways. Whether you are a Pastor, Sunday School Teacher, Evangelist, or a Lay Person, Jumpstart is for you!”

For a nominal fee per month (which goes, the site claims, to “help support mission efforts around the world”) people receive weekly and monthly resources – such as sermon notes and Bible studies. The site is offering a 4-week free trial of the resources.

Meanwhile, the Hornsby-based pool of free down-loadable resources called **Max7** (a ministry coordinated by Logosdor Ltd) continues to expand into more languages.

Max7 provides free evangelism and discipleship materials to help children meet and walk with Jesus 7 days a week. A news update in August says that resources are now available in 12 languages. New lesson material for children has come in from Liberia and India.

It escaped my attention at the time, but on the 10<sup>th</sup> April this year, a new organisation called the **Centre for Public Christianity** (or CPX) was officially launched in Sydney. Its web site is at:

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

and states it “is an independent research and media organization seeking to promote the public understanding of the Christian faith in Australia,

and beyond, employing the best of scholarship via the best of media. The Centre has no denominational affiliation and seeks to represent historic Christianity as defined by the Nicene Creed.” It was established by Dr John Dickson and Dr Greg Clarke and has some other staff.

Currently the web site gives access to a number of interesting interviews on video and audio with leading Christian thinkers and with those who would try to refute them.

**The stated aims** of the Centre are that it:-

- \* seeks to be a benchmark for Christian thinking and communication in Australia and beyond;
- \* offers free vodcast/podcast comment, lectures and interviews, and other web-based resources;
- \* produces a range of popular and academic works exploring the relevance of the Christian faith;
- \* is a one-stop shop for media outlets in search of informed and independent Christian comment;
- \* runs events and short courses for the curious and sceptical alike;
- \* supports a network of Christian scholars and research projects across the disciplines;
- \* serves as a speakers bureau and training facility for Christian thinkers and communicators.

I believe it will prove beneficial to at least sample some of the material on the website if one preaches or teaches in a modern context.



# **N.S.W. ASSEMBLIES EVANGELISTIC MISSION**

ACN 001 037 690

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Editor - Colin Winrow  
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## **AIMS**

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

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

## *A tradition of Christian Care & Concern*

Our professional staff are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support you during this difficult time in your life. We will listen to your needs – and guide you through.

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

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

**Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, Cherrybrook NSW**

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

**Carinya House, Glenhaven NSW**

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

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