

# **October 2012**



# Combined Festival of Male Voice Praise - page 6

Also in this issue:

Praying for NSW Assemblies
News from Home Workers
Mutual Participation
Campus Crusade

(and more ...)



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

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

Please submit your assembly news, people profiles, letters, etc, for the December 2012 issue before:— 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012

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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Every second month, as I reach the point of compiling this little magazine, and as I craft some words for this page, I hope and pray the material provided for you, dear reader, will somehow make a difference in your life - be it in a small or large way. But – how can I expect this? Only by God's grace, can I even dream this!

Recently, I re-read an account which Robert J. Morgan (author, pastor, speaker) wrote, and I believe it helps each of us answer the personal question "Can I make a difference?"

"Edward Kimball walked back and forwards past the door then, heart pounding, he entered a store where one of his Sunday School pupils worked. Frustrated about his weeks of what seemed like futile Sunday School teaching Kimball earnestly asked his young pupil to give his life to Christ, then left frustrated – quite sure he had botched the job. The Sunday School pupil Dwight Moody, became a Christian that day and his ensuing life and work touched millions in America, the UK, and in both Catholic and Protestant Ireland. In England F.B.Meyer heard

him and was transformed by his message. F.B.Meyer then preached in America and the life of Chapman, a struggling young minister was changed by this challenge he heard ...."If you are not willing to give up everything for Christ, are you willing to be made willing?"

Chapman became a powerful evangelist and recruited Billy Sunday who became a spectacular American evangelist. A group of converts from his ministry invited Mordecai Ham to preach and a young high school student, Billy Graham, became a Christian!"

I do believe those who persevere with their God-given purpose will have the joy of being part of such a "chain" stretching from one person to another right through the generations. That shy young teacher who, feeling like a failure, was courageous enough to do what he felt was right, before God, began the chain that reached all the way down to Billy Graham – who in turn extended that chain right around the world, as millions of people found their place in God's eternal purpose.

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# 'Out and About' in NSW Assemblies

compiled by Colin Winrow

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

outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

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

webadmin@cb-nsw.org.au

Please note that the Stewards Foundation has moved its offices from Burwood to South Hurstville, and so most of their contact details have changed. The new postal address, phone, etc are shown in the Stewards' advert at the bottom of page 2 in this magazine.

This move also means that the mailing address for the NSW Home Workers Fund has also changed. It is now PO Box 230, South Hurstville, NSW 2221.

\* \* \*

Rightly, we are often urged to keep upholding all our NSW Home Workers in prayer, but especially please uphold Steve Walker and Philip Kinmond at this present time, because both are very unwell. Steve, an elder at Blacktown Christian Brethren Assembly, is undergoing post-operative treatment for cancer. Philip, a previous editor of this magazine, is in palliative care in a nursing home. Please pray too for their wives and close family members who, of course, are seriously impacted by their situations.

\* \* \*

On 13th September, Brad Scott sent out the latest "SRE Update" newsletter from ICCOREIS. This publication is usually of interest to most Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers, but Brad points out this particular issue is important for all SRE teachers in schools and probably for the leadership teams of the churches they represent.

He wrote "This has some very interesting information about the review that the Government is doing into SRE teaching in NSW and some of the expected outcomes that we will need to conform to in the near future."

The main reason is to read the article detailing the recommendations resulting from the government enquiry into Special Education in Ethics (SEE). There are 14 recommendations, 7 of which specifically affect SRE.

A report listing all the recommendations can be found in the "Latest News" page of the ICCOREIS website:

www.iccoreis.asn.au

The decision about which recommendations will be endorsed by the Government will be made by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

\* \* \*

Another article in the recent "SRE Update" relates to changes to Child >



Protection Regulations. A new Working with Children Check (WWCC) will be introduced in NSW from late 2012. Until then, the current check will continue.

The new check will operate online for both applications and employer verifications. The check is free for volunteers and costs \$80 for paid workers. A volunteer check cannot be used for paid work with children.

The new check replaces the old term "direct unsupervised contact with children" with "direct physical or face-to-face contact with children". Child-related services which require a check are listed on the website and include:

- education schools or other educational institutions and private coaching or tuition of children;
- religious services any religious organisation.

You can email your enquiries about the new WWCC to:

newcheck@kids.nsw.gov.au

\* \* \*

# **Meetings & Events**

(note: for **the latest details** please be sure to check at:-

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

# 2012:

22 Oct Coffee & Dessert Evening at

WPHCC; 7.30pm.

23 Oct Coffee & Dessert Evening at Bexley Gospel Hall;

7.30pm.

27 Oct CBCS Annual Thanksgiving Service; 2:00pm in the Community Room, Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, 3 Kitchener Road, Cherrybrook.

1 Nov **NSW Coordinating Conference**; 7.30pm; Emmaus Bible College, Epping.

10 Nov **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.

10 Nov Christmas Shopping Morning and Outreach Bookshop stall at Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village; 9am to noon. Enquiries: phone 9872 4603.

14 Nov **Pray for Israel** at Epping Gospel Chapel; 10am to noon.

17 Nov **Camp Kedron** celebrates 50 years. Details TBA.

24 Nov **Pathfinders,** for seniors; at WPHCC; starts 7pm, phone 9680 7646.

# 2013:

22, 23 Mar NSW Men's Conference.14, 15 June Strength In Unity (SIU) Conference.

PLEASE submit all items for the next issue of this magazine

BEFORE 16th Nov 2012

# Combined Festival of Male Voice Praise

by David Gordon, Secretary, SFMVC

"... I thoroughly enjoyed the concert yesterday and so did my [nine] friends—there was not one negative comment, and the choir gave one couple ... a great deal of joy and comfort; [he] ... does not get out very often, [and] was really touched by the whole performance. It is so heart-warming to hear a male-voice choir and to sing Christian praise songs is very special."

"The singing was great, the soloists were marvellous. Praise God, it was a very moving experience ..."

These are just two of the e-mailed comments I received regarding the **Festival of Male Voice Praise** held on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, in the Futter Hall at The King's School in North Parramatta.

This event celebrated the Sydney Festival Male Voice Choir's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Many verbal comments after the concert from members of the audience (about 750 people) supported the views expressed above. The Choir's motto is **Proclaiming Jesus – no other Name**, and the whole programme was a proclamation of our Lord and Saviour.

We do thank God for everyone who participated: the men from the inter-



The audience enjoyed singing two great hymns with the choir.

state and overseas choirs (Brisbane: 15; Melbourne: 13; Hobart: 1; Tauranga, NZ: 2); pianists Margaret Branson, Margaret Greenwood and Steve Mayall; flautist Brenda Drake and violinist Sam Cai; speaker Simon Manchester; and MC Peter Adamson. There were many other people who gave willingly of their time to look after sound and



Simon Manchester gave a clear Gospel message based on Romans 11:33-36

lighting, ushering and parking. As a choir member wrote: " ... our prayers for the success of the event have been wonderfully granted. There's no doubt in my mind that many have been much blessed. This Festival was probably the best I have been in." We are also grateful to Davidson James and Lindsay Brown who put time and effort into assisting the Choir's Festival sub-committee and in taking responsibility for various aspects.

An event such as this has a long incubation period. The date was agreed with the choirs in Brisbane, Melbourne and New Zealand in October 2010. The venue was finalised in late 2011. Choir >

items were selected by December and the music sent so that the choirs could learn all the pieces over 9 months, by incorporation into their programmes during the year. Several pieces were by Valerie Collison in the UK; it was a special treat that she made available a new composition specifically for this occasion. In May the Sydney choir recorded all the songs, and copies of the CD were sent to all other choirs so that they could know how the pieces were to be sung. Even so, there was no guarantee that the combined singing would be right.

The combined choirs met on the Friday afternoon for a practice, and from the first item to the last it was as if the choir had been singing these pieces for months! A member of the audience (who conducts a ladies' choir) asked one of the choir men how many months the choir had practised together — she could not believe that the combined choir had come together less than 24 hours before; nor could she believe that was the first time that the conductors (Gordon Cooke and Bob Nance from Sydney; Robyn Geddes and Richard Jeffery from Brisbane, Ken Harris from Melbourne and Dennis Pitcher from Hobart) had conducted the combined choir.

Like Nehemiah, we could see that "the gracious hand of our God was on us". We leave it to our Father in heaven to use what was said and sung to bring conviction or encouragement to those who heard – as their personal circumstances require.



Outside Futter Hall, a superb venue, after the concert.

The choir men and their families enjoyed a meal together on Saturday evening at Epping Gospel Chapel, and it was a time of great fellowship. Particular thanks must go to the folk from Epping Gospel Chapel for their time and energy in serving the food and clearing up afterwards.

Sunday morning saw most of the men (some had returned interstate) present a programme at Carlingford Baptist Church – and again the Lord blessed the occasion.

Should any male readers consider that God is calling them to participate in this wonderful way of proclaiming the "great salvation" that he offers through the work of Christ Jesus, please contact David Gordon on 0400 426 373. The Choir generally has 12 to 15 engagements each year (between February and November), and meets for a 2-hour practice each Friday at 7:30pm at Burwood Gospel Chapel, 29 George St East, Burwood.

We value prayers for our work — so any who would like to pray particularly for the Choir can contact David to receive a prayer letter that shows future engagements.

# Prayer & Praise Requests from NSW Assemblies

compiled by Brad Scott for September & October

#### **General Points:**

- ☆ Let's remember to pray for our neighbours and pre-christian friends.
- ☆ Pray that we as individuals will listen to and follow the Holy Spirit's direction in our lives.
- ☆ Pray that the leadership in our churches will have wisdom as they lead the church.
- ☆ Praise God for the wonderful teaching and encouragement received at the recent Women's Conference.
- ☆ Pray for George Fattal's boys who suffer with cystic fibrosis. Samuel is in hospital at present.

## **Mascot Christian Fellowship:**

- ☆ Praise God for:
- His kindness in calling us together from disparate backgrounds to be his chosen people, to share in the grace of the Lord Jesus and be His ambassadors in the world.
- Our recent move from Mascot/ Eastlakes to Banksmeadow/Botany has gone relatively smoothly. We are enjoying a very positive relationship with the school at the moment and the church is energised for our witness to the area.
- For the families who have joined us since our move. Thank God for the various gifts He has given them and the way they are giving of their time and energy and becoming vital members of the church.

 Our men's outreach night held on 25<sup>th</sup> Aug and the 13 guests who heard the gospel proclaimed clearly and enjoyed pizza making and eating together with the blokes from church.

#### ☆ Pray for:

- A laser sharp focus on our mission to join with God in bringing the light of the gospel to bear in the lives of those who are in darkness in Banksmeadow and our other networks & relationships.
- Unity in the Spirit so that we might share one mind and voice in proclaiming the good news and that we will bear with one another in grace & forgiveness.
- A continued strong and developing relationship with the school.
- The Holy Spirit to be poured out in our area so that people might turn in repentance and faith to the Lord Jesus.
- That we'll be willing to engage in discipling each other around the scriptures so that we might grow into maturity.
- Growth in our youth ministries both outward, so that more come along and, upward, so that they become more fully devoted disciples of Christ.
- Pray that connections will be made with the parents of children taught in scripture and that those children might come to our Kids Club on Friday nights.



## **Lismore Gospel Hall:**

- ☆ Praise God for the Sunday School work that continues to influence young lives for Christ.
- ☆ Pray for the Conference of Ministry on the 6<sup>th</sup> October that people in the Community may come to hear the Good News.
- ☆ Pray for Elivia (a 6 year old grandchild) who is having open heart surgery next week.
- ☆ Pray for the local community that the church may see people coming to know the Lord.

## **Moree Community Church:**

#### Praise God for:

- ☆ The team from Allawah who have run a Holiday Bible Club this week for the Aboriginal kids.
- ☆ The acceptance that the church is getting from the town as they do ministry

## Pray for:

☆ Funds for a new building – as the Community Centre they use was burnt to the ground recently.

# Building began 50 years ago at Camp Kedron

Information and photos from Greg Clark

As mentioned in the last issue of *Assemblies Outreach* magazine, Camp Kedron is planning to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year – 50 years after construction started. The main celebration will be on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

The first bricks for the camp site were laid in August 1962, although there were negotiations before that to procure the land, etc.

Greg Clark, the current on-site manager of Camp Kedron, has kindly provided copies of some Black & White photos (very modern, don't you think!) for us to catch a glimpse of those early days of laying foundations and road building, (see overleaf – page 10).

There is also a copy of an original letter (dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 1970) circulated from Mr Alex Key re Camp

Kedron's ministry. The letter began "For the past fourteen years it has been my privilege to be Chairman of United Christian Youth, formed when representatives of Northern Suburbs assemblies met because of concern for youth of the day. This exercise on their behalf has continued and has been intensified since then. ... We see Camp Kedron as a centre from where the truth of God can radiate ..."

As you view these pictures can you spot anyone you know? Or, were you actually there – on Emmaus Road (Ingleside) helping, as it was built? If so, perhaps you would like to drop a line to Greg or to this magazine's editor, so we can hear and share your story of involvement with this great facility and its ministry for the Lord. >10

# Building began 50 years ago at Camp Kedron (cont'd from p 9)





*★* Concrete pour for the first Water Tank under the first Kitchen and Dining Room.











The original Committee, meeting in the first Conference area.

by Alex Worley and Bradley Scott

Mutual Participation became the catchphrase at the last Coordinating Conference held in NSW. Chairman Alex Worley challenged the NSW churches to see beyond their own churches and to mutually participate with other churches and in doing so, increase the spread of the gospel. Alex spoke from Philemon chapter 6 where Paul uses the word "fellowship". Fellowship is not about warm and fuzzy feelings, but about relationship and mutual participation in serving each other for the sake of the gospel.

We have seen mutual participation between para-church groups and churches work out in the form of partnerships where these groups come together to serve our Lord in their communities. We would appreciate your prayer support for the following acts of partnering and serving one another.

Lutanda partners with local churches. Lutanda's strength is in running children's camps and this great ministry and has seen many young people reached for Christ over many years. The local church has benefited from sending their youth leaders to serve in these camps. This is a great form of partnership. Recently, Allawah Community Church and Kings Park Community Church, who provide a significant portion of the leadership for the July Junior Camp, have met with Lutanda to strategize for the planned 2013 Children's Camp. As a result they will be trialling an extended partnership that if successful

could be used by other churches in partnership with Lutanda. The partnership involves Lutanda and the local church creating a co-operative and a locally targeted advertising campaign to draw in new families around the involved churches. Our prayer is that this partnership will bring new contacts into the church and allow the church to create new opportunities to share the gospel with these families.

# **Emmaus partners with Churches.**

Emmaus Bible College is well known for its core task, of training young men and women for ministry in our churches. In the past five years Emmaus has undergone some significant changes evolving into a ministry that can provide relevant training to meet the needs of today's young people. They now offer Bachelor and Master Degree courses that are tailored to suit the needs of our churches.

Local churches are also benefiting from Emmaus as it partners with CCCAust(NSW) to prepare our Child Protection Course and our SRE Accreditation Course. Both are available on-line to allow all churches in NSW to conform to the NSW legal requirements for SRE (Scripture) teaching. A marriage counselling course is under development as Emmaus is helping us train Marriage Celebrant trainers who will be able to offer Cert IV Marriage Celebrancy certificates in 2013.

#### Stewards Foundation partners with Churches.

In the last 12 months Stewards Foundation have been instrumental in supporting the development of 4 new church buildings in NSW. They have provided funds and advice to churches as they work through the development red tape. Stewards also played a key role in a new Church Plant in Balmain by providing head lease arrangements and financial stability to the owner.

Additionally, a fund has been established for Moree Community Church to allow churches to mutually

partner with Moree as they endeavour to buy a property to minister from. (See below for more on this subject.)

In the book of Ezra we read of God's people rebuilding the Temple.

Opposition came against them and they sought the help of the King of Persia to accomplish their task. There were skilled men and women on the ground who required resources to complete the work. The completion of the work allowed the local community to minister and worship God. In this instance God, through the King of Persia provided all the resources required to complete the work.

In NSW we have established a programme called Project Ezra where we encourage mutual participation by a church (with a specific need) and willing professionals to help develop and implement a plan and a group of Christian men and women who are willing to give to see the work completed for the good of the church.

An immediate example is Moree Community Church – a small church in north western NSW - which has a significant ministry in the local Aboriginal community. Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ at this church put all their available resources into the ministry – providing meals, programmes and care for people in the Aboriginal community. The ministry was mainly run out of the Council Community

Centre, but this building was destroyed by fire a couple of months ago. The church is thus homeless at the moment and the ministry is obviously hampered by this.

"Project Ezra - Moree" has been created and is aimed at helping the Moree church get back on their feet, in their own property. We have been greatly encouraged by some professionals who already have volunteered to give of their time and resources to help rebuild this ministry. We are also looking for people and churches who find great enjoyment in giving to the Lord's work and who may like to be Mutual Partners in the process of rebuilding this ministry in Moree.

Anyone with a heart to give to this project should please contact Bradley Scott for more information, or direct specified funds to Stewards >

Moree Community

Church is homeless

at the moment 9

Foundation account, as follows:-

Stewards Foundation

BSB: 082 057

Account No: 036865532 Reference: PEMoree

CCCAust is also looking for churches and Christian men and women who would be prepared to look at **other projects** in the future to consider if they may mutually partner with us in building the Kingdom.

We recognise that God places a passion in those He endows with the gift of giving and would like the opportunity to allow these givers to participate in projects that reflect these passions.

We are also looking for Christian businesses or professionals who may be willing to provide services to help complete such projects.

If you would like to partner with us please contact Bradley Scott on mobile phone 0400 260 077 or email him at

#### brad@cccaustnsw.com

Where possible, Brad will meet with those willing to be involved and will outline the proposals and how these projects benefit the Kingdom. He will then give feedback on how the projects are progressing. All funds for these projects will be channelled through Stewards Foundation, one of our Mutual Partners for Project Ezra.

# **NSW Homeworkers Ministry Support Fund**

Your Treasurers report that we have distributed your gifts as follows:-

	2012	2011
January to June	\$52,406	\$53,507
July: from Assemblies	3,225	2,820
from NSWAEM	2,700	2,700
from other sources	10,546	8,867
	16,471	\$14,387
August: from Assemblies	2,705	2,370
from NSWAEM	0	1,000
from other sources	49	24
	\$2,754	\$3,394
Totals	\$71,631	\$71,288

The funds (in 2012), except for special designated gifts, were divided between 19 workers and their families for July and August.

Please make cheques payable to the NSW Home Workers Fund and mail to PO Box 230, SOUTH HURSTVILLE, NSW 2221

# News from some NSW

# **Home Workers**



# George & Rita Galieh September

We are looking forward to our November | December Thailand Tour with much enthusiasm. This year we're praying we'll be able to fulfil schedules set aside last year because of the floods. Our plan is to hand out thousands of Thai Gospels. Somchai, our interpreter, has most of the dates filled in ... he just has to let us know so that Rita can take enough large sheets of paper!

This year began with us taking several church services in January. In February we travelled to Tasmania where we ministered to the Golden Ambassadors at Camp Clayton, a blessed and challenging time.

In the months following we have taken several outreach meetings in Sydney churches, deputations for Communication Radio, and have been involved with Rev. Fred Nile at NSW Parliament House. And recently a Youth Group at Campbelltown Baptist and an outreach at Wentworthville Baptist for Seniors. During this time we have also scripted and recorded several radio programs with more to be recorded in mid-October. In the first weekend of October we will minister in weekend services at Dubbo and the following week take part in a Writers Conference in the QLD Sunshine Coast.

Rita's inspirational Blog has had over 10,600 hits from all over the world, including Muslim countries. In it she discusses many aspects of Christian marriage, personal stories etc. Visit:-

inspirationalromance.blogspot.com

We ask for prayer for health and that we will remain faithful to His calling as we continue to serve the Lord wherever He opens doors.

# Allan & Kerry Driver September

- Praise the Lord for His guidance, provision and help.
- Praise the Lord for the encouragement of His people in the assembly at St. Clair/Erskine Park.
- We thank the Lord for His enabling for Allan to continue his MTh studies.
- We thank the Lord for the good health we have enjoyed and His continuing provision.
- Remember in prayer our daughter Stacey and her husband Shane and their family. They have had a very testing year and this will continue for the immediate future as Shane has some health issues effecting his work and future with the police.
- Pray for Jacqueline as she waits on the Lord's guidance for her future as she completes her Diploma of Theology at SMBC.

# Faye Loudon September

# Praise for:

1. For the privilege of representing Brethren Churches on ICCOREIS Board for the past nine years and the good interaction and fellowship with fellow board members.





- 2. School teachers showing a real interest in lessons given to children how encouraging to have teachers interrupt my lesson to ask a question.
- 3. Consistent numbers, though small, attending "School's Out" every Monday evening, where regular Bible teaching is given.

# Pray for:

- 1. For over 170 children who I have the privilege to share God's Word with every week in three local Primary Schools.
- 2. For senior classes who are using their Bibles and keen to discover verses for themselves.
- 3. For my involvement in Women's Mission Conventions, involving committee meetings, planning etc so missionaries on furlough can share their experiences and challenges with women.

# Stephen & Katrina Torrance September

- Praise for Camp David (for adults with addition needs) at Yarramundi. It was a small camp but they all listened intently to God's word as I shared how Jesus helps us live life to the full. Continue to pray for helpers or consider being a helper, during November as they will have the biggest camp to date.
- Pray for me as I change roles throughout this year. I'm winding up my involvement in Barnier Public School and focusing on outreach opportunities in our community through the warehouse we have purchased.
  - I've also started work as a

youth worker in Kellyville Public School through the chaplaincy grant. Pray for wisdom as I form new relationships in the mentoring groups.

- Praise for health & family. They are all growing up fast, being involved in Church activities.
- Pray for wisdom in time management.

# John Angus and CMS Inc. Ministry September

- 1. Following a brochure mailed out seeking financial help to buy new cameras a wonderful gift came in and we have been enabled to buy 3 new cameras for our Arabic TV broadcasts. The gift came from one of our TV viewers who was previously unknown to us.
- 2. We are praying for a new door to open for our Arabic broadcasts.
- 3. Good contacts have been made in recent weeks from our English broadcasts on TVS.
- 4. I continue to be encouraged by visiting three Nursing Homes. I have conducted two memorial services in recent months with up to 60 people present.
- 5. My son Peter and I attend the Nowra Assembly and are greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for your prayers.

# Edward & Agnis Royal September

#### Praise:

- The Lord blessed us in our tour to the Holy Land, and brought us back safe.
  - The new youth church service of >16





Disciples commenced, fully led by the youth.

• The Lord provided for materials to start some renovations to shape up our place of worship.

#### Prayer needed:

- That the Lord will help the new young disciples in the face of the persecution that awaits them from their families and the traditional community.
- For provision & protection of the Lord for the youth who are still under persecution. Some are kicked out of home because of their faith; others are still under verbal abuse.
- We are going to have our Christmas outreach, as we do every year by the grace of the Lord. We heard a lot of testimonies of miracles the Lord worked. We normally have around 500 in attendance outside the church at open-air services.
- We are going to have our first church camp at the New Year for three days. Pray for the miracle of salvation for the non-Christian attendants.
- Pray for Agnis as she had her second back operation, and it is still a struggle.

# Doug & Jenny McNaught 4th October 2012

Dear brothers and sisters,

Thank you for your support, prayers and fellowship over the last month. We have been quite busy with two semi-intensive courses at SOCS on a Friday and Saturday followed by two Sundays where we visited different assemblies in the morning and the evening.

We have both had some health challenges over the last few months as well. Jenny had a bad dose of the 'flu that she couldn't shake for a couple of months.

We visited Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, Epping and Avoca assemblies twice during October and Winmalee and Cartwright once each. I wasn't able to do my monthly devotion at Yallambi Court because I lost my voice completely during that week. By the grace of God I was able to speak during the weekends and while I was at SOCS.

We are looking forward to another fairly busy month, if it is the Lord's will, with visits to Elouera Gardens, Bankstown and Cartwright.

At the end of the month we have been invited to Wallaroo Bible Fellowship for their Twelfth Anniversary celebrations over the weekend. We plan to go down on the Friday morning and come back again on the Monday. They have arranged an interesting program over the weekend and we are looking forward to going away for the few days.

Much love, Doug & Jenny.

# Ken & Daphne Harding 9th October 2012

We do appreciate the prayers of the Lord's people as we seek to serve Him and be a blessing to both individuals and assemblies locally and further afield. During the first part of this year we were somewhat restricted in our movements as Daphne had open-heart surgery in late January. She has, however made





a good recovery and is back into all the usual activities in Riverstone, KYB and GLO. Thank you for your prayers and loving concern.

My preaching ministry gathered pace during the middle of the year and so far I've preached or taught the Word about thirty times with another ten scheduled before Christmas. We enjoy being with the smaller meetings as well as the larger ones, and wherever people are hungry for the Word it is a privilege to serve them.

A recent highlight for us was a visit to the Dubbo assembly in late September where I took up the subject of Colossians - Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday morning and afternoon. The Saturday night was a special Gospel outreach and they had done lots of visitation with brochures. Several non-Christians were present and we had a warm reception with good conversations with some who need the Lord. The other three sessions were Bible Teaching and I felt that we were experiencing 1 Thessalonians 2:13 in reality, "the Word of God which is at work in you who believe." One family came 157 km while another came 100 km; how precious to be with those who love the Lord and hunger for Him. "Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee Lord, my spirit longs for Thee, O living Word."

Our Grandchildren came home from the US in July and celebrated my 70th birthday along with some of my family from Perth. It was a special occasion to recall the Lord's faithfulness and to praise Him for His grace. Friends sang "The longer I serve Him the sweeter He Grows" and our daughters sang my old favourite "I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold."

"The future is as bright as the promises of God" but known only to Him. Last week the surgeons told me that I need three-point surgery in my lower back because of nerve root impingement and a disc displacement. In addition I have a severe problem in my upper back affecting my shoulder. At this stage I'm hoping to avoid surgery so I'm on a range of strong painkillers. We would appreciate prayer for both wisdom and perseverance.

"The trial of your faith..." so far I've not had to cancel a meeting and we praise God for daily strength, grace, patience and the joy of being able to serve the very best Master, and yes, I praise Him for a wonderfully supportive wife whom He has given me and preserved for me.

With our love and deep appreciation for your care and prayers.

Ken and Daphne Harding

If the people do not like the doctrine of grace, give them all the more of it.

- C.H. Spurgeon





by Rob Flinders, SCFS

What follows is a copy of an e-mail I received early in June from Roger, who is a 53-year-old Filipino brother in Christ. He was the subject of an article in 'Outreach' magazine last year when he was working as Chief Engineer on board a ship called, **Cape Unity**.

Roger is now serving as the Chief Engineer onboard a large bulk carrier called **Ocean Cobalt**. As I wrote this, Ocean Cobalt was making a voyage across the Atlantic from Gijon in Spain to Itaguai (near Rio De Janiero) in Brazil.

Yet again Roger has been faithful in establishing a regular evangelistic Bible Study for his crew mates. Roger tells me that under his leadership, approximately 15 of the 21 crew members onboard meet together each Sunday, to study the Scriptures with the help of Bible Courses I have provided.

Roger has already taken the men through a first course – 'Key Biblical Teachings' and now they have begun to study a second course – 'What The Bible Teaches.'

June 2012

"Dear Bro Rob,

Greetings come to you from the church here onboard my Ocean Cobalt now at Gijon in Spain.

We arrived at Gijon Anchorage last 27<sup>th</sup> May and came alongside yesterday afternoon 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Once alongside, we were quite busy receiving our provisions, stores and bunker supplies. I was also amazed



Roger - Chief Engineer

to see, by God's grace, that my previous vessel mv Cape Unity was also here at the berth. I visited our brothers in Christ there who were still onboard and we chatted for a little time. The Master gave me his SIM card for Internet that I'm using now. Then Cape Unity departed yesterday evening, bound to Hamburg for their full discharging.

Brother Rob, I'm so grateful to receive your 3 packages that were waiting for me here at Gijon. I received them safely and intact. Thank you very much for all the resources and especially for your encouraging words and support. I've started to browse the book titled, 'Bible Answers' that is very interesting.

Regards from Jonathan and Roberto. They were very happy when I let them read your letter and then handed over your gift to them of "The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus" Bible Course." I'm going to share the DVD with them to give them some extra explanations and some help for visual aids.

I have made an attachment of the "Katotohanang Dapat Mong Paniwalaan" (Key Biblical Teachings) Test Results on two sheets. I have also attached personal information about each Seafarer. Everybody has enjoyed answering the Test Questions and now they are very excited to have their Certificates come from the Seamen's Christian Friend Society, as I've told them.

I am also inspired to see them every Sunday in our fellowship. They are so hungry to hear the good news of our Saviour Lord Jesus and His promises of Everlasting Life. In the meantime, we have now started to study "Mga Itinuturo ng Biblia" (What The Bible Teaches.)

Our next voyage is already fixed to Itaguai, Brazil for loading iron ore and, God willing, our ETA in Itaguai is 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Our Agent's address is as follows:-

Oceanus Agencia Maritima S/A Rua Sao Bento, 8 - 3rd Floor Rio De Janiero – Downtown Zip Code 20090010 BRAZIL

Again, thank you very much for your prayers and blessings you've provide to us, you're always in our prayers too. Jo and my son Josh extend their greetings to you. Please extend my best regards to Sis Greta & Aaron. May the rich blessings of our dear Lord be with us always.

God bless. Bro Roger."

Similar support to that which is being provided to Roger is also being given to the following Christian broth-





ers, each of whom, with one indicated exception, is a Filipino: –

Captain Manuel Abiera onboard mv Kumano Maru (bulk carrier), Second Mate Joy Alegarbes onboard mv Legato (bulk carrier), Deck Fitter Edgar Aguilo onboard mv Pos Topas (bulk carrier), Chief Engineer Biraj Basumata (from Bengal in India) onboard mv Oasis River (oil tanker), Fourth Engineer Robin Villarta onboard mv Equator (general cargo), Messman Muspher Sillano onboard mv Chengtu (general cargo ship), Chief Cook Dionisio Merjudio onboard CMA CGM Lyra (container ship) and Bosun Jing Merida onboard CMA CGM Musca (container ship) and Captain Noel Dagaman onboard mv Mell Sembawang (container ship).

Each of these brothers is leading a group Bible Study onboard his ship.

Some other brothers are currently at home on vacation.

With two or three exceptions, each of these men is onboard a ship that does not currently visit Australian ports. As a consequence the support SCFS provides involves mailing packages and parcels of resources to them at various ports around the world and maintaining contact via email, telephone and text messaging.

The apostle Paul told the believers in Colossae that '... all over the world the gospel is bearing fruit and growing' cf. Colossians 1:6. By the grace of God, one of the places the gospel is bearing fruit and growing out on the high seas is onboard ships such as those mentioned above!

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for the ministry amongst seafarers.

# Smiling!

Smiling is infectious! You catch it like the flu!

When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.

When he smiled I realized I'd passed it onto him.

I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth.

A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.

Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

Proverbs 15:13 – A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance.

Proverbs 17:22 – A cheerful heart is good medicine but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.

# Campus Crusade for Christ Australia (CCCA)

# and Student Life

by Geoff Folland

The following text is the bulk of Geoff's two latest letters to supporters — giving a lot of insight into the breadth of his ministry now, and the things for which we can pray to support him, Liz, and their colleagues.

# 6th September

Hi,

The third term is when our students really look to capitalise on all that God's doing in and around them. I was at a conference a few weeks ago where Matthew Barnett talked about the role of a leader being "dying to the dream of your own success and daring to make the dreams of others become reality." That really hit me because I have often talked about the vision of Campus Crusade or of Student Life (as a subset of God's vision for the world) and tried to win students to it. Over the past few weeks, however, my eyes have been opened to see how many students have a vision for making disciples who make disciples who make disciples and seen how our role is to help their dreams to become reality.

At Newcastle University, a first year missionary, Ben, shared the following story, "At the start of this semester I met a guy through walk-up evangelism. Benjamin has grown up in a Christian family, went to a Christian High School and had been involved in his family's church. However, for a few years now he has been a convinced atheist. When I spoke with him he mentioned that he would be very interested in joining a group that discusses spirituality and philosophy.

"About a week later a Christian student, Alex, mentioned to me that he knew Benjamin and would like to help me lead a discussion group. This was a real encouragement to me as Alex has been hanging around on the fringes of Student Life for more than a couple of years now, but has been reluctant to get too involved.

"Alex and I have been leading the discussion group for about a month now and it has been fantastic! Benjamin has been there each week and another student, Laurence, has also been a regular. The discussion has been very robust and I am learning a great deal from these two atheist philosophy students. Our discussions often come back to God's goodness, creation and the relationship between the Old and New Testaments to name a few things.

"One of the things I have learned through this group, is that atheists are not scary people. Benjamin and Laurence are two great guys, seeking after truth who have many incorrect preconceived ideas about Christian beliefs and the nature of God.

"Please pray for them both and also for Alex and I as we share the gospel with them through these discussions."

At Macquarie University, Steve is a student leader who has lightened his study load this year in order to be more available to make disciples on campus. But his passion isn't just his fellow Macquarie students. Steve is leading the charge in pioneering on a>22

UWS campus nearby. Catching the bus in each Wednesday, he's meeting new students, organising to share the gospel with students on campus and forming community around a soccer game.

## 19th September

It tells you something of the sort of week I had last week when it's taken me until Wednesday to write about it! For six days I joined 60 senior missionaries for the Campus Crusade for Christ Australia (CCCA) Leadership Summit. (It also included a few New Zealand and American staff). With sessions running most days from 8:30am to 9pm and meetings with different individuals – all, but two, over meals during the week, I came home pretty exhausted.

Let me share with you a few stories about different people I met with in order to give you a bigger picture of what God is up to.

**Allan Gibson:** Allan was my boss, the national campus ministry leader for Student Life in Australia, until about 5 years ago when he relocated to Orlando, Florida, to serve on the global campus team. Using his experience in Australia, he coached campus ministries in Southern Africa, Eastern Europe, parts of Asia and across Oceania. He and his wife. Mandy, are in the process of transitioning to our Melbourne HQ to serve as Deputy National Director for CCCA. We had a great talk over dinner one night and I'm really looking forward to working with Allan again, and benefiting from his global experience.

**Bob Prouty:** Only a couple of months ago I assumed responsibility for over-

sight of CCCA's Here's Life (HL) ministry. Bob's the ministry leader and has been serving in Australia since before I joined the ministry. In recent years his focus has been partnering with others to build missional communities around the world through the use of technology. That may not sound very impressive, so let me put it the way he does. HL is partnering with CCC national ministries and others in places like Indonesia to plant 600,000 missional communities (we might call them reproducing house churches) in at least 20 different languages. You can volunteer with Bob by visiting one of his websites:

# http://missionaryfromhome.com/

Darren Hamilton: Darren leads CRAM (Creative Arts Ministry) for CCCA, which I also assumed oversight for recently. Over the past 10 years, CRAM has developed from a single band that toured high schools to include a drama team and mentoring of creative artists serving in the professional music scene. If you know highly gifted artists who would be interested in connecting with CRAM, please direct them to the website:

# http://www.cram.org.au/

Holly Sheldon: Holly is on the global leadership team for CCC in Orlando, after having spent 25 years serving in East Asia. I talked with her about plans for using technology to help make disciples. Her global perspective was enlightening.

During one of our conference sessions, she shared about the five things people (our missionaries, our gradu->

ates, our students, even our ministry partners) need in order to make an impact in their context. Bob translated them into some helpful diagnostic questions you may want to think through yourself:

- 1. What is your Kingdom Vision (at the end of this season of ministry what do you dream could be true of your walk with God and your spiritual influence)?
- 2. Who will you work with (who could you partner with to reach your vision and when will you share this vision with them)?
- 3. What ongoing training will you need (what skills, insight, experience do you need to grow in, or acquire, to reach your vision)?
- 4. What is your plan?
  - \* What are you going to do to build a strong relationship with God?
  - \* How are you going to take care of yourself (exercise, diet, mental growth)?
  - \* Who do you need to build strong relationships with and how will you do this?
  - \* How will you build a prayer base for this vision?
  - \* What is your strategy for sharing the Gospel?
  - \* How will you build believers in the faith?
  - \* How will you send believers into the harvest?
- 5. Who can coach me (who can I ask for help as I strive with God-given energy to reach my vision)?

It was also great to meet with Cam,

who is coaching a student launching Student Life (SL) at UWS Parramatta (more on that next update); Matt who is a senior missionary in New Zealand; and some summer project leaders.

Conferences like this are a very efficient way to cover a whole range of issues with different people – even if it means meeting until 10:30 at night! We spent a day doing training on budgeting and financial management with Helena, CCCI's internal auditor, who is from our ministry in Finland. CCCA is committed to having leaders who are good stewards. A "fun fact" that I learned is that CCCA's annual receipts from donations are about \$5.4 million (over 90% is used to cover the costs of our missionaries), and that is only a small part of CCCI's global donations (\$215m outside of the US and \$500m in the US). We are a large organisation that needs leaders capable of wise and efficient financial management!

In case you think I had no time for Student Life, I also had great catch up and debrief meals with the team leaders in NSW – Gareth, Andrew, Nick & Stacey, and Jody.

After returning from Leadership Summit on Friday afternoon I left on Friday evening for an overnight Men's Retreat with guys from church. I've also been visiting my dad, who's been in hospital following a bowel operation last Tuesday.

Thanks so much for your prayers and partnership. God's sustaining grace is so evident. We couldn't do it without Him or without you.

In His grace, Geoff.

by Don Stormer

This is the third in a series of six Pen Portraits found in John's Gospel, which we started in the June 2012 issue of this magazine.

• The Lord found

him and said

"follow me" 9

Philip became a disciple the day after John and Andrew met the Lord Jesus. The Lord found him and said "Follow Me" (John 1:43). What kind of person was he?

In some ways he was like Andrew. Andrew and Philip came from the same town and tended to work with individuals or small groups. But in many ways he was just like us. Sometimes he seems unsure of himself. Sometimes he struggled to understand what the Lord was saying.

After becoming a disciple, Philip found Nathanael and said he had "found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote

-Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1:45). Nathanael was sceptical. "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" he asked. Nazareth was an insignificant village. Archaeological research suggests that fewer than 500 people lived there about 100 AD. Philip does not appear to have had a ready answer to Nathanael's objection. He simply said, "Come and see".

Too often we think that we must respond to objections about the Lord Jesus by detailed logical reasoning. Philip teaches us that it may be more effective to invite people to come and see. A testimony of personal faith in Jesus can be more beneficial than involved reasoning that invites further argument. A personal testimony can silence doubts.

Like so many of us, Philip had his moments of doubt. Yet in reading about him, we note that at no stage was judgement passed on him. This means we should think about what he asked, said and did and, in turn, think what we would have done.

Philip certainly had times of doubt. When the Lord looked up and saw 5000 people coming toward Him, Jesus

asked Philip "Where shall we buy bread for all these people?" (John 6:5). Philip was concerned about the cost. The cost of financing such an emergency was

the equivalent of eight months wages for a single person. Who had that kind of financial resources in the wilderness? The Lord knew, of course, what He intended to do. He was simply testing to see if Philip could trust Him to meet their need. But before we pass judgement on Philip's answer, we need to check what our own response would be in similar circumstances. We may say "This is impossible" or possibly "Lord, You know Your plans and what You intend to do." The question is how strong our faith really is.

Philip is an enigma. He was a man with doubts and yet he attracted people who had their own questions. >

The Greeks who came to the Passover Feast came to him with their request to meet Jesus. But Philip didn't take them directly to the Lord. He talked to Andrew and together they went to tell Jesus (John 12:20-22). Here is a man who at one stage could talk directly to Nathanael but at another needed the moral support of a fellow disciple. Once more we see ourselves in Philip. At times we act decisively; at others, we need the support of fellow Christians. It is good to have those on whose support we can lean when we sense our own weakness.

In the upper room the Lord talked about events soon to happen and of His going to the Father's house. Different questions arose. Thomas didn't know where the Lord was going and therefore believed that he couldn't know the way. The Lord replied that He was the way through whom they came to the Father, that they knew the

Father and had seen Him. This led Philip to say "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us" (John 14:8). He still had to learn that those who have seen the Son have also seen the Father.

# What do we learn from Philip?

- We do not have to be good debaters to witness for the Lord Jesus. Sometimes we only need to say "come and see". The Lord takes care of the rest.
- There is nothing wrong with looking for sympathetic help from a fellow believer when we are uncertain of the best way to serve the Lord. There are always people like Andrew who will encourage us.
- We need to be honest about the things we do not understand. The Lord may gently chide us if we should know the truth, but He will still ensure that we receive answers to the questions that perplex us.

# WOMEN'S MISSIONARY PRAYER GROUP 2012

Burwood Gospel Chapel (rear hall) 10.30 am – 1 pm, on the second Friday of each month:–

9 November

14 December

All women are invited to be part of this important ministry.

Tea and coffee provided, BYO lunch.

Enquiries:

Lillian Fleming 9858 5436 or Freda McKeown 9661 6001

# On the other Side

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing ... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

**Author Unknown** 

# 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 NSW

# Our Purpose is as follows...

- . To stir 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.
- . 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.

For further information please visit the website at www.awaketoisrael.org or email: mail@awaketoisrael.org - Telephone enquiries: 02 9869 7164 Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come and together search the Scriptures.

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



# More reports from the Parklea Markets ministry

extracted from information provided by John Kennedy

# Saturday 8th July

Present: Nelson Padilla, Paul Walker and John Kennedy.

- Geoff a Christian originally from Saint Paul's at Castle Hill who frequently visited us to show his and his Prayer Group's prayer support, came to see us. He is now living at Shellharbour and he assured us of his continued support. We gave him a Multi language Jesus DVD (32 languages) to share with his contacts.
- Mike and Haydee from Masterton in New Zealand (NZ) are involved in a program called Life Choices who minister to hundreds of school children in NZ schools. They came to collect children's tracts.
- Patrick from Cambridge Park near Liverpool is a truck driver who came to have a lengthy chat. He is 32 years of age and married with 2 young children. He was raised a Catholic and he spoke to us at length about needing evidence to believe in God. He calls himself an atheist but he is really searching for the truth. Please pray with us for Patrick and his young family.
- Mary, John, Samuel and baby Rebecca, originally from South India, who have been in Australia for about 5 years, came and took a Jesus DVD with both Tamil and English and other languages to share with contacts.

# Saturday 4th August

Present: Doug Smith, Paul Walker, John Kennedy and Ratna.

• A young Laotian man was very interested in our display and stayed about 30 minutes examining and

reading the material. He did not take anything with him but he wished us God's Blessing.

- A young Tamil couple from New Zealand took a Bible, four of Ron's illustrated messages and a multiple language DVD.
- An Asian Christian couple had many Japanese friends and the lady spoke Japanese so they took a Japanese/ English Bible and a multiple language (including Japanese) DVD. They intended to tell their Japanese friends the gospel, using the material they took with them.
- An Australian lady interested in Sunday School children took a copy of "15 Reasons to take Genesis as History" and some Butterfly tracts.
- A local Pastor and his children visited and took some material.
- A visitor of Spanish background took a Spanish Bible and some tracts.
- Doris from Hillsong Church came and shared with us. She is a Grandmother who came to Christ some 6 years ago. Her Family is of Fijian-Indian background and her new faith has split her family. She is praying for her estranged husband and son, who are practising Hindus. She took a Jesus DVD and some other publications with her.
- Willy, a young Sikh man from a Sikh family in Stanhope Gardens, came and chatted with us at length, Ratna in particular. He is looking for a spiritual home. He took a "Father's Love Letter" and "15 Reasons to take Genesis as History".

# Calendars for 2013 now available



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# Internet Corner

# compiled by C.H.Winrow



Here are some more things on the World Wide Web which readers may find interesting and worth a visit via your computer.

Please Note: to make it easier to visit these web sites they have been included as 'hot links' in the PDF version of this magazine and they are listed on the NSW Christian Brethren web site at:-

## www.cb-nsw.org.au/useful-links/ Links-AO.html

If you would like to subscribe to the PDF version in addition to, or instead of, this paper version – please contact me by email and I will send you a free sample:-

outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

\* \* \*

Be sure to take a look at the new Home Page of web site:

# www.focus.org.uk

The material 'GOD: new evidence' is produced by **Focus**, which is a UK registered charity. Focus has been producing Christian mass-media and new-media projects for more than thirty years.

Starting in the 1970s, Focus produced the widely acclaimed 'World of Science' series of radio programmes, in which leading research scientists talked about their Christian faith. These programmes were broadcast from radio stations HCJB World Radio, FEBA, and many others.

For the next twenty years, Focus produced several highly successful series of programmes which were broadcast around the world and translated into nearly a dozen languages.

Over the past decade Focus has moved into the 'new media,' with web sites, DVDs, training courses and – most recently – podcasts and videos.

In 2006 Focus produced the 'Jesus & the Da Vinci Code' DVD in response to the film of Dan Brown's book. The videos from this DVD were put on the Youtube web site, where they have been watched more than a hundred and fifty thousand times.

On the 'GOD: new evidence' page, there is a range of evidence presented, plus testimony for scientists, such as this:- 'Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing, and delicately balanced to provide exactly the conditions required to support life. In the absence of an absurdly improbable 'accident', the observations of modern science seem to suggest an underlying, one might say, supernatural plan.'

Nobel Prize-winning scientist
 Arno Penzias

'We can't understand the Universe in any clear way without the supernatural.'

Astronomer Allan Sandage

Personally, I'm not into the Facebook and Twitter "social-media" thing yet, but I was intrigued by a report in the Sydney Morning Herald on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, under the headline:-

# "Tweets, clergy and the faithful forming a new holy trinity"

The article was quoting a piece in the New York Times which dealt with the question "Why are some tweets more popular than others?"

When a Twitter staff member set out to answer that question 10 months ago, he thought the answer would emerge among posts from basketball players, politicians or actors. Instead, he found a mystery: a set of messages that were ricocheting around Twitter, being forwarded and responded to at a rate that was off the charts.

"They were punching way above their weight," said Robin Sloan, who discovered the anomaly but did not recognise the names that were behind the messages.

Joyce Meyer, Max Lucado and Andy Stanley were not well-known inside Twitter's offices. But they had all built loyal ranks of followers well beyond their social networks – they were evangelical Christian leaders whose messages about God perform up to 30 times better than Twitter messages from pop stars such as Lady Gaga.

Twitter is always looking for ways to add new users. And so, with this new insight, the company sent a senior executive, Claire Diaz-Ortiz, on a mission – to bring more religious leaders into the Twitter fold.

"We had looked at different groups, like CEOs and high-level executives, thinking: 'Oh, do we need to spend more time with them?" she said. "And then this religion thing popped up."

With religious leaders, she said, "it's so much about being at the table and breaking bread with folks".

Now she spends half of her time on the road, offering training, helping swat away impostor accounts and encouraging leaders to be less promotional and more personal in their posts. Twitter has offered similar support to celebrities and athletes.

"Pastors tell me Twitter is just made for the Bible," she said. On average, verses in the King James version are about 100 characters long, leaving room to slip in a Bible hashtag and still come in under the 140-character limit.

And proverbs are powerful draws. Consider this April post from Bishop T. D. Jakes: "Your words will tell others what you think. Your actions will tell them what you believe."

His message was forwarded 2490 times - just short of the 2491 retweets that the pop singer Katy Perry generated the same month with this message to her fans: "Sometimes Jet Lag makes me feel like a cross eyed crack head."

Three cheers for The WORD of GOD!!!!

PLEASE submit all your items, news or letters for the December 2012 magazine on, or before, 16<sup>th</sup> November.

## N.S.W. ASSEMBLIES EVANGELISTIC MISSION

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#### **MAGAZINE**

Editor - Colin Winrow 0412 596 104

Email: outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

#### **AIMS**

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

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



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# **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 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, the 110 bed 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.

#### Carinva House, Glenhaven NSW

A 60 bed care centre providing 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.

#### Groves House, Cardiff Heights NSW

Set on a ridge with panoramic views to the mountains, Groves House is a 60 bed care centre providing 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.

"Christ's love compels us" 2 Corinthians 5:14