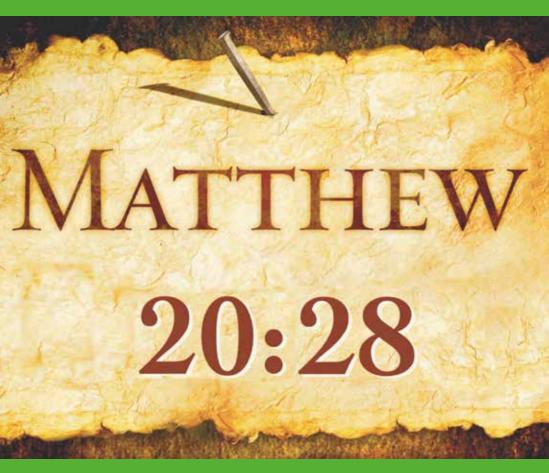
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**October 2017** 



Also in this issue: Praying for NSW Assemblies
News from Commended Workers
Women's Mission Conference 2017
Serving may result in strife
Christmas Cards & Calendars for sale
Internet Corner (... and more)

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

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

Please submit your assembly news, people profiles, letters, etc, for the December 2017 issue before:- 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017.

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

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

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# Awake to Israel

History • Current Events • Prophecy • Evangelism

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

Meetings are held monthly, February to November 2nd Saturday, 2.30pm at Epping Gospel Chapel.

Cnr Carlingford Rd and Duntroon Ave, Epping, NSW

For further information: www.awaketoisrael.org mail@awaketoisrael.org

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

#### Our purpose:

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

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

by Colin Winrow, Editor.

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the October 2017 edition of this magazine.

Firstly, to save you time looking it up, the cover text Matthew 20:28 says:

"... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Several articles in this magazine have a theme of serving the Lord and other people.

If we are not serving now we are not following Jesus' example. Pray for forgiveness and start serving in some way. If we are serving now let us keep on as "good and faithful servants".

There are many ways to serve — speak, teach, witness, pray, heal, comfort, encourage, build, feed, show hospitality, defend, listen, ... etc.

Let's all be found doing some form of service when He calls us home, one way or another!

[May I ask a favour of this last group of people? Perhaps some would like to share with our readers about where and how they serve, and how God is



blessing them or the wider Church as a result.]

WARNING: There is a strong possibility that as we perform our acts of service in today's world, we will encounter difficulties, opposition from unbelievers, or persecution of various kinds. The early church did, for example Hebrews 10:33 (NIV) says "Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated."

Revelation 2:10 (NIV) advises "Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown."

Jesus told His disciples "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it." Luke 9:23-24 (NIV)

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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 all our assemblies and churches. Short items (even if only one sentence) are welcome and can be mailed to the Mission office at PO Box 20, Pennant Hills, NSW 1715, or better still, 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 website to:-

webadmin@cb-nsw.org.au

**Pastors Network: (SIU)** meeting is to be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 starting at 10am.

Randy Gilmour has been invited to speak at our next Pastors Network meeting. Randy is the Regional Director of Word Of Life Pacific Rim. He has studied and written around the topic of Conflict Resolution in Church Staff.

The theme of his talk will be: "An 8-step process to mediate conflict among staff, and to lead a church to make major decisions."

The meeting will be held at the Hope Society premises, 27 Iron Street, North Parramatta, from 10am to 12 noon, with light refreshments afterwards. The cost is \$10 per person.

**Lutanda is hiring** – permanent and casual staff! Please visit this web page to find out more:-

http://www.lutanda.org.au/careers/

CCCAust(NSW) has a couple of current opportunities for people who may be interested in planting churches in Sydney or the Central Coast. If you know of anyone who may be willing or has a spiritual passion in this area, please let Brad Scott know. Email:

brad@cccaustnsw.com

or phone: 0400 260 077

#### **AWAKE Sydney Prayer Summit**

Pastor Sean Nolan (Youth Ministry Director) has been working with a number of different denominations to bring together a Sydney-wide evangelistic youth event. The number of involved denominations is growing, 9 are committed and 3 major parachurch organisation have agreed to participate.

The first event is scheduled to run on **Saturday**, 3<sup>rd</sup> **March 2018** at the Salvation Army Headquarters and will be a combined prayer meeting where the youth from the denominations will come together to pray about reaching young people in Sydney for Christ. The planning committee feel that Sydney young people perceive Christians as "people who hate and not love, harm and not protect". They would like to dispel this thinking and show people God's love.

As mentioned previously, this is a unique event and one our movement is driving — the day is 'invitation only', with 30 tickets per denomination (it will not be publicly advertised).



Meetin	ngs &	Eve	nts
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(Note: for the latest details please be sure to check on these two web pages:-

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

www.cccaustnsw.com/events

#### 2018:

27,28 Oct "Inspire 2017" Women's

Conference at Camp Toukley.

2017:

2 Nov NSW Coordinating Con-

ference; 7.30pm; venue

TBA

"Sunday Night Lights"; 5 Nov

7pm at Campbelltown

C.C.C.

SIU Conference Part 3: 9 Nov

> "LGBT+ and how we as Churches interact in this

culture."

11 Nov **Christmas Shopping** (gifts and cakes) & Coffee Confab

Morning at Elouera Gardens Retirement Village, the Community

Room, 3 Kitchener Road, Cherrybrook. 9am to 12 noon. Also an Outreach

Bookstall will be there with Christmas cards, 2018

Calendars, and gifts.

11 Nov 'Awake to Israel' (ATI) meeting at Epping G.C;

from 2.30pm. Speaker is

Greg Willis.

Hands & Feet fundraising 16 Nov

dinner; 7pm at Club Central

Hurstville.

(see also pages 8 & 9)

25 Nov 'Pathfinders' at West

Pennant Hills C.C.

A Christmas Celebration.

"Sunday Night Lights"; 3 Dec

7pm at Riverstone

Community Church.

9 Feb 'Awake to Israel' (ATI)

meeting at Epping G.C;

from 2.30pm.

**Emerging Leaders** Retreat 1-2 Mar

(in Melbourne).

2–4 Mar CCCAust National

> Conference "Salt & Light" at CYC Adventure Resort,

Phillip Island, Victoria.

cccaustnationalconference.org.au

9 Mar 'Awake to Israel' (ATI)

meeting at Epping G.C;

from 2.30pm.

23-24 Mar Build 2018 at Camp Toukley;

spkr: Jared Wilson.

5 May Thrive 2018 - Women's

Conference.

26 May National Day of Thanks.

see website:

www.austhanks.org.au/news/ national-day-thanks-focus-2018/

Please submit any items for the December 2017 magazine on, or before, 10th Nov.

## Praying for NSW Assemblies

mainly compiled by Bradley Scott

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

#### **General Prayer Points:**

- ☆ Pray for our Church family as we seek to make our Lord known in our Communities.
- ☆ Pray that we as churches will not forget that even as society changes, we have a sovereign Lord who is in control and we as His people are still on the offensive, taking the Good News of Jesus to a world of people who need this wonderful news.
- ☆ Pray that our church elders will have wisdom as they lead our local churches.
- ☆ Pray that our churches can be salt and light in our changing world, that we can show the love of Christ through the way we interact with our neighbours, friends and family. May people see Christ in us.
- ☆ Pray for the church as we have an opportunity to make a statement for our Lord through the SSM Plebiscite. That we as God's people may respond in a loving and God honouring way to the proposed changes in our society.
- ☆ Take the time to read Psalm 4 and to pray through it, asking God to reflect these values in our churches.

☆ Pray for the Boards of our parachurch ministries as they lead and provide vision for these ministries. May we see the Boards of these organisations support and provide services that help connect churches to the community. CCCAust(NSW), Lutanda, Stewards, Emmaus, Hands and Feet, CBCS, GLO, CMS, AEM, ACM, AMT, WMC.

#### **Campsie Community Church**

☆ Pray for the church Eldership: Robin Bathurst, Daniel Podrugovic

#### Praise God for:

- ☆ a mother who recently converted from Buddhism. She became a Christian after being told that Buddha is an idol and not the true God. She read the Bible for the first time (Matthew chapter 7) and repented of her sins and surrendered her life to Christ. She was baptised a few weeks ago.
- ☆ several families who have come to church in recent months and have become Christians. Pray that they will be baptised soon.

#### Pray for:

☆ some believers who came to faith
in Christ and were baptised, but
have now gone back into the
world.



#### **Cartwright Gospel Chapel**

Pray for the church Eldership: Stephen Riethmuller, Theophil Bobby

#### Praise God for:

- the encouraging initiatives of our young adults in witnessing, reaching out to the community, and for their close fellowship with the young adults of the nearby Green Valley Assembly.
- ☆ the many visiting Bible teachers who have faithfully supported this assembly over many years.

#### Pray for:

- ☆ the Family Retreat at Cartwright chapel held at the end of Sept. The retreat involved Bible teaching, music & fellowship. Although the event was for anyone, it is typically attended by about 130 people (mainly from Indian backgrounds). The speakers were Jose Mathew from India, and Jose Peter from Cartwright. Pray for ongoing encouragement of the believers from the various churches represented, and that the Holy Spirit will bless the unsaved with faith in the Saviour.
- ☆ a renewed focus on Prayer and the Word of God, and for continued unity.
- opportunities to place Scriptures in hospitals and schools in the Liverpool area, as a number of

our Assembly are involved in this work, as part of Gideons.

# **Christian Community Church Cambridge Park**

Pray for the church Eldership: Shirley Brown, Arran Green, Nelson Green, Steve Lower, Chris White.

#### **Praise Points:**

- ☆ We baptised 6 people recently, 4 were ex-Muslims.
- ☆ We have been working in the local high school for over 10 years but this year have seen an influx of kids coming to youth and a number of them are coming to church as well.

#### **Prayer Points:**

- ☆ That we will be able to disciple all these young people.
- ☆ That God will give us favour at Wallacia, our sister church, as we seek to reach into the local community.

#### Hands and Feet Moree

#### 1st September

☆ Please pray for our Hands and Feet team in Moree. We have been trying to purchase a property in Moree that will allow us to move the ministry out of Paul and Erin's house and into a location that allows the ministry to grow and develop. Thanks to all those who have contributed to the building fund to allow this to



occur. (Praise God that we have now raised \$120,000 toward the new site.) Two weeks ago we found an amazing property on the river in Moree that would meet all our requirements. We made an offer on the building which the vendor agreed to and submitted paperwork to our Solicitors. But when the vendor saw that we were a Christian organisation (Stewards Foundation of Christian Brethren are purchasing the property for us) he cancelled the sale. He has since told us that he won't sell the property to Christians. This was a devastating blow to all involved and shows the attack that we are under in serving our Lord. We are now looking

for an alternative property in Moree. Please pray that we will find a better property at the right price that will allow this ministry to grow in the Moree Community.

#### 29th September:

- ☆ Continue to pray for the purchase of a site in Moree. We have had a team in Moree last week looking at other properties. Pray for wisdom as we try to find the right property that will allow the ministry to grow and develop.
- ☆ Pray for the provision of funds to allow us to cover the expected price of the property we'll purchase.

#### **FUNDRAISING EVENT**

Hands and Feet will be holding a fund-raising dinner on 16<sup>th</sup> November in the Biddegal Function Room at Club Central Hurstville. An invitation is shown opposite.

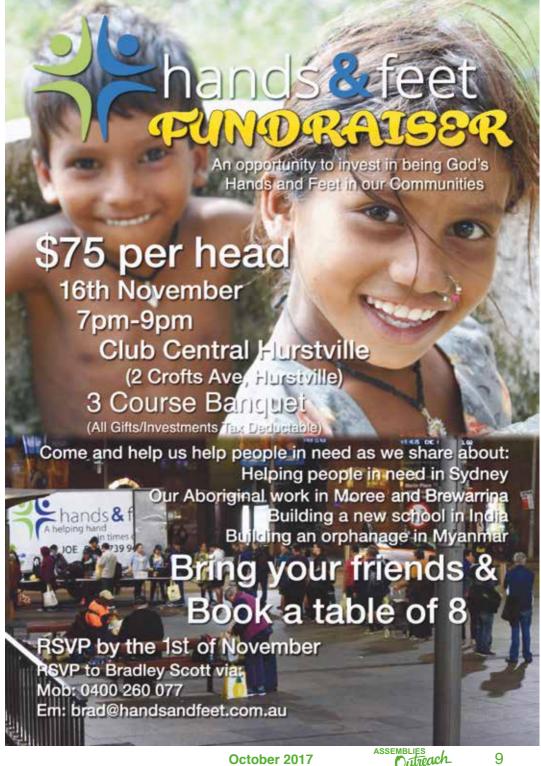
Hands and Feet is a not-for-profit charity registered under the ACNC, operating across Australia "Providing a Helping Hand to those in Need". Hands and Feet acts as the CCCAust's charity arm, allowing churches and individuals to invest in programs that bring hope and opportunity to people in need.

We are seeing the work of Hands and Feet change people's lives but we need your help, to allow this great work to continue.

#### What will happen on the night?

You will hear how Hands and Feet is changing people's lives in some of our projects on the streets of Sydney CBD, in schools, and through our centres that distribute food; at Moree and Brewarrina in the indigenous communities; and in India and Myanmar in schools and orphanages.

The evening will include a 3-course banquet meal and there will be some light entertainment. You will also hear about the impact on individuals and communities and have an opportunity to share in this important work. Of course all gifts to the work will be receipted with a tax deductible gift receipt to help you with your tax.



### News from some Commended Workers



Doug & Jenny McNaught 46 Barnetts Road Winston Hills NSW 2153 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Dear brothers and sisters,

Thank you for your support, prayers, love and fellowship over the last month. We appreciate everything that you do for us and always look forward to seeing you again.

We have had another busy month with quite a bit of travelling. The dreaded winter conditions came to our household during the last month although we managed to survive quite well through June and July. I suppose everyone struggles with the problems that flow from the cold season and we were not any worse off than any other family.

We have seen the beginning of life and the end of life since the last letter we sent out. We had another granddaughter born on 27th June and then, on 23rd July, Jenny's father Frank Akehurst was called home to be with his Lord and Saviour. He lived for 88 years and served the Lord, with his remarkable talents from a very young age.

Jenny has been quite busy doing her community work with the extra burden of the cold season as well. She has been kept busy with the grandchildren and supervising exams at Our Lady of Mercy College as well.

I have had time to rethink my position as chaplain at Parramatta Rugby Union Club now that the season has finished. When I was a coach in school sporting teams, many years ago, my success

was entirely defined by the success of the players on the field. However, this doesn't apply to my role as a chaplain. While the team didn't get the "wooden spoon" as the lowest team in the competition, they didn't perform outstandingly either. I believe that my role shouldn't be judged by the success of the teams on the field but by my ability to engage with and encourage the players. I was able to pray with all the grade teams during the season and spend time with them while they were training during the week. I am also reminded of the words of Judges 6: 31, "...If he is a god, let him contend for himself, because his altar has been broken down." Isaiah 55: 11, "...so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty" and 1 Cor 4: 2, "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."

I have been called to present the Word of God, be faithful and trust the Lord to glorify His Name. I plan to go back when they start pre-season training in October. Just in case anyone gets the wrong idea, be assured that I just watch the players train and do no training myself.

We have also continued our ministry among some assemblies in and around Sydney and have been busy with that as well. We look forward to continuing with that work throughout the coming months, if it is the Lord's will.

Thanks again for all that you have done for us throughout the years. We appreciate that you are doing this "as unto the Lord" and we accept everything you do "as from the Lord". Nevertheless,

#### News from some Commended Workers (cont'd from p 10)



none of this would happen without your faithfulness to the Lord Jesus Christ. Much love, Doug & Jenny

Geoff & Liz Folland 4 Oronga Ave Baulkham Hills NSW 2153 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 (extracts)

Hi Friends, New Birth...

It may seem strange, but it is easy to overlook celebrating when someone puts their trust in Jesus. Those of us who have been "on the journey" for a while can be tempted to delay, wait for significant life change or other evidence of spiritual growth. This instinct is different to the way Jesus describes God's reaction in Luke 15 where there is immediate celebration over the sheep, coin and son that were found.

At our weekly meeting last Tuesday, Tina shared that last semester she had accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour. This week another student prayed to receive Jesus after going through Christianity Explained for several weeks. We have been encouraged this year to see students regularly choosing to put their trust in Jesus. While the environment feels difficult - even hostile - we are continuing to find people ready to hear and respond to the gospel. Praise God!

Summer Project...

I (Geoff) am leading a summer project (with a small team) on Sydney's Northern Beaches in December. Applications closed last night and I was so encouraged as I reviewed the different stories of the (almost) two dozen students who have applied. A good proportion of them came to Christ with us on campus and are now stepping out in faith seeking experiences that will grow their ability to share their new faith.

In the Family...

50th Celebration Dinner; Liz has been working hard as part of the planning team. The early bird discount for registration is closed. Please pray that people will register quickly, and that the program will come together in a way that brings glory to God.

Our home stay student, Simon, finished high school this week. He hopes to continue to live with us while he studies at university. Seeing all our Facebook friends posting photos of their children finishing high school too reminded me that we will be seeking to connect with them as new students on campus next year. (If you know someone heading to campus, drop me a line!)

Katrise just returned from a school excursion to Canberra to visit Parliament House, the War Memorial and Questacon. She lost her voice while away and hasn't found it yet. It probably contributed to a sub-par performance at her dance competition this afternoon.

Philip has (school) work experience this week with the army at Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane. He and I (Geoff) are driving up on Sunday (10½ hours plus breaks) and back on Thursday. I'll be working remotely while in Brisbane.

#### October 2017 (extract)

This is the final month of classes. Many students are becoming

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#### News from some Commended Workers (cont'd from p 11)



overwhelmed with assignments and preparing for exams. Yet, at today's lunch gathering, Ruell brought his friend, Mitch. Ruell and Mitch have been catching up to read through Mark's gospel together. Mitch became a Buddhist in high school, but enjoys meeting with Ruell. Please pray that Ruell, and other students who are meeting with friends to share the gospel, will persevere through the final weeks of campus and that God will use them to lead their friends to Christ. Thanks for partnering with us in this ministry. We couldn't do it without you!

In His grace, Geoff & Liz

Colin & Mavis Winrow 1/9 Julia Close Cherrybrook NSW 2126 1st October 2017

To our dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Both Colin and I are very grateful to those who faithfully uphold us in prayer. We really value your prayer support.

It is quite amazing to think that we have now been in our unit in Elouera Gardens Retirement Village for a whole year. As we said before, this truly was the Lord's provision for us and we feel so blessed to be here.

Waitara Gospel Chapel has been our spiritual home for 40 years now and has over recent years declined in numbers. Like us, those who still attend continue to serve the Lord in any way they can. We would value your prayers for our assembly, that we might see some younger families join us. It really is a

loving, caring fellowship.

Our work with LinC Hornsby (Love in the Name of Christ) continues to keep us on our toes and it is always rewarding to know that the folk we help are just so grateful for even the smallest things done for them. There are so many people in need of help and support in our local community.

Working with Christian Literature *Outreach (CLO) – sending resource* material to the Chaplains in the prisons so they can be used by the inmates continues to keep us busy at times too. This is very rewarding work and it is always so encouraging when we receive a letter from a Chaplain telling us of how the literature we send in has been used to help in many ways. We also receive notes from inmates from time to time and this is always a highlight for us. Those who help in this CLO work are all well over 70, so it would be truly great to get a few younger ones on our team. Someone with a fork-lift licence would be especially welcome some days.

If you have any free time, even if only one day a month, and would like to serve the Lord with CLO, we would love to hear from you.

We would also value your continued prayers for stamina and wisdom as we seek to serve the Lord in the areas into which He has directed us.

Thank you for your love and care.

Many blessings,

Mavis & Colin



#### News from some Commended Workers (cont'd from p 12)



John & Irene Hills 16 Stewart Street, Campbelltown NSW 2560

9th October 2017

Dear friends,

Irene and I would like to thank NSWAEM for the gift recently received. We are very thankful and encouraged by the gift.

This year has been a busy one so far, with a lot happening with our Satellite broadcasts. We are on-air for 364 hours each year, that's one hour every night of the week to one-third of the world's population, as well as numerous downloads and views of the Arabic programs on Youtube.

Some months ago, we were in danger of losing our coverage on four Satellites

due the organisation in America having funding issues. We prayed that the Lord would intervene and He did. (We broadcast through ABNSAT in the USA.)

We are also in the process of developing an Internet channel to give us a far wider outreach from Australia.

We would appreciate prayer for this and for the people in North Africa, Middle East, Turkey, parts of Europe, North America, Australia and NZ who will tune in.

As you can imagine, many of the countries are closed to the Gospel and the Lord has given us a great opportunity.

Again our thanks,

John & Irene



# Serving may result in Strife

Author unknown

The Apostle Paul's long anticipated return to Jerusalem finally happened. He arrived in Jerusalem accompanied by Christians from the churches in Asia Minor and Europe. They came with Paul to bless their impoverished Jewish brothers and sisters in Christ and to be able to report back to their churches that the contributions for the poor in Jerusalem were used as intended. Along the way, Paul had been repeatedly warned by friends and by the Holy Spirit that trouble, hardship, danger, and arrest awaited him (Acts 20:22-25; Acts 21:4; Acts 21:10-14).

In an attempt to keep the peace with the Jewish people of Jerusalem and to preserve the fragile peace the Jewish Christians enjoyed with their fellow Israelites, Paul followed a suggestion James and the elders in Jerusalem had made. He went to the temple with other Jewish Christians to show he still respected his heritage. However, some people from Asia Minor who hated Paul were there. They had previously seen Paul with a fellow named Trophimus, who was a Gentile from Ephesus. They wrongly assumed Paul had taken Trophimus into the Jewish-only portion of the temple compound. **>**14

A Gentile in this portion of the temple was an offense punishable by death under both Roman and Jewish law. So in their fury, they seized Paul. They screamed for others to help them beat Paul to death. Roman soldiers rushed to the scene and arrested Paul. However, the riot had grown so intense that the soldiers had to carry him to safety.

Paul had invested so much of himself in the Gentile churches' collection for the poor Jewish Christians of Jerusalem. He had so hoped that this act of generosity would tear down

the walls of race and prejudice that divided the Church in many places in that day. Unfortunately, because of Paul's association with Gentiles, his

attempts at reconciliation blew up in his face as an ugly riotous mob of non-Christian Jews tried to kill him.

Years earlier, on Jesus's last trip to Ierusalem before His crucifixion, Jesus warned His disciples repeatedly about the hostile rejection, arrest, and crucifixion that awaited Him. Paul and others had warned that he too would be rejected and arrested in Jerusalem. Just as Jesus had gone into the temple to honour the Father, so had Paul. Just as Jesus had met with the hostility of the people in the temple, so had Paul. What Jesus said on His trip to Jerusalem still rang true in Paul's day:

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, "Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!"

(Matthew 23:37-39 NLT)

Jesus' lament is similar to Paul's words in the book of Romans — words that partially explain why Paul went to Jerusalem despite facing rejection

and possible death.

He wrote:

With Christ as my witness, I speak with utter truthfulness. My conscience and the Holy Spirit confirm it. My heart is filled with

bitter sorrow and unending grief for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed — cut off from Christ! — if that would save them.

(Romans 9:1-3 NLT)

Paul's trip to Jerusalem wasn't made because he was foolhardy or had a death wish. Paul went there because of the love he had for non-believing Iews, because of his desire to unite the world Christian movement beyond racial lines, and because he wanted to help impoverished Jewish Christians in Ierusalem.

Note that sometimes things don't turn out as you would want, even >



• Paul had been

repeatedly warned

by friends... 9

when you have the best of motives. A bad outcome was true for Paul on his last trip to Jerusalem, but despite the disappointments and the apparent failure of Paul's mission, the Holy Spirit worked to bring great good out of this awful situation. The Spirit used this shocking turn of events to enable Paul to testify before rulers and authorities and ultimately to get to Rome.

So please, don't give up in despair when your best efforts and your finest intentions end up in a mess.

Satan wants to use your mess to destroy you. But God is at work even when circumstances suggest that He has abandoned you. The

Father is working for your good even when you can't immediately see that good. Paul's words of assurance to the church in Rome ultimately were proved true for him on this visit to Jerusalem, and ultimately they will be proved true for you:-

We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good and beautiful when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan. From the distant past, His eternal love reached into the future. You see, He knew those who would be His one day, and He chose them beforehand to be conformed to the image of His Son so that Jesus would be the firstborn of a new family of believers, all brothers and sisters. Romans 8:28-29

What Paul promised to the readers of his letter, God accomplished and proved true for him – as is shown in even more detail if we were to continue to study the events of Paul's journey to Rome, starting with the rest of Acts 21, verses 15 to 35.

"Dear Father in heaven, thank You for the grace that brought Christ Jesus to us.

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the pain You bore, not just when You went to Jerusalem and faced the cross, but also when You relived the events with Your

apostle Paul.

Thank You that his fate at that time was different from Your fate on the cross.

Thank You for reminding me that I,

too, may face disappointment and harm for things I do with good intentions and pure motives.

I learn from this, Lord Jesus, that I must trust the results and the justice to You and Your grace, believing that my future is secure in You.

Thank You! Amen."

Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the December 2017 magazine on, or before, 10th November.

• ... sometimes things

don't turn out as

you would want... 9

# Email from Roger - at sea, 29 September

via Rob Flinders, SCFS

Readers will recall the article in our August issue – about Roger, a Filipino Chief Engineer, sharing his faith with other crew members whilst at sea on a bulk carrier. He is now aboard another vessel...

Dear Bro Rob,

May the peace and grace of our Lord Jesus be with you and Sis Greta.

Regarding us here on board mv Frontier Phoenix (a Cape Size Bulk Carrier), by God's grace we are also doing fine. From Fos in France, we took a supply of bunkers at Gibraltar and we are now underway, bound to Sierra Leone to load iron ore. This will eventually be discharged in Quingdao, China.

Jo (my wife Josefina) informed me that you've sent a message through her email. Could you please resend it again to me through my email account at AmosConnect.

Here onboard, we have a new Master who joined the vessel on 22 September in Gibraltar. I've already asked his permission to have a Fellowship here onboard and, praise God, he is happy to allow us. I've also started to invite all my crewmates and they are excited to start our Bible Study Fellowship. At this time, since our departure from Gibraltar, all deck hands are very busy cleaning the cargo holds in preparation for loading in Sierra Leone, Africa.

Bro Rob, please help me pray for my new ministry here in Frontier Phoenix. I am also inspired by my Second Officer, Third Officer and Deck Cadet who are Christians and that they will



mv Frontier Pheonix

voluntarily help me and support our Bible Study.

Here onboard I brought 10 copies of each of the following Bible Study Courses - Katotohanang Dapat Mong Paniwalaan<sup>1</sup>; Mga Itinuturo ng Biblia<sup>2</sup>; Mga aralin sa Buhay Cristiano<sup>3</sup>; Mga Tungkulin ng Cristiano<sup>4</sup>; and Mga Taong Nakaharap ang Panginoon<sup>5</sup>.

"Lord, it's my heart's desire to have great faith in You. I want not only to make a difference in my own life, but to touch and change the lives of others. Enable me to do that, Lord, and help me to do my part in the process. Thank You that my growing faith will bear an abundance of fruit for Your glory!" Matthew 9:29.

Once again, thank you very much for your support to our Ministry on board.

Ingat Po! God bless! Your brother in Christ, Roger.

[Editorial Note: The English Course titles corresponding to the Tagalog titles above are as follows:-

- 1. 'Key Biblical Teachings'
- 2. 'What The Bible Teaches'
- 3. 'Lessons for Christian Living'
- 4. 'The Duties of a Christian'
- 5. 'Men who Met the Master']

# Loving the Least and the Lost

by Mandy Juraev

Loving the Least and the Lost. This was the theme of this year's NSW Women's Mission Convention, held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017, at West Pennant Hills Community Church. But who are the least and the lost and how do we love them? Each of our speakers shared from different areas of the world what it means to love the least and the lost in their context.



First of all, Lara shared of loving disabled children and their families in Central Asia. She and her family have recently returned to Australia after 6 years of service among the marginalised and poor in a Muslim country. She entertained us with stories of juggling home-schooling four children with loving their neighbours and asked us to pray that God would reveal Himself to those lost in darkness and feeling like the least in their communities.

We then heard an interview with Anna Southcott, a member of West



Nikky Vanderhout interviewed Anna



Lara was the first speaker

Pennant Hills Community Church, who together with her husband Tim and baby son William, is preparing to move to Arnhem Land next year. Tim is a pilot and will be flying with MAF, while Anna will be looking for ways to love the least and the lost in that remote area of Australia, perhaps utilising her nursing skills.

Our next speaker was Rachel Reed, a midwife who spent 14½ years serving at Kalene Mission Hospital in Zambia. For Rachel, loving the least and the lost meant treating people with HIV,



Rachel Reed
ASSEMBLIES

**10** 

#### Women's Mission Convention (cont'd from p 17)

TB, malaria, burns, diabetes, tumours and malnutrition, just to name a few, as well as delivering around 900 babies a year, including multiple births. Along with her husband Richard and four children, she is now settling back into life in Melbourne, while her passionate concern is still for safe and accessible midwifery care in developing nations.

Having previously worked in Brazil, Janet Petersen and her husband Gavin have recently moved to the city of Leiria in Portugal, to work alongside Brazilian missionaries, Claudio and Daisy Martinowski.



Janet Petersen

In Portugal, evangelical Christians are a small minority, "the least of these brothers and sisters of mine" (Matthew 25:40). Janet and Gavin have joined a language and culture exchange program called *Speak* as a way of making contacts and reaching out to the lost and are also involved in teaching and encouraging Portuguese Christians in local churches and campus ministry.

Shirley Oule has been a missionary in Uganda since 2008. There she met her husband Calvin and they



Shirley Oule

married in 2012. With a background in microbiology, Shirley was originally involved in loving the least and the lost through medical laboratory and outreach work. However, since marrying Calvin, her focus has shifted to raising godly African leaders to love the least and the lost in their own communities through the Leadership and Discipleship ministry at Watoto Church.

After lunch we heard from another young woman from West Pennant Hills Community Church who is preparing for cross cultural ministry. Dania and her husband Luke plan to move next year to an unreached area of Asia to work with a church planting team among a minority people group. For them loving the lost will mean learning two languages and starting a business in order to be able to live among a people who have very limited access to the good news of Jesus.

Living in a Muslim country since 2003, Ros and her husband Dave have been involved in loving the least and the lost in a variety of ways. Primarily involved in campus ministry, they have also been involved in reaching >>>

#### Women's Mission Convention (cont'd from p 18)



Ros

out to refugees who have come from neighbouring countries. It was encouraging to hear of the growth in the number of Christians in the region over the past 20 years, despite the challenges and persecution they face. In His great love, Jesus is still seeking and saving the lost.

Our final speaker for the day, Sophia McCrindle, brought us the keynote message on loving our neighbour as ourselves. She challenged us from Leviticus 19 that our neighbours include the disabled, the poor, the



Sophia McCrindle

marginalised and the foreigner, that is 'the least and the lost'. Sophia gave us practical suggestions of how we can show love to neighbours we meet in person, in our virtual world and in the global village in which we all live. As we seek to love the least and the lost in whatever context we find ourselves, we follow the example of Jesus and show our love for Him.









by Mandy Juraev

The NSW Women's Mission Convention runs a number of events throughout the year. As well as our annual Mission Convention Day, we also organise Coffee and Dessert Nights with women missionary speakers. This year we held Coffee and Dessert Nights at President Avenue Community Church in Kirrawee on 13<sup>th</sup> March and St Ives Community Church on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The speakers at both venues were Judy Ayers, recently returned from Poland, and Julie Loudon who has a specialist audio ministry and a child sponsorship program in DR Congo.

If you would like to know more about our future events, please follow Women's Mission Convention on Facebook or email nsw.wmc@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.



Judy Ayers and Julie Loudon

#### Coffee & Dessert Evenings (cont'd from p 20)









# WOMEN'S MISSIONARY PRAYER & SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP

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

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

Lillian Fleming 9858 5436 or Jackie Sardar 9785 3439

#### Further meetings to be held in 2017

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

Cherrybrook Christian
Care Centre
(on Fridays)

Catley Gospel
Chapel
(also on Fridays)

10 November

8 December

from Christian Media Magazine (CMM)

In a world where science and the supernatural are no longer reconcilable, can they co-exist? Are miracles diametrically opposed to the laws that govern our universe? People of faith today are confronted with an increasingly antagonistic scientific community, which generally opposes any acknowledgement of the supernatural, and more importantly, the divine.

Gone, it seems, are the days of Bacon, Newton, Pascal and Galileo; these men, who saw a partnership between their observations of science, and the immutable hand of Providence, have been replaced by Nye, Hawking, Dawkins and Tyson, to name a few. The shift has trickled down the ranks within the places where science is taught and practiced to the point where there is seemingly very little room for acknowledgement of the supernatural.

The gap between these two camps appears to be widening, and that means that more and more individuals who espouse a belief in the miraculous, and who also have a deep respect for the scientific method, find it difficult to reconcile the two. The writer of this article in Christian Media Magazine is one of those who has seen miracles happen in today's world, and has also grown up with a love for science and the logical basis of that pursuit.

#### Definitions:

The Oxford Dictionary definition of Science is, "the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment."

Science, and the scientific method upon which it is built, is based on repeatable, observable data. It is an objective pursuit of the mind, where logic, both deductive and inductive are employed to form hypotheses and draw conclusions.

Science is noble and ancient, permeating as far back as history can be traced. Humans have been created with a mental capacity unmatched in the natural world, and it is apparent that any who pursue science as a career, contain a certain level of acumen and brilliance.

What about miracles? Have you had an experience or seen something that you could not explain logically? That is the rub between science and miracles. Since science is based on observable and repeatable data, and miracles are usually a one-off, then it falls outside the realm of what can be defined by science.

The Oxford Dictionary defines a miracle as, "an extraordinary and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore attributed to a divine agency."

Based on this brief study, and the definitions of both science and miracles, it can be deduced that miracles fall outside the scope of science because they are extraordinary and not naturally recurring. That does not mean that they cannot coexist, because science can only address the

physical world, not the supernatural.

There is ample evidence that miracles can, and have occurred in the history of the church - starting of course with those recorded in the Gospels. Several are mentioned in Acts as the apostles began to obey the Great Commission and the Church grew. The early church Fathers also recorded miracles in their writings and those in contact with persecuted churches today are also writing about the miracles occurring.

#### Conclusion:

While miracles cannot be explained by the limitations of science, they are not contrary to science either. There are no scientific laws governing what science cannot explain.

That is the complexity of the quandary that followers of science and the supernatural find themselves facing. It is not a matter of "either – or" but rather "both...and" being true in our world.

#### Good Books on Miracles

based on an article by Lawrence "Larry" Spencer in CMM

Of the hundreds of books written on God's Miracles over the centuries, how do you pick great ones? Since I am writing this article my preferences obviously take the lead. First, let's agree on one point. The BEST place to find miracles and have them explained is God's Word. I recommend a thorough examination of the scriptures as your first step in the study of miracles. Use your concordance and find scriptures about miracles and study them in context of the verses before and after the particular passage.

For those wanting a short cut let us look at the works of some contemporary ministers who have written or have had books written about their miracle ministries. I have picked two because they just stand out for me. They were written by instructors in Bible school, one was a text that I had assigned in Bible School. The third book is just a plain good one. They are discussed here in no particular order.

"Healing the Sick" by T. L. Osborn

T.L. Osborn was my favourite teacher. He was always so excited about God and how God showed Himself through miracles in TL's ministry. The book *Healing the Sick* was one of his best books. Published by Harrison House 1986, [ISBN 0-89274-403-0] Another book, *Proof of God's Love* [ISBN 9-780879-43102], specifically addressed miracles.

TL taught by using real life examples of miracles and how they impacted the lives of those who witnessed them.

His style was very descriptive of the location, and the attitudes of the people before and after seeing the miracles happen. He preached the Word of God in an uncompromising manner, correctly making God the author of all miracles that happened. Miracles were the "advertising" that got the attention of the audience so the saving gospel of Jesus Christ would be believed.

"Miracles" by R. W. Shambach

R.W. Shambach was another of my Bible School teachers. His book *Miracles* [ISBN 0-89274-811-7] chronicles 50 years of his ministry. It was written a few years before his passing on to be with the Lord. He was a very outspoken man and did not mince words. He described incidents clearly and like TL, gave all the glory to God.

He used scripture to give the authority for the supernatural events that occurred in his meetings. Miracles followed his ministry and this gave him credibility with sometimes reluctant hosts in venues that ordinarily would not welcome a preacher. Everyone is interested in miracles even if the bearer of the story is someone you might not usually visit with. He used his fame to build a large ministry that continues today under the supervision of his family.

"Miracles" by C. S. Lewis

This third book, written by C.S. Lewis [ISBN -10-0060653019] is in the public domain and widely available online. Lewis discusses at some length what miracles are and it's a good book to read before engaging in a discussion about miracles with an unbeliever. He helps us get to a place where both parties can agree on a point of discussion so arguments do not ensue.

Here is a quote: "The difference between the two views (those who believe in the supernatural and those who do not) might be expressed by saying that Naturalism gives us a democratic, Supernaturalism a

monarchical, picture of reality. The Naturalist thinks that the privilege of 'being on its own' resides in the total mass of things, just as in a democracy sovereignty resides in the whole mass of the people. The Supernaturalist thinks that this privilege belongs to some things or (more probably) One Thing and not to others—just as, in a real monarchy, the king has sovereignty and the people have not. And just as, in a democracy, all citizens are equal, so for the Naturalist one thing or event is as good as another, in the sense that they are all equally dependent on the total system of things. Indeed each of them is only the way in which the character of that total system exhibits itself at a particular point in space and time. The Supernaturalist, on the other hand, believes that the one original or self-existent thing is on a different level from, and more important than, all other things." Obviously we as Christians are the supernaturalists because we believe God is sovereign and He can and does perform miracles at His will.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, I believe that a thorough search of Scripture is the best place to start. Then you can read the experiences of various authors to build your faith with real life examples. Finally, C.S. Lewis's work, which has been reprinted numerous times, is a good book to give you insight into reasons why some do not believe in miracles, and perhaps some insight in how to witness to them.

# It might take a group to lead someone to Christ

by Alexandra, AFCI

Inviting non-churched people into our Christian circles of relationship can be a good idea.

The first time I invited non-Christians into a Christian environment was on my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday! I remember I was really nervous. 90% of my friends were Christians. We had our Christian jokes and our favourite worship songs and we were a 'cool' and comfortable group of friends!

But I wanted to invite my two highschool classmates who were my close friends. So I took a deep breath and asked them to come. At which they said "yes, of course, they would come". I was shocked and slightly terrified.

In the run-up to my birthday, I remember praying for two things – that it would be a cool party, and that my brothers would not embarrass me by showing everyone baby pictures – (which they did).

My friends knew that I was a Christian. But they hadn't been in a Christian environment before—until my birthday when they saw what my life looked like surrounded by genuine Christian friends and family. Friends and family who made jokes and ate crazy amounts of food. Friends and family who prayed for me and encouraged me after I blew out the candles on my giant cake.

And guess what? My non-Christian friends were not freaked out. Rather, they thought it was so cool that I had a family and friends who genuinely loved me and cared for me.

What I really loved about that birthday party was the fact that I was

able to show my friends that Christian people aren't weird or freaky. Christian people are everyday kind of people, who through Christ are empowered to be loving, encouraging and accepting.

Our love for one another as believers shouts a message into the minds of people who don't know Jesus. In John 13:35 Jesus says "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Our love for the lost has a big impact, yes. But also our love for one another as Christians makes the Christian message attractive to those who don't yet know Jesus.

In our society, more and more people who are sceptical of the faith are often attracted to the Christian *community* before they are attracted to the Christian *message*. Therefore, introducing people into our Christian communities becomes an important aspect of their journey towards Jesus.

As beings created in the image of God, we need to be in relationship with others. We reflect God, who is Trinitarian, with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in perfect fellowship with each other.

Knowing whose image each of us bears, we cannot afford to underestimate the power of a personal invitation to a birthday party, a BBQ, a football game, ... anywhere Christian relationships will be in view!



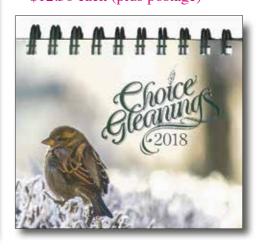
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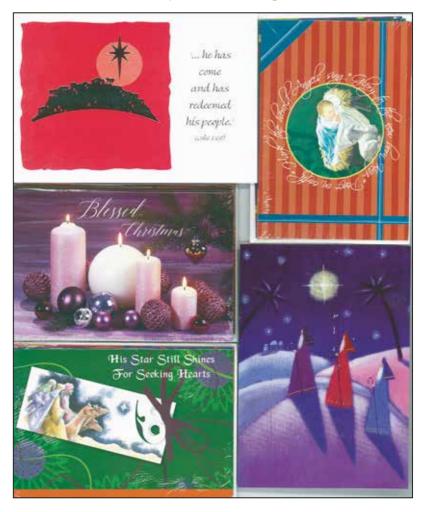




# **Christian Outreach Book Service (COBS)**

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- Selwyn Hughes

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#### **Internet Corner**

#### compiled by C.H.Winrow



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

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

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

#### Talks to Bless

Geoff Folland has been blessed by listening to some talks from conferences in July. Firstly, John North's talks on "Prayer in the Life of Jesus" at Mid Year Conference. This is a new version of a series he last did for MYC in 2007. These talks have also made an ongoing impact in the lives of students and missionaries on campus. The talks build over the course of the week. I really encourage you to listen to them.

bit.ly/JohnNorthPrayer1 bit.ly/JohnNorthPrayer2 bit.ly/JohnNorthPrayer3 bit.ly/JohnNorthPrayer4 bit.ly/JohnNorthPrayer5

The second group is two talks from the Cru17 Staff Conference in Colorado. Steve Douglass is the international president and is in a good position to share what God is doing at present

around the world. If you are feeling discouraged about the state of Christianity near you, Geoff says this talk will encourage and inspire you.

#### bit.ly/SteveDouglassWorld

Then, Jennie Allen's talk reminds us to focus on the simplicity of discipleship, in an age when discipleship has been sadly lacking.

bit.ly/JennieAllenSimpleDiscipling

#### "Challenge" -

The Good News Paper, is a useful piece of literature to reach out to the unsaved in our communities, and has something for both children and adults. It's published every month (except January) and includes life-changing stories from around the world. It is produced by Challenge Literature Fellowship in Western Australia, and has sister publications in many other countries and languages. Get the full story at:-

www.challengenews.org

Many churches and individuals will have recently received information from the Bible Society about a new give-away called "The Really Good News of Christmas" booklet.

To get more information and redeem your free copies go to the website:

www.biblesociety.org.au/reallygood

>30

#### For your Worship Team

ChristianChords! What is it?

Imagine it like a Christian musical wikipedia. The objective is to have every tribe, tongue and nation represented with their worship songs. Have you ever worshiped in another language? It is beautiful, it is strong... and it is really hard to find. Most resources are produced locally but never get to the wider public because that church or artist does not have an international scope. But this can be changed.

Imagine the songs in Arabic, Hebrew, Tamil, Korean, Spanish, German, Italian, French, etc... all in one place, just a click or two away.

Imagine a place where your worship team can change not only the language, but the tones, the chord system, the instruments and get the worship started in 1,2,3.

Imagine getting the Arabic, Bengali, Farsi, etc. songs, from the persecuted churches in those areas. I have travelled to several such countries and found worship is one of the few key things they have to help endure the hard times. Let's bless them. If (say) an Iranian church in Germany puts up their songs, the believers from Iran would be able to get them from here. There are no other places for it. But we can change that.

Imagine you are one of the over 55,000 people getting this information by email, etc. If each of you put up one song, we would have the biggest worship database of the world.

Imagine, imagine, imagine. The

possibilities are endless. If you think this is worth your time, please visit:-

#### www.christianchords.net

and register yourself, say 'hello', and enjoy discovering everything you can. Send this information to your worship team, and encourage them to participate and use this website.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) is looking to partner with 1,000 Australian churches for their 'My Hope Easter 2018' campaign.

'My Hope' is based around a 30-minute video 'The Cross', produced by BGEA. It is designed to be shown by churches and Christian organisations at outreach events and is being offered free of charge.

"We ask churches to partner with us by participating in this program over Easter 2018, and actively seek to invite their local community to attend," said Jorge Rodrigues, Executive Director of BGEA Australia.

For more information about this outreach possibility and the free resources available please visit:-

Billygraham.org.au/my-hope

\* \* \*

Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the December 2017 magazine on, or before, 10<sup>th</sup> November.

#### NSW ASSEMBLIES' EVANGELISTIC MISSION (NSWAEM)

ABN 81 001 037 690

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Editor - Colin Winrow 0412 596 104

Email: outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

#### **AIMS**

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

Further information about the Mission can be obtained from its website at:— www.nswaem.org.au





#### **Christian Brethren Community Services**

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







Elouera Gardens

Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre

Glenhaven Gardens







Carinva House

Lvnden Grove

Groves House

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

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

#### Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, Cherrybrook NSW

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

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

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

#### Carinya House, Glenhaven NSW

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

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

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

#### Groves House, Cardiff Heights NSW

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

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