



ASSEMBLIES
Outreach

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October 2019

Your future is in God's hands

"My times are in your
hands; deliver me from the
hands of my enemies, from
those who pursue me."

– Psalm 31:15; NIV

In this issue: Prayer for NSW Assembly ministries
News from Commended Workers
2019 National Prayer Breakfast
ECS Spring Report
Sharing your story
CBCS - call for Members & volunteers
Australian Book Launch invitation
Xmas Cards & 2020 Calendars
Internet Corner (... and more)

Assemblies

Outreach

Magazine Vol. 48, No. 5

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Evangelistic Mission (NSWAEM)

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

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

Please submit your assembly news, people profiles, letters, etc, for the **December 2019 issue on or before 15th Nov 2019.**

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

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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



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this October 2019 edition of the Assemblies Outreach magazine, and my sincere apologies (again) for an edition being much later than I had planned.

Several reasons for this - most of which are personal reasons of conflict with the other responsibilities I have, and maybe a slight touch of 'slowing down' as the years roll on.

Nevertheless, I believe God is sovereign in my life and He knows what is best, including that He knows best what to send me to publish, and when.

It has transpired that not much material came this month from NSW-based writers and organisations. This has led me to scan a wider range of Christian websites and blogs to find 'filler' items which might be useful to our readers in the NSW/Australian context. Nevertheless, I hope the results in the following pages still prove to be useful and helpful to the majority of readers.

My 'looking around' has brought me into regular contact with the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) group based in Canberra, whose Managing Director is Martyn Iles.

You may have seen their input into recent debates and rallies on major issues like the first draft of the long-awaited *Religious Discrimination Bill*, or in the attempts to decriminalise abortion in NSW, or in the WA legislation about Euthanasia, or in the SA plans about legalising prostitution! The list goes on.

More information can be found on the website:-

www.acl.org.au

or on YouTube at:-

[acl.org.au/YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/acl.org.au)

May we all be bold and "not ashamed of the gospel..." Romans 1:16 (NIV)



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

outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

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

* * *

On 1st October came the news that Lutanda Camps has undergone a name change to **CCC Camps**, but the website address will remain the same for the time-being:-

<https://www.lutanda.org.au/>

The three campsites will now be CCC Central Coast, CCC Hawkesbury, and CCC Blue Mountains.

The Managing Director, Alex Worley, emailed "While our names have changed, we continue to provide the same services that focused on the issues and challenges that young people have to face in today's world, particularly with disadvantaged youth in the out-of-home care system.

"We will continue to offer services and ministries that build resilience, courage, self-confidence and teamwork."

The Head Office will be renamed as CCC Camps and is now located on Level 3, 29 George Street, Burwood.

Stewards Foundation has moved into a more spacious office area in the Burwood building at 29 George Street. Stewards also welcomed a new member of staff to the team, Ms Jess Weldon, who is actively involved at St Ives Community Church. Jess will play an important role in Stewards as the first point of contact, and her role will cover a broad range of admin areas such as reception, accounts, marketing and policies.

* * *

Unfortunately, since we last compiled this bi-monthly column, there have been several major health issues which have afflicted people well known around our NSW assemblies, and beyond. They have all contributed to the content of this magazine in previous years, and I ask that we all remember them, and their families, fervently in prayer in the coming months.

We heard first of the failing health of brother George Galieh. He was in hospital for several weeks but is now at his home under palliative care. I understand he turned 90 this year.

Then, in early October, we heard that brother Doug McNaught (age 68) had a mild stroke which the hospital dealt with quickly. But tests showed he will need open heart surgery as soon as it's safe to do that! He is at home resting.

Then there is brother John North (head of AFCI) who has had surgery to remove some internal cancer tissue. I understand this went well, and he is back serving the Lord, although quite tired at times. He will of course need a ➤

series of check-ups in coming weeks and months. When he first notified people of his need for surgery, I understand he had three prayer requests to share. He is now rejoicing that all three were answered. Praise the Lord.

* * *

Several people have asked me if there will be a special Christmas offering taken up this year for our NSW Commended Workers? And if so, by what date should our gifts be sent to the Ministry Support Fund?

Can someone please answer these questions and inform all our churches as soon as possible?

* * *

Hands & Feet held its annual fundraising dinner on the 24th October. Around 320 people went to celebrate and hear testimonies of what God is doing through churches who are helping people in need via Hands & Feet. The ministry continues to exist and serve Churches as a result of the generosity of donors. It is aiming to provide these services in each State. Anyone can support the ministry by donating to Account Name: Hands and Feet Inc

BSB: 802 759 A/c No: 100 000 062

To get a receipt please email:

info@handsandfeet.com.au

Here is a link to a Hands & Feet video on YouTube giving some testimonies of those being helped:-

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkgAWwHq0zk&feature=youtu.be

Meetings & Events

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


www.cccaustnsw.com/events

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

2019:

- 9 Nov **Christmas Shopping/ Coffee Confab** at Elouera Gardens, 9am to noon.
- 11 Nov **Bankstown Community Church** - Ladies High Tea Testimony Night; 7pm.
- 24 Nov **"Sunday Night Lights"** 5pm start at Riverstone C.C
- 30 Nov **'Pathfinders'** at West Pennant Hills CC; 7pm start; Christmas Celebration.

2020: (reserve the dates)

- 29 Feb **Pathfinders** at WPHCC; 7pm
- 27-28 Mar **Build 2020 (NSW) Men's Conference** at CCC Central Coast.
- 2 May **Thrive Conference** for women. Connie Main Duarte will be the keynote speaker.
- 30 May **Pathfinders** at WPHCC.
- 29 July **PITH 2020** "Partners in the Harvest" will be held in Port Dickson, Malaysia from 29th July to 1st August. PITH is the Asian Pacific Regional Conference of the IBCM.
- 29 Aug **Pathfinders** at WPHCC.
- 28 Nov **Pathfinders** at WPHCC. 

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

General Prayer Points:

- > Pray that our churches can be salt and light in our changing world, that we can show the love of Christ through the way we interact with our neighbours, friends and family. May people see Christ in us.
- > Pray that we as churches will not forget that even as society changes, we have a sovereign Lord who is in control and we as His people are still on the offensive, taking the Good News of Jesus to a world of people who need this wonderful news.
- > Praise God for the recent rain in some drought-affected areas of Australia.
- > Pray for those areas and communities still badly impacted by long-term drought in both NSW and the rest of Australia.
- > Pray that our church elders will have wisdom as they lead our local churches.
- > Pray for the work of Hands & Feet, and for God's protection over that ministry.
- > Pray for the Sydney Festival Male Voice Choir. It has about 20 members now, but seeks many more. Any interested Christian men can attend the rehearsals (Friday nights, 7:30 to 9:30pm, at Riverside Baptist Church, 10 Lawson St, Ermington) to acquaint themselves with the Choir and its music. Contact David Gordon (Secretary) on 0400 426 373 for more details
- > Pray for the Boards of our para-church ministries as they lead and provide vision for these ministries. CCCAust(NSW), CCC Camps, Stewards, ACCS, Hands & Feet, CBCS, CCM, GLO, CMS, AEM, ACM, AMT, WMC.

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

We will do our best to include your matters in the next issue of this magazine – which will be Printed in mid-December (DV). Failing that, it would have to be in the February 2020 issue – so please always include your contact details in case I need to verify if a matter is still current.



Australia's 2019 National Prayer Breakfast

as reported in the media

On Monday 14th October, for 6.30-9am they came to the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra. They came from all around Australia and beyond; from all the churches; from all walks of life. About 450 people gathered for the 30th National Prayer Breakfast on a chilly Canberra morning and enjoyed warm fellowship and inspiring messages.

Senator Amanda Stoker and Luke Gosling MP, joint chairs of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship, kept the packed program moving along, with contributions from:-

Selina Walker (*Welcome to Country*),
Milton Dick (*Grace*),
Chelsea Newman (*Prayer for our leaders*),
Andrew Noack (*Prayer for our nation*),
Michael Gladwin (*Prayer for our youth and education*),
Mel Hickson (*Prayer for the marginalised*),
Zed Seselja (*The Lord's Prayer*),
Divine Clement and Worship Band,
Trinity Christian School, Canberra (*The goodness of God*),
the Governor General, the Hon David Hurley (*Prayer Breakfast Address - see page 8*),
the Prime Minister, Hon Scott Morrison (*Address, and book launch of 'Amen'*),
the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Anthony Albanese (*Vote of Thanks*).

In launching the book '*Amen, A History of Prayers in Parliament*', the

Prime Minister said that he certainly felt at home in a gathering of people who (like himself) believed in miracles and were people of prayer, which he believes to be a good way to start each day. He said 'Prayer is important as it reminds us of our humility, our vulnerability, our human frailty.' □

A Prayer for Australia

'Our most gracious and holy God, we own Your Name but we have done so much through our selfishness and neglect of Your Word, and our failure to love You with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves, that our witness before the world is so often weak and unconvincing. Give us first humility of heart, to see ourselves as You see us, and drive us to You to seek forgiveness, and then to seek Your blessings on a people who love You and seek to walk in Your ways.'

'Lord, we repent and humbly pray for forgiveness that we have not put You first. We repent and ask forgiveness that we have not put building Your house first, which includes building up Your people who are the living temple You dwell in. We ask that You would help us not to be selfish and self-centred. We want to honour You Lord and we want You to take pleasure in our houses of worship and our hearts of worship.'

'We acknowledge that You are the Lord of the universe; that You are the One who provides the rain to water the Earth so crops, livestock and we ourselves can flourish. We ask that in Your mercy You would send the rain. We pray for physical rain and the spiritual rain of revival to flow through our nation.'

'We thank You Lord for past revivals and we pray that the latter rain would be even greater than the former rain, that You would bless the work of our hands, especially the farmers on the land, and give us peace. We thank You for renewal of our land and renewal of our faith.'

- Canberra Declaration
via National Association of Christian Leaders

The Governor General: Leading By Example

as reported in *New Life* newspaper

It has long been known that General David Hurley is a softly spoken, humble and unassuming man of the people. Christians have known, too, that he is a person of faith who is not afraid to declare that faith. Whether he is sparring with Aboriginal youths at the gym in Redfern or addressing a large gathering of Christians, General Hurley is right at home.

He was certainly right at home at the 30th National Prayer Breakfast as he shared something of his own spiritual journey and gave us encouragement as we live out our faith in our spiritually needy land – all with gentle humour and Biblical application.

In earlier life David Hurley had belonged to other Christian traditions, but later he and his wife Linda settled into the Presbyterian Church, where in the Providence of God he was nurtured in the faith first by the Rev Dr Graham Miller of Hurstville, who pointed him to the sermons on Romans by Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, then by the Rev Dr David Mitchell, who planted the Presbyterian Church in Tuggeranong after retiring from a distinguished legal career. He referred to Presbyterians as being ‘chosen frozen’, though to me he seemed to be more like ‘warm Reformed’.

More importantly, in asking at various times in life he has come to know that ‘things don’t just happen randomly’ as he has pondered the question, ‘Why do certain things happen?’ For example, when invited to become Governor of New South


Wales and later, Governor General, he discussed these invitations with his wife and family. They prayed and committed these matters to the Lord: ‘Into Your hands’ in the spirit of Psalm 32.

General Hurley sees his present role as being the nation’s Chief Carer in the context of engagement with people all over Australia and across the breadth of their interests.

During his military career, General Hurley spent a year studying in the USA. The school’s assessment of the world situation was summarised in four words: Volatility; Uncertainty; Complexity; Ambiguity.

David Hurley met that with his own prescription: **Stability** (through faith in the unchanging God – Revelation 1.8); **Certainty** (assurance of salvation – Romans 8.28-30); **Simplicity** (simple faith – John 14.6); **Clarity** (the clear call of Jesus – Matthew 11.28-30).

The Governor General seeks to work according to Christ’s clear warning: ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’ – Mark 9.35. He is confident that God is ‘working all things together for good ...’ His final words: ‘Into Your hands.’

Praise God for giving us such a man for such a time as this. 

Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the December 2019 magazine on, or before, 15th November.



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on line
at



Sun 3.30pm



ORANGE Sunday 7pm

vantagepointradio.com.au

NSW WOMEN'S MISSIONARY PRAYER & SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP

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

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

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

Northside venue: Elouera Gardens, Kitchener Road, Cherrybrook.
Contact: Lil Fleming ph 9858 5436 email: lflem@bigpond.com

Southside venue: Oatley Gospel Hall, River Road, Oatley.
Contact: Jackie Sardar ph 9785 3439 0410 683 174

email: cherylsardar@optusnet.com.au



Aaron & Shelley Daniell
6 Talavera Close
Raymond Terrace NSW 2324
24 October 2019

Dear Friends,

It has been a full couple of months. This weekend I head to West Sydney for our final seminar in our two year journey with one of our EvangelismSHIFT groups.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support.

The AFCI International Congress in Cambodia was a fantastic time of fellowship with God and His servants. Our theme was Timely Transitions. I came home with ten action steps for my own life and our ministry.

Please pray for Joe and Rhoda Duthie and their two daughters, as well as for the AFCI International team. Joe received the baton of leading us as our new AFCI International Director. We are excited for what God will do through AFCI across the world in the coming years.

The launch of EvangelismSHIFT USA was impacting. "I don't have any non-Christian friends..." one leader shared with me after our first seminar, realising his lifestyle had to change if he was going

to live as a true follower of Jesus. The leaders of Faith Bible church are committed to becoming effective witnesses for Jesus and building this culture among their people.

Please pray for John North and John and Robyn Fleming as they continue to facilitate EvangelismSHIFT with this group for the next two years. Please pray too for Bruce and Trudy Dick as they grow into their role as USA National Director for EvangelismSHIFT.

My time at the Global Church Movements Gathering in Thessaloniki was so valuable and applicable to us at AFCI as we consider how we help churches in the area of multiplication.

Please pray for wisdom and insight as we consider how best to equip and empower God's people for multiplication.

On Sunday we celebrated Jacob's 17th birthday. Jacob is one of God's greatest blessings to us. We are so thankful to God for granting us the honour of parenting and are thankful for the way God has used Jacob to grow, encourage and inspire us as parents.

Please pray for our children that they would continue to grow in truth and wisdom trusting their lives to their loving Lord Jesus.

Thanks for sharing life with us.

Love, Aaron, Shelly and family. ➤

Please submit any news-items, letters, adverts or short articles for the December 2019 magazine on, or before, 15th November.



Geoff & Liz Folland
4 Oronga Avenue
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
15th & 25th October 2019

Hi Friends,

I've come up with a new slogan: "25 years of saying inappropriate things on campus." By inappropriate I mean unexpected, breaking with polite clichés and challenging thoughtless assumptions. Let me share with you my latest experience that occurred while coaching a Bible college student in practical evangelism skills.

I glanced up as Phillip arrived, and noticed he was hugging his backpack a little tighter this morning. "Are you ready?" I asked, "Jackie will take you out." Jackie is a new missionary with us and a beautiful, gentle soul. "I thought it would be best if I could do a role-play first if I'm going to lead the conversation," Phillip replied. I agreed, and Phillip led a practice discussion with me using Perspective Cards. I played a typical university student unconcerned about God because life is OK and Jesus doesn't seem relevant. Phillip, supported by Jackie, occasionally hesitated, listened respectfully and apologised if he offended me with his questions. As the conversation ended I said, "Phillip, I know you're supposed to ask me if I want to meet again but can I just say right now that this

was so boring that, although I like you, I wouldn't want to meet again." His eyes widened. Had anyone ever spoken to him like that before? I don't think I'd ever said that to someone before. "You need to add some spice to the conversation to make it interesting," I continued. "You don't want to bore people with the gospel. Now go and practice your opening line a few times with Jackie and then have a go in real life."

I met up with Jackie later that afternoon where she reported that they'd met a girl whose father and brother had walked away from the faith but now she was at university she is interested in exploring things further for herself. After her conversation with Phillip and Jackie, she was keen to meet again. My two reflections on this episode are:

1. Evangelism is easier in real life than in role plays. Real people are easier to find points of engagement with than actors;

2. Inappropriate statements are sometimes necessary to state a point in a way that will strike home. They're useful in training, but they're also useful in evangelism.

US Trip: Philip had just finished Year 7 (2014-15) when we last travelled to the US to catch up with our ministry partners in Indiana, Colorado and Arizona, and now he is finishing high school. It's been an intense time getting the movement at the University of Sydney re-established but we had hoped and prayed that we could travel this summer and we made tentative plans. We were just about to pay for tickets

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when I (Geoff) received an email from Andrea, a Vice President for Cru Global (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) inviting me to a Global Leadership Forum in Orlando for a week in December. This invitation was extended to about 60 other leaders from our 14,000 staff globally, so it is not an invitation to turn down! And, with some quick adjustments to our schedule by Liz, we have arranged to include Orlando in our trip. The details of our plans for the US trip are coming together. Liz will be letting people know of opportunities to catch up at open houses in each place we're visiting. We've been trusting God to provide funds for the plane tickets and, so far, we've received 25%. Praise God!

If you know any students heading to university next year, please let me know by: 1. Emailing me (geoff.folland@powertochange.org.au);

and 2. Inviting them to like either our University of Sydney page:-

[facebook.com/powertochangeUSYD/](https://www.facebook.com/powertochangeUSYD/)

or our University of Notre Dame page:-

[facebook.com/powertochangeBroadway/](https://www.facebook.com/powertochangeBroadway/)

In His grace, Geoff & Liz

into hospital on the Friday, 30th August, with influenza B. We are praising the Lord that Joanne made it to her father's funeral yesterday, especially when on Sunday the nurses thought she was progressing toward pneumonia. On Monday the doctor said her chest was fairly clear. (She was discharged on 4th September.)

"We thank the Lord for another three months that He has allowed us to serve Him. Joanne is quite well, though a throat infection and fever put her in Tweed Heads Hospital for two nights in mid-June, after Tim and Wai Wai's wedding. We were enjoying a couple of weeks break at Cabarita Beach, just south of the Queensland border, which is why she went to Tweed Heads.

Tim and Wai Wai's wedding was a wonderful occasion at Brookfield in Brisbane. They honeymooned in Hawaii and have now settled into a lovely unit in Yeronga, close to the railway station and work in the city. Unfortunately, Joanne's dad and Gary's mum are missing from the photos, as they were unable to make it to Brisbane. It was great to have some of Wai Wai's family over from Hong Kong for it.

- God bless, from Gary & Joanne" □

Gary & Joanne Akehurst
PO Box 1100,
Five Dock NSW 2046
4 September 2019

Dear email Pray-ers,

Below is our September 2019 prayer newsletter. It was written before Joanne's father, Robert Wright, was called peacefully into his Lord's presence on Tuesday 27th August and before Joanne was taken





THE WORD TO THE WORLD

Available in over 100 countries and printed in
80 languages with 1200 distributors.

CALENDARS

A substantial part of the work over the past three months has been processing the calendar orders and establishing prison numbers. This is now complete and our order is with the printer. We have a concern for this year with prison numbers as a new prison is being built at Grafton for 1500 prisoners. The completion date is expected to be November this year. Unfortunately this means if it is completed on time prisoners will be transferred from many other prisons and our numbers of calendars for those prisons will not be correct. The cost to print 1500 calendars for Grafton with the uncertainty that exists and no expected increase in the overall prisoner numbers is not warranted.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

Our other focus has been finalisation of the annual accounts. It's evident that it hasn't been a good year financially although we are very pleased with the number using our courses and with the many who have made a commitment to be a follower of Jesus.

COURSES

We have previously reported on our decision together with Qld to use the two smaller courses as free introductory courses this year. We have not seen any problems to date with this move and will continue it into 2020.

Freight costs and postage continue to rise and are having a major impact

on financing the work, but thankfully not on the spiritual aspect. This is in God's hands and we continue to see many deciding to be a follower of Jesus.

We expect another rise in postage charges in the New Year.

STUDENTS

We've had a number of our students released from prison in recent months and are very pleased with the number who have requested to continue with their studies. We've had three who were deported on completion of their sentence. Two of them we've been able to link up with ECS offices overseas. The third we have often written about during his years of imprisonment. He is now back in his home country and has been reunited with family. He has also been offered an opportunity to work with Prison Fellowship amongst prisoners in his home country. He has regularly contacted his marker here, via Face Time. The marker was in the office recently when the call came through and we were all able to speak with this ex-prisoner. His face was just beaming and his expression of gratitude for our work more than makes it all worth while.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

You might notice that we have recently advertised for more volunteers for the work. Initially we would like someone to take over the control of the calendars work, and the finances, but with a view to longer term involvement as Registrar in NSW. □

Sharing your story

Have you ever taken a photo of a beautiful landscape and later looked at that picture and thought, “What in the world was I taking a picture of?” or “Why did I take that picture?”

Sometimes our experiences of nature are so beautiful that we just have to take photographs because we want to share them and to remember them. However a photo rarely does justice to the beauty we saw because it is so hard to capture the ‘experience’—the joy of the beauty, and the ‘feeling’ that the moment created just for you!

In a similar way, our words never really do justice to our experiences of God. It is very difficult to put into words how we experience God’s peace in a moment of chaos; or the feeling of being used as a vessel of God’s grace; or the experience of knowing that God has carried us through a tragic time in our lives.

Note however – though our photos cannot help another experience exactly what we experienced, we do keep taking photos!

In the same way, though our words cannot help another person experience exactly what we experienced, we keep telling our story—it’s called ‘giving our testimony’ or ‘being a witness’.

(1 John 5:11 “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.” NIV).

Both the pictures and the words of our God-experiences may lead another person to want to experience God as we do.

But also **we benefit** in the sharing of the pictures and the re-telling of our experiences. We are effectively re-living our experiences and the joy as well.

We each have a story — a testimony — to give. What’s yours today?

Don’t keep it to yourself; share your testimony. It will do somebody good! Maybe, many more than one person will be blessed!

Luke records in his gospel (chapter 10:1,2) ‘... the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’

Jesus gave them several instructions on how to conduct themselves and concluded with the reassuring words in verse 16 “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects Him who sent me.”

Later the scripture says (v17) *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name”.* □

Please submit any news-items, letters, adverts or short articles for the December 2019 magazine on, or before, 15th November.



www.cbcs.com.au

Supporting the Ministry through Membership

Christ's love compels us
2 Cor 5:14



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What is CBCS?

- Christian Brethren Community Services was established in 1976 as a charitable, not-for-profit organisation.
- As a ministry of the Christian Brethren Assemblies in NSW, CBCS seeks to serve the Lord's people from the Assemblies and the wider Christian community, and to reach out to those who do not know him as their Saviour.
- The Mission of CBCS is *to strive to be connected to the community by being inclusive, valuing all people and demonstrating Christ's love through a continuum of quality care.*
- As an Approved Provider under the Aged Care Act we care for 230 people in three Residential Aged Care Facilities.
- As a retirement village operator, we provide accommodation and services to around 200 residents in 3 retirement villages.
- CBCS is guided by the following values:
 - ✓ Christian Ethos
 - ✓ Excellence
 - ✓ Respect
 - ✓ Care
 - ✓ Equity
 - ✓ Stewardship



What Facilities does CBCS Operate?

- 72 Retirement Units, of 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, are located at the Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village at Cherrybrook.
- 24 independent living units are located in the Glenhaven Retirement Village.
- The Lynden Grove Retirement Village at Cardiff Heights has 44 independent living units.
- Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre is a 120 bed facility. Low care and high (nursing-home level) care in its Yurana, Waratah and Bethshean Wings. Specialist dementia care is provided in the Jacaranda Wing.
- Carinya House, with 60 beds at Glenhaven, admits low care residents in its Banksia Wing and provides specialist dementia care in its Waratah Wing. Like Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, Carinya House is an 'ageing-in-place' facility and therefore also provides high care as residents' needs increase.
- Groves House at Cardiff Heights opened in July 2010 and like Carinya House is a 60 bed ageing-in-place home with a secure dementia wing.



Why Become a Member of CBCS?

- The Board, residents, management and staff of CBCS continually seek the interest and support of the wider Christian community.
- Membership of CBCS is open to any member of a Christian Brethren Assembly.
- As a member of the Company you will:
 - ✓ Receive newsletters with information on developments in the organisation;
 - ✓ Be eligible to be nominated as a Director of the Company;
 - ✓ Be able to pray for the needs of the Ministry and of those whom we serve.

Application for Membership

Yes, I would like to support Christian Brethren Community Services by becoming a member of the Company. Please send me more information and the application forms.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

Address PO Box 7002, Baulkham Hills BC, NSW 2153

Email admin@cbcs.com.au

Phone: (02) 9842 4111



Volunteers needed by CBCS

As the previous four pages indicate, CBCS is a charitable not-for-profit organisation and it relies heavily on the support it receives from its team of volunteers. But with the growth in our services, we are looking to increase our number of volunteers at all three of our locations – Cherrybrook, Glenhaven and Cardiff Heights.

This is where you (dear reader) may be able to help. Australia is known as a country of people who are very willing to give of their time and efforts in a voluntary capacity. Many such people have discovered and know the fulfilment and enjoyment that comes from providing valuable community assistance in a voluntary capacity. We would love to talk with you about how you may be able to volunteer in one or more ways.

What can volunteers do in CBCS?

There are five main areas where we need volunteers. These are:-

Physical

- > Go for walks with residents
- > Help when going on outings
- > Assist with hand massages and other beauty therapy
- > Help with men's group/shed
- > Help with gardening
- > Escort residents to on-site appointments, e.g. the hairdresser

Intellectual

- > Play games
- > Read books
- > Participate in activities; arts, crafts, games, etc

Spiritual

- > Give a devotional thought or message
- > Conduct a Church Service
- > Take a Bible study
- > Encourage a resident spiritually
- > Pray with or for a resident
- > Play a musical instrument

Emotional

- > Be a friend
 - someone for residents to have a chat with;
 - someone with whom to share past experiences;
- > Be a support
 - someone to talk to when lonely or troubled.

Ladies Auxiliary

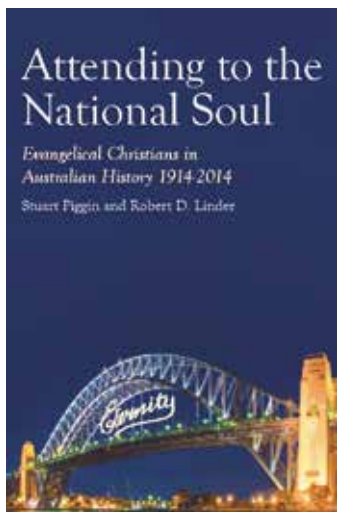
Elouera Gardens at Cherrybrook has an active Ladies Auxiliary which, amongst other things, provides activities for residents and conducts fund-raising to purchase facilities to benefit residents.

If you are at all interested in joining our valued team of volunteers at any of our locations, please contact the Pastoral Care Coordinator on 9479 8019 or the Diversional Therapy Coordinator on 9479 8035 or email:-

admin@cbcs.com.au



A book launch



Monash University Publishing is delighted to invite you to the launch of **Volume 2** of the award-winning history of **Evangelical Christians in Australian History**

It will be held at

**St Stephen's Church,
179 Macquarie Street, Sydney
(opposite Parliament House)**

on

12 December 2019, 3.00 – 5.00 pm.

The launch will be chaired by **Dr Meredith Lake**, broadcaster and historian. Meredith is the host of 'Soul Search' for the ABC and winner of the 2019 Premier's History Award for *The Bible in Australia*.

The book will be launched by **Dr Tim Costello**.

Tim is Australia's best-known Christian social activist, the Chief Advocate of World Vision Australia, lawyer, Baptist minister, and a much published author.

His autobiography, *A Lot with a Little*, has just been published.

RSVP to Stephen Chavura by 28 November
stephenchavura@gmail.com

What they're saying:

'There has probably never been a better history of evangelical traditions in a single country.'

Mark Noll, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
'Stuart Piggin and Robert D. Linder discuss the impact of this vibrant inter-denominational movement on Australia with clarity, authority and critical sympathy.'

David Bebbington, Professor of History, University of Stirling
'A great achievement and one that will help over time to change the way Australian history is written.'

Conjoint Associate Professor **Stuart Piggin** was Director of the Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience at Macquarie University (2005–16) and Head of the Department of Christian Thought of the Australian College of Theology. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and of the Religious History Association of Australia and was the foundation President of the Evangelical History Association of Australia. He lectured in Religious History in the Universities of Wollongong and Sydney 1974–1990 and was Master of Robert Menzies College at Macquarie University, 1990–2004. He has written seven books and over 100 articles for academic journals.

Robert D. Linder is the Distinguished Professor of History at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, and an acknowledged authority on modern religious history. He is the author or editor of fourteen books and more than one hundred articles in history and religion journals. He has visited Australia each year since arriving on a Fulbright scholarship in 1987, and through the Evangelical History Association of Australia, of which he was a founder, and through many seminars and courses he has taught in universities across Australia, he has made a major contribution to Australian religious history. □

“Evangelical Christians in Australian History 1914-2014”

by **Stuart Piggin and Robert D Linder**

In this major new contribution Stuart Piggin and Robert Linder tell the story of how Australian evangelical Christians responded to the decline of the British empire and to the expanding international reach of their religious mission and beliefs, of how these Christians reacted to the challenges of secularism, and of how they have sought to ‘attend to the national soul’: sensitising the national conscience and helping to shape the national consciousness.

The authors offer an extensive treatment of evangelical involvement in World Wars I and II and in the wars in Korea and Vietnam. They consider Alan Walker and Billy Graham and the

development of an energetic evangelism more calculated to address global fears and personal anxieties. And they show that by the beginning of the 21st century conservative, progressive and Pentecostal branches had each learned the necessity of bringing a prophetic ministry to bear on social issues.

This ambitious study seeks to recognise the influence of ‘the public opening up of the word of Christ to the world’, ‘to tell the truth about his influence’ on Australia’s social and cultural history, and to show that evangelical Christianity continues to be as much a public ethic as a personal creed. □

'Take all the people of war with you' Joshua 8:1 NKJV

The Word for Today

When you're under spiritual attack, you need to surround yourself with 'the people of war'. They are experienced in spiritual warfare and know how to deal with the enemy. They have proven strategies for victory and a tenacious faith that rises up and says, '*If God be for us, who can be against us?*' (Romans 8:31 KJV) The truth is, the people of *war* are the people of the *Word*. They know how to take the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God, and use it to defeat the enemy (see Ephesians 6:17). They're not hesitant about marching into the enemy's camp and taking back everything he has stolen from them (see 1 Samuel 30:8).

Anybody can stand with you in the good times, but when you find somebody who can stand with you in the bad times, treasure them

and build a relationship with them. The Bible says, '*A brother is born for adversity.*' (Proverbs 17:17 KJV) Did you get that? They're *born* for battle! They're not just strong in faith, they're strong in *fight*. And you won't necessarily find these people in pulpits and choir lofts; they blow no trumpets, wave no banners, and demand no applause. But they know how to boldly approach the throne of grace and claim the promises of God (see Hebrews 4:16).

After Joshua conquered Jericho, God said to him, '*Take all the people of war with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king... his people... his city, and his land.*'

So if you are in a battle today, take '*the people of war with you.*'



History is linear, not circular

Author and theologian, Robert Farrar Capon, has written several books. In one he writes about Jesus' teaching concerning His return. Jesus wants people to be ready for His return in the future.

Capon reflects on a particular passage in the Bible and reminds us that history is linear not circular: "The course of the world and the course of God's action in it are like an arrow shot towards a target, not like a planet endlessly pursuing an unchanging orbital course."

History often *feels* circular. At the start of each year it feels like another

go around the circuit of life – it will all come around again. The news feels circular, same old same old, just another set of names involved. We can feel like there is no rush or pressure on any choice we make because they will also all come around again.

Capon's point is that this is **not** the case. There will be a time when the arrow hits the target and it will be too late. The choices you have made will be fixed, even eternally fixed.

There is an end point to all of our lives and to history, so be sure you are prepared for it.



When to talk to someone about God?

— when he or she has lost all hope! by Maggie, AFCI Blog

In 1 Peter 3:15 it says ‘But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the **hope** that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.’

There is such an outcry for **hope** in our world today. Not something wishy washy...but a **hope** based on the unwavering truth of God’s Word. A hope that is living and active. A **hope** powerful enough to transform, heal, and set the captives free.

Bev came to a gathering in the community centre. She was very prickly, angry and lonely. We talked for maybe 5 minutes. I did not say anything profound. I simply accepted her and told her God loves her. The following week Bev came again. Her words astonished me. She was quite emotional as she said, ‘Last week I was going home to commit suicide. But because of what you said .. that God loves me .. I didn’t go ahead with it. Thank you.’ We had many conversations after that. Bev gave her life to Jesus and lived to serve him. She was transformed into a warm, generous and loving person.

Ellie was struggling with anorexia. She was a very private person. As we entered into a conversation, her inner turmoil became very apparent. I asked her if I could pray with her. She was happy for that. As we did, she became quite emotional and shared that she had gone through an abortion. The shame and guilt were robbing her of her life. I was able to share with her how Jesus gave his life for her and for her sin and shame. That He would forgive

her, wash her clean and set her free, if she was willing to confess to Him. Ellie responded to Christ’s invitation. As we waited on the Lord, again deep tears raked through her body. I asked her what was happening, and she said ‘Jesus has just given me a picture of my daughter with Him. He has forgiven me!’ Her relief and gratitude were astounding.

There are many ‘Bevs’ and ‘Ellies’ in our world. People who are hiding their pain and grief and struggle. People whom God loves with a profound love. People He puts in our pathways, because He knows we have the answer for anyone who is in need of His transforming **hope**. Sometimes we let fear of rejection rob us of the opportunity God gives us through His Spirit, to speak life into the lives of those who are struggling. What amazing opportunities we miss out on, when we allow darkness to rob us of His Light. If Jesus through His Spirit brings people into our pathway, it is because we are invited to be part of the process to leading them to the Giver of **HOPE**. We are a part of His plan for their lives.

As we press into Jesus in our own lives, learning to listen for the Spirit’s voice and are ready to give the reason for the **hope** that lives in us; a **hope** based on the Truth of Him, we will have the awesome privilege of witnessing God’s amazing miracle of redemption at work in the lives of others!!! What an incredible adventure we have been invited into. May you be blessed on the journey!!



Three ideas for responding to angry people

*How to keep a lid on your temper
when others lose theirs.*

by Kurt Bubna

Anger is draining the joy and life out of many people nowadays.

We've all seen a 2-year-old throw a tantrum. We all know about road rage. But the volume of hostility in our culture (particularly in big cities) seems to be rising.

Employers worry that a fired employee might return with a gun and do something horrible.

Neighbours fear talking to the man next door about his dog's constant barking for fear of a violent reaction.

You don't dare use your horn to even gently honk at the person not paying attention when the light turns green because you never know what they might do. (*How dare I interrupt the person's texting!*)

Recently, I was on my way to an appointment, and for the better part of three blocks, I was driving at about 52km/h. Most residential streets in my area are 50km/h, not 60km/h, even though that's not typically what most drivers do. The driver behind me was riding my bumper so closely I couldn't see the car's headlights. I could, however, see his eyes, and he was fuming. I wasn't in a hurry, but apparently, he was, so I pulled over to the side of the road to let him pass. As he accelerated and roared past me, he yelled out his window with anger and swore at me. Seriously? Was that really necessary? What if I had one of my grandkids in the car?

So what can we do in angry times? Here are three ideas to try.

1. Don't take it personally

Sure, sometimes I do something stupid, and I might deserve a little rage because of a poor choice. Occasionally, it is personal, and somebody hates me and everything about me. But more often than not, it's truly not about me. Someone is having a bad day, and I just happen to be within shouting range.

One of the best ways to let a person's anger go is to simply not let it bother you because it's probably more their problem than yours. If you have done something wrong, own it. If you haven't, then don't get rattled, and move on.

2. Keep in mind that angry people are often hurt people

When I stop and realize that I don't know all that's happened in another person's life to lead them down an angry path, it gives me compassion.

What if the person I called an "Internet troll" is actually a lonely alcoholic who doesn't have a friend in the world?

Maybe the driver who yelled at me grew up in an abusive home. Maybe it was someone who's struggling to make ends meet, and was late for work. Maybe the anger was the result of a fight with their partner or spouse.

I don't know. I can't say. But if I pause and give the angry person the benefit of my compassion, perhaps I can change the course of their day. ➤

I wish I had the ability to see into a person's soul and know the **why** behind the **what**. But what I can do is choose the path of peace and give others mercy when they vent on me.

3. Try to respond rather than react

A wise leader named Solomon once wrote, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Proverbs 15:1. NIV). There's something about a humble smile and a soft response to a harsh word that disarms people.

Perhaps by nature, when I'm pushed, I push back. When I'm yelled at, I yell back. But it truly is a relational marvel to see what happens when I respond with kindness rather than tit-for-tat.

With my words, I can escalate or de-escalate a situation. No matter what has happened or why, I have incredible potential to impact the outcome by either being harsh or gentle in my response. I think that's why Solomon also said "*The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*" (Proverbs 18:21 NIV)

So, the next time someone "goes ballistic" at you ... stop. Breathe. Try not to react, and remember, there's probably something else going on deep in their soul, and maybe you can respond as a bit of a healer for those who yell at you.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

— Matthew 5:9 NIV



Adjusting your sights

Jim, a close friend, went target shooting the other day. He doesn't hunt but he does love to go to the target range and shoot. When he showed me his target, he pointed out that the first couple of shots missed the mark because the sights needed to be adjusted. Once he made that adjustment, his shots were right on target. Sometimes in life we need to adjust our sights. Our eyes are drawn to things of this world—money, fame, power, beauty, baubles, glitz, and glamour—causing us to miss the mark. Sin is actually defined as missing the mark. When we miss the mark, our relationship with the Lord is hindered

because we've lost sight of God and His will. When we recognize that our sight needs to be adjusted and we refocus our eyes on God (Hebrews 12:1-2), our relationship with Him will be more on target. Our relationship with God may not be perfect, but as long as we continue to make the sight adjustments and maintain our spiritual disciplines, the relationship will grow, deepen, and flourish. Jim didn't become a marksman without practice. We won't grow our relationship with God without practice. Have you adjusted your sights lately?

Maybe we all should.





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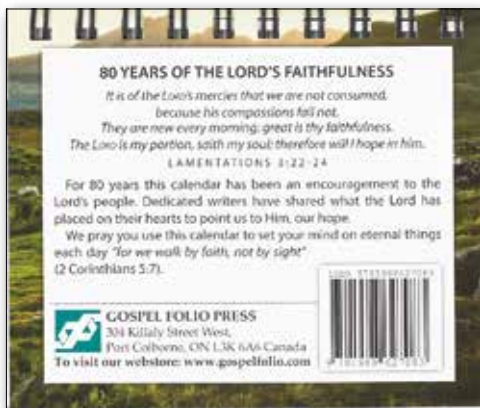
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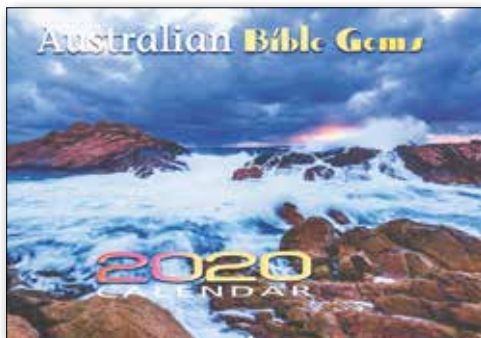
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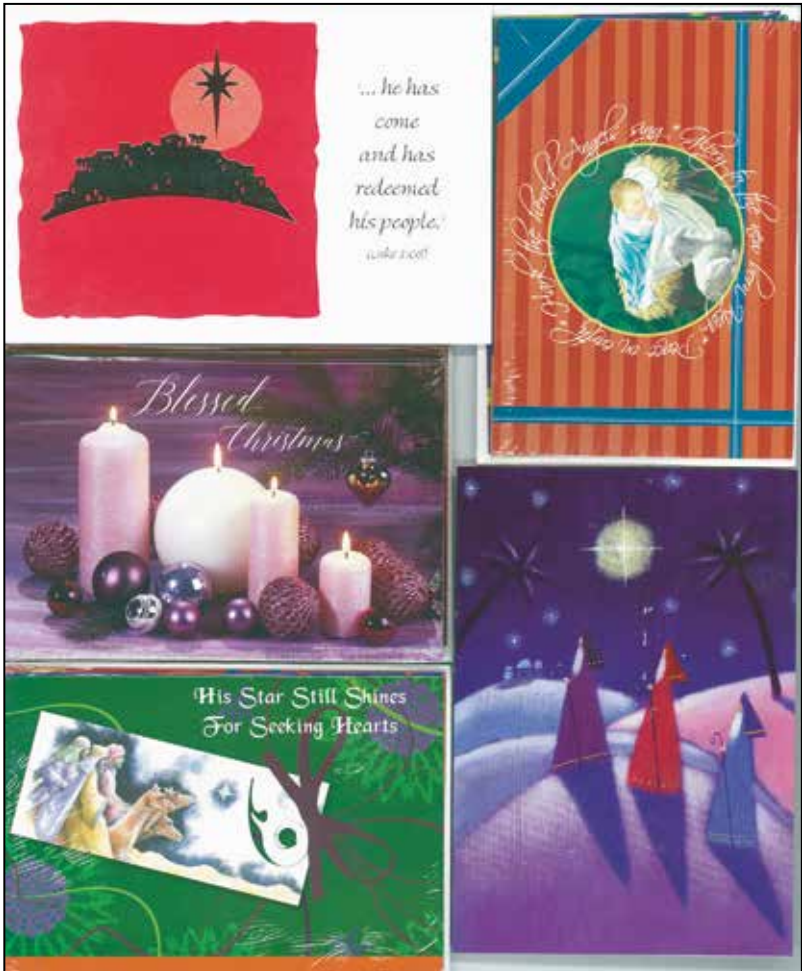
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below is only a sample of the many designs available



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or individual cards at 40¢ and 50¢ each.

To place orders: phone: 0402 107 724

email: aemcobs@gmail.com



Here are 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

Audio Recordings of conferences held in NSW and WA this year and in previous years – back to 2013.

<https://ccaustnsw.com/conferences/downloads/>

UNSPLASH – free high-resolution photos (<https://unsplash.com>).

Leslie George Nixon, 17 January 1932 – 30 June 2019; Founder Of Outback Patrol.

It is with both joy and sadness that we share the news that Leslie George Nixon graduated to Heaven at 10:45pm on Sunday, 30 June 2019. Les had been in palliative care for two weeks, and passed away quietly in his sleep. Les and Martha Nixon were delighted to celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary on 5th June 2019. Their sons, David, Jonathan and Daniel, and their families, are grateful

for the love and support of their many friends. Les Nixon spent his entire life serving the God he loved. From early evangelical ministry on the streets of Sydney with Open Air Campaigners in the 1950's, to Bible training in the USA at Bob Jones University, to tent ministry in Australia, and touring for the 1959 Billy Graham Crusades in New Zealand and Australia. His commitment over the past 60 years as Founder of Australia's Outback Patrol, continued right through the last months of his life, and while the Founder has 'graduated', the ministry will continue for years to come. Les Nixon had a strong presence and will be missed dearly by many, his family most of all.

(Merv Olsen alerts us to a Youtube video:-

www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=O0Z_SvF1e4A
for The Les Nixon Story – Ed)

Two items - Both are on the website:-

www.adeffenceofthebible.com

in the Blog section.

1. "The religion of climate change"

The sixteen year old High Priestess of the Climate Change religion, Greta Thunberg, castigates the United Nations for not doing anything to prevent world climate catastrophe which will happen in 2030. Is she correct?

www.adeffenceofthebible.com/2019/10/14/the-religion-of-climate-change/

>30

2. "Sodom found; scripture is confirmed"

Why has there been such a desire to label the Bible account of the destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah and the other cities of the plain, a myth? Could it be that people do not like to think that there is an all-powerful God who will judge sin.

www.adeffenceofthebible.com/2019/08/29/sodom-found-scripture-confirmed/

The article ends with: "Again, archaeology has confirmed the veracity of the Bible even in an area where it has been attacked so vigorously."

Another website worth watching for news items is:-

<https://walkthru.org.au> (Walk thru the Bible ministries)

Bible Society Australia has launched new translations of the Bible in Auslan – the Australian sign language. This is the first time that John's Gospel, a revised version of Acts, and selections from Paul's Letters, have been available in the language, and which are accessible in digital form for free.

The translations add to existing Bible translations in Auslan, a project that began 22 years ago. In Australia, about 20,000 people use Auslan to communicate.

According to the United Nations, there are 72 million deaf people worldwide who use more than 300 different sign languages.

– *Eternity News at biblesociety.org.au*

In her August 2019 newsletter, **Allison Howell**, shared the following:-

"Evangelical churches are slowly waking up to their responsibility to respond theologically and in Christian mission to issues of climate change and the environment. To that effect, the Lausanne Movement and the World Evangelical Alliance have a Creation Care Network and have just produced a new newsletter, "The Pollinator":-

<http://news.lwccn.com/>

"I encourage you to subscribe to it."

Two more new websites:-

1. Sanctity of Life Sunday

Dave Pellowe would like your feedback and support for the initial Celebrating the Sanctity of Life Sunday, 24th March 2020.

Please visit the website:-

<https://sanctityoflifesunday.com.au/>

or contact: Dave Pellowe

dave@ChurchAndState.com.au

2. Answers in Genesis (AiG)

AiG now has an office in Sydney:-

answersingenesis.com/international/contact/

coordinated by Peter Hatte.

Its Facebook link is at:-

www.facebook.com/groups/answersanz/



Note: The next deadline is 15th November for the December magazine.

NSW ASSEMBLIES' EVANGELISTIC MISSION (NSWAEM)

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Editor - Colin Winrow
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AIMS

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

Further information about the Mission can be obtained via the webpage:-
www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem



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Christian Brethren Community Services

Providing communities of continual Christian care
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living with dementia.



Elouera Gardens



Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre



Glenhaven Gardens



Carinya House



Lynden Grove



Groves House

Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, Cherrybrook NSW

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

Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre, Cherrybrook NSW

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

Glenhaven Gardens Retirement Village, Glenhaven, NSW

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

Carinya House, Glenhaven NSW

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

Lynden Grove Retirement Village, Cardiff Heights, NSW

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

Groves House, Cardiff Heights NSW

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

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