



ASSEMBLIES
Outreach

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October 2020

The Lord is my light and my
salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold
of my life; of whom shall I
be afraid?
Psalms 27:1

In this issue: Praying for NSW Churches
News from Commended Workers
'By the Lake'
News from 4 churches
ECS Quarterly News
'Dear Australia'
... and more

Assemblies Outreach

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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 2020 issue before:- 18th Nov 2020.**

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 &
Epping,

For further info
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's relationship with Her, as gentile nations, both now and in the future. We will encourage the believers in Israel in every way we can. We will pray for Israel.

Normal Programmes will return as soon as possible!
Check ATI website for ZOOM session dates!
Also see page 5.

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



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this October 2020 edition of the Assemblies Outreach magazine.

I hope and trust it finds you all well and coping adequately with the strange circumstances we are living with at present.

If you are not – please reach out for help from another Christian. We are here to care for and help one another, as well as share the Gospel with the many unsaved people in our community. We need one another. We are all precious parts of the Body of Christ.

Personally, it has been both a struggle and a blessing to produce this particular edition of *Assemblies Outreach* magazine! A struggle because of mixing my old age with the hassles of Covid-19 living, but a blessing in

several ways - especially that we have reports from **four churches** in this edition! I don't recall that ever being the case before.

A long time ago, I used to be in the aerospace business and was rather besotted with flying... so it was also a personal blessing to receive aerial photos (perhaps taken by a drone?) for the first time in a church news article – see pages 20 and 21!

If you are blessed by something in this issue, please let me know. The magazine team loves to get feedback!

Jesus Christ...

He healed one who arrested Him,
Served the one who betrayed Him,
And loved the world who crucified Him.

THAT's my Jesus!



CONTENTS of this Issue:

News from Bankstown C.C.....	16
News from Blaxland G.C.....	19
Wollongbar Christian Church...	20
Avoca Beach Village Church.....	23
ECS Quarterly News.....	24
‘Please pray for us’	26
Laugh more	27
Dear Australia, re Coronavirus.	29
‘Out and About’ in NSW.....	4
Praying for NSW Churches, etc..	6
News from Workers	9
Akehurst Newsletter - Sept.	11
An honest question	13
SearchforJesus.net.....	13
‘By the Lake’	14

If you attend a church or assembly associated with CCAust(NSW), or you work with any associated Christian 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-mail them to:

outreach-mag@optusnet.com.au

* * *

The family of the late **Howard Wilson** requested to let churches know that he passed into the presence of his Lord and Saviour on the 7th October 2020. Services were held on Friday 23rd October at 9.30am at Winmalee Gospel Chapel for the family, and then a Memorial Service was held at 11.30am in Springwood Anglican Church, Lawson Road, Springwood. Due to Covid restrictions, seating was limited at these services, however, there was a live stream of the service at <https://youtu.be/3wQcm7vuVCQ>.

Many people in the past have known Howard and worked alongside him throughout his life (Caringbah/Kirrawee Assembly; CYC Camps - children's, Camp David, Festival Camps; NSW Home Workers; itinerant speaking at many churches, and the list continues). If people would like to pass on a message of support for the family Neil Flack is happy to be a link, either via Winmalee Gospel Chapel, PO

Box 78, Springwood 2777, or his email address:-

nhflack@bigpond.com

* * *

Here is a reminder that the **next Coordinating Conference** will be on Thursday 5th November, at 7.30pm.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, previous Coordinating Conference meetings have been hosted via Zoom Video Conferencing. It has not yet been decided if the November meeting will be in person at the Burwood office site, or via Zoom, but when a decision is made email notification will be sent out to all assemblies and churches.

* * *

Ms Jess Weldon emailed recently "One of the aims of the NSW Coordinating Conference is to allow the various **para-church ministries** to report and keep the churches informed of what they are doing. This communication then allows churches to pray for, support, or make use of the services provided by our para-church organisations. There are many valuable ministries that impact our churches, and this is a great opportunity to communicate with our family of churches what your organisation has been doing and plans to do in 2021.

"Unfortunately, we don't have enough time in our meetings to discuss every ministry so instead we compile a handout for the church family that we will issue at the next Coordinating Conference and then also email as part of the meeting's Minutes to all our ➤

associated churches in NSW. There is no compulsion to participate, it is totally voluntary, however this is a great opportunity to keep the churches informed of the good things your ministry is doing for our Lord."

Awake to Israel (ATI) has resumed monthly meeting - however they are online, via Zoom. The flyer for the November Conference, on Saturday, 14 November, is available from Heather and Richard Wilkins.

richard@awaketoisrael.org

(Sadly, there was no room to include the flyer in this magazine.)

Access to any upcoming ATI Zoom meetings can be gained by emailing Richard for the specific link.

ATI has a website which stores recordings of all messages. It has an extensive archive. Also, now the meetings are online, there are video recordings going to a YouTube site. Link to it via the website:

www.awaketoisrael.org

Also ATI has a Facebook page for notices of future meetings:-

[Facebook.com/AwakeToIsrael](https://www.facebook.com/AwakeToIsrael)

Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the December 2020 magazine on, or before, 18th November.

Future Meetings & Events

(Note: for **the latest details** please be sure to also check on this web page:-

www.cccaustnsw.com/events

2020:

- 23-25 Oct CCC FamilyGetaway.
- 31 Oct 'GLO Share & Prayer Time' using Zoom, from 9.15am to 10.30am.
- 5 Nov Coordinating Conference at Burwood or via ZOOM.
- 14 Nov "Awake to Israel" Online Conference, starting 10am. Topic is 'What do the Prophets say?'
Email Richard for the Zoom link:

richard@awaketoisrael.org

2021:

- 3-5 Jan Summer Camp at CCC Blue Mountains for children in Grades 5 to 10 (in 2021). Register by 23 December.

The following conferences have been postponed until 2021. Precise details will be determined in due course. Keep an eye on the related websites.

BUILD 2020

THRIVE CITY 2020

THRIVE COUNTRY 2020

National Conference 2020



Praying for NSW Churches and ministries

Please take time-out in coming weeks to pray for our churches, assemblies, and para-assembly ministries, and for the work of God across our State and Nation at this difficult time for most people.

*If you have any matters on your heart (praise or prayer) relating to your congregation, your ministry, or the Christian organisation you work with in NSW, and if you would like to share them with our readers – **please** write to “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. Failing that, it would have to be in the February 2021 issue – so please always include your contact details in case I need to verify if a matter is still current. —Editor

Our nation needs us all to continue praying, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a strong impact on Australia and many other nations.

We could pray:–

* for those working on the development of a vaccine, and that they would succeed soon, and be able to test, manufacture, and distribute it widely this year, or early next year.

* for all Australians to remain calm and act wisely obeying all instructions put out by our Governments, as difficult as that may be at times.

* for the Australian economy to be protected from long-term damage.

* that our leaders and decision makers would be given great wisdom to know when to impose restrictions upon us, but also to know, and have the courage, to lift them at the appropriate times.

* giving thanks for Zoom and other software programs making possible new ways to fellowship, teach, mentor and facilitate worship.

* for wisdom as some congregations gradually move back into using their church buildings for worship and/or other meetings.

* for our missionaries overseas or stranded here after furloughs.

* for our elderly brothers and sisters who are perhaps more vulnerable to viruses. Pray they will be well cared for and fully at peace in their hearts.

If you would like to pray for our nation in greater depth and/or wish to become a member of the Australian Prayer Network you could sign up on the website:

<https://www.ausprayernet.org.au/members/24-hour-prayer-watch/>



Help For SRE Teachers

School Scripture lessons are now online in a bid to have ready-made lessons on hand during the rapidly-changing COVID environment. Special Religious Education has partnered with Bible Society Australia to develop a digital portal loaded with approved video lessons.

Coronavirus has caused a significant drop in the number of SRE teachers from all faith communities. Many older teachers have dropped out, fearing the risk of personal infection. This can mean a substitute SRE teacher must be called in at short notice or the lesson has to be cancelled.

Murray Norman, head of Christian SRE, told *Eternity News* that having students learn about hope and love, especially at the moment, is very important and is reassuring for students. He says the video presentations provide the way for Religious Education to keep going.

Along with more experienced SRE teachers, newly trained and substitute teachers can use the videos at short notice with reduced preparation.

– *Eternity News at biblesociety.org.au*



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vantagepointradio.com.au

Christian Outreach Book Service (COBS)



is at your service – for this year, and into 2021 (DV) raising funds for NSW Commended Workers.

We now have **Bible Gems** calendars in stock for the year 2021; price \$7.50 + p&p.

Also **Christmas Cards** are for sale, and are to be displayed in the COBS section of “nswaem.org.au” website.

[Sadly, this year we **cannot obtain** copies of the Choice Gleanings calendars for 2021.]

To order phone: 0402 107 724 or email: aemcobs@gmail.com
Postal address: PO Box 20, PENNANT HILLS NSW 1715

NSW WOMEN'S MISSIONARY PRAYER & SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP

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

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

To cater for scattered communities, our groups meet at two venues: Cherrybrook and Oatley, on the **second Friday of each month**, from February 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



David & Julie Ward
Unit 30, 1 Kitchener Road
Cherrybrook NSW 2126
31 August 2020

Dear Friends

Since David arrived back in Australia last December 2019, we have been living on the Sunshine Coast, attending Faith Community Church at Buderim. I, Julie, was working in the aged care industry while Dave had a much needed hiatus from full time ministry work.

In March, David accepted a position with Riverstone Community Church to be involved in ministry which includes the managing of the Sports Centre attached to the church. Due to Covid restrictions we only just arrived in Sydney at the end of July. I have just started working as a carer to adults with disabilities.

At present we are living with Kevin Rosolen while looking for a place to build, which has been made possible due to the generosity of our wonderful church family at Riverstone! We are so thankful to the Lord for all He has done to bring us here, for the loving support of Riverstone

CC, and others. We are also so excited to be here and to have the opportunity to give back and be a blessing to those who have stood by us for over 30 years. What a privilege!

Sending much Christian love,
Julie, for us two.

[Note: Since this letter was written David & Julie moved into Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village at Cherrybrook in mid October 2020 and are staying there until a house can be built.

—Ed]



Geoff & Liz Folland
4 Oronga Avenue
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
25 September 2020 (extracts)

Friends,

This campus year has been very different from what we planned. I suspect some people think that ministry has been impossible. It's looked different but we have continued to focus on evangelism and discipleship, running small groups (via Zoom) and developing the next generation of leaders. Social media has been incredibly important and God blessed us with a new student, Maria, who has a

>10

passion for producing testimony videos.

I mentioned these in my last prayer letter but we've had tens of thousands of views of these videos over the past 3 months. Let me encourage you to check out videos with the hashtag #whyChristiansbelieve - and share them to your own feed so that they spread further.

Please pray that these testimonies would reach those who need to hear the gospel, and will provoke them to investigate the gospel further.

Summer Plans:

Finally, we are going ahead with our plans for summer mission. Several of my key younger guys are hesitating to commit to coming on the project because "they won't know anyone." This is a consequence of COVID isolation. Overall, though, student numbers are almost double last year's - because every other plan has been cancelled! Of course, they are making a video of students dancing when they sign up for the project!

Please pray that students who have yet to commit would make a firm decision, and that God would provide for their needs.

23 October 2020 (extracts)

This year, the University of Sydney made an early decision to delay the start of the second semester. They'd hoped the virus crisis would pass quickly. And now we still have four weeks of classes to go.

This is one more example of how the virus has made a fool of our best decision making and messed with our rhythms.

So I'm still spending hours ... staring at the passing array of faces on my computer screen... It's quite a change from

sitting in cafeterias, walking the paths across campus and bumping into the occasional random students. At least I'm still drinking coffee!

COVID restrictions have meant we haven't had any large gatherings of students since March. We've been holding small dinners off-campus every few weeks. A week-long gathering of Power to Change leaders from across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, that was supposed to be in Auckland in late September, was moved to 3-days online. Interstate campus missionaries will not be attending our week-long national campus missionary conference next January in Queensland. Instead, we are responsible for gathering in our own city teams and connecting remotely. We're also uncertain about how new students will be inducted onto campus next February.

Positives from COVID-19

Many students now visit campus about one day per week. Each time we meet face-to-face is special. Although we appreciate the technology that allows us to connect over video conferencing, we have come to appreciate the value of incarnational ministry! There is a reason why Jesus came "in the flesh".

Also, (because of travel restrictions) many of our students are stuck in Sydney over summer. Consequently, more students applied to come on our summer project in late January. They'll be raising financial support to practice sharing the gospel with young adults and holiday-makers on the Central Coast. Please pray for them.

In His grace, Geoff & Liz.

PromiseBoxAudio.com

Free CDs and DVDs

Dear email prayer partner,

We thank the Lord that Joanne is still going well. The 4 weekly infusions for her immunity are now being done at home, every week by Gary, as injections. This keeps Joanne away from the hospital and it means the level of immunoglobulins in her blood are kept at a higher level. Gary hasn't been all that well for a couple of months but is improving.

Keep praying for those in poorer countries during covid-19. Many can't get to food, either due to the inability to grow crops, afford food as they have lost their jobs, or to go and get to food due to lockdowns. For us, one of the effects of covid has been that **Australia Post** has returned parcels of DVDs to us. Their website says "We've **suspended our "Economy Air" international delivery service for parcels and Economy letters** containing merchandise to all countries, territories and regions effective 3 April and until further notice."

As we can't post recordings we have started a **PromiseBoxAudio.com Whatsapp group** where we provide links to specific recordings. Anyone in the group can request links to recordings on any subject, passage of the Bible, or by a particular speaker. These links are then available on everyone's phone and saves those only using their phones having to search for what they want on a small screen. The majority of people around the world that we contact through Facebook, also use Whatsapp. If you would like to **join this group, please text us your country and Whatsapp number.**

Apart from providing links for recordings on PromiseBoxAudio.com we have also been providing **links for recordings in other languages using [Global Recordings'](http://GlobalRecordings.org) website and Youtube links to Sunday School songs** for those running Sunday schools.

Since the last newsletter we have **added** recordings from the following speakers to PromiseBoxAudio.com. The number in brackets is the total number of recordings now on the speaker's page: [Peter Clines](#) 34 (35), [Michael Duckett](#) 1, [Samuel Jennings](#) 33, [Robert McLuckie](#) 45, [Meryl Packer](#) 3, [Gavin Petersen](#) 5 (16), [Warwick Stanfield](#) 10, [Tom Sutherland](#) 3, [Howard Wilson](#) 105 (108) and [Ravi Zacharias](#) 1.

Due to covid, we haven't posted any recordings overseas since the 1st April. However, we have posted **2 orders to Australia**, which included **1 DVD and 2 CDs.**

Below are more **encouraging messages** received from those who have been **blessed** by the availability of the recordings.



Nassar, UGANDA "Thank you so much, we received 8CDs and we have been going through them again and again and we love it... Our goal is to distribute them on flash disc, memory cards. And we are looking at getting a projector and use these teachings every evening so those who don't have CD players will have chance to watch". Two months later he said "Thank God we been able to pass the DVDs to more than a hundred church pastors"

>12

Akehurst Prayer Newsletter (cont'd from p 11)

Arthur, UK "...it has been a trip down memory lane to just review the names of your record of speakers. We have occasionally checked out some of the messages that have blessed us."



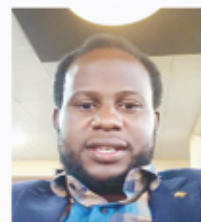
Yesu, INDIA "Dear brother after I listened some messages i feel that I reached a right place where my soul and spirit could revive, i am feeling to listen much more thank so much pray for us."



James, KENYA Has been listening through Whatsapp links and says "I have been listening Jim Barker" (Baker) "the book of Isam" 1 Samuel "and it is so exciting and I want to appreciate so much for what you're doing. Bless you so much."



Edward, KENYA "I have listened to some audio and am enriched sir. God bless you as your boundaries are extended. You are a blessing to me and my family." Edward has been listening to recordings on Whatsapp, through links to recordings. Now people can listen from the website more easily on their phones. We started the Whatsapp group because we have been unable to post recordings overseas by mail because of covid restrictions.



Kyeyune, Uganda "Thank you so much brother Gary!... Oh sure, it's such a blessing! I'm. Really so blessed, May the God Lord continue blessing you so much!"



May the Lord bless and keep you all.

Gary & Joanne

Gary & Joanne AKEHURST



An Honest Question

from 'The Word for Today'

'How long will You hide Your face from me?' Psalm 13:1 NIV

When Kelly James and two climbing friends died on Oregon's Mount Hood in the USA, his brother Frank, a professor of theology, admitted:


'It's one thing to talk about death in the abstract. It's another to cope with the death of someone you love... Death is ugly. We *can't*—and *shouldn't*—try to make it palatable with pious platitudes... One question haunts me, "Where was God when Kelly was freezing to death?"'

'For me *not* to ask would be a failure to take God seriously... I'm not suggesting mere mortals stand in judgment of God. God doesn't report to me. But, an honest question from a broken heart is a good and righteous thing.'

David wasn't afraid to ask God, '*How long will You hide Your face?*' Then a few verses later the same distressed David declares, '*But I trust in Your unfailing love.*' (Psalm 13:5 NIV).

Frank James continued: 'Amid all the spiritual consternation God manifested Himself in my grief. Somehow He's found in the disappointment, confusion, and raw emotions. This doesn't exactly make sense to me, and I don't like it. But my concept of faith has become Abrahamic... I must trust God even when I don't understand... as Christians have confessed for centuries, "We look for the resurrection of the dead" (see 1 Corinthians 15:42) ... Amid enough tears to fill an ocean ... we've had to bury loved ones. But we bury them with this promise, "*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*"

(1 Corinthians 15:22 NIV)

'It doesn't indemnify us against grief... It does, however, take faith to depths where hope begins to poke through the heartache, like a sunbeam piercing a cloudy sky.' 


SearchforJesus.net (Internet Evangelism)

from the BGEA

Mark, an agnostic who lives in Australia, had been struggling with questions about life's purpose when he decided to pray for the first time. "I was instantly filled with joy and meaning," he shared. "I'm the biggest sceptic, but I knew God spoke to me, and I have spoken to Him every day since."

After that prayer, Mark looked to the Internet for answers about his experience and found the *Search for Jesus* website **PeaceWithGod.net**. He learned

about the Good News, and immediately prayed to surrender his life to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith.

Throughout the year, over 1.6 million people like Mark indicated a commitment to Christ, and nearly 307,000 shared their contact information to receive discipleship materials. BGEA's follow-up websites, where people learn how to live daily in relationship with God, exceeded 1 million website page views for the first time this year. 

Read John 21:1 to 14

Alive

While we talk about the Lord Jesus Christ and the fact that He was dead but is now alive, it is interesting to look at a Biblical definition for life. In Gen 1: 20 we notice that creatures with life move. Further down in that chapter we notice (v 30) that living things also eat and the third characteristic of life is found in Gen 2: 6, man has the breath of life and is a living soul. Later in Genesis we discover that life is associated with blood, (Gen 9:4) that life has blood. The Lord Jesus Christ showed each of these things of life as we can see in this chapter, except for the fact that His blood had already been shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Before the Lord Jesus Christ went to the cross, He told His disciples “But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.” (Matt 26: 32) After the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the grave the angel in the empty tomb told the women “And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.” (Matt 28: 7)

The disciples waited in Jerusalem until they saw the risen Lord for themselves so that they could confirm the fact that He was alive and then they headed back to Galilee just as He commanded them.

To Gain Favour

The Sea of Tiberias is another name of the Sea of Galilee. The Romans ruled

the ancient Land of Israel and the local rulers changed the names of some cities and landmarks to gain favour from the Romans.

When the Lord Jesus Christ first called Simon and Andrew they were fishermen but He told them that they would be “fishers of men” (see Matt 4: 18, 19). However, Peter had denied the Lord and wasn’t sure what to do with himself after he returned to Galilee. Peter, James and John were fishermen before they decided to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, so while waiting they, and some other disciples, decided to go fishing again. (When the Lord called James and John to follow him, they left their nets with their father Zebedee. Presumably Zebedee still operated the business and gave them access to one of the family’s boats that evening.)

Even though some of them were experienced fishermen, they were unable to catch any fish, after they worked hard all night. [Perhaps, Peter remembered the night, about three years earlier, when the Lord Jesus Christ used his ship to teach people beside the Lake and then later told him to go out and do some fishing (see Luke 5: 3-6). On that occasion they had fished all night and caught nothing, but when the Lord Jesus Christ told them to cast out their nets, they caught enough fish to fill two ships.]

By the time it was morning the men must have been very tired and extremely frustrated from all the hard ➤

work. When the sun rose, they saw Jesus on the shore, but they didn't realise that it was the Lord. He called out and asked them if they had caught anything and they said, "No!" The Lord told them to cast out their net again so that they could catch some fish. This is reminiscent of His words beside the sea in the early days of His ministry (see Matt 7: 7, 8).

On that occasion, when the Lord told Peter to cast out his net again, he questioned the Lord but, on this occasion, they just did what they were told. Some people suggest that the Lord saw a dark shadow of this shoal of fish and told them to cast the net into the shoal. Other people suggest that the Lord caused the shoal of fish to swim into their net. It doesn't really matter which of these is true, the only important issue is that the Lord performed a miracle. When the Lord Jesus Christ performed miracles, He did so with a definite purpose (compare John 9: 3, for example). When the Lord Jesus Christ first called the fishermen to follow Him, He told them that they were not called to catch fish but to catch men. They had gone back to their old way of life because they weren't really sure what to do. He showed them that they would not be able to catch any fish unless He was in control of the situation. They were wasting their time by going back to their old way of life.

As soon as they saw the net full of fish, John knew that the man on the shore was the Lord and he told Peter. These men lived in the days before

Lycra and space age clothing. When they went fishing, they stripped their clothes off so that they could keep them dry and work without the hindrance of clothing. However, they would dress themselves as soon as they came back to land, because the Jews found nakedness offensive (compare Gen 2: 25, with 3:7, 9:24, 25, and Ex 32:25).

As soon as Peter realised that it was the Lord he put his coat on and swam to the shore. Peter had been quick to tell the Lord that he would not deny Him before Gethsemane (see Matt 26: 35) and we know that he was impetuous, so he was quick to jump into the sea and swim to the Lord. Even though he did deny that he knew the Lord while the Lord was being tried, Peter knew that the Lord was gracious and forgiving and he wanted to go to the Lord as quickly as he could.

The other disciples were a bit more circumspect and they didn't want to lose all the fish that they'd caught, so they dragged the net back to the shore.

When the boat arrived on the shore, they found that the Lord had started a fire and was cooking some bread and fish. The Lord didn't need any of the fish they had caught. He knew that the men were hungry after fishing all night and would need something to eat so He prepared the meal that they needed (compare this with John 4:31-34).

153 Fish

Some people try to find symbolism in the fact that they caught 153 fish, but when Moses spoke to Israel about >16

the Lord's word he said, "But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it." (Deut 30:14) The Lord's words are simple and don't require special knowledge. The simplest person can understand them. The disciples were so surprised at the large catch that they actually counted the fish just to make sure that they weren't imagining anything. The net wasn't designed to hold that many fish, but it didn't break. It was another miracle!

The Lord told them to come and dine with Him. The first time that we read about dining in the Bible is in Genesis

43:16. This was the first step in the process of Joseph forgiving his brothers and effecting reconciliation with them. All the disciples forsook the Lord and fled when He was taken captive before His crucifixion (see Matt 26:56). Now the Lord Jesus Christ called them to dine with Him so that they could be reconciled.

If we have given up everything to follow the Lord, we can be sure that He will never forsake us, but will always provide everything that we need.



News from Bankstown Community Church

by the Church Elders

Bankstown Community Church has served the community over the last 25 years. We hold weekly meetings such as our Sunday Communion and Worship Service, Bible Study, Church and Women's Prayer Meeting, Youth Group, and Sunday School.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we have changed our weekly meetings to online services, using various online mediums such as Facebook Live and Zoom. We have also organised a virtual conference (in lieu of our annual Church Conference), two Women's events, a Kids' event and two Biblical Trivia nights to ensure our Church members and others have the ability to access the events and maintain fellowship and interaction with one another.

In addition, we have also prepared and delivered the following to our Church members:

1. Mother's Day and Father's Day gift packages to bring joy and encouragement to all the mothers and fathers in the Church community;
2. Craft kits for all our Sunday School children to provide them with materials for the lessons being held weekly via Zoom;
3. Care packages to all of our Church members to remind them of the love of God and that the Church community is praying for them.

Our current project is called "The Food Pantry Project", which is a community outreach open to all households in the Canterbury-



News from Bankstown Community Church (cont'd from p 16)

Bankstown Community. Grocery bags will be packed with nonperishable food staples for the pantry to help families during this pandemic.

Deliveries are planned from 13 September 2020 to 25 October 2020. The grocery bags will also contain a

Gideon pocket Bible and a "Steps to Peace with God" tract.

Photos of some of our events posters and projects are shown below and on page 18.



Craft kits for all our Sunday School children

>18

News from Bankstown Community Church (cont'd from p 17)



Mothers Day



Fathers Day



Church Care Gifts



Prayer Requests

We have the following: –

- For the re-opening of our Sunday Communion and Worship service on 20 September 2020. The Lord's guidance and direction during the transition from a live-stream service to our normal service;
- For our "Food Pantry Project". Pray that the Lord blesses each family that receives the grocery bags and softens the heart of each member to the Gospel;
- For the Church Elders and the brothers as they lead and direct the Church;
- That the Lord will bring new visitors to the Church.



Bankstown Community Church

mb: 0412 329 329
 web: www.bankstownchurch.org
 adr: 381 Hume Highway,
 Bankstown NSW 2200



News from Blaxland Gospel Chapel

Member of Christian Community Churches of Australia
— CCCAust (NSW)
36 Rusden Road,
East Blaxland, NSW, 2774
PO Box 19, Blaxland, NSW, 2774

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in Australia in March, all of the services at Blaxland Gospel Chapel have been held online using Zoom.

We “meet” from 9:00am for an open chat, with people logging in anywhere between 9:00 and 9:30 when the service commences. Our sermon series have been around the books of Joshua and then Ephesians and we’ve been able to welcome a number of “visiting speakers” by Zoom to supplement our local speakers. Following the service we break into random “fellowship groups” of about 4 or 5 who can chat together, usually with a cup of tea or coffee in hand, for 15 to 20 minutes. A blessing for the church has been the fact that people can join the service even if they are away from home, thus keeping some sense of fellowship and unity.

One of the highlights for us was welcoming missionary speakers via Zoom. Ian and Leanne Buckley joined us in April, and Jim Gillett and Raymond Johnson from Ireland Outreach joined us from Dublin and Houston in July. Without the pandemic and Zoom technology we probably would never have thought of bringing in overseas speakers in this way.

Our youth group has met online for much of the last six months but were very pleased to be able to return to

meeting personally in August.

The Hands and Feet food service to our community has continued, albeit with some significant changes to the way in which it operates. We have not been able to allow people to enter the building, so we have pre-packed boxes of food, set up tables at the front of the chapel, put chairs outside for people to sit and socialize (at a “safe” distance) and served coffee and packaged biscuits through the kitchen window. It has been encouraging to have a number of people indicate that they are reading the gospel tracts that we place in the boxes, and to have people enter into spiritual conversations with our staff who sit and chat with them.

We ask for your prayers for the following:

- Wisdom for the Elders in deciding when and how to open the chapel to allow onsite services that are also available via Zoom.
- The leadership of our youth group and the youth as they grapple with youth meetings under the Covid-19 restrictions.
- God’s blessing and protection of the Hands and Feet food service; the people who work with us and those that we serve.
- The small group Bible studies and prayer meetings that are continuing.



WOLLONGBAR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

A report written by the Elders, and presented on 1st February 2020, at the Dedication Service of the new building.

This report details the exciting way the Lord has led and enabled us to arrive at the point we are at today - that of celebrating and praising God for His wonderful provision of this brand new building.

We would like to acknowledge that the work in the Wollongbar community and the resulting blessing has only been possible through the grace and strength of the Lord. He has transformed the lives of those who have been saved, and continues to grow and change us all. He gave us the vision for this area and has answered our prayers as we have seen individuals and families turn to Him; and He has opened up the way for the establishment of this church, and now the construction of this new building.

In July 1996, a number of Christians, from what is now Ballina Westside Community Church, felt the need to commence a Sunday School work in Wollongbar. They had been taking children down to Ballina Sunday School for some time, but felt there was the need for a Sunday School in Wollongbar, so a Sunday School was commenced in the Wollongbar Pre-school building. After quickly building



up to over 70 children, the number plateaued at about 45 children. Once a month we turned the Sunday School into a family time, which proved fairly popular with families. Then in 2001 the first Family Outreach Camp was held, with John Skinner as speaker. It was wonderful to have 36 children and 16 parents come to Camp Drewe, Lennox Head, for the weekend and it was a great opportunity to connect further with the families. About a month after the camp, Mr Peter Brandon, an evangelist from England, came to Wollongbar, and some from these families came to hear him speak. This prompted them to want to learn more about Christianity, so we ran the ➤

Wollongbar Christian Church (cont'd from p 20)

“Christianity Explained” course with them. Several decided to trust in Jesus for salvation, and subsequently became active members of the church in Ballina.

In 2004, monthly Family BBQs were also commenced in Wollongbar and over the years these have proved to be very helpful for people, with quite a number wanting to study the Bible with us. As they studied, they learned that God loves us all so much that He sent Jesus to die for us. Because of this we can be forgiven for our sins if we simply believe and trust in Jesus. Several did just that, and are here today. They would tell you that it is the best decision that they have ever made.

By 2008 the Sunday School numbers had declined, mainly due to the

increase in Sunday sport, so it was decided to change to a Thursday afternoon Kids Club. Mission Possible Kids Club became a good point of contact with families from the area, and involved some of the newer Christians in running it.

It became increasingly obvious that the Lord was leading towards a local church to be established in the Wollongbar community. However, correctly zoned land or suitable existing premises were hard to find. We began to pray very specifically and within several months this 2 hectare (5 acre) property came up for auction. In September 2011 the Lord enabled us to purchase it. We were able to develop one third of the property for a church

>22



facility and the remainder as a 14 lot residential subdivision, which funded the renovation of the existing house on the property. On 26 May 2013 we commenced the Wollongbar Christian Church, meeting in the lower storey of the house. We also had council approval for a two-stage development of a larger building.

For the next six years, the Lord matured and developed us as a church. We have tried to maintain a real focus on solid Bible teaching, and in this we have been greatly helped by a number of visiting speakers, some of whom are here tonight. We thank you for your commitment to the Lord in helping us in this way. Another focus has been in reaching out to our community with the Gospel. For this reason, it was a blessing for our leadership team to be able to participate in EvangelismSHIFT training, over twelve weekends throughout 2016 and 2017. We, along with several other Church leadership teams, greatly benefited from this practical training in personal evangelism.

The Church maintained steady growth as a number of new families joined us and others moved to the area. There has also been growth from local people trusting in the Lord and finding lasting peace and hope in Jesus. Consequently, the building we were using grew increasingly cramped and we needed to move on to Stages 2 and 3 of the proposed development.

Then in 2017 a large land holding in Goonellebah became available for

purchase at a very reasonable price. After praying about it, the decision was made to purchase and subdivide the land to fund the building of both stages 2 and 3 of the development. As with many subdivisions, the progress was fairly slow, but finally at the beginning of 2019 it was at a point where work could be commenced on the church building project. This has gone fairly smoothly, with the finished result that you see here today. This is no doubt a direct answer to prayer and we are so thankful for the prayers of many for the work of this area.

We would also like to thank and acknowledge everyone who has had an input to this building project. The generosity, both of time and finances, has been incredible. Many of you who are here today have sacrificially given to the development of this building, and you have done it as to the Lord. Not only has it been done willingly, but the quality of work has been outstanding. We pray that the God, whom we are serving together in this practical way, will receive all the glory as He continues to build His church in this community.

In conclusion, the elders of the Wollongbar Christian Church would ask for your prayers as we lead this church. Please pray that we lead in a gracious and God-fearing manner; that there is unity and spiritual growth amongst all of our church family; and that the building is used for the glory of God and the blessing of the Wollongbar community.



News from Avoca Beach Village Church

by Colin Ostler, Secretary

Cape Three Points Road/
The Round Drive,
AVOCA BEACH 2251
ph: 02 4369 7286

We are a small congregation of people that meet at 11am every Sunday in a little A-frame church building in Avoca.



The gospel of Jesus Christ has always been at the heart of our ministry and we have always endeavoured to reach out to the local community and welcome all people to the church.

Over the years we've had a diverse range of people come along to join us for our services. In the past couple of years though, we've had a difficult time, with a number of the parishioners passing away. Many of them were elderly or suffering from illness, but all of them loved the Lord. The services began to diminish in attendance and at one point went down to only four people. This was a very real concern as Avoca Beach Village Church is the only church in Avoca, and we saw a very real need to keep it going. We prayed to the Lord to send other people along. He has begun to answer our prayers and even in the pandemic, when many people are staying home, we have had a large family join us with musical talents and we have now grown to a congregation of 12 people. Please pray for us that God will continue to bring people along and grow the church for the sake of His kingdom.

During the pandemic we have signed up to be a covid-safe church.

We have reduced the services from two services on a Sunday to one and have been having a covid-safe cuppa instead of our lovely suppers afterwards. One of our members has a lovely singing voice and so we have had a soloist out the front most weeks. We have missed singing our hymns but this week a member read out some hymns instead of singing them. A number of people in the small congregation enjoyed hearing the hymns read out and found the words to be even more impacting than when they were sung.

We still have occasional visiting speakers and love to hear about the things that are happening on the mission field in various places.

If anyone is visiting Avoca Beach at any time, please come and join us for worship, starting at 11am on Sundays. You will be warmly welcomed. □

Please submit any news items, letters, adverts or short articles for the December 2020 magazine on, or before, 18th November.

ECS QUARTERLY NEWS

EMMAUS
AUSTRALIA

THE WORD TO THE WORLD

Available in over 100 Countries and printed in 80 languages with 1200 distributors

'Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet and a Light Unto My Path'
Ps. 119:105

CORONA VIRUS

The Lord is indeed GOOD. We haven't heard of any problems from the Corona Virus for our workers, prayer and practical supporters nor any of our students.

Unfortunately it has caused a number of assemblies/churches that we have contact with not to operate and some of the smaller ones not able to use the technology available to even meet on line.

We continue to pray for you all and for the Lord's protection during this unprecedented epidemic. It has greatly affected our mail to and from the prisons with the volume of courses down substantially. We have seen some increase in the last couple of weeks.

It also affects access to the ships by the Port Chaplain (Rob Flinders) and this also has an impact on the work as he uses our courses.

COURSES

Thank you for the many who prayed for the safe delivery of our order of courses from the USA. We previously mentioned that because our first order seemed to have gone astray the US resent it. Well they have all arrived with some of the second shipment arriving before the first. No doubt the Corona virus also affected the US mail system. We now have a large volume of stock. Unfortunately Canada is still not able to send any freight out so we are out of some of the courses we get from Everyday Publications.

As the US reviews its courses it is printing them slightly differently. The Answer Booklet has become an Answer Sheet and the students answer is indicated by filling in circles. This sheet is then read by a software package called Grade-Cam and supplies a final percentage. This is then given to the marker who attends to written comments or requests. To ensure markers have more interaction with their students and get a feel where they are at spiritually we have had to supplement this Answer Sheet with additional questions which are obtainable from the US web site. It does however reduce the size of courses with some resultant saving in postage.

STUDENTS

Based on the last census there are some 13500 inmates in NSW prisons. Hence we continually see new students seeking to request Bible studies. Recently we have had a new marker and he was extremely excited when 4 of his first 5 students ticked a box that they had made a decision to be a follower of Jesus. He will now have much pleasure as he assists in helping them grow in their faith.

We are also finding that because of the virus the authorities are not moving inmates around as much so things are much more stable.

We are advised that Chaplains who were staying home because of age and the effect of the virus are mainly back on the job. This should speed up delivery of courses as all our correspondence has to enter the prison system through the Chaplains.

CALENDARS

All our orders for 2021 Emmaus Bible Gems Calendars have been processed. We have found the numbers ordered down again and for varying reasons, sadly because some have ceased to operate. Whilst these orders are down the number for prisoners continues to rise. We have ordered 22000 for delivery to various prisons. Most of these are for NSW prisons.

A complicating situation for this year is that there is a new prison completed at Grafton. At present there is only about 500 in it. But we are told the number by the end of the year will be closer to 1000. This makes it very hard to get it right when we order. Of course there won't be 500 new prisoners in that time but they will transfer the bulk of the extra ones from other prisons thus reducing their numbers from what has been ordered. Pray with us that this transition will go smoothly.



Greetings to all our readers of this spring edition for 2020. We would like you to join with us in acknowledging God's amazing love in this ministry.

Special points of interest:

- 2021 Calendars
- Courses
- Student Comments
- Prayer & Praise points
- Fund A Prisoner

FUND A PRISONER

Thank you to those who continue to regularly support this fund, some weekly, others monthly and some annually. During the last financial year the fund supported 7 prisoners receiving courses. Praise the Lord. **CAN WE GROW THIS TO 10 THIS FINANCIAL YEAR???**

We estimate that it costs \$23 per month to support 1 prisoner. If you would like to be involved you can send your contribution through the mail or deposit into our bank account. Details are on the reverse sheet.

EMMAUS
AUSTRALIA

EMMAUS CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL (NSW)

PO Box 69
West Pennant Hills 2125
P: (02)9873 3152
E: info@ecsnsw.org.au



ECS (NSW) exists to bring Glory to God through the supply of free courses to inmates in the many Corrective Centres in NSW. We also send courses to anyone in the community who wishes to enhance their study of The Word of God through the use of ECS courses. Courses are available for each book of the Bible and so many folk purchase them for use in their Bible Study Groups



Please pray that the printing of the calendars will proceed well and that when they are delivered to Sydney we will be able to enlist the help of some young ones to help move them into delivery stacks

GIFTS

If you would like to partner with us in this ministry you can donate online to:
Emmaus
Correspondence
School (NSW)
BSB: 032 087
Account: 123703



Chaplain says:

"The men do really appreciate what Emmaus does by giving them opportunity to study the Bible and receive feedback from someone on the outside. The course is highly regarded and valued by the inmates who perhaps for the first time in their lives have come to look forward to reading and studying the bible - the outside contact seems to enhance the whole experience."

Praise Points:

- Give thanks for the opportunity to continue the work of ECS during current restrictions
- Give thanks for good health of ECS volunteer workers
- Give thanks for the calendar orders now received
- Give thanks for an increase in the mail last Monday
- Give thanks that many Chaplains have now returned to work
- Give thanks for the prison numbers that have been made available (15675, NSW, 1400 WA, 4560 Vic) 21635 Total

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the released students to remain dedicated to their studies and changed lives
- Pray for volunteers to be able to deliver calendars to Metropolitan Sydney and closer country areas
- Pray for the delivery of calendars this year to the warehouse at Seven Hills and the need to break up the pallets in daylight hours

The heart cry of every missionary and Christian worker is “brothers and sisters, please pray for us!”

So of course we do, “God bless sister M.... in Africa and brother B.... in Asia and that family in South America.” What good people we are!

But is that enough, even if we follow a monthly or weekly prayer list?

Seldom do we know enough about our army of Christian workers at home or abroad to be more specific, and therefore we use generalisations. So, looking at Paul’s specific requests for the prayers of his friends and churches we notice several significant things:–

The “How” of Prayer

(Superscript numbers: Refer to footnote Bible references.)

How did the Apostle Paul ask his Christian friends to pray for him?

He asked the church in Rome to “strive together” with him in prayer.¹ While he requested the Colossians to “continue steadfast in prayer.”² Then to the Ephesians he said “Pray at all times in the Spirit.”³

From these verses we see that:

1. Prayer requires effort.
2. Prayer requires earnestness.
3. Prayer requires constancy.
4. Prayer requires spiritual exercise.

The “What” of Prayer

Frequently we don’t know what to pray for because we know so little of

the person’s needs or circumstances. Again, let’s ask Paul what he would have us pray about.

1. Physical deliverance or rescue is high on his priority list.^{1,4,5}

2. That his service might be a blessing to the Christians and find acceptance among them.¹

3. He was deeply conscious that only through prayer would the message be effective in the lives of people.^{2,3}

4. The rapid spread of God’s word through new locations.⁴

But isn’t it also good to have the assurance of Romans 8:26 that when the Holy Spirit sees our earnest, but inadequate, prayers He takes up our heart’s desires and presents them to the Father in a totally adequate way.

The Challenge to Prayer

Do we really pray in tune with the Spirit of God for those who serve the Master at home or abroad? Or is it a question of “out of sight, out of mind?” Perhaps the Lord’s servants are praying for us in terms of Paul’s wonderful prayer in Colossians 1:9-12. How rich in content and how earnest he was to see that they were walking worthy of the Lord and being fruitful in every good work. Maybe it’s time to re-evaluate our prayer for the Lord’s servants and remember that James reminds us that the prayer of a righteous person avails much, James 5:16. ➤

Bible References:

¹Romans 15:30-32; ²Colossians 4:2-4; ³Ephesians 6:18-20;

⁴2 Thessalonians 3:1-3; ⁵Philippians. 1:19

Helps to More Effective Prayer


1. The best way to pray effectively is to know the person we pray for personally, by keeping in touch by phone, Facetime, SMS, email or letter. Maybe even a personal visit to the person, if this is possible.

2. Get yourself on the mailing list of the people you want to pray for and then faithfully pray for their expressed needs. Take note too, of the situation in their country of service so that you can pray intelligently for them and their church(es).

3. Yes, do subscribe to magazines such as GLO Australia’s “Spearhead”, NSWAEEM’s “Assemblies Outreach”, AMT’s “Serving Together” and others related to your area of interest, and Yes,

do get the regular prayer/news/letters from these organisations. Some which I find helpful are:

- AMT’s Daily Prayer Guide (issued annually) plus their weekly prayer email;
- GLO’s Monthly Prayer News;
- CMAID’s Monthly “For Prayer” (Prayer News).
- Any others representing the people for whom you have a burden to pray.

“When I get to the end of my life,” said an old Christian, **“I shall wish that I had spent more time in prayer and less on the things that don’t matter for eternity.”** 

Laugh more!


God created every human emotion you feel. He designed you to cry when you are sad and laugh when you are happy: ‘For everything there is a season... A time to cry and a time to laugh.’ (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4 NLT)

Jesus said, ‘These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.’ (John 15:11 KJV) Question: how often do you laugh? Doctors say laughter has incredible healing effects on your body. It also has incredible healing effects on your mind and soul. Stop and think about the days you laughed, even though you really didn’t have anything to laugh about. You were far from God and bound by sinful habits, but He set you free, didn’t He?

In the Old Testament we read: ‘When the Lord brought back His exiles to Jerusalem,

it was like a dream! We were filled with laughter and we sang for joy... And the other nations said, “What amazing things the Lord has done for them.” Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us! What joy!’ (Psalm 126:1–3 NLT)

If God has set you free, then you truly have something to laugh about. Stop being so ‘heavy’ about everything! Expecting perfection from yourself; your slow growth in God; your deficient prayer life; your failure to memorise more Scripture verses; your fear of sharing your faith with others, etc. We carry around such heavy burdens. If you’re ‘laughter impaired’ you may have to work at it. It’s easy to find plenty to worry about, but to be happy, you sometimes need to work at it a little.

So the advice for today is—laugh more! 

When the coronavirus pandemic first began, and restrictions were placed on visiting seafarers onboard their ships, my mind turned to how I might endeavour to be a little more effective in sharing the gospel with individuals who work in port-related industries and with those with whom I come into contact day by day in my local neighbourhood.

There always seems to be an abundance of articles on Christian websites that exhort Christians to share the gospel with others, but not nearly so many that endeavour to communicate the gospel directly to non-Christians.

Nonetheless, I decided to search for an article that I might be able to use, written specifically for unbelievers, that pointed to the gospel in a coronavirus context. In the providence of God, I eventually discovered such an article I thought I might be able to use on the Gospel Coalition website. It was written by Akos Balogh and was entitled, ‘**Dear Australia, re: The Coronavirus.**’

Because of social distancing and the wearing of face masks, many people have become somewhat reluctant to engage in casual face-to-face conversations, especially with those they do not know well. Given this, I decided an alternative might be to offer them something to read. I was also mindful how researchers tell us that, 24 hours after a conversation, most people can only recall around 25% of what was said! So, having something to read - and perhaps read again - has the



potential to increase their retention significantly.

Having found the article, I emailed Akos Balogh and asked for his permission to adapt his article for my particular purposes. He was very encouraging and gave me his wholehearted permission. An A5 booklet is the item that resulted from my adaptation. I am able to print multiple copies of this here on my desktop printer at home. (A sample is included loose in this Outreach magazine. If more are wanted contact Rob or me - Editor).

I decided to enclose the booklet, along with one of four small booklets written by John Blanchard, into a sealed envelope. I think sealing the envelope heightens people’s curiosity and lessens the likelihood of the contents being seen prematurely! ➤



The four booklets by John Blanchard, from which I select one per envelope, are **'Where is God when Things go Wrong?'**; **'Where do we Go from Here?'**; **'Ultimate Questions'** and **'Why Believe the Bible?'** Personally, I think all four booklets are excellent and very appropriate in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. They are also very Biblical. 'Where do we go from here?' for example, contains over 150 Bible references!

Because I am a member of Gideons organization in Australia, I always have a good supply of Gideon Pocket New Testaments into which I always insert a copy of my favourite tract. This enables me to offer a New Testament along with the envelope.

To date I've also been able to give envelopes and NT's to several of the security personnel in Port Botany; to some of the stevedores and their supervisors; and also to two or three ship's agents. Because I am a member of the Sydney Seafarers' Welfare Committee, I've

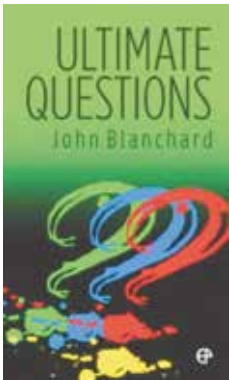
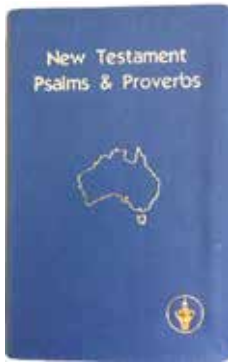
also been able to send envelopes to the other committee members.

I've also been able to give envelopes to each of the occupants of the adjoining seven units in the complex where Greta and I live and also to a courier who delivered a parcel to our home. Now I keep one or two 'loaded' envelopes just inside our front door to give to other callers.

When I go out, I make sure I have some of the envelopes in my car to offer to people with whom I have casual encounters. Some examples to date are the manager and staff at my local 7-11 garage where I always fill my car; the ladies behind the counter at my local post office (all of whom I know by first name); the lady at a local florist shop; staff at the shop where I buy a coffee sometimes; and the manager and some of the employees at the Eastern Suburbs Memorial Park, where I sometimes take an afternoon walk. I've also been able to offer envelopes to staff at our local Medical Centre and the local pharmacy I visit.

I'm happy to say that to date, far more people have accepted envelopes and NTs than have refused them! However, sad to say, so far nobody has contacted me after reading the article - but I am not discouraged!

Not long after I first began to offer people the envelopes, I showed one to Hugh, a dear Christian brother at the church I attend. He responded very >30



positively and asked me to provide him with a copy of the article so he might insert his own contact details and then reproduce copies. He also asked me to purchase a significant number of some of the John Blanchard booklets on his behalf.

I was greatly encouraged some time later when I heard that Hugh had printed 70 copies of the article and, along with the booklets, had provided these to some 70 of his friends and acquaintances!!

Perhaps you are wondering why I have written at some length about all this! There are a couple of reasons.

Firstly, I hope what I've written might be of some encouragement to readers of this magazine, but secondly, and far more importantly, I hope it will inform your prayers, both for those who have, and those who will receive, envelopes and New Testaments from me and also from Hugh.

I'm also conscious I need to be prayerful with regard to personal evangelism. I need to confess that often my motives in evangelism are less than pure. To my great shame, I often try to witness, not because I have heartfelt compassion for those who are *'harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd,'* but rather so I might ease my guilty conscience for having *'been ashamed of the gospel.'*

I need to repeatedly *'purify myself from what is ignoble that I might be*

a vessel for noble use, consecrated and useful to the Master of the House, ready for any good work.' 2 Timothy 2:21.

I need to constantly remind myself of the supreme importance of abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ who said, *'... apart from Me you can do nothing'* John 15:5, and that *'Unless the Lord builds the house, those that build it labour in vain'* Psalm 127:1. *"One plants and another waters but only God gives the growth.'* 1 Cor. 3:6-7.

So, I hope you will encourage me to keep striving to get the gospel into the hands of others, not only now during the coronavirus pandemic, but afterwards too. **The harvest is plentiful but sadly, the labourers are few.**

'We are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us' 2 Corinthians 5:20.

Your brother in Christ,
Rob.

Rob Flinders
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MAGAZINE

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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
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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.