



ASSEMBLIES
Outreach

Price: \$30 per annum
or \$5 per copy

October 2015



Burwood Gospel Chapel - going going going
(see pages 4, 5 & 26)

Also in this issue: News of Commended Workers
Praise & Prayer Points for NSW
Update on Hands & Feet
Books to read (... and more)

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 2015 issue before:- 13th November.**

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.

Editorial & Production Team:

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

Subscription costs are shown on the cover & at www.cb-nsw.org.au/aem/Mag/subs.html

Printed by The Dominion Print Group.
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First Glance

by Colin Winrow, Editor.



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this October issue of the NSW Assemblies Outreach magazine. The editorial team hopes you benefit from this issue’s contents.

Is it just me, or is the time flying faster than usual? It only seems like a month since I last wrote this column and mentioned we may have to restrict the mail-out of this month’s magazine due to insufficient response from people and assemblies and churches, who had been subscribers in 2014 but so far have not paid for 2015.

Thankfully more have paid since then and we can have the full mail-out this month but I must repeat the appeal again before we prepare for 2016.

Quote from August “If the word **Paid** or **Complimentary** is on your mailing label with this issue, **then all is well**. Conversely, if neither word is on your mailing label then please contact us!!! We have no means of knowing whether you have paid or not, or even whether you still want to receive the

magazines????”

The numbers have improved, but there are still 38 assemblies and 23

individuals we would like to hear from before the end of November.

Incidentally, the end of November is also the time when I aim to have finished the December issue and have it safely with Dominion Printing.

I will be ‘off-shore’ for the first 11 days of December, no computer, no Internet, but on my return the aim is to mail the magazines asap, so you have them well before the Christmas holiday season.

Therefore, 13th November is a **SOLID** deadline this year. It is mentioned several times on the pages of this issue. If you or your assembly have something to include in the December issue it **MUST** reach me before that date or it cannot be included. **Mark it in your diary, please.**



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

* * *

In the August issue of this magazine Brad Scott wrote an article about the relatively new organisation in Sydney "Hands and Feet Inc". It started with Joe Brown at the Concord Community Church and has grown in scope with the help and guidance of CCCAust.

Since then Brad has issued regular news items and items for prayer. Last month we were asked to pray for a 3 tonne refrigerated truck. God is good. The truck was donated to Hands and Feet and is now actively in operation. Please also read the article on page 27 in this issue to see how more people and assemblies can become involved if they wish. The mailing address is:-

Hands and Feet Inc
27 Alex Avenue
Schofields, NSW 2762

Burwood Gospel Chapel, at 29 George Street (see cover photo) in its current form will soon no longer exist. It is to be re-developed into a multi-functional high-rise building housing a new chapel, several large office spaces and many residential units - like many similar sites in Burwood.

It has been a useful building and Christian place of worship for over forty years. It also contained the office of Stewards Foundation until that moved to South Hurstville a few years ago, and the office and store for the Outreach Book Service, until these downsized and moved to Cherrybrook last month.

More importantly it housed a thriving Assembly for many years, which eventually morphed into three congregations covering three languages - English, Korean and Arabic. These all found alternative accommodation during 2014.

For well over a year the site has resembled a building site to some extent - because its rear car-park was hired for access and storage space by the company erecting a high-rise building behind. Without the chapel's driveway and carpark the builder's massive crane could not have been assembled and installed. It was only removed by the same route in mid-September this year.

Now it's the Chapel's turn! The developer, chosen by Stewards Foundation, will take over the site this month and will demolish and clear it completely, so that building work can ➤

begin. The whole project will take about 18 to 24 months to complete. No doubt Stewards will keep us informed of progress during that time.

The Outreach Book Service continues to trade and is using the **same phone number (02 9715 5520) and mailing address (PO Box 640, Burwood 1805)** to avoid disruption for customers. Bulk shipments will be made to and from premises in Pennant Hills, as required.

Please Note the advert on page 6: Christmas Cards and Calendars for 2016 are now in stock. Please phone to place your orders. These items, and much more, will also be available for purchase at the Christmas Shopping Morning on Saturday, 14 November - see next column. **Save on postage!**

* * *

Meetings and Events

(Note: for **the latest details** please be sure to check at these 2 websites:-

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

www.cccaustnsw.com/events

2015:

- 30 Oct **GLO Expo and 50th Anniversary** at Riverstone Community Church.
- 5 Nov **NSW Coordinating Conference;** 7.30pm; Grace Point Community Church, Fairfield.
- 13 Nov **'Pastoring for the long haul'** Grant Bickerton; 10am at Emmaus Bible College. Advert on pg 15.

- 14 Nov Christmas Shopping & Coffee Confab in the Community Room at Elouera Gardens Christian Retirement Village, Cherrybrook, 9 am to 12 noon.
- 14 Nov **'Awake to Israel'** at Epping Gospel Chapel, 2.30pm.
- 28 Nov **Pathfinders Christmas Dinner;** 6pm at West Pennant Hills Community Church.

2016:

- 15-17 Jan **VITAL 2016,** Camp Toukley.
- 6 Feb **"And God said..." Bible Conference** at St Clair/ Erskine Park Christian Church.
- 18-19 Mar **Build 2016 - Men's Conference** ("Humility and Meekness") at Camp Toukley. Main speaker is Jared Wilson.
- 22-24 Apr **CCCAust Nat'l Conference** Camp Clayton, Tasmania.
- 14 May **Thrive 2016 Women's Conference,** with Naomi Reed at Kings Park Community Church.
- 4 June **'And God said...' Bible Conference** at Lithgow Bible Church.
- 27 Aug **"And God said..." Bible Conference** at Riverstone Community Church. □



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Prayer & Praise requests from NSW Assemblies

compiled by Bradley Scott

Please take some time-out today to pray for our churches and the work of God in our nation.

General Prayer Points:

- ☆ Pray for our Church leaders that they will be open to the Spirit's leading as they lead our churches.
- ☆ Pray for SRE (Scripture) in NSW as it is presently under review by our Politicians.
- ☆ Pray that Mr Turnbull and his cabinet will seek God's will before making their decisions.
- ☆ Pray for the Boards of our para church ministries as they lead and provide vision for these ministries. CCCAust(NSW), Lutanda, Stewards, Emmaus, Hands and Feet, CBCS, GLO, CMS, AEM, ACM, AMT.
- ☆ Pray that we as churches will be aware of our culture and able to communicate the great news of Jesus with our communities in a relevant way.
- ☆ Pray with our Hands and Feet community; for Joe and his family as they look for a new home to rent.
- ☆ Pray for the crisis in Syria and the millions of displaced people who have left their homes.

Lismore Gospel Hall

Pray for:

- ☆ the tract ministry that occurs on Sunday evenings as the church hands out tracts to the local people in the main shopping centre in Lismore.

Praise God for:

- ☆ the number of kids attending Sunday School from the community.
- ☆ the number of youth who also come to the Gospel meeting on a regular basis from the local community.

Lithgow Bible Church

Pray for:

- ☆ Results from Brian and Gwenda Goodwin ministry. They visited & taught at the church from 6th to 27th September.
- ☆ energy to complete the final touches to the extended facility so that our ability to reach our community is enhanced.

Praise God for:

- ☆ the good contact with the community through the Kidz Biz Playgroup.
- ☆ the good youth group and for the way they participate in our church services.

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Macquarie Hills Christian Fellowship:

Pray for:

- ☆ Five of our elderly folk who have gone into aged care over the past few months. Pray that they settle in OK as they get familiar with new surroundings.

Praise God for:

- ☆ the Youth and Sunday School programme as we are into the last term for this year. We praise the Lord for the blessing received over the past year.

New Heights Christian Church:

Pray for:

- ☆ Dave May as he continues the Chaplaincy at Glendale High School, one of the local schools in our area, and the contact he has with parents and children through this vital ministry.
- ☆ Nick Snellgrove, our new Youth Pastor, as he serves the youth of the area and continues his studies. Pray also for his parents Dave & Cherie as they serve the Lord in the Philippines running the "Safe Haven Refuge" for homeless children and abused women.

Praise God for:

- ☆ the continued interest from the young adults from the local area, especially the high attendance at our "night

church" programme.

- ☆ our recent "Women's breakfast". Of the 80+ in attendance more than 60 were non-Christian family, friends, and members of our local community. Praise God for the opportunity to share the message of His love with all in attendance.

Lutanda

- ☆ Join us in praising God for His work through Lutanda as we bring the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ to underprivileged kids in NSW.
- ☆ Praise God for the recent Camp David at Yarramundi - that 20 intellectually disabled adults were cared for by Geoff Brimley and his group of dedicated helpers. Thanks to Steve Walker for his gospel presentations.
- ☆ Praise God that 90 kids heard the gospel at the September outreach camp at Toukley. Praise God for the Directors (Shayne & Cathy Bywater) and all of the volunteer leaders; thanks to Phil Gummerson for his gospel presentation matching their "Space" theme.
- ☆ Please pray for more volunteer helpers at our holiday outreach camps in future and particularly for Camp David – it is a great opportunity to serve others as Christ served others.



The Apostle John has a delightful ability to get his teaching across to us by means of biographical snippets. Over several months we have thought about what he teaches regarding the events after the Lord was crucified, and what we can learn from the people who were involved? Here are the 7th & 8th articles.

7. *Seven men go fishing (John 21: 1 to 5)*

Seven disciples were together by the Lake of Galilee one evening when Peter announced that he was going fishing. The other six said that they were going with him. So seven entered a boat to fish that night, but they caught nothing.

What is the importance of this story? Some have condemned Peter for going fishing because the Lord had called him to be a fisher of men. They argue that, having left his boat and its fishing tackle, he should not have gone back to them. But the passage contains no suggestion that Peter and his friends were doing wrong; they were not condemned for going fishing. So perhaps we should look for another interpretation of the story.

In the morning the Lord appeared on the shoreline, but the disciples could not tell who it was. He politely called out to them asking if they had caught anything. They replied rather bluntly that they hadn't. He gave them instructions to cast their net on the other side of the boat, which they did. And at once they caught fish.

Yet it would have been so easy to have treated the Lord's instructions differently. It would have been natural

for Peter and the sons of Zebedee to say that they were fishermen. They knew their boats and nets and, above all, they knew the lake and how to fish it! What experience did the stranger on the shore have? But fortunately, they did not respond like that; they did as they were told and cast the net on the other side of the boat.

What was the main lesson they were to learn? Here were men who had been fishing unsuccessfully until the Lord Jesus guided them. Basically, the lesson for us is that if we believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, we need to be guided and directed by Him. If He guides us then we know His blessing; if we go in our own strength we fail. This applies whether we are in secular employment like fishing, or Christian work like being fishers of men. It is so easy to go in our own strength and do what we have to do without turning to the Lord for guidance. To do so courts disaster.

This is often a hard lesson to learn. We know the details of our secular employment so well that we think we have no need of help; we can do it all by ourselves. But if we seek the Lord's guidance and recognise that we >10

are dependent on Him, He gives the strength and the wisdom we need to do a better job than we normally might do.

Once the disciples had caught the fish, John realised what was happening. He had seen something like this before. There had been an occasion when the Lord Jesus had used Peter's boat as a platform from which to address the people on the shore. Then He had told Peter to let his nets down into the deep for a catch of fish. Peter had commented that he had fished all night and had caught nothing, but because the Lord has told him to do so he would drop the nets into the water. He caught so many fish that he needed help to get them to shore. As John thought about the catch that they had just witnessed, he realised that he had seen something like this before. So he whispered to Peter "It is the Lord". There was only one person who could have done that. Where the Lord works it is soon apparent that it is His hand guiding; His ability is far beyond that of anyone else.

Peter's knee-jerk reaction was to put his fisherman's cloak on and swim to the shore where the Lord was. It was typical impetuous Peter. But he was soon back into action. When the Lord asked the disciples to bring some of the fish, he was back at the boat helping to drag the net to shore.

The story doesn't stop there. The Lord had already lit the fire to cook some fish which He had; He also had some bread. He had everything that

they needed for the meal they were going to eat. He didn't need the fish they had just caught! But He asked His disciples to bring some of the fish. He did not discard their efforts!

We note that the Lord told them to bring some of the fish they had caught! The fish they had caught? Hadn't the Lord told them to cast the net on the other side of the boat? Hadn't He directed the fish into the net? True, but He still described the fish as the ones they had caught. And here is the second lesson for us. When the Lord directs the work we do, we are blessed in what we do – and He gives us the credit for what we have done. Amazing! He does the work and gives us the credit!

John adds a detail that we may wonder about. There were 153 fish. Is this important? Some people see meaning in the number 153, but it is more likely that the third lesson is that, when we are guided by the Lord, He keeps a record of what we have done for Him. Two thousand years later, we still know what the disciples did. The Lord gives us the credit for what He enables us to do, keeps a record of what we do, and one day will reward us for our service for Him.

If we have believed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, our daily responsibility is to look to Him for guidance by His Spirit. We cannot expect to be successful in our own strength, but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. ➤

8. Do you love Me? (John 21: 15 to 17)

Once the meal was finished, the Lord Jesus asked Peter a question. Using somewhat different words, the question was asked twice more: "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?"

The first question was the most detailed. The Lord asked Peter if he loved Him "more than these". We immediately want to know what was meant by "these". Did the Lord mean these people or these things? The Greek text allows for either translation. There are three possible ways to interpret the Lord's question.

- Do you love Me more than these things – the boat and the fishing gear?
- Do you love Me more than you love these people – the other disciples?
- Do you love me more than these people love Me – is your love for Me greater than their love for Me? This is the most likely alternative.

1. Do you love Me more than these things? Was the Lord looking at the boat and the fishing tackle? These were Peter's tools of trade. He had spent most of his life with them. But he needed to ask himself if he loved them more than he loved his Lord.

The question is a continuing one. The Lord asks us if we love our tools of trade or our possessions more than we love Him. Do I love my home or my car or my computer more than I love the Lord Jesus? These things may all be necessary but the point we must consider is whether they have taken the position in our lives that should belong to the Lord Jesus?

2. Do you love Me more than you love these people? Do you love Me more than you love your fellow disciples? Who comes first in our lives? Is it our spouse? Is it our family? Or perhaps some of our friends? Does the Lord Jesus have priority in our lives or is someone else first in all our thinking and planning?

Though we need to look into our lives and ask the two questions we have been thinking about, it is probably the third alternative that was foremost in the Lord's mind.

3. Do you love Me more than these people love Me? Before the betrayal, Peter had boasted that though all the other disciples might forsake the Lord, he would remain faithful and true. He would not deny his Lord. In effect, he had said that he loved the Lord more than the other disciples did. The Lord was asking "Do you?"

It is important that we examine our hearts in our claims to be faithful followers of our Lord. Nor must we over-estimate our ability to do what we think we can do! We can think of Paul's advice that the person who thinks he stands must take care lest he fall.

The Lord asked His question. Peter replied that he did love the Lord. The Lord asked Peter again if he loved Him. Peter did. The Lord asked the question a third time. Peter was grieved that the Lord asked the question a third time.

What is not clear in most translations → 12

tions is that the Lord used a different word the third time. For His first two questions the Lord had used the verb **agapeo**; on the third occasion He used the verb **phileo**. One translation tries to distinguish between these two words by using "truly love" and "love". The Lord was asking Peter if he had a deep love (agapeo) for Him; Peter's reply was that he was fond (phileo) of the Lord. When the Lord used the word Peter had used (phileo) for the third question, Peter was grieved. However, he replied honestly; he did not pretend that his love was stronger than it really was. He replied using phileo just as he had for his first two answers.

Though the Lord Jesus kept probing Peter, He accepted Peter's reply each time. And when Peter said that he loved Him, the Lord gave him work to do. The Lord still does the same. He asks if we love Him and, even if the love is not very strong, He gives work to those who love Him. Peter

was commissioned to feed His lambs, to shepherd His sheep, and to feed His sheep. The Lord will ensure that we will have work to do for Him if we love Him.

There is one other question. Is there any significance in the Lord asking Peter three times if he loved Him? Before the trial, Peter had been adamant that he would never deny his Lord. But three times Peter said that he did not know the man they were talking about. Peter was given the opportunity to affirm three times that he really did love his Lord. From that time he went on to live faithfully for the Lord and to show by his life that his love was genuine.

The question comes to us again. Do we really love the Lord? Do we love Him more than we love other people and the things we possess? If we do, we can be assured that He will give us opportunity to show that love by service for Him. □

**“TO KNOW JESUS IS THE SHORTEST
DESCRIPTION OF TRUE GRACE;
TO KNOW HIM BETTER IS THE SUREST
MARK OF GROWTH IN GRACE;
TO KNOW HIM PERFECTLY IS
ETERNAL LIFE.”**
— JOHN NEWTON

**Please submit any news-
items, letters, adverts
or short articles for
the DECEMBER 2015
magazine on, or before,
13th November.**

News from some Commended Workers



Dr John Angus
9th September 2015

Dear Friends,
On the 3rd of May 2008 my dear wife, Valerie and faithful helper in the ministry of CMS Inc. was called home to be with the Lord.



In 2013 I was privileged to marry Bhitsamai, a lady from Thailand. Bhitsamai visited the Chapel at Nowra and came to trust the Lord. It was my joy to baptise this dear lady and to marry her just two years ago. A photo is appended. Your prayer for us would be greatly appreciated.

I also write to advise you of some recent and impending changes. At the beginning of the year we advised that our Arabic Broadcasts were being sent to the United States for broadcast on satellite. Dr Bassim Goriel visited us and thanked us for our programs, which he is able to use and to provide us with Prime Time viewing, seven days per week. These programs were then reaching Australia, New Zealand, and North & South America.

An important change, which occurred in the last month, has been the extension of this satellite's footprint to now include the Middle East, Europe, and North Africa. What an amazing opportunity!

Community Television, which broadcasts our English program on TVS, is likely to cease in the near future because

of a change in Government Policy. All Australian community TV channels will close down and the Government will use this broadcast frequency for other purposes. The final date will be revealed on October 31st. We are sorry for this lost opportunity to broadcast the Gospel in Australia. Our 500th programme will soon go to air!

Other possibilities exist through the Internet.

Will you please pray with us about these changes as we look to new opportunities? Please also pray for our producers, especially Jamil Choucair who carries a heavy workload.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
John Angus.

Christian Media Services Inc.
35 Bandicoot Drive,
Blackbutt NSW 2529
Phone: (02) 4295 7590

Geoff & Liz Folland
27th September 2015

Sydney & Notre Dame Unis are on break this week so I'm heading to the Blue Mountains for a 3 day hike with 15 Student



Life guys from Sydney & Newcastle Unis. Philip & his friend, Lachlan, are also coming. Please pray we all have a safe, spiritually encouraging time.

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Last week I returned to campus after a week in Brisbane with our national leaders. I was so excited by two significant markers. Firstly, we have seen 12 students apply to go on our local summer project - up from 4 last year. And we have 3 more going on international projects to Japan & West Asia. Secondly, our new student leadership team includes Rick & Jessica, both of whom came to Christ in first semester. Minji met Jessica during last year's summer project on the Central Coast, led her through Christianity Explained & now serves on the student exec with her.

We still have significant opportunities to share the gospel with students. Please pray for Joon (another student that Minji met), Navid (a Baha'i who has been attending our Bible study), and Cronan & Sanjay (strong traditional Roman Catholics who want to discuss theology with me).

5th October

On Thursday we took off for a weekend gathering at Phillip Island with other families who have also adopted children from the Philippines. We stopped overnight at Wodonga on the way down and the way back. In between Philip and Katrise got to re-connect with friends who share a very similar experience to them. Katrise particularly enjoyed canoeing, the giant swing and the flying fox. Philip was amazed at the display of the Filipino martial art, Arnis, and was keen to have a go bashing people with sticks. Liz has put her hand up to be on the organising committee for the next gather-

ing in two years.

Classes resume on campus this week - with only four more weeks to go. I'm speaking at the weekly meeting tomorrow, on Ruth 3 & 4, and would appreciate your prayer for my delivery of a talk that's had limited prep time. On Wednesday evening we are running training for the dozen students who are going on summer project this January. On Thursday I'm meeting with a prospective new campus worker. And on Friday I'm catching up with some of our national leaders. I'd appreciate your prayers for a full and diverse week.

Meanwhile, you may be interested in checking out this interview with my long-time friend, colleague and former Macquarie Uni team mate, Grant Bickerton; it's about "busyness":

<http://www.dominicsteele.com/blog/2015/10/5/grant-bickerton-on-our-busy-lives>

12th October

Last week felt very full. After being away for most of the mid semester break, last Tuesday I spoke on Ruth 3 & 4 at our weekly meeting. The big idea was that God works through the lives of ordinary people (who live out His "hesed" love) to accomplish His eternal purposes. That's an important thing to remember - especially in October when the campus year is winding down and students are getting caught up in assignments and exams. Even at the end of their trials, Ruth and Naomi would have had no idea of the significance of the baby born to Boaz. But little Obed provided a vital link in the ➤



line of promise that ran from Genesis 3 to King David and through to the Messiah. Even in the simple, the ordinary, God is working.

One thing that did leave me incredibly encouraged last week was our training time with students going on summer project. Seeing positive changes in key statistics is also important to remember. We have a dozen or so students who are going on summer project next January.

(Last year we only had four students go.) We're praying for them as they finish classes, practice relevant ministry skills, and raise personal financial support.

Thanks for praying for us and partnering with us in this ministry. We couldn't do it without you.

*In His love & grace,
Geoff & Liz*



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NSW Women's Mission Convention Report

15th August 2015

by Mandy Juraev

St Ives Community Church

What do you think is the darkest place on earth today? The Middle East? Africa? Central Asia? South-East Asia? The Pacific Islands?

At the 2015 NSW Women's Mission Convention, held on 15th August at St Ives Community Church, we heard from missionary women who have followed the Lord's leading to all of these dark places. The theme of this year's convention was "Light in the Darkness".

We heard from our speakers about the darkness of persecution, oppression, poverty and abuse. We also heard of dark times in their ministry, including health issues, visa issues, disunity, damage and disappointment.

But our keynote speaker, Wendy Strachan, reminded us that "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). And each of our speakers pointed to the way God had been the light in the darkness they had seen and experienced.

Bev shared with us her family's journey from North Carolina to Melbourne to the Solomon Islands and back to Australia. The Lord led them into a role of mentoring national Bible translators in the Solomon Islands, but a rupture in the organization



The speakers L to R: Ros, Sharon, Wendy, Bev, Jan

and medical issues for her husband, Woody, brought them back to Australia with their hearts still in the

Solomons. Bev reminded us that God illuminates our path in times of darkness – as He has opened up a new initiative which will see them

supporting national translators across the South Pacific.

In a similar way, Jaimee recounted her family's grief as a loss of visa meant they had to abandon a fledgling discipleship ministry on a remote island in the Asia-Pacific. Despite their struggles and questions, they continue to hang on, believing that God is good. In the time since they returned to Australia, they have seen blessing and answers to prayer in their new ministry on staff with Worldview Training College in Tasmania.

Around the world, more Muslims are coming to Christ than ever before but new Christians from a Muslim >18

‘The Light shines in the darkness’

background have to count the cost of following Jesus. Ros shared with us stories of young believers in her country of service being kicked out of home and threatened by their parents. Yet in this difficult and dark context, she and her husband, David, are seeing new Christians leading their friends to Christ and becoming multiplying disciples. Why? Because Jesus is worth it and light overcomes darkness.

Another moving testimony from the Muslim world came from Jan, working on a common language Bible translation in a Central Asian country for the past 16 years. Criticism and rejection of their translation by local pastors has been devastating to their team. But the light at the end of the tunnel is that evangelists reaching out to remote villages have encouraged them to continue the translation in simple language because it is understandable and accessible for the people. The light of the gospel breaks through the darkness.

For Sharon and her husband, Roger, their missionary journey was not a usual one. Their ministry in Papua New Guinea with Christian



Juliette Hackett, WMC chair

Books Melanesia was to bring light into communities through Christian bookshops and through water and sanitation projects. However, Sharon had to return to Australia three years ago because she was very unwell, while her husband continued to serve for another two years. Through all her struggles with her health and not understanding why, Sharon has continued to give the glory to God. She emphasised that it is not what we do for God but what God does through us that counts for eternity.

Finally, our keynote speaker, Wendy Strachan, reminded us that although Jesus said "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12), He also said "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). God uses ordinary people, just like our speakers and just like us, to shine His light in the darkness. Sometimes that is the spiritual darkness of the world around us, and sometimes that is darkness in our own Christian community. Either way, we need to share the light. ➤



Ladies enjoying afternoon tea

2 Corinthians 4:7 reminds us that “we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us”. As our brave missionary women have shown us, we may be fragile, weak and even broken, but the light is strong and it will never go out. “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

(Matthew 5:17)

[Photos thanks to Charles Jaggers]



Jamiee, another speaker



Wendy Strachan, keynote speaker



WMC Committee (L to R)

Mary Arnold, Faye Loudon, Mandy Juraev, Karen Rogers, Jackie Sardar, Juliette Hackett

A letter from Francis (Frank) Williams

The past can encourage us and draw us to further service for the Lord.

Many readers of this publication will remember brother Francis (Frank) Williams, who was a commended Home Worker in NSW for many years, first with GLO Ministries and then with the assemblies in the lower Blue Mountains. He started a great work of ministering to the elderly and dying in nursing homes and retirement villages. Gradually other local pastors and ministers joined in this work and it still continues today, even though Frank had to withdraw in 1995 due to health issues. He still gets these magazines from NSW and often drops the editor a short letter of encouragement. The most recent letter, dated 1 September 2015, was longer than normal and, with Frank's permission, I have decided to publish a major portion of it, including some photos, – to highlight how those labelled "Home Workers" can also have useful times of ministry overseas, even in the later stages of their lives. Be encouraged to 'keep on keeping on' for our dear Lord Jesus Christ. Here is the bulk of Frank's letter 'transcribed' from his own flowing hand-written version ...

"I have recently (July) returned from two weeks in Samoa, in response to God's call, to encourage three small Brethren churches, and to share the Gospel of salvation in Christ. This was my fourth visit over the years, and some of our Assembly folk would remember as I recall the encouragement of many during those visits.

This time I was also able to visit



some of our Samoan brethren in Auckland in transit to Apia. A great time of encouragement, as I met a lady with her family, who was a girl of 10 years old when I last saw her in Samoa. She reminded me of the time some 25 years ago when I spoke to her under a mango tree, through an interpreter. She committed her life to Christ some time later, unknown to me until now.

I'm not in the numbers game, I endeavour to be faithful, and leave the outcomes to God as He wills through His Holy Spirit.

We can open and close doors for service according to our own agenda and understanding. I share the following...

I felt the call from God to go to Samoa; again. A young Samoan brother, who is dear to me, was the first to encourage me to go; saying he would accompany me. But then came my first 'questioning' when he was later unable to go because of unforeseen financial costs.

Plan "B". Another esteemed Samoan brother in Queensland indicated he may accompany me. But Plan "B", after some months, could not happen ➤



*A traditional fale house.
Poverty still exists in Samoa.*

either. Was there a Plan “C”? Then my health is an issue. I’m almost 76 years old, and having treatment for macular degeneration, via monthly injections in my eyes. My neck and back let me know that major previous surgery was indicating “closed door”. So I decided not to go!

No peace; could not sleep, dreaming of Samoa, what should I do? I did not hear God’s audible voice, but His Spirit was saying “you say you trust me Francis, you think this is a closed door, walk to it and open it”. Faith exercised. A change of mind, yes I must go! Bev said she knew I would change my mind; how do our wives know so much?

The churches were in harmony regarding my visit. On arrival in Apia, it was hot and humid. Who was going to meet me? Where was I going to stay? All had been worked out Samoan-style, they just hadn’t let me know. For the first week, I had four speaking sessions at the four assemblies.

I had wanted to visit a lady who was very kind to me on my second visit years before. Having learned she

was dying of cancer I visited her with the pastor I was staying with. She was lying on a bed at her home. She remembered me with tears. She held my hand as I prayed for her and read Psalm 62 verses 5 to 8. She died four days later.

Other things happened; I will mention one more interaction. I met a Samoan Christian who had moved back to Samoa from NSW. He was a personal friend of the Prime Minister of Samoa, and the PM had appointed him Chaplain to the Police Force. Arrangements were made for me to speak at the prison accompanied by this friend and the Commissioner of Prisons. However, that night there was a prison breakout, and my visit was cancelled!

On the surface, Samoa has become more prosperous. New large church buildings for RC, Mormon and SDA congregations. There are taller buildings, and a large new hospital, built by China, in exchange for fishing rights I’ve been told. However from reliable sources I understand the government is struggling to pay to run the air-conditioning at the hospital.

Poverty is still very real. The assemblies there minister to such people as best they are able, and are in need themselves. The pastor with whom I stayed, uses a church building which is ‘okay’ but has no ceiling fans, and it gets very hot during meetings. The cost to install fans would be about \$1,500 Australian dollars, I think. My heart is for God’s people and in particular Samoa.

➤22

A letter from Frank Williams (cont'd from p 21)

Although we now live in Tasmania, I still feel a very strong bond in spirit with NSW assemblies. Should anyone feel exercised to have fellowship with me, for our brothers and sisters in Samoa, your help would be very deeply appreciated."

Love in Christ,

Francis Williams.

9 Singline Avenue,
Burnie, TAS 7320
phone: (03) 6433 0899



*A modern independent
SDA church*

*A new RC church.
Rebuilt after the cyclone.
\$3 million from Rome.*

*Robert Louis Stevenson & his
wife (centre of photo).
He lived and wrote in Samoa
from 1890. He died and was
buried there in 1894.*



Book suggestions by Dr Keith Graham

a former Principal of Emmaus Bible College, Sydney
now living in Bayswater, Victoria

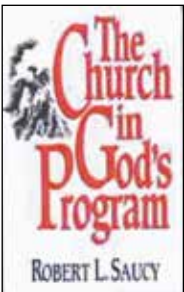
Back in May this year Dr Graham emailed this magazine with "I was privileged to have teaching from the late Dr Robert Saucy (Distinguished Professor of Systematic Theology) at Biola University, in Los Angeles. (He was) brilliant, yet a true humble servant of God. You will profit from his writings.

Blessings

Dr Keith Graham"

Attached was information about five books written or co-written by Dr R.L. Saucy. They are listed below. Based on the recommendation of Dr Graham and on the publishers' notes (some of which are included below) this magazine's editor is certain many of our readers will benefit by reading one or more of these books!

The Church in God's Program:



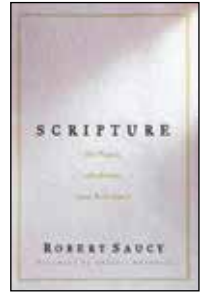
Robert L. Saucy provides logical, scripture-based answers to contemporary church issues. (254 pages, from Moody).

This is a solid biblical study covering the entire scope of the church - its beginning, government, ministries, and the new covenant. It also includes guidelines for dealing with contemporary church problems.

Scripture - Its Power, Authority and Relevance:

In a society saturated by the doctrine of tolerance and an air of post-modernism, one might wonder about the role and significance of the once almighty

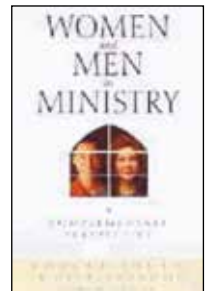
Scriptures. Despite what some would consider a time of revival in the church, confidence in the Scripture is consistently being undermined by cynical attitudes and critical thinking.



Saucy's commentary is relevant for our times and speaks to the questioning heart and mind. He confirms not only our need for Scripture, but also its authority, its inerrancy, and its impact.

Women & Men in Ministry:

What can women do in the church without disobeying the Lord? Men and women were created by God to complement each other, but they were created for different roles. Our contemporary society has denied these distinctions exist, creating confusion as to who we are as "men" and "women".



The role of women in the church is a debate that has raged within the church for much of the twentieth century. On one side are those who say there is no difference between men and women. On the other side are those who severely limit women who want to offer ministry to the church. Judith TenElshof and Robert Saucy take the middle approach.

>28

Memories of the Assembly at Parkes, NSW

by Ken Swan

The Railways promoted me to live in Parkes in 1962 to look after the Railway line running from Molong to Broken Hill, and its branches. Moving to take up residence there, we were visited independently by two gentlemen who were both desirous to join with us on the Lord's Day morning at 11am to remember the Lord's death as they had done when George Walker, Steve Walker's family, from Oatley was living there and holding a similar position to the one I now held. As we had done previously in other locations where there was no Assembly, his family had met together regularly in the lounge room of their home.

So we met regularly on the Lord's Day morning at 11am, and were later joined by Ivan Orr and his family, who had recently returned from Assembly missionary service in the Congo to take up residence on their family's wheat properties around Parkes.

We decided it was time to start an Assembly work in Parkes, and away from other denominational outreach and not in opposition. There were many in the town who knew not that Jesus had died for them too.

So we looked, and found a good level block for sale, near a school and with a partly completed garage on it. No Churches were nearby, the owner made a good deal, the local people were not in opposition, and the sewer line was under the back corner, so the block became ours. We even found a good pedal organ for sale, and Allan

Skelton, living over in Dubbo, was willing to make suitable seating.

Then my wife suddenly passed away!

With two little boys, aged under four years, and frequent trips out on the Broken Hill line, it was necessary for my parents to come and look after us. The boys kept my mother busy and Dad, being a builder by trade, worked on completing the garage and connecting the sewer.

The Assembly first met in our own little Hall in November 1963, and we found a lady (Kitty Morrison) and her family living near the Hall who were from an Assembly family, and they joined with us. However on the day of the first meeting in our own Hall one of brethren who first met with us was found dead on the floor of his house. So we had another problem. We had to arrange his funeral. We hired the local Baptist Church and flew a well known Brethren speaker up from Sydney to take the Service.

There was an Assembly already established in Forbes, 30km away, and a family who lived in Parkes were members and each Sunday went over to meet there, but they had different rules for who could take part in their Service. At one stage I thought we could join with them, but someone dobbed me in to an evangelistic preacher in Sydney, (who had worked around farms in the Parkes district for years) who wrote me a six page tirade letter explaining that he had attended ➤

there once and had been asked to “sit back”. Yet he still ministered around Parkes, had seen souls won for the Lord, and with ornate charts ministered in the homes of professing Baptists. I had much to learn.

Then, a few months later, the Railways wanted me to move elsewhere and now with my sister, Barbara (who later spent many years in the Outreach office) to mind the boys, we moved away from Parkes.

Ivan Orr arranged for a school building to be put on the land to better serve the Assembly, and the work grew. But in time, as others moved away or got older, the Hall was hired to the Independent Baptist work and

the original Trustees for the property had died or moved to other places. The Stewards Foundation took it over, and promptly sold it to put the money elsewhere, and the Parkes Assembly was no more.

Looking back though, the work had the Lord’s blessing, as others came face to face with the Saviour. We all learnt from it, finding fellowship together in Him who gave Himself for us and who is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy — “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever, Amen.” (Jude 1:25 KJV)



**WOMEN’S MISSIONARY PRAYER
& SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP**

Meetings to be held in 2015

**at Oatley Gospel Chapel, and in the upstairs sitting room
in Yurana Wing, Cherrybrook Care Centre.**

10.30am – 12.30pm, on the second Friday of each month:–

13 November 11 December

***All women are invited to be part of this
important ministry, in either of the above venues.***

Refreshments at 10.15am. Tea and coffee provided.

Enquiries:

Freda McKeown 9113 7058 or Mavis Winrow 9484 6054



Burwood Gospel Chapel

(October 2015)

If it could talk right now, what might it say?

“I’m feeling very sad. Rumours are spreading that I don’t fit in anymore. I’m not needed. I fear I will be bashed, squashed, and carted away. But this can’t be right. Number

29 George Street, Burwood, is my home, I’ve lived here a long time! I have tried to serve God well in that time. I have tried to be welcoming and hospitable.

“Could it be just a new phase in my life? Is this sadness what a caterpillar feels before that glorious transformation occurs and it becomes a BUTTERFLY?

“OOOOh! I hope so. I want to do better for the Lord. I promise to do better for You, Lord. I want to grow closer to You, Lord. I want to stand tall for You. Please do a great thing in me Lord, so that I can again bring Honour and Glory to You, the Lord God Almighty.

“I trust you Lord. I’m like clay in the potter’s hands. I do trust you Lord. Do what You must and take all the time You need.

(“But, I hope it doesn’t hurt too much !!”)



An Update on the “Hands and Feet” project

information from Brad Scott

The following update information has been borrowed from Brad’s regular and frequent “Helping Churches” email, and from his “Hands and Feet - Update” email which began circulating last month.

REQUESTS

“We are seeking the support of churches in two ways:-

1. We are looking for volunteers who could help Joe during the week in the warehouse. Duties vary but could include organising the warehouse, driving the 3 tonne truck to collect and deliver food supplies, loading and unloading the truck, or serving people who come to the warehouse. If you can help, or you know someone who could, please contact Brad (0400 260 077).

2. The work of Hands and Feet has almost doubled in the last 3 months as we help the homeless and families in crisis. We are seeking financial help from churches to help us maintain this growth. Each food pack that we give out on a Friday night costs Hands and Feet about \$1.30. The demand for food packs is increasing and we have raised our distribution from 300 food packs to 500 in the last 2 months.

We are looking for 12 churches who may be willing to give \$100 per month to support the work of helping people in need. If you would like to help please ring Kalala at Stewards Foundation (9547 3110) to organise regular payments to the Hands and Feet Account.

If you would like to visit the warehouse or help distribute food to

homeless people on a Friday evening, to get an idea of the Hands and Feet Sydney project, please contact Brad (0400 260 077) and he’ll be happy to help you out.

HELPING NSW CHURCHES

CONNECT TO THEIR COMMUNITY

Hands and Feet Sydney is providing crisis help to families in need right across Sydney. We exist to serve the local church and provide contacts to the local church. We have had 100 families attend the warehouse over the last few weeks, taking food. Stage 2 of this process is to move distribution to these families out of the warehouse and into local churches.

Pray for us as we trial this in four different church locations across Sydney in the next few months. If you would like to be part of this program please contact Brad (0400 260 077).

In addition to the distribution of food to families in need, we are asking churches to also consider offering other services to the community as well.

One of these is **budgeting help** – which assists people to learn how to budget their money. The free **CAP Money** course is a proven tool that can help churches to help people in their community do this.

If you’d like to be involved in distributing food to your community, we would encourage you to have some people in your church trained with CAP Money so you can also offer this resource to those in need.

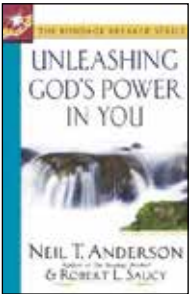
To find out more visit the website at:-

www.capaust.org



Believing that the modern views have denied the distinctions between men and women, the authors adopt a view called complementarianism. TenElshof and Saucy argue that while men and women are equal, God has given different roles to each and that these roles rely on each other to be fully effective.

Bondage Breaker Series: Unleashing God's Power In You.



God's power. . . how does it work within Christians? Can it truly bring people closer to their loving Father - truly help them grow and make them holy?

"Growth in the Christian life and victory over sin are

impossible," states coauthor Neil Anderson "unless believers understand what Scripture declares: They really are new people, reborn in the Spirit, whose deepest desires are now directed toward God. When Christians grasp this truth, it unleashes God's power within them."

They understand that "sin" is what they sometimes do - not who they are. They intimately experience God as their loving, accepting Father, not as a heavenly scorekeeper. Joy and contentment replace discouragement and cynicism.

About "The Case For Progressive Dispensationalism":

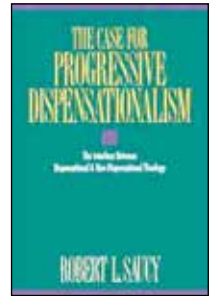
(also available as an e-Book)

Debate abounds on the future of

Israel and Israel's relation to the church, not only between dispensationalists and non-dispensationalists, but among dispensationalists themselves.

In the past that debate has sometimes been acrimonious, and proponents of the differing viewpoints have found little common ground. In recent years, however, views have been modified and developed so that the dialogue is increasingly by cooperation and a mutual exploration of diverse ideas.

The Case for Progressive Dispensationalism is intended to enlighten the debate in that same irenic spirit. The book is solidly dispensational in perspective in affirming that the Old Testament prophecies



are completely fulfilled in the future, that the nation of Israel has a prophetic future, and that Israel is not the church.

Dr. Saucy departs from classic dispensationalism, however, in showing that (1) the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy begins in the present church age, and (2) the church is not a parenthesis in God's program but represents a continuity with the Old Testament messianic program.

This modified dispensationalism seeks to satisfy many of the objections of non-dispensational approaches to eschatology while retaining the crucial elements of biblical interpretation that characterise dispensational thought.





Here are some more things on the Internet and World Wide Web which readers may find interesting or helpful, and worth a visit via their own computer.

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 listed as 'hot-links' on the NSW Christian Brethren website at this web-page:-

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

* * *

NEW WEB SITE

"Hands and Feet Inc" now has a new website. You can check it out at:

www.handsandfeet.com.au

Hands and Feet helps churches facilitate projects in a tax effective manner and can help direct funds to projects here in Australia and overseas. Project proposal forms can be downloaded from the new web site. We now have 3 approved projects that people can contribute towards.

* * *

The "CAP Money course" is mentioned in our article on page 27. What is CAP?

It stands for "Christians Against Poverty" – an initiative of John Kirkby; see website:-

www.capaust.org

As the only charitable provider of free debt management in Australia, CAP exists to address the problem of

poverty and social exclusion caused by over-indebtedness.

Quote: "Our unique, hands-on approach, empowers people to get themselves out of poverty and releases them from the fear, oppression and worry that debt can cause. We are providing sustainable poverty relief as our service teaches clients vital budgeting skills that will last a lifetime.

"CAP's services are provided through a network of outreach centres in partnership with local churches, restoring hope and dignity to thousands of Australians overwhelmed by the burden of unmanageable debt.

"CAP is now a fast-paced, growing organisation whose vision is to answer the national problem of debt by having at least one CAP Centre in every major town and city in Australia by the year 2021.

"To find out more about the life transforming work of Christians Against Poverty, order your free copy of 'Nevertheless', written by the Founder and International Director of CAP, John Kirkby."

2016 Traineeship

From the CAP website:-

"CAP Australia are offering a 12 month traineeship for 2015 Year 12 school leavers, at their head office in **Newcastle**. It's designed for school leavers who'd like to have a "Gap Year" with a difference, and who feel they are >30

The NEXT issue of this magazine will be (DV) in DECEMBER 2015.
Please submit your items before 13th November; thanks.

called to ministry and would like to receive some formal training.

“Why choose a CAP Australia Traineeship?”

- You'll have a chance to learn from our experienced staff, while developing your own skills and strengths through formal training;

- You will have the opportunity to reflect, learn new skills and grow in your Christian faith, while developing an understanding of God's desire to help those in need;

- The work you do will have a real and transforming impact on the lives of people in need.

“Our 12 month traineeship means that you can develop your skills and gain a nationally recognised qualification – and get paid for it!

“For 2016, we are offering the following choice of traineeships:

- Certificate III in Customer Contact;

- Certificate III in Business/ Administration.

“How to apply — visit the link:-

<http://issuu.com/capaust/docs/booklet/1>
to find out more.”

* * *

On August 25th an email from Dr Keith Graham drew my attention to some videos on YouTube which featured lectures by Dr Ravi Zacharias when he was invited to address a conference in Melbourne.

Keith described Dr Zacharias as someone worth listening to. He intends to touch both the heart and the intellect of the thinkers and opinion-makers of society with the Truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ravi Zacharias states that a coherent worldview must be able to satisfactorily answer four questions: that of origin, meaning of life, morality and destiny. He says that while every major religion makes exclusive claims about truth, the Christian faith is unique in its ability to answer all four of these questions.

He routinely speaks on the coherence of the Christian worldview saying that Christianity is capable of withstanding the toughest philosophical attacks. Zacharias believes that the apologist must argue from 3 levels: the theoretical, to line up the logic of the argument; the arts, to illustrate; and “kitchen table talk”, to conclude and apply.

Zacharias' style of apologetics focuses predominantly on Christianity's answers to life's great existential questions with defence of God. Here are four examples of his teaching at the conference. There are more online!

Jesus Among Other Gods

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_F9lqBZ4f2Q&list=PLCwjTwhbg1lct01jzDgGEUVVKEzvLR-0&index=3

Raised to Run

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8WL_CIZWbo&list=PLCwjTwhbg1lct01jzDgGEUVVKEzvLR-0&index=4

Lessons from History - The Tale of Two Men

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9V3gBrVG0vU&list=PLCwjTwhbg1lct01jzDgGEUVVKEzvLR-0&index=1>

The Truth of Christianity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQtZnLXG1fl>



NSW ASSEMBLIES EVANGELISTIC MISSION (NSWAEM)

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0412 596 104

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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 from its website at:-

www.nswaem.org.au

A TRADITION OF CHRISTIAN CARE & CONCERN



Christian Funerals of Sydney

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
FUNERALS CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT SYDNEY

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for personal care and attention

Members of the Funeral Directors Association of NSW

24 Hour Care Line ☎ 8883 4561
www.christianfuneralsosydney.com.au

Richard and Deborah Spiteri, proprietors

Christian Brethren Community Services

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



Elouera Gardens



Cherrybrook Christian Care Centre



Glenhaven Gardens



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.