



The Good Newsletter

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY GOOD NEWS UNLIMITED

JANUARY 1996

EDITORIAL

Recently, Bruce Tulloch of the Burleigh Good News Fellowship, was invited to a Christian Businessmen's breakfast convened by the Mayor of the Gold Coast City Council.

It was a very well organised occasion and on arrival, everyone was given a souvenir program giving the order of service; the speakers and the hymns that were to be sung. A professional singer had been engaged for the occasion and she led the singing.

To conclude the breakfast, it was announced that all three verses of the National Anthem were to be sung, the words being printed on the back of the program.

The singer led and all present joined in with great gusto. What really intrigued everyone were the words of the third verse.

No one present had ever heard them before, - have you?

'With Christ our head and corner stone,

We'll build our nation's might

Whose way and truth and light alone,

Can guide our path aright

Our lives a sacrifice of love

Reflect our Master's care

With faces turned to heaven above Advance Australia fair.

In joyful strains then let us sing

Advance Australia fair.'

However much we claim to be a secular society, it will always be very difficult to get away from our Christian heritage. That is, unless we change our National Anthem.

God Bless as you live for Him.

Roger Jones.



Letters We Love

We recently received a letter from a reader commenting on one of Pastor Ron Allen's letters and an editorial in the Newsletter which read:

TO GNU.

The trends of these two writers is a bit worrying. Have you abandoned the very reasons for the existence of GNU?

When the Bible says 'you will know the truth and the truth will set you free' it means it?

Free of tension - totally relaxed - free of storm and conflict - totally calm - totally serene - totally comfortable.

If it is not, you have a problem. Think it out and dump that thing (usually unbelief) which troubles you.

You should be totally free of these things. They are for unbelievers only.

ANON. N.S.W.

The Christian life is not all sweetness and light. It faces stark reality daily. This means being tempted, threatened, persecuted and having to endure suffering. All through history the spread of the gospel has always been accompanied by persecution and bloodshed. This still applies today. But we Christians think it is well worth it. James called it 'pure joy.' See Matt 5:10-11. 2 Tim 4:8.

Ed.

To the people at GNU

I cannot thank you enough for your work and inspiration. My sister passed on some of Dr. Ford tapes to me, when my Christian experience (still in its fledgling state) was taking a nose dive. He managed to put a lot of things into perspective and helped to put me back on the track. Becoming a Christian can leave you in no-mans land - not quite 'of the world' but not quite fitting into the church either. Now I know that I can be anywhere - as long as I've got Jesus.

When I was lost, your outreach was the human touch of understanding I needed to tell me it was OK to feel that way - Jesus would not turn away from my many failings.

LR S.A.

To all the group who sang at Kellyville Church.

I would like to say how much I enjoyed the program. It was fantastic! The songs were varied and enjoyable.

My children haven't stopped playing the CD since we bought it.

Keep up your good work and God bless.

LG N.S.W.

To GNU

Please find enclosed \$20 being payment for the Tape of the Month for Oct, Nov and December.

The tapes are really appreciated, also the letters from Pr. Ron Allen that come with them. They always have a very good message that can be passed on to others.

Our prayers are also with Rob Cooper and his family. We pray they will feel the sweet presence of Jesus with them.

GW Vic.

LAST CHANCE!
IMPORTANT LETTER
ENCLOSED

Dear Friend

In a survey of young people who were for the most part students, one of the questions was, 'What is your basic reaction to life?' Sixty percent answered, 'Anxiety.'

When we think of anxiety we imagine the fear that arises from some kind of mortal threat; the fear of death. It is observed, however, by many, that fear about death is not alone the basis of the anxieties in our society. Indeed, there are a great number of people who do not believe in God, who demonstrate that you don't have to be religious, in order to not be afraid of death.

We may safely assume that fear of life is just as responsible for the anxiousness in the world, as fears of death. Dread of the fearful possibilities of life is the modern man's scourge. The apostle Paul lived in a world which was full of the same terrors. He mentions them in Romans 8:38,39.

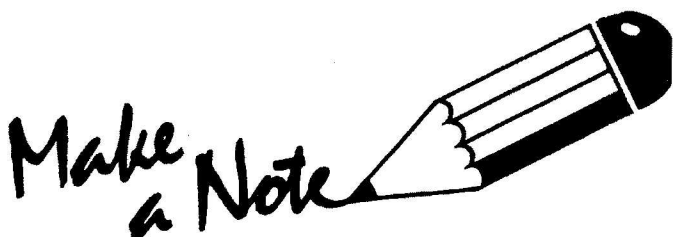
'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

The things that threatened Paul were not only the horrors of death, but also the inexplicable forces of existence which buffeted and threatened him. He mentions the irresistible powers of history before which man is helpless; the ambiguity of the present and the inscrutable darkness of the future; the incalculable twists and turns of fate that transport life from height to depth without feeling and without warning. All of these demonic forces impact upon the Twentieth Century man. He falls into their pitiless grasp.

It is not possible for us to rid ourselves of anxiety by facing it with fortitude, courage and heroism. These may help to suppress it but they can never be its conqueror. Paul's answer to the problem is surprising. Love is the opposite of anxiety and its vanquisher. The things of death and life that terrify, can never have an unbreakable grasp on one who is bonded to God through love, which cannot be disrupted. In Christ, we are in the embrace of one who faced the frightening aspect of existence. In His cry of dereliction there was distilled the essence of all human fear. 'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me.'

In our anxious moments, we Christians may cling to the knowledge that we are not alone in our fear. We can know that we are connected inseparably to life which continues ever; that fades not away. Each new circumstances that breaks upon us is the creation of another situation in which salvation will occur for us. For in any event, Jesus Christ remains. His life remains. His love remains. His grasp on us remains. As Helmut Thielicke said, 'we do not know **what** will come. But we know **who** will come. And if the last hour belongs to us, we do not need to fear the next minute.' May the perfect love of Jesus Christ cast out fear from your life at this moment.

*Your friend in Jesus,
Ron J Allen.*



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ARK

by Lowell Tarling

'believe me, i'm not an ordinary scoffer,
i'm an intellectual man
with letters after my name

i'm not mocking you like these others,
but i've got the very best scientific proof
to show that there have never been floods before.

& i saw you old man ... old prophet,
pointing to Methuselah and pointing to the skies,
when he dies it shall come!
but nothing has come, and you have closed the door.

my daughter tells me that she has watched the east
& has seen a small dark cloud
about the size of a man's hand.
she says the sun is as colourless as a bowl of porridge,
& the light falls away from it reluctantly,
like soup through an old man's beard.

but i was never an ordinary scoffer - noah,
i am an intellectual man
with letters after my name.

yet i can hear the sound of rain,
& soon i know i will hear the sounds of the end.

strange to think
that i could have freely entered
an ark
that i had not built.'

1977

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P R O F I L E

Bruce and Joan Johansen

Bruce is the longest serving Director on the Board of GNU and was for many years the Chairman. He is the representative for Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

'I am a Christian 'at large' and happy to worship with any group who preaches the gospel,' said Bruce Johansen, the immediate past Chairman of GNU, 'In fact, at this stage I could never belong to any church organisation.'

Until 12 years ago, Bruce and his wife Joan, were very involved with the Seventh Day Adventist Church in their home town of Horsham, in Western Victoria. Bruce was the leading Elder of the Church as well as being a Member of the Victorian Executive Committee.

It was a time when God was challenging the SDA Church's system of salvation (faith plus works), with the Gospel of 'faith alone in the atoning sacrifice of Christ at Calvary'. The man God raised up to do this work was Dr. Desmond Ford, a close friend of Bruce's. When Dr. Ford was subsequently sacked by the SDA Church for his faith, Bruce decided, 'That if the church no longer wanted Des then they no longer wanted me, for the same reasons.'

Bruce has been in business all his working life, starting in the timber industry around Warburton, Victoria, just after the second World War. He expanded his business by taking on work in this industry in other parts of Victoria and South Australia over a number of years. He employed some hundreds of men, many being mi-

grants straight from the boats at Melbourne. 'Among the most notorious,' he went on, 'was Ronald Ryan, who was the last man hanged in Victoria.'

Bruce then left the timber industry, becoming a successful salesman of 'Caterpillar' earthmoving machinery, selling many millions of dollars worth of 'Cats' over 14 years.

This was followed by a period in real estate and finally Bruce and Joan established Grampian Buslines, which they operated jointly.

They have four children, a daughter Lorinda and three sons, Criston, Jon and Leigh.

Bruce and Joan have both developed their outreach and influence by service to the public in their community. Bruce is a Member of the Board of the Wimmera Base Hospital and is also on the Council of the Victorian Hospitals Association, Chairman of the Wimmera Hospice Care, and a past president of the East Horsham Rotary Club. Joan is involved with various auxiliaries as well as being a volunteer with the Cancer Support Group.

In their spiritual lives, both get the best and most meaningful fellowship with non-denominational groups, Joan with a KYB (Know Your Bible) ladies group and Bruce from his involvement with the Christian Businessmen's Committee, that meets regularly for prayer fellowship and runs regular outreach dinners.

Bruce enjoys his involvement as a Board Member of GNU. 'As a personal friend of Dr. Ford of many years standing and sharing the same understanding of the Gospel with him,

Joan and I are happy to be part of this work.' Bruce then went on, 'We love Christ as our Friend and Saviour and want to share with others the absolute certainty, that all can have salvation through belief in Him'.



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THE WHITE LIE

From time to time we receive inquiries for Walter Rea's two books, 'The White Lie' and 'Pirates of Privilege'. We do not stock them, but they are still in print and are available through Koorong Books.


Home Church

Interested in meeting other Christians for home fellowship? Sunshine Coast dwellers are invited to call Elenné Ford on 074 928 555 for details.

On the back page you will notice that each member of the Board of GNU has been allocated a section of this huge country of ours to represent.

If you would like to contact your local representative for any reason, then please feel free to do so.

Classic ^M
- CHRISTIANITY -
Life's too short to miss the real thing!



Bob George

Classic
- CHRISTIANITY -

For every vibrant, fulfilled Christian there seem to be nine who are doing all the right things, but still feel bogged down, tied up, or burned out. What's missing?

Like so many, Bob George began his Christian life full of love for his Saviour - only to end up, years later, disappointed and unfulfilled.

Bob came to realise that he was substituting Christianity for Christ. Drawing on his own struggles and years as a teacher and counsellor, he asks why so many Christians start out as enthusiastic believers but end up by merely going through the motions of faith. In his down-to-earth style he shows us the way back to authentic Christian faith.

\$12.95 plus PP & H
from GNU

We wish to acknowledge two anonymous donations of \$5.00 each.

If you hear a cheerful new voice next time you call GNU it is Rosslyn.

Rosslyn assists with Tape of the Month & correspondence.

The Good Newsletter

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GNU is not a church and does not seek to proselytise, but does believe in and encourage local church involvement. Its ministry includes radio presentations, preaching appointments, public seminars and the dispersal of audio and video cassettes and literature, emphasising the atonement of Christ.

GNU is supported solely by donations from those who believe in its ministries.

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