

The Good Newsletter

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY GOOD NEWS UNLIMITED

JULY 1996

EDITORIAL

Recently, a Baptist friend of mine called and invited us to the Prophecy Seminar at his church. 'When you think of the state of the world and how it is getting worse,' he went on, 'we must be aware what is going to happen to us and when the rapture will take place.'

After declining his offer, I felt compelled to ask, 'But Mike, I thought you believed in the Gospel?' There was a pause, then he said, 'Of course I do, you know that.'

'Then why are you worrying about prophecy?' I went on, 'When

Jesus died on Calvary's Cross, his death paid the penalty for all the sin of your entire life. If you repent of your sin and accept Jesus as your Saviour, Lord and God then you are saved. You are assured of a place in God's Kingdom that cannot be taken away from you. I know you have enjoyed the assurance of your salvation for years, so what is the point of prophecy? It is just a cunning distraction to take your eyes off the Cross. Always remember, the Cross is the very centre of our faith and we should never take our eyes off it.'

There was a pause then Mike said, 'I suppose you are right, but he is a good speaker all the same.'

Let us remember that the purpose of all temptation is to lead us away from Christ and what he has done for us at Calvary.

Considerable comment was generated last issue by the article 'Forgive Us Our Trespasses'. Some reader's responses are included in this issue. Another article 'Do You Believe?' is published with permission of the WWC of G — write, let us have your opinion.



Roger Jones



SPURGEON ON PROPHECY

Charles Spurgeon, probably the greatest preacher England has ever produced, was confronted by prophecy toward the end of last century. Apparently there was a group claiming that Jesus would return in 1866 and the following comments on prophecy are taken from a sermon preached in 1862.

'You know I am no prophet. I do not know anything about 1866; I find quite enough to do to attend to 1862. I do not understand the visions of Daniel and Ezekiel; I find I have enough to do to teach the simple Word such as I find in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and the Epistles of Paul. I do not find many souls have been converted by exquisite dissertations about the battle of Armageddon and all those other fine things. I have no doubt that prophesying is very profitable, but I rather question whether they are so profitable to the hearers as they may be to the preachers and

publishers. People have been panting to know the future; and certain divines pander to this depraved taste, by prophesying for them, and letting them know what is coming by and by. I do not know the future, and I shall not pretend to know. But I do preach this because I know it, that *Christ will come*, for He says so in a hundred different passages. I will not divide the house tonight by discussing whether the Advent will be pre-millennial or post-millennial, or anything like that, it is enough for me that *He will come*.' (1862, p599)

PROPHECY IN THE FAMILY

Many years ago a certain member of our family decided, on leaving school, he wanted to be a journalist. In those days there were no university courses in journalism but many big city papers ran their

own in-house schools of journalism. He applied to one of them and was accepted.

After a number of months of training, he was told that tomorrow he started work. This was the real thing. He was to report to an old sub-editor for his first assignment.

The day came and there he was standing beside his boss's desk wondering what his first assignment would be. The old sub-editor looked him up and down and thought for a moment. Then he reached across his desk and picked up a file and put it in front of our new journalist saying, 'Write the stars for the next three months.'

How many assignments did we waste our time on over the years, until we found the one that really mattered? — the Gospel

Ed.

THIS ISSUE:

- * June 2 Board Meeting
- * Last Chance for Camp Drewe
- * Once Saved, Always Saved?
- * Do You Believe?

Dear Friend



Disillusionment is a real and devastating experience that comes to everyone at least once in their lives. Look around your street, your city, your church or your club, you will see that there are individuals who are disappointed, baffled and disgusted. One who has had no success in relations with the opposite sex, will roundly declare that all women are a snare; all men are cruel. Another will scoff at the very idea of marriage, holding, that all marriages are imprisonment. Another, will curse the government and politicians generally. Others will sadly and solemnly declare that all Christian churches and all denominations are institutions for the oppression of mankind. Still others will tersely complain that life itself is vicious, that there is no justice. And so it goes. Voices, (some of them our own) are raised continually, crying that life has let them down. Disillusionment is as common as ageing and we need to beware of the damage it can do. It takes two things to fell a big tree, a high wind outside and decay on the inside. Too often cynicism is nurtured within until it causes massive spiritual decay and makes the individual an easy mark for the next windstorm. At the beginning of the French Revolution, Wordsworth was lifted to great heights of enthusiastic expectancy. But as the Revolution unfolded, he saw how the promise of liberty, equality and fraternity was lost amidst the horrors of the bloody guillotine. At the end, Wordsworth felt that the French Revolution had let his generation down. He wrote:

*'I lost
All feeling of conviction, and, in fine
Sick, wearied out with contrarities
Yielded up moral questions in despair.'*

Many reading this letter, will see themselves in Wordsworth's lines. For myself, I can say that disillusionment has lurked about me. Therefore, I remark to myself also, when I say that I am aware that much disillusionment springs from self-pity. We feel sorry for ourselves. Life has not been fair to me! The danger in this is that disillusionment will rob our generation of our talents and services. It is possible to be so soured by life's experiences, that pity for oneself deafens us to other calls for help. Life's very ability to disappoint us, ought to inform us somewhat as to our duty.

Aside from our own frustrations there is the tragedy of the whole world before us. What is to be done about the hideous raping of our once pristine environment? Who will speak up on its behalf? Who will stand up for the catastrophic plundering of the world's poor by richer nations? Who will strive for a better and more just society? Who will try to curb the withering advance of drug abuse with all its related woes? Who will try to dam the tide of alcoholism? This generation needs you. This generation needs me. Why should we be lost to it? What's the use?, says the soul disillusioned. What can one person accomplish?

Such questions are asked by minds that demand to see results of their labours within their lifetimes. But we have no right as Christians to make such a demand. It may take a hundred or a thousand years for one dedicated life to bare its fruit. Think of Christ, the world in which he was born was controlled more or less, by a world view, which held that life was merely a vain and eternal recurrence, leading nowhere. Into that disenchanted age Jesus came; lived and died an apparent failure. But he shook the foundations of human civilisation, changing the complexion of men's minds. Said one ancient sage, 'He hath changed sunset into sunrise'. Now Christ's Church faces again a disenchanted civilisation. What shall we say to it? What can we do? Will we allow the bruising of body and spirit that have come to us to stop us thrusting ourselves into the maelstrom of human need? Will we, by the grace of God, march into the thick of human strife, shouldering other peoples burdens; with Christ on our lips and in our hearts; his strength in our arms and in our legs, till our life is done and we have exhausted ourselves in a cause far greater than ourselves?

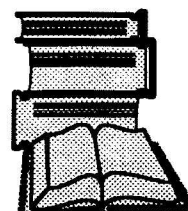
Good News Unlimited thanks you for your interest in the greatest cause in the world - Christ and his Gospel. May the love of Christ strengthen and encourage you.

Yours in Jesus

Ron J Allen

Special Projects '96

One of this year's projects is a set of devotional books. Work is well under way editing and collating the first of the series. Each devotional book will consist of 52 messages, one for each week of the year. Would you like to help financially?



Do You Believe?

Greg Albrecht

What Is Christianity?

'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die'. John 11:25-26

They left Jerusalem and Judea because of continuing threats on the life of Jesus. Now the small band was in the region of Perea, close to Jericho. But even here they could not get away from death. The news came by a messenger, 'Lazarus is sick and near death.' But Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary, lived in Bethany of Judea, just outside of Jerusalem. For many of the Disciples, it seemed foolish to even think of going into such a dangerous area. Jesus waited two days before announcing that they would go back to Judea. He spoke, as he often did, in figurative language, 'Our friend Lazarus is asleep, I am going to wake him up'. As often happened, the disciples tried to understand Jesus's words literally. Jesus then explained, 'Lazarus is dead.' Thomas, not known for his cheerful and positive outlook on life, responded, 'Great, let's go back into Judea and we can all die with him.' They didn't talk much as they walked to Bethany. The disciples' hearts were heavy. They reluctantly followed Jesus into Judea. And Jesus did not reassure them that nothing would go wrong. In fact, he knew that he was in the last few days of his own life.

Martha Believed

Hearing that Jesus was coming, Martha left her sister, Mary, to continue preparing food while she went out to meet Jesus as he neared Bethany. Grief-stricken and still in shock at what had happened, Martha shared her burden with Jesus, 'If you had been here, Lazarus would still be alive. But maybe you can still do something. I know God will give you whatever you ask.'

Jesus looked deeply into Martha's eyes and said, 'Your brother will be resurrected.' Martha believed there would be a future resurrection to life. She had heard Jesus speak of it, and felt that he was comforting her now. 'I know Jesus. I know that he will be resurrected at the last day.' This was the setting for the words Jesus now spoke. Words of comfort that Christians hear at funerals as corpses await burial. Words that have been preached from tens of thousands of pulpits. Words that millions have memorised. John records them. 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die'. (John 11:25-26) Jesus did not preach these words at a gravesite, or in an open-air stadium at an evangelistic rally. He looked intently at Martha and explained, 'I am life. Life is me. The resurrection - it's me'.

Do You Believe?

Most of us usually end our recitation of John 11:25-26 without including the two last sentences. The last sentence is a question that reminds us that Jesus originally spoke these words to Martha. But the last sentence is much more than just a question to Martha. These probing words are a call to all who will follow Jesus. These words are a challenge to you and me. 'Do you believe this?' Here is the Gospel. God, in the person of Jesus, came to die that we might live! Jesus was, and is God! The second Person of the triune Godhead came in the flesh, lived among us and went to the cross for our salvation. We struggle with sin. We are helpless in the face of sickness and death. We are captives of time and space, knowing that death will have its way with each of us. And we know that our own sin, our sinful condition, sentences us to death. It is inevitable. Each of us, on our own death row, awaits our date with death. But there is good news! We can be pardoned. We can be rescued from our

hopeless condition and inevitable sentence of death. God came outside of time and space, and entered into it. He came from immortality to mortality. He took a body of flesh and empowered that body with his divinity. To rescue us! To save us! Do you believe?

'Who Am I'

Martha quietly affirmed the same words that Peter had earlier. Jesus had also pressed Peter to make a commitment (Matthew 16:13-16). He asked Peter, 'Who am I Peter?' Neither Martha nor Peter said anything about what a good example Jesus was. They did not explain that Jesus was a respected teacher of values and ethics. They said nothing about Jesus' prophecies, nor did they speak of his healings. They both affirmed that he was and is the Christ, the Son of God. Both Peter and Martha knew about Jesus. They had spent time with him and they had observed him. They watched him and came to know much about him. But Jesus eventually pressed them for a more intimate and lasting commitment. Jesus Christ wanted to know if they believed. He wants nothing less from us. Do you believe? Perhaps the Jesus you know is the Jesus you know about. You may know about his life and his teachings. You may know his parables. You may have studied what he said about the future. You may be intensely interested in the date of his second coming. Perhaps you have been taught that he came to set us an example, and if you can only do exactly what he did, then you will be good enough to be given salvation. But do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the only source of life? Does that belief change your life?

Come To Christ

You know how the story of Jesus, Mary, Martha and Lazarus ends. Following Jesus' conversation with Martha, Mary also left the house to see Jesus. She also told him that if he had been there, surely he

Continued next page...

From USA —

Snippets from the Good News
Unlimited (USA) magazine

Dear Dr Ford

Question: Is it fruitless for a person to tithe, visit the sick, help the needy, and do other good deeds, if such things are done only grudgingly? Is it worthwhile doing our duty if we do not do it from a grateful heart of love for God? — Peggy.

Answer: *God does not accept as obedience any outward acts that are not prompted from the motive of love. But because we still live in the flesh, there will always be antagonism from some parts of our nature. This brings no condemnation, for God looks at our choices, not our feelings, and if our choices are motivated by love to him, all we do is acceptable. Remember, because of our fallen nature, all our motives are mixed. But what counts in heaven's sight is the prevailing motive. —Des.*



Cont. from previous page

wouldn't have let Lazarus die. Death and grieving were everywhere. Mary and Martha were in tears, their friends were weeping. It was the custom to hire mourners, who wailed and shrieked in the background. The air was heavy with hopelessness. Life was in their midst in the person of Jesus, but death controlled and ruled their attitudes. Jesus Christ knew that he, too, would soon meet death - and overcome it. He knew that he would atone for the sins of the world on the cross. He would claim victory for all who would believe in him. When he came to the tomb and asked them to take away the stone that sealed



Letters

Dear Editor

It is encouraging to see the way the Holy Spirit is working through the *World Wide Church of God* by their public recognition and acceptance that justification by faith alone is the way of eternal life. Their world leader Pr J Tkach made a public apology for his church's past dogmatic approach to certain dogmatic beliefs and their intolerance to other Christians.

Dr Ford's major impact to the *Adventist Church* from the 1960's to the 1980's was on Justification by Faith. Since the crisis of the 1980's Dr Ford has single handed caused the *Adventist Church* world wide to shift its major focus on this doctrine.

The only reason Dr Ford raised the problem of the Investigative Judgement publicly, is that he believed you cannot do justice to the gospel of Justification by Faith alone, with acquittal of all sins upon God's forgiveness to the sinner, and

at the same time present a doctrine which teaches Christians will be investigated sometime after 1844 to see if worthy to have their names retained in the Book of Life!

The *Adventist Church* and its leaders could take a little direction and example in the way the *World Wide Church of God* handled its past mistakes as now revealed in their public statements. I am not suggesting that the *Adventist church* take the same position the *World Wide Church of God* took on the Sabbath doctrine - they still meet on Saturday for worship but no longer hold it binding on New Testament Christians.

To resolve the injustices of the past, the *Adventist Church* needs to make public apology. As a gesture of Christian friendship and brotherly love Dr Ford should be welcomed in the spirit of the wonderful and marvellous Gospel that he still preaches.

Boris Dobra Vic.

Dear Roger

Received your newsletter this week and was truly delighted with its contents. Truly the Spirit is working on the hearts of men in a mighty way.

Thank-you for printing the article 'Forgive Us Our Trespasses' by Joseph Tkach, president of the *World Wide Church of God* and the words

Continued over the page...

it, they thought he wanted to view the body. Martha protested, 'But he has been dead four days. The body is decomposing and it stinks horribly'. The command of Jesus, 'Lazarus, come forth!' is high drama. We can almost hear the wailing stop, we can almost see the faces as they peer intently into the face of death. Life was commanding the tomb of death to give up its hold on the dead.

A Call to New Life

Jesus calls us to the same new life. From our own spiritual bondage and decay. But before we can have the new life in Christ, the gravestone must be rolled away. We must be willing to look into the jaws of death. We must confront the

chains, addictions and beliefs that bind us, and come forth. As he called Lazarus to new life, the Life and the Resurrection sealed his own death warrant. On another day, not many days later, Jesus again took on the forces of death and sin, and overcame them once and for all. He triumphed on the cross, that we may have life. And three days later, he himself came out of the tomb. He proved irrefutably that he was God in the flesh, by rising from the dead. It was the sign that he gave to prove that he is Messiah, Redeemer and Lord. He triumphed over death and the grave! Do you believe?

By permission, World Wide Church of God.

Letters continued...

Wide Church of God and the words of Pr Phil Hopwood commenting on the joy of members who realise their salvation is sure. It is really heart-warming to know they are moving forward in preaching the Gospel.

Who knows what the *World Wide Church of God* will have on Christians of other denominations, who struggle with these important questions. I feel we have gained a powerful ally in our work of preaching the Gospel to all the world.

Also pleased to hear of Rev. Dr. Gordon Moyes interest in *Good News Unlimited*.

Thanking you and may God richly bless in your labours.

W H Vic

To the people of GNU!

I can't thank you enough for your work and inspiration. My sister passed on some of Dr Ford's 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 track. Becoming a Christian can leave you in no-man's land - not quite 'of the world' but not quite fitting into the 'old denomination' 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 was okay to feel that way - Jesus wouldn't turn away from my many failings.

Thank you
L R Qld

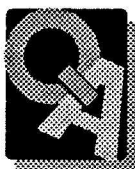
Dear Editor

The second Newsletter arrived yesterday which prompts this brief letter to you. Firstly, the comments of the *Worldwide Church of God* were interesting for their inclusions and omissions. It is good to learn of a denomination that openly acknowledges its prior erroneous teachings (light expelling dark). May other denominations follow suit. From another source I read that they have also decided to abandon the Sabbath, if true, a strange omission on your part. All this will undoubtedly cause division amongst their members, who need our prayers. Secondly, on

the back page I notice that Victoria has disappeared from Australia. I can assure you it is still here in spite of strong winds. As further evidence of its survival, please notice that Bruce Johansen's phone number has a Victorian prefix. Thirdly, a suggestion for an item in the next Newsletter - what about a statement of the role, duties and aims of a Zone Director. Thanks for the Newsletter. The second is better than the first. Hope you can maintain the trend without duplicating the magazine.

With Christian love
R E Vic

Editors note: Yes, you are quite correct, the World Wide Church of God have dropped their belief in the Sabbath, but this is not a strange omission on our part. GNU is primarily concerned with the proclamation of the Gospel. A person's secondary beliefs are of their own choosing. Every effort will be made to reinstate Victoria into the Commonwealth, also we will include a statement of the duties of Zone Directors in a future issue.



Once Saved Always Saved?

Question to Dr Ford from the recent Brisbane Seminar:

In Romans chapter 11 it talks about people being cut off and being put in the fire. Does this mean that we who are Christians can lose our salvation, or are we saved forever?

Answer: The New testament repeatedly says 'We don't believe that we too will be cut off'. Read chapters 9,10 and 11 of Romans. If we cease to believe; if we cease to trust; faith is like breathing - you can't do it once and forever, you've got to keep trusting. We don't mean by that, a moments lapse and your out, we don't mean that at all. But if you give up the habit of looking to Jesus, you will certainly lose him. The whole book of Hebrews is about this. It says that 'The just shall live by faith, but if that man turn back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.' (See last verse of Hebrews 10)

The Bible does not teach 'once saved always saved' but it does teach 'looking unto Jesus always safe', even if you are in the mud when you are looking. Even when you have just 'blown it.' If you are looking, if you are trusting, even when you are a failure, you're right! You're OK.

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FEATURING Dr Desmond Ford

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Rockhampton February 17
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Perth March 14 - 15
Adelaide March 16
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Brother Lawrence

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When Nicholas Herman was eighteen, the sight of a tree stripped of its leaves, followed by the thought that the leaves would precede flowers and fruits, which would appear again shortly, kindled in him an appreciation of God's power and providence. He finally entered a monastery in mid-life and spent the next thirty years as a cook for his order. More importantly, he sought and eventually achieved the ability to walk continually in God's presence, continually 'blessing God, and praising him, adoring him, and loving him.'

77pp \$2.80 plus PP&H

June 2 Board Meeting

Eight Board Members and three invited guests from WA to QLD to Vic, met via a telephone Confra-Link on June 2 to discuss the business of GNU. The two hour meeting, chaired by David Martin, tackled a lengthy agenda.

Of general interest:

1) The Board unanimously reaffirmed its Mission Statement:

Christians united in offering to all meaning and direction in their lives by a knowledge of God's encounter with humanity through his Son, Jesus Christ

While recognising their responsibilities to past affiliations, the Board expressed their wish to make known the Gospel to all

2) GNU will make available, free of charge, the Good News Australia magazine to Christian bookshops throughout Australia. Magazine holders are currently being manufactured. Readers who would like to assist with distribution to Christian bookshops in their area, please contact this office.


3) Nine new Members were voted into GNU.

On payment of a once only fee of \$20 and acceptance by the Board


of GNU, applicants become voting Members of a Limited Guarantee Company. This legal entity enables GNU to spread the Gospel via different channels - magazine, audio & video tapes, seminars, books & radio.

4) It was decided to include selected materials from *People To People* resource group from USA, for inclusion in the GNU catalogue. Material available includes books and tapes by internationally known author and speaker, Bob George.

Later this year Members will be asked to elect a new Board to take over and steer the affairs of Good News Unlimited in Australia for the next two years. Firstly, nominations will be called for, then later, the Ballot will take place. If, by the way the Lord is leading in your life, you believe you have a contribution to make to the work of Good News Unlimited, then please give consideration to nominating. Currently, there is no one on the Board from South Australia or Tasmania, also there is another serious deficiency for this day and age - there are no women on the Board. So if you have a burden for the work, please start thinking about nominating.



JUDGEMENT
Smuts van Rooyen

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Brian Patterson 018 200061

P R O F I L E

PATRICIA & DENNIS TEDMAN

In the past it has been rightly said of us, in words similar to those below:

*'Believe as I believe, no more, no less;
That I am right, and no one else,
confess*

*Feel as I feel, think only as I think;
Eat what I eat, and drink what I
drink;*

*Look as I look, and do always as I do;
And then, and only then, I'll fellow-
ship with you.'*

Author unknown

In the last decade we have experienced major changes in our beliefs. Discarding many ideas about our faith previously thought 'fundamental' - exchanging a formal

style of worship for informal cottage meetings.

Immigrants from Tasmania, we now reside in Kingscliff, north New South Wales, a land of sunshine, floods, mangoes and midges.

We are blessed with two children, Bettina - married to a certain Gary Krause and Denyce, married to one Alan Powell, also two grandchildren, Joshua (4) and Luke (2).

Pat works in the Good News Unlimited office as Office Manager. I run a small service business and assist Pat with her work.

Our lives are filled with work, worship (at the local GNU Fellowship), tennis on Sunday afternoons (when it is not raining), walking of an evening (when we are not too

tired) and mowing the lawn (when I have to).

The concerns of our lives includes children, grandchildren, parents and waistlines.

We rejoice in our discovery of the Gospel - the freedom it gives us, the simplicity of its essential truths and the certainty of its promises.



Pat and Dennis manage GNU's Tweed Heads office. They usually shun the limelight - we are indebted to them for their dedication. Ed.

Capernwray?

Capernwray is an international, interdenominational Christian organisation engaged in evangelism and Bible teaching. Founded in England by Major Ian Thomas shortly after World War II, the work has developed to include Bible Schools and Conference centres around the world. 'Our vision is to see God work through the Capernwray ministry to equip people to serve their Lord and Saviour in their local church and community.'

For further information, contact GNU Board Member, Bruce Tulloch (07) 5535 5329

GNU on the internet? Yes!

EMAIL goodnews@coolgold.com.au
WEBSITE <http://www.coolgold.com.au/goodnews/goodnews.htm/>



ODE TO JOY

Paul to the Phillipians

**Smuts van Rooyen
and Frank Knittel**

The Holy, Utterly, Positive Life	Phil. 1:3-11
I Will Continue To Rejoice	Phil. 1:18-20
When Confidence is Sadly Misplaced	Phil. 3:1-7
What's Your Story Again?	Phil. 2:5-11
The Church That Cared and Shared	Phil. 4:13-19
A Tiny Candle Makes a Difference	Matt. 25:24-29

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GNU INVESTMENTS

GNU has an experienced Christian investment representative who can advise in areas of Estate Planning, with particular regard to interest free investments to benefit GNU, also bequests. Contact GNU for details.

VISITING THE GOLD COAST?

Be sure to say Hello to the Gold Coast Good News Fellowship. Meets weekly on Wednesday nights and every other Saturday morning.

For times and places, telephone this office.

Anonymous donations

Received with thanks during March/April: \$30 \$26 \$20

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JULY 1996

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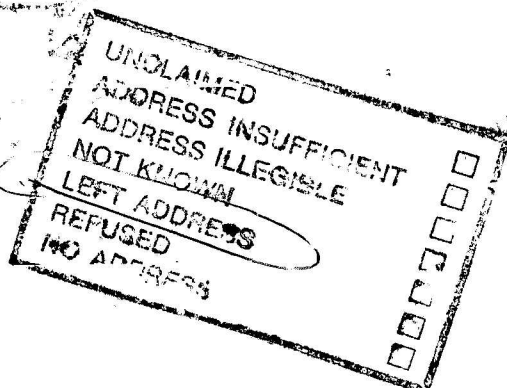
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TYPESETTER: Lionel D C Hartley
PRINTER: Spartan Press

Good News Unlimited is an evangelical, non-denominational, non-profit organisation, dedicated to proclaiming the everlasting Gospel.

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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Zone 3	South NSW	Roger Jones	064 930353	Fax 064 930353
Zone 4	Greater Sydney	Brian Patterson	02 4819907	Fax 02 4844948
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Zone 5	Raymond Terrace to Taree	Rolf Kempf	049 831132	
Zone 6	NE NSW & Sth Queensland	Bruce Tulloch	07 55355329	
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Zone 7	Nth Qld & Northern Territory			

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