



The Good Newsletter

July 1998

A bi-monthly newsletter produced by Good News Unlimited

Editorial

Once more an election is in the wind and our politicians and media are preparing us for the oncoming campaign.

Someone has to prepare us. Most of us lead fairly ordered lives, caring for our families and earning a living. So in the course of each day we have conversations with many people. We speak in a straight forward manner saying what we mean and meaning what we say.

But when the election campaign gets underway this everyday plain talk with which we conduct our lives ceases, and we come against a form of speech known as rhetoric. This is the art of persuasion. It is rarely valid, rarely true and rarely convincing.

At the time our minds go into an entirely different mode of interpreting the English language, knowing that *law* tax cuts can be repealed at any time and 'never/ ever' promises have a maximum shelf life of three years.

This political rhetoric is the stock-in-trade of our national leaders, in fact, political leaders the world over. But unfortunately it is so lacking in substance and integrity that many of us treat it with cynical disbelief. 'Heard it all before', is a common comment.

But we Christians have Jesus Christ as our leader who is our Lord, Saviour and God, and one of his many wonderful attributes is that he

talks straight, meaning exactly what he says and saying exactly what he means. We, his faithful followers know exactly where we stand in relation to him.

Whilst on earth Jesus made a number of claims about himself, one being, 'I am the way *the truth* and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Consider this claim . . . 'I am the truth.' Everything He says is truth. He has an exclusive monopoly on truth throughout the universe. When he is questioned, we see truth versus rhetoric.

In Matthew 22:15-22 Christ's opponents, the Pharisees, try to entangle him in debate. They pose the style of question that our opposition members throw at the Government each day during Question Time. 'Is it lawful for us to pay taxes to Caesar?' In framing this question the Pharisees gave themselves the option to accuse Christ of disloyalty to either Rome or the Jewish nation, regardless of what he said.

After giving his famous reply, 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's', the Pharisees are speechless. The Bible goes on to say 'They marvelled and left him and went their way.'

The effect was the same when the Sadducees asked their ridiculous hypothetical about the woman who had seven husbands.

There is no arguing with the truth. There is nothing to debate.

Truth stands supreme. This is just one of the attributes of the God whom we love and serve.

If Jesus is the *truth*, then his promises are truth also. When he promised, 'I go and prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself, that where I am there you may be also.' We know that one day he will return and do exactly that. It is on this truth that we build our hope for eternity.

As important as elections are to us for the governing of our country, they are only for fallible humans like ourselves who will govern us for a short period of time—and may make mistakes in the process.

However, the greatest election we have ever been involved in was the one when we chose to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. On that occasion we voted for a perfect righteous God, who will lead us along the paths of righteousness for all eternity.

When that great day comes, rhetoric will be forgotten, for we will never need persuading again—as nothing can be better than living in the presence of God.

Even so, come Lord Jesus.

Roger Jones
Editor



Focus on the Gospel

Dear Friend

'Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you,
I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your heart
be troubled and do not be afraid.' John 14:27



This beautiful promise was not given in a setting of quietness. It was spoken on the eve of Jesus' violent arrest. Those who heard him say it, were also being affected by the storm that was gathering around Jesus. They had heard him talk of terrible things soon to happen. They were troubled and afraid.

'Do not let your heart be troubled.' So said Jesus. Personally I have noticed that I am never particularly calmed by people who speak similarly to Jesus—by those who say, 'Don't worry, everything will be all right.' My friends and those who love me, give me their goodwill, but they cannot give me peace.

Jesus said, 'I do not give as the world gives.' There is hope in that sentence. The world gives impotently and ineffectively. Between 1500 AD and the 19th century there were eight thousand peace treaties signed. They lasted an average of two years each.

In the Old Testament peace is *Shalom*. It occurs two hundred and fifty times and two out of three of these it means peace as fulfillment, completeness and wholeness. It not only means absence of disasters, but it connotes health, prosperity, abundance of children, also with houses, lands and livestock all in good order. Peace was the ability to enjoy one's human potential to the maximum.

Jesus offers peace like this and it has four dimension:

1.) It means peace with God. In short, this means that God's demeanor towards us is exactly what it is to Jesus. God holds nothing against us. We are in his favour absolutely. This peace is God's unremitting attitude of goodwill to us.

2.) It means peace with ourselves. This aspect of the peace that Christ gives is a result of peace with God mentioned above. Whilst that peace is absolute, peace with ourselves is patchy and incomplete. We are all a bundle of conflicting desires. There is dislocation in the depths of our being. Peace with ourselves can be destroyed simply by something someone says to us. But this peace grows more robust as our appreciation of our peace with God grows. God is always at peace with me no matter how I feel inside. This knowledge helps personal peace to expand.

3.) Jesus' peace means peace with circumstances. Peace with what happens. Life is filled with surprises and many of them unpleasant. We can be hit with events that are shocking. A loved one dies. Someone loses their job. Someone else is struck down with disease. Another has a marriage failure. Jesus gives us peace by helping us not to fret and rebel wildly at the adversities of life. He shows us how to accept calmly the way God chooses to run his universe, to trust him that nothing can happen but which will contribute somehow to our ultimate peace. By living in fellowship with Jesus we can begin to be at peace with life as we find it.

4.) Jesus gives us peace between brothers. Jesus makes us into *peacemakers*. He introduces into society a new moral dynamic that makes for peace among men. It is the spirit of reconciliation. Jesus alluded to this new thing when he said, 'Love your enemies.'

So Jesus gives us peace in a substantial way. He gives as none other can. Peace with God. Peace with myself. Peace with life's happenings and peace between neighbours. He is Prince of Peace.

May the peace of God reign in your heart.

Ron J Allen

From The Chairman's Desk



After a recent Gospel meeting a gentleman was overheard to say the following to a friend: 'I don't understand terms like righteousness by faith, or, imputed righteousness. I just know that in spite of my dismal failures, God still loves me.' It occurs to me that Gospel believers can be so pedantic about their understanding of the Gospel—that the Gospel itself is

lost. Is it possible that Gospel believers can be so exacting in their expressions that they in fact create a new legalism? The spirit of legalism can be found in areas of life other than theology. A Brief view of history shows the ferocity of mankind in maintaining rightness - if only we were as concerned about

righteousness as we are about rightness.

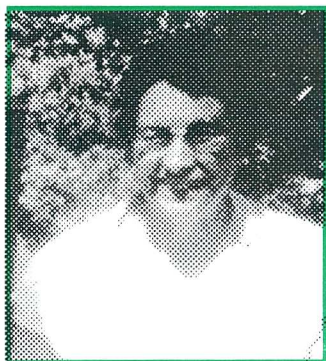
The famous Swiss theologian, Karl Barth, is reported to have replied to a Billy Graham question, that his most significant discovery had been that 'Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.' Education is to be valued, we can always learn from others—but it is also true that the most important things can be understood by children . . . and they are free!

—Clem Moss

* * * * *

Profile

Margaret McKey, wife and mother of five children since the early fifties when she married John, worshipped in the Methodist church



which Margaret had grown up in. At times she was a Sunday School teacher and choir member.

She has lived near Myrtleford in north eastern Victoria, also Williams-town, Victoria, and finally moved to Queensland in the Beaudesert area.

Shortly after moving to Queensland Margaret and John became interested in a series of prophecy lectures and pictures given by the Seventh Day Ad-

ventist church, which they attended regularly.

Margaret and John subsequently joined this church, being baptised by immersion, something Margaret had always wished for. However, the gospel was always a very strong point for Margaret and over time she became disillusioned with this new group that she had joined.

'I am now on my own,' Margaret says 'and God has wonderfully provided during hard times in the life of this family who are now scattered to different parts of Australia, but we usually manage to get together at least once a year.'

Nowadays, Margaret is a strictly interdenominational Christian and listens to the excellent tapes supplied to her by Good News Unlimited. She also views and listens to church services on television, mixes with the Baptist ladies in their craft group and attends the church her hostesses worship in when away on holidays.

Margaret is very interested

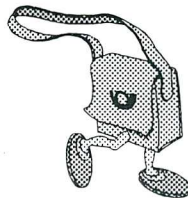
in, and gives support to, a group who do their best by prayer and material means to help care for, and strengthen, the present day Christian martyrs and their dependents in many countries. Margaret says that these people are being mutilated, imprisoned and deprived of work. Their homes, churches, Bibles and hymn books are frequently destroyed. Often they meet together in home churches and are arrested and imprisoned for doing so. Many are killed everyday simply because of their faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

'I am very thankful for my heavenly Father's care and provision in every area of my life, also for the wonderful Christians I have known in every church that I have attended,' says Margaret. 'Since my early teens I have always read the Scriptures daily which I have found a great help and blessing.'

* * * * *

Margaret has been a special friend of GNU for many years, her support has been greatly appreciated.

Letters



Dear GNU in Australia

A big thank you for an outstanding Web site. It is a literal gold mine, a biblical truth. ... I have downloaded several articles from your Web site and shared it with a professor friend. He is reading the material at this time. I agree with them all with the exception of overrating Ellen White's role under your Gift of Prophecy title. Your able ministry is reaching around the world. I have several books by Dr Desmond Ford—all excellent. His latest book on Daniel should be required reading for every class studying the Book of Daniel. Again, many thanks for such an informative Web site. May God continue to richly bless your important, gospel ministry!

Your brother in Christ

D J F Lincon, Nebraska USA

Dear GNU

I used to be an SDA. Although I have always been an avid believer since an early age, I knew there was something missing. Finally, hearing how I could rest because of the sacrifice at calvary, (from Dr Ford's ministry) was an incredible message. It changed my life. I had attended Southern Missionary College in Tennessee for one semester as I wanted to become a minister but because of the fact that individuals I really respected—ministers and teachers whom I could see were filled with the Holy Spirit and who, like myself, understood and believed this 'new radical' truth—were being asked to leave, and knowing my days were numbered, I left.

I have since lived the life of the 'prodigal son'. For the next fifteen years I lived in California and Arizona. I have partied to no end while chasing after the almighty dollar. However, for this entire

time—although I did not look like a Christ follower—I never lost my faith in the fact that Jesus died for me, the price had been paid and because of this beautiful gift and his eternal mercy, I have entered the kingdom of light. The Spirit for all that time called me to come back home, but I resisted. About four months ago God's calling caused such circumstances in my life that I have come back to the foot of the cross. I have been filled with God's Spirit and after a veritable sleep of many years, have been reawakened. I truly understand now how the Prodigal son felt. I am trying to figure out where God wants me now. He gave me certain gifts which I would like to put to use for him. I love to speak in public and God has given me an unusual gift to be able to relate to all kinds of people.

I am still scared to let go of my business and let Him lead me where he wants, but I will let him deal with that. Maybe Des or someone else there has some suggestions. I believe God has called me to spread the word in a very active manner. Your organisation should know that your messages have always encouraged me. When I listen to the messages and read the publications I can only say 'Right on!' Here is the true message of the gospel of Christ, and that's pretty cool.

Since my recent awakening I have been searching for a spiritual body to worship with, and it's kind of confusing. I have been going to couple of different churches which are worlds apart.

I pray that God will continue to bless you and your ministry. Please keep me and my current circumstances in your prayers and if

you would like to hear more of my story, let me know. It gets pretty interesting. Also, if you could suggest a body to worship with in or around Scottsdale, Arizona, it would be very helpful.

God bless and keep up the good work.

W C Arizona USA

Ps. Just to add a little to my last lengthy message. I think it's truly amazing and a real blessing that in searching the messages that God has chosen to deliver through Des and your organisation, that it should only take me minutes to search the Web, find it, send you a message on the other side of the world—for free almost—at the end of the day and hearing back from you at the beginning of the next day (with materials already headed my way).

Dear GNU

Enclosed please find cheque to cover the following order. Any extra money left over put to your general funds.

Keep up the good work. We value all your efforts, prayers and tapes very much.

Yours faithfully

P W F Vic.

To GNU .

I would like to thank you very much for the Good News magazine which you send to us so regularly.

I noticed that you have a video which sounds as if it would be of great help to my son. At last he and his wife are really wanting to accept the Lord into their lives. Their children (four of them and in their twenties) are now keen to start Bible study, this is where I think your video The Gospel of the Cross could be a help.

Enclosed, a Cheque for the video and use the rest as you want.

Many thanks

I B West. A

Congratulations!

Saturday, May 23rd, was the day Wendy and Brett had been planning and looking forward to—their wedding day.

It was a beautiful sunny autumn afternoon (just as Brett had asked for). The wedding service was held at the Eureka Uniting Church—a lovely old rustic church with stained glass windows and polished wood floors.

Pastor Allan Broom from the Nimbin area Church of Christ, led out in the ceremony. His service was very Christ-centered, with the couples vows being to Christ first of all, then to each other.

Many friends and family gathered from different parts of Australia, some as far afield as New Zealand to see these two very special people come together as one.

Brett and Wendy have had many hardships in the last few years, including financial and physical, but through these troublesome times have learned to rely solely and totally on their God. This in turn has made them a very Christ-centered couple. I cannot think of a better way to begin married life.

—Joyce Hanna



We would like to introduce ourselves as Brett and Wendy Hanna. We were married on the 23rd of May in a beautiful country church near Lismore. After spending a very relaxing honeymoon on a warm sunny beach (at a secret location), we have returned, ready to go.

You may have read about us for the last six months in the 'Special Projects' section of this Newsletter (Evangelistic Outreach). We are the couple chosen for personal visitation and support for GNU subscribers and their families.

We have both been involved in various areas of ministry for the last ten years. God has taken us on an amazing training journey. This journey has taken us to Aboriginal communities, youth camps, small group meetings, drop-in centres, preaching appointments and much more.

Currently, we are involved in Christian radio and radio education also Scripture classes in public high schools on the Gold Coast, which is a part of our ongoing training.

Our journey has gradually led us towards a support type Ministry involving the training, motivation and encouragement of people in their walk with God. This is why we have been so excited to be involved in the GNU Evangelistic Outreach program.

In the past few months we have had the pleasure of visiting a number of subscribers to GNU, from the Northern NSW, Gold Coast and Hervey Bay regions and enjoying fellowship with them. Praise God!

The blessing was ours. The greatest blessing for us personally has been the broad circle of Christian family and friends that God has given to us, also the huge support network we have, especially prayer support, which we have called upon regularly. Without doubt, prayer is the most important part of our ministry. We are learning to trust God for all of our needs.

The response has been overwhelming and we are looking forward to following up—with

God's leading—in these areas.

We are presently preparing to head North to Hervey Bay, Bundaberg and Gin Gin areas.

This ministry has been a great education for our eleven year old daughter, Topaz, (Wendy's daughter from a previous marriage). Topaz has her part to play in each home visited and is excited about the next step in our journey.

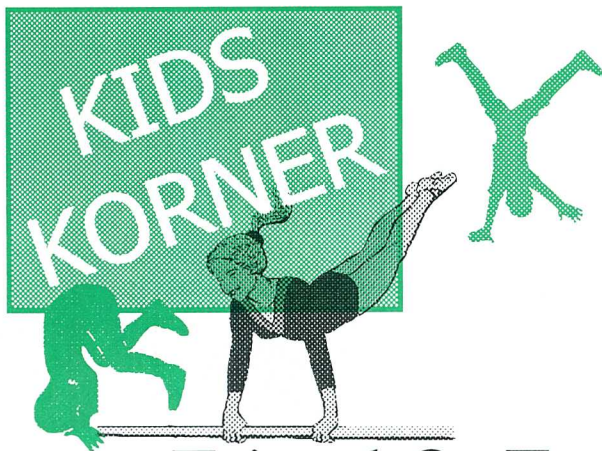
Later in the year we plan to visit other states, and when we are planning to be in your area we will let you know ahead of time so that you can tell us how GNU may be of service to you.

We ask for your support in prayer through the coming weeks and months as we continue to listen for God's voice as we walk through the doors he opens.

All our love in Jesus

Wendy, Brett and Topaz

PS If anyone needs, or would like us to call on them, (especially those in isolated areas—nowhere is too far), please contact us on Mobile 041 9665700, or write to GNU.



Friend Or Foe?

By Gillian Ford

A little girl had done something very naughty and her parents punished her by making her eat alone at a separate table. Outwardly she took it quite well but inwardly she was very rebellious. Everybody was surprised when suddenly and loudly she began to say grace over her meal. 'Dear God, thank you so much for preparing a table for me in the presence of my enemies.' (See Psalm 23:5).

What the Bible says about friends

Fill in the gaps by looking up the verses in the Bible (New International Version)

1. There is a Friend who sticks _____ than a brother (Proverbs 18:24)
2. _____ from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses (Prov. 27:6)
3. A friend _____ at all times (Prov. 17: 17)
4. The Lord would speak to Moses _____ to _____ as a man speaks with his friend (Exodus 33:11)
5. Abraham believed _____ and _____ it was _____ to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend (James 2:23)
6. Friendship with the world is _____ towards God (James 4:4)
7. You are my friends if you _____ what I command (John 15:14)
8. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his _____ for his friends (John 15:13)

Hi

We would love to hear from you. How about a poem, a story (up to 250 words), or just tell us about yourself — the things you like to do, your family and life. A picture of you, your family and pets would be great.

Patricia.

Send any articles to GNU

2/54-60 Industry Drive, Tweed Heads Sth NSW 2486

the Israelites didn't like it, and they treated him like 'the enemy'.

You'll remember that Moses first came to Pharaoh to ask if the Israelites could go and worship God for three days in the wilderness. Pharaoh became mean and increased the number of bricks to be made, at the same time providing less material to do it with. How the Israelites complained to Moses, 'You've made Pharaoh hate us, you've put a sword in the hand of the Egyptians to kill us' (Exodus 5:21). Don't think of them too badly, the Bible says they wouldn't listen because of their broken spirit and their cruel bondage.

Later on when they had left Egypt after the plagues and were being pursued by Pharaoh's armies, they wailed to Moses, 'Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? It is better to serve the Egyptians' (Exodus 14:11).

Moses was their friend and they thought he was their enemy. Pharaoh was their enemy and they acted as though he was their friend. Moses had such a hard time with them. They were such a difficult family.

God delivered them from Pharaoh and how they sang and danced, but then they soon forgot. They complained when the water was bitter, rebuked Moses for not providing food, moaned when there was no water at all, and later objected to the food that God had given. 'Oh that we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions and the garlic!'

Have you ever been corrected for doing something wrong? Does anybody ever cross your will when you want your own way? Do you find when you have been naughty that you are often like that little girl, thinking of your parents as 'the enemy'?

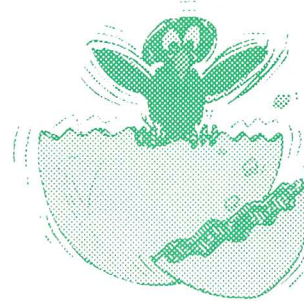
You all know that Moses was the leader over the children of Israel. I suppose you could say he was like a parent to them. It wasn't like an ordinary family—there were possibly about two million of them for Moses to look after. Even though most of them were grown-up, they were just like you and me. They didn't like being told what to do. Moses was only taking orders from God, but

Edible Words EAT

- 1.) — — EATTO FOLD
- 2.) — — EATA CEREAL PLANT
- 3.) — — EAT — —A DECEIVER
- 4.) EAT — — —LUNCHROOM
- 5.) — EAT — — — — .AN EXCITED MANNER
- 6.) — EAT — —TIDILY
- 7.) — EATNOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT
- 8.) — — EATCRY OF A SHEEP
- 9.) — — EAT — —GOD OUR MAKER
- 10.) — — EATOUTSTANDING!



The Chicken
Just a little yellow Head,
Who says he's very well,
And says he'd rather take
a walk,
Than stay inside a shell

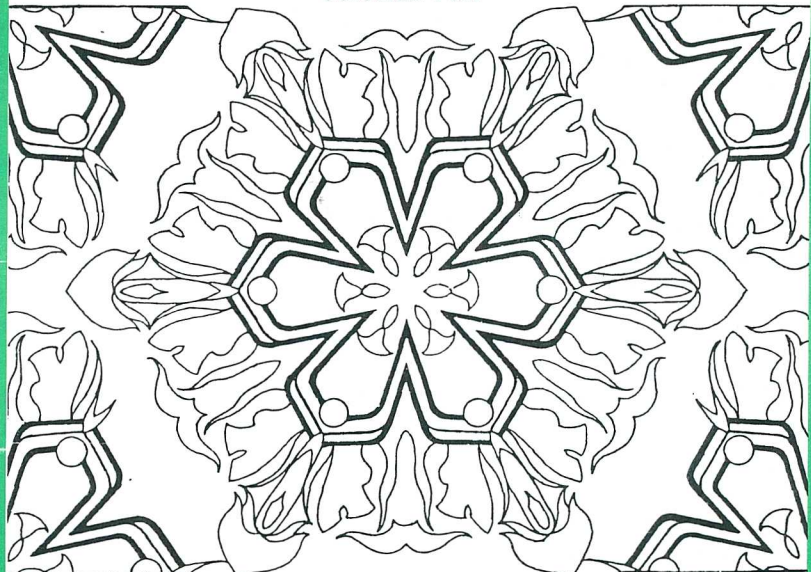


But remember, they were just like you and me, except they cried out for meat and vegetables, while we cry out for icecream. I'm afraid that I am no better than they were and I know a lot of people who complain like I do, with less reason than the children of Israel.

Moses had a lot of problems with the Israelites. Don't you feel sorry for him? He told God that the burden was too heavy for him. Despite the fact that Moses lost his cool a couple of times, he was the meekest man who ever lived, yet even he admitted that he could not carry the burdens of his people. Jesus was the only person in all history who was able to take the burden of his people, and his people are the whole of the human race.

What good news it is that Jesus did not say to God like Moses, 'I cannot bear the burden of this people.' Don't you love Him for being willing to die for you so that you can live forever? Remember, Jesus is your friend. Don't treat him like 'the enemy'. (A condensation)

Coloring Fun



Look up Revelation 21:18-21 where it tells you about the beautiful wall surrounding the city. It was decorated with twelve precious stones. Here they are —

STONE

1. Jasper
2. Sapphire
3. Chalcedony (Agate)
4. Emerald
5. Sardonyx
6. Carnelian
7. Chrysolite
8. Beryl
9. Topaz
10. Chrysoprase
11. Jacinth
12. Amethyst

COLOR

- Red Brown
- Blue
- White and Brown
- Green
- Milky white and dark red mixture
- Bright red
- Golden Yellow
- Black, sea-green, or yellow
- Yellow-green
- Apple green
- Orange
- Purple

Color in the pattern using only the colored stones mentioned above. Take care with each part and you will be proud of your finished pattern!

ANSWERS TO EAT WORDS
1. PLEAT 2. WHEAT 3. CHEATER 4. EATERY 5. HEATEDLY 6. NEATLY 7. FEAT
8. BLEAT 9. CREATOR 10. GREAT

GOD'S VITAMIN 'C' FOR THE SPIRIT

COMPILATIONS BY

KATHY COLLARD MILLER AND D LARRY MILLER



My Pastor husband died on my thirtieth birthday, leaving me with three small children. I soon realised I was not cut out for the single life. But available men weren't growing on trees, especially men who were willing to take on a ready-made family.

Desperately wanting a daddy they could call their own, my kids began praying that God would send just the right man into our lives. I was stuck with the awesome responsibility of not only finding someone else I could love, but of insuring that this future 'someone' would also be good for my children.

After two lonely years of widowhood, God answered our prayers, sending us the man of my dreams and the daddy the kids needed. With his great sense of humour, God also sent along four more kids for me to raise—it seems our new man for the job, Jack Harvey, was also given the responsibility of finding a good step-mother for his brood when their mother died of a brain tumour.

When we went out for our first date, neither of us could find sitters for our Terrible Two's, so we brought them along. The restaurant was packed with men for a Rotary Club luncheon. The maitre d' escorted us to a table in the dining room where the Rotarians were meeting, making our kids the only rowdies in the restrained atmosphere of a business luncheon.

Shortly after we were seated, Jeff whispered, 'Mummie, I hafta go to the baftroom.'

I hurriedly deposited Jeff at the men's room door because he refused to use the women's 'baftroom'.

Suddenly Jeff's voice belled. 'Mummie! Come wipe me!' My face flamed as polite snickers grew into loud guffaws. Jack reached across the table and patted my hand. 'Don't worry, I'll take care of it.' I began to fall in love with him at the moment, and we were soon married.

The wedding was a corporate merger, with his four lined up on one side of the aisle and my three on the other. When the organist hit the triumphant chords of Mendelssohn's recessional, the kids were to fall in line two by two behind us, signifying the union of the two families. But our two toddlers, awed by the pomp and circumstance, chose to play with the alter flowers. We each hoisted a squirming little boy to our shoulder and proceeded down the aisle—the bride and groom each carrying a Terrible Two, followed by five other kids of assorted sexes and sizes. Before long, folk began seeing us as a unit, not as two badly mismatched families struggling to live under the same roof.

After a time of melding our two families into one, we discovered we were going to have another to add to the number! The Bible says, *A merry heart doeth good like a medicine*, and Jack's great sense of humour saved the day. In those days Zero Population Growth was the big thing, and our large family was the butt of many jokes. We figured

if people were laughing at us anyway, we might as well join in the fun and laugh at ourselves. We went en masse to the state fair, boldly marched into the Planned parenthood tent and picked up Zero Population Growth buttons. We then strolled leisurely through the fairgrounds, a very pregnant Mamma with a ZPG button pinned under my chin (that's where my stomach was then), Papa with his ZPG button ... and seven kids all sporting buttons.

While each half of our brood had lost a parent to death, we taught them that death is only a temporary parting. They still have a mother or father very much alive in Heaven. The kids spoke freely and naturally about 'my dad or mum in Heaven,' as they did about Jack and me.

Now twenty seven years after the merger, we often forget whose is who. When Jack's girl Rhoda, gave birth to our first grandchild Jack stroked the baby's long slender fingers, then picked up my hand and kissed my fingertips. Tears in his eyes, his voice breaking, he murmured, 'She inherited your beautiful hands.'

Which would be fine, except, unfortunately there's not one smidgen of my genes running around in that gorgeous little girl!

— Adell Harvey

A condensation of just one of numerous stories contained in this book written by various authors on how God has guided in their lives. (Used with permission, Strand Publishing)

—J Hanna

The Damascus Road Story

Ministry to the 'bored, the burned and the bypassed'.

The Damascus Road Community Church (DRCC) began in the May of 1992, with the arrival of Dr. Richard Fredericks as Senior Pastor. The Damascus Seventh Day Adventist church, which built our current church building shortly before Pastor Frederick's arrival, had already existed in the Damascus community for a number of years. DRCC represents a merging of two groups: 1) a portion of the previous Adventist congregation; and 2) a study group, led by Richard Fredericks, known as *Acts 29*.

Previous to coming to Damascus, the people in *Acts 29* had spent several years together in small group Bible study and fellowship. As they focused on the liberating and inspiring good news of the Gospel, they began to wonder what a community could be like if people worshipped and ministered together out of the deep personal security that comes through accepting Christ's perfect and finished work. They envisioned a congregation characterized by joyous worship, loving relationships guided by grace, and members who gave whole-hearted service in response to their salvation — not in an attempt to earn it.

Before merging with the existing Damascus congregation, *Acts 29* borrowed Immanuel's Church and sponsored several worship celebrations. The response was over-

whelming, with an average attendance of over 300. The vision of a Gospel-focused, contemporary Adventist church was born. (We recommend that you obtain tape #26, 'Lifting Up the Cross and Opening Up the Church,' which specifically sets forth the core vision of DRCC).

In October 1995 the congregation voted to change our name to Damascus Road Community Church with the following bi-line: 'an evangelical Seventh-day Adventist congregation.' We have become a regional church that has especially impacted people with an Adventist background who are hungry for the Gospel. While we will always have that emphasis, we have become more intentional about also reaching out to unchurched people of varied backgrounds. We have also seen those from other Christian backgrounds moving toward our church. While we are not intentionally trying to 'steal sheep' from other churches, we are finding those who are coming to be a great addition to our church family as well and we welcome them.

Having outgrown our facility at 8425 Damascus Road, we started in 1997 to actively pursue the acquisition of land to build a larger, more adequate worship center that would enable us to continue to grow. On November 4, 1997, we signed the papers on a

beautiful piece of land located at the intersection of 108 and Griffith Road, just east of Laytonsville.

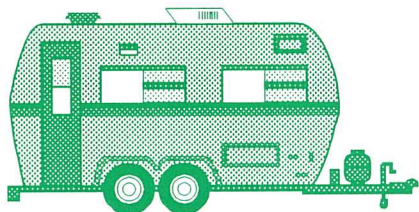
This concluded months of negotiations on a purchase/donation situation, in which we purchased 56 acres and were then given as a donation the adjoining 169 acres. In the interim, we are using the Damascus High School as our primary place of worship while we develop this land and build the new facilities. There, we will have a much larger worship center, adequate classrooms and parking available, as well as athletic fields and other community oriented resources. This new campus will enable us to better fulfill our God-given dream to be the spiritual hub of Northern Montgomery County.

With the separation from the Potomac Conference of Seventh-day Adventist in October, 1997, we also moved our offices to 9899 Main Street in Downtown Damascus. This separation clarifies our identity as a community church that boldly proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the 'bored, the burned and the bypassed'. * * *

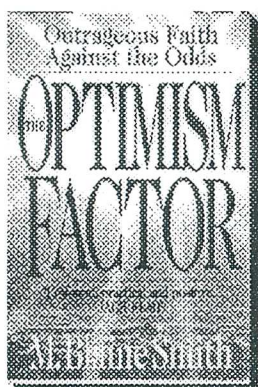
Monday, June 8, 1998
damascus@damascus.com



Urgently Needed a Caravan or mobile home



Wendy and Brett Hanna are needing a home away from home as they engage in outreach work for GNU. If you are able to help with a loan or one that is not too expensive but in good condition we would love to hear from you. Anywhere in Australia would be fine, as they can come to you.



This book offers practical wisdom on how to rekindle our optimism when it's lost. Rebound from our disappointment, distinguish healthy faith from false positive thinking,

find heart for new beginnings, handle our shifting view of God, let go of problems that aren't ours.

190pp \$4.30 plus PP&H

Good News Unlimited



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.

BEG BORROW OR STEAL

Well, perhaps not steal . . . but if you do not have access to the INTERNET then beg or borrow some time from a friend, school, adult education centre or library and look for GNU's NEW WEBPAGES. We want your comments please. Particularly note our links to GNU (USA) and the Damascus Rd Community Church.

eMail

GNU Aust. goodnews@coolgold.com.au
Pr Allen ronallen@coolgold.com.au
Chairman cpmoss@0zemail.com.au
Treasurer tedman@coolgold.com.au
GNU USA gnu@aub.com



Websites

GNU Aust: <http://www.coolgold.com.au/goodnews/index.html>
Bill Thompson: <http://web2.airmail.net/billtod/index.htm>
Damascus Road Community Church: damascus@damascus.com

Special Projects '98

1. Evangelistic Outreach

Up until now GNU's contact with its supporters has, at best, been a once a year get-together at Seminar time and our magazine/Newsletter received through the mail. This year the Board has decided to trial a pilot scheme of personal visitation. Already a young couple have been chosen for this work which is to start early in the new year.

2. Radio Outreach

The relaxation of licensing laws for radio stations in Australia has opened up opportunities for us to reach more people through this media. We would like to continue sending free radio sample packs to all new stations that we become aware of. We would also like to buy radio time on a major Christian radio station operating in the South Pacific region to greatly extend our outreach.

3. Internet Outreach

We have already set up a simple internet web-site. Over 1500 people have accessed our pages to read who we are and find out what we are about. Visitors to the site have been mainly from USA & Australia, but also from such diverse places as Peru & Norway. We have been encouraged by the inquiries plus book & tape orders that have resulted. It is our desire to upgrade our present web-site and promote it extensively.

Free! Information Sheets from Good News Unlimited

Information sheets are now available on a range of topics from various authors and sources, answering commonly asked questions. Ideal for home study groups, personal devotions, sermon preparation, or sharing with your friends and neighbours. **For a list of topics send a stamped self-addressed envelope.**

Plan Now to hear Pr Roy Gee

supporting speaker to
Dr Desmond Ford at the
August 1998 Bible
schools

Venues:

Brisbane

July 31 & August 1
Brisbane Mercure Hotel
85-89 North Quay Brisbane City

Sydney

August 8
Epping Baptist Church
Cnr Carlingford & Epping Rds
Epping

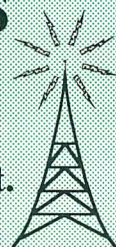
Melbourne

August 14,15
Waratah Room,
Arts and Entertainment Centre
397 Whitehorse Rd
Nunawading



RADIO BROADCASTS

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Why keep it to ourselves?

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These 15 minute presentations are ideal for home study groups or your private devotions.

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Website <http://www.coolgold.com.au/goodnews/index.html>

Fellowships

When visiting interstate or in New Zealand, you may like to know where you could worship.

Adelaide: phone 088 3224118
Adelaide meets each week and once a month they enjoy a fellowship lunch.

New Zealand: phone 0011 64 9 2385756

Perth: phone 08 94585469
Meets monthly, on the second Saturday of the month followed by a basket lunch. Will not be meeting in January.

Buderim: phone 074 54411156
Meets most Saturdays at 10:00am followed by a potluck lunch. Meets with a larger group once a month. Please telephone first to check venue.

Gold Coast: phone 07 55355329
Meets twice monthly and enjoys a fellowship lunch each meeting.

*Any others meeting regularly?
We would love to hear from you.*

Order form July 1998

Please Supply:

Cat No.	Title	Cost	Qty	Total
2RN	Radio Catalogue	00.00 each.....		
1VC 0001	God's vitamin C For the Spirit.....	6.00 each.....		
1OF 0001	The Optimism Factor.....	4.30 each.....		
	Information Sheet topics list.....	0.00 each.....		
	Free Good News Resource Catalogue.....	0.00 each.....		
	Subscription to GNA Magazine	20.00 pa.....		
	Donation to GNU outreach			
	Add extra for PP&H (on books only)			TOTAL.....

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Phone Fax

Bankcard/Mastercard/Visa no.

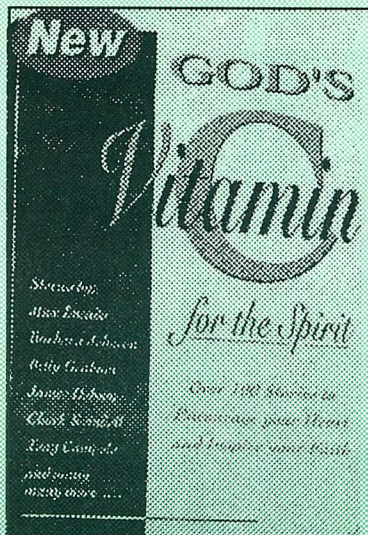
Expiry date

Signature

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Phone/Fax.07 55245040 EMAIL goodnews@coolgold.com.au



God's Vitamin C For the Spirit

Compiled by Kathy Collard
Miller and D Larry Miller

A collection of uplifting stories which
will enrich your life and nourish your

soul, to encourage your heart and inspire your faith.

There are over 100 easy to read stories about Christian living,
faith and trust, family life, God's guidance, perseverance, love,
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The Good Newsletter

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Editor:..... Roger Jones
Typesetter:.. Patricia Tedman
Printer:..... Spartan Press WA

Good News Unlimited is an evangelical, 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. The ministry of GNU includes radio presentations, preaching appointments, public seminars and the dispersal of audio and video cassettes, also literature, emphasising the atonement of Christ.

Editor: ..Roger Jones 02 64930353
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