



July 2001

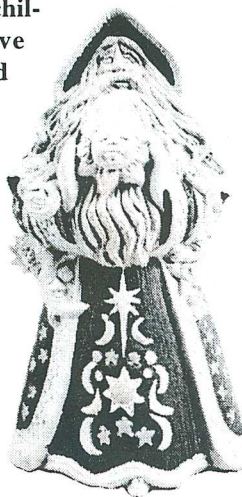
# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

A bimonthly newsletter produced by Good News Unlimited

## Editorial

### Harry Potter and Daniel Two

Although the Harry Potter books are stories for children, they have created a broad awareness in our society of magic and sorcery. For most, it will be just another phase of childhood, but some children may become involved in it later in life.



In the Harry Potter books the practices of magic and sorcery are presented as fun, but in real life they are associated with power, hate and vengeance, never the love, joy and peace of Christ. These books may ultimately create serious consequences for the people reading them.

Earlier this year, the Bible Society in Australia, in one of their printed letters seeking funds, stated that the NSW Police had established an occult squad in an area south of Sydney, to investigate certain activities there.

The letter did not describe the activities. However, for the police to set up such a squad there must be serious breaches of the law taking place. So you can see, there is a serious side to magic and sorcery which can threaten the peace of the community.

It was the ruling power in ancient Egypt, with magicians and sorcerers forming Pharaoh's cabinet.

They were following Satan's directions in using the power of the State to destroy the Hebrew people. As was discussed in a previous article, God broke their power by the ten plagues and was able to free his people.

When we come to the book of Daniel, once again the Hebrew people are in captivity, and in chapter two we find that King Nebuchadnezzar's cabinet also consists of magicians, astrologers and sorcerers. The scene is set for a repeat of the persecution of the Egyptian captivity.

In our previous Church affiliation, we were always taught to look at the book of Daniel purely as prophecy, but there is a more immediate dimension to it that is overlooked. In chapters 2-4, God takes all steps necessary to establish his government in Babylon, to prevent the genocide of his people, so that the line of the Messiah remains intact for the time when they return to their own land seventy years later.

God's first step is to get rid of the magicians and sorcerers. So he gives the king a terrifying dream. The king is desperate to know the meaning, but is suspicious of his cabinet and sets them a test which demands they have to read his mind. For all their past tricks and illusions, they know this is beyond them and tell the king, 'There is not a man on earth who can do this.'

This is a huge admission, to say their powers are limited. Through Daniel, God shows that the King's mind can be read—God's power being unlimited.

The upshot of the story is that Daniel becomes the Prime Minister, and his three friends become the governors

of the surrounding provinces. With these four faithfuls in charge, the threat of excessive persecution and genocide fades dramatically and God's people, although in exile, are reasonably safe.

We live in a time of spiritual turmoil. All sorts of religions are practised in our communities; often without so much as a comment on our part. Our society is similar to that in which the Apostles preached in the first century, between the time of the Cross and the year 100AD. Christianity then was a minority religion in an overwhelming pagan environment.

In those days all that was preached was the gospel. The small churches had not had time to acquire property and other wealth or to develop the political infighting that goes with it. They were too busy combating the occult of the pagan religions around them—including sorcery and magic.

Harry Potter is a good indicator of the times in which we live and should give us a sense of urgency to proclaim the gospel when ever God gives the opportunity. Let us always remember our salvation is in the Gospel, not in working out a system of prophetic interpretation, or in belonging to a certain denomination.

As God took control of the affairs of Babylon to fulfil his plan in Daniel's time, so I believe he is in charge of the affairs of men today in order that his 'Gospel will be preached in all the world, as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.'

May He haste the day.

*Roger*

Roger Jones —Editor

*Focus on the Gospel*





**‘I will be glad and rejoice in your love, for you saw my affliction and the anguish of my soul.’ (Psalm 31:7)**

Dear Friend

**W**hen someone has known us during hard times, that person has seen us as we are. We would never know stars if it were not for the night, so there is a sense in which a life is never known, unless seen in the darkness of adversity. When the sun shines warmly and the trees are covered in leaves, one can scarcely see the little hut in the forest. Yet, when autumn comes and the wind blows the leaves away, the hut can be seen clearly. It may appear sturdier than it was thought to be. Or, it may show itself to be rickety and near collapse. The harsh weather makes everything plain.

Such is the effect of trials. They reveal the naked truth about us. Therefore, when there is one who has known us in calamity, that person has an appreciation of us that none other can share. So the knowing of a spouse can reach the level of unrivaled familiarity. She has known her husband, not when the sun shone on his career, but also when his fortunes had crumbled and he was heart-weary and sick.

The Psalmist was comforted in the thought that God had reached past his outer shell to the inner realities of his life, ‘You saw the anguish of my soul.’ Humans are marvellous in their ability to conceal themselves from each other. There are the disguises of hypocrisy, yet there are the disguises of bravery as well. A mother, worn and ill, will not let her true condition show to her children, so they will not be afraid. A husband, deep in business difficulty, struggles to hide it from the family so that they will not worry. A minister is called from a scene of tragedy and death to a marriage, where people expect him to be as if there was not a sorrow in the world. The Psalmist knew that God could see through all that noble concealment. Others saw his outward behaviour, but God read the story within.

A religious writer in Germany, who had been an encouragement to many, was visited by a friend who was in deep distress. The friend had been very wealthy, but had now come into very poor times. His friends had abandoned him one by one. The very morning of the writer’s visit, one of this man’s closest companions of the past, had refused to recognise him on the street. Taking his friend by the hand, the writer had pointed the distressed man upward, saying: ‘You saw my affliction and knew the anguish of my soul.’

It is encouragement indeed for downcast souls to know that God recognises them, not just in bright days when all is well, but also in dreadful times when the heart is in despair. God is an unfailing friend. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, He abides. *He knows* the anguish of our souls.

May God be with you in all that happens.

Yours in service

RON J ALLEN



### *Take a minute with Clem*

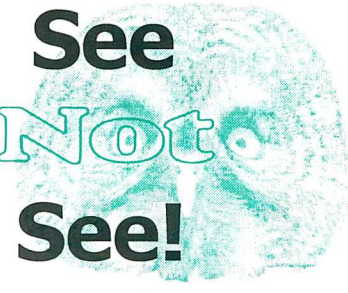
**S**ight is a very precious commodity, one that we often take for granted until it comes under some sort of threat. My father had glaucoma and spent the last few of his ninety-two years in a world of darkness where he hardly knew night from day.

I have had glaucoma for the last twenty years and have lost most of the vision in my left eye. Just recently my wife has gone through the wretched experience of having the retina of her left eye detach.

These faculties which we so enjoy day by day—sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell, enrich our existence greatly. Life is made so much more enjoyable by seeing the stars, smelling the flowers and sharing life's experiences by engaging in conversation.

It is true that we can survive without these senses, but I think few would argue that life is diminished when our senses fail. It is then that our memories and perceptions take over and help fill the void—we move toward a life of inward reflection. This gives us strength to overcome apparent obstacles, also, to continue to find meaning in life

## To See or Not to See!



and existence—and perhaps still to serve.

How then do we use our senses? Like the Prodigal, we can squander our opportunities on wanton living, or like the older brother, we can hoard them on self righteousness.

There are, of course, numerous ways to waste the gifts. One thing is certain, if the most important things are placed first, then there is a good chance that all else will fall into place eventually.

In John 12:32 Jesus said: 'But I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all men unto myself.'

Buy a house? Of course. Work hard at your occupation? Certainly. Strive to please your spouse, your children, your friends and your neighbours? Absolutely. But please, *put God first*.

Clem Moss

## A Man with a Mission

### **Roger Griffiths is a man with a mission.**

Boldly stated on his resumé is the fact that he is a committed Christian actively seeking to live out his faith with integrity and honesty. His personal goal is to know and reveal God.

To add to these already impressive qualifications are his certificates in accounting, as well as assessment and workplace training. Plus, 26 years of experience in purchasing, administration, facilities management, security and payroll—all with the one employer, the national office of the Worldwide Church of God on the Gold Coast. During the last four years Roger also liaised with magazine subscribers, supporters, distributors and printers. Coordinated mass mailings of subscriber letters, provided price structures for advertising inserts in the magazine and organised freight receiving and dispatch.

During the last four years Roger has worked actively with *Living Today* magazine, a publication produced by Living Today Media, which is heavily subsidised by the Worldwide Church of God. The mission of *Living Today* was to provide a message of practical help, hope, and encour-

agement from a Christian perspective. The goal was to provide a community service to the unchurched through the magazine, as well as provide an outreach tool that local congregations (of all denominations) could use.

Articles in *Living Today* focused on issues that so many people are grappling with, such as depression, grief, relationships, parenting, success, encouragement and spirituality.

Sadly, after four years, the subsidy that enabled the production of *Living Today* magazine is no longer available. The July/August edition will be the last.

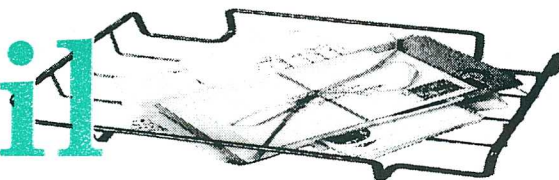
Despite the natural feelings of sadness and concern, Roger is confident that God will open new doors for him, as well as enable him to more deeply meet his goal of really knowing his Creator.

**If you have a position for Roger with his many talents, his contact details are— Phn: 07 55305067, Mobile: 0409 305068 Fax: 07 55227666. Email: hollygriff@ozemail.com.au**

**The staff of GNU is very sorry to hear that such a quality Christian magazine as *Living Today* has had to fold due to lack of financial support.**



# Mail



## Dear Good News

We had the most beautiful Christ-centred studies here in Bethanga prior to Easter that we have ever attended. The studies were run totally by local lay-people, the fellowship and discussion was inspiring, and the program culminated in a deeply spiritual Easter Friday ecumenical service, attended by about fifty people. (Fifty people is about a quarter of the entire local population.)

The Catholic Church arranged a one-off meeting since then, taken from the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Reconciliation.' The readings were wonderfully chosen to demonstrate God's presence with us, his going ahead of us, his forgiveness and Scriptural unity. Again, it was run by local lay-people, and we had good discussion on the five Scripture readings, making them relevant to us today.

Out of this meeting, a decision was taken to hold Bible meetings once a month or so, again, in local hands and focused on Scripture. Interest in the Scriptures has blossomed, and from the tenderness these people have for each other, this seems to be a defining moment.

Thank you so much for encouragement through, firstly, the teachings of Scripture in print and on tape—value beyond reckoning; secondly, for encouragement through those articles from *The Next Step* which you publish in *The Good Newsletter*. There is special interest when they are published and I am sure it draws attention to those val-

ues which Christians hold in common, and which bring us closer together.

Sincerely, and with heartfelt Christian wishes to you all.

—E P VIC.

## Roger Jones

The editorial in the May Newsletter had me duped until it dawned on me that it was probably a ruse to generate some positive thought and discussion on the subject of Progressive Revelation.

If the word 'revelation' is understood in the technical sense, then, as Roger says, it is unscriptural. The phrase, however, is generally understood as 'progressive enlightenment.' Through time and eternity we will continue to search out God's secrets, and thus grow in our understanding of the natural and spiritual worlds (Proverbs 25:2).

—R W NZ.

## Dear GNU

I enjoy your website. It brings back happy memories. Can you perhaps direct or assist me in a matter? I heard an evangelist concede that Hebrews pictures Jesus immediately ascending into the most holies of holies at his ascension. But he goes on to invent a moveable throne by saying Jesus anointed the mercy seat as in the typical service, went out of the inner apartment and then went back into the holy place to perform the first phase of his ministry.

Wasn't there a writer named E E Andross who first proposed this solution? What was the title of his book, and what scriptural justification did he provide for such doctrine?

Please help me if you can.

—R M (email)

## Dear R

*I am sorry, I am ignorant of E E Andross. The moveable throne seems a bit tortured to me—an attempt to make the substance fit the shadow.*

*Have you read Good News for Adventists? We can send you a copy.*

*Kind regards*

—Ron Allen

## GNU

Your pages seem to tear down the Holy Bible into a legal prove or disprove dissertation. I am a sincere follower of Jesus Christ. I belong to his Church.

That Church does not have a building, a list of members, a set of doctrine, or anything made by, or thought up by man—it simply is a group of *people* that *believe* in Jesus. *Believe* means to *do* what he commands, which includes the seventh day being kept holy in honour, respect, and worship of God the Creator.

Now, I attend a Seventh-day Adventist Church. It does have a building, etc. as above.

- 1.) Am I wrong?
- 2.) Should I join GNU?
- 3.) Should I abandon all man-made churches?
- 4.) Should I spend untold hours of research, when there are millions out there that have never even heard the name of Jesus.

Your pages tear down. Let's build up or uphold the message of Jesus.

I read your 'goals', but they and your pages do not connect or relate to one another, but only confuse, hurt, and tend to drive people (me) away from the SDA church and anything to do with so called 'organized' religion. Therefore, just exactly what is your agenda?

—T D (email).



*Dear T*

*Take a deep breath. GNU does not exist to persuade you to leave or join any particular church organization. We want Jesus to all and in all, just as you do.*

*If our pages are hurtful or threatening to you, then perhaps you should not read them. But you need to know that very many people have been helped by them, and drawn closer to Jesus.*

*That is GNU's agenda. I suspect that yours is the same. Let us rejoice together.*

*In Christian fellowship*

*—Ron Allen.*

*Dear Dr Ford*

You may not remember me I'm . . . who attended your New Testament Theology classes at Avondale College. Recently, I have become concerned that a number of my church members

have attended the Landmark Forum. I am presuming that you are aware of the forum as it is American based and its principles have been around since the 1970's under Werner Erhart, founder of EST. In 1991 he sold his company and it is now called Landmark Forums which is managed by his brother.

My concern is that Christians who proclaim the gospel are attending the Forum to have their lives enriched. Is this a legitimate way for Christians to obtain personal growth, perhaps in the same way a Christian would obtain the expertise of a counsellor?

I would very much appreciate your opinion and advice on this matter and any information you might have that may help. It would be interesting to hear your comments on this in light

of the gospel.

Thanking you, yours in Christ

*—S B NZ.*

*Dear S*

*It's a joy to hear from you. The surname . . . evokes memories.*

*Please forgive me that I must be brief. I have more correspondence from several countries than I can conveniently handle. You are one hundred percent right in your concern. Werner Erhart was far from a Christian and likewise his forums—they are not for Christians. The gospel of righteousness by faith will give Christians more true power in a minute, than all the Landmark seminars.*

*All blessings to you and yours*

*—Des.*



## On Death Row But Free In Christ

Anthony Joseph Farina Jr. (Written on 2/05/2001)

**G**reetings in the glorious name of our Most High God; who is, and who was, and who is to come again; Jesus our Messiah. I share my testimony with you, so that God might get the glory and honour for what he has done in my life. I encourage you that God is no respecter of persons, what he has done for one he will do for another.

I asked Jesus to come into my heart and save me in a jail-cell in 1992 as I was facing murder charges. After trying to do things 'my way' for some years, and hardening my heart to the spirit of God, I came to the full realisation where doing it 'my way' had led me. Today I am on Florida's death row, under a sentence of death. The wonderful thing is I have but one life, and that I have given it freely to my Saviour.

For most people, I think the realisation of being on death row would scare them, but today I can honestly tell you that I have more peace in my life today than I have ever had. Although I am physically in prison, I know that I am free—unlike before. Why? Because the Spirit of God has come to dwell in my life.

As a child I learned about God and salvation through Jesus' blood. I had an Aunt and Uncle who were committed to, and deeply loved the Lord. They often took me and my sibling to church when we were with them. But this was not much, because my Mum moved us around a lot. Up to the age of thirteen I cannot recall starting and finishing a school year in the same school. My Mum used to send us kids to church on the Sunday School bus, or when church was close enough we would walk.

For the most part though, I grew up with the understanding that God was someone you called on when in a lot of trouble. You made certain promises to God, for example: 'Oh God, if you only let me out of this, I promise to do so and so.' That was my understanding of God.

I grew up in a home with parents who were alcoholics, who thought that buying beer was more important than buying food. My stepfather was a very abusive man—verbally, physically and mentally. As the oldest child I received the brunt of his abuse. Finally, I had had enough, and cried out to God asking him to get me out of that situation. Well, after my stepfather beat me one night, I decided to go to the police station and report it. The answer to my prayer was I was removed from my home and put into a group house. My Mum was told that if she left my father I would be returned to her.

(Continued on page 9.)





## Small Bullet Across The Table

God has cared for Desmond and Gill Ford as they have moved to Australia. During all the difficulties of changing countries, God has not forgotten them. In fact, God has cared for them in a special way. God has sent Jasper, the feisty, fun kitten to brighten their lives. But kittens need to be trained—and so do kitten owners.

### Unpacking

Dr Ford had been unpacking his books from America for weeks. He made new shelves for them—both garages were now full of books. But with all his unpacking, he only found space for half his books. The builder would have to build an extension at the back of the house so Dr Ford could have a library. Dr Ford hopes that he can keep teaching for fifteen more years. He needed those books!

Before Gill arrived from America, Dr Ford had also unpacked many household items. Gill was glad. It saved her lots of work, even though there was still a great deal to be done. When she arrived, she began the task of unpacking the rest of the household stuff.

### Jasper loves unpacking

While Topsi and Turvi hated every minute of the packing in the USA, Jasper, by contrast, absolutely loved unpacking. He was a great help, always there, always underfoot, jumping in the wrapping paper and chasing pieces of tape. Batting pieces of china around and popping in and out of all the boxes.

Gill wondered how kittens got to the age of six months without being trampled to death underfoot!

### Training Jasper

Des and Gill were working very hard to teach Jasper the words 'no' and 'down,' but Jasper didn't get the idea at all.

Through the day he had

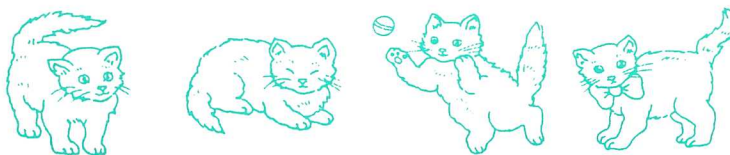
### Training Des and Gill

When Des and Gill were both trying to work at the table—Des writing his new book, and Gill using her laptop computer to work on the internet—Jasper was a constant trial, zipping back and forth across the table like a small bullet. It became a rule that whoever was closest to Jasper when he got on the table, had to deal with him. It was such a trial of patience.

Des and Gill may not have been getting very far training Jasper, but Jasper was training his owners very well.

### God gives us our pets

Though Des and Gill were sometimes exasperated by Jasper's antics, they never forgot



the 'hyperspurts' and that was when he wanted to sprint over the tablecloth. There were certain hours when Jasper was on and off the table at least fifty times. The Fords didn't want Jasper on the table where they ate. So they said 'no' and pointed to the floor and lifted him down—they had read that it was no good spanking cats, you had to use your voice to reprimand them.

Jasper thought 'no' was 'maybe' or even, 'yes.' And Des was hopeless with the voice routine, he *never* raised his voice with animals and said 'no' like a whisper. He could even be saying, 'nice day' or 'good boy' as far as Jasper was concerned.

that our wonderful Creator God, made our pets to enrich our lives.

Animals that are cared for and cherished, bring much joy to our lives. One lovely thing is that they don't mind if you are young or old, fat or thin, pretty or ugly. Of course they like it very much if you are good to them—but mostly, they just love you unconditionally.

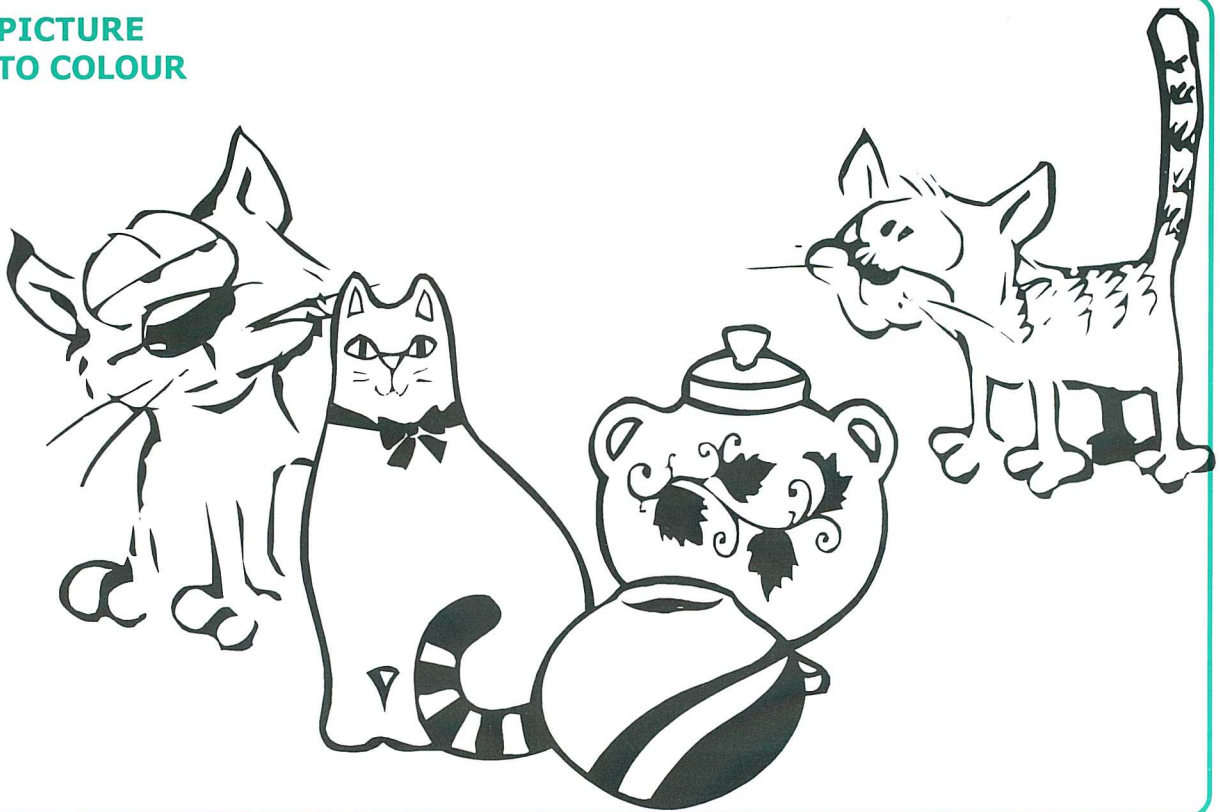
The bonds of love between us and our pets are amazing. There is no scientific explanation for how or why they respond to humans, or we to them.

### Be kind to your pets

Pets cannot speak, yet very devoted pet owners know they communicate with us in



## PICTURE TO COLOUR



many different ways.

When life is hard, when others don't understand us, and we don't even understand ourselves, pets fill a special place in making us feel whole. They also teach us unselfish love and the discipline of taking care of them. They are one of God's gifts, and they tell us a little of what God's heart is like.

God, our heavenly Father, made pets for our enjoyment, so always be kind to your pets! ❀

### The Lost Kitten

We've lost our kitten 'Oh dear me.'  
So playful and so fat.

What? Did she run away? Not she,  
Or die? No fear of that.

What happened was this you see,  
She grew into a cat. —Anon.



### A Glove and the Holy Spirit

Young Lionel played a trick on his mother one day. He took a rubber glove—one of those floppy ones mum sometimes uses to wash dishes—and stretched the wrist part of the glove over an empty sugar bowl.



Little Lionel then lifted the edge of the glove away from the bowl, just enough to blow some air into the glove, making it stick out as though it was filled with a hand and not just air.

Lionel then hid it behind

a loaf of bread on the back of the table so only the hand of the glove could be seen. It looked as though someone was hiding under the table with their hand sticking up. Oh, how Lionel's mummy laughed when she saw the rubber hand wobbling in the breeze.



It was only filled with air, but the air inside had the power to change a floppy glove into a funny hand. When we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives, he is like a puff of air which changes us from being limp and flat, into someone who is happy and fun to be with. Why not ask the Holy Spirit right now to fill you with his special air.

—Lionel Hartley





A teacher in New York decided to honour her seniors in high school by telling them the difference they each had made to herself and the class. Then she presented each one, with a blue ribbon imprinted with gold letters which read, 'Who I am makes a difference'.

Afterwards the teacher decided to do a class project to see what kind of impact that recognition would have on the community. She gave each of the students three more ribbons and instructed them to go out and spread this acknowledgment ceremony. They were then to follow up on the results, see who honoured whom, reporting back to the class in about a week.

One of the boys went to a junior executive in a nearby company and honoured him for helping him with his career planning. He gave him a blue ribbon and put it on his shirt. Then he gave the executive two extra ribbons and said, 'We are doing a class project on recognition, so we would like you to go out, find

somebody to honour, give them a blue ribbon, then give them the extra blue ribbon so they in turn can acknowledge a third person to keep this acknowledgment ceremony going. Then please report back to me and tell me what happened.'

Later that day the junior executive went in to see his boss, who, by the way, was a kind of grouchy fellow. He sat his boss down and told him that he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. The junior executive asked him if he would accept the gift of a blue ribbon and would he mind if he put it on him. His surprised boss said, 'Well, sure.' The junior executive took the blue ribbon and placed it on his boss's jacket right over his heart. He then gave him the last extra ribbon saying, 'Would you do me a favour? Would you take this extra ribbon and pass it on by honouring someone else? The young boy who gave me these ribbons is doing a project in school and we want to keep this recognition ceremony going to find out how it affects people.'

That night the boss came home to his fourteen-year-old son and sat him down. He said, 'The most incredible thing happened to me today. I was in my office and one of the junior executives came in and told me he admired me and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative genius. Imagine! He thinks I am a creative genius.' Then he put this blue ribbon that says 'who I am makes a difference' on my jacket.

He then gave me another blue ribbon and asked me to find someone else to honour. As I was driving home tonight, I started thinking about whom I would honour with this ribbon and I thought of you. I want to honour you. My days are really hectic and when I come home I don't pay you a lot of attention. Sometimes I yell at you for not getting good enough grades and for your bedroom being a mess. But somehow tonight, I just wanted to sit here and, well, just let you know that you really do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You're a great kid and I love you.'

The startled boy started to sob and sob, and he couldn't stop crying. His whole body shook. He looked up at his father and said through his tears, 'Dad, earlier tonight I sat in my room and wrote a letter to you and Mum explaining why I had killed myself and I asked you to forgive me. I was going to commit suicide after you were asleep. I just didn't think that you cared at all. The letter is upstairs. I don't think I need it after all.'

His father walked upstairs and found a heart-felt letter full of anguish and pain. The envelope was addressed, *Mum and Dad*.

The boss went to work the next day a changed man. He was no longer a grouch and made sure to let all his employees know that they made a difference. The junior executive helped several other young people with career planning and never forgot to let them know that they made a difference in his life. They had learned a valuable lesson, who you are *does* make a difference.

I'm passing the blue ribbon to you! For who *you* are does make a difference too. ❖

—Email from Kookie, GNU's postman.



(From page 5)

## On Death Row But Free In Christ

For the next two years I heard nothing from her or my sibling. It was as if I no longer existed to them. This started my rebellion. Looking back now I see that not only did God not turn his back on me, but he was in complete control. The fact is, I turned my back on him and started running from him.

Shortly after my fifteenth birthday, it was decided that I would be placed with my Christian aunt and uncle—which I now see was God's hand upon my life for they sowed the seed of faith in me. About this same time my Mum reappeared in my life.

Needless to say I was torn and greatly confused. Although in my heart I wanted to be with my Mum, I was still very angry with her. So I moved in with my aunt and uncle and they enrolled me in a Christian school. Every time the church doors opened we were there. At this stage in my life I felt that God was being forced on me.

I started to experiment with drugs. I was trying to be the exact opposite of what my aunt and uncle were trying to teach me. Shortly after my sixteenth birthday I ran away to be with my Mum.

This was the worst decision I had ever made. From this point on my life took a downward spiral. I dropped out of school, started to use drugs regularly, and basically did whatever I wanted to do. The Spirit of God tried to speak to my spirit, but I was running away from God. I wanted to be loved and was searching for peace. I was filling my life with all kinds of 'things', trying to find this peace. By the time I was eighteen I had two children by two different women, neither of them living with me.

I tried to fill the void in my life with one of my children. I thought having my child in my life would fill the emptiness I felt in my spirit. So I moved my daughter, her Mum, and step-brother in with me. I now had a family to care for. I decided that if I could get my hands

on some money, that I would be able to get onto my feet. All the while God was saying, 'I am the answer.' I then made certain decisions which landed me on death row.

I would like to share with you what God has done in my life since I have made Jesus the Lord of my life. As I have already said, it was in 1992 when I asked Jesus into my life, but in many ways I had simply fallen back on that prayer, 'God get me out of this.'

It was in 1996 when I finally got tired of doing things 'my way'. I made a commitment to get my life right with the Lord. I asked the Lord to remove from my life things that I thought were not honouring him, and to fill me with a deep hunger and desire for his word. I started reading and studying God's word daily, and having a daily prayer time with God.

*By no means has my life been perfect since then, for walking with God is a matter of growing daily.* But let me tell you, the Lord has filled my life with his grace and peace. I have learned what it means to be loved and to love. God has shown me how to love him with my whole spirit, soul and body, also, how to love my neighbour as myself. He has truly made me a 'new man' from the inside out, which only he can do! We can change the outward, but when there is an inner change—a desire for the ways of God instead of the ways of the world—that is the work of God.

I am truly at peace now with who I am and where I am. I have such great joy in my life. I have no fear of what man can do to me. The worst they can do is kill my body, and they can only do that if it is God's will. Their worst would be the best, because they would be sending me to be with my Lord, for to be absent from the body is to be present with my Lord Jesus. The Lord has taught me to say like Paul, 'For me to live is Christ, but to die will be gain.'

I do not know what is going on in your life, but we are all on death row—in a manner of speaking. For it is appointed unto man once to die, and then the Judgement.

If we are born twice (physical and spiritual) during this life, we will only die once (physical), but if we are

only born once (physical), then we will surely die twice (physical and spiritual).

If your spirit is empty today and you are searching for that peace like I was, then turn to Jesus and put your complete trust in him, for without the grace of God there will never be any peace. No matter what we fill our lives with, or how busy we are, we will never find something to take God's place, only he can fill whatever is missing in your life.

I do not know what tomorrow will bring me, but what I do know is that for the rest of my life and throughout eternity, I look forward to worshipping and praising my Lord Jesus.

In closing, I would like to share with you three scriptures that have come to mean a great deal to me lately.

'No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it' (1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV).

'And He (Jesus) said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in my infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then am I strong' (2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NKJV).

'I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me' (Galatians 2:20 NKJV).

May the grace of God work mightily in and upon your life.

A servant and child of the Most High. Maranatha!

(1 Corinthians 16:22). ❀

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## 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.

*In view of it's history, GNU recognises a special duty to assist Seventh-day Adventists in their journey of spiritual discovery and growth.*

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 To all the people you can  
 As long as ever you can

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Kellyville Forum Meeting (7/4/01) with Dr Ford 'Does God Exist?' #2KL0001 and 'Righteousness by Fate or Faith?' #2KL0002. (\$6.50 each or \$12 set. #2KL0003)

Des Ford/Brian Wilshire Debate at the Wesley Centre 21/4/01 'Does God Exist?'

Moderator Gordon Moyes

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

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### Gold Coast:

Phn.07 55355329

No meetings until further notice

**Hervey Bay:** Phn. 07 41281261. Meets once a month at 'Dan-Dinna House' 459 Boat Harbour Drive, Torquay QLD. For further information contact Evelyn O'Grady.

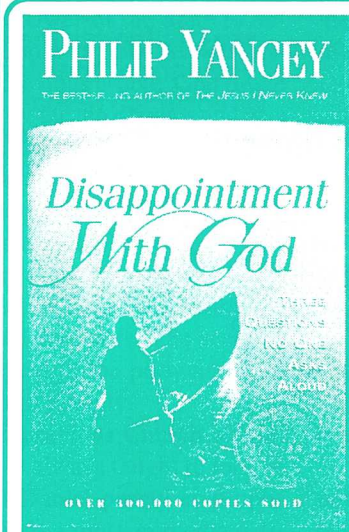
*Any others meeting regularly?  
We would love to hear from you.*

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**Dr Desmond Ford**  
**3rd Friday of the month**

**Christ in all the Scriptures**

**Alexanders Restaurant at the**

**Metropolitan Motor Inn**

**106 Leichardt Street,**

**Spring Hill, Brisbane.**

**Corner of Upper Edward Street.**

**(There is parking under the Motor Inn)**

**Eat breakfast while Des speaks.**

**Cost \$13.50**

**(No cost if not eating.)**

**The meeting finishes about 8:15am**

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