

July 2002

The Good Newsletter

A bimonthly newsletter produced by Good News Unlimited

Editorial

INSURANCE

Recently we received a newsletter from the Bible Society (you may have received it too if you are a member) telling of the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo on the Eastern border of Zaire in Africa. Earlier this year we watched on TV how this volcano sent forth a great river of molten lava which split into two streams and wiped out most of the town of Goma.

The letter from the Bible Society told of people there thanking God for only allowing their homes to be destroyed and saving their lives. These are typical third-world people who live a hand-to-mouth existence and will attempt to rebuild their homes from whatever material they can salvage. They cannot make a claim on insurance policies, because they do not have them; not only is insurance beyond their means, their houses are quite flimsy and not worth much anyway. Their insurance, (or testimony) is that their faith in God will see them through such disasters.

A hundred years ago it was the same in the Western world. Very few ordinary people insured their homes, they could not afford it, they put their faith in God. This is evidenced by the hundreds of little timber churches they built, scattered all over the countryside. In fact, it was common belief among many Christians in those days, that to take out insurance,

was to deny your faith in God.

Today, in the Western world, everybody is insured for everything. Public buildings like churches and local halls have to be insured. The law says so. In fact, insurance has come to underpin every aspect of our physical lives and is especially necessary to maintain the rule of law. Without it, modern Western civilisation would not exist, yet it has become an industry under threat. As this trend to insure has built up, peoples faith in God to protect them, has almost faded away.

The insurance claims being generated by the collapse of the Twin Towers on the eleventh of September last year, are so vast that the industry has no idea how much is involved. It is well beyond their reserves. At the same time we have witnessed the collapse of insurance companies due to the lack of prudent management, coupled with a culture of excessive claims for any and everything.

I believe we are seeing the beginning of a crisis in the insurance industry. An era of premiums rising to a point where many people will not be able to afford them, and so many will not be insured. When considerable numbers of people are uninsured, the legal system for the care and compensation of victims and the replacement of stolen or damaged property, will start to collapse, contributing to a break down in law and order.

I believe this is another sign of the times—which God is allowing to

happen. Western man does not seek the guidance and protection of God in his daily life any more—he is covered by insurance. With insurance premiums rising to very expensive levels, God could be bringing people to a point where they must choose between God and mammon in their lives; bringing us back to how our faithful forebears lived one hundred years ago and how God's faithful believers live in the third-world today.

The greatest event in the history of the world was Jesus' death on Calvary and his subsequent resurrection. The greatest decision facing every human being is, whether he or she accepts this great act of heavenly love and mercy which Jesus offers them. In the process of coming to that decision, God will, if necessary, strip away all our earthly forms of security—including insurance policies—so that we will realise the enormity of the question.

The most precious insurance we have is that of being one with Christ and being covered by his saving grace. This guarantees us the pleasure of his company for eternity.

May God bless you all.

Roger

Roger Jones
—Editor



Focus on the Gospel

'Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will you give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, you give him a scorpion? If you, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father in heaven give good gifts to your children, how much more will your father in heaven, give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him (Luke 11:11-13).

Dear Friend

Some people think that the act of coming to Christ is something entirely removed from the reception of the Spirit of Christ. They do not realise that the *act* and the *event* of saving faith coincides with the Spirit.

When these two things are kept separate, too much weight is brought down on the decision to be a Christian. Everything is made to depend on it, as if salvation hinged on human will and nothing more. Many, knowing how hard it is for them to be steadfast, are deterred from Christ. They naturally feel that a decision for Jesus would be a venture certain to fail.

At this very point the teaching of Jesus is most apt. He compares the Spirit to the necessities of life. There are many things that may have seemed desirable to Galilean folk; more land, an extra mule, some trinkets or clothing perhaps. Jesus likened the Holy Spirit to none of these, instead, he matched the Spirit to everyday essentials—bread, fish, eggs. The Spirit was not a choice benefit supplied only to a select few who were able to meet certain spiritual requirements. No, in Jesus' teaching, the Spirit was a vital element, without which, there could be no life at all.

In the book of Acts, another passage bears similar significance. Paul enquires of certain men, 'Did you receive the Spirit when you believed?' (Acts 19:2). Behind the question is the idea of the absolute indispensability of the Spirit for genuine religion. If there was nothing more to becoming a Christian than 'deciding', every reasonable person would do well to hesitate. However, Paul knew, as did Jesus, that every instance of saving faith in human beings, is met by an immediate response from God. The Holy Spirit is not kept for 'afterwards' like a bag of lollies for 'good' children; not a luxury awarded as a second blessing for those who persevere. Instead, the Spirit is bread, fish and eggs for all who call upon the name of the Lord.

The decision to serve Jesus stands apart from all other decisions. They were made by 'screwing our courage to the sticking place.' But surrender to the Lord is marked by a bestowal of fellowship with God that is never withdrawn!

Life is just as difficult as it ever was, but it is lived in a friendship which encourages, strengthens, guides and forgives. Paul commented on it when he said, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'

May God bless and sustain you.

Yours in service


Ron J Allen



Body Soul and Spirit

The Evolution of Sheol

Where did the Hebrew belief in sheol come from? There is nothing in the Bible to indicate it came from God. The evidence suggests that the patriarchs had always believed that sheol was the final resting place for the dead, which leads us to conclude that Abraham, like the people of his homeland; grew up believing in sheol, and that he

Ritchie Way

brought this Mesopotamian belief, along with his homeland concept of the cosmos, to Canaan. One day God would teach his people the truth about the state of the dead, but it was far more important that he teach them first about the state of the living.

Over the centuries, the Hebrew concept of sheol was modi-

Second in a series of twelve

fied a number of times, due to powerful, neighbouring religions. According to Hans Bietenhard, a significant change started to take place in Jewish belief about life after death, from the time the Persians and Greeks ruled the world.¹⁰

The ability of a major world power to modify other cultures, is more significant than most people



*Take a minute with
Clem...*

A Fork In The Road

John 6:53-66 Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. ... on hearing it many of his disciples said, 'This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?' ... from this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

The great stumbling block, the great foolishness—is this what it all boils down to in the end? That is what Jesus seems to be saying here. Where is the magnificent and titanic struggle for truth over error, where we, enlisted in the cause of truth and right, may take a stand and witness the mighty hand of deliverance acting through and for us.

Where is the fanfare and the waving banners of Prince Emmanuel; the cheering and shouting crowd, finally brought to acknowledge the truth for which 'we' stand?

This apparent act of cannibalism—and yet we know this language to be saying something more, and indeed quite different—there is a suggestion here of an intimacy that goes beyond strong friendship. Language here portrays something akin to strong medicine. It is as though by an act of the will, God becomes part of me, Emmanuel, God with us. In this putting on of God, I become one with him. I join in his suffering, his sorrow, his grief and compassion. Of course I am also caught up in his joy, his fullness, his kindness and his unbounded love.

No scientific explanation can satisfy in trying to explain the miracle of being caught up into God. There are, of course, explanations, the best of them are pathetic (my opinion). However, no language can ever substitute for the experience—to watch snow fall, to witness a glorious sunset, to hear Beethoven's fifth—these amongst others need to be experienced, for words cannot describe. And so it is to fellowship with God, we must taste and see for ourselves.

By entering into his life, Jesus also enters into me and my narrow indulgence gives way to the broad Divine perspective. Now, at last, it is possible for me to enter into life and to enjoy that most marvellous gift of heaven—the gift of giving—which is by far the more blessed.

CLEM MOSS

(Body, Soul and Spirit continued.)

will initially give credit to. A prime example, is the influence that Western secularism is currently having upon the young people of almost every culture in the world. In the same way, the dominant Persian religion, Zoroastrianism,¹¹ influenced Hebrew thinking about what happens to a person after death. Zoroastrianism taught, contrary to the teaching of Yahweh, that people were judged when they died and the souls¹² of those who followed the truth, went up to Paradise to await the resurrection of the body, and the souls of everyone else fell into hell. From this time onward, most Hebrews living in the Persian empire, outside of the Holy Land, began to adjust their belief in sheol, teaching that the righteous dead went up to Heaven above, instead of down into the pit.

After Alexander The Great had conquered the Persians, Hellenism became the dominant culture

throughout the Mediterranean world and beyond. The Greek philosopher, Plato, whose teachings quickly gained widespread acceptance throughout the civilised world, also taught that at the death of the earthly body the spirit was set free to go to its home in Heaven above.¹³ This Greek view¹⁴ not only reinforced the modified Jewish belief (that the righteous dead now ascended to Heaven above, rather than descend into hades), led the Jews to look upon the departed as spirits, rather than shades. For example, James wrote, 'The body without the spirit is dead' (2:26). When Jesus died, it was believed that 'He gave up his spirit' (Matt. 27:50). As Stephen was being stoned to death he cried out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit' (Acts 7:59). And when Jesus said to Jairus' dead daughter, 'My child, get up!' Luke commented, 'Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up' (Luke 8:54-55). Bernhard Lang claims that 'the Greek belief in an im-

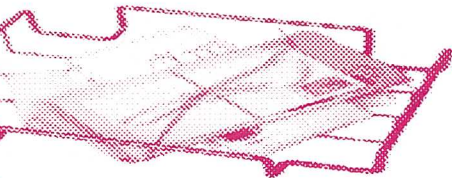
mortal soul made a lasting impression on Jewish thought.'¹⁵

Philo of Alexandria, a Jewish philosopher who was a contemporary of the Apostle Paul, made it his mission to marry Plato's philosophy with Scripture—in this he largely succeeded. Among the Jews living outside of the Holy Land, he reinforced the belief that only the evil dead went down to hades, the good went up to Paradise, that hades was a place of torment for just the wicked¹⁶, rather than a resting place for all the dead.

Most Palestinian Jews, on the other hand, rejected these 'new' views. The Jewish writers of the New Testament, for example, continued to hold on to the belief, that the good as well as the wicked went down to hades after death to wait there for the resurrection. The Apostle Peter believed that even Jesus went to hades after his death on the cross and he stayed there until he rose again from the dead (Acts

(Continued on page 8)

Mail



GNU

I was shocked and disappointed by the recent (May 2002) issue of *The Good Newsletter*.

The editorial by Roger Jones shows a blatant disregard for the Bible on the subject of Easter, and a wishy-washy compromising attitude towards worldly festivities. I won't even try to point out the many errors in the article. I have a feeling that Mr Jones will be unrepentant.

Almost equally, the article by Ritchie Way, which has more in common with Romanist doctrine and occultism than with the teachings of the Bible and Sabbatarian churches.

Please do not send this material to me any more and remove me from your mailing list.

G H Aust.

Dear G

I was handed your email for comment.

What can I say but that at times good men sometimes differ. Perhaps of interest to you is that Ritchie is an SDA Pastor and Roger a Presbyterian Pastor.

I will not attempt to change your opinion, but I am sure you would agree that 'the body of Christ' is represented by many who do not believe as you or I.

GNU has other reasons than the Sabbath for its existence, we try to focus upon that which we all agree, the Gospel of the coming, living, dying and resurrection of Christ—our only hope.

We would love to have you on our mailing list (we need supporters who care about what they believe) but will respect your wishes.

Kind regards

DENNIS.

Dear GNU

Congratulations to Roger for his March Editorial (The Sovereignty of God). What a difference it

would make if all Christians lived by that philosophy.

M K Aust.

Dear GNU

The following quotation allegedly written by Des Ford has come to my attention: 'It is perfectly appropriate to refer to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and the seventh day Sabbath, provided we recognise that we are doing so in the same sense that we refer to the prodigal son and his brother. It is neither precise history nor precise science that is the purpose of God's revelation to men. The purpose of Genesis, like that of Romans is theological ... the issue is one of hermeneutics, not of inspiration or accuracy ...' Does that ring true to Dr Ford's theology? What would your organisation think of the above statement? Is it consistent with what you know of his teaching?

I'm a bit puzzled by it, as I always thought Des was strong on inspiration, an entire article is quoted as being written by Des and it seems to imply that his view of Genesis' inspiration is a bit liberal.

Thanks for any help you can give, as I don't know how to contact Des, so thought I would contact you
Regards and God bless

J L Aust

Dear J

You asked about Des Ford's view of Genesis and GNU's attitude thereto. You have to realise that this is not an organisation in which adherents are obliged to all believe the same thing about everything.

Des can answer for himself, and I will just say that I am perfectly comfortable with the statement you cite. You seem to feel that the statement betrays a 'weakness' in Des Ford where inspiration is concerned. That would only be true if you have a different view of inspiration to his.

It is entirely possible that the statement indicates a very strong view of inspiration.

Why should Genesis 1-3 have to be both precise science and precise history to rate inspiration?

The last word about these matters has not been spoken of course. I am trying to keep an open mind on it and hope that you will too.

God bless

RON.

Dear GNU

Hello. I am very confused. It seems that God commanded people in the Old Testament times to kill others in war (Numbers 31). But doesn't God always teach *not* to kill anyone? Is it OK for me to go to war and kill today? Please give me Biblical support.

With warm Christian love

T V Aust.

Dear T

The Bible is equally inspired, but its books are not equal in what they teach. God reveals himself progressively as we travel from the Old to the New Testament. This trend is acknowledged in this statement by John: 'For the law was given through Moses; Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ' (John 1:17, see also Hebrews 1:1-3).

The Old testament needs to be read and understood from the vantage point of the New. Clearer revelation must be the key to understanding what is dimmer and more obscure. I have no doubt that Jesus gives us a better view of the nature of God than the Old Testament does. Therefore, we must not use the Old Testament as a manual of instruction on how to live, without shining the spotlight of Christ upon it.

Even the Ten Commandments—wonderful code though it is—implicitly accepts slavery. The Old Testament is remarkable for the fact, that it represents a giant leap forward in religious practice, but in many of its parts, it incorporates primitive pagan behaviour. For example, the laws regarding the cities of refuge, these laws incorporate

what was simply taken for granted in ancient societies, namely, that the killing of a man was a crime against his whole family and he should therefore be killed in reprisal, or else one of his family should die. The cities of refuge was a step towards the elimination of this barbarism.

There is one more thing I would say. It is this, there are some things God is reported to have said or done, which I strongly doubt. For example, in the book of Judges the Spirit of the Lord is said to have come upon various persons and in the power of the Spirit they go about and commit horrendous deeds.

The fact that it is written up the way it is, may be explained by the practice of ancient writers to embellish their stories without strict regard to historical accuracy, in order to teach a theological truth.

One thing is sure, we would de-

scend into chaos if we practiced everything God is said to have told people to do in the Old testament.

May God bless you

RON.

Dear GNU

If Christ's sacrifice at calvary secured our salvation, then why his mediatorial role in heaven, for what is he mediating?

W & I F USA.

Dear W & I

The New Testament emerges from the religious culture and framework of Judaism. The Jewish faith centered on the temple and its rituals. At the heart of the ritual system was the idea of atonement by sacrifice and by mediation.

Sins were atoned for by the death of an innocent victim and the priests constantly presented the blood of the sacrifices to God in the Tabernacle. None of the common

people could get any closer to God than the altar of sacrifice. After that, their religious destiny was in the hands of the priests who represented them before God (Leviticus 16).

According to the writer of Hebrews, the Levitical system indicated something much greater than itself. It foreshadowed Jesus, who would become both sacrifice and priest, i.e. atonement for sin and representative for all peoples before God.

Jesus brought in eternal redemption for us at calvary (Hebrews 9:12)—but he is not a dead sacrifice, 'He ever lives to intercede for us' (Hebrews 7:25). This just means that Christ's achievements are constantly applicable to us, because he is alive. We are secured eternally, not by an historical fact, but by a living person, in whom the fact is expressed.

May God bless you both

RON

Genesis and the Age of the Earth Revisited

Michael Denton and Desmond Ford

Wesley Theatre, 220 Pitt Street Sydney, August 3, 2002, at 2pm

Your chance to hear a renowned scientist and an acclaimed theologian discuss some of the most urgent questions facing the Christian Church at the beginning of the 21st Century.

Dr Michael Denton, Research Fellow in Human Molecular Genetics in the Department of Biochemistry, Otago School of Medical Sciences and Dr Desmond Ford, Bible lecturer in both hemispheres and founding president of Good News Unlimited, will tackle issues such as:

* What does recent research have to say about the age of the universe and Planet Earth? Does it really run into billions of years?

* How about mankind? Are we a freakish accident in an unfriendly universe, or is there evidence that suggests we were antici-

pated? Have we been around for thousands, tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands of years? What have DNA studies uncovered regarding our background?

* If the Universe and life on Earth are taken as vastly older than the six thousand years accepted by many in the Christian Church for centuries, where does this leave the Genesis story of creation?

* Arguably, the principles and moral standards of the Bible have never been needed more than they are today, if humanity is to survive alongside ample means for self-destruction. What attitude can we take (and teach our children) towards the Bible in a modern, scientifically sophisticated world?

Michael Denton, author of *Evolution: a Theory in Crisis* and *Nature's Destiny: How the Laws of Biology Reveal Purpose in the Uni-*

verse, comes to his subject as medical doctor, scientist and 'sceptical Theist'.

Desmond Ford, with doctoral degrees from both Michigan State University and the University of Manchester, has spoken and written extensively in the fields of Christian Apologetics and Biblical Apocalyptic. Between them, they have spent decades researching and explaining answers to questions such as the above.

Wesley Mission brings them together on the one program scheduled for Saturday, 3 August, in Wesley Theatre, Sydney. Doors open at 1.30pm—the meeting is to be chaired by Dr Gordon Moyes. You and your friends are invited to enjoy the presentations and to put your questions, if you wish. Admission is free—there will be a collection to help defray expenses. ♦



In God's Hands

Gillian Ford

Dr Ford and Gillian were going to Sydney because Dr Ford had two talks to give.

Turvi heard them talk about it and he didn't like it. He didn't like it one bit. He especially didn't like it for Gill to go away because they were best friends. It made him very sad. Often when she went away, he hid for days.

Topsi and Jasper didn't like it much either, but they managed better.

Uncle Robin

When both Dr Ford and Gill went away, they would ask Robin Eva to feed the cats. Robin is a long time friend of Dr Ford's brother, Val. He had known Val's wife Rhoda from childhood. The Fords now lived just one block away from Robin.

Robin loves animals, especially dogs. He told Gill that when he was young and they had three cats, his family went away for two weeks. Someone put out food for the cats, but they wouldn't eat. When the family came home all the cats had died. Cats and dogs really miss their owners when they go away.

The Cats Know

Dr Ford had eight different meetings to take in one week. He was very busy. He was in Brisbane, about a hundred miles from

Caloundra, the day he and Gill were to leave for Sydney.

He traveled to the airport from Brisbane. Gill traveled from Caloundra. They met at the airport.

The morning before Gill left she was trying to clean house, trying to get the cat's things ready and trying to pack. One by one each cat came trying to divert her attention. One by one, they all got under her feet.

'Stop what you're doing,' they seemed to say. 'Pat me on the head.'

Underneath, what they were really saying was, 'Please don't leave.'

In Sydney

Dr Ford took a forum talk on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Over two hundred people were there and it went very well.

The next day he was on the radio with Gordon Moyes from the Uniting Church's Wesley Mission in Sydney. Dr Moyes has known Dr Ford for maybe forty years, so Dr Ford has been on this program a number of times. They talked together for nearly an hour about the early chapters of the book of Genesis.

The Return Journey

The next morning, the Fords went by car to the Pennant Hills train station in Sydney. They bought their tickets and traveled into Sydney's Central

Station. There they took another train to the Domestic airport at Sydney.

Soon they were on their plane and heading north to Brisbane. Then they caught a bus, which took them to their door.

As soon as they got inside the house, Jasper and Topsi were right there. Jasper brushed against their legs. He was very pleased to see them. Topsi meowed for food. She was always ready for a snack. Turvi took a bit longer to show up. He wanted to show he wasn't happy that they went away. But finally he came out and allowed Gill to hug and kiss him.

Gill is licked on Hand

Gill was tired from the trip. She listened to the phone messages and picked up her email. Then she lay down on the bed to have a nap. She was lying on her front.

Suddenly she felt a little rough tongue licking her left hand. It was Jasper. He licked her hand for ten minutes or so, then laid himself against Gill and went to sleep.

Jasper didn't like being fussed. He would always jump down when Gill picked him up. But he had missed her and so, for once, he let her know.

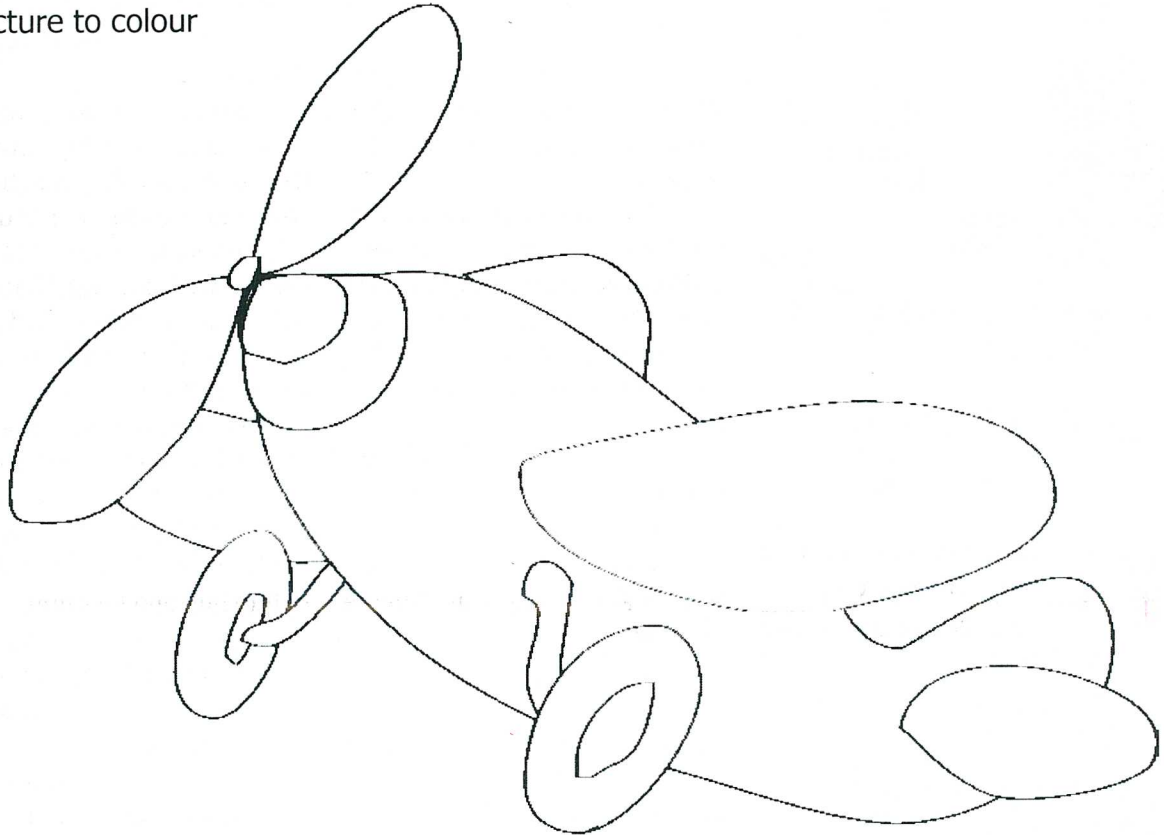
Head in hand

About five minutes later, Turvi jumped on the pillow. Gill's left hand was occupied, so he walked over Gill's right shoulder, trotted down her arm, laid his body down on her arm and gently laid his head in her hand. He stayed there and went to sleep. It made Gill nearly cry.

Dr Ford came in later. There were two cats lying down each side of Gill. Topsi came in later and made Gill rub her head. All the cats were different. That was Topsi's way of saying, 'I really missed you.'



Picture to colour



Ding Dong Bell

The next morning, Gill awoke to hear a cat meowing under the bed. Topsy and Turvi are



Turvi

hunters from the Californian Wild West. They wore bells on their collars to help stop them from catching birds, though it didn't always work. Jasper didn't need a bell, as he wasn't good at hunting.

Gill could tell the cats' meows apart. She could tell whose bells were tinkling. She knew it was Turvi under the bed. 'Meow, meow,' said Turvi.

'Good morning, Turvi,' said Gill. 'I know it's you down there.'

Morning Treat

Turvi kept meowing. Then, with his claws, he pulled on the bed-clothes near Gill's neck. She looked over the edge, but saw nothing.

'Meow, meow,' said Turvi. 'Meow, meow.'

'Uh-oh,' thought Gill, 'he's got a bird.' She sat up on to the edge of the bed. There next to the bed, parallel to where her face had been, there lay a dead sparrow. Usually the cats chewed their bird up before Gill got there, she would only find the feathers.

This bird looked untouched. It was not for eating, it was a gift for Gill. Gill was very sorry about the bird, but knew that Turvi wouldn't understand. 'Thank you Turvi,' she said, 'but you don't need to do that again.'

Coming Home

You all know that once Jesus lived down here on earth, that he died, then God took him up to heaven.

He promised long ago,

'Don't be afraid. I'm building houses for you and I will come back and get you.'

It's been such a long time since he said that. I miss him, don't you? It seems this is a very sad old world with lots of trouble. I wish he would come back as soon as possible.

And when Jesus does, he will be very busy because there are so many of us who have missed him and will want to talk with him.

But somehow I believe, I will be able to lie down beside him and put my head in his hand and let him know I love him.

The Lost Kitten

We've lost our kitten, 'Oh dear me!'

*So playful and so fat.
Did she run away? Not she,
Or die? No fear of that.
What happened was this . . .
you see,
She grew into a cat. ♦*

Body Soul and Spirit (from page 3)

2:27, 31 NASB); see Psalm 16:10 NASB). Romans 10:7 and Ephesians 4:9-10 seem to indicate that Paul also believed that Jesus went to hades when he died. Jesus, himself, addressing those who lived in this thought-world, spoke of his forthcoming death as a descent into 'the heart of the earth'¹⁷ (Matt. 12:40). It appears the Apostle John, similarly, believed that the righteous dead go to hades to await the general resurrection (Rev. 20:13).¹⁸ It was on the basis of these verses that a late revision of the Apostle's Creed added that 'Jesus descended into hell, (i.e. hades).'

If the Palestinian Jews thought that their belief in the state of the dead had been preserved in its original 'purity', they were mistaken, for it too had gone through a process of change as a result of its journey through other cultures. In early Judaism it was believed that the dead in sheol were nothing more than

mere shades of their living selves. By New Testament times, 'the shades of sheol were ... thought of as souls, and real personal survival—with continuity between life on earth and in sheol—was posited.'¹⁹

What would your reaction be if a close friend, whose funeral you attended a few days earlier, turned up in your living room? You can imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus appeared among them two days after he had been executed by the Romans and buried. They naturally assumed that it was Jesus' soul or spirit that had come up from hades to visit them, just as Samuel appeared to do at Endor. Only by demonstrating that he had returned to them as a real flesh- and-blood person, was Jesus able to overcome this traditional belief and convince them that he was not a spirit (Luke 24:36-43).

There was also one other change that had taken place in orthodox Jewish belief about sheol—not only had the shades of the dead evolved into conscious spirits, but, by

the time of Jesus, Sheol had changed from merely being a resting place for all the dead, to a compartmentalised place of reward and punishment.

According to *The First Book of Enoch*, a non-canonical work, believed to have been written between the 2nd Century BC and the 2nd Century AD, sheol was composed of three divisions to which the dead would be assigned, according to their moral deserts.²⁰

A manuscript from Palestine, which dates back to the first centuries AD, says, when the good died they were conducted by angels through the gates of sheol (Isaiah 38:10)²¹ to a place known as Paradise,²² or Abraham's bosom, where they were separated from the bad by the *chaos*, or great gulf. Down in that netherworld the misery of the wicked was increased by the sight of the good, in a happy state.²³ It was also believed that below sheol was the abyss called Tartarus, where evil angels were imprisoned to await judgement (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6 and Rev. 20:1-3). ♦

Endnotes:

¹⁰ See *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology* 1971 ed, s.v. 'Hades, the underworld, the realm of the dead.'

¹¹ The Hebrews adopted some Zoroastrian teachings that did not have the endorsement of their own prophets, such as, the dualistic nature of man and the cosmos. Bernhard Lang claims, 'Jews living in Babylonia, later Persia, and other areas within the orbit of Iranian influence in the 6th Century BC, absorbed Zoroastrian beliefs and adapted them to their own aspirations. Iranian religion helped Jewish theologians shape their own tradition (*Afterlife: Ancient Israel's Changing Vision of the World Beyond*, Bible Review 4, 1988, 19).

¹² According to common usage, the word soul, referring to that part of the person said to survive death, is often used interchangeably with spirit.

¹³ 'The idea of an immortality of the soul as distinct from the resurrection of the body is an essentially Greek idea,

expressed in Plato' (Donald Guthrie, *New Testament Theology*, Inter-Varsity Press 1981, 819).

¹⁴ 'Man is not a composite of two ultimately incompatible parts that struggle together in this life while awaiting separation at death. The biblical view allows no Gnostic dualism of body and spirit, the one evil and the other good, but stresses rather, the unity of the human self. The terms, flesh and spirit, are moral not metaphysical, designations; they indicate the kind of person a man is, whether dominated by selfish desire or guided by godly interests, rather than representing two distinguishable parts of a man.' (*The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* 15th ed., s.v. *Christian Philosophy* by AF HO).

¹⁵ *'Afterlife: Ancient Israel's Changing Vision of the World Beyond'* Bible Review 4, 1998, 22)

¹⁶ Compare Luke 16: 19-31 with chapter 22 of *The Ethiopic Book Of Enoch*.

¹⁷ 'The expression indicates the nether regions or the abode of the dead.' (RVG

Tasker, *The Gospel According to Matthew: An Introduction and Commentary*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Wm. B Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1979, 133)

¹⁸ There is considerable discord between the current popular belief that the souls of the righteous go up to heaven at death and the common belief of the New Testament authors that the souls of all the dead went down to hades at death. Both views cannot be true.

¹⁹ *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* 15th ed., sv 'Judaism' by LHS.

²⁰ *The New Encyclopaedia Britannica* 15th ed., sv 'Death' by CÁP.

²¹ Flavius Josephus, *Josephus: Complete Works* Grand Rapids, Michigan, Kregel Publications, 1964, pp637-38.

²² In Greek mythology this place was known as the Elysium or the Elysian Fields.

²³ *Josephus: Complete Works* Grand Rapids, Michigan, Kregel Publications, 1964, pp637-38. ♦



Capernwray in Queensland invites you to

Spend time at beautiful
Mt Alford Lodge!

Simply JESUS

A 4-part study over 4 weekends in the book of Colossians with Geoff Hopson, immediate past principal Capernwray Bible School and Senior Pastor at Boonah Church of Christ. Each unit is complete, yet collectively covers the entire book.

Unit 1 24-26 May 2002

Unit 2 23-25 August 2002

Unit 3 11-13 October 2002

Unit 4 15-17 November 2002

Please Note:

These dates have changed from earlier printing to allow more folk to attend the Easter Capernwray Houseparty at Mt Tamborine with Stuart Briscoe.

Come and join Us!

Great Bible Teaching
Excellent Accommodation
Beautiful Food
Delightful Fellowship

1 hour Drive South-West of Brisbane in the beautiful Fassifern Valley

Cost (per Unit): \$100 per person, \$185 Married Couple
(20% Discount off final weekend for those attending the full course)



Mount Alford Lodge CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTRE

1269 Mt Alford Rd, Mt Alford via Boonah Qld

Tel 07 5463 0999 Fax 07 5463 0998

Email: gjhopsn@hypermax.net.au

Phone, Fax, Email or Write for further details

Mailing Address: 1269 Mt Alford Road, Mt Alford, Qld 4309

A Ministry of Capernwray Bible School Australia Ltd

Baptist Church at the Kawana High School, Sunshine Coast QLD.

Dr Desmond Ford will be taking the church services for the Baptist Church, 9.30 am on the following Sundays:

Sept. 22,
October 6, 13, 20.
Nov. 3, 10

The Baptist Church meets in the Kawana High School, Sportsman Avenue, Sunshine Coast. Just follow the signs.

The Christian Lawyers Society Will Host



A Short Course In Theology with

Dr Desmond Ford

Sessions start at 9.00am and finish at 11.00am on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from July 13 until November 23, 2002 at St Francis' Theological College, Milton Road, Milton, Brisbane (entrance off Baroona Road). Registration cost for the 10 seminars is \$40 (\$20 full time students, pensioners and unemployed).

The classes on the book of Daniel will exegete the book chapter by chapter, with special attention to the prophetic portions and the inspired portrayals of the coming Messiah and his gospel. Such study, can enable the student to make sense of existence and open the doors of heaven itself.

The most profound words of the book of Daniel consist of a series of Divine promises, i.e. to restrain transgression, to make an end of sins, to make atonement for iniquity; to bring in everlasting righteousness, to fulfill prophetic vision and to dedicate a meeting place for God and man reconciled (94:24, paraphrased). The good news for today's world is that these promises have already been fulfilled through God's unspeakable gift on Calvary and they are soon to be fulfilled—consummated—in the advent of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And whosoever will may inherit the glory to come.²

Dr Ford's The Meaning of the Events of September 11 Transcript

#1ME0001

\$7.95

(including postage)

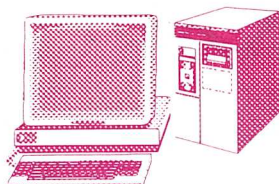
For those of you who received the audio tape and found it to be of poor quality, we are happy to send you the transcript free of charge.

GNU Aust: goodnews@coolgold.com.au
 Ron Allen: ronallen@goodnewsunlimited.org
 Free Ezine: lionelhartley@bigpond.com.au
 Chairman: patandroger@justamminute.zzn.com
 Treasurer: tedman@coolgold.com.au
 The Good Newsletter: patandroger@justamminute.zzn.com
 GNU Website design: grobinson@bigpond.com
 GNU USA: gnu@goodnewsunlimited.org

eMail

Websites

GNU USA: www.goodnewsunlimited.org
 GNU Aust: www.goodnewsunlimited.org.au
 Goodchat: www.goodnewsunlimited.org



We invite your comments on our pages.

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.

Thank you for Anonymous
 Tithe & Donations

May	June
\$100.00	\$100.00
\$ 50.00	

GNU Fellowships

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

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

Perth: Phn. 08 94585469 Meets monthly, on the second Saturday of the month, followed by a basket lunch.

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 on 07 41281261.

New Zealand: Phn. 0011 09 8270070

A convenient way
 to support
 this Gospel outreach
 on a monthly basis.



Visa
 Bankcard
 Mastercard

MAX LUCADO



He Chose the Nails

I DID IT JUST FOR YOU

A wine-soaked sponge. A sign. Two crosses beside Christ.

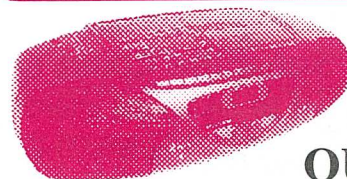
#1HC0001
\$13.95
 plus PP&H

Max Lucado has a blessed calling: Denalyn calls him honey, Jenna, Andrea and Sara call him Dad. The members of the Oak Hills Church of Christ in San Antonio call him their preacher. And God calls him his.



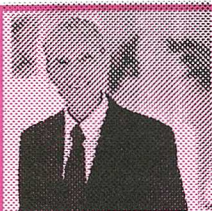
Time Out

Some marriages are made in heaven, but they *all* have to be maintained on earth.



RADIO OUTREACH

OPAL FM 89.7 Lightning Ridge NSW
 Phn. 0268 292976 (Tony Fitzgerald).
 RADIO RHEMA TAMWORTH NSW
 Phn. 02 67612360 (Karen Barter).



Dr Desmond Ford
3rd Wednesday of the month

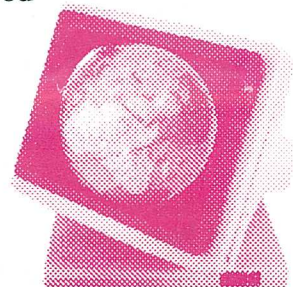
Chapter 1000 of Scripture: The Key and Summary of the Bible

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) finish approx. 8:15 am.

Special Project for 2002

In this age of technology, the Internet is a valuable means of contact, with quick and far reaching access to many who are eager to hear the good news that God loves them. With *your* help GNU plans to:

- ◆ Publish much, much more gospel material.
- ◆ Make the GNU site more attractive and user friendly.
- ◆ Make the GNU site more secure
- ◆ Further develop product sales over the web.



To be part of this ministry:

Please send your donation to Good News Unlimited and mark it 'Internet'

Free Ezine

You are invited to subscribe to the free online magazine, FreEzine, published monthly by Dr Lionel Hartley:

< <http://www.writers.net/writers/8067> >. This magazine features selections from Good News Australia, The Good Newsletter, snippets of Christian news from around the world, advance information on GNU seminars, book promotions, etc. Also included are items of Christian humour, recipes, book & Christian website reviews, and articles of interest to Christians. FreEzine is available free of charge. To subscribe, send an email to:

< lionelhartley@bigpond.com > with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line and tell us where you heard about FreEzine. You can unsubscribe anytime.

CHRISTIAN SINGLES

Any single can join.
All ages and
denominations welcome

Send for a free colour brochure

Write to: PO Box 122 WALLSEND 2287

Ph/Fax: (02) 4955 5445

Website: www.christiansingles.com.au

eMail: singles@christiansingles.com.au



Order form July 2002

Cat No.	Title	Cost	Total
3MTM002	Mt Tamborine Conven.....	27.50 each.....	
1ME0001	Meaning of Sept. 11.....	7.95 each.....	
1HC0001	He Chose the Nails.....	13.95 each.....	
2RN0001	Radio cassette Catalogue.....	0.00 each.....	
	New Subs. Tape Of month 2002.....	75.00 per annum.....	
	Free Good News Resource Catalogue	0.00 each.....	
	Subs. to GNA Mag. & News/L ...25.00 Aust & 35.00 pa, O'seas.....		
	Donation to GNU outreach		
			TOTAL

Orders under \$40.00 - \$4.95 PP&H (on books only)

Orders over \$40.00 - \$7.95 PP&H (on books only)

Name.....

Address.....Postcode.....

Phone

Fax.....

eMail.....

Bankcard/Mastercard/Visa no.

SignatureExpiry

**Good News Unlimited PO Box 6788 (2/54-60 Industry Drive)
South Tweed Heads NSW 2486 Phn. 07 55245040 Fax
0755245900**

Email: goodnews@coolgold.com.au

NOT UNTO US
O LORD, NOT
UNTO US, BUT
TO YOUR NAME
BE THE GLORY
(PSALM 115:1)

**Mt. Tamborine
Convention**

Dr Ford at the Mount Tamborine Convention Centre, Queensland 2002

This video contains five messages by Dr Ford from the recent Easter family convention. The topics include:

1. *Why The Cross?* 2. *Calvary: The Time the Place, the People.*
3. *The Creed From the Cross.* 5. *He Is Risen.* 6. *The Gift of the Crucified and Risen Lord.*

The primary purpose of the convention involves teaching from the Scripture, deepening the spiritual life of the believer, thus leading to a more effective Christian witness.

Video \$27.50

Order No. # 3MTM002
includes PP&H

The Good Newsletter

Print Post approved - pp606803/0005
May be opened for postal inspection

Returned mail: PO Box 6788
South Tweed Heads NSW 2486.

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Mr N Kooke
3 Boettcher Street
WHYALLA STUART SA 5608

*NOT AT THIS ADDRESS
RETURN TO SENDER*

Changed your address? Please advise of any change of address to ensure regular copies of *The Good Newsletter*. Please return old label and your new address details.

Directory

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

Good News Unlimited is an evangelical, nonprofit 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, emphasizing the atonement of Christ.

Editor: Roger Jones 07 55245040
Chairman: Roger Jones 07 55245040
Pr Ron Allen: 07 55245040

Zone 1	Western Australia	William Sinclair	08 9458 5469	Fax 08 93610867
Zone 2	Sth Aust. Vic. Tas	Bruce Johansen	03 5381 1330	
Zone 3	Sth NSW	Roger Jones	07 5524 5040	Fax 07 55245040
Zone 4	Greater Sydney	Rolf Kempf	02 4983 1132	
Zone 5	Raymond Tee-Taree	John Beumer	02 6553 5561	
Zone 6	NE NSW	Aenid Pettingill	07 5523 3479	
		David Sandercock	02 6687 8328	
		Bruce Tulloch	07 5535 5329	

GNU Aust: 2/54-60 Industry Drive, Sth Tweed Heads NSW 2486. (PO Box 6788) **Phone:** 07 55245040 **Fax:** 07 55245900 **eMail:** goodnews@coolgold.com.au

Website: www.goodnewsunlimited.org.au

USA Office: 11710 Education St. Auburn CA 95603 - 2499 USA.

Website: www.goodnewsunlimited.org

Canadian Office: 57 Virgilwood Drive, Willowdale, Ontario. M2R 2B5 Canada.

NZ Office: 52 Kohekohe St., New Lynn Auckland 7 NZ.

Free six months trial subscription to *Good News Australia* and *The Good Newsletter* for new readers, please send name and address of friends, neighbours or relatives who you think would enjoy these publications.