



The Good Newsletter

A BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY GOOD NEWS UNLIMITED

MARCH 1996

EDITORIAL

DES FORD VIDEO

The Des Ford video. 'The Gospel of the Cross' is circulating with the Vomere Christian Video Library based in Cairns.

The Vomere Library was originally established by the Bush Church Aid Society of the Anglican Church of Australia, to supply Christian Videos to Christians living in outback and rural parts of Australia.

It is very gratifying to know that Des' 6 part series on the Gospel is going to people in the remotest corners of our huge country.

The library supplies each member with 4 videos per month for \$10 plus the cost of posting them on to the next person. Usually about \$7.50. Often two families share.

If you would like further information about Joining the library or the titles of videos they circulate please write to:

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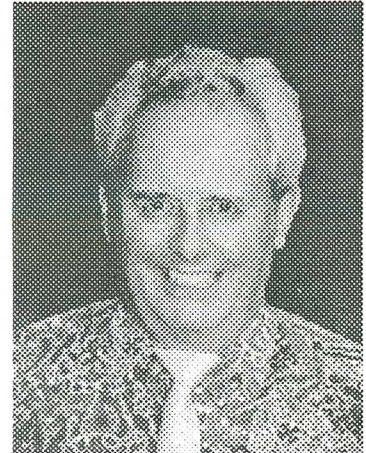
In an article published in the London Weekly Telegraph, for the week ending Sunday 14th January 1996 which is the weekly overseas edition of the London Daily Telegraph, it reported that the Church of England in England has recently released a report prepared by its Doctrinal Commission stating, that Hell is a state of annihilation rather than eternal torment.

The Commission, chaired by the Bishop of Newcastle, the Rt. Rev. Alec Graham, does not believe that everybody of all faiths will be automatically saved.

'No one can be automatically installed in Heaven,' the report goes on, 'The possibility remains for a final rejection of God. Final judgement therefore remains a reality. Salvation is only through God.'

Is not eternal torment, but the final and irrevocable choosing of that which is opposed to God, so completely and absolutely that the only end is total non-being.'

Heaven is not 'eternal and static perfection', but an everlasting 'participation in the life of God.'



It is good to see such confirmation of basic Christian belief.

Their understanding of Hell is quite different from the Calvinistic concept of the eternal torment of immortal souls, which is so firmly held by so many denominations. It will be interesting to see if it sparks any public debate as time goes on.

This month I commend to you Pastor Allen's letter about the phenomenon of aging, also the statement on *The Church* by Hans Kung that will challenge all of us.

May God bless you.

Roger Jones.

Best Wishes Pat...

Recently diagnosed with a serious eye condition, our office manager, Patricia Tedman, has just returned from a spell in hospital to her position in the GNU office.

Pat sends her thanks to those who have expressed their concern and love.

Dear Friend

Last week I met a friend. I see him regularly because he sits in one of my congregations. On this particular day he was struggling to stay awake during my sermon. Afterwards he discussed this behaviour with me and noted that as the years had accumulated, he found himself feeling more and more weary. 'I guess when death comes', he said, 'it will be quite welcome because I will have become so tired.' My friend's remark has spurred me to write on the subject of old age. Are you now what is known as a venerable old gentleman or gracious old lady? If you are a senior citizen then what I have to say is particularly for you, although I should like you to read on even if you are still in your prime.

There is more than a benediction for the aged. There is a gospel as well. Here are some positive things about growing old.

1. Think of growing old as a perfectly normal phase which fits into God's plan just as much as does youth. Jesus said to Peter, 'follow me' Later he spoke again saying, 'I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' John 21:18. Jesus transfigured Peter's life when he was in his youth. Christ was his mainstay in the middle years and his solace in death. Following Jesus was the unifying factor throughout all of Peter's life. The eventide of life was not outside the scope of God any more than life's morning. It is possible that a person can offer even more to the world after 50 than before because, his/her spirit has been enriched by Christ over many years.
2. Do not cling to youth. If youth is departing, let it go. Accept the fact. Elderly people have a ripeness with which they can minister to the world. There is nothing more pathetic than an old man who is still trying to behave like one of the boys; flirting with the girls etc. Or for that matter, an aged lady who desperately tries to conceal her years with cosmetic tricks. Aged people have a mellowness and a wisdom which they can share. They have learned patience and faith. Senior citizens can give to the world things which youth cannot.
3. If you are planning to retire do not do so until you are sure just what you are going to do instead of going to work. Very few people know how to retire successfully. Those who do are those who continue to allow their minds to be engaged by activities satisfying to their personalities.
4. Realise that Christ has made old age into you. In the Old Testament people dreaded old age because it brought death near and death, if it wasn't the end, was a shadowy and melancholy experience.

Men were always pleading with God for length of days. Long life was thought of as the great reward. 'With long life will I satisfy Thee and show Thee my salvation.' Psalm 91:16. The certain thing was in the Old Testament that, 'as for man his days are as grass.' Psalm 103:15. There is a much different perspective in the New Testament. Christ was certain of the life beyond the grave and of reunion with loved ones in it. Paul could not make up his mind whether he would rather die or live. 'I am in a straight betwixt the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.' Phillipians 1:23. When Paul came to his last days he could write to Timothy 'I am ready to be offered up ... I have fought the good fight I have finished the course I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.' 2 Timothy 4:6-8. The New Testament vibrates with this resurrection certainty. This is why I say that the gospel turns old age into youth. Christ can turn the waning years into a beautiful evening with a glorious sunset.

So be my passing!
My task accomplished and the long day done,
My wages taken, and in my heart
Some late lark singing,
Let me be gathered to the quiet west,
The sundown splendid and serene ...

There was an epitaph upon an English grave which went like this. 'When we saw the glory of His sun setting, we said, it will be a lovely tomorrow.'

*Your friend in Jesus,
Ron J Allen.*

P R O F I L E



Bruce & Beverley Tulloch live at Burleigh Heads, Queensland. Although so close to the activities of the Gold Coast, they are able to enjoy a peaceful home life with views of hills and trees. They have pleasure in hosting the Good News Fellowship each month. Bruce has earned a blessing by serving on the Board of Good News for more than ten years.

When Beverley & Bruce met in 1985 Beverley was feeling spiritually discouraged and convinced that she was 'never going to make it.' By studying books & tapes by Des Ford, Ron Allen and Smuts Van Rooyen a whole new understanding has developed and Beverley now shares with Bruce the joy which the Good News of the Gospel brings. They are happy to share this assurance with friends and family. Between them they have eight children and nine grandchildren.

Bruce, as a young person was influenced by the God of Nature and at the age of 26 was persuaded to join church in Toowoombah, as a result of a mission program. The next 14 years were spent searching - not being entirely happy with the church's doctrinal package. Eventually, Bruce

was convicted of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of Dr. Desmond Ford. When the church decided to terminate Dr. Ford's employment for teaching this very Gospel, Bruce was devastated and had no option but to terminate his church membership.

Since then, many blessings have been received. One of these blessings has been the Fellowship's Wednesday night Bible study and social gathering, where five of six families gather together and God's word is opened and studied a book at a time. The Holy Spirit leads and gives understanding in an atmosphere of love and compassion with minds unfettered and full to truth.

Beverley taught Primary/Infants

children for 35 years and has recently retired. She has had many interesting experiences in special education and overseas; and hopes that she has been able to influence many young lives.

Bruce owns and operates a dredging business in the canal systems of the Gold Coast. He has been involved in this work since leaving his position as Production Superintendent for the Sanitarium Health Food Company's Auckland factory in 1980.

Bruce and Beverley find their greatest fulfilment in seeing the Gospel of Jesus Christ understood and it is their desire to be used in whatever way God leads.

BRUCE TULLOCH

THE GOSPEL ROADSHOW

MARCH 15 7pm AVONDALE
COLLEGE CHURCH

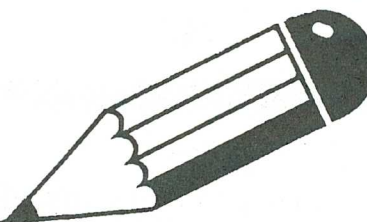
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APRIL 19 8PM WAHROONGA
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Make
a Note



BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

We would like to acknowledge these important events in the lives of our members and supporters by recording them in the Good Newsletter.

As part of the GNU family share your joys

and sorrows with your bretheren and sisters throughout Australasia.

PLEASE SEND DETAILS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES, IN WRITING, TO:
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Letters We Love

Gospel on Death Row

Dear Roy,

We request an address change for 21 year old Jimmy.

Last year we asked you to send the GNU magazine to Jimmy. He was in prison awaiting trial for murder. Last week he received the death sentence, and will be moved through the prison system in North Carolina. Jimmy has appealed the verdict. Please send the magazine to his mothers address.

If there is any expense, let us know. Jimmy has asked some good questions about the Bible. I wish more church people would give as much thought. He usually passes his reading material on to other prisoners. I'm hoping your gospel articles will get good circulation on death row.

We think often of you and Joyce, and your mountains and walking places. We pray for all at GNU.

We appreciated your Christmas stories tape and have listened to it over. You must read a lot. We appreciate you and Des for reading and studying so much.

With love and prayers

R. & C. North Carolina

Received some time ago by GNU (USA) - Ed.

HEAR
THE GOSPEL ROADSHOW
on
'Sunday Night Live'
with
Gordon Moyes
RADIO 2GB
21 April '96

The Gospel of Jesus

Dear GNU

Just a small gift for the good work of the Gospel for Xmas. We do appreciate, Ron's messages, the Newsletters and the tapes. They are all first class. God's blessings on your efforts.

The Gospel of Jesus is our certain hope individually and the only hope for eternity for this mortally sick world.

God bless you all.

J.R. Vic.



The Church of the Future

by Hans Küng

To what kind of Christian, to what kind of church, does the future belong?

Not to a church that is lazy, shallow, indifferent, timid and weak in its faith;

Not to a church that expects blind obedience and fanatical party loyalty;

Not to a church that is the slave of its own history, always putting on the brakes, suspiciously defensive and yet in the end, forced into agreement;

Not to a church that is anti-critical, practically anti-intellectual and dilettantish;

Not to a church that is blind to problems, suspicious of empirical knowledge, yet claiming competent authority for everyone and everything;

Not to a church that is quarrelsome, impatient and unfair in dialogue;

Not to a church that is closed to the real world.

In short, the future does not belong to a church that is dishonest!

No, the future belongs:

To a church that knows what it does not know;

To a church that relies upon God's grace and wisdom and has in its weakness and ignorance; a radical confidence in God;

To a church that is strong in faith, joyous and certain, yet self-critical;

To a church filled with intellectual desire, spontaneity, animation and fruitfulness;

To a church that has the courage of initiative, and the courage to take risks;

To a church that is altogether open to the real world;

In short, the future belongs to a thoroughly truthful church.

Hans Küng was born in Switzerland in 1928. He is considered one of the world's leading theologians and ecumenists. He has had difficulties with his own Roman Catholic Church hierarchy. His books include, On Being a Christian, Does God Exist? and Infallible? The above statement is from the United Presbyterian March A.D. 1981, page 25.


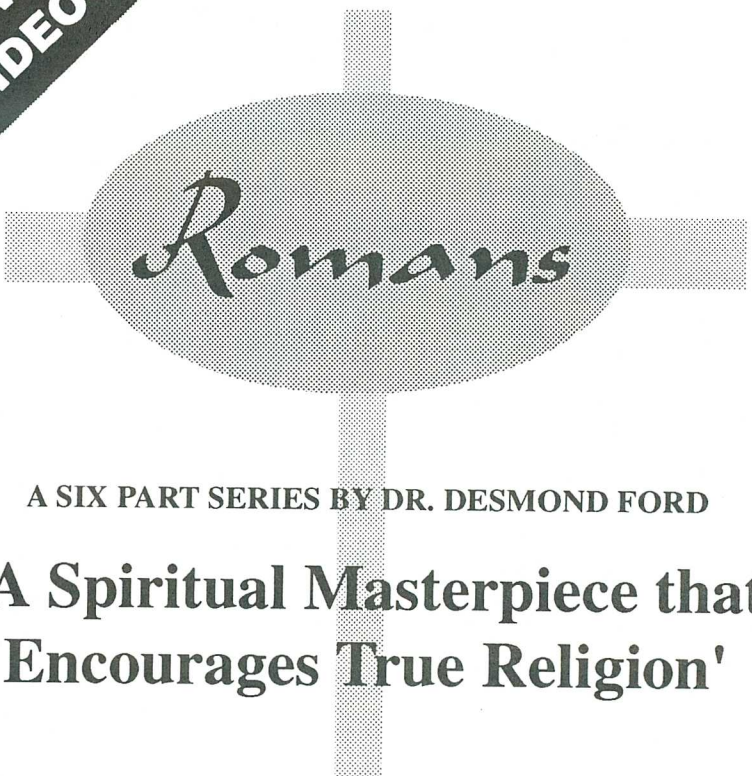
EUTHANASIA

Mention was made in the last newsletter that this matter is the next great ethical issue to face us, following the Northern Territory Government passing a law permitting it.

On an ABC news broadcast on 11th Dec 1995, it was re-

ported that in response to reduced budgets, Doctors at Newcastle Hospital proposed not to perform certain Cardiac surgery on patients over 75.

Doesn't this sound like euthanasia by the back door?



NEW VIDEO!

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Doctor Ford was born in Queensland Australia.
He has worked as an Evangelist and Bible teacher.
He holds PHD. degrees from Michigan State and Manchester Universities.
He is author of sixteen books.
He is founder of 'Good News Unlimited', and travels the world teaching and preaching 'The Good News' of Jesus Christ.
Doctor Ford's preaching style is intelligent, powerful and he is gifted with the common touch. The messages on this video tape are an example of his finest work.

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Like so many Christians, Bob George started his Christian life in love with the Saviour only to end up years later disappointed and unfulfilled in his Christian walk.

Drawing on his own struggles and years of teaching and counselling experience, Bob cuts right to the heart of the matter to confront the question of *why* so many Christians start out as enthusiastic believers and end up merely 'going through the motions' of the Christian life. In his down-to-earth style, Bob George shows us the way back to authentic Christianity – the kind that Christ had in mind when He set us free.

- What does it mean to have Christ living in me?
- How can I experience the joy of the Lord daily?
- If I'm a new creation, why do I still struggle with sin?

Classic Christianity will help every sincere seeker to get back on track in experiencing true abundant living.

Life's too short to miss the real thing!

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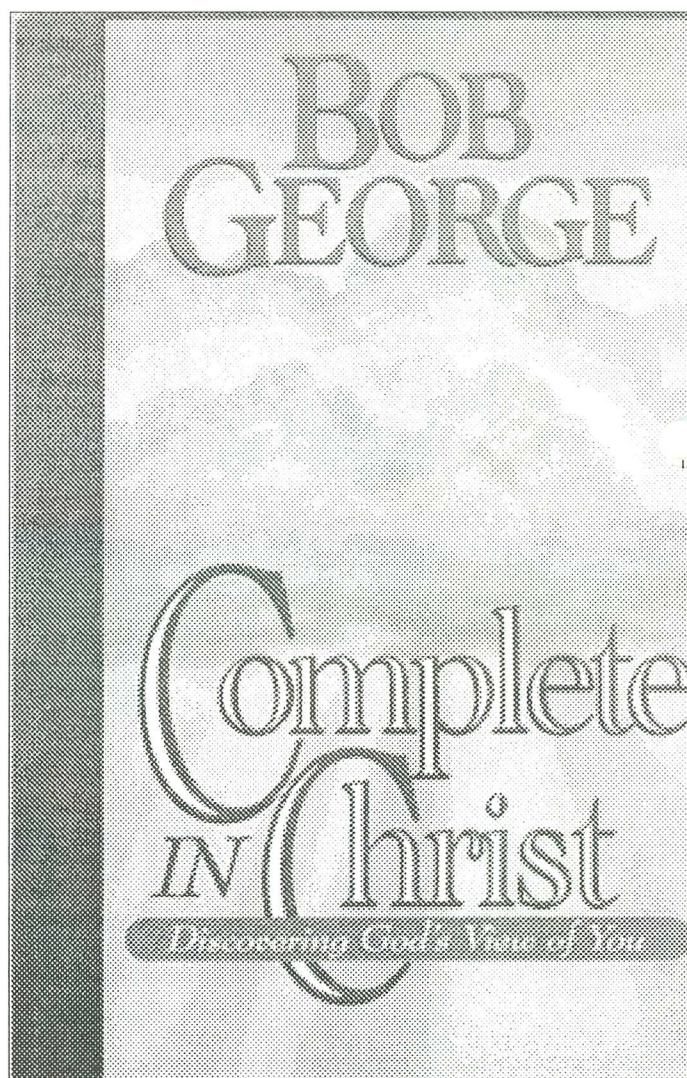
GOD'S INCREDIBLE INVITATION TO YOU

Why do so many people experience disappointment and failure in their lives? Why do so many men and women struggle with a sense of low self-esteem? Could it be they're unsure of how to obtain true fulfilment in life?

God never meant to offer us a self-improvement course. Instead, He offers us an entirely new identity. Not only will He forgive your sins, but He will give you a new life in exchange for the life you have been trying to live in your own strength.

In *Complete in Christ*, Bob George, author of the bestseller *Classic Christianity*, explores this exchanged life and provides clear meaning for often-misunderstood fundamental truths that ensue abundant, fulfilled living.

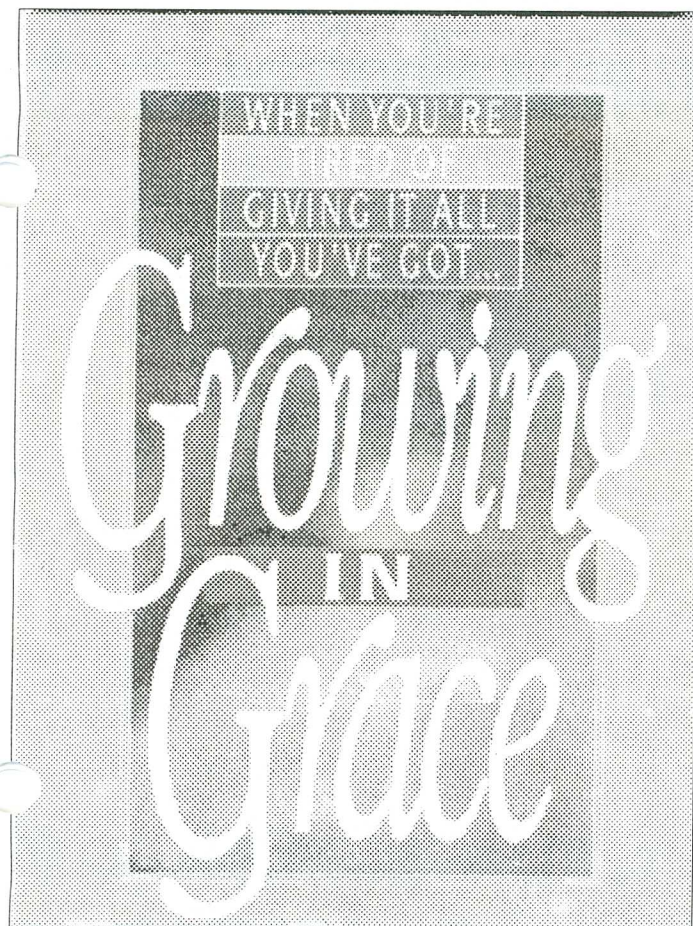
Begin to focus not on your own failures and inadequacies but on His view of you – that you are fully loved and accepted in Christ. Receive God's invitation to exchange your old identity for the joy of being Complete in Christ!



215 pp.
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In his refreshing bestseller,
CLASSIC CHRISTIANITY,
Bob George pointed the way back to
vibrant faith through the timeless
truth of God's grace.

BOB GEORGE, founder and
president of Discipleship Counselling
Services, is the counselor and
teacher on "People to People," a
daily biblical counselling program
broadcast live via satellite on radio
stations from coast to coast. Bob
has authored numerous Bible study books and has
a passion for communicating God's grace to
hurting men and women.



All around us people are trying to grow in their Christian life only to end in miserable failure, thousands have totally given up or silently resigned themselves to hopelessness. In the midst of this very condition, Christ offers His solution...

True growth in grace is all about keeping our eyes off ourselves and on Jesus. About believing with utter certainty that He alone is able to complete His work in us.

In his refreshing bestseller, **CLASSIC CHRISTIANITY**, Bob George pointed the way back to vibrant, life-embracing faith through the simple and timeless truth of God's grace.

Now as people who have been saved by grace and set free by grace, we must learn to *grow in grace*. Those who loved **CLASSIC CHRISTIANITY** will love **GROWING IN GRACE** even more.

146 pp.
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MARCH/96

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

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

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