



THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

March 1998

A bi-monthly newsletter produced by Good News Unlimited

Editorial

Many people who are out of work do not like to be called unemployed.

Instead, they say they are 'between' jobs. Similarly, a certain friend of mine who has recently fallen out with his church tells me he is 'between' churches.

An important part of our spiritual being is, '... not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together' (Heb. 10:25). Being cut off from regular fellowship can often leave one the prey of many odd religious groups that exist in most communities.

Unfortunately, my friend, whilst going through trying times, became involved with a local cult group who claimed to be Christian. However, it was his firm grounding in the gospel that prevented him from becoming enmeshed with these people.

Instead of their faith being centered on the cross and the salvation that Jesus obtained for us there, they mainly studied subjects like prophecy, Michael the Archangel supposedly being Jesus Christ and other peripheral issues. They found it difficult to grasp that Jesus was God, and that his mighty grace provides complete salvation

for all who believe.

Thus they floundered around the edges of the Christian faith, worrying about their works and failing to enjoy the assurance of salvation and that certain hope for the future.

My friend tried to bring them to the wonderful truth of Jesus dying on the cross, paying the penalty for our sins. But they did not seem to understand the awe of this scene and how it is central to Christianity. Their preference was to continually debate peripheral doctrines. They were like hens in the farmyard, pecking and scratching among the scraps, rarely looking up to take in the vista of the sky.

As I thought about the whole sad scene, I remembered a wonderful sermon I heard years ago by Smuts van Rooyen. It was based on the sacrifice to be made by a person healed of leprosy. He was to bring to the priest two doves. One was killed and its blood caught in a bowl. The second dove had its wings dipped in that blood, then it was released.

It was all symbolic of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, who would one day come. I remembered Smuts explaining the completeness of Jesus' sacrifice for us and likening it to the ancient sacrifice of the leper and telling us if we accept Jesus' death and

resurrection for us, we are completely saved, we could as it were, 'fly free' from the bonds of our sin—just like the blood-covered dove in the sacrifice.

So if you are also 'between' churches like my friend, please do not feel obligated to the church that offers you the first invitation, but go to several, listening carefully for the preaching of the gospel. Only become involved with the church that preaches the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is ours by faith because of the great sacrifice he made for us at Calvary. For then you will have the assurance of salvation and the certainty of a place in the kingdom of God.

Then like the bird that was released, you can soar to the heights of the kingdom that God has prepared for us all, and not scratch around in the fowl-pen of unbelief.

May God bless you all.

Roger Jones
Editor



Focus on the Gospel

Sometimes When we compare our lives with Christ's, the difference is too great for us. Let me explain. Once, a lad lying in bed very late in the morning, was spoken to by his mother who said, 'Aren't you ashamed to be lying there so late?' The boy answered, 'Yes mother I am ashamed but I'd rather be ashamed than get up.' I suspect that most of us will more readily identify with the boy in bed than with the Christ who, setting his face like flint, followed the will of his Father to the uttermost, through bloody trial unto death.

Well might the question be asked, what have we in common with such a figure? He is far too great for us ordinary folk. But is he? Can we not find something in Christ who suffered on the cross, that the ordinary person can use in his/her life?

Think of this. When Jesus was going to the cross he was doing something that went far beyond what could be reasonably demanded of him. 'No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.' (John 10:18)

Years ago, a steamship was on fire. The chief wireless operator was George W Rogers. With the flames all around him the floor was so hot he could not keep his feet on it, also the air burning so that he had to breathe through a wet towel. He had reached the limit of his obligation to duty. He was urged by friends to flee for his life, but his answer was, 'I intend to stand by my post.' He did what no one could demand of him.

Life is made up of things which we have to do and things that no law or custom can demand of us. In national life we must pay our taxes, we must obey the civil laws. In families there are some things which have to be done that are a minimum requirement if the family is to function as such.

However, there are a great many things in human experiences which are not required, but which greatly enrich us when they are carried out. Lord Moulton said to the English, 'The greatness of a nation lies in the number of its citizens who can be trusted to obey self-imposed law.' In Australia, most of us reckon that if we could get all our citizenry to keep the laws that we do have, we would be a lot better off.

This however, would not make Australia great. Greatness lies in a higher realm where people do far more than can be demanded. Take as an example the basic matter of honesty. An American farmer wrote to his Senator, urging him to vote for the pure food law. The Senator knew that the farmer in question was adulterating the syrup he was marketing. So he wrote back expressing surprise that he of all people would want to enact the Pure food Law. The farmer wrote again, 'Yes, I am adding brown sugar to my syrup, that is why I want you to vote for the new law. I want you to pass a law to stop me from doing it.' Here is an example of the deep problem that we humans face. It is the difficulty of acquiring the kind of character that will choose honesty without having it enforced upon us.

There are three kinds of people in the world. There are the rank lawless, the law-abiding, whose rectitude comes from without—from codes, customs and what society requires. Then there are those who get their standard of conduct from within. They have an inner Sinai more noble than an outer one. The second group of people are a danger to humanity at large. They are barely good. No family or city or nation can be sustained by such people. Our only hope is in people of the third category. People who have a conscience, which, as Huckleberry Finn said, 'Takes up more room than all their insides put together.' No law could ever ask what Abraham Lincon did for his people. No statute could ever require what Mother Theresa did for the poor of this world. All true Christians belong in this third class of people. Christian living means imitating the spirit of the cross, to do far more than any law could exact. This is the very marrow of Christ's teaching, and it was never taught more clearly than when he hung on the cross and died.

'How often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?' asks Peter. 'Unto seven times?' 'Not seven times but seventy times seven . . .' (Matt 5:43-46). Mark Twain was involved in a financial disaster at the age of sixty four, he was forced into bankruptcy with large outstanding debts. Legally, he was free of any responsibility, but he determined to pay everything. 'I am confident that if I live, I can pay off my debt within four years.' He also said, 'Honour is a harder master than the law.'

The cross of Jesus is the centre and the source of the spiritual power we need in order to live well. The cross means that even in the ordinariness of our lives, we can do something extraordinary, we can do more than is demanded. Only those who discover the realm beyond the sanctions of external enforcements, can discover the exhilaration and freedom that Jesus knew. Consider the Apostle Paul. No one could have hired, bribed or compelled him to live the way he lived. But he lost his heart to Christ and went out to change the world. The world is bettered when men and women fall in love with someone from within, so that they do not measure stingingly what they do for Him.



R J Allen

Suicide Card in Spiritual Tune With Millennium

Hallmark, the greetings card firm, is to launch a 'suicide' card for those bereaved by a loved one who takes their own life, writes Charles Laurence, in New York.

The company, which has 44 per cent of the American market, plans to release the first suicide condolence card in April. It said it had tested demand for the card in six cities and found an 'overwhelmingly positive' response.

The first design has a light blue background with a cloudy skyline at the front and at the bottom a lone sailing boat on calm water. Its message describes someone fleeing

from life and the impossibility of understanding their pain.

It breaks with the Christian doctrine of suicide as a sin, by reassuring the recipient our compassionate Creator 'understands the suicide and has 'already welcomed' the loved one 'home'.

The company makes it clear that the card is not macabre humour. It is to help friends and relatives to break the ice of a taboo subject with the family left behind by suicide.

The company thought that the approaching Millennium had increased the need to talk openly about 'spiritual' matters and the card was 'very much in tune with the times'.

Excerpts from the Daily Telegraph, Saturday 24th January 1998. Used with permission from Christian News & Views Newsletter vol. 4 Feb. 1998

Short Sermon

'Two pastor's wives sat mending their husband's pants. One said to the other, "My poor John, he is so discouraged in his church work. He said just the other day he was considering resigning. It seems that nothing goes right for him."

The other replied, "Why my husband was saying just the opposite. He is so enthused, it seems like the Lord is closer to him than ever before."

A silence fell as they continued to mend the trousers; **one patching the knees and the other the seat'.**

With permission, News-of-interest Email Newsletter vol. 2 1998

Profile

Malcom Fardell was born in England. He left school at the age of 14 to work on a farm. He left the farm when offered work as an apprentice by the local builder. At the age of 18 young Malcom joined the Merchant Navy, which eventually brought him to Australia.

After a couple of trips 'down under' he decided that Oz. would be a pretty good place to live. So at the age of 21 Malcom became a resident of Adelaide, South Australia.

Malcom was very soon to encounter an event that would change his life and thinking completely. It happened one day when he went to the Empire theatre in Adelaide to hear a preacher expound on Bible prophecy. Having gone through the war years as a teenager in Britain, he had a lot of questions that he couldn't find answers for.

Malcom now knew that the Bible was indeed the word of God and God had his hand on

the nations, also world events would unfold as they always had according to his plan.

As Malcom studied further and realised that his body was the temple of the Living God he gave up the use of tobacco and alcohol. He then began to understand and believe that God had his hand on him and wanted to fulfill his purpose for Malcom's life as he does for all who believe, if we let him.

Winsome Rigg was born in India and left for Australia with her family when she was 14 years old in 1949. Malcom felt privileged to meet her when called to do some building work at her family home.

Together, Malcom and Winsome attended, with great interest, some Bible meetings in Adelaide — they were subsequently baptised.

Sometime later they were married and agree that it has been a very happy and successful relationship.

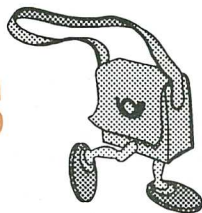
Malcom & Winsome feel



they have been especially blessed in hearing the 'good news' proclaimed by Good News Unlimited that they are accepted in Christ, without criticism or condemnation, that there need be no more trying to be 'good enough' — knowing that we will never be good enough in this life—but what Christ has done for us all, makes up the deficiency and gives us the motivation we need to serve him in the ways that he knows best.

In the words of Malcom and Winsome... 'Truly His love constrains us to be the people he wants us to be—*nothing else works*. Thank you again Good News Unlimited for your emphasis on the Gospel, we are happy to help you proclaim it.'

Letters



To GNU

Dear Des

Greetings in the name of Christ, from Radio Rhema, Tamworth.

As from January 1998 we will be broadcasting every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday until June 15, 1998.

Thank you for your tapes and information enclosed on what is happening, we will advertise your coming events on our 'Gospel Grapevine'.

At the present time we have enough of your tapes for transmission, but we would appreciate you sending more at the appropriate time.

Radio Rhema, Tamworth wishes you all the best blessings for 1998 and to all your staff for their commitment to our Lord and Saviour.

Yours in Christ

G N (Station Manager)

Dear Dr Ford

I met you, and spent a Friday evening with you at South-western College sometime in the seventies. Although at the time, I believed you to be a sincere and well intentioned heretic, bent upon destroying the 'truth' of my church, I sincerely did enjoy hearing you say over and over, 'Amazing Grace, isn't it amazing'.

I left my church once and for all last year, and found the true gospel of Christ. The truth literally set me free from years of heartache and confusion—of trying to be special to God through my works.

Please keep up the good work, my prayers are with you and your ministry.

J J USA

I am enclosing \$60, a donation to help your good work.

Many thanks for the lovely gospel tapes. My friend and myself are not able to get to church for health reasons and also age, so we meet together each week in her home to play your wonderful tapes—tapes that go back as far as when Good News first started.

I pray for you always and wish your ministry every success. God bless you all.

S W Ipswich

Ron Allen & Staff

I hope that the coming year 'God Willing' will be all you expected and more.

I wish I were years younger to help with all that GNU wants to do. The job is enormous and requires time, patience, money, helpers etc.

You can be assured of my attention, prayers and where I can, money.

My very good friend, a 'born again' Christian—a life plucked from the burning, as it were—is with me in my interest in GNU. She exclaims in exuberant joy when your magazine or whatever arrives. I wondered when God was going to give me someone to stand along side with me—where she is! Praise God. She said when the notice came informing us of the 1998 Seminars, 'You know what I am thinking? We'll get the bus and take as many people as we can!'

The Salvation Army has a bus here, and praise God that will be so. Oh the joy of a new born Christian, it is wonderful to witness it.

... all being organised, we will be seeing you Ron and Des, at the Thornleigh Seminars.

May the Lord in his mighty power and wisdom give all the necessary needs to carry on your work, in his name I pray.

It is a privilege to be in contact with you beautiful people. God bless you all.

In His name

A H NSW

Dear Friends at GNU

Thank you so much for your letters informing me of the coming Seminar for 1998. However there are problems.

The main one being that as I have to use a hearing-aid, there are always problem with the acoustics. Also, I guess most of all, my age. I am nudging 86 years and tire easily, so I don't think I will be able to attend the Seminar, much as I would like to. If it is possible to obtain tapes of the Seminar, I would be readily in that!

I have been a 'church goer' all of my life—being one of a strong Methodist family. I have always enjoyed Bible study, but in my youth found it difficult to find anyone ready and able to talk 'Bible' apart from a Sunday Church Service, although we as a family, were very much involved in church affairs. My father was the Church Treasurer and Choir Master during the whole of my life in Gympie, and I was assistant Church Organist during the last few years of my time there.

I married at age twenty two and went to live in Brisbane. Since the Second World War I have been a single parent of three children. I determined to bring them up to have a Christian attitude to life in general. We attended the Sunday morning church service regularly and everything went along fairly smoothly.

... Through a Bible study mission my two sons and I (my daughter being the eldest, had gone to live in Brisbane to attend

Teacher's Training College) became Sabbath keepers after weeks of study and much tearful praying on my part.

So here I am, forty plus years on, and still with my church—but sometimes wondering if I am 'true blue'! In recent years I have felt the need to look more deeply into the meaning of things. I am questioning some of the attitudes and teachings of my church, and feel there are still some steps forward

that I need to take. I have felt for many years that Dr Des Ford had a much wider knowledge of Scripture, and so took the first opportunity to attend one of his Seminars in Brisbane, and again at the Buderim meetings. I have also brought a copy of *Daniel and the Coming King*—for which I must apologise my not writing words of thanks to you before today.

Now you have my story, and the assurance that I will always

look forward to the arrival of the GNU magazine.

The enclosed cheque is to go to the area of your greatest need and with it goes my prayer for God's richest blessing on all connected with GNU.

Sincerely,

Your sister in Christ

JH QLD

THIS IS MARRIAGE

A good marriage must be created.

In the art of marriage, the *little* things are the *big* things.

It is never being too old to hold hands.

It is remembering to say 'I love you' often.

It is the beauty of a loving committed bond: emotional, social, spiritual, and physical oneness.

It is never going to sleep angry.

It is having a mutual sense of value and common objectives.

It is standing together facing the world.

It is forming a circle that gathers in the whole family.

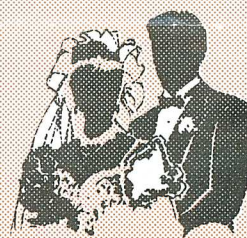
It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways.

It is the capacity to forgive—and forget.

It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow.

It is the joy of knowing your God together.

It is not merely marrying the right person . . . it is *being* the right partner.



Lionel Hartley *Reflections Magazine* Canterbury University, April 1973

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEARING AND LISTENING



'Hearing is passive, talking is active, but listening is interactive.

Hearing is static, listening is dynamic.

Hearing is face-to-place, listening is person-to-person.

Hearing is speech-to-screen, listening is soul-to-soul.

Hearing is a meeting of words, listening is a meeting of persons.

Hearing receives words, listening receives the meaning of the words.

Hearing receives the medium, listening receives the message.

Hearing creates the initiative for listening to be industrious.

Hearing is undisciplined reception, listening is disciplined understanding.'

Lionel Hartley—*Communication in Courtship and Marriage*,

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Saint's Last Laugh

Who is that knocking on my door
That knocks in darkness for effect?
Why do you knock that hollow sound
Is it fear. Am I correct?

Do you think because you hiss and
Prod in darkness when I'm down,
That you can keep me naked and
Secure my sacred Gown?

A bigger fool are you than I
You toothless stalker of my soul.
There's nothing you can do to me
The King has made me whole.

You can knock and taunt me all you like
You spirit of the deep.
Though you knock me down each day
My gown you cannot keep.

The gown I wear He promised that
No-one can take away,
Until He calls and changes me
On this earth's final day.

The holy gown that covers me
I don't deserve and you know well
But foolish spirit it's not I,
But you who goes to hell.

I will laugh at you oh morning star
Who fell from heaven's gate.
You'll bow before the King of Kings
For that, I cannot wait!

Brian Patterson



FAMILY TRUST

It would appear that there are some taxable benefits to be obtained by dispersion of funds to GNU via a Family Trust. If interested we suggest that you check with your accountant.

Email

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

Websites

GNU Aust: <http://www.coolgold.com.au/goodnews/index.html>
Bill Thompson: <http://web2.airmail.net/billtod/index.htm>



Time Out

There was a time when a wayward
child was straightened out,
by being bent over.

Anonymous Donations for January '98
Gospel Outreach— \$174.00



INTERVIEWS FOR

DR DESMOND FORD

Dr Ford was invited to speak
on radio 4CRB Gold Coast and
Radio Rhema Gold Coast during
his stay in Australia for the '98 Seminars

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98.1FM Toowoomba
Gosford

Plan Now Pr Roy Gee

supporting
speaker to Dr
Desmond Ford at
the **August 1998**
Bible schools in
Brisbane, Sydney
and Melbourne

Fellowships

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

Adelaide: phone 088 3224118

Adelaide meets each week and once a month they enjoy a fellowship lunch.

New Zealand: phone 0011 64 9 2385756

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

Buderim: phone 074 928361.

Gold Coast: phone 07 55355329

Meets twice monthly and enjoys a fellowship lunch each meeting.

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

SPECIAL PROJECTS

'98

1. Evangelistic Outreach

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

2. Radio Outreach

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

3. Internet Outreach

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

Order form March 1998

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Good News Unlimited is an evangelical, non-profit organisation, dedicated to proclaiming the everlasting gospel. GNU is not a church, and does not seek to proselytise, but does believe in and encourage local church involvement. The ministry of GNU includes radio presentations, preaching appointments, public seminars and the dispersal of audio and video cassettes, also literature, emphasising the atonement of Christ.

Editor:... Roger Jones 02 64930353
Chairman: Clem Moss 02 98991081
Pr: Ron Allen: Ph/Fax 07 55911830

Directory

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GNU Aust. 2/54-60 Industry Dr Sth Tweed Heads NSW 2486 Phone/Fax 07 55245040 or 07 55911830 Email goodnews@coolgold.com.au

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

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

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