



March 2002

The Good Newsletter

A bimonthly newsletter produced by Good News Unlimited

Editorial

The Sovereignty Of God

Recently, I have received complaints that in my articles in the Newsletter, I am encouraging people to leave the Adventist Church. At first I was quite puzzled, as I could not recall ever writing such things. Then I subsequently found these complaints were referring to comments I made in the 'letters to editor' column.

I am sorry that this is how the meaning of my words were perceived, as I do not encourage people to do this. Leaving one's church is very traumatic, it is something that is not done lightly. There is usually a long grieving process involved—which may take years to come to terms with. One of the roles of Good News Unlimited, is to support those who have had to take this path, by bringing them the comfort of the gospel and its glorious assurance of love and salvation.

The words I wrote are part of my testimony. A person's testimony is the whole story of his or her Christian experience. Selected parts of it can be told on suitable occasions to show how the Lord led that person through a particularly trying time. By testimony, I do not mean those

sanitized 'all live happily ever after' stories that we hear so often, but rough, tough, real life experiences that can sometimes be quite offensive to some hearers. It has to be this way, as God is dealing with real sinners in a real world.

Yes, God did lead my wife and I out of the Adventist Church, when, because of the gospel, we were no longer welcome there. But he had other things for us to do. Today I pastor a small Presbyterian Church.

We all have to learn that God alone is sovereign. His glorious gospel belongs to him and will never be the exclusive property of any denomination. If God wants one of his servants in another field of gospel endeavour, he will move them there, even if it does mean crossing denominational boundaries—and he will help ease the trauma in the process.

This happened to us some twenty years ago. Now we can look back and see the Lord's hand leading us.

What was the role of the Adventist Church in our lives till then? It provided excellent training for the ministries we now have. Now as we prepare our services and sermons, the Holy Spirit constantly brings to mind, texts we learned in the past. It is wonderful to know God is with

us, giving us words to speak as we lead his people in worship.

This is my testimony. If some of my critics find it offensive, then I am sorry that they have not grasped the vision of God's *universal* Church. The Church that stands before the throne in Revelations 4 is made up of those, who, through the ages have responded to the gospel and accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

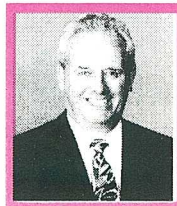
Nothing in this article is intended to encourage anyone to leave their church. You are in your church because God has put you there and has a work for you to do. But remember, if God has a greater work for you to do, he will move you to where your talents and gifts can be used for his greater glory, and it may be across the boundaries of your denomination.

As Jesus said in Matthew 24:14, 'And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come.' It is urgent work and God will complete it using all available believers. Stand by, *you* may be called.

May God bless you all

Roger

Roger Jones
—Editor



Focus on the Gospel

'Having a form of godliness but denying its power ...' (2 Timothy 3:5).

Dear Friend

It can be said of religion in Australia, that we are not pagans, untouched by the effects of Christianity. Rather, Jesus is still mediated to us in many ways, including social customs, family traditions and state laws. As a society, we know generally what the Church stands for. We are mildly acquiescent to Christ's principles. In other words, we are inoculated with a mild form of Christianity and therefore bear an immunity to the genuine article. There is an acknowledgement of Christ, but a denial of his power.



When we think of conversion, it is often with reference to some prodigal who turns his steps towards home, of an alcoholic who escapes the toils of his disease, of the profligate transformed—and so on. Such miracles do happen, but some conversions are of a different nature. A church member who has never doubted Christianity, who has always observed its traditions, suddenly makes a discovery . . . that Christianity actually works! That it is tremendously relevant! That when it is brought into existence as a way of viewing men and things; as a fortifier of the human spirit, and as a source of inspiration and direction for all the business of life—it has a comprehensive adequacy—such conversions do occur and they are much to be desired.

When Christ is known, not as a form, but as a formidable personal power, then he is his own evidence; his own compelling argument for faith.

One reason why Jesus is to many just a convention, is that they have never felt any crucial necessity, which only Christ could meet. You have heard of the boys in the foxholes of war torn Europe, who came to faith in their extremity; of others riven by grief and physical distress, who in their despair, saw with intense clarity the sense Christ makes.

No wonder God allows people to travel over perilous ground. Only thus do we see what immense forces are arrayed against us. Personally and socially, we are up against powers that are far too big for us. Fear, discouragement, depressions and cynicism, these are foes we are ill equipped to withstand. As for raging moral strife, who can deal with the undertow of broken homes, disintegrating families, violence and sordid thinking all around?

It is a supreme moment in a person's life, when they wake up to the fact that the ideas of Jesus are absolutely true. At such a time they are persuaded that Christ is universal law. They see that he holds the cosmos together; that everything he is and all that he stands for is foundational, constitutional, unchangeable, eternal and immutable. They feel that they have not so much come into possession of something, but that they are possessed by what is greater than themselves—something to which their heart and mind quite naturally belongs. Only such a realisation equips the soul to withstand the enormous batterings of Antichrist.

Christ also becomes a dynamic in the individual life, when it is organised as part of that marvellous fellowship, called, 'the body of Christ'.

The armies of wrong are too strong to be met by persons in isolation. Organised evil must be fought by an organised fellowship of men and women. For all its failures, the church of Jesus Christ is still the only bulwark that God has raised against the gates of hell.

Many still voice their suspicions that the Christian way is not strong enough to stop the malignant advance of wickedness. But consider this, when a fire is burning and even though water is played onto the fire, the fire still rages, no one thinks that water is useless for putting out fires. It still remains a fact that fire can be quenched with water. So, despite the repeated and imperfect efforts at Christian fellowship and service, the long-range truth lies yet in Christ . . . in the patient, undiscouraged increase of his peace, love, hope, goodwill and moral excellence.

May God enable you, as well as me, to proceed beyond form to a practical knowledge of Christ's power.


RON J ALLEN

Comments on the article *The Power Within* by Ritchie Way in *The Good Newsletter* January 2002

Did Adam receive the Holy Spirit? (Gen. 2:7) Same word as in all living things—*Ruach*.

Adam did not have eternal life—only by access to the Tree of Life (denied him) could he obtain this longevity.

This action of God is where '... he formed the spirit of man that is in him' (Zech 12:1)—something quite unique that set man up as the pinnacle of the earthly creation . . . its head.

This spirit in man, *on conversion*, combines with the Holy Spirit, and a 'new creation' results. This could not eventuate until Jesus was glorified (John 7:39)

The first Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam was made a

quickening spirit (1 Cor. 15:45-46).

Solomon said 'God has set eternity in the hearts of men.' Solomon did not say this, *you* did, via corrupt translators. God set 'the *olams*' (plural) in their heart, why? So that no man can find out the work God makes from the beginning to the end!

Plucking half a verse out of context as you have done and giving it your own interpretation, is bad work-

(Continued on page 9).



*Take a minute
with Clem . . .*
**Superman
Eat Your
Heart Out**

'He replied ... I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you...' (Matt. 17:20)

Since I was a child this text has presented both a challenge and a temptation—so little faith and so many possibilities.

Our reaction to the stories of Jesus is often very similar to that of Simon the Magician in the book of Acts, where he offered money to acquire the power of the Holy Spirit as demonstrated by the disciples. We too, are entranced by the power of God, such drama feeds our ego; walking on

water, calming the storm and walking through doors. And like Samson who desired Delilah, we must have it.

Our reaction to this text tells us more about ourselves than anything else. The text is a light rebuke to the disciples, not an example of how everyday Christianity is meant to work.

Have you ever stopped to think what would happen if people went about shifting mountains and that sort of thing? The farmer prays for rain to grow his crops, while the local church prays for fine weather for the church picnic—someone has to be disappointed.

Earthquake, wind and fire, all serve their purpose—but the voice of God is best heard in the still, small voice— and for that, a quiet place and time are most helpful. God does not feed our ego, he does feed our soul, and that sometimes with a light rebuke. Long after the music has stopped, God is still here with us.

As God abides with you and me, may we also abide with each other. Then we really will leap tall buildings in a single bound!

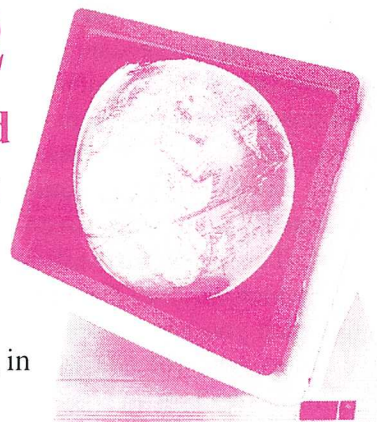
CLEM MOSS

Special Project for 2002

Did you know that Good News Unlimited has two websites? (www.goodnewsunlimited.org and www.goodnewsunlimited.org.au) Each day hundreds of people pay us a visit! Many of those visiting the site, write to GNU asking for spiritual guidance in their lives.

In fact, the Good News Unlimited site in the USA, recently received, in one month, over 40,000 'hits'!!!

In recognition of the growing importance of the World Wide Web, the GNU Board has voted to make development of the Internet site our 'Special Project' for the year 2002.



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 (recently a hacker was able to get into our site and put us and our Internet Service Provider off line for several days.)
- ◆ 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'.

Mail

Dear GNU

I have just received the latest Newsletter and would like to say I enjoyed the article 'The Power Within' by Ritchie Way (Jan. 2002). I had never thought about 'the power within' quite that way before. It gave me a lot to think about and I think the messages are particular relevant to New Age seekers.

Regards

Lorraine Page QLD.
Acting Editor, *Journey*, newspaper of the Uniting Church in QLD.

Dear Ron

Thanks for the pastoral message you sent last week. I didn't read it at the time, but, as I usually do with premature items for the website, I sent your message to the 'tickler' for posting on the respective date. Today being that date, I pulled it out for posting on the web, in the process, I found myself enveloped by the message. I found your message to be quite inspirational. These are interesting times in which we live. The manner in which you have addressed these times has not ceased to amaze me Ron. This message is certainly no exception. On behalf of the people who visit our site, thanks for the awesome inspiration.

E N USA.

Dear Roger

Re. the letter in the mail section of the Good Newsletter No. 5 2001, that is addressed to 'S' and signed off 'Roger', comments regarding Ellen White.

While I can relate to other parts of the letter and the difficulties of changing loyalties, I

find it difficult to relate to the issues raised re. Ellen White. I am wondering if the editor and those who produce this magazine support the views expressed?

Thankyou for the interesting publications you produce, I have enjoyed the reading.

I would appreciate a reply to my question.

P N NSW.

Dear P

Thank you for your letter. My apologies for not answering sooner, we have been away for the last little while and I have had a bit of catching up to do.

Regarding my reply to 'S' in the Newsletter and my comments regarding Ellen White:

The other demands, rules and restrictions she requires, are things like a vegetarian diet, abstaining from tobacco and alcohol, women not wearing makeup or jewelry, not going to theatres and a number of others. In her writings she presents these matters in such a way as to convince you, that if you do not follow them, then your salvation may be in at risk. In the case of the vegetarian diet, your translation may be in jeopardy.

Although following such demands may make for a desirable lifestyle—and I follow several of them myself—they have no bearing at all on one's salvation. Our salvation is based solely on our faith in Jesus. If he wants us to adopt any of the above, then his Spirit will lead us and we will find ourselves doing them.

When I read in the letter from 'S' '... realised that Ellen White's writings were not officially from God...' I immediately thought of two things: 1.) That 'S' had been led thus far by the Holy Spirit and 2.) That she would be questioned by her church.

Hence my published reply.

Regarding the support of GNU staff and readers to my views. I cannot speak for them all, but with the dozen or so I know personally, I feel sure they would support me.

Thank you for writing and the interest you have shown. May God continue to lead and bless you in your life with him.

Christian regards

ROGER —ED.

Hello Mr Ford

Thanks a million for creating a sense of unity and not division in your web pages. I am a Catholic and I feel accepted by God but not by men, who feel that they are superior to us. I feel that you are writing to all Christian denominations.

Thanks again, I will read the rest of your pages and give my comments on them.

God bless you

S. USA.

Dear S

Thank you for your kind words. Whatever our name or sign, if we belong to Jesus, we are in the same family and God loves us equally.

Blessings

DES.

Dear GNU

What is your stance on celebrating Christmas day on the 25th December, why not the 23rd or 27th? I am interested to hear your thoughts on this.

I enjoy reading the magazine and Newsletter, thank you for them.

J K VIC.

Dear J

GNU does not have any official stance on Christmas. By that I mean that GNU does not require any of its staff or supporters to think in any particular way about the Christmas festival. There is only one article of faith for GNU, namely, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Cor. 15:1-3).

That said, my personal opinion is that it is very unlikely that Jesus was born on the 25th December. That date was celebrated in ancient times to honour the return of the sun from its worrisome low level, during the long winter months.

After Christianity was declared the official religion of the Empire in the fourth century, many festivals that had pagan roots were incorporated into the church calendar, in other words, they were given a Christian meaning.

I have no problem with this. When we join in the Christmas festival with the rest of the world, we Christians bring to it a faith that is informed by the New Testament story of Jesus. The pagan origins of December 25th cannot harm us.

We should bring to this issue, the same principle that Paul invokes in 1 Corinthians, where he argues that just because some foods have been dedicated to a pagan deity, does not mean that a Christian cannot eat the food (1 Corinthians 8:8 '... we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do').

God bless

RON.

Dear Roger, Ron & Des

In the letters section of the September issue, 2001 regard-

ing 'near death' experience, I would like to raise a point.

I, like most other Christians, like to keep a good distance from any form of Spiritualism or Satanism. A few years back I did have a brief 'out-of-body' experience, as people like to call it, and it frightened me.

I was a shift worker at the time and was in bed most nights by 7.00pm. On this particular occasion I suddenly found myself floating on the ceiling. I remember thinking that I had to get back, willing myself back into bed where I was supposed to be.

I kept this experience to myself, knowing what sort of reply I would get if I voiced it. I can assure you it was no dream and has never happened since.

My question is, why do church folk condemn those who claim these experiences, while at the same time, accept them from modern-day prophets, also biblical prophets? I quote from E G White's *Early Writings* page 14:

'While praying at the family altar, the Holy Ghost fell upon me and I seemed to be rising higher and higher, far above the dark world. I turned to look for God's people ...' Also Daniel, John the Revelator and others in the Bible record their experiences.

So it would appear, that if I change the name from 'out-of-body' experience to 'I had a vision', it would be acceptable. All I then have to do is convince folk that I have a special message . . . and brother, the sky's the limit!

Yours sincerely

D C TAS.

Dear D

Thanks for your thoughtful

letter. I will speak for myself in answering it. I agree with you. It is not necessary to assign demonic influence on those who recount 'near death' experiences. I do not know why many are quick to do this. Perhaps it is a fear of the unknown, or the unexplainable.

There are areas and incidents in normal human life, which can be described as extraordinary or super-natural. Yet this does not mean they are beyond what is just plain human. My own opinion is, that much which is considered to be super-natural, can be explained by sound psychology.

Visionary experiences—out-of-body or near-death phenomena—seem to be a part of life. Danger occurs when one person's experience is idealised, or set forth as a sign of God's presence—or in fact his absence.

I would make the same comment about much of what happens in some areas of Pentecostalism. Certain manifestations neither prove God's presence, nor the presence of evil powers.

That's my two cents worth. Thanks again for writing

Yours in Jesus

RON.

Dear Friends

Enclosed is a donation to help keep the good work of the Everlasting Gospel going to the ends of this troubled world, so our wonderful Jesus can come to take us out of it as soon.

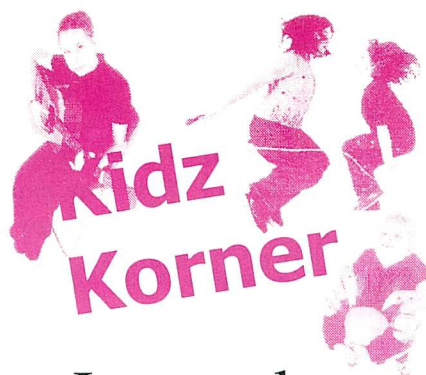
Thank you for the tape-of-the-month and the magazine, they are much enjoyed.

Wishing you all much of God's blessing in 2002

Sincerely

K M VIC.

We are always pleased to hear from our readers. Your input is appreciated. —ED.



Jasper plays Scrabble *Gillian Ford*

Gill was sitting at the computer. She decided to have a game of Scrabble on the computer. She played with someone inside the computer called Maven. Maven was a bit of a cheat because she had a library inside the computer and used words you had never heard of. Scrabble sometimes disallowed words that weren't in the Scrabble dictionary. Gill *knew* they were real words.

Gill only played at the intermediate level. There was one less difficult and two more difficult levels—a total of four. But Gill liked winning and above the intermediate level the machine always won. Gill liked playing with someone who wasn't real because she didn't have to be a good sport. The machine doesn't mind if you get annoyed with it for winning—you have to be nice if you are playing with real people.

A visit from a Friend.

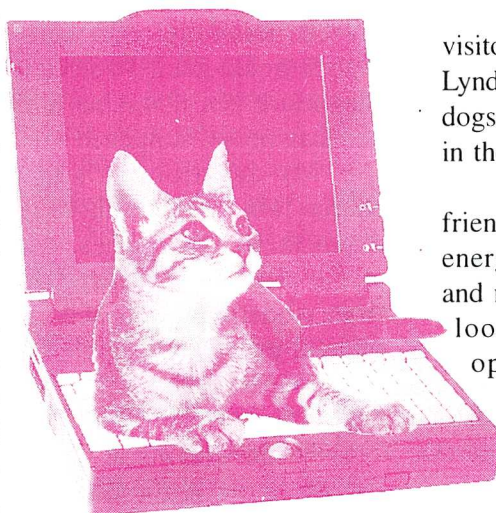
While Gill was in the middle of her game of Scrabble someone knocked at the door. It was a friend called Ken and his son, Lyndel. They had been to the markets and bought some lemons, potatoes and mangoes. Everything Ken brought at the markets always tasted better than the things Dr Ford and Gill brought in the local stores—that's

because it was fresher.

Jasper Takes Advantage.

When Gill's friends came, Gill left her game of Scrabble and went to open the door to let them in. She forgot to turn off the computer and left the game running.

After her friends had gone she was busy in the kitchen and didn't realise the computer was still open. When she looked up she saw Jasper sitting on the powerbook playing with the keys. The screen was up in front, so she couldn't see much of him, but his tail poked out the side.



Gill walked over to remove Jasper from the keys in order to shut the lid down. 'Oh dear,' she said 'he's pulled the Q key off. Now I can't do command Q to quit the program.'

Dr Ford didn't hear what she said as he was in the kitchen cooking, so he said, 'I beg your pardon, what did you say?'

Gillian said, 'I can't quit because Jasper has pulled the Q key off.' She thought she would have to take the computer to the Applecentre to have it fixed later, but when she went back to the computer, she was able to replace the key herself. 'Ah,

now I can quit,' she said.

Jasper's Viewpoint.

Coco, the dog, had been trying to teach Jasper how to read the letters of the alphabet. He associated each letter with a salvation word, because he was trying to teach Jasper the gospel. Jasper was a very bright little kitty and he soon picked up the alphabet. He also thought he was a pretty good kitten and didn't need Jesus to help him.

'I have my faults,' Jasper thought 'but I'm still better than those other naughty kittens. I'm sure that with practice I could be purrrfect.'

Jasper was pleased when the visitors came. He made a fuss of Lyndel, who liked cats better than dogs. Then Jasper went to sleep in the little box under the sofa.

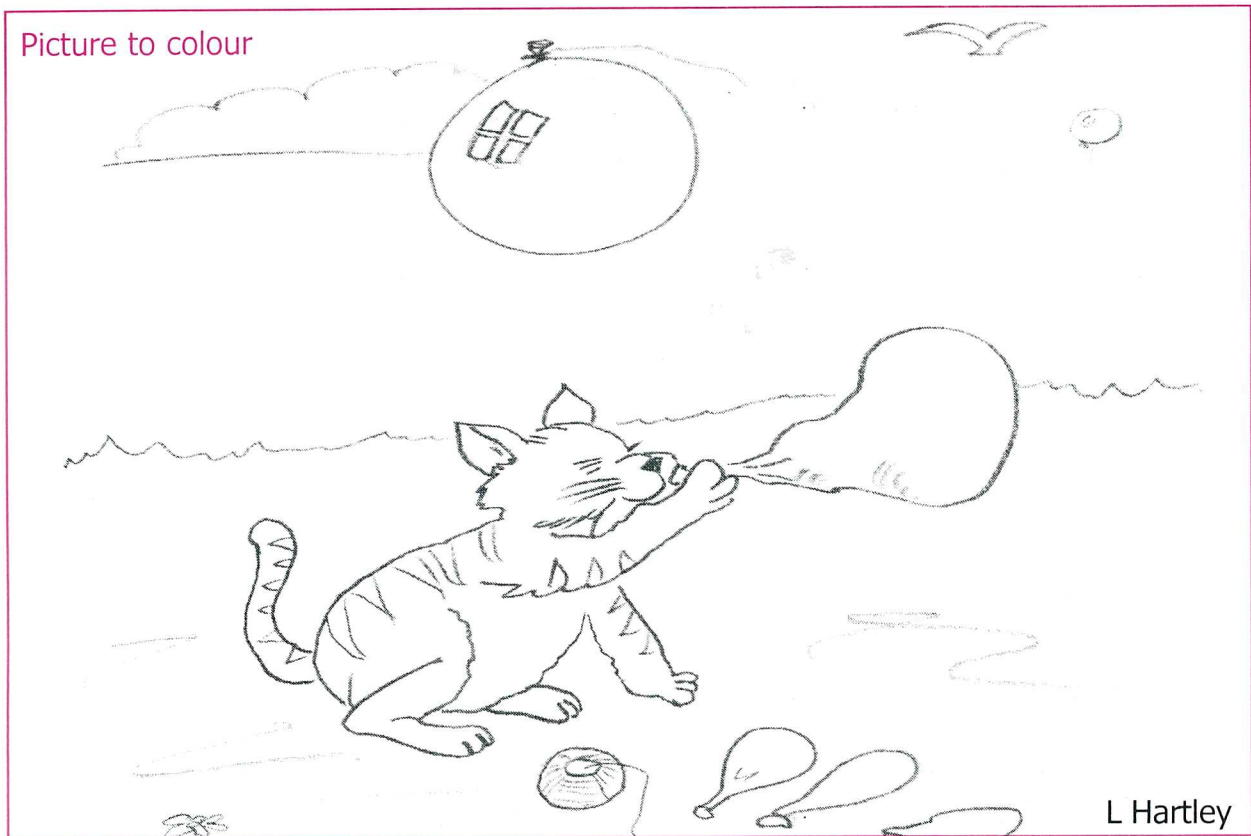
He woke up when Gill's friends left, refreshed and very energetic. He was easily bored and needed something to do. He looked around and saw the open computer. He said to himself, 'The computer lid is up, I can go and practice my alphabet.'

Jasper Plays Scrabble with the Keyboard.

Jasper jumped on the table, he sat on the computer keyboard, it was nice and warm with the electricity running through it. He was fascinated by the tiny keys and looked at all of them. He had watched Gill play Scrabble, so he knew that each time she played, seven letters were displayed on the screen. 'Which keys would I like to come up?' he asked himself.

'I'd like **I** for Important, because I'm the MIKITW (the Most Important Kitten In The World). I'd like **J** for Jasper, because that's my name. I'd like **A** for

Picture to colour



Adorable and Amazing; that's me too.

I'd like **S** for Super Smart, because I'm Special. I'm also **S** for Strong. I'd like **P** for Popular, everybody likes me because I'm a Perfectly Pushy Pussy with Personality. Then there's **E** for Emperor, because I'm Persian and Siamese and I've got **R** for Royal blood.' The Scrabble letters he had chosen made up the phrase, **I, Jasper.**

Jasper Shows he Can't Quit

As Jasper played with the letters on the keyboard, he saw the letter Q. 'Q is for quit and I, Jasper, can quit my naughty ways any time I like,' he said proudly and battered the keyboard with his paw. One of his claws got caught under the letter Q and he accidentally pulled it off.

'Oh dear,' thought Jasper.

Now Jasper was in trouble. Dr Ford said to Gill, 'You have to

discipline that cat.'

Jasper regularly tore through the house leaving a tornado of destruction. He had broken several of Gill's special things. He had scratched Gill all over. He woke her up in the mornings by putting his paws around her head and biting her. She had bite-marks under her hair. He bit her ankles as she made the bed. He chewed her arms and elbows. Ouch, how it hurt! Her legs were scarred from the toes up.

He climbed up her when she got in the way. He jumped on her back and raked his claws as he slid all the way down. He didn't do this to anyone else. Gill was the sole object of his affection. Dr Ford said, 'You always hurt the one you love.'

Gill really loved Jasper, but he certainly wasn't the sweet, good-natured cat he thought he was. Like most of us, when Jasper was asleep, he was a very good boy—so fortunately he slept a lot!

(To be continued)

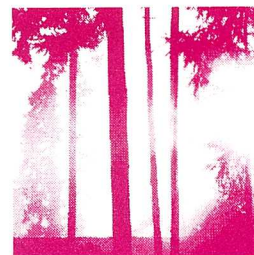
Bible Questions

Who was:

1. The father of Moses? (Exodus 6:20)
2. A Corinth tentmaker and friend of Paul? (Acts 18:2-3)
3. The first man? (Genesis 2)
4. Father of Isaac and of the Israelite nation? (You find)
5. The three young men thrown into the fiery furnace? (Daniel 3)
6. Nabal's wife, who by her wisdom, pacified David? (1 Samuel 25:14)
7. A prophetess who rejoiced at the sight of the baby Jesus? (Luke 2:36)
8. The king who said to Paul, 'Almost you persuade me to be a Christian'? (Acts 26)

MOUNT TAMBORINE EASTER CONVENTION MARCH 29TH TO APRIL 1ST 2002 WITH DR DESMOND FORD AND DR STUART BRISCOE

Dr Stuart Briscoe is senior pastor of Elmbrook Church, Brookfield, Wisconsin. Dr Briscoe with Dr Ford will conduct eleven meetings in total.



Saturday's programme has been especially designed to suit day-visitors.

There will be associated youth and children's ministries.

Campsites are limited so it is important to pre-book.

For bookings ring the property manager on, 07 5545 1419.

Mount Tamborine is approximately 72 Kms from Brisbane in the Gold Coast hinterland.

The campgrounds are at 237 Beacon Rd, North Tamborine Queensland. UBD Refidex reference: Gold Coast map 13-D11 **Enquires:** The Secretary, PO Box 9134, Wynnum Plaza, Queensland 4178 or **Phn/Fax.** 07 33969378 **eMail:** ibickford@squirrel.com.au

Dr Ford at the Wesley Centre, Sydney April 20
What Scientists and Theologians say about Genesis 1-11
For further information ring us On 07 5524 5040

The Christian Lawyers Society
will host



A Short Course in Theology for Professionals



Desmond Ford, Ph.D.

will lecture on the subject of:

Biblical Apocalyptic
to be held at the

St. Francis Theological College

A Member school of the

Brisbane college of Theology

WHERE: Lecture Room 2, St. Francis Theological College, 233 Milton Road, Milton, Brisbane, Q.

[Access is off Baroona Road.]

WHEN: 9.00 am - 11.00 am Saturday, 23 February 2002 and at the same time on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, concluding June 22, 2002

COST: Pre-registration by Feb 18, 2002: \$40.00 Later registration or on the day: \$50.00

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Christian Lawyers Society
Level 5 Inns of Court
107 North Quay BRISBANE Q

PH: 617 3211 4366

Fax: 617 3211 4446

Email:

christianlawyers@qldbar.asn.au

Call to register for the class at:

Christian Lawyers Society
(07) 3211 4366

**Even though for
professionals, all
welcome**

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 Sunday, on the following dates:

March	10.
April	14,
June	2, 9, 16, 23
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.



Seminars 2002

A CHRIST FOR EVERYONE

GNU hosts successful meetings on the Gospel of Luke.

Dr. Desmond Ford, and Pastor Ron Allen, of Good News Unlimited have just concluded a joyous series of evangelistic meetings, focussing on the Gospel according to Luke. The

three Eastern capitals were the host cities, Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne. Apologies to good friends in parts further west, Dr. Ford is less mobile nowadays, and he has had to limit his long journeys by air.

The series on Luke proved to be one of the best attended in years, with congregations well over one hundred in all centres. Luke's gospel proved to be a wonderful text for the day's meetings. Pastor Allen gave a brief overview of Luke, pointing out the gentile perspective of the author, and his interest in using his collected material on Jesus to emphasize the wide embrace of Jesus' kingdom. Luke mentions many more different characters, and individual types than the other evangelists.

Dr. Ford was able to demonstrate from Luke's account of the woman who washed Jesus' feet, the great need for forgiveness in human life, as well as its power to generate love and service. Many circumspect, and reputable folk cannot love because they have never known the magnitude of God's forgiveness.

Before his last session, Dr. Ford was happy to answer a number of questions before moving into his topic: *Sunrise at Jerusalem and Emmaus*. In his inimitable way, Dr. Ford led us from the empty tomb to the Emmaus road, where two world-weary men, found themselves in company with a man who made their hearts burn with understanding and joy. Before the day was over they were strongly urging him to stay with them for the evening (Luke 24:29). Soon afterward they realised that the winsome stranger was the risen Lord. It was *Sonrise* in Emmaus.

The lectures were recorded, and can be ordered from GNU. A set of three audio tapes, including three messages from Desmond Ford, and three from Pastor Allen, is \$20:00 post paid. Also a video for \$17.50 is available. (See advertisement on page 10). If you couldn't come to this year's meetings, watch these pages for news of the next series



(Continued from page 2).

The Power Within— comments.

manship. The *olams* (Hebrew) and *aions* (Greek) are great highways of time—'the ages'—made through Christ (Hebrews 1-2). Translators have worked overtime hiding the doctrine of the eons (ages).

We now know that one age to come seems to be 1000 years long, but there is more than one still ahead (Ephesians 2:7 '... ages to come').

Cheers, John Nicklin QLD

Reply to John from Ritchie

John says Adam received the *Ruach* as did all other living things. The Hebrew word that is used in Gen. 2:7 is not *Ruach* but *Neshamah*. Of more importance, is the manner in which God created man in contrast to the way in which he created animals. Derek Kidner says, 'This was an act of giving as well as making; and self-giving at that.'¹ A parallel in

John 20:22 says Jesus breathed on his disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' And in 2 Timothy 3:16, we are told that 'all Scripture is God-breathed.' God breathed his Spirit into human words, or to put it another way, the Bible is a union of the human and the Divine, just as Adam was.

In answer to the question as to whether or not Adam received immortality from the Tree of Life; I quote the principle of 'as in the natural, so in the spiritual'. The fruit of any tree does not give us life; it only sustains the life we already have. The redeemed, for example, will not receive eternal life by eating from the Tree of Life, simply because, unless they already have eternal life they won't get anywhere near it. (Rev. 2:7, 1 John 5:5). And that is how it was with Adam.

Concerning the question as to whether or not man has a spirit within him—a spirit that is different from the Holy Spirit—I could only do justice to this by answering it in far more detail than space here would permit. I will forward my reply to the editors separately. They may choose to pub-

lish it as a series.²

With regard to Ecclesiastes 3:11. 'God has set eternity (*olam*) in the hearts of men.' I would have to say that there has been no conspiracy among translators to hide the doctrine of the aeons. It is clearly presented in Matt. 12:32, 13:39-40, 24:3, Luke 20:34-35, 2 Cor. 4:4 Galatians 1:4 and Ephes. 1:21. While our words 'eternity' or 'perpetuity' are not the exact equivalents of the Hebrew word *olam*, they are as near as translation can offer within the concepts of our thought world. For example, speaking of God, the Psalmist wrote, 'You are from all eternity' (*olam*) (93:2), which is how we understand the Hebrew expression, 'You are from all ages'. And, Daniel 12:2 says, 'Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to everlasting (*olam*) life ...' For us non-Hebrews, the life of the Age to Come is everlasting life.

¹ Genesis - An Introduction and Commentary (Inter-Varsity Press, 1967), s.v. Gen. 2:7

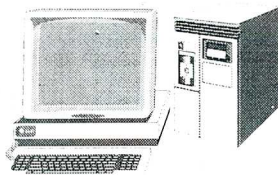
² Series commencing in May Newsletter.

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: grobins@westconnect.com.au
 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

January \$100.00 February \$100.00
 \$270.00

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 Christ For Everyone

GNU Seminar 2002
 Audio Cassettes

\$20.00

(PP&H included)

Set of three tapes in a presentation case, with a **free booklet.**

#2CE0004

Video \$17.50 #3CE0001

How the Gospel of Luke shows that you are included in God's gift of eternal life, through Jesus Christ.



Time Out

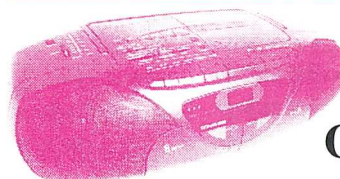
No matter how thin you slice it,
 there are always **two sides**

(supplied by J Kook)

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



**Visa
 Bankcard
 Mastercard**



**RADIO
 OUTREACH**

OPAL FM 89.7 Lightning Ridge NSW
 Phn. 0268 292976 (Tony Fitzgerald).

RADIO RHEMA TAMWORTH NSW
 Phn. 02 67612360 (Karen Barter).

RADIO RHEMA CENTRAL COAST
 Gosford NSW Phn. 043248525 (Mark Roberts)

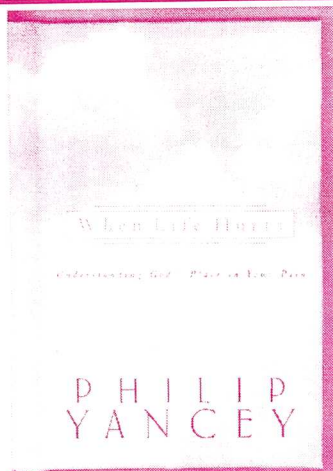


Dr Desmond Ford

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.



Hard cover 58pp

\$6.95

#1PY0012

When Life Hurts

Philip Yancey

Why, God, Why?

Your heart shouts to God from the agony of loss. You fall to your knees under the weight of unbearable pain. Your suffering rips away the beauty and enjoyment of life, leaving misery, disappointment and doubt.

God, how could you do this? Are you really so powerful? Do you really care about my pain? Where are you when I need you most?

Free Ezine

Now with a free Gift with every issue

GNU produces a free monthly email magazine (FreEzine), featuring selections from Good News Australia and the Good Newsletter, plus snippets of Christian news from around the world; advance information on GNU seminars, book promotions etc. Also included are notes from our website chatline, helpful hints, Christian humour, recipes, books and Christian website reviews.

To subscribe, send a blank eMail to:

lionelhartley@bigpond.com and type **subscribe** on the subject line. You can un-subscribe at anytime. Any suggestions, material or letters you may like to send to the Editor, adress to: lionelhartley@tbigpond.com

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 March 2002

Cat No.	Title	Cost	Total
1PY0012	When Life Hurts.....	6.95 each.....	
2CE0004	A Christ for Everyone (audio).....	20.00 set.....	
3CE0001	A Christ for Everyone (video).....	17.50 each.....	
1RG0001	The Ragamuffin Gospel.....	9.95 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

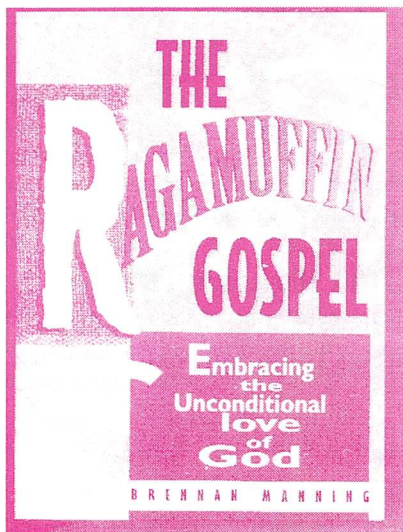
Good News Unlimited

PO Box 6788(2/54-60 Industry Drive)

South Tweed Heads NSW 2486

Phn. 07 55245040 Fax 0755245900

Email: goodnews@coolgold.com.au



The Ragamuffin Gospel

Brennan Manning

As Christians today, we often focus on spiritual achievement, beating ourselves up when we don't perform the way we think we should. We believe in God's grace—in theory—but somehow, we can't manage to apply it to our day-to-day lives.

The truth is, we can't earn God's acceptance any more than we can earn our salvation. Yet he gives it to us willingly—no matter who we are or what we've done. We are all ragamuffins. Each one of us comes beat-up, burnt-out, ragged and dirty, to sit at our Father's feet.

Paperback 217pp

Order no. #1RG0001

\$9.95

Plus 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**

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
Zone 2 Sth Aust. Vic. Tas
Zone 3 Sth NSW
Zone 4 Greater Sydney
Zone 5 Raymond Tce-Taree
Zone 6 NE NSW

SE QLD

William Sinclair 08 9458 5469 Fax 08 93610867
Bruce Johansen 03 5381 1330
Roger Jones 07 5524 5040 Fax 07 55245040
Rolf Kempf 02 4983 1132
John Beumer 02 6553 5561
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.