



May 2000

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

A bimonthly newsletter produced by Good News Unlimited

## Editorial

**D**o you remember the day you heard the Gospel? The Holy Spirit opened your eyes and your heart, and as the wonder of what Jesus had done for you at Calvary began to dawn, you said, 'Yes Lord! I want to be part of this wonderful salvation you have won for me.'

There followed a time of repentance, when you put behind you your sinful life and moved into a new life of oneness with Jesus. The joy of it all and the assurance of eternal life has continued with you ever since. It is the basis of your life and you will testify of it to everyone who wants to hear it.

To the new Christian who has come in from the outside world, the Christian journey, as tough as it may be, is fairly straight forward. He is not encumbered with a past church culture which has determined much of his life-style. But for people who have been churchgoing Sabbath keepers for much of their lives, it can be a very difficult transition to a Gospel centered life-style.

When you have believed that the Sabbath is part of your salvation, like keeping the com-

mandments (Rev. 12:17), the Seal of God (Rev. 7:3) with Sunday keeping being the 'mark of the Beast', as well as being the 'great distinguishing mark of the last days,' you can be excused for being confused as to where the Sabbath fits into a Gospel life-style.

We know that because we are sinners it is impossible for us to keep God's law, and as the Sabbath is part of his law, any attempt at keeping it is futile before we start. Part of Jesus' ministry while here on earth, was to keep the law for us and his keeping of the law, that is, his righteousness is imputed to us when we accept him by faith as our Lord and Saviour. Hence the term *righteousness by faith*. We also know that our salvation is solely the work of Christ himself, with us having no part in it at all. Therefore, our declaration of faith in him is the real 'Seal of God' and the real 'great distinguishing mark of the last days.'

So what part can the Sabbath play in the life of a Gospel Christian? It becomes part of that person's worship system, the same as Sunday is part of the worship system for the majority of Christians. Neither Sabbath or Sunday has anything to do with our salvation. Jesus won that for us by his death on Calvary's

cross. The forgiveness which flows from the greatest event in the history of the world, is offered to us freely.

When we accept Jesus' forgiveness of our sins, our response to his great act of love is our worship.

Worship is not just what we do when we go to church. It is our whole of life response to what Christ has done for us. If part of your response is to use the principles of the Sabbath as the basis of your worship, then you are basing your worship on Jesus being both our Creator and our Redeemer. If, on the other hand, you use Sunday and its underlying principles, then you are acknowledging Jesus as Redeemer only, and may or may not acknowledge him as Creator.

We are free before God to develop our own worship systems—with the guiding of the Holy Spirit and the gifts he has given us. It is a matter of your personal tradition, culture and choice.

May God continue to lead you into the joy of his Gospel.

Roger Jones



*Focus on the Gospel*



*'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead,  
descended from David. This is my Gospel.'* (2 Timothy 2:8)

Dear Friend

**M**any times I have heard this rather silly saying: 'It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you live right.' It's a remark that often attracts unfortunate applause from shallow thinking folk. A moments consideration would reveal its falsehood. In the long run, the way people think dictates the way they live. Ideas are the rulers of existence. This logic is implicit in 1 Corinthians 15, where Paul concludes that if there is no resurrection from the dead, then it would be best to try and squeeze every possible thrill from life—for tomorrow we die.



These days thinking is judged to be very poor work. Radio, television and cinema have combined to take the place of those robust gatherings of farmers and townsfolk in the village square, where the weightier matters of life were debated deliberately and soberly. Now, there is popular disparagement of such toilsome business as theology, and it has wrought mischief for the church and the world. It has made Christianity a collection of moods and feelings: an incoherent, spasmodic affair with little power to encourage strong faith in God.

Perhaps it has been a perceived assault on the Bible, by criticism and science that has encouraged so many to welcome the emphasis on experience. After all, what can science and criticism say to one who knows he has had a personal experience of God?

'A warmth within the breast would melt,  
The freezing reason's colder part,  
And like a man in wrath the heart  
Stood up and answered, I have felt.'

-Tennyson

I have no doubt that there is a religious dimension in the human psyche which is God-given and with which we all, at one time or another, have genuine experiences of God. But there are real risks in putting subjective occurrences too much to the fore.

When faith looks for its authority to the witness from *within*, it may be far away from the New Testament. The religion of the Gospel is based on historical facts. The scripture above, asks us to remember those facts which constituted the apostolic faith. For Paul, the Gospel consisted of certain events which had happened in recent history and which were verifiable by eyewitnesses, namely, the life, death and rising again of Jesus. These events are the *given* facts of Christianity—they are objective.

They did not proceed from religious ecstasies; a revelation took place, God invaded human life. Our religion is not the result of human movement toward God, but of God's movement toward humans; not our witness about God, but of God's witness to himself through Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's word; the objective Gospel truth is his incarnation, death and resurrection. There may be many ways of thinking about these facts, but the facts remain the same for everyone.

It is for us to be thankful that the impregnable Rock on which faith can take its stand does not issue from anybody's inner consciousness. The spiritual thoughts and interior proceedings of human beings have often brought forth things beautiful and worthwhile. But they cannot be depended on to reveal the truth of God.

Experience needs ever to be weighed, tested and guided by what God has done in the history of Jesus. In that we can know God truly. Then, what we believe, will have its wholesome effect on our entire life. The truth of Christ's saying will be seen; 'You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.' (John 8:32)

May God bless you in everything.

Yours in service

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ron J Allen'.

RON J ALLEN



## From Clem's desk

*Peter replied, 'Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.'  
'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.'  
But Peter declared, 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.' And all the other disciples said the same (Matt. 26:33-35).*



For most people, confidence in ones own courage is rare and usually misplaced. Those who have known the heat of battle are well aware of the fact that fear is not always a bad starting point, it can keep you alive. Confidence in ones own courage is often a sign that we have never seen the fury of the battle.

The magnanimous acceptance of God does not automatically give us courage, but it does give us space and time to develop courage. The first step in obtaining courage is to recognise that we do not have it. Realising this, we have a chance to develop and to cultivate such a quality. Courage can be so elusive, under some circumstances we have it, and then in other circumstances it deserts us. Many women can enter the childbirth experience with complete equanimity, and yet be petrified of a mouse or spider.

Peter was sure of his courage and it failed him, but his faith survived. Faith led Peter to a painful learning experience, an experience that built character and courage. It is well to remember that our success in the important issues of life is founded upon our failure, and God's great mercy.

Peter learned a greater dependency upon God as a result of his experience, a lesson that all of us still need to learn daily. Thanks be to God who gives us the space and freedom to develop, to grow gradually in his likeness.

Clem Moss

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## Kindness That Doesn't Wash Off

**I**t is intriguing to go round the supermarket these days to see the names of the products. Obviously the researchers have done their work, because a lot of these products have very pleasant names. For example: 'So Good', 'Just Right', 'Free', 'Glad', 'Comfort', 'Cuddly', 'Lovable', 'Praise' and finally the one that really caught my eye, 'Kindness'.



I was recently washing my hands and noticed the word 'Kindness' cut into the soap. *How nice*, I thought, then on reflection realised that some types of kindness wash off. Many of us have experienced this type of kindness, friends we thought we could trust have let us down, showing their friendship to be just 'froth and bubble'—like the soap.

God is not like this. In 1 John we read, 'God is love'. There can be no doubt in my mind that this is true. One only has to look at history to see God's love demonstrated on the cross where he died for the sin of the world. The Bible tells us God does not change—'He is the same yesterday, today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8).

So even if those around us let us down, God will not, because, 'His love endures forever'.

Pat Jones



# Letters

**Dear Brother Ron**

I thank my God for you and brother Des Ford and your preaching of the Gospel in such a wonderful way. May God bless you and the staff at GNU.

I have in my possession 780 Bibles which I am going to send to Zimbabwe, Gokwe and Ingome primary schools.

'The children are waiting for them and are very excited,' said the headmaster, Mr Ndabezinhle Maposa. I met his family in 1977 on the outskirts of Zvishavane.

I am having trouble raising the cost of the freight which totals \$1060.00. So far I have raised \$200.00 so that leaves \$860.00 to go. It has taken me twelve months to get this far. I am wondering if you could send out a message for me and see if we can raise the \$860.00. Cheques would be made out to Air Mauritius and sent to my address which is:

**D R Dwight**  
**PO Box 206**  
**Narembeen WA 6369**  
**Phn. 08 9064 7179**

I have already sent many of your audio cassettes to Zimbabwe to help children study the Gospel—they want more. I have already arranged a further 300 tapes from GNU.

Pastor James Gumbo is bringing a youth group choir over for the Brisbane convention in July. He is a dear brother in Christ to me and writes from time to time. He has written to me recently about the terrible floods in East Zimbabwe where he

lives. He saw houses washed away, also many people are missing and lives lost. His house was spared.

Pastor Gumbo has to ride his bike for many miles on Sundays to preach the Gospel. He finds this hard work in his old age, But I encourage him to have the strength and faith to continue his Lord's work.

I must say goodbye for now.

Yours in Christ Jesus

*Brother Daryl.*

**Dear GNU**

I apologize for my previous rambling. My family and I have just been stripped of our place of worship. Our pastor, being old, has been 'politically' removed from the pulpit. Subjected to the vilest form of Bible destruction for weeks, we finally relented. Now I struggle with emotional floods and lack of control on occasion, especially when commentary strays so far from logic and common knowledge as to stultify and stymie.

Anyway, I was ranting about the article on Daniel chapter 7 I believe. If you get time to read it you will catch my meaning. It's just that the Truth is very precious to me right now, and I'm under the conviction that teachers should not be intellectually lazy just because their 'beloved' enemies might be correct about one thing or the other.

It may be that your teachers do not have to answer to anyone, and therefore do not have to 'prove' their remarks. If this

is true your organisation will wind up no better off than some. If they are held accountable voluntarily, then they will read their own article and respond with a proper refutation—or agree to restudy, with dialogue.

*Love*

*JH USA*

**Dear J**

*Thanks for writing back, I hoped you would reply.*

*Being stripped of your place of worship, along with being subjected to the 'vilest form of Bible destruction' is an experience that is hard to cope with. I find it very difficult to sit in church anymore and listen to the Bible being wrecked. That's one reason why I haven't attended church for a long time. However, I do miss the singing and socialising.*

*A few years ago I began to support Good News Unlimited because their focus is on the Gospel. I like reading their bimonthly magazine. I get a lot of spiritual help from Ron Allen's monthly letter where he applies God's word to a practical aspect of Christian living.*

*Good News Unlimited is run by fallible, imperfect people who make mistakes and sometimes get things wrong. They are not a church. They are a group of people dedicated to witnessing about the good news of Jesus, who has forgiven us all our sins. They publish this news through a bimonthly magazine and by a website on the internet as well as holding seminars about every six months in capital cities across Australia and the USA.*

*I agree with you. Truth is very precious—and very rare. It is also of little value unless it has a practical application. For example: Daniel 7 talks about the Ancient of Days bringing the beast and little horn to judgment. This gives me a lot of com-*



fort in my life. How? Well, with my natural eyes I can see the material world, which is temporary and fading away. But through the eye of faith, enlightened by the Bible, I can see the spiritual world, which is eternal (2 Cor. 4:16-18).

So with my natural eyes I see the enemies of God, victorious in this world. But with the eye of faith I can see God enthroned in heaven above the Kings of this world, and Jesus sitting at God's right hand, bringing everything into subjection to the kingdom of Heaven. According to Paul in Ephesians 2:6 I am even sitting up there with them.

So I don't fear my boss anymore, who yells at me everyday and threatens to destroy my life by sacking me. What have I got to fear when nothing can separate me from God's love in Christ Jesus?

By the way, I recently read Luther's commentary on Galatians by Alister McGrath and J I Packer, *The Crossway Classic Commentaries*. It is a wonderful book. I hope you get the chance to read it sometime.

May God's peace be with you and your family as you face difficult experiences in your life.

**Christian love -Lyndon.**

#### To all at GNU

My husband and I would like to thank those who were re-

sponsible for the organisation of the Melbourne Seminar 2000.

The meetings on Friday 25th February and the next day were Spirit filled and a breath of fresh air.

We are looking forward to listening to the tapes so we can refresh our memories and savour each point.

Yours in Christ's abiding love

**G & M E VIC**

#### Dear Pastor

I have dozens of Dr Ford's tapes and for years have lent them out. The last one is a *gem* he covers so much.

Recently, in Melbourne, the Baptist World Congress was held. Baptists from all parts of the world attended. The theme was 'Jesus Christ Forever. Yes!' Billy Graham's daughter, Anne, spoke to the woman. A Baptist minister friend of mine who attended the Congress lent me his tapes.

I listened to her tape several times. Her talk was on looking unto Jesus *alone* and listening to the Holy Spirit, as you read your Bible everyday, to protect you from false prophets. Jesus must be the centre of our lives, and to spend much time in prayer. Walk with Jesus!

Praise the Lord for the Baptists—they walk in the Spirit. To see the youth commit their lives

to Jesus in baptism is inspiring. The Holy Spirit is moving all over the world.

I enjoy your letters Pastor and I am posting them on to a friend.

I am looking forward to hearing Dr Ford on 12th March. Lets give all praise and glory to Father God for all his blessings on your ministry.

God bless

**KB SA**

#### GNU

Please find a cheque to help finance your work and in appreciation of all the help you have given me in the past, the lovely tapes and magazines, and also the understanding of the Gospel. I have so much to thank you all for and trust that God will richly bless you in the work you are doing. Many thanks.

Kind regards

**SW QLD**

#### Dear GNU

I believe you are preaching the true Gospel.

I attended some meetings on 'Jesus and the Last Days' February 25/26 and met Ron and Des. I hadn't attended a religious meeting of any kind in twenty years.

These last twelve months the Lord has brought back one of his strays.

I need contact with other Christians who believe as I do.

**TG VIC**

## Responsibility

This is the story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it.

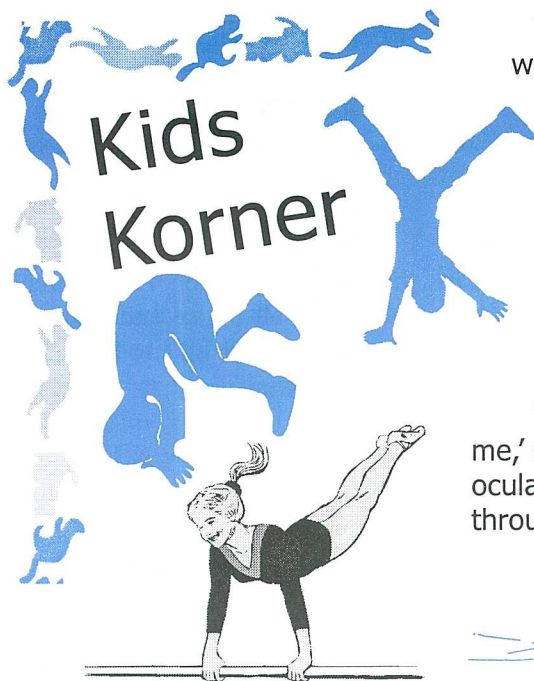
It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could.

## Prayer For This Day's Journey

When reason condemns me, my Lord, help me to see your commitment to me outshining reason. Your commitment exceeds any destruction I might suffer. I delight in your presence — please delight in mine.

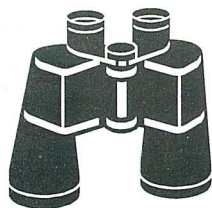
(Next Step magazine.)





## WONDERFUL BINOCULARS

Dorothy  
O'Neill



'Look, here's a pair of binoculars,' said Sue, taking the old-fashioned glasses from their velvet case.

'Let me see,' said James, her young brother.

'No! Give them to me,' demanded Craig, who, because he was the eldest thought he was the boss.

The three children were staying with their grandparents after the tragic death of their parents in a plane crash. Mum and Dad's death had shocked them all, and Sue in particular, felt very angry with God over it. This morning Nan had sent them to explore the attic to see if they could find any old books and treasures from former visits, to amuse themselves with.

'Wow!' Said Craig, who was holding the glasses to his eyes with one hand and focussing them with the other. 'It's unreal,' he said.

'What is?' Asked Sue and James together.

'There's a lake, a boat and men catching fish,' he said.

'Give the binoculars to me,' said Sue, taking the binoculars from him and looking through them.



'It's the Easter story,' she said in awed tones.

Suddenly it was all happening. Instead of a quiet attic they were on the lake shore watching fishermen hauling in a huge catch. They saw Peter jump into the water, thrash towards the shore, then race up the beach. The three children turned around and saw Jesus cooking fish over a fire. Peter now reached Jesus. His whole body was tense as he stared at Jesus. They watched Jesus straighten up to look at Peter. He smiled, and Peter's clenched hands dropped to his sides. Tears were rolling down his face—tears of joy. He wheeled around and ran back to the boat and the other men who had now landed.

'Come on,' said Sue running up the beach towards Jesus. Her brothers followed. Then all three stood before him in awe.

'So you really are alive,' said Craig at last.

'And Mum and Dad are alive too,' said Sue, her eyes brimming with tears.

James said nothing. He was looking at the holes in Jesus' hands as he turned the fish.

Then Jesus looked up at all three of them and smiled.

'Yes,' he said. 'I am alive.'

Then suddenly they found themselves back in the attic with Sue still clutching the binoculars. The three of them stared at each other.

'Wow, do I feel great,' said Sue at last. 'I don't feel angry any more. It was meeting Jesus that made all the difference.'

'Come on,' said Craig. 'Let's find Nan and Poppa and tell them!'



'Yes, and tell them that it's time for us to go home again and start a new life.' \*

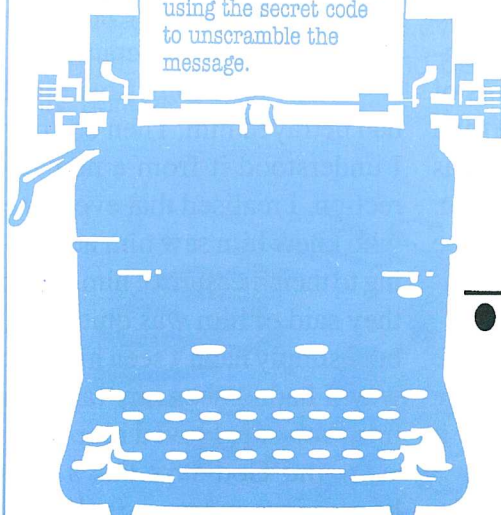


## PICTURE TO COLOUR



## God's Command

Find the special command that God gives in John 15:12 by using the secret code to unscramble the message.



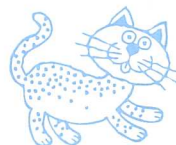
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### Secret Code

♥=R ☆=O ■=E ♣=N ✓=V ★=L ▲=T ●=A ▼=H



## Susy's School

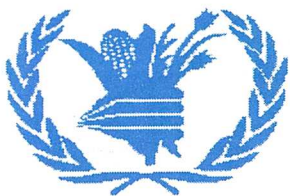
Susy played at teaching school,  
She had pupils too  
One who barked and said 'Bow-wow,'  
And one who said, 'Mew-mew.'

The cat went to catch a mouse,  
Fun for her no doubt,  
The dog chased his tail about,  
So Susy's school was out.

-Author unknown.







# World Food Programme

## The Food Aid Organisation of the United Nations

Hunger afflicts one out of seven people on Earth. WFP is the frontline United Nations Agency whose mission it is to provide: Food for LIFE to sustain victims of man-made and natural disasters; Food for GROWTH to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives; and Food for WORK to help build assets and promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labour-intensive works programmes.

Last year WFP helped feed more than 86 million people in 82 countries around the world. Every 3.6 seconds someone dies of hunger, 75% are children under five.

You can help to feed the world's hungry by visiting the WFP website. They have a wonderful programme set up, where, by merely clicking on a button once a day, you can donate food for the hungry. Every click on the 'Donate Free Food' button generates a donation to WFP from a corporate sponsor. These sponsors are given advertising and internet links on the site in return. John Breen, an American software programmer who maintains the site, wanted to help third world countries and decided to help in this way. It has proven to be a marvellous means of helping the world's hungry.

For your input: <http://www.wfp.org/support/support.htm> Once you access the WFP website, go to 'The Hunger Site.'



**I**t was a sort of family wake, all the family remembering things he had said and done.

You know how it goes: the release of tension and the shedding of tears loosened tongues, and it really was quite an hilarious gathering. It put balance back into life after days and nights of intolerable aching.

Some of the things they said about him, though, hurt me. Some anecdotes painted him as

out malice, simple statements of fact—and I couldn't deny the truth of them. What hurt so much was that I was at a loss to defend him. I didn't know how to answer the charges that flew among the fun-things.

It was pointless to deny the stories. He *was* hard, but then, life had been hard and he had had it harder than most.

He *was* mean, but then, he had lived at a time when working was only one door off slavery and being mean most of the time

## Staggering Love

Elizabeth Coughlan

hard and mean, even cruel.

They were said without

meant that at times he could sometimes indulge in generosity.

He *was* cruel, but it was cruel-to-be-kind cruelty, not sadistic, not petty, not temperamental.

I felt for a long time that I had betrayed him. Then one day I understood it from a new direction. I realised that everyone who knew him saw him according to their measure of him. What they said of him was quite true, but I simply hadn't seen him that way. I hadn't seen any faults in him. You see, I loved him.

And God says that's how he sees you and me—faultless!

Staggering, isn't it?

(Jude 24)

(From *The Next Step* magazine)



# Sydney Forum



## Eschatology for a New Millennium

**\$29.95 set of five or \$6.50 each** PP&H included order no. 5EM0006 set (or 1-5)

1. Christ, the Central Theme of Prophecy - Dr Desmond Ford
2. Uriah Smith in light of Modern Apocalyptic - Dr Desmond Ford
3. Time Proved in 15 Different Ways (Millerism) - Dr Arthur Patrick
4. Do the Papacy and the USA figure in Bible Prophecy? - Dr Desmond Ford
5. Panel Discussion with Drs Desmond Ford and Arthur Patrick

*Presenting!*

***Dr Desmond Ford and  
Dr Arthur Patrick***

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## New Community Forum Chat Page

Visit our website today and you will be able to join in with our latest edition online—a 'good chat forum.'

To commence our new forum page, the question and our answer below, is hoped to spark a discussion regarding your thoughts on the subject of the Gospel. If you would like to participate, go to our website and feel free to express your ideas. We would love to hear from you.

**Q.** How much does the word 'Gospel' include?

**A.** Strictly speaking, the word applies to the good news regarding Christ's death and resurrection (see 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Rom. 1: 1-4) It is said to be a revelation of 'the righteousness of God,' and, as more accurately translated by the NIV, 'A righteousness from God.' The glad tidings assure every hearer that he or she has been redeemed by the blood of Christ, and that his life and death are put to their account in righteousness if they will only believe.

[goodnewsunlimited.org.au](http://goodnewsunlimited.org.au)



**TALK TO OTHER CHRISTIAN FOLK. SHARE AND EXPLORE YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS WITH THOSE INTERESTED IN THE SAME TOPICS AS YOURSELF.**



**New Postal Address for GNU**  
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### Thank you for Anonymous Tithe and Donations

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## Good News Unlimited

### Mission Statement

Christians united in offering to all meaning and direction in their lives by a knowledge of God's encounter with humanity through his Son, Jesus Christ.

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

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GNU USA [gnu@goodnewsunlimited.org](mailto:gnu@goodnewsunlimited.org)

### Websites

GNU USA: [www.goodnewsunlimited.org](http://www.goodnewsunlimited.org)

GNU Aust: [www.goodnewsunlimited.org.au](http://www.goodnewsunlimited.org.au)

We invite your comments on our pages.

## eMail



**Do you have a question  
for Dr Ford?**



**You can ask him directly:**

[www.goodnewsunlimited.org](http://www.goodnewsunlimited.org)



## Time Out

Small service is true service while it lasts;  
 Of friends however humble, scorn not one;  
 The daisy by the shadow that it casts,  
 Protects the lingering dewdrop from the sun.

*-I Have Called You Friends*

## RADIO OUTREACH

Listed below are the stations currently airing a GNU Program. Ring the station nearest you for times.

### OPAL FM 89.7 Lightning Ridge NSW

Phn. 068 290595 (Tony

Fitzgerald).

### WARBURTON, Victoria.

Phn. 059 665456 (Michael

Burgess).

### HOPE FM Esperance, W. Aust.

Phn. 08 90715123 (Ray Kingston).

### RADIO - HINTERLAND FM Gold Coast, QLD

Phn. 55787870 (Michael Aucoin).

### RADIO RHEMA ALBURY/WOODONGA

Phn. 03 57261624 (Paul Dickinson)

### CENTRAL VICTORIAN GOSPEL RADIO INC.

Phn. 03 54742622 (Bob Wilmer)

### RADIO RHEMA TAMWORTH NSW

Phn. 02 67612360 (Karen Cannon).

### GOOD NEWS RADIO VIC. (3BGR)

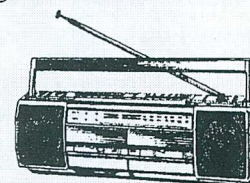
Phn. 03 53399958 (Frank Russell)

### RADIO RHEMA CENTRAL COAST Gosford,

NSW Phn. 043248525 (Mark Roberts).

### RADIO RHEMA TOOWOOMBA QLD

Phn. 076 394977 (Arthur Bray).





## 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.

**New Zealand:**

phn. 0011 64 9 2385756

**Perth:** phn. 08 94585469

Meets monthly, on the second Saturday of the month, followed by a basket lunch.

**Gold Coast:** phn. 07

55355329 Meets twice monthly and enjoys a fellowship lunch each meeting.

**Hervey Bay:** Phn. 07


41281261. Meets once a month at 'Dan-Dinna House' 459 Boat Harbour Drive, Torquay.

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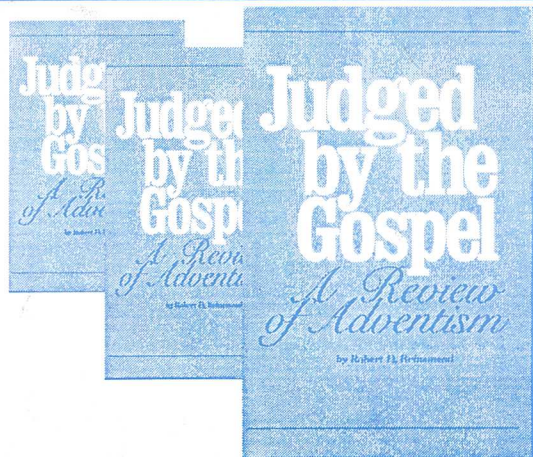
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