



# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

November 1997

A bi-monthly newsletter produced by Good News Unlimited

## Editorial

### Reconciliation

In recent months there has been a great deal of debate in the media over the report on 'The Stolen Generation' regarding our past treatment of our indigenous people.

There was a great deal of indignation over the way these people had been treated and demands that the government officially apologise to them and their descendants.

When the government on legal advice refused to apologise, various local groups around the country—including many churches—held their own ceremonies of apology.

However, on the other side of the coin there were just as many people who would have nothing to do with these ceremonies. They said things like, 'How can I apologise for what my grandfather did to your grandfather?' Or 'It all happened before I was born and I cannot be responsible for the past history of our country.' Again, 'I am a migrant and neither I or my forebears had anything to do with what took place.' These and countless other reasons were put forward by those who felt they could not take part in the process. What was supposed to be a process of reconciliation caused a great deal of division within the community.

Divisions became apparent between friends and neighbours, in workplaces and in church business meetings. Many Christians struggled with the concept of apologising for the actions of those long gone. We cannot apologise on behalf of a dead relative any more than we can bring salvation to that person. It must be an individual matter from the heart—

on a person to person basis.

The real reconciliation between any opposing and offended people can only come on the terms of their relationship with Jesus Christ.

One of the most beautiful examples of this in the New Testament is Paul's epistle to Philemon. The epistle is a short letter to Philemon, a leading Christian in Colossae, seeking to reconcile him to his runaway slave Onesimus.

Paul points out in verse 16 of the book of Philemon, that Onesimus is a beloved brother. In verse 17 he says to Philemon, '... If you count me as a partner then receive Onesimus as you would receive me.'

What Paul is pointing out is contained in the well known text of Galatians 3:28, 'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'

Think of the great benediction that is frequently said at the end of our church services, 'May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen' (2 Corinthians 13:14). Have you ever stopped to think on these words 'The fellowship of the Holy Spirit'? When we accept Jesus as our Saviour we become part of that fellowship—we are members of God's family. We receive a new heart and are automatically reconciled to our fellow humans.

Recently my wife and I attended a church service at the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Church (AEF) in Eden, NSW. It was quite a mixed congregation but we all felt that strong bond with Christ our Saviour. It was truly 'The fellowship

of the Holy Spirit' and aboriginality, apologies or reconciliation were never mentioned or even thought of.

We were all one in Christ Jesus.

Roger Jones  
Editor



### Des Ford In Australia

The Bible schools conducted in Sydney and Melbourne in August, were well attended. As usual some wonderful 'gems' were unearthed, this time from the book of Acts.

'Acts' said Dr Ford, 'is the Joshua of the New Testament. If you don't have Acts the rest of the New Testament would not make sense.' He went on, 'In the upper room the soldiers were told that the war was beginning and your Captain is leaving, but you will never be alone.'

'Acts is the book of the Holy Spirit and every Christian is baptised by the Spirit when they become Christians. It is as though we are partaking of Pentecost ourselves and to teach that the baptism of the Spirit is a later event is wrong.'

It was solid Bible based teaching enjoyed by everyone present, based on the 'message that shook the world'—the atoning death of Jesus Christ for our glory. It is planned that we have more Bible schools next August.

Pat Jones

*Focus on the Gospel*



Dear Friend

**'For I have received from the Lord what I also passed onto you: The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed, took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body which is for you . . ."' (1 Corinthians 11:23,24).**



**O**n an evening long ago, Jesus broke pieces from a common loaf of bread and gave them to each of his disciples. Just a simple action, but those who were there and those who reported it, felt that it was laden with precious meaning. Jesus was showing the meaning of his mission in essence. He was dramatising his gospel. The 'twelve' were meant to realise that the Lord was to offer his all, his whole self, his being—his very life for them. He was putting everything that he was into their hands.

Do you hear Jesus making the same offer to you? Do you know that everything that Christ is, for you? The meal in the upper room affirmed the whole message of Jesus' life. Every day he had held out his very self for people to take from. Human need jostled and pressed on him from every side; drawing help, hope, healing and life from him. He grew tired giving himself away, so that his friends thought he was healing people at the expense of his own health. But he would not stop.

It is said that Mohammed once lived in a cottage and cobbled his own shoes. He drove his women frantic because he had a habit of giving away all the food in the house. 'They are hungrier than us' he would say. So with Jesus. Only more so. His offer of the bread, signalled that he would feed his followers at immense cost to himself. 'This is my body, broken for you.' He knew there would be tremendous benefit for the world coming from what he was about to endure. He realised that in the ages to come the world would be grasped and drawn to God through Calvary. He was saying—there are things about me that you may forget, but do not forget my shame; do not forget my cross.

In two thousand years, nothing has touched so many lives like the brokenness of Jesus. Nothing has changed people as that grim spectacle has. Paul came to the Cross and was stunned by it. When he had absorbed it he said, 'He loved me and gave himself for me.' Then he turned and threw himself into a life of passionate gratitude.

Shakespeare tells of Mark Antony who won over a hostile mob by showing dead Caesar's wounds:

*'I am no orator as Brutus is  
For I have neither wit nor words nor worth,  
Action, not utterance, nor power of speech  
To stir men's blood. I speak right on;  
I tell you that which you yourselves do know,  
Show you sweet Caesar's wounds, poor dumb mouths,  
And bid them speak for me.'*

Christ bids his wounds speak on his behalf: 'This is my body, broken . . .' Broken for *you*. Luther said that all religion lies in its pronouns. *You!* That includes James and John. It takes in Judas, who was thinking evil things even as Jesus handed him the bread. It took in Peter. Imagine Peter after Calvary all forlorn, seeking out the other disciples. But Jesus had a special word for him. 'Tell the disciples and Peter—tell him the Lord sends for *you!*'

What an odd bunch the disciples formed around Jesus. What peculiar company you and I make for him. But why should we trouble about it? It is his table. He is the host and he can invite whoever he likes. 'Come, everything is ready. Take! Eat! This is my body broken for you . . .'

May Christ satisfy you.

Yours in service



R J ALLEN

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**Each week your editor takes years five and six for Scripture in the local Public School at Bemboka, NSW, where he lives.**

**The children have many questions to ask as they learn about the life of Christ, the gospel and their salvation. So as not to interrupt the lesson they write their questions and put them in a box to receive a written answer the following week.**

The questions that come to me via the question box, show that they are thinking about the things of God and require answers.

An eleven year old girl asks: 'Death has come about because Adam and Eve sinned against God. Why do we have to die, because it wasn't our fault?'

It was explained to her that the

propensity to sin has been passed on to all of Adam & Eve's descendants, but God knows it is not our fault, so that is why he has allowed his only Son to come to this earth and die to save us.

Recently a well loved local man died and was cremated in Canberra. He was not buried at the local cemetery as is the usual custom here. This caused three children to ask . . . 'If someone is cremated, can God resurrect him, or will he lose his eternal life?'

They were assured that our loving God who created us in the first place will have no trouble resurrecting us on that great day, regardless of what happened to our bodies when we died.

A twelve year old asked . . . 'If someone in my family was sick and I prayed, would Jesus or God heal them?'

She was told that God, even in these modern days, does sometimes perform miracles. But it is solely up to him whether he does or not. However, at the same time God is continually revealing to doctors how our bodies work, so they can work out ways to heal us. It was ex-

plained that Jesus also used miracles, primarily, to demonstrate that he was God challenging people to believe in him.

These are just a small sample of the kind of questions these children are asking each week and it shows that God is at work in their hearts, drawing them to himself.

Scripture teaching in Public Schools can be quite tough at times, but also is very rewarding.

There is a dire shortage of volunteers for this work throughout Australia. If you feel you would like to be a part of this outreach, speak to your minister. There is a well structured curriculum with manuals and workbooks to guide with lesson preparation.

With the huge growth in Christian private schools around the country, there is a tendency on the part of many Christians to forget about the Public School system. Public Schools are God's schools too!

Roger Jones

\* \* \* \* \*

## Profile

As a young girl Carmen Gard lived mainly in suburban Sydney. On weekends she would often go to the Baptist Sunday School near her home.

In her teens Carmen became a committed Christian attending church regularly. After being told of Avondale College in NSW Carmen eventually made the decision to go there and study. This proved to be a great decision, for there she met a young man named Ron Allen who was studying to become a Pastor.

Ron's family lived and worked in the Narromine area of NSW working the land. Through his younger years, and later as a teenager, Ron enjoyed the freedom of working in the great outdoors and attending church with his family.

In his late teens Ron made the journey to Avondale College as he wanted to serve the Lord

ministering to others as a Pastor.

Ron and Carmen were married at Cabramatta, Sydney in 1973.

Their first pastoral appointment was to South Queensland, Hervey Bay, near Maryborough.

The next six years were spent pastoring various churches within Australia. During this time two more members were added to their family—a son, Andrew and daughter, Jean. (Ron and Carmen now know the joys of being grandparents, as their son Andrew, and daughter-in-law Jessica have two lovely children, Johnathon and Christina.

Their daughter Jean, has been living and studying in Mudgee, NSW, with a group of young people from the Cornerstone Christian Community for the past few years.)

Their next appointment was to take a vastly different turn—for the following two and a half years Ron was pastor of a church in the state of Idaho,

in the United States of America.

After their time in America, they returned to Australian shores—Ron working as an Evangelist in the Gosford area of NSW for the next year.

Around this time, Dr Desmond Ford of Good News Unlimited in the USA, approached Ron inviting him to become Pastoral Director of GNU in Australia, as Dr Ford wished to open a satellite office (to his own at Auburn California) in Melbourne.

For over fifteen years Ron and Carmen have been with GNU, Aust, ministering to the members and supporters near and far. Their ministry has been a wonderful blessing and greatly appreciated by many over the years.





# Viewpoint

**Today I witnessed a crime.**

**There was no blood, no battered victim, no stolen or damaged property, no transgression against some obscure law in some dusty law book. However, a crime had been committed nonetheless.**

It was a lazy, sunny, autumn afternoon in Intercourse, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA; heartland of the Amish and Mennonite people.

In the distance across the paddock, an ancient horse-drawn mowing machine approached piloted by one even more ancient gentleman with a white beard, dressed—except for a white shirt—entirely in black. Black boots, trousers, coat, and black brimmed hat.

As he drew closer it became evident that there was a passenger. A little boy—perhaps three to four years of age also dressed in black—clinging determinedly onto the rail of a purpose built platform at the front of the mower. An unlikely spectacle.



The mower approached slowly, creaking across the field leaving a rib of freshly cut grass in its trail—a reminder of a lifestyle long gone. Almost to the road they came to a shuddering halt, a wad of grass apparently sabotaging their progress. The old man stooped into the innards of his machine, tugging, seeking to remove the obstruction.

Just then a smoke-belching, Greyhound tourist bus pulled up right next to our peaceful scene. Within moments passengers were tumbling out of the bus and lining the fence.

Reebok-shod and Levi-clad, the mob clamored for a vantage spot. No subtly here, hastily erected tripods, cameras whirled and clicked; loud and knowledgeable sounding chatter. The Amish pair may have been a hitherto

thought extinct specimen of local fauna—some exotic rarity to be captured on film, a trophy to proudly show off to friends back home.

The little boy stared anxiously at their tormenters then back to his grandfather.

Success at last! The offending grass was removed. The old man got down from the mower and approached the mob. Stopping a few yards short he wordlessly looked along the gawking line, half raised his arms in a gesture of resignation then turned and stumbled back to the waiting boy.

Yes, I think a crime was committed here today—a crime against humanity.

T W Sinned

\* \* \* \* \*

## More on Dr Ford in Australia

Pr Ron Allen reports: As you know we had Dr Ford here briefly during August. He was sponsored to Australia by a Forum group in Sydney. GNU was able to benefit from this trip by conducting Bible schools in Sydney and Melbourne. Having been involved with both of these efforts, Pr Allen reports that the Bible schools were attended by about one hundred people in each venue. A slightly different group attended to the one earlier in the year at the Seminars. Pr Allen goes on to say that he thinks GNU should plan to run Bible schools in most major centres in August of next year.

While in Australia in August Dr Ford had a very busy schedule, part of that schedule were the above meetings reported on by Pr Allen. Des was also invited to run a series of Bible studies over a few weeks at Buderim, on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland. These were very well attended.

The Adventist Church at Castle Hill in Sydney invited Des to take part in the main church service one morning in September.

One of the highlights of Des's visit was the reunion held at Avondale College of former colleagues and pupils, which he thoroughly enjoyed and where he was warmly greeted with a standing ovation from those present.



### Best Wishes



We are happy to report that Pastor Allen's mother is recovering well from her recent surgery.

Our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to her from all the staff and supporters of GNU.

## Good News Unlimited

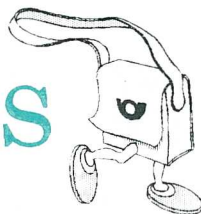


### Mission Statement

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.



# Letters



Dear Good News

Several weeks ago I asked for replacement tapes and some copies of GNA and you came up trumps. I am involved with two church groups, one of about half a dozen people and another group running a series of meetings, about fifteen people.

... The magazines you so kindly supplied will go out, one has gone and opportunity will arise for the remainder. I wonder if it is possible to get copies of individual articles from the current magazine, notably 'The Great Bible Swindle' and 'How the Bible was Written'? I notice the former is 'used with permission.' Both could have impact on the groups I am ministering to, and may be better as individual items rather than in the current magazine.

Be encouraged that your work is doing its thing. I am deeply grateful for your help and it may be that we can lead others to the reality of the gospel.

I enjoy the Newsletter, it is real value; keep going as you are.

Again my sincere thanks for your work and support. May blessings surround you each day.

E P NSW

Dear Des

Last week I received your Newsletter. I really appreciate them. In it you had answers to questions at the 'Daniel and the Coming King' seminar.

In one of the answers you said '... Christ forever retains his human nature ...'

Well I have a question on this point and hope that you can help me.

If Christ died for the sins of the human race (my sins), and my sins warrant eternal death; then how did he pay for them? That is if he didn't die eternally. And if he did die eternally, then how did he rise again, because if he was risen then he could not have

died eternally and my sins could not have been paid for?

The only answer that I can come up with is that in his humanity he died eternally, and in his deity he rose from the grave.

I don't know if this is a correct concept and ask you to straighten me out in this assumption if incorrect.

Regardless of the above question, could you tell me how you can support the following statement biblically '... Christ forever retains his human nature ...'

I can't understand how Christ could remain God (omnipresent) and human for all eternity.

Yours in Christ

DH NSW

Dear DH

Many thanks for your good letter. I have been travelling, but can now answer your question.

Christ's replys (on the infinite one) were qualitative rather than quantitative. His external divine nature was wedded to our human nature so he could die derivatively. A single moments suffering by the infinite God more than compensates for the sin of the world.

Christ suffered vicariously as a substitute and paid the debt of sin with his life. But because personally in himself he was innocent he was raised after the atonement on the cross.

Acts 1 speaks of 'this same Jesus', and John 3:16 says God gave his son—not lent him. He is still called Son of Man when he comes the second time (see Revelation 14). This Orthodox Christianity has always taught, that although still God he retains his humanity for ever.

All blessings on you

Des

\*\*\*\*\*



## Vale

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Reg Steel of Western Australia. Reg was a member of Bayswater Christian Fellowship since its inception in 1983. Reg loved the gospel message and felt it a privilege to play his part in getting GNA into circulation each month.

Since 1983, Reg, together with his wife May, have been very keen members of a small team who put the inserts into the magazine and newsletter, and later, when plastic bags were introduced, it was necessary to place the magazine or newsletter into the bag—a very time consuming, and tedious task at the best of times. Reg never wavered even over the past year when his health was poor.

For fifty years a close personal friend of the magazine printer, Bill Sinclair, he would more than likely ask Bill each month, 'When is the next magazine going to be ready?'

Reg leaves his wife May, two sons and a daughter, also six grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Evelyn Sinclair

## Position vacant

GNU Australia has an immediate vacancy for a permanent part-time secretary at its office South Tweed Heads NSW.

The applicant will need to be sympathetic with the mission of Good News Unlimited and have had recent office experience.

Duties include: computerised book-keeping. A knowledge of word processing (Word). Servicing product orders, General office work. Some knowledge of the requirements for operating a Company are an advantage, as is experience with desktop publishing (PageMaker)

Remuneration is at award rates, and it is anticipated there will be three to four days work per week.

**Applications in writing only to:**

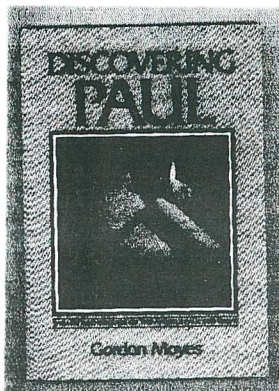
The Chairman

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A full understanding of another person requires sympathetic awareness of his life and circumstances. Gordon Moyes provides us with a whole series of ways into the world and mind of Paul,' writes Professor Edwin Judge in the introduction.

Striking photographs from the author's extensive travels in the lands of Paul, a knowledge at his fingertips of the first century writings and a 'feel' for Paul based on his experience as a minister and evangelist, give Gordon Moyes a number of windows into Paul's life.

## Discovering Paul

\$6.95 plus PP&H

Who was Jesus and what is the significance of his life for us today? What did he teach about God—and especially about himself? What miracles did he perform and did they really happen? Why was he crucified and did he rise from the dead?

Jesus the Man still fascinates people today. But in many ways he is an enigma—someone we know from history, but don't really understand. Even to visit the land of his birth does not tell us what we really want to know: What was his purpose in life? How did he set about fulfilling it? Who was he?



## Discovering Jesus

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## The Apocalypse, the Everlasting Gospel and the End of the World.

Some think of prophecy as chiefly to do with nations. But the premier prophetic Book of Scripture closes with the Gospel invitation: '... Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely'. (Rev. 22:17)



\*Revelation's central verses sing about Christ's atoning death, and our victory over evil by faith in him.

\*Ultimately the Everlasting Gospel will affect all nations

\*The destiny of every individual on the planet will be determined by their response to God's gracious call.

For messages on these and other themes from the 'Revelation', plan now to attend Seminar '98 in your capital city.

Auckland NZ Feb. 13-14

Rockhampton Feb 17

Cooranbong Feb 26-27

Adelaide March 8

Palmerston NZ Feb 15

Brisbane Feb 21

Sydney Feb 28

Melbourne March 14

Tweed Heads Feb 22

Perth March 7



## FAMILY TRUSTS

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

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### Websites

GNU Aust: <http://www.coolgold.com.au/goodnews/index.html>

Bill Thompson: <http://web2.airmail.net/billtod/index.htm>

## Unveiling the New Age

A set of six audio cassettes

by  
Neville McKenzie, Ron Allen,  
and Dr Desmond Ford



## Unveiling the New Age

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## Clifford Goldstein

A review by Dr Desmond Ford of Clifford Goldstein's book '1844 Made Simple' available free of charge from Good News Unlimited.

## Damascus Church USA

Latest updates on the Damascus Church saga.

[www.damascus.com/weeklyupdate/index.html](http://www.damascus.com/weeklyupdate/index.html)

## A Response to the Daniel and Revelation Committee

### Part 1

By Desmond Ford

'Dr Ford wonders how the Committee can be so certain of 1844 when they admit that the historical starting date is uncertain.'  
Available from GNU Free of charge

## 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 09 4585469 Meets weekly.

**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 '97

1. Archiving and preparing audio sets for marketing and Radio broadcasts
2. R Allen & D Ford books
- 3 New office equipment

Ron Allen's book titled *From Me To You* is now at the printers and it is hoped will be ready for Christmas. It will make an ideal gift for Christmas, birthdays or for any occasion where giving a gift is required. The book is a compilation of pastoral letters written by Ron over the years to the Members & supporters of GNU.

There is also another publication of Ron's in the pipeline titled, *Being The Church*. It is a booklet which will prove very helpful in defining what is meant by Church.

Once again thank you for your wonderful support for Special Projects '97. Without your prayers and unselfish giving our new office equipment, archiving of our Master audios, radio outreach and Ron's books would not have been a reality.

Order form November 1997

Please Supply:

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2UA0001	Unveiling the New Age.....	\$35.00 set		
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**Time  
Out**

'Whatever gets our attention, gets us. We should be "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith".'



# From the Good News Unlimited Winter Bible School

Three cassettes and booklet

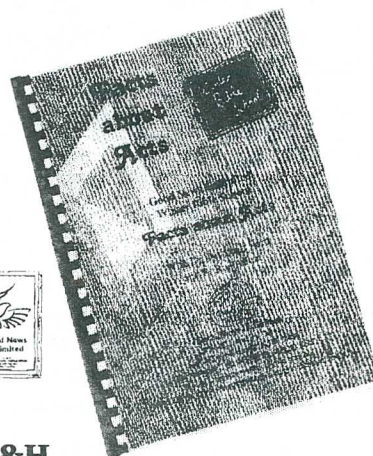
## The Facts About Acts

With Dr Desmond Ford and Pr Ron Allen

*Jesus went up,  
the Spirit came down,  
the disciples went out.*



**Special Price:**  
**\$17.50 plus PP&H**



### THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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.

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