

# THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER

November, 2008

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*Devotion: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Colossians 2:8-10.*

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Narre Warren Church

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## THE STATUS OF OLD TESTAMENT BELIEVERS

Dr. Robert Eagleson, Sydney

As a way of stimulating thought on deeper topics, a Sydney minister recently posed this searching question for his congregation in the weekly Bulletin:-

### **The Question Focused .....**

*One of the things that feeds my own mind and heart is that "question or issue" that forces me to comb the Bible (or books on my shelves) for answers – and here's the question I've been thinking about lately: "were the Old Testament believers regenerate/converted/reborn?" I know this question doesn't keep you awake at night but these sorts of questions take you on a really edifying search. Those of you who are getting stale (or going nowhere) with your "brief and brainless" daily notes(!) might like a meatier challenge!*

*This is the issue for the question of Old Testament believers: on the one hand belief is always a work of God and the Bible says (in Deuteronomy 30:6) that the "Lord your God will circumcise (change implied) your hearts" and we read of the psalmist "delighting" in God's word and seeking God with "all his heart" (Psalm 119:16, 10). So a deep work is needed and done on the heart of the Old Testament believer. How else could they believe?*

*On the other hand Jesus is surely breaking new ground when He says "The Spirit of truth...will be in you...we will come...and make our home" in the New Testament believer (John 14:17, 23). And Paul seems to distinguish the Israelites' experience "engraved in letters on stone" with the Christian's experience "of the Spirit" in 2 Corinthians 3:7-8.*

*So Sinclair Ferguson says we must be careful not to go "flattening the contours of redemptive history" but recognise the "development from old to new covenants" ["The Holy Spirit" p.26] and in the most helpful 2 pages I've read on this subject Graham Cole says "our Lord does make it plain that the indwelling of the Spirit was contingent upon his own return to the Father (John 16:7) ["He who Gives Life" p.145]. His view in a nutshell is that "Old Testament saints were regenerated but not indwelt by the Spirit".*

*Some (like Don Carson) are more convinced that regeneration is a "New Testament phenomenon" – to "read it back into the Old Testament is to ignore the flow of redemptive history" (Cole p.144). So – there's a summary for you to think about.*

*- Simon Manchester in St Thomas' Bulletin 4 November 2007 [Used by permission]*

### **A Response From Dr. Eagleson.....**

**Who are we discussing?**

The Scripture identifies 2 categories among the people of Israel: "A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code." (Romans 2:28-29) It is this second category with which we are concerned in this discussion. It is only those who have been circumcised

in heart by the Holy Spirit who can properly be characterised as Old Testament believers.

### **The nature of the faith of the OT believers?**

Theirs was a saving faith and is acknowledged as such by Scripture: *“Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”* (Genesis 15:6) The OT believers then did not believe just in the existence of a god, or God, but instead both believed that God existed and also trusted that he would be true to his promise given in Genesis 3:15 that he would provide a redeemer. Their faith apprehended and embraced Christ – and had to – because it was only through the possession of such a faith that God could save them: *“There is only one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.”* (1 Timothy 2:5) *“Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12)

Moreover, it was only on the grounds of Christ’s atoning work and obedience that God could justify them (and us); Scripture offers no other avenue: *“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. ... he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies the man who has faith in Jesus.”* (Romans 3:22-26)

There is ample evidence in Scripture that the OT believers looked forward to Christ’s deliverance rather than depending on their own endeavours and received progressive insight beyond Genesis 3 into the character, nature and work of the Messiah. For example, Christ attests that: *“Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”* (John 8:56) David understood that the promised (and his) Messiah was also the Lord: *“The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”* (Psalm 110:1)

To Isaiah also was revealed something of Christ’s deity (Isaiah 9:6) and as well the purpose and accomplishment of his coming: *“he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities ...the Lord makes his life a guilt offering.”* (Isaiah 53:5, 10) Simeon was certain that it was Jesus who alone would secure redemption: *“There was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel.”* (Luke 2:25)

This is not to propose that the OT believers grasped the full scope of Christ’s redemption to the same extent as New Testament believers do. Ephesians makes this clear: *“... the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit.”* (Ephesians 3:4-5) The OT revelation of the

Messiah did not match the completeness of what we have received, but in his grace God gave the OT believers an ever-expanding disclosure of the glory of the promised Redeemer. Their faith centred on him. The constant instruction in Scripture on their rescue from Egypt established for them that: *“There is no saviour besides Me [God].”* (Hosea 13:4) There was development in the revelation of the Gospel but there was no variation to the core of the message and to the thoroughgoing dependence on God for atonement.

### **How did the OT believers come to this faith?**

It was certainly not by their own doing or through their own ability. The fall destroyed their spiritual life and awareness, plunging them into death: *“You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”* (Genesis 2:17) As fallen creatures they had turned completely away from God and had no desire for him: *“Every inclination of the thoughts of [man’s] heart was only evil all the time.”* (Genesis 6:5) Their minds were hostile to God, *‘neither submitting to his law nor able to do so’* (Romans 8:7). The judgement of Genesis 2:17 had fallen on them: they were dead spiritually, incapable of any good thought, deed or inclination, with minds that could not understand, eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear (Deuteronomy 29:4).

The 39 Articles reflect this teaching on the condition of fallen man: *“The condition of man after the fall of Adam is such that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works, to faith, and calling upon God.”* (Article 10) The condition and plight of human beings in the Old Testament times was exactly the same as that depicted for people living in the New Testament times. The only solution for them (as for us) was the intervention of God, and an intervention of supernatural proportions.

The OT believers were acutely aware of their inability to save themselves. *“Who can bring what is pure from the impure?”* (Job 14:4) They acknowledged that any turning to God would have to occur on his initiative: *“The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.”* (Deuteronomy 30:6) *“I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19) and pleaded with him to act to rescue them: “Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved.”* (Jeremiah 17:14) *“Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ... Create in me a pure heart, O God.”* (Psalm 51:7, 10)

God continually promised them that he would redeem them, even more mightily than when he brought them out of Egypt: *“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from your impurities ... I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.”* (Ezekiel 36:25-26) And as soon as the Saviour appeared, they attributed all the working of salvation to God: *“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and redeemed his people. He has raised up a horn of*

***“There is ample evidence in Scripture that the OT believers looked forward to Christ’s deliverance rather than depending on their own endeavours and received progressive insight beyond Genesis 3 into the character, nature and work of the Messiah.”***

# BLOGGING ABOUT...

## THE ORISSA [INDIA] PERSECUTION

Dr. Dennis Muldoon writes: Attached is a letter from a former student of mine in Allahabad, India. I have had a number of reports asking for prayer for persecuted Christians in India. The attacks have mainly been in Orissa where the church has been growing among tribal people but churches have also been attacked in M.P. (4 churches destroyed or damaged, 4 schools vandalized), U.P. (3 pastors and a pastors wife beaten) and Delhi (2 churches damaged).

### APPEAL FOR PRAYER

("What ever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine you did for me")

Beloved Brothers/Sisters in Christ, Christian Greetings, I, Rev. Binay Kumar Bardhan, serving the Lord in Orissa (India) where the Christians are going under persecution. On 23rd August night a group of Naxalites (Maoists) attacked an ashram of a Hindu Baba (Holy man) and four of his followers were killed. Within a few minutes the news spread among the Hindus all over Orissa, that the Christians killed Baba. So the Hindu fundamentalists started attacking Christians, Christian churches, Christian villages, Christian institutions, four wheelers, two wheelers, buses etc. Thousands of houses are burnt down. About 1260 villages, 16,800 houses, 43,000 Christians are attacked. 700 people migrated to the state capital, 400 in the Cuttack city, 250 in Berhampur and many went to the neighboring states to save their lives.

In Gajapati district 21 churches are also burnt and destroyed. These people fled from the villages for their lives to the jungle with only the clothes they were wearing, their houses are burnt and properties are looted; one preacher named Kumud Bardhan of Mukundipur village of Gajapati was burnt alive, his wife and son are also severely injured.

More than 650 churches have been burnt, and about 115 peoples killed, among them 32 Pastors. The militant

Hindu mobs have taken a vow to wipeout Christians. According to a traumatized eye witness, Pastor Samuel Naik along with a Christian leader Michel Naik and their families (wife & children) were killed by the radicals with swords & sticks, and in another incident seven members of a family were brutally killed with clubs and rods.

On 27th August the mobs attacked an orphanage and church of Mandasore of Kandhmal run by the Missionaries of charity (Mother Teresa) where 400 orphan children and Nuns had to run for their lives into the forest, then the radicals have threatened them to set fire to the forest to roast the children and Nuns alive.

So, it is our humble and prayerful request, kindly pray for the victims for their protection and safety.

- Dr Dennis Muldoon

### SAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER.

According to a report in the Herald Sun for October 26, the government and opposition have rejected calls to change the Lord's Prayer recited at the start of each day of federal parliament. Both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition have opposed any change. However, the Australian Greens, according to the Report, "want the prayer replaced with a period of reflection and a conscience vote in both houses on the issue."

The Prime Minister is against breaking "an important tradition." According to a spokeswoman for Kevin Rudd he has said: "The Lord's Prayer is a long-standing tradition of the Australian parliament and the prime minister believes it should continue," she said. To the same effect is the view of Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull, and Nationals leader Warren Truss. They have said that the removal of the prayer would be unacceptable.

While saying the Lord's Prayer is, no doubt, a form for many, it's a reminder to all that God is - and it makes those who are opposed to him work all the harder to suppress the knowledge of God and their responsibility to him. But more importantly it's a prayer to the Lord our God. May the Lord hear that prayer offered in our National Assembly, and come for our salvation.

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[From p 2] salvation for us in the house of his servant David ... to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant." (Luke 1:67, 68, 72). Christ underscored this desperate condition of man and the inescapable need for divine deliverance when he pronounced in his discussion with Nicodemus that man must 'be born again' (John 3:3), that is 'brought again to life' (Ephesians 2:5), which is a function of the Holy Spirit, and an act well outside the power of man. In our Lord's assessment, regeneration was essential for everyone, no matter in what period they lived. He was simply stating in another way that we need to receive the Spirit who is from God "so that we may understand what God has freely given us ... The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:12, 14)

Pertinently, Christ's discussion with Nicodemus took place before the crucifixion and resurrection, indicating that a new birth was not only a New Testament concept and

phenomenon. Telling is Christ's stinging retort to Nicodemus: "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things?" (John 3:10) The clear inference is that any (OT) teacher worth his salt would know about regeneration and that a recognition of its need was well established and hence was known in Old Testament times.

To argue that 'regeneration is a New Testament phenomenon' is to underestimate the absolute spiritual devastation of the fall, to ignore the pellucid teachings of Scripture if anyone is to have faith in God, to attribute to people the capacity to save themselves if they so desire, to dispute the grace of God as the sole source of our salvation, and would seem to effectively shut out any who lived in OT times from salvation - despite Genesis 15:6 - as Christ taught that regeneration was indispensable.

- To be continued

*[We're grateful to Simon Manchester and Robert Eagleson for allowing this material to be published in The Presbyterian Banner.]*

# MODERN MIRACLES

## Dr. Helen Ramsay - Former Missionary in India

On a Sunday morning in March 1963 I was sitting in her bedroom with Flora McLeod, a junior colleague, when she suddenly had a Jacksonian epileptic fit. This is an unusual type of fit that I had never seen before or since. It was bad news.

I went into my room to get medical text books and they confirmed what I thought. It was a symptom of a brain tumour.

Flora had been unwell for the previous week with cholecystitis (inflammation of the gall bladder) and I had this diagnosis confirmed by taking Flora to Chhapara to see the Professor of Medicine who was a friend. In best Indian style he not only confirmed my diagnosis but changed the antibiotic to the very latest broad spectrum intravenous antibiotic. That was on the Wednesday.

On the Saturday we noticed that she was becoming a little drowsy and perhaps not so steady on her feet and that was why it was decided that my colleague, Nan Dunlop, would go to Church on Sunday morning and I would stay with Flora. Also on that Saturday we had some entirely unexpected and unusual visitors.

Fergus McNeil and his wife came to the door and introduced themselves. Fergus was the manager of a coal mine about 80 miles from us on a road which we never travelled and hence we didn't even know the coal mine existed. He and four other Europeans were the managing staff of this coal mine. He was also the representative for our area for the British High Commission. He and his wife had made a trip to visit friends in some distant place, and had decided that going and coming they could call in on the people on his list of British subjects. Hence their arrival on our doorstep.

Nan being Irish and Flora being Scottish were both on his list. They were a friendly Scottish couple and in the course of conversation we mentioned that Flora was in her bedroom sick. Fergus told us that they had a well equipped hospital and a well trained surgeon in charge. If they could help Flora they would be glad to do it. After afternoon tea they left us.

On Sunday morning when Nan came home from Church I told her the appalling news of Flora's deterioration. As she had already been seen by the Professor of Medicine I decided to take my courage in my hands and ask him to make a house call from 70 miles away. In those days, the only phone in the village was in the post office.

So I walked down and was told that the post master had gone to the river to have his bath and would be back

sometime soon. An hour later I went again and this time was able to get through to the Professor and he kindly agreed to come and see Flora. He came as quickly as he could and decided to do a lumbar puncture.

Our hospital, at that time, was in the middle of the village so I drove him down in our car to get the equipment for doing the lumbar puncture. This Sunday was the Festival of Holi, a time when Indian men throw coloured water over anyone they meet and nice women stay indoors. As I drove towards our hospital in the middle of the village a line of men, perhaps 15, stood shoulder to shoulder blocking our way. I got out of the car and went and told them that I had the Professor with me and about my sick colleague and they kindly let us go through.

Years later the Professor told me that he liked telling people how a young lady saved him from getting soaked with dye.

He did the lumbar puncture and found that Flora's pressure in her brain was increased. He agreed that it was almost certainly a brain tumour and that she would have to go either to a very major hospital in one of the big cities

of India or go back to her homeland for treatment.

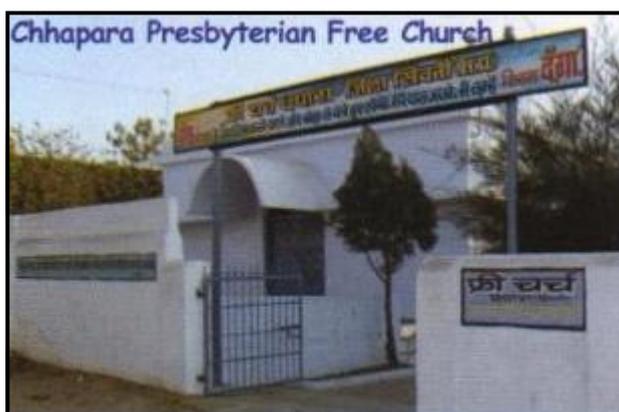
After he left I went to tell my colleagues in Lakhnadon, 17 miles away, of these developments. Because it was Holi, men had placed boulders and other obstructions on the road so they could stop traffic and throw dye.

I wasn't held up by any humans but the boulders made for some delays. When I told my senior colleagues about Flora's trouble

they came back to Chhapara with me and we had a Council of war. It was quickly decided that instead of trying to get treatment in a far away major city in India that we would definitely try to get her to Scotland. She was in her first term of service in India, a trained nurse, and had a large loving family. But as with the telephone, so with everything else - communications were primitive. We couldn't even begin to think how we were to get a semi-conscious patient from our house down to Bombay to catch a plane. It was 100 miles to the nearest airport. We had only a small car for transport.

While we were still trying to think what to do we decided that whatever else we did we would have to get taxation clearance for Flora and her companion to leave the country. It was also decided that quite obviously Nan was the person to accompany her as she not only could go with her but also see her own family.

In those days in order to get taxation clearance we had to go 60 miles to a town that we never normally went to for any other reason as it had no shopping or other facilities there. It was agreed that the next morning Nan and I and



another colleague would go to Chhindwara to get tax clearance. I went to give medical confirmation that Flora herself was unable to be present.

We left early and got there as the office opened, about 10.00am, on the Monday morning. I remembered our visitors the day before. Their coal mine was only 20 miles the other side of Chhindwara where we had to go for the income tax clearance. Fergus McNeil was the representative of the British High Commission and I wondered if they could give us help. So we decided that having put in our papers to the taxation office, we would then go on to see if the McNeils were at home leaving the papers to be dealt with in the leisurely way.

We went there into air conditioned comfort and were warmly welcomed by the McNeils. I told them of our predicament and asked if there was any way in which the British High Commission could help us. "Oh no" said Fergus, "they're so slow as to be useless. But", he said "we have an agent in Bombay." The firm for which he worked had various commercial enterprises throughout India and there was so much traffic in and out of India to Britain that they permanently kept someone on their staff in Bombay to deal with travel matters. He was widely experienced and, of course, English speaking.

Fergus said: "I shall go and try and ring Bombay to get hold of our Mr D'Souza and see what he can do to help us. But I must warn you that it sometimes takes three hours to get through to Bombay." He disappeared into his study and his wife chatted to the rest of us.

At the end of a relatively brief time, somewhere between half and three quarters of an hour, Fergus was back with us saying "I'll tell you how I'm getting on. I've been through to Bombay and spoken to Mr D'Souza. He has booked first class tickets on a flight leaving Bombay the

day after tomorrow. He hasn't yet been able to get flights on tomorrow's plane. He's booked for an invalid passenger and that means three seats, plus another seat for the companion."

He said: "Also I've been in touch with Nagpur, the nearest airport, and I've made bookings for the three of you to go on tonight's plane to Bombay, it leaves at 2.00am. Mr D'Souza will meet the plane with an ambulance and he has made a booking in the best private hospital in Bombay for Flora to be admitted there and she can stay there until she gets a flight."

He said "You haven't got adequate transport and we have a comfortable station wagon. "I will lend you our driver and station wagon and we will put a mattress in the back of the station wagon so that Flora can be transported comfortably. The driver will take you back now to Chhapara and you will leave this evening in time to get the flight to Nagpur. If by any means there's any hold up of the plane leaving Nagpur, I've rung the Christian Hospital in Nagpur and they will provide Flora with a bed for as long as is necessary. If you don't need that bed just pop into the hospital when you get there and tell them you don't need it." I had been under severe stress and my response was to burst into tears.

Everything worked out as planned. In Bombay Mr D'Souza looked after all necessary arrangements and Flora and Nan flew to Edinburgh on the Tuesday. In the Deaconess Hospital there it was eventually decided that Flora did not have a brain tumour but a basal meningitis due to infection from her gall bladder. The potent I.V. antibiotics were overcoming the infection and Flora steadily recovered. We had thought we were sending her home to die. In September with great joy we welcomed her back as a full working member of our team. To God be the glory and Praise. - Helen Ramsay.

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## QUOTABLE QUOTES .....

**From the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, 13th October, 2008.** "Once more on the factor of force: When I unsuccessfully tried to have my article published in *Foreign Affairs* last year, I happened to encounter rather insistent censorship, which was quite a revelation. Forty percent of my text was abridged, but what's most important – all my references to Christianity as the common basis of all the branches of European civilization were cleaned up.

I believe that Christian values retain their significance, especially during times of change, when such qualities are required as humility and readiness for sacrifice. They have a special significance for America as the policy aiming at gaining total control and absolute security is doomed to failure. These things are impossible for people because they belong to God: either under God or instead of God. Fyodor Tyutchev, who was not only a poet and diplomat but also a profound thinker, wrote in the middle of the nineteenth century: "Is the appropriation of divinity not a negation of it?" The Puritan ancestors of Americans rejected the supremacy of Rome and the principle of papal infallibility. But what's to be done with human infallibility? Is this not what the claim to one's righteousness attests to? Our entire history has taught us humility."

- **'Face to Face with America: Between Non-Confrontation and Convergence,' Published in the Magazine Profile, No. 38, October 2008.**

**From R.J. Rushdoony:** "The world is moving into the greatest economic crisis of history. It is a religious crisis, the product of man's efforts to play god and to control all things. For humanistic man, freedom is anathema, because it runs counter to scientific planning and control. The growing crisis is thus a religious one, and we must see it as God's judgment on a false and rival order. The crisis must be seen as good news, as evidence that God is at war, that the wages of sin in any sphere are always death, and that every tower of Babel man erects has a common destiny, disaster and confusion. The Lord is at work; let the people rejoice."

- **Quoted by Chris Ortiz from the: [Roots of Reconstruction](#), pp.1101f - Chalcedon Blog, 16/10/2008. These words were written prior to 1989.**

# ARCHIVAL: GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

## A Coronation Address given by the late Rev. M. C. Ramsay over 2RE [Taree] radio when Princess Elizabeth was crowned Queen in 1953.

This day, June 2nd, 1953, is an important day in British history, for to-day a young woman is to be crowned Queen of Great Britain and of her realms overseas. This is a time of much rejoicing, not only because it is Coronation Day, but because there are numerous accompanying circumstances which contribute to enhance our joy. We rejoice with Her Majesty, and we rejoice because she has won our confidence as a people.

Time permits of some brief reference to her who was formerly Princess Elizabeth. Her Majesty was ten years of age when her father was proclaimed George VI. During the war he and the Queen were nearly always at Buckingham Palace, which was bombed nine times; but the Princesses were at Windsor Castle. The summer of 1940 was one of the most terrible in British history, for Hitler had declared he would be in Britain by 15th September. All the church bells had been silent since the beginning of the war; they were to be rung only if the Germans landed in Britain. On 15th September, the church bells rang, and the whole nation was alert, but it was a false alarm. No enemy had set foot on British soil. Two months later, in 1940, Princess Elizabeth, broadcasting to the children of the Empire, said: "We are trying, too, to bear our share of the danger and sadness of war. We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well."

Princess Elizabeth worked as well as talked. Trials are often blessings, and we still speak of "the ministry of suffering." Upon the joyoushearted girl, as well as upon many others, the discipline of those days had salutary effects. An English author has written: "The Royal Family were always in danger, just as we were, and they put their shoulders to the wheel as much as any of us, and probably more, than most, to beat the enemy. We owe a great deal to their coolness and courage. Don't forget that, and thank God that we had them with us."

When eighteen years of age, whilst the terrible war still raged, the Princess acted as a Councillor of State whilst her father went on a visit to his forces overseas. During the war, she had joined one of the services, and, throughout her youthful years, she studied hard to fit herself for the very responsible duties which are hers to-day.

When the Germans surrendered in 1945, Princess Elizabeth had just turned nineteen. Later in the same year, the Japanese surrendered. World War II was over. Dense crowds surged around the railings of Buckingham Palace, calling for the King and Queen to come out on the balcony. Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret desired to go down to be among the people; so they, with a small escort of Guards officers, went into the seething crowd. They knew they could trust the people - the people with whom they had worked and experienced the trials of war. What a welcome they received!

The late Field Marshal Smuts spoke thus concerning the

Princess when she visited South Africa in 1947: "In this changing world, where mankind is once more reaching for new paths for the future, we wish her a place of her own in history. In her father and mother and the beautiful background of her family life, she has sure guides in the paths of duty and unselfish devotion. We are glad and proud that one so human and sincere and modest has been given to us as the link to bind together the peoples of our world-wide group in bonds of understanding and co-operation."

In a broadcast made on her twenty-first birthday, Princess Elizabeth uttered memorable words: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great Imperial family to which we all belong .... I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share it."

In the same year, 1947, the Princess was married to Prince Philip, of Greece, now the Duke of Edinburgh. Already Australia is busy making preparations for extending a most loyal welcome to them when they visit our country early next year.

Further, we rejoice in our Queen's noble ancestry — noble in the sense of good - for none is truly great who is not good. We recall with gratitude to God the unfeigned faith of her parents, of their delight in God's Word, which led them to read it daily, their sincerity, their readiness to acknowledge their dependence upon God, and the guidance, encouragement and strength they received from God's Word in times of trouble and in days of peace, and their deep interest in the well-being of their peoples, evidenced by their readiness to work long and hard on their behalf. Our Queen's forebears did much to break down unworthy class distinctions, by emphasizing the importance of the individual, irrespective of his position in life. Her father and grandfather delighted in the simple things of life, and had close friends among those who were not of high rank.

We remember the noble example set by her great-great-grandmother, Queen Victoria, and her famous declaration that the Bible is the secret of England's greatness. We rejoice that Her Majesty Elizabeth II has entered upon a rich spiritual heritage. King George VI had impressed upon her that an emergency might arise at any moment, and taught her that, should such an emergency arise, she must place duty before family, and must stand alone before the nation to discharge her duty. We remember with admiration the dignity which graced her grief on the death of her beloved father, when, on returning from Africa, she, in her sorrow, carried out the necessary official duties with poise and a grace befitting her ancestry.

We do not claim for our Queen perfection; but we do rejoice that she gives promise of being a worthy successor

## JASPER PEAK CAMP



October long weekend, and camp time again!! This year saw us in a new venue.

We were all set for our annual Pappinbarra Camp, but due some government bureaucracy and OH&S regulations, we found out 8 days before that we were unable to go there.

Thanks to Neil and Wilma's diligent searching and the Lord's leading, we were able to get Jasper Peak Camp, which is situated on the Oxley Highway, between Wauchope and Walcha.

We were told that the campsite has one of the few platypus colonies in the state. But with 50 plus kids, the most we've ever had, it seemed that the platypuses all went into hiding for the weekend!!

**[From p 6]** to her father and grandfather. We should remember that ours is a limited monarchy, and that, therefore, the Queen is not a law unto herself, but must act constitutionally. We do not subscribe to the statement that the sovereign can do no wrong. Her actions are subject to private and public criticism; and the lowliest subject in the realm has the right to praise or fault the actions of the sovereign. Parliament, press and radio are free to praise or blame her; but no loyal subject would lightly criticise adversely his sovereign. But there is always the possibility that most loyal persons may disapprove of some of Her Majesty's actions. In such cases, the expression of disapproval is not to be regarded as due to a lack of genuine loyalty.

Finally, I would speak briefly concerning the very solemn Coronation Service which will take place to-day. It is a religious service of profound spiritual significance. When the Queen has been invested with the emblems of royalty, the Archbishop presents her with the Bible, and says: "Our gracious Queen: to keep Your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the rule for the whole life and government of Christian princes, we present you with this book, the most valuable thing that this world af-

We arrived at our new campsite just after 11 on Saturday morning, and boy, was it a scorcher!! It was very unusual for this time of year (spring), and especially at this campsite in the mountains, where the mountain air normally keeps the temp down a lot.

But thankfully, there was a river!! So after lunch and some games, nearly everyone jumped in for a swim in the river.

Seeing that we didn't have the two big dorms like we did at Pappinbarra, we needed to change the sleeping arrangements. There were lots of smaller rooms with 5 beds each, and this made it possible to have one adult in with 4 kids, which was an education for us "old ones"!! However, most campers slept fairly well, except for those who were privileged to be in the rooms near the frog pond. One late night reveller (a big Green Tree Frog) serenaded to his lady all night. Isn't it wonderful being so close to nature?? But some complained of little sleep!!

PK and his team of of leaders from Newcastle did a terrific job, as usual, with many fun games, and great discussion groups. As the team was smaller, some of us oldies from Taree/Tinonee had to fill in the gaps a bit more, especially seeing there were so many kids. All up, there were 20 plus adults at camp.

It was also a blessing to have Rev George Ball, our new minister, come and share the gospel message with the kids, while Rhoda, his wife, led them in singing some Psalms. George gave 4 talks about 4 different roads - the Road to Jericho (story of Zacheus - and how everyone is significant to Jesus), the Road to Jerusalem (the message of the Cross), the Road to Emmaus (the Risen Lord), and the Road to Heaven (how to get there).

After each talk, we broke up into age appropriate **[To p 9]**

fords." The Moderator of the Church of Scotland then adds, "Here is wisdom; this is the royal law; these are the lively oracles of God." One who has no real regard for the things of God cannot enter sincerely into such a service, and vow "to maintain the laws of God"; for Archbishop Lang declared in 1937 the coronation is "from beginning to end a most solemn religious act."

The Coronation Service bears witness to the supreme sovereignty of the Lord Jesus and that He is, as the Word of God declares, "King of kings and Lord of lords." To this almighty King, Queen Elizabeth to-day vows allegiance; and to-day, the nation, by virtue of its Coronation Service, acknowledges not only its dependence upon God, but its duty, in its corporate capacity as a nation, to honour and serve the Lord Jesus as its supreme Sovereign. Thus the whole solemn ceremony witnesses to the fact that the nation and its Queen are not independent, but owe allegiance to the Eternal King.

May our young Queen be the recipient of a large measure of Divine grace, in order that she may fulfil her solemn vows and adorn her exalted and responsible position.

**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!**

- Our Banner, August 15, 1953.

# Run For Glory

## RATSAK

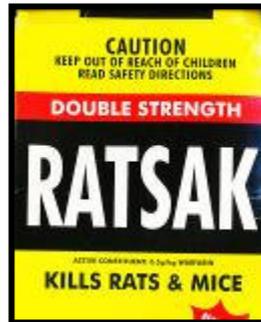
I have a compost pit in my backyard. I like to compost the scraps and put them on my garden. One day I noticed holes dug under the compost pit and into it also. I wondered what was digging these holes. I once had a blue tongue lizard in the yard but had not seen it for a long time. I had also had mice once. But these were pretty big holes. Besides I noticed a track through the vegetables leading to my neighbour's yard. I tried blocking the hole in the fence and closed up the holes in the compost pit but next morning they were all open again. I wondered what was digging these holes and making the track through my garden.

One night I went out with a torch to see what it was that was digging the holes. I watched and waited but saw nothing. I went out again the next night but saw nothing. Still the holes were being dug. I tried flooding the holes with water, but whatever it was that was digging the holes was not put off.

What to do? I could not see what this creature was and I could not stop it digging holes. I decided to go to the shop and buy something it might like to eat. I thought it was coming to the compost to get food as well as dig holes. I bought a packet of food and put half on a plastic lid near the compost heap. To my delight the food was all gone even before morning- I was still going out at night with my

torch. I put the other half out the next night and that was all cleaned up. I went to buy another packet and put the whole packet out. But this time less way taken and in a couple more days it had stopped eating the food.

What do you think was digging the holes? Do you know what I was feeding it? Actually I was feeding it poison-food called RATSAK. I was happy to have this creature stop digging holes but felt I was tricking it by feeding it tasty food that was actually poison. I guess in the night it could not see so clearly. It just took the food without thinking it might be poisonous.



In some ways I felt like the devil doing what I did. How is that? I presume that creature never saw me because I never saw it. We cannot see the devil and some people do not believe he is real, but we see his evil work all around. We know that he feeds people poison. He feeds us things that look good and feel good to do, but in the end they hurt us and bring us shame.

The Bible says the devil can be like an angel of light. He makes sin look good and tasty. He tells us to lie, to cheat, to steal and do other things that Jesus tells us not to do. We may get away with telling a lie so we do it again. Soon we find we are telling lots of lies. The devil is happy because you are taking the bait. But one day you will be



**JASPER  
PEAK  
CAMPERS  
2008**

caught. Will it be mum or dad? Will it be your teacher? They will punish you when they catch you, and you will be sorry you listened to the devil. Maybe the devil will keep feeding you until it is the police who finally catch you and put you in jail.

All the time of course, Jesus sees what you are doing and he is calling you to stop listening to the devil and listen to him. Jesus knows that the devil is tricking you and wants to save you. When you read your Bible and pray, listen to what Jesus is telling you. Stop feeding on the devil's poison and take the pure milk of the word of God. Flee from sin and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. You will never be ashamed if you listen and obey Jesus. **[Dennis Muldoon]**



**Deep Discussion**



**Hard Yakker**

**[From p 7]** discussion groups. The children responded well. Pray that the seeds that were sown will continue to grow in their hearts.

Late Sunday afternoon, we set out on our mandatory bush walk. However, this year the walk was much shorter and easier. No creek crossings this year, just a nice dirt road that led us to where two streams met the Hastings River. Being nestled among the mountains, the countryside scenery we saw was truly magnificent.

What a privilege it is that the Lord has allowed us to be able to share this weekend with all those children, and share Jesus through our words and our actions. Most of the children are from non-churched families. And thank the Lord that the parents are so willing to let them come.

And next year's camp? We are not sure where it will be, but please pray with us for the right venue. - **Jeanette Burton [Tinonee]**

# SEARCH WORK - November

SENIOR 12+ yrs; INTERMEDIATE 10-11 yrs; JUNIOR 9 and under.

**November, 2008**

**SENIOR and INTERMEDIATE**

**Intermediate omit questions 4 and 8**

**1 KINGS 12**

1. When Rehoboam answered the people roughly, what saying of the Lord was fulfilled?
2. When Rehoboam and Judah went to fight against Israel, what was the word of the Lord by Shemaiah? (2 verses)
3. What was the reason why Jeroboam set up the golden calves in Beth-el and Dan? (2 verses)

**Chapter 13**

4. (x) What was the name of the child who would be born to the house of David and destroy the altar of Beth-el? Write out 2 verses in 2 Kings 23 that tell when this was fulfilled.
5. What lie did the old prophet tell the man of God to make him come home with him?
6. After he left Beth-el, what happened to the man of God for disobeying the word of the Lord?

**Chapter 14:1—20**

7. How did the blind prophet know Jeroboam's wife when she came disguised?
8. (x) Why would Abijah be the only one of Jeroboam's family to come to the grave?

**JUNIOR**

**GENESIS 44**

1. What did the brothers do when Joseph's cup was found in Benjamin's sack?
2. What did Judah say would happen to his father if they returned home and Benjamin was not with them? (2 verses)

**Chapter 45:1—15**

3. Why did Joseph tell his brothers not to be grieved or angry with themselves?
4. What message did Joseph tell his brothers to give to his father? (3 verses only)

**SEARCH WORK TO: MRS I. STEEL, PO Box 942, EPPING 1710.**  
E-mail: [iesteel@gmail.com](mailto:iesteel@gmail.com)

**“When we think of Jesus as ruling all the greatest things, and all the smallest things, in all places, and at all times, then .... we are ‘seeing the King’ in the beauty of His kingdom.” R.Newton.**



**Fun and Games**

# ACTIVITY PAGE.....

## A Great God

From: *Search and Solve: Bible Activity Sheets* by Betty De Vries [Illustrated by Donna Greenlee] Baker Books, 1998.

11 8 11 12 3' 11 15 12 8 11 12 3'

5 11 16 9 1 7 4 13 14 6 2

6 13 17 11 15 12 10 1 9 4

6 10 1 8 8 14 5 4 4 1 12 14 5!



David sang a song of praise to God in Psalm 8. The first part of the first verse is set in code. Use the key to unscramble it.

A 1	C 2	D 3	E 4	H 5	I 6
J 7	L 8	M 9	N 10	O 11	R 12
S 13	T 14	U 15	W 16	Y 17	

## WEB WATCH ... Peter Carswell

### 2008-9 ESSENTIAL SOFTWARE

Recently I was given an external hard disk and one of things I wanted to put on it was all the programs I use on my home and work computers so I could take them with me when helping people with their computers. As such I took to sorting out all my downloads into "easy to find" categories.

So, I thought I would include at least of some of the most useful software. These are all free and reputable applications. As with any software recommendations, it is all a matter of personal preference - and remember to take care to scan for viruses and the like before running any downloaded executable. This software is mostly open-source ([www.opensource.org](http://www.opensource.org), [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\\_source](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_source), [sourceforge.net](http://sourceforge.net) and [www.opensourcewindows.org](http://www.opensourcewindows.org))

#### OpenOffice.org ([www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org))

The latest version of the free alternative to Microsoft Office was released on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. Version 3 comes with a completely new look and feel, offers some handy new features. However, it's OpenOffice.org's standard features for which I choose it over Microsoft Office. Ability to easily produce PDF documents, use of open non-proprietary file formats (freeing me from the upgrade treadmill forced by Microsoft Office), small file size, ability to read and write files in Microsoft Office format for sharing and receiving files with others. You can read more about OOo's Open Document Format (ODF) at [www.odfalliance.org](http://www.odfalliance.org) and [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenDocument](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OpenDocument),

#### SyncBack Freeware ([www.2brightsparks.com](http://www.2brightsparks.com))

Like most people I've learnt the hard way how important it is to have a good back up. SyncBack is highly configurable and easy to use. It enables both backup and synchronisation to the same computer, over a network and external hard drives. Scheduling is available via Windows Scheduler and is easy to set up as well.

#### PDFCreator ([sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/](http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/))

PDF is a de facto standard for sharing files, much safer than Word Documents. PDF Creator Allows you to create PDFs from any program. Use PDF Creator just like a printer; instead of printing to your normal printout, send it to PDF Creator and you will...well...create a PDF. A word of warning, a web search for PDF Creator will return nu-

merous results, some not what I would consider safe.

#### RocketDock ([rocketdock.com](http://rocketdock.com)) and Launchy ([www.launchy.net](http://www.launchy.net))

An alternative to the Quick Launch toolbar, RocketDock offers a highly customisable and visually beautiful launcher for your favourite programs. Launchy lets you launch programs, documents, websites and more with just a few keystrokes. If you get really "carried away" you can replace your complete START menu.

#### Notepad++ ([notepad-plus.sourceforge.net](http://notepad-plus.sourceforge.net))

A replacement to Notepad which a bent particularly for programmers, this application is far superior to the default text editor in Windows. Highlights include syntax highlighting, tabs and session saving to name a few features.

#### TeamViewer ([www.teamviewer.com](http://www.teamviewer.com))

An invaluable tool to help friends (or receive help) with computer troubles as it allows remote connection to any computer on the Internet using secure, encrypted connections. A broadband connection is pretty much a necessity.

#### KeePass ([keepass.info](http://keepass.info))

Most people I know loathe passwords. We know they should be hard to guess, but the harder you make it to guess, the harder they become to remember. ([www.microsoft.com/athome/security/privacy/password.mspx](http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/privacy/password.mspx)) Add to that, that you shouldn't reuse passwords on different accounts. You could write them down, though that is frowned upon...so how about a password safe ([www.schneier.com/essay-148.html](http://www.schneier.com/essay-148.html)). KeePass is just that and the beauty of it is that by remembering just one "master" password, you can have a secure password for every account. It can also be used to store information such as serial number, bank card and account details. And it can be configured to automatically enter your details (such as user name and password) into a website's login screen.

#### PortableApps ([portableapps.com](http://portableapps.com))

Lastly, while all the previously mentioned software could be used by anyone this one is really only for people with a portable external hard-drive. PortableApps lets you take you favourite free applications with you wherever you go. Install onto your external hard disk drive, plug it into any computer and there are your programs, all ready to go. It comes bundled with standard software but you can easily add more with just a few clicks. Depending on your requirements it can also take your documents with you.

## THE JOY OF TRUE RELIGION

Perhaps the saddest thing to be said of sin is that it has thus been able to invade religion at its very core of joy, injecting into it the opposite of its nature. And yet it is equally true that there is no religious joy like the joy engendered by redemption. Nor is this simply due to the law of contrast which makes the relief of deliverance proportionate to the pain which it succeeds. A more particular cause is at work here. In redemption God opens up himself to us and surrenders his inner life to our possession in a wholly unprecedented manner of which the religion of nature can have neither dream nor anticipation. It is more clearly in saving us than in creating us that God shows himself God. To taste and feel the riches of his Godhead, as freely given unto us, one must have passed not only through the abjectness and poverty and despair of sin but through the overwhelming experience of salvation. He who is saved explores and receives more of God than unfallen man or even the unfallen angel can. The song of Moses and of the Lamb has in it a deeper exultation than that which the sons of God and the morning stars sang together for joy in the Creator.

- Geerhardus Vos, "The Wonderful Tree", in *Grace and Glory, Banner of Truth Trust, 1994, p6.*

## BOOK REVIEW ...

### MEMORIES OF SANDFIELDS

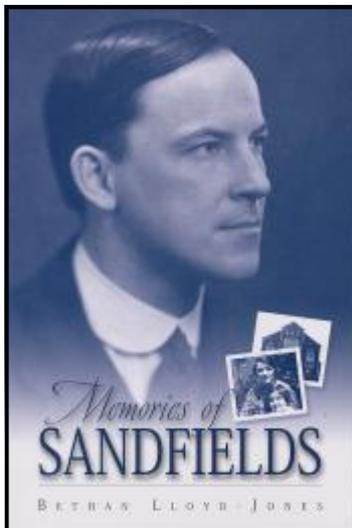
- By Bethan Lloyd Jones, Banner of Truth Trust, Revised Edition, 2008, pp104 [\$20.95 [Koorong price]]

I thought this little booklet was to tell us a little of Mrs Lloyd Jones experiences as she started her life as a lady of the manse. In a sense it is, but actually it's memories of some of the very interesting characters that she and her husband met in their time at "Sandfields" [Aberavon].

Bethan first met Martyn at church when Martyn was only 14. He sat in front of her with his two brothers and parents. They were engaged in 1926 and married in 1927.

At the end of 1926 Dr Lloyd Jones had made the decision to give up medicine and answer the call of God to the ministry. It had been a difficult decision for him, but one in which Bethan had helped. She herself was also a Doctor. She had been brought up in a Christian home and had always attended church and believed herself to be a Christian. But she only found true peace through listening to her husband preach.

It was to Sandfields they went for their first charge, and it was at the beginning of the great depression. Sandfields was the daughter church of the Presbyterian Church in the town. During their time there the congregation grew, with many interesting and poor lost souls being brought into the congregation. Prayer meetings were a highlight of the church life with one being held on Monday nights for prayer only, when two to three hundred would attend. Dr Lloyd Jones reminded the praying people not to have too long prayers as people might get



weary, and not to have mysterious references, but to pray clearly! A Mens' Fellowship was also held as well as a Bible study.

The ladies decided they also wanted their meeting and were told that as long as the other meetings did not suffer they could have theirs too.

Bethan taught a girls Sabbath School Class which she loved, learning herself as she went along. Although well educated herself she still had a lot to learn in the Spiritual school.

The Lloyd Jones spent some time in Canada as guests in Toronto, where the "Doctor" supplied the pulpit for two months. The Congregation there increased in number under his ministry. They enjoyed their time in Canada apart from the Mosquito's!

The book is filled with stories of those they met and came to love whilst at Sandfields - those whose lives had been beautifully changed by God's Word preached faithfully and simply by the "Doctor". When they finally felt the time was right to leave Sandfields it was with great sadness. But they went forward in the strength of the Lord to a new and much larger church family at

Westminster Chapel.

I enjoyed Bethan's memories of the people who obviously became very precious to her and her husband. But it made me sad too because it made me ask: Where today do we have large meetings for prayer and people begging for more meetings to be held? People often walked miles to attend these meetings. Today it is too much of an effort to get the car out of the garage to attend. If you want to be spiritually uplifted, and challenged, then this is a book you should get and read!

- Roberta Murray.

## The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia Brisbane Congregation

ALL AGE "CAMP DREWE" CAMP @ LENNOX HEAD 28 - 30 November - 2008

Speaker: Rev. Ray Murray, Northern Rivers PCEA

Topic: The Lord's Prayer.

**COST:** Adults, tertiary and secondary students - \$65.00; Primary students \$50.00  
Pre-school children \$25.00; Children under three years -Free; Family - \$220.00  
[This cost includes all meals from Friday night supper to Sunday lunch]

**ACCOMMODATION:** Campers will sleep in dormitories, with 6 beds per dorm. [Total - 112 people.]

**WHAT TO BRING:** Sheets, blankets (or sleeping bag), and pillows; towels and toiletries; hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, swimmers; Bibles!!

**REGISTRATION:** Please obtain, complete and return a registration form to:  
Mr. Stewart Carswell, 85 Barmore Street, TARRAGINDI, QLD 4121

Forms should arrive no later than 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2008. If payment is being made by cheque, make it out to: Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, Brisbane Congregation. It should accompany the registration form. Further Info: Contact: (07) 3397 1138; [stewart\\_carswell@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:stewart_carswell@health.qld.gov.au)

# THE CHURCH .....

## MELBOURNE

### Rev Andres Miranda BA, Dip Th.

At the end of March 2008 Mr Miranda, a man of Chilean background who was an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, initiated contact with the minister of Knox PCEA. Ultimately, the result was that Mr Miranda shared in supplying the vacant parish of Narre Warren on alternate weeks over the past 6 months. Not only was his preaching most acceptable but he and his family found the experience with the PCEA both enriching and strengthening.

Accordingly, the family has joined the Knox congregation and Mr Miranda has resigned his connection with the PCA leaving free of any censure. Mr Miranda is currently completing a degree in Social Work. Beginning in 2009 Knox have engaged him on a part-time basis. During the two years remaining for his degree there will be ample opportunity for mentoring and application for status as a minister in the PCEA if appropriate. His wife, Andrea, is also of Chilean background. Their children are Natalie (15), Samuel (12) and Katrina (8).

Mr Miranda was born in Chile in 1972 and arrived in Australia in 1986 with his family as political refugees. Nominally Roman Catholic, Andres was converted through a Bible study run by the Assemblies of God which he attended at the invitation of a Christian friend. He com-

pleted a BA in Biblical Studies at Harvest College but became disillusioned with the emptiness of Pentecostal practice. He was influenced to the Reformed faith by reading the Puritan William Gurnall's /Christian in Complete Armour./ He joined the Presbyterian Church of Victoria completed the regular course of study in 2003 and worked under another minister in a church planting work in the western suburbs. It was not a very happy arrangement. Although he was ordained on 17 July 2005, he resigned in April 2006 emotionally drained. He has since completed a course in Clinical Pastoral Education at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

### Rev Sjirk Bajema BA (Hons), BD.

Mr Bajema is scheduled to arrive with his wife Betty-Ann and son Andrew (21) on 2 December 2008. They will live in the rented manse at 44 Prospect Hill Road, Narre Warren 3805 (Tel 03 9705 1505). His daughter Eileen will follow at her own expense in January. At this stage an date for Mr Bajema's induction to the Narre Warren charge has not been set, but is likely to be mid January. The congregation is in good heart.

### Marriage

The marriage of Luke Martin, son of Rev Ken and Mrs Gillian Martin to Amy Ball, daughter of Rev George and Mrs Rhoda Ball has been announced, and is scheduled for Saturday 10 January 2009. Both Luke and Amy are members at Narre Warren. We wish God's rich blessings for them in their life together.

**[Continued page 16]**

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**[Continued from p 15]** property and so the acquiring of that property cannot, of itself, be wrong. The Bible commends those who work diligently to provide for themselves and their households. God has provided both the abilities which we have and the opportunities to use them. It is therefore our duty to use them fruitfully; by doing so we glorify the One who has given them. However, we must use those abilities within the limits of His law, and we must learn to be contented both with the abilities that He has given and the opportunities which He provides for their use. In particular we must not be envious when someone else is able to advance further than we, or acquire more possessions than we, either because of greater abilities or more opportunity to use those that they have. Certainly, we are not to be consumed by envy of those who have acquired their possessions by means which are outside those permitted by God's law!

### Cargo Cult Mentality

Finally, let us remember that the things of this world do not constitute enduring riches. The only enduring riches are to be found in Christ Jesus. This is why to covet any other riches is idolatry. It is putting transient possessions in the place of the permanent and unchangeable God. The idea of a "cargo-cult" is not new. From earliest days, people have sought after riches and, often, they have thought that they could obtain these through the service of some idol. In fact, the real idol in their hearts was greed! However, God taught His people that He and He alone should have central place in their hearts. He told Abraham, "I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." (Genesis 15: 1) This is the lesson that all God's

people need to learn. There is nothing else that can fill the emptiness in their hearts, that emptiness that leads to covetousness. God has "put eternity in their hearts," and those hearts can be filled by no one else but Him.

### The Only Cure - Christ

The only real cure for covetousness is Christ. When He fills our hearts and our lives, we no longer see the treasures of this world as real treasures in comparison with Him. It is then that we see the truth of the words of Jesus: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6: 19-21) Those who believe in Jesus Christ have a treasure far greater than any that the covetousness of this world can even imagine. Furthermore, it is a treasure that will never be taken away. If there be any reading this article who do not know that treasure, may I counsel you, with Paul, to "covet earnestly the best gifts." (1Corinthians 12: 31) The best gift of all is salvation through Jesus Christ, and it is a totally free gift!

If you are already possessed of that treasure, then Paul also has a word for you, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3: 1-3) May God grant this peace and contentment to each one of us!

## The Tenth Commandment

Dr. W.J.W. Hanna, Brisbane, concludes the study on the Ten Commandments with the Tenth Commandment: Exodus 20:17 - *“You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour’s.”*

### Introduction

This last commandment is by no means the least in importance because it comes last. Principal Salmond of Aberdeen considered it “the deepest of all the ten,” saying that “it takes us down into the fountains of desire and touches the most secret sources of unholy actions, words and thoughts.” Sometimes we think of the Ten Commandments as being a linear progression from the most important (“You shall have no other gods before Me”) to the least important, the tenth (“You shall not covet”), but this is not so. Rather we should be thinking of them as a circle, where the last brings us back to the first.

Paul writes in Colossians 3:5 of “covetousness, which is idolatry,” and in Ephesians 5: 5 of the “covetous man, who is an idolater.” We can see from these references that the Bible is teaching that the person who breaks the tenth commandment is also breaking the first one! Some other object is being put in the place of God! We can also examine the tenth commandment as it relates to the other commandments, besides the first, and we will find that it deals with something which underlies all the other commandments, that is, an innate desire to have what we want regardless of anyone or anything else. One writer has justly said that, “As soon as we earnestly grapple with it, it springs into vast spiritual proportions, which are seen to include all the other commandments.”

### An Extensive Commandment

The other commandments imply great principles which have very wide applications and we have tried to bring out some of those applications as we have studied them. However, those principles have some bounds placed upon them; they deal with specific types of offences in either thought, word or deed. The Tenth Commandment, on the other hand, carries us far beyond such things, for it takes us past the area of speech and action and even past the deeper stage of thought, and touches something which is deeper than any of them. It extends to the basic impulses of the heart, to those movements within us which give rise to, and which control, all our thinking or speaking or doing.

### Covetousness

Covetousness is that evil impulse within us which drives us to a wish for our own personal advantage at the expense of someone else. It drives us to a selfish wish to have what rightfully belongs to someone else and that selfish wish is the seed from which actual sin grows, and,

from it, death. James in his Letter has put this very clearly. He says, “... each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” (James 1: 15) We can see the outworking of this principle in the case of Adam and Eve as they fell into sin. It has been said that, in their one act of disobedience, they broke all ten commandments, but, surely, the first one which they broke was the Tenth one. It was their coveting of something which God, in His wisdom, had not given them, the forbidden fruit and the knowledge that came with it, that led to the first sinful thoughts and, when those thoughts were translated into action, to the first human sin. This sin involved the simultaneous violation of the other nine commandments!

### Paul’s Testimony

Paul points out to us that, in his own life, it was the law which brought him to a knowledge of his sinful state, and that this commandment was a central feature in that process. He writes, “What shall we say then? Is the law sin?

Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, ‘You shall not covet.’” Paul was a very strict Pharisee, and so kept the outward forms of the law carefully. As far as could be seen by outward actions, he was, “concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.” (Philippians 3: 6) By this he means that there was no one who could accuse him of being disrespectful to parents, of murder, of adultery, of theft, of knowingly bearing false witness, etc. However, in the Tenth Commandment he met one which dealt with something which other people could *not* see. He found a commandment which dealt with an inward desire only! This led him to see that his own nature was evil. It led him to see that this evil desire was in *him*!

### One Command or Two?

As we start to examine the Commandment in detail, we might first remember that this is the Commandment which is split in two by some groups who prefer to see the first and second commandments as one only. The basis for the split here is that there are two “You shall not ...” statements. This, it is said, means that there are two different commandments and that the prohibition against coveting one’s neighbour’s house is of a different sort from the prohibition concerning the coveting of his wife, etc. This is a strange argument, for exactly the same argument would hold for the first and second commandments. They, too begin with separate “You shall not ...” statements, yet it is these which such people want to regard as one! It is much more reasonable to see the second prohibition in the Tenth Commandment as an explanation and extension of the first one.

We should first understand that the word “house” in Hebrew can mean both a building and a “household.” Per-

haps we could consider which is the more likely meaning here in light of the fact that the people to whom the commandment was first given were trekking through the desert, living in tents or in “humpies.” They didn’t have houses in our sense of the word! Once we have decided that the primary meaning here is “household,” it becomes clear that the second statement is an explanation of the first. Together, they mean “You shall not covet your neighbour’s household, *that is*, you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbour’s.” In other words, the second part of this commandment is outlining those people and things which form a part of a neighbour’s “household.” The other explanation would place a building in a class by itself, while relegating one’s wife to the same status as servants and domestic animals!

The argument for this being one commandment only is further strengthened by comparing it with the equivalent statement in Deuteronomy. This reads, “You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife; and you shall not desire your neighbour’s house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that *is* your neighbour’s.” (Deuteronomy 5: 21) You will notice that, this time, the statement regarding the neighbour’s “house” is in the middle of the other statement, thus showing that they cannot be separated.

### The Scope of the Commandment

Taking, then, the commandment as one statement with an expansion and explanation in the second part, perhaps we should then be asking ourselves whether the scope of this commandment is confined to such personal things as form part of someone’s “household.” The commandment itself gives an answer to this, for, while it is quite true that it seems to concentrate on those things, it also adds the rider, “nor anything that is your neighbour’s.” Indeed, it emphasises the wide-reaching nature of the command by starting with the nearest and dearest part of the household (the wife) and then proceeding down to the most common beast of burden (a donkey) and then goes beyond to include anything remotely connected with the household.

### Dissatisfaction

I suppose we might still ask whether the main thrust of the commandment is toward those personal and domestic things, but we have really already answered it, for we have said that it is a commandment which encompasses all the other nine, even the commandments regarding our relationship with God! If this be so, why, then, *does* the commandment speak mainly of such ordinary and personal things as wife (or husband), servants, domestic animals, etc.? The answer, I think, is this: covetousness in the human soul *begins* to make itself evident as a dissatisfaction with our own circumstances, especially our domestic circumstances. It begins with our starting to compare our own situation with someone who has, or appears to have, more or better than we have, and with our be-

coming envious of such a person. Our Lord spoke against those who become pre-occupied with such things. “Take heed,” He said, “and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” (Luke 12: 15) When we become dissatisfied with what God has given us, then we become prey to innumerable temptations, including the temptation to envy others to whom God has chosen to give more.

This is a tendency which is exploited and encouraged in our commercialised age. We are constantly bombarded with advertisements in all the various media of communication, in radio, television, newspapers, etc., trying to stimulate our latent covetousness and to nurture in us a dissatisfaction with our present circumstances. Always the picture given is that the really happy person is the man or the woman who “has everything.” Greed is constantly being used as a motivating force to drive us in the way that people want us to go. Almost every week I receive telephone calls asking me to take part in a raffle for one good cause or another; the last was, I think, for the Rural Fire Service. The people asking me to do this usually can not see that this is gambling! To them it is just a sort of game! They simply cannot see that this was all based on covetousness!

**“Covetousness in the human soul *begins* to make itself evident as a dissatisfaction with our own circumstances, especially our domestic circumstances. It begins with our starting to compare our own situation with someone who has, or appears to have, more or better than we have, and with our becoming envious of such a person.”**

### Contentment

We can see that covetousness is a very insidious evil. Since it is a matter of our inward attitudes, and since those inward attitudes are degenerate and have always been so since the Fall, it can so easily take charge without our being even aware of it. Our Lord exhorted those who followed Him to “Take heed and beware of covetousness.” It was necessary for Him to give us this warning, for constant care is going to be necessary if we are to avoid it. How is that to be done? One *might* say that the opposite of covetousness is liberality, the giving away of money and goods. Should we simply give away what we have? Is *this* the way to go? This is not what the Bible teaches! It teaches that the antidote to covetousness is *contentment*. If we are contented with whatever God chooses to give us then we will not be filled with envy of others; we will not covet what *they* have. The Apostle Paul gives us an example of this attitude in his own life; “... I have learned,” he wrote, “in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” (Philippians 4: 12) Here was a man whom covetousness could not touch! But he did not start off like that! You will notice that he says that this attitude is something that he had “learned.” One suspects that, as with most of us, the lesson did not come too easily!

### Ambition within the Law.

I am not saying that we should never have any ambition, that we should make no effort to improve our wealth and outward circumstances. We have already dealt with this principle when discussing the Eighth Commandment. God has given us the right to hold **[Continued, p 13]**

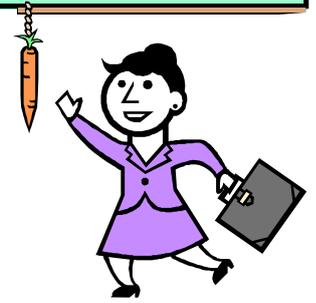
# BETWEEN YOU AND ME .....

With this issue we say "thank you" to Dr. Wes Hanna for his study on the Ten Commandments. If there was a time when the Ten Commandments needed to be memorized, studied and reflected upon it is today. Even those who hold to the abiding authority of the Law of God are often hard pressed to repeat them—and repeat them in order.

I used to teach Special Religious Education in a State-High School, and part of the course dealt with the Ten Commandments. I said to one class one day that I would give a Mars Bar to any who could write down the Commandments in order at our next lesson. After a little bit of legalist discussion as to whether they were big Mar Bars, or small Mar's Bars, we concluded that it would be Big Mars Bars. Dealing with young 14 year olds who came

from very varied backgrounds [and who only had SRE once a week] I felt I would be fairly safe.

A week later, the Year 8 Class arrived, and I gave out a blank page, and they all set to work. After all the results were in, I found myself looking at a nett cost of \$30.00! These boys and girls had set to and learned the Ten Commandments in order! I was glad I hadn't extended the challenge through the entire six year 8 classes at the time! The next year we mutually agreed on small Mars Bars!



The young people were motivated to learn God's Law by the prospect of a Mars Bar! Surely we should be motivated to learn God's Law and seek to put it into practice from higher motives. In itself it is holy, righteous, and good. It instructs us in the way we should live. It carries with it great advantages for life—as the Psalmist tells us in Psalm 119: 97 –101. But most of all, we should learn and want to keep God's Law because we love God—and all that belongs to Him. If he has sent his Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of the Law, and granted his Spirit so that the Law might be fulfilled in us, surely we will delight in that Law, even when it holds up before our eyes how far we come short of the conduct it demands. Thank you, Wes, for your penetrating study.

## Church News [Continued from p 15]

### Baptisms

The Lord's Day 26 October sees the baptism of three little ones. Nathaniel Rowland, the third son of Fiona and David Visser, born 17/9/2008, and Jared (25/6/07) and Hannah (24/09/08), the children of Rev Kamran and Mrs Rubina Nazir. Mr Nazir is a minister of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pakistan. He studied in Geelong about 10 years ago, and has recently arrived to do a Master's degree at Bible College of Victoria. We are delighted to have them join with us, and anticipate assisting in outreach particularly to Muslims. [R.S. Ward]

## Upcoming Event - 2009

### FAMILY CAMP - Naamaroo Conference Centre, Lane Cove National Park, SYDNEY.

5pm Monday, 5th January - 3pm Friday 9th January, 2009 [DV]

#### Theme: Love and Obedience: Our Response to God's Grace

#### Main Speaker: Rev. George Ball, Manning River Congregation.

The camp commences at 6pm Monday 5th of January (arrival after 5pm) and concludes at 3pm on Friday 9th Jan. (God willing). The costs for full time attendance, including dinner on Monday and lunch on Friday, are as follows:

- Adults \$240
- Seniors \$200
- Student/Unemployed \$200
- Primary age children (K-6) \$175
- Preschool children 2 -5 \$60
- Children below the age of 2 free

#### **Family Rate** (subsidised) **\$820**

If you are only planning to attend for part of the camp (this is different to a day visitor) please contact the camp organiser on (02) 4626 8212 to check pricing.

**Distance Subsidy** will be paid by the Youth & Fellowship Committee. Long distance travellers are encouraged to pool vehicles to save costs. The amount of the rebate will be determined at the camp.

**Hire of bed linen**, blankets and towels is offered. Please indicate your requirements on the registration form.

**A Limited Number of Ensuted Rooms** are available, with bed linen, towel and blankets provided for an extra cost of \$30 per person for the week.

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