

encouragement from the national leadership team

Christmas is a reminder of the humble birth of Jesus.

Max Lucado paints quite a vivid picture of that humble birth: "The stable stinks, the ground is hard, the hay scarce. Cobwebs cling to the ceiling and a mouse scurries across the floor. Mary looks into the face of her son. Her Lord. His Majesty. At this point the human being who best understands who God is and what He's doing, is a teenage girl in a smelly stable. She remembers the angel's words: 'His Kingdom will never end.' (Luke 1:33) Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of manure and sweat. Divinity entering the world on the floor of a stable. This baby had once overlooked the universe. His robes of eternity were exchanged for the rags keeping him warm. His golden throne room abandoned in favour of a dirty sheep pen. Worshipping angels replaced with shepherds."

Those residing in the city were totally unaware that God has visited them. The innkeeper would never believe that he'd just sent God into the cold. And people would scoff at anyone who told them the Messiah lay in the arms of a teenager on the outskirts of their village. They were all too busy to consider the possibility. But those who missed His Majesty's arrival that night did not miss it because of evil or malice acts. No, they missed it because they weren't looking for Him. Little has changed in the last 2000 years has it? Those who look for Heaven will find it. May you be someone who seeks after the Kingdom of Heaven during 2008.

May you have a joyous time with family and friends during this holiday time. Thank you for giving to the Lord in all you have done for the Kingdom during 2007.



BMIT Gatherings 2008

NSW State Gathering

15th & 16th February

@ Christian Centre, Moss Vale

More Fire Youth Camp

24th - 27th April

ANZAC Long weekend

@ Dzintari Camp, SA

VIC State Gathering

9th & 10th May

TAS State Gathering

15th & 16th August

SA State Gathering

7th & 8th November

National Leaders Gathering

9th - 13th June

@ Tamar Valley Resort,
Grindelwald, TAS

Relax Refresh Receive

IMPORTANT NOTICE :

There have been date changes for More Fire Youth Camp and the Victorian Gathering. Mark these dates into your diary.

The pioneering Spirit lives on in us

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Prayer and the Fragrance of Grace

Scripture tells us that the heart of the King is in the hand of God and He turns it wherever He wills (Prov 21:1) so we should not be surprised when our presence has an edifying effect in the corridors of the world's authorities. Recently ODCC experienced an indication of how this works.

It has been the practice of one or two of our folk to make regular attendance at Council Meetings each month. These are hardly riveting evenings but the saints have attended in order to pray for the City's Council and Councilors, that there will be unity, peace and wisdom in their deliberations.

Many times it is difficult to know whether such prayers make any difference. Was a meeting less torrid than would otherwise have been were the saints not there to pray?

Well we can tell you first hand that such prayers do have an impact. Recently one of the City's Councilors spoke to one from amongst those who prayed. The Councilor confided that often he found Council meetings sparked aggravation and anger in him for the silliness of what was being argued. He disclosed that on a number of occasions he got to his feet in anger to address the chamber, but would look out to see that small band of Christians just sitting quietly to observe and pray. Then in place of his anger there would come to him a great calm. He was able to say what wanted to say without invective and without spite. The Councilor expressed his gratitude for the contribution which Christ's peace had in his life.

Never doubt the part which you can play as Christ's ambassador and minister of reconciliation. (2Cor 5:20).

~Chris Whiting, Open Door Christian Church~

School of the Spirit, VIC

Here is some comments from the men in our church doing School of the Spirit held fortnightly for the past six months. Mark has been attending once a month to impact and empower them through his prophetic ministry and leadership. It's our next generation of leaders and we are very excited for them .

~ John and Jenny Barnes, House of the Rock Church

Gavin: I've found it to be a challengeing course. Challenging in that the focus is on relying on the Holy Ghost and not on my own strengths. I'm very excited with the idea that the blokes in the Church can take a lead in this area. I'm loving it.

Donald: It is like "do it" or "see it done" at least rather than just hearing it. Not just as an idea but more important for us as a corporate unit. Now I'm looking forward to every part being integral to what God is doing in the School of the Spirit.

Steve: I see the course bringing leadership into the church. Too often we are oiling the squeaky wheel that always gets the attention. Those who are stable in God are now being ministered to in a powerful way

Arch: Each night was unique. I have been deeply impacted by the great theme of "Thy Kingdom Come...On Earth as it is in Heaven." I was also consistently amazed by the specific voice of God through the prophetic ministry

Rosie (wife of Gav): Gav has never really been out there with his faith. Now he talks all the time about being empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Terry: I feel like I've learnt more and grown more in these last six months than the last five years.!

Paul: What I enjoyed the most was the environment where we were able to discuss things in a friendly way without condemnation. Knowing God speaks through others and learning about God through others eyes. I have appreciated the different perspectives.

Nathan: So far it's been really good for the men of the church to come together to learn in the School of the Spirit. It's been great learning from everyone else's past experiences . Also I've enjoyed getting to know that our BMi leader on a more personal level. AWESOME!

Matt: Well what a great way to grow. "Wow" Just finding out that God has you for his Own just blows me away. What else can I say. Thanks!

David: I have been challenged to trust wholly in God; to listen to the Holy Spirit and rely on His strength only- not mine. Not to rely on human effort /wisdom and knowledge.

Glenn: Focus more on God and less on self. Key teaching to realise to look for certain promises ; to mature more as a Christian.



Images taken at the School of the Spirit Christmas Break-up BBQ, Wednesday 12th December.



INTERNATIONAL

Thanks to everyone who prayed for us and supported the team of 17 to go to India for 3 weeks. God is able to do much more than we can ask or imagine!

30th November 2007

Hi. It's Sue Dare here. I am at the transit lounge at Singapore airport as I write this letter. The team and I are waiting for our last flight to Melbourne. Half the team are asleep on the lounges; the others are sleeping or writing in their journals. We have just completed a marathon 3 weeks in India. I did not think that it was possible to fit so much activity into so little time but we did. We visited three different orphanages, attended a betrothal service and two weddings, travelled hundreds of bumpy miles in two Indian states and feasted on curry three times a day. We also ran medical clinics in villages, visited two leprosy colonies and the aged, distributing rice, saris and blankets, spoke at three prisons, several churches, a women's conference and two leadership conferences and spent much time fellowshiping with the local believes. The Indian people were grateful for the smallest encouragement or physical help and welcomed us with open arms wherever we went. In fact we had Bollywood status. (India's Hollywood)

I have not been to Naioth Children's home for 3 years and I was surprised to see all the new buildings and structures. Samuel told me that he constantly wants to improve on the children's surroundings. We were able to sleep at the home this year and that saved us hours in travel and waiting. More importantly it gave us more time with the children doing art & crafts, games, action songs, balloons and stories. Thanks to everyone who donated goods for this purpose. Erin, Brooke, Natalie and Craig did a fantastic job at organising and running the children's program and we don't know what we would have done without them. New uniforms and gift bags were presented to each child on our departure and it was such a joy to see the delight on the faces of the children. Again, so little means so much to people as poor as these.

Our welcome to Christ Special School was amazing. The children had made a banner for each team member with their name on it and were waiting excitedly to meet us. Once inside, we were entertained with songs, memory verses and dances, bestowed with plastic lei's and given several gifts each. Their generosity was humbling and the warm welcome, touching. Please be assured that your sponsorship to both Naioth and Christ Special School is changing lives. Mrs Banu, the founder of C.S.S, shared that before Australian sponsorship, the children sometimes cried with hunger. Thanks God that this no longer happens! I have personally seen the difference child sponsorship makes and am eager to find more sponsors for both homes. We can't feed, clothe and educate every needy child in India but together we can help some. Is there any more worthy cause than giving hope & meeting the needs of a deprived and often forgotten child!



Above Left to Right:

1. The team on the Land bought for the Christ Special School
2. Picnic at Rajumundry
3. Sue Dare and her Sponsored Child
4. Grace's wedding reception

Left: Lily at Rajumundry

Right: Greg Philips & John Barnes



For More information about India;

Getting involved in Missions Trips
Child Sponsorship, Needs & Prayer

Contact John and Jenny Barnes.
PO Box 223, New Gisborne, VIC 3438
Phone (03) 5426 1717 or
Email barnesj@internode.on.net



Mission Possible for Future Generations Philippines

Bringing hope for the future to children.

We have 118 children sponsored but there are still more needing to be sponsored; sponsorship provides children with an education plus supplies, uniform, food and the Great news of Jesus Christ

We are also looking for someone to take on the Australian sponsorship coordinators role. For further information contact Jacqueline Goelst

Mobile: 0438 274 210 or Email; Jacqueline.goelst@bmi.org.au





Story Of The Stones



Walking along the beach I see stones, lots of stones. As I continue to walk I see from a distance one particular stone. It is not necessarily the best looking stone, but it has caught my eye. I pick it up, appreciate the beauty in it, and put it in my pocket close to me.

The beauty of stones becomes greater when you put them together, one enhances the other. Dark, light, big and small, together they make a statement, a beauty to behold, simple but profound beach stones.

When I went to pick the stone up I was struck with the thought this was like Jesus Christ, he sees us from a distance and if we are willing He picks us up and puts us close to Him. He sees the beauty he has placed within and knows how to make it shine. There is a raw beauty there in the stone, but often the beauty is in the different stones being together. I pick the stones up and take them home and put them together with others, each enhancing the others, BEAUTIFUL! But there is more!

No only does God pick us up and put us close to him, he knows how to bring out what he has placed in us.

At home I place the stones in a tumbler with other stones, water and some grit and the stones rub against each other with the grit in between. The water becomes grey and the stones are coated with what looks like a sludge, they are unrecognizable when you look into the tumbler. I pick them out of the tumbler from time to time, wash them and look to see if the rough edges have been smoothed, then put them back in the tumbler with different, finer grit. Finally I put them in with a very fine powder and the final shine takes place. What a process, but what a beauty is revealed. Being with others, wanting God's best for others, through thick and thin is like the tumbling process. One needs each other and the process to bring out the full potential that Christ has put within. But the result is worth it. For the stones from the beach it takes up to two weeks constant tumbling. With us it is a lifetime.

I can only pick up stones that will fit into my pocket, but God can pick up the whole beach and put it close to His heart.

As you enjoy and appreciate these humble stones, remember God puts out His hand to pick us up, but unlike the stones we have a choice to respond to Him and His love for us or not.

Enjoy the journey and see what beauty God has placed in you and others. Wow!

Written by Christine Cloudsdale



Connect with the Power

Do you ever feel like you miss opportunities to testify? I do sometimes and are often led to repent. The biggest hurdle that gets in the way is the mind; it can rationalize and convince you to do otherwise. I wonder what Jesus thinks about that?

2 Timothy 1:7

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, love and of self discipline. So do not be afraid to testify about our Lord..."

Paul here testifies to Timothy that He [God] has given us [believers] a spirit of power. In other words WE have the authority to witness. We need to remind ourselves that we CAN witness and that there is powerful things happening in the spiritual realm as we do because WE have the Power. The important thing to remember is that we can not forget who we are and what we have. In fact we have a mandate to testify but we must connect with the Power.

Let's look at the order of the words, power, love and self discipline. Here it seems the writer is placing an importance on the word Power. Change the order to self discipline, love and power and it highlights a "works" mentality. Connect first with self discipline and there's no power to witness. Connect with your mind and you realize how timid and fragile you are. Connect with the power and you will have the love and self discipline to testify about our Lord.

How do we connect with the Power? Submit everything to God. The mind is not the ultimate authority, God is.

What is holding you back from open testimony...connect with the Power.

~Belinda McDermott, Bethesda Church Mt Nelson~



Have you got an encouraging word or Testimony to share with Your BMi Family?

Then let us know!

Lets be encouraged and connected

Email: info@bmi.org.au or

Phone: (03) 6394 3011

Greetings to all the family in BMI

We (James and Christine Cloudsdale) have the privilege of serving as Senior leaders of Cornerstone Family Church located at George Town in Northern Tasmania. We have lived in this community since 1980 and were part of the initial inception of this church. Our three children grew up here and have now left home and have started families of new careers and have seen the favour of God in so many ways.



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Currently the church group we lead is small, but invested with quality people who have seen God prove his love and greatness in so many different ways. We are so blessed to have this support and love. We expect to see small things change to greater things as God fulfills His word and as we walk with Him in faithfulness.

We have been part of BMI for 21 years and served in a number of leadership capacities in our local church. Highlights have been trips to the Philippines on 2 occasions. In the last 10 years we have been used to minister to the inner healing needs of people throughout our state and prophetically were required. This ministry has been to Christians (of all persuasions) and non-Christians so in part fulfilling the mandate of Isaiah 61.

At this time I work full time as a laboratory technician at a local Ferro-Manganese Smelter (TEMCO). Christine does a lot of the weekly ground work, enjoys pottery, collecting beach stones and polishing them.

We have the privilege of working under the leadership of the Tamar leadership team of Mark Crawford, Kevin Donohue and Andrew Goelst (and their wives).

The recent resurgence of our youth to follow the Lord strongly has been a great encouragement.

Much love from us both,

James and Christine Cloudsdale

Confusious says: - Man who run behind car get exhausted.

Confusions says: - Man who run in front of car get tired.

Hello to all the Bmi youth, you are all looking awesome. Well we are fast approaching a 'New year' 2008 a year of new beginning. I have four points that I want to share with you that I hope and pray will help you in this coming year.

Walk and Talk

1. Walk. Change the way you walk. Over time we all develop bad habits; these habits creep into our lives without us even knowing. This New Year 2008, the year for 'new beginning' is a good time to reflect and make positive and Godly change.
2. Talk. Change the way you speak. Some times it's very easy to become negative, and begin to say: nothing good ever happens to me or I could never do that. We start to speak our mind and not the Word of God in our daily lives, this New Year I want to encourage you to change the way you speak, and confess God's promises over your life.

Mix and Fix

3. Mix with the right kind of people. The company we keep will build us into God's kingdom or will chip away at our Godly foundation. We are to be the light in a dark world and the change agents for our communities.
4. Fix your focus on the Lord. As we keep our focus on the King and keep Him seated on the throne of our hearts. He will help us overcome the outer man and the outward situations of life. Notice I said overcome them, God doesn't always remove our problems but he does always help us overcome them.

God bless you all, Happy Christmas and a blessed New year.

~Budd Glazbrook, Covenant Family Church~



The only people with whom you should try to get even are those who have helped you.

John E. Southard

OFFICE NOTICE

Bmi Office will be closed from 21st Dec and reopens 7th January

If you need to contact Bmi call 0439 901 929 or email info@bmi.org.au