



Urban

Street Ministries in NSW Australia

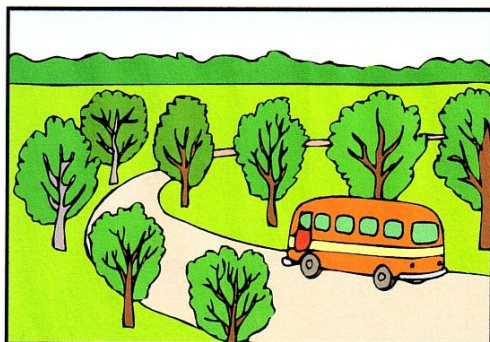


Suburban

John and Elaine McLachlan

Country

These true stories are published to encourage and embolden Christians to realise how easy and how important street ministry is.



INTRODUCTION

These stories have been experienced and compiled by John and Elaine McLachlan, who have been trying to introduce people to Jesus for nearly 50 years.

They began as a young married couple in a local church, and sought out all the training they could, from every source that was on offer, as other more experienced Christians shared, in various venues, many different methods and strategies.

The minister at that church was also interested in Christian mission and evangelism, and encouraged this interest amongst church members. In 1969 or thereabouts the Rev Geoff Fletcher conducted a full day of teaching in evangelism. The church was full of people. Mr Fletcher taught the evangelism method of the then Lay Institute for Evangelism, of which he was national director. The methodology was that of Campus Crusade for Christ. The eventual outcome was that only two of the church members undertook door to door visitation using Dr Bill Bright's "Van Dusen letter".

During the following few years the young couple received training using other tracts, but these efforts also achieved little. They were also introduced to evangelism involving invitations to neighbours to meet in their home, but they found that this did not grow the local church.

In 1982 and two ministers later, local churches were invited to attend a conference to be led by the Rev Terry Fullam, a minister

of the Episcopal Church of the USA. Each church could send a delegation of up to fourteen members, one of whom must be the senior minister. After attending this conference, majoring on the power of the Holy Spirit, the couple began visiting door to door, inviting people to church, receiving no interest except from some New Australians, who proved to be too shy to visit an English-speaking church.

Again, in 1982, responding to an invitation to the local church from World Literature Crusade, later to be known as Every Home for Christ, the couple visited a "Change the World School of Prayer" addressed by Eric Leach and screening teaching by Dick Eastman.

These two 1982 conferences were to have a profound influence on this couple. In 1985 they attended "World Explo 85" in Brisbane: "Change the world by introducing others to Jesus Christ".

One went on to learn Evangelism Explosion and became a trainer. Unfortunately the rule was that you could not have a family member on the same team. These two years, while valuable experience, also were of limited success. This method was also quite unsuitable for the cross cultural opportunities that were presenting. God had, with the end of the White Australia Policy, brought the Mission field to Australia "to make it easier".

In 1988 they were invited to a church in Campsie NSW where the pastor had a vision of all nations worshipping God together.

There were 21 different languages. They worked with him, even making a video, for 6 years. There are three stories in this compilation which are memorable from that time. God was moving people from one country to another so that they might meet Him. But there was still more to learn, especially in the power of the Holy Spirit.

There were several conferences on healing and spiritual refreshment, 5 years of conferences for reconciliation as to the divisions and sectarianism in the church and an international conference on world evangelisation in Singapore. After a prophecy in 1999 they knew that every ministry had to be anointed and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be effective so they began praying to learn how to do evangelism in the power of the Holy Spirit. It was then they met another evangelist who had a strategy that they had never seen before and they began to work with him and were also ordained into the ministry of evangelism.

These last 8 years they have done this ministry, travelling throughout NSW, stopping to talk to people, inviting them to receive the Holy Spirit and to receive the blessing that God longs to pour out according to His promise, "to all who receive Him, who believe on His Name He gave the right to become children of God."

THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES BEHIND THIS WAY OF OUTREACH

All the outreach we did while we were in the various churches to which we belonged was based on teaching the people about Jesus and about man as a sinner who needed salvation. This mainly involved asking people to come to the church. This made it very difficult to reach those who did not want to come to a church, such as those who were committed to other religions or those who had made inner vows like "the church will fall down if I darken the doors", a statement which we heard often enough to be a concern. It seemed to happen that someone would invite a friend to the church and they would meet the only person at that church who could cause them to be offended. Teaching the truths of the Bible always seemed to bring out all the arguments about hypocrisy, and self-justification, which caused resistance to preaching about sin and judgment. We prayed for years about a new strategy to overcome these problems.

God had spoken into our hearts about the apostolic ministry and we had acquired a book published in 1996 on this topic. This ministry was always called "missionary work" by the church, but Jesus plainly "sent" first His 12 chosen disciples and then another seventy (two), without formal training but "in His authority and power". The Apostle Paul writes of the power of the gospel and Luke writes of the power of the Name of Jesus (to make this man well). It must be possible to evangelise using this Power alone,

believing and trusting the Holy Spirit and the anointing which we are given when we are born-again children of God. We have been "sealed" with the Holy Spirit but Paul prayed that God would grant us a spirit of wisdom and revelation and intimate knowledge of Him so that we can know and understand the hope to which He has called us (Christ in us – the hope of glory...His glorious Presence radiating from us so that we present Him rather than ourselves). Paul goes on to pray that we can know and understand the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe. This power is the same as He used to raise Christ from the dead and seated Him in the heavenly places. By and in the power of the Holy Spirit we are supposed to do the works of Jesus, and even greater.

We often think about our toaster. If we do not plug it in to the power and then "turn it on, use the power" we will have no toast. If Christians do not practise using the power that is potentially in them there are no mighty works. This analogy is logical but how does one learn to use this power within us?

God does not mind us starting small. He talks about mustard-seed faith but rebukes His disciples for being afraid in a storm. "What is the matter with your faith?" He wonders whether, when He comes, He will find faith on the earth. He commends a woman who has such faith in His word that she does not need to bring the sick one to Jesus because she is so confident that even

a throwaway word from Jesus will be enough power to heal her daughter.

When we stepped into this kind of faith we found that God continually backed us up. If He could raise Jesus from the dead He can most certainly raise a spiritually dead person with His word. This is what we have asked Him to do in all these encounters and He has been wonderfully faithful to His word. He also promises that He will do even more than we ask or imagine. When the compassion of Jesus rises in our hearts and we can imagine what God could do in that situation we have encountered we can have confidence that He will keep His word and also that He will complete what He has begun.

This way of evangelism brings incredible joy and there is no need to strive because we are relying on the Holy Spirit to convict of sin as well as righteousness and judgment. We mainly talk of the love of God and the need to give Him permission to come into our lives because He has given us freewill to run our own lives if that is what we choose to do.

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1 THE LADY AT THE FENCE

Because NSW is our prayer territory we have been travelling everywhere on streets, lanes and country roads to meet those who are on the Lord's heart. There are so many people who cannot or sometimes will not go to a church. In many very small communities there are no churches. Some communities have a church service once a month or even once in three months. We are moved by the parable of the great banquet. "Go into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, crippled, blind and the lame. Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full."

So as we were travelling on a country road we noticed a lady working at the fence of her large field. We stopped and went over to her and asked if we could pray with her. She said "yes" straight away and her story came out. It was during the drought and they were in a financial crisis, her marriage was under a terrible strain and she had not been to Mass for months. She began to cry because the "church" had come to her. We explained that God does love her and would want to help her. She did not know that she could have a personal relationship with God because of what Jesus has done through His death on the Cross. She did not know that she could be comforted and empowered by the Holy Spirit and was delighted to pray to receive Jesus as her Saviour and Lord. All she had known was "religion" but she had been unable to meet these requirements.

The Gospel is such a simple message but it made all the difference in this lady's life. This is not a spectacular miracle but it was a wonderful Divine Appointment.



2 THE LADY WHO RECEIVED A MIRACLE OF PROVISION

It was a terrible day for driving. We had prayed against the rain but it kept on falling and I was complaining to God that we were unable to talk to people in such rain. Quite late in the afternoon we passed a lady who was taking advantage of the break in the weather, walking her dog. At last we had someone to pray with! This lady was a Presbyterian, born and bred. No worries! Can we pray to bless each other with the Holy Spirit? She wanted to and we did then she told her story. It was during the drought and a neighbour who had 300 head of cattle was desperate and wanted to put his stock on the public road because there was no stock route near. Animals are not permitted on the road at night so he asked our new friend if he could leave them on her property. She only had 20 head of cattle and just enough water in her 3 dams for her own, but God challenged her to be generous. After he had left them for 3 days and nights the dams were dry and he took his animals away. Our new friend told us she thought she would need to arrange to buy some more water but that night it began to rain, and rain, and rain until her property

was awash and her dams were full to the brim. She told us that after three days when she could get off her property again she found out that it had only rained within 2 kms of her property and nowhere else. God had given her a miracle of provision. The reason she loved telling us her story was that she had wanted to share it with all her church people but the pastor would not let her in case it gave people false hope! We were so thrilled to hear this story we have shared it with many people, with her permission. How God loves to reward those who come to Him in faith!



3 THE ALCOHOLIC/GAMBLER

We met him in Parramatta in the street when he came to listen to us preach. He was in his 50s and admitted that he had wasted his life on women, gambling, drugs and alcohol. He felt he had no future and no hope. We asked him to pray with us, to receive Jesus into his life. We told him how much God loved him because God's word says that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. He came often, sometimes he would pray and sometimes he didn't feel like it. He asked Jesus into his life many times but at first nothing seemed to happen but we went on praying with him and encouraging him with God's word. We believe in "soaking prayer", that eventually the changes would happen because God promises that when He begins a good work

He will bring it to completion. Suddenly our friend began to feel he was changing, that God's Spirit was doing a work in him. He started attending Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous and began to enjoy praying. He has now stopped drinking and gambling and has begun to respect himself. He likes to come and talk with us and pray for us and our witness, and helps others as God has helped him. Would he have done it without street ministry? Maybe! But it has been a privilege and a joy to be a part of his healing and return to self-respect and to an understanding of the power of love and prayer. It is such a privilege to help another to come into a personal and powerful relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. We consider him to be our friend and he speaks much more positively about his life and even his hopes for the future, where before he could only live for the next "fix", whatever that was going to be. Jesus said that the devil came to kill, steal and destroy but He came to give life. He came to set the captives free and it is wonderful to be His instrument.



4 THE LAPSED CATHOLIC

We met the 80 year old in the street in Parramatta several years ago and asked him to pray but he said he was a Catholic

and walked on. The next time we met him he was sick so he let us pray about his problem. He came through the Mall nearly every week so we always greeted him and after some weeks he told us that he had a good report. He began to stop and chat with us and one day we were a bit more insistent and he prayed to ask Jesus to come into his life. This was made easier by the fact that when Pope Benedict had come to Australia for the World Youth Day he had encouraged all the pilgrims to receive the power from on high. We used this to encourage as many Catholics as we could to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus through His Holy Spirit. Our friend was very negative because he was used to bad health, rejection and fending for himself against the world. Certainly bad things had happened to him, including rejection by his wife and children. We continued to show God's love to him and we began to enjoy fellowship there in the street. We prayed with him often and he loved praying our prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to come on him. Gradually he began to enjoy the Bible readings at Mass and he liked to share what he had heard or learnt that week. It was a great encouragement to us too. He is now utterly convinced of God's power to save and to heal. Even though he is in his 80s he told us recently he had an excellent report from the doctor. We rejoice because our friend is strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.



5 THE MUSLIM WHO ASKED FOR HEALING

One day when we were in the street talking to people about Jesus a Muslim man came to us and told us that his father was very sick in Iran. The people who have come as refugees are torn between their desire for the better life that they hope will happen when they come, and the reality of the long and painful process of becoming a citizen of a country with very different culture and language. They have come as religious people, under strict laws, and are shocked at the freedom (licence) so-called "Christians" have. When they see that we are as "religious" as they are, they respect us. They have no knowledge of the real freedom that Jesus gives but they watch and they gradually discern. This Muslim was so worried about his father and felt so helpless that he decided to ask us to pray. The next week he came excitedly to tell us God had healed his father that week. He wanted to become a Christian. There is a very good congregation of Persian speaking people in Parramatta so he joined them. The best thing about reaching one Muslim is that they share what God has done and we have prayed with many Muslims since. Once God gives a breakthrough into a close community we are welcomed into that community too. This has such an advantage in first helping us to empathise with the problems that these migrants face but also builds bridges between different cultures so that we can learn from their strengths and pray for their weaknesses. This breaks down

racism prophetically. We start a train of love in action. We love it that God has brought all these people who need to see faith in action because it gives the Holy Spirit an opening into the lives of people who have not yet met Him.



6 THE HINDU WHOSE FATHER HAD DIED

A young Hindu mother was walking through Parramatta Mall feeling sad because her father had died, when she saw one of the team smiling at her and it immediately reminded her of her father. When she was asked if we could bless her with the Holy Spirit she prayed and God gave her comfort in her heart. She came back with her little boy, week after week, to pray again for that comfort she had felt the first time she prayed and then she began to ask us to pray with her for other things. After a few weeks she also began to share some of the terrible abuses she and her son were receiving from the boy's father. She had no other emotional support so we considered it was a privilege to pray and agree with her for God to intervene and sort all the mess out. She received all the answers to our prayers and asked Jesus into her life as her Saviour and Lord. After she had done this she began to ask all her Hindu friends to come and pray with us. Every week she brought a new one with her. She had told them what Jesus had done for her and wanted them to receive

the blessings too. When we went to Africa she brought us gifts of hand wash and extra strong insect repellent to bless us. Eventually she moved back to Western Australia where her family were living and we lost touch with her. Because we always pray that God continue His good work in her we are confident that He has given her someone else to encourage her. Though we never see or hear from her now we will never forget her, and it was a great privilege to introduce her to Jesus and eternal life.



7 THE MUSLIM WHO SHARED A PRAYER

We were doing street ministry in Auburn, NSW, where there are many Muslims. Many have come from Turkey to live in this area because there is a Turkish mosque, and they like to walk in the streets in the afternoons and early evenings. We had discovered that it is normal for Middle Easterners to socialise outside their homes so it was much easier to approach them, even though many of the women were fully veiled. Many actually asked us for our prayer sheet and some even prayed with us in the street. This was when we were trying out a new way to evangelise, not so much inviting people to church, but inviting them to join the family of God, by asking Jesus into their lives, giving Him permission to bless us.

There are, of course, many other cultural groups in Auburn and a few Caucasians who have not moved out of the area.

One day we approached an Islander (Tongan or Samoan) who usually tell us they are Christians. This man did not give us this usual answer. Instead he told us that he had prayed this prayer recently because a woman in a hijab had asked him to pray it with her. He was very surprised because it was a prayer to ask Jesus into his heart. He had prayed this prayer before at his church but he was so amazed that a Muslim had invited him to pray that he felt he must share it with her.

He did not tell us whether she told him where she had picked up the prayer. It demonstrates how powerful a gospel message is, that a Muslim woman wanted to share it with someone of another culture. She might have already prayed with us and experienced the power of God because God really does reveal Himself to people from all backgrounds who pray to ask the Holy Spirit to come to them, or to meet Messiah. The Apostle Paul preached in Athens that God settled people in different places so that they should seek Him and find Him.



8 THE CHRISTIAN WHO WANTED TO KNOW WHAT TO DO

One day we went to Nowra NSW to pray with people in the street and we met a man who had been attending a local church for many years. He loved God and worked faithfully at his church but he longed to do something significant for Jesus. He did not know how to share his love for Jesus with other people because he did not want to be "pushy" or "Bible-bash" and he had been taught to keep his "religion" private. Verses like "If you confess me before men I will confess you before my Father in Heaven" troubled him. We shared our prayer with him and told him that he could go and share it in exactly the same way with others. It was so moving to see him light up because we had conveyed an authority that he needed to go and ask others to receive Jesus in their hearts in the power of the Holy Spirit. We watched in delight as two of his friends came along (Isn't God amazing?) at that moment and he asked them to pray with him and they did. These two people had apparently come along to his church's outreach activity but had never made any profession of faith until he asked them to do so on that day. We have found that many conservative churches have outreach activities but never help people to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, so selling the Gospel and the seeker very short. We have discovered that some Councils have embraced Satan's lie that "religion should be a private matter" and have put up notices forbidding the handing out of tracts in their streets because religion is for inside a church.

This is not in our Constitution because we have total freedom of religion and under the written law of the land can share our faith with anyone who is willing to talk to us. These Council By-laws are total bluff and in the streets of Parramatta and Merrylands where we work regularly the police actually like us being there.



9 THE PARTNER WHO DID NOT KNOW

We often meet young couples walking along the Mall and we approach them to ask if we can bless them with the Holy Spirit. One will say that they are a Christian and when we ask the other, that person might say "no". We usually address the second one to tell them how much God loves them, and that Jesus died 2000 years ago so that they could be connected to God and be blessed. Sometimes the "Christian" will protect their friend from us but often we ask the Christian to pray by asking the Holy Spirit to bless and empower them. When this has happened we turn to the non-Christian and ask if they would pray, and their answer is almost always "yes". We understand that this is because it is evidence to the believer who has been praying for their unbelieving partner or friend, but the anointing of the evangelist breaks the yoke and frees the unbeliever to believe and receive. It is beautiful to see the faces of both – joy and incredulity that

God has answered prayer and that they are equally in the family of God together. This is the authority that Jesus has given us to use in faith when He sends us out to the streets and country roads. If He has sent us He also equips and enables us. It is also in His heart to answer the prayer of faith of the believer and to save all who call to Him. It is interesting that, in Australia, people think they have heard the Gospel but when asked they answer that it is being a good person and going to church. The people who say they are not a Christian often mean they do not want to go to church. Then we explain that it is all about connection with the Heavenly Father who wants to bless them but will not force His way into their lives. He is waiting for them to "call on Him", thus giving Him permission to come into their lives. It is a beautiful experience to "taste and see that God is good". When we meet them again, which often happens because we go to the same place each week, we ask them how it has been going and they nearly always light up and say they have had a good week.



10 SOME WHO COME TO MAKE AUSTRALIA THEIR HOME

The Western Suburbs of Sydney seem to have a large share of new migrants and refugees who have come with great hopes and dreams of a better life. Unfortunately, their present situation is a rude shock especially if they are waiting and hoping for

permanent residence. Many cannot even begin basic English classes or get a job so they are often in the streets for something to fill in their days. They have friends that speak their language but they have no idea how to change their situation. Many are Muslims, which is very fatalistic so their religion does not give them practical help. Because our approach is to ask if we can bless them they enjoy talking with us. We have, therefore, a wonderful opportunity to tell them why we are out there in the streets. Thirty years ago when we were praying, just after the White Australia Policy finished, God told us into our hearts that He was bringing the mission field here to Australia to make it easier for us to reach other nations. The Vietnamese migrants were coming, followed by the Chinese after the Tiananmen massacre, when the political leaders gave them leave to apply for citizenship. Now there are more than 100 languages spoken in Sydney. There are students coming here from all over the world and we are amazed how many people we meet who have come to study English or do higher degrees but who speak their own language at home. We have acquired a prayer to ask Jesus into their lives in at least 90 languages and it is incredibly easy to ask them to read their language to us. We usually tell them what God had told us into our hearts because He wants to bless them. It is easy to tell them that Jesus died on a Cross 2000 years ago so they could meet God personally, because Heaven's door is open if they will come in. We have prayed with many Persians

because they have experienced so much persecution from their own religion, and God has blessed them with the desires of their hearts.



11 TRAVELLING THROUGH FOGS AND STORMS

It is such a blessing to read that Jesus rebuked His disciples for not having enough faith to rebuke the storm. He is therefore saying that great faith deals with these problems. This is not just the "storms of life" as we have heard preached, but real life storms, rain, fog and winds. We travel throughout the state of NSW in all weathers and sometimes on roads that are quite rough gravel, which can turn slippery when wet. The Lord has laid on our hearts certain places to visit where we hope to find "Divine Appointments". In smaller places there are no churches and some places count themselves catered for spiritually if they have a Christian church service or Mass once a month. A sign at one church we "visited" was "sixth Sunday in the month". The church grounds had become a place for camping. As we drive we enjoy beautiful scenery when the sun is shining. We began travelling during the drought so we began to pray for rain. As God began to answer our prayers travelling was not so easy. The devil does not like what we do so he is going to think up

some ideas to frustrate us and deter us from our calling. One day in the mountain area a terrible fog came down and we could not see more than 10 metres ahead. We struggled on and then remembered – speak to the "storm". Immediately we repented and spoke to the fog which lifted instantly. We drove on and again the fog came down. We spoke again and again it lifted. This happened several times and we asked the Lord why. Different territorial spirits had tried the same tactics to deter us but we had persisted in faith and God was faithful to His promises. Another time a very black cloud was over the area where we were going to talk to people. We commanded this to go, in Jesus' name, and without another upward glance got on with our business. After some time we realised the sky was blue above. We also had a nice harvest of souls.



12 ENCOURAGING THE LONELY

In the country there are many people who do not have any public transport and therefore have to rely on others if they need to go into "town". Sometimes we stop to talk to and pray with people on the side of the road, mowing or gardening, waiting for the school bus (the only transport all day) or even people riding their bikes along the road miles from the nearest town. Sometimes we actually go and knock on the doors of people,

purportedly to ask for information. These visits almost inevitably are Divine Appointments. People who have not talked about spiritual things for years have an opportunity to share their need so that they can "bring it to the Light" and receive comfort and healing. This seems to be an opportunity special to outback NSW although it is probably true for all lonely places. We have met and prayed with people who have nearly lost their faith through neglect and Satan's attacks on them and all that they value. When religion has been taught but not personal relationship with God, financial demands have been made but not "power to get wealth", and sickness has been "sent by God to teach us something" instead of "Jesus came to save and to heal", people are confused and bewildered instead of knowing God is a good God, loving and faithful to His word. When we have a relationship with the Father through Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit we can never be really lonely because He promises to be with us. When we know Jesus personally it is easy to demonstrate because His love is shed abroad in and from our hearts and is transferable by faith to another person. Touch is a powerful tool to pass on love and when we are sealed with the Holy Spirit it is a good thing to practise imparting the power that the Apostle prays we may know. We are continually amazed that people remember us even years after because we prayed with them.



13 THE CHALLENGE FOR THE NEEDY TO RELY ON GOD

One day we visited a church and talked for a while to the minister afterwards. We went to a nearby shop and came back to our car, parked near the church. The church had closed and the minister had gone but a lady, looking desperate, was outside. We asked her if we could help but she insisted she wanted the minister. We told her we were Christians and maybe we could help but she still wanted to talk to the minister. We caught on that she wanted money and asked her once more if we could help. The trouble is that the church has conveyed to the needy that it hands out charity and so this lady was looking for handouts. We explained to this lady that if she needed money we could give her some but what will she do tomorrow? Jesus has promised to be our Provider and our Source. What she really needed was a Provider and Source in her life, to be there to strengthen her all the time. Had she asked Jesus to be her Source? No, of course not! She was most happy to pray that He would become her provider and Source and asked Him to be her Saviour and Lord. We gave her more money than she had asked for and she was very surprised. "Are you sure?" "Yes, we are sowing into your life now but when you are on top again you will be able to bless someone else in the same way." It turned out that she had 8 children and nothing to feed them that day. We have had many situations similar to this one and we feel it is good stewardship to encourage the recipient of charity to believe that

they will be able to do the same one day. We pray that this will change their mindset from dependence on welfare to a desire to be able to bless others as they have been blessed in their time of need.



14 THE HINDU WITH A FAMILY PROBLEM

We met a Hindu lady in the street and she prayed with us to receive the Holy Spirit. She attended a Christian church but still called herself a Hindu and still had a shrine in her home. She asked us to pray for her daughter who was grieving for the man she had attached herself to who was now in gaol. She had been married young but rebelled against her mother's choice for her and gone off with one of those tattooed and pierced young men that seem to attract young, foolish and rebellious women. The demonic influence was so powerful that she could not let go of this one to whom she had given her body. This mother was desperate but we explained to her that her daughter needed to come to Jesus to be released from the curse on Eve. Jesus is the only one who can break this curse, but He will gladly do it if we come to Him. As this mother has become stronger in her faith and resolution her family members have become very interested

in meeting us, so recently we went to their home to pray for healing, for the old lady who does go to church, even though she also is a Hindu, and her son-in-law who was not a believer. We still meet them. She taught us something very special. She was sitting with us, having coffee and she picked up a prayer which begins, "I repent of my sin". She prayed aloud, "I repent of my sickness". We had never thought that we could pray in this way although it is perfectly Biblical.

This story is still a work in progress but God is faithful and He will complete what He has begun. Perhaps the lady will become convicted to remove the shrine from her house as we pray. We never actually tell a person to change their practices unless they ask for advice. Letting go of old and well-practised ways is only by conviction of the Holy Spirit. Even Christians have trouble letting Jesus be Lord over everything! But when troubles increase, people are open to advice from God's word and His ways and are willing to try them.



15 THE CATHOLIC GIRL'S BIRTHDAY

There are quite a group of us that minister in the street in Parramatta each week. We pray with a lot of Catholics, ever since Pope Benedict came to Australia for World Youth Day and

told all the pilgrims to receive the power from on high. We began praying the "bless one another" prayer at that time and were able to tell Catholics quite truthfully that the Pope had encouraged all Catholics to do this. Young Catholics are not too keen on going to Mass. They tell us it is boring, but because they have been baptised, God is faithful and keeps His eye on them. Most of them acknowledge that they love God and when we tell them how simple it is to connect with God through the Holy Spirit they are happy to pray to receive. They are also pleased to participate in something that happened during that special time because the little booklet that all the pilgrims received encouraged us to "keep the fire burning". Because they move into a personal relationship based on the love of God, they feel the presence and love into their hearts. Many pray with us quite regularly as they go about their "fun" activities and love it.

One day one of the girls who had prayed with us before and felt the love of God came by with about 16 of her friends. They were celebrating her birthday at a local restaurant and she decided that she not only wanted God's blessing for her special day but she wanted all her friends to experience it too. The whole group joined hands, prayed together with us for the blessing of the Holy Spirit. There was truly great joy in the city because some of her friends had never prayed like that before. The dynamic of a large group of people blessing each other in the Name of Jesus is

powerful. This young lady had the joy of bringing her friends into a personal relationship with Jesus with our help.



16 THE VISITOR FROM OVERSEAS

As we travel throughout the state of NSW, we find ourselves in unusual places and on roads that are not used except by locals. These roads are mostly gravel and not regularly graded by the local council. After rain they are not that easy or comfortable to drive on. They are also often narrow and just follow the lie of the land and can be very winding.

We found ourselves on one of these roads one day. One of us kept saying "I don't know why we are even on this road". Rather than go back and around the long way to our destination we continued. We met some council workers having "smoko" and asked them whether it was safe to proceed as we do not drive an off-road car and they assured us it was rough but OK. As the road got rougher, narrower and more winding we met a vehicle coming in the opposite direction so both drivers stopped and we got out of our cars to exchange greetings and information. The people in the other vehicle were from Denmark and they were visiting Australia. They were trying to get to a popular tourist destination but their GPS had directed them onto this terrible road instead of the good road which was many kilometres longer. We

have found that the GPS does this quite often if you put in "shortest route". They were bewildered at why they were there until we told them we travel the whole state, asking people if we can bless them with the Holy Spirit. They were not Christians but when we produced a prayer in Danish they were happy to pray and receive God's blessing and our prayers. They felt that it must have been God who had brought them onto the "wrong" road for their Divine Appointment and we had to agree with them.



17 THE MAN WHO WANTED TO BE UNFAITHFUL

One day we were in the street in Parramatta for our "regular" outreach. We took turns preaching while the others talked to people who came by to listen. A man from a nearby suburb came and sat down and one of us (female) began to talk to him, and asked him whether we might bless him with the Holy Spirit. He was a Catholic and prayed with her willingly and then started to laugh. This is not an unusual reaction when someone is touched by the Holy Spirit but we often ask how the person feels. It was then that he told his story. He had had a big fight with his wife and he was so angry that he had stomped out of the house to "find a woman". He had gone to the railway station and finally got off the train at Parramatta. He had walked down the street

and had stopped to hear the preaching on relationship with Jesus. He had met a woman all right but this woman was not offering what, in his anger, he had intended. Instead he had been rescued from ungodliness by a God who loved him so much and had met a woman who asked him to pray repentance and for Jesus to come into his life. We all rejoiced together at God's love and faithfulness to one of His own family. We could also pray that he would reconcile with his wife and that the Holy Spirit would fill his heart with love and thankfulness.

We never try to change people's religious affiliations and if they already belong to a church we like to encourage them to go to their own church. This is what we love about street ministry. We can minister in the power of the Holy Spirit to all who come to us and they can go away and "comfort others with the comfort they have received from God".



18 THE ONE WHO SAID NO BUT RETURNED

Since Jesus promised He would give us His glory and His anointing, we always want people who meet us to see Jesus in us. This will be fragrance of life for some and the smell of death to others. We ask as many people to pray with us as we can. People either wave us away or they stop and pray. Just occasionally some want to argue but we try our best to avoid this

because the Apostle Paul warns us not to have fruitless arguments. When people say "no" or wave us away we usually smile and then turn away to the next encounter.

One day a woman was walking quickly through the street and said "no". Within minutes the Holy Spirit must have convicted her and she came back. She apologised for being rude. Now we were sure she had not actually been rude as we have come to know "rude" in the street ministry. One has to remember all the time that when people meet us it is not us they are refusing but Jesus Himself, who has sent us. We did, however, accept her apology and asked her why she had come back. She had had bad experiences in the church and had turned away from God. We explained how God loved her and when bad things happen, the best thing to do is to turn to God, not away from Him. She had not really heard the Gospel in its simplicity. Jesus died 2000 years ago to pay the price for sin. Heaven's door is now open and God wants us to give Him permission to come into our lives and bless us, and heal our wounds. Bad things do happen to good people, especially Jesus, so He knows our pain, emotional, physical and mental. Somehow the Holy Spirit had unstopped her ears and she heard the truth. She was so happy to pray to ask Jesus to come into her life and she went on her way a changed woman.



19 THE HOMOSEXUAL

Years ago while doing door-knocking we met a man and asked him whether he would like to come to the church. There was a special function on and the pastor had asked us to invite friends. Being door-to-door evangelists we thought it was a good opportunity to invite those in the neighbourhood of the church. This man said to us that our church would not want him to come because he was a homosexual. Even though we told him that God loved him he was adamant. "The church hates homosexuals". This response troubled us and we prayed into this matter for some time. When we moved from that particular church and that neighbourhood we forgot about it, but from time to time when the press reported another story about the church hating homosexuals we would remember and ask God how to evangelise among these "outcasts". If Jesus died for us while we were still sinners there must be a way, even though these people try to justify their life style and have it publicly recognised as a valid way to live.

A few times in the street, because we are not pushing church membership but Kingdom membership, we have prayed with people who tell us they are homosexuals but we do not know whether they have moved towards a holy life style.

Recently we met a man in a suburb in which we do street ministry once a week. He really wanted to pray for the power and presence of the Holy Spirit and appreciated the prayer. A week

later we met him again and he also prayed again. This time he told us he was a homosexual. He tried to justify his life style because of what had happened to him in the Catholic church and what some of those who have taken a vow of celibacy practised. The Holy Spirit is a spirit of wisdom so we wanted to say what He would say. How could we help this man to be free to change his thinking? As we talked and listened to each other we decided that love can never be wrong, even between same sexes, but perversion, perverse practices against the word of God, must be wrong. How could we reconcile this? How could a person who loved another man be holy? We discussed the path to holiness, the highway of holiness. The in-filling of the Holy Spirit continually would be the only way to keep one from falling into sin.

Some churches have practised exorcism but this is not equipping the homosexual to walk in the way of holiness. This is effectively saying that the whole package, including loving another human being is wrong, which they cannot cope with.

A week later we met him again. He said he had taken our advice. We did not really advise him but had suggested that he practise celibacy with his friend. If he fell into sin he should repent and ask the Holy Spirit to help him in his resolve. From this point we pray for him every day that Jesus sets him free from perversion, into the freedom of pure love which exercises self control and wants the best for the one you love.

20 AN INSTANT HEALING

Many years ago I went with my prayer partner and mentor to a house where we knew the lady had severe arthritis. When we arrived she welcomed us and my friend said we had come to pray for her healing. This lady had been a church goer but only knew about Jesus. We all sat down, but she did so with great difficulty and grimaces of pain. We talked and found out that she did not realise that when Jesus died on the Cross it was not only for our sins but also for our sicknesses. She had heard that God sends sickness to teach us something and it had not occurred to her that if Jesus spent so much of His time healing people, why God would send sickness and pain. She had also heard that healings had ceased after the New Testament was completed. These extraordinary things were being broadcast in some circles. Anyway, after we had corrected some of her misconceptions we knelt down and put our hands on her knees and prayed that God would heal her. After we had prayed we sat on the chair again and began some general conversation. The lady leaned back on her chair too and, without thinking, crossed one leg over the other. When she realised what she had done she re-crossed her legs and gave a shout. "There is no pain". God had healed her instantly. This precedent that God set before my eyes has challenged me to pray often, "God, do it again". Because I have asked this God has done it again, recently with a Muslim woman who was interested in why we believe Jesus is not only God's

Son, but equal with God in power and glory. When she was healed she wanted to ask Jesus to be her Saviour and Lord. It is the greatest privilege to set the "captives free". Praying like this also helps us to realise the power that God has given us to use for His glory and honour.



21 THE PRACTISING WITCH

When we do door knocking, house to house, we do not know who we will meet or what God's plan and purpose for the particular person is. So when the door opened and the lady invited us in we accepted her hospitality and told her why we were there. She began to tell us what she believed, especially astrology and other occult practices. We were praying in our hearts where this was all going. She decided to demonstrate her occult powers by telling us our star signs. We told her we did not have a star sign because we lived under the sign of the Cross but she decided everyone had a star sign and proceeded to guess by our personalities and traits. It was no use asking us the name of the astrological sign so she changed to the month of our births. She guessed and she guessed, but by God's grace, she never got the month of our births correct and became quite frustrated, thinking she must have mentioned it. God was so much in this we were amazed that no matter how hard she tried she could not

get it right. In the end she admitted that being under the sign of the Cross must give the person a new personality. We were able to tell her that in Christ we are a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come. We cannot say that she gave up her old practices and became a believer in Christ because after we left her house we never met her again. We are glad that God has a team of workers and we trust that as He had begun a good work in her He will have brought it to completion but we will never know until Heaven. Just being a part of His good work is all we need to be willing to do.



22 LOOKING FOR RURAL FIRE SHEDS

God showed us in His word that He loves those who are ready to lay down their lives for their friends. After disastrous fires in Victoria we were praying for our prayer territory – NSW – and asking God how we could encourage people to believe for His protection for their communities. There are so few churches in smaller places in NSW and even those that have a church do not have anything other than religious services, sometimes only once a month. Believers do not seem to have been taught to have faith in God's promises and in God's generous nature. Maybe people are too busy to spend much time in His word or maybe there is not enough encouragement. More and more churches are

closing or falling into disrepair from lack of upkeep funds and manpower. What used to be a community meeting place where the local people met and worked together has been replaced by the rural fire shed. These are nice colour bond steel and they not only house a fire truck but also have a recreation room and toilets, perfect for the community to meet at. Even some local councils are putting these up at their expense because they want to encourage volunteers to take pride in and protect their environment. Consequently communities focus on these things and not on spiritual values like 50 years ago.

This is why God has challenged us to go and pray for these communities. We try to find the rural fire shed as a point of contact, anointing with oil to bring back a spiritual awareness of God's love and His holiness, and, if possible, to meet people to receive the blessing we want to bring in His name. Unfortunately there are no addresses and often only locals know where the sheds are – often at the end of a nice bitumen road but several kilometres onto the gravel. This becomes an advantage because we have to pray to meet the people who know. God has set up so many Divine Appointments for us that we have been amazed but encouraged that He really wants this done. The people we meet in these communities are genuinely pleased at the reason we are there and many pray with us a prayer of agreement for their community. They truly want God's blessing and protection even though they had not before thought of asking Him. If Jesus

has already made a way for connection to God's favour they want to receive and believe. We have found this creative approach is blessed by God because we have obeyed Him in His injunction to "GO".



23 THE MAN WHO LOOKED AFTER THE CHURCH

We travelled far into the country roads out of Armidale NSW to find a church that had been built on a large property in the early 1800s for the spiritual benefit of the people employed. At this time we were anointing churches to pray for those who attend them, that they would know God personally. The GPS and even the maps did not know where we were specifically as we were driving through paddocks and across creeks (no water in them fortunately), but we kept on because we knew the name of the property. Eventually we came to a sign, "church", but we still could not see the building even though the property had the name we were seeking. At that very moment a truck arrived at the gate. The driver was amazed to see us and asked what we wanted so we told him why we had come. Actual tears came to his eyes and he told us the story. He was so happy to pray with us because his heart was heavy. He had looked after this church for over 20 years since he had purchased the property. He took us to the building to show us what had happened in the last month. It belonged to a particular denomination and though he

was not that "brand" he loved God and felt a responsibility to lovingly care for a building which was built to the glory of God. However the building had not been used for quite a while because it was so far out of town and there were no longer people of that denomination around. The decision-makers of the denomination had come and stripped everything of value from the building, the beautiful woodwork, the windows and anything else that could be sold. They had not told him what they were going to do and he had only found out when they had finished. Nobody had thought to thank him that he had looked after the building so well that there was still anything of value in the place and he had complained to God about this. We had arrived just after he had prayed, and we were privileged to be able to pray with him. He really felt that this visit was an answer to his prayer and he was comforted that God had seen his work and honoured him for his devotion. These encounters encourage us, because we do not know how God answers the prayers of His people, but it is such a privilege to be involved in His answers.



24 THE MUSLIM IN THE SHOP

Every Sunday afternoon for a couple of years we have gone to Merrylands NSW to pray with people for God's blessing. We never try to change people's religion but we tell those we meet

that Jesus died 2000 years ago to give us access to God in His throne room of Heaven. Jesus said it was good He was going to the Father because He would send His Holy Spirit, who would lead us into the truth. God does not force Himself into our lives, but we offer a prayer to give Him the opportunity to do so, because He longs to bless us and bring to fulfilment the dreams that He has already planted in our hearts. Because this approach relies on the anointing which God has given to all those who are born again by the Spirit of God, people sense God's Presence in the encounter. Most cultures other than Caucasian have a strong spiritual sense. They know bad spirits and good spirits from their experiences in their countries of origin. Because we come in the Name of the Lord they sense that we have come in love and this makes a deep impression on them. They really want what they sense is "good" and are willing to pray with us because of this sense.

There is a shop near where we walk or stand which is managed by a Muslim man. Every week he comes out to talk to us. He has prayed with us and also introduced several of his friends to pray with us. He has asked us to anoint his shop and often asks us to pray for various needs he has. As far as we know he has not yet "changed" his religion but he knows the power and the love of God for him and his friends. This is very different to his religion which is fatalistic. Allah does what he wants and a Muslim can only accept this and keep on honouring him. The fact

that Jesus wants us to claim the promises of God and to have a personal relationship with Him is very different to what this man has known before. Sometimes the realisation of the power of the Gospel is slow and sometimes it is dramatic. We accept that God has begun a good work in this man and will surely finish what He has begun.



25 THE POWER OF AGREEMENT IN PRAYER

We have made friends with a man who has had many problems and we have encouraged him to trust God in these matters until he has become more confident of God's love and care, and His desire to answer the prayers of His children.

One day this man had a dreadful story to tell us. His granddaughter was in the hospital on life support. She had a boyfriend who had bashed her up, leaving her with swelling in her brain which the doctors could not reduce. They wanted to "pull the plug" because it looked too hopeless. This girl was only 18 years old. We decided that it was not good that she was going to die and that we should come together before God to intercede for her. One of the advantages with praying to bless each other is that we learn the power of agreement that Jesus teaches. If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in Heaven. There was another man sitting with us and he became very negative because what we were

asking for would take a miracle. Fortunately the first friend, the one with the problem, agreed with us when we rebuked the second man. He told him that his negative comments and attitude stumbled him in his faith in God's word, so the negative man repented and then we prayed for our miracle in unity of purpose and faith in God's promise.

The next week we heard the end of the story. The grandfather had gone to the hospital and asked for 24 hours more on the life support machine for his granddaughter, which the hospital agreed to. Before the 24 hours were up the swelling in the brain amazingly reduced and she did not need the life support. By the end of the week she was out of hospital and recovering well. God is so faithful to keep His promises if we claim them in unity.



26 THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES HIS OWN FOLLOW-UP

One day we met a man in the street who had just that day got out of gaol. He had been ministered to in gaol and he also had a Christian family, against whom he had rebelled. He had been down "roads" that had led him into crimes and injuries that must have broken his family's hearts. We asked him to pray to ask Jesus into his heart and to be empowered to live God's way, by the Holy Spirit. He did this willingly and went on his way. After we pray with people we pray for them that God, who has begun

His good work, will complete it, that the ones who have prayed will know God's love and presence and be conscious of His guidance onto the path of holiness. We do not necessarily get to see the results of our prayers, but sometimes God encourages us with feedback.

It was about six months later that a man came rushing up as we were talking to and praying with a young lady from another country. She had never heard the gospel, but responded with a "yes" when asked to pray. He had to tell us what had happened to him since we had prayed. He had gone home and reconciled with his family. Then he had got a job and his life was truly turned around. Our young lady led us all in the prayer to receive the Holy Spirit and then we prayed with our man that God would bring him a wife. He was 37 years old and was now ready to begin a family life that his past way of life could never have brought him. The Holy Spirit had worked the miracle in his life, just one step at a time. We were only one step in that process but the fact that he had come back to thank us was a great encouragement. When the tenth leper went back to thank Jesus for his healing Jesus told him he had been made whole. We understand that this means that there is no likelihood that the problem can ever come back.



27 THE LORD ANSWERS THOSE WHO CALL OUT TO HIM

Many times we have approached someone in the street who stares at us in amazement because "they had just been asking God" about a certain matter, and now we have come to them to pray.

Recently a beautiful young lady had decided that she did not want to follow the religious path of her parents. If she could not find God for herself, maybe He was not real. She felt she should be independent at 20 years old. We talked to her about her motive being a good one, but that there are many traps out there. If she wanted to be independent of human oversight and parental wisdom she needed God's guidance and loving care and protection even more than before. She agreed with us, so we told her how to pray and ask God to come into her life. She received the Holy Spirit with much joy and went on her way. Later in the evening she returned to thank us and talk to us again and ask us a few questions that had occurred to her.

On another occasion a Christian man from interstate and his son came by and stopped to pray with us. Then they told us that they were just thinking how good it would be to have some spiritual input into their evening and as the words had come out of their mouths we had approached them. They were convinced at how God is so faithful and loving to His children. We do not know why, but he asked us about a friend of his who was a brilliant musician but not yet a Christian. We suggested he try

our way of praying with him so that his disappointments with the church would not be stirred up. Then he could share his talent with his local church because the Holy Spirit had moved him to do so. When we share with other Christians we are very conscious that any of the Spirit's gifts could be needed to bring blessing to each of the people sharing together, stirring one another up to love and good works.



28 CARRYING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

We are so glad the Bible says that God will do even more than we ask or imagine. For years we have imagined how "Christ in you, the hope of glory" should look, especially to others who are from cultures which understand and discern spirits. Many of these cultures also read our heart attitude towards them. Without us saying one word they seem to know if you accept them. This has been an exciting challenge if we want to ask people to receive Jesus as their Saviour and Lord. Our attitude speaks to them of Jesus' attitude to them. It is no use telling them that Jesus loves them if we do not.

We have travelled into many very small communities that have no church buildings. There might be some Christians there but

there is often no sense of the love and presence of Jesus. When we ask people we meet to pray they tell us they don't pray. Is there even a God? Does He even care about us, our needs...? Certainly in these communities they have problems enough to cause them to wonder. This is the great challenge of carrying the presence of God to these places. We pray in the Presence where Jesus has not been welcomed for years. How can people survive without the Source of Life? How can they experience God's blessing when they are confessing with their mouths that it is not going to rain, that the crops will fail, that their animals are sick or whatever? These ugly things are not what they really want but Satan is only too pleased to oblige them with what they confess. We know God as good and generous, slow to anger and of great mercy but they do not. We do not know why this has happened to "good" people but it is obvious that they have only ever known religion, not faith, and they have found religion useless.

It is a wonderful thing to us that God likes us carrying His presence to these places, anointing schools, churches, clubs, hospitals, police and rural fire sheds to bring in, by faith, His love and blessing. When people ask us what we are doing we tell them we are asking God to bless all who meet in these places and these people are really touched that we drive all the way to do this. They love to help us find whatever building we need to find and sometimes have even asked us to anoint them with oil.

We meet some wonderful people who are thrilled to pray a short prayer of blessing each other. Even if we do not see spectacular healings and other answers to prayer, this alone deepens our own faith and encourages others to look to God as their source. What a wonderful Lord we serve!



29 THE ONES WHO REFUSE THE INVITATION

We sometimes meet people who not only do not want to pray, but they say they do not want Jesus in their lives. They say they are very satisfied with managing their lives and, even if they are sick, they don't believe there is a God anyway. Our hearts were very troubled by this attitude and we prayed about this quite a lot until we had an answer. We understand that no one can come to the Father unless the Holy Spirit opens that heart and draws the person to Him. However, when we are travelling in remote places, especially when there is no local church either, we wonder how that person who refused will ever get another chance to hear the gospel. When you know Jesus intimately and you love Him so much, you cannot bear to think that some people are going to spend eternity in hell instead of the beautiful place God has prepared for all who love Him.

The answer we received into our hearts was that God wills that all people should be saved and come to knowledge of the truth.

To be fair, every person born into this world should therefore have one chance to hear the gospel. Some in remote places might receive angelic visions and dreams. No matter where people live God has planted eternity in our hearts. When the Apostle Paul was in Athens he preached under the power and revelation of the Holy Spirit, "God determined the times and the exact places where they should live...so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us". "The word of God is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart". But God does know who will respond although we do not. When a person refuses so adamantly, that person has had their one chance. This is a good thing and fair on God's part. Maybe they will have another chance but maybe not. On Judgment Day they will not be able to say they never knew, because God will remind them of the day He came to them to ask them to confess with their mouth.

Recently we prayed with a Nepali girl to receive Jesus into her life in Parramatta, and she immediately asked us about her family in Nepal because they did not know about Jesus. We assured her about the power of prayer; that God would reach out to them in His way if she believed Him to do so. We are so confident of His desire to save all who call to Him that these refusals are also part of His plan, even though it seems so terrible for those who refuse.

30 THE MOTEL OWNERS

When we travel we usually stay in motels. This gives us an opportunity to pray with many who work 7 days a week and are not able to attend a church, even if they are believers. We rarely get a refusal from a motel owner. They are happy that we want God to bless their establishment with good customers, His protection and prosperity. Some of these, though, have been very special encounters.

One of these we met during the drought. She was a believer who did not attend church so she really appreciated the prayer we shared with her. We encouraged her that she had just asked for the Holy Spirit, the full power of God into her life. If she was willing God would use her to bless others in the same way. We saw her again a year later. She wanted to tell us how she valued the way we had taught her to pray for others. Not long after we had been there a farmer suicided from the sheer worry and monetary losses that he could not deal with. The whole community was grieving because it was sudden and unexpected. She had shared the prayer with about eight families and God had comforted them through her ministry to them. She wanted to tell us because it had been wonderful to be able to do something spiritual at such a time.

The second story was about a lady also in an outback town, although there are churches in this one. She also found it difficult to go to church and praying was probably limited to the Lord's

Prayer which she knew from childhood. She found it simple and effective to ask the Holy Spirit to come to her each day, in faith, to believe that He would guide her and bless her in all she did that day. When we went back to her motel she had put the prayer up on her office wall so that every morning she could see it and pray to begin her day. She told us "it made her day". Her prayer commitment had prospered her motel and also affected her staff and her family. They all had such goodwill to us. It was very encouraging to see how we had been able to strengthen a believer to increase her faith.



31 THE ATHEIST

Quite often we meet people who say they are atheists. We often answer that it takes a lot of faith to be an atheist so we would be interested in why this person had come to believe there is no God. Many times they correct themselves and say they are perhaps agnostic. When you have had no experience of a loving God and plenty of life experiences where Satan has had a field day in their lives, it is very easy to understand why they have decided to be an "atheist". For those of us who remember, the church once taught that God sometimes sends us bad things "to teach us a lesson". This thought has prevailed, not because it is

still being said, but because the devil drops this thought into the minds of those who don't know better.

We have tried a very effective way to counteract this belief, especially if they have backed down to call themselves agnostics. We have a prayer to ask God to let us "taste and see" that He is good. This is not a commitment prayer but our intention is that the agnostic actually feels God's love, peace and joy as we pray. We have found that "a touch from God through our faith is real". When we touch the person after they have prayed and ask the Holy Spirit to administer God's love He really does it and the person does taste the love of God. Sometimes they comment that they feel clean, sometimes slightly light-headed or sometimes just happy. God really does work miracles through us exercising faith and turns a seeker from darkness to light in a moment. He has also promised that the anointing breaks yokes and removes burdens.

Now this approach to evangelism is completely contrary to the normal way where we tell people the gospel with words of explanation. We have found that the Holy Spirit is very creative in His approach to people. There are actually no rules except the Law of Love. When people have had bad experiences they need a good one to help them listen to the truth. This approach has turned the hearts of quite a few atheists but of course we acknowledge that God has already drawn them and opened their hearts.



32 THE VIETNAM VETERAN

We met him in Merrylands one afternoon sitting on a bus seat and asked him to pray. He was sick with many medical and emotional problems and he told us his story. We already knew quite a lot about Vietnam veterans because we have met others, and even at the time when the men were conscripted we heard stories. When they returned they were not honoured like others who had gone to war and, according to our information, they were cursed by the Buddhist priests as their planes landed. They were forced to kill or be killed and most returned severely traumatised. Those who have not died from their problems are all sick in some way.

It is wonderful news that Jesus died not only for our sins but also for our sicknesses so we asked if we could pray for him and he received our offer.

But his story was not about the past but about harassment by a Vietnamese policeman stationed at Merrylands. The police had confiscated his driving licence and he could not get it back. When we pray for someone we do not bother to look at the other point of view. In God's scheme of things we just focus on the one we are ministering to, adding our faith to his, (however small that might be). Because he needed to drive to attend to his affairs, sooner or later he got caught without a licence and they took him to court, telling him he would have to go to gaol. We decided to believe that the magistrate would completely clear him because

of the harassment, but he resigned himself to go to gaol. At this point we had to get very firm. Was he willing to agree with us in prayer for our desire so he said "yes". The next week we met him. God had done exactly what we had prayed for and, not only was the case thrown out of court, but the magistrate ordered that he be given his new licence. When he received his miracle he stood taller and stronger because he knew how much God loved him and was interested in dealing with his problems.



33 VISITING ONE WHOLE STREET

A few years ago Anglican churches in Sydney spent a lot of money with the intention of "getting 10% of people in churches by the end of the year". Volunteers were encouraged to go house to house and offer a Gospel of Luke and invite people to various functions in the hope that they would join the church (and hopefully become Christians). We do not know how effective that outreach was but we decided to visit one whole street ourselves, not to offer them a Luke's gospel but to ask them to pray a blessing prayer by the power of the Holy Spirit. Because of our experience in the streets and hearing people talk about bad experiences in the church, and knowing how many have made comments like "the church would fall down if I went in", we

wanted to see what it would be like if we only asked people to pray and let the Holy Spirit move them to attend a church.

The street we chose had 30 houses so we door-knocked. In 15 of these there was no one home but in the other 15 houses there was only one who would not pray. Among those that prayed several went to a church regularly, some Hindus were most happy to pray, one had never heard the message that Jesus died for his sins and was really touched that we had come to tell him and very happy to receive Jesus into his life. The rest were nominal Christians who also appreciated the prayer of blessing. We asked the nearby church to follow up the new Christian but we did not have any feedback. Unfortunately, because a strength of the Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses belief system is in door-knocking, people have become very resistant to being asked to join a church. They often ask us if we are Jehovah Witnesses but we tell them we are Jesus Followers. We want them to know that Jesus has opened Heaven's door so that we can have a relationship with God Himself and be in the family of God. We encourage people to go to the church their friend goes to – we are all working together! We have done a lot of door-knocking on behalf of one church but people who do not belong to that church or do not like that church refuse to pray and we have wasted our opportunity. We believe we must focus on inviting people to belong to the Kingdom of God above all.



34 EMBRACING ONE ANOTHER'S VISION

Early this year we heard that the Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn had a dream to carry the Cross from one end of his diocese to the centre, hoping to repeat this from another end to the centre at another time. We made an appointment to see him because it sounded like an interesting way to evangelise and he received us very courteously and told us his schedule. It was a day's journey for us from Sydney to one of the places he intended to visit and it was raining hard all the way. When we got to our destination we stayed at a motel where we prayed with several people as we told them why we were in town. Next morning we went to the appointed place but there was no advertising so we were wondering what was happening. At last we found some people but no bishop. There was a very nice multi-denominational service in a church building but the people at the service were probably all Christians. We were trying to work out how this was going to be evangelism, but eventually they took the Cross and began to walk through the streets of the town. It was pouring with rain but people followed the Cross along while passers-by glanced and went on with their business. We are used to street ministry so we began to talk to people as we passed them, asking them if they would like a blessing. At least 16 people did but they were on the fringes of the procession. We had gone to take part in the bishop's vision and God saw our hearts and gave us our harvest. We do not know whether there

were others because we did not receive any feedback. We sent a letter but received no answer. It is true that when someone has a vision and we embrace it, even though man does not care, God does keep His word to us and gives us the desire of our hearts because the Bible says that the one who receives a prophet receives a prophet's reward, the one who receives a righteous man receives a righteous man's reward. God touched the hearts of 22 people because we wanted to embrace a bishop's vision.



35 THE BIKIE

Quite a long time ago we were doing door-knocking to invite people to the church we were attending at the time. The area was a lower socio-economic area but the church was praying for rich people to come. We met a few people who began to come to the church but they were very needy. It was very hard because people were hungry for the gospel but when they came to the church they felt pressured by the emphasis on giving. It was quite discouraging that asking people to this church had a negative effect. This is a good time to ask God for encouragement because He knew our hearts. One day we went to a door and a man opened it and was very interested in talking to us. He had an extraordinary story to tell of 2 miracles he had. He was riding his high powered bike one day and had a dreadful accident and was taken to hospital. He told how he was dying

and how he was travelling along a passage towards the light which got brighter and brighter. A voice in the light told him he could not come in because he was not ready. The next thing he knew was that he was in a hospital bed recovering.

Some years later he had exactly the same experience. We asked him what he had done to be ready since he had already had two warnings but he did not know what to do to be ready. What a phenomenal opportunity this was to tell him how to know Jesus personally by the Holy Spirit and to ask Him to be his Saviour and Lord. He did pray with us but we never saw him again. Not long after we left this church and stopped door-knocking in this area and he never actually came to the church as far as we know but we do know that he entered the Kingdom of God and next time, if it ever happened, he would be ready.



36 THE PEOPLE AT THE CHURCH

We went to the funeral of a Christian elder of a local church. The people who attended loved this man and his wife and his faith was attested to and his works admired. There were quite a few people there who were irregular at attending this church, although they would have thought they were Christians. As we

talked to one later he admitted he did not know a personal relationship with God and just went to church sometimes because his wife wanted him to. We prayed together for him to receive the Holy Spirit. He was in his eighties so this was good timing!

This incident reminded us of when we were travelling and anointing the churches all over NSW. We arrived outside one country church during the day and there were a man and his wife working in the grounds. We spoke to them about their work. They loved God and were committed to "looking after the church" but they actually did not "know" God. There was something that kept them at the church but they did not really know. They just believed that being connected to the church and working for God was a good thing to do. They had no assurance that Jesus had died on the Cross so that they might be empowered to live "holy and blameless" lives. These beautiful people were also in their 80s and had been attending church for years yet did not know that they could have a personal relationship with a God who loves them so much. We were so glad we had arrived when they were there and we shared our prayer with them to ask Jesus into their lives. We never met them again but we have confidence that we will meet them one day. Until the end of their lives we believe that they will have heard many times God's "well done" in their hearts as they served Him rather than "the church".



37 THE YOUNG LADY ON THE TRAIN

John loves train journeys so we take them sometimes. We always take our prayer leaflets because we are instructed to be ready in season and out of season. We understand this to mean that a Divine Appointment can come when you least expect it.

We were on the train to Newcastle and the journey is supposed to be two hours. After a short while the train stopped and an announcement was made that there was a medical emergency and the train was waiting for an ambulance to take the sick person to hospital. The wait stretched on to more than half an hour and a young lady began to get really stressed because she had a job prospect which involved being present to do an exam/apptitude test. Then there was another delay because a freight train had problems and was blocking the line. This involved another delay of nearly one hour. She was pacing up and down in great distress. We asked her a few questions and told her that God can bring good to all who love Him. We prayed that He would take her anxiety away and that the train would be able to get under way again. Then we asked her to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to come to her. No sooner had she prayed with us than the train started to move again. She was very amazed that the prayer of agreement was so powerful. She was actually a believer but she no longer attended church because it did not seem relevant to her life. God really wanted her to connect with Him again.

We had another encounter on a train to Newcastle when we got into conversation with a young lady who was going to visit her uncle. We do not know how the conversation got to where it did (except by the Holy Spirit) but we were horrified to find out that the uncle was abusing her. We were able to pray with her and encourage her to get away from this man as she had a proper boyfriend as well who was asking her to do the same thing. We trust that the Holy Spirit she received that day enabled and strengthened her to be free.



38 WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

Many of our encounters are with people who wonder where God is when bad things happen. Religion has not encouraged people to run to God in these times and so they have run from Him (as if that were really possible). God is the Great Comforter but many people go through their lives hoping that there is a God but not having any idea how to come to Him. Those who have any integrity feel guilty to beg Him for help in their time of need. We meet very many of these as we ask people to pray with us for God to bless them.

One of these was a lady in the Southern Highlands. She was a Catholic who went to Mass occasionally. There had been deaths in the family, debts and marital stresses and she felt overwhelmed. She was eager to pray for a fresh filling of the

Holy Spirit and for God's blessing and was really encouraged that the church had come to her on a day when she really needed prayer. She said she would try to minister the prayer we shared with her to her husband. On this same ministry trip there were some other ladies who were struggling with hurts that their local Catholic church had been stripped of the stained glass windows which they had apparently donated. Their anger with the church authorities was harming their relationship with God and they were happy to pray to repent and ask the Holy Spirit to come to them.

Deaths and loss are the devil's favourite way of hurting people whose faith is weak. We know of two brothers. One is strong in faith and has coped with several losses in the family but the other is weak in his faith and slack in Bible reading and church attendance and blames God for the problems. This is why we like to pray with people to ask the Holy Spirit to come on them, because He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment. People need Comfort and Presence to recover from setbacks.



39 PROCLAMATION WITH BANNERS

An interesting way we have tried street ministry is to carry banners with brief messages. These were quite simply made and the rods we used were just broom handles but they were beautiful and striking colours. One was pale green with the message "Come to Jesus and find rest". We were carrying it

through the streets of a country town and a lady came up to us. She was Irish and had come to town for the funeral of a loved one. This banner was exactly what she needed to see to bring her comfort, and she was very pleased to pray with us to ask the Holy Spirit to come to her.

Another banner had the message "Jesus heals" on gold with green leaves. In another country town a lady read this message and prayed with one of us. It was nearly a year later when she phoned us to tell us she was now fully healed, but believing and being encouraged to receive God's word at the time she met us had begun the process.

There is an interesting dynamic when you carry a banner proclaiming Jesus in the streets. At first you feel a bit embarrassed, especially at the reactions of some passers-by. Gradually you become very conscious of God's approval and the anointing begins to fall. Then people will either run and hide to avoid you, or will come to you for prayer if you are carrying a message they want.

They are quite difficult to manage on a windy day but the results are always encouraging.

Our "best" encounter was in Newcastle where three young ladies dressed in black and silver chains, with piercings and tattoos came up to us and asked if they could carry the banners. We told them the purpose of carrying the banners but if they were wanting to say these things to God then we would pray with them

and they could do as they had asked. They each prayed to ask Jesus to come into their lives and they went off holding the banners proudly aloft. God does some amazing things!



40 THE MAN WHO BROUGHT A CURSE ON HIMSELF

We went towards a remote place where we had never gone before in the south east of NSW. The map indicated that the road was all gravel and wound through forests until it crossed a river towards Cooma. Actually some of the road was OK but parts of it looked too risky to drive unless we had a 4-wheel drive so we had to work out another way to get to our desired destination. It is interesting how God guides and leads us because we do not know the future but we move in faith. Next day we worked out how to get to this place so we drove there expecting to find a Divine Appointment. Yes, we did but not what we expected. The man flew into a terrible rage as soon as we mentioned Jesus' name. "Don't talk to me about God, the church or anything like that". He lived in the middle of a pine forest and he finished his tirade with "God can set fire to the whole place for all I care, and he probably will." We were really shocked at his foolish prediction. We were grieved that his experiences of God were so bad that he had come to this point and prayed for him later.

The terrible thing was that this forest was destroyed by fire only 3 months later in the summer bushfires, including some of the houses in that area which was rather inaccessible for speedy response by the Fire Brigade. We felt so sad that we had gone there to bring God's blessing, but his wild words and his refusal to receive had brought such terrible consequences. This is always a hard part of street ministry, but God has always done this sort of thing, sending His own people to warn and ask those who are in danger to repent before it is too late.



41 THE JOY OF ANSWERED PRAYER

We first met in the street in Parramatta. The young lady and her sister were walking towards us and we asked our usual question. "Can we bless you with the Holy Spirit?" And so we prayed together that the Holy Spirit would come on us. We talked together for a little while because they were very new to Australia and had recently become Christians. In the country they had come from they could not pray with others in the streets so this was very interesting for them. They were impressed that this was a Christian thing to do.

We met again many months later and this time she asked us to pray for her brother to be able to come to Australia. They had been hoping for years but there was still no sign that he would be

approved. These young ladies attended a church which was not big on faith in God's promises in situations where it seemed impossible. We do not understand why there are churches like this but we believe that every promise is "yes and amen" in Christ. This is said many times in the Gospels so we choose to believe that with God nothing is impossible and so we simply prayed for the impossible situation to become possible and the girls said "amen".

Many months went by again and recently we met her. Actually she raced up to us in the street and God reminded us of her name so we were able to greet her by her name. She was bubbling over with joy because she finally had the opportunity to tell us that within a few days of our prayer the impossible had not only become possible but was happening before their eyes and the brother was on his way to Australia. We had the delight of sharing her joy and encouragement that God had honoured our shared faith in His promises.



42 CHANGED PLANS

We plan our trips to the country places in advance so that we can arrange accommodation but it sometimes happens that God clearly leads us to another place than the one we intended. The whole concept of Divine Appointments is truly amazing when you are trusting God to lead. He sometimes leads us through

circumstances and it so happened that on one occasion we changed our destination only 2 days before we were going to leave because we could not get accommodation in the place we first intended to go. God sees hearts and hears prayers all the time so when we had to change we were excited at whom we would meet.

This was one of those trips where lots of things happened. We prayed with a man who was in great pain (and was relieved), and a man on the steps of the pub who was really touched by God as tears came into his eyes. Both these men were just ordinary country men who would not normally become emotional but when God does His work, ice that has built up around the heart begins to melt. It is really wonderful to behold. There is no embarrassment, just relief. We never know if these people are "urgent cases" in God's sight. It is such an honour to work with Him in His rescue work.

We had great joy at one very small village when we arrived at the school. The teachers were having playground break and invited us in to have a chat. They loved praying with us. This school has only 20 children and had such a lovely atmosphere. We felt so blessed when they prayed with us so readily and they also were able to give us information that we did not know about places to anoint in the area. People in these tiny villages have very few worship services and not much encouragement to live by faith. Our visit was just as much a blessing for them as for us.

43 AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD

One of the really "fun" things that we do when we are travelling through the streets and back roads of NSW is to stop when we see a bike rider or jogger and ask them if we can bless them. It is wonderful to behold their faces. We are often in the middle of nowhere. Some look at us as if we are mad but others are pleasurably surprised and pray gladly. Then the one who has jumped out of the car to pray gets back in again and we drive off. We have also stopped cars and trucks. This is usually to ask directions because some country roads do not have road signs. The locals know their locality and they do not expect "tourists" on such roads. When the driver helps us we always ask if we can bless them with a short prayer. It always amazes us that so many say yes when asked. This kind of approach takes boldness which we pray for regularly because we must remember that rejection is not actually directed towards us but Jesus, who warned us already. Jesus did say though that "if they receive you they receive Me", so it is very exciting when people do pray when invited. We assure those who pray in these circumstances that we will pray for them every day. We know that many people who do not go to church might have no one praying for their salvation and ongoing blessing, so our Divine Appointments give us a right to continue in prayer for these people. Interestingly, if we do meet them again they usually remember us, even by name, which shows us that they have truly been touched by God. We

give them a copy of the prayer so that they can access God and come into His presence by faith every day and also share the prayer with others. This is when this style of ministry is so unique and useful. We do not need to spend a long time teaching people. We just want them to "taste and see that God is good".



44 IN THE SUPERMARKET

There is one very big advantage in being in a queue. You might as well talk to the person next to you. If you love Jesus so much you may as well talk about Him if you can introduce the subject. When you look for Divine Appointments all the time it is wonderful what God will provide. Many people who were born in Australia have grown up with the concept that a Christian is a person who does good things when they can. They do not like to talk about religion and maintain that religion is a private matter. However people who have come from overseas love the apparent friendliness of Australians and are quite ready to talk in queues. We can begin with the things in the trolley or about their religion, admire their children or anything that gives an opening for conversation. People who expect Christians to be "religious" do not mind you telling them that Jesus heals and that you have a prayer for this purpose.

Then there is the checkout person or the person at the counter. Are they harassed, sniffing from a cold or have a headache? It is really easy to ask if you can pray for them. They might say no but at least you have tried to bless them. Strangely enough, when you are conscious of the anointing and the great desire of God to help people know the Truth, absolute strangers say yes as often as they say no. In your heart you are wanting them to meet Jesus because that is who you are representing, and we have found that God backs us up every time.

Many times we have offered to pray. Those who accepted have usually remembered us and when asked about the prayer, have said with a smile that the prayer worked. Even if we do not see them again we are confident that God has begun a good work and He will bring it to completion, because He has promised.



45 THE SIMPLE FAITH OF CHILDREN

One of the most exciting things about asking people to pray in the streets is when they have children with them. Perhaps the parent is embarrassed to pray but we ask permission to pray with the children, even as young as 6 years old if they can read. Sometimes, even if they are not good readers, the parent will help them read it (and be saying the prayer at the same time).

Parents, especially if they are believers, are so proud of their children reading the prayer and then ministering the Holy Spirit to us as we do to them. The wonderful thing is that God gives the child the same overwhelming of power and authority that He gives anyone who prays with a sincere heart. Children, just as much as adults, go away with a greater sense of God's love, and the knowledge that the Holy Spirit flows through them to bless another person.

One child recently wanted the power of God to flow through him to help his father's eyesight which we had just prayed for. He wanted God to improve the sight every time he gave his dad a hug. Another child wanted to minister the power of God to her brother and sisters. A high school boy called all his friends to pray and minister to each other. Young people who are not "churched" love to connect to God through our prayer. Many already know that Jesus died for our sins because they have learnt the facts in Scripture classes at school but the school curriculum only allows for the facts to be learnt. Proselytising is not permitted in the public school system any more. Because some parents do not take their children to church, even though they allow them to go to the Scripture class, these children have not had an opportunity to decide for Christ until we meet them.

One of our most amazing experiences was in Israel when two Muslim boys read the Christian prayer in Arabic while his father looked on so proudly. The Holy Spirit has gone ahead and moved

the hearts of these parents and God is able to do His work in them through us.



46 IN THE RESTAURANT

We went to meet a Christian leader whom we had known for many years, although we had not contacted her for nearly that long, about a matter and we hoped to show her how the ministry is effective so we invited her to lunch in a local restaurant of her choice. The waitress was very helpful and we ordered our food and then she asked if there was anything else she could do for us. We told her, yes. Did she believe in God? She looked very surprised when we asked if she would like to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit. She was not averse at all but she was worried about her boss. Nevertheless, because our prayer is quite short she prayed with us and sensed the love of God flow to her.

What was really strange was the reaction of the Christian leader, who castigated us and told us how embarrassed she was, how she felt she needed to apologise to the waitress on our behalf. She went on and on for about 10 minutes which made having the lunch with her very unpleasant. It is really sad that she did not think of the ongoing blessing which would flow to this young lady who had opened her heart to God in her workplace for just one minute. Of course she did not get into trouble from her boss just because a customer asked her to pray. Jesus assures

us that if they receive us they receive Him. It is our experience that those who put their trust in God will never be put to shame. Unfortunately some Christian leaders have lost the plot about God's love for the lost.

We have shared our prayer with many in restaurants. The waitresses see us say grace together so they are not surprised when we ask them if we can bless them with a short prayer after we have eaten and go to pay. Some have even asked us to pray something specific because they sense the anointing and have confidence that God will hear us. We usually tell them as they have blessed us with our meal we would also like to bless them in their business and they love it.



47 THE ONLY BELIEVER IN TOWN

We drove with our friend and mentor to a small town where there was only one church, a Catholic church, which had Mass on fifth Sundays, i.e. 4 or 5 times a year. The people of this town were not friendly to us and a few we spoke to were openly hostile. We had gone there to bring God's blessing and it seemed that no one was interested. We did not know who kept the church looking nice if everyone was so hostile but it is a rural town so the members of the church must have been on the properties and farms in the area. We drove around hoping that

someone would receive the blessing and our mentor decided on a house to send one of us to ask. This house just happened to be the home of a lady who cared for the church, mowing the lawns, tending the garden and church cleaning. She was not a Catholic but she did love God. She was very discouraged because life was not going well, including sickness and family problems.

She was amazed that God had sent us and she was happy to pray and we also prayed about her problems. She was the only believer in town so she had nobody to share in prayer with her. It was she who told us that the church attendees were on the surrounding properties, but with so few services they did not meet regularly especially and she was not Catholic.

We later went to a bishop in charge of this area and told him about the lack. We do not know if anything was done as there is a serious shortage of priests in outback NSW. At least this lovely lady is covered by our prayers as we promise to pray and be in agreement with those who bless us.



48 THE MAN WHO BOUGHT A CHURCH

Because we anoint church buildings, representing those who meet there, it is very interesting looking for these in the country. There are many surprises when we find a building which is well

maintained and obviously loved and used. Many are on large properties from the days when the owners had many workers and cared about their spiritual welfare. Present owners often continue to maintain them or the church in town holds services in them "sometimes".

We have found, though, that many of these churches are no longer used. This is especially true for Uniting churches because when they joined with Presbyterians and Congregational denominations they had too many buildings which they could not afford to maintain, so they sold the extra buildings to private buyers.

We have met several of these people who have bought these church buildings. The buildings are still unmistakably churchy in their style and apparently people who like church buildings come by to look at them sometimes.

One of these conversations was very interesting because this man was not a believer but he said there was a presence there which he felt but could not explain. We talked to him for a while and explained what we knew. The prayers of the saints are never "lost" and can linger in a building even if it has been "deconsecrated". God had led him to buy this building and he could take the responsibility to keep that Presence there if he would like. We had a prayer whereby he could connect to God, through Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit if he wanted to keep the Presence. He was really fascinated and wanted to try

the prayer which we were glad to do with him. He was a very artistic person and susceptible to auras so he really wanted to taste and see that God is real. To our delight God did not let us down and made His presence real to this man. Perhaps this is an unusual story but our God is an amazing God and can do whatever is needed to bring the lost to Himself.



CONCLUSION

These are not high-powered stories. What we want to emphasise is that just being there for people is all God needs to rescue or encourage someone. We are very aware that something can happen to someone in a moment. Life is going along swimmingly and then the devil strikes. That is when God will use His children because He says, "How can they hear without a preacher?" It is the most satisfying thing to be a channel for God's power and love to flow to a person, especially if they have never tasted before.

There are some Scriptures which have inspired and encouraged us.

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. (Daniel 12:3)

The days are coming, declares the Lord, when the reaper will be overtaken by the ploughman and the planter by one treading the grapes. (Amos 9:13) [People will come into the Kingdom of God without the traditional preparation, eg, Bible classes, and will be empowered even before they are traditionally inducted, eg, water baptism.]

This is what the Lord Almighty says: Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come, and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty...In those days ten men from all languages and nations will take a firm hold of one ...by the hem of his robe and say, Let us go with you, because we have seen that God is with you. (Zechariah 8:20-23)

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. (John 14:12)

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and...He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him. (Acts 10:38)

From one man He made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach

out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. (Acts 17:26&27)

God...works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose...so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life. (Philippians 2:13-15)

CHALLENGE TO THE CHRISTIAN READER

You might have read these stories and the Holy Spirit has spoken into your heart that you would like Him to use you in this way. Most people who have come alongside to learn have grasped the concepts very quickly so that they can try the ministry in their area and as they can give the time.

There is a simple course on these concepts on our website www.munumin.com (*ie, this website*).

There is also an offer and invitation on the above mentioned website for our personal input to you. It is very different in that it relies on the anointing of the Holy Spirit rather than wise words. We are not saying that these two ways are incompatible but they are different. The emphasis is on saying as little as possible so

that the Presence can speak to the spirit of the person in the encounter. We want the people to tell themselves the gospel truth so that their hearts believe. We believe that God has given this new strategy to win the lost and to encourage the backsliders because the church has become an old wineskin, needing saturation with the oil of the Holy Spirit to become soft enough to be usable again. The wine has poured out into the streets and the "dogs" are tasting it and liking it. They are wanting to know where they can get more. Plenty of them ask about what church to go to, especially those who have come from overseas and are from a different religion. Churches who are out there every week are finding that the people they meet do go to their church but most churches only have occasional outreach, usually with a pamphlet of invitation to a concert or a lecture or a course. We believe the Kingdom of God is person to person, and so every born again Christian who is "clothed with power from on high" shares the anointing on them with another to woo them to Jesus by the fragrance of life and joy which they wear. Please contact us if the Lord has spoken to you.