



# VISION NEWSLETTER

A publication of

**Vision Ministries Inc.**

*Mobilising Australians for Jesus*

**“Alive In Christ” Vol. 2 No 68** and Newsletter

From Bishop Harry Westcott & Rev Jeffrey Evans

## THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF CHRIST!

*“And Peter directed his gaze at him, with John, and said, “Look at us.” And he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and walked and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.”*

*Acts 3:4-8 (RSV)*

I'm sure we have all heard many sermons on the above passage and been challenged as the lame man to “*fix our attention*” and “*expect to receive*”, but I want to focus on Peter and John. It's easy in the midst of circumstances or the busyness of life to lose perspective and become self absorbed, all of us will have experienced this scenario in our lives. Unfortunately I think it has crept beyond our individual lives and infiltrated the corporate life of the church. Church life seems to have become focused around keeping members happy and entertained rather than empowering believers to present the presence and power of Christ to a world looking not for persuasive arguments but for a life encounter.

The world is looking for answers, the “self help” industry is skyrocketing globally; books, Cd's, Dvd's, seminars all offering the next big thing that will bring people the things they believe they so desperately need. The marketing of these products is brilliant in its simplicity; “*Keep pointing out what people don't have*”. Some of this mentality has crept into the church – because more often than not – instead on focusing on what we have, we highlight what we don't or what isn't working, or what we aren't doing. This in itself turns us inward looking and powerless to effect change.

John said “*look at us*” not at yourself! What does the world see when they look at us? Are we prepared to have “attention fixed” on us? Are we ready for those who expect to “receive something”? We need to be ready to reflect Christ when the world looks at us! Peter said I have no “*silver or gold, but I give you what I have*”. I love Peters statement; “*I give you what I have*”. Peter knew what he didn't have, but he knew he had the presence and the power of God active in his life. How we need to find this place of empowerment again in each of our lives.

Dear friends my challenge to each one of you is to turn your attention from what you don't have to what you do have. Look to what you have received in Christ, treasuring and reflecting His presence and power to all you encounter in your God journey. It's time that we as ambassadors of Christ remembered and recognised the difference Christ makes through us, not just for us!

May 2008 be a year in which our hands reach out to others empowered by God's Spirit to bring around a transforming encounter with the Saviour – Jesus the Christ. † Jeffrey

**HARRY'S WORD**

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## WHEN DID YOU LAST HEAR GOD SPEAKING TO YOU?

*“And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation”.* (1 Samuel 3: 1).

It took years for a praying grieving mother witnessed by the old blind priest Eli as a drunk, crazy individual yet she was the seed bed for the voice of God to be again heard in Israel. Actually Hannah wasn't longing to hear just God's voice; she was agonizing in prayer for a child. God heard the cry of Hannah and she by her husband, Elkanah conceived and Samuel was born and through him God spoke again to Israel. When God speaks He speaks in a recognizable voice, because Samuel thought it was old Eli calling him, but it was God! I believe when you are reading the word and seeking the Lord's direction for your life, His word can come to you in amazing ways through everyday life.

Let me illustrate what I mean; the other day I was meditating In Exodus and reading *“Now there arose a new King over Egypt, who did not know Joseph”* (1: 3). Later that day I watched an interview with the Australian cricket Captain, Ricky Ponting and suddenly this verse from Exodus hit me. Ponting was defending the behavior of his team after the racial hullabaloo involving the Indian team and the Australian team's attitude to criticism over that sad incident. Ponting, responding to criticism by Neil Harvey (one of the few remaining members of Bradman's 1948 “Invincible”) said in effect “We will not go back to the 50's and play like that, we are now professionals” (my paraphrase)! In that comment by Ponting I felt God say to me; “A generation of Australians have grown up and (like the King of Egypt regarding Joseph); do not know Bradman”. You may laugh, but let me explain. As a young teenager I saw Don Bradman play his final innings at the SCG. The thousands present that day stood to welcome Bradman onto the ground, and in unison two words only echoed around that vast crowd, and it was **“THE DON”!** The other evening in Melbourne nigh on 85,000 screaming Australians yelled for the destruction of the Indian team and got their wish. I thought, “how far have we come!?!?”

The 1950's were (for many), Australia's golden years, the war had ended, wool was a pound a pound and there was a feeling that all would stay great forever. For once everyone felt secure. One commentator remarked; “it's a wonderful world we live in right now; the King is on his Throne, Menzies is in the Lodge and Bradman is batting”! I believe with all our modern technology there are so many voices invading our lives, resulting in a **“Famine”** of hearing God speak to us. I would imagine that a vast number of the population now have MP3's, I Pod's, Play Station's, DVD's, Mobile Phones, the Internet etc. etc. etc. (even I do!) With so much information stuck in our ears and before our eyes that the “Bible” like Ponting says of the “invincible era of cricket” belongs back in the 50's. The “Old time religion” is not good enough anymore! If our modern “stuff” helps produce arrogance, filthy language, immorality, hatred, racism, you name it! I call it **SIN**, but then, who believes in sin anymore? Could it be that most Australians now only do what is right in their own eyes?! **Yes, God speak is “Rare”!**

In His Grip

+ Harry



**Geoffrey & Lorna Magan** from "Sydney Care" who have distributed hundreds of food hampers to farming families throughout the Central West. What a Blessing!!

Quote from a City Child whose family contributed to the "Hampers" distributed to Central West families by Sydney Care:

*"Dear Mr farmer and family, thankyou for supplying our City with delicious food like meat, milk, fruit and much more. Sincerely, A City Kid".*

**MINISTRY DATES AND EVENTS:**

- **22 - 24 February:** Harry & Doreen are Guests at "**Liberty Family Church Adelaide**" 20th Anniversary with Pastors Bill and Heather Nott. Information 08 8295 2110
- **21 - 24 March: Special Services for Easter at "Mamre"** Good Friday 21st at 9.00 am and Easter Day 24th at 10.00 am. Call 02 6865 3377
- **Special Guest Ministry: 4 - 6 April: Rev Dr Itty Abraham Pastor of the New York Pentecostal Assembly** is "Mamre Fellowship's" Guest over this week end. Dr Abraham is Dr Paul Pillai's (Indian Inland Mission) brother in law and his ministry is highly recommended by both Harry and Jeff. Visitors most welcome, Limited accommodation available. Call 02 6865 3377.
- **South Australian Camp Meeting: "Cherith Brook" Morgan: 19 - 22 April.** This is the second Camp Meeting Hosted by **Rev Graham and Julie Amber** at their property "Cherith Brook" on the beautiful Murray River near Morgan. It is a fantastic venue and Caravans and Tents are most welcome. Registration is free but numbers need to be known. So please contact Graham and Julie on 08 8337 8955 or email [gjamber@chariot.net.au](mailto:gjamber@chariot.net.au)



**Ps. Bill & Heather Nott  
and their children**



- **New York Pentecostal Assembly - New York USA 25 - 30 April:** Harry & Doreen along with Graham & Julie Amber will be Dr Itty and Susan Abraham's guests over these few days with special ministry over the weekend.
- **"International Communion of Charismatic Churches" Convocation 1 - 3 May Buffalo New York State:** This ICCC International Gathering has invited Harry to be a Member of the Governing "**College of Bishops**" Therefore the importance of Harry and Doreen being present. At the Convocation Harry and Doreen will be accompanied by Graham and Julie Amber, Glenn, Leah & baby Aaron O'Rourke and Jacqui Davis (NZ) as the Australian representatives. Your prayers and support for this important occasion is greatly appreciated as The ICCC (Australia) is now an Incorporated Ministry with Harry as Bishop overseeing some thirty Ministries.
- **Mamre Ladies Weekend: 30 May - 1 June:** This annual gathering of ladies has proven so popular over the years and 2008 will be no exception. Doreen and Rebecca are already putting a unique programme together. Accommodation available on first come first served basis, so please book in early. Call the Office 02 6865 3377, or Doreen 02 6865 3264, or Rebecca (A/H) 02 6865 3302.
- **"Mamre Men's Camp": 25 - 27 July.** Join with us for another wonderful weekend of Ministry to Men. Men's Camp has produced a lot of fruit over the years and we are believing for another bountiful weekend of encounter in 2008 as well. Lock this date in now. Guest speaker will be announced closer to Camp.
- **"Old Fashioned Revival Camp Meeting" (Date announcement): 27th September - 2nd October "Mamre Farm".** Please lock this date into your diary now. More information on Speakers and programme will be in upcoming newsletters.



**Dr Itty & Susan  
Abraham and family**

**FINANCIAL:**

*“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:9)*

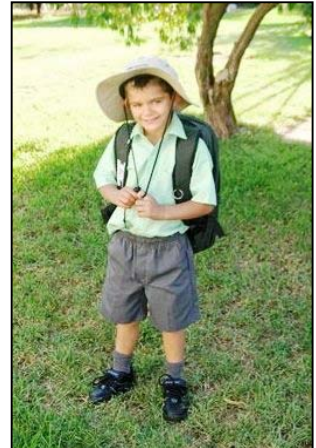
Paul was confident of God’s faithfulness and call. You too can be assured of the faithful hand of God in your life. Regardless of where you may be in your journey of faith, you can anchor your hope on the faithful promises of God. *“For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”* Psalm 100:5

Here at Vision Ministries we know what it is to be on the receiving end of the faithfulness of God and also the faithfulness of our ministry supporters. We are so thankful to the Lord for each of you that the Lord has knitted together with us as we continue to mobilise Australians for Jesus, and we look forward to your continued support throughout 2008. Your support is vital and we appreciate your gifts, prayers, notes and encouragement that you so freely give to the team here at Vision Ministries.

As at the start of every year we always request a gift of \$30 from each of you to help cover the cost of the Newsletter. Thank you for helping us in this way – we believe the Newsletter is a blessing to all who receive it and a vital point of contact between the ministry and yourself. So bless you for your gift towards this cost.

May 2008 see your marriage, family, ministry, job prosper in the blessings of the Lord.

Jeffrey



**Jacob, son of Jason & Angela Mitchell of "Mamre Farm" ready for his first day at School.**



**MAKE SURE YOU LOCK THE CAMP DATES INTO YOUR DIARY – 27<sup>th</sup> Sept to 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct**

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**Three ways you can give regularly into Vision Ministries Inc.**

1. Use the return envelope provided and send it to our office.
2. Have your credit card debited on the first day of each month  
The offering slip enclosed will help you in this regard
3. Use the automatic banking facility - details as follows

**Vision Ministries Inc. BSB & Account No: 032-022 / 930926  
Westpac Banking Corporation - Surry Hills Branch - 547 Crown St, Surry Hills**