



VISION NEWSLETTER

A publication of

Vision Ministries Inc.

Mobilising Australians for Jesus

“Alive In Christ” Vol. 2 No 69 and Newsletter

From Bishop Harry Westcott & Rev Jeffrey Evans

HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF?

“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears!

You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.”(Acts 7:51 - NKJV)

This verse enclosed among Stephen’s concluding remarks to the Sanhedrin, prior to his martyrdom, continues to sound an alarm to every successive generation: *learn from the past and don’t repeat the same mistakes. As your fathers did, so do you!* How often has history repeated itself in our lives? We make the same mistakes as those that have journeyed before us and we ourselves keep making the same mistakes over and over again. I don’t want to dwell on our personal reoccurring histories, rather I want to confront the reasons why we find ourselves on this merry-go-round of religious justification, in the hope that we can stop history repeating itself in our lives and start a new history of intimate relationship with our God and Saviour.

Stephen himself states that the reason for history repeating is: *“always resisting the Holy Spirit”*, the NRSV says; *“forever opposing the Holy Spirit”*, Peterson in “The Message” says it this way; *“deliberately ignoring the Holy Spirit”*. Most of us would never put our hand up and say that we *resist, oppose or deliberately ignore* the Spirit of God yet the reality is many of us do! We find ourselves resisting because of our stubbornness (*stiff-necked*) and our *uncircumcised hearts and ears*.

Stubbornness could be described as *“entrenched self-righteousness”*. This is where we refuse to give ground because we know we are right; it’s all about what we want. Stubbornness has often been referred to as a good quality to have in life, but stubbornness is birthed out of *me-ism*, it is selfish and always self justifiable. We need to become tenacious in faith rather than stubborn in defending what we want, what suits us or what we believe! Stubbornness can affect our ability to forgive and receive forgiveness, to ask for help and receive help, to see the needs of others and particularly our own, to be compassionate on others rather than judgemental, to be interdependent (Body of Christ minded) because we are so independent. Stubbornness can limit your application of God’s gift of faith, because you can do it in your own abilities. It can also stop you from being weak and allowing the strength of the Lord to gird you up and be your strength. Stubbornness will always lead us towards resistance of the Holy Spirit and therefore cause history to keep repeating itself.

“Uncircumcised hearts and ears”; is all about self deception and the deception of others. It’s all about perception rather than reality, it’s about how we are seen rather than confronting who we really are! For the Jews that Stephen was confronting during his discourse, this was a perfect illustration because the Jews took the outward act of circumcision as the key to their inclusion in God’s Kingdom. They did not judge the state of their heart, only the fulfilment of ritualistic requirements as their central obligation to God. A very wise man once gave me some wonderful encouragement as a young Christian struggling with the pressures being placed on me to reach a certain standard in the way I lived my life at the time. He said to me *“the sins of a young Christian are obvious to all, a mature Christian is just better at hiding theirs under religious piety”*. Just because you go to church, just because you pray, just because you read the bible, just because you hold positions of authority in the church does not mean your heart and ears are open to receive from the Spirit of God. Only God sees our heart, yet so many of us are more concerned about what everyone else sees and

Vision Ministries Inc.

ABN 51 043 302 729

Registered Office: “Mamre Farm” ALECTOWN NSW 2870

Postal Address: PO Box 375 PARKES NSW 2870

Phone: (02) 6865 3377 • Fax: (02) 6865 3304

Email: vmi@gobushmail.com.au • Web Site: www.visionministriesonline.com

keeping up that appearance rather than being open to heart surgery by the great physician. How we need to be open to hear fresh mana provided from heaven daily, rather than leaning on the stale bread of our religious ritualism. May our heart condition take pre-eminence once again over our pride, our position and others perceptions so as to receive all that the Holy Spirit has for us in the richness of our relationship with the Saviour rather than opposing the Spirits work because it interferes with our sense of who we are!

Dear friends won't you give yourself a heart check-up, step from stubbornness to tenacity and disconnect from the carousel of repeating history – so as to create a new history in Christ that is anchored in relationship, grounded in faith and where self is hidden in Christ. May our lives not be reflections of all that is wrong with religion but mirror the glorious, gracious, compassionate, forgiving redeemer – Christ Jesus.

Jeffrey

MINISTRY DATES AND EVENTS:

- **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** – Details see Back Page of Newsletter
- **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 around the theme of "Hospitality"*. Special guest speaker will be **Hazel Frankland** from Queensland. 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 **Rev. Bill Nott** from *Liberty Family Church, Adelaide*.
- **"Old Fashioned Revival Camp Meeting" (Date announcement): 27th September - 2nd October "Mamre Farm".** Please lock this date into your diary now. **Rev. Dan & Sue Armstrong** will be among our guests at this year's Camp. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.



Dr Itty & Susan Abraham and family



Hazel Frankland

HARRY'S WORD

I Can Almost Smell It!

“Behold I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, and make hills like chaff.” Is: 41:15.

I believe there is presently within our Nation a thirst for a fresh Godly reality that has not been experienced for at least forty years. It is obvious in the church and therefore must also be in the wider community. It always happens when we are at our weakest and distressed by the inhumanity of humans to one another. Time Magazine recently said this about British youth when it said; *“A society is unhappy, unloved and out of control with an epidemic of violence, crime, drunkenness (which) has made Britain scared of its young. What is causing the crisis”?* In simplistic terms it has to be a spiritual vacuum. God becomes the god of these folks own belly with everyone doing, and worshipping what is right in their own eyes. There's nothing new here as this was the life of God's people of old in Isaiah's day who were prisoners and crushed by oppressive enemies. They felt little more than “worms” or insects”, (vs.14). Just like people today, wringing their hands and saying “What can we do”? Or, “Where do we go”? Such a cry is also the expression of a deep spiritual hunger and thirst.

For too long we have been growing through what God did over 40 years ago to the point now where it has stagnated into a regular style and type of religion. The songs we sing, the sermons we preach, the money we raise, the buildings we build, the causes and the ever present temptation to keep everything safe and popular, has nigh on exhausted us. Now our tongues are swollen and we long to spiritually drink from the pools the Lord has provided in this barren wilderness.(v.18). We need to be revived again and live the Gospel knowing **that Jesus came to save sinners** rather than train up another bunch of well intentioned social workers.

I believe a fresh outpouring of God's Holy Spirit is so imminent that ***I can almost smell it!*** A new generation is rising up who are prepared to reach out to Christ and drink from the unattractive and unpopular *“dry land springs of water”*.(vs.18). They are hearing, amidst all the modern day hoo-ha, God speaking personally to them and saying ***“I am with you”*** (vs10) and ***“I will make you a new threshing instrument with sharp teeth”***. (v15). God's winnowing fork is in His hand and those who drink unashamedly of His Spirit will be this new, sharp threshing sledge in His hand. These will live lives in the opposite spirit to that of this sin sick and troubled world.

These mighty (mainly) young men and women in God's hand will so attract unbelievers from every tribe and nation to the point where ten people at a time will grab their arms and say ***“let us go with you, we've heard that God is with you”***. (Zech.8:23).

Heavenly Father, in Jesus' name, I pray that You will bring it on!

In His Grip

+ Harry



A scene from a previous Men's Camp at Mamre!

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AT LIBERTY FAMILY CHURCH ADELAIDE

Over the weekend of the 24th February Harry and Doreen were guests of Liberty Family Church as they celebrated the Church's 20 years of ministry. Liberty's founding Pastors, **Bill and Heather Nott**, have led this wonderful family congregation through all the birthing challenges over these 20 years to the point where the church is now well established as an effective spiritual outreach to the city of Adelaide.

South Australian Camp Meeting:

"Cherith Brook" Morgan: 19 - 22 April

Rev. Graham and Julie Amber are throwing open the gates at "Cherith Brook" once again. "**Cherith Brook**" has a beautiful river frontage along the Murray River and is an ideal place to hold the 2nd South Australian Camp Meeting. Last year we were so blessed with green grass, mild weather and the wonderful presence of God and all were refreshed and blessed. There is plenty of room for everyone so "*whosoever will may come*" and all are welcome. Please bring your Bibles, fishing rods and swimmers and if you need any further information please contact our office or Graham and Julie on 08 8337 8955 or email: gjamber@chariot.net.au



FINANCIAL:

*"...while you are enriched in everything for all liberality,
which causes thanksgiving through us to God.."* (2 Cor 9:11)

Thank you to all who supported my request for a gift of \$30 towards the cost of the Vision Newsletter. I really appreciate your precious partnership with us in all that the Lord has called us to in "*Mobilising believers for Jesus*". Your willingness to draw alongside and help carry the load of the ministry both through your prayers and finances causes us to bow our hearts and knees in thanksgiving to God. I can really grasp the words of Paul in the above verse from II Corinthians.

I pray that as you seek the Lord this month as to what to sow into the ongoing work of Vision Ministries that "*you are enriched in everything for all liberality*". May you not only experience liberality in giving but also in receiving all the Saviour has for your life and that of your family. Let liberality be your lot in life in Jesus Name.

May your giving continue to cause much thanksgiving to our God – Hallelujah!!! - Jeffrey

**MAKE SURE YOU LOCK THE "MAMRE FARM" CAMP DATES
INTO YOUR DIARY – 27TH SEPT TO 2ND OCT**

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