



VISION NEWSLETTER

A publication of

Vision Ministries Inc.

Mobilising Australians for Jesus

“Alive In Christ” Vol. 2 No 71 and Newsletter

From Bishop Harry Westcott & Rev Jeffrey Evans

Lift Up Your Eyes!

***“Do not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’?
Behold I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields,
for they are already white for harvest!” John 4:35***

The passage in John from which this verse has been extracted, has always challenged me because of the profound transformation, and all that it implies, that took place in the life of the Samaritan woman during a brief encounter with Jesus at Jacobs well. Yet it is the verse above that constantly confronts my own sense of containing God to a set framework of action or boxing God into a pattern of formulated responses based upon my own experience, expectation or knowledge. How often do we fall into the trap of thinking if we can just get all the pieces into the right places then God will move in mighty power and strength with amazing signs and wonders?

As Christians we stumble over this hurdle all the time. If only I prayed more, or if only I didn't think that thought, or if only I was able to control my response to that situation, if only I read my Bible more – then God would move in my life! In our churches we can stumble over things like: if only there was unity, or if only the worship flowed, or the preacher was more charismatic in his style, if only we had a certain anointed preacher come to our church then everything would change! Can I liken it to the following: I have heard many married couples say that when they can afford to have children – they will! Yet the reality is that on paper we could probably never afford to have children, just like your families could probably not have afforded to have you! Yet you are here and you made it! We can become paralysed by our insufficiencies and our inabilities if we allow ourselves to focus on the “what ifs” or the “when that happens” or the “circumstances just aren't right yet”. Solomon seems to say it best in Ecclesiastes 11:4 *“He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.”*

God's amazing provision for our lives can only be found as we move through the journey of our lives. If we wait until we have everything we think we will need for it all to come together, we would never get to our destination. And even if we thought we had every base covered something would still pop up that we had not prepared for. When did everything change, when did it become all about us rather than all about God? Do we think we are so important that we can hold up the plans of God for His creation? When God wants to move – He will. If He wants to speak - He will use a donkey, If He wants to destroy a giant - He can use a shepherd boy. The illustrations go on and on. Nothing so starkly illustrates to me that God's redemptive plan is based upon God's timetable, not my spiritual perfection, than the birth, death and resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ. The conditions were not right for revival, the religious leaders were corrupt and power hungry, the Roman oppressors arrogant and hedonistic, the common Jew burdened by law and guilt, and yet God said the time is perfect for my Son Jesus to fulfil my redemptive plan.

“Do not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Stop looking at the timeframe and the conditions. Stop saying why it can't happen now. Stop saying, when this happens then it will be time, and do

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what Jesus said: **Lift Up Your Eyes!** When our eyes are focused on ourselves and the circumstance of life everything, including our own failings, will stop us from ever attempting, let alone expecting God to move through us in the miraculous power of His Holy Spirit. The enemy is skilled at making us aware of all our faults and all our insufficiencies. The enemy is an expert at restraining us by using our past to tie our lives up in the knots of guilt and shame. The enemy is accomplished in making us question our own place in the kingdom of God. So it's time we stopped looking down where he can focus our attention on the negatives of life and lift up our eyes and see all that the Almighty God has done through the sacrificial life of His Son Jesus and the indwelling gift of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Lift up your eyes and see what God has done already, what God can provide, and that the harvest is ready. Friends I would rather be a donkey through whom the voice of God can talk than a man paralysed by my own human failings. I would rather be a humble shepherd boy than a mighty warrior in the army of Israel, afraid of failure. Now is the day of Salvation! Now is the day of Victory! Now is the day of harvest! Precious friends don't let this day drift into the past without seizing the moment with all of your weaknesses and allow God to be the strength that you need.

When we stop trying to work it out and just surrender our lives to Jesus – His grace will be sufficient, His gift of faith enough, the guidance of His spirit comforting and His strength prevalent in our weakness. Let's stop looking at all the reasons why it isn't happening or why it can't happen and start seeing all that Christ can do when we stop saying, No - I can't and start saying Yes – He Can!

It's no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me – Hallelujah!!

Jeffrey

MINISTRY REPORT:

- Mamre Men's Camp:** A wonderful weekend was had by all with men coming from Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide along of course with the locals from Mamre fellowship. Ps Bill Nott from Liberty Family Church, along with Bishop Harry ministered powerfully to all who attended and many of the men shared how the weekend had lifted and encouraged them. A big thank you must go to the ladies of Mamre Fellowship who alongside Kerrieann Hood catered all of the meals over the weekend. The ladies ensured that nobody went hungry and that everyone went home full not only spiritually but also physically!
- Bishop Harry Ministers at "Revival NOW!"** Bishop Harry was once again privileged to minister alongside Ps Bill & Heather Nott, Ps Bob Nicholas (Texas) and Ps Tom Messer, (Arizona) at Liberty Family Church's annual Revival NOW conference in Adelaide. Harry was blessed to be able to encourage and minister to all who attended this conference as well as being ministered to himself.
- Mt Ophir – Rutherglen:** Harry & Doreen travelled twice to Rutherglen in Victoria over the last several weeks. Firstly to share at the "Gathering" that Ruth Hennessy called to seek the leading of the Lord. It was a most enriching experience. The Second visit on the 29th July was a most joyous occasion as Harry conducted the Wedding of Ruth Hennessy to Trevor Ridge under the huge river gums by the Murray River. What a joy to witness the union of these two wonderful people who God sovereignly has brought together.



HARRYS WORD:

“WHEN A PAINFUL DECISION ENDS IN ABUNDANT BLESSING”!

“And God said to Jacob: ***“I will go down with you to Egypt.....”***. Genesis: 46:4

In many ways Jacob’s life was fraught with difficulties, pain and sorrow; however of all the great men mentioned in the Bible, he is the only one whose name God changed from “Jacob” to **“Israel”**. Why God chose Jacob to be the Father of such a great nation as Israel I do not know but to my amazement God did! So I have to agree that God’s ways and thoughts are so much higher than mine to the point where I must confess, “I know nothing”! However, after reading again the story of Jacob I’m moved by the Holy Spirit to say to everyone reading this message, if you are in grief, hurt, hated, cheated, criticized, separated from family and loved ones, deceived, lied to and manipulated by others who want to use and control you, then read the life of Jacob who God called Israel”! It will inspire and motivate you to believe that you are a special child of Almighty God. With God there is always reconciliation, beauty for ashes, oil of joy for mourning, healing and an amazing future waiting for each of us.

Egypt! Jacob didn’t want to go there! His father Isaac didn’t go there even in the famine he experienced! God told Isaac; ***“Do not go down to Egypt”*** (Gen: 26:2)! Therefore he sowed in that famine and reaped in the same year a hundred fold. (v12). Jacob didn’t like Egypt even though he had sent his sons there to buy grain and supplies. He was a man in deep grief since Joseph (his favorite son), had supposedly been killed by a wild animal according to his jealous brothers. Now they wanted to take Benjamin back to Egypt with them and he was especially precious to Jacob because Rachael died at his birth. ***It’s all too much for Jacob!*** Now his sons tell him ***“Joseph is still alive and is governor over all Egypt”!*** Is this another deception, another lie, another trick? He didn’t believe them and just fainted in grief! (Gen: 45: 26). “But, when he saw the wagons (v27) Joseph had sent to take him to Egypt, his spirit revived”! God said; ***“I will go down with you to Egypt, and make you a great nation there”***.

Dear friend, I do not know the sorrow and pain you are presently enduring. BUT GOD DOES! Hallelujah! ***Behold His “Wagons”*** are waiting to transport you to a joyous reunion of Abundant Blessings! Yes, our miracle often exists where we do not want to venture.

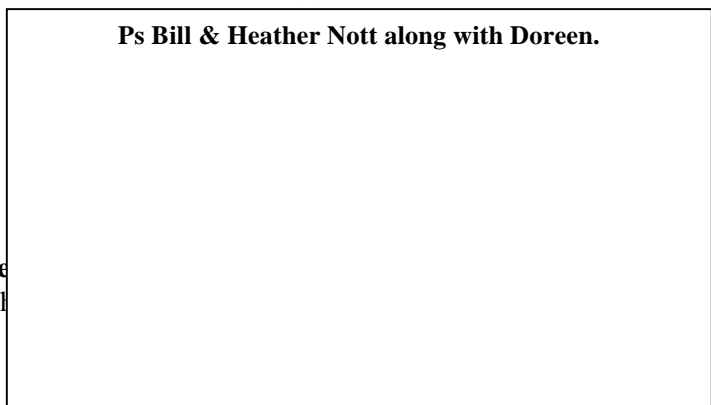


In His Grip

+ Harry

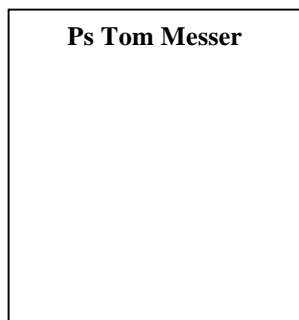
MINISTRY DATES AND EVENTS:

- "Old Fashioned Revival Camp Meeting" October "Mamre Farm". Please lock the door. **Dan & Sue Armstrong & Pastor Tom** will be among our guests at this year’s Camp.



CAMP BROCHURE INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER

REGISTER NOW!



FINANCIAL:

Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." (Luke 19:8).

I always find this passage incredibly encouraging, not because of the distribution of wealth, but because it reveals the transformation, a life encounter with Christ can bring. The very thing that Zacchaeus had spent a lifetime in gaining suddenly had no power over him and his ability to part with his possessions shows us the absolute power of God's encounter with our personal humanity.

I pray that for each of you who faithfully sow into the work of Vision Ministries that you would know the grace and the freedom of Christ's daily encounter with you. May you know and experience the liberality and the generosity of a life that gives it all away rather than trying to gain more and more out of selfish motivation.

Thank you as you pray about what to sow into this Missionary Ministry that has been called to *Mobilise Believers for Jesus!* Your giving this month will help us as we prepare to host many hundreds here at Mamre for our Annual Camp meeting. Folk come from across Australia and a few from overseas and we know that God has placed us here to drop that rock in the pond that will ripple across this nation for the kingdom of God.

So thank you for your gifts and your prayers – May you, like Zacchaeus know what it means to be transformed by the power of Jesus and may you also know that many are touched through this ministry because of your precious support - in Jesus Name.

Jeffrey



Fellowship at Mamre – Following our Men's Camp!

MAKE SURE YOU LOCK THE 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