



VISION NEWSLETTER

A publication of

Vision Ministries Inc.

Mobilising Australians for Jesus

“Alive In Christ” Vol. 2 No 75 and Newsletter

From Bishop Harry Westcott & Rev Jeffrey Evans

KEEPING OUR FOCUS ON THE KINGDOM!

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled”

Matthew 5:6

***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you”***

Mathew 6:33

Where is my attention focused? How far from the foundational teachings of Christ have I strayed in my journey of faith? What is consuming my time and where am I expending my energy? What am I hungering and thirsting for? What are my prayers and faith seeking? Maybe they are confronting questions and maybe I would rather not face them, but face them I must, as must you, if we are to walk in an increasing relationship with our Saviour and Lord.

How quickly our hunger and thirsting aligns itself with the value system of the world in which we will never have enough, never be satisfied or ever experience the joy of being filled. We exhaust ourselves chasing good things, and find ourselves often disappointed when what we want or believe is ours doesn't come to pass. Even when we experience blessing it never seems enough and we continue to seek more. It's only a small deviation but one with huge consequences for our lives – when we allow our focus to slip off God and onto God's benefits, we quickly find ourselves wandering in the desert, never quite able to cross over into the promised land. Jesus promised that we would be filled if we hunger and thirst after Him, which allows us relationship with God Almighty. He is more than enough – Hallelujah!

Jesus makes this point again at the end of Matthew 6 where He challenges the disciple to not fall into the trap of chasing the “things” but rather seeking the kingdom of God. We have to focus on the Creator not the creations. His promise to us when we have our priorities right is simply astounding *“and all these things shall be added unto you”*. None of us enjoy relationships that are one sided, where the other party is only interested in you for what they can get out of you.... Please God let us not become so self-absorbed that we neglect You in the pursuit of Your benefits!

The old illustration of being just a degree out on the compass means we are a long way away from our destination over the length of our journey. It's incredibly important that we have the basics right if we are going to fulfil God's plans and purposes for our lives. These verses may seem to be simplistic and foundational but if we don't build our journey on living these truths then we may find a life of empty searching rather than one of overflowing abundant filling that can only be found in the presence of the King.

Dear friends won't you conduct a self-audit today and check up on your relationship with God – Is your prayer life one sided? Is it all about what you want God to do for you or do you find yourself lost in his presence? Let's realign our focus; reprioritise our hunger, thirst and seeking, and encounter the filling presence of our

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Lord, Saviour and King in Jesus Name. May our pursuit be for His kingdom to manifest itself on earth through us, not our kingdoms of narcissistic self-interest cleverly disguised under the cloak of Christianity.

May you find that place of filling today in Jesus mighty name. Lord, forgive me for my selfishness and allow me to experience afresh the joy of being in your presence. Amen.

Jeffrey

MISSION TRIP TO BENIN CITY, NIGERIA – CHURCH OF GOD MISSION INTERNATIONAL

Between the dates of the 5th and 23rd August, 2009 Jeffrey is visiting the Church of God Mission International in Benin City, Nigeria at the invitation of Bishop Margaret Idahosa and Andrew and Jenny Daniels who lead the All Nations For Christ Bible Institute International.



*Bishop Margaret Benson Idahosa
Bishop President*

*Rev. Dr. A. G. Daniels
Principal / Head of Operations*

LADIES WEEKEND AND MEN'S WEEKEND REPORT:

Vision Ministries hosted their annual Ladies (June) and Men's Weekend (July) and all who attended were blessed by the Ministry and the supply of Food that seems to flow like a river at these weekend retreats



This annual gathering for men at "Mamre Farm" always proves popular as many men have issues that are not readily covered in congregational life. This was very much the case with our guest speaker this year being **Pastor Jim Abberton** from Lithgow who has for the past 19 years been a **Senior Prison Officer** at Lithgow's maximum security Prison. Jim Abberton's theme of "Breaking up fallow Ground" meant that those men in attendance had to face hardened issues that for years may have been suppressed and become hard in their hearts. As one who lives each day with hardened criminals who often have little respect for the lives of others and even less for their own, Jim's ministry went straight to the core where deception can attack the lives of many church going men.

HEALING SCHOOL

On the 25th to 27th of August 2009 – Vision Ministries will host at "Mamre Farm" a "**How To Pray For The Sick**" school led by Pastor Vaughan Colebrook of "Miracle Ministries" Sydney.

HARRY'S WORD:**REFRESHING IS REPEATABLE**

“Now turn from your sins and turn to God, so you can be cleansed of your sins. Then wonderful times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and He will send Jesus your Messiah to you again” (Acts: 3: 19-20) NLT.

I'm so glad that being a Christian is not a monotonous, boring life where nothing ever changes, but it is constantly on the move. Religion, of course never changes because all is so predictable where everything is static. However Jesus is reality! When you meet Him and have His Spirit in your life every day's a new day and signs, wonders and miracles are exciting possibilities.

For many years I was simply a professional religious minister, I had the Lord in my life, but the Lord didn't have me in His life! On the 14th February 1974 in a little Methodist Church in O'Connor, Canberra I was born again; **again!** That was an awesome “**time of refreshing**” as Jesus invaded my life and plunged and immersed me in His Spirit, and these last 35 + years have simply been an amazing journey of faith. The verse above says there are “**times of refreshing**” so constant joyous times of Holy Spirit “**Refreshing**” is not only possible, but rather necessary if we are to keep growing in Christ Jesus.

To emphasize what I am saying, during May/June this year Doreen and I were invited to **New Zealand** to speak at a conference being hosted by the ICFM (International Convention of Faith Ministries). Little did we know, but New Zealand was God's plan to refresh us both again. After ministering in Auckland, Wellington and Whangarei we both were wonderfully refreshed by the Spirit of the Lord. We hadn't realized that our daily walk with Jesus had slowly grown stale and God had something most joyful for us to experience. It has seemed ages since we witnessed such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit's saving, healing and refreshing power, and our eyes and hearts were opened and warmed again, Hallelujah! We praise God for those obedient Rhema Pastors, Colin, Stefan & Dave whom He used to gather His children from across the country and who were so open to receiving a fresh touch from the Lord. Friendship in the ministry is so vital and we both enjoyed the company of ministering alongside Pastors Bob and Joy Nichols, of Covenant Cathedral, Fort Worth Texas.

In early July I again ministered alongside **Pastors Bob and Joy Nichols**, but this time in Adelaide SA at “**Revival Now**” hosted by **Pastors Bill & Heather Nott** at Liberty Family Church. Doreen was unable to be with me as we were blessed to have two of our American grandchildren (Hope & Lily Sturm) stay on with us after Jennifer and Joel had returned to the US. However, refreshment and joy were very much part of “Revival Now” and again I returned home full of the joy of the Lord. Pastor Nott feels called of the Lord to honor older ministers who have spent several decades preaching the Gospel and has encouraged me as one of those “fathers in the faith” still active in Australia. Also ministering at “Revival Now” was Australian entrepreneur and businessman **Dr Peter Daniels** who also attends Liberty Family Church where he and his wife, Robina are Members. Dr Daniels honored Pastor Nichols and I by gifting to each of us a gold “**Caleb Medal**” with the inscription engraved “**For outstanding Global Christian Service**”. Ps Bob Nichols and I are both deeply moved by having this honor bestowed on our lives and ministries.

Yes, the Spirit of Jesus does refresh our lives and meets with us again and again and again! Just as we have been revived afresh, so you too can receive His refreshment as the Father sends Jesus to you **again!**

We are looking forward to having you attend “Camp Meeting” 3 – 8 October here on Mamre Farm this year. A brochure is available with this newsletter.

In His Grip **Harry †**



FINANCIAL:

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?” Matthew 6:25-26

Sometimes we forget just how valuable we are to the Lord and start to become overwhelmed by the pressures of life. Jesus calls us in these verses to not lose perspective and surrender to the fruitlessness of worry. Even those creations that don't follow the laws of sowing and reaping are cared for and provided for by the heavenly Father. How much more are we who were ushered into the presence of his amazing grace by the sacrifice of his only begotten Son, cared for and provided for by almighty God. You are valuable to God – His grace is more than sufficient – Hallelujah!

For those of us who do follow God's laws of sowing and reaping, I pray that you will seek the Lord's face as to the seed you sow into this Australian Missionary Ministry this month as we continue to *“Mobilise Australians for Jesus”*.

August also sees myself heading over to Benin City, Nigeria to be a small part in mobilising African Christians attending the Bible College and the Church of God Mission Church. Your prayers and support are thoughtfully requested and gratefully accepted.

May you see your self as valuable and know the care and provision of the Lord in your life – *Jeffrey*



Family Snaps with American Granchildren : Above Left – Joel Sturm and Ashley Evans, Above Right – Hope Sturm, Lucy Hoskin, Harry Bishop, Lily Sturm, Madeline Hoskin

Three ways you can give regularly

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



What a joy to witness the Marriage of our granddaughter Talitha to Kirk

MAKE SURE YOU LOCK THE 2009 CAMP DATES INTO YOUR DIARY
3rd Oct to 8th October, 2009. It will be the 20th Anniversary of Camp Meeting at Mamre!!!