

# Open Face

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## Progress in Australia

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### **GENERAL IMPRESSIONS**

Our trip to Australia lasted for a little over four weeks. The trip was packed with assignments from the very beginning and for the entire duration of the four and a half weeks we did not have much more than a couple of days free. I had to remark at one point that I would always remember this trip as “the days of the whirlwind.”

Our itinerary took us from Sydney to Brisbane, then to Perth on the other side of Australia, then back to Sydney, then to Melbourne, then to Sydney again and from there a trip back up to Brisbane which involved several stops and visits along the way. Initially we had been scheduled to spend a week in the Solomon islands, but the threat of unrest and a possible civil war indicated that it was best for us to cancel this trip. Instead we spent this time in Cooranbong, holding other meetings and having a couple of days of rest and recreation.

We spoke in home school gatherings, public halls, private homes and in parks. Allen even had the privilege of discussing Adventism with a group of Lutherans in their church, and I had the privilege of speaking in an Assemblies of God Church, even though only the pastor and his wife turned up to listen. I also discussed the truth with a group of hippie type Christians who lived together in a type of commune and were strongly Trinitarian.

The campmeeting in Numinbah was probably the high point of our visit. Thirteen persons were baptized at this campmeeting (Allen did the baptizing) and with the other 12 who were baptized at other places a total of 25 people were baptized during this trip. In addition we had the privilege of seeing several others come to an understanding and an appreciation of the truth about God.

As in other countries the truth about God has crossed Adventism’s boundaries in Australia like nothing else has ever done, and it is not only in the mainline SDA church that people have been taking a stand for the truth, but also in the SDA reform movement. We met several believers who were former members of this church and who had been either disfellowshipped or had withdrawn their membership because of the Trinitarian apostasy within their former church. The truth has even made inroads within the ranks of the other independent ministries which have maintained a strong Tritheistic stand and have spoken strongly against the truth. Nevertheless, in every place, despite the strong efforts of their leaders and teachers, honest persons are coming to see the truth and are taking a stand for it.

One of the great regrets which we had on this trip was the fact that we did not see several of our friends and brethren whom we had met on our first visit to Australia. We did not go further South than Melbourne and as a result we did not see any of our friends from South of Melbourne. This

was a disappointment. The people who organized our visit had apparently been unable to arrange meetings in those areas and this was apparently the reason for our not traveling in that direction.

However, we found that there were many new believers. Since our previous visit two and a half years ago many others had come to believe and understand the truth about God. On our previous visit for example we had had no meetings in Sydney because we had had no contacts there. On this occasion we had three meetings there at which there were approximately thirty persons present on each occasion.

The message is spreading fast. There is a problem however in that the movement is not unified. There are isolated individuals and pockets of believers, but there is need of regular meetings such as a campmeeting or a couple of campmeetings annually which will give the people a sense of belonging to something which is going somewhere. There is also the need for leaders to arise who will take the steps necessary to keep the message and its importance before the people of Australia. This is something which we need to pray earnestly about.

The believers in Australia have many issues being constantly kept before them and the truth is that this has led to fragmentation in the movement. While most of us agree that the most important truth in the Bible is the truth concerning God and His Son, there are others who feel that there are other things which must be attached to the message such as the "holy names," or the observance of the feast days, or the message that God does not kill etc. This has certainly led to division and fragmentation among the believers and is one of the main reasons why the truth about God has not presented a more unified front in Australia. During our meetings we endeavoured to show the supreme importance of the truth about God and His Son. All our meetings were aimed at helping people to have a clearer understanding of how an appreciation of this truth affects us and our Christian experience in a very practical way. We had the satisfaction of seeing that our emphasis was appreciated and eagerly received. Several persons in various places remarked that they had never understood the message and its importance before. We felt that the trip was well worth the effort and expense.

The trip had been organized chiefly by two ladies who live in the Queensland area, and who have indicated that they would prefer to remain anonymous. The names of some others have also been withheld because they are still working in the mainline Seventh-day Adventist Church or the Reform branch, and feel that their influence might be harmed if it is known that they are actively involved with groups which work outside of the mainline branches of Seventh-day Adventism.

## **ARRIVAL**

Marty picked us up when we arrived at the airport in Brisbane. He was a good natured man with an endless supply of experiences and anecdotes. He took us to his home about three hours from the airport where we met his wife who was the person who was mainly responsible for organizing our visit to Australia. There we had a meeting with a few people who came over for worship that night.

After the meeting we left for the home of Glenn and Megan Blakemore where we had a few hours sleep before Marty arrived to take us to the airport for the next leg of our journey which was the flight to Perth on the other side of Australia. The flight was scheduled to leave at 5.00 in the morning so we had to be there by close to 4.00 in order to ensure that we were not left behind. This meant that we had to leave at 1.00 a.m. and it seemed like I had only just fallen asleep when it was time to get up again. Fortunately we were able to get some sleep in the car while Marty drove us to the airport. He did not have a problem staying awake for another brother was with him and I could hear him cheerfully talking away as I drifted in and out of sleep during the trip.

## **PERTH**

We flew to Sydney, and then from Sydney to Perth. In Perth we were met by Corrine Stanley who had organized the meetings there. She took us to her home out in the country about a half an hour away from town. She lives with her husband Royce and their three children in a secluded place surrounded by trees with no other neighbour within sight or sound.

We had two meetings in Perth, one on the evening after we arrived, and the other on Sabbath evening. These meetings had been advertised in the local newspaper but we had a very poor turnout. Only a few people came. Because of this, we changed the format of the meetings from that of a lecture into a discussion format and this worked very well. We were able to get the questions which were in the minds of those who were present and were able to more thoroughly examine the issues involved in the study of the godhead. In spite of the fact that there were so few of us, we felt that the trip to Perth was a worthwhile one because those who came were able to receive a good understanding of the truth and would be able to share it with others after we were gone.

We thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent with the Stanleys and were sorry when we finally left on Saturday night, March 27, for the journey back to Melbourne. We left at midnight and flew for three and a half hours, but again we were caught by a two hour time adjustment and when we arrived in Melbourne it was not three thirty, but five thirty and time to begin the new day. Needless to say I was just ready to begin sleeping when we arrived in Brisbane. Here in Brisbane Allen and I separated. He went on to Sydney where he would hold meetings while I stayed on in Melbourne.

## **MELBOURNE**

I was met at the airport by Andrew, a brother who originates from Fiji, but who has been living in Melbourne for the past 20 years. He is a very zealous distributor of literature and his home was packed with all kinds of books and tracts. When we arrived at his apartment I was able to get a welcome two hours of sleep before we left for the hall where we would be having the first meeting.

These meetings were held at the Mullauna Secondary College Arts Centre. At the first meeting there were 20 people but at the evening meeting there were about 35. At this first meeting I spoke on the topic, "The Fruit of the Gospel." Later in the evening I spoke on, "The God of the Bible." The first meeting was mostly believers but the later meeting had a few who did not believe and a few of them asked a few questions in an attempt to show that we were wrong. The main questioner said that what I had presented was true, but my method of studying the Bible was wrong. One of the problems he had was that in Revelation 4:2, I read where it says, "one sat on the throne," I made an issue of the fact that there was only one on the throne, while the word *one* is in italics which shows that it is a supplied word. In response I asked him if he thought there was more than one on the throne as the rest of the passage clearly shows that only one was on the throne. He answered no, but I should not make a big thing of the word "one" since the word was a supplied word. Needless to say both the people and I were somewhat mystified in attempting to discover what the point really was. Nevertheless, God blessed these meetings and several expressed the fact that they had learned a great deal. Several were there who had never heard these truths before and were favourably impressed.

That night I stayed at the home of David and Rada Afele. By the grace of God I was able to get a good night's sleep.

The next day I had a meeting with a few mothers who were homeschooling their children. This meeting was at a place called Lilydale, which was a kind of park beside a lake. I spent a few hours with these ladies and mostly shared some biblical reasons for homeschooling and also shared some of my own experiences in homeschooling my own children.

Later in the evening we returned to Mullauna College Arts Centre for the final meeting. This time I spoke on “The Truth of the Gospel” and showed how the doctrine of the Trinity embodies the spirit of antichrist. Our friends from the previous day were there again with their questions and we had a session at the end of the meeting where they presented their objections. Their main objection was that we cannot understand many things about God and that we were attempting to explain too much. In their opinion, it was really safer to accept that these things were mysteries which we could not understand. Our reply was that we were willing to leave everything alone which God had not revealed, but that we were not willing to ignore what he had revealed in His word.

That night I stayed at the home of Igor Vujica who lives fairly close to the airport and would be taking me to catch my flight to Sydney the following morning. Igor was full of questions and I think he would cheerfully have continued to question me all night if he had not discovered that I was very tired and in need of rest. The next morning he continued his questioning and tried to pry every bit of knowledge out of me before I left. When we got to the airport with a few minutes to spare, he found a place where he could park and said, “now brother David, what else can you tell me.” He really appreciated what he could gain from our discussion and I think in all my travels I never met anyone who was as appreciative of the opportunity to learn more, as he was. Finally, and with reluctance he had to let me go after I made him a promise to send him whatever tapes and other materials I could.

### **SYDNEY**

When I arrived in Sydney I was picked up by Tom Pinto, an Adventist of four years. He and His brother Bill had arranged the meetings in Sydney. Though he is only a young believer, having been a Seventh-day Adventist for four years and a believer in the truth about God for only a few weeks, already Tom has suffered for his beliefs. His stand for the truth has brought painful division into his own personal family. Now, he is faced with another mountain as the truth about God has taken hold on his heart and he can see that another tremendous upheaval is on the horizon.

When we arrived at Tom’s home, we met his father and his mother, Luigi and Linda. They are very nice people and they welcomed me to their beautiful home like a son. His mother is not a Christian but she is one of those delightful souls who believes that good food is one way of keeping people happy. She greeted us with a lovely meal which I thoroughly enjoyed.

At the meeting that night about 35 people were present. The subject was, “Who is the Holy Spirit.” To be truthful, I wanted to speak on, “The Fruit of the Gospel,” the truth which has been burning in my heart for the past few weeks. However, I was told that this was a pressing need of the people and so I decided to speak on the holy spirit. The Lord blessed the meeting and those who attended were able to get a clear understanding of the subject. Most people were already believers, but most of them were new believers and did not have a clear answer to some of the questions which people often ask. They were happy for the presentation.

One experience in Sydney stands out in my mind particularly. While there I met a lady who had several burning questions, and being a forthright type of person she approached me with these questions.

Among her questions was, “why did God allow such suffering and sin when he knew millions of years before it happened that it would happen?” She expressed herself very forcefully and I could tell that it was a very sore spot with her. I breathed a prayer for wisdom and gave her the answer as best as I could. When I was through, she nodded her head slowly. Her next question was, “what about this woman Ellen White?” I told her that I believed that Ellen White was a messenger of God and explained that one of the reasons why I believed this, was the fact that

reading her writings always drew me closer to God. She replied, “it is not like that with me. When I read her writings I get scared, especially this book, Great Controversy.” She continued by saying that she could not understand why she had suffered all her life, she had had so many bad things happen to her and then in this book, Great Controversy, it says that she will have to suffer still more at the end. Instead of things getting easier, they get worse! Still more suffering!

Again I lifted my heart to God and again he gave me an illustration which appealed to her. I told her of the poem entitled “footprints,” which illustrates the fact that when we go through the most difficult times in our lives God bears us up in His arms. I quoted the verse which says, “*When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. (Isa 43:2)*” I told her that there is no real difficulty in life if we have the right kind of company. It is only when we are alone that things are really very hard. I mentioned the statement which my wife had made before we were married that she would live in a cave with me, and I said, “we would have been happy living together no matter how hard things were, and we would have been unhappy living apart no matter how easy things were. It’s not the load that gets you down, it’s the fact that you bear it all alone.” At the end she was silent for a while and I encouraged her to give her life to the Lord. She whispered, “I would like to but I do not trust Him.” I told her that the only way to trust someone was to get to know them better and I encouraged her to seek to know the Lord better by prayer and reading of the Bible. She nodded her head and promised that she would try.

### **COORANBONG TO COFFS HARBOUR**

I left Sydney at 7:00 am on Wednesday, March 31 heading for Cooranbong where I would meet Allen. Tom and his brother Bill took me. It was a drive of nearly four hours and we arrived at about eleven o’clock. It was a joy to meet Allen again, but it was an extra special blessing to also meet again Alan Walker and his mother Esther, dear friends from our previous visit to Australia.

At this point we transferred our luggage to Alan’s van and said goodbye to Bill and Tom. Alan would be taking us on to our next assignment, which was a meeting of home schoolers. We drove for two hours before we arrived at the meeting place. This was in an area called Taree. There we found several families gathered and waiting for us. There seemed to be children everywhere. The talks on homeschooling were not something which I felt very comfortable with. I had never spoken on the subject before coming to Australia. I was much more comfortable with preaching and the sight of all those expectant faces, about 20 children and 8 mothers was a little intimidating, even though I had been a schoolteacher some years ago. Nevertheless, Allen and I proceeded to give talks based on our own experiences and the insights we had gained from the Bible which were relevant to homeschooling. To our joy and relief, these talks were enthusiastically received and the parents and students expressed the feeling that they had been very blessed by hearing us.

From the home school meeting we were taken to the home of Peter and Vikki Marshall. Here we would be spending the night before going on to Coffs Harbour for a meeting the following day. The Marshalls live out in the middle of very beautiful country without a single neighbour in sight anywhere. The landscape is very lovely with hills all around and yet the area is open enough that you can get a view for many miles on one side. I could not help thinking that it was the perfect place for rearing children if one was interested in keeping them close to nature and away from the influences of the city. Peter and Vikki have four children ranging in age from 12 to 1 year old. We found them to be mannerly children who had an intense interest in every living thing that moved. They were constantly bringing bugs crickets and butterflies to show to us. Living as they are out in the country they constantly have encounters with all kinds of wildlife. While we were there they had a large goanna lizard more than two feet in length which they had captured when it

came to steal the fowl (or “chooks” as they are called in Australia) eggs. They said that it was the third such lizard which they had caught since the year began. They regaled us with all kinds of stories of their encounters with snakes and other creatures. At one point they had been awakened in the night by the sound of one of the children whimpering in his sleep. When they turned on the light they discovered a python wrapped around the child’s leg with its teeth fastened in the leg! I was impressed that this family had a special regard for life as they always try to relocate these animals rather than killing them. Even this python which bit Nathan in his sleep was released far away from the home rather than being hacked to bits. I had to admit that they were far more tolerant than I was!

The next day Peter took us to Coffs Harbour which was about four hours away from where they lived. His eldest child, Amelia, came with us. We were also accompanied by Sarah, a 17 year old girl who had joined up with us in Sydney and was traveling with us to the campmeeting in Brisbane. Speaking at this campmeeting was to be our main assignment while we were in Australia and as we traveled from place to place we were gradually working our way up the coast towards the place where this camp would be held.

We arrived in Coffs Harbour late in the evening, just a half an hour before the meeting was scheduled to begin. We had set out a little late from the Marshall’s home. I think Peter miscalculated the time it would take us to travel to Coffs Harbour. In addition we had stopped along the way to do some sight seeing.

When we arrived in Coffs Harbour there were already some people waiting for us at the high school where the meeting was scheduled to take place. In a few minutes they were all there and we started. There were only 14 of us in all, but those who were there paid close attention as first, Allen spoke on the subject of the love of God manifested in the giving of His Son, and then I spoke on the subject of the holy spirit. The only opposition came from a little old lady who was not obnoxious but dogmatic. She kept asking questions and making comments which annoyed some of the other visitors. At the end of my presentation she said, “well I believe in three Gods, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.” This was too much for one of the others who said, “your problem is that you will not listen! You must listen, or else you will not learn.” This created a little tension but we called for prayer and things calmed down before they got out of hand.

From the meeting place we went to the home of John and Karla where we would spend the night. It was a lovely home with a swimming pool in front of it. In fact there were two houses and one was quite empty. This was where we would spend the night. John told us that we were welcome to use the swimming pool, the only condition being that we should have a bath first as the water in the swimming pool was cleaner than drinking water! It was too late for me to face up to it but Allen had a swim before he turned in. Peter and Amelia had planned to return home that night but by the time the meeting was over it was so late that we all pleaded with Peter not to take that four hour drive back home at that late hour. Finally he reluctantly agreed to stay.

The next morning we left early for Brisbane. John would be taking us and since it was a four hour drive, he was anxious to make an early start so that he could get back before it was Sabbath. We sadly said goodbye to Peter and Amelia, while Allen, Sarah and I set off with John on the journey to Brisbane. When we arrived in Brisbane we were somewhat disappointed to discover that Allen and I were again to be separated. He was to go to Stanthorpe and Toowoomba while I was to go first to the sunshine coast and then to Maryborough

### ***SUNSHINE COAST***

When I arrived at the sunshine coast I discovered that an interview had been arranged for me with a local newspaper. The interviewer was a young lady who seemed quite interested in my idea that

it was only in a relationship with God that we can experience true love and that the key to selflessness in love, is to understand the nature of God's own unconditional love as displayed in the gift of His only begotten Son. This young lady professed not to believe in God, but she asked many questions, some of them apparently for her own benefit, for she put down her pen at one point and listened intently as I explained that we really have no reason for doing what is right unless we accept the reality that there is a God to whom we are accountable, one who has the authority to determine what is right and what is wrong.. Later, an article was published based on this interview which was entitled, "Jamaican here to spread some love."

The next day, April 3 was a Sabbath. A meeting had been arranged in a building called the Federal hall. I had stayed in the home brother Arch Chater for the night and he took me there in the morning. Eventually about 20 – 25 people turned up for the meeting. I spoke on the fruit of the gospel and also on the holy spirit. After the meeting I went to Maryborough to the home of one of the families who had organized our trip to Australia. There I would spend the next couple of days.

### **MARYBOROUGH**

While I was there in Maryborough the schedule was especially hectic. On one occasion I had four different engagements for the day. However, these kept me busy and prevented me from missing home too much. I have to confess though that everything seemed to go by in a kind of blur.

On April 4 I went to speak at an Assemblies of God church in Bauple. Our hostess had arranged these meetings on an impulse. She had just happened to be passing the church one day and had stopped to ask the pastor if he would be willing to allow a visiting minister from Jamaica to have a meeting in his church. Astonishingly, the minister had agreed! However, when we arrived for the meeting we found that only he and his wife were present. He explained that there was another meeting later on in the evening and that most of the people were planning to attend that meeting and so had not turned up for my meeting.

We had a good discussion on the love of God manifested in the gift of His Son. However, we did not touch on anything controversial. The minister was impressed and wished me to tarry so that I could speak to his church for the evening meeting. However I had to decline since I was scheduled to have another meeting in just a few minutes from that time at the QCWA hall in Maryborough.

At the meeting in Maryborough that night about thirty people turned up and listened attentively as I spoke on "The Fruit of the Gospel." The audience was a mixture of some who already believed in the truth about God and others who wanted to know more about this much criticized doctrine. All who came seemed to have been favourably impressed.

The next day I took worship with the staff and students at Riverside Christian school. Both sessions were short but in addressing the staff I again spoke on God's love in giving His Son and the response was very favourable. We left directly from there and traveled to a place called Glenwood to meet with a group of hippie-type people. These people live in a kind of commune and seemed to me to be very self-righteous. They feel that they have obeyed the Bible and forsaken everything. They do not believe in secular employment although when I asked how they obtain money to buy food they answered that now and then one of them will go out and do some work. They cook with a wood fire and try to live as primitively as possible. Their women do not seem to shake hands because twice I offered my hand when I was about to leave and both times it was ignored.

These people are very Trinitarian in their beliefs and I was not able to make much of an impression on them though I presented clear Biblical evidence to the contrary. However, they

seemed to be quite set in their ways and had an air of knowing it all. They did not smile much while I was there and when we left I was somewhat relieved.

In the evening I spoke again at the QCWA hall. The topic was, “the God of The Bible.” These meetings were public meetings and had been advertised as “Elijah on mount Carmel: Who is the God of the Bible.” Again, the response seemed to be very good. Everybody listened attentively and although I challenged the audience to please stop me if I used one single text out of context or with a false interpretation, there was complete silence throughout the presentation.

The following day I went to visit with Sandra and Wally Claus at their beautiful home. They live on a property of fourteen acres named Walandra. I enjoyed the time I spent with them. Later in the afternoon I transferred to the home of Glen and Megan Blakemore and enjoyed a restful time with them and their four children, Sam, Lachie, Connie and Mia.

In the evening we returned to the QCWA hall for the final meeting there. I spoke on the subject of the holy spirit. This evening saw the largest audience so far. The local newspaper had carried an article on Allen and myself entitled, “Group without name has message for all,” and this apparently brought out a few people. They listened attentively and at the end, almost all of them expressed appreciation for what they had heard. One person walked out during the sermon but apart from him there seemed to be united agreement by the time the message was over. One lady thanked me and then left to go home. Soon she was back with a bag of bread rolls which she placed in my hand. “I know that a traveling preacher needs the bread of life,” she said and as she handed me the rolls she pressed a little money into my hand. I was especially moved by this because she was not one of the believers but just a lady who had come in response to the newspaper article. This sign of genuine appreciation was heartwarming. Afterwards I spent a restful night at Glenn’s and Megan’s.

### **MARBURG**

The next day, April 7, I travelled to Brisbane where we were picked up by Andrew Coyte who took me to Marburg where I would meet up with Allen again. We met at the home of Trish, a lady who is a homeschooler. There was a meeting of homeschoolers in her home which we were scheduled to address. The ladies there seemed to appreciate and to be encouraged by the experiences we related as we told of what it had been like homeschooling our children. We spent the night at this home. I admired the lady for her willingness to have us stay and I wondered at the irony that two Sabbath-keeping ministers who had said so much against the Papacy should be entertained by this Catholic lady. I was even more impressed when she willingly agreed for another lady and four of her children to also spend the night.

### **CAMPMEETING**

The next major event was a campmeeting. This in fact was one of the main events on our itinerary. The next day we traveled with Andrew Coyte, his mother, Robin and his grandmother, Ida Murray, up to the campsite. The campsite was called “The Log Cabin.” It is a secluded place in the mountains in a place called Numinbah, and is set on 20 acres. There are trees and hills on every side and it is a really beautiful setting. Here is where we would be for the next three days or so. I would be leaving on Sunday afternoon for an appointment in another part of Australia but the campmeeting would continue until Monday morning.

The campmeeting was one of the highlights of the trip to Australia. The people who came appeared to be truly blessed by the messages which we presented. Our main focus was on the implications of the message – how it affects our lives and not just the theory of trying to prove doctrines. This emphasis was appreciated and on the whole we had a blessed time. On the Sabbath there were perhaps close to 80 persons in attendance. Some came already believing in the



truth about God, but there were a few who were skeptical and even one or two who were outrightly opposed to the message.

At the end, there was one lady who attended most of the meetings but was not convinced. However, to the best of my knowledge she was the only one. One couple told me that they had heard the message six years ago but had not seen any light in it. They had come to the campmeeting for a second look, but not with any real expectancy that they would find anything different. However, as they spoke to me they were overjoyed with their new understanding and felt that the message was most important. Another lady told me that she had only come to observe, but she stated that she had found herself weeping as she had listened to the messages of the love of God manifested in the gift of His Son and she rejoiced that God had opened her eyes. These testimonies were very encouraging to us and we felt that our trip to Australia had really been worthwhile.

Blair Andrew took me to the airport on Sunday, shortly after mid-day. Leaving my new friends at Camp was a somewhat traumatic experience for me. I was reluctant to go. I had known them for only a couple of days, but it does not take long for people to become embedded in your heart when the love of God is the binding factor, and it was only reluctantly that I pulled myself away after some painful farewells.

### **ROCKHAMPTON**

After an hour's flight I arrived in Rockhampton where I was met by Vera Latcham. Vera is a very pleasant and easy going lady, but a committed Christian who is a very good hostess. While I was in the home of herself and her husband Barry I was treated to the very best hospitality and although Barry is not a believer in God, I found him to be a very likeable and genuinely friendly and considerate person who is easy to get along with. They live on a lovely property of 14 hectares with a river flowing on one side and a creek going through the middle of it.

Meetings were scheduled at their home on the night when I arrived and also for most of the following day. The first meeting found twelve persons present who listened attentively as I spoke on the subject of, "the God of The Bible." There were a few persons there who came with a skeptical point of view. Happily, however, at the end of the meeting most of the skepticism seemed to have disappeared. One man said that he had been of the impression that we were downgrading Christ, but after listening to the presentation he could see that this was not what was happening at all.

The following day there were perhaps ten persons present. There were two presentations, one, on the Holy Spirit, and the other on the Fruits of the Gospel. The people listened attentively and appeared to be moved by the presentations. There was one man present however, who raised up discussion and argument at the end of every presentation and talked for extended periods of time. He claimed to be impressed by what was said but then went on to explain that he believed in the Trinity. He spoke at great lengths of how the co-equal, co-eternal members of the godhead had adopted certain roles and went on and on, though he did not shout, raise his voice, or get offended. When he was asked for the scriptural evidence for his beliefs he would avoid the issue by making more long comments. He had many ideas but little Scripture to back them up and when it was pointed out that there were many problems with his ideas he would claim that these were "mysteries." The other people were really frustrated and it was somewhat of a relief when evening came and we finally broke up.

The following day I rested for most of the morning. It was good to have an opportunity for some quiet time, undisturbed by the pressure of meetings. In the afternoon Vera took me for a visit to a park which was kind of like a mini zoo. Afterwards we went to the airport where I said goodbye and took flight back to Brisbane.

### **BRISBANE AGAIN**

I was met at the Brisbane airport by a young man named Ben Turner. We had grown to be good friends while I was at the campmeeting. He informed me that I had to speak at a meeting in half an hour. The problem was that the meeting place was one and a half hours from where we were. We set off with him driving a bit like a Jamaican at times. Fortunately the traffic was not heavy and we arrived in just about an hour and a quarter. In the meantime Allen had been trying to hold the fort by recapping some of the things which he had preached the night before. He was relieved when I arrived although to tell the truth, I wished that I had had a little time to catch my breath before speaking. However, I was able to speak with conviction and the people seemed to have been blessed by what they heard. That night we stayed at the home of one of those who came to the meeting, a brother by the name of Andrew.

### **AUSTRALIAN ZOO**

Early the next morning Ben came to pick us up. This was the only day of the tour when we would have a full holiday. We were scheduled to visit the Australian Zoo, owned and operated by the famous Steve Irwin, the "crocodile hunter." We got there at around 9.00 O'clock and stayed there all day until closing time at 4:30. It was interesting, but I missed my family especially at times like this and it somewhat dampened the excitement of the situation for me. Nevertheless it was an interesting day, and especially the various shows they had throughout the day when they fed the animals or demonstrated how they responded to training. There was a special show between 10.30 and midday when several shows were done in a mini stadium called the Crocoseum. There were demonstrations with birds, tigers and crocodiles. It was quite interesting. We returned home satiated, but quite tired from all the walking we had done (at least I was).

### **BAPTISM AT IMBIL**

The next day we went up to a place called Imbil where we had a baptism for three persons. The baptism was near the home of a couple who had been to the campmeeting and who had called to say that there were some persons in their area who desired baptism. This baptism took place in a nearby river.

It was evening when Allen baptized these folks, two adults and a child maybe 13 or 14 years old. It was getting cool, but the location was beautiful and I could not help thinking that two thousand years ago when John the Baptist baptized Jesus it might have been in a spot a lot like this.

We again spent the night at Ben's home. It was a tight squeeze because Glenys Walkom with her two children, Jonathan and Jessica, as well as her mother in law, sister Esther Walker, had stayed with us because they would be taking us down to Cooranbong for the next few days. This was a contingency plan which had been worked out when we discovered that the plans for us to visit the Solomon islands had fallen through. So there were the four of them as well as Allen and I, staying with Ben and his wife Bethany. They were very happy to have us all stay with them although it did inconvenience them a lot.

### **COORANBONG AGAIN**

The next morning we set out for the journey to Cooranbong. It was to be a journey of nearly 14 hours so we set out very early at close to 4.00 A.M. We drove for most of the day stopping for a while at a place called the "Big Banana," where there were souvenirs and a few attractions such as the opportunity to ride on the "Toboggan." This was something like a bobsled ride where you went sliding down a chute at high speeds in a kind of sled.

We arrived in Cooranbong close to sunset. It was Friday evening and so we hurriedly made preparations for the Sabbath and made contact with a few people to see if they would be interested in coming to a meeting on the following day. Quite a few people agreed to come.

Next day we went to a park where about 30 people turned up for the meeting. This was a bit of a surprise as we had not expected anywhere near so many, but apparently the news got around and some whom we had not been able to contact heard and decided to come. We had a very good day, with a study in the morning on the subject of how the doctrine of the Trinity is related to the spirit of antichrist, and then in the evening we had a question and answer session. The main subject of discussion was the nature of Christ and how it was related to the truth of the godhead. We finally parted as it was getting dark after a very good day's fellowship.

### **NATASHA'S BAPTISM**

The next day Natasha was baptized. Natasha was a young lady who had travelled to the campmeeting with Donna and Alan Walker and whom we had met on our previous trip to Australia. She had had some talks with Allen, and had been especially moved by the baptisms which took place at the campmeeting. Now she made up her mind that she wanted to be baptized as well, so we drove to a slow flowing river which ran through the grounds of Avondale college and Allen baptized her to the great joy of the small group of us who were present. this baptism was especially thrilling to Alan and Donna who have known Natasha and have been praying for her for many years.

After the baptism we were taken to lake which was really an estuary as the water originated in the sea and was salty. However, it came in through a narrow channel and was almost completely surrounded by land so it was almost a lake. It was quite large and was a lovely spot. Here we met a friend of Glenys' who owned a jet ski. Alan Walker also brought his speed boat along and we had a day of recreation which was good fun for everyone. I was even persuaded to ride on the jet ski and learned that the art of survival was to cling to the person in front of you for dear life. Our driver was skilled at his art and took delight in taking his vehicle through all sorts of contortions with the express purpose of trying to throw the passengers off. He made it buck worse than the wildest bucking bronco of the wild west. He seemed to sense that I had an antipathy to cold water and did not do his best while I was on the vehicle. Later he succeeded in throwing Allen much to the delight of the rest of us watching on shore.

We went back home to Esther Walker's where we were staying, happy for the opportunity to have had a little break. It was also a good opportunity to get to know our brothers and sisters better. Brett and Charlene Murray were there as well as Bob and Judith Higgs, Alan and Donna Walker with their family, Glenys Walkom and her children, Jonathan and Jessica, Natasha was also there, as well as Esther Walker and David Holsten.

That evening we said goodbye to Alan and Donna and the family as well as to Bob and Judith. It was a sad time. We have truly come to regard them as family and it was as painful as having to say goodbye to our own flesh and blood. The following morning Glenys, Jonathan and Jessica also left very early before daylight and we had to go through the same trauma again.

The next day, David Holsten took us to the airport from where we flew back to Brisbane. There Ben met us and we returned to his home where we spent one last night. There was a kind of get together with some members of his family where we said our last nostalgic goodbyes. It was a bitter-sweet time, sweetened by the thought that the next day we would be heading for home. It would be a long trip, close to 45 hours for me and a long wait in Los Angeles of nearly twelve hours. I would arrive home dirty and tired. For Allen it would only be a little better as he would get home about 14 hours or so before me. However, After having been away for more than a

month, the long journey home did not seem like such a daunting prospect and we were eager to start.

We flew out the following morning at 11.00 a.m. After a 15 hour flight with a short stop in New Zealand, we arrived at Los Angeles where Allen and I separated. I arrived home two days after leaving Australia grateful to God for a profitable journey and a safe return home.

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## **FREE TAPE OFFER**

This month we would like to offer a special sermon on audio tape to all those who write to request it.

The sermon, by David Clayton, is entitled, "***The Truth of the Gospel.***" This critically important message explores the biblical meaning of the gospel and shows how the most vital elements of the gospel have been obscured by traditional beliefs within Christendom, and particularly the doctrine of the Trinity. Those who hear this message will see very clearly that the truth about God is not a secondary issue but is indeed the most vital truth which all people need to understand and to receive.



This audio tape is free to all who request it. Simply write and ask for the audio tape entitled, "***The Truth of the Gospel.***"

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# **JAMAICAN CAMP MEETING REPORT**

*Karleen Williams*

It was thrilling to see believers gathered from across the island and the United States to share in the blessings of another camp meeting held April 8-12, 2004. This year our campmeeting was held for the first time at the "Youth With A Mission" campgrounds which has more ground space, and a beautiful chapel.

Our theme was, "*Contending For the Faith*".

The daily schedule began with an early morning devotion, which began at 6:00 – 7:00 a.m., a morning session 9:30-10:45 and a mid-morning session 10:45 – 12:00. Lunch was between 12:00 and 2:30 followed by two afternoon sessions, 2:30 – 3:45 and 3:45 – 5:00, and then the day ended with an evening session 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Our speakers for this camp meeting were David Sims from California, Dr. Steven Burks of Ohio, and Arthan Wright from Florida. Our local speakers included Sisters. Zemrie McGlashan and Tracey Wilson, Bros. Leford Russell, Wayne Sutherland, Neville Morris, Marlon Cole, Walt Brown, and Howard Williams.

## **FRIDAY**

Friday morning devotion began with Sis. Zemrie who challenged us to contend earnestly for the faith. She gave examples of Daniel, Moses and Elijah who, in their day never ceased to contend for what they believed.

Following our devotion, Bro. David Sims gave an intense study on the importance of knowing the truth, knowing what we believe. Bro Athan followed with an interesting message on the life of Gideon. After lunch, Bro. Marlon Cole gave an eye opening presentation on facts about the coconut.

Dr. Burks began a series of interesting studies showing the origin of 666 and Pontifex Maximus.

## **SABBATH**

The Sabbath morning was beautiful and was truly a high day. Everyone stopped to look at the rising of the sun, it was magnificent, it added a special luster to the day. Devotion began with song service conducted by Bro. Howard Williams. The singing was melodious and of a nature to bring out goose bumps on the skin of those who heard it. Bro. Leford was our morning speaker. He focused on the question of “why is it that older folk find it harder to accept Christ than younger folks?”

The mid-morning session was conducted by Bro. Neville Morris who led us to look a little more closely namely at “The Formation of the Image of the Beast.”

Dr. Burks continued on his study showing how Paganism and Babylonianism has invaded Christianity and why we need to contend for the faith.

The afternoon meeting was a continuation of a discussion raised just before lunch, since lunch was a little late. This discussion centered around the Anti- Trinitarian doctrine and just why we need to make this an issue.

The presenters all seemed to have had an upper room experience as all the messages were linked to each other. Our next session was taken by Bro. David Sims who highlighted the right and wrong uses of music and the need for parents to home school their children. The presentation was well received.

The evening meeting featured Bro. Arthan who gave a timely and instructive message.

The atmosphere of camp meeting was very pleasant, as the lord brought many heart-searching messages through the speakers.

## **SUNDAY**

Sunday morning devotion began with Sis. Tracey Wilson, instead of David Wilson, her husband who was scheduled to share. Her message was profound. She shared experiences linking them to Bible passages so everyone could relate to and understand that we must earnestly contend for the faith.

Bro. David Sims followed with a message entitled “Country Living’ He encouraged us to look towards going to the country and he quotes: “As God’s commandment-keeping people, we must leave the cities. As did Enoch, we must work in the cities but not dwell in them.”— Evangelism, pp. 78, 79. (1899)

The morning session concluded with a forceful message by Dr. Burks in which dealt with how we can live in Babylon and not be a part of Babylon. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were

prime examples. He also showed that if we live a representative life then in the Kingdom to come our position would be secure.

Our afternoon messages included a health talk by Sis Debbie Cole who shared ways in which we can maintain optimum health, even as that of a new born. Bro. Walt Brown then shared with us the importance of our Savior's ministry in the heavenly sanctuary.

The evening meeting was open for testimonies led by Sis. Naomi Morris. Indeed our hearts were stimulated by these testimonies.

### **MONDAY**

It was hard to come to grips with the fact that camp meeting that we had long anticipated had come to an end. Our early morning devotion was conducted by Bro. Wayne Sutherland, who shared with mixed feelings, as this camp meeting was the last one for him and his family. They will be leaving for England for a few years. He too encouraged us to contend for the faith and asked us to pray that he and his family will do the same.

After breakfast Brother Howard encouraged us all to keep the focus of contending for the faith before us at all times and that we should pray that the Lord will keep our hearts fixed on the goal of reaching others with the message of love that they too can experience the character of Christ.

After this meeting we all had a congregational hymn where we joined hands together and sang, "side by side we stand."

Camp meeting 2004 came to an end, but the experience we got is still living in our hearts.

### **MUSICAL ITEMS**

We were especially blessed by the presence of Godfrey Burks, brother to Dr. Steven Burks also from Ohio who thrilled our souls with inspirational singing.

Our own Restoration Ministries singers blessed our hearts as well with a few items.

#### **Congregational Singing**

One of the highlights of this camp meeting was the singing. It was contagious and incomparable. The testimony of all was that this was the best singing they had ever heard. The brethren would be gathered sometimes even half an hour before the scheduled time just to participate in the song service. I will say unapologetically, that those of you who missed this campmeeting, missed one of the experiences of a lifetime, so all those of us who love singing, should not miss another camp meeting.

Those who would like to attend next year should start planning from now for an even richer and more blessed experience. Until then, may God bless you.

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## **FROM WHENCE COMETH THE GIFT OF SALVATION?**

Am I trying too hard to please God? The answer most obvious, is that I can never, in my entire lifetime, try too hard to please the One who loves me most. It is impossible to do too much for the One, who made priceless my salvation.

Many times, I am sure, in our Christian experience, it weighs heavily on heart and mind, a compelling desire to speak the Word of Truth to a particular person. We long to tell this dear soul about the love of God, His coming judgment, the time of trouble, and much, much more. It has indeed been my experience. Often—times I have forgotten the admonition found in Ecclesiastes 3:7 “. . . a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; . . .” and Psalms 27:14 “*Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.*” Instead I have put on my “spiritual hipboots” and waded right in, trying to do the entire saving thing all by myself. I envision the water of worldliness rising higher and higher. My friend is’ drowning in sin. The swirling waters of his unbelief will soon silence my voice. What should I do! What am I to say! Where is my strength? O’ wretched person that I am. I cannot save myself. How am I to save somebody else?

The Lord opens the eye of my mind to 2 Samuel 22:33. “*God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.*” Precious Saviour, please impress me to move out of Thy way. Thou only canst do the saving work. Without Thee, I can do nothing. May I never neglect to bow humbly before Thee, asking thy Divine instruction before speaking Thy Word to any person. Remembering always that “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*” James 1:17

May thou Lord, perfect thy gift of Salvation in me, and through me, is my prayer.

*Contributed by Daisy Albertson,  
Joliet, Montana, U.S.A.*

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*Open Face* is dedicated to the promotion of the truths committed to the Advent movement, as believed and taught by the early Adventist pioneers. In particular to the restoration of those truths which have been cast down to the ground and trampled underfoot by the papacy, and adopted by her daughters.

Our purpose is to motivate our readers to commit themselves wholly to the task of personal preparation for the coming of the Lord, and to the taking of the final warning message to every nation, kindred, tongue and people.

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