

Newsletter



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.

Tragedy struck a young friend of ours recently. Her father died suddenly and unexpectedly. She has a faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ, as does her mother; but her father ... ? Well, he showed little interest in Christianity. Our friend wants to know where her Dad is now, and what will happen to him.

It made me thankful to God, yet again, that in His infinite wisdom He has not granted immortality to all; that those outside of Christ will be judged and destroyed, *not* eternally tormented.

I was talking with a young mother who some years ago received a visit from the police to tell her that her mother had been

murdered. Again, there was some doubt about her mother's salvation. To her, comfort lies in God's justice and mercy. She does not have to think of her mother possibly being tormented day and night right now, or later. She does not have to try and reconcile eternal torment with the God revealed to us in the Lord Jesus Christ, a God of love.

One of the young men in the local youth group shared with me a year or so ago about the time the family he was boarding with lost a teenage son. Once again, there had been no interest shown in Christ. This young man shared with me how he wished he had known and understood *conditional immortality* at the time because the dead boy's father had challenged him - "You believe that my son is going to hell to be eternally tormented, so how can you comfort me or expect me to come to church and believe in a God of love?"

I often wonder how those Christians who do believe in a state of *eternal conscious* separation from God for the unsaved (whether fiery torment or some modified version) can faithfully counsel those who have lost unbelieving family and friends. Do they avoid the inevitable conclusion of their beliefs - that the dead person isn't really resting-in-peace?

Do they pretend that the person has gone to heaven? Or do they compromise

the love of God by trying to justify a loving God who also punishes some of our loved ones with eternal discomfort? How can we expect to convince others (or ourselves) of eternal happiness and peace with Christ if we believe that some loved ones are consciously, eternally, crying out for relief from anguish and pain?

Thank God for revealing Himself to us as a God who does judge and condemn sinners, but who does so with justice and mercy. A God who gave His own Son on the cross to pay the penalty for all who would believe, and who will destroy all who refuse to turn to Him.

YES, conditional immortality is relevant to everyday life and death.

YES, conditional immortality is an important doctrine to be preached faithfully in the Christian Church, and spoken of as comfort and hope for the bereaved.

YES, we do have a role to play in promoting a correct understanding of the Biblical teaching of conditional immortality.

In His service and for His glory,

Carl Josephson.

CONFERENCE 1994

Just a reminder that Conference is very soon - April 30th, at Carey Park. Our guest speakers from the Advent Christian Churches of America will make this an even more important and informative event.

What's more we have had a call from Tony Plews, editor of 'Reality' magazine (formerly the Bible College of NZ 'Reaper' magazine) with regards an interview with the three Americans, and possible inclusion of an article on conditional immortality in an upcoming edition. This would be a very significant step. Please pray for both the Conference and the interview/article.

Also, please come to Conference as there will be a new video preview that will be well worth seeing, on the big screen.



For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



ADVENT CHRISTIAN MISSION

Advent Christian Missions New Zealand -
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Ernie & Helen Schache. Auckland. New Zealand.

Exciting things are happening, under God's grace, on the fields in which the Advent Christian General Conferences Department of World Missions is working. The Director of World Missions - Rev Harold Patterson - said in October 1993, "We are experiencing a revival in Advent Christian Missions, the likes of which we have not seen in some decades." He made this comment at a time when the International Missions Advisory Committee had just interviewed *eleven prospective missionary candidates*. Praise the Lord!

Since that time, the Lord's blessing has continued to be evident, with the following highlights warranting mention.

-A further career missionary - Karen Rigby - was approved as a candidate under appointment to *Japan*. It is hoped that she will be on the field, subject to finance becoming available, about mid 1994.

-The executive Council approved the opening of a new field in *Honduras*. The mission is at present seeking to recruit a couple for arrival in Honduras late in 1994 or early 1995.

-Also approved was the appointment of area directors, whose responsibility will be to oversee and co-ordinate the work on all fields in an area. The first position to be filled will be that of *Asian Field Director*. Rev George Teshera, formerly a missionary to the Philippines, has been appointed to that position and will take up his responsibilities mid 1994.

-For many years it has been impossible to get permission for *new missionaries* to enter *India*. The mission feels that there is a strong possibility that this situation may be about to change, and they are seeking a suitable couple to go into India to replace the three missionaries (including our own *Beryl Hollis*) who are to retire in 1995.

It would be wonderful if the continuity of service could be maintained in India for a number of years to come.

-In a recent paper entitled "Recovering the Church's Great Commission Passion - Strategy for Refocusing Our Mission Work in the 90's and Beyond" Rev Hal Patterson listed the following *personnel requirements and positions available for the next few years*:

- English Teachers for Japan 1994
- College Teacher - Oro Bible College, Philippines - 1995
- Doctrinal Professor for Singapore Bible College/Malaysia and India Fields Liaison 1995
- India Conference Advisor/Director for School of Evangelism, Kodaikanal 1995
- Church Planter in Honduras 1995
- North American Church Planter Pastor African American 1996
- Tent making Missionary to Islamic World 1996
- Nurse - Latin America 1996
- Church Planter in Honduras 1997
- Anglo Missionary to Mexico 1997
- Missionary Overseer/Educator for Nigeria 1997-98.

Our Association is pledged to support the *World Mission Activities* of the Advent Christian General Conference. Their strategies and goals as shown above, therefore become *our strategies and goals, the responsibility for ensuring that they are implemented becomes ours also*.

The *Missions Committee* are praying that the Lord will lead one or more New Zealanders to become career Missionaries with the American Advent Mission society. If you feel that the Lord may be leading you to one of the above mentioned positions, or to any other field of world missions service, please contact the director,

The past few months have been busy for supporters of the activities of Advent Christian Missions New Zealand.

A Faithful, small group, have continued to meet six weekly to pray for the activities on the fields in which we here in New Zealand have special interest. We would welcome others at our prayer meetings - please come if you can

Our *NEXT MEETING* will be held on *FRIDAY 29th April*, at the home of Ernie and Helen Schache, 5 Humber Place, Avondale East, commencing at 7-30pm. Our *SPECIAL GUEST* will be *Rev Harold Patterson, Director of World Missions for the Advent Christian General Conference of America*. He will be bringing us right up-to-date information from all fields, and in particular from India, the Philippines and the recent Asian Strategy Conference.

The *Third Work Team* ministered on behalf of us all at *Oro Bible College* in the *Philippines*, and proved to be fine ambassadors. There are continuing opportunities for us to contribute to the development of the Advent Christian Denomination in the Philippines. Oro Bible College's Board of Directors are preparing a long term development plan for the college, and will be offering us the opportunity to participate in an exciting project.

Advent Christian Missions New Zealand Director Ernie Schache, and Treasurer Rob Carr, are attending the first ever *ASIAN STRATEGY CONFERENCE* in Cagayan De Oro, Philippines from April 19 to 21. They will meet with delegates from all Asian fields of the Advent Christian Conference's World Mission Department - from India, Malaysia, Japan, Philippines and China, and will discuss ways in which we can expand our activities and make them more effective by working together as a partnership. *Please pray* for this conference, and for the implementation of the decisions reached. Following the Asian Strategy Conference, delegates will join with the *Philippines Advent Christian Conference* to celebrate their *40th*

Anniversary. In the 40 years since Pastor and Mrs Frank Toothe began the work for the American Advent Mission Society, over 40 churches have been planted - surely grounds for celebration of God's Leading and Guidance and Power, and to seek his continuing will for the spread of the Gospel in that land.

WORK TEAM - INDIA 1994/1995

Following discussions with our missionary, Beryl Hollis, the missions

committee decided to explore the possibility of sending a **WORK TEAM to India**. The Lord has set his seal of approval on this decision and air travel bookings will be made shortly for our **FIRST WORK TEAM TO INDIA**. The missionaries on the field advised of building work which needed to be carried out on a partly completed building at **The School of Evangelism, Kodaikanal**. The School of Evangelism is to the Blessed Hope Fellowship in India, what Oro College is to the Philippine Advent Christian Conference. Your committee therefore felt that this project was one that was worthy of our support.

As well as showing our support for Beryl Hollis and the other missionaries she has worked with for many years, sending the team will give us the opportunity to develop a relationship with the nationals in India which can be developed when Beryl retires in 1995. The team will also provide the opportunity for those who feel called of the Lord to **SHORT TERM MISSION**

SERVICE to serve in that place.

Since initial publicity went to churches and individuals just a few weeks ago, **SIX** people have indicated that they are prayerfully considering joining the team. Among the six who have confirmed their membership there are those with suitable skills so that the required work can be effectively carried out. Praise the Lord for his answers to our prayers in this regard. There is **still room for one or two male members** - those with carpentry skill of good "handyman" skills would be ideal.

If you feel you could serve the Lord in India with this team, contact Ernie Schache as soon as possible

If you do not feel you can go to India with the team, **WILL YOU SUPPORT THE PROJECT IN PRAYER STARTING RIGHT NOW?**

Details will be sent to churches as they become available, and the Missions Committee and team members would

appreciate your prayer and practical support. Many details are yet to be finalised, but from what we already know, there will be many differences between conditions in India and those we have experienced in the Philippines. As with the expeditions to Oro Bible College, we will need the Lord's presence, power and protection - please start praying now!

Beryl Hollis and her fellow workers are really excited at the possibility of a team of Kiwis going to assist them on the fields - these who have "signed on" are excited to have the opportunity to serve the Lord.

Will YOU join the support team and be excited to be a part of the undertaking?



Team members of the 3rd NZ Work Team to ORO Bible College, Philippines.

PHILIPPINES WORK MISSION 1993\94

It was with a great sense of joy that I returned to the Oro Bible College as team leader for the 1993\94 work mission.

Joy at renewing friendships gained on a previous mission and joy at meeting, fellowshiping and serving our Filipino brothers and sisters in the Lord; in a very special way.

Leading a team of Kiwis to the mission field is no easy task. Besides the practical aspects of moving 15 people half a world away physically, there is the other daunting task of moving them half a world away culturally. I was impressed by the team's attitude to their call and their preparedness to obey God's leading in their lives no matter what it might bring. To lead such a team this year was both

a privilege and a challenge; to make the right choices as opportunities for service arose; to look for each person's God given talents and to focus these in the mission; to be a servant to all.

The work this time comprised of remodelling the administration area of the college, providing study cubicles, curtains, and bathroom tiling. We also held cooking\financial seminars and were involved in local church ministries within a 100km radius of Cagayan De Oro. All this in the space of three weeks. Thus, looking back on it, was a daunting task, but God was able to achieve these things through us (though sometimes not without some anxiety on our part). God taught me many things on this mission. Things about the people I thought I knew, aspects of my character that needed attention, the rich

blessings he gives his people who follow him with a common goal, and to trust in him.

Our God-given family in the Philippines hold a very special place in my heart. They are warm, loving and very generous with the little they have. They taught me much about living in faith in midst of adversity, trusting an all-powerful God, and thankfulness for whatever he provides. Our brothers and sisters in the Philippines need our prayers and our ongoing support in their mission to reach their people. Short term mission is one way of doing this. It brings us closer to them and forges friendships that will last longer than this age. Please support them in whatever way you can.

— **Paul Look, Sunnynook, Auckland.**



POWLEY HOUSE

The Chapel has at last been completed, and it was indeed a time of rejoicing as the building was dedicated to the glory of God. The opening of the Chapel was a great success and met with smiles all round.

A matter of concern is that Powley House now has 16 apartments up for sale and three cottages for resale. The home itself is full.

Community services are running well and are as follows:

Home care services - Trained staff offer services tailored to the needs of the individual in their own home, eg: domestic assistance, transport for shopping, and personal care is also available.

Prepared meals - a minimum five day order with an extensive menu is available. Delivery can also be arranged.

Day stay and social support - are also offered for people who are interested.

The residents are also able to be involved in many activities and outings eg. The Viaduct Basin and Maritime Museum, church services, meetings, visiting groups and guest performers and speakers, to name but a few.

Thankyou to all those people who have remembered Powley House and Village regularly in their prayers and please keep up the good work and much appreciated support.

— Colleen Logie.

If you would like to know more about Carey Park and the camps the people there supply do not hesitate to give them a call. PH (09) 837 0494.

CAREY PARK

Carey Park is a Christian Camp that provides exciting camping opportunities to enjoy personally.

The Great OutDoors (GOD), is drawn upon extensively in order to bring kids, teens and adults, to a place where they hear The Gospel. Also as a place of outreach and a place of personal growth, so please pray for this ministry and make the most of it, and tell others.

Carey Park runs many different camps year round, such as May School holiday camps, leadership training camps, Kids camps, and even a "Teen tramp out" camp.

They also have Father and Son camps and of course Mother and Daughter camps. Both camps have guest speakers appearing and are well worth checking out. Camps during the August school holidays are always a great success.

ASSOCIATION SUNDAY, 1993.

In September last year the Rev. Brian Smith, Principal of Carey Baptist College, gave a stirring address on 'The End of Evil'.

This was an exceptionally powerful message from a respected Bible scholar. Copies of the address are available, for purchase, on both video and audio tape. Interested? Contact the Multi-Media Dept.

Ph: 09-3788782x20

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