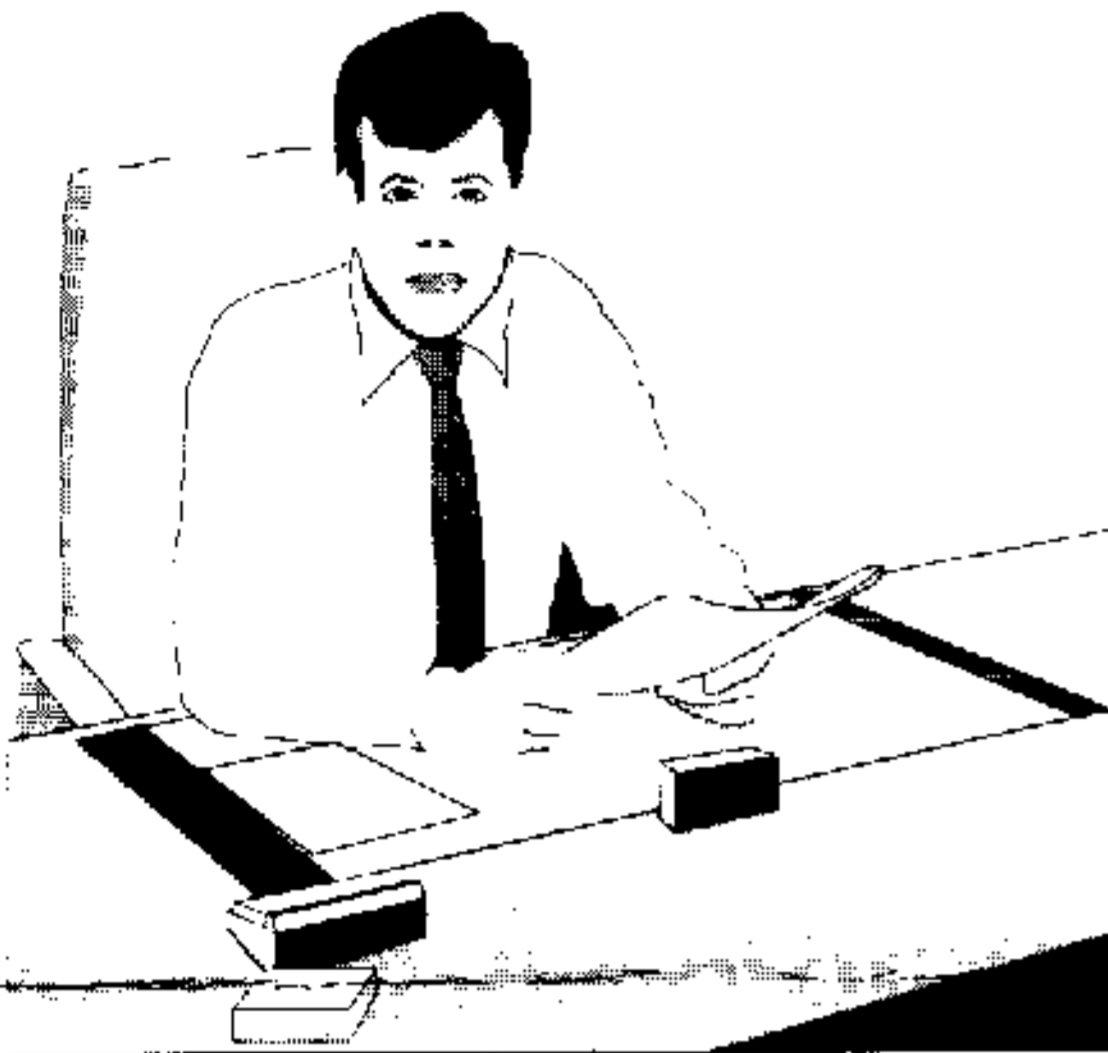


Newsletter

Conditional Immortality Association NZ Incorporated

Issue # 3. MAY 1995



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.

An article entitled "Heading for the Light" (Next, April 1995) asked the question "When we die do we simply sink into oblivion? Or is death a doorway to some other place?" The front cover promised the reader, "Find out how heaven looks". What followed was a series of interviews with Kiwis who had been "beyond and back".

One woman described how her near death experience has given her a "wonderful assurance" about death. She "knows" that death is merely a transition to some other place and

"not something to be feared".

A Muslim lady reported encountering a being "she knew was God". She experienced an "amazing peace". The "god being" told her helpful things about her life. She told her children that death is like going to another country and living very happily there.

Another woman said, "Death is not the tragedy we think it is and the body is not important". She told her dying father there is "just shining happiness ahead". (Scenes of souls in torment are relatively rare, except in a very limited number of Christian examples.)

There was no mention of Christ or faith in his finished work on the cross by any of these travellers.

The article reminded me of three things:

ONE. Secular Kiwis are still concerned to know what happens to them after death. Conditionalist Christians need to be prepared to put

forward the biblical view of 'Life only in Christ' in answer to the questions they are asking.

TWO. Although most Christians would reject the validity of these experiences of "heavenly" bliss for non-believers, I can't help thinking that Christians who hold to the belief of the immortality of the soul are entering the spiritual battle at best only half-armed. At worst they may be buttressing the position of the enemy. We need to put the conditionalist perspective before our brothers and sisters in Christ too.

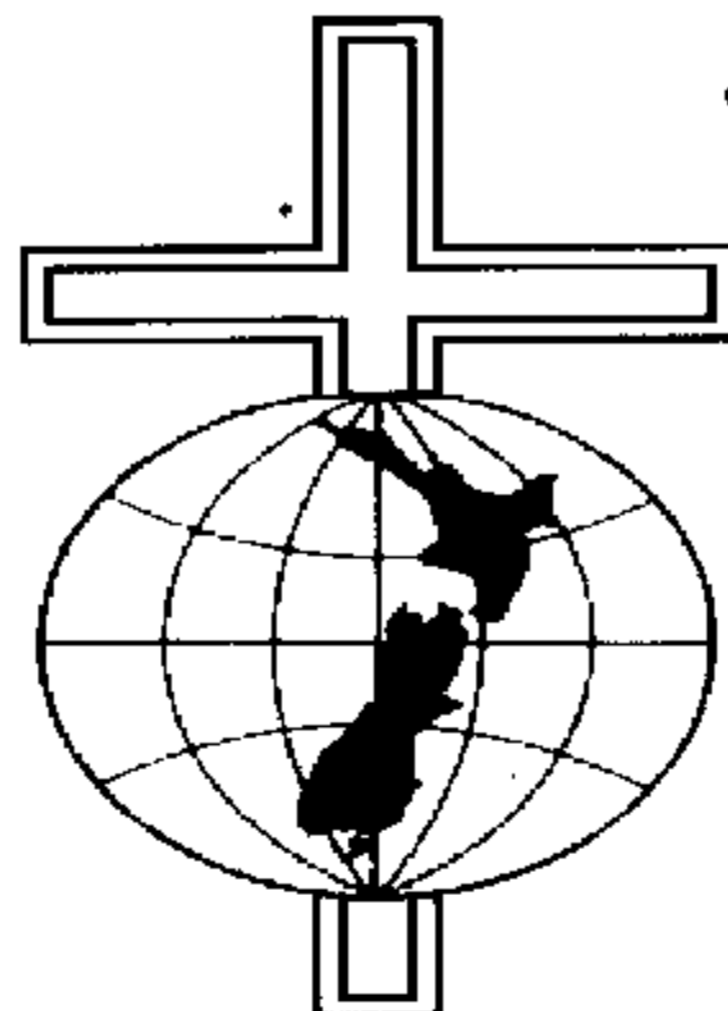
THREE. We are justified in rejecting experiences, however real they may have seemed to the participants at the time, when they contradict God's Word, the Bible. Are we not likewise justified in rejecting so-called Christian experiences of heaven or hell when they fly in the face of the biblical evidence?

Pastor David Burge..

CONFERENCE 1995

Just a reminder that Conference this year is on June 17th, at Carey Park. There will be reports from each of the committees including Multi-Media and Missions.

Not only will we be reviewing all that has been achieved over the last 12 months but also looking ahead to some exciting future developments such as more work teams to the Mission fields and the possibility of further projects for the Multi-Media.



Our two key-note speakers will be our President, Pastor David Burge, and our Past President, Carl Josephson. Topics covered will be 'Interpreting the Scriptures' and 'Near Death Experiences.'

Starting time is 9.30am and we expect to be finished at approximately 4.00pm. Of course everyone is welcome, but just a reminder that only paid-up members are eligible to vote.

ADVENT CHRISTIAN MISSION



Pictured Above: Work Team to India with Beryl, bedecked with welcome garlands, at a meeting at Velacheri.

In recent correspondence, Rev Harold Patterson, Director of World Missions for the Advent Christian Conference of the United States, has indicated that **the Lord is blessing on all fields that they presently work in, and is opening doors to new fields in exciting ways.**

He mentions contact from "Advent Christian" churches in Croatia and South Africa, and comments, "We know nothing about them and are trying to find out how God is leading in these matters. **We have more missionaries and fields than we know!"**

Comments such as these warm the hearts of those of us here in New Zealand, who are committed to supporting worldwide missions work, and particularly the work of our fellow believers in Conditional Immortality throughout the world.

Advent Christian Missions have official workers in eleven countries - The Philippines, India, China, Malaysia, Japan, Honduras, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria and Mexico, with an increase in effort being put into working with ethnic congregations in several cities in the United States.

Closer to home, our interest has recently been centred on two of these fields - India and the Philippines - and we are very grateful for the support, both practically and prayerfully, that has been evident for these fields. **Please continue to pray** for the personnel and the activities on these fields - God continues to hear and answer your prayers in wonderful ways!

INDIA.

The recent highlight was of course the visit of the fourth Work Team that we have sent overseas from New Zealand, this time to Madras and Kodaikanal. We had the privilege of spending a short time with Beryl Hollis, at her home in Madras, and of experiencing first hand the lifestyle she has lived for 40 years. **Nothing** comes easily in a country like India, and it says much for Beryl that we have heard so little over those 40 years, of the frustrations and difficulties, the hardships - even privations, that she has endured. In hindsight it is a pity we did not send a team many years ago, so that we could have prayed more effectively.

We saw a little of the city of Madras and its people before travelling by overnight train to Kodai Road Station, where we were met by vehicles from the Mission and driven to Kodaikanal. Kodai is 6,500 feet up in the mountains and is where the school of Evangelism of the Blessed Hope Fellowship is located. The School of Evangelism is where Pastors and workers are trained for the denomination.

The prime task for the Work Team - 7 men and 5 ladies - was to endeavour to complete the main building of the school, which has been in a partially completed state for many years. The Missionaries - Beryl, and Marion Damon and Barbara White from the United States - were very keen to see the building completed before they all retire later this year.

Our first inspection of the building and of the work to be done could be said to have been daunting - the amount of work to be

done was much greater than we had understood - but, in the Lord's strength and provision, the building was well along the way to being completed when the Team left. The financial support that was received prior to our departure meant that we were able to hire a large number of Indian Nationals - many of them tradesmen - to assist us with such tasks as plastering, carpentry and electrical work. There were sufficient funds available to leave there to ensure that the building could be completed after we left.

It was a thrill to be able to be present at the dedication of the new portion of the building - by Rev David Ross, the Executive Vice President of the Advent Christian General Conference - and to be present at the graduation ceremony of four new Pastors for the Blessed Hope Fellowship.

It was also our privilege to be able to have fellowship with our Indian sisters and brothers in the Lord at a total of nine churches of the Fellowship, and to experience the joy and enthusiasm and commitment that they have for the sharing of the Gospel. Wherever we went, we were thanked profusely for the practical and prayerful support that has come from New Zealand over many, many years. The fellowship that we enjoyed with the church members at Kodai church, many of whom worked with us for the whole time we were there, was a wonderful experience. We particularly appreciated the assistance and fellowship of Rev. Gellknight, the Pastor of the Kodai church and Principal of the School of Evangelism.

Thank you to all who supported the Work Team in any way.

As mentioned above, the three missionaries retire later this year, and Beryl is presently planning to be home early in September. Please pray for her as she has much to do before leaving - personal belongings to sort and pack, and many decisions to make and implement concerning the work of the Blessed Hope Fellowship. She will need our prayers too, as she settles in to her home country after having been away for 40 years. Continue to pray for the Lord's leading as far as replacement missionaries for the work in India. There are two couples in the United States - Tim and Ruth Fox, and Bill and Celia Jewell - who are ready to leave for India to take over the work there. Their initial applications for visas were declined, and at the time of writing this report, no answer had been received from the Indian Government to a review of that decision. Pray for wisdom for those in the United States who are seeking other ways of ensuring that these folk can continue the work.

PHILIPPINES.

It was a joy to commission **Warren and Jackie Prestidge** to the position of Director of Oro Bible College, before they left for, Cagayan De Oro on December 28th.

All reports that we have indicate that Warren has already found a place in the hearts of the Filipinos, and has made much progress with his responsibilities. He has spent much time and effort developing and finalising the curriculum for the coming year and years ahead, and promoting the College to the churches of the Philippine Advent Christian Conference Inc.

Warren was recently home for a short furlough, and returned to Oro Bible College on 9th May for the beginning of their academic year. Please pray for travelling mercies for him, and for wisdom and strength as he leads the College through the coming year. Pray too for Jackie and the family here in NZ, that the Lord's presence will be very real in the months of separation.

The decision has been made to send a further **Work Team to Oro Bible College** at the end of this year - there is still much that we can do to improve the living and learning conditions there. In particular, Warren would like the team to concentrate on

completing the boys' dormitory building that we have worked on on the past three occasions that teams have gone to Oro. Present plans are to leave New Zealand about 27th December, and to spend 21 days in the Philippines.

There are still opportunities for a few more 'handymen' to join the team, to ensure that the greatest amount of work is achieved - please pray that the Lord will raise up another good team to serve Him at Oro Bible College.

For those who cannot go, we would appreciate your continuing prayerful and practical support, both for the team members and for the project itself. As has been the case in the past, we would like to take sufficient funds to cover the costs of materials to be used, so that our team puts no strain on the finances of the College. The funds we send to the College to assist the students with food costs and tuition fees are very much appreciated - donations toward this fund would be welcomed also.

ASIAN/PACIFIC DIRECTOR.

Rev George Teshera, who has responsibility for our part of the world, will be here in New Zealand late in May, as part of a series of trips to familiarise himself with the fields in this area. George was formerly a missionary to the Philippines, and the founder of the Oro Bible College.

His visit to NZ is primarily for rest and refreshment, but he would like to meet as many supporters of Advent Christian Missions as possible. He will be speaking at **Kauriland's morning service on May 28th**, and it is hoped that he can also be present at one of our prayer meetings.

PRAYER MEETINGS.

A group meets regularly for fellowship and to pray for the work on all the fields of Advent Christian Missions, but particularly for Beryl, Warren and the work in India and the Philippines. We are blessed as we hear details of the progress of the work, and hear of answers to our prayers!

We have just started a prayer meeting on the **North Shore**, and this is in addition to the regular meeting in the West. If you can attend you would be most welcome. For details of times and places, please contact Ernie Schache - phone 627 9460.

Ernie Schache

CAREY PARK

Carey Park has been very busy in this first term with its usual camps for Schools, Churches, the Disabled and other community groups.

We continue to take a number of evening Christian programmes with Schools. Kids' Camp at Christmas was very successful and the May School Holiday Camps are due to start on Monday 8th. Let's be reminded that in the space of a one week camp there are approximately 100 hours of time spent with these 'kids' which is probably the equivalent of 2 years of Sunday School. It gives such a great opportunity to share Christ in a very real every-day way. It is great that from Christmas Camp alone we have 22 doing follow-up lessons.

Easter this year was 'different'. There were 500 plus young people at Carey Park for the Baptist Youth Movement Conference. Quite a crowd, some sleeping in tents, others in the local school, and the rest using our sleeping accommodation. The whole weekend went well, no great problems, and from all accounts it was a very challenging weekend.

We are doing more work on the Recreation Centre, which we would like to build with the help of sponsorship. Plans are almost ready and when they are you will be notified so that you can not only be kept up with the play but also that you might be able to help in some way??

Some of our staff have been having a bad time lately. Barry Shaw has been off for about 3 weeks with a bad virus which could keep him away for another 5-6 weeks. Ian Bedwell had an unfortunate accident which has

left him with one foot in plaster and the other strapped. He fell 5 metres and very fortunately landed on his feet, which didn't do his feet much good but probably saved him from something much more serious. He won't be into heavy work for about another 6 weeks either.

These two men are our outside staff which puts our maintenance work in an awkward position. If you can garden, paint, build, mow lawns, etc, we are quite desperate for some help. We are especially looking for some painting help this winter. Please ring Tim on 837-0494.



CAREY PARK



POWLEY HOUSE

The Board is pleased to advise that the Residential Home and the Cottages are fully occupied. There is a waiting list in respect of the Cottages. A number of Apartments are still vacant.

The residents have enjoyed a beautiful summer. The bus continues to have full use with twice-weekly shopping outings as well as visits to gardens and many

other places of interest. Other organisations have hired the bus for use by disabled people and such use is a source of considerable satisfaction.

Sales of work are held at regular intervals at the Blockhouse Bay shopping centre. It has been found that these are far less time consuming than the annual fairs which were such a feature of the Powley House operations for so many years.

With the more recent efforts by those concerned with the care of the aged to help the elderly stay in their own homes as long as possible, Powley House has become more and more involved with the Home Care programmes. It operates a Private Service as well as a Subsidised Service. The private one has approximately 30 clients and the subsidised, 110.

Wayne Nicholls

Thanks!

The Association would like to express its thanks to both David Waddell and Pastor Warren Prestidge for the tremendous effort put into producing the video series.

David was employed part-time, not only to produce the videos, but also to help establish our Multi-Media Dept. David's expertise has been invaluable.

Pastor Warren's theological understanding and wisdom have been other essential ingredients in the video series. Plans are still progressing to publish a book by Pastor Warren on Conditional Immortality. Thank-you both.

Changes:

Our Multi Media office has shifted to the home of Carl and Sharon Josephson, 189 Upper Harbour Dr, Greenhithe.

Our NEW PHONE/FAX number is 413-9434

Super Special Video Offer!!

In an effort to ensure the videos we have produced are as widely available as possible we have **combined them all (promotional and six videos) on to two 180 minute tapes and are now offering them at \$29.95 each. That's just \$59.90 for the whole series!** This is a great opportunity to purchase this comprehensive introduction to Conditional Immortality and to use it to help others consider the claims of 'life only in Christ'.

We apologise to those who have ordered one or more parts already and wish to assure you that any 'profit' made goes straight back into promoting Conditional Immortality. We are only able to offer these videos at this price because we are not seeking to cover the original costs of producing them but merely our on-going copying and running costs.

Order Form.

Please send me the following books/videos:

Books.	Heaven, Hell and Hades. F. Barton	\$29.95	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Four Views on Hell. W. Crockett (Ed)	\$34.95	<input type="checkbox"/>
	The Fire That Consumes. E. Fudge.	\$59.95	<input type="checkbox"/>
Videos.	Life, Death and The Resurrection. Parts 1-3	\$29.95	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Life, Death and The Resurrection. Parts 4-6	\$29.95	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Total (Cheque enclosed)	\$_____	

Name:

Address:

Post To: C.I. Assn, MM Dept, Box 100-010, NSMC, Auckland, New Zealand.