



Issue 4, 1996.

from the President's Desk

According to BBC World News (TV One, 11 Jan 96) the Doctrine Commission of the Anglican Church has said "hell exists, but the idea of an eternity spent in fire and brimstone is out-dated".

(See also a newspaper report on page 7)

Their report prepared for a clerical committee chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury said, "It might be better to think of hell as a state of annihilation rather than everlasting torment".

The traditional picture of hell as a place of eternal suffering and torment has "left many with searing psychological scars and it has portrayed God wrongly as a sadistic

monster". To portray hell in this way "is to say more than is said in the Gospels and in the New Testament".

The Commission also offered a definition of the soul as "the information bearing pattern of the body rather than a separate entity that flies upward at death".

I believe this willingness to re-examine God's Word is prompted by the fact that the truth of conditional immortality speaks to the spirit of our times. It communicates the Gospel to modern unbelievers in language they relate to and as Pastor Russell Carle reminded us at our Association Service, our aim as

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Christians should be to communicate the Gospel to those who are perishing (1 Cor 1:18).

In this day and age we who are conditionalists have a unique opportunity to do this.

Pastor David Burge
(President)

URGENT

VOLUNTARY SITUATION VACANT. SECRETARY

Ralph Wood has filled this position for 8 years with the help of his wife Hazel, and now wishes to retire.

He has given notice that he is not available for re-election at Conference.

It doesn't require a huge time commitment, but it is vital. Perhaps **you** could do it? The Association cannot function properly if this vacancy is not filled.

We need to know urgently - the job begins in June.

Interested? Ph Ralph...413.9075 or Carl... 413.8223

**SATURDAY
8 JUNE 1996
9am to approx 6pm
CAREY PARK**

Speakers:

Dr Chris Marshall
Sis. Beryl Hollis

Lunch will be available at a nominal charge.
Please mark your diary today!

CONFERENCE '96

"The State of the Lost"

by Pastor Russell Carle

While pastoring in a fishing village in Canada a man named Teddy told me of being 200 miles out on the Atlantic one stormy night. He and another hired hand were on the deck when a huge wave smashed down on the deck. Teddy found himself doing the doggy paddle in the pitch black one moment, and the next, found the deck of the boat rise to meet his feet.

When he and the captain got the boat's lights back on they could find no trace of the other man on board. Taking a spotlight, they began searching the waves. Just at the edge of the beam of light they saw a hand wave briefly. They raced the boat back and hauled their exhausted friend, still in all his rain gear, back into the boat. That man never went fishing again. He had come face to face with his mortality.

The point I would like to make is that it is a terrible thing, a frightening thing, to be mortal. Those who believe in life only in Jesus seem to have forgotten that the real call for the Church of Jesus Christ and all its members, whatever organisations they are a part of, is reaching the lost.

Consider with me the text in the centre of the page.

They . . .

There are people who will burn on judgment day. All those outside Jesus Christ. That is my relatives and your's, little children and little old ladies, gurus, professional athletes and even some who read this sermon.

In discipling a young couple the wife, named Laurie, was coming to grips with the fate of the lost. She had been an unthinking universalist. "There is a little girl across my street whom I noticed playing as I was leaving my house. Will she be lost?" she asked. It was a difficult Bible study that evening as I showed them text after text that says explicitly that those who are without Jesus are condemned already.

will . . .

"Who will tell that little girl about Jesus?" my friend asked. I told her what I tell you, - if you don't reach the little girls and their parents in your neighbourhood with the Gospel of Jesus, they will be destroyed. It is as certain as the fact that those who have the Son have life.

This couple led a half dozen families in their immediate neighbourhood to Christ. They are some of the most ardent soulwinners I know.

their faces aflame . . .

At camp one summer, I shared with the children in the first Bible study, that God is angry with sinners and that if they continue in a state of rebellion against Him when He has given His Son for them, they would be destroyed. There are too many verses to list which make this point. The other four Bible studies I did on the love of God in Jesus Christ. A third of the camp made decisions for Christ that week. After camp the members of the board recieved a call from an angry parent, a professing Christian. She complained that her child was crying one night because she was afraid her Granny might be lost.

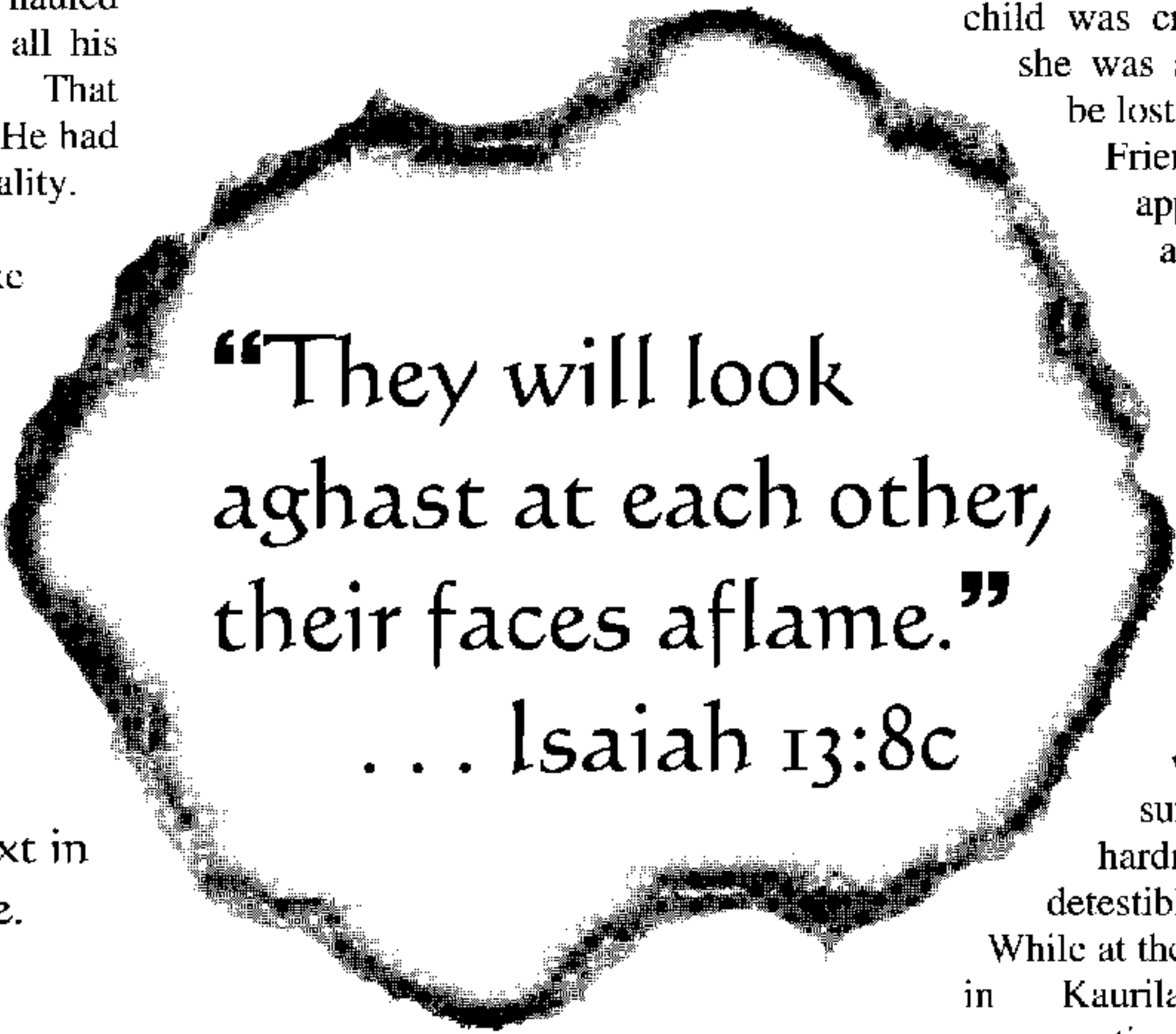
Friend, I think that is an appropriate thing to cry about. My question to you is, *why don't you cry about that?*

Those that are conditionalists ought to be in the vanguard of Christianity, trying to save the lost. Instead we find many saying, "Isn't it wonderful that they won't suffer that much." Such hardness of heart is detestible!

While at the C.I. Association meeting in Kaurilands I asked the congregation how many had read their Bibles that week. Almost everyone raised a hand. I asked how many had invited someone to church that week. Almost no one raised a hand. I asked how many had asked someone to church in the last month. Two or three more hands went up out of a full church.

Excuses . . .

"People don't want to hear," you might say. How would anyone who doesn't keep at witnessing know? They might want to hear! Everyone has times in their lives of wondering, questioning, searching for answers, for meaning, for God. If we don't give them Christ they go with Jehovah's Witness or Hare Krishna or whatever. And they will be lost . . .



"They will look
aghast at each other,
their faces aflame."

. . . Isaiah 13:8c

look at each other . . . aghast . . .

Sandy, a friend and convert of Laurie's, asked me after church one Sunday, "What about my father? He has passed away without hearing the Gospel. What will happen to him?" I said that conditional immortality had a certain comfort in it since those that didn't know Christ would burn up and not suffer forever.

In horror, and with tears in her eyes, Sandy said, "We are talking about my father!"

I burned with shame that I could talk about comfort in such a way to one grieving over the tragedy of a lost father.

When Jeremiah was given his commission by God to speak to Israel, God told him that he wanted Jeremiah to know right up front that no one was ever going to heed his message. God was sending Jeremiah to speak for Him because he wanted them to have the chance anyway.

Some people are nervous about inviting someone to church. Let's be honest and say that everyone is nervous about it to some extent or other.

Let your mind go back to Calvary's hill. Don't look at Christ yet.

Just walk to the foot of the cross and look at how much blood is on the ground. Now let your mind's eye wander up the bottom of the cross. Look at how much blood is on the cross.

To complete this meditation stand close, very close, and just look at Jesus' feet. Now try telling Jesus that you are nervous!

I don't profess to be the perfect Christian or the perfect witness. In fact if there is mistake to be made in witnessing, I have made it. I know there will be some people on judgement day that would have every right to say to me, "You could have told me but you didn't!" I know that when I enter heaven all my sins, sin of omission as well as commission will be under God's grace. Shall I continue in sin that grace might abound? Will you?

I have limited my message primarily to the dreadful state of the lost and sought to penetrate your husk of complacency, to stir your heart's compassion for your children, grandchildren, and the people you call your friends. Yet there are selfish reasons for witnessing. I just touch one. Without it, your obedience to Christ will be incomplete. You cannot continue in willful disobedience to Christ and not have it affect your joy, your prayers, your peace. As Paul said, "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!"

When I was eight years old I was saved. My pastor preached shortly afterwards that to grow as a Christian required three disciplines: personal devotions, fellowship and witnessing. I began my devotions in the King James Version, Genesis chapter One. As a child I never had the option of missing a Sunday in Church. I went to my school mates to witness. The only way I knew to witness at that time was to try and make everyone stop swearing. Over the years I have tried everything as a way to witness. What I have found is that the burden for the lost and the willingness to share come before all the tools, training and practice. **What you must do is start and start now.**

If you have read this and are convinced that you are lost or fear that you might be, and you want to be saved, contact:

Pastor Russell Carle
51 Brylee Dr
Conifer Grove
09-298-1041

Pastor Russell Carle and his wife, Noelle, and their children, have come to NZ to pastor the Takanini Church of Christ, at the request of the Advent Christian denomination in the U.S, and the Takanini church people. An enormous move for them, driven by the desire to see a revival of God in the church in Takanini, and longer term, an important goal to begin planting new churches. "Somehow new churches have often brought more people to know the Lord than well-established ones... maybe because of fresh vision etc."

Russell studied at Wheaton College and achieved a B.A. in Biblical Studies. He began his ministry in 1981 and has pastored churches in the U.S and Canada.

His passion is to see lost souls saved from the power and penalty of sin.

AMEN!!

change
change

**We have found
it uneconomical to retain
a separate phone line
for the Association.**

**Please Note:
Use this number for
Phone & Fax
09-413-8223**

CHEQUES

FOR PURCHASING
Books, Videos, Tapes etc
Make cheques out to
**RESURRECTION
PUBLISHING**

**FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &
DONATIONS**
Make Cheques out to
**"CONDITIONAL
IMMORTALITY ASSN (NZ)
INC."**

VOLUNTARY

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are sought
for the position of

Vice-President
of the
Conditional Immortality Assn

If you are

- interested in this association's work
- have a desire to help others understand & receive the gift of God
- would like to learn how the Association works so that you may in the future help lead it -

please phone Carl ph 413 8223

Home Mission



CAREY PARK

CAREY PARK has been very busy over the Summer months with an excellent "Kids Camp" when 70 children heard Kim Beale share the gospel very clearly. Pam Bedwell is now doing the "follow-up" and it's proving to be very effective in keeping those who have accepted Christ growing. *We had a "follow-up camp" at the end of last year and that was so effective it has now become a yearly activity.*

With the commencement of a 4 term year, comes the challenge of having 4 "Kids Camps" per year. It's a challenge because it means finding suitable leadership to handle the camps. **If you know of young people who are 16 and up, who love both the Lord and kids, and would like to be involved, give Tim Long a ring. 837.0494**

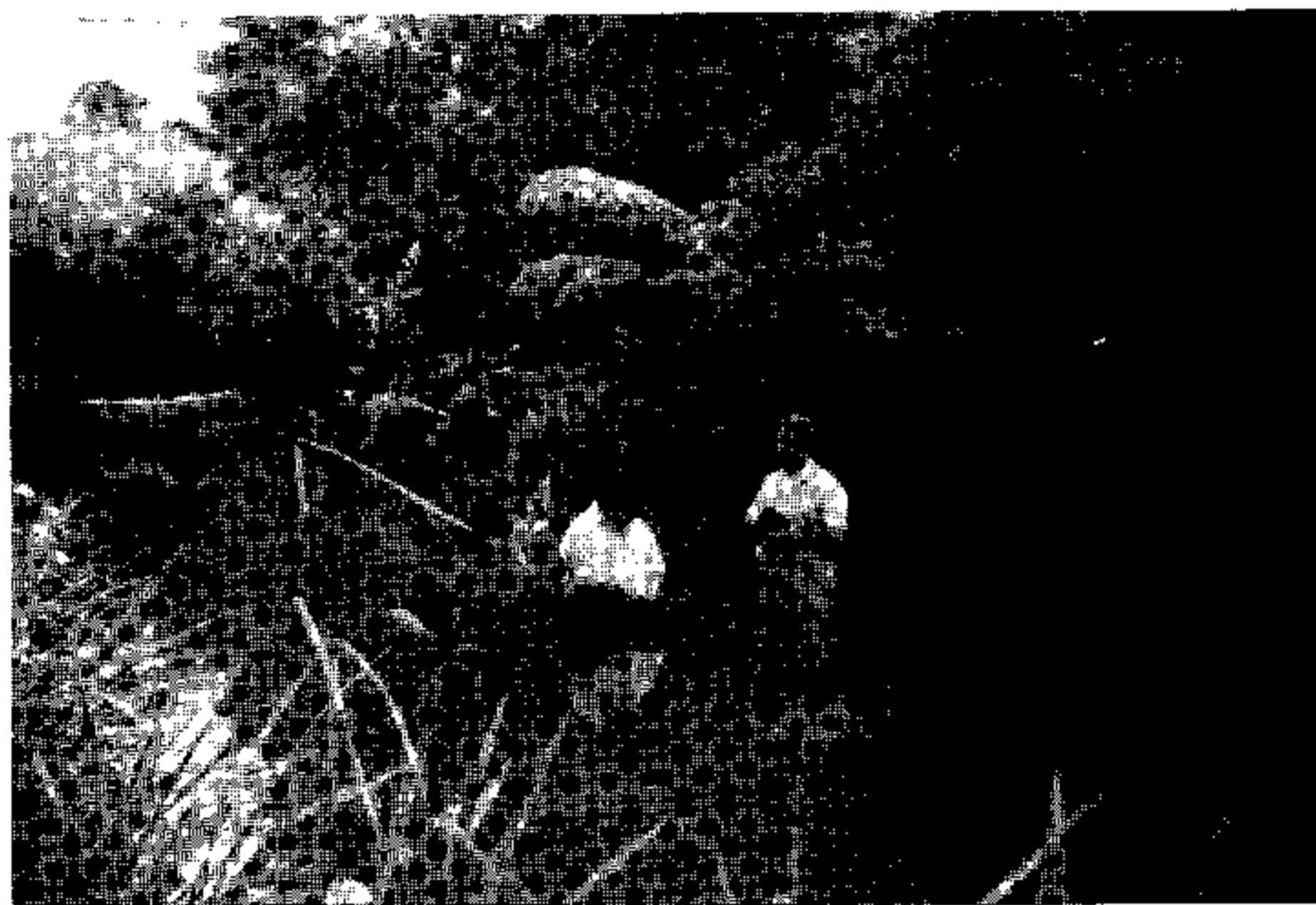
CAREY
PARK
NEEDS TO
BE ON OUR
PRAYER
LIST AND
IN OUR
DIARIES

For 1996 we have the following camps lined up:

Father & Son (July)

Mother & Daughter (August)

If you have never been before then plan to come with one or more of your children.



Our "40's Plus" is in September again. Come (if you qualify) and bring a friend, it will be great.

If you haven't been to **CP** for a while you will notice a big difference. There is new carpet in the dining room, conference room and cabins. New doors in the cabins and new lino in the kitchen area. We are also working on renewing our sewerage. This has been made possible by very generous help from the ASB Trust and the East St Trust.

Our staffing has shrunk a bit recently, Ian Bedwell has had to get a job that doesn't necessitate such heavy work because of the damage to his feet from a bad fall last year. Barry Shaw has also decided it's time for a change, after coming for a "short time" and staying 2 years. We miss both these guys and it leaves us in a bind maintenance-wise.

Our camp is getting a good reputation and that's thanks to a dedicated board and staff, a supportive group of folk like you and a very generous God.

Here's a list of things to pray for, and a couple of questions to ask yourself:

**Am I willing
to pray for this?
Is there something
practical
that I can do?**

Prayer Items

Easter camp is almost upon us and we have 500+ young Baptists coming. We are catering and we desperately need some volunteer help either for the whole weekend or just a few hours. Can you help? Please ring Tim or Colin - 837 0494

Our "Kids Camps" need more leaders.

We have applied for a grant for building our Recreation Centre. Please pray for God's will on this.

With the shortage of staff at the moment we would really like some help: sewing curtains, painting (heaps), lawns, gardens, carpentry. We can promise a great lunch and would **really** value some help in this practical work. Please ring Tim - 837 0494

We are in the process of working towards appointing a teacher as a member of our staff, to produce and run a God-centred education programme for schools that come to **CP**. Please pray for God's directing us to a person, for the programme and for the schools' responses.

Please continue to pray for the staff - they work pretty hard at this time of the year. Because of the contact we have with so many people, please ask that God will protect us from the "bug brigade" that comes with them! We can't afford to be off work.

CP is a great asset. "Yours". Please come and visit and see for yourselves. Come during the week and see schools in action - you won't be disappointed!

Advent Christian Missions INTERNATIONAL

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

(God speaking to us, through the Apostle Paul, in Romans chapter 10)

God's hand is evident in the circumstances and work of Advent Christian Missions throughout the world. Praise Him!

The task of "bringing Good News" continues to be carried out in India, the Philippines, Japan, Nigeria, Ghana, the United States, Malaysia, Mexico, Liberia, China, Honduras and NZ by a team of International and National missionaries. Rev. Hal Patterson, Director for World Missions, was recently in Europe talking with contacts there, particularly in Croatia, to seek the Lord's will concerning the planting of Advent Christian churches there.

As he sought prayer for his trip to Europe, Hal Patterson said. "1995 was one of the most exciting years in Advent Christian Missions because of the faithfulness of...people in prayer. We believe 1996 already is promising to be even greater than 1995 and therefore we need even a greater prayer effort than ever before to bring this to pass."

Prayer is the most effective way we here in New Zealand can assist the work of Advent Christian Missions throughout the world. Please pray with us on a regular basis, for the work in the countries mentioned above. If you would like details of prayer and praise items as they come to hand, or details of regular prayer meetings, please contact:

Ernie Schache - ph 09 627 9460,
PO Box 57000 Owairaka,
Auckland 3.

Rev Hal Patterson underwent serious heart surgery following his return from Europe. He then contracted pneumonia, and later needed further surgery on his heart. Whilst he has subsequently made good progress, he and his wife Nancy would value your prayers for quick and complete recovery, and the peace of God as he recuperates. Please also pray for those who are having to accept extra responsibility for the World Mission Department in Hal's absence - Rev.s George Teshera and David Ross and Hal's assistant in the office JoAnna Seronka. It is likely that Hal will need to be away from the office for a minimum of two months.

Advent Christian Missions New Zealand is most closely involved with the work in the Philippines and India, and we continue to be in close contact with Missionaries and Nationals in those countries. Following are praise and prayer items, together with news of the activities we have been involved in:

INDIA

Marion Damon and Barbara White returned to India earlier this year on a "long term temporary" basis (up to two years), to assist the work of the Blessed Hope Fellowship there. They had been "retired" less than a few weeks before offering to return, to take an interim ministry until replacement career missionaries can be got to the field. Pray for Marion and Barbara, and that replacements will be raised up by the Lord.

Beryl Hollis is settling in well to life in a strange (for her) country - New Zealand - and would appreciate prayer as she seeks to know the Lord's will in regard to future ministry. She has willingly agreed to become a member of our Missions committee.

Beryl is still in close contact with many of her former co-workers in the Blessed Hope Fellowship, and has agreed to write a regular news/prayer letter for the work in India. Please let us know if you would like a copy of

this letter each time it is produced.

Recent letters indicate that the Blessed Hope Fellowship, and their training institution, the school of Evangelism, are enjoying God's blessing on their activities in spite of the upheavals of the past few months.

It is our intention to continue to support the work of the Fellowship, both prayerfully and practically. We recently sent a sum of money to enable one of the churches to purchase a plot of land on which to build their own church, rather than continue to rent property. Beryl assures us that this is one of the best ways we can assist and encourage our sisters and brothers in Christ. A sum of money was also sent to the School of Evangelism (where the 1994/95 Work Team worked) to assist their activities in training leaders and workers. We have had a specific request from Rev George Teshera, Area Director for Asia/Pacific, for funds to assist the School of Evangelism purchase text books for their library. They have virtually none of the basic text books required and we are seeking to make learning easier for the students by equipping their library to a better standard..

If the Lord calls you to be part of any of this ongoing assistance please contact:

Ernie Schache, Ph 627.9460
or our Treasurer
Rob Carr, Ph 818.8929.

PHILIPPINES

Warren and Jackie Prestidge continue to serve their Lord, and represent us, Warren as Director of Oro Bible College at Cagayan De Oro, and Jackie here at home, "holding the fort". We are proud to advise that Warren has agreed to continue his ministry in this position until the end of this year. Jackie will be taking leave of absence from her teaching position, to join Warren from early July until they return.



Pastor Warren and Jackie Prestidge in the Phillipines.

Please pray for Warren and Jackie, and their family, that arrangements for this year will go well as He guides and directs, and that He will bless their ministry together.

Warren will be home on furlough for about 5 weeks from the end of March - pray for travelling mercies for him.

Our 4th Work Team to Oro Bible College acquitted themselves very well earlier in the year. Warren, in a letter of thanks from the College said "On behalf of everyone at OBC - congratulations and thank you very much indeed to your committee and to everyone who came on the Kiwi work team, or helped to send them. From our point of view, the whole trip was a great success. People here, Board, faculty, students, staff members, have a very high regard for the team and are very grateful for all that they accomplished. And for Kiwis in general.'

Much was achieved to improve the standards of the college, both in appearance and as far as facilities are concerned, and a substantial amount of money was left there for a list of projects that needed doing. We wish to pay tribute to the churches and individuals and other organisations who once again ensured that the team could take enough funds to pay for materials for what they did themselves, plus a significant amount to leave for other projects. The way our people respond to the request for funds each time we send a Work Team away is marvellous, and the cumulative effect of giving from New Zealand over the past 5 years to the

maintenance and development of OBC is very, very significant indeed. Praise the Lord for your contributions! We will not be sending a Work Team away this year - it will be our "rest year"! It is very likely that we will be asked to send a large team to OBC in 1997/98 to assist with a major project - the building of 4 two storey apartments for faculty members and married students. We will also be seeking to raise funds for the project. It is not too early to start praying about this project and Team, and in particular whether the Lord would

have you be part of it in any way. More details as they come to hand!

ON THE HOME FRONT

Please pencil in your diaries the following dates:

FRIDAY APRIL 12th...
COMBINED PRAYER MEETING
at Carl & Sharon Josephson's
home: 189 UPPER HARBOUR DR,
GREENHITHE. 7.30pm

Warren Prestidge will be present to speak on his ministry at Oro Bible College, and on the work in the Philippines in general.

SATURDAY APRIL 20th...
REPORT FROM WORK TEAM to Takanini Church and reunion of members from other Work Teams. Commencing with tea at 6pm, with speakers later speaking on the vision for the future of our missions involvement. All are welcome to share in this fellowship. More details later.
 Ernie Schache (Missions Director)

"The whole trip was a great success. People here . . . are very grateful"

Some of the last work party to O.B.C. working on the college.



Resurrection Publishing

Yes we have changed the name of the Multi-Media Section of the Conditional Immortality Assn (NZ) Inc. We've found that many people react to the name as though we are part of some cult or sect.

To many the name has given a negative feeling, as though we are separatist and divisive, and that is not our intention. We think the message of "Conditional Immortality" is *extremely positive* and we want to be able to express that clearly without any hindrance. So with the permission of the Executive, the name is now changed to **"RESURRECTION PUBLISHING."**

We think it is a great improvement. We are still under the umbrella of the Conditional Immortality Assn (NZ) Inc.

We have opened a new bank account with our new name on it, so please - for **cheques payable on videos, books etc that you purchase through this committee, use the name "Resurrection Publishing"** from now on. Any cheques for subs and donations are still payable to "Conditional Immortality Assn (NZ) Inc".

To keep you up-to-date with what we have been doing this year (since we have not produced as much as we had initially hoped and you probably thought we were on holiday!):

We have spent a lot of time learning computer programmes and preparing for future work, which has not been made easy given the "precarious" state of the present computer and printer, which are both quite old in computer terms. However permission has been granted to update for future requirements, and we hope to produce much better quality publishing this coming year. Of course the most important thing is the message, and we aim to get that out as clearly as possible.

We have updated the mailing lists considerably and have added a

pleasing number of new people who have shown interest in Conditional Immortality. Please let us know if there is further updating to do, either for addresses which have changed, or to add or delete names where applicable.

We have sent notices to all our overseas "mailees" to let us know whether they would like to continue receiving newsletters. If they do not respond by June 96 we will have to

We have produced 2 new pamphlets which we hope to build on this coming year. ("Hell & Hermeneutics", and "Reason v Revelation")

New pamphlets in the pipeline include topics we know will be current and practical:

"Comforting the Bereaved"
"Near Death Experiences"
"The Justice of God"

Please let us know if there is a topic you need more information on currently, if you think a pamphlet could help.

We have had 25 copies of the video sets made in NTSC VHS format, for use in the U.S and Canada. Some interest has been shown from Canada, and there are many possibilities in the States.

Subscription notices have been sent to approx 370 people here in NZ and around the world. There are currently about 130 paid-up 1995/6 members and we are grateful for your support. We are also very grateful to those who have been able to add a donation to the cheque. 1996/7 sub notices will be out just after conference.

Please **pray** for the committee - we often feel inadequate and need a touch of the Lord to refresh our vision. We are also very busy in other areas and it is

not easy to achieve all that we

should. We need sensitivity when talking with other Christians who are not conditionalist.

We are grateful, however that there is growth in awareness of C.I. teaching, and others are beginning to see the awesome "positiveness" of this message.

Carl & Sharon Josephson

Yes Virginia, there is a Hell for sinners

LONDON — The good news for sinners is that Hell is not a flaming pit populated by demons and devils. The bad news is it does exist. A tough Church of England report said that although traditional images of Hell as an eternal torment were wrong, everyone would still face a day of judgment. Those who failed the test faced being cast into a state of annihilation, or non-being.

The Church has for some time been downgrading the fire and brimstone image of Hell in a bid to end the so-called "religion of fear," which literally terrified people into becoming believers. But it now evidently feels that many people in modern society are too self-satisfied and have forgotten the idea of final judgment. Bishop John Taylor, one of the report's authors, said the Church now wanted to reaffirm traditional teachings that people had to choose between good and evil.

The report made it clear there was no chance of all people of all faiths automatically being saved.

N.Z. Herald, Jan '96

discontinue sending mail-outs - it is just too expensive. We will continue to monitor NZ non-members also, although at this stage we believe it is better to keep the lines of communication open for a little while longer.

We have been in touch with Bible Colleges and Christian book stores to show them the videos and some books which we hope they will accept to place in their shelves for students and shoppers. A mixed reaction to this.

"The Fire that Consumes"

It is encouraging to read a very positive review of Fudge's book, *The Fire That Consumes*, in the latest issue of *Reality Magazine*. *Reality* is published by the Bible College of NZ, our top interdenominational, evangelical college. *The Fire that Consumes* is a top-class full-length study of what the Bible teaches regarding the final fate of the lost, completely supporting our conditionalist view. And this witty and intelligent review, by Simon Humphrey, is clearly very impressed by Fudge's book.

The book, writes Humphrey, "vigorously challenges" the traditional view of unending conscious torment. It offers, he says, "many highlights", "a fair assessment of traditionalist writings" and "a compelling presentation of relevant biblical and intertestamental data". His conclusion is that "this book is essential reading

for anyone thinking about this subject".

I wholeheartedly agree. I am also well aware that several articles and books have been written since Fudge's book first appeared, attempting to criticise its arguments. None of those which I have read impressed me. In the Second Edition of *The Fire that Consumes*, Fudge has included answers to the most important of these criticisms, often in footnotes.

I once had the privilege of giving a lecture at BCNZ on the conditionalist view of hell. I was grateful of the opportunity, and found many students very receptive, or at least glad for the chance to hear a fair and (I hope!) clear, though brief, presentation of the conditionalist understanding.

The matter is not which Christians ought to wage war! And yet it is a real

importance, bearing directly upon the credibility of Christian faith and witness. Often the conditionalist view is attacked on the grounds that it is "soft" on judgment and reduces the incentive to evangelism. On the contrary, it restores credibility, and therefore full seriousness, to the Christian doctrine of judgment.

Let the matter, rather, be debated on the grounds of an informed view of what the Bible actually teaches. This is an area in which we rightly look to our Bible colleges to take a lead. This is why it is heartening to see such a fair and positive assessment of Fudge's splendid book in the pages of *Reality*.

Pastor W.L. Prestidge.

Copies of this book are available for \$49.95 from the address below.

This material was produced for
the Conditionalist Immortality Association (NZ) Inc

Resurrection Publishing
Box 100 010
N.S.M.C., AUCKLAND
PH/FAX: 09-413-8223

