

NEW
FLASHES



The Pocket Testament League of Australia OUTREACH WITH THE GOSPEL

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Summer 2005

Christmas Meditation



The Will of God

All Christians are concerned about the will of God in their lives. Let's be honest! There are times when we feel very certain and at other times we grope in the dark looking for the light at the end of the tunnel.

Quite often God works through simple things, ordinary circumstances, and, in many cases, He works through people like us. He works through His Word, and through the Holy Spirit. We may be sure God is with us in a project or a vision, but it still requires that we do a lot of footwork, make a lot of phone calls, arrange a lot of people, raise the finance, and see it all come together to achieve God's will.

The Christmas story is a demonstration of God's will - *Matthew 1:18-24*. Notice, though, how Joseph had to work through the implications of God's will. Notice how he almost missed this great blessing on his life.

The story of Christmas reveals the celebration and worship of the angels and the wise men - *Matthew 2:1-12*. Notice, in the midst of all that joy, there is the dark side of Herod to try and destroy the will of God. *Real wisdom needs to be exercised in going forward in the will of God.*

The Christmas story shows the need to protect and preserve the will of God - *Matthew 2:13-15*. It was God's will for Jesus to live, minister and finish God's plan, but Joseph had to flee to Egypt with the holy family and, for a time, they became refugees in order to continue in God's will.

As we reflect on the year that is passing and the year to come, all of these characteristics will be evident in our own journey of God's will. There is one thing we hold dear: *Jesus said, "I will be with you always!" (Matthew 28:20)*

Stephen Downie



Prayer Request

In their recent email Somchai and Saengthong invite all their friends and supporters to uphold them in prayer as they embark on their Christmas Outreach.

22nd November to 20th December:
Outreach with *George and Rita Galieh* from Sydney, Australia.

23rd to 24th November:
Ministry at Manorom Christian Hospital and Schools in Chainat in Central Thailand.

26th to 27th November:
Evening Crusade at Nakhonswan National Park and Church.

29th to 30th November:
Ministry in two government schools.

1st to 9th December:
Ministry in Northeast Thailand in schools and jails; open air crusades at night.

10th to 20th December:
Programs in Lupinee National Park, Bangkok; in Romyen Church, Sawngsawan Chinese Church, and Thiansang Church; programs in a school, in a young men's jail and a young women's jail; open air crusade in a slum in Bangkok; Christmas crusade at Mahaphon Choburi.

(George and Rita return to Sydney.)

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Field Officer's Report

Ministry on the road down South:

- September 14 Warrimoo Baptist Church
Coffee and Chat
- September 16 Glen Huntley Free Presbyterian
Church of Eastern Australia
Seaton Assembly
- September 17 Christian Business Men's Breakfast
- September 18 Noble Park Baptist Church
Dandenong Assembly
Nunawading Assembly
- September 19 Noble Park Bible Church
- September 20 Clayton Church of Christ
- September 21 Balwyn Assembly
- September 22 Caulfield Evangelical Methodist Church
- September 25 Mulgrave Assembly
Vermont South Evangelical Church
- September 27 Albury Salvation Army
- September 29 Goulburn Uniting Church

Ministry in South Australia:

- November 15 Cowandilla Church of Christ
- November 20 Unley Assembly
Mile End Church of Christ
- November 21 Cowandilla Men's Night



Terry & Judy Sadler

Terry is the Padre with the *Presbyterian Inland Mission*. He has a scattered congregation in remote parts of Australia. On some occasions he can come to the front gate of a property and has to drive 70 kilometres along the driveway to reach the homestead.

At a function organised by the Castle Hill Presbyterian Women's Association, I presented to Terry 200 copies of the *Gospel of John*, 200 Ready References, 200 Day By Day leaflets, and 400 tracts. These materials were donated by the Women's Association for distribution by Terry and Judy in these remote places.

It was a great honour for me to speak at the *Kingsgrove Gospel Chapel* – an Arabic speaking Church. There is an English speaking time in the Church Hall. On this day both services combined for communion and stayed together for the message. The warmth, generosity, fellowship and love of these Arabic Christians was a beautiful experience I will never forget. It was a great joy to hear them sing and pray, "Jesus is the name above all names".

The congregation had a healthy mix of men and women, young and old. The church was packed with 250 people. More than 200 copies of the *Gospel of John* were taken.



Margaret

Leura, in the Blue Mountains, has the famous Garden Festival held every October and visitors from all over NSW come to enjoy the flowers and the gardens.

St Albans Anglican Church holds a *Festival of Flowers and Music* culminating in the *Festival of Praise* on Sunday afternoon. Margaret is one of the many workers who make this an occasion of witness

and celebration. A sit down, a cup of tea, the fellowship, the people, the singing and the praise make it a lovely time. 350 copies of the Gospel of John were taken to hand out to visitors who came to the weekend.



Stephen with Ingrid and Graeme

Graeme and Ingrid are people you come across every now and again. They and a small group of people meet every Thursday night to pray over the Pine Estate in Frankston, Victoria. The Estate has a difficult history and reputation. The group have been praying so far for 6 months and are planning to deliver a copy of John's Gospel to every home in the Estate by Easter 2006. They are praying that the Churches in Frankston will support them to cover every home with 2,500 copies of the Gospel of John.

I was very humbled in the presence of this lovely couple with a great burden on their hearts for the Estate.



Noble Park Baptist Church is a multi-race Church in a region with over 130 ethnic origins. The Church is a powerful expression of the Gospel where people are one in Christ Jesus.

A Cambodian man and a Sudanese man are brothers in Christ. The Cambodian man was given a piece of paper by a Christian worker with John 3:16 written on it when he was a refugee in Thailand. The Christian Worker does not know that the man from Cambodia is now a Christian in Melbourne. Praise God for that faithful witness!

The Uniting Church in Goulburn is a City Church, with stained glass windows and a classic building. There are vital Christian people in that congregation. The ladies are famous for their hospitality. I gave a dinner talk at a midweek meeting and tracts and copies of the Gospel of John were taken to share with others.



Ted and Dorothy were dairy farmers and now retired to Albion Park on the South Coast of NSW. I have been in their home and I never heard retirement once mentioned.



Ted and Dorothy

Ted takes the Gospels and Christian publications to Country shows, Saturday morning markets and scripture classes in schools.

These are a small selection of stories that inspire and challenge. They are people who love the Lord Jesus, believe in God's Word, care about people and have a passion for the gospel.

Stephen Downie

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Prayer Request

22nd to 31st December:

Somchai and Saengthong continue their Christmas Outreach: Crusade at Sripachan in Suphanburi; Christmas Service at TPTL Pothong Church, TPTL Sriracha Church, and TPTL Pattaya Church; Outreach at Rayoung Baptist Church, Chanthaburi Church and high school; a program at Wat Dongjadi School; and an Open Air Crusade at Chanthaburri.

1st January 2006

Sunday Church Service at TPTL Sriacha Church. Return to Bangkok on 2nd January.

The Pocket Testament League has a
WEBSITE!

www.tptl.org.au

You are welcome

- to browse its current and previous *News Flashes*
- to check out its *history*
- to get information about its *free Correspondence Course*
- to find out how you can invite its Field Worker, Stephen Downie, to visit your church or group.

Prayer & Praise Points

- **Praise** and thank God for the Ministry of TPTL in Australia through Stephen Downie, TPTL Field Officer.
- **Pray** for TPTL's ministry in 2006 that many people will respond to God's message of hope and salvation through Jesus Christ.
- **Praise God** for the Ministry of Somchai and Saengthong. They have received and are using the reprint of John's Gospel. **Pray** for their Christmas Outreach.
- **Thank God** for the financial support for the printing of Gospels and the New Testaments for 2006.
- **Pray** for the members of TPTL Executive Board.

The Pocket Testament League AGM

The League's **Annual General Meeting** was held on 30th October with a very poor attendance of only 7 members of the Company. However, all other members of the Company voted by post and submitted proxies, including three who gave formal apologies. *Ian McIntyre* was elected to the Board, while *John Kingsmill* and *George Glazier* were re-elected. The finances are in good health, especially for Thailand, due to the visit of Somchai and Saengthong. Stephen Downie (Field Officer) had 191 speaking appointments in the year, including 18 with Somchai.

At the Board meeting that followed, *George Glazier* was re-elected President, *Roy Leembruggen* Vice-President, *John Kingsmill* Treasurer and *Lindy Kingsmill* Minute Secretary. The Board is seeking advice from a firm of solicitors, familiar with company law, regarding possible changes to our constitution, particularly the role of the Company Secretary when we have no National Director, which is the case at present, and other minor issues. These will be placed before the Company members in due course for a decision.

In the Mail... (prepared by Linda Spankie)

A reader from Colac, Victoria, writes: "Thank you for sending my last order (of John's Gospel). We were a group of five who travelled to Lae, PNG, on a Missions Support exercise from our church. Members of the team were very impressed with this amazing little witnessing tool. We were able to hand them out to people we talked with in the planes we were travelling and also to the Christian Security Guards who received them willingly. These guards do not have guns or batons. They use walkie-talkie, their faith, and the Word of God. They had tried 'batons', but someone was too enthusiastic and cracked someone's skull, we were told, so they decided not to use them. Christmas is coming and my Pastor's wife would like the John's Gospel to give out to her RE Class. This is something I used to do when I was teaching RE. Although I am 76 I was invited to do some relieving for a couple of weeks recently, and really enjoyed it."

Melody writes: "My name is Melody and I am with Triumph International Ministries in North Ipswich, Queensland. On 6th July we had the pleasure of hearing about all the amazing work that TPTL does and how lives are being changed. Everyone at church was so touched by Stephen's story of salvation. It was a great blessing to see our photo and a write up about our International Ministries in your newsletter. We would use this in the testimonial flyers we send out. Once again please thank Stephen for coming and sharing with us and let him know we look forward to seeing him again soon".

Donation Slip

Amount: \$ _____ [] Ministry in Australia [] Ministry in Thailand.

Rev/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____

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Please charge to my Bankcard/Master Card/Visa for \$ _____

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Request for a Church visit

Contact person _____ Church/Group _____ Telephone _____