

## Newsletter from Neil and June Prott

*In the 7th year of this ministry of supporting and encouraging gospel ministry, including listening, resourcing, strategizing, trouble-shooting, brain-storming, networking. Our work is: Bible-based - freelance (supported by friends) - trans-denominational - strictly confidential.*

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September 2004

Dear Friends,

Since our last letter, there have been many encouragements for us and for others. Contributions that came in have ensured that we can continue this vital work and we are very thankful. This is a situation where all the money donated is used in actual ministry since we provide our own living expenses.

A recent trip uncovered several situations where ministers and other leaders need support and encouragement. A special thankyou for those of you who have been praying for Ken and me in our travels, and for Jeanette and June as they 'hold the fort' at home. We had special opportunities to listen, discuss, open the Word, and pray. In some cases, I am sending resources by email that should give significant help.

One development is especially gratifying. Christians in Sydney are beginning to ask about ministry opportunities around NSW. Here are some ideas.

1. Be a prayer-partner for a church in the country. They provide news and prayer-points and you use them regularly. A carload might go from your church to run, or participate in, a prayer-weekend in that church. It doesn't have to be intensive. You would have time to meet with the people and encourage them at a personal level as well as pray with them.
2. Encourage your church to 'adopt' a church. A team might go out there for a long weekend or during school holidays and run some activities. You could doorknock the town, share the gospel in an outreach meeting, give your testimony, etc etc. Return visits are especially valuable.
3. Go and live in a town where the church is faithful and you can make a real contribution.
4. Sponsor a ministry. Many towns have lost ministers because the remaining church members can no longer support them. You can support a particular minister or church.
5. Give Christmas toys to faithful ministers who are ministering to people in outback areas long affected by drought. They will be given to children who have very little.

Yours in Christ, Neil and June.

### FLY ON THE WALL

- "Sometimes I just had to drop everything and help my wife get through the day. I offered to take a cut in pay, but the leaders wouldn't hear of it." - a young pastor who was facing three major problems at the same time.
- "My wife is 70 and she has just passed her first driving test with flying colours. She never ceases to surprise me!" - 'retired' minister who has just had serious surgery and cannot drive. (He is still pastoring a rural church!)
- "You are right. We've treated overseas missionaries as celebrities and forgotten the mission field here at home." - a senior pastor's response to a talk I gave to a coastal prayer group of 40 people.
- "Can you give us some ideas about men's ministry?"
- "When we were at our lowest, an elderly lady from our church came and did our family washing for three months. Our seniors would cook meals and bring them to our home. That's how we got through." - a very appreciative minister.
- "Instead of emphasizing the praises we give to God, we need to ask ourselves whether we are the kind of people who are pleasing to Him. Our whole life should praise Him, not just our voices." - a gem from an experienced pastor.
- "Our services don't attract young people. What can we do to make them more interesting to that age group."
- "These people really believe in prayer. We have seen the Lord transform the whole situation in answer to believing prayer." - minister of a church that had been divided and disabled.
- "Well, we have a moral problem in the leadership, and a bun fight in the branch church, but the work is progressing." - answer to my question: "How are things going?"



## **PRAYER POINTS**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for His constant provision, protection, and enabling power, in the lives of His people.
2. Praise the Lord for His infinite love in sending His Son Jesus to die the death He never deserved so that we could have the life we never deserved.
3. In prayer, gratefully acknowledge the unimaginable cost of our salvation, and commit to serving our Saviour sacrificially.
4. Thank the Lord for the many rural churches that are faithful to His Word the Bible. Pray that the Lord will bring spiritual awakening to churches that have other agendas.
5. Praise the Lord for strengthening the many country people who have persevered through hardships and difficulties. Pray for His continuing sustaining grace.
6. Give thanks for pastors and people who are still looking for ways of reaching their communities with the gospel. Thank the Lord for the results of the "Blokes and Their Sheds" ministries in many places.
7. Ask the Lord to give special wisdom and encouragement to men and women who are doing the best they can now that they have lost their minister.
8. Praise the Lord for the many fine young people who go to large cities for tertiary education and are converted through student ministries. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send some back to the rural mission field to gather the harvest of souls.
9. Please continue to pray for Christians who are discouraged by the two droughts: the drought of rain, and the drought of hearing the Word (Amos 8;11).
10. Ask the Lord to give all His people fresh vision as they look at millions of Australians who have no church contact, and are without hope (Mt 9;36-38). Pray that Christians will begin to see Australia as it really is: a mission field!
11. Pray that many more workers will be raised up, trained, and sent across our land to strengthen existing congregations and establish new ones.
12. Ask the Lord to mightily bless and provide for the work of the colleges that are training Christian workers esp. Moore College, Croydon Bible College, the Presbyterian Theological College at Burwood, and Morling College (Baptist). Pray that He will keep the lecturers true to His Word, and that the great needs will be met as more and more students enrol each year.
13. Ask the Lord to give a new spirit of wisdom and humility to people whose denominationalism is hindering cooperation and fellowship between faithful Christians.
14. Humbly ask Him to restrain ungodly behaviour in some churches, and to strengthen pastors and leaders as they stand against the three activities that can destroy a church: immorality, false teaching, and divisiveness.

The Lord says: "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." ( Isaiah 55;10-11)

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### ***Does Jesus want you to be a tentmaker?***

Many churches in country towns and cities need ministry by committed Christian who are self-supporting. many job vacancies exist. For example, physiotherapists, plumbers, nurses, electricians, doctors, diesel mechanics, engineers, builders, agronomists, veterinarians, horticulturalists, school teachers, (all grades, permanent, part-time, or casual), motor mechanics, social workers. Such work brings many gospel opportunities through contacts with people.

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## **RETIREMENT**

Retirement is an attractive prospect for many. We often see the "grey nomads" on the road with their 4WD and caravan in tow. After the trip around Australia, they might paint the house, and go fishing. Then what? If they are Christians there might be something much more significant to do. Many rural churches need experienced people with a servant-heart. Opportunities are many and varied. As the song says: "We're one step away from glory - one step away from seeing our Lord."



## RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

Gradually, internet technology is improving in the bush. Education for isolated children is going through a revolution with the introduction of satellite connections to the Internet. At <http://www.acl.asn.au/Neil.html> [or [www.acl.asn.au](http://www.acl.asn.au)] you will find my links file with more than 4,000 web links. A wide range of subjects are listed alphabetically to allow you to quickly find what you want. Although compiled to help Christians in rural areas of Australia, they are now being used by people around the world. The material includes Bible studies, sermons, outlines, Christian doctrine, theological issues, defence of the faith, a huge range of topics for Christians, church history, children's talks and lessons, craft and sheets, youth ministry resources, hymns, songs, music, and much more. The links are broadly grouped and available in pdf format. We suggest you download the pdf files into your computer for perusal at your leisure.

You will need the Acrobat reader program to read it. That program is available free of charge from <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>

When you have found the references of interest to you, you can access them on the Internet without searching or delay. If you experience difficulties, please write or email telling me your type of computer and word-processing program. I will send the file by email or on CD.

### KNOW SOMEONE GOING TO UNI ?

If they haven't got Christian contacts there, we can put them in touch with people who will provide good Bible teaching and fellowship. Exciting things are happening in our universities and colleges.

### “Adopt-a-Church”

We are including a special supplement in response to a number of requests. It explains what individuals, families, groups, and churches might do to support and expand gospel ministry in rural areas.

### To support us in our ministry . . .

you can use any one (or more) of the following easy methods

- \* send **cheques** to Neil and June Prott, 18 Parr Pde, FAULCONBRIDGE, NSW 2776 \*\* but payable to "MTS Ltd"
- \* pay by **direct debit** from your bank account to MTS Ltd Commonwealth Bank Kingswood account no. 10048657 BSB No. 62188. (Be sure Lois knows your payment is for the support of Neil Prott's ministry).
- \* use your **credit card** (Master or Visa) and send these details to Lois by letter or by fax

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