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servant

IT'S A NEW DAY!
PRAYING TOGETHER



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editorial

It's a new day! This was the theme of the 2nd International Conference on the Holy Spirit and the church held in Sydney in January. Over 10,000 people attended the conference. Our cover photo shows a section of the crowd on the steps of the Sydney Opera House. The opening address of the conference was given by Rev. Alan Langstaff and the first article for this issue is taken from his address. Alan is an ordained Uniting Church minister. He had some exciting things to say about the days that lie ahead. We urge you to read the article and then put some faith into action in order that this vision, may become a reality.

One action that the Lord will undoubtedly call for is prayer group action. Geoff Strelan offers some helpful guidelines for your prayer group. Also we print an article which takes a look at developments in Lutheran Charismatic Renewal here in Australia. The challenge to faith lies before us. It is by grace, through faith that we have been set free from the power of sin and darkness. Can we believe that the Lord will use us in 1979 to set others free? Each one of us is surrounded by those who do not know the forgiveness and release from bondage that Christ offers us. The challenge lies before us. What will be our response?

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Cover Photo:

A section of the crowd of about 10,000 who gathered at the Sydney Opera House to hear Rev. Alan Langstaff open the 2nd International Conference on the Holy Spirit in January.

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It's A New Day !

REV. ALAN LANGSTAFF

Alan Langstaff is director/founder of the Temple Trust. The Temple Trust is a servant organisation to the church. Its vision is twofold - renewal and evangelism. Its primary concern has been for God's work of restoration and renewal of the church through the power of the Holy Spirit and then the outworking of Christ's great commission - the evangelisation of the world.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you," Isaiah 60:1,2.

I want to declare to you that God is bringing His church, His land and His people into a new day. Twenty years ago a renewal movement began in the church, one which in a single generation has spread into every nation and denomination. It has been one of the most remarkable spiritual renewal movements in the long history of the church.

It has brought a renewal of life to God's people and through it has flowed



Rev. Alan Langstaff addressing the 2nd International Conference on the Holy Spirit in Sydney.

much restoration of truth, such truths as: the people and work of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, praise and worship, healing and deliverance, community living and the concept of the local church. And all this has happened in a short 20 years.

WHERE IS THE RENEWAL HEADED?

The result of the renewal has been overwhelming. Reactions have been many and varied. The question we need to ask ourselves now, however, is, *"Where is the charismatic renewal going?"* Further, *"Where is God leading the whole church at this particular time?"*

Before I seek to answer these questions, I want to note four things:

1. We need to be honest and admit that, generally speaking, the charismatic renewal around the world, has peaked. By that I don't mean it has lost its

momentum, just that it isn't growing at quite the same pace as at the beginning.

2. The charismatic renewal has had a tremendous impact on the church, but by and large it has not really touched the world. Most people, before coming into the life changing experience of the baptism in the Spirit, have had some degree of commitment to the church.

3. As one studies church history, it is clear that any movement lasting longer than a single generation, will inevitably become an institution. These institutions will either be a new order within the church, a new denomination or a para-church organisation. Such institutions are not of themselves necessarily wrong, but the question we need to ask ourselves is: "Are they God's ultimate purpose for his church?"

4. From the Scripture it is very evident that God always speaks before He acts. *"Behold the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them"*, Isaiah 42:9.

So today, we can expect God to speak to us about what He wants to do next before it happens. In all humility as I have sought God personally and conferred with others, I believe he has shown me something about the future of this renewal movement and indeed about the future of the church as a whole.

A CALL TO DIE

In July last year, I had the privilege with my wife Dorothy, of attending the Anglican international renewal conference held at Canterbury, England. At the Saturday evening service, held at Canterbury Cathedral, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Coggan, gave a short address.

Amongst other things he quoted from Cardinal Suenens' book, *A New Pentecost*:

"There is really no need for a charismatic movement, because the church of God is, or if it isn't, it should be, the charismatic movement."

Dr. Coggan went on to make this comment, *"I believe we should all be praying for the death of the charismatic movement."* What he meant was not that the charismatic movement as such, should die, but simply that the whole church should become charismatic.

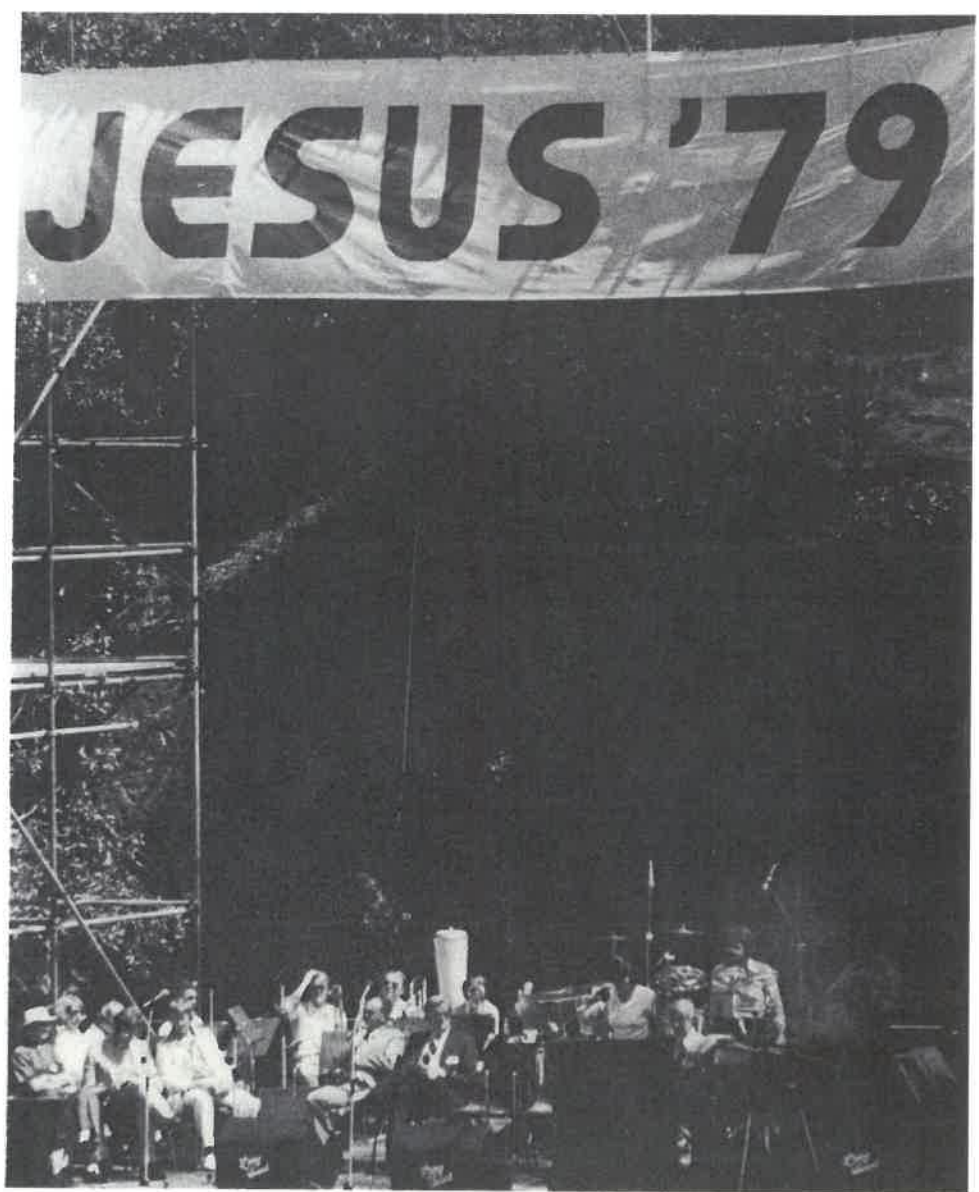
Following that conference, my wife and I spent a few days at a small town just outside London, called Watford. We stayed in a little English pub which coincidentally was called "The Southern Cross" and was owned by an Australian. While I was there, God began to speak to me in a very definite way about Australia.

The first night I was awakened in the middle of the night and for the next 36 hours I went through spiritual travail such as I have very rarely experienced. The evening of the last night there, just before we returned to Australia, I went for a walk through a beautiful English park. It was like walking on the road to Emmaus. God was so close. Christ was so real. The Holy Spirit was so alive and present. As I walked God began to speak to me again about this whole question of death. *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit"* (John 12:24) he was impressing on me.

We are ending one era and beginning another. We are being ushered into a new day which will be brighter, greater and more glorious than anything we have seen so far. This year, 1979, I believe, will go down in history, as the beginning of a new era in the spiritual life of this country, Australia.

The message of Jesus '79 beaming out across Sydney Harbour. This huge banner could be seen by the many visitors who frequent Sydney Harbour on a Sunday afternoon. At one stage during Rev. Langstaff's address as he was proclaiming the theme of the conference 'It's a New Day!' a huge Russian ship sounded its horn right at the appropriate time. It seemed that the Lord was roaring his approval to the 10,000 people gathered on the steps of the Opera House!

I want to share with you seven things which I believe are going to begin to happen in 1979, which I believe are prophetic for this nation.



Firstly, in these coming days, in God's plan and purpose for his church, the miraculous is going to become much more commonplace. Instead of being limited to a few men and women with special gifts, God is going to begin to multiply signs and wonders throughout his whole body.

Secondly, we are going to experience a ten-fold return or increase. Where in the past people have seen one soul saved, now they will see ten. Where they saw ten, now they will see a hundred. Right now, I believe, is a time for evangelism - the greatest ingathering of souls that this world has ever seen.

As we step out in faith we will see a return and increase in individuals and churches such as we have never experienced before. Television, I believe, is one of the great tools God is giving to the church in these end times.

Then thirdly, this is going to be a time when unusual miracles take place, as when the apostle Peter's shadow brought healing to people in the streets or Paul's handkerchief was used for special miracles. I have a peculiar feeling God is going to do some unusual miracles in the area of politics.

Fourthly, this will be a year for the release of ministry. People never

heard of before are going to rise to prominence. Local churches and communities that are either small or even non-existent, are going to suddenly appear. Men and churches that God is preparing right now, are going to be used in a mighty way and the effect of their ministry will flow right throughout the body of Christ.

Just to give a few specific insights as to what I see happening in this realm. I believe we are about to see here in Australia, as well as in other countries, a release in music ministry coupled with evangelism. There is also, I believe, going to be a release in women's ministry, such as the church has not experienced in its 2,000 year history; ministry that will function in proper ordering of the church.

New ministries who like Paul have been preparing out in the backside of the desert, will come into prominence. In line with Ephesians chapter four, this is a time when God is going to bring out the fullness of the ascension gift ministries. In particular, I believe, God wants to restore the apostolic and prophetic voice to the church in a dimension not yet seen, for as Paul indicates in Ephesians 2:20, these are essential for the proper functioning of the church. They are the foundation of the church ("...built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets").

Fifthly, it will be a time also, of great spiritual warfare. The devil will not give up ground easily. Victories first have to be won in believing prayer and intercession. God is raising up intercessors, prayer warriors who know the principles of spiritual warfare and who are prepared to pay the cost.

Sixthly, I believe we are going to experience a greater love and unity in the body of Christ. God is going to

reveal new ways and means of bringing all his people closer together. Greater love and unity will be seen at all levels of the church and amongst leaders and people alike.

It will also be a unity that goes beyond the charismatic renewal. For instance, I believe God is going to reach out and heal the deep wounds that have existed within different parts of the church, for example between evangelicals and charismatics. We are going to see this happen I believe, in this country starting in 1979.

Seventhly and finally, God is going to manifest his glory amongst his holy people, those who are committed to him and separated from the world. They will be God's vessels to show forth his glory in the midst of this dark world. He wants us to be lights that will shine. It will not be something in the sky above, but in the hearts and lives of Christians as they respond to become the very essence of this new day.

WORLD-WIDE EVANGLISM

To summarise. The last wave was renewal. The emphasis of the next wave is world-wide evangelism. Evangelism through signs and wonders, the miraculous and especially through the media of television. But that can only be accomplished through intercessory prayer, spiritual warfare and a greater commitment of love and unity amongst God's people. The key to it all is a full release of new ministries, especially the ascension gift ministries of apostle and prophet.

As the light comes and darkness gives way to light, there is going to be a change all around us. So we need to get ready for that change. God wants to usher us from one era of the Spirit into an even greater era of the Spirit. It's a new day!

Developments in Lutheran Charismatic Renewal

There are many forms of renewal taking place in the Christian church today. One of these is charismatic renewal.

In the United States some 25,000 people attend the regular national conference of the Lutheran Charismatic Renewal. It has been estimated that some 2,000 pastors are involved. In 1976 the American Lutheran Church adopted a resolution on the charismatic renewal at its convention noting that many Lutherans have found that the renewal is consistent with the Lutheran understanding of the Scriptures and the Christian faith. The resolution encouraged pastors to learn about the charismatic renewal and to "engage in dialogue with individuals or groups involved" with renewal.

A short time later in March 1977 members of the Lutheran Church of Australia were urged to study the L.C.A.'s Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations report on Lutheran Charismatic Renewal. Members of the L.C.A., were encouraged to "be prepared to listen to the concerns of charismatics" and to adopt a "positive pastoral attitude". The statement noted areas of concern for Lutherans in relation to charismatic renewal and offered some pastoral advice for Lutheran charismatics. The statement concluded with the following exhortation.

"All members of the L.C.A., should continually pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their own lives so that the old life of sin may more and more be overcome by the new life of the Spirit of Christ. They should also continually pray that the whole Church, its leaders, pastors, teachers and people be filled with the Spirit and that His gifts may be poured out richly on all. Thus the Church empowered by the Spirit will increasingly reflect the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ and glorify the Father."

Since that time we have seen quite a number of groups of Lutherans begin to meet together regularly for prayer. The Lord has graciously continued to pour out His gifts in response to those prayers. Others have been praying earnestly by themselves and have received a fresh outpouring of the Spirit. Many testimonies have been documented. Many people have received physical healing, gifts of tongues and prophecy etc.

Back in May 1976 Dr. Daniel Overduin noted that "Lutherans should rejoice that once again we are being called to reflect on the Third Article. If the charismatic movement creates a renewed and sincere desire for the gifts of the Spirit it is fulfilling an inner mission of great importance and consequence." In the same article he pointed out that "the Lutheran Renewal movement is trying very hard to avoid divisive enthusiasm within the church." Lutherans experiencing the renewing power of the Holy Spirit have been encouraged to remain in their congregations.

What is the renewing power of the Holy Spirit? A book by Dr. V.C. Pfitzner points out that the Spirit remained neglected in Christian Theology after the first century of the early Church.

COME ON HOLY

Spirit,

RECEIVE OUR

He went on to say "This can be only partly explained by the fact that in the New Testament (as well as the Old Testament) the Spirit remains very much a mystery." In recent times we have seen countless theological discussions on the Holy Spirit which have proved inconclusive. We can

probably assume that the same could be said for most periods of the history of the Church. It seems that we can't put the Holy Spirit in a box.

Dr. Sasse has described teaching on the Holy Spirit as "one of the uncompleted doctrines of the church". We can not afford to ignore the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives nor do we seem able to confine Him to a theological formulation. One thing we can do however is observe the characteristics of what is happening in the lives of those involved in the current renewal. Some of these are as follows:-

1. A deepening desire for personal and corporate prayer.
2. A desire for commitment to Jesus as Lord over the whole of life.
3. An openness to the guidance of

the Holy Spirit.

4. An accent on the praising of God.
5. Diligent study of the Scriptures.
6. An increased desire for Christian fellowship and service.
7. A greater awareness of the presence of God.
8. An increased desire to spread the Gospel.

Another feature of the renewal has been its tendency to attract people who have grown up in non-Lutheran communities some of whom have no church background at all. Most of the Lutheran prayer and study groups would testify to this. It is interesting to note that the L.C.A.'s Commission on Theology has stated that dialogue with regard to church unity must not take place only amongst pastors and theologians. It must take place on a grass roots level

the Body of Christ. The movement toward small group Bible Study cottage evenings etc., has caused us to begin to learn to draw upon the Scriptures for the keys to our daily life.

All of these movements have highlighted aspects of the Christian life in need of revitalization. The Lord has been preparing His church for its task of bringing the Gospel to all nations. The theme of practically all major charismatic conferences throughout the world during 1978 was evangelism. The theme of many L.C.A., conferences in 1978 was evangelism. The reappearance of Billy Graham and Leighton Ford in Australia already this year also points to this call of God into evangelism. The Lord wants the church here in Australia to begin with our own nation.

CHURCH.

as well. The charismatic renewal is playing a significant role in this area. While recognizing that we can not ignore differences in doctrine, charismatics have discovered a wonderful sense of brotherhood with fellow Christians from other traditions.

What is the future? At the recent conference in Sydney over 10,000 people heard the Rev. Alan Langstaff speak of a healing of the deep wounds that have existed within different parts of the Church. The charismatic renewal has caused Christians throughout the church to reflect on the work of the Holy Spirit. The ecumenical movement has caused us to reflect upon unity in

The topic for discussion at most of these conferences during 1978? How are we going to evangelize this nation? The clear cry of the charismatic renewal could best be summed up in the words of Zechariah 4:6 "*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit*" says the Lord. We need to be waiting on the Lord in prayer. We need to continue to ask Him for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). We need to be gathering together like those early Christians in that upper room. The Lord wants to stir us into action. He wants His church to be moving on with its mission to bring Christ to all nations.



PRAYING TOGETHER



Why pray in groups?

Prayer is central in the Christian life. Prayer is simply living in such a way that we are conscious of the presence of God. In the past, Christians have tended to think of prayer as something private by following Jesus' words about shutting yourself up unseen in your room. Group prayer was led by the pastor or delegated layman with the group joining in only silently. There was definite teaching about what makes a good, correct, acceptable prayer and with that sometimes came a fear of praying "incorrectly".

Now with the various renewal movements has come an emphasis on group participation in spontaneous prayer. Younger people find this relatively easy to join in, but there are many others who find it discomfoting. This is intended as an encouragement to begin or continue in group prayer.

1) It is part of God's nature to be more than one. He, Himself is Triune; He created man and woman to be united; all Christians together form Jesus' Body. Jesus said, "*Where two or three gather in my name, I am there.*" In other words Christians are not islands. Group prayer is an expression of that unity. It helps to cement the bond of fellowship.

2) There is power in the spoken word. Again this is most obvious when God speaks. But our audible, shared words also have power to build up, to bring something into being, to bless and heal. As we pray aloud together the power in the spoken word is released. This is something that is missed when only the leader prays for a group.

3) Christians are meant to serve each other and bear one another's burdens. There is no more powerful and effective way of service than to stand with your

brother before God and ask the Lord Himself to bear the burden. Sheer love requires that we care enough to pray with and for each other.

A few practical points for prayer groups:-

1. Relax. You don't have to pray aloud. In fact the whole group could spend profitable time in complete silence. Just focus on Jesus and let Him fill your thoughts. As others pray see yourself standing with them before God. Love the person praying. Group prayer is you, the others and Jesus standing together in love.
2. Support the others. If someone is talking to God about a hurt, in your spirit put your arm around him and ask Jesus to heal him. Sometimes you can do that physically and vocally as well. If someone is praising God, share his joy and thank God for what He is doing for that person. If someone prays against Satan, stand with him in faith.
3. As you want to begin to pray aloud, let your first prayers be encouragement for others. If you find it difficult to pray, you could read a Scripture passage, or just share one you remember. Ask God to bring passages to your memory.
4. Pray aloud and read Scripture aloud when you are on your own. There is something about actually speaking which adds strength and depth to prayer or reading. In a group, remember that the others need your support in prayer, and the actual speaking out in prayer adds depth and strength to the support. I get so much encouragement from hearing others pray. One friend I have does not agree with some of my approaches and methods, but when he prays I am strengthened consistently because he prays as a brother wanting to lend support.
5. God is not interested in the way you put your words together. He just

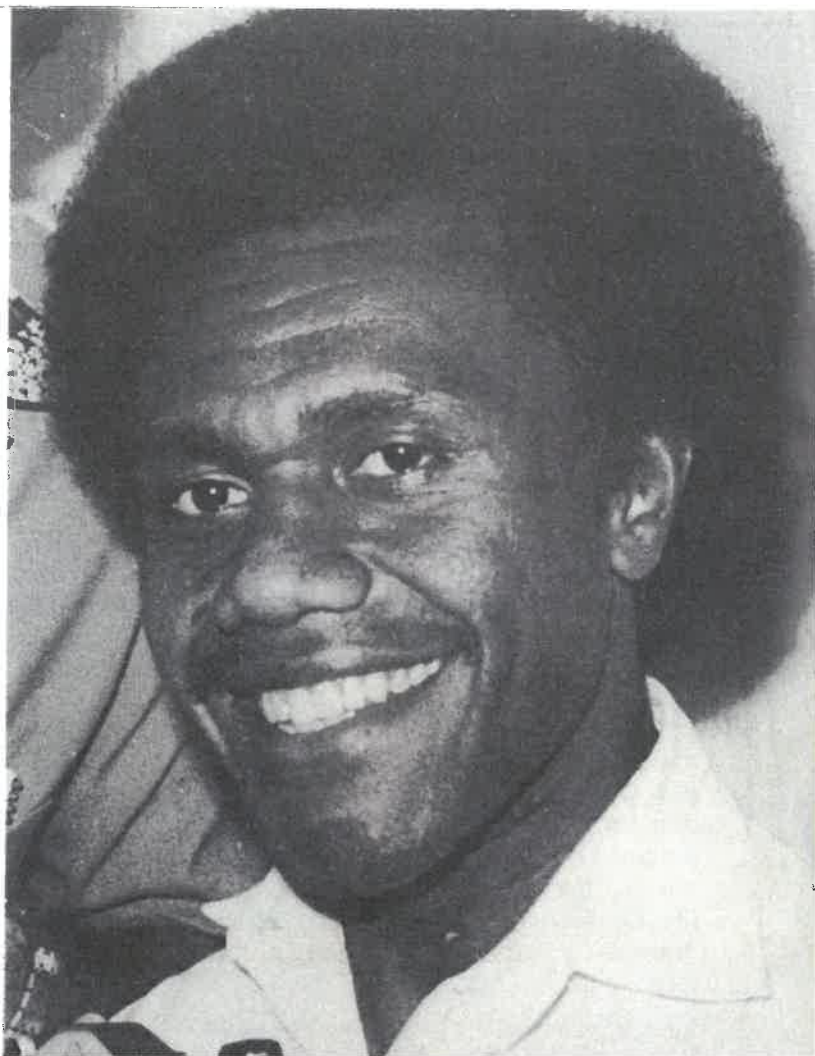
wants a loving response from you, whether it is in a "poor, *lisp*ing stammering tongue" or in an eloquent flowing language. The publican just said - Lord be merciful to me a sinner and went home justified - not so with the talkative, educated Pharisee.

6. Sometimes you may feel you cannot agree with the thoughts someone else is expressing in prayer or perhaps you are uncomfortable with the method of expression (shouting, weeping, swaying, shaking!). If that is so, just reach out in your spirit again, put a loving arm around your brother and ask the Lord to give you and him a clearer understanding of what His mind is on the matter. Let God judge the prayer. Then later, when the chance comes, talk it over with your brother and be ready to learn from him too.
7. We will all pray prayers which are not what God really wants, simply because we do not consistently relate to God as He wants. We need to be concerned with the root cause of a "wrong" prayer, not just with the fact that someone has prayed in a theologically weak or unsound way. God won't condemn our mistakes in prayer, but we need to learn from Him.
8. Be careful about assuming that you are expressing the group's mind and heart. I have been in groups where someone has prayed: "Lord we all feel your presence here." Frankly, I didn't feel anything of the kind. Or again: "Lord we're all believing you for this" is often an expression of what you hope is so rather than the actual fact.
9. Sometimes in a prayer time we feel God wants to stress a certain point, or to encourage the group in some way; or perhaps we want to pray about something which really needs to be explained to the group first. Our prayer times should be relaxed enough that we can talk to each other as part of the prayer time.

GEOFF STRELAN

INTERVIEW

Johnson Seimo is a District Director of the charismatic renewal in the New Hebrides based in Port Vila. He works with the Director, Philip Torboe.



Servant: "Could you describe something of the early beginnings of the renewal in the New Hebrides?"

Johnson: "The renewal began in 1975 in a High School run by the Presbyterian Church called Onesua High School through a young man named Philip Torboe. The renewal followed after the visit of an Evangelical team which went to the school late in 1974. Philip had been given the chance to share God's Word in the school by the Headmaster and as he shared the Lord poured out His Holy Spirit upon the meeting. Most students experienced a new exciting life in the Spirit of the Lord."

Servant: "How did you come to be involved?"

Johnson: "I came to know the Lord Jesus when the Evangelical team came to our school, the British Secondary School, but I didn't have God's Holy Spirit released in me. I had seen

other brothers and sisters have real joy and love and they told me about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It sounded strange to me when I first heard it. The Lord then showed me the Scripture which told me what would happen if I was baptised in the Holy Spirit. *"But you will be filled with power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* Acts 1:8. So then I asked my friends to ask the Lord to give me His Holy Spirit in this way, and He did. Then the Lord led me to lead a small group of Christian students in the school. The group grew quite big in the school and about three quarters of the students became involved. We had our meetings every Sunday evening and some Sunday

mornings. We had our renewal services on the beach where we sung choruses and new converts shared testimonies or passages of Scripture. We prayed with students who had needs and also did some counselling. The Lord also baptised some students with His Holy Spirit. During that time I didn't know much about the ways of God's Holy Spirit and I didn't know all about what was going on in front of me, but one thing I do remember is that I enjoyed doing God's work.

We also had Philip Torboe in the school some times and he encouraged us to continue firmly in the new faith we had from the Lord. When I left school in 1977 I joined in the group which Philip is responsible for and I was greatly blessed through his ministry."

Servant: "How had the renewal been received by the mainline churches?

Johnson: "To be honest, I would say, the church as a body didn't seem happy with the renewal, but I wouldn't blame the church because the people didn't know much about the ways of the renewal. That attitude can be expected in every denomination e.g. I wouldn't invite a new group into my church until I knew that the Spirit of God was working in that new group. That is how I saw it personally, but now the Lord is uniting us with the mainline churches. Last January a group of 25 people attended a Charismatic Conference held in Sydney. This included a pastor from the Apostolic Church, one from the Presbyterian Church, the Bishop and two priests from the Anglican Church. We came together as a group and we didn't find any difficulty in worshipping together. We praised the Lord together and we flowed together in God's Holy Spirit. I believe that the Lord will make the mainline churches recognise the charismatic movement as part of the church, rather than a new group."

Servant: "Could you tell us some of the acts of healing the Lord is doing among your people?"

Johnson: "I cannot deny the mighty healing power of God. The Lord healed a man in one of our meetings. This man had been using a stick for some time because his legs were weak and he couldn't walk about without his walking stick. The Lord healed him. That very same night he was able to walk and he praised the Lord singing and dancing. I have seen people who have been delivered from evil spirits. I have seen and dealt with a woman who had been enticed by an evil spirit. We prayed for her deliverance and she started arguing and fighting us. She told us not to disturb her and she cried and said that we were burning her. Then we commanded the spirit to leave her in Jesus' name and asked for the blood of Jesus to cleanse her. She lay still as though she was dead for about twenty minutes. She was healed and within a few days she was out of the hospital. There are others who have been healed from various sicknesses.

The Lord is dealing mostly with young people. Some of these young people have fantastic testimonies. Some of them were street boys. They were alcoholics and caused a lot of trouble in the villages by bashing down fences and doors of people's homes while they were drunk. Now the Lord has changed their lives and they are keen to do His work."

Servant: "How have you enjoyed your stay in Australia?"

Johnson: "I am very glad to have been in Australia. I have met many Christian friends and have been glad to share with them what the Lord is doing in the New Hebrides. I have felt much at home here, once I began to relax and became involved in the lives of various Christian families."

JOHNSON SEIMO

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PROGRAMME

Wednesday, April 25 (Anzac Day)

9.00 a.m. Registration
10.00 a.m. "Principles of Church Growth" No. 1 — *Dr. Paul Y. Cho*
11.15 a.m. Break
11.30 a.m. "Dynamics of Church Growth" — *Rev. John W. Hurston*
12.30 p.m. Lunch (Can be purchased on site).
1.30 p.m. "Relationships and Church Growth" No. 1 — *Dr. Roy Harthern*
2.30 p.m. "Evangelism and Church Growth" No. 1 — *Rev. Stanley Sjoberg*
3.30 p.m. Close
7.30 p.m. Public Miracle Rally — *Dr. Paul Y. Cho.*

Thursday, April 26

10.00 a.m. "Principles of Church Growth" No. 2 — *Dr. Paul Y. Cho.*
11.15 a.m. Break
11.30 a.m. "Development of Lay Leadership" — *Rev. John W. Hurston*
12.30 p.m. Lunch (can be purchased on site).
1.30 p.m. "Evangelism and Church Growth" No. 2 — *Rev. Stanley Sjoberg*
2.30 p.m. "Relationships and Church Growth" No. 2 — *Dr. Roy Harthern*
3.30 p.m. Close
7.30 p.m. Public Miracle Rally — *Dr. Paul Y. Cho.*

Friday, April 27

10.00 a.m. "Principles of Church Growth" No. 3 — *Dr. Paul Y. Cho*
11.15 a.m. Break
11.30 a.m. "Evangelism and Church Growth" No. 3 — *Rev. Stanley Sjoberg*
12.30 p.m. Lunch (can be purchased on site).
1.30 p.m. "Goal Setting " — *Dr. Paul Y. Cho.*
2.30 p.m. "Relationships and Church Growth" No. 3 — *Dr. Roy Harthern*
3.30 p.m. Close
7.30 p.m. Public Miracle Rally — *Dr. Paul Y. Cho.*

Saturday, April 28

7.30 p.m. Public Miracle Rally — *Dr. Paul Y. Cho.*

Sunday, April 29

7.00 p.m. Public Miracle Rally — *Dr. Paul Y. Cho.*

*BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

October 1977	"A Look at the Charismatic Renewal"
January 1978	"Does God still speak today?"
April 1978	"Healing"
July 1978	"Spiritual Gifts - Personal Relationships"
October 1978	"Loving One Another - The Acts for Today"
January 1979	Intercession and Warfare"

WHEN I WAS WEAK - HE MADE ME STRONG.



That they might be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified. ISAIAH 61:3.

"Three times I besought the Lord about this that it should leave me. My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness. I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses that the power of Christ may rest upon you." 1 Corinthians 12:8-9.

I grew up in a home where my parents attended church regularly. I was brought to Jesus through my baptism where I was given the gift of eternal life and at the age of 14 I was also confirmed.

As a young girl I was quite happy until I was made to realise that I had a problem. My problem was that I had been born with a badly turned eye and it became a source of ridicule. Often I felt very alone and humiliated and grew up with quite a large dose of inferiority complex. I'm quite sure that the devil used this to make my spiritual life really miserable. I began to feel a real hatred for those

who were getting at me. There was a real fight going on inside.

I used to pray that God would give me two straight eyes. Though I wasn't too worried about my impaired vision I just wanted to be a bit more accepted. Looking back I was trying to tell God what I thought I needed and it became a real obsession with me. There was no-one I could talk to or confide in. Also, I lost my father at the age of 16. We were close and I had been hoping that he would be able to help me. He did seem to understand my problem a little.

Soon I began to suffer from nerves. Between the ages of 15 and 30 I was unable to sleep very well and almost became a nervous wreck. At 17 I had an operation on my eyes. It straightened them somewhat but I was still very unsure of myself. Nobody ever told me that it looked any better so I still felt rather shy and very self-

conscious. People continued to point it out to me and I still hated them for doing so.

My heart wasn't right with God. I knew it and the devil kept accusing me that I wasn't good enough. In the middle of all this I remember the beautiful day that the Holy Spirit really convinced me that I was indeed a sinner and my sins had helped to nail my dear Lord and Saviour to the cross. Yes I really was there at the foot of the cross. I felt a great sorrow and I wept. For the first time I truly repented of my sins.

I had repented many times before but never with my whole heart. You see I was too busy blaming everybody else for the way I was feeling inside. The tears seemed to melt the hate and self-centredness in my heart and I really believed that I was saved and forgiven.

Before this I had often tried to read my Bible but could never understand what I was reading. How could I when I was so filled with guilt? This time when I opened my Bible to the gospel of John I pleaded with God to let His Holy Spirit help me to understand and search the Scriptures. The scales fell from my eyes and from that day on I began to grow in my spiritual life.

At first it was slow and sometimes I slipped back. Yet since that day I have never felt the hate in my heart. I was quite convinced from that time on that I was saved through Jesus Christ alone and my life took on a new perspective. Yes, I wanted to shout out to the whole world that Jesus died on the cross and rose again to save us all - and everything around me suddenly looked beautiful!

Daily prayer and Bible study, church attendance and the Lord's Supper became a very important part of my daily life

and it wasn't long before I thanked God for giving me my particular thorn in the flesh. I now know that it was His way of refining my life to be of better service to Him and my fellow man.

I would gladly go through the same again just to know Him as my personal Lord and Saviour in my life and to witness for Him. It's just great and there is no other way that we can be saved!

I used to wonder about the gifts of the Spirit. There was one gift that I was not too sure about at all and until recently I was quite unbelieving about it.

A short time ago I began to see that I needed to be open to the Lord about this gift. Then, only a few weeks ago, I was praying alone and I asked the Lord Jesus to grant me all of the gifts He had for me. I experienced a love and warmth come over me and I began to praise my Lord in an unknown language.

No matter what problems we may have He is the only one who really understands. With the full use of the means of grace in our lives he helps us to withstand the wiles of the devil. The more we take Him at His word and fully trust Him the more He helps us to walk victoriously through life. I thank and praise my dearest Lord and Saviour for the peace that I now have in my heart. I only want Him to use me to help others to find new life in Him.

"For the sake of Christ then I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities; for when I am weak then I am strong."
2 Corinthians 12:10

PHYLLIS SCHUBERT

* Media Response

Drug Victims Saved

"THE MURRAY PIONEER"

Thurs., Jan. 11, 1979



BY SHEILA WHITTAM
It was like streams of living water flowing from Lake Bonney over the desert, when the first Riverland Lutheran Charismatic Camp was recently held at Barmera.

Many families gathered in Jesus' name to praise, worship, study and enjoy fellowship.

Blessings flowed from God through the ministry of the Rev. Doug Kuhl,

who is leading Lutheran Christmatic renewal in Australia.

Pastor Kuhl's ministry in Adelaide mainly revolves around Christian community comprising young people and a growing number of families needing nurturing back to health after being victims of bondage from drugs, alcohol, broken homes etc.

All give testimonies of Jesus healing their

broken lives and deliverance from these bondages into a full and meaningful life.

About 110 people, including 38 children participated in the Riverland rally activities.

Pastor Kuhl taught them the "devil's Tricks" of slipping into the back door of peoples' lives at school, work and church, drawing them away from God and leading them into sin, resentment, anger

gluttony and materialism.

Forty people stood for ministry at the conclusion of the evening and, as the body of Christ, each person ministered to the person sitting next to him or her, praying over them and laying hands on them.

Many testified healings and release from pain, sickness and sin to emerge with a new peace.

Manifestation of the Spirit of Jesus was evident in a gentle way, speaking a new language of prophecy and incidences of healing from sickness among those present.

Members of other churches were also present at the rally.

Musicians who had never played together were anointed by this Spirit and the sounds of the two piano accordions and the guitars backed by the children with percussion instruments were like those of "good old time religion".

As this time of year, when thoughts are turned towards Christ, the words of God (as told in the Bible) were reassuring.

ABOVE — A sketch by Sheila Whittam, depicting camp activities.

SYDNEY
DAILY
TELEGRAPH
15/1/79

10,000
rally for
church

A crowd of 10,000 attended the opening rally of the International Conference of the Holy Spirit and the Church at the Sydney Opera House yesterday.

A religious folk group, The Living Sound, played while the crowd sang hymns, clapped and cheered during the two-hour rally.

Protestant ministers, Catholic priests, nuns and evangelists, from all over Australia and the U.S., are in Sydney for the five-day conference.

Rallies and workshops will be held this week at the Sydney Showground.

The Rev Alan Longstaff, a director of the Temple Trust, which is running the conference, addressed the rally.

notes

RUSSIA VIEWS THE HAND OF GOD

A report has come recently from Russia saying that in the town of Tombou (which lies south-east of Moscow and half-way between Moscow and Stalingrad) there was a vision in the sky. The day was sunny and there appeared a white hand holding a brush which began to write the following words with letters of fire:

"There is winter among my people. My people have sunk into excessive empty worldly cares. Time has been given to repent from sins. I shall not leave any God-fearing among the ungodly and the unrighteous shall not remain among the righteous. Overcome evil with good. I am coming soon and my reward is with me."

The hand was writing for half an hour. The people having read this were overcome with terror and fear and all the movement in that city came to a standstill. Then ammunition was shot to disperse, obscure and cover up the writing in the sky, but in spite of this the writing began to glow even brighter. The sign in the sky remained there for three hours and everyone, believers and unbelievers read the message.

IMPACT OF RENEWAL IN S.A.

At the recent Synod of the L.C.A., in South Australia, L.C.A. President Koch devoted considerable time to reporting on the charismatic renewal in S.A. "Renewal will always be in place as long as it is the church militant," he said. Discussions with those involved in the renewal are continuing in relation to "the true purpose and function of the renewal movement as it relates to the regular ministry and mission of the church." President General Grope in his report urged members not to overlook "the most difficult and most effective way of procuring more pastors, and that is prayer." Currently there are some 14 pastoral vacancies in the L.C.A., and this figure appears to be increasing. Please continue to pray for our pastors as their task is not an easy one in these times.

NO HEAVENLY GOOD!

In his opening address to the Synod, President Koch said that we all well know the saying that "some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good." Perhaps in these days it would be appropriate to say that we are so earthly minded that we are of no heavenly good!

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FINANCES

In the past 'Servant' Magazine has been heavily subsidised by Servants of Christ Community and L.C.R. (Aust.). We are currently praying through the future of the magazine and would like your prayers and feedback. We will probably need to reduce the size of the magazine in order to cut costs in the future editions. If you desire to see the magazine continue in its present form please let us know!

ECUMENICAL CHARISMATIC FELLOWSHIP - COMING EVENTS

Visit of Archbishop Burnett from South Africa

Archbishop Burnett will be ministering here in Australia in June. He is the Archbishop of Capetown and has been very involved in the life of Christian congregations in the area of social action. He is greatly interested that the Church should show a shared life which offers a genuine alternative to the acquisitiveness and division which surrounds it in the world.

He is coming to Adelaide as the guest of the Anglican Archbishop, Dr. K. Rayner and will be ministering to the Ecumenical Charismatic Fellowship on Friday, 29th June at 7.45p.m. at a venue yet to be decided.

Details of the venue will be advertised in the media, both press and television at a later date. Ring Rev. John Davies at 276 2693 for further information.

Visit of Dr. Jim Forbes

Dr. Jim Forbes, who is the Associate Professor of Worship and Homiletics at Union Theological Seminary in New York, U.S.A., will be in Australia from June 25th to July 13th, inclusive. Dr. Forbes is one of the world's outstanding black preachers and authors in the Renewal Movement. He made a significant impact as a speaker at the Kansas City Conference in 1978 and was mightily used by the Lord in his address entitled "See Me, Says the Lord!"

He has been invited to Australia by the National Fellowship for Charismatic Renewal within the Uniting Church. He will be speaking at the Ecumenical Charismatic Rally at Maughan Uniting Church on Wednesday 11th July at 7.45p.m. On Thursday, 12th July he will hold teaching seminars for clergy, theological students and key church leaders at venues yet to be decided.

If you require 10 or more copies of 'SERVANT' these can be purchased at 40¢ per issue. Write to:-

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Lord help me to plant my seed



OF FAITH.