

"HUME'S HAPPENINGS"

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Greetings brethren ,

Thank you for your support , it is very much appreciated . Following is my report for **July 2024** .

PROSPECTIVE OUTREACH

My home city (Launceston) is the headquarters of several educational facilities , such as Higher College after High School , University , the Australian Maritime College , and a facility that conducts mature age classes .

I am in the process of negotiating with the Principles of these facilities about me conducting Bible Classes outside their facilities normal daily hours . The reason for my thinking is that many of the “students” at these facilities actually come from every state in Australia and around the world , and they live in rented quarters on their facility’s campus . They travel back to their homes during holiday times then return to Launceston to complete their courses .

After their daily studies are completed , they return to their rented dormitories each night , with nowhere to go until their classes resume next day . Maybe some of them may be interested in coming to my home once a week or have me go to their Lectures area and study the Bible together .

I will attempt to get such a project “up and running” , the worst that can happen is that Principles and students will say , “No , thank you” .

NEW BOOKLETS REQUEST .

This month I received an email from a church of Christ preacher who lives in Brisbane , the capital city of the Australian state of Queensland . My home state of Tasmania is as far away from Queensland as Michigan is from Florida , except that Queensland is Australia’s most tropical northern state , and Tasmania is Australia’s most coldest southern state (the opposite to the U .S because we are in the southern hemisphere .

This preacher makes annual preaching trips to Papua New Guinea and this month he was visiting the home of a member of a Brisbane congregation and on her coffee table he saw my bound lesson booklets . After reading several of them he noticed my contact details on the back covers , so he emailed me , requesting to be put on my monthly mailing list .

He specifically asked for bulk copies of four of my booklets to take to Papua New Guinea and hand out to people who attend his meetings . The titles that he wanted to receive first were :

Booklet number 26 - *“Is one church as good as another” ?*

Booklet number 39 - *“Why the Bible was written” .*

Booklet number 84 - *“Will good people in all churches be saved” ?*

Booklet number 115 - *“The Bible and scientific foreknowledge” .*

Requests for bulk copies always involves many days of photocopying , stapling , and binding , unlike just taking one of each booklet out of my stock in hand each month for my mailing list .

MY SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS .

Every Sunday morning I am teaching a series of lessons designed to give the Eastside brethren a set of booklets that they can hand out to anyone who shows interest in studying the Bible .

The series is entitled , *“A handy guide to the Bible”* , and involves a very brief overview of each book of the Bible .

BENEVOLENCE BASKETS .

Each Tuesday evening when brethren come to our home for dinner before the 7pm - 8 pm Bible Class , they bring items of groceries and place them in two washing baskets .

When these two baskets are overflowing , Jackie covers them with colorful see - through paper , each with a card that says , *“From the members of the Eastside church”* (not from the Eastside church) , and we deliver them to the Principle of the school where we conduct our worship services .

The Principle chooses two needy families of his students and presents them with these grocery baskets . We donate two baskets at least two times each year .

This program has no connection with the work of the Eastside church or the treasury of the congregation, but rather is an initiative of our individual members.

After each delivery of two baskets, Jackie then buys two new baskets, places them in our lounge room where the brethren can see them, and the process starts again.

MY WEB PAGE.

Some time back I decided to change the lessons on my web page from PDF format to WORD format, to enable people around the world to download my lessons and cut and paste just sections of the lessons if they so desire, or add something to them.

Also, when I posted my PDF lessons on my site I compiled them with larger spacing between words, thinking I was making it easier for people to read the lessons. In the past year I realised this was a mistake, so as well as taking the PDF lessons off my site and replacing them with WORD format, I am also editing every single lesson by shortening the space between words.

This have proved to be so time consuming and if you access my site you will notice that some lessons are now WORD, others are still PDF, and some lessons have closed spacing, others have wide spacing. I will keep working on it until they are all closed space WORD format.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR DOWNLOADING MY LESSONS.

1. Type <https://www.barrysbiblelessons.com.au> into the url box.
2. Click on "**Sermons**" or "**Bible Classes**" (whichever you desire).
3. Click on "**Subject**" required.
4. Click on **Sermon / Bible Class** required ("Download").
5. click on required **lesson** (in drop down box).
6. Click on "**Enable editing**".
7. **Read**, **print**, **edit**, **cut** and **paste** lesson as required.

QUERIES - HOBART BROTHER .

In past reports I have mentioned a brother in the Hobart church who texts me with many questions , they are still coming daily and are very time consuming for me as in depth research is often required to answer some of his questions .

LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN JULY .

Most of my Bible class and sermon subjects take several weeks to cover due to the nature of the Eastside members who need constant repetition , detailed explanations , and mutual discussions among brethren re personal applications of Biblical principles in their lives .

Also , I encourage members to ask questions re anything they do not understand or even something that is a side issue to what we are actually studying at the time . Thus it is very rare for me to ever complete a lesson in one Bible class .

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS .

- July 7 - *"The Major Prophets" (Part two) .*
- 14 - *"The Major Prophets" (Part two) .*
- 21 - *"The Minor Prophets" (Part one) .*
- 28 - *"The Minor Prophets" (Part two) .*

SUNDAY SERMONS .

- July 7 - *"Blest be the tie that binds" .*
- 14 - *"You were there when they crucified the Lord" .*
- 21 - *"Turning water into wine" .*

MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

- July 2 - Viktor taught from **Ephesians 3** .
- 9 - Viktor taught from **Ephesians 4** .
- 16 - Viktor taught from **Ephesians 5** .
- 23 - Viktor taught from **Ephesians 6** .
- 30 - Viktor taught from **Philippians 1** .

Following is a repeat of the items that form the basis of my activities each month .

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES .

Set up school .

Jackie and I arrive about one hour early on Sunday morning along with two other members and we set up an "auditorium" in the gymnasium hall of the Ravenswood Heights Primary School .

"**Friend day**" **lunch** at our house for brethren and visitors after Sunday worship on the second or third Sunday in the month .

Midweek Bible Class : Continues to be at my house .

Study periods : Preparing sermons and Bible classes for Eastside's meetings .

Lesson booklets : Ongoing typing , photocopying , stapling , and binding of new and replacement booklets for requests , and for display at our church meetings .

Study packs : Ongoing photocopying , stapling , and packaging of these as time permits .

Letterboxing : Jackie and I make every effort to continue this project on a weekly basis , but often a lack of time does not allow this to happen .

Thank you once again for your wonderful support , please visit us if you ever get the opportunity to do so ,

Yours in Christ ,

Barry Hume .

KEEPING THE SAVED - SAVED

INTRODUCTION

A . STORY .

The story is told about a fellow who wasn't too well educated and his manner was a bit rough and crude . But he became a Christian and he was all fired up with enthusiasm and wanted to do something for Christ .

So the preacher handed him a list often names and said , *"These are all members of this congregation here but they don't attend much any more . Contact them any way you can . Here's some church stationery you can use to write them letters . Do whatever you can to get them back into church"* .

Well, the young Christian accepted the challenge with determination, and about three weeks later, a letter came to the church building from a prominent physician whose name had been on that list. Inside the letter was a \$ 1,000 cheque and this note :

"Dear Preacher, enclosed is my cheque for \$1,000 to make up my missing contributions for the past several weeks. I am sorry for missing worship, but be assured that I'll be present this Lord's Day and every Lord's Day following. I won't miss again if I can help it.

Sincerely, Dr. Jones.

P. S. Would you please tell your secretary that there is only one "t" in "dirty" and no "c" in "skunk".

WE HAVE A **TWO PART COMMISSION**

A. SAVING THE LOST.

While the above story doesn't exactly teach the proper way to go about it, it does say something about one of our important responsibilities as Christians. Jesus once said that the purpose of His ministry was, *"to seek and to save that which was lost"* (**Luke 19 : 10**), and as the body of Christ on earth, that continues to be our task.

Much is written and preached about saving the lost, and rightly so, we must be zealous in this endeavour, like Paul who, *"became all things to all men, that I might by all means, save some"* - **1 Cor 9 : 19 - 22**.

B. MANY WILL FALL AWAY.

While it is right that we place a high priority on writing and preaching about saving the lost, not enough thought is given to losing the saved.

The Bible teaches some will fall away and be lost again **1 Tim 4 : 1**.

Many will leave their first love **Rev 2 : 4**.

It is a terrible state to be in **2 Pet 2 : 20 - 22**.

C. TWO PARTS.

The Bible teaches that this work of "saving the lost" should be divided into two separate parts, saving the lost, and keeping the saved, saved.

We sometimes call the first part "evangelism", and the second part "edification". But they are really both part of one task, that is, making every effort to ensure that all people go to heaven. Together they make up the mission of the Lord's church.

Both of them are absolutely essential. Evangelism is important, because to save souls is important, but if we lose those that we've saved, what have we really accomplished ?

We may baptize thousands, but if they all fall away, the church won't grow, and once saved souls are lost again ! I think the real test of evangelism should not be to count how many are baptized, but how many

are still faithful a year later, two years, five years, or ten years later.

We have a duty to restore fallen brethren (**Jms 5 : 19 - 20**) but we should be concerned before they fall. In fact, it's absolutely essential that we do so.

D. STORY.

I read about a city built on the edge of a high, steep cliff, and often someone would fall to the rocks below. The council decided to station an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff, so that any who survived the fall could be taken to hospital and restored to full health again.

Then a citizen suggested building a strong fence around the top of the cliff, and he argued, *"Though some careless ones will still fall over, it will protect the innocent and the young from danger"*.

E. PREVENTIVE SIDE OF SALVATION.

We need to consider the preventive side of salvation, just like the way that Medical experts today have shifted their emphasis from curing sickness to preventing sickness.

Saving alien sinners is vital, but preventing them from falling away again is equally as important, and in order to be more effective in preventing apostasy, we need to be aware of what causes a person to depart from faithfulness to Christ.

WE NEED TO DO MORE **BEFORE PEOPLE ARE CONVERTED**

A. CONVERTED TO "BAPTISM".

A lot of times, when Christians fall away, it's because they weren't taught very well in the first place. For example,

somebody may be converted to the concept of baptism, and when they become convinced that baptism is for the remission of sins, they want to be baptised.

But then, after their baptism, we say something to them about church attendance and membership, or about their other responsibilities as a Christian or about needed moral changes in their life and they quickly let us know that they never planned for any of that.

Prior to their baptism they had no understanding of the commitment that goes with being a Christian.

B. NEED TO "COUNT THE COST".

Jesus made it clear that a person needs to count the cost before they make the decision to follow Him - **Lk 14 : 25 - 33**.

I heard about a preacher who had a man stop by his office one day and express concern about his soul, so the preacher taught him about the need to be baptised for the forgiveness of sins that very afternoon.

Then the preacher baptized him immediately, and later the preacher said, "*He was just like the Ethiopian eunuch, he went on his way rejoicing, and I haven't seen him since*" ! - **Acts 8 : 36 - 39**.

Now, don't misunderstand me, I don't believe that a person needs to know everything there is to know about Christianity before they become a Christian. But I do believe they need to have a good understanding of the commitment that is involved. They need to know what they are getting into.

If all a person needs to know before baptism is that they are lost because of sin, and through baptism they

can have the forgiveness of sins, then Jesus teaching re counting the cost is meaningless and ought to be typexed out of our Bibles.

Having said that, the reality is, there will still be people who fall away who were made aware of the need to, "count the cost", so we need to know what causes some brethren to become unfaithful.

REASONS WHY MANY **FALL AWAY**

A. PARABLE OF SOWER.

Jesus, in the parable of the sower gives several reasons why some people do not remain faithful, things like afflictions and persecution, the cares of life, and the allure of riches etc - **Matt 13 : 18 - 22**.

But I do not intend to deal with these things in this lesson, instead I want to focus on attitudes and neglect of brethren that are contributing factors in brethren becoming unfaithful. Note some things that can cause brethren to depart from the faith.

B. NOT PROPERLY FED.

New Christians are spiritual "babes" in Christ, and babies need to be fed in order to grow, otherwise they would die - **1 Pet 1 : 22 - 23** and **2 : 1 - 2**.

Suppose you visited a home with a new baby, then went away for four years, then you return and enquire about the child, expecting to see growth. What if the mother said, *"That reminds me, I haven't seen that child around here for two or three years"*.

It is criminal to convert one to Christ, then leave that one to die because they are not fed God's word. Jesus stressed that those who are baptised are then to be taught - **Matt 28 : 18 - 20**.

Each year hundreds are baptised into Christ, but many drift back into sin because of a lack of teaching after their baptism. The Bible classes of the church are essential, but they are only about 4 hours in a 168 hour week. Additional teaching is needed beyond these hours.

A word of warning !

Babes in Christ need to realise that they can not use lack of growth as an excuse to avoid their obligations - **Heb 5 : 12 - 6 : 2**.

All Christians need to advance beyond the "kindergarten" stage, strive diligently to grow spiritually, thus being able to teach others.

C. BABES NOT RECOGNISED.

Another reason that causes some to fall away is that members of a congregation fail to discern who are babes in Christ, and because of this they teach and preach too deeply, and the babe comes to believe the Bible is so complicated, it cannot be understood.

Some who used to read it regularly and get spiritual strength from it just quit doing so. The truth is, God's word can be understood - **Eph 3 : 3 - 4** & **5 : 17** **Ps 119 : 130**.

A man called Hambone once said, *"I like the kind of preacher who puts the hay down low in the stall where the calves can reach it"*.

Paul recognised those who were babes, and he understood that babes need to be fed simple, digestible food to grow - **1 Cor 3 : 1 - 2**.

The Bible tells us that Jesus, *"Was speaking the word to them as they were able to bear it"* (**Mk 4 : 33**), He

taught them cautiously according to their ability to receive instruction .

D. NOT FEEL WELCOME .

Sometimes a new convert is not made to feel welcome as an important part of the congregation . We must not let little "like - interests" groups form , so that others are excluded from our friendship and company . - **Jms 2 : 1 - 9 .**

Read **1 Cor 12 : 14 - 26** , and take special note of **vs 25** .

WE HAVE A DUTY TO **EACH OTHER RE SALVATION**

A. APOSTLES RECOGNISED THIS .

Their zeal and concern for the welfare and growth of brethren was no less than their desire to preach the gospel to alien sinners - **Acts 14 : 21 - 22 15 : 32 - 36 & 41 & 18 : 23 .**

Cain at one time said to God , "*Am I my brother's keeper*" ? (**Gen 4 : 9**) and the truth is , God has always required man to be responsible for his fellow man . Everyone needs help throughout our lives , as babies , youths , teenagers , or aged , the need for help never leaves us .

Thus the principle taught in **Eccl 4 : 9 - 12** . Many fall because of isolation from brethren , but they would have stood firm if they had the support of others . "*Iron sharpens iron , so one man sharpens another*" - **Prov 27 : 17** .

If two are joined by a common relationship (Christ) , then a third party (Satan) cannot attack one without meeting the other .

B. BONANZA THEME SONG .

When I was growing up, one of my favourite TV shows was "Bonanza", that involved Ben Cartwright and his three sons, Adam, Hoss, and little Joe, who all lived together on a ranch called "The Ponderosa".

The Cartwrights in this show were a united and very close family, and over the years I have come to appreciate how much the words of the "Bonanza" theme song applies to members of the Lord's church. The words to the theme for this show are :

"All for one, one for all, this we guarantee. If you pick a fight with any one of us, Bonanza, If you pick a fight with any one of us, then you've got to fight the three".

C. WHAT ABOUT US ?

We are all members of the family of God, and should always be ready to edify, strengthen, encourage each other, to assist weaker brethren - **Eph 2 : 19** **1 Thess 5 : 8 - 15** **Rom 15 : 1**.

We need to cultivate brotherly love in our lives, children of God should feel a love and nearness for each other that is stronger than their love for their flesh and blood relations - **2 Pet 1 : 7** **1 Pet 1 : 22** **Rom 12 : 10**
Jn 15 : 12 & 17

WHAT BROTHERLY LOVE **SHOULD CAUSE US TO DO**

A. CONSIDER HOW TO STIMULATE OTHERS.

This is a vital obligation that each of us has (**Heb 10 : 24**), and the "how" will differ with each individual. We know our own weaknesses, fears, insecurities, and sources of strength, but others may differ in these areas to us, and how frustrating it is when brethren cannot understand your needs.

Something that does nothing for you spiritually, may be just what a brother in Christ needs to make him stronger and faithful - **Phil 2 : 3 - 4** **Rom 12 : 10** .

B . CLOSE AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS .

This is what I believe really makes the difference between whether Christians remain as fired up for the Lord as they were the day of their baptism, or whether their enthusiasm cools to the extent that their commitment becomes no more than attending the worship services of the church, then eventually they stop doing even that, and fall back into the world.

Evidence exists that regular and personal relationships with brethren is the key to conversions that last.

FLAVIL YEAKLEY .

Brother Flavil Yeakley, in his book, "*Why Churches Grow*", put it this way :

"If new converts change their patterns of friendship, they are likely to stay converted. If not, they will probably fall away. Specifically, he said that if a new member does not make (or already have) intimate friends in the church within six months, they will probably become a dropout" .

"The relationship that's needed is one that's deeper than just saying "hello" after services. There needs to be a sharing of time together, inviting them over for meals, going out to do things together, just being together regularly outside the meetings of the church" .

Read **Heb 10 : 25** and take note that it does not refer to "the assembly" (as some interpret it), but it speaks of our "assembling together" to encourage each other. We need to be together more than just at the services of the church - **Heb 3 : 13** .

Just as, "*Bad company corrupts good morals*" (1 Cor 15 : 33),

it is true that good company will promote good morals .
The more we are in the presence of spiritually minded
people, the more spiritually minded we will become -
Prov 27 : 17 .

We should never view visiting brethren in their homes, or
outings such as picnics with them as worldly pursuits,
but rather we should see such as opportunities to edify,
encourage and exhort them, and to receive such from
them .

C. STORY .

Norm Smith is regarded by most supporters of "Aussie Rules"
football as having been the greatest coach the Melbourne football
club has ever had . The story is told that two of his
players were in a form slump and were on the verge of
being dropped from the team .

At start of the next game, Norm Smith went privately to
"player A" and told him he was concerned about the
form of "player B" .

He said to player A", "*I believe you are the one person
in this team who can lift him out of his form slump, so
today I want you to play near him and whenever you get
the ball, pass it to him, and whenever he does something
good, give him some praise, and if he messes up, encourage
him to forget about it and get on with the game"* .

Norm Smith then went privately to "player B" and gave
him the same instructions re "player A" . The result was
that these two players ran out onto the field with
"puffed up chests", determined to succeed in this "special
assignment" they had been given .

They were the best two players on the ground that day,
and the same thing will happen in the church, if each
of us determine to do whatever we can to keep our
brethren saved .

D. LOVE IS THE KEY.

The key to it all is love. In a sense, it's true that you can't "love people into the church". But loving them may keep them in the church. Jesus said, *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"* - **Jn 13 : 35**.

CONCLUSION

A. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE ?

What I am concerned about is that we've seen so many people fall away from Christ and His church over the years that we've simply accepted it as an inevitable part of life. It no longer bothers us that we lose many of our brothers and sisters.

It no longer affects us to hear that someone else has departed from the faith. It is absolutely essential that we change that attitude. Certainly we understand that there will be some who will fall away in spite of our best efforts.

But we shouldn't expect it to happen as a rule, nor do we dare become callused to the problem. Every Christian ought to be precious in our eyes. We shouldn't want to lose a single one.

Remember the story in **Luke 15** of the shepherd who went looking for the one sheep that was lost. If that's our attitude, then we'll do everything we can to help one another remain saved.

B. BENEFITS OF FELLOWSHIP.

There are many benefits from fellowship with other Christians. Being a Christian will not deliver you from heartaches, but you need not suffer alone.

We can and should share our trials and worries together - **1 Cor 12 : 14 - 26** .

The sharing, caring, and serving aspect of the Christian's life is often not appreciated as it should be - **Gal 5 : 13** .

We live under the command, "*Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfil the law of Christ*" - **Gal 6 : 2** .

Let us determine to always strive to keep each other saved .