

UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, *an International Association* AUSTRALIA 1996

- **6 January 96** **Richard Cress** **Woonona H S**
 (Minister from Church of God Seventh Day, Tulsa)
 Ten reasons for keeping the Sabbath.
 Bruce Dean
 Why the National Aust. Council? To share the responsibilities and use the abilities. Do not confuse the church and the structure of the church.
- **13 January 96** **Bruce Dean** **Truscott St PS**
 The Return of Jesus Christ to this earth is a reality we can have confidence in. This knowledge is a great spiritual blessing which many do not share.
- **20 January 96** **Bruce Dean** **Fitzroy Falls** **108 present**
 Seven different tests to check whether our conduct is right - eg. what would happen if everyone followed my example; or would I want everyone to know what I did.
- **27 January 96** **Bill Bradford** **Truscott St** **48? present**
 Events of the past year in USA; his own experience and departure from WCG and involvement in UCG.
- **3 February 96** **Bruce Dean** **Woonona**
 Submit yourselves one to another in the Lord. Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought to think.
- **10 February 96** **Bruce Dean** **Truscott St** **89 present**
 Offerings: Burnt, Meal, Peace, Sin. Sacrifices have to be genuine - you must give something that is of value to you.
- **17 February 96** **Bruce Dean** **Woonona**
 Are we legalists? Yes, in the sense that we seek the mind of God, that the laws are an expression of love and the mind of God. In Rev. 14:12 the church is defined as those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.
- **24 February 96** **Rex Lehmann** **Truscott St**
 The Covenants. God's Covenant with Israel had a major fault, ie. Israel's inability to keep God's law. The New Covenant - between God and spiritual Israel - had a better reward, ie. eternal life.
 Doug Gray
 To understand Paul's writings you need to understand his life and background as a Pharisee. His conversion was a very dramatic event.

- **2 March 96 Bruce Dean Woonona**

Resolving conflict must be predicated upon respect and honour for the other person. Go to your brother alone; then with witnesses and then to ministry if necessary. Don't forget to forgive! Porcupines need to be close enough for warmth, distant enough for comfort.

- **9 March 96 Alan Kendall St.Helens Park 122 present**
(CGI - Cessnock) What is a Church? Assembly of people - worship, edify and fellowship together. Has administrative and spiritual aspect.

Bruce Dean

Through times of trouble we can lose the sense of joy. Rekindle the joy of salvation and the joy of the truth. Never give up on God's calling - what God starts in us He wants to complete.

* General meeting held after to elect a local planning committee for the next ^{two}~~three~~ years.

- **16 March 96 Bruce Dean Truscott St**

God the Father has immense love for His children. Many in the Bible suffered loss of child or estrangement in the family. Christ's suffering and death included the horror of being separated from the Father.

- **23 March 96 Bruce Dean Corrimal East PS**

As the children of God we are to become like Him and grow in His wisdom and understanding. We are being judged according to the way we live.

- **30 March 96 Bruce Dean Truscott St**

Christ was rejected by eg. Judas, Pilate, Pharisees, etc. for money, power, popularity, fear, etc. Today nothing has changed. We must be credible Christians that God does not reject us!

- **4 April 96 FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD - FIRST HOLY DAY**

Bruce Dean Schell Park, Liverpool 124 present

We need to reflect on the history of the people of God and learn the lessons of the past. Satan will continue to make war with those who keep the commandments of God.

Bruce Dean

Keeping the Days of Unleavened Bread teaches us that we need to put out sin and live perfectly. The end result of not keeping these days is the belief that Christ did it all for us. This is a perversion of Christian liberty.

- **6 April 96 Bruce Dean Woonona**

Different personalities in the Bible show us examples of a willingness to obey, vision and bigmindedness, courage and determination, wholeheartedness, desire to finish the work of God and patience. The Bible is a biography of real living people we can learn from.

- **10 April 96 FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD - LAST HOLY DAY**

Bruce Dean Schell Park, Liverpool 117 present

It is in the present we learn to overcome for the future. We must recognise the need for God and turn back to Him, humble ourselves, repent and TAKE ACTION over sin.

Bruce Dean

Knowledge must result in a change in what you do. We have to respond to Biblical truth otherwise it is knowledge for knowledge's sake. To treat sin: recognise, repent, resist and replace with righteousness.

- **13 April 96 Bruce Dean Truscott St**

The ability to forgive and to show mercy is a genuine power. One characteristic of the Last Days is lack of forgiveness. Forgiveness restores relationships. Happiness comes more from loving than from being loved.

- **20 April 96 Truscott St**

(VIDEO from Arcadia - 6 April 96 - Bruce Dean in Melbourne for Ministers' meeting)

Edwin Stept

Suffering for righteousness is part of our calling. Great peace have they who love the law of God - nothing shall offend them.

John Anderson

Christ's suffering and death show that God the Father and Christ love mankind in a most profound way. We are to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

- **27 April 96 Bruce Dean Truscott St**

Praising God is a mark of God's people. Obedience, prayer, worship services and sacrifice are all forms of praise.

- **4 May 96 Bruce Dean Woonona**

What is the reward of the saved? The message to the churches in Revelation is, in all cases, to be overcomers - to keep the commandments.

* Dinner at MBA, Wollongong.

- **11 May 96 Bruce Dean Truscott St**

Keys are a sign of authority. Peter was the first to recognise who Christ was and therefore he had the key to the kingdom - the key to open the door to spread the gospel.

- **18 May 96 Bruce Dean Woonona**

Speaking in tongues as described in Acts 2 was a miracle which reversed the miracle (curse) which occurred at the Tower of Babel. The people spoke legitimate languages not "nonsense". Pentecost is a day not an experience.

- **25 May 96** **Truscott St**
(VIDEO from Arcadia - 4 May96)

David Hulme

Why are we here? Because God called us! We are here to live the truth and to take the truth to the world.

- **26 May 96 FEAST OF PENTECOST**

Bruce Dean Schell Park, Liverpool 135 present

God calls and uses many young people - not just middle aged or old. Christ and the disciples as well as Daniel and Timothy are examples from the Bible of young people being led by God's spirit.

Bruce Dean

We need to re-focus - go back to the roots, ie. our own calling. The source of our strength and encouragement comes from the uniting of the spirit of God with the spirit in man. How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.

- **1 June 96** **Bruce Dean Woonona**
The fruit of the Spirit - never envies others, not self seeking, cares about others, not driven by selfish ambition, praises others, is uplifting to others.

- **8 June 96** **Bruce Dean Truscott St**

- **15 June 96** **Bruce Dean Woonona**
Conscription -

- **22 June 96** **Bruce Dean Truscott St 88 present**
Confession -

- **29 June 96** **Bruce Dean Woonona**
Covenants are solemn and voluntary. We have accepted a covenant between us and God. Marriage covenant. Sabbath covenant. We have made a covenant to be peacemakers. We have covenanted to preach the gospel. The basis of the covenant is "I will be your God and you will be my people."

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- **5 July - 8 July 96 FRIENDS OF THE SABBATH CONFERENCE - Revesby**
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- **13 July 96** **Larry Walker** **Woonona**

(UCG Central Oregon)

The Sabbath is a SIGN, identifies God as the Creator, symbolises deliverance from Egypt, spiritual creation, sign between God and His people, TEST commandment. Keeping the Sabbath changes your life style.

Three seasons of Annual Sabbaths: Passover - personal matter, Pentecost - involves the church, Tabernacles - concerns the whole world.

- **20 July 96** **Stefanovics' home** **26 present**
(**VIDEO** from Arcadia - 6 April 96) (Bruce Dean in Ballarat)

Edwin Stept

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John Anderson

Christ's suffering and death show that God the Father and Christ love mankind in a most profound way. We are to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

- 20 July 96** **Truscott St.**
(**VIDEO** from Arcadia - 8 June 96)

Robert Dick

The Role of the Council of Elders is to set policy and govern (as distinct from day-to-day management). eg. recognition of ministerial credentials.

David Hulme

The "Spirit" of Indianapolis is the spirit of humility. You cannot have collaboration without humility. Be willing to listen, pray to find out God's will, check what the Bible says. Strive to have a good conscience in all things.

- **27 July 96** **Bruce Dean** **Truscott St.**

First Anniversary of UCG in NSW

Trust. Where there is a split in an organisation there will be lack of trust. We should not trust in our own ideas, in friends, family, any man or organisation.

We rebuild trust by getting back to the basics - The Word of the Lord endures forever.

We must trust God and His Word. We have to learn to trust (people) again even though that means being vulnerable. To love is to be vulnerable.

General meeting held after to discuss the future of the organisation of the local church.

- **3 August 96** **Bruce Dean** **Woonona**

The Gifts of the Spirit. How is God dealing with us as people? God gives different gifts to each one of His people for the profit and edification of the whole church. Some have a gift of enthusiasm, encouragement, believing prayer for others, inspiring speaking, music, etc. A gift can be lost if not used or if not accompanied by obedience to God. Don't put yourself on a pedestal BUT don't put yourself down either. Use whatever gifts you have. A gift is recognisable by the fruit it will produce. We have been in a culture with a hierarchy structure where we thought only those with authority could be used. This is not true!

- **10 August 96** **Bruce Dean** **Truscott St**

We are to reflect (like a mirror) the truth of God. The more polished the surface is, the better the reflection is. It will take real effort to polish a surface well. Our friendships can reveal to us our real character. We are to pursue, seek after, mime and imitate God's righteous character.

- **17 August 96** **Truscott St**

(TAPE) **Leon Walker**

Prioritising Relationships One subject of eternal importance is love, ie. relationships. We should be able to live with, work with and function with, for all eternity, anyone and everyone we know! The best way to learn to love God is to develop good relationships with your brother.

David Hulme

News of the church - "Good News" expanded, Readers' Digest advert., Bible Correspondence Course (CDROM?), Feast Video. God is putting back together a Work He had been doing.

Robert Dick

Are you the same person all the week that you are at Sabbath Services? Many people come into the church because of the personal example of a member of the church. We should live as we preach.

- **24 August 96** **Bruce Dean** **Truscott St**

The Feast of Tabernacles is a time to be caring, serving and helping - not getting the "best of everything". Emphasise the spiritual messages and learn to rejoice in the Law of God. It is a foretaste of serving in the World Tomorrow.

- **31 August 96** **Jim Carnochan** **Truscott St**

The life of a beehive is a good example of members of a group working together, doing different jobs and being interdependent. The Church of God should be exhibiting these same qualities.

Doug Gray

The Bible chronicles the lives of many who understood the truth but fell away, and were subsequently brought back by God. We CAN count on God to deliver us when needed.

- The Fear of God is an essential quality of a Christian, ie. we must fear God enough to obey Him. People can lose a healthy fear of God very easily. Without inspired revelation the people cast off restraint. The Feast of Tabernacles is a time to learn to fear God.

- Idolatry in the Day of Trumpets** There are parallels between the plagues of Exodus and in the Book of Revelation (rain/not rain, sea turning into blood, frogs, lice and flies, grass/cattle, grievous sores, hail, locusts, scorpions, darkness). This shows that the same God has acted in the past and will act in the future. Trumpets is a Wake Up to the people of this world to return to God and His laws.

The Good News of the Day of Trumpets Seven blessings in the Book of Revelation: to those who read, hear and keep the prophecy; die in the Lord; spiritually awake; called to wedding supper of the Lamb; part in first resurrection, keep the sayings of the prophecy and do His commandments - they have the right to the tree of life.

- The just are living by faith** Faith and works go together. I BELIEVE and therefore I DO. Faith is what you have until you receive the reality. He who is faithful in little is faithful in much. Take responsibility for your own life - believe intellectually and do actively.

- Satan has been very busy loosening and destroying, wherever possible, the “anchors of our soul”. For example: our concept of God - a being or just a thought; government in the church; our understanding of what “The Truth” is; doctrine linked to authority and obedience; the reality of our own personal calling; friendships in the church. Satan is involved in deception at different levels and we need to have a right respect for his power. We look forward to the time when Satan’s power and influence will be bound by God.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES - NOOSA HEADS

- **27 September 96 - Opening Night - Graemme Marshall**

Love runs cold when there is an increase in lawlessness. When Jacob wrestled with God, he would not let go of God until God blessed him. We must never let go of the Holy Days.

- **28 September 96 - First Holy Day - Orest Solyma**

Are we observing an Old Covenant law by being here? Israel offered animal sacrifices; we are to offer praise and thanksgiving - and our lives. We are being prepared as a nation of kings and priests to serve the whole world.

Jim Franks

(Chairman of the Doctrinal Committee)

Getting Lost. If you get lost you can lose your life. Two lessons from a hunter in Canada - never take a shortcut and always know your bearings. It takes God to open your mind, call you and lead you to the way of life. There is no shortcut to this way. You can lose your way and your salvation if you leave the path.

- **29 September 96**

Jim Franks

All people want to "belong", to be a family. The church should be a godly community where members are involved, hospitable and labourers together with the ministry. We need to care about each other, be less judgmental, practise the golden rule and make disciples.

- **30 September 1996**

Reg Wright

We should aim at living together in peace throughout the Feast. Blessed are the **peacemakers**. Peacemakers are active and leaders - as distinct from just being peaceful. Abraham took the initiative in resolving the conflict between his herdsmen and those of Lot.

- **1 October 1996**

Graemme Marshall

Hedges about God's vineyard. Even though we get into trouble, God will deliver us because He has a hedge of protection around us.

- **2 October 1996**

Free day for UCG - visited WCG at Caloundra.

- **3 October 1996**

Bill Winner

God's truth is absolute, unchanging and universal.

- **4 October 1996**

Orest Solyma

Take home from the Feast an increased awe for God, increased concern for those who love the truth, and an increase in grace and knowledge.

THE LAST GREAT DAY - NOOSA HEADS

• **5 October 1996**

Graemme Marshall

This day pictures a time of release for all slaves - actual and those enslaved to this world

Bill Winner

It takes a miracle for anyone to understand God's plan and we must keep this wonderful truth alive! God's attitude to all His creation is love. He does not want any to perish.

• **12 October 1996**

Robina

Bill Winner

True doctrine is vital. False doctrine destroys faith, and leads to confusion and division. God's Law brings peace of mind, faith and recognition of the truth. God's people recognise God's voice. Guard the truth with your life. If Satan destroys the knowledge of the truth he can destroy the church.

• **19 October 1996**

Holland Park

Reg Wright

Walking with God requires talking (through prayer) and listening (through Bible study). When we walk with God He blesses us, challenges us and transforms the way we think.

• **26 October 1996**

Truscott Street

Jim Carnochan

It takes time to seek after and get to know God and for God to get to know us.

Rex Lehmann

Don't become a casualty in the "great falling away"! Use the keys to endurance: keep your focus on God; build strong bonds of friendship; keep on studying the truth and keep praying.

• **2 November 1996**

Woonona

Bruce Dean

Our destiny is to become Gods - to receive the glory that God and Christ have now. This is a theme all through the Bible. This knowledge gives great meaning to family life. We need to be more caring and more tolerant of other members and other branches of the family.

• **9 November 1996**

Truscott Street

David Hulme (VIDEO)

Where is the world we are living in going? Where are we going? It is evident that God is working in UCG. Don't worry about insignificant things - they can impede your Christian progress. We have been called to a work of service.

- **16 November 1996** **Truscott Street** **Bruce Dean**

Pray for others. Our prayers reveal our motives. We should be interceding for others and praying for their encouragement.

- **23 November 1996** **Truscott Street** **Bruce Dean**

How do you measure success? A man's life consists not in the abundance of the things he possesses. Death is the great equaliser - it strips the rich of their riches and relieves the poor of their poverty. True success is to do the common duty, uncommonly well.

- **30 November 1996** **Woonona** **Bruce Dean**

Prophecy regarding the Figtree. Figtree and vine symbolise peace. Destruction of the figtree is loss of God's blessings. We must be showing some evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. God does not give up on us quickly.

- **7 December 1996** **Woonona** **Bruce Dean**

Do you ever feel guilty? You have to accept error before you can experience repentance. Then throw yourself on God's mercy and then change. Do not try to shift blame onto someone else.

- **14 December 1996** **Truscott Street** **Don Goodger**

(Deacon, East Melbourne, Chairman, National Financial Committee)

Paul calls the church the household of faith - an economic unit based on equity and sharing. If we are looking to man for solutions there is no hope. We must be utterly determined to do things God's way.

- **21 December 1996** **Truscott Street** **Bruce Dean**

We should not be doing something on the human level, eg. fasting, in order to force God to do something for us. This is like a magic ritual. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, from the Father.

- **28 December 1996** **Woonona** **Bruce Dean**

We need to rightly divide the Word of Truth - to try the spirits whether they are of God - not be turned aside by every wind of doctrine. If a doctrine does not match the plan of God, ignore it. Miracles do not equal either godliness or truth. There is no room in UCG for doctrinal loners - we work through a consensus.
