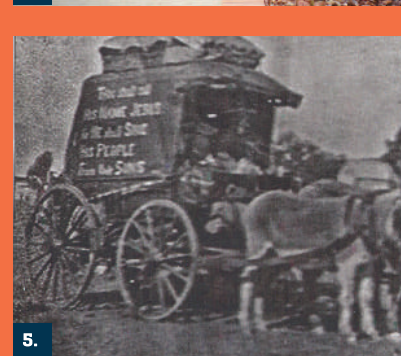
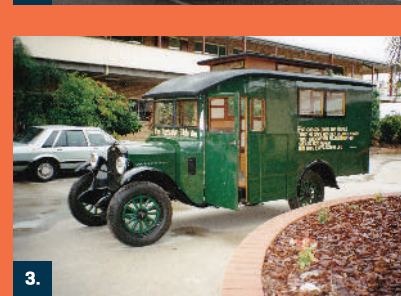


AUSTRALIA AND THE BIBLE

THE GREAT COMMISSION - SPREADING THE GOSPEL IN AUSTRALIA

Less than half of all Australians (45%) own a Bible. Yet, the command of Holy Scripture to Christians is **‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature’** – Mark 16:15.

Gospel Wagons, Vans and Carts



1. Robinson Gospel Wagon (1940s) 2. Bates & Flechman Van 3. The Australian Bible Van 4. Gospel Van of Mr & Mrs Smith (1930s) 5. Gospel Van in Doodnadda (1930s)

Gospel Caravans & Motor Homes

Some evangelists have spent many years travelling throughout Australia to spread the Gospel message of the Bible. One such couple were John (1936-2016) and Olive McDowell. One of John's personal goals was to ensure that every home in Australia received the Word of God, written down in leaflets.



John & Olive McDowell



MORE INFO

Bible verses on the Highways

Bible verses are displayed on the highways throughout Australia. This work was started around 1995 by John McDowell and is continued today by another evangelist, Clive Barber.



Bible verse on Highway

Bible Plaque Distribution throughout Australia

Many Christians throughout Australia donate their money, time and effort to distribution of Bible verses on plaques, tracts and other Christian literature.



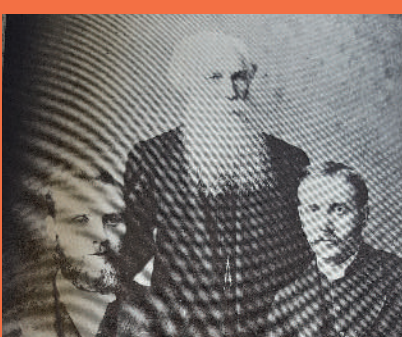
Stroud Show, NSW 2012



Guy Howell in Rundle Mall, Adelaide, 2013

Preaching and Teaching the message of the Bible

Many church buildings and public centres have been used to spread the message of the Bible. The evangelists pictured here travelled throughout Tasmania spreading the Word of God. They left behind a legacy which continues to this day in the many Biblical names found throughout the state of Tasmania. When you next visit Tasmania, look out for Garden of Eden, King Solomon's Cave, Paradise, Walls of Jerusalem and even Promised Land!



An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotsman spread the word in Tasmania - 1874



\$50 note showing David Unaipon

One famous evangelist in Australia was David Unaipon, the man on the \$50 note! David Unaipon, preacher, author and inventor (1872 - 1967) trained to be a Christian preacher to reach his own people of the Ngarrindjeri tribe. He was born on 28 September 1872 at Raukkan on the South Australian Christian Mission, Point McLeay, the fourth of nine children. He was known as the 'Black Australian Leonardo da Vinci' for developing the centrifugal motor, a multi-radial wheel and a mechanical propulsion device.

Organisations

Organisations like the **Bible Society** and the **Gideons** have articulated their purpose in distribution of the Bible.

Bible Society CEO, Greg Clarke says: 'We strive to lighten people's hearts with the knowledge of God's love for us as found in the Bible. The message of the Bible is summed up in that most famous of Bible verses, John 3:16: **‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life’**’.

Gideons "members are dedicated to saving the lost through personal witnessing and the distribution of God's Word".

Individuals led by the Spirit of God



Frank Jenner

One famous Australian who was used by God is **Frank Jenner** (1903 - 1977). His unique approach to evangelism was to approach strangers on George St, Sydney, and ask them the question, **‘If you were to die today, where would you spend eternity? Would it be Heaven or Hell?’** Jenner committed himself to asking this question to 10 people each day. Years would go by, until one after another stories emerged of people who were convicted by those simple words and turned to Christ as Saviour.

Mr Eternity, or rather Mr Arthur Stace, was an Australian soldier. God saved him from alcoholism and he learned to write in beautiful copperplate writing the simple but searching word, 'Eternity'. He secretly wrote this during the night hours on the pavements of Sydney. Stace's identity remained secret until revealed in a newspaper article in 1956. It is estimated he wrote the word, 'Eternity' on the streets of Sydney over half a million times. God used this message of Biblical significance to make many people think about their eternal destiny, and turn to the God of the Bible. At



The aluminium replica Eternity at Town Hall Square, Sydney

midnight of the new year 2000, the word 'Eternity' was emblazoned across Sydney harbour bridge, a testament to one man's legacy for God.

HOW WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?

Writers

As shown by the OT and NT time-line charts, the men who wrote the Bible lived at different times. The lives of these men were often separated by thousands of years and in many cases, the writers never met each other. Other writers who lived in the same era weren't always in the same place or had the opportunity to talk to one another.

All of the OT Scriptures were written in the ancient Hebrew language. Parts of the book of Daniel, Ezra and occasional statements in the NT are in Aramaic. With the exception of a small handful of quotations, the vast majority of the NT was written in the ancient Koine Greek language.

Divine Inspiration

God spoke in and through

- dreams
- visions
- symbols
- emblems
- animals
- birds
- precious metals
- events and objects

As we study the Bible, we discover that God did not just speak "by the prophets," but spoke "in them". That is, their lives were often an object lesson for them and for us.

Consider Moses, Elijah, Daniel, Jeremiah. Their life experiences (not only the words they spoke) teach us something about God's ways, His mind and His perfect and sovereign will.

God used

THE LANGUAGE & VOCABULARY OF

Rabbi
Shepherds
Tax Collector
Fugitive
Fishermen
Political Leader
Scribe
Military General
Tent Maker
Poet
King
Judge
Peasant
Confusion
Depression
Confidence
Uncertainty
Sorrow
Contentment
Hope
Joy
Fear
Happiness
Peace



MORE INFO

THE MOODS & EMOTIONS OF

THE LITERARY TECHNIQUES OF

Law
Song
Prophecy
Poetry
Satire
Parable
Treatise
Romance
History
Memoir
Allegory

HEBREWS 1:1

The Bible says that God spoke to the writers "in many portions and in many ways".

2 PETER 1:20-21

"Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost".

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God".

DID YOU KNOW?

- The original Greek word for "inspiration" is literally "God-breathed."
- The Greek word for "moved" has the idea of wind blowing the sails of a ship, driving her along.

THE NAME JESUS IN

GREEK
Ἰησοῦς
HEBREW
ישוע
ARAMAIC
ܝܫܘܥ



FUN FACT

Not once in the 1,600-year history of the Bible's formation did later writers correct what others wrote before. In fact, not one single word in the original or copied manuscripts has ever been updated or changed!

Consider Wikipedia. Born in 2001, it is still less than twenty years old. Although it is well respected and trusted by almost everyone, it has seen thousands, if not millions, of revisions and corrections to the text. Visit any page in Wikipedia and click on 'View History' to see just how many times each page receives a correction!

When communicating God's word, the writers regularly remind us of His inspiration by using statements like

"THUS SAITH THE LORD" "THE LORD SPOKE UNTO"
"THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME UNTO ME" SAYING."

John, one of the writers, says in Revelation 1:10-11

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, what thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia.