



CONTENDER

“contending earnestly for the faith...” Jude:3

Editorial

Another year of Contender. Also another year closer to the coming of our Saviour and the end of our lives. The question arises: how are we to make good use of the time we are granted? As youth living in Australia, the Lord has blessed us very richly and there are many different things we can do with our time. So much to achieve, so much to enjoy. While it is good to be achieving and enjoying life in God's creation, it is also important to ask - do I take enough time each day for personal prayer and Bible reading? Actively communicating with our Creator and Redeemer is not only an essential part of a Christian's life, but it also motivates and equips us for our daily activities.

In Romans 13:10-12 we read: “now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

As editors it is our wish that the Contender in 2003, with the blessing of God and the support of the youth, will be a useful tool in helping the youth in their lives as God's children.

* * *

This issue features a review of *Tassie 2003 Youth Convention*, which from all accounts was a great success. Well done to the organizing committee for their huge efforts. Also a big thank you for providing Contender with this review.

■ **Andrew van Burgel**

March 2003 Vol 8 Number 1

In this edition

Editorial

Andrew van Burgel.....1

Tassie Youth Convention 2003.....2

Convention Committee



**MAGAZINE FOR THE YOUTH OF THE
FREE REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA**

Tassie 2003 - Salt and Light

Day One

On January 6th 2003, about 70 Youth from the Congregations of Western Australia and Tasmania gathered in the car park of the Free Reformed Church of Launceston to begin Tassie 2003 - Salt and Light. The day began at 12:00 p.m., a little after breakfast for many people holidaying in the beautiful Apple Isle. A car rally was to bring them to their convening point at the base of the Western Tiers, otherwise known as Poatina. The rally was organised to take about one and a half hours, but many were navigationally challenged and took between two hours and five hours!

As each convoy arrived at Poatina, they received their convention packs containing their workbooks and t-shirts. They were also assigned their accommodation ranging from houses to hostels to motel rooms. The conveners were then able to explore the village of Poatina and engage in various recreational activities.

Dinner was a BBQ at 6 p.m. followed by some ice-breaking activities, which involved people being pegged and acting like various animals.

One of the main guest speakers, Mr. Antoon Breen, gave his introductory speech on being a salt and a light in this world. The speeches main focus was the themes origin taken from Matthew 5:1-20. Mr Breen explained the practical purposes of light and salt and how they relate to our spiritual task. He explained salt as being a penetrating force and light as shining brightly throughout the world. This was a very encouraging speech and gave us spiritual energy for our study for the rest of the week.

At around 9.30 most people returned to their sleeping quarters to gain some well-deserved sleep. (Especially the main committee who returned to their sleeping quarters much later after an evening meeting).

Day Two

Today started like any other Tasmanian day; the sun was shining, the birds were tweeting, there was wind rustling through the trees... a beautiful Tasmanian day! The Executive Committee was up at the crack of dawn putting the final touches to the plan of the day.

It was Day 2 of Tassie 2003. People emerged from their humble abodes around the Poatina Village to have breakfast at the main hall. Breakfast was either cereal or toast with a cup of tea or coffee.

The day started with a speech by Rev Kroeze from the Free Reformed Church of Legana. Rev Kroeze used his vast knowledge and experience in evangelism to give us an overview of what the Message is that needs to be preached to the world. This was examined in the following way:

- Adam and Eve rebelled against God (the King).
- Rebellion against God deprived them of life.
- The rebellion meant that God's kingship was in dispute. To resolve this dispute He was going to re-establish His kingship. The people demanded earthly kings, but these kingships failed.
- The dispute was and is resolved when Jesus Christ died on the cross for each and everyone of us!
- God is King, He created the world and governs it (Bel Conf. Art 13). There has never been a time when He has not been King, not been in control of everything, even Satan.

We then divided into discussion groups to further examine what the Message is. Many of us found that although we know what the Message is we found it difficult to verbalise or write it down.

Upcoming Issues

The next 2 issues planned for Contender are:

War on Terror (deadline 26 March)

- some suggestions: *Is there a Christian attitude to war?*
Can there be a 'just' war?
Under what circumstance should Iraq be attacked?
Should there be a war on Terror? etc.

Witnessing (deadline 7 May)

- some suggestions: *How should we witness?*
How do we demonstrate a godly walk of life?
Is a godly walk of life enough?
Should we have organised evangelism?
How can we be pro-active? etc.

To make this magazine a success, we need **YOUR** input. Please consider if you are able to write on the above topics and share your views for the building up of each other in faith. Articles on different topics are also welcome.

We have the following guidelines for articles:

- a maximum of 1000 words (short thoughts also welcome);
- appropriately referenced;
- based on Biblical reasoning, not personal opinions; and
- texts from NKJV unless otherwise referenced.

If you would like assistance in writing an article, please contact your nearest editor.

Lunch was then on the agenda. Lunch is a vital part of any convention as it enables participants to relax and regain some vital vitamins and minerals to help each and every individual cope with the afternoon activities.

The afternoon was a typical hot Tasmanian day, so in their wisdom, the Entertainment Committee decided to have a Team Iron Man competition. This competition required participants to go through a number of gruelling events. Four teams did the following events:

- Backwards running relay
- Crowd surfing relay
- Buckets with holes relay
- Diving for spoons in the pool
- Apple bobbing directly followed by searching for a marshmallow in flour!

Each of the teams did themselves proud! They successfully made fools of themselves and did it with pride.

After an afternoon of exertion the participants enjoyed a well-earned rest. During this time the groups for Red Faces practiced their act for the evenings entertainment.

Dinner, like lunch was a chance to catch up and eat!

The evening entertainment was a Red Faces Competition! The esteemed judges were Mr and Mrs Breen and John Wielstra. The first act was without a doubt a hard act to follow, the committee started the night with an act called the Blue Collar Workers: The Button Factory. This act required the committee to act in ways we would rather not do again! We did, without a doubt, start the night off with a bang!

Each group performed a unique act, many of which made us laugh! The highlight and winner of the night was a group who interpreted the day in mime and music. Occasionally the music would stop and the group froze. Their unique perspective on the day provided the audience with an exclusive look at the world according to Bruce, Bruce, Ally, Brad and Ashley.

The evening was highly entertaining and showed that among the young people of the Free Reformed churches we have many comedians,

actors and people who in general don't mind making a fool of themselves!! :)

The evening was drawn to a close with a devotion by John Wielstra. John drew our attention to the power of the tongue with an African Fable. The moral of this fable told us that the tongue is not only an uplifting instrument but also an instrument that can cause much pain and grief.

Day Three

Wednesday was conducted by Mr Breen. The day included three speeches, two workshops and a presentation evening.

The focus of the day was on the ten commandments and the Lord's Prayer, and how they teach us to be a salt and light in this world. Mr Breen spoke about the commandments in relation to what is forbidden and what is required from each commandment.

In the workshops we made lists from our own lives of the forbidden and required aspects. The presentation evening consisted of each group outlining what they had discussed and achieved in the two workshops.

This was a very busy day, but Mr Breen kept us all engaged with his varied and interesting stories. We were quite impressed with his repertoire!

Day Four

Thursday morning began with many people rising much earlier than they would have liked due to a shortening of the breakfast period. This was used as a scare tactic by the main committee, although it didn't seem to work very well, with a number of conventioners opting to sleep in. Little did they know that the day would begin with an entertainment activity, rather than a speech, as had been the case on the previous days.

The activity was battle of the sexes, which involved the girls pitting themselves against the boys in a number of events. The boys were happy to find out that they were the overall winners, and took their win with grace and dignity

(this did involve lots of cheering and yahooing!!). Some of the events were a quiz, shave the balloon race, tug of war and a coke sculling competition. The coke sculling created a number of queasy and nauseous people, especially when they had to roll a tyre around straight afterwards. A certain person from Albany looked very close to bringing the coke straight back up, and turned various shades of white and green in the following minutes.

After all the fun and games, Rev. Kroeze held another speech on the renewed messenger. This involved speaking about us as messengers of God's word, and how the messenger begins with the love of God. We are called to speak God's word, but cannot do this if we are not spiritually ready. Rev. Kroeze asked some very probing questions about our lives as Christian youth, and how our actions are a reflection of our heart. He got under our skin, and made us realise that we cannot live with the world, as we are here to be messengers of Christ. He made us uncomfortable with his questions, as many of them were much too close to home.

After the speech we had a lively discussion in our groups about some more specific ways in which we can be true messengers of Christ in this world.

The afternoon involved creating a convention mural, and plenty of free time. By this stage of the week many people were more than happy to kick back and relax.

During the evening, the congregations from Launceston and Legana came to Poatina for a presentation night. This included a sing-a-long, presentations of what we had been doing for the week, and some Red Faces acts. The night was enjoyed by all, especially the singing of spiritual songs and hymns, which were led by Fred Bosveld (guitar), Heidi Elgersma (guitar), Martin Mol (bass) and Amanda Bosveld (flute).

Day Five

The day began a bit later than usual, and this time breakfast was extended due to many conventioners (esp. the main committee!) suffering from a lack of sleep. The day began with our final speech by Rev. Kroeze. He spoke about

the delivery of the message in regards to evangelism and also his experiences as a missionary in Brazil. One of the key points (in the context of building a church on the missionary field) was that the Lord often gives us people whom we consider of no use and worthless to our cause. Rev. Kroeze learnt through this that the Lord always knows best, and His plan will be fulfilled in His way. We, as humans, have an idea of what we want, but often this is not what we are given. In this way we have to trust in the Lord.....

The main point that Rev. Kroeze wanted us to take from convention was that Jesus is Lord. He also urged us to use this as our starting point for evangelism. If we believe this, and trust in Him with our whole heart, we will be blessed, and walk with Him throughout our whole lives.

After this, cleaning up was then the agenda of the day. Many hands make light work and this was certainly the case on this day. With everyone pitching in it didn't take much time at all!!! Because we were so quick, we still had time for the WA versus Tassie soccer match. We are pleased to announce that Tasmania won (home ground advantage), with the score being 6-3. This now brings the WA/Tassie rivalry to 1-1. No doubt this will be an ongoing rivalry at conventions to come.

The committee would like to thank everyone involved for making Tassie 2003 such a roaring success. We would like to especially thank the speakers for all of their time and effort. It was greatly appreciated, and without them the convention would not have happened. Thank you also to Mr John Wielstra for his well pointed devotion. We would also like to thank the musicians for leading the singing on Thursday evening. Community singing is a very enriching experience and everyone enjoyed it greatly.

Also, thanks to all the Western Australians for coming over. We can't wait to see you all again, so come back anytime!

Lastly, thank you to all the youth from WA and Tassie for your enthusiasm and participation in all events. We pray that you have been enriched and encouraged through convention Tassie 2003.

■ **Tassie 2003 Youth Convention Committee**

Summary of Convention Speeches

1. The message

Rev. J Kroeze

Reading: Romans 1:1-17: The job of Paul in bringing the gospel and what he believed about that Gospel.

We all know the message. It does not mean that we know what to say or what the focus is. To be able to evangelise, we need to be able to know the message well.

The word evangelism is related to the word gospel. They both mean good news. It is good news to those who love the Lord. Good news is good for some i.e. those who love the Lord and bad news for those who don't.

The word mission is used to describe those who are sent to bring the word, and the preaching of the word is evangelism. There is a better word for us than evangelists: we are all called to be prophets. We are to confess the name of the Lord. We all are to be prophets. It is our obligation. Each and every Christian is to be a prophet wherever we are in the home, at school or the workplace.

Adam and Eve rebelled against God (the King) and rebellion against God deprived them of life. If we want to talk about the Gospel, we need to bring it to bear on these two things. God is King, He created the world and governs it (Bel Conf. Art 13). There has never been a time when He has not been King, not been in control of everything, even Satan.

The rebellion meant that God's kingship was in dispute. To resolve this dispute He was going to re-establish His kingship. The people demanded earthly kings, but these kingships failed. These failed kingships led to the exile. During this time there were no earthly kings. John the Baptist came to declare that the Kingdom of Heaven was near.

The gospel message given in the Gospels is firstly the re-establishment of the reign of God by a man i.e. The Lord Jesus Christ. When we bring the gospel the first element we need to speak about is that the Kingdom of God has been re-established. Jesus told Nicodemus that no-one can enter the

kingdom of Heaven unless they are born again (John 3).

The central question in the gospel is "Who is Jesus Christ?" Jesus Christ is LORD, if we believe in Him we shall be saved (Rom 10:9). The gospel that we are to bring is that Jesus is LORD over us and all men need to submit to Him.

What sort of King is Jesus? He implements God's rule and establishes a kingdom of righteousness according to God's word. If we see someone doing something they should not, we can tell them that they are not living according to the rules of the Kingdom of God. It is our duty to profess the rules of this kingdom and tell others how to live by them. As a result we may be ostracized, but it is our task.

The implementation of God's Kingdom demands Judgement. Jesus will judge the world (Rom 2:16). God will condemn the guilty and will pardon those who repent and believe. Both of these judgements are just. Jesus offers Himself for us as both priest and King. As priest He offers Himself for us. The king of the kingdom offers Himself for us. A righteous king condemns the guilty and pardons those who repent.

God rules the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ and we must submit to Him. We need to keep this in mind when we are doing any kind of evangelistic work. This message needs to be central to anything we say in bringing the Gospel. This is often met with resistance, because the human nature suppresses the truth that Christ is Lord and resists the rule of God. This gospel message fits each and every situation of evangelism, even though it may not be accepted, but those who belong to God will listen to His voice and follow Him.

Plenary Session - Questions raised.

Q. If you have the gift of listening how can you be a prophet?

A. If you are a person who is good at listening, people will often bring their trouble to you. This is beneficial as people who are in trouble are often

open to the message of the gospel. They are willing to listen to how the Lord will help them in their situation. If you have learned to listen to God first, you will be able to listen to others and give them the help they need.

Q. What are the different ways of bringing evangelism?

A. The most effective way of bringing the gospel is by inviting people to come to church. People will argue that church will be 'too high' or difficult to newcomers to the church. If a person is brought to church and they don't understand, they will ask a friend or relative what is being said. As long as the church is functioning properly i.e proper communion of saints, they will function effectively as body of Christ gathering sheep. E.g talking to visitors.

Q. How important is strong knowledge of Bible?

A. You have to have a mental framework of the gospel. Everybody has enough knowledge to bring the gospel. You must have knowledge of what you are trying to achieve i.e. what is Scripture aiming at? If you have the establishment of God's Kingdom in mind you will have the correct focus. We do not need to try to prove that God exists. They know that He exists, they have suppressed this knowledge. We need to awaken this knowledge in them. We need to tell them if they are sinning. When addressing people, we need to ensure that we tell them that this is what God says.

2. Taming the Tongue

Mr John Wielstra

It began with a story. It is an old African legend. An old African chief who cared for his tribe had to choose a successor before he died. This caused him to be very anxious. A chief and thus the successor was to be a ruler, a problem solver, one who solved tribal disputes, he was a decision maker and most importantly the leader of the tribe. The tribal chief was usually a very wise man.

After quite some time the chief found a successor, but before he was to be initiated as the tribal leader and chief, the chief devised a test to see if he was a capable man and up to the task of being a leader of the tribe. As we know to be a leader takes a lot of courage, he was to be a problem solver, decision maker and guide. He was

to rule the tribe in harmony.

The soon to be retiring chief summoned the potential successor into his small clay hut and outlined the challenge for the young would be successor. The successor stood humbly before the chief.

"Young man," the chief said sternly, "prepare for me two meals, the first one tomorrow evening for dinner is to be of the very best and finest food that you have. And then the following evening the very worst meal that you have to offer".

The next day the young man went to work and did his best and prepared the best possible meal for the chief. At dinner time the young man served the food on huge plater and brought it over to the chief who was waiting for him in his hut.

The food looked and smelled magnificent. It had the best sweet potatoes and other vegetables cooked to perfection. It also had a nice roasted cow tongue sliced into thin cutlets.

The chief without expression accepted the dinner and silently ate the food as the young man looked on. When the chief finished he looked up and asked, "Why the tongue?"

The young man boldly said, "It is the best part we have as it speaks words of truth, comfort, gives courage, strengthens integrity, shows love and harmony, it gives us our good character and most importantly holds this village together". The chief was impressed and he eagerly looked forward to the meal he was going to receive the following day.

The following evening the young man again entered the chief's hut with a meal that was to be his worst. He again humbly placed the dish before the chief's feet. The chief silently accepted the food, but was flabbergasted at what he saw. It was the same meal as the night before. Silently and without expression the chief ate the food, and when finished he asked, "Why?"

Again the young man boldly spoke, "It is the best part we have, but it is also the worst part we have! It can rip people apart, say words of anger and discouragement, spreads lies and deceit, slander and also it has the power to destroy our families and tribe".

The old chief sat and thought and slowly nodded his head. He knew he had made the right choice. He had chosen a successor who was a

wise man to lead the tribe.

Our tongue is a strange little part of the body, and the Bible has many words for it. Throughout the Bible it mentions many kinds of tongues (see examples in box).

Our tongue reveals our character. We have the excitable, articulate and loud persons. The person who yaps like a steam train is called talkative, the one who doesn't wag his tongue is called quiet, and so we can all look at ourselves and put ourselves into a certain category. Amazing isn't it!

Have you ever heard the old sayings about the tongue?

- Think twice before you speak once!
- A long tongue shortens friendships!
- Keep your tongue between your teeth!

Remember, one day you will answer to God for the words you say.

The apostle James also spoke about the tongue. He says that it is, "... a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts..." He calls the tongue, "...a fire, a world of

evil among the parts of the body.... It is a restless evil full of deadly poison..... With it comes praise and cursing." (James 3:2-10)

Psalm 64:3 calls the tongue a sword. This sword has certainly damaged, bruised, wounded and killed more people than all the swords in all the wars since history began. We have all seen it so many times, but then the damage has been done.

Let us control the tongue. This uncontrollable little red rebel that lives in a large red cave and guarded by two rows of white soldiers called teeth, needs controlling.

Again we have heard the saying: a rolling stone gathers no moss, but a rolling story gathers something fresh every time we say it. Gossip, is it upbuilding? Do we thrive on it? Hear what Proverbs 10:19 says: "...When words are many sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise..."

Does not Paul warn us: "...Do not let any

unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen... get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you..." (Eph. 4:22-31)

Let us look at what David says in Psalm 39:1 "...I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth ..." Colossians 4:6 "... Let your conversation be always full of grace and seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone..."

Finally in Psalm 15, King David gives us a beautiful instruction:

"LORD, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who

speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbour no wrong and casts no slur on his fellow-man, who despises a vile man but honours those who fear the LORD, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, who lends his

Mischievous and wicked tongue	Psalm 10:7
Perverted tongue	Proverbs 10:31, 17:20
Healing tongue	Proverbs 12:18
Backbiting tongue	Proverbs 25:23
Deceitful tongue	Psalm 120:2
Destructive tongue	Proverbs 17:4
Soft tongue	Proverbs 25:15
Soothing tongue	Proverbs 15:4
Flattering tongue	Psalm 5:9
Lying tongue	Psalm 109:2 & Proverbs 6:17
Proud tongue	Psalm 12:3, 73:9

money without usury and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken..."

So let us not one minute praise God and afterwards curse man. Let us not one minute use our tongues to speak holy things and then the next speak unholy things. As you can see the tongue is an index to the heart. Our words reflect what is in the heart. If we love sport, we tend to talk and focus on sport. If we love money, we tend to talk money. If there is bitterness in our hearts it will come through in how we say it. If there is hatred it will also become evident.

Let our speech always be with grace and seasoned with salt. Be a light on the hill and radiate our love for Christ, that our neighbours may be won for Christ.

But let us always be careful what we say and how we say it. Think before we blurt something out and control the tongue.

THINK: what a wonderful acronym.

- T** - Speak truthfully.
- H** - Is it helpful or does it break down?
- I** - Will it inspire and upbuild?
- N** - Is it necessary what I am saying (not gossip)?
- K** - Is it kind?

Let us pray that the Lord will teach us to hold our tongue and set watch at the door of our lips so that our speech will always be seasoned with grace. That our speech will be edifying, uplifting and upbuilding and most importantly to the honour and glory of God.

Footnote: Texts quoted are NIV

3. Preparing the messenger

Mr A Breen

Reading: Luke 8:16 - 21.

The Law of God and the Lord's prayer are connected to each other. Prohibitions and petitions. Law and prayer = covenantal communication between the Father and child.

Professor Schilder's 3 Norms:

1. Unchangeable Norms.

We are to be God's image. We are His child and steward. We reflect the glory of God in Jesus Christ. We do not make God's image we are God's image.

2. Changing Dispensations.

The Old Testament and New Testament. There were ceremonial laws that have been fulfilled in Christ. There were also civil laws. What has been changed? The Bible itself indicates the changes, this requires study. Since the split of the curtain in the temple during Christ's death the old ceremonial laws have been fulfilled.

3. Changeable Forms.

We constantly have to consider the current situation. The invariable commandments have to be considered in variable situations. We need to consider our Christian lifestyles as we need to remember that we are the Salt and Light of the world.

The application of the 3 Forms in the Law of God - The 10 Commandments. We need to

consider what is forbidden and what is required.

1st Commandment - Forbidden: We are not to worship any other god's, instead of or in addition to God. Required: We are to serve God in the way He has revealed.

We know the idols of this age - money, cars, sports, work, houses, etc. The Lord gives us what we need to be able to work for Him. Nature is the product of intelligent creation. It is not the result of a big bang, but of God's almighty word. If creation is the result of a big bang, we must assume the energy was present and eternal. Where does the energy come from? There must be a God. We must be thankful that we have God's word and that He has revealed Himself to us in His word.

2nd Commandment - Forbidden: Self-willed religion. Required: Faithful service to God.

The second commandment points to how we need to be God's image, how we need to be His stewards and children. We cannot see God, but we should listen to Him. By criticising the Bible, we are making it suit our own desires: self-willed religion. By clinging to fossilised traditions we are not serving God (going through the church motions) - serving without conviction - church becomes a museum. Do not serve God subjectively - going by our own convictions - conviction without confession - church becomes a store - i.e. something for everyone. We must confess the absolute truth to the world and not be ashamed of the message that we must bring. Not sure ism = Not sure whether you will commit yourself to Christ

3rd Commandment - Forbidden: Misuse of the name. Required: Respect for God.

Why is blaspheming such a sin? For no sin is greater than the blaspheming of His name. That is why He commanded that it be punished with death. Yahweh means to be. God is with us. I am who I am. Those who curse God receive the mark of the beast. Those who have the father's name on their foreheads will be called to the marriage feast.

4th Commandment - Forbidden: Ignorance or destruction of the monument of redemption. Commanded: Serve God weekly and daily.

How have we founded the Sunday as a day of rest biblically? Directly people will say that the fourth commandment speaks about the Sabbath day and we can apply this day to the Sunday. Indirectly people say that Sunday is the day of the worship service therefore we cannot do any work.

The fourth commandment forbids work on the Old Testament Sabbath. We conclude that Christ in the day of His resurrection has declared the Sunday as the new Sabbath. Works of necessity, religion and mercy are allowed on the Sabbath. E.g. as a necessity David had to eat the showbread when being chased by Saul, the priests had to do their work on the Sabbath and Jesus healed on the Sabbath. The Sunday is a memorial that Christ rose on the Sunday and gave us redemption.

5th Commandment - Forbidden: Dishonour to those in authority. Required: Honour to those in authority.

The fifth commandment is the first commandment to have a promise. It is that it may be well with us and that we will live long. Without authority there is chaos. Those who submit to authority shall experience God's blessing.

6th Commandment - Forbidden: Illegal Killing. Required: Respect is required for life from beginning to end.

The temples of the Holy Spirit are recognised by the fruit of the spirit, Galatians 5. We are to love our neighbour as ourselves. Life is precious: handle with care.

Alcohol can lead to problems. Alcohol is not the cause of the problem. We should not be drunk with alcohol, we should not be filled with 'spirits' but with the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:20.

7th Commandment - Forbidden: Unfaithfulness. Required: A pure life.

When we are trying to convey a message we need to ensure what we say is clear and not misunderstood. The Lord created us with love. Sex outside of marriage can cause a breakdown. Sex itself is not sinful. We are not to misuse the gift of sex. 1 Corinthians 6:13. In the world the gift of sex has been misused and perverted. Sex without love will cause destruction.

8th Commandment - Forbidden: Stealing. Required: Generous, charitable life.

Love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, 1 Timothy 6. We are allowed to own money as long as the money does not own us. Matthew 7:11 God will provide us with all things we need. We often miss God's blessings because we can't see past our own desires.

9th Commandment - Forbidden: False witness against the neighbour. Required: Live truthful, true and trusting.

The tongue, although a small member of the body, can be like fire, James 3. It can destroy people. Satan tries to destroy people with the lie. Everyone who is with the truth hears Jesus' truth. What about the lie of necessity? White lies? Lying for the benefit of my wrongly oppressed neighbour can be a royal office.

10th Commandment - Forbidden: Any wrong or evil desire. Required: Our whole life in Love.

Covetousness is desire. Desire can be bad. We should desire to live according to God's law.

Commandments 5 - 10 Commandments are in phases:

Phase 1 - Focusing on the wrong desire

Phase 2 - Dreaming of the life, money or spouse of another

Phase 3 - The planning to deprive someone of their life, spouse or money

Phase 4 - The taking of someone's life, spouse or money.

4. The renewed messenger

Rev. J Kroeze

Reading: 1 Peter 2:9-3:7

You cannot be a messenger of God if you are not in service of Him. If you ever want to evangelise you have to begin with yourself. We are prophets. That means we need to submit to God and to speak the word of God. If you don't do both then you are not a very effective prophet. The renewed messenger begins with love of God and his neighbour. We are called to speak God's word. There is a temptation in evangelism to be too aggressive or too lovey dovey. Neither approach is correct. As a prophet we firstly want our God to be glorified and secondly we love mankind. As prophets and soldiers of God we need to speak the word of God in love. When people turn against the word of God we must turn against them.

To do that is not always easy. When we speak we often get scared due to fear of rejection. How then do we speak? We must talk as renewed

messengers. We must trust in God and believe that He will provide us with strength in the Lord. If we are prophets and warriors we rely on and speak the word of God. Ephesians 6: The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. We don't have to convert them or persuade them to believe, we only have to speak the words of the Lord. If we want to speak the words of God and are shown opposition we need to get strength. We need to walk the path of obedience ourselves if we are to receive strength.

The messenger must be a living embodiment of the gospel. We need to show in our lives that Jesus is Lord. If we do not, everyone who hears our words will not believe the message we bring. If we can say I have put my feet on the paths of the Lord, then we can speak. It does not mean that we are perfect, but that we show in our daily walk of life that we are Christians.

When we are born and grow we receive gifts or talents. These gifts need to be used in the service of the Lord.

We need to witness even amongst our own friends. If we would not let them walk across a road blindfolded, why would we let them walk down the path to hell? We should ensure that amongst ourselves we witness to each other.

At work we need to witness to the truth as well. We should show that we are children of God. We should stand out as children and not join in activities that are not what God would want.

It is not easy to be a salt and light in this world. It is not easy at first, but it improves with practice. The tension is always there, it does not go away. We must trust that God will provide us with the strength we need.

■ **Tassie 2003 Youth Convention Committee**

Shopping on Sunday ?

The Government of WA is calling for public comment on shopping hours. It has released a discussion paper with several options - some allowing Sunday trading and others banning Sunday trading.

We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to witness our Christian viewpoint to the Government.

Submissions should be sent in by 10 April to:

Retail Hours Review Committee
15th Floor, 197 St George's Tce
PERTH WA 6000


The Government is particularly interested in arguments that restricted trading hours are in the "public interest". Without this it stands to lose significant competition payments from the Commonwealth.

Quoting from its media statement:

"Dr Gallop said his Government recognised the implications of change were significant and it was vital the views of the community were canvassed. ... A final decision will be made later this year"

If you require help with writing or would like more information, contact your nearest SPYSC member or go to <http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/reviews/retailtradinghours/>

Social & Political Youth Study Club (SPYSC)



WAR IN IRAQ - THE DEBATE

It's been on the front pages of most recent papers,
and a hot conversation topic.

George Bush... Saddam Hussein... Tony Blair... United
Nations... Disarmament... Muslims

What should our Christian viewpoint be on all this?
Can we believe everything the media portrays?
Should we be joining the peace activists, or should we
be backing our Prime Minister in his push for war?

Come along to our next SPYSC meeting for what
promises to be a lively and informative debate on this
topic. We'll have speakers presenting arguments on
both sides of the case, followed by a group discussion
on the issue.

Date: 7.30pm, Tuesday 11th March 2003

Place: Room 12, John Calvin Christian College

Voting will also take place in the course of the
evening for a new committee member.

Any questions... please contact one of your SPYSC
committee.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Stephen Posthuma (9497 9470)

Andrew van Burgel (9399 2738)

Hester Bax (9399 6013)

Natalie Kleyn (9498 1602)

CONTENDER

Aim:

Romans 12:2 teaches all of God's people:

*"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed
by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what
is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

This magazine will encourage its readers to earnestly
contend for the faith, and to think and act Biblically,
in the good traditions of the Church of all ages. Its
basis is God's word, as the Church confesses in the
Three Forms of Unity. It is intended for the younger
members of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia,
and is produced in co-operation with the Una Sancta.
Subscription to the Contender is automatic with
subscription to the Una Sancta.

It is not meant to be exclusively for unmarried members
who still attend the Youth Bible Study Clubs, but for all
those who fit within the loose parameters of 16 to 30
years of age.

Editorial Board

Mick ten-Haaf

Kristy Gunnink

Andrew van Burgel

Bruce Huizinga

Frank Janssen

Lindsay Bergsma

Editorial Address

2 Haimlee Street, Kelmscott 6111

tenhaam@frsa.asn.au