

# The encourager

THE MAGAZINE OF ELEVATE CHRISTIAN DISABILITY TRUST

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# Celebrating 150 issues!





# *A gem cannot be polished without friction*

Over the years **Margie Willers** has been one of our main contributors with a seemingly endless supply of deep, thought-provoking articles. Most cover a couple of pages, some even go over two issues, but as space does not allow in this special edition, Margie is represented here by this devotion which she wrote for the magazine back in 1999.



## *Testings*

**F**aith is not passive. Faith is action! Peter had to give foot to faith ....as he did so a significant thing happened – he walked on water!

Miracles happen when we are moving in faith. But that's not the end of the story. When he saw the boisterous winds and waves Peter became afraid, and beginning to sink he cried, "Lord, save me!"

What happened to Peter can happen to us all when we are double-minded about things. Peter stepped out of the boat in faith, and was moving to the Lord. Everything was going well – He was in the midst of a miracle, and then – he was tested!

Testings are a part of God's purposes. He will test everything that happens to us – the good and the bad. With every step of faith some kind of test will come our way. It's a spiritual principle!

Let's look more closely at Peter's test – he took his eyes off his Source. As long as he kept his eyes on the Lord, he was fine. But then, distracted by circumstances, he suddenly realized how impossible it was to be doing what he was doing and he panicked! (I know the feeling!)

The situation is looked upon in the natural, and no longer from God's perspective. He stopped walking in the Spirit and began to walk in the flesh. We will never make it in our own ability.....Never!

Jesus watched Peter begin to sink, yet He didn't make a move until Peter asked for help! God wants us to move in 'supernatural realms' – there are many times we will need to call on His help. And, supernatural help is available. The only way we will receive this is to cry out for it. Note that Jesus' response was immediate. Many who start out in 'faith' often fail the test. They end up swimming, not walking.

When tested they think, "Oh, no, God's not going to see me through." They resort back to their own strength and resources. Now, there's nothing wrong with swimming, except when God wants you to walk on water!

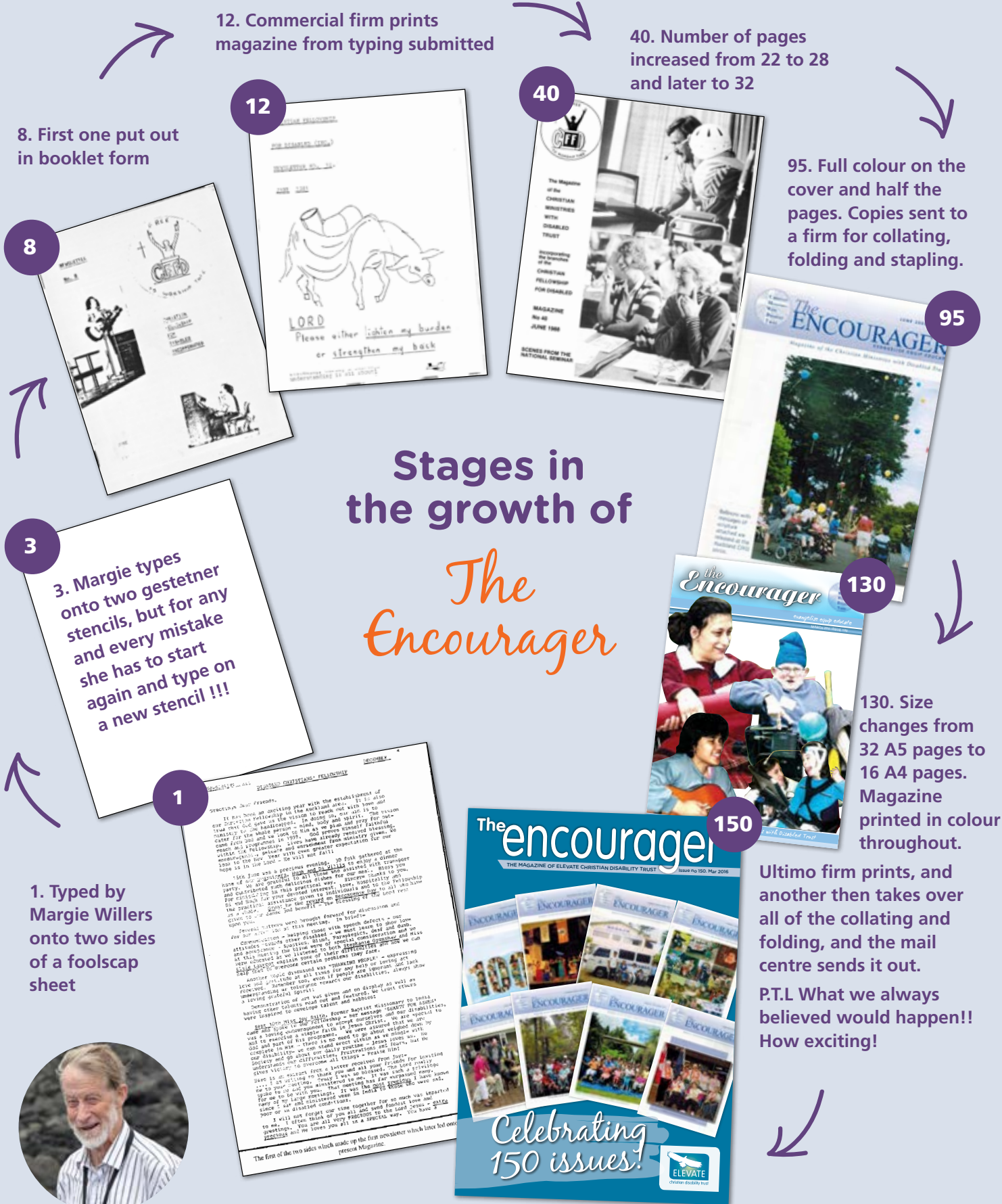
The most important cry, "Lord Save Me", is for the salvation of a soul, but we also need saving from materialism, fears, doubts and various other hang-ups before we can move upward and onward into GOD'S GREATER PURPOSES.

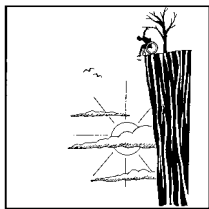
Sometimes God takes us through 'troubled waters' – not to drown us, but to cleanse us! "Lord, Save Me", was the desperate cry when Peter felt himself sinking. It was a positive prayer we all need to pray, but there's no need to wait until it comes to – Glug, Glug, Glug!!!! and we go under! ■ **Magazine 59**

## *THOUGHTS ON A PHYSICAL HANDICAP*

May I remind you that physical illness is not the worst thing that can happen to us. Some of the most twisted, miserable people I have ever met had no physical handicap. Some of the world's greatest and most useful people have been handicapped. "Messiah" was composed by Handel, who was suffering from a paralysed right side and arm. Catherine Booth said, in the last year of her life, that she could not remember one day free from pain. Helen Keller has written, "I thank God for my handicaps, for through them I have found myself, my work, and God." Some of the most radiant Christians I have ever met were "wheelchair" saints. May God give you grace to triumph in affliction.

# n, Nor can we be perfected without trial!





You will never be the person you can be, if pressure,

## "The Encourager"

Rosemary Platt writes:

My first introduction to the ministry was through being given a copy of its magazine in the early 1980's by Di Willis - who always has a magazine on hand to distribute to "whoever" wherever she goes; and has touched many lives in this way. Di is the ultimate example of an "Encourager"; and many of us have only become associated with this amazing ministry through her "persuasive encouragement" along the way.

Personally, I've always looked forward to my quarterly edition from my first involvement - in fact, I normally like to sit down and read it cover to cover if I have time, as the contents are always so inspiring. These days I use "The Encourager" as one of God's special tools for my own witnessing. I keep a few copies in the car for the "unexpected". It is particularly inspiring for those who are depressed or going through a valley in their own lives; as so many of the testimonies encourage them to be thankful for what they have, and to be "better, not bitter".

■ Magazine 116

### Some Other Comments

- For a period of time I was not able to go to CFFD camp, etc., but 'The Encourager' gave me encouragement, uplifted my spirit and made me realise God is so awesome. Also that He speaks in different ways – like the stories and testimonies. They are awesome and affective, i.e., touching your spirit. I love the little sayings and people's poems. I love the presentation of it – I love it all! And always look forward to it.
- Your magazine is my favourite – amazingly inspiring.
- It is a magazine that to me is just so uplifting with life stories that touch my heart.
- I have just received "The Encourager" and I am very thankful for this wonderful magazine. Reading this issue the pages are full of God's precious love, very inspiring and uplifting indeed. I thank you for sending this wonderful magazine to me – it indeed lifted my spirits and I have already shared a few of the articles and poems.
- My son suffers from depression and has found "The Encourager" such an encouragement. God's love is evident in the stories. He reads them a lot and it slowly sinks in.

### Whilst It Also Reaches Around The World.

**From Vancouver, Canada,**

*"What a magnificent ministry your magazine is. It opens our eyes to the widespread work God is building among people with disabilities, and draws forth our praise, encouraging, strengthening and teaching us at the same time.*

**From Brisbane, Australia**

*You probably have no idea how the copy you send us goes the rounds. After I have read it I pass it on to a couple of nurses at the hospital nearby. When it comes back from them I send it over to my mother in England, and she too then passes it on each time to two of her friends. And all this, from just one copy!*

**From Switzerland,**

*I am finding your quarterly magazine with its challenging articles and testimonies such a blessing, encouraging all Christians, disabled and able bodied alike. I do enjoy receiving it, and read it from cover to cover.*

**From Botswana,**

*Thanks for another lovely magazine. You 'll be glad to know that the extra copies you send us are being placed in the nearest district hospital for patients and visitors to read.*

**From Russia,**

*I keep the magazines for special testimonies, as Russians are sometimes inclined to think that they are the only people on earth who have a hard life. It will be good to show them how some disabled folk have come to see God's hand of blessing in their lives even in the midst of physical pain and suffering and misunderstanding by the rest of the community.*

**From Bahrain,**

*Thanks for continuing to send the magazine. We really appreciate it and enjoy the testimonies. It is great sharing it with our home group.*

## Inspiring Stories

Over the years the magazine has been greatly blessed by many short articles taken from many different sources, such as Joni and Friends newsletters, In Touch magazine, The Vital Link and many more. Here are a number of these past articles:

### A BEAUTIFUL STORY ABOUT ATTITUDE

The 92-year-old, petite, well-poised and proud lady, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with her hair fashionably coiled and makeup perfectly applied, even though she is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, making the move necessary.

After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As she manoeuvred her walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window.

"I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mrs. Jones, you haven't seen the room. Just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged... it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice.

I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do.

"Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away ...just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account - you withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories. Thank you for your part in filling my memory bank. I am still depositing"

#### Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

Free your heart from hatred   Free your mind from worries.   Live simply.   Give more   Expect less

■ Magazine 99

## Fifty seven cents

A little girl stood near a small church from which she had been turned away because it was "too crowded" I can't go to Sunday School;' she sobbed to the pastor as he walked by.

Seeing her shabby, unkempt appearance, the pastor guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the Sunday School class. The child was so happy that they found room for her, and she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to worship Jesus.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings. Her parents called for the kind-hearted pastor who had befriended their daughter to handle the final arrangements.

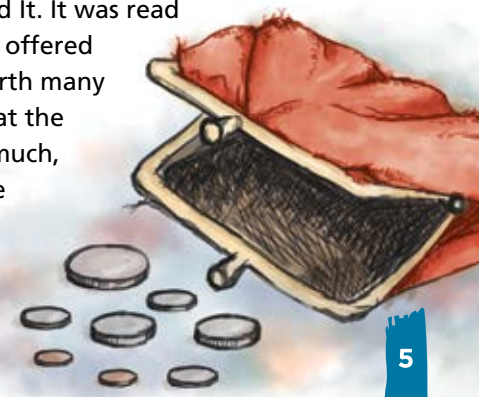
As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled red purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside

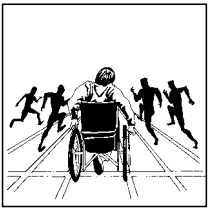
was found 57 cents and a note, scribbled in childish handwriting, which read: 'This is to help build the little church bigger so more children can go to Sunday School.'" For two years she had saved for this offering of love.

When the pastor tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do. Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the pulpit, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his deacons to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

But the story does not end there... A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a wealthy realtor who offered them a parcel of land worth many thousands. When told that the church could not pay so much, he offered to sell it to the little church for 57 cents.

■ Magazine 129





God made you as you are in or  
- S C M

# More Blessed to Give than to Receive

by Jennifer Rees Larcombe

Quite a number of books have been written on the ministry of visiting the sick, but I have never read one on how to be visited. Yet I believe those of us who are 'shut in' do not always have to be on the receiving end of other people's ministry. Of course, when we cannot get out to church services, Bible studies and prayer meetings, we do rely completely on our visitors to provide that vital Christian fellowship.

But do you not find that when we see very few people, it is a great temptation to talk too much when someone kind and sympathetic takes the trouble to visit us? We off-load all our worries, fears and irritations on to them, and so we should sometimes. After all, as Christians we are part of one body, and are told to carry one another's burdens, and it is wrong to hide our problems from our brothers and sisters in Christ. But all our visitors will have worries, fears and irritations of their own. They may hide them from us behind the mask of a 'good Christian smile', but if we ask Him, the Lord will show us when our visitors need to talk to us – and listening is the most loving service any human being can give another.

One friend of mine, who is a minister, told me recently how he was nearing the end of a long day of visiting. He had heard so many tales of woe he felt physically, mentally and spiritually exhausted as he came to the last call on his list. The elderly lady he was visiting looked at him sharply and said, 'You look tired out. Sit down and shut your eyes while I read you some verses the Lord gave me this morning. I prayed as I read them that the Lord would send me someone today who could share them with me, they thrilled me so much.' As my friend listened to the scriptures the Lord spoke to him about a problem that had been

exercising his mind all the week. When he left for home he knew just what course of action he should take, and he felt refreshed in every part of his being.

"Call to me and I will answer you; I will tell you wonderful and marvellous things that you know nothing about."

Sometimes when we are 'shut in' we can feel imprisoned by our own four walls – useless and discouraged. When I felt like that recently I discovered these lovely verses in Jeremiah 33:1 – 3 GNB 'While I was still in prison in the courtyard, the Lord's message came to me again. The Lord who made the earth, who formed it and set it in place, spoke to me. He whose name is the Lord said, 'Call to me and I will answer you; I will tell you wonderful and marvellous things that you know nothing about.' 'Poor old Jeremiah must have been feeling very useless, shut in and discouraged, but the Lord could still speak to him, and we have the same God as Jeremiah! He can speak to us in so many ways and give us lovely titbits with which to 'feed' our visitors – even if we cannot make them home-made biscuits or cakes!

It would, of course, be very sad if we became so arrogant that we were not able to receive anything from our visitors.

I am sure we need to send up an arrow prayer every time someone arrives – 'Lord, teach me something from this person'.



But I am trying to form the habit of adding, 'Lord give me something to give to them.'

Being disabled can easily sap our confidence and we feel shy about daring to share the Lord with people who are often our spiritual leaders. But when we manage to do it they will receive more joy from our gift than we do from the bunch of flowers they brought to us.



Our visitors may think they have come to do us good, and so they will, but if we listen to them with the Lord's ears, love them with His love and tell them how much He is doing for us, they will go away having received a blessing and strangely we shall also have been more blessed by giving than receiving.

■ Magazine 38

*Jennifer wrote many inspirational articles in our magazine over a ten year period, until one day she was instantly healed through the Word of Knowledge and prayer of a brand new Christian.*

.....

## I'll never forget the day we collate the magazine

The big operation takes place on a Thursday, but the previous day I've collected it from the city. I never really thought of papers as heavy, but as I made my eighth trip to the car, staggering under the load of an enormous carton containing the last of the twenty thousand printed sheets, I changed my mind.

Thursday night our helpers pour in. Herb brings his wife Anne, her mother and the friend who is staying with them, Sandra and her baby drag along their next door neighbour. As usual there are three couples, friends of ours but not connected with the Fellowship, who come every time. We've asked other friends and they come when they are able. One lady wants to help but is tied up herself, so she's sent round a friend who had called in for a chat.

Several of our CFFD folk rarely miss this 'social occasion'. Connie comes from Northcote and Keith, from the other side of Auckland, always brings a car-full. There's even a boy from my class at school. When he heard what I was doing, I couldn't stop him coming, "I just like helping people who have a need" was his explanation.

Then we swing into action. Just one table, but three old doors play their part. Five lines of human-collating, as well as a very neat mechanical one, three people stapling, two folding, two packaging, one on the computer-address-label and others tying,

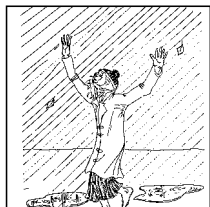
counting, cellotaping and sorting into area bundles.

When we got the Magazine the day before, our three children, Jen, David and Andy moved into action for hours at a time, and then next morning they were up at 6 and at it again. They had done several hundred before they went to school. Andy started on this three years ago as an over-enthusiastic but under-accurate four-year old. We did our best to check, but some slipped through – pages missed out, two copies of the same page, some out of order, others upside down. Thanks for your tolerance if you received one of these, (but they say stamps with a flaw are very valuable, so maybe your Magazine is also of great worth). Now Andy is very accurate.

- Hugh Willis

■ Magazine 34





# God can use the good, the bad, the happy, the sad



## Billy

"God... chose things the world considers foolish." 1 Cor 1:27 NLT

Writing about his time as a counsellor at a teen Bible camp, Tony Campolo says, "Boys have a tendency to pick on some unfortunate child. That summer it

was 13 year old Billy, a child who couldn't walk or talk right. When the children from his cabin were assigned to lead devotions, they voted Billy in as the speaker. It didn't seem to bother him. He dragged himself up to the pulpit amid sneers and snickers, and it took him a long time to stammer,

*"Je.....sus .....loves.....me..... and.....I.....love.....Je.....sus."*

There was stunned silence, and when I looked around, there were boys with tears streaming down their cheeks. We'd done many things to try to reach these boys, but nothing had worked. We'd even brought in famous baseball players whose batting averages had gone up since they started praying, but it had no effect. It wasn't until a special needs child declared his love for Christ that everything changed. I travel a lot and it's surprising how often I

meet people who say, "You probably don't remember me. I became a Christian at a camp where you were a counsellor, and do you know what the turning point for me was? I never have to ask. I always know I'm going to hear - Billy!"

The Bible says, "*God chooses things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise*" (1 Cor 1:27,28). So when you find yourself focusing on what you can't do, remember His "*power works best in (your) weakness*" (2 Cor 12:9 NLT). Just do what you can, and God will do the rest! He'll crown your efforts with success.

*Taken from The Word for Today, Copyright 2008 Bob Gass Ministries published by Rhema Broadcasting Group Inc. A free copy of this devotional may be obtained from RBG New Zealand.*

■ Magazine 129

## Christopher Nolan

At twenty two Christopher was already hailed as a genius. With Britain's coveted Whitbread Prize for his autobiography, "Under the clock", his work compared to that of James Joyce and W.B. Yeats.

Yet it takes Christopher Nolan a quarter of an hour to write one word. It's a super-human task. Born with severe Cerebral Palsy, he spends much of his life strapped in a wheelchair, his face and limbs subject to uncontrollable spasms. He can't speak, but by eleven years old he'd learned to type. Why?

As a child he cried bitterly that he

was not like other children, until one day his mother, the heroine of his life, said to him, "Listen here, you can see, you can hear, you can understand and you're loved by me and your dad just as you are." That day he began to fan the only spark he saw, "I'm alive and more importantly, I'm loved just the way I am!"

Gradually he looked at his limbs and decided that he liked himself! He began to shift his focus away from his limitations and focus on what was possible – what he could do with his life.

Listen to a few of his sentences,

"My mind is like a spin-dryer at full speed.

Millions of beautiful words cascade down into my lap.

Images gunfire across my consciousness and while trying to discipline them, I jump in awe of the soul-filled beauty of the mind's expanse."

Don't you wish you could write like that? Paul says, "Quit focusing on the handicap and begin to appreciate the gift.

Let go of the 'if onlys', the comparisons and the judgments. Listen to Paul's words, "Thanks be to God who always causes us to triumph in Christ" (2 Cor 2:14). What a way to live!

*Included with permission from Bob Gass Ministries, "The Word for today", distributed by Radio Rhema.*

■ Magazine 84

## Two glasses of milk

by Tom Hobson

**T**he late Dr Vernon Gordon McGee, a well-known American broadcaster, once related the story of a very famous surgeon who was travelling in a rural area and stopped at a small farm to ask for a drink of water. His knock on the door was answered by a little girl. To the surgeon's request for a drink of water she replied, "My father and my mother are not here just now, but, I can give you a drink of milk." The surgeon accepted the offer, and when he had finished the glass of milk the little girl said, "Would you like another glass of milk?" "I would," replied the surgeon and this was brought. He drank it, thanked the little girl, and departed.

Some time later at his hospital he noticed a little girl in great distress and pain being admitted to one of the wards. He recognised her as the little girl from the farm. He immediately took charge of her, diagnosed appendicitis, and operated to remove the offending appendix. When the girl's parents were told about this, they were very apprehensive. They were not contributing to any health insurance, and knew that the surgeon's fee did not come cheap, so when they came to take their daughter home they were handed the bill. With trembling fingers they opened the envelope.

As you read this you may be anticipating that the bill was cancelled. Sorry! No! All the details were laid out - the surgeon's fees and the medical expenses. Their hearts shrank as they looked at the total. Then they noticed some writing at the foot of the bill, followed by the surgeon's signature. They read these words, "Paid in full with two glasses of milk."

Now there is one thing we must know in our dealing with God - God is no one's debtor. Whatever we give, no matter how small or perhaps regarded as insignificant by others, it will not escape the attention of God. We know that Jesus spoke of the importance of small things. For example, if you look at Matthew 10:42, the simple act of giving a cup of cold water to one of these little ones is giving reduced to its simplest form. If we measure what we try to give to God against this statement by Jesus, it must inspire us to give whatever we can, within our power and ability. Every small act of kindness, every compassionate word, every loving gesture, every patient endeavour, our sharing with others, contribute to the sum total of God's work in the world. Nothing is lost.

■ *Magazine 74*

## What a witness!

**A** young man was so profoundly disabled that at the age of 37 he was only just learning to say "Hi". His parents sent him to a Christian IH Home. Months later when he went home for the vacation he sat at the table with them for Christmas dinner but he wouldn't eat. Finally he put his hands in front of his face and grunted "Uh, Uh, Uh". At the Home he'd been taught to pray before he ate. Later that evening when it was bedtime he refused to go to bed which was uncharacteristic of him. Finally he reached over to the Bible which he'd been given at the Home, pointed to it and grunted, "Uh, Uh, Uh". He'd been used to hearing a Bible story every night before he went to bed and wanted to be read to.

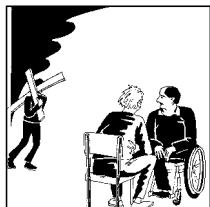
Well, the parents called up the Home and said, "What are you doing to our son?" The reply was, "We'd like to tell you." They went over, and by the time they'd

left and returned home both the mother and father had entrusted Christ as their personal Saviour. A few weeks later, so too did his two brothers. One has since gone on to Bible School and graduated. Finally his grandmother who was terribly bitter at God for thinking God had given her an intellectually disabled grandson has also given her life to Christ.

So God used a man who had only just learnt to say "Hi". By the witness of his own life God used him in being instrumental in bringing his entire family to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

■ *Magazine 67*





Rest assured, what man may inter-  
- Gen. 3

## *“The Different Race”* - a true story

A special sports day had been organised for some groups of handicapped children. They had gathered on the field, urged on to try their best by the grandstand full of well wishers and supporters.

It came time for one of the running events, and the jostling group of excitable competitors were guided into their positions at the starting line. As clearly as possible, the officials explained the format of the race. There would be a gun start, and the finish line was marked by a tape stretched across the track.

The starting shot rang out, and the bunch burst forward, enthusiastically running for all they were worth. The competitors, in brightly-coloured outfits, hurtled towards the tape. The crowd cheered encouragement.

But suddenly there was a diversion. One young fellow veered out, off the track, and began moving haphazardly to the side. The onlookers tittered a little as he tenaciously pursued his new trail, delightfully oblivious to his error. The rest of the competitors continued on course, unaware – until one young girl caught a glimpse of her comrade. Suddenly she too left the track, yelling and gesticulating, running her heart out until she reached the wee man. Scooping up his hand, she then manoeuvred him in a rather zig-zag fashion back to the race track.



By now the others had long since crossed the finish line. The little champion was happily sporting his winning ribbon, and soaking up the congratulations. But the attention of the main crowd was elsewhere. All eyes had become riveted on the pair now scampering towards their destination. As they jubilantly threw themselves over the finish line, the crowd stood as one, moved to a thunderous applause – an ovation barely comprehended by those to whom it was given. There was no dispute as to the technical winner of the race that afternoon. However, the true heroine of the day was someone else – the last placegetter!



### *Is this one way God might speak to us?*

The first time we had any colour in the magazine was in magazine 50 on the front cover, but the printers had difficulty with it, so we didn't get that page back until all the other pages had been collated together and then it was added. Somehow a small number of eight of these covers were stapled together and sent out as a magazine! We guessed who got these and apologised, but said, “Perhaps God is wanting to show you something special within that cover sheet!”

## Outstanding Partnerships

### Frank & his Wife

In New Plymouth Frank is blind and has been without sight for 13 years. His wife Myrtle is in a wheelchair and they have been married for 28 years. She has had 46 operations including four total hip ones and walks with great difficulty. Frank is on 17 committees and is the chairman of 11.

By far the greatest and most successful partnership he is involved in though is the one he has with Myrtle. When they want to paint the house Frank paints the top half of each room and Myrtle the bottom half. Frank mounts the chairs or ladders. Myrtle from her wheelchair gives the directions and says if there is too much paint on the brush, and she gets on with the lower half.

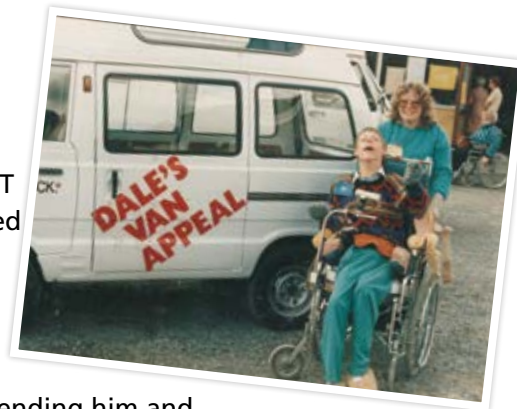
It is close to 50 years since Frank saw a vision of Christ, and when he looked up after the moon went behind a cloud Christ was in the boat with other people, but Frank was not one of them. He heard Christ calling, "I want you. Come!" And come he did.

### Rick Hoyt and his Father

Dick Hoyt responded to his disabled son's wish for him to push young Rick in a wheelchair so that he could take part in a marathon. This escalated to triathlons as well as marathons including the Boston Marathon 30 times. They have now competed together in over one thousand such races!

### Johanna and Dale

Johanna Brens, an OT and nurse, was moved greatly on meeting Dale Burdette for the first time, and from that moment on spent hours befriending him and bringing out the talents of this young man disabled by cerebral palsy. She even raised an appeal for Dale to have his own van which was very successful. She continued to be a devoted friend and helper throughout Dale's life.



### Margie and Di

It was a God-appointed meeting when Margie Willers met up with Di Willis in the seventies. They quickly clicked and flowed in God's purposes, and the ministry made huge leaps forward as these two, talked, prayed and planned together.



For an assignment at Bible College, Isabel Lee drew a series of exceptional mini-posters like the one shown here, to illustrate areas of disability and faith in God. These were so good that we used them as front and back covers in 2006-7 on a number of our magazines. Isabel attended a seminar and came to one National Camp, but sadly died soon after.



## Disability Awareness

Sunday 19th June

What does your church have planned to acknowledge this special day?

This year, in addition to our ideas booklet we are developing a video resource.

**Contact the office to register your interest.**



# Through my years of living the Chr

A quiz for you...

## INTRIGUING PEN PICTURES of REMARKABLE PEOPLE

How many of these people from the pages of The Encourager can you identify?



1. Unable to read, but he learnt to play the keyboard by colours and has played often at CFFD meetings in Rotorua and occasionally at National Camp.
2. Was one of the worst affected by the drug thalidomide given to his mother in pregnancy, but was brilliantly looked after and encouraged by an adopted father and mother. He has had a film made of his life.
3. No fingers or toes, just a thumb on each hand and a stump at the end of his legs. He had a beautiful deep voice, and CFFD put out a tape of his singing. Was all set to become the first CFFD Chairman when he was tragically killed in a tractor accident.
4. He always assured his mother, "I'm alright Mum!"
5. Severely disabled, but had a vision to start a CFFD branch in Northland, attend National Camp and preach in a church service, and he accomplished all three!
6. Walked across the USA on his hands by the side of busy national roads, an epic journey that took just on two years. When asked how he did it, he said, "One step at a time!"
7. Paralysed from the waist down after being struck by a bucket in a caterpillar machine, he became a highly successful wheelchair marathon competitor and started a ranch camp in the USA which is serving 20,000 every year. His favourite saying: "Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional."
8. A real character! Left with spastic tetraplegia after a motorcycle crash in his wild youth, came to know the Lord, loved coming to National Camps and had a huge sign on his wheelchair, which said in huge letters, "JESUS IS LORD!"
9. Dropped off in a shoe box in Hong Kong by her mother soon after birth, adopted by caring women, then brought out to NZ, adopted by kiwi parents, and now a key member of the Auckland committee.
10. A doctor who suffered from myasthenia gravis, she progressively went through a number of life-threatening illnesses and wrote outstanding inspirational poems that our Trust published in two books.
11. A tetraplegic, he was the one who brought "The Ark" to National Camps. He became a Christian when after making a joke about Jesus he looked up and saw a man carrying a cross coming straight towards him.
12. Outstanding pastor, sought out overseas as a speaker, he nevertheless feels a strong calling to our ministry and has been the speaker at many camps, both national and local CFFD.
13. Without a doubt, the most well-known person with a disability in the world, leads a huge disability ministry in the USA, travels extensively, and even came to NZ on one occasion.
14. Blind Chairman of a CFFD branch and has been M.C. of the concert programs at Torch camps each alternate year.
15. Came out from the USA as a speaker for one National Camp, this tetraplegic quickly endeared himself with his friendliness and outstanding practical displays of his painting skills.
16. Outstanding tetraplegic speaker. In her home exploratory meetings were held paving the way for the initial meetings of the Christian Fellowship for Disabled.

(answers at bottom of page 13)

# Christian life, it all boils down to Faith.

## APOLOGIES FOR A GLARING MISTAKE...

**69CM X 48CM, NOT 27CM X 19CM**

The Graham Braddock prints offered for sale in the last Encourager are not A4 size, as advertised, but much more than twice the length and breadth of an A4 sheet.

**WE ARE OFFERING THEM TO YOU AT 4 FOR \$50 (COMPARED TO \$120!).**

This includes a protective cardboard tube for sending through the post, but postage is extra:

*in Auckland: \$5.50*

*elsewhere in North Island: \$8.00*

*in South Island: \$14.00*

### I WISH TO PURCHASE THE FOUR GRAHAM BRADDOCK PRINTS

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Send to: PO Box 13-322 Onehunga, Auckland



**Margie Willers** is offering a number of cards formed from original paintings she has painted by mouth (shown here). She is doing this to raise money for, our ministry. They are \$2.50 each, and if you want them posted you should add \$1 for two or \$2 for 3 or more.



*Cards available: Hearts, Little mouse eating by hole, Swans flying, Caterpillar changing to butterfly.*

### I WISH TO PURCHASE MARGIE WILLERS CARDS

..... cards @ \$2.50ea = \$.....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Send to: PO Box 13-322 Onehunga, Auckland

## Important Advance Notice

### THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ELEVATE MINISTRY

Sat 3rd September  
City Impact Church, Mt Wellington  
7 to 9 pm

#### EVERYONE IS INVITED

All those who have played a part in the 40 years, we want you to come and be a part of this celebration.  
The Centre will also be open from 11am to 2pm.

## 2016 is a special year of celebrations

1. The 150th Edition of The Encourager
2. 21 years of Joy Ministries
3. 40th Anniversary of Elevate
4. The 35th Camp at Totara Springs

## Several amazing folk have gone to Heaven recently

**Joy Smith** - One of our first Advisors and such an encourager

**David Green** - Left a paraplegic after the Ansett airliner crash. Was a Trustee for a few years.

**Dennis Arms** - The blind Chairman of the Taranaki Branch

**Ray Gardner** - Adviser to the Christchurch CFFD

**Nikki McGregor** - The founding Secretary of the Thames Branch

**Dorothy O'Dell** - Founding member of the Wellington CFFD

They will be missed having made amazing contributions to Elevate cdt and left legacies. We send condolences to families and friends.

Answers to the quiz on page 12  
1. Maurice Topia 2. Terry Wiles 3. Don Miller 4. David Vincent 5. Clive Kempe 6. Bob Weiland 7. Bob Bardwell 8. Charlie Dixon 9. Jean Griffiths 10. Yvonne Hammond 11. John Robertson 12. Geoff Wiklund 13. Joni. Eareckson Tada 14. Dennis Arms 15. Jimmy Ritter 16. Bev Everton

# Hope is the confident, joyful ex

Jacqui Gardener writes about

## the car rally:

Well, our Amazing Northland Picnic is done and dusted for another year! What can we do to exceed it next year!? It seems every year's picnic is better than the last!

It started with seven cars setting off from Whangarei with instructions to call at a number of towns with tasks to accomplish at each one, such as, in Hikurangi to find the house number where the school zone finished, and the name of the local lake, then on to the Towai Hotel, to discover when it started business (it was in 1872!), then off up the gravel mountain to Ruapekapeka Pa, everyone out to count the number of strides between the arches and discover what date the Pa was destroyed by the British, then off to Kawakawa to find that the

steam train that travels down the main street of the town only runs on Saturday and Sundays, and finally to our secret location on

the coast, down the drive to the most idyllic home, all wheelchair friendly, with a wheelchair accessible jetty. The home was built for their son who was born with Cerebral Palsy and at 28 still lives there, After lunch some of us went out kayaking in their five boats, swimming, fishing and lazing. Really fun! Such a wonderful day.



## DO YOU KNOW GOD?

Perhaps you have not taken your first step with the Lord. The journey begins with your salvation. Jesus left heaven to come down to earth so that you could one day come up to Him in heaven. With His death on the cross He paid the penalty for your sins.

*If you will accept Him as your personal Saviour He will forgive all your sins and make you righteous in God's eyes (Rom. 1:16-17). You can use your own words or use this prayer: Lord Jesus, I believe You are truly the Son of God. I confess that I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Please forgive all my wrongdoing, and let me live in relationship with You from now on. I receive You as my personal Saviour, accepting on my behalf the work You accomplished once and for all on the cross. Thank You for saving me. Help me to live a life that is pleasing to You. Amen*

## The Emmanuel Family Camp

Our inaugural Emmanuel Family Camp was a weekend full of opportunities.

Opportunities to encourage, connect, meet other families, make friends, relax and try something new. A highlight for us was watching families interacting together. One young boy's first experience of rock climbing was one such moment. Sam was excited to try it despite his difficulty walking.

With his Nan giving him instructions and their helper Melissa placing his feet, Sam reached a height of 2 metres with the biggest grin on his face. We won't forget hearing him squealing "I'm flying!" while he was lowered back down. Thank you to all of you who donated. Without sponsorship most families wouldn't have had the opportunity to attend. We are looking forward to next year and more opportunities!



# expectation that good is coming!

## Philippines News

We celebrated our Saviour's birth through a Christmas Fellowship/Party with people with disabilities and children under our sponsorship program, along with their parents.. We had fun games for the children and adults, and they really appreciated the fellowship. It is always good to express God's unconditional love to these precious people as Luke 14:13-14 (GNT) said, *When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind; and you will be blessed...*

The OT kids with their families had their Christmas Party in the morning. Everyone was so blessed and joyful, most especially during their visit to the orphanage where they gave stuffed toy gifts to the orphans. The parents were touched and in tears when they saw the orphans.



**Hearing God's Word**

Pastor Rod Bicaldo reported about the development of CFFD in Davao: He said that the Davao Covenant Reformed Church had just launched the "WORD MINISTRY" where they invited two PWDs as guests to say something on how to reach and minister to people with disabilities. Then in the afternoon they had a workshop on "Basic Sign language and Braille Writing". The board and staff were so excited, and decided that they will have another workshop in this new year.



**The OT kids giving their gifts to the orphans**



**Did you know that we can email you when the latest Encourager magazine is up on our website? To sign up, scan this QR code, phone us or update your contact details on our website.**

***We welcome John Fox as a new trustee and say farewell to Adam Doudney who was a trustee for a short time.***

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<b>Able to Worship - Warkworth Methodist Church</b>		
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<b>Kumbayah - St David's Presbyterian Church - Palmerston North</b>		
Ann Bennett		06 355 2818
<b>Bible Friends - Wanganui</b>		
Louise Rostron	rostrons@extra.co.nz	06 344 5955
<b>THRIVE - Greerton Bible Church, Tauranga</b>		
Bronwyn McCurran		07 541 3943



If you would like to help with our costs you could send a donation to:  
ELEVATE P.O Box 13-322, Onehunga, Auckland 1643

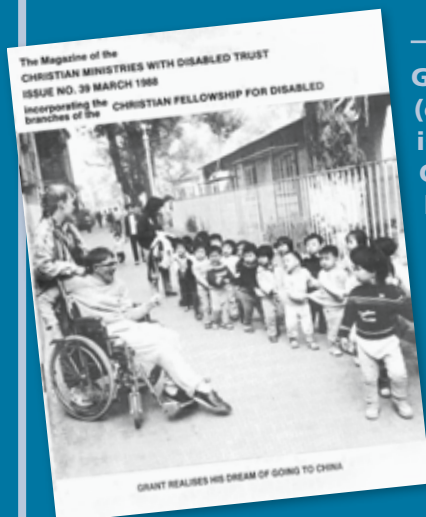
I wish to give for the magazine: \$ .....

I wish to give for general running costs: \$ .....

Name:.....

Address: .....

# Black & white covers over the years...



**Grant Allely**  
(cerebral palsy)  
is seen here in  
China realising  
his long-held  
ambition to  
get out on the  
mission field  
himself and  
deliver Bibles.



**Jimmy Ritter**,  
a tetraplegic,  
was invited to  
be the guest  
speaker at our  
National Camp  
where he gave  
demonstrations  
of his skill in  
painting.



Some of the  
team of helpers  
who came in  
regularly to  
carry out all the  
tasks involved  
in collating the  
magazine.



**Margie and Di**  
are seen here  
with Joni when  
they called  
at the Joni  
and Friends  
headquarters,  
in Los Angeles,  
and this  
visit was  
instrumental  
in Joni coming  
to NZ in 1989.



**A CFFD group in**  
**the Auckland**  
**Anglican**  
**Cathedral acts**  
**out the four**  
**friends lowering**  
**the paralytic**  
**man through**  
**the hole in**  
**the roof to**  
**be healed by**  
**Jesus.**



**The**  
**excitement**  
**of Jennifer**  
**Larcombe**  
**after being**  
**miraculously**  
**healed by**  
**the prayer of**  
**a very new**  
**Christian.**