

And now for
**Something
Completely
Different**

A collection of comics and articles
produced by the Rappville Christians,
1981-1999

compiled by Dave McKay

printed 2001 by
Printshop, Chennai, India

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
1. Helping Hands	2
2. Lombardi	7
3. Living by Faith	12
4. Rip-Offs	17
5. Wages and Gifts	22
6. A New Economic Policy	27
7. The Job Myth	32
8. Photos	37
9. Political Emphasis	43
10. Speak Up or Shut Up?	61
11. Disbelief	71
12. Finding God's Will	80
13. Emotionalism	87
14. "The Family"	96
15. Good News	105
16. Spy vs Spy	111
17. True Vine	116
18. A Mess of Myths	125
19. Christian, but <u>Not</u> Religious!	139
20. The Emperor's New Clothes	156
21. Finances	161
22. Miscellany	168
23. Help!	181

Introduction

This book is a compilation of some of the comics and other literature produced by the *Jesus Christians* of Australia, who were originally described by the media as the *Rappville Christians*, because they started their community (in 1982) in a disused general store in Rappville, not far from Lismore, New South Wales.

Some of the comics included in this book have become collectors items, as they are now extremely rare. Others have been printed and reprinted many times over the years.

Addresses on the various comics and tracts printed in this book are all out of date by now, apart from the Box A678 address in Sydney South. Mail sent to any other address will be returned, as the forwarding instructions would have lapsed at those addresses years ago.

1. Helping Hands

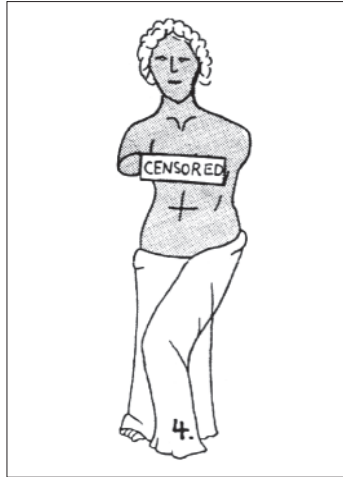
The Lismore area is famous for hippy communes; but the Rappville Christians were famous for more than being a Christian commune. They also believed in hard work... which they freely offered to their neighbours. Communes around Lismore would call on the Rappville Christians whenever they wanted lantana cleared, a house painted, or other labour done for free.

"Helping Hands" was one of the earliest comics produced by the group. It was illustrated by Gary McKay, when he was only 13.

(An interesting bit of trivia is that it credits Benjamin Franklin with a quote from Thomas Edison on the final pages.)

Gary illustrated the comic three years before he became famous worldwide for joining five other young people in a "walk of faith" across the Nullarbor Plain, without taking any food, water, money, or other supplies for their journey. (For a 250-page account of that walk, taken from the diaries of the walkers, write to Box A678, Sydney South 1235, and ask for a copy of "Walk of Faith".)



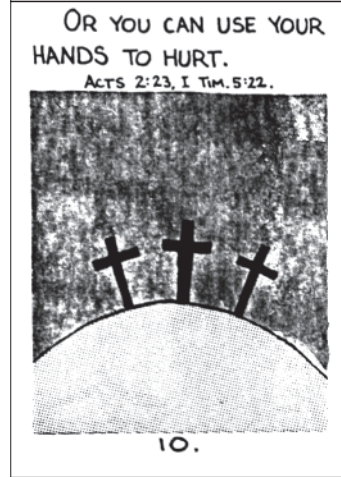


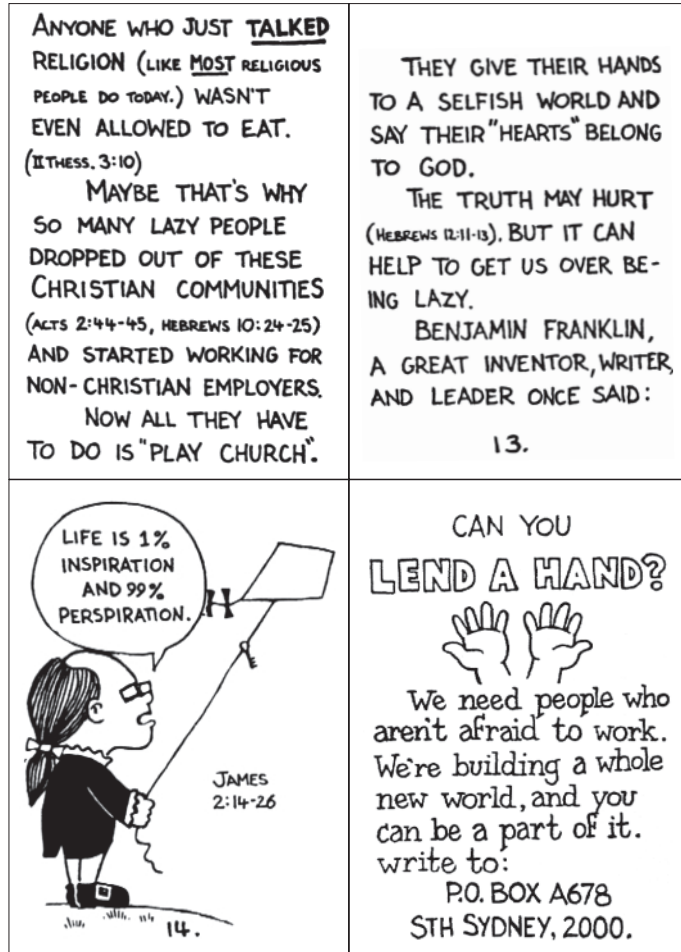
WE HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO "LOVE" THE THINGS WE MAKE WITH OUR HANDS.

You'll LOVE In the beginning OUR NEW was @REVILLE... SUNBIRD.

We've Got it all For you.

BUILD ON THE ROCK
UNITED PERMANENT
Coke adds Life
5.





2. Lombardi

One of the original members of the Rappville Christians was a young man named Malcolm Wrest. Malcolm was another one of the Nullarbor walkers. He left the group after the walk, having been a member for four years.

While he was still in the group, Malcolm wrote the text for a comic that sought to further illustrate the group's attitude toward work. There was some backlash against the reference to Lombardi being Italian (on page 1), although it was meant as a humorous reminder of our ethnic origins, in that the "average" Australian is either a migrant or the descendant of a migrant.

"Lombardi" sought to communicate to the growing number of unemployed people in Australia that being without paid employment does not mean that they cannot do something useful and constructive with their lives. The message was similar to that which was contained in another mini comic, entitled "Time", which appears near the end of this book, starting at page 177.



LOMBARDI GYRO IS A TYPICAL YOUNG AUSTRALIAN. HE'S ITALIAN.



HE'S ALSO UNEMPLOYED!

-1-



-4-



-5-



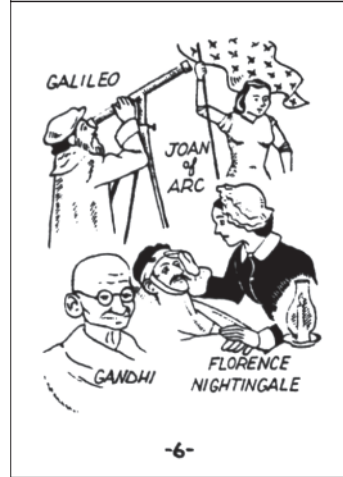
-2-

LOMBARDI EXPLAINED THE MISERIES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

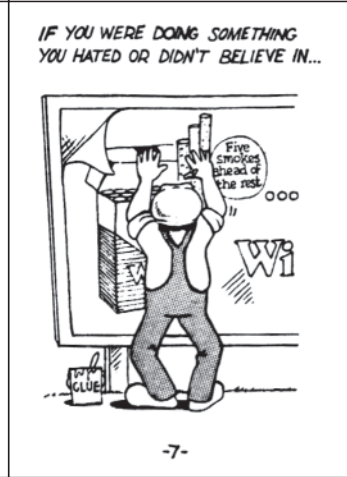
GUILT
BOREDOM
REJECTION
ISOLATION
APATHY



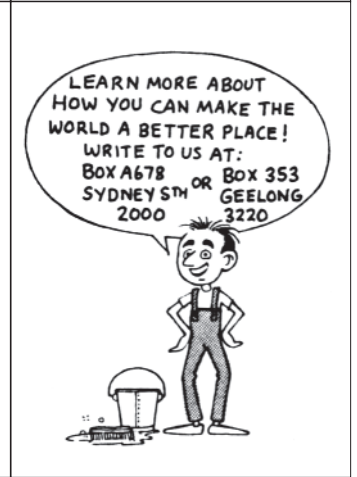
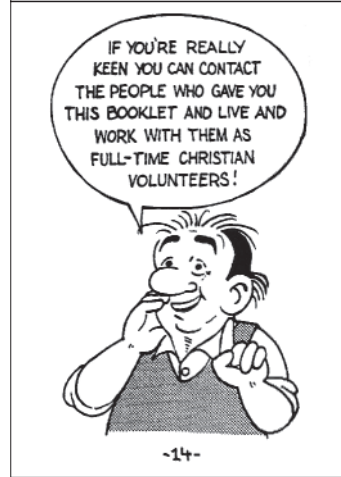
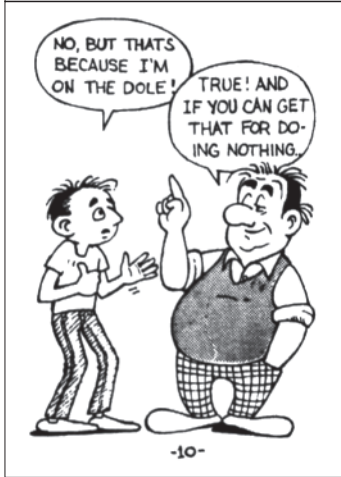
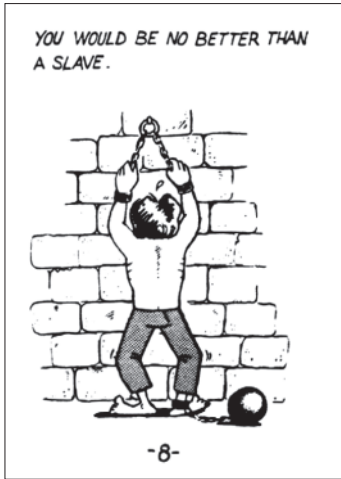
-3-



-6-



-7-



3. Living by Faith

Although it did not come across strongly in comics such as "Lombardi Finds a Job", the Rappville Christians were interested in doing more than just consoling people who could not find work.

They believed that working for love was an important Christian teaching, and that it could work for the entire population. Consequently, they would actively encourage people who already had jobs to quit them and to adopt the lifestyle that they themselves had adopted.

The most common question people would ask when this became clear was, "How do you survive if you don't work for money?"

"Living by Faith--How to Do It" was developed as an answer for that. It was later enlarged into a poster, and thousands of them were put up around Australia as well as in the United States.

We have altered the layout of the text to fit the pages of this book. But what it says (and the artwork) are the same as that which appeared on the original tract.

LIVING BY FAITH

How to do it!

Jesus Christ taught people not to worry about feeding and clothing themselves. He promised us that, if we work to build his "kingdom" (a world of faith and love), he would feed and clothe us. (Matthew 6:25-33)

He called all workers to come and work for him (Matthew 11:29-30), not working for "food that perishes". (John 6:27)

He said we can't work for God and money at the same time. (Luke 16:13)

And he said that if we don't give up all that we own, we cannot be his followers. (Luke 14:33)

What amazing teachings!



We can dismiss Jesus as a fanatic, or we can follow him and see what happens. We did the latter and found seven simple rules for living by faith in the real world.

PRAY: If you're going to try walking on water, you better know what you're doing. Your family, friends and fears all will fight to stop you living by faith. Be honest with God and learn to hear his voice.



SIMPLIFY: Be satisfied with enough food and clothes (I Timothy 6:8) for today only. (Luke 11:3) Anything else is an extra that God may give you. But if he doesn't, it's no excuse to put off living by faith until he does.



SELL: Sell all that you own. (Luke 18:22) If you have debts, the cash belongs to those you owe. (Romans 13:8) Pay your debts and then use what is left to do all that Jesus has told you to do. (Mark 16:15)

GIVE: Don't expect others to do all the giving. You have something that you can give to the needy. (Luke 12:32-34) So give it... regularly... secretly... and with no way of getting something in return. (Matthew 6:1-4)



WORK: You have a new Employer (God) and new motive (love), but if you won't work for Him, do not expect to be fed. (II Thessalonians 3:10) You show your faith by your works. (James 2:18) Do whatever you can to show love in action, and forget about pay.

ASK: Jesus told his disciples to ask who was worthy to help them. (Luke 10:7-8; Matthew 10:10-11) Don't be ashamed to ask for food or clothes if you do not have them. (I Corinthians 9:7-14) But don't beg (i.e. don't pressure them if they say no) or be greedy (i.e. ask for things that you don't really need).

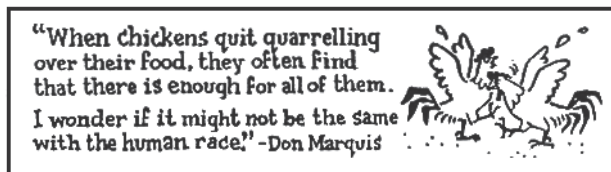
SHARE: Don't work alone. (Matthew 18:20) Early Christians lived together and shared everything. (Acts 2:44-45; and 4:32-35) Your efforts will be more fruitful if done in company with other Christians. (Matthew 18:19; Luke 10:1, and Hebrews 10:25)



If you don't know anyone else who lives by faith and teaches others to do the same, why not look into working with us.

In conclusion, Don't say, "In four months I'll begin to harvest."

Look, the fields are ripe already for harvesting. The harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray that God will send forth labourers into His harvest. (John 4:35, Matthew 9:37)



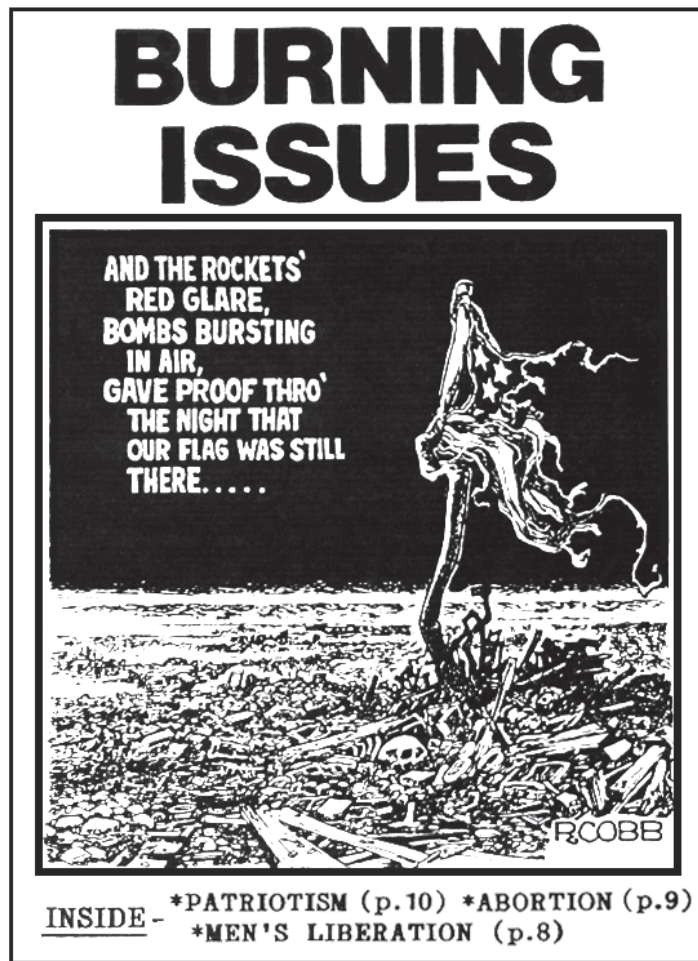
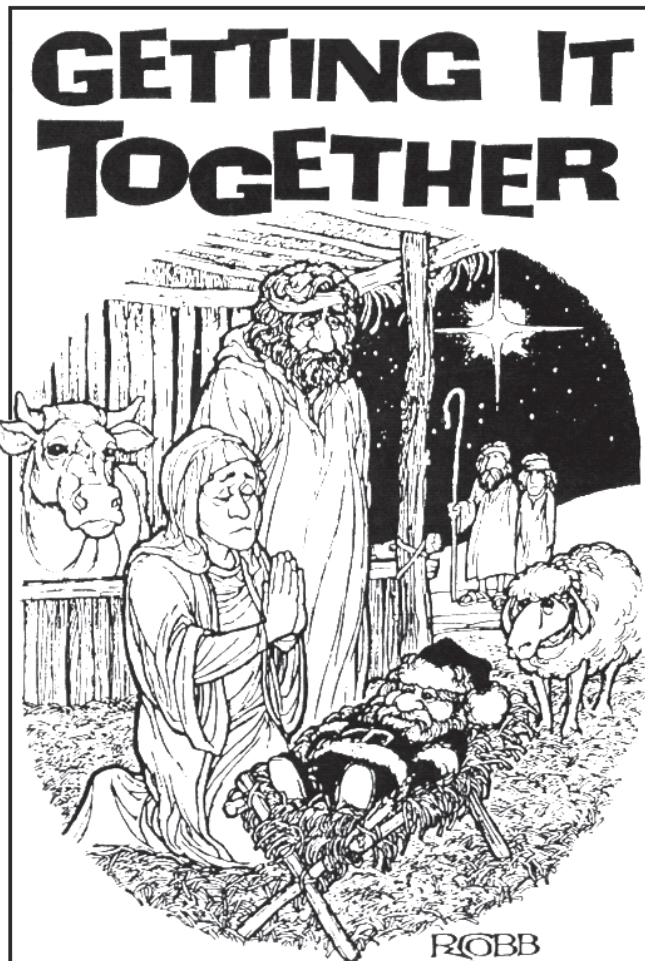
4. Rip-offs

The Rappville Christians were notorious for ripping off other artists (including musicians) and adapting their work to suit themselves.

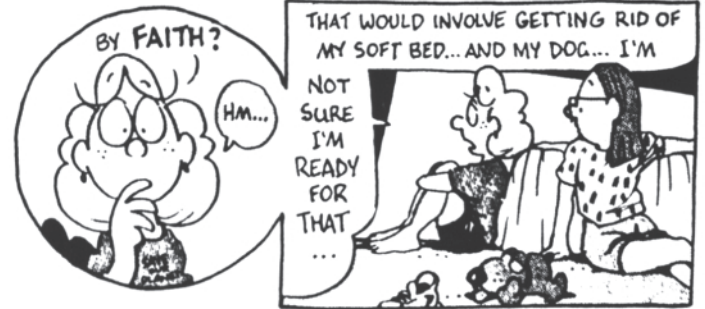
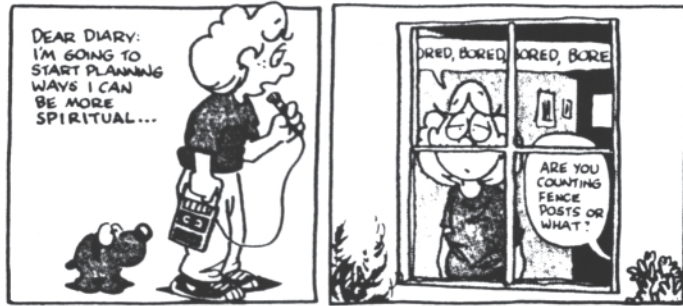
A favorite of theirs was Ron Cobb. The group felt a spiritual affinity with him, and his cartoons often appeared in their publications, unaltered. Two examples, which became covers for two of their "mini-mags", appear on the next two pages. Other Ron Cobb drawings can be found on page 44 and page 139.

One of their best rip-offs was taken from an American cartoon strip, called Luann. They used the pictures just as they appeared in the strip, but replaced all of the speech balloons with their own text, to create a discussion between two young women about the subject of living by faith.

In its Christianised form, the message from the Luann strip had to do with all of the excuses that people come up with for not acting on something that is difficult or inconvenient... in this case, living by faith.



Buann



5. Wages and Gifts

The concept of living by faith was so radical that few people could even begin to grasp how it would work in actual practice. So Gary's brother, Kevin, set about simplifying it in such comics as "Wages and Gifts"

Kevin was the community's primary illustrator for more than fifteen years, until he left to start his own community in 1998. His artwork was instrumental in getting the group recognised worldwide, and it became one of the easiest ways to identify members of the Rappville Christians (or Jesus Christians).

In "Wages and Gifts", Kevin takes the terminology from a traditional evangelical Bible quotation (i.e. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.") and applies it to living by faith.

According to the "Wages and Gifts" comic, people who live by faith in God depend on "gifts", whereas people who live by faith in money depend on wages.

One approach brings spiritual life, and the other brings spiritual death.



BUT THE MONEY WE PAY FOR THESE GOODS AND SERVICES DOES NOT REALLY DO ANYTHING. IT IS A MYTH - PART OF A UNIVERSAL RELIGION CALLED "ECONOMICS".

FROM THE TIME WE ARE VERY YOUNG, WE ARE TAUGHT TO EXPECT PAYMENT, OR "WAGES" FOR EVERYTHING WE DO. WAGES MAY BE LOLLIES, BEADS, SHELLS, COINS, OR JUST NUMBERS ON A BALANCE SHEET.

3.



4.



* AT THESE TWO POINTS WE INTERACT WITH THE SYSTEM. WE ACCEPT AID FROM (& OFFER AID TO) SYSTEMITES, BUT REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE DEPENDENCY UPON THE SYSTEM FROM WHICH THEY COME. BY DOING THIS WE ERODE CONFIDENCE IN SYSTEM LIES & OCCASIONALLY WIN CONVERTS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

7.

8.

WE ARE TOLD THAT WE COULD NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT WAGES. THE TOKENS (CALLED MONEY) THAT WE RECEIVE AS WAGES BECOME A "MEANS OF EXCHANGE" IN A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE DO NOT TRUST OTHER PEOPLE TO HELP THEM FREELY. WHEN WE HAVE MONEY WE DON'T NEED TO TRUST PEOPLE; WE CAN FORCE THEM TO WORK FOR US... BUT ONLY IF THEY, TOO, STAY CONVINCED THAT THEY COULD NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT MONEY.

5.



6.

WORKING FOR WAGES DESTROYS GOOD HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. THIS SYSTEM STEMS FROM DISTRUST: IT ALSO LEADS TO COMPETITION, PRIDE, SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS, HATRED, AND FULL-SCALE WARS. (JAMES 4:1-3)

PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKING FOR WAGES ARE NEVER REALLY FREE. EVEN IF THEY LIKE THEIR WORK MOST OF THE TIME, THEY KNOW THAT THEY CANNOT LEAVE IT OR UPSET THEIR EMPLOYERS FOR FEAR OF LOSING THEIR JOBS. THEY ARE SLAVES TO THE

9.

"SYSTEM" OR RELIGION OF ECONOMICS. (ROMANS 6:16)



10.

6. A New Economic Policy

By far, the most popular (and also the most widely distributed) of the group's early publications was one that used the mini-comic format, but which included whole pages of typed text.

"A New Economic Policy" has been distributed in Europe and North America, (in French and English) and has been especially well received by university students, who appreciate its fresh, un-religious approach to world economics.

This tract went much farther than the "Wages and Gifts" tract in terms of teaching the principles behind the Jesus Christian belief that everyone can and should live by faith.

It has even been used by some economics teachers, to give students a better understanding of basic economic principles.

The cover has been changed several times, to reflect local currency.

THIS SUBTLE DISSATISFACTION MAKES WAGE-EARNERS RESENT ANYONE WHO BREAKS FREE FROM THE SYSTEM. NON WAGE-EARNERS ARE CALLED "BLUDGERS". THE WAGE-EARNERS ENVY THE BLUDGERS, BUT ARE FRIGHTENED TO IMITATE THEM. THEY SAY IT IS "RIGHTEOUS" TO WORK HARD FOR WAGES AND THEY INVENT RELIGIOUS DEFENCES FOR THEIR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS."

THESE WAGE-EARNERS COULD BE GENUINELY HAPPY...IF THEY
*(LUKE 16:14-15) 11.

WOULD FORGET ABOUT MONEY AND JUST DO THINGS THAT ARE HELPFUL FOR OTHER PEOPLE. THEY WOULD ACTUALLY WORK HARDER AND STOP ENVYING OTHERS AS WELL.

BUT COULD THEY SURVIVE WITHOUT WAGES? WE BELIEVE THEY COULD. (LUKE 12:31)

THEY WOULD SURVIVE ON GIFTS. THEIR TIME AND POSSESSIONS WOULD BECOME GIFTS TO OTHERS. AND OTHERS WOULD GIVE GIFTS TO THEM.
12.

PEOPLE WHO LIVE BY GIFTS, (RATHER THAN BY WAGES) HAVE MORE TIME TO MAKE FRIENDS AND LESS NEED FOR POSSESSIONS (WHICH ARE OFTEN SUBSTITUTES FOR HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS ANYWAY.) THEY DON'T GET RICH. BUT THEN THEY DON'T NEED TO GET RICH TO BE HAPPY. BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE IMPORTANT THINGS. (MT. 16:26)

13.



14.



This leaflet will not answer all of your questions. Send us any questions you have on our new economic policy, and we will try to answer each of them.

We have other tracts with titles like Wages and Gifts; Time; The Emperor's New Clothes; and Living by Faith.

Please enclose a few cents to help with postage and printing.

Box A678, Sydney South 1235



A NEW ECONOMIC POLICY An Introduction

Anyone knows that material wealth is measured in goods: apples, cars, shoes, sheep.. When the number and quality of these things increases, wealth increases.

But economists disagree. They say they can make wealth by destroying goods, by producing fewer goods, or by producing goods of poorer quality.

If we would use the technology, labour and resources available to us, the entire planet could enjoy an amazingly high standard of living. But experts say it wouldn't be good for the economy. Why?

Because the economists work for the rich and not for the poor. They are only interested in higher profits for the sellers... even if it means fewer sales at a higher price to the consumers.

-1-

Farmers can make more by destroying half the crop and tripling the price. Half the country goes hungry, but economists say it will increase wealth. Do you see a flaw in their thinking?



The flaw is that they confuse money with wealth. But who dares to correct it?

You can't eat money... or wear it. It's only useful if you trade it for something else. But with present economic policy, there'll be less and less to trade it for.

-2-

What is Money

Before money existed, people were still greedy; but when you traded chickens for wheat, there were limits to how many chickens you could carry home, house, and maintain.



True, some had more than others, but it was unthinkable that anyone could have a million (much less, a billion) chickens in their backyard. If others in your village were starving while you had even a thousand, it was hard to justify such disparity.

-3-

Work vs Play

The struggle for more money not only hurts the losers, but it also hurts the winners, making their lives a rat race.

Musicians, actors, athletes, and kids play. Others work. What's the difference? Usually players don't get paid and workers do. But with increased leisure, people are making 'play' of many activities. Prisoners study law; grandmothers take up flying; businessmen start hobby farms! And they do it with no promise of pay. Are they working or playing?

They are plorking (say *plurking*). Plorking is a combination of playing and working. It means being creative, productive, or useful without being concerned about being paid for it.

Some people like their jobs and would not trade them for anything. These lucky

-5-

Then someone invented money. It was easier to carry, store, maintain, and *hide*. You could own the world, without actually putting it in your backyard.

Poor people could work in your factories, shop in your supermarkets, do business in your skyscrapers, even drive on your roads in cars financed by your banks, and never feel angry about how unfair it is.

Now the rich control the media, education, religion, even the government. They get us to believe they have a right to destroy the world to increase their wealth, and we think that whatever is good for BHP is good for all of us.

Worse still, we have started playing their game. We believe money is the key to happiness. The whole world has lost touch with reality in our obsession with getting more money. This is madness!

-4-

plorkers (who just happen to be paid for it) are more reliable, more dedicated and more contented than their workmates.

If everyone did the things they wanted to do, they would be more productive, and society would be richer for it. But the money myth has convinced people that they must spend their lives making money rather than being happy and productive.

People who aren't interested in making money are made to feel they are useless. They are told that they are sinning against the world that feeds them until they start making money. No thought is given to how creative, useful, or productive the non-wage earners may be.


Yet, if *players* are the best *workers*, then more effort should be made to encourage people to play, instead of condemning the few who do.

-6-

Where Do Wars Come From?
 To most people, we fight wars because people in another country are evil and we (the good people) must stop them. But it isn't that simple. Remember, people in the other country are being told the same things about us.
 Greed is the great flaw in communism as well as capitalism. Both sides try to destroy the other for the same reason... greed. Wars are just an extension of the greed that operates at every level of society. But it's easier to see the horror of such a motivation when we look at the devastation of war.
 Tragically, the rich on both sides do not fight their own wars. They sacrifice the lives of the poor in their quest for power.
 The war goes on *within* the country too. There are constant battles between

-7-

employers and employees. It operates on the family and individual level as well, in the form of almost constant tension.
 Sexism, racism, generation gaps all come from a desire to explain the emptiness that greed has left in our spirits, by blaming someone else.



For your own sanity, for unity in your family, for prosperity in your country, and for the survival of the human race, someone must begin to declare war on greed... before we all destroy ourselves!

-8-

A New Motivation
 Though there was much criticism of the space race in the 60s and 70s, it met a human need in a much more positive way than Vietnam. The Peace Corps was an even better alternative. (Big programs like these need big governments to make them work; but we're saying that you can act *personally* even if the rest of society doesn't co-operate.)
 We all enjoy a challenge. If we're not building, we're destroying. And far too often we think the way to build ourselves up is to tear someone else down.
 What is needed is a vision and commitment that are both positive and all-encompassing. We believe the goal must be total love... for all mankind. Our aggression must be directed against the lies that are destroying the world.

-9-


We are talking about more than a new religion or new political party. We need a community of people who will refuse to let money be a motive for anything they do... people who will seek daily to use all their skills, energy, and resources to express love for others.
 In time this love could spread and affect others. Real love could usher in a whole new world order. We have found such love is more powerful than life itself.
 A few of us have begun to work for love rather than for money. We have given up everything we own, and we are prepared to die for love.
 We have already found that such commitment pays dividends in terms of inner fulfillment, increased awareness, and a zest for life. We believe we've hit on the answer to the world's problems.

-10-

The Source
 This is always the hardest part to get across: Our policy came from the teachings of Jesus. Yes, we're Christians.
 Please don't confuse us with all that passes for Christianity today. Jesus said some amazing things that the churches ignore. He called his new economic policy the *good news of the kingdom of God*.
 It's important to bring God into it for a couple of reasons. For one thing, we can easily end up letting go of money and then fighting over what it can buy. Just as goods are more important than money, so God is more important than goods. He's the source of all true wealth.
 The obvious question (If we don't help ourselves, who will?) has an answer when you bring God into it. If you work for love, you work for God. So it becomes his re-

-11-

sponsibility to look after your needs. And we've found that he does!
 God comes into it too, when you try to decide the best way to love others. Only He knows the future and what makes people tick; and he explains a lot about the overall plan in the Bible.
 Some good places to start, if you want to study the source of our theory and the source of real wealth, are Mathew 6:19-34, and James, chapters 4 and 5. We have a lot of other literature on the subject, if you are interested.



-12-

The Cost
 It's not realistic to expect everyone to instantly accept our new policy. People have been conditioned against it for too long. To really change the world, you must change people's hearts, and that's a tall order. But never under-estimate the power of one life.
 People like Gandhi, Socrates, and Jesus have had a big influence on history because they believed some things were more important than life itself.
 One such individual in today's world could make a big difference, and even a dozen such people could start a spiritual revolution that could change history.
 There have been armies that were willing to kill for what they believed. Why not an army of people who are willing to die for what they believe?

-13-

We can give our lives by dying quickly for this new world order, or we can give our lives a day at a time by labouring patiently and faithfully to bring a little light to a dark and dying world.
 Remember, if you change even one small part of the world, you have still changed the world. Much change is slow and gradual.
 The message we preach often causes people to react in irrational anger. Sometimes they themselves do not know why they are reacting in the way they do. But if our motives are only to show love, then even a hateful response indicates that we are getting people thinking. Just keep on loving and you'll succeed.
 When they have done all they can to stop us, and we continue to love, they will know then that love is stronger than hate.

-14-

7. The Job Myth

A sequel to "A New Economic Policy" dealt with the specific topic of jobs. It appeared as an article in one of the group's mini-magazines, from which we have derived the title of this book.

The text for "The Job Myth" as it appeared in the original "Now for Something Completely Different" is printed on the following pages.

You will notice that it has a shot at the tobacco industry. Before the Rappville Christians had even left Rappville, they came in touch with "BUGA-UP" (i.e. "Billboard Utilising Graffitists Against Unhealthy Promotions).

The Rappville Christians had undertaken some alterations to billboards on their own, and when BUGA-UP heard of their offer to do free work, they asked the group to "re-face" some billboards for them. Although the free work offer did not normally extend to illegal activities, this was one exception.

A deep friendship was formed in 1983, between the Rappville Christians and BUGA-UP, and it continues to this day.

The Job Myth

Material wealth is measured by the quantity and quality of desirable goods and services that you have. Money is just a ticket to acquire some of the goods and services that already exist in any given society.

Similarly, production is anything that *increases*

1

the quality or quantity of goods and services.

Employment may or may not achieve this.

The tobacco industry, for example, creates jobs, but actually kills people who provide other necessary services to society. This destruction of the workforce cannot be considered true production.

2

A job becomes an end in itself when money becomes an end in itself.

Increased abundance for all will only come from eliminating non-productive jobs, and distributing the fruits of increased production to all of the population.

Whole institutions (e.g. banks, gambling agencies, stock exchanges,

3

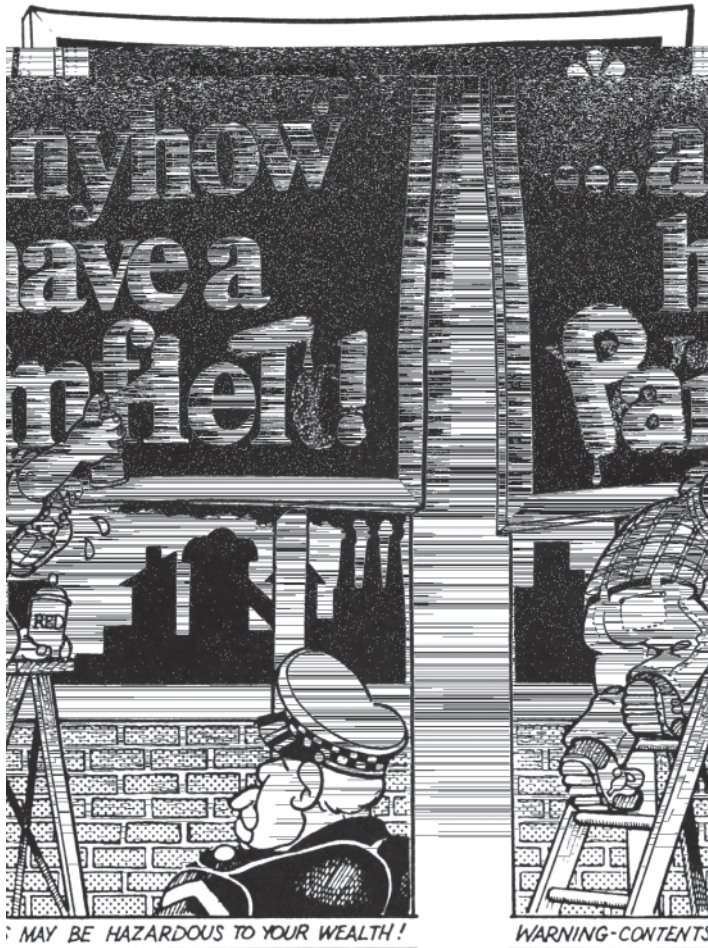
insurance companies, government mints) do not create any real wealth. Yet these are the institutions that literally own the country under present economic policy.

If all these non-productive workers could be freed to help the rest of us, we could all have an extra day's holiday each week, without any loss in production.

4

<p>Then, we could work on eliminating products for which greedy advertisers have created artificial needs, by conning the public into thinking that the products would make them happy, popular, good looking, or successful.</p> <p>We could put our efforts into making everything, from clothes to</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p>motor cars, of the best possible quality, so that they would last ten times longer than the stuff we get today.</p> <p>Millions of man-hours (in repairing or producing replacement items) would be saved, giving us still more time for truly productive tasks.</p> <p>We could inoculate whole countries against</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p>
<p>diseases for which we already have vaccines.</p> <p>We could provide clean water, sealed roads, electricity, and good sanitation for the entire world.</p> <p>We could educate the masses of the Third World, thus producing still more workers to share the load of production with us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p>The so-called "cheap labour" of Asian countries would be seen as a blessing instead of a threat, shortening the work week to as little as two days a week, again with no drop in wealth for the West (and a marked increase in wealth for the rest of the world). This is not a dream. It could really work!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p>

<p>Families would be able to spend plenty of time together, and all human relationships could be enriched.</p> <p>Art, literature, and technology would flourish, as we used our leisure creatively. In this way, we would become even more productive.</p> <p>But none of this will happen until people stop</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p>thinking <i>money and jobs</i>, and start thinking <i>wealth and production</i>.</p> <p>We are all afraid that, if we let go of the money or the job we are presently clinging to, others will take advantage of us... and they probably will to a certain extent!</p> <p>But someone must absorb a few blows if a war is ever to cease.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10</p>
<p>If, like ourselves, you believe in an all-powerful God who has everything under control, then "letting go" of your wealth, and your means of support becomes an act of faith in his care and protection, and it becomes the first step toward building the new world that Jesus called "the kingdom of God."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11</p>	<p>Jesus Christ was ready to die for this new world, and so are we.</p> <p>If you would like to work with us, please write to us today:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jesus Christians Box A678 Sydney S. 1235 Australia</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12</p>



8. Photos

The cover for the mini-mag entitled "Now for Something Completely Different" (i.e. the cover for this book) was taken from a *New Idea* billboard that originally said, "Every week we come up with a New Idea to make train travel more interesting."

The Jesus Christians "Buga-upped" the billboard, to make it say "Everything that Jesus said will make your life more interesting." And, of course, the woman who had originally been reading a copy of *New Idea* on the billboard at the time, was suddenly seen to be reading a Bible!

New Idea liked it so much that they paid to keep the altered billboard on display at Town Hall Station in Sydney, for a further two years! And they paid to have the untouched version displayed next to it.

A photo of the actual "re-facing" is shown in the photo section that follows, along with a few pictures of present and past members of The Jesus Christians (formerly known as the Rappville Christians).



Anonymous members of the Rappville Christians 're-face' a billboard at Town Hall Railway Station in 1984.



The original 'Rappville Christians' behind the general store in Rappville, NSW, in 1982. Members who continue to this day are (in the back row) Dave and Cherry McKay (Dave in the dark top with a white sleeve, and Cherry to his right), and Roland Gianstefani and Robin Dunn. (Robin is clowning with Roland, who has a big head of black hair.) Seated on the extreme left of the picture are Ross Parry and Christine McKay (who later married Robin Dunn). Just behind Christine, and in front of Dave and Cherry, is Kevin McKay. Malcolm Wrest is to Kevin's left, and Sheri McKay is seated in front of Malcolm and slightly to his left. Gary McKay is to Sheri's left.



Rappville Christians in 1983 (from left above) Malcolm Wrest, Gary McKay, David A'Beckett (back), Ray Sippel, Kevin McKay, and Ross Parry.

Present members in the picture on the facing page include Robin and Christine Dunn (top left), Susan and Roland Gianstefani (top right and middle right), Boopalan Venkatachalam (second from left, middle row), and front row (from left) Ross Parry, Paul Henry, Francis Gonzalez, Danny Gianstefani (in Fran's lap), and Martin Filla.





Jesus Christians, India, 1999. From left: Christine Dunn, Cherry McKay, Rebecca and Boopalan Venkatachalam, Dave McKay, Robin Dunn, Reinhard Zeuner.

9. Political Emphasis

One cartoon gave a more political slant to living by faith. It was called "A New Motivation", and although it continued the theme of not working for money, the emphasis was one of workers uniting to overcome the control that employers had over them. The Rappvillians, or Jesus Christians, maintained that their real aim was to *relate* to disgruntled workers in a way to direct them toward a more positive solution.

Although they often turned up at peace marches and protest rallies in the 80's and 90's, their official position was apolitical. They believed the only answers that counted were ones that changed individual *attitudes*, and such changes would not (they said) come through legislation or violent revolution.

Some of their cartoons and writings on the subject are included in this section.

The artwork for the "Christian Politicians" article was another 'rip-off', and came compliments of *Mad* magazine.

Jesus the Revolutionary

The system has used both religion and politics to divert idealistic youth away from the only truly revolutionary ideology ever created.

Religion has made the truth impotent by turning it into meaningless rituals. Its real agenda is hidden. In league with the State, it aims to make idealistic youth into loyal systemites. Nothing could be less revolutionary.

Political ideologies of both the right and left have taken some truths and made them into platforms from which to condemn the truths of the other side. The sins of the establishment are all to be found in the replacements being offered politically.

The problem with society is essentially spiritual, so the solution requires a revolution of the spirit. Any political ideology that cannot change the motivations and attitudes of people cannot lead to lasting change.



Conversely, no political power can *stop* the changes in society that will take place when spiritual revolution really starts affecting people's attitudes and motivation.

Jesus taught a complete reversal of the motivations that most of us take for granted. Instead of producing for greed or fear, people in his kingdom produce because of love and a desire to contribute to others. This approach represents a bigger threat to the system than all other ideologies combined. People who are immune to greed and fear, although apparently powerless, actually possess far greater power than the system.

The church and state recognised this danger in Jesus, and they worked together to eliminate him. (John 19:12) But it is the nature of this spiritual power to *increase* under persecution; so the result was that Christ's message spread throughout the world.

The revolutionary kingdom of heaven does not depend on the changing whims of an electorate. It can be achieved right here and now by individuals who decide to do all that they do only for love, totally abandoning all material ties in surrender to this love. The more that people live out this reality, working for love and trusting God for their material needs, the more the kingdom of heaven manifests itself visibly here on earth... right now!

This is no pie in the sky religion. This is the only fully revolutionary answer to the world's problems. And, because it works best under persecution, there is absolutely nothing that can stop it.







Friend or Foe?

We teach that the world would be a better place if people would stop working for money and start working for love.

Is this a dangerous teaching?

The answer is yes... and no!

If you think it is good to have a world where the rich exploit the poor, where everyone lives in fear of losing their jobs, where power is abused in government, religion, and business.. then the message we preach is a threat to you.

But if you think increased production, more equality, faith in God, and love for one another are good things, then read on.

Most people are so used to dealing with corrupt systems (whether they be political, economic, or religious) that they forget how to relate to people as individuals, and they forget how to think in terms of principles rather than in terms of organisations.

So when they hear individuals like ourselves talking about sharing wealth, they panic and think, "Oh, no! Communists!"

When they hear us mention Jesus, they think, "Oh, no! Bible bashers!"

And when they see us passing out leaflets, they think, "Oh, no! Another business trying to sell me something I don't need!"

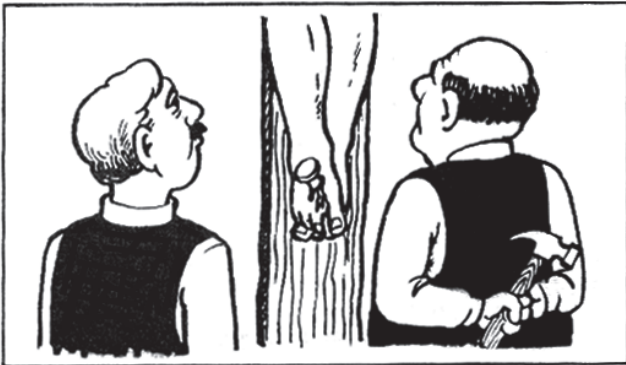
Jesus had that trouble too. He wasn't out to rip people off, and he wasn't really trying to overthrow the government or destroy the established religion of his day; but people still felt threatened by him.

For starters, he was *different*. He didn't seem to be afraid of anybody or anything.

Then he was *active* – campaigning seven days a week for something he called "God's Government" or "The Kingdom of Heaven". Everyone else was too busy working for money to take the time to really listen, and learn how they could live the same life of spiritual adventure. So, in their jealousy, they killed him.

Maybe he wasn't *violently* opposing the government of his day, but he was teaching a kind of personal accountability that would make government and religion as practised then (and now too!) pretty much obsolete. For that, too, he was regarded as an enemy of the state.

What a tragedy! For had the people listened to him and put his teachings into practice, they could have realised all the goals that any good government *claims* to be seeking for the people



The trouble is that too many powerful people have a vested interest in defending corruption, exploitation, and the status quo.

And they have been able to make the rest of us feel guilty if we question the injustices of a cruel and impersonal bureaucracy.

Unfortunately, we cannot promise to change *all* of that – at least not in the short run. The world today is on an irreversible course toward more and more centralised control. Banks, churches, employer organisations, and big government are all pushing daily for greater control of the masses through legislation and computer technology.

They control us now through fear. Fear of communists... fear of dangerous "cults"... fear of crooked businessmen... fear of muggers and purse-snatchers. And their solution is always to promise safety through giving them greater control: one big super church that will squash all of the heretics; one big government that will license all of the goodies and outlaw all of the baddies; one big army/police force that will wipe out all crime; and one big bank that will brand everyone and keep all wealth safe in its computers.

But we won't wear it. We see that the answer lies in personal attitudes... individuals with a commitment to fight hate with love, and fight fear with faith.

People who want to *learn* more than they want to get an education.

People who want to be *productive* more than they want a paid job.

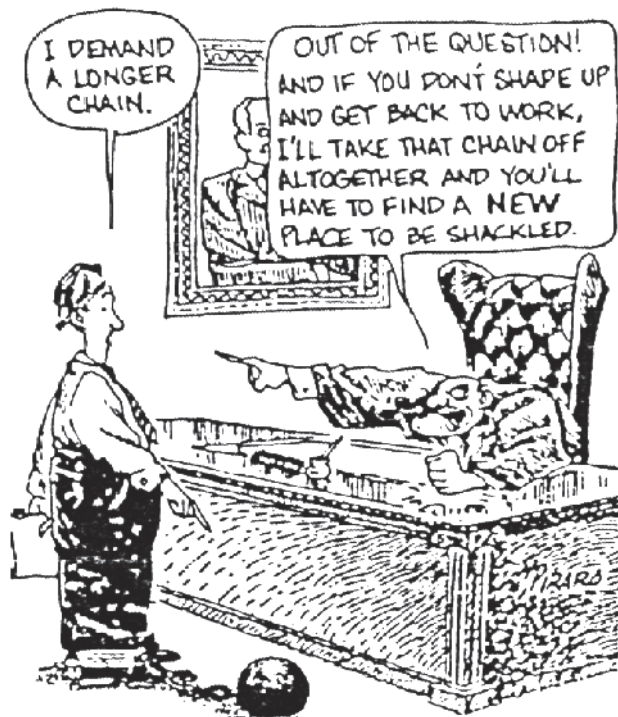
People who want to grow daily in self-discipline, in sensitivity to the needs of others, and in a willingness to lay down their lives to see God's government changing the hearts and lives of others around them.

Christians

Box No. 2981

Madras-5

Do you suffer from A fear of Poverty?



The system is powerless unless we *let* it frighten us. And if we fear poverty, we have already admitted defeat.

Do you complain about system injustices but still play its games? If so, you have become part of the problem. Fear of poverty is what injustices are made from.

Poverty is a bully. Let it push you around and you'll be running from it all your life.

But deliberately face it at its worst and it is unlikely to ever scare you again.

Multi-national corporations are owned by people like you and me who are only trying to make a few dollars on an investment. By playing this game, we become part of the monster that crushes opponents, hires and fires at will, and sucks dry the economies of Third world nations.

Fear of poverty and a desire for more are two halves of the same deception.

When we hear people argue that they have to have money, we know they are not capable of changing the system; for they preach the very lie that caused all the trouble in the first place! If you think you cannot live without money, money has ceased being a tool and has become your master. You no longer use it; it uses you!

It would be nice if everyone shared, but the bottom line is not that living by faith (as we do) will guarantee you economic success.

To really stand poverty on its ear we must consider it at its worst... and that is starvation!

Think of it this way: We're going to die one day anyway. Why not face it now, on our own terms? People can find excitement in fast driving, mountain climbing, taking drugs, and other things that are more dangerous than refusing to work for money. Why not risk death to conquer one of the most universal of all fears: the fear of poverty?

Estimate how many days it'll take to starve to death, then start doing as many nice things as you can before it happens. You'll be surprised how much you can accomplish. And you may also be surprised at how long it takes to die!

Let's Get Radical!

Most opponents of materialism work for money on the grounds that they can use it to fight the injustices of a materialistic society. But working for money is what materialism is all about. Using materialism to fight materialism is like fighting vice by becoming a prostitute. We can't free the world while we ourselves are still slaves to its economics. (II Peter 2:19)

Money can be useful, and if finance is freely available, then by all means use it. But remember that everyone justifies *working for more* on the basis of the good they can do with it after they get it.

Even tobacco companies argue that they are creating jobs. They assume money (jobs) is more important than the *lives* their product destroys. But when we give our *lives* (time) to make money, we are making the same mistake. Until we can cast aside the chains of fear that hold us in our jobs we can never take up a full-time position in the new order.

Freedom does not come from gaining more money, but rather from learning to live on less. People who put finance first seldom get around to doing the things they used to justify their greed in the first place.

The new order doesn't need money; what it needs is workers. Our greatest weapon is our message, and we have that, with or without money.

John Stuart Mills once said, "All it takes to destroy a system is to refuse to buy its product." The product is material security and we won't buy it.

If you want to help the poor, you can (a) work for money and send it to the Third World; or (b) go over and live amongst the poor yourself. "B" sounds like it would add to the problem. But, because the problem is lack of education (and not lack of money, which of itself will not create more resources), your presence means more than your money. You can teach people to read or write. You can teach hygiene, and many other skills that we have come to take for granted in the West. And you can do these and many other helpful things without specialised training.

It would be nice if we had a few million people ready to do this. But even without great numbers, we can act personally. The money myth cons people into waiting until they have wealth before they can help. And the political myth makes them wait for an army of volunteers before they will begin. We won't be stopped by either. We all have more than enough that we can do right now without waiting for someone else to do it for us.

We only have one life, so that is all that we are responsible for. Could you be doing more with your life than working in a job to make money?

C'mon, let's get radical!

Christian Politicians?

Should Christians be involved in politics? This question has stumped many Christians. But sooner or later, most have found themselves justifying political activity of one sort or another, and we feel that it has been to their spiritual detriment.

Of course much depends on how you define politics, since voting, signing a petition, even expressing an opinion can all be political activities. And in that sense, we are all political creatures.

But we can be easily deceived into thinking that the kingdom of heaven can be brought to earth on a ballot paper; and as a result, we can become caught in the depressing whirlpool of litigation, backstabbing, financial competition, and even war itself because of the "good" it can supposedly achieve. If this happens, we are well and truly off the rails.

It seems that most people are able to see the error in trusting political solutions in some areas, but that they are inclined to overlook the

error in other areas. For example, those who believe greed cannot be conquered through socialism often think that lust can be eliminated through censorship; and vice versa.



At best, good legislation only keeps people from killing each other long enough to work on the real solutions, which lie entirely within each of our hearts. And even if there was no such thing as legislation against murder, it should not stop those of us who have found something worth dying for anyway.

That is the biggest deception of war, i.e. that we must kill to stop others from killing, that we

must fight fire with fire. And this is the problem with politics: that it always brings us down to the level of the enemy.

Daniel said, "God controls the countries of the world and appoints the *worst* people to rule over them." (Daniel 4:17) If you rub shoulders with politicians for very long, you will discover how true this is. (And the worst of the worst are often those who first appear to be the most sincere!)

One of Jesus' first temptations was that of taking a political shortcut to the kingdom of heaven. He refused it, because his kingdom was best symbolised by a cross.

We should guard against becoming callous about injustices in the world; but we should also seek to express solidarity with the oppressed by sharing in their sufferings, rather than by sharing in, and possibly encouraging, their outrage.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5) This principal (like so many other principals in the kingdom of heaven) is entirely foreign to human politics.

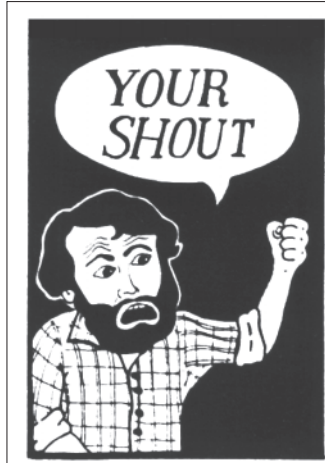
10. Speak Up or Shut Up?

The only difference between an argument and a discussion is that in a discussion someone is listening.

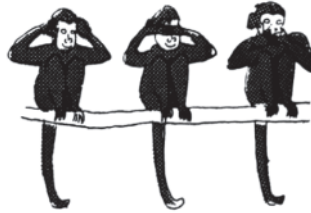
While they were in their teens, brothers Gary and Kevin McKay illustrated contrasting mini-comics, one of which ("Why Argue?") encouraged walking away from arguments, while the other, "Your Shout", encouraged people to speak up (for the good of others) in situations where they could see that something wrong was being done.

The comics did not contradict each other, however, because the key factor in each of them was whether or not anyone was listening.

The cover of Gary's comic featured a drawing meant to represent perennial anti-smoking activist, Bill Snow. It was yet another attempt to relate to those who were angry with the injustices of the world around them.



"ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE TRIUMPH OF EVIL IS THAT GOOD MEN REMAIN SILENT AND DO NOTHING."



-1-

SOME PEOPLE THINK IT IS ALWAYS EVIL TO SPEAK LOUDLY OR ANGRILY. THIS IS VERY WRONG.



-2-

WRITTEN MESSAGES (LETTERS, LEAFLETS, NEWSPAPERS, EVEN THE BIBLE) ARE "PEACEFUL"; i.e. THEY DON'T INCLUDE OTHER VOICES SHOUTING OVER THE VOICE OF THE WRITER.



-3-

BUT IN THE REAL WORLD, CONFRONTATIONS ARE A REGULAR PART OF LIFE, AND WE MUST LEARN TO DEAL WITH THEM.



-4-

WHEN SOMEONE IS CLEARLY NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU ARE SAYING, IT'S USUALLY BEST TO STOP TALKING AND FIND SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED.



-5-

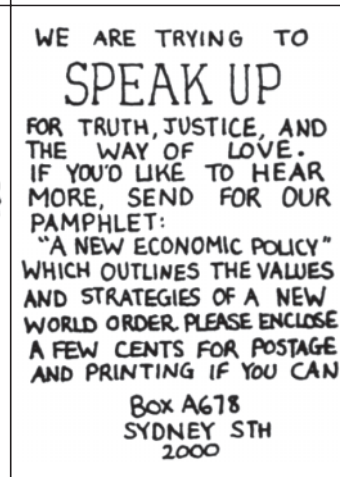
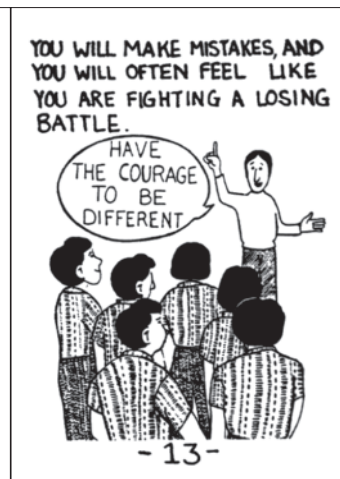
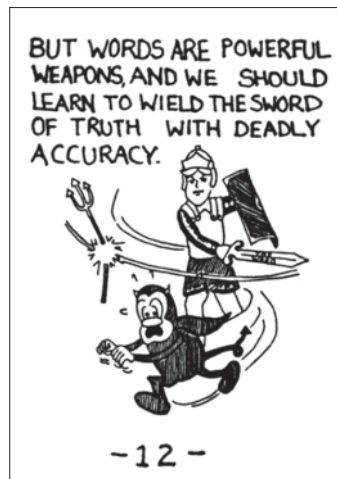
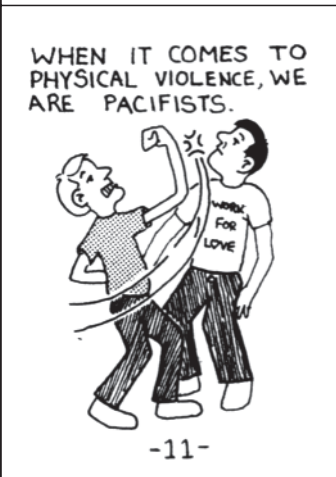
BUT, IF OTHER PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED, YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR WHEN YOU HAVE STRONG DISAGREEMENT WITH WHAT IS BEING SAID, OR DONE.



-6-

SILENCE IS USUALLY TAKEN AS SUPPORT. THE "SILENT MAJORITY" ALWAYS SUPPORT THE STATUS QUO. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SAY SO.

-7-





Then a man named Galileo discovered that this was not true. From the Tower of Pisa he dropped two rocks of different sizes and they fell at the same speed.



-2-

For centuries people believed that a two pound ball would fall twice as fast as a one pound ball.



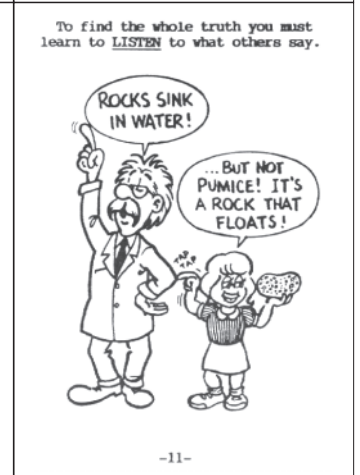
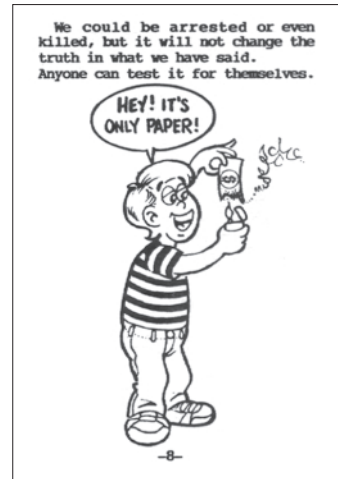
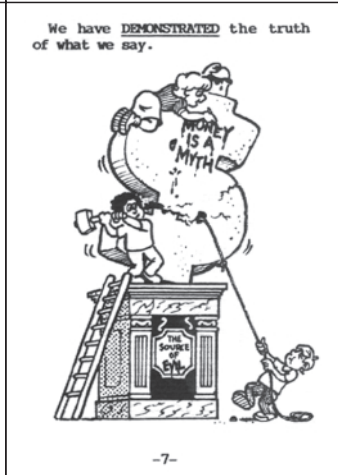
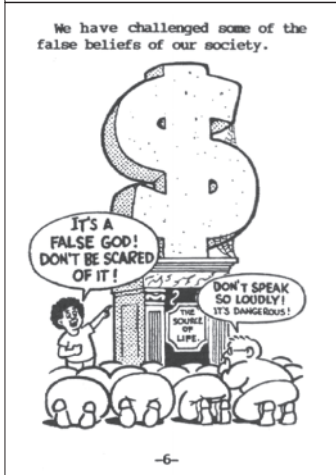
-1-

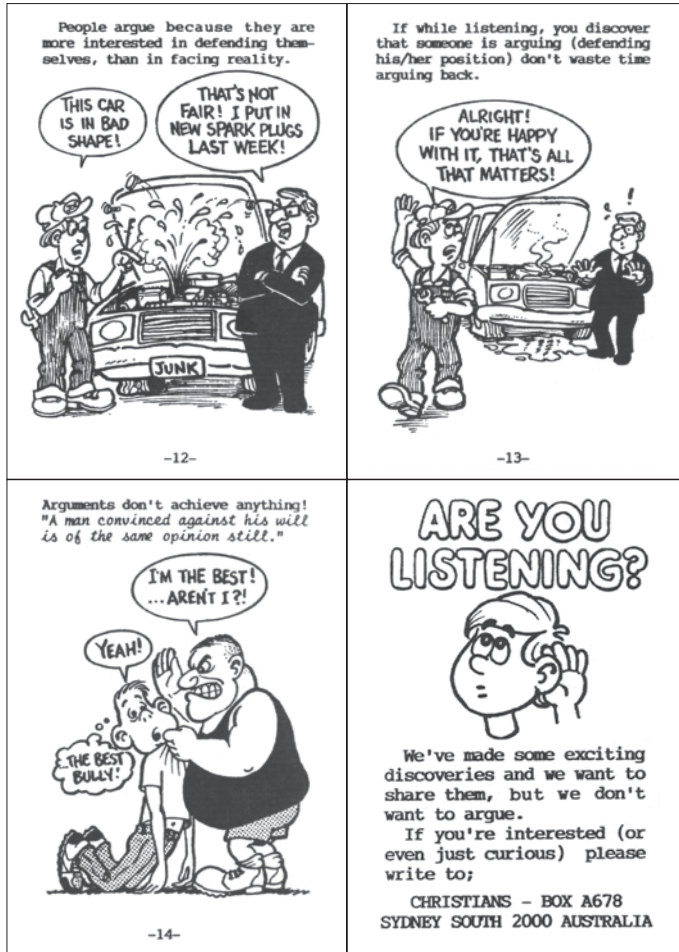
Leaders at that time said Galileo was dangerous & evil. They arrested him and argued against what he taught...

But they could not stop the TRUTH!



-3-





11. Disbelief

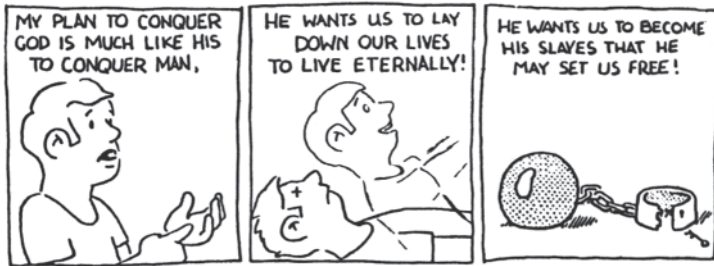
On the whole, the Jesus Christians have always been more tolerant of unbelief in the secular world than they have been of it amongst professing Christians. A big percentage of their early supporters and friends were atheists and agnostics, while religious zealots had always been the first to denounce them, or to report them to the police.

However, they made some effort to get through to non-believers, including a poem which appeared in one of the mini-mags, and a couple of articles which appeared in their newsletter.

The Atheist







Honest Faith

There is a tendency amongst critics of religion to throw the Baby out with the bath water. Sure, much is wrong with religion; but faith in God should not be blamed for it. Dishonest religionists only pretend to have faith in God. The solution to such hypocrisy is not to deny the existence of God, but rather to counter dishonest faith with honest faith.

Honest faith starts by admitting that there are very real limitations to our ability to comprehend God. We are but specks in the vastness of the universe, and our lives are a flash in the face of eternity. Our minds boggle when we try to imagine never having been born, or what it is like to cease to exist after death.

Consequently, most people avoid such thoughts altogether and grab all the pleasure they can get right now. But others cling to a hope that our personality (mind, soul, spirit, or whatever) is part of eternity and that it exists quite apart from this physical body that we now find ourselves trapped in. This hope is the beginning of faith.

There are good reasons for believing that life as we now know it is only a small part of a higher plane of existence. There is so much order, purpose, and beauty in creation that we cannot accept that the universe was an accident, or (more unbelievably) that the universe made itself through some mythical "big bang". (Like where did the "bang" come from? And how did matter come into existence as a result of it?)

We may not be able to comprehend a man with a long white beard constructing the universe, but the fact that some fathomless Force and/or Intelligence is behind it is consistent with everything that we experience in this prison we call Time. We don't accept that cars can make themselves, so we cannot accept that human life created itself. And if there is a Master Designer (and He, She, or It has at least given us enough intelligence to recognise the probability that He, She or It exists), then what is our role in it all? Why were we put here?

Many religions teach that the Creator seeks a special relationship with humans. They say that while other animals have an instinctive relationship with the Creator, people alone are given the opportunity to choose to actually resist the Creator.

Our unique notions of good and evil, right and wrong, morality and immorality, also lead us to believe that the Creator is good, right and moral. Life as we know it is a *gift* from a loving Creator. If this is true, then resisting the Creator must be evil, wrong, and immoral.

But this is when religion begins to rear its ugly head. Dishonest leaders claim to speak on behalf of the Creator in teaching what is good and what is evil. Their decrees conflict with those of other religious leaders. More importantly, they conflict with tiny whispers within the souls of each of us. And this conflict leads many to reject religion.

We know that the leaders are wrong, but we also know that those inner whispers are often not understandable and at times they are completely inaudible. Following the inner voice on our own requires such honesty that it proves to be too painful for most of us. Eventually we lose all interest in (and ability for) hearing that voice.

Some return to the religious leaders; others return to an animal existence. And still others declare themselves to be spiritual leaders without really having a knowledge of ultimate Truth themselves. They invent new terminology, which only adds to the confusion of exaggerated conjecture that makes up so much of religion.

Only a rare few desire Truth strongly enough to find it.

There are times when someone says something that echoes or even amplifies our inner convictions. Our hopes for finding real purpose in life are lifted, as the inner voice and another human being begin to support one another.

But, when this person exposes a blind spot in our thinking, and the inner voice feebly admits to the truth of the claim, most of us choose self-deception rather than the divine fulfillment that could come from accepting the truth at any cost. In fact, this is what makes the inner voice unreliable. If we would learn to *accept* truths that are uncomfortable, the inner voice would become stronger and clearer as a result.

Many religious leaders speak of faith and love, and our conscience bears witness that this much of what they are saying is true. But Jesus goes further and tells us to put our faith and love into practical action by forsaking everything we own and living only by faith in God, and love for others.

No religious leader in history has had the courage to promise God's provision for any and all who will spend their lives working for love. Many religions promise such an existence for a

chosen few, but they still insist on a majority of 'supporters' who, they say, must play the part of God for the chosen ones, by staying rooted in the economic mire of the world. For them, Christ's claims are a big threat.

The great strength of both the Jewish and Islamic religions was their recognition that idolatry is an insult to God: The Creator of the universe cannot be contained in pieces of metal or wood! True Christianity (as contained in the teachings of Jesus) goes further, and challenges all material possessions (*mammon*) as potential threats to spiritual growth. It brands all greed as idolatry, and calls on people to renounce all private ownership. Even religious buildings are seen as totally unnecessary. What the Father seeks, according to the Son, is humility and honesty; for he looks at the heart rather than at external appearances.

We've tried it and it works! Such a witness in the Twentieth Century challenges everyone to do the same, or attempt to discredit our faith. Unfortunately, the latter is most often the case.

But it does not take away the satisfaction that comes from having a personal relationship with the Creator of the universe... a relationship which has given us a true purpose for life.

12. Finding God's Will

The youngest member of the McKay Family, 12-year-old Christine, tried her hand at illustrating a mini-comic that dealt with the topic of "Making Decisions". It summarised seven different ways that the group had come to use when trying to discern the will of God.

They had observed that people generally got into trouble spiritually if they relied on any one of the seven ways to know God's will, to the exclusion of the others.

The concept of "special revelation" (through dreams, visions, and prophecies) is usually thought to be far beyond the reach of normal people. But the group regularly analyses their own dreams, and participates in regular "listening times", when they seek to wipe their minds clear of all prejudices, and to wait for God to put a thought or picture in their minds (much like dreaming while still awake), after which they seek to "interpret" it.

Christine's comic is followed by yet another newsletter article on the same topic.



IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A WISE DECISION, GOD WILL HELP YOU (JAMES 1:5). HERE ARE 7 WAYS GOD SPEAKS TO PEOPLE:

- 1- JESUS' TEACHINGS (P.5)
- 2- OTHER PEOPLE (P.6)
- 3- SPECIAL REVELATION (P.7)
- 4- CIRCUMSTANCES (P.8)
- 5- PERSONAL DESIRES (P.9)
- 6- CO-INCIDENCES (P.10)
- 7- MIRACLES (P.11)

-4-

THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST ARE THE BEST GUIDE. THEY ARE IN THE FOUR GOSPELS, (MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN.)

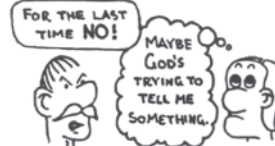


-5-

OPPORTUNITIES OFTEN HELP US TO MAKE A DECISION.



AND "CLOSED DOORS" ARE PRETTY HARD TO ARGUE WITH.



-8-

GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT DOING THINGS YOU ENJOY - UNLESS THEY ARE WRONG



DO WHAT YOU LIKE DOING

-9-

LISTEN TO PEOPLE WHOM YOU CAN TRUST. THE WRITINGS OF THE EARLY CHRISTIANS (EG. PETER, JAMES, JOHN, PAUL) ARE A GOOD GUIDE; BUT DON'T BE TOO PROUD TO LISTEN TO OTHERS ALSO.

DAD, DO YOU THINK WE ARE TOO YOUNG TO GET MARRIED?



-6-

GOD MAY SPEAK TO YOU IN A DREAM, VISION OR PROPHECY. (WORDS IN YOUR MIND.)



-7-

MINOR INCIDENCES AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME CAN OFTEN BE TAKEN AS A MESSAGE FROM GOD.

I'VE BEEN PRAYING ABOUT JOINING A GROUP WHEN I READ PSALM 133



-10-

SOMETIMES IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO ASK GOD FOR A "SIGN".




IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO JUMP OFF THIS CLIFF, SEND A BOLT OF LIGHTNING.



-11-

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY. IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU SHOULD DO, DON'T MAKE EXCUSES!

I LIKE STEALING. I HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY, SO IF GOD DOESN'T SEND A BOLT OF LIGHTNING, I WILL!



-12-

WHEN YOU HAVE A BIG DECISION TO MAKE, LIST THESE SEVEN WAYS:

	FOR AGAINST ?	
JESUS	✓	
OTHERS	✓	
REVELATIONS		✓
CIRCUMSTANCES	✓	
DESIRES		✓
CO-INCIDENTS		✓
MIRACLES		✓

-13-

THEN EVALUATE EACH ONE. THOSE AT THE TOP OF THE LIST COUNT MORE THAN THOSE AT THE BOTTOM. JESUS COUNTS MORE THAN ALL THE OTHERS. SOME WAYS WILL NOT APPLY. YOUR CHART WILL HELP YOU DECIDE.

-14-

DECIDE TODAY....



TO SEND FOR MORE OF THESE BOOKLETS.

CHRISTIANS
Box A678
SYDNEY 5, 2000

PLEASE ENCLOSE A FEW CENTS TO HELP WITH POSTAGE AND PRINTING.

Hearing from God

It isn't as hard to hear from God as what most people imagine.

The problem is that most of us aren't all that interested in hearing from him. If we had a channel on telly with live broadcasts from heaven, we'd probably turn to it occasionally, just out of curiosity. But we'd soon return to the commercial channels when we heard what God was saying.

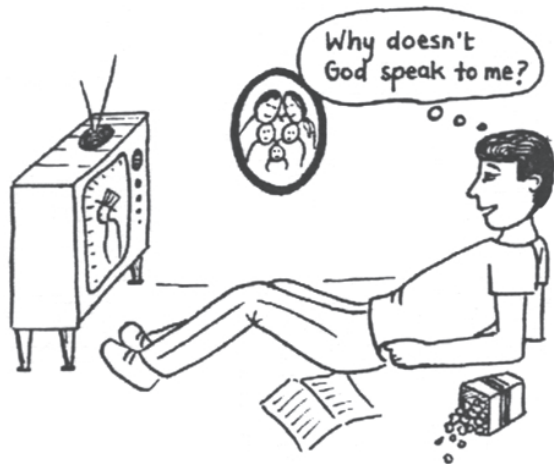
The fastest and most reliable way to hear from God is to fast. Maybe that's how it got its name: because it's so *fast*!

People often say that they'd like "a few weeks to pray about" living by faith. Of course it doesn't take a few weeks to get an answer from God. But then that's not what most of them are looking for. Some of them went off to pray about it years ago, and they still haven't returned. They rarely do.

When someone says, "Give me a few weeks to pray about it," they usually mean "Give me a few weeks to build a case against obeying God... or at least to get so distracted that I can forget what he's already told me to do."

Often they get revelations about what we should do. Usually it's something about us being too hard on people. What does it really mean? It means that we make people uncomfortable by taking Christ's teachings so seriously.

It doesn't take weeks to hear from God if you're serious about obeying him. But we can spend a lifetime sinking into the comfortable ooze of nature walks, fellowship, sleep, advice, church meetings, television, and, of course, plenty of good wholesome food.



Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." Fasting is the best way to express our urgency about hearing from God. But when we pretend to hunger after righteousness (while doing our own thing), we only become filled with self-righteousness.

*A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices. **William James***

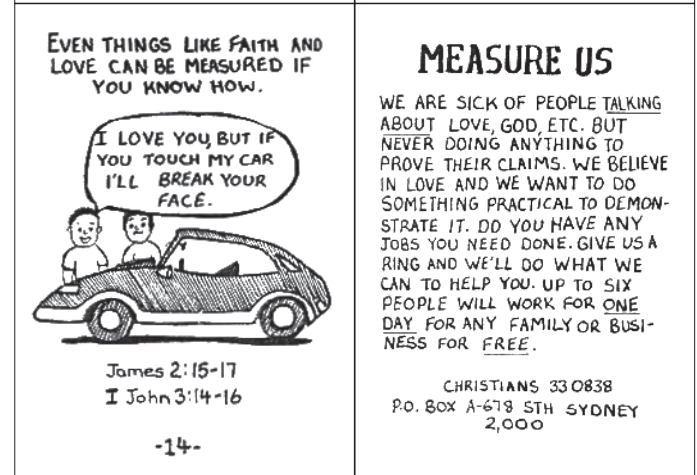
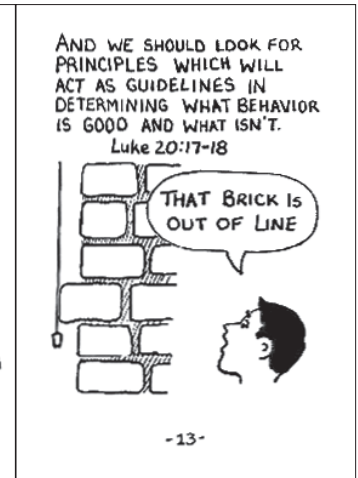
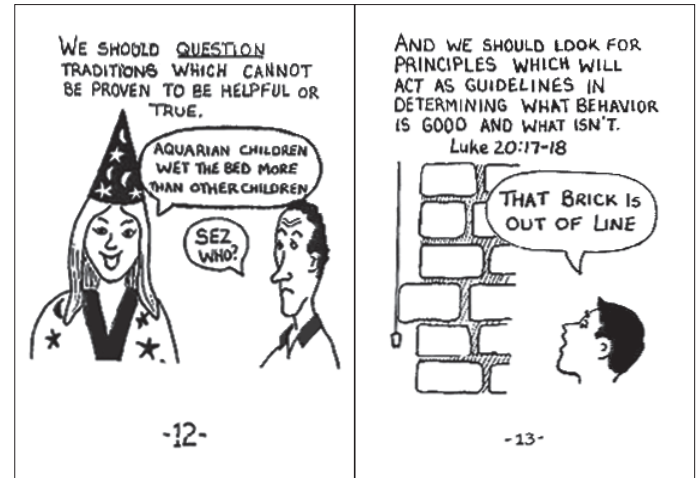
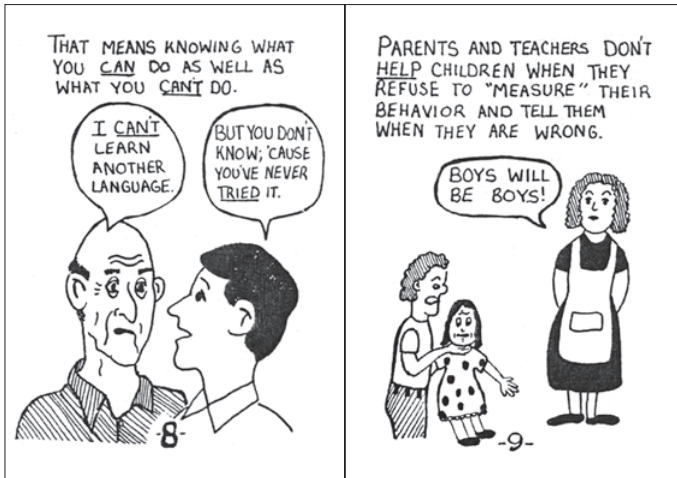
13. Emotionalism

Groups that believe in God talking to them directly are notorious for teaching bizarre and often dangerous doctrines. However, the Jesus Christians argued strongly against emotionalism and irrationality. Their seven ways to know God's will included such down to earth considerations as circumstances and the advice of others.

Their early roots in the hippy movement brought them into contact with many beliefs that lacked scientific credibility, and Christine's older sister, Sheri, tried her hand at illustrating a comic ("Measure It") which dealt with that concern. It challenged people to provide evidence to support religious claims.

The group also rejected blind faith in religious experiences such as those advocated by Christian evangelicals. Kevin prepared a mini comic ("Belly Dancers") which addressed the tendency amongst evangelicals to measure salvation on the basis of emotional experiences.





MEASURE US

WE ARE SICK OF PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT LOVE, GOD, ETC. BUT NEVER DOING ANYTHING TO PROVE THEIR CLAIMS. WE BELIEVE IN LOVE AND WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING PRACTICAL TO DEMONSTRATE IT. DO YOU HAVE ANY JOBS YOU NEED DONE. GIVE US A RING AND WE'LL DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP YOU. UP TO SIX PEOPLE WILL WORK FOR ONE DAY FOR ANY FAMILY OR BUSINESS FOR FREE.

CHRISTIANS 33 0838
PO. BOX A-678 5TH SYDNEY
2,000



Bellies are interesting things. Ancient Greeks called them the seat of our emotions.



-1-

Fear can give us butterflies in the stomach. Worry can give us stomach ulcers. And boredom can lead to over eating.



-2-

But the Greek "belly" included much more than that. It included all emotions: From lust to love.



-3-

We are more inclined to use the word "heart" when we think of emotions today - especially positive emotions.



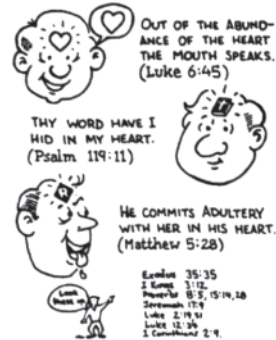
-4-

But when we use the term "heart" to refer to an emotional experience we are still talking about the belly.



-5-

However, in Bible times, the heart included what we now recognize as the brain.



-6-

St. Paul said that there would come a time when Christianity would worship a false god who is really their own belly. (1Tim. 3:19)



-7-

Jesus compared this kind of religion to an ancient childrens game, where the leader names an emotion & followers compete to express it. (Lukae 7:31-32.)

A cartoon showing a child standing on a box, pointing and shouting "CRY!". Other children are following, with one shouting "BOOHOOHOO!".

-8-

Through obsessions with 'feelings' they will lose their ability to think rationally. (Rom 1:23-25) Their emotions will call the tunes and the rest of the body will dance to it.

A cartoon of a man sitting at a desk, looking stressed. A devil-like figure with horns and a tail is riding on his back, holding a whip. The man says "HEH! HEH! HEH!".

-9-

We believe the solution lies in disciplined study of and obedience to the teachings of Christ. But the belly dancers' condemn us for this.

A cartoon of three men in suits. One says "YOU'RE TRYING TO WORK YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN!" and another says "YOU'RE UNDER THE 'LAW!'".

-10-

Such people *twist* the Bible, using proof texts to excuse Dis-obedience to Christ.

WE DON'T HAVE TO OBEY CHRIST!

I'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN! I'M SPIRIT FILLED! I'VE ASKED JESUS INTO MY HEART!

A cartoon of three people. One says "WE DON'T HAVE TO OBEY CHRIST!". The other two say "I'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN!", "I'M SPIRIT FILLED!", and "I'VE ASKED JESUS INTO MY HEART!".

-11-

Genuine religious experience can only come from hearing Christ and believing a obeying him.

"WE ARE BORN AGAIN BY THE WORD OF GOD" - 1 PETER 1:23

"THE WORDS I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT" - JOHN 6:63.

"WHY DO YOU CALL ME 'LORD' AND REFUSE TO DO WHAT I SAY?"

A cartoon showing a Bible and a person with a cross on their forehead, looking thoughtful.

-12-

Which pattern are you going to follow to find the truth?

TEACHINGS OF CHRIST

EMOTIONAL APPEALS

ENTER

STIR UP

THE MIND CONTROLS THE BELLY

THE BELLY CONFUSES THE MIND

(JOHN 7:38) (ROM. 16:17-18)

A flowchart comparing two paths. The left path starts with "TEACHINGS OF CHRIST" leading to "ENTER", which leads to a heart containing "THE MIND CONTROLS THE BELLY", with the reference "(JOHN 7:38)". The right path starts with "EMOTIONAL APPEALS" leading to "STIR UP", which leads to a heart containing "THE BELLY CONFUSES THE MIND", with the reference "(ROM. 16:17-18)".

-13-

Christ himself gives the best definition for a Christian, (Lukae 11:33) the answer to how we can inherit eternal life, (Lukae 18:18,22) and the formula for unshakeable faith. (Matt. 7:24)

I HAVE THIS FEELING ABOUT HIM. I DONT LIKE HIS SPIRIT!

A cartoon of Jesus and a man. The man says "I HAVE THIS FEELING ABOUT HIM. I DONT LIKE HIS SPIRIT!".

-14-

IF YOU LIKE WHAT WE ARE SAYING, WHY NOT SEND FOR OTHER BOOKLETS IN THIS SERIES!

A cartoon of a smiling man's face.

Please send a few cents to help with postage and printing and write to:
7 NANDABAH ST,
RAPPVILLE 2470, AUST.

14. "The Family"

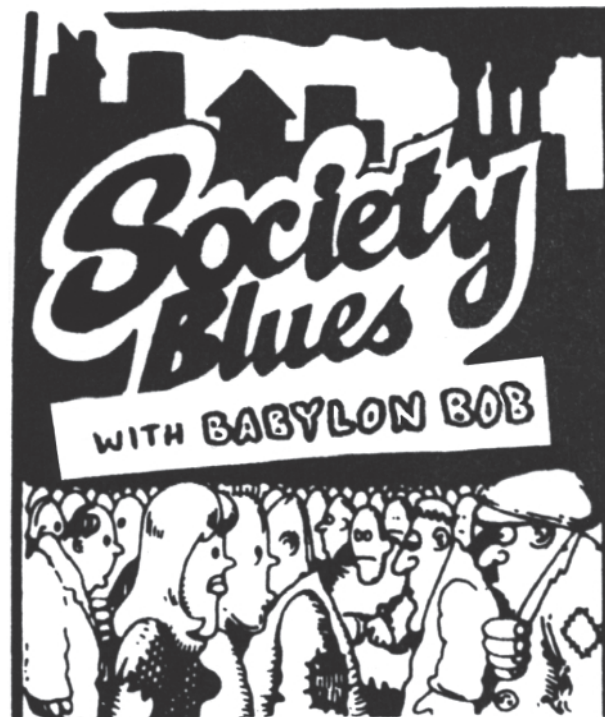
Over the years, the Jesus Christians have often been accused of being "The Family" (formerly known as "The Children of God").

The charge has been difficult to shake because the group has imitated The Family's practice of using cartoons to preach their message, and they have even ripped off some of the best Family illustrations. There are many similarities in their message as well.

(The main differences, however, are that the Jesus Christians disagree strongly with The Family practice of "sharing" wives, communicating with the spirits of dead people, and teaching that salvation can be guaranteed eternally just by saying a ritual prayer.)

In this section are a number of family cartoons which the Jesus Christians have used (and in some cases, altered) to get across their message.

Anyone interested in an in-depth theological comparison between The Family and the Jesus Christians can find it on the Christians' web page, at <http://cust.idl.net.au/fold>.



I will show you the judgment of the great Whore, with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication.



They that dwell on the earth shall wonder when they behold the beast...



Saying, Alas, that great city, clothed in fine linen and scarlet, decked with gold, precious stones, and pearls...



Her merchants were the great men of the earth, for by her sorceries were all nations deceived.



The merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.



In her were found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.



The angel said unto me, "I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her."



I heard a voice say, "Come out of her, my people, that you be not partaker of her sins nor receive of her plagues."



The merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her, for no one buyeth their merchandise anymore.



I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire, and them that had gotten the victory over the beast.



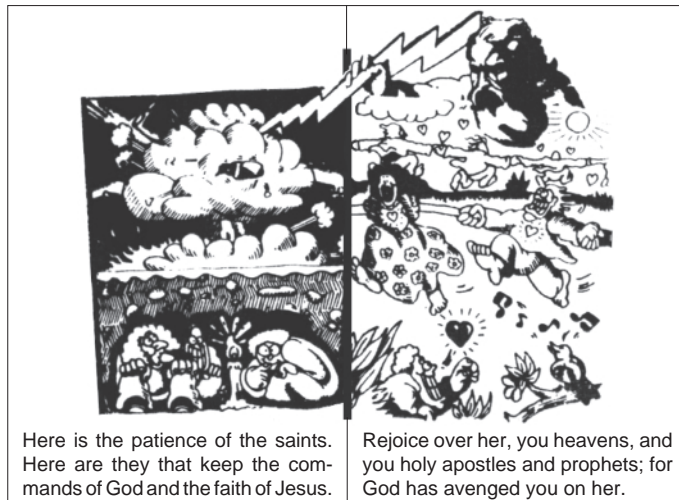
If any consent not to the words of Jesus, supposing that gain is godliness, from such withdraw thyself.



All who hear the teachings of Jesus and do not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.



It was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to prevail against them.



Here is the patience of the saints. Here are they that keep the commands of God and the faith of Jesus.

Rejoice over her, you heavens, and you holy apostles and prophets; for God has avenged you on her.

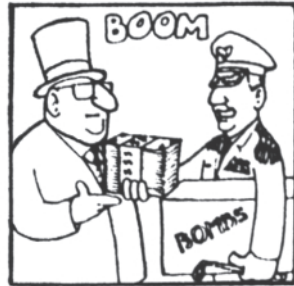
And we live happily ever after!

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Fear not them which kill the body, but cannot kill the soul.

All quotes in this comic are from the Bible. Read about the world's future in a 42-page booklet entitled *The Fall of America*.

Just write to the address below, requesting it. Please enclose a few cents to help with printing and postage costs. Thanks!

Jesus Christians
Box A678
Sydney South, 1235
Australia





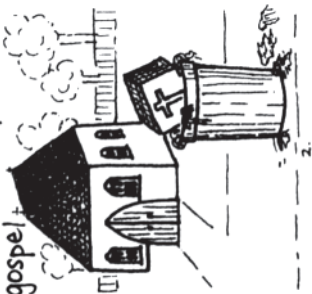
15. Good News

Almost from the start the Rappville Christians found themselves under attack by the mainline Christian churches. One argument was that their literature was not "preaching the gospel" because of its emphasis on obedience to the teachings of Jesus (in particular, living by faith) as the mark of a true Christian.

Jessica Danko, who also did the picture on the article called "Hearing from God" (page 86) and who is no longer a member of the group, prepared a tract called "Good News" which attempted to counter the charge that the community was teaching heresy because of its emphasis on obedience to Jesus.

The Jesus Christians argued that simplistic formulas for salvation (such as saying a little prayer) also constituted "works"... except that such works were not the ones that Jesus had prescribed. And they challenged the Protestant work *ethic* which pushed almost as hard in favour of working for money as it did *against* working for love.

We believe it is because they have thrown out the teachings of Christ, which are the rest of the gospel.



You've probably heard that the gospel (or good news) is that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and this is true.

But after that, something seems to go wrong with both the message and the people preaching it.

They're both full of contradictions...

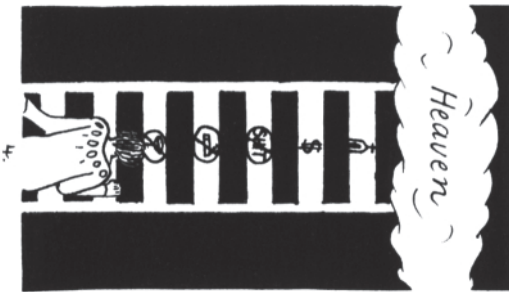
GOOD NEWS



And they insist that if you haven't done this you can't get into heaven.



They buy their salvation in the first place by saying a ritualistic prayer "asking Jesus into their hearts."



As a consequence, they don't even understand the religious phrases they do say, like "CHRIST DIED FOR YOUR SINS".

Some say this is good news because it means we don't have to work our way to heaven. And that's true.

But they still insist people should stop smoking or drinking, stop using four-letter words, get a job, and (most of all) go to church (preferably theirs) to earn (or at least to keep) their salvation.

Here are some more
of Christs teachings.

No man can serve two masters:
for either he will hate the one
and love the other; or else he will
hate to one, and despise the other.
Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
Matt. 6:24

And fear not them which kill
the body, but are not able to kill
the soul: but fear him
which is able to destroy both soul
and body in hell.
Matt. 10:28

...Take heed, and beware of
covetousness: for a man's life
consisteth in these things.
Luke 12:15

14.

This is not
salvation by works.
It is the glorious
liberty of the sons &
daughters of God who
have become like
little children (born
again) in total
dependance on our
heavenly Father
for all our material
needs.

13.



12.

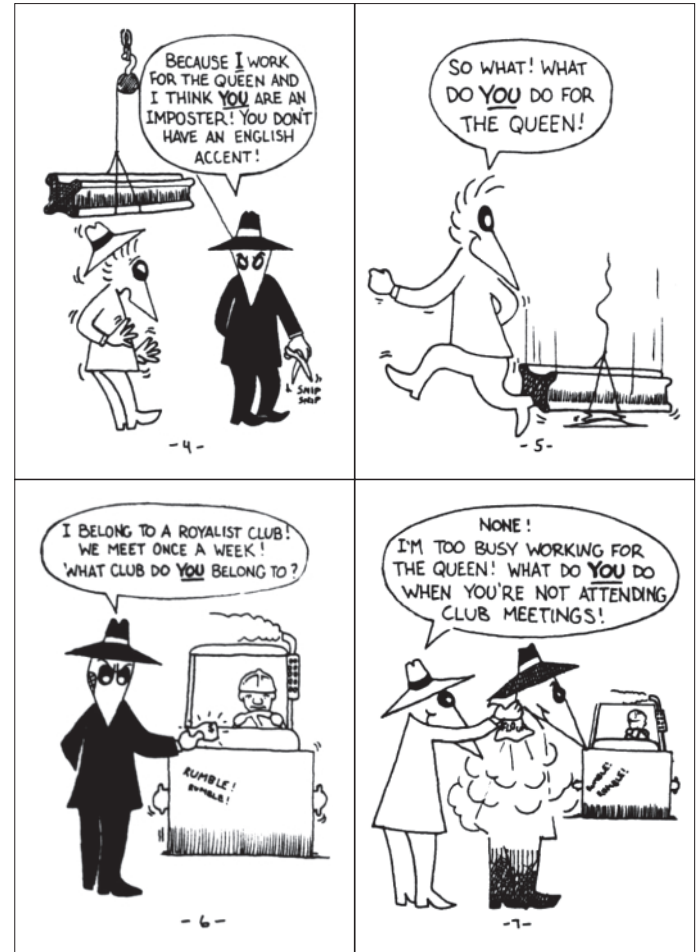
16. Spy vs Spy

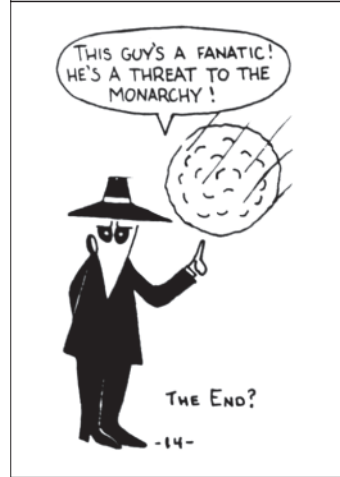
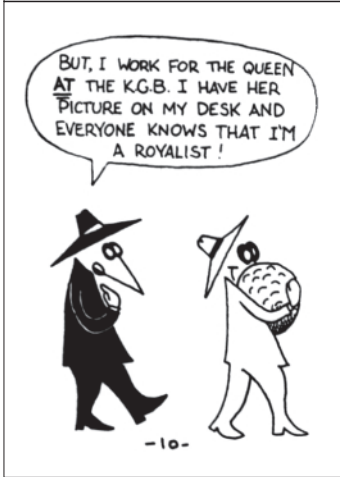
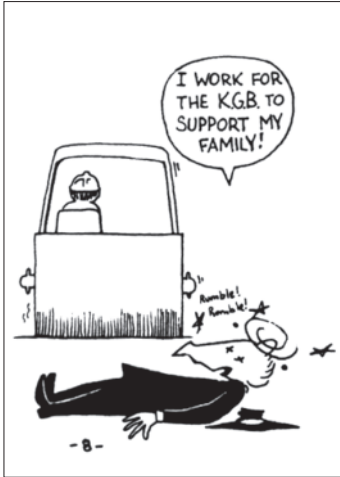
One of the experiences most disliked by members of the Jesus Christians was what they called "heresy tests", where religious zealots on their way to work, to the shops or to the bank would see them distributing their Christian literature on the streets, and suddenly feel that it was their duty to grill the Jesus Christians on their beliefs.

"We should be the ones grilling them," countered one of their members. "After all, we're the ones out there preaching the gospel. Yet they seem to feel it is their duty to find a flaw in our theology, in order to justify their lack of commitment."

Gary prepared a rather cryptic mini-comic called "Spy vs Spy", which attempted to communicate the contradictions in the "heresy test" approach. However, the message went over the heads of most members of the public and the comic was never reprinted.


It was coincidental that an Australian rock group of the same name was formed about the same time "Spy vs Spy" came out.





AGENTS WANTED

If you are interested in joining an underground movement to establish the kingdom of heaven on earth, just write to the address below. NOTE: Don't apply if only interested in part-time work.



Christians,
Box A678
Sydney South
2000

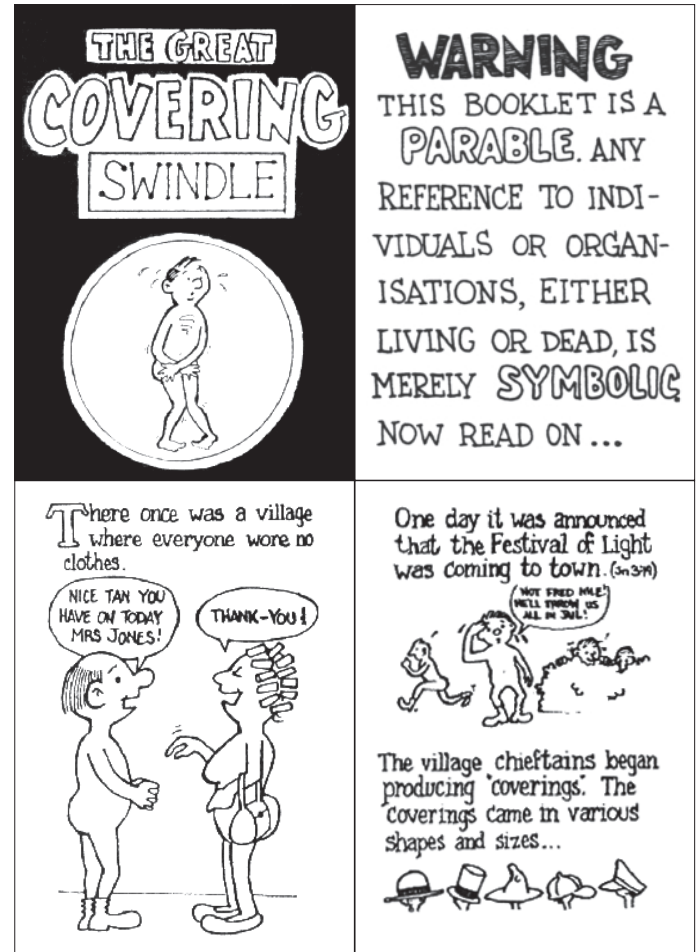
17. True Vine

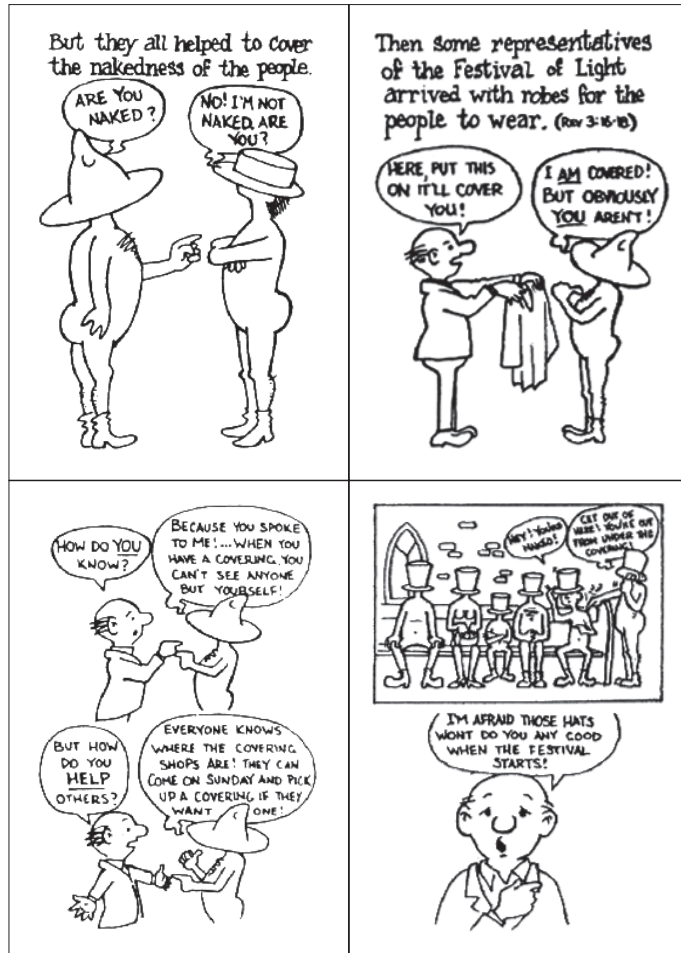
A strong rivalry developed between the Rappville Christians and a religious group called "True Vine", which specialised in working with ex-hippies in the Lismore area.

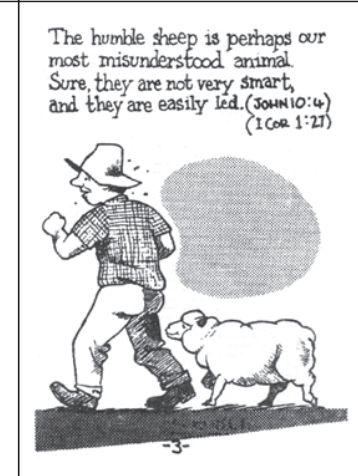
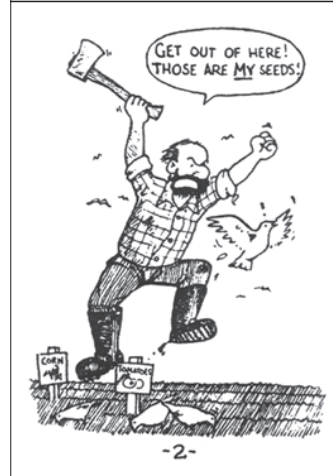
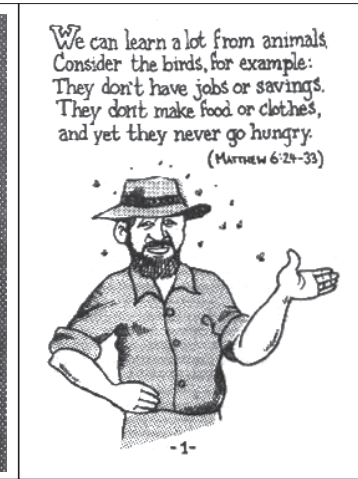
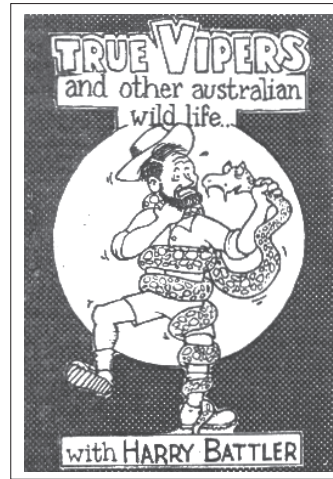
True Vine publicly accused the Rappvillians of being a cult, and included denunciations of them at their periodic "cult seminars". In particular, the leaders of True Vine accused the Jesus Christians of not having a "covering".

The covering teaching taught that one must be aligned with a reputable mainline religious denomination in order to be "covered" against heresy. True Vine was proud of its affiliation with the Assemblies of God. (Ironically, the Assemblies of God eventually disbanded the True Vine group and sacked its leaders on the grounds that it had become a cult!)

Amongst themselves, the Rappville Christians referred to True Viners as "True Vipers" and they even prepared a mini-comic with that title, which criticised Pentecostal zealots in general, and True Vine in particular.







But, in the hands of a good Shepherd, they can lie down each night in green pastures, knowing that they shall not lack anything. (PSALM 23)
And I reckon that's pretty smart!



-4-

But watch out for goats. They sound like sheep but they can't be led. You have to **drive** them. And they are very selfish.



-5-

Unlike sheep, who love to be around other sheep, goats insist on doing their own thing & butt anyone who gets in their way.



-6-

The biggest threat to Australia's sheep population is the *Wolfus cum sheepicus*, a wolf which has developed the ability to disguise itself as a sheep.



-7-

The *Wolfus cum sheepicus* uses his position as a leader to lure sheep away from the true Shepherd and the green pastures, and back into the pollutions of the world.



-8-

Vipers are another danger. They inflict a deadly poison called **Wehavitol**, which paralyzes sheep, causing them to stop following the shepherd.



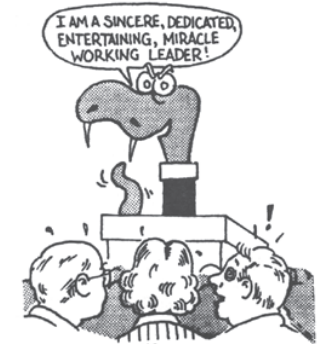
-9-

They stay in one place, often making babbling noises, but never able to think clearly) until they gradually starve to death.



-10-

True vipers are able to hypnotize potential victims with their tales. Matthew 3:7-9



-11-



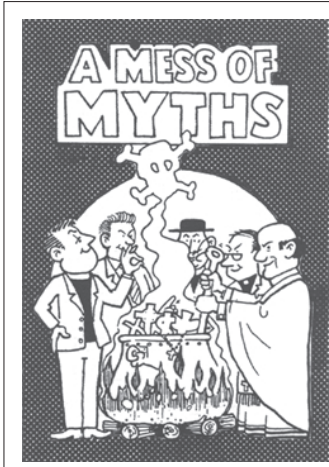
18. A Mess of Myths

As their own theology began to take shape, this band of radicals undertook the task of preparing a 50-page booklet on the mini-comic format, which detailed their re-interpretation of many cherished Christian doctrines and beliefs.

It included everything from a re-definition of what it is to be a Christian to challenges levelled against traditional interpretations of such things as grace, holiness, baptism, healing, and prosperity.

For several years this became their fundamental statement of faith (or lack of faith) with regard to many traditional Christian concepts.

Although the fine print may put many people off reading it, the effort is well worth it for anyone with a serious interest in what this group really taught. The Jesus Christians have revised their beliefs on some issues over the years, but the thoughts contained in "A Mess of Myths" are still a fairly accurate reflection of their theological position on a long list of Christian doctrines.



A MESS OF MYTHS

History books describe a period in history as the "Dark Ages". But how many people knew at the time that they were living in the "Dark Ages"? And how many people are aware that we are living in yet another and darker age today?

An abundance of publications and the technology to produce them have given us the false impression that we are "enlightened".

Primitive cultures have always treasured superstitions that have no bases in fact. Although true religion and true science should merge in a common quest for truth, Twentieth Century Western religion and science have collaborated in leading mankind to the brink of destruction, through their mutual dishonesty and hypocrisy.

Simple truth has been replaced with a mess of myths.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Mess of Myths.....1
 A dash of truth.....2
 Our aim.....5
 The Christian myth.....6
 The Jesus myth.....9
 The born again myth.....12
 The grace myth.....15
 The holiness myth.....19
 The prayer and praise myth.....22
 The tongues myth.....24
 The church myth.....26
 The baptism myth.....29
 The heaven myth.....32
 The Bible myth.....35
 The healing myth.....40
 The prosperity myth.....43
 The missing piece.....48

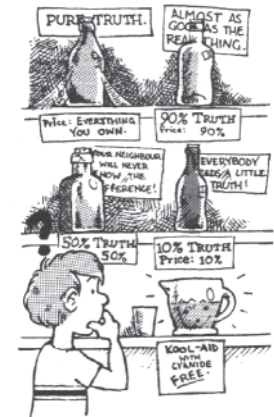


A DASH OF TRUTH

All myths contain at least a dash of truth. Because few people are totally dishonest, a bit of truth helps to ease consciences with regard to the fantasies that are woven into the myths.

People *choose* to be deceived. If they find truth uncomfortable, they shop for cheap imitations to take its place. After the choice has been made, myths can become progressively more absurd, and people will continue to accept them rather than return to what they first rejected.

A sensational example occurred in Jonestown, Guyana. Almost 1,000 people drank Kool-Aid mixed with cyanide in a mass suicide. The world was quick to blame their leader, Jim Jones. A host of explanations were put forward as to how he succeeded in deceiving them. But in fact, his followers had plenty of opportunity to choose truth rather than Jones' dementia... but he made it so much easier to escape personal responsibility by letting him become their conscience.



Committing suicide by drinking cyanide is not comfortable; but, by that stage, the group's mythology had reached an advanced stage. Even death was easier than retracing their steps back to reality.

The greater tragedy is that Jonestown may be only a step or two ahead of the rest of the planet. While the populations of Russia and America are not lining up to take cyanide tablets, they are lining up to vote for leaders who talk seriously of participating in an all-out nuclear war.

No, the Dark Ages (and Jonestown) are not finished chapters in our history.

OUR AIM

We wish to dispel some of the myths of so-called Christianity. We're not saying that Jesus was a myth. But we are saying that a Christian mythology has evolved over the years which has almost no foundation in the teachings of Jesus.

If you are a "Christian", you may feel threatened by this booklet. Some of your most treasured beliefs will be examined in the light of the teachings of Jesus, and they will be exposed as hoaxes.

But you need not feel threatened. You have two honest alternatives: (1) Continue to maintain your beliefs, but just stop calling them "Christian"; or (2) Read to the end of this booklet and find out what Jesus actually did teach, and accept that.

In either case, you will have helped us to achieve our aim, i.e. to clear up some of the confusion about what Jesus stood for.

THE CHRISTIAN MYTH

At a time when he was about to be executed as a criminal, with even his closest friends either denying him or running for cover, Jesus said that there would come a time when many people would claim to be representing him in order to gain acceptance and popularity!

Although it sounded like the ravings of an egomaniac at the time, his prediction has certainly come true today.

Claiming to be a Christian is essential to win a U.S. presidential election, helpful if selling books or records, and a definite advantage when applying for work or seeking leniency in a court. "Christian" has come to mean "decent, respectable, good".

But such a definition hardly applies to many of the teachings and actions of the historical Jesus. If the facts were known, probably most of the people who have labelled themselves *Christian* would be absolutely disgusted with the real Jesus.

The religious world disposed of Jesus because his teaching posed a threat to them. And they continue to pose a threat today... but only if they can be dug from under the tangle of myths that have been used to hide them for centuries.

-7-



The term 'Christian' only appears three times in the Bible. But Acts 11:26 says the word was used to describe *disciples* or *students* of Christ.

-8-

You would be lucky to find one Christian in a hundred today who has studied the teachings of Jesus sufficiently to tell you even a dozen things he has commanded his followers to do.

If you've been a 'Christian' for more than a week and do not know ten of Jesus' commands, ask yourself whose teachings you have been studying, and alter your name accordingly.

THE JESUS MYTH

This one overlaps with the Christian myth. It assumes that any mention of *Jesus* refers to the historical Jesus of the Bible.

But one need only take a trip to Mexico, where it seems every second male child is named Jesus (pronounced Hay-Zeus), to discover that there are a lot of Jesuses out there who bear no resemblance to the Jesus of the Bible.

True, there are verses that promise spiritual power if you believe in or ask for things in Jesus' name (e.g. John 1:12; 15:16). But Jesus was clearly not looking for nominal loyalty.

-9-

He said, "Not everyone who calls me Lord will enter into the kingdom of heaven, only those that do the will of my Father. Many will say, 'Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works?' I will profess unto them: I never knew you. Depart from me, you that work iniquity!"

The Jesus myth assumes that to do something in Jesus' name simply means to say his name in connection with an act or prayer. But this is false. To do something in his name is to do it in his *behalf*. If you're doing or saying something that he did not tell you to do or say, then claiming it is in his name proves nothing.



-10-



When my wife married me, she took my name. But, if she should leave me, and then ask my father for help 'in my name', he would say that she had taken my name in vain.

-11-

To be accepted by a born againer you must say you are 'born again'. (It never crosses their minds that you can just as easily lie about being born again as you can about being a Christian!)

Justification for the myth comes from something Jesus said: 'Unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of heaven.' But explanations for what *born again* means range from shallow rituals to dramatic behavioural changes. (See The Holiness Myth.)

Generally, however, born againers believe a Christian is one who has said a little prayer, asking 'Jesus' to come into their 'heart', and saying they are sorry for their sins. This ritual is often referred to as 'accepting Jesus as your personal Saviour', or 'saying the sinner's prayer'.

The fact that there is no support for the myth anywhere in the teachings of Jesus doesn't daunt the born againers. People have religious experiences while doing the ritual, and credit the ritual itself with powers that it doesn't have.

-13-

Some evangelicals teach that you need only say the name *Jesus* and it'll scare away demons and heretics. But there is no more magic in the name than there is in a Catholic crucifix or holy water. Such superstitions are totally un-Christian. The devil is not scared of the name. In fact, he is quoted as confessing that Jesus was "the Holy One of God." (Luke 4:34) What does scare him (and those phoney church leaders) is anyone who is obedient to Jesus.

So when you hear religious people praying to or praising 'Jesus', they could be praying to or praising Satan. The *name* of their god is not so important as his teachings. (See John 8:37-47)

THE BORN AGAIN MYTH

Possibly because of embarrassment by the contradictions of nominal Christians, a fairly recent movement of new improved Christians has arisen... the 'born again' believers. For these people, it is not good enough to say you are a Christian. Anyone can do that.

-12-



True rebirth is much more than a ritual. Jesus said we must become like little children, totally depending on our heavenly Father for our material needs. *That's* how to be born again!

-14-

When someone asked what he needed to do to have eternal life, Jesus said, "Sell all that you have, and give to the poor, and come follow me." (Luke 18:22) And, he told a group of people, "Anyone who does not give up all that they own cannot be a Christian." (Luke 14:33)

This gives us a clearer picture of what Jesus meant by being born again. There is no hint of a sinner's prayer, or of asking a name into one's heart!

THE GRACE MYTH

Of all the myths included in this booklet, the grace myth is probably the closest to the truth. It's not easy to spot the errors in it, and perhaps because of this it has had very wide acceptance.

The grace teaching (and this much is not myth) is that nobody is perfect, and therefore, acceptance by God could never depend on our goodness, but rather on God's grace and forgiveness. The death of Jesus on the cross has somehow made that grace available to all mankind.

-15-

The myth aspect of the teaching takes two forms. The first error is that people are told that they must do some kind of a religious act (saying a prayer, attending mass, etc.) as a necessary requirement to receive God's grace.

Someone has rightly said that all it takes to preach the grace of God and the cross of Christ is to tell everyone on earth that they are already forgiven through Christ...whether they like it or not. Anyone who believes you is forgiven. Believing is just that simple. It doesn't need a ritual to make it valid. (In fact, rituals usually result because the faith is counterfeit!)

The second error in the grace teaching is the myth that it is wrong to teach or to seek to obey the teachings of Jesus, because that would be an attempt to "work your way to heaven".

Let's get it clear from the start: The traditional passages of Scripture to support the grace teaching do not come from the teachings of Jesus, they come from the writings of St. Paul.

-16-



-17-

Yet Paul himself warns against twisting what he has said to excuse ourselves from Christ's disciplines. (Galatians 5:13, and 1:8) And St. Peter said that ignorant people twist what Paul taught about God's grace to excuse their lack of diligence to be found obeying Jesus when he returns. (II Peter 3:14-17)

If we are to honestly preach the message of God's grace, we must let people know that they do not need to go to church, say prayers, stop smoking and drinking, etc. to be forgiven; but we should also be aware that if they really believe that Jesus has made all of this possible, then they will assume that the commands of Jesus are also part of God's good news, and they will seek to obey them as well... remembering all the time that, if they do not obey them perfectly, God still loves and forgives. Can you see how this is significantly different from ignoring Christ's commands, or in some other way excusing ourselves from taking them seriously?

-18-

THE HOLINESS MYTH

Some who have seen the fallacy of teaching that believers need not obey God, have emphasised the need for a *change in behaviour* in the lives of those who have accepted God's grace.

The mistake is that their change in behaviour usually takes the form of health and social taboos that rarely ever have anything to do with the teachings of Jesus.

Some of the disciplines looked for in believers are: no smoking; no drinking; no use of culturally offensive language; no casual mention of sex; no going to movies or dances; alterations to dress styles; etc. All of this is called 'holiness'. But it has little, if any, connection with the holiness that Jesus taught.

True holiness will not come from a book of manmade rules. We cannot make ourselves holy. What we *can* do is respond to God's love, by following and obeying Jesus. True holiness will grow from that.

-19-



-20-

The word *holy* means *set apart*. Early Christians were set apart from the rest of society, but it wasn't based on the issues taught by the holiness people.

In Old Testament times people were told that the way to make one day a week holy was to stop working for money and to give full attention to the things of God on that one day. Jesus said that his followers could exceed the Jewish idea of righteousness by setting their whole *lives* apart for service to God.

He taught: "Do not think about what you will eat or wear (for all the nations of the world seek these things), but seek God's kingdom instead. (Matthew 6:25-34)

Matthew the tax collector did not have to change his language, clothing, or eating habits to convince people he was holy. All he did was quit his job and follow Jesus! (Luke 5:27-28)

The holiness myth is a poor substitute for scriptural holiness!

-21-

THE PRAYER AND PRAISE MYTH

Meetings of most denominations are called prayer meetings, praise meetings, and/or worship services. Praise is regarded as an essential (if not predominant) element in Christianity.

But once again, Jesus had little to say on the subject. His criticisms of people who say to him, "Lord! Lord!" appear to treat praise with a bit of skepticism. (See also The Jesus Myth.)

People who say the nicest things about us in public are often the most damning behind our backs. Continual and forced flattery is a poor substitute for genuine communication.

Anyone who needs (or even desires) an audience when they are praising God must have a very shallow private relationship with him.

I do not need to flaunt my relationship with my wife to prove my love for her, or to prove I am not ashamed of her. In fact, if I did, most people would see it as a sick perversion of a very private matter.

-22-



Jesus said, "Do not be like the hypocrites. They love to pray, standing in the synagogues and on the street corners, that they may be seen of men; but when you pray, enter into your closet, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father in secret." (Matthew 6:5-6)

-23-

who share the same experience: from Catholic Pentecostals who prophesy in the name of Mary, to Children of God who practise religious prostitution; from the Jonestown suicide cult, to sects that worship the devil.

A minister in a sect that says you must speak in tongues to be a Christian, said, on learning that some satanists talk in tongues, "They must have God's Spirit; they're just using it incorrectly." How blind can one be! Of course they don't have God's Spirit. And the same could be said for most other tongues-talkers as well.

They worship their bellies or emotions (Philippians 3:19). It's a good feeling to find speech fluency by this exercise, but it should not numb us to the need for rational thought. (I Corinthians 14:14-20) The phenomenon is irrelevant in gauging one's relationship to God.

Jesus made only one short reference to tongues, and nowhere in the entire Bible is there anything that says a person must speak in tongues

-25-

Where is this taught or practised today? Genuine praise and worship are not public acts, but continual attitudes. (I Thessalonians 5:16-18) And obedience is the highest form of praise.

THE TONGUES MYTH

The charismatic movement promotes a religious experience they call 'the baptism of the Holy Spirit'. It is common practice to associate and even equate Holy Spirit baptism with the phenomenon of speaking in tongues.

(To speak in tongues, just concentrate on an idea or feeling you wish to communicate. Make sounds with your mouth, but don't try to form meaningful words. This exercise aids communication, because the spirit of what we say is often more important than the words used.)

Saying that tongues is always a gift from God, however, is like saying that all worship (regardless of who we worship) is good.

Tongues-worshippers are often embarrassed by the wide divergence of beliefs amongst those

-24-

to be filled with God's Spirit; nor does it say that a person who speaks in tongues necessarily possesses God's Spirit. On the contrary, Paul says, "Though I speak with tongues...and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal." (I Corinthians 13:1) In other words, without God's Spirit of love, tongues is just a lot of noise!

THE CHURCH MYTH

When backed into a corner, most churchgoers will admit that there is no basis for calling the building where they conduct their meetings a church. No one wants to take the blame for starting this ridiculous myth; but almost everyone seems prepared to perpetuate it.

When they're not calling buildings churches, they're calling religious clubs churches. "What church do you go to?" they ask when they meet.

Some progressive church-goers picture all buildings and all denominations combined as being the 'church'. But they too are wrong.

-26-

A Christian has but one loyalty and that is to Christ. Paul said, "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?" (I Corinthians 1:12-13) As long as people are identified by denominational loyalties, they are not Christians.

Jesus did not come to start a religion. He said that God is capable of reading the thoughts of every heart, and he can judge each of us according to our own honesty and sincerity.

When a woman argued about which synagogue was the right one, Jesus said, "The hour is coming when you will neither here nor in Jerusalem worship the Father. True worshippers worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeks such to worship him. God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:21-24)

Religious people too often put their faith in what they can see. They like to be able to package things up into neat little boxes.

-27-

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God does not come through observation; neither shall they say, Come here! or Go there! For the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21)

Jesus said we must become like little children, starting over with non-religious concepts of spiritual matters, if we are to see his church. (John 3:3) And, of the time just before he returns, he said there would be many leaders claiming to have God's anointing. (Matthew 24:4-5) They will say that the way to find Jesus is to come to where they meet. (Matthew 24:23-26) His instructions: "Don't follow them!"

THE BAPTISM MYTH

No issue in church history has caused more problems in proportion to its actual importance than the issue of water baptism.

St. Paul had discovered by the time he wrote his first letter to the Corinthians that baptism, and particularly who performed the baptism, was becoming an excuse for divisions.

-29-



It's easier to judge people on the basis of their religion than to honestly listen to them. Jesus said, "The wind blows where it likes, and you hear the sound of it, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

-28-

He exclaims, "I thank God that I baptised none of you... for Christ sent me not to baptise, but to preach." (I Corinthians 1:14-17)

But how does that line up with Jesus' great commission in Matthew 28:19-20? "**Go teach all nations, baptising them.** and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

We must not confuse John the Baptist with Jesus. John said, "I baptise with water, but Jesus baptises with the Holy Ghost." (Luke 3:16) Are we disciples of Jesus or disciples of John?

Water baptism was a Jewish symbol of commitment to God. Jesus fulfilled the ritual by being baptised by John. (Matthew 3:13-15)

Jesus later said, "The law and prophets were till John. Since that time, the kingdom of God is preached." (Luke 16:16) So John's baptism has nothing to do with Christianity. (See Luke 7:28)

Though Jesus let his disciples water baptise people, he refused to do it himself (John 4:2), for his baptism was with the Holy Spirit.

-30-



-31-

The heaven myth teaches that something can be done in an instant of time which will assure you a ticket to heaven when you die. To prove your faith in the myth, you must proclaim loudly and longly that you know beyond a shadow of doubt that you are 'saved'.

This forced show of confidence is an indication of a lack of real confidence, and it is what puts most people off conversations with such people. A self-righteous know-it-all attitude rarely attracts honest, intelligent listeners.

Jesus promised eternal life, but he never spoke of "going to heaven when you die." Instead, he taught about a kingdom *of* (or from) heaven, which is here on earth now, in the form of the truths that he taught, and the people who accept and practise them.

This kingdom is only a *revolutionary* force now, but when Jesus returns, he promises to establish visible rule over the whole earth.

-33-

Paul said there is only one Christian baptism (Ephesians 4:2); but after the disciples were baptised with God's Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they still tried to make Jews out of Gentile Christians by circumcising and water baptising them. Later, the requirements were shortened to two simple rules: avoid fornication and idolatry.

So how does one baptise someone with the Holy Spirit? Look again at the Great Commission on page 30 (in bold type): *Teach them what Jesus taught.* Jesus said, "The words I speak are Spirit and life." (John 6:63) *We* baptise (or 'cover') people with his teachings; *they* accept what they hear; and *God* gives them his Spirit.

But this is too easy for baptism mythologists.

THE HEAVEN MYTH

Religionists see things in blacks and whites, especially if it comes to one's eternal destiny. Either you are 'saved' or eternally 'lost'. This is why so many simplistic formulas have been created to determine who is saved and who isn't.

-32-



-34-

Heaven is not where we go, but rather where the kingdom (and its king) are *from*. (John 3:13-21)

Believing Jesus cannot be completed in a moment of time (as though you could dispense with it and then get on with what really interests you). It's an on-going *relationship* which may either deepen or dissolve as we get to know more about him and his teachings. (John 8:30-31)

Salvation begins right now, as the truths of Christ save us from the lies, fears, greed, and hatred of this present evil world. The more you get away from the truths of Jesus, the more lost you become in the mess of myths and confusion that exist in man's counterfeit religions.

THE BIBLE MYTH

The Bible myth says the Bible is the complete and infallible 'Word of God'. It says that each word of the Bible carries equal authority, and nothing done or said since its 66 books were completed can properly be termed 'inspired'.

-35-

In fact, a bit of honesty will put you miles ahead of such theologians, who are usually more interested in scoring points for their denominational viewpoints than in finding the truth.

The proof text for the Bible myth is a statement that all holy writings are inspired by God and are helpful to believers. (II Timothy 3:16)

However, when Paul reminded Timothy a few moments later to bring the cloak and parchments he had left at Troas (II Timothy 4:13) it was clear that he did not see this as a 'holy writing' inspired by God!

Many holy writing are, indeed, found in the Bible; and prophetic books must be treated with special care (Revelation 22:18-19) since true prophets do not write opinions, but relay messages just as they receive them from God. (II Peter 1:20-21) Often these messages are not clear until they actually come to pass, and so altering them to fit an imperfect interpretation can be quite dangerous.

-37-

By challenging this myth, we show more faith in the Bible than those who teach it.

The Bible itself says only that Jesus is the Word (or perfect revelation) of God. (John 1:14, Revelation 19:13-16) The Bible proclaims its lack of inspiration at times. (e.g. I Corinthians 7:12, 25) The Bible says: "If anyone speaks, let them speak as the oracles of God," making it clear that all followers of Jesus can (and should) be inspired.

The Bible is the best record we have of the teachings of Jesus, as well as the writings of many other great people of God. But the real purpose behind the Bible *myth* is to convince people that knowing God's will is a difficult task, requiring years of training in Greek and Hebrew languages, an intimate knowledge of Jewish holy days and ceremonial laws, expertise in church history, and familiarity with Greek, Roman, and Jewish customs at the time of Jesus. This is not true.

-36-



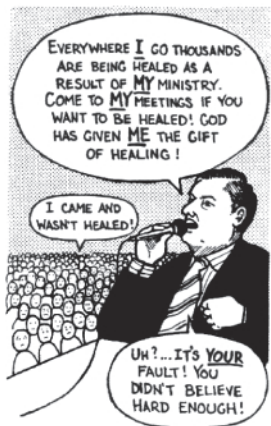
-38-

But to be inspired and profitable are not the same as to be infallible. Nor do all passages rate equally with regard to their helpfulness. For example, we no longer stone adulterers, or practise polygamy; so why should we place the rest of the Jewish Old Testament on a par with the teachings of Jesus? And why rate an apostle's writing as equal to Jesus' teachings either?

Jesus did not regard the Old Testament as complete or infallible. (Mark 2:24-28; 10:2-5; Luke 11:31-32) And Paul said we are only to follow him insofar as he follows Jesus. (1 Corinthians 1:13; Galatians 1:8, 1 Corinthians 11:1-3a; Matthew 23:9; 1 Corinthians 4:15)

We don't need to 'balance' the teachings of Jesus with statements from Peter, Paul, Moses, or anyone else. They are the ones who should be taken with a grain of salt; for there is only one infallible person in all history, and that is Jesus... the Word of God!

-39-



-41-

THE HEALING MYTH

A particularly tempting myth is the one that says it is never God's will for anyone to be sick. According to this myth, you need only believe hard enough and all sickness will disappear. Of course, if it does not, then that is proof of some spiritual weakness on *your* part (not on the part of the person preaching the myth).

This myth has led to much trickery. (II Thessalonians 2 calls it 'lying signs and wonders'.) People do silly things to convince themselves and others that they have succeeded in bringing about miracles through their faith.

Certainly any God who could create the universe and all that is in it, would have no problem healing sicknesses. But believing that God is *able* to perform miracles is not enough for the healing mythologists. They insist that you should "claim" your healing as a God-given right this very moment. (As though God could be bluffed into obeying your orders!)

-40-

Jesus did miracles, and he said his followers would do greater things than he did. (About the only thing greater than raising the dead is giving eternal life to someone, something Jesus' disciples could only do *after* his resurrection.)

But Jesus taught almost *nothing* about healing. You don't teach healing; you just do it. And he did. He also told people not to say anything about it when he did. (e.g. Matthew 9:30) By contrast, the healing myth is mostly talk and hype and very little quiet action.

And what Jesus taught about miracles in general is that they are not for everyone. (Luke 4:23-29) He said only evil, selfish people put their faith in them. (Matthew 16:4; John 2:23-25) But then faith healers never teach that!

The healing proof text is from a prophecy about Jesus: "He was bruised for our iniquities... and by his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) One may as well say Proverbs 12:18 teaches that a wise man can heal sickness by licking wounds!

-42-

The healing being referred to is obviously a healing of our sinful ('iniquitous') nature.

Paul said our bodies haven't yet been redeemed. He said God's Spirit has come to comfort us in our sicknesses. (Romans 8:22-26)

One can ask for healing; but no one can demand it. Real faith is like that of Job: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him." (Job 13:15) Real faith is not in healing, but in God. Job trusted that whatever God allowed would be best for him. That's real faith!

THE PROSPERITY MYTH

One of the most fervently espoused and financially profitable myths in religion today is the prosperity myth. Basically it teaches that Jesus came to bring economic prosperity to his followers. It is a cross between the New Guinea 'cargo' cults (which look for God to drop wealth from airplanes) and the Hindu caste system (which teaches that it is the will of God for poor people to be poor).

-43-



-44-

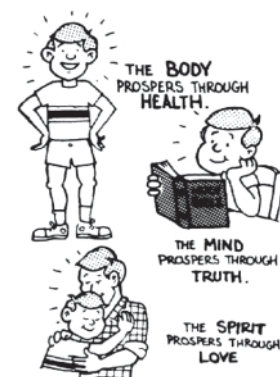
The prosperity teaching says non-Christian nations are poor because they're non-Christian, and the West is rich because it is Christian. The role that multi-nationals play in stripping poorer countries of their resources is either ignored or identified as an expression of God's will.

The myth teaches that personal religious zeal will be rewarded with economic success. A good Christian works hard, thus winning promotions over non-Christian workers. This inspires other workers to become Christians, and it inspires employers to hire Christians, because they are the most eager to make money.

The favorite proof text is this: "I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers." (III John 2) The assumption is that prosperity must mean an abundance of material possessions.

Yet my dictionary makes no reference to material wealth in its definition. It gives just two words as a definition: *succeed*; or *thrive*.

-45-



Society tells us that success is all about making money. And the prosperity myth draws heavily on such a lie.

-46-

If anyone seriously thinks John's reference to prosperity was talking about becoming wealthy, try comparing that concept with other New Testament writings.

James: "Has not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to them that love him? Do not rich men oppress you, and blaspheme that worthy name by which you are called? Go to now, you rich men! Weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. You have heaped treasure together for the last days." (James 2:5-7; 5:1-3)

Paul: "Anyone who wants to be rich falls into a trap that drowns people in destruction... for the love of money is the root of all evil." (1 Timothy 6:5-10)

Jesus: "Blessed are the poor, for the kingdom of God is theirs... but woe to you that are rich, for you have received your consolation!" (Luke 6:20-25)

-47-



-49-

THE MISSING PIECE

If an enemy of Jesus had unlimited power to discredit him, he could not do better than to create a religion that contradicted everything Jesus taught, and then say that Jesus founded it. And that is precisely what has happened.

Jesus said that the religious builders tried to put their building together without the most important piece: the cornerstone. (Matthew 13:24-30; Luke 10:17-18)

It isn't that they haven't tried to find a cornerstone, or criteria by which to assess truth and error; it's just that they have tried everything except the teachings of Jesus.

At the end of his sermon on the mount, Jesus said, "Whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them, I will liken him unto a wise man who built his house on a rock. And everyone that hears these sayings and does *not* obey them shall be likened unto a foolish man who built his house upon the sand." (Matthew 7:24-27)

-48-

Many of the teachings of Jesus have been referred to in this booklet; but in case the positive side has been lost in criticisms of the myths, we will state at least some of it here.

Jesus said the whole world lives in fear of starving to death, little realising that the Creator of the universe has the ability to see that everyone has all that they need. (Matthew 6:30-33)

He says that if we would stop working for food (John 6:27) and spend our time spreading this message of God's providential care all over the world (Mark 16:15), he would take care of all our needs.

That is what we are doing, and we have found that, by starting here, our 'building' has fit together; the Bible has made sense; and God has amply provided for our needs.

Sound interesting? Why not contact us if you are interested in more information, or if you would like to work with us. (John 4:35; Luke 10:2)

-50-

19. Christian, but not Religious

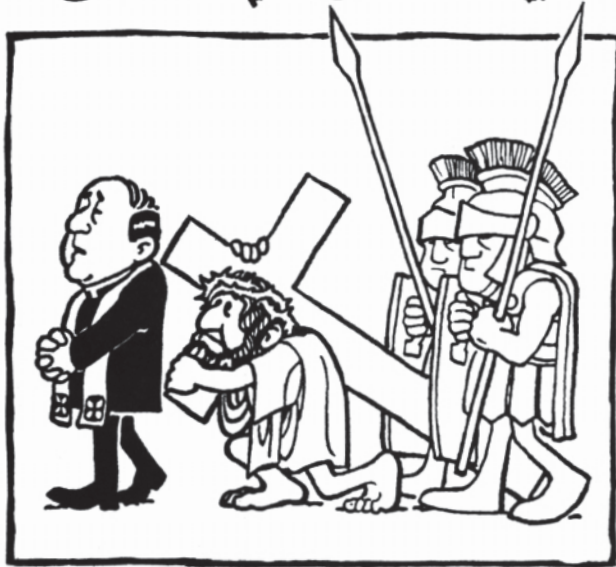
The Jesus Christians regarded "Mess of Myths" to be too detailed for the general public to bother reading; so Gary McKay (borrowing a couple of his older brother's drawings, as well as a Ron Cobb cover) put together a "midi-comic" which was twice the size of the early mini-comics.

This one had more pictures and fewer words, and it incorporated a string of stories from the gospels. This included: The Good Samaritan, the woman caught in adultery, the unforgiving servant, the husbandmen and the vineyard, and a number of quotes from the Sermon on the Mount.

The overall message was that Jesus regularly challenged the orthodox religious hierarchy, and defended the common man.

The comic was an immediate success, and it has been distributed widely on three continents. As recently as June, 2000, a reprint was made for use in Europe.

CHRISTIAN



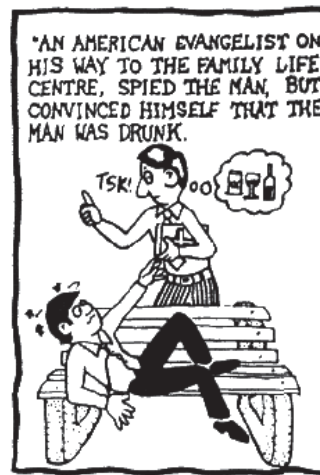
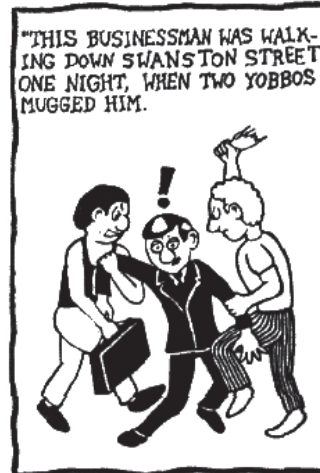
**... but not
religious!**

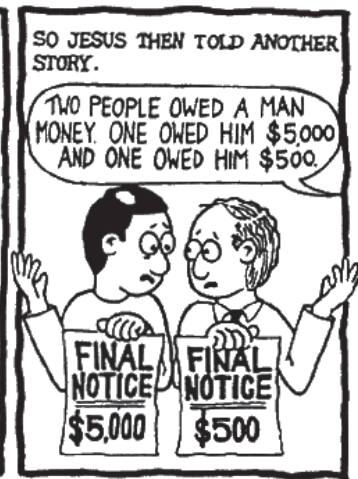
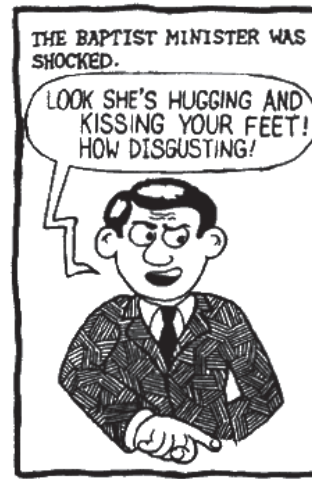
CHRISTIANITY HAS NOT BEEN TRIED & FOUND WANTING. INDEED, IT HAS RARELY EVER BEEN TRIED AT ALL.

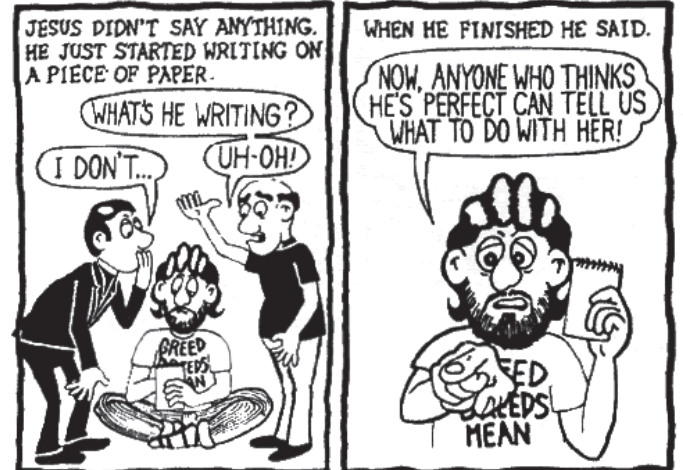
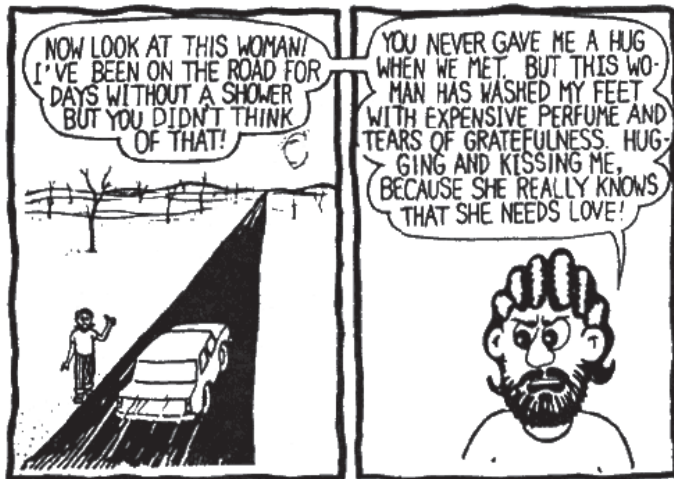
IF THE GENERAL PUBLIC KNEW MORE ABOUT WHAT JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY TAUGHT, THE AVERAGE CHURCHGOER WOULD BE ASHAMED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM.

IN THIS BOOKLET ARE SOME OF THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST – SOME WELL-KNOWN, OTHERS NOT SO WELL-KNOWN. AS YOU READ THEM, TRY TO IMAGINE WHAT THE WORLD WOULD BE LIKE TODAY IF PEOPLE STARTED TO TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY – YOU KNOW, ACT LIKE GOD HIMSELF HAD SPOKEN THEM. YOU MIGHT BE IN FOR A SHOCK!









ONE BY ONE, THEY SLIPPED OUT OF THE MEETING UNTIL THE ONLY ONES LEFT WERE JESUS AND THE WOMAN.

Jealousy
Greed
Pride
Impatience
Hate
Dishonesty

WASN'T SOMEONE ACCUSING YOU OF BEING BAD?

NOT ANYMORE, IT SEEMS!

WELL, I WON'T EITHER BUT YOU'D BETTER CLEAN UP YOUR ACT IN FUTURE.

GREEN BREEDS MEAN DEERS

READ THIS IN JOHN 8:3-11

IT'S NOT THAT JESUS COULD NOT TELL RIGHT FROM WRONG. IT'S JUST THAT HE FELT THE CHURCH LEADERS WERE PUTTING ALL THE EMPHASIS ON THE WRONG ISSUES. HE CALLED IT "STRAINING AT GNATS & SWALLOWING CAMELS."

HEY WAITER! THERE'S A FLY IN MY SOUP!

"THEY MAKE IMPOSSIBLE RULES AND DO NOTHING TO HELP PEOPLE OBEY THEM," HE SAID.

I NO MASTURBATION
II NO BIRTH CONTROL
III NO WET DREAMS
IV NO SEX THOUGHTS
V NO DANCING
VI NO HUGGING
VII NO FRIENDSHIP WITH PEOPLE WHO DO

EVERYTHING THEY DO IS CALCULATED TO MAKE THEMSELVES LOOK GOOD!

GOD BLESS THE SALVOS

BONE!

"THEY HAVE TITLES LIKE DOCTOR, FATHER, MISTER, AND REVEREND."

FATHER O'MALLEY, MEET DR. BILLY GRAHAM.

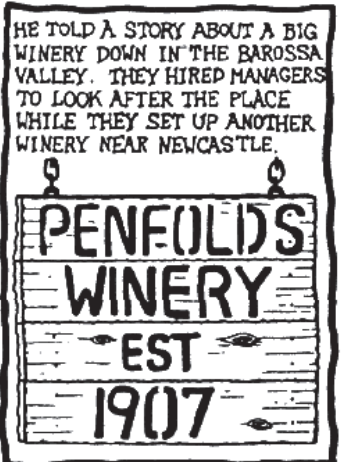
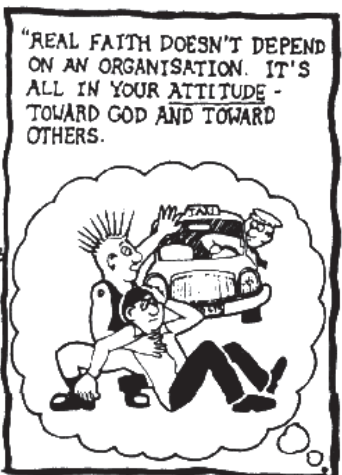
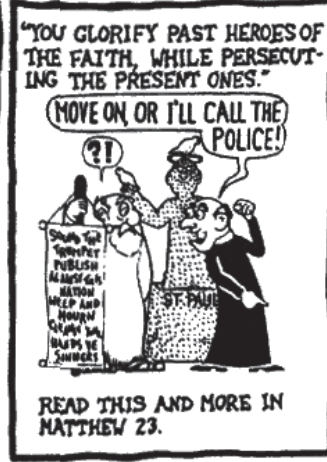
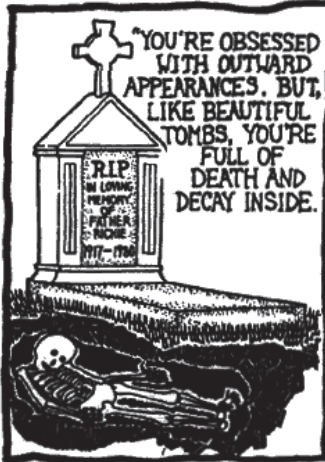
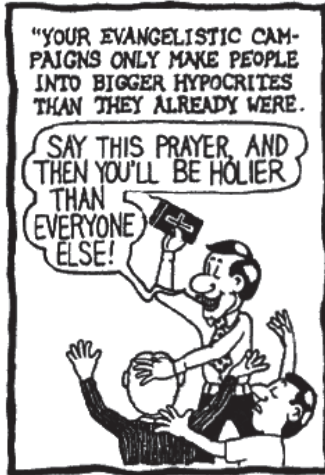
THANK YOU, YOUR WORSHIP.

THEN HE TURNED TO THE CHURCH LEADERS:

YOU DAMNED HYPOCRITES! YOUR PRAYERS ARE ONE BIG SHOW!

HAU-ELUSH!

TIME TO PASS THE COLLECTION PLATE!







IF YOU ARE SICK OF THE RELIGIOUS GAMES PEOPLE PLAY, THEN YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT JESUS CHRIST HAD HIS FILL OF SELF RIGHTEOUS HYPOCRITES TOO!

THE TRUTHS HE SPOKE UNDERMINED THE VERY BASIS OF RELIGION, AS HE DEMONSTRATED A WHOLE NEW CONCEPT OF LIVING THAT HE CALLED "THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

THE CHURCH LEADERS OF HIS DAY COULD NOT TOLERATE THIS SUBVERSIVE RADICAL, AND JESUS WOULD, NO DOUBT, BE CRUCIFIED AGAIN, IF HE WALKED THE EARTH TODAY.

WE DARE YOU TO DISCOVER WHAT JESUS REALLY DID SAY, BY READING HIS WORDS, FOUND IN THE FIRST 4 BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. YOU COULD ALSO WRITE AND ASK FOR OUR SIMPLE COMMENTARY ON THE "SERMON ON THE MOUNT" - MOUNTAIN & MOLEHILLS, TO;

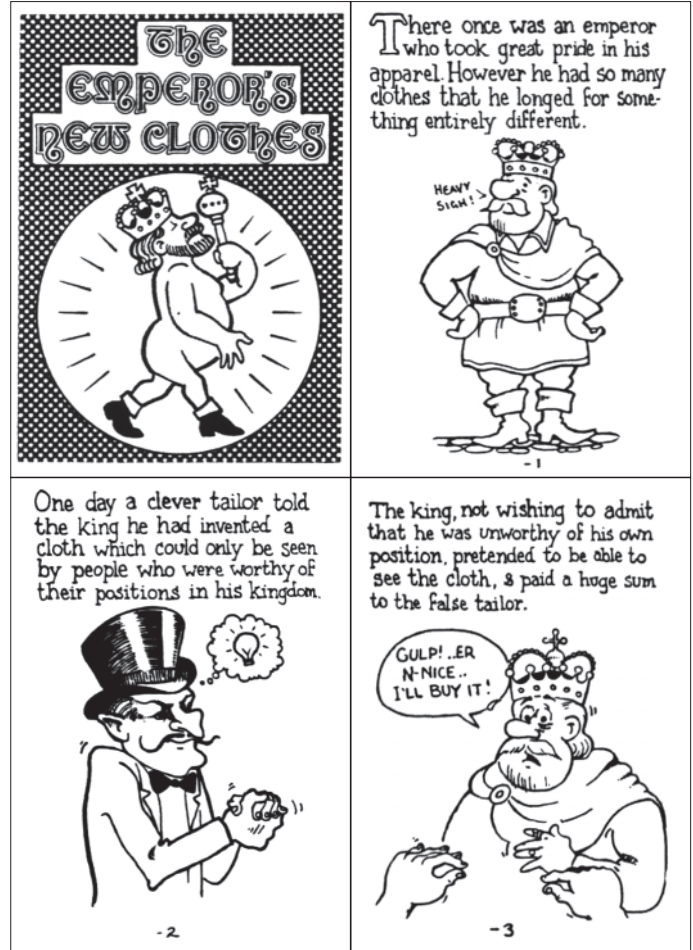
CHRISTIANS BOX 353 GEELONG
3220.
AUSTRALIA

20. The Emperor's New Clothes

The early favorite amongst the many mini-comics produced by the Jesus Christians, was one based on the classic children's story by Hans Christian Andersen, "The Emperor's New Clothes". In fact, this was the first of their tracts to be distributed overseas. A team was sent to New Zealand with suitcases full of them in the early 1980s.

The message in the first edition centered on the tendency to use clichés like "born again" as entrance into a secret club, without ever thinking about what they really mean.

In more recent times, the community has produced a library of "Easy English" classics to be used to teach English (and, just quietly, a bit of Jesus Christian teaching too) in the schools of South India. The Andersen classic is the first book in the series, which also includes books by Mark Twain, Daniel DeFoe, Rudyard Kipling, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mohandas Gandhi, and William Shakespeare.



The news of the cloth's magical power was published throughout the kingdom and everyone was invited to attend a parade where the king would display his new wardrobe



-4

Everyone, like the emperor, pretended to see the clothes and made vague comments to avoid being accused of unworthiness.



-5

This story illustrates the games people play in every age & culture, pretending to believe in things they haven't really experienced...



-8

Unscrupulous con-men use this same device to prey on people's guilt feelings and get them to do dishonest, ridiculous, and even deadly things.



-9

No one dared speak the truth... because the truth was that no one was worthy. What a predicament!

To save the emperor & the kingdom from the crooked tailor, someone would have to risk being blamed for everyone else's unworthiness.

In the end it was only the honesty of a small child who, obviously, had no position in the kingdom & therefore, nothing of which he was unworthy, that exposed the crooks.

-6



-7

The game is played most often and most enthusiastically by religious people, who try to convince themselves and others that they are "worthy."



-10

Of course confusion results if people get too specific.



-11

And the same people contradict themselves when their statements are taken seriously by people they regard as "un-worthy."



Perhaps true worthiness just comes from being honest... even if you aren't theologically perfect. Jesus said that we must become like little children to enter his kingdom.



Of course it takes courage to stand up to the lies that make up so much of our lives.



KINGS AND KINGDOMS ARE...
EXPOSED!



in a 42-page booklet:
"The Fall of America and
other Short Stories."
Send a donation to help
with printing & postage.
Box A678 SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000.
AUSTRALIA.

21. Finances

The general public is often intrigued by the concept of people living without working for money. Most people envy the apparently carefree lifestyle of the Jesus Christians. But others accuse them of hypocrisy, convinced that *wherever* they get their money from, it cannot possibly have come from God.

While most charities regularly plead poverty, and tell supporters that they will have to fold up if they do not get x amount of money very quickly, the Jesus Christians boast that they have never lacked finances. What they have most lacked is the manpower to *spend* their finances responsibly.

One reason for this is that they concentrate on labour-intensive activities, and they do not commit themselves to expenditures unless they have the cash to cover it. In other words, they live within their means.

Most of their support has come from people giving them loose change in exchange for their comics. An article and comic follow, which comment further on this.

How Do You Get Your Money?

People are naturally curious about our finances: How can we preach poverty at the same time that we fly all over the world. The simple answer is that we are both poor and rich at the same time.

We're rich by comparison to real poverty. The Australian government offers more than \$100 per week to people who are unemployed, sick, old, or for some other reason not receiving that much income. By world standards that's an incredible amount of money.* Earning \$100 a month in India puts you in the upper middle class; yet Australia's poorest get four times that amount! We do not work for money, and we do not accept the dole. But we still consider ourselves to be rich by world standards.

On the other hand, we're quite poor. Because we do not claim the benefits available to us from the Australian government, we receive considerably less than Australia's poorest people (those mentioned above). In fact, from donations that we receive, we each spend only about \$35/week on food, clothing, rent, and other normal daily expenses. The rest of what we receive goes toward transportation and printing costs which are directly related to our outreach

**When the community first started, some members were receiving unemployment benefits. They later voted to go off the dole, and they have not accepted dole payments since. But their needs have still been met.*

programs. If we received even a minimum wage for all the free work that we do, we could easily quadruple our finances overnight. But we don't need it.

The fact that we are happy to be poor is what infuriates our enemies. For by doing so, we expose the universality of greed. Everyone, from missionaries to oil magnates, shamelessly seeks more money, while we shamelessly seek to live on less.

Critics are obsessed with locating our source of income and then attacking it, in an attempt to prove that it is impossible to survive without love for money.

The usual approach is, "Okay, we accept that you live by faith; but where does your money come from? Who pays for your plane tickets? Where did you get the clothes that you are wearing?"

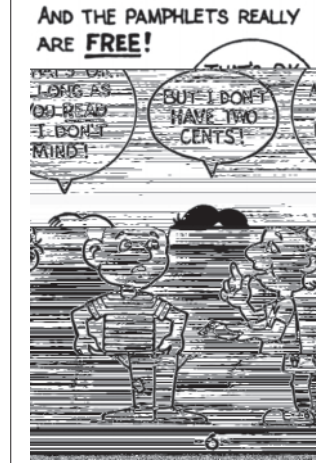
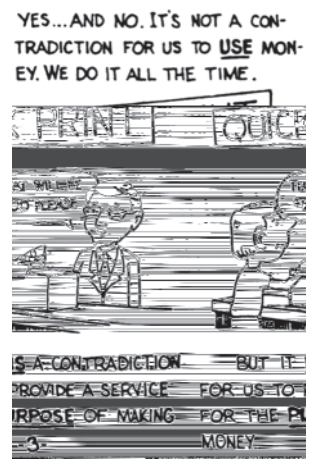
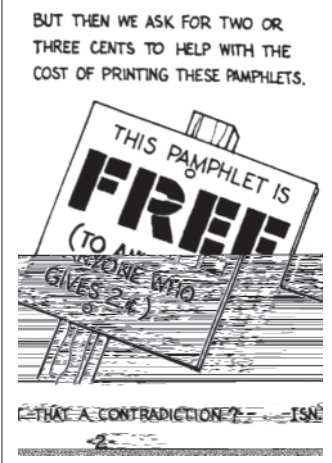
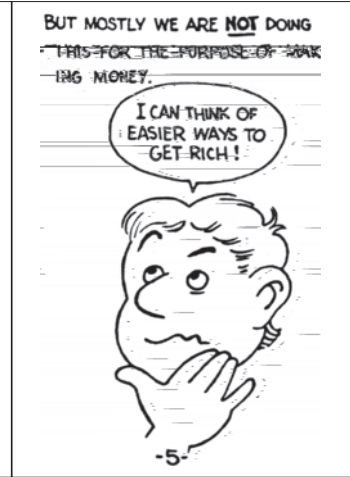
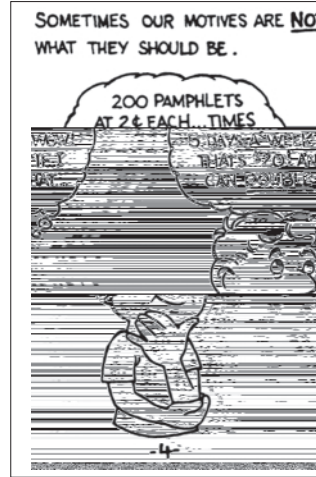
The truth is that God takes care of us and we don't much care how he does it. But occasionally we let ourselves be drawn into answering further. The usual answer is that in one way or another, someone gives us what we need... from the goodness of their hearts.

"Aha!" say our critics, "And where would you be if that person hadn't worked for money?"

"Back where we were in the first place... trusting our heavenly Father," we reply.

The difference is that we trust God and use money; they trust money and use God.

What a shame, when you think they could be working with a real God instead of the insipid God of their religious double-talk.

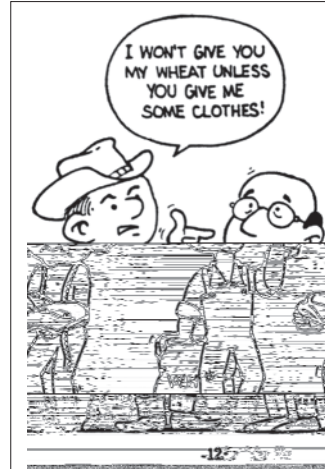




IN OUR (SICK) SOCIETY THE ONLY THINGS "FREE" TEND TO BE ADS FOR THINGS THAT AREN'T.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME AND WE DON'T READ ALL THE ADS. TO READ THEM YOU HAVE TO ASK FOR 2¢. THIS AIN'T GETTING IT! (EVEN IF WE DO ASK FOR 2¢, WE DON'T GET THE RESULTS WE WANT TO SAY!)

9



WE'VE FOUND THAT IF YOU DO THINGS WITHOUT HAVING AN EXCHANGE, BEING SOME PEOPLE WILL DO THE SAME FOR YOU. THE SATISFACTION OF IT'S ANYTHING MONEY CAN BUY, AND CAN GOD (THE TRUE CREATOR, OWNER OF ALL THE WORLD'S WEALTH) WILL EVEN IF YOU LOOK AFTER YOURSELF, OTHERS RIP YOU OFF.

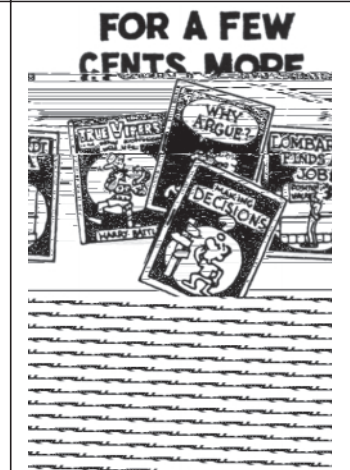
13



AND WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY IS THAT PEOPLE WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT MONEY.

THEY DON'T CREATE NOTHING. IT'S A MEANS OF EXCHANGE IN A SOCIETY WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO OR GIVE ANYTHING WITHOUT GETTING SOMETHING BACK.

11



22. Miscellany

A few of the comics prepared by the Jesus Christians over the years have not fit neatly into any particular category, so we have inserted them here, near the end of this book.

They include a special Christmas comic, along with a short essay on the subject of Christmas hype and materialism.

A popular comic which makes some wise observations on the topic of time, and a *Peanuts* comic that they decided to use, because of its powerful message about the media, are also included in this section..

There is a short "freeby" comic about theories and results, which was one of several such leaflets that the group produced particularly for the purpose of mass distribution to big crowds of people, without bothering to ask for donations.

Finally, there is an insightful essay on the subject of donations, and how they are often used by donors to control the recipients in a way which Jesus himself would not have approved of.





The Xmas Spirit

Then spake Jesus to the masses and to his followers, saying, "The merchants and advertisers control the world. You can learn from them, but beware of their false values. They love to flaunt their wealth. Be not like them."

"Woe unto you merchants and advertisers! For ye devour widows' houses and for a pretence play Christmas carols. Therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

"Woe unto you merchants and advertisers! For ye compass the airwaves to win customers, and by so doing, ye make the next generation twofold more materialistic than yourselves."

"Woe unto you, ye deceivers! For ye say that they need not pay anything until next year, then double your price in time payments."

"Woe unto you merchants and advertisers! For ye create sentimental Christmas displays to hide your willingness to sell your own mother to the highest bidder. Outwardly ye appear beautiful, but inwardly you are low-life scum."

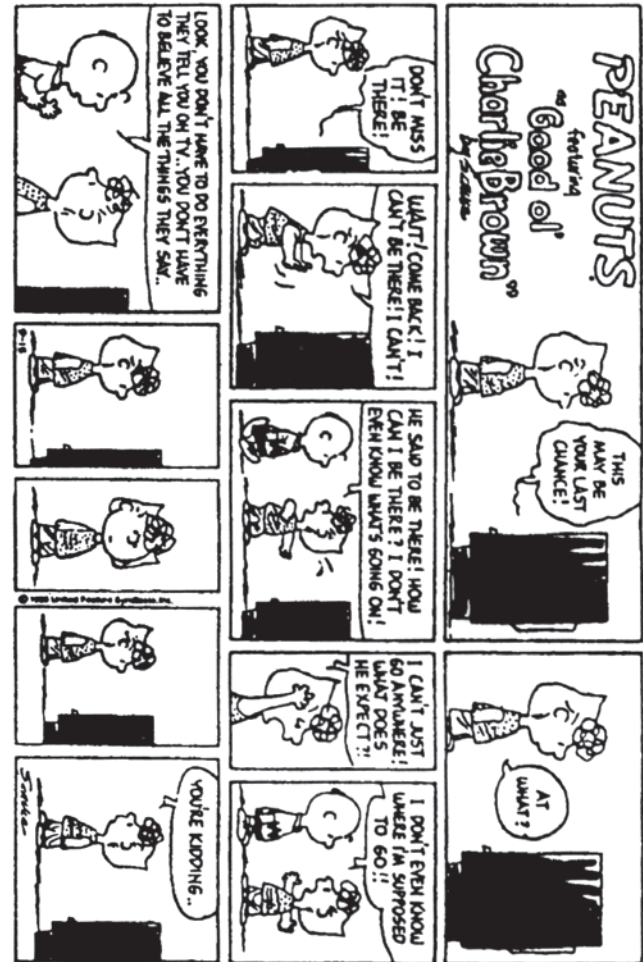
Then came his disciples and said unto him, "Knowest thou not that the media and the churches will be offended if they hear this saying? For they too have profited greatly from the Christmas hype."





But he answered and said, "So what! They are blind leaders of the blind. They will go to hell together!"

Then he looked up and saw the shoppers spending billions on Christmas merchandise. He saw a certain single mother spending her rent money on a big Christmas dinner for her children, and he said, "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor mother hath spent more than they all. For all these have, out of their abundance, done their shopping; but she, of her penury, hath spent all that she had." (Mark 12:38-42)

It is rather surprising that Jesus damned rip-off merchants at the same time that he immortalised their victims. The innocence of those who waste money on materialistic expressions of love is commended... not because it is wise or right, but because it is sincere.

However, the real causes of all the evils in the world, including such things as sexual immorality, drug abuse, violence, and marital infidelity can be traced back to the love of money. It is the greedy merchants and advertisers who have exploited legitimate drives and appetites to create a godless and ideal-less world. We who fall for the lies of materialism must answer for our gullibility, but there can be no doubt that Jesus felt the system leaders would receive "the greater damnation".



<p>RESULTS</p> 	<p>FOR BETTER RESULTS</p>  <p>WRITE TO: BOX A678 SYDNEY STH.2000.</p>
<p>A GOOD THEORY WILL BRING GOOD RESULTS. THE WAY TO TEST THINGS YOU ARE TAUGHT, IS TO SEE WHAT RESULTS WHEN PEOPLE BELIEVE THEM.</p> <p>MOST ECONOMIC THEORIES TEACH THAT IT IS GOOD TO MAKE PROFITS, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE PROFITS BY FEEDING POOR PEOPLE. SO MILLIONS STARVE DESPITE THE FACT THAT THERE IS ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE.</p>  <p>EVOLUTIONARY THEORY TEACHES THAT INFERIOR SPECIES WILL BE GRADUALLY ELIMINATED BY A SUPERIOR SPECIES</p>	<p>AND A BETTER SPECIES WILL RESULT. HITLER JUSTIFIED HIS MURDER OF "INFERIOR" PEOPLE ON THESE GROUNDS. WAS HE RIGHT?</p> <p>VARIOUS POLITICAL THEORIES CLAIM THAT THEY CAN END WARS. BUT HAVE ANY POLITICAL BODIES EVER SUCCEEDED IN ACHIEVING THAT GOAL?</p>  <p>WE AS CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT PROFITS BLIND PEOPLE TO THE IMPORTANT ISSUES. EVOLUTION IS NONSENSE, AND THE WAY TO STOP WARS IS BY PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO PACIFISM.</p> <p>DON'T BE CONINED! DEMAND THAT SO-CALLED AUTHORITIES PROVE THEIR THEORIES BRING GOOD RESULTS.</p>

The Donor

"Hello, my name is Phineas Bloggs, Managing Director of the Dead Sea Salt Works. I'm looking for the Son of God."

"That's me."

"Really? I had expected someone taller. Anyway, God has given me a ministry of supporting various evangelists, and I'd like to make a large donation toward your work."

"Thank you. That's very nice."

"But I want to be sure it'll convert people to Christianity."

"Would you like me to use it to feed the poor?"

"No, no, no! That's the kind of thing I want to avoid. Anyone can feed the poor. I want to teach people that you are the Messiah... the Second Person of the Trinity."

"I try to play down that sort of thing. It's so easy to slap titles on leaders without really listening to what they're saying."

"You could use the money to rent a hall and hold meetings. We could print up handbills and draw a crowd."

"Crowds tend to happen pretty spontaneously for me. I usually have more of them than I can handle. I really don't need more than a few shekels for myself and my followers..."

"Nonsense! You could put up posters in other towns. Extend your influence. Just be sure they say

you are the Saviour of the world, and that no one can get to heaven without accepting you. Got that? Saviour of the world, and..."

"People would have to be daft to believe I'm the Saviour of the world just because a poster said so. What if Caesar or Pilate did the same thing?"

"But they're not the Saviour of the world! And you are... aren't you?"

"Yes, but..."

"Are you the Messiah, the Way, the Truth and the life?"

"Yes, that's me. But you can just call me Jesus. See, my Father usually tells them all the other stuff after they've seen me in action. It's my love that they need to see."

"Love, schmu! Everybody talks love these days. We want converts, and we won't get them if we don't make it clear that Christianity is superior to all the other religions."

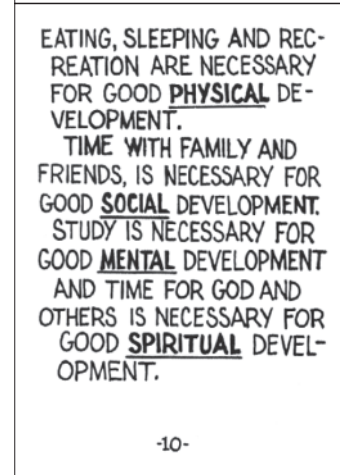
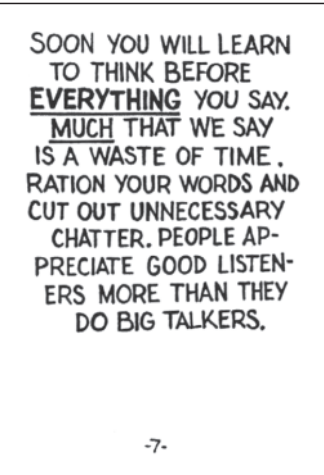
"But the only way to do that is with superior love. We have to **lay down our lives** in love first, before they will have a good reason to believe we're special."

"Oh, I see! The cross! Good idea. We can put up crosses all over the country. I've got some novel ideas using neon and crystal. And we could make little crosses for people to put on their ox carts or wear around their necks. It might even turn into a finance-generating ministry of its own."

"But you don't buy crosses. You die on them. If you really want to help, you can come with me and we can both be put on crosses."

"Hold on! The cross is your responsibility. I just wanted to make a donation."



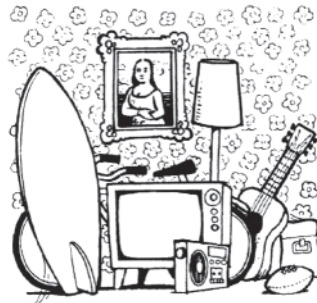


SO **WE** HAVE DECIDED TO MAKE MONEY OUR **LAST** PRIORITY. (MT. 6:33) IN FACT WE NEVER SEEM TO HAVE **TIME** FOR IT. (JN. 10:10) INSTEAD, OUR TIME IS FULL OF HEALTHY, SPIRITUALLY REWARDING EXPERIENCES.



-13-

DON'T **WASTE** YOUR TIME WORKING FOR THINGS THAT HAVE NO FEELINGS.



YOU CAN FIND PLENTY OF **PRACTICAL** WAYS TO HELP OTHERS. GIVE THEM YOUR TIME AND YOU'LL BE GIVING THEM YOUR LIFE! (1 P. 3:16)



-14-

TAKE THE TIME



TO WRITE TO US TODAY!
TELL US A LITTLE
ABOUT YOURSELF, AND
WE'LL SEND SOME MORE
OF THESE BOOKLETS.
BOX A678 SYDNEY STH. 2000

23. Help!

Things have not always been easy for the Jesus Christians. They have faced opposition from many sources. (Write for their book "Excommunicated" to get a better understanding of this.) The number of people who have been willing to stand with them in their war against greed has been unbelievably small. Yet they continue to spread their message around the globe, and to look for others who are willing to live and work with them.

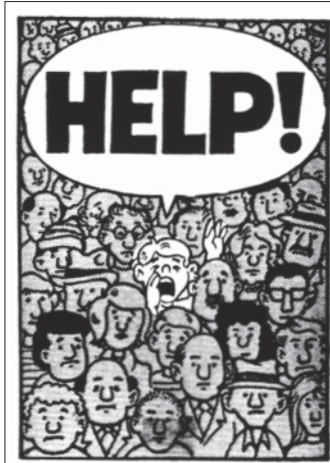
During one particularly low period, when the Jesus Christians were feeling that their efforts to inspire others to follow the teachings of Jesus were getting nowhere, they produced a cartoon booklet that expressed those exact feelings. We will finish this book with that cartoon.

Direct all enquiries to:

Jesus Christians
Box A678, Sydney South 1235, Australia

email: fold@idl.net.au

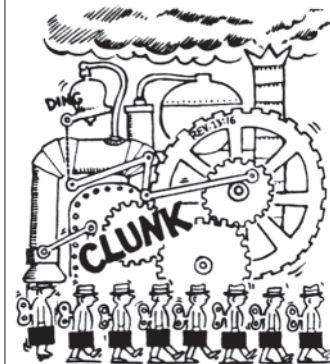
web: <http://cust.idl.net.au/fold/>



MASSSES OF PEOPLE CAN MAKE ONE INDIVIDUAL FEEL PRETTY HELPLESS.



-1-



AND, WITH TIME, THEY CAN ROB HIM OF HIS IDENTITY.

-2-

WE DON'T WANT TO BE JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. WE ARE **NOT** HAPPY WITH THE WORLD AS IT IS NOW. BUT THERE ARE VERY FEW WAYS INDIVIDUALS CAN MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD.



I COR. 9:24

-3-

WIERD DRESS, GRAFFITI, AND UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR CAN ATTRACT ATTENTION, BUT FEW PEOPLE KNOW WHAT TO SAY AFTER THEY GET A PLATFORM.



-4-

EVEN SO-CALLED FORUMS FOR PUBLIC DEBATE HAVE TURNED INTO UNTHINKING ARENAS FOR BIGOTRY ATTENDED BY PEOPLE WHO TAKE PLEASURE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOOD-LETTING



-5-



ROMANS 1:22-25.

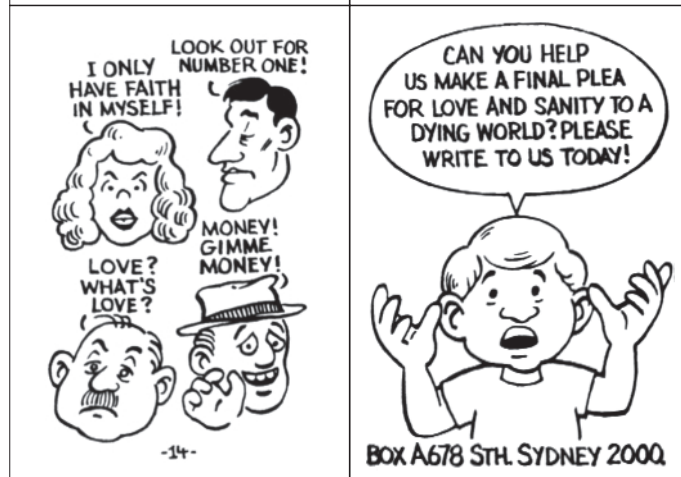
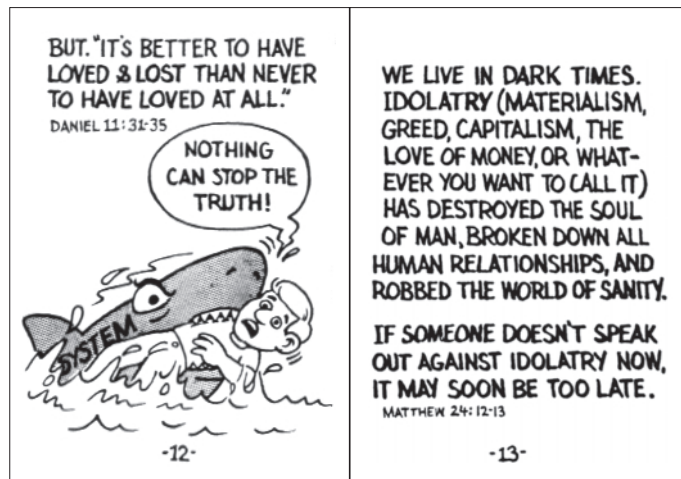
-6-

WE ARE FIGHTING FOR LOVE, FOR HONESTY, FOR SANITY...IN A WORLD WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE TRADED THEM ALL FOR POPULARITY, CHEAP THRILLS AND BIG BANK BALANCES.



LUKE 18:8

-7-



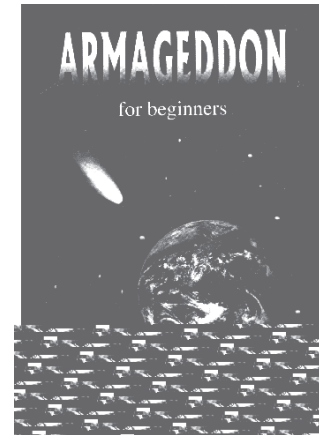


The Bin Raiders

An exciting 177-page novel based on true life incidents in the lives of Jesus Christians living in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Available from:
Box A678
Sydney South 1235
Australia

Please include a small donation to cover postage and printing costs.
Thank you.



Armageddon for Beginners

Bible prophecy made easy in this 200-page step by step guide to the end of the world!

Available from:
Box A678
Sydney South 1235
Australia

Please include a small donation to cover postage and printing costs.
Thank you.

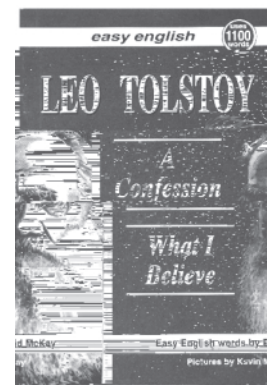


The Liberator

This giant 96-page comic illustrates the entire Gospel of Luke in easy to read modern English.

Available from:
Box A678
Sydney South 1235
Australia

Please include a small donation to cover postage and printing costs.
Thank you.



Leo Tolstoy

A Confession, & What I Believe

A powerful testimony and teaching from one of the greatest writers of all time, translated into Easy English in a single 250-page volume.

Available from:
Box A678, Sydney South 1235, Australia

Please include a small donation to cover postage and printing costs.
Thank you.