

THE BOOK OF JAMES

Inspire

There are five James' mentioned in the New Testament. Two of these were disciples of Jesus. One of them was Jesus' brother. This 'James' was the author of the book of 'James'.

James was also the Senior Leader of the early church in Jerusalem, **Acts 12:17, Acts 15:13-21, Acts 21:18, Galatians 1:9, Galatians 29:12**. James probably took this role on after the leadership of Peter as James was not a believer at the time of Jesus' ministry, **John 7:3-5**. He probably came to believe after the resurrection as he was numbered in **Acts 1:14**. Imagine that, the brother of Jesus, so close...yet so far away.

That of course was quickly changed. As you read the book of James, you can see the richness of his relationship come out in his writings. I mean you could preach a *year* on the book and still not exhaust it.

Let me encourage you, before you read this letter, why don't you read the book of James now? It will take about 20 minutes....

The main theme of James

As you read the book of James, you can see he believed in;

- ◆ A duty of doctrine, **Acts 15:19**.
- ◆ A walk over talk, **James 1:22-24**
- ◆ A reality over religion, **James 2:19-20**
- ◆ A faith that was outworked and not just inwardly believed. He believed in the practice of a pure religion, **James 1:27**
- ◆ A practical faith that can handle trials, **James 1:2-4**
- ◆ Handle God's Word correctly, **James 1:22-25**
- ◆ Treat people with equality, **James 2:1-9**
- ◆ Control the tongue , **James 3:3-10**
- ◆ Handle world affairs and work well in relationships, **James 4:1-11**
- ◆ Deal well in business, **James 5:1-6**

Even though James was very practical, he wraps the whole book up in speaking about how there is a need for prayer and faith, **James 5:13-20**.

Some actually called James 'Old Camel Knees', as he was a man of prayer and faith. At the end of his life as he was being stoned to death in 62 A.D, one man went near to hear what he was saying only to discover that he was praying for his murderers.

I believe that it was from that place of prayer that he drew what he called, 'wisdom from above', **James 3:13-18**.

Some lessons James teaches us about.



1. Being a servant

He actually starts his letter off by introducing himself as a chief servant which is a great picture of a church or any volunteer run organization; that the leader is a servant leader of servants, serving the needs of the community, being the oversight with a servant heart.

James could have referred to himself as the brother of the Lord or Senior Leader of the early church but he went with 'servant'

I will never forget Wayne Cordeiro, pastor of a large church in Hawaii, sharing with about 100 ministers which church over 1000 people. He walked into a conference and began to ask us all who we thought was the greatest among us. Before waiting for an answer, he went on to share about a story of being invited to a special function where he was going to be honoured; but before this happened, a person asked for a coffee, thinking he was a waiter. Wayne just complied. After Wayne

was honoured the person who asked him to fetch a coffee was so embarrassed and apologized to him by saying, "I am so sorry, I thought you were a servant." Wayne just said, "Don't worry, that is all I am." Then looking at us, he said, "Don't worry, that is all you are too."

Yet with this in mind, we must remember this one rule in servant hood, "We are servants to all but slaves to none."

2. James taught us acceptance and grace

Being the senior leader of the early church, James was called upon to make tough decisions for example; the massive debate over the circumcision for those that converted to Christianity. Poor old Timothy had to be circumcised because Paul hadn't quite pushed it through but James said this in **Acts 15:19**; "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.

What a judgment, what a courageous decision-no doubt opening up the kingdom of God to many more people to be ministered to without favoritism or partiality, **James 2:2-4**.

So often as Christians, we stand in judgment of others and that keeps us from connecting and ministering to those in need. Of course it's not *circumcision* today but it's other fleshly attributes that stand out and hinder us from ministering to them often even stopping us from connecting to them.

3. James taught us a pure religion

James taught us about ministering to those in need, **James 1:27**. He also taught us to minister without favouritism or partiality, **James 2:24**. James taught us about a faith that wasn't about just talking and believing but had practical action that actually helped people, **James 2:14-17**.

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Ozreach

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October
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James really takes us back to **Matthew Chapter 25:31-46**. When Jesus called us to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner and entertain the stranger. When we do this to the least of our brother or sister, we are doing it to Him because as much as He is the Son of God, He is also the Son of Man.

4. James taught us to control our tongues and love one another

I mean...let's face it, controlling our tongue and loving one another has got to be one of the biggest challenges to the body of Christ. I think if we could get this together, we would see a move of God.

I think of my time in Newcastle as it has been the most challenging time of ministry I have experienced in all my 25 years. I personally believe there is a spirit of division and control over the place; not only seen in the church but in local council, sport, business and other avenues. As soon as a church in this area begins to grow and see a little increase, its like there is a spiritual force that stirs up the believers to turn on and devour one another. I'm sure it happens everywhere but I've never see it so strong, so often, and over the slightest things and sometimes over nothing at all.

James speaks about not grumbling against another, **James 5:9**. He speaks about controlling your tongue and not cursing each other, **James 3:9**. He speaks about quarrels and where they come from, coveting because of wrong motives, **James 4:1-3**.

5. A true perspective on trials and suffering

James actually wrote this letter to the persecuted church that had been spread across the region. Probably some of them were disillusioned and others

probably questioning their faith . I mean they were in this *mega church* in Jerusalem seeing amazing miracles. Then all of a sudden, Stephen, one of the church leaders was stoned to death and then major persecution broke out against the church.

There are numbers of people that have ship-wrecked their faith because they couldn't work out where God was in tough times or, "If God is good why do bad things happen, especially to good people?" These are tough questions. James, being a pastor, took it on with the famous verses, **James 1:2-5**.

A) Praise Him

"Consider it pure joy." He's not saying to pretend to be happy but how to have a positive outlook in God's perspective, "What is God doing in this?"

It was in that place that God raised Moses after 40 years in the wilderness to be Israel's redeemer.

It was in that place that God took Joseph after 13 years of prison to be second in charge of the known world and then saved his people, **Genesis 50:20**.

It was in that place that God took Paul after 13 years of obscurity to be the greatest apostle the world had seen.

It was in that place that Nelson Mandela, after 27 years of prison became the president of South Africa.

See things in God's perspective and praise Him with pure joy.

B) Perceive

Perceive and know that a depth of character is only drawn out of trials. True purpose is realised in tough times and great learning and growth are the result of testings.

C) Perseverance

Because this is a long distance journey and

not a sprint, perseverance will build us the longevity we need to be whole, mature, complete and not lacking in anything for the future. Remember, it doesn't say, "If trials come," it says, "When trials happen," and it says, "Of many kinds." There are the relationship, trials, moral trials, the time trials, the money trials, the teenage trials; the trials of many kinds.

D) Ask

If you lack wisdom to why this has happened...ask, don't blame God, **James 1:5, 13**. Don't turn on each other, **James 5:8, 9**, and don't only blame the devil but realise, we have an enemy that works in us through other circumstances. Realize that it could be you, **James 5:19-20**, where your desires that have brought you into this place. Also realize we live in a sin blighted world that is marred by the disobedience of man kind.

E) Pray

James 5:16, don't just get prayer, you pray, you seek God, bring this trial into the super natural work of God and watch Him move because prayer is powerful, supernatural out of this world and effective.

So pray.

Love
Kevin



Senior Leader
@ Life Church
Email: info@lifechurch.org.au

Twin Packs available of 'Lessons from James'
\$12.00 plus postage

EXPERIENCE MISSIONAL CHURCH @ LIFE

**PUB
CHURCH
IN THE LIVING
ROOM
@ THE KENT
BEAUMONT ST
HAMILTON**

**2 BEER SERVICE
SUNDAY
11th July &
@ 6pm—7.30pm**



Soapbox night is where some of the best muso's in Australia play.

Bodacious Cowboys will be playing on the **23rd of July at 6pm**. Soapbox has its own bar and restaurant and is held in our **Soul Café** where by day we serve the *needy of Newcastle* **where you will have that opportunity at 7am on the 24th**. For Soapbox nights, you must book and it is **\$45.00**. For more information and accommodation suggestions, contact Life Church office on **4961 0223, Kevin Wilcock on 0407 467 798** or email: info@lifechurch.org.au.



KEVIN'S TRAVEL

July 13th and 14th	Melbourne
July 18th	Thirroul
July 26th	Chatswood



GlobeReach local missions and some of the works we support overseas

PHILIPPINES YOUTH CAMP—Alvin Bautista



Praise God for successful Youth Conference and Concert '10! last May 19-21, 2010. There were 100 youth who attend the conference and there are 150+ during the concert.

The theme for conference and concert was "Love that Conquers". As we gathered each service and session, one could hear the beautiful songs of God's people singing this song and reminding us indeed that he is the Only Way the Truth and the Life ...". As His

praises were lifted upward, His blessings came down. Our Australian Friends from Maitland Australia was our guest speaker, and did a wonderful job of ministering to the needs of the Filipino. Scott and Tim were a great blessing to the conference and concert. We have a great time with them.

I'd like to express my personal thanks to all the people who made such sacrifices, as always, to be a part of making the conference and concert a success. It would be difficult to mention everybody, but I want each one to know what a blessing you are.. Thank you for what you do each and every year. You give selflessly, and we hardly feel we deserve to

work with such wonderful people as you. Thank you so much for those people who support us financially and in prayers we do really appreciated it so much.

Thanks again to all churches and people who have supported Youth Conference and Concert '10. We still have a lot to do, and many more victories to be won. We have a lot more young lives to reach. May God Bless you Always!

In Christ
Alvin

Email: acbautista_24@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINES CFFA (Child's Faith Foundation Academy) — Ken & Maisie Gibson



It only costs \$175 to give children like Anna & Thomas an education. The gift is priceless!

CFFA is a ministry to Filipino children in Tupda Village, Manila, Pabahay, Graceville, and Patulo in Bulakan. CFFA is an early childhood & primary school program, dedicated to providing disadvantaged children from squatter and depressed areas with an educational experience.

History

The schools were started by an independent group of Christians who saw the need to help families in the squatter areas of Manila and Bulakan. CFFA saw how critical early childhood education was as in the Philippines there can be 60 children in each class at school. If a child can't read by the time they start school, they will fall behind. In fact 90% of adults are illiterate in Manila and only 10% of children from low income families complete high school. The first school was built in 1997 on top of a Caloocan rubbish

dump, which is now called Tupda Village. We saw the centers as a place that would provide a service to the community as well as an early childhood center.

Teaching Staff

Child's Faith Learning Academy employs 12 teachers, 2 trainees and an administrator, all from the Philippines. All teachers and staff who work at the academy do so sacrificially and recognize that they are in ministry. Their focus is on the welfare of the students. Without their dedication, the schools would not be able to function as well as they do.

Training

In order to maintain development and quality education we are committed to training two new teachers every year. They are then released (if they so desire), to other areas at the end of their training.

How can I help?

For just \$175 a year, you can sponsor one child to receive an early childhood education, (installments payment options can be arranged). \$175 covers all of the child's educational needs for the year, as well as providing a nutritious meal each school day. One day these children will be the future leaders of the Philippines. Together we can help break the poverty cycle.



All parents of children attending the CFFA schools are asked to pay a nominal fee. For many of the parents this fee is beyond their means.

A house in Patulo

You will receive the details of your sponsor child, to help you and your family to pray strategically for the child, their families and the teachers at the schools.

You can have confidence that all money paid will go to running the program. Administration from Australia is provided by volunteers. Installment payment options can be arranged for payments.

All Enquiries in Australia:

Ken & Maisie Gibson
18A Boundary St, Wallsend
NSW 2287, AUSTRALIA
Ph: (02) 4951 7445
Email: mgibson41@optusnet.com.au

Direct Deposit Information:

Bank Account Name:

New Horizon Ministry St George

Bank BSB: 112 879

Account No: 055 261 005

CAMBODIA — Joshua & Deborah House

A Whisper in God's Ear

Thank you for waiting patiently in receiving these pray points. Please pray for my English and pray also for all of our requests and praise.

January—May 2010 Praise Points

- ◆ All the students passed semester one exam in January.
- ◆ 9 students from JH & 5 students from Dh had joined National church conference at Kom Pongcham province in April.

- ◆ During Khmer new year in April all the students went to visit their family in home province, they were fine and safe.
- ◆ Sao and Sameat joined a Christian leadership summit at Kom Pongsom province in April for 5 days.
- ◆ Sameat has began the 12 month celebration children course, they study two and a half days every month.
- ◆ Also his blood pressure is more stable with good medication, exercise, food and prayer.
- ◆ In May, Donna visited us from Myanmar.

June 2010 Prayer Points

- ◆ Health, wisdom in studying for the students in Jh and Dh, and for the house parent.
- ◆ Examination for Reaksa, Lin, Teoun in grade 9; examination for Srey Nea, Srey Na, Ley, Vibol and Soky at University.
- ◆ We still wait to receive (Memorandum of Understanding) from Ministry of foreign affairs and Ministry of education.

Blessings

Huon Sao & Chantha

Email: jhdhcambodia@gmail.com



Ozreach Conference— Building Great Churches that Influence Communities



DAVID & ALIX MORSE

Alix and I share an ever-increasing love for the local church. We are convinced that The Kingdom of God will most effectively advance through the influence of flourishing, empowered local churches; churches just like yours. God is connecting leaders across cities, nations and across the globe so that we can advance the Kingdom to a world that needs its liberating message in increasing measure. www.energizerlifechurch.com



DARRYL GARDINER

Darryl has been involved in youth work for more than 25 years. He ran a boys' home for 16 years. He is part of Incedo, a national youth organization. He is a regular speaker and trainer in New Zealand and overseas.



KEVIN WILCOCK

Kevin has pioneered and pastored a number of growing churches. Kevin's realness and relational ability to the Australian culture has allowed him to travel extensively across the nation and beyond. He now serves as Team Leader of Life Church Newcastle and Ozreach Incorporated. www.lifechurch.org.au

When: **Friday 15th & Saturday 16th October 2010**

Where: **Tuggerah Lakes Christian Fellowship, 22 Adelaide Street, Tumbi Umbi (near the Entrance)**

BUILDING A LOCAL CHURCH

Over the last twenty years I have attended Christian meetings, conferences, bought the books, listened to the CD's, DVD's and taken in much teaching! I pastored a small South Coast church for 10 years. The church grew to become a great church, so one would think I would have the process for building a local church down pat. We moved to Canberra and were sent out to be a part of a new work in Gungahlin. A totally different demographic to the coast, but what I feel is a new dynamic in church for us anyway.

The important stuff: Knowing the essentials as from non essentials.

Essentials – Unless Jesus builds His church they labour in vain. We all know the Scripture, quote it, but often can't help ourselves.

We need Peter's personal revelation of knowing who Jesus is, then we live it, breathe it, preach it. After all didn't Jesus say "on this rock I will build My church".

Some non essentials:

The 3 fast and 2 slow songs that we call worship. When our very life should be worship to the Lord. I love good worship, but wait there's more.

The emphasis on serving in the house and all for the house. Again I love God's house and I believe we should make it a place to belong, but the commission is to GO to the widows, orphans, hungry, oppressed in the community.

The age old question "If your church was to close down would the community know" what a challenge to actually be missed.

Do Sue and I know what we are doing in building a local church? Not really! -Just answering the call and trusting God.

Bless you
Syd and Sue Miller

Email: sydmler@bigpond.com

Mates in Ministry & Business Ministry

Melbourne

When: Tuesday 13th July 2010

Time: 11.00 to 1.00 noon

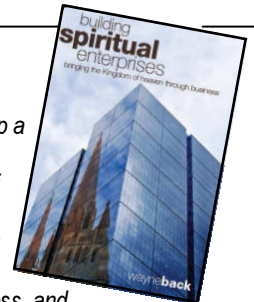
Venue: The Bell Jar 656 Smith St Clifton Hill (Fitzroy North)

Cost: Lunch & Drinks

Speaker: Wayne Back will be sharing on: 'Building Spiritual Enterprises'

Review on Wayne's Book 'Building Spiritual Enterprises'

"Building spiritual enterprises" is written to inspire and equip a new generation of Christian business people. God has a plan to bring heaven to earth and He is elevating the role of business in that plan. Even though the focus of the book is on business, it also is relevant to building a church, ministry or other enterprises. It is three books in one. The first section is about building yourself spiritually for business and includes the issues of faith, doubt, success, contentment and hearing from God. The second section is about bring a spiritual foundation to your enterprise and includes the issues of anointings, gifts, vision and spiritual structures. The third section is about building the enterprise and includes the issues of values, culture, strategy and transitions. The book approaches each of these issues with a solid Biblical foundation and adds Wayne's experience in organizational development through his two businesses (www.odi.net.au and www.mtaustralia.com). It also has the stories of many Christian business people who building spiritual enterprises as well as some of the spiritual principles learnt in planting and building churches. More information on the book and other resources is found at www.odi.net.au/spirit where you can download a free sample chapter and find out how to order the book.



by Wayne Back
Email: wayneb@mtaustralia.com



OzReach

Mission Statement

OzReach is a relational based network of churches and ministries that are committed to parenting and planting churches across the nation.

Relational Ministry Oversight

Kevin Wilcock 0407 477 98
Howard Hadley 0405 514 7001

Legal & Board Oversight

Kevin & Tracey Wilcock
Mark & Donna McCann



Briars in Bowral Bring your partners

When: Wednesday
4th August 2010
Time: 7.00pm to 10.00pm
Venue: Briar's 653 Moss Vale Road Bowral
Cost: Dinner & Drinks
Speaker: It's a social and a round table discussion — Kevin will bring something to the table

To book phone Life Church on: 4961 0211
Email: info@lifechurch.org.au