



The
Visionary

“And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to Aaron and to his sons saying, In this way you shall bless the sons of Israel, saying to them, Jehovah bless you and keep you. Jehovah make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. Jehovah lift up His face to you and give you peace.’ And they shall put My name upon the sons of Israel. And I, I will bless them.” (Num 6:22-27) That ancient Aaronic blessing is as real for us today as it was for Aaron. The heart of God has never changed in his desire to bless His people, and in particular for you today.

In Honour of Mary Shadbolt Promoted to glory

We mourn, but do not grieve; indeed we honour and rejoice over those who pass from this life into the very presence of the Lord. Mary Shadbolt, a saint, a sister, a missionary, lived a life that demonstrated the peace and presence of the Lord to all she met. I met Mary a number of times in church, social functions and the nursing home and I was always struck by the grace she lived, no matter, it seemed, the circumstances she faced.

Mary had been disabled from an early age and in later years was confined to a wheel chair and later still to a bed in a nursing home, yet the presence of the Lord was always with her.

After spending time in Kenya, Mary returned to Australia. She met Ken and Alison Chant and they formed a strong and productive relationship over many years. Mary was instrumental in the early development of Vision Christian College, almost from its inception. It was Mary who typed the copious notes from Ken Chant that became his books and study material – on a typewriter, for in those early days there was no word processor. She helped to proof-read, was involved in the office and the early growth of Vision Colleges. Indeed, without her contribution it is difficult to see how Vision could have grown and developed as it has. We owe much to this “quiet Australian”.

Today there are approximately 150,000 registered students on the Vision network. This has been the consistent average of the international student body for a number of years. We estimate that since the colleges started in 1974 approximately 2,000,000 (two million) students around the world have graduated with a Vision Award.

Countless pastors, leaders, teachers, missionaries, evangelists, song leaders, children’s ministry workers, elders, men and women from all walks of life, from pastors to politicians, nurses and teachers, factory workers and farmers, professionals and laity from more than 160 nations know the Lord richly; due in part to the life, commitment and dedication of Mary Shadbolt.

To honour her, Vision Christian College will set up the **Mary Shadbolt Scholarship** so that in perpetuity Vision Christian College will take a Mission student from Kenya, the nation in Africa where she was a missionary, to be accepted as a student and provided with the teaching and study materials from Certificate to a Bachelor’s Degree without cost to the student.

It is the best way that we can honour this sister and saint, our tribute to Mary Shadbolt, a humble woman who loved the Lord, her influence is far greater than many realise. Mary will be missed.

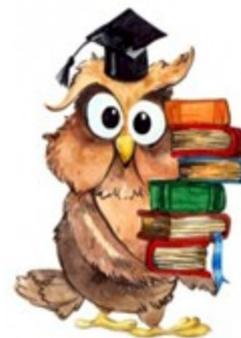
Ken Chant Be Whom You Seem To Be

Alice was playing croquet with the Queen when the Duchess came along and began a conversation with her. The question arose whether mustard was a mineral or a vegetable. Alice finally decided that it looked like a mineral but was in fact a vegetable. The Duchess said: "I quite agree with you, and

the moral of that is, "Be what you would seem to be" (From *Through the Looking Glass*, by Lewis Carroll.)

That is a moral that many Christians could take to heart. After hearing about the moral collapse of some prominent spiritual leaders, a young pastor once said to me, only half in jest, "If you fall into adultery, as they did, I will shoot myself!" He did not of course think that I was beyond sin; but he was saying that his confidence would be shaken in the power of the gospel to keep its promise of holiness; he was expressing the just demand that *preachers* of the word should be *doers* of the word!

Note the example of Paul – Ph 3:17-19; and most daring of all, 1 Co 10:32-11:1. Yet what else should a spiritual leader say? We should all be able to affirm with the apostle that people may safely imitate us because we truly mirror the beauty and holiness of Christ. Indeed, if we cannot live the word we had better stop preaching it, for in the end there is no sermon stronger than our own lives. So, I must ask



- how is your home; your daily life?
- are you more a hearer of the word than a doer of it?
- note these words, which come just before the passage cited above: "*Would you provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are you stronger than he is? All is lawful to me, but not all is expedient*" (vs. 22).
- is there any problem that cannot be solved by the promise in vs. 13? – "*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.* (ESV)

Theodoric was the king of Italy in the middle of the 5th. century, at a time when the church was split between Arians and Orthodox (that is, between those who denied and those who believed the deity of Christ). He had a minister who was an Arian. Thinking to please the king, the minister announced that he was renouncing Arianism to join the king's orthodox faith. Theodoric had him beheaded, saying, "If this man is not faithful to his God, how can he be faithful to me, a mere man?"

Many may be glad that such a summary penalty does not often follow compromise today! Rather, in private and in public life, let us be, as nearly as we can, perfect exemplars of Christ, true to his character and to his purpose for us.

Missions

Missions are a big part of what we do at Vision Colleges. Jesus told the disciples go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth. As it was for the disciples so it is for us at Vision Colleges. First to Launceston in Tasmania, then Sydney, NSW, then Australia, the USA and the rest of the world and the work still continues to progress. Although we only report on our missions effort Vision Colleges in in over 150 countries around the world and has been driven largely by Dr. Stan DeKoven and his team in the USA, but we do pull well above our weight in presenting *The Whole Word To The Whole World*. This month our mission effort is listed below.

Philippines: This August 16th I will leave for the Philippines <http://wikitravel.org/en/Philippines> to meet our colleges and student body and to establish a new college in **Cagayan de Oro City** with Pastor Masamiro Sumayo in that city. We already have a college in **Dumangas** near the city of Iloilo in Western Visayas on the island of Panay. They have around 20 students. The work is in its infancy but growing well. The students are doing well. This college introduced the idea of using a tablet to download subjects to read them instead of having the books printed. It is a huge cost saver for them. The idea is taking off elsewhere. I have just been advised that they are facing some difficulty. They are Baptists, and some of the members oppose the Pentecostal message. We should pray for the Holy Spirit to undertake for the whole church and community

The Work in **Pagadian** in Southern Mindanao. Although this is not a college, it was our entry into the Philippines and we have a strong connection with this church. I will be ministering for them at this time.

Kenya. We have several works in this African nation <http://wikitravel.org/en/Kenya> . Vision Colleges operates in Kenya jointly with the Africa Bible Network. At the moment, they have a college at Busia, which is very close to the Uganda/Kenya border. We will be offering Colleges to more churches as the Network expands.

We also have an independent church using us for training, called Wings of Life Gospel Church International in Nairobi, with a dozen students. We also have a new College in Kenya, with Suzanne Pillans' network, as she is seeking to use Vision Colleges in that nation also. This College has just started this very day as I write this newsletter.

Malawi is another impoverished African nation (<http://wikitravel.org/en/Malawi>) that has begun working with us to teach and develop the pastoral skills of the Malawi Christians.

In **South Africa** (http://wikitravel.org/en/South_Africa) we have just entered into an agreement with Precision Leadership Coach and Skill Enterprises to be their Bible College, working with the Churches in south Africa. It is a delight to see this happening. I have made many trips to South Africa, and it is encouraging to see the work develop fruit in this nation.

Bhutan in the Himalayas is a tiny nation between China, Nepal and India. (<http://wikitravel.org/en/Bhutan>) The nation is so poor that they are unable to pay for funds, so Vision will provide study materials to them. The pastor Lhatru Wangchuk has a heart for his people to grow in the Lord and provide answers to deal with Buddhism.

Belizee. In the Central America nation of Belizee (<http://wikitravel.org/en/Belize>) we are working with an Australian Missionary, Victor Hernandez from Wollongong, in his work there. They have 4 accredited and 4 recognised students in the same college.

We are working with pastors in **Qatar**, **Ghana** and **Pakistan**, with a view to starting colleges in those nations, in addition to the overseas mission work.

Within Australia

The majority of the students working through our Sydney office are Australians in Australia, and especially so with the Accredited program, *Vision International College*. Still most of our work is in English but we do have work in other languages. We operate by distance education through the regular mail services sending a text book or through the email services sending the same text book in PDF format. We also have an online learning portal for the practical subjects in our accredited program.

In addition to the accredited and non-accredited programs we also have our church-based programs around the country, allowing local churches to develop their own Bible College with our materials.

Australia. We are now able to provide our studies in English, Chinese, Urdu, Tamil and Arabic. We are pleased to see these options being taken up on other languages here in our own nation, and is a means of reaching those literate in a language other than English.

We have just opened a college in **Melbourne**, in Chinese for Australian Chinese students, most of which prefer to do their studies in Chinese. It is a delight to welcome Shirley Ma, who is running the program. This is an exciting way not only to reach the Chinese students, but we also know that they will be reaching their own peoples too.

In **Geraldton**, we have partnered with **Sun City Christian Church** to provide studies to their students at their training centre.

Prison Ministry. We now have 8 students around Australia undertaking varying levels of studies, from Certificate in Biblical Studies, and the Accredited Christian Ministry and Theology study options. We have 2 students in prisons now undertaking Degree level courses. The prisoners we have contact with are: Long Bay, 1 inmate (NSW); Hopkins, 3 inmates; Karreenga, 2 inmates (Vic); Wooroloo W.A., 2 inmates.

High Schools. Although our role is to present the Word of God as a Bible College, there are several High Schools working with us now, offering our Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology as part of their curriculum. Those schools are Annandale Christian College, Brisbane; Grace Lutheran College, Deception Bay Qld; Grace Christian School, Bunbury, Western Australia; Turning Points, Cranbourne Victoria. Additionally, we are working with a number of home school ministries.

Alison's Corner GOD'S WARRIORS

In Ephesians 6:10-12 we read, *"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

What is spiritual warfare and how can we be warriors for the kingdom of God?

Warfare for God is not mysterious or hard to understand. It is simply making choices for the kingdom of God and then carrying out those choices.

Warfare is resisting temptation! *"...No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can*



bear. But when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Warfare is praying! Warfare is clothing ourselves with the armour of God, but most of all it is praying in the Spirit! "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

Warfare is witnessing! Warfare is evangelism, witnessing to increase the population of the kingdom of God. "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Warfare is healing! Warfare is helping, counselling, and healing those who need our message, our prayers, and our knowledge of the Kingdom of God and how it works.

Warfare is spreading the good news! How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns" (Isaiah 52:7).

The Problems People Face Today

Anxiety and depression, so prevalent today, lead to drug taking, drunkenness and other evils by those who do not know God. People everywhere are seeking peace, joy and satisfaction and God wants to bless them.

God wants to increase his kingdom. Dare we keep him to ourselves? No, we cannot. God's love needs to flow through us into the lives of those who don't know him.

Student Honour Roll

Vision Colleges are distance education Bible Colleges, which is really all we do. We provide Christian ministry and Bible college teaching. Since July the following students graduated and we heartily congratulate them. We encourage every student to continue in study, to be equipped, and to know the rich blessing of the Word and its power in their lives. We appreciate you and pray the Lord will use and release you into ministry within his Kingdom.

Elizabeth Rossendel	Diploma of Ministry	VIC
Lina Ibrahim	Certificate in Biblical Studies - Arabic	VIC
Liza Georgis	Certificate in Biblical Studies	NSW
George Nickos	Certificate in Biblical Studies	NSW
Reuben Karunaikumar	Award in Biblical Studies	NSW
Niranjala Karunaikumar	Award in Biblical Studies	NSW
Pium Attanyake	Award in Biblical Studies	NSW
Ciranni Giuliano	Certificate IV in Science	Qld
Gyhaan Edwards	Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology	NSW
Karen Armstrong	Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology – Chaplaincy	NSW
Stephen Hodal	Certificate IV in Liberal Arts	QLD
Stephen Hodal	Diploma of Liberal Arts	QLD
Benjamin Newby	Certificate IV in Liberal Arts	QLD
Benjamin Newby	Diploma of Liberal Arts	QLD
Maritza Palavincino	Award in Biblical Studies	NSW
Lisa Arrow	Diploma of Ministry	NSW
Sally Elphick	Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology	WA

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