

**Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.**

**(1 Cor 12:27)**

March-June 2014

## The **Problem** with Church Is ...

by Berni Dymet

**Many, many people today find themselves struggling with the whole idea of "church". So much so, that text books are being written about passionate, Christ-following, Bible-believing Christians who have opted out of "church".**

**The problem with that is – it's simply not part of God's plan for our lives.**

I often think about that motley band of men who became the twelve Disciples of Jesus. Uneducated bumpkins for the most part – fishermen, tax collectors from Galilee of all places. Hardly the crème de la crème if the religious elite.

Yet Jesus chose these common every day folk (people much like you and me) not just to be His followers, but to be the foundation of His church – a church which is alive and thriving today.

A church which has led billions of people to Him, down through the ages.

And over the course of Jesus' three and a half year public ministry, we see these men squabbling, jockeying for positions

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## Your **Free** DVD

Dear friend,

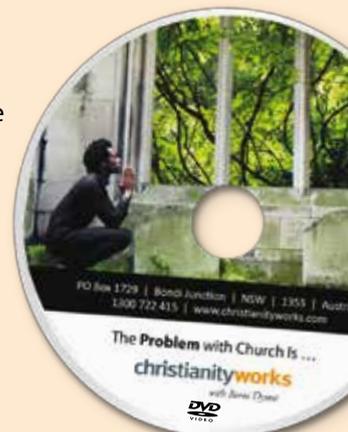
To celebrate the commencement of our television ministry, we would love to give you a free DVD containing the first two episodes of the series: *The Problem with Church is ...*

I believe that it contains some powerful messages that speak into the times in which we live – and our attitudes towards being a part of the House of God.

So please – request your **FREE copy of this DVD now** using the reply slip provided.

Perhaps God wants to speak into your heart, about the plans that He has for you to be a part of the Body of Christ.

*Berni*



*The weekly audience will, not surprisingly, number in the millions!*



# Behind the Scenes ... Television Ministry Launches

Since 1957 – yes, it's been that long – Christianityworks has been proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in a fresh and relevant, yet biblically faithful way – through its radio programs.

Today, over 30 million people each week hear the good News of Jesus through the radio messages we produce in Australia. They are now broadcast on around 1,200 radio stations in 160 countries around the globe.

Each and every day, countless lives are being touched and transformed by God's Spirit and His Word, through those radio messages.

*And that is something that we simply wouldn't have been able to do, without the prayer and the support of friends like you!*

But last year, we felt God calling us into a new television ministry. It is something that we considered prayerfully – to ensure that this was, indeed, the will of God. Because ...

*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. (Psalm 127:1)*

God stepped in amazingly (should we ever be amazed?!) to confirm His calling, by providing a free television studio just a few kilometers from our office in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney!

So we have produced the first 13 week series of ChristianityworksTV – which will soon go to air across India on cable TV. The weekly audience will, not surprisingly, number in the millions!

Once we have our arrangements in India bedded in, we will look to Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Europe to expand the reach and impact of the new TV ministry.

May many more lives be transformed by the Gospel, through your prayer and support.



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## The **Problem** with Church Is ...

of status, demonstrating their lack of faith and power and insight and understanding.

We see one of them betray the Son of Man. And ultimately, we see all of them desert Him, in that moment where He needed them most.

And with a heritage like that, we wonder why our churches aren't perfect!

What makes us imagine that our church should be like a zoo – filled with perfect specimens? That's not what the Bible teaches at all. No. Churches are much more like a rehabilitation ward, where injured, damaged, imperfect people come to be transformed back into the *imago Dei* – the image of God in which they were created.

It is a deep malady indeed to see so many people opting out of church, and so many more filling pews with a disengaged heart. *A heart that doesn't come to serve and sacrifice, but to consume and complain!*

Does any of that sound vaguely familiar?

Have you ever found yourself looking around *your* church

wondering what God could ever achieve through this motley bunch of sinners?

I think that we have all struggled with this whole "church" thing from time to time.

And that's what my teaching series *The Problem with Church Is ...* is all about.

So please, request your free copy of the DVD which contains two of the messages from that series, straight out of our new Television version of Christianityworks.

And may you be blessed as you receive God's Word.

### Our FREE Gift to You:

To request your copy just complete the enclosed reply slip and send it back in the envelope provided.

Remember, God has an outrageously good plan for your life!



## How Your **Support** Gives the **Gift of Life ...**

**Each week we receive so many testimonies from people whose lives are transformed through your support. It's really quite staggering. Here is just one person who wanted to share the impact of Christianityworks with you:**

*I'm a Christian but have gone through some dark valleys after going through a divorce. I was so upset and down that I decided to plan an early escape route. I've not told anyone this but I was going to kill myself.*

*It was only through listening to you're positive, inspiring and very real truthful talks on the radio and the help of God that has pulled me through. It has been more than a year and I've got myself planted in a good church and lots of friends around me.*

*I continue to listen to the daily radio talks and read Christianityworks literature and thank God each day for changing my thoughts and mind*

*- Barry H (UK)*



# From **Berni** to you

Dear friend,

When I read the testimony from Barry (p3) I am reminded of the exhortation that the Apostle Paul gave to his young protégé Timothy:

*Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; ... with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suite their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth. (2 Tim 4:2-4)*

I believe that the time that Paul was talking about has arrived – there is so much distortion of the Word of God, which is leading people astray. *It may tickle their ears, but it cannot feed their souls into eternity.*

The Gospel of Grace is a precious thing – entrusted to us to share with the world.

I know that like me, you are passionate about seeing the Bible taught in the media. In a fresh and relevant way, but in a way that does not distort the truth.

That is why we push forward, harder than ever, to spread the Good News of salvation in Christ alone. That is why we have stepped out in faith, into the new medium of television – to reach countless more souls with the Gospel

And that is why your support is more important than ever – to take the Gospel far and wide by every means possible.

So thank you for your generous and sacrificial gift of support this month. May the Lord bless you richly, as you participate in His great commission of winning the lost for Christ.

Your friend in Jesus,



P.S. Thank you for giving whatever you are able this month to keep the Gospel of Christ out there on the airwaves!



## Programming Changes

**At the beginning of each year, quite a number of the radio stations that broadcast Christianityworks' programs change their time slots.**

Here are two really important ones that you may be interested in:



**"A Different Perspective" can now be heard at the following times, Monday to Friday:**

NSW/VIC/TAS/ACT: 6.30am, 9.45pm

WA: 4.30am, 6.45pm

NT: 5.00am, 8.15pm

QLD: 5.30am, 8.45pm

SA: 6.00am, 9.15pm

*(these are summer times, NSW/VIC/TAS/ACT/SA will all go back one hour at the end of daylight saving)...*



### Week night

A Different Perspective can now be heard at 11:00pm each week night (rather than 10:00pm) on Melbourne's Light FM.

**NOW**

*you can Give securely online at*  
**christianityworks.com**

Australia: PO Box 1729 | Bondi Junction | NSW | 1355 | 1300 722 415

India: PO Box 1602 | Secunderabad | 500 003 | Andhra Pradesh

UK: PO Box 201 | Chessington | KT9 9BX | 0800 078 6565

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