



TEN TREMENDOUS YEARS 1991 –and still going! 2002

**150,000 km, 600 towns, 1000 meetings, and 60,000 people
in 10 years of Creation Bus ministry to rural Australia**

'I will lead [them] by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.' Isaiah 42:16

It has been funny and furious, frustrating and faith-building, but also fabulous. Driving through daily-changing scenery, meeting and befriending a fascinating array of people from all walks of life and, above all, having the opportunity to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with them.

From the beginning, we have been acutely aware of the spiritual warfare in which we have been engaged. Satan has done his best to obstruct this ministry, but without success. In the last 10 years, the Creation Bus has made it to every scheduled meeting but

one (and even that meeting was briefly postponed, not cancelled). This is despite Myrtle (our pet name for the bus) having suffered well over a dozen bus and trailer punctures, 2 broken drawbars, 3 broken towbars, 3 broken trailer hitches, 3 underfloor fires, 1 accidental off-road excursion, 27 failed batteries, innumerable leaks of all sorts, 9 major rebuild problems for motor (2), transmission (2), front end (2), differential (1) and trailer (2), with 6 of these being while we were on a ministry tour, dozens of electrical failures, and 3 major brake problems.

Add to this various illnesses and injuries suffered by the crew and others involved, and the innumerable complexities in coordinating and

organizing a Creation Bus visit, and it's a wonder any meetings took place at all! But our God is sovereign over all and His purposes cannot be thwarted.

Of the many and varied venues, I remember a tiny church built to hold a dozen people which had 30 bodies crammed into it; a gymnasium only half filled by 600 people; a badminton hall which was home to two possums who 'bombed' me from the rafters; and a church with a roof but no walls. Electricity is essential to our meetings for both lighting and equipment.

We've had generators 'conk out' mid-meeting and local electricity suppliers cutting power to work on the wires because 'Nobody uses power on





The Creation Bus team of Peter, Cathy, and young Daniel

a Sunday morning'. Once we had to power the meeting with the diesel generator from the bus. Electrical storms have produced blackouts several times, but the Lord has always remained faithful. At one meeting, for example, about 2 seconds after I uttered my last word, the power went off and book sales were done by candlelight and car headlights aimed through the windows.

The number of people at our meetings over the years has ranged from 0 (not counting the dog that turned up) to over 1000. One memorable meeting resulted in 40 professions of conversion and rededication!

Comments

Excerpts from our Comments Book have been:

'This is fantastic, why wasn't I told this stuff before?' (by a teenager who made a recommitment after the meeting).

'Even though I've always believed in Creation, I felt it was one of those issues ("red herrings") that got one off the "true" message of Jesus Christ and the Salvation ... Now I know that we need the foundation that His creation represents. Thank you for being the Lord's instrument in presenting His message.'

'Friends have been witnessing to me for a while now but I always felt that I didn't have enough faith to become a Christian. I now realize that it's not a blind faith but a rational and logical faith.'

'... my faith has exploded! Couldn't sleep after the meeting! Can't wait for you to come back!'

'My eyes have been opened very much. You answered questions I did-

n't even realize I had.'

'Although a Christian, my education as an Agricultural Scientist led me to fit evolution into my beliefs. After attending a Creation Science seminar I became a creationist in my beliefs and God suddenly became SO MUCH BIGGER!'

'Very clear, fast moving, factual, interesting, funny. Held children's attention. Presenter open about beliefs and values. Presenter confident and not ashamed of the Gospel. Communication style with children excellent. Score 10 out of 10.' (By the Principal of a Christian school.)

'Creation magazine got my son through high school.'

'... I was challenged about what I could be doing to spread God's word in this community and beyond.'

After one public meeting, the pastor told me the meeting had 'swung' him from theistic evolution to Biblical creation.

One woman told me that since becoming a Christian she had struggled greatly, wanting to believe what the Bible said, but never sure about which bits she could trust. Thus, her Christian life was in turmoil, her Christian witness—zero. She was overjoyed to hear that she could trust it all and couldn't wait to begin sharing the good news.

An Indian lady (raised a Hindu) who had recently become a Christian told me that since her conversion she had suffered confusion between her past teaching and her new faith, but now: 'What you said this morning has set me free.'

Just prior to our meeting in his church, one minister told me that he was not too sure about the relevance



Peter making a point!

or the importance of the creation message. He came to see us the next morning and said that the Lord had given him such a sleepless night of conviction over the importance of Creation Evangelism that he just had to sign up for the magazine on the spot.

At one meeting, a man said to me, 'My Christian friends have been witnessing to me for 20 years, but this is the first time I have understood what they've been talking about.' This man was thrilled by what he had heard and I strongly suspect he was saved during that meeting. But he was also a little angry about having to wait so long to receive this crucial information.

One lady said, 'My teenage son said your meeting last night was the best stuff he has ever heard. He said, if church was like that he would go all the time. When you come back here I want to go as well.'

A particular encouragement was the high-school science teacher who told me that he was a theistic evolutionist entering the meeting, but was about to leave as a 6-day creationist.

Seekers vs sceptics

Genuine seekers, those who want answers and are prepared to weigh the evidence sensibly and honestly, have my respect, and as much of my time



Bookstalls set up in the street can attract passers-by and start conversations.

as they need. Sceptics, by contrast, are those who question what we say, but refuse to listen to any answers. Our meetings have often been attended by sceptics, both the atheistic and supposedly Christian varieties.

In one town the science master of the local high school (also an elder in his church), prevented us from ministering in either his school or his church. It is such who really break my heart, professing to believe in Christ but refusing to believe in His Word.

At a large church one Sunday morning, the leadership team was extremely uncooperative. Despite their spacious, modern building, they made us cram all the book tables together into one corner. They would not allow us to hand out magazine sign-up sheets, and wanted me to halve my sermon time. We were told the pastor had extended his holidays elsewhere in order to avoid us. The headmaster of one of the local Christian schools, who we had been told would be unsympathetic, left partway through.

The pastor received about 30 pages of objections to my message from two of his flock. Yet, after the service, one lady clasped my hand in both hers and, with tears in her eyes, thanked me for clearing up many of the Biblical and theological problems that had undermined her faith for more than ten years.

One lady told us that her young grandson, who had come to the meeting under protest, had been trying to convince her that, because the Bible could not be shown to be true, nobody should believe it and especially not him. She told me that he sat at the front and was 'absolutely riveted'. Afterwards, he asked her to subscribe to Creation magazine for him.



On the road: the Creation Bus always tows the 'Creation Bug' for emergencies and quick travel around cities.

An Anglican minister who attended one of our meetings told me that the information I'd presented had completely bowled him over. We talked for some time, clarifying issues and answering questions. He ended up subscribing to Creation magazine, saying he was eager to recommend creation ministry.

School ministry

Some State Education Departments have sent letters to their schools warning them about us, and urging them not to have anything to do with the Creation Bus. Nevertheless, we have been invited to speak in many State schools, both primary and secondary, but the number seems to be dwindling each year. At a time when all sorts of false teaching is readily accepted in the schools, this message is not welcome, as it is a threat to the religion they are already teaching.

Today, our school ministry is generally just to the Christian schools, but some of these are going the same way. During a presentation to the students of a Christian school, one of the teachers kept interrupting my talk about the age of the Earth, refusing to give up even when I refuted his claims

on radiometric dating. Later I found out that he was the principal. The chaplain of that school became a creationist as a result of our time there and purchased a stack of books. He said he was very excited by the possibilities of counselling students from a creation foundation, but he feared for his job now that he was a creationist.

After every meeting, many people want to have materials for their family and friends. One lady approached our payment table with two arm-loads of books, saying she was now 'armed and dangerous'.

One mother-to-be went into labour at the end of one of our meetings. Her husband helped her out to their car, then raced back inside to make sure of his magazine subscription before taking his wife to the hospital!

We estimate that around 50,000 books and videos have been purchased at Bus meetings over these ten years. At just under one item for every 500 people in Australia, we still have a long way to go in our quest to flood this nation with the truth. But this also means that the ministry of the Creation Bus does not end when Myrtle leaves town.

Each one of these items is a potentially powerful witnessing 'missionary', spreading the Word as it is passed from person to person for years afterwards.

Then there are the thousands of Christians (and some non-Christians) whose lives have been eternally affected by what they have seen, heard or read. In what ways will their witness impact this nation for our Lord Jesus Christ?

This last ten years has not only



Some of the children at one of the many Christian schools visited



The Snowy Mountains lived up to their name!

shown God's blessing on the Creation Bus ministry, but has reinforced for us that this is the message for the church today—the accuracy and authority of the Bible. It empowers Christians to see, understand and confront the real issues. We praise our Lord for His enabling of this ministry and for the fruit resulting from it, all to His glory.

We are in a battle for the minds and hearts of men and our successes thus far have depended on the prayer and financial support you have given us. You, our supporters, are the backbone which keeps this ministry functioning. Without you there would be no Creation Bus, and so no Creation Bus ministry.

Thank you for your ongoing support; we give you our commitment to continue to fight the good fight, as God enables us, to its glorious end.

Peter and Cathy Sparrow

Ministry Calendar: Please pray for us.

Update ministry calendar only shows the next few weeks. More ministry is already planned for March and onwards, may include your state or region.

Abbreviations: CW = Dr Carl Wieland; DB = Dr Don Batten; DC = Dr David Catchpole; JS = Dr Jonathan Sarfati; PS = Peter Sparrow; TW = Dr Tas Walker; WA = Warwick Armstrong.

QUEENSLAND

Sunday 10 Feb. 6.30pm Bray Park Community Church, 10 Young's Crossing Rd, Bray Park. DB

Saturday 23 Feb. 9.00am–4.00pm Geological field trip. Starting from & returning to Logan West Community Church, 99 Green Rd, Park Ridge. TW

Saturday 2 March 2.00pm Nerang Adventist Church, Nerang Uniting Church, Nerang River Rd, Nerang. DB

Sunday 10 March 9.30am Buderim Westminster Presbyterian Church, cnr Stringybark Rd & Toral Drive, Buderim. DB

NEW SOUTH WALES

Saturday 2 Feb. 9.00–11.30am Youth Meet 2002. Koorong Bookstore, 28 West Pde, West Ryde. WA

Sunday 10 Feb. 10.00am Shelly Beach Christian Life Centre, The Entrance High School, The Entrance Rd, Shelly Beach. WA

Sunday 24 Feb. 10.30am & 7.00pm Warrimoo Baptist Church, Rickards Rd, Warrimoo. WA

Saturday 2 March 3.00–9.00pm Lower Blue Mountains Seminar. Glenbrook Baptist Church, King St, Glenbrook. 3.00 Genesis: Relevant or Relic? (WA); 4.30 Life: Cosmic Accident or Divine Design?

(DC); 6.45 Fountains and Mountains and Dead Things Between (DC); 8.00 Where the Rubber Hits the Road (WA). DC & WA
 Sunday 3 March 9.30am Christ Church, Windsor Rd, Rouse Hill. DC
 Sunday 3 March 6.00pm St John's Anglican Church, 43 Macquarie Rd, Wilberforce. DC

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Monday 4 Feb. 7.30pm Creation Bus public meeting. Kingston Community School Drama Room, East Terrace, Kingston S.E. Six Days? Really! PS

Wednesday 6 Feb. 7.30pm Creation Bus public meeting. Mount Gambier Christian Assembly, Sutton Town Rd, Mount Gambier. Six Days? Really! PS

Wednesday 20 Feb. 7.00pm Creation Bus public meeting. Penola Presbyterian Church, cnr Arthur & Portland Streets, Penola. Six Days? Really! PS

Sunday 24 Feb. 12.30pm Combined Lutheran Congregations, Murray Bridge High School, Lohmann St, Murray Bridge. Six Days? Really! PS

VICTORIA

Friday 8 Feb. 8.45am Student meeting. Lighthouse Christian College, 927-937 Springvale Rd, Keysborough. DC

Friday 8 Feb. 7.00pm Creation Bus public meeting. Portland Church of Christ, cnr Tyers and Hurd Sts, Portland. Six Days? Really! PS

Saturday 9 Feb. 3.30–9.00pm East Melbourne Seminar. Glen Waverley-Knoxfield Presbyterian Church, cnr Ashton & Plymouth Sts, Glen Waverley. 3.30 Life: Cosmic Accident or Divine Design?; 5.00 Fountains and Mountains and Dead Things Between; 7.15 Genesis: Who Needs to

Know? DC

Saturday 9 Feb. 7.00pm Creation Bus public meeting. New Life Christian Church, 37 James St, Port Fairy. Six Days? Really! PS

Sunday 10 Feb. 10.00am Creation Bus. Warrnambool Christian Outreach Centre, 5 Albert St, Warrnambool. PS

Sunday 10 Feb. 10.00am Lighthouse Christian Centre, 927-937 Springvale Rd, Keysborough. DC

Sunday 10 Feb. 6.00pm Creation Bus public meeting. St John's Presbyterian Church, Princess St, Warrnambool. Six Days? Really! PS

Sunday 10 Feb. 6.30pm Melton Christian Fellowship, Melton Christian College Chapel, Brooklyn Rd, Melton. DC

Tuesday 12 Feb. 7.30pm Creation Bus public meeting. Timboon Baptist Church, Bailey St, Timboon. Darwin, Scopes and Sputnik. PS

Friday 15 Feb. 7.30pm Creation Bus public meeting. Colac Christian Family Centre, 33 Cants Rd, Colac. Six Days? Really! PS

Saturday 16 Feb. 7.30pm Creation Bus public meeting. Reformed Church of Cobden, Uniting Church hall, Curdie St, Cobden. Six Days? Really! PS

Sunday 17 Feb. 7.00pm Creation Bus public meeting. St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, cnr Grey & McIntyre Sts, Hamilton. Six Days? Really! PS

Tuesday 19 Feb. 7.30pm Creation Bus public meeting. Casterton Community Church, 7-9 Russell St, Casterton. Six Days? Really! PS

Interested in ministry in your area?
 Please contact us. Ph. (07) 3273 7650
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