

UNLIMITED

NEWSLETTER

HEROES

*Thanks be to God for his
incredible gift!
(2 Corinthians 9:15, ISV).*

Times of crisis tend to polarise society and to force us to think about what the truly the important things in life are. What are the virtues that we value most in our society? We don't necessarily all end up agreeing, but it is important to have these discussions.

I have some friends who believe that the heroes are those who have protested against the public health measures and border closures that governments have imposed during this time. I admire them for the strength of their convictions and I respect their views, however I do not necessarily share them. These people remain my good friends.

My view is that the real heroes of this present pandemic have been the doctors, nurses, paramedics and police, who have worked to the point of collapse to save lives, doing their utmost to keep us all safe. I know, because my own daughter is among them. But what about those people whom we don't see in the spotlight, like the cleaners and the teachers and the transport workers, who have worked so hard in the background to keep us and our families safe? These are also real heroes, who usually go unthanked.

However, above all of these are those who have an eternal impact on those around them. Again, these often aren't those who come first to our minds, like the preachers and the evangelists.

Equally heroic are those who quietly go about their business of living while sharing the love of God with others. They don't have to be paid to do it. In fact, often they receive no earthly recompense. These are the people who in this world, serve without being served. They care for those that others forget. They love without being loved in return. They may even suffer in their finances and their health, yet they remain true to the course they have charted for their lives.

I know many of these people: quiet and unheralded heroes. Why do they do it? Most of these heroes that I know do it because of their Christian faith. They have simply put Jesus at the centre of their lives and live out their gratitude in love for others. They do it because their lives are guided by the Gospel: that great salvation event at the Cross that shaped their eternity of joy.

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***Jesus is the
greatest hero of all.***

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GROW IN GRACE: The Book of Romans, Part 5

Romans identifies the true religion of Good News.

Fourth Issue: Death

We humans are the only living things that fear death. Animals don't fear death. They relax and pass away.

The Bible says the sting of death is sin (see 1 Corinthians 15:56). Romans deals with the basic issues—and what a book Romans is! It's the greatest masterpiece the human mind has ever conceived.

As we shall see, this masterpiece not only addresses the four great issues of life. What is more important, it brilliantly reveals how these issues are met and satisfied only in Christ and the gospel.

The “Cathedral”

Friedrick Godet, the French theologian, called Romans, “The cathedral of the Christian faith.” It is, indeed. It's the most important document ever written.

Romans was written by the chief theologian of Scripture, the apostle Paul. Jesus made the atonement, but Paul explained it. The atonement couldn't be explained until after it was made. Romans is Paul's last will and testament, summing up the essence of what he knew by experience. When you read Paul, you're not just reading doctrinal material, you're reading Paul's lifeblood. You're reading his life experience. Romans is testamentary.

Romans Prevents Bad Religion

Romans is prophylactic. We use the word “prophylactic” to talk about preventative things, about preventing problems in medicine. We use it here to mean preventing problems in religion.

I repeat, most religion is bad religion. But if we understand Romans, we'll get religion straight.

Tyndale called Romans, “The light and way into the whole

scriptures.” Luther said Romans is, “The chief part of the New Testament and the purest gospel.” Calvin said, “Every Christian should feed upon it every day as the daily bread for his soul.” Coleridge said Romans is, “The most profound piece of literature in existence,” thereby agreeing with Frederick Godet.

F.F. Bruce said, “Beware when you begin to study Romans. Anything can happen.”

Augustine's Conversion.

Monica was a great Christian lady who lived in Carthage, North Africa in the 4th century AD. She had a tempestuous son, Augustine.

Augustine lived a very loose, licentious life, and Monica worried about him. He announced he was taking off for the big city of Rome. (He could live it up and sin better there.)

But in Italy, Augustine's experience paved the way for his conversion. One day he was in a garden in Milan, in northern Italy, when he heard a child chanting and calling. The only phrase that registered with Augustine was the Latin expression, “Take and read.”

He happened to have with him a manuscript of the New Testament. His interest was aroused. He took it and read. The first words he saw were: “Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof” (Romans 13:14, KJV).

Our world is different because of Augustine. And Augustine became different because of Romans.

▼ DES FORD

To be continued: This series of articles on the Book of Romans was first published in 1995, and is being reproduced serially in Unlimited.

A LETTER TO YOU FROM PASTOR JOSEPH

“Only the Gospel ... can change these people's lives.”

Dear Friends at GNU,

Every week, we go to the poorest of the poor tribal people who live in huts to share food, clothes and the Gospel with “untouchable” children.

These children usually get no education. They live on the banks of the rivers and among the paddy fields. They are untouchable children. In society they are not allowed to do certain things. So they go street to street and to bus stations and railway stations to beg for food. They go to paddy fields to catch rats and snakes to eat. They sleep in huts and do not have beds and blankets. They do not have proper clothes too.

We go with the team to the various places and gather the tribal children and preach the Holy Gospel and pray for them. And we provide weekly food packets and we provide clothes and other provisions.

So we have been trying to change their way of life in Christ Jesus. It is only the Holy Gospel and words of Jesus that can give them hope. We visit 155 children in various remote villages every week. It is difficult for us to do everything they need. But we pray to God to send helpers to help the tribal children. They do not have Bibles, so we read the Bible to them.

Jesus' love inspires us and leads us to serve these people, and to provide for their needs. Please pray for them, and for us. Thanks to Jesus.

▼ PR JOSEPH USALA



NEW TIMES CALL FOR NEW METHODS

At GNU, we aim always to be nimble for the sake of reaching more people with the message of the Gospel. If something isn't working well, we try other methods to share the message. If there are smarter ways that we can put a message about Christ's Good News in front of people, we want to keep searching and try them.

By doing this, we will reach as many people as possible with the message of salvation. We will also ensure that every dollar that you entrust into God's hands through us is used as powerfully as possible. That's why I want to share with you some new methods we want to develop and start using this year:

GNU App

GNU is planning to create and launch a GNU app. 6.64 billion people in the world today have smartphones. Giving them easy access to a powerful app on their phones will allow them to more easily access our devotions and other powerful Gospel content. Quite simply, we want to reach more people with Jesus and his message of salvation.

GNU Gospel Sharers' Programme

We want to put in your hands a new and powerful tool for sharing the Gospel, in which you will be in control. GNU is creating a special programme by which people like you can select some of our most impactful Gospel content and share it anywhere in the world. You will be able to select the content, the part of the world you want it to be sent to, how many people you want to reach, give a gift to help fund it, and we will do the rest! You will even be able to add a personal message in an anonymous way.

Pay it Forward Scheme

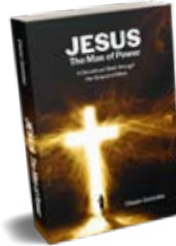
We need your help! GNU wants to give you the opportunity to directly sponsor people into the online

"Becoming a Follower of Jesus" course. Just take a look at the impact this course is having. 90 people have completed the course in the year since we launched it. Of these people, as a result of the course:

- 30% decided to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord;
- 16% decided to start attending a Christian church or become more active in it;
- 18% decided to be baptised.

We're so excited about these results that we'd like for many more people to have the opportunity to know about and enroll in this course! Those whom you sponsor will receive a message telling them that their enrolment was paid for by you (first name only).

Look out for these initiatives to be launched over the coming six months.



Jesus: The Man of Power

The Kindle version of *Jesus: The Man of Power* is now available, and can be purchased from Amazon Australia for \$6.99 by going to <https://www.amazon.com.au/JESUS-Man-Power-Devotional-through-ebook/dp/B09MW2BRRD/>

The book is still available from GNU for \$AU15 each plus postage. You can order by emailing us at: admin@goodnewsunlimited.com. Alternatively, you can phone 1300 013 237 or +61 247 219 050.

Postage will be confirmed at this time, depending on your location and the volume of books.

my gift to do the work of Jesus

Eliezer, I want to give a gift to GNU so that those who need it most can hear the Gospel.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Please follow the instructions on the reverse, cut along the perforation, and return this slip to GNU in the enclosed reply-paid envelope.

“Jesus' love
inspires us ...
to serve.”

▼ Pastor Joseph



From Eliezer TO YOU

Dear Friend

I generally dislike politicians, not as people, but because of the spin they put on everything. Transparent honesty, without avoiding the hard issues, is what God calls from his children. That's why I want to share with you the longer-term trends I'm seeing with GNU. I can illustrate these by comparing some statistics from the 2020–2021 financial years:

Year	2020	2021
Total Donors	220	213
Total Number of Donations	1,029	1,023
Average Donation Amount	\$264	\$225

You can see that we actually have very few donors for the large work that we do, and they are slowly declining, as are the total number of donations and average donation amounts. This is the result of an aging donor base.

At GNU, we are doing everything we can to continue to acquire new donors, and it is obviously challenging. While new donors are continually coming on board, we are losing current donors at a faster rate than we can replace them. That's why I continually thank you and encourage you to continue your support for the Gospel through us, and where you can, to increase it. As we remain faithful, the Lord will continue to bless us with a rich harvest of lives redeemed and transformed for his kingdom.

The apostle Paul tells us to rejoice in all things (Phil 4:4), and so let me end with a note of rejoicing. GNU is reaching over 3 million people monthly with the life-saving message of Jesus Christ. This means that if you are one of our 213 donors, through your support, you are reaching over 14,000 with the Gospel every month! That's a mighty reason to rejoice!

Grace and Peace

THE GREATEST HEROES *(from Page 1)*

You will probably see never these unsung heroes in positions of political power, or in a uniform, or preaching at the front of a church, or leading a protest rally. But their heroics will be eternally acknowledged in the annals of heaven.

I want to acknowledge the heroes of our time. We are all deeply indebted to them, and they deserve more recognition than they receive.

However, I want most of all to acknowledge that the greatest heroes are those who have accepted the Gospel

and live out its principles in their lives. The greatest heroes are those who humbly follow Jesus, walking in the steps of the Carpenter of Nazareth.

He is the greatest hero of all. He is the one who left heaven to win heaven for us, who loved the unlovable, and died for the unworthy. He is the one who overcame all fear and conquered death. He is the well-spring of selfless love. He is worthy. To Jesus Christ be praise without end!

▼ **ELIEZER GONZALEZ, Senior Pastor, GNU**



My gift to help spread the Good News fast

I would like to give my gift by:

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Card Number: _____

Expiry Date: ____ / ____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

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Direct Deposit: Acc Name: Good News Unlimited Ltd BSB: 032-278 Acct Number: 651816
Ref: Initial, Surname, & 'Donation' Swift Code: WPACAU2S (for international transfers)

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