

# Belgrave Heights Convention NEWS

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WINTER 1996



All One in  
Christ Jesus

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*What do studies, surveys and switches have in common? Very little probably, but they can all be found at Belgrave Heights.*

### Studies

The Convention's mission is the deepening of the spiritual life of Christian people in accordance with the scriptures. The key aspect of our programme is therefore studies from the Bible with application to daily living. Ministry from **Bruce Milne** and **David Cook** at the Summer Convention, and from **David Jackman** and **Simon Manchester** as the main speakers at Easter, was clearly directed to these ends. Many people expressed appreciation of the high standard of both content and presentation, and we thank God for those with gifts of preaching and teaching. Do you find such studies helpful? Your recommendation to other folk with whom you come in contact is our best means of advertising.

### Surveys

Over recent years we have conducted attendance surveys to provide us with information about those who attend Conventions. At Easter time we included the survey questionnaire in the welcome brochure. Thank you to the 300 people who provided responses. We collate and compare the data, and in some cases it gives us satisfaction and encouragement. In other cases it concerns us, and we seek to do better and make appropriate changes. In every case the information is helpful, and is one of the factors which guide us in

## A Word FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Convention Chairman  
Robert Freeman

*"The key aspect of our programme is studies from the Bible with application to daily living."*

planning improvements in ministry, property facilities and administration.

### Switches

There are two items under this heading.

The first is that we have transferred our office functions to **Belgrave Heights**. Our grounds staff have suitably renovated the house at the entrance to the Convention Grounds, and after a number of happy years at Box Hill, the switch was made on 1st July. Focusing all of our activities at the Convention Centre has administrative and operational advantages which will benefit those attending Conventions and using our facilities. Please note the new telephone, fax and address details are given on this newsletter's masthead.

The second item is the need to **improve some electrical installations**. The effects of time, and the increased expectations of those who use our facilities, mean that switchgear and cabling needs to be upgraded and extended. The quoted cost of this work is \$10,000.

We have no significant financial reserves for projects of this nature, and so we make these needs known to you. Please pray with us that resources will be available to provide appropriate facilities for the conduct and development of the Convention ministry.

Thank you for your interest, support and participation.

*Robert B. Freeman*

Robert B. Freeman □





# Leonard E. Buck 1906-96



## A Life of Service

**M**r. Leonard Buck, who passed away on 2nd May, played a significant role in the life and ministry of the Convention. Taking an active part in its ministry and development both at Upwey and at Belgrave Heights, he served for several years as one of the Vice-chairmen. Following the retirement of Alfred Coombe in 1967, he became Chairman, continuing in this position until 1976 when he believed it was time to hand over to a younger person. Nevertheless his interest continued in the years that followed, and he was a regular guest at 'The Lodge' during Convention times until 1995.

His great love for the Lord and for His Word, his outstanding leadership gifts, his warm and friendly personality, and his vision and enthusiasm were used by God to make a remarkable contribution to the cause of Christ, not only through the Convention, but through several Christian organisations in Victoria, throughout Australia, and beyond.

We praise God for his life, example, encouragement, guidance and friendship.

*"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (Phil. 1:21) □*

## What Belgrave Heights Convention Means To Me!

**F**rom the very first time I drove up Convention Avenue, past the sign "All One in Christ Jesus", on Thursday afternoon, the 16th April, 1992, my life has not been the same. Even though I became a Christian four months earlier, it wasn't until that Convention that I really discovered what being a Christian was and meant!

"Belgrave", as I call it, has a special place in my heart. I get excited each time I go back and drive past that sign. Once past the sign I'm in total awe of the place, the trees and surrounds, the sense of peace and the knowledge of God's presence.

I was introduced to the Convention through my involvement with the Meeniyun Uniting Church Youth Group, which was then led by Les and Ruth Smith. Each Easter I camp and attend the Convention with the Dingley Union Church Youth Group. Through this I have made great friendships and have grown spiritually.



**Paul Holtschke**

*Over the past five years there have been many Convention speakers that have challenged me, none more than Howard Hendricks, Alistair Begg and Don Carson. They have taught me that being a Christian isn't just accepting Jesus Christ into my life, but living each day for Him and allowing the Holy Spirit to work through me, as I constantly read the Word and pray.*

I am convinced that being a Christian is the only way to live. It definitely hasn't been easy though, as people try and persecute you. Being a very competitive sportsman has also not helped me, as satan uses sport and many other temptations to distract me from my walk with God. But being a true disciple means that no matter what happens or how we are treated we are to: *Shine Like A Star! Philippians 2: 12-18. □*

### Belgrave Heights Convention Summary Financial Statement 1995

#### INCOME

Donations, Promises, Offerings .....	51,180
Property Income	
- Conventions .....	20,881
Property Income	
- Other .....	49,745
Other .....	11,083
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>132,889</b>

#### EXPENDITURE

Speakers .....	13,789
Salaries Office and Property .....	41,303
Convention Expenses .....	9,189
Property Expenses .....	56,624
Promotion and Publicity .....	10,582
Other Expenses .....	6,503
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE .....</b>	<b>137,990</b>

**OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT .....** (5,101)



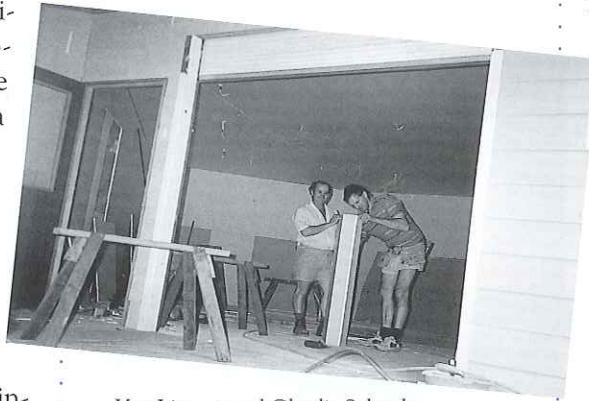


## Significant Changes ...

**1995** was a year of significant change to the staffing of the Belgrave Heights Convention. With the imminent retirement of Executive Officer, Rev Bill Brice, it seemed an appropriate time for the Council to review its Administrative structure. It was proposed, after much prayer and discussion, to separate the Administrative and Property Management duties formerly under the sole control of the Executive Officer. This resulted in the creation of two part-time positions of Executive Officer and Property Manager. Early in October the appointments of Les Smith (then a Council Member) as Executive Officer and Mr Charles Schroder as Property Manager was made by the Council. It would be appropriate at this time for me to acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by the Rev Bill Brice over nearly 5 years to the Convention Ministry.

It didn't take "Charlie" long to get down to business. His first task was to build a permanent structure that we call The Missions Display and Video Centre. For a number of years a tent

had been erected in the picnic area for this purpose, but security of equipment was always a problem and viewers were confined to a small, often damp area. The new facility boasts a spacious verandah overlooking the picnic area, leading into a lounge room with seating provided. Displays around the walls are complemented by continual screening of up to date missions videos.



Ken Licence and Charlie Schroder working on the finer details.

The construction was a joint project of Missions Interlink Victoria and the Belgrave Heights Convention.

At about the same time that Charlie and I were appointed the decision was made to re-locate our office functions to the Convention Centre at Belgrave Heights. The move was made on July 1st.



The office takes shape

Charlie's second major task was to renovate the house at 3 Convention Avenue, making it suitable as the office complex for Convention staff. We are very pleased with the end result.

It is our prayer that Charlie's appointment will result in the upgrading of all our facilities over time. We would like to think this would be sooner, rather than later, but the time frame is dependent on the provision of finance.

Can I say at this point a big thank you to all who have assisted me as I settle into my new role. The Convention ministry is very important to me, and has impacted my life in the past. I can assure you that I will be doing all I can, with the Lord's help, to make sure that the reputation of the Belgrave Heights Convention as an organisation that facilitates the teaching of the Word of God in all its fullness will continue.

May you all know the blessing and peace of the Lord in your lives every day.

Les K Smith, Executive Officer □



Charlie Schroder "trying to look busy!"

## DID YOU Know?

- That "The Lodge" is available for hire. It is very suitable for camps, retreats, church groups and conferences. Accommodation is for 42. For bookings contact The Office.
- That over 55% of people attending the **Easter Family Convention** were under 49.
- That more than 90 young people attended the Campaigners for Christ Easter Convention Camp. This was the **largest attendance** since 1991.
- On the **first Thursday** of each month at 1.15 pm a **prayer meeting** for the Conven-

tion ministry is held at the home of Mrs Gladys Ronalds, 10 Keswick Avenue, Belgrave Heights. You would be most welcome. Telephone: 9754 8280.

- That prior to the Easter Family Convention the **Rev David Jackman** addressed 60 Melbourne ministers and Christian workers on the renewal theme "**Stoking the Fire**". Sponsored by BHC.
- Peter and Margaret Rowse hosted a **Festival Week** from the 15th to the 19th July at "The Lodge" for those 50 and over. □





# Excellent Bible Teaching E Summer & Easter



Bruce Milne



David Cook



David Jackman



Simon Manchester



Andrew Semenchuk

*What a feast. Three outstanding Conventions at Belgrave Heights inspire Convention goers yet again.*

The Convention season commenced with the 2nd Annual Spring Convention in September. What a privilege it was for hundreds of young people from camps, house parties and family groups to listen intently to the outstanding Bible teaching of **Dr Don Carson** from USA and Australia's own **Canon John Chapman** from Sydney. "Temptation and Truth" were the central themes for the weekend and inspired and provoked all who attended. The comments made by many who were there bore testimony to the striking clarity and simplicity of the teaching. It was also as appropriate, deep and personally convicting. The teaching ministry was supported by music that included a balance of hymns and choruses

accompanied by a group of young people playing a variety of music instruments. All in all the fellowship, worship, and teaching was a blessing to all.

The Summer Convention was conducted in mild comfortable conditions and featured **Rev Dr Bruce Milne** from Canada and **Rev David Cook** from Sydney. It was Bruce's first visit to the



Valerie and Bruce Milne relax at "The Lodge".

Convention. A graduate of Spurgeon's College he brought Bible Studies from the book of Ephesians under the general heading of "Standing together under Christ". His preaching was in a well structured style

that was easy to follow and appreciated by us all. It was certainly good to have Bruce and his wife Valerie at Belgrave Heights for the very first time.



A young family enjoy the camping atmosphere.



Some of the 60 young people at Meeniyah/D.

The Rev David Cook was his usual penetrating self who held the interest of all with his pertinent illustrations as he preached on "The Wisdom of God" basing his studies on the Wisdom litera-



Lorna Wilkins and son, Alan, relax between meetings.

ture – Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes and Proverbs. Young people were spell bound during his message "Standing or Falling In Love" from the Song of Songs on Friday afternoon.

Easter Convention is still fresh in our minds as is the vivid journey that the **Rev David Jackman** took us on as "A People Belonging to God", studies in Exodus. It was good to be reminded that God said, I am your God – you are my people. How many times has He been God to us, and we have not acknowledged that? David reminded us that God is faithful and is able to bring us to the Promised Land. Everyone was impressed by the

## SPEAKERS – SUMMER CONVENTION 1996-97

We look forward to the ministry of **Dr William McRae**, Chancellor, Ontario Bible College, Toronto, Canada, making a return visit to the Convention. Dr and Mrs McRae have special gifts in conducting Leadership and Marriage Enrichment Seminars.

**Bishop Reg Piper**, the Anglican Bishop of Wollongong will be sharing the platform ministry, bringing the Bible Readings each morning.

The dates of the Summer Convention are **Friday 27th December to Wednesday 1st January** inclusive.

Plan to be there – Accommodation bookings through the office. □





# Enriches All at Spring, Conventions



gley Camp, after packing to return home.

way David applied the Old and New Testaments.

All who attended the Easter Convention were impressed by the ministry of Rev Simon Manchester, a youngish man from Sydney. His ministry was outstanding, provocative, passionate and precise. Here was a man who didn't waste a word. It was as though every word was important, so why waste them. He powerfully challenged us all under the general heading of "Christian Hope".

Many will remember his final message of the Convention "Looking forward to Heaven".

Missionary afternoon gave us all the opportunity to

hear of the dramatic changes in Russia as Rev Andrew Semenchuk brought us up to date with the very latest developments there. It was exciting to hear that the doors are open and missionary groups are working together in this day of opportunity to bring the gospel to this once oppressed people.



Campers enjoying some relaxation.

It was both exciting and encouraging to see people representative of every age group supporting the Convention meetings. This of



Young people at Master's Manor.



Meagan Barton and Lydia Healy from Meeniyah/Dingley group "it's been fun so far."

course made the Convention meetings, particularly Summer and Easter, truly family occasions, while the Spring Convention had its special appeal for the young singles and young marrieds.



Family and friends catch up on old times!

In summary, the Convention season, Spring through Easter, provided the opportunity for some outstanding Bible teaching. One Convention goer was heard to say, "it doesn't get any better than this." □

## ACCOMMODATION

Ample caravan and camping sites are available.

Inquiries invited for Kitchen and 'A' Frame accommodation for Church or Family groups.

Contact: Convention Office Secretary on (03) 9752 6855.

## POINTS FOR

### Prayer & Praise

- Praise God for increased attendances at **Easter Convention**, and for those who were challenged to commit their lives to His service.
- Pray for the **Spring Convention** from September 20th to 22nd. Pray particularly for the speakers Grant Thorp and Tom Cannon. The theme for the weekend is "**Sexuality: The Big Picture**". A Biblical look at a very important issue for young people.
- Uphold **Geoff Gawler and his team** as they co-ordinate the weekend, especially for under 35's.
- Bring before the Lord our **financial needs**. There is much we want to do at the Convention Centre and believe we need to do, but are hindered by lack of financial resources.
- Pray that the **Council** will have Godly wisdom, not man's wisdom, as decisions are made regarding the future ministry of the Convention.
- Praise God for the provision of a fax machine at no cost from Cannon Australia Pty Ltd. □



David Cook (R) enjoying coffee and a joke with Stuart Rodger.





## Council Members Minister at Other Easter Conventions

### I Was Encouraged At Katoomba!

David  
Price



**L**ast Easter it was my privilege to be part of the speakers panel at **Katoomba Easter Convention**. The theme was "The Struggle", and it was wonderful to work together with Peter Jensen, Principal of Moore College, and Bishop Frank Retief from South Africa in teaching the Word of God. I was tremendously encouraged through being at Katoomba. Let me tell you why.

The Convention was well attended with 2,800 people eager and hungry to listen to the Word of God. So many of those people were young families and young people in addition to a good sprinkling of older people as well.

People accepted the financial responsibility of supporting the Convention ministry by paying a registration of \$42

to cover the costs of the weekend. Great stewardship! They also gave a special thank offering on Sunday morning of \$10,000.

It was excellent the way the Convention was organised. Over 200 volunteers were involved in the Convention meetings, young people's and children's meetings, book shops, creches, camps and other activities. It was also encouraging to see the way the Convention Council and the Committees that work and plan for each Convention delegate responsibility and work so well together.

Praise and worship in music was excellent. Contemporary songs with good theology, a number of the great hymns all sensitively chosen and led by excellent song leaders, musicians, and a singing group were a feature.

A very special family atmosphere was part of the meetings. The excellent chairmanship of David Cook as he sensitively interviewed people, spoke about issues, and led us in prayer, encouraged us all.

To hear about other new initiatives the Convention is undertaking was exciting. City Youth Conventions with over 2,500 young people attending, paying \$7.50 admission, to hear the Word of God at

the Home Bush Entertainment Centre. Listening to themes like "Jesus and Your Money", "Love, Sex and Marriage", and "Mission to the World". They are also starting an October Convention for older people. The two youth Conventions in January are well attended by over 4,000 each weekend with a Training for Leaders Camp for 800 people in the week in between. In February 1997 they are commencing a Men's Convention. It is a great encouragement to see the way that Churches and people are coming together because they want to see the Word of God taught and applied.

To sense that God was at work by His Spirit in this large crowd of people, and that they were going back to their homes, to their families, to their communities, to their schools, to the work place so God's Word and their lives would have a wide impact throughout New South Wales and even beyond, was especially encouraging. There were even some Victorians there!

**Who can estimate the potential of what this Convention ministry can mean?** I came back from New South Wales inspired and encouraged, and praying that God might do a greater work in our Convention Movement in Victoria. Do you believe in teaching the Bible at Conventions like this? Let us work, pay and pray to this end for His Glory! □

### Darling Downs Convention

**T**he Gospel Service Mission's conference centre at Warwick, south-west of Brisbane, was the venue for the Darling Downs Easter Convention. Rev David Morley, a member of our Executive, delivered five Bible studies over the weekend, centred around 'Three Vital Rs: Redemption, Resurrection and Revival'.

David also preached at the Warwick Baptist Church on Easter Sunday

morning. His wife Alison was also actively involved in the Convention program.

Over 250 Christians from the area around Warwick and Toowoomba were accommodated, along with the speakers, on the GSM camp site. "Mealtime sharing, especially with everyone eating under the one roof, gave rich opportunities to get to know people," they said.

David  
Morley



Daily meetings for children were conducted by Don and Jenny Ludlow, and for junior teenagers by Judi Kunkel. Social activities for them, and for the 40 young adults who also attended, were another feature. □



# Spotlight On Saint(?) Peter



## A Profile of Peter E. Rowse – One Of Our Vice Chairmen

The story begins about 1912 when Grandfather Rowse decided that Kew, Melbourne wasn't a particularly good place to raise a teenage family which included my father, Ted, who was 12 years old. So he bought a farm at Kalorama in the Dandenong Ranges, where he farmed with his family through The Great War, The Depression, and World War Two until 1946 when they moved the flower growing business to Warragul. I was about 12 years old at that time.

While living in the Dandenongs my family were regular attenders at the Upwey Convention. I remember the old auditorium, some of the speakers, the music – it all had a lasting impression on me.

It was at the Upwey Convention, at a children's meeting conducted by White & Roberts, that I understood for the first time that Jesus died on the cross for my sin and I gave my life to Him.

After the Convention moved to Belgrave Heights, Dad purchased a block of land and subsequently built a cottage on it, which allowed him to run camps for young people from the Warragul district. My wife, Margaret, was one of those who attended the camps. We were married in 1958 and a few years later we led the camps at Easter and Christmas for 35 to 40 young people.

The Convention has had a significant impact on our family's lives and the lives of many others over a long time. I guess that sitting in missionary meetings was a strong reason why Margaret and I became interested in the Christian Leaders Training College in PNG. My first trip to PNG was in 1964 when my cousin, Ian, and I drove the tractor and a trailer with four tons of farm equipment along with a Holden station

wagon, from Lae to Banz over almost 350 miles of very difficult roads.

I lived with my family in Lae for 3 years, from '69 to '72, where we managed the coast end of CLTC transport division, that serviced the missions in the interior of PNG. We purchased everything from clothes pegs to tractors for missionaries serving God in remote places. My involvement with CLTC has continued for over 30 years as a council member for some years, and currently with the Australian advisory council. I thank God for the privilege of being able to be involved in training men and women of PNG to be pastors and leaders to their own people.

It has been interesting that God in His wisdom has allowed me to be part of ministries of this kind. I have been a member of BCV Council for about 20 years and I am currently a vice chairman of the council, and chairman of the property committee.

I believe that years of farming, growing flowers, building infrastructure and being involved in practical hands on things, have equipped me to be able to serve the Lord in many practical ways and this bought me onto the BHC council about 20 years ago. I am now chairman of the property committee, and a vice chairman of the Council.

I have had the opportunity to be involved in a few organisations outside the church over the years. It has been good to do that, and has given me good contact with a lot of people in the local community, particularly the Gippsland field days, or Farm World, which is one of the largest machinery

expositions in the country. As chairman of the Australian National Flower Show which is held at the Exhibition Buildings each year, I have had contact with industry leaders to Prime Ministers.

I know that all this sounds a bit overwhelming, however the Lord enables and I give thanks to Him for safety in travel etc. One of the things that has allowed Marg and I to survive is to have time out or "getting a grip on our leisure", and it has been important to us over the years.

Since 1972 there has been a group of Gippsland men who have taken a weekend in February each year to go four wheel driving and motor bike riding. We first went into Wonnangatta Station in 1972 and have since been all through the ranges from Powelltown to Kosciusko National Park. It is great country and I enjoy being able to see it all.

Marg and I had the opportunity a few years ago to take a trip around Australia, it was a great experience and one day we plan to do it again. I guess the highlight of our trip was a visit to the Royal Flying Doctor service at Cloncurry and to sense something of the ethos and thinking of John Flynn who was indeed a most remarkable man. A visit to the Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach was a great day. There I again sensed something of the ethos that was part of early Australians in this big country.

I have much to thank God for. Being married to Marg for 38 years, our three children now extended to include sons-in-law and a daughter-in-law, and nine grandchildren, each very precious. We pray that God will protect them all and mark them out for Himself, that they will go on to love and serve our Lord and Saviour. □



# Why Have We Been Given This Property At Belgrave Heights?

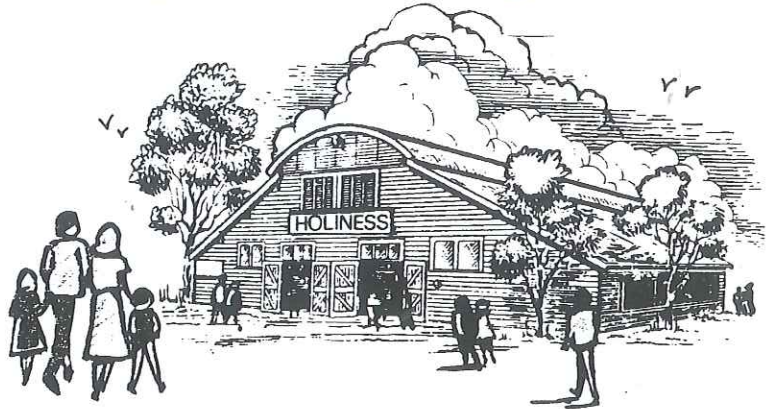
Dear Convention Colleagues,

**A**s I sit in my office I have a magnificent view through my windows of a wonderful property that God, through His people, has given to us. Thanks to Him, and to many of His faithful servants, the property is free of debt.

Why have we been given this valuable 8 hectare parcel of prime real estate on the Eastern fringe of fast developing Melbourne? It's a thought provoking question isn't it? But no matter from which direction we may try to answer it, the answer seems to be much the same.

"I have entrusted you with this property that you may use it to facilitate the preaching of the Word of God, the Word of Hope, so that people of all ages may come to know Me, and having come to know Me, to grow in character like Me, and then to make Me known to others."

If we believe that, and all the Council does, then it is important that the property is *maintained* and *developed* so that these objectives can be met. We can't allow this property to fall into a state of disrepair. Neglect is Disrespect.



It is not our desire that this lovely God-given property, and its improvements, should be perceived by Christians and non-Christians alike, to be antiquated, uncared for, and inadequate for the specific ministry of Convention Bible teaching, yet these sentiments have been expressed to me many times over.

Information gained from the survey conducted at the recent Easter Convention indicated that many Convention attenders, both day visitors and campers, saw that upgrading of our facilities was necessary. Mention was made of the need to provide adequate on-site accommodation for families, for seniors, for youth groups, and house parties. Upgrading of the amenities blocks was referred to, as was the need for better paths and lighting. Not to mention a host of things that could be done to make the auditorium a little warmer and more comfortable. Friends, we are not looking to have the best facility in Australia, although that would be nice, but we do need *together* to be conscious of the fact that the effectiveness of the Convention ministry is lessened by our inability to provide the standard of accommodation and services that people expect today. Many calls are received at the office from church youth groups and tertiary student groups looking to hire a facility suitable for up to 130 people, so they can attend the Conventions, and mostly we cannot help them.

One of our Council members, at a recent meeting, said "We could use a million dollars right now." I am sure that is true, but more importantly we all need

Godly wisdom in the stewardship of that which God so faithfully provides for us every day.

A pressing need we have right now is the upgrading of our electrical installations that have served us well since the early 1950s. Some of the original work needs repairing and the demands for more electric power means we must extend the system.

Friends of the Convention who are qualified in these areas of expertise have inspected the property and assessed the need, and advise us that \$10,000 is required to make the changes. We have undertaken a number of much needed projects recently as you know, and do not have the funds to cover this amount. May I ask you to consider this and other needs prayerfully.

If you would like to designate a gift for a particular purpose (i.e. amenities improvements, gravel for paths, upgrading of electricals etc.) just indicate that, and I will make sure that the gift is used for that purpose. We can now accept credit card.

We have a wonderful property. God has given us the responsibility to work with diligence, integrity and accountability in using this resource for His glory and praise. By faith we depend on Him to provide all our needs, and we know He will.

May God richly bless you, as you bless Him.

Les K Smith, Executive Officer ☐

## Yes! I want to help in these projects ...

- Electrical upgrade
- Development and maintenance of property

My donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed towards the

- ☐ Electrical upgrade cost \$10,000  
☐ Development and maintenance of the property

(Please make cheques payable to Belgrave Heights Convention.)

OR

Debit my

☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard  
 Card No.

\_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date .....

Name on card .....

Signature .....

**Please return to** Belgrave Heights Convention, 3 Convention Avenue, Belgrave Heights 3160.