



Claiming to be true



By Gael McInnes

All new product! Revolutionary! Greatest ever! Messages are constantly leaping out at us through the television, the internet, radio, magazines, billboards, and copious bundles of advertising flyers in the letterbox. The products assure us that they are new, improved, fantastic and capable of transforming our lives.

For only a few dollars we can have 'whiter teeth', 'cleaner clothes', be 'slimmer', or whatever. The latest tooth whitener, enzyme-packed cleaner, or 3-minute-a-day fitness programme is guaranteed to bring happiness, friends and the good life.

But talk is cheap, and all too often we realize the boasts are hollow and far from the truth. Our teeth are still yellow, the stain is still visible. You haven't lost the guaranteed 10 kilos in 10 days, and what's more, you are out of pocket!

We are very gullible, we humans, and all too quick to part with our money. Unfortunately, many people are taken advantage of, particularly the elderly. Recently there has been publicity about people dialling up huge phone bills by calling astrologers and tarot card readers. Some people won't venture outside their homes without reading what the day will be like! What remarkable trust in someone else's prediction and direction over your life – and even more so if you don't know them.

A spiritual dimension

The human spirit can never be fully satisfied with material things, nor with merely aesthetic or intellectual pleasures. I believe every person has a spiritual dimension (which may or may not include a religious aspect), and therefore has spiritual needs, which are influenced by life's experiences, both cultural and personal. Everyone is exposed to a variety of behaviours and influences in society, and in their families, both good and bad. However, if there is

no direction in our lives, we can fall into the trap of experimenting in alternate lifestyles. If we are not familiar with our own heritage and culture, this too, can create confusion.

We can find true wealth by developing our spiritual life, rather than by increasing our financial or material assets. I believe humans are spiritually hungry, hungry for fellowship with someone greater than themselves. There is a void in the lives of many people – a vacuum that they are trying to satisfy – trying to fill with material things or new age teachings.

I believe in God, the God of the Bible, who has "planted eternity in the human heart"¹, and who offers a spiritual dimension to life that gives everlasting fellowship, beginning here on earth and extending beyond the grave².

He has promised to be with us when the going is tough. We can ask him for wisdom to help solve our problems, and he will give us the strength to endure³. He will

guide us to the path of peace⁴. Life will not always be easy, but that's life. There are times when we all struggle to pay the bills, find or keep a job, maintain a healthy lifestyle and keep stable relationships.

We are free moral agents and able to make life choices. Sometimes our choices are not so choice! They are not well thought out – we react instead of taking time to explore all the options. Sometimes we consult with some 'not-so-wise' people, and other times we get 'caught up with the crowd', or act and spend out of our emotions.

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God's Time on Earth

God came to earth as a human named Jesus Christ. He was born into a chosen family by miraculous means, lived a normal childhood, and at the age of 30 years began his ministry. He lived among us, walked and talked with people who were like us – the sick, the mentally



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Auckland: The Mt. Eden Senior Citizens' Club Hall, Corner Dominion Rd and Brixton Rd, Balmoral, Saturdays at 2.00 pm. (Contact: Rex Morgan, ph. 489 8910)

Rotorua: The Buffalo Hall, Tarewa Place, Saturdays at 10:30 am. (Contact: Peter Lindop, ph. 349-2272)

Wellington: The Senior Citizens' Club Hall, Elizabeth Street, Petone, Saturdays at 2:30 pm. (Contact: Dennis Gordon, ph. 386-2094)

Invercargill: The Southern Light Community Centre, 64 Conan Street, Saturdays at 1:00 pm. (Contact: Les Evans, ph. 216-3680)

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ill, wealthy, divorced, arrogant, poor, educated, uneducated, criminals, prostitutes, and people who came from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

His time on earth was filled with amazing stories that pointed people to his father. He healed the sick, calmed storms, turned water into wine, and raised the dead. He had answers to all who questioned him. Many didn't like the answers he gave.

The truth can hurt, but he was right, because he is our creator. He knew us before we were born⁵. Imagine that! He was eventually put to death because he appeared to be a threat to the authorities of the day. Because of his divinity he was resurrected and lives and reigns today in heaven and in my life.

I personally have accepted that Jesus Christ is the son of the living God, the creator of everything. He has given me new life and I have a wonderful relationship with him. I trust him implicitly. He is a God of love. He cares about me and he cares about you⁶.

My life isn't all 'plain sailing', but it is one hundred percent better than it was. He guides me in every aspect of my life, including my finances⁷. I talk with him regularly throughout the day and I can't get enough of his word⁸. I am contented, guilt-free, debt-free and have an incredible peace in my life⁹.

This new 'product', a new life in Jesus Christ, comes with an unconditional guarantee that he will never abandon you¹⁰, and a comprehensive instruction manual¹¹, which if read regularly, preferably daily, will guide you through your life and in every situation you face.

At no financial cost, your 'smile' will be brighter, your life worth living, and you will find joy. The 'stain' of sin, frustration and neglect of your body will be erased, and you will be cleaner from the inside out. Those who let God provide will always be satisfied.

Why not try it? This is one claim that really *is* true!

References:

1. Ecclesiastes 3:11
2. John 3:16
3. James 1:5-6
4. Luke 1:79
5. Psalm 139:13-16
6. Ephesians 3:14-19
7. Ecclesiastes 5:10
8. Psalm 25:14
9. Romans 15:13
10. Hebrews 13:5b
11. The Holy Bible



Gael McInnes is a retired nurse and midwife, lives in South Auckland, and is experienced in holistic care. Gael spends one day a week as the School Chaplain at a local Primary School. Gael can be contacted at:

gaelmcinnes@xtra.co.nz