

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” 2 Timothy 4:2- 4

“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” Colossians 3:10

Dear Friends of L’Abri

The above passages remind us how easy it is to persuade ourselves that falsehood is truth and that sin is not sin. Living in a society which by and large denies God and His authority we can imbibe ideas contrary to His standards without even being aware of it, like the proverbial frog placed in cold water and slowly heated. It is unaware till too late what is happening. We start the year’s seminars by considering our view of ourselves as human beings – machines only? – spiritual beings one with the cosmos? – a special creation in the image of a personal God? How does society’s view of humanity affect the practice of medicine?

Upcoming Seminars at 10 River Rd Elderslie

- March 8 Dr Frank Stootman *The Search for Human Identity*
1. Deconstructing ourselves using Science
This is an exploration of the impact of modern science on our innate comprehension that we are somehow unique. Can we really hold onto the belief that we are something special?
 2. Reconstructing ourselves using the new Paganism
This is an exploration of the new age movement and spiritual techniques to give us an identity in a monistic landscape in which we are one and God is the universe. The intrinsic unreason and irrationality of many of the movements will be explored as well as their direct access to the demonic world.
 3. In the Image of God – An intellectually credible alternative
The Biblical worldview defines our identity in the image of God. We are not God nor are we just complex machines. How can we sustain the Christian position credibly in the midst of these opposing worldviews?
- April 5 Dr Ron Vaughan *The Ethics of Patient Care*
(Ron is an obstetrician/gynaecologist from Orange NSW)
The interaction between patients, doctors, science & technology. Where does a Christian draw the line?
- June 14-21 Ellis Potter Venues and Topics to be announced
(Ellis is a former worker at Swiss L’Abri)

Special Seminar in Auckland New Zealand - Venue to be announced

March 29 Dr Frank Stootman

The Search for Human Identity (as above)

Details for Elderslie seminars

Arrive from 9:30am for talks at 10am, 3pm and 7pm. Morning and afternoon teas, lunch and dinner are provided. The day concludes around 9pm.

Cost is \$20 to cover expenses and meals.

Accommodation at no extra cost is available for those coming from a distance who wish to stay over. Please arrange ahead.

Do plan to attend for the whole day if at all possible as the fellowship, meals and discussions are an integral part of L'Abri.

Please book in by the previous Wednesday to enable catering. Thank you.

Directions to Elderslie:

If driving, make your way to the M5 motorway going south to Campbelltown, heading towards Canberra/Goulburn. Take the second Campbelltown turnoff then stay in the right lane which curves around and leads to Camden along the Narellan Rd across the motorway. Proceed along the Narellan Rd and after 5 sets of lights veer left on the Camden bypass heading for Picton. Just before a long bridge across the Nepean River keep to the left and follow the signs for Elderslie. At the STOP sign turn right under the bridge, follow Macarthur Rd up to the top where you must turn left. Go straight ahead into River Rd (instead of following the main road to the right) and we are the second house on the left. Please park facing down the hill only as the street is narrow or park along Macarthur Rd.

If travelling by public transport take a train via the East Hills/Macarthur line to Campbelltown (about 1 hour from the city/ Central. The bus for Elderslie is 895 (with a CAMDEN SOUTH sign on the front) and leaves from the island halfway across the bus road. Ask to be put off at the corner of Merino Drive and Macarthur Rd in Elderslie (fare about \$4). The bus stop is alongside an open grassy park. Walk to the main road and turn left along Macarthur Road. Go along to the school crossing, cross over and walk to the left. The next corner is River Rd. Cross River Rd to our house at number 10 with the L'Abri sign on the verandah. The bus takes about half an hour.

Australian L'Abri update:

It's a few months since we communicated with you all, partly due to the sudden loss of Heather's uncle who lived with us, and partly due to preparations for Frank's travels over January to Korean L'Abri and to another conference in California. Since September we have had the pleasure of several visitors staying and we would like to repeat a general invitation to you to visit this L'Abri resource centre. You are most welcome in our home to use the library of books and lectures.

If you want a catalogue of lectures to purchase just contact us. We are now recording seminars as MP3 files supplied on a CD and the talks may be ordered. (It is well appreciated that many of you cannot travel to the seminars in person. Contact us about organizing a seminar near you.)

Do keep your mailing address details up to date, including email where available. Let us know if you wish to receive news and prayer letters from other branches, as well as from Australia.

With kind regards, in Christ,

Frank & Heather Stootman