

## Minister's Message – November 2008

### Man Proposes, God Disposes

The Australian Stem Cell Centre was set up six years ago at Monash University with Federal funding of \$110million. It claimed to be one of the most advanced research centres in the world for this particular type of research. What type of research were they planning to conduct? Research on human embryos. Research on embryos that under normal conditions would grow and develop into human beings. They were conducting research contrary to the will of God as declared in the Bible. The argument was, and still is, that we may get cures for currently incurable diseases. The promises were great at the time but still there is nothing to show.

Top scientists were recruited to head this centre and to conduct the research. It was supposed to become self financing by 2011, presumably from the cures that would be discovered. But six years down the track what do we find? The board of directors recently resigned on mass because of a 'power struggle' (*The Australian* September 6, 2008). They could not agree on how the centre should be run. The most brilliant scientific minds in the land, minds that were going to probe the depths of the human cell could not agree, so they packed up and left. Now there is a cloud over the future of the centre. It may be completely 'derailed' according to the report. Is God protecting the sanctity of human life and the unborn child?

This centre was rocked by a scandal twelve months previously. A chief scientist was being less than honest with the results of the research. Upon inquiry he was found guilty of negligence and professional misconduct (*Herald Sun* November 16, 2007). The project he was working on was under the direction of one of our most decorated scientists. Brilliant men it seems are not always the most moral. Brilliant men are often full of pride and not ready to submit to God.

*The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, he turns it wherever he wishes* (Proverbs 21:1). The sovereign God is able to frustrate the plans of the wicked. He is powerful to make kings do his will. He stirred up King Cyrus to rebuild the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. He sent madness to the mind of king Nebuchadnezzar who refused to acknowledge the Most High God. Man proposes many things and with lots of money can set up great projects. But if such projects are against the will of God should we be surprised if they fail? After all, those who believe what God says about the sanctity of human life have been praying against unethical research and medical practice.

Keep on praying against the evils of stem cell research and abortion. The Lord is sovereign and powerful to bring to nothing the great works of men. Remember the God who made this world, the God who made man in his own image is not dead. He will bring each and every human being to account sooner or later. Some may lament the loss of their reputation and career today but they, along with everyone else, will in the end have to give account before the Judge of all the earth. With the Lord there will be no argument about 'grey' areas and situational ethics. He has made it very clear in the Bible the basis for our final judgment. Look in Romans 1-3 and Revelation 20 for a start.

*Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon, DD.*