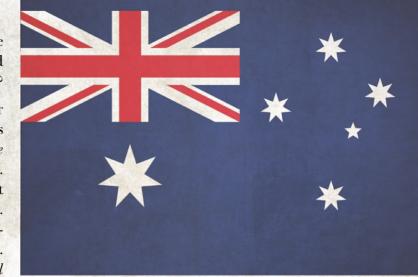
Having read this beautiful explanation of the gospel of your salvation in the Australian flag, would you now please consider the following gospel appeal?

Like the four points of the cross, there are four things you need to do in order to be saved from sin's penalty. First, admit you are a sinner, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Secondly, believe that Jesus died for your sins and that only His royal-red blood can cleanse you from sin. Thirdly, repent [change your mind] about any selfrighteousness or religion you might be trusting in. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23). Good morals or religious deeds are insufficient to save yourself. As the Bible says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus 3:5). Fourthly, call on the living Lord Jesus Christ to save your eternal soul and change your present life: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13). Today would make the perfect day (2 Cor. 6:2).

Friendship Baptist Church

Carnegie, Victoria Ring Office: 0403-803-841 www.friendshipbc.com.au



WHY THE

Australian Flag

IS THE

Most Special

FLAG ON EARTH

The Union Jack: This symbol in the upper left corner is comprised of three overlapping crosses from the flags of England, Scotland, and Ireland. This reminds us of the three crosses at Calvary. "And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull...Where they crucified him, and two others with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst" (John 19:16-18). With intentions of mockery, both of these sinners hanging beside Jesus made blasphemous comments to Him; however, one of them changed his mind, and instead called on Him saying, "Lord, Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Luke 23:42).

The Federation Star: This symbol in the lower left corner represents the commonwealth states and the territories. Its seven points remind us of the seven places on Jesus' body from which He bled: His head, back, hands, feet and side. The star also reminds us of the horrible crown Jesus was made to wear. "Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head" (John 19:1). This is not the crown He deserved to wear; rather, it was ours, and He wore it gladly as our Champion Saviour.

Also known as the Commonwealth Star, we are reminded thereby that Jesus died for the commonwealth of all nations around the world: "for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Revelation 5:9).

The Southern Cross: This is one of the most distinctive constellations visible in the Southern Hemisphere and has been used to represent Australia since the early days of British settlement. When you draw a line and connect the four brightest stars it forms the shape of the cross. This leaves the faint star off to the side by itself. Do you know why? This little star marvelously represents the bleeding side of Jesus: "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water" (John 19:34). Jesus' favourite disciple John was standing right there when this happened, "And he that saw it bare record…that ye might believe" (v. 35).

If you take the time to count all the points on the five stars of the flag's Southern Cross you will discover that there are a total of 33 points. This reminds us that Jesus was precisely 33 years old when He died. Why He died is the marvel of it all. He loved us so much He took the punishment for our sins; all of them—past, present, and future sins.