

As some of you may know, in my “day job”, I am a Minister in a church up in Sydney. And my *hope* – in what I do – is to try to *persuade* people of the amazing significance *for them* of a particular event which took place a long time ago – about 2,000 years ago in fact.

Now some people *are* persuaded about that, *some* want to know *more*, others *aren't interested* at all – and *still others* have the notion that it was all *made up* anyway.

And it struck me that, when we come to Apollo 11, it's a bit like that.

Sure, there are the Apollo *hoaxers* who try to tell us that the landing on the Moon was done in a television studio – and that many of *you* are part of some giant *conspiracy*. I find that pretty sad. But those people are in the minority.

*Others* just aren't interested. They live in a very *small* world.

Although the *general public today* doesn't think – or know – all that much *about* the events of 35 years ago, they *know* that *something pretty special* happened. And the movie *The Dish*, for all its artistic licence, helped *ordinary* people to *recapture* something of that excitement from 1969.

Back in 1969, Arthur C Clarke I think it was, said that in *a thousand years from now*, if people remember *nothing else* about the 20th century, they *will* remember that first step onto another world. I suspect he might be correct.

*You* are a big part of mankind's stepping out of our home planet to begin to learn more about the Creation around us.

As one of the great majority who was *not* privileged to be a part of the Apollo Program, but who looked on in wonder and excitement, this *website* and *DVD* have been put together to honour you who played such a key role – not just in Apollo, but in Mercury, Gemini, Skylab and later, as well as the Deep Space missions – and in other ways as well.

So please feel very welcome to contribute material for the website – because it's not *primarily* about the hardware or the missions – I would really like it to be about you. It's still in its early stages.

And thank you for the privilege of being able to be here today.