FROM 17-24 October Rev Daniel Willis will be leading 150 delegates from the South Pacific who will be amongst over 5,100 people from 191 nations gathering in Cape Town South Africa to attend the Third Lausanne World Congress. In 1974, the first Congress was held in Lausanne Switzerland and the second was held in Manila in the Philippines in 1989.

Emphasis On Bible Study
Those attending the Congress will be delegates, administration staff and volunteers who will help to make the Congress flow smoothly. Each morning the main hall will be filled with groups of 6 sitting around 700 tables as they listen to Ephesians being opened up by global expositors such as Ajith Fernando, Ruth Padilla DeBorst and John Piper.

Following the Bible Exposition topics concerning The Whole Gospel, The Whole Church and The Whole World will be explored, again being led by such luminaries as Os Guinness, Carver Yu, Fermi Adeleye, Chris Wright, Tim Keller and Nicky Gumbel, to name just a few.

Archbishop Henry Orombi of Uganda will welcome delegates to the Congress on behalf of all Christians in Africa.

Each country of the world was allocated a set number of delegates from a formula based on the number of evangelicals living and working in that country.

The South Pacific region consisting of 29 nations will be represented by 150 delegates. Whilst scholarships have been made available to assist people from the majority world to attend it has been difficult to find the right evangelical leaders from every country.

A number of delegates have had to drop out at the last minute due to issues arising in ministries where they are the leader.

High Calibre Of Delegates
Daniel Willis, who serves as the International Deputy Director for the Lausanne Movement says, ‘I am excited about the calibre of person who has been selected to attend the Congress. Over 60% of our delegates are under 50 and 33% are female. It has been hard work to achieve this and it has given me confidence in the future of the Church.’

‘I’ve met most of the Australian delegates, some serving the Gospel cause well over their lifetime, others stepping up to be the leaders of the future. These delegates will make a significant contribution to the overall Congress.

Stay-At-Homes Participate Too
‘For those who have not been selected to attend the Congress there are a number of ways to participate. The Global Conversation has been going on for at least the past year with papers being released each month and being carried by major Christian publications. Anyone can access these through www.capetown2010.com

‘Over 600 GlobalLink sites have been registered with anticipated attendance of over 100,000. These sites will take feeds from the Congress and allow participants to engage with the discussion, feeding the results of their discussion back to the Congress.

‘In 2011 and beyond there will be conferences and seminars held in all regions to discuss the outcomes of the Congress and contextualising these global discussions for local outcomes.’

For further information please contact Daniel Willis on 0418 257 872.
‘You Are Never Alone!’

–THIRTEEN THREE In Vietnam

BRAD Konemann, Youth Director of Voice of the Martyrs, reports:

IT has been a fantastic few months since the launch of Voice of the Martyrs’ new youth initiative THIRTEEN THREE. I have been speaking to hundreds of teenagers in youth groups, churches and schools across Sydney sharing about the ministry of Voice of the Martyrs.

I have seen the Lord powerfully at work in the lives of Australian youth as they hear inspiring testimonies of persecuted Christians. Many have been challenged to take a stand for Jesus and to live out a vibrant faith in their schools and communities.

On Friday 14 May we celebrated the launch of THIRTEEN THREE with over 550 youth from across Sydney. Pastor Daniel Lam from Vietnam shared stories of courageous believers and challenged us to trust God no matter what comes our way. Youth responded by giving up their dollars for THIRTEEN THREE’s new Youth Project to support underground Bible School students in Vietnam. Our goal is to raise $18,000 to support 30 Bible school students for one year of study. With the partnership of many youth groups, we are now more than halfway there.

In July I had the privilege of meeting some of the Bible school students VOM is supporting through the Youth Project. I was so excited to spend time with the next generation of Vietnamese leaders and see their hunger for God and their passion to serve Jesus.

One of the students I met was Rachel. She was 14 when she was arrested, beaten and tortured by the police. Rachel said that she considered it a joy to suffer with her Lord and that God was using persecution to raise her up as a brave soldier for the Gospel. I am so inspired by her faith!

When I met Rachel, I felt like I was carrying on my shoulders the prayers, encouragement and support of Australian young people who are passionately committed to standing firm with Rachel. She was so encouraged when I handed her around 300 letters written by Australian youth who have been inspired by her testimony.

As our team prayed for Rachel she broke down in tears. She now knows that she is not alone, that we stand together as brothers and sisters in Christ. At the end of our meeting I gave her a THIRTEEN THREE wristband and told her, ‘Australian youth are wearing these to remember to pray for you. When you see this, I want you to remember that you are not alone, you are never alone!’

It is an incredible joy to work with Australian young people, mobilising them to support our persecuted family. We have so much to learn from those who are willing to put their lives on the line for the Gospel. I pray that God will continue to challenge the faith of Australian youth as they hear about believers like Rachel. May the Lord raise up a new generation to serve the persecuted church!

To find out more about THIRTEEN THREE, please visit: www.thirteenthree.org.au

THE number of Christians in Israel is shrinking. Every Home for Christ reports that in 1948 Christians represented 20% of the population in what is now Israel. Today they number less than 2% (150,000) amidst the 6.4 million Jews and four million Palestinians. Every Home for Christ along with many others is working there to spread the Gospel. Contact EHC on 0800 900 200 or www.everyhome.org.au

ONE of the countries Global Recordings Network works in is Bangladesh where literacy is low. Many who are counted literate do not read easily or well. There are many small language groups with little or nothing of the Scriptures available. The need for culturally appropriate audio and audiovisual materials that clearly present the truth of God’s Word is immense. For the past three years the Bible Society of NSW has provided substantial funding for the ministry of GRN Bangladesh. Along with the regular funds supplied through GRN Australia this has made it possible for the team in Bangladesh to expand and enhance its ministry considerably. The funding has enabled GRN Bangladesh to print large quantities of the GRN Bible picture materials, import hand-wind Messenger cassette players from GRN Australia, make more recordings in several previously unrecorded languages, put on extra staff to help distribution, and produce and distribute large quantities of gospel cassettes and picture books all over the country.

The funds also contributed to training, equipment and other support functions. In short, the Bible Society grant has enabled the GRN team to connect thousands of people with God’s Word in a way they can understand and relate to. To support the Work of Global Recordings Network, contact them on (02) 9899 2211 or au@globalrecordings.net

MUKTI Mission reports that Mr Premdas Dhundale, one of the senior staff members at Mukti in India had a massive heart attack and went to be with the Lord on 23 September. Please remember his wife and two children in prayer at this time.

ALISON King, who has prepared Here, There and Everywhere since Barbara Wilson’s passing, moves on to her new position with CBM on 18 October. We are grateful for all that Alison has done for New Life, and wish her well as she leaves.
Annual Reformation Day Service

Sunday 31 October 2010 at 3.30pm
Lygon Street Christian Chapel, Carlton
(next to Trades Hall)
Speaker: Rev Robin Fairbairn
Sermon: Deal Or No Deal?

Rev Robin Fairbairn lives near Saintfield in Co. Down, Northern Ireland.
Having previously worked for Belfast City Mission for over 24 years,
Robin now works for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and is employed as the Communications Officer for the Board of Mission in Ireland.

He will be assisted by:
Choir of the GRH Indonesian Church, Lygon St, Carlton

Enquiries:
Victorian Protestant Federation
Phone: 03 9329 8483
CURRENT COMMENT – Bob Thomas

Vic Gov’t Gets Something Right

JUST as theology is too important to leave to the theologians, so economics is too important to leave to the economists. If you don’t believe me, read the briefing Treasury has just given to the Gillard Government.

Two disastrous and related ways in which prevailing economic philosophy is costing Australia (and all other countries who fall for it) dearly are economic rationalism and privatisation.

An economic rationalist, you might know, is someone who knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing. Does it cost less to manufacture goods overseas and import them than it does to make them here in Australia? Well close down our factories and save the dollarsssss!

Can you grow fruit and vegetables more cheaply in China, Peru, Turkey and then transport them to Australia than you can grow them here? Well rip out the fruit trees and leave the fields to fallow!

But don’t factor in the burgeoning trade deficit, the ‘selling of the farm’ to offset it, the loss of jobs, the jeopardisation of supply which war or extreme natural disaster could bring about, the growing reliance on not-so-friendly countries to supply our basic needs, not to mention the eventual running down of the world’s oil reserve of which the ever-rising price of oil is an indicator.

And if we don’t know the value of our farming land in both the short and long term, Communist China certainly does, given the rate at which they’re buying up our arable land.

But to get back to our headline ... Melbourne’s Age newspaper (28-9-10, p.5) reports that the Victorian Government has placed an order with a Dandenong, Vic, factory to build 50 trams for the Melbourne suburban network.

This factory had built hundreds of Melbourne’s trams during the 1970’s and 1980’s but since then trams have been built overseas in Poland and Italy. Each tram built here will cost $1,000,000 more than if it had been built overseas.

IT WILL BE MONEY WELL SPENT. The order will create 100 more jobs, which in turn will create more jobs. It will develop our labour and management skills which will flow on to other areas of productivity. It will rejuvenate a factory. It will build confidence in our own country’s manufacturing ability. It will reduce the balance of payments. Well at least it will reduce the balance of payments to some degree.

You see, in the days when it was last built overseas, and if the Government enterprise. It is now owned by Bombadier, a Canadian company. So our big Commonwealth sister will skim off the top dollars.

Both Labor and Coalition Governments over the years have been guilty of selling off state (for which read ‘our’ – ‘we, the people’s’) assets. Why? Well private enterprise can run things like transport, electricity, water and gas much more efficiently than governments can. Can’t they? These services and utilities will cost us so much less. Won’t they? They will run the transport systems so much more efficiently. Will they?

Pause while I take my tongue out of my cheek.

The Victorian Government has not just made a decision about something at last. It has made the right decision, perhaps a token decision, but nevertheless a decision which is moving in the right direction.

May it set a precedent for itself and other governments to follow, because the fatuous idea that we can all become rich by destroying our manufacturing base and selling off government utilities is impoverishing our nation.

Could The AFL Do With A Dose Of The Wisdom Of Solomon?

A FUNNY thing has happened here in Footybourne, the AFL Grand Final having ended in a draw.

Listening to the media you’d think that two teams reaching the same score over four quarters was a harbinger of the end of the world.

So two teams play their hearts out, exchange the lead a few times during the course of the game, the crowd barracks itself hoarse – and the result is a draw.

Well what’s wrong with that? Christians are looking forward to a day when we who are trusting in Christ will all win a crown, the Crown of Glory which will never fade away, and if the Parable Of

The Labours in The Field is anything to go by (and of course it is) our crowns will all be of equal value.

It seemed to me that the way both teams played, they both deserved to win (and they both deserved to lose).

Why not cut the Cup in halves? Or better still why not have a duplicate one on standby just in case there was a draw?

And why not put more of your energy into gaining that Prize which really matters instead of lavishing it all on something which will soon fade away – win, lose or draw?

Well Said!
The Depth Of Scripture

‘The Scriptures are deep enough for a babe to come and drink in without fear of drowning; and deep enough for theologians to swim in without ever reaching the bottom.’

– St Jerome
A Timely Call To Watch, Act, And Pray

DR PATRICK Sookhdeo, Director of Barnabas Fund, is a whistle blower of the finest kind and he’s done the Christian Church a great favour with his latest publication: The Way Ahead – Returning The West To Its Christian Path Via Operation Nehemiah.

He is not preoccupied with dobbing people in, but rather with waking people up and calling them to rebuild the life and witness of the Christian Church starting from within and working out.

Why is this so necessary today? Simply because the Church is under attack on many fronts and is in danger of caving in to those attacks by default.

How can it be done? Basically, by awakening the sleeping giant. If in generations to come the Church finally caves in, historians will not need to point the finger at outside forces such as Islam and Secular Humanism. They will find sufficient cause to blame its demise on our generation’s lack of prayer, lack of evangelistic zeal, lack of practising what we preach (moral decay), acceptance of the false teachings of liberalism, failure to stand together against false accusations ...

The Way Ahead tells it like it is. There is a catalogue of problems caused by radical Islamists and their efforts to Islamise the West, followed by the assaults of Secular Humanism, the effects of wrong-headed legislation and the confusion of the Church.

To counteract these forces, The Way Ahead sets out a Biblical agenda based on the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah’s methods are summarised and then applied to the task confronting the Church today.

The Way Ahead is a small, engaging and powerful book. It is commended by a veritable galaxy of Christian leaders: Jim Wallace, Graeme Clark, Peter Jensen, Robert Benn, David Claydon, Mark Durie, Don Mathieson, Rob Yule, Michael Nazir-Ali and Baroness Caroline Cox.

It’s a ‘must-read’. Call Barnabas Fund on 07 3806 1076 or 1300 365 799, or email bfaustralia@barnabasfund.org for your copy – and recommend it to your friends.

- Bob Thomas
MEMBERS of the New Life family met for lunch on Tuesday 25 September to extend good wishes to our esteemed colleague of many years, Dr Clifford Wilson, on the occasion of his retirement, and to give thanks for the enormous contribution Cliff and his late wife Barbara had made.

Over the years, Cliff has worked with every editor of New Life, particularly with Eric Daley, Founding Editor, and the present editor, Bob Thomas. New Life Board member Will Renshaw, chairman Greg Goswell and editor Bob Thomas expressed the thoughts and good wishes of all, and presented him with a gift suitable to his long years of service.

Christians Call For Calm After Indian Verdict On Holy Site

CHURCHES in India have called for calm after a court ruled that a religious site, vigorously and violently disputed by Hindus and Muslims, should be split between the two groups. On 30 September the High Court of northern Uttar Pradesh State handed down its verdict in the protracted case that concerns the ownership of the site of the former Babri mosque at Ayodhya, 700 km south-east of New Delhi. The case has been pending for more than half a century.

In a majority verdict, two of the three judges declared that Hindus have the right of ownership to the main disputed area, where the main dome of the Muslim Babri Mosque once stood. The court granted Muslims and a Hindu group control of other parts of the site. Hindus consider the location the birthplace of the god Ram, and placed a Ram idol inside the mosque in 1949.

Could You And Your Board Benefit From Essential Standards?

CHRISTIAN Management Australia has announced a series of Board Training Days and related events around Australia, based on their recent publication Essential Standards of Ministry Governance.

After publishing the free 24-page booklet in April, CMA has distributed (in direct response to requests) over 5,000 print copies of the booklet and thousands more electronic copies. Local, state and national bodies have already reported to CMA that they are using the 16 Principles as the basis for board development, evaluation and training, with pleasing results.

Consequently, CMA has designed full-day training sessions, including ten electives, multiple speakers, plenary panels, a Board Chair Dialogue and networking lunch, to provide professional development for the board members of Christian churches, schools and ministries.

Full events are scheduled in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, with shorter events in Perth and Adelaide. CMA National Director Gary Williams states, ‘While ministries are expressing to us gratitude for defining these standards, they have been asking for more detail about how to address the standards. These Board Training Days will cover many of those queries, and help boards to move up a notch in the important task of stewarding the organisations of which they are trustees’.

Full details, PDF flyers and registration are available at www.cma.net.au/btd Free copies of the governance booklet are available from www.governance.org.au

How To Become A Church-Planting Hub – And Raise The Next Generation Of Church Planters

HERE’S some great news! The Geneva Push has decided to fast-track its plans for the next Geneva network event, and it will be taking place in Brisbane this November – on Friday 12 November.

Church-Planting Hubs – raising the next generation of church planters – will be an opportunity to hear from experienced church-planting hub pastors Phil Campbell (Mitchelton Presbyterian Church) and Andrew Heard (EV Church) on preparing your church to plant. Andrew and Phil will also discuss the role of the senior pastor, and experienced Queensland church planters will be reflecting on the lessons they’ve learned. Ben Pfahlert (MTS director) will also talk about creating a disciple-making culture within your church. There will be loads of time for questions and prayer.

The cost is $35 per person. Registration includes conference resources, lunch and refreshments. Go to the web site and register: www.thegenevapush.com

NEW LIFE – 14 October 2010 – Page Six
THE town of Marysville was almost completely destroyed by bushfires on Black Saturday. Like the rest of the town, however, Marysville Community Church is rising again from the ashes. Two portable buildings have been fitted out as a church building (NL 2009-12-09 p.1) and now a minister has been called. Jamie Duncan and his wife Roslyn took up that appointment on 28 July and were welcomed at a service on Sunday 10 October.

**Their Testimony: Cross-Denominational Experience**

We arrived in Marysville on 28 July to begin our time here as Pastor and Community Worker of Marysville Community Church. We had driven down from Brisbane, our home for the past five years.

We have five children, all ‘grown and flown,’ five grandchildren and a sixth due on Christmas Day. We have set up home in one of the two homes not destroyed by the fires on the ESA Campsite just next door to the El Kanah property.

I was a teacher for a number of years in Australia and PNG, and had served the Lord in pastoral ministry within the Uniting Church in Queensland for 20 years until I resigned from ministry in 2004.

For the last five years I have worked with long term unemployed people, principally men, who have significant non-vocational barriers (addictions, depression, relational issues etc). This has been very challenging, but often rewarding work.

We come to Marysville with a strong sense of being where we are meant to be. The Lord opened up this opportunity to be in ministry once again in quite definite ways. It is a privilege being part of the ministry of God’s people through Marysville Community Church and being fellow workers with other Christians in this area. We feel the Lord will gradually unfold His purposes in calling us here.

Over the last five years we have worshipped with a Baptist fellowship for three years, then a Church of Christ fellowship. So we are enjoying being part of Marysville Community Church which draws together Christians from many different backgrounds.
BOOK OF THE YEAR

Jesus All About Life Campaign
Still A Talking Point

FOR eight weeks late last year the Bible Society’s Jesus. All About Life campaign was the talking point throughout NSW and WA. On Thursday 23 September Taurus Marketing, the company which engineered the campaign’s PR push, won the Public Relations Institute of Australia Golden Target Award in the NSW state finals for the best Community Relations campaign.

This comes hot on the heels of another recent win in the Australian Marketing Institute (NSW) awards, in the Brand Extension category.

Taurus Marketing and the Jesus. All About Life campaign will now proceed to the national level in both the PRIA and AMI industry awards.

Daniel Willis, CEO of Bible Society NSW and JAAL’s co-creator, says that the win is another significant achievement. ‘We were very pleased with the results of the campaign in terms of engagement with the churches and with the public. This win is a further reason to be proud of it, and of all the people who worked so hard to make it effective. We are very grateful to Taurus Marketing for the high level of commitment that they demonstrated, and for their passion in getting the message across.’

JAAL was a prime-time multimedia campaign which achieved over 260 pieces of media coverage, including 148 newspaper articles, 4 television segments, 33 radio interviews, 15 magazine articles and generated 153,000 website hits from across the globe.

The campaign was endorsed by 1,700 churches across 15 denominations. The campaign resulted in 84% of church leaders commenting that their congregations were more confident in sharing their faith as a result of the campaign.

New Life Now Available Electronically

FOR over 70 years, New Life has come to subscribers and readers through the post or Christian book shops, but we can now offer an alternative way of receiving New Life – by email. The email edition contains an additional four pages of news and views we can’t fit into the print edition, subscribers receive it a few days ahead of the print edition, and it costs half the price!

TO SUBSCRIBE to the email edition, please call us on: 03 9890 3377 or email us at: office@nlife.com.au
Malawi Gears Up For 'My Hope'

THE Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's My Hope national telecast is coming to Malawi on 4-6 November. Television is a tool God is using not only to mobilize the church for evangelism, but to reach an entire nation. My Hope is BGEA's effort to penetrate every country of the world with culturally-sensitive Gospel broadcasts.

My Hope is partnering with thousands of churches worldwide to bring large numbers of friends, family and neighbours into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Hans Mannegren, director of international ministries with BGEA, says My Hope was an idea fostered by Billy Graham’s son. ‘Franklin Graham wanted to see his father’s ministry continue even though he couldn't travel around the world.’

Mannegren says when they go into a country, they invite the whole body of Christ ‘to do evangelism on a national scale. From there, we invite churches to be trained to be what we call “Matthews”.’ Matthew left everything to follow Christ. He also held a banquet in Christ’s honour, inviting his tax collector friends and other sinners to come meet Him.

Mannegren says, ‘They pray for 10 people each, then they invite them into their homes, and that’s how they watch the program with their friends.’ My Hope began in 2002 and has had initiatives in 50 nations. ‘Over 4,500 churches have been trained already in Malawi. National television has given us a 7.30-8pm time slot,’ says Mannegren.

‘They will see a 30-minute broadcast with both local and national musicians and testimonies and endorsements. And then we'll have a short sermon from Billy Graham. And one night we'll have Franklin Graham speaking about the Prodigal Son.’

Malawi has been plagued with HIV/AIDS, food shortages and political scandals. Mannegren says, ‘They need hope for tomorrow. They need to know that the only hope that will satisfy is Jesus. He’s the hope for today and for eternity.’

Mannegren is asking Christians to begin praying for those who will be hosting viewings of My Hope in their homes. Pray that God will not only use the telecasts, but that He’ll use these ‘Matthews’ to help lead people to Himself.

– Mission Network News
HUNDREDS OF BIBLES BURNED BY IRANIAN GOV’T SECURITY FORCES

FOLLOWING the outrage in the Islamic world about the possible Koran (Qur’an) burning that was due to take place at the Dove World Outreach Centre in Gainesville, Florida, who had launched ‘International Burn a Koran Day’ to coincide with the ninth anniversary of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, it is interesting to note that Muslims have been silent about a shocking Bible burning that took place in Iran.

Fortunately for the many Christians living in the Islamic world who were in great danger if this had gone ahead, the church called it off at the last moment. But now I can reveal that the Farsi Christian News Network (www.fcnn.com) has reported that Iranian Government Security Forces burned hundreds of Bibles back in May of this year.

The report said that on Saturday, 29 May, Ati News, a site belonging to Morteza Talaeee, the previous head of the security forces and current member of Tehran’s city council, their ‘social-life reporter’ had disclosed that shipments of so-called, ‘Perverted Torah and Gospels’ had entered Iran through its Western borders.

Two days later, on Monday 31 May, the same report was reiterated by the official anti-crime website of the Pasdaran Army called ‘Gerdaub’ which said that a large shipment of Jewish and Christian Scriptures had entered Iran through the Western Azerbaijan province and, according to security officials of that province, the ‘occupier forces’ that operate in the Western regions of Iraq ‘were responsible for such activities.’

– Dan Wooding, ASSIST

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH!

Muslim Mob Attacks Christians In Gujrat, Pakistan

COMPASS Direct News reports that on 23 September a mob of Muslim extremists ‘shot at and beat dozens of Christians, including one cleared of “blasphemy” charges, in Punjab Province’s Gujrat District. This information came from local Christian leaders.

The attack on Tariq Gill, exonerated of charges of blaspheming the Qur’an on 3 September 2009, and on his father Murad Gill, his mother and the other Christian residents was the latest of more than ten such assaults on the Christian colony of Mohalla Kalupura, Gujrat City, since 8 September, the Rev Suleman Nasri Khan and Bishop Shamas Pervaiz told Compass.

The CDN story went on to say that about 40 Islamists – some shooting Kalashnikovs and pistols at homes and individuals on the street, others brandishing axes and clubs – beat some of the Christians so badly that they left them for dead, Pastor Khan said.

So far, ten families have been targeted for the attacks.

– Dan Wooding, Founder of ASSIST

Chinese House Churches Raided, Two Foreign Pastors Missing

ChinaAid (www.ChinaAid.org) has told the ASSIST News Service that on Sunday 26 September Youqing Church in Ou County, Da Prefecture, Sichuan province, China, was raided by the local police.

‘Objects were smashed, books were confiscated and people were taken to the local police station,’ said a ChinaAid spokesperson. ‘Their family members were requested to pay money to bail out the detainees. On 29 September at 5pm local time, four of the church members attempted to negotiate with Sichuan police in hopes of having their confiscated belongings returned to them in accordance with law. Instead, they were arrested on the spot.’

ChinaAid is also reporting that a raid was conducted on Wednesday 22 September at around 4pm on the Mid-Autumn Festival Day where a house church meeting in Wancheng District, Nanyang City, Henan province, was invaded and all who were present, except for one elderly woman, were arrested.

‘Two foreign pastors present at the meeting, one from the United States and one from Russia, were detained and so was their translator,’ said the spokesperson.

‘During the arrests, one member of the church, Ma Hanzhong, was beaten. The whereabouts of the two foreign instructors are unknown. The officials of Henan province have threatened to sentence the detained believers to re-education through labour.’

In both of these critical cases, ChinaAid calls for worldwide attention and advocacy on behalf of those in need. ‘We encourage Christians to stand with the persecuted and continue to pray for them,’ added the ChinaAid spokesperson. – ASSIST

PERSECUTION WATCH ...

‘Remember those in prison ... and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.’ (Hebrews 13.3)

NEW LIFE – 14 October 2010 – Page Ten
IN Hebrew, ‘Adam’ is the word for man. Do you insist that he was one historical being and the first man?

I BELIEVE that the historical nature of Adam the first man is thoroughly attested, both in the Genesis record and again in Romans 5:12-14. The latter reference states:

‘Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed on to all men, for that all have sinned: for until the law, sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

‘Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.’

This is not just ‘representative man’ sinning. In any case, it would be difficult to imagine how a group could rebel as such unless it was incited by a ringleader.

When all is said and done, what man would be taken seriously if he claimed that he himself had never personally been guilty of sin?

A ‘ROYAL BOX,’ built at the upper level of King Herod’s private theatre at Herodion in Israel may lend further evidence of the Judean King’s lavish lifestyle.

The royal box has been fully exposed in recent excavations in the framework of Herodion’s National Park at the eastern edge of Gush Etzion. The work has been conducted by Prof Ehud Netzer under the auspices of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem Institute of Archaeology, according to a media release from the Government of Israel’s Ministry of Tourism.

‘What an amazing discovery, a discovery that continues to prove that Israel is indeed the land of the Bible,’ said Haim Gutin, Commissioner for Tourism, North and South America. ‘With every step you take in Israel the Bible comes alive, and every stone reveals another page of history.’

The theatre, first revealed during the years 2008-2009, is located half-way up the hill close to Herod’s mausoleum, whose exposure in 2007 aroused worldwide attention. The highly decorated, relatively small theatre was built in approximately 15 BC, the same year in which Marcus Agrippa (second in the hierarchy of the Roman Empire) visited, according to Prof Netzer.

The royal box (measuring about six metres high) is the central space among a group of rooms attached to the upper part of the theatre’s structure. This impressive room, fully open towards the stage, doubtlessly hosted the king, his close friends and family members during performances in the theatre.

The data accumulated during the excavation proves that the theatre’s lifetime was very short, less than ten years. Slightly before Herod’s death, it was deliberately destroyed in order not to disrupt the conic shape of the artificial hill. During the construction of the artificial hill (as well as the famous monumental stairway which begins at the bottom of the hill), parts of the theatre, including the ‘royal box,’ were temporarily used by the builders, leaving their footsteps in the form of subdivision walls, cooking installations and graffiti.

The royal box site will be opened to the public after a special protective structure is built around the room, while the theatre itself will undergo partial restoration.

For more information about travel to Israel, visit: www.evangelicalisraelexperience.com

– Michael Ireland, ASSIST

Q&A
Dr Clifford Wilson answers Frequently Asked Questions
Baptist Women Aim To Keep ‘In Step With The Spirit’

AS November approaches there is an excitement in the air as Baptist women prepare for the Baptist Women’s Day of Prayer on the first Monday of November which this year is 1 November. The one day celebration has expanded to include in some situations a weekend prayer retreat, special activities for the entire church, and other opportunities throughout the month, but it is the state of women in the world that makes it essential for Baptist women to come together for one day or during the entire month to pray and give so that our world will be impacted for Christ.

This year begins a new theme, In Step With The Spirit based on Galatians 5:25, ‘If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.’ Over the next five years Baptist women will be In Step With The Spirit as we experience the fruit of the Spirit. This will help Baptist women to be actively involved in our mission to work towards peace, reconciliation, justice and development through prayer, witness and service. Bible studies, papers and responses given at the Leadership Conference are available to help planning.

The offering on this day supports the continental and worldwide ministries of the BWA Women’s Department, which depends on this one-day offering as its main source of income. The current world economic situation has affected us all, and we need all of our Baptist sisters to respond to God’s call to impact our world for Christ through prayer and giving. Instructions on where to send your offerings is given on the last page of the Day of Prayer program.

May this November be a special time when you will be blessed by being In Step with the Spirit.

– Patsy Davis, Executive Director, BWA Women’s Department

Fruitful Year For AIM

THE Africa Inland Mission Australia annual conference was held in Sydney on 3-5 September. Highlights this year included speakers Russell Cross (ex Chad) and Peter and Sue Bird (Kenya).

A highlight of the 2009-10 year for AIM Australia has been the commissioning of four workers for full-term service in Africa: Chris and Fiona Tyrrell are now in Rwanda, Nita Finger on the Lone Island Timo team and Margaret Papov is working in Mozambique.

The short-term program has been continuing strongly. AIM thanks God for the way in which He is working in the lives of returned short-termers, ten of whom are doing full or part-time study at Bible College. A number of these and some other people are considering full-term service in Africa.

AIM also thanks donors including individuals and churches who recently contributed to the upgrading of radio Nuru in Mozambique. At the time of writing, donations from Australia exceeded $A6,000.

Additional gifts can be made to this project through the Australian AIM office and must be marked: Mwani Radio Project. These can be sent to AIM Australia, PO Box 9137, Wyee NSW 2259. Donations can also be made online at www.aimint.org/au Select ‘give’ tab.

For more information phone 02 4357 2211.

Audio Bible Technology Growing In Popularity, Necessity

ALTHOUGH the Bible is the best-selling book of all-time, a recent survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life shows that 55% of Americans can’t name the four Gospels of the New Testament. (How much greater must the Australian figure be? – Ed.)

The US Religious Knowledge Survey recently polled more than 3,400 people on a series of wide-ranging historical, literary, political and religious questions. The survey revealed that outside of religious services, 36% of Americans read the Bible on a weekly basis.

‘Bible access isn’t the problem,’ said Troy Carl, national director of Faith Comes By Hearing Audio Bible ministry. ‘Engaging in the Bible is the problem. We all have the same amount of time in a day – 24 hours. We just have to choose to engage with God’s Word.’

For more than three decades, Faith Comes By Hearing has been developing and discipling people around the world with the Word of God in audio. Recently, the ministry released a series of free mobile phone apps, called Bible.is, which allow people to access the Bible on their iPhone, Android, iPod Touch, and iPad.

Carl said that Bible engagement through mobile devices is very popular. Since their Bible.is launch, Faith Comes By Hearing reports more than 5 million Bible touches. The Bible.is apps offer six different Bible engagement programs. For example, the Bible Survey program is a 61-day overview, consisting of key stories from the Old and New Testaments. The You’ve Got The Time program allows listeners to complete the New Testament in 40 days by listening just 28 minutes a day.

‘Listening to the Bible makes Scripture come alive, easy to understand and memorable,’ said Carl. He added, ‘This new survey shows that those who engage the Bible at least once a week know their Bible better. Other research points out how people who interact with the Word of God on a regular basis live differently than their neighbours.’

Faith Comes By Hearing’s free mobile Bible apps are available at www.Bible.is.

The ministry’s goal is to record Audio Bibles in 2,000 languages and begin 2 million Bible listening groups by 2016, reaching the majority of the world’s population.

For more information about Faith Comes By Hearing go to www.fcbh.org

– Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST
PRAISE THE LORD AND PASS THE FOOTBALL

When Melbourne’s ‘Other Religion’ Comes To Town ...

‘IT’S the God stuff that’s significant’, declared Rev John Boyers, chaplain of Manchester United Football Club, at the Grand Final Week Service in Melbourne’s Scots Church, on 22 September.

It was an outstanding service, with a larger-than-usual attendance, stimulating music led by Douglas Lawrence on the magnificent Rieger Organ accompanied by trumpeters David Farrands and Robert Sims, and a stirring message delivered by the Rev John Boyers.

The Rev Cameron Butler, chaplain of Melbourne Football Club, led in prayer and the service was conducted by the assistant minister at Scots, the Rev Richard O’Brien.

Speaking on the Miraculous Haul of Fish, Mr Boyers brought out three points:

1. Losing. The disciples had toiled all night but had nothing to show for it. They were frustrated by their failure. Life can be like that ... Footy can be like that.

2. Winning. Jesus gave them the catch of a lifetime, but the nets broke. And when the initial excitement died down Simon became aware of his sinfulness and Christ’s righteousness. There comes a time in life when ‘spiritual stuff’ has to kick in – the disciples must leave the nets at the pinnacle of achievement and follow Jesus. We must avoid making the transient things of our lives permanent because in the end, when we’re dying, getting things right with God is the only important thing, the only thing that really matters.

3. The Call of Christ. The fishermen left everything to follow Jesus, all the things that had been significant to them up to that point in their lives, and the same challenge is set before us today.
NEW LIFE QUIZ No. 8
- Dr Dallas Clarnette Asks:

1. In what year did the great schism between the Western Church and the Eastern Church (Rome vs Orthodox Churches) occur?
   (a) 1066 (b) 1054 (c) 1300.

2. In the 14th Century, the Church of Rome endured what is called the Babylonian Captivity of the church, during which the Pope resided at
   (a) Florence (b) Naples (c) Avignon.

3. The Pope who ruled during the Second World War was
   (a) Pius XII (b) Benedict XV (c) Leo XIII.

4. He was followed by
   (a) Paul VI (b) John XXIII (b) Benedict XVI.

5. When was the dogma of the Infallibility of the Pope declared?
   (a) 1933 (b) 1870 (c) 1950.

6. Who won the battle of Milvian Bridge in 312?
   (a) Maxentius (b) Caesar (c) Constantine.

7. Which emperor legitimised Christianity, thus proscribing it from all Roman persecution?
   (a) Julian (b) Constantine (c) Decius.

8. By what edict was this declared?
   (a) of Milan (b) Nantes (c) Galerius.

9. In which denomination did Rupert Murdoch’s grandfather serve with distinction?
   (a) Methodist (b) Baptist (c) Presbyterian.

10. His name was
    (a) Rupert (b) Patrick (c) Richard

Answers: 1b; 2c; 3a; 4b; 5b; 6c; 7b; 8a; 9c; 10b.
**Genesis 24:10-14**

"Soon after that, the servant loaded ten of Abraham’s camels with valuable gifts. Then he set out for the city in northern Syria, where Abraham’s brother Nahor lived. "When he got there, he let the camels rest near the well outside the city. It was late afternoon, the time when the women came out for water."

The servant prayed: "You, Lord, are the God my master Abraham worships. Please keep your promise to him and let me find a wife for Isaac today. The young women of the city will soon come to this well for water; and I’ll ask one of them for a drink. If she gives me a drink and then offers to get some water for my camels, I’ll know she is the one you have chosen and that you have kept your promise to my master."

**A clever plan**

How did the servant show that he was trusting God?

Do you think anyone will get water for his camels?

**We’re going to follow Abraham’s servant and see what he does to find a bride for Isaac.**

**Things to know**

Camels can go for a long time without food or drink. They store food as fat in their hump for when they need it. When they come to a water hole in the desert they drink a great deal. A thirsty camel can drink 114 litres of water.

**Prayer idea:**

Is there something you need to do that you think is too hard? Ask God now to help you.

Do you get worried if you think something is too hard for you? Like the servant, we should ask God for help then keep looking for the answer.
BOOKS WORTH READING

One For The True Believer ...


AS is well-known, one of the unusual features of the book of Esther is that it makes no mention of God and avoids religious language generally in the form of the book with which we are familiar in the Protestant Bible.

Firth is right to suggest that this intriguing failure to mention God is a theological virtue, for in our situation in what has been called the post-Christian West, God’s activity is often veiled and ambiguous.

Much instruction and encouragement can be found in this book, for, as Firth notes, Esther in its canonical setting ’affirms God’s commitment to His people, a commitment that finds its fulfilment in Jesus’ (p.35).

David Firth, an Australian, is lecturer in Old Testament at Cliff College, Derbyshire in England and an active member of the Tyndale Fellowship, Cambridge. He has a fine appreciation of the workings of Biblical narrative and provides a convincing explanation of the many puzzles in the book of Esther.


THE ten chapters that make up this book are sermons preached by a young R.B. Kuiper in the wake of the First World War. Kuiper later became well-known through his books The Glorious Body of Christ (1966) and God-Centred Evangelism (1961), both published by Banner. The present volume was first published in 1919, and we are grateful to Banner for making it available to a new generation of believers, who, like those who first heard these sermons, need to remain awake and ready for the Lord’s return.

Kuiper preaches that every war is a judgment of God that presages the final judgment upon sinful humanity. As in the days of Noah and Lot, materialism has caused people to be heedless of the looming crisis of judgment. Jesus warned of the Church’s departure from the faith, which is exactly what Kuiper sees happening, with large sections of the contemporary church denying supernatural Christianity, even though the miraculous forms the core of our faith (notably the resurrection of Jesus).

Kuiper draws the important distinction between evangelizing the nations (something predicted in Matthew 24.14) and the Christianising of the whole world (an impossible task). He reminds his hearers that the Bible talks in terms of ‘many antichrists’, not just one final manifestation of evil and opposition to God. He exposes what he sees as four contemporary antichrists, one being Christian Science. Like the Bible itself, he calls false teaching what it really is, ‘the doctrine of devils’ (1 Timothy 4.1), leading to devil-worship. Preaching on ‘the signs of the times’ is out of fashion at the moment, but there is an urgency and passion in these sermons that sets an example for the right kind of preaching on this neglected topic.

Without endorsing everything that Kuiper says (he was only 33 years old when he preached these sermons), he certainly has the right tone and emphases for such a vital message to the churches.

He warns that too many Christians are asleep, and he does not exempt his own theological camp (Reformed or Calvinist) from his strictures. He views the Zionist movement and return of Jews to Palestine as one of the ‘signs of the times’, it being a prelude to their national conversion to the Christian Faith as predicted in Romans 11.

However I for one would not necessarily link these two events. In the 1920’s Kuiper could already see the increasing economic, political and even religious consolidation taking place worldwide. (Continued p.17)
Unique Televangelism Book Launched, Wins International Acclaim

McDonaldisation, Masala McGospel And Om Economics: Televangelism In Contemporary India, written by Dr Jonathan James, was launched by Prof Brian Shoesmith at Edith Cowan University in Perth on 29 September.

Prof Shoesmith explained that the book takes the American phenomenon of televangelism out of its usual context and into India and seeks to understand its outworking in a new historical, cultural, religious, political, and economic setting.

‘Jonathan does a brilliant job with a master stroke by including Hindu religious leaders in the study besides Christian pastors’, he said.

Based on a four-year study, the book likens global televangelism to ‘McDonaldisation’, because of its standardised, ‘one size fits all’ approach.

‘Glocal’ televangelism, the fusion of American and Indian televangelism, is referred to as ‘Masala McGospel,’ because the Indian elements in the programs are overshadowed by the American grammar and logic of global televangelism.

Hindu televangelism, a relatively new phenomenon, is also creating a disjunction because of the blending of New Age spirituality with the American Charismatic marketing and commercial techniques.

The well-known American academic leader and author in the area of media, religion and culture, Prof Stewart Hoover, in the foreword to the book, described Jonathan’s contribution as ‘a unique opportunity to look through the lens of a particularly complex, layered and compelling case study.’

Prof Sudhakar Reddy of the University of Hyderabad, India described the book as ‘one of the most intellectually stimulating books written in current times about the impact of globalisation on Christianity and Hinduism.’

(Continued from p.16)

Kuiper connected that with what Revelation 13 says about the universal worship of the beast.

Without at all trying to forget the sober realities of our present situation as sketched in the preceding nine sermons, in his last sermon Kuiper shows that there is no need to succumb to pessimism if one is a believer, for there is solid ground for Christian optimism given God’s promise of our redemption on the day of Christ.

This book refreshed my spirit and made me long for Christ’s return. It will do the same for you! — Greg Goswell

Perth Keswick Aims To Enrich And Equip

THE focus of Keswick is to enrich and equip Christians through the diligent study of God’s Word. The Conventions are designed for Christians to set apart a time away from their busy lives and spend some quality time looking into the Word of Truth, allowing the Holy Spirit to teach and admonish so that our outward lives line up with our inward transformation and we become living sacrifices that bring glory to our Lord and Saviour.

The Perth 2010 Spring Convention will be held from Friday 15 October to Sunday 17 October. The speaker for this Convention will be Jim Stitzinger, a vibrant young Bible teacher from Naples, Florida. He will be presenting truths from 1 Thessalonians 5 on Distinctive Living and what makes God’s church different from the world?

Jim completed his Master of Divinity from The Master’s Seminary in Sun Valley, California. Following his formal training, he served as an Associate Pastor at Grace Community Church before being called to lead the newly planted Grace Bible Church Naples.

Jim’s passion is to glorify Christ through expository preaching, shepherding and relentless evangelism. He and his wife Sky have three daughters.

Book Online
Don’t delay in booking as the conventions are often booked out for accommodation and meals. All convention accommodation and meals can be booked online at www.keswick.com.au or by phoning Felicity on 08 6103 8226.
The Election – An Opportunity

THE election on 27 November 2010 will
give all Victorians the opportunity to
reflect on what is reasonable from the
past. You will know that ‘Cup Day’ can
be a seed-bed to two of society’s problems
and unworthy of a public holiday in
a responsible society.

A public holiday is a recognition of
that which enriched our society to
rekindle hope and aspiration for the
future. The Public Holiday Act has
been changed on two occasions in
recent years and, I believe, a further
change is desirable and urgent.

After 133 years the public holiday for
the Melbourne Cup is past its use-by
date. The four minute race is but a side
show to a gambling/binge drinking festi
val. Declaring 11 November, known
as Remembrance Day, and already an
historic day of peace, to be the one
public holiday in November would, I
believe, have wide acceptance.

It is both right and responsible that
there be a separation of Church and
State but it is also appropriate for the
Church to speak on community issues
such as this. It is not unreasonable for
the Church leaders and laypersons
should ask their local candidates where
they would stand on this issue seeking
their support.

This would be a holiday for our
multi-cultural society to celebrate
peace and plan for its continuance.

– Bill Chandler, Ringwood, Vic.

Let God Be God

Unfortunately the questions regarding
child abuse by priests in the Catholic
Church are not going away.

In light of the fact that the Bible is
the text book for the Christian Church,
surely the answer to the ‘questions in
question,’ can be found in that sacred
text. Young men in their zeal to serve
God through the Church take the vows
of celibacy in all sincerity, which are
contrary to human nature and the plan
of God for mankind as is
made clear in the Scriptures. So
who makes up the rules for the Church; God or man?

Writing to Timothy about Church
order, the apostle Paul wrote, ‘This is a
faithful saying: if a man desires the
position of a bishop he desires a good
work. A bishop must then be blameless,
the husband of one wife, temperate,
sober minded, of good behaviour,
hospitable, able to teach, not given to
wine, not violent, not greedy for
money, but gentle, not quarrelsome,
not covetous, one who rules his own
house well, having his children in
mission with all reverence. (For if a
man does not know how to rule his
own house, how will he take care of
the Church of God?)

Note, ‘he is to be the husband of
one wife’. (1 Timothy 3.1, NKJV).

Similar rules apply to deacons. (1
Timothy 3.8-12).

Again, in Titus 1.6-9, we read, ‘... if
any man be blameless, the husband of
one wife, having faithful children not
accused of riot or unruly. For a bishop
must be blameless, as the steward of
God …’

It is certainly true that child abuse is
not only found in the Church, (far from
it), but one can surely expect that it
ought to be nonexistent there. Marri
age is God’s idea, and if the priests
were allowed to marry, it goes without
saying; the problem would not be fore
ever in the news media. To say celibacy
is not the cause of the abuse is in my
opinion just wishful and convenient
thinking.

So let God be God. Let Him make
the rules. He created humanity in His
infinite wisdom, and He is therefore
titled to have the last word.

– Fran Fragar, Lansdown – NSW.

NEW LIFE – 14 October 2010 – Page Eighteen
Murray, the father of four, is a firm believer in the good of technology. He is also well aware of the dangers – especially the dangers to children.

After thinking through how to best teach his own children how to thrive in the digital age, he produced a short video: God's Technology: Training Our Children To Use Technology To God's Glory. In it Murray shares Biblical wisdom and applies a Christian worldview to kids and technology.

He begins with four Biblical principles. First, God created technology. He made the physical elements like silicon that we use to make digital devices. He made the forces of electricity and magnetism that allow technology to work. And He made human minds and gave them the creativity to build computers, mobile phones and iPads.

Second, because God created technology, it is not inherently sinful; instead (principle three) it has many good uses – including Christian broadcasting. Finally and tragically, Murray notes, technology has been abused because we are sinners. How does that apply to our children?

Well, because technology is created by God and has good uses, we should want our children to enjoy technology's benefits. But we can't ignore the dangers and embrace the digital world without what Murray calls ‘disciplined discernment.’ And Murray gives sound, practical parenting advice concerning Facebook, where children desperately need that disciplined discernment.

As Calvin College professor Quentin Schultz wrote in his book Habits of the High-Tech Heart, 'Cyberculture offers us no means to rise above the entropic noise, no dwelling place to catch our breath, gather our wits, discern our course, and become more intrinsically moral people.'

If we and our children are going to use digital technologies wisely and morally, it will be because we make an intentional effort to apply our Christian worldview to technology.

And the video God's Technology is a great place to start. Visit BreakPoint.org, click on this commentary, and we’ll tell you how you can get the video and other resources to protect your kids online.

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**CDP Supports NSW Gov’t Crack-Down On Cross Border Crime**

THE Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party, has supported measures that will help crack down on cross border crime, saying in the debate on the ‘Law Enforcement National Security (Assumed Identities) Bill 2010’ in the NSW Parliament: ‘The Christian Democratic Party supports this Bill. It will facilitate cross-border recognition for the acquisition and use of assumed identities by officers of certain law enforcement and national security agencies. This bill will help to make it a more efficient, transparent and accountable legislative regime for acquiring and issuing false identity documents for use in cross-border criminal investigations. It is important and necessary operationally to allow undercover police officers to penetrate where necessary criminal gangs, bikie gangs and various levels of organised crime involving drugs, prostitution, illegal gambling etc.

‘This bill provides that an assumed identity is a false identity that is used by an officer or other person for a period for the purpose of investigating an offence or gathering intelligence, per-
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**Books of the Month**

Do you want to understand the Bible more? Do you want to grow in your faith?
Dr Clifford Wilson and *New Life* offer a series of monographs to help you.

**This Issue:**

- *The Creation Series: The Way God Works In Nature*
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**Available online at:** www.nlife.com.au for $7 each or in
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POSITIONS VACANT

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Our Ministry!
REV Stan Baker, former National Superintendent of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, passed into the presence of the Lord on 17 August 2010. On Monday 23 August more than 500 people filled the Hills Wesleyan Methodist Church, Qld, to celebrate his life. Many tributes to Stan’s character and ministry were received.

Stan joined the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the late 1970’s, was ordained to the ministry and accepted pastoral appointment in Nanango, Qld. In the following decade Stan’s exceptional pastoral gifts led to fruitful pastorates in Nanango and Mary Valley, during which time Stan also participated in the founding of the Goombungee, Gympie, Tewantin and Nambour Wesleyan Methodist Churches and served as one of the founders of the Cooloola Christian School.

In 1990, Stan was elected as District Superintendent of the Queensland District and in 1997 as the National Superintendent of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia. While serving as National Superintendent, Stan supervised the work across the Australian continent, served on the International Board of the Wesleyan Church, encouraged the commencement of ministry in the Solomon Islands, Bougainville and New Zealand, and pastored a local congregation in Caboolture.

At the conclusion of this period of sacrificial and exhausting service, Stan retired as National Superintendent in 2008 and from the local church shortly afterwards.

Stan is remembered as a man of integrity, a gifted pastor, a gracious gentleman, and a true statesman. Though we shall sadly miss Stan’s company, we know that we shall love and serve alongside Stan again in the world to come.

– Rev Lindsay Cameron, National Superintendent, Wesleyan Methodist Church
UPCOMING EVENTS:

TEAM (Teaching English As Ministry) afternoon is happening on Saturday 23 October from 1.30pm to 4.30pm (with elective sign-up from 1.15pm) at Canterbury Presbyterian Church, 146 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury (Melbourne). Presenters with over 25 years teaching experience in the Middle East will be speaking and leading, and there will also be interactive and practical electives. The cost is $25. Please register by 21 October by phoning Kim Hood on 0421 681 801 or email: englishcorner@aapt.net.au

OMF are having an afternoon tea at Murrumbeena Baptist Church, 44 Murrumbeena Road, Melbourne on Sunday 31 October, 2-4pm. It is to thank God for Allan and Val Webb who have now retired from OMF, and Calvin and Joyce Ma as they move from the leadership of OMF Australia into a Field Leadership position. RSVP by Oct 27 on 03 9898 9922 or Priya@omf.net

PYRAMID Hill Church of Christ, in Kelly St, Pyramid Hill, Vic, is holding a Prayer Day on Saturday 16 October from 10am. All are welcome. Please note there is only one food store open, BYO lunch etc, is suggested. Tea and coffee will be supplied. For further information contact Pastor Stephen Maggs 0418 104281

Much of Victoria has been in the grip of a decade-long drought which has brought despair and difficulty for many. The recent rain and flooding has brought hope for the near future, but along with this comes the uncertainty of the weather along with a locust plague that has the potential to be the worst seen in 75 years. These added concerns may be the final blow for many on the land.

With these very real uncertainties, the Pyramid Hill Church of Christ is opening its doors and inviting all concerned believers to gather together for a day of prayer, specifically for the potential damage the locust plague may bring. Not only is prayer a requirement and a privilege for all of God’s people, it can also be a testimony to the community at large that God is concerned for each of them, regardless of their standing with Him.

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Of Magpies And Missionaries

Story and pictures by Bruce Stewart

AT this time of year, September and October, quite a few of us become the victims of some impressive aerial attacks from magpies. I respect the magpie for its courage, determination and focus in the defence of its nest. Note that the eyes of the magpie in the picture are very firmly on the target – me!

The magpie is determined to provide protection for its young family – first as eggs in the nest and it is then even more protective and focussed when the eggs hatch.

I respect the magpie for its tenacity and courage in defending its young against creatures much bigger than itself. But on a far higher level I respect and admire a group of people I met in the Philippines very recently.

They are people who leave their home country to go and live in a different cultural group for 15-20 years and with determination, love, patience, courage, faith and focus give their lives to the learning of a completely new language and culture. When they reach a sufficient level of competence they then begin to translate the message of the Bible into that language, so that for the first time these people hear the message of Jesus Christ.

Especially in earlier days these people lived in very remote areas where walking often provided the final access. They were far from medical and educational facilities but there they lived with the local people and in some cases raised their own families there.

Jean Lieffers writes it like this: I had the privilege of living awhile in the house of Lil Underwood, a literacy consultant who was on the team that translated the Tboli Scriptures. Before the translators went to live among them in the 1950's the Tboli believed this life was connected to eternity by a bridge. On this bridge was an evil spirit whose purpose was to prevent anyone from making it across the bridge safely.

The only way to overcome this spirit was to have light, and the way to get light was to be burned. Bits of cotton dipped in kerosene were lighted and placed on little boys' arms to produce scars. The more scars, the brighter the light. This practice continued while the translators worked until finally the people were able to read John's Gospel where Jesus said, 'I AM the light of the world.'

I visited the place the translators had lived and worked and I saw little boys playing happily unscarred. When I asked a mother why she didn't burn her little boy, she said, 'Jesus is our light. Jesus bears the scars. Jesus will get my little boy safely across the bridge.'

Many of the Tboli people have become followers of Jesus now, so the good features of the Tboli culture have been retained and enhanced, but fear of and bondage to evil spirits has been removed. In Christ we can have victory too if we follow and obey Him. Every one of the 6,900+ language/cultural groups in the world needs to hear of Jesus Christ and respond to Him. There are still 2000+ language groups in the world who have not yet heard of Jesus – there is still a big task yet to be done to reach out to these people.

Check out the website www.the2000walk.com.

Post-sermon discussion among those on whom the light of Christ has dawned.
MORE than 400 Christians attended today an International Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem in the Israeli capital on 3 October, and upwards of 300 million Christians had committed to participating from their home nations including tens of millions who watched it live on God TV.

Founded by Dr Robert Stearns in 2002, the founder and executive director of Eagles' Wings Ministries, a dynamic organization focused on building bridges of relationship and hope around the world, the Day of Prayer is a global grassroots prayer initiative that links the Christian liturgical calendar with the Biblical, Jewish calendar.

This year the event was held at the Haas Promenade overlooking Jerusalem’s Old City. Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, giving the keynote address, reinforced the importance of a united Jerusalem.

‘Jerusalem is special to three billion people of faith in the world. No other city in the world is a destination that fills our hearts like Jerusalem. My mission for the city is to return it to its role of 2,000 to 3,000 years ago and to welcome people from around the world to explore our ancient past and build our modern future.’

To do this Barkat insisted Jerusalem must be kept open to people of all faiths to enjoy and to freely practise their religion – and he was very proud to point out that during Ramadan, which fell in the latter part of August/September 2010, there had been over 200,000 Muslims who had freely traveled to the city in order to visit the Temple Mount to pray.

‘As mayor, I’m committed to maintaining that. This is not trivial,’ he emphasized. ‘Jerusalem must keep reunited, undivided and be the sover-}

eign capital of Israel. It is the heart of the world. You can't divide the heart,’ he continued. ‘I read the Bible, and it is very clear who the capital of Jerusalem is for.’

According to the website set up for the event (www.daytopray.com), the Day of Prayer has ‘quickly become the largest Israel-focused prayer event in history.’ More than 300,000 churches from 175 nations annually take part in the event.

The people and ministries behind the Day of Prayer note that while they ‘pray every day for Israel, we seek on this day to unite believers around the world in raising a cry to Heaven on behalf of this troubled, but strategic land and its people.’

Several other Israeli officials, pastors including Tom Hess who gave the invocation and prominent rabbis such as Rabbi Shlomo Riskin joined together with Christians in petitioning the Almighty on behalf of the holy city.

– Dan Wooding, ASSIST News Service

Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat addresses the prayer event.
NEW LIFE EXTRA

If You Loved Hearing Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali, You Won’t Want To Miss Canon David Claydon

DAVID Claydon doesn’t know his real name or his real age, and never knew his parents. An Australian missionary found him in Bethlehem during World War II – a little red-haired, Arabic-speaking English boy, abandoned in an orphanage.

Hear the amazing story of how David, by the grace of God, survived many perils to become a committed Christian leader with a lifelong interest in and concern for Muslims and Islam.

Rev Canon Dr David Claydon – now a canon of both St Andrew’s Cathedral in Sydney and All Saints’ Cathedral in Cairo – will share his story and his insights on the topic: Islam And Christianity: From Bethlehem To Sydney at the FamilyVoice Conference.

Annual Review.
You will also hear some of the things FamilyVoice Australia has been doing during the past year.

The meeting will take place from 2-4pm, Sunday 10 October at St Anne’s Anglican Centre, corner Church and Gowrie Streets, Top Ryde (Sydney).

There is no charge, and afternoon tea is included. A voluntary offering will be taken.

Revised Bible Seen As ‘Uniting Point’ For All Chinese Christians

THE head of the United Bible Societies has praised the newly released Revised Chinese Union Version Bible, which took 27 years to complete, as a unifying point for Chinese Christians around the world.

Speaking at the dedication service for the Revised Chinese Bible on 27 September at St John's Anglican Cathedral in Hong Kong, the global chair of the United Bible Societies, Nora Lucero, praised the original version, first published in 1919.

She said it was a tool in ‘uniting and harmonising the diversified language usage of Chinese people from various regions’ and noted that the revised version would continue this mission.

– Ecumenical News International

Bearing Witness To The Truth!
Host: Rev Fred Nile MLC; Chair: Pastor Peter Rahme

YOU are invited to hear David and Josie Silver of Out of Zion Ministries (Israel) speaking on The Key of Abraham.

David travels extensively throughout the world conducting seminars, speaking to churches and prayer groups with the goal of awakening Christians to the significance of current events in the Middle East to the end-time events of the Bible.

The meeting will be held in the Theatrette, NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St Sydney (closest railway stations are Martin Place or St James) on Monday 18 October from 12 noon to 2pm, followed by afternoon tea (costing $10 per person).

Booking is essential and your early rsvp is appreciated! Please contact Judy Russell on (02) 9230 2478 or email judy.russell@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Coming up on Christian Worldview:
22 November: The Australian National Film Premiere To Save A Life
NEW LIFE EXTRA

‘The Scriptural Profile For A Minister Of The Gospel’
A Sermon Preached By The Rev R. Perry Smith Of Belmont, NSW,
At The Request Of A Church Seeking A New Minister

References: 2 Timothy 4.1-8; 1 Corinthians 2.2-5; 9.16-19,22; Acts 10.33; 20.20,21,24-28; Hebrews 13.7-9,17,18 (NIV).

Introduction: Ministers are like Olympic relay runners, passing the ‘Gospel Torch’ ...
Charles Wesley sang:
‘O Thou who camest from above,
the pure, celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.
There let it for Thy glory burn,
with inextinguishable blaze,
and, trembling to its source return,
in humble prayer and fervent praise.’

1. The Privilege Of The Call – A Grace-Gift:
‘The grace God gave me for you, to be a minister of Christ Jesus’ (Romans 15.15,16; Ephesians 3.2,7,8; Acts 20.24.)
Notice some related New Testament terms:
preach (as a herald), proclaim, apostle (one sent, commissioned, with a special authority), witness, servant (of the Word), workman, ambassador (who represents a higher leadership), shepherd (a pastor).

2. The Proclamation of the Gospel:
‘We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake’ (2 Corinthians 4.5).
The bad news of sin leads us to the good news of salvation. ‘Preach the Word in season and out of season ... do the work of an evangelist’ (2 Timothy 4.5).
Preaching should be Scriptural, not just topical, Bible-based, simple, yet profound, Christ-centred, Christ-exalting. It should be practical and relevant, not archaic. It should be logical, clear, not a vague and muddled presentation. It is not an essay, but an exposition. Move step by step towards a definite challenge and a new resolve.

The preacher should be natural and humble, giving God the glory. Preaching should be pastoral, with caring shown by home visits beyond church and public ministry (Acts 20.20).

3. The Perfecting Of The Instrument:
‘Approved, an unashamed workman who correctly handles the word of truth’ (2 Timothy 2.15).
We never know it all. Study further, stretch the mind, take in to give out. Pray over the preparation ready for presentation. Really give yourself to prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6.4).

4. The Power of the Spirit:
Evident from Pentecost onwards in the Acts. Spot the ‘Not - but’ phrases in 1 Thessalonians 1.5 and 1 Corinthians 2.4,5. The Holy Spirit’s anointing and empowering is essential for a minister of the Word.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CONGREGATION?
A Minister as outlined above will not be perfect but will want to be faithful. Paul wrote, ‘You and I may be mutually encouraged in faith’ (Romans 1.12). Are you an encourager?

Do you anticipate God’s Word eagerly, listen expectantly and respond obediently? (Acts 10.33).
See the hymn Master Speak, For I Am Listening, which perfectly sums this up. Note the personal pronouns. Respect your ministers, hold them in the highest regard in love (1 Thessalonians 5.12,13; Hebrews 13.17). ‘Keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, one Body ... one Lord, one faith’ (Ephesians 4.3-6).

Co-operate eagerly ‘as God’s fellow-workers’ (2 Corinthians 6.1). We are to ‘grow up into Christ, joined together, built up in love, as each part does its work’ (Ephesians 4.15,16). A Minister cannot do everything and does not have all the gifts – delegation is necessary.

Pray faithfully. Paul requested (Ephesians 6.19,20; 2 Thessalonians 3.1). He faced the daily pressures of his concern for all the churches (2 Corinthians 11.28). A caring ministry counts – but it costs!

Understand sensitively the minister’s own needs and any family needs.
'The water I give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life'
- Jesus