

## Wesley Mission Goes To 'The Edge' In Palm Sunday Procession



*Keith and Carol Garner lead the way in Wesley Mission's Palm Sunday Procession.  
– Worldwide Photos*

On Sunday 28 March, Palm Sunday 2010, over 100 members and staff from the Wesley Mission in Sydney took to the walkways of Circular Quay in their annual Palm Sunday procession.

The spectacle attracted tourists and passers-by who enquired as to why a man was riding on a donkey accompanied by people in period costumes. This was the re-enactment of Jesus entering Jerusalem in the Christian tradition known as 'Palm Sunday'.

Led by the Superintendent, Rev Dr Keith Garner, and his wife, Carol, the procession made its way along the esplanade to the Sydney Opera House entrance. After a brief presentation they returned,

passing diners in the many restaurants, the ferry terminals and on to First Fleet Park.

Rev Keith Garner said: 'I believe that the church should always go to the edges of society – those edges where you encounter strangers, you rub shoulders with people outside the church – and find ways to cross those edges with the good news.' This was evident throughout the Palm Sunday event.

After arriving at First Fleet Park, the Wesley Institute choir performed several items and the Superintendent of Wesley Mission, the Rev Keith Garner, presented a clear Gospel message, explaining the significance of Palm Sunday and its relevance for today.

## Busy Time For Congregationalists



**Ninth Annual FCC Preaching Seminar**  
THE Fellowship of Congregational Churches will hold a seminar aimed at helping all who preach or teach the Bible in any context on Wednesday 12 May from 7-9pm at Bexley Congregational Church Hall, 626 Forest Road, Bexley South, NSW. The speaker will be Dr Omar Djoeandy, Executive Director, SIM Australia. His theme will be: *Preaching With A Global Mindset*. The cost is \$8 (students: \$4). To register call the FCC Office on 02 9588 5128

### **New Workers In The Field**

ANDREW and Suzy Vines have been approved and accepted for missionary service in the Middle East with Pioneers and Mission Partners, the Australian Presbyterian World Mission. They are hoping to leave for the field in August.

### **Life Ministries**

GLENIS Rutter who has been the secretary and office manager for the past 25 years is retiring and a replacement is needed.

### **News From Brethren Community Churches**

GEN Y Conference will be held on 15 May at Canterbury Gardens Community Church, Kilsyth, Vic. Speakers are Dr Tim Goh and Tim Hawkins. Contact [www.cbfv.org.au](http://www.cbfv.org.au) and click on the Gen Y graphic.

2010 Women's Convention will be held at The Island, Cowes from 20-22 August. Dr Alison Howell will present studies on *Reconciliation in a Fragile World*. Enquiries: 03 9842 5494.

Pastor Peter Keep has been appointed as Pastor of Church Growth and Development – 0416 281 827.

Bible, Culture and Mission conference is to be held 11-14 June at Mueller College Community Church, Brisbane. See [www.ccaustconference.com](http://www.ccaustconference.com)

### **Lawsuit Dismissed**

CHALLENGE Weekly reports that the lawsuit against Shirley, the wife of Dr James Dobson was dismissed. It had been brought from the Freedom of Religion against the National Day of Prayer, of which Mrs Dobson is Chair. It was based on the argument that a

private citizen can violate the law by praying!  
**175 Accept Christ**  
THE Pocket Testament League reports that 175 accepted Christ during the Christmas Outreach with George and Rita Galieh in Bangkok. Praise God for over 5,000 responses to Correspondence Courses in Uganda.

Rev Richard and Mrs Mary Rennie will arrive in Australia shortly to commence three months of ministry at

or email: [fcccong@bigpond.com](mailto:fcccong@bigpond.com)  
**New Congregationalist Pastors**  
LEICHHARDT Congregational Church is pleased to announce that Rick Keuning will commence as its Pastor (part-time) on Sunday 18 April while continuing his ministry as NSW Staff Worker for Child Evangelism Fellowship. His Induction Service will take place at 10am on Sunday 2 May.

Rev Richard and Mrs Mary Rennie will arrive in Australia shortly to commence three months of ministry at

### **Defiling The Qur'an**

A CHRISTIAN couple have begun to serve 25 years behind bars for supposedly defiling the Qur'an by touching it without properly washing their hands. After being released in January they were re-arrested.

### **Saints Equipped In Egypt And Iran**

MIDDLE East Reformed Fellowship reports great blessing on recent conferences equipping church leaders from Egypt and from Iran. Praise God for the speakers: Pastor Ted Groves from the USA and Pastor Iain Wright from Scotland.

### **Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship**

AS from 1 July CRMF Australia will also be integrated with MAF Australia. After that time there will be address changes which will be notified. Pray for technical expertise as CRMF workers place and maintain radio equipment in remote areas.

### **The Future Of The Church**

ABOUT 300,000 (8.3%) of people in Melbourne attend church on a typical Sunday. About 144,000 (4%) of the 1.7 million (4.8%) of under 34's are at church on a typical Sunday. 53% of attenders are over 55 years (including 33% of church leaders). The Melbourne

Kurri Kurri Congregational Church, near Newcastle, from Sunday 11 April, while Richard is on sabbatical leave from East End Baptist Church in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The Induction Service for Rev Con Despinidic was held on Saturday 20 February as he commenced his ministry at Wollongong, NSW, Congregational Church.

He had formerly been Minister of the Kurri Kurri Church.

population is increasing by 180,000 pa with church attendance declining by about 5,000 pa (*All Melbourne Matters* Feb 2009.)

### **Peasants In Anhui, China, Lack Warmth**

THIS winter has been extremely cold and the poor are barely able to sleep because of the severe weather. They are asking for prayer for God to meet their needs.

### **A New Work In Cambodia**

DR Jonathan James, Asia Evangelical Fellowship, announces a new ministry in Kampong Thom Province, once home to Pol Pot, where they hope to train and appoint local leaders for mission points in all 14 provinces. After the launch some 20 people from Khmer and tribal backgrounds accepted the Lord as their personal Saviour. Pray for Cambodia. Dr James will be visiting Australia from 14-20 August – contact Dr Alan Meers for details on 08 9203 8303.

### **Plane Wheel Recovered**

THIRTY five years after Presbyterian Home Missionary Keith Stieler's plane went down in a storm over Aurukun, QLD in 1975, a wheel was brought up by the supply barge anchor. It was almost certainly from the plane. Keith's body had been found earlier and was buried in the Aurukun cemetery.

### **Stained Glass Windows Restored**

ST George's Anglican Church, Queenscliff, Vic is rejoicing at the restoration work being completed on their 155 year old stained glass windows. (Continued p.8)

## Empart Training Centre Attacked

'THEY attacked us! Prebhu is seriously injured. The police came and arrested three of our students. What should we do?' This message was received recently from one of their missionaries by Empart after a large mob of around 40 anti-Christian Hindu militants ram-paged through a training centre for pastors in the North Indian state of Chhattisgarh, on Sunday 21 March.

Prebhu, a leader at the centre, was punched and kicked as he screamed for mercy. Many students were brutally beaten and seriously injured. While they were being tortured, the gang interrogated them about the leadership at the centre. Students refused to reveal any names or addresses, so the mob furiously burned down all of the valuable teaching tools, literature and Bibles in the centre. Everything was destroyed.

Students tried to protect their Bibles and notebooks but the mob burned them all. Just days before they were due to graduate, all the notes they had made throughout the year were gone. Personal belongings were also added to the fire. New black trousers and white shirts, purchased especially for the graduation, were reduced to ashes.

The militants then discovered the store room in the centre where Gospel

literature and Bibles are kept to supply the entire region. Empart had also stored thousands of book kits to be distributed at the graduation and a pastor's conference. Students were made to watch these precious gifts burn, under the threat that they would be thrown into the fire if they cried or made any noise.

When leaders took the injured students to the local government hospital they refused to treat them because they feared that the hospital may be attacked. Desperate for treatment, many of them had to find public transportation to get to hospitals in surrounding towns. Prebhu, the local Empart leader, is seriously injured and is in intensive care. The rest of the students and local leaders are all in hiding due to further threats of violence.

Adding insult to injury, mob leaders then defaced an Indian flag by painting a red cross on it – a criminal act in India. Calling the police, they reported that they found a group of Christians who had defaced the Indian flag – 'Please come and arrest them!' Local authorities have arrested three students at the centre for questioning and they are still under police custody.

Biju, the Training Centre Co-ordinator, miraculously escaped amidst the chaos and is still in hiding. His wife and

children are being cared for in a safe location but the remaining students at the centre fear another attack.

Speaking with Empart Founder and Director, Jossy Chacko, Biju said: 'The enemy will try to stop us making disciples and training leaders but he cannot and will not stop God's Kingdom expanding. We will not stop, no matter what happens.'

A mission team from Australia which was to have been visiting the graduation ceremony at the training centre had to abandon their plans after hearing of the attack. The team is in a secure location but they are all bitterly disappointed that they cannot be there to support the students throughout their suffering.

These courageous brothers and sisters desperately need our prayers and help. This incident impacts on hundreds of lives. Children's homes, tailoring centres and churches in the area have all been affected.

Please pray for the protection of Pastor Biju and the students as they seek refuge. Pray also for the safe release of the three students who were arrested.

Donations to help restore the training centre and provide teaching resources can be made through Empart at [www.empart.org](http://www.empart.org)

## Threat Of Return To Hindu State In Nepal Looms

FOUR years after Nepal became officially secular, fear is growing that the country could revert to the Hindu state it was till 2006 when proclaiming Christ was a punishable offence and many churches functioned clandestinely to avoid being shut down.

Concerns were heightened after Nepal's deposed King Gyanendra Shah, once regarded as a Hindu god, broke the silence he has observed since Nepal abolished monarchy in 2008. During his visit to a Hindu festival this month, the former king said that monarchy was not dead and could make a comeback if people so desired.

Soon after that, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, a former prime minister and respected leader of the largest ruling party, said that instead of getting a new constitution, Nepal should revive an earlier one. The 1990 constitution declared Nepal a Hindu Kingdom with a constitutional monarch.

There is now growing doubt that the ruling parties will be able to fashion the new constitution they promised by May.

'We feel betrayed,' said Dr K.B. Rokaya, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Nepal. 'The Constituent Assembly we elected

to give us a new constitution that would strengthen democracy and secularism has frittered away the time and opportunity given to it.'

The clamour for a Hindu state has been growing as the 28 May deadline for the new constitution draws near. When a Hindu preacher, Kalidas Dahal, held a nine-day prayer ritual in Kathmandu this month seeking reinstatement of Hinduism as the state religion, thousands of people flocked to him. The throng included three former prime ministers and top leaders of the ruling parties.

– *Compass Direct News*

## Good On You, Gary!

THE *Herald/Sun* of 26 March has the heading *Ablett Warns Of Drug, Booze Crisis*. I was especially pleased to see Gary Ablett Sr (the father of current Australian Football Brownlow Medalist Gary Ablett) has written that we are on a dangerous path as we struggle with drug, alcohol and violence issues.

He paints a very dark picture as he urges the community to 'take a serious look at the direction in which we are heading'. Some might say that Ablett has no right to pass an opinion on such issues, but Ablett himself is the first to admit that he is not personally perfect – and as a Christian I remember the Apostle Paul said that he was the worst of all sinners, and there are many examples of godly men committing unfortunate actions that were completely out of tune with their confession of faith in God.

### A Christian Group Is Granted Public Funds

THEN quoting Melbourne's *Herald/Sun* again we are told that 'An evangelical Christian group with links to charismatic American preacher Billy Graham has won funding from the Federal Government training scheme of \$50 million – this will pay for 11,000 extra training places for this project'. The article mentions that the beneficiaries include Youth For Christ, Australia, 'an evangelical group that has developed alongside the work of Billy Graham'.

Surely a group which does so much good work among young people has the right to receive such funding. And if it's linked to Billy Graham, then so much the better!

### What Are These Brethren?

ANOTHER report tells us 'the secretive religious sect, Exclusive Brethren, has angered local residents because of their establishing a rural site on the New South Wales Central Coast. Residents have organised a public meeting to oppose the proposed development'.

I was reared in a group known colloquially as 'The Brethren' but it is relevant to mention that while the

Gary Ablett states: 'We need to bring a defined halt to the degradation of our society by restoring the foundations of a strong and effective culture. We have lost our way ... many have lost hope ... and we need to rediscover who we are and where we are going'.

We are further told that 'Ablett has long credited his conversion to Christianity in 1986 for getting him through hard times.' In a covering newspaper spread he makes it clear he believes in creation by God, and he gives some very strong arguments in support of the Christian approach to both science and morals.

I was especially delighted to read his comments about the findings of the great modern scientist, Professor Michael Denton, who wrote an amazing book, *Evolution – A Theory In Crisis*. This survey from a world-famous biol-

'Exclusive Brethren' and the 'Open Brethren' started as one movement over 100 years ago they have long since separated, and Open Brethren are embarrassed by the legality and some un-Christ-like practices of the Exclusive Group.

### Israeli Tanks Enter Gaza

FOLLOWING the killing of two Israeli soldiers, Israeli tanks entered the Gaza strip and a number of Palestinians were killed in 'the worst spate of violence seen in the besieged territory in 14 months'.

The tanks were backed by helicopters, and after they had completed their mission they withdrew to Israeli territory.

While it is very regrettable to see such activity, the fact of an Israeli attack is not totally surprising. Barbara and I watched from just outside the Gaza border a few years ago when we saw military action including a building on fire occurring on the other side of the Gaza border. It was reported that women and children were killed, but it was also reported from the Israeli side that they were forced to destroy a building where live ammunition was stored. War is a terrible thing, but very



ogist is a must for anyone who has a serious interest in this all-important subject. Gary gives clear evidence to show that every one of our human cells consists of a vast number of machines – not just one machine for the body, but thousands of machines in one microscopic cell. Each of those machines has to be present in maturity and to be fully functioning to be viable.

(Many booksellers will have Michael Denton's book and it is certainly well-worth buying.)

Gary, you wouldn't remember me but you once signed an autograph for my grandson as I travelled in the same plane as you from Los Angeles to Melbourne. I am delighted to see you take such a firm stand for Christ, your Lord and Saviour.

often there are two sides to reports such as this activity of Israel against Palestinians.

### Another Deal To Slash Warheads

IT is now reported that US President Barak Obama and his opposite number, the Russian Dmitry Medvedev, have signed an historic deal which will cut the number of 'deployed long range nuclear warheads' by one third, after many months of intense negotiation. This is said to be the most comprehensive arms control agreement for nearly two decades.

We hope that is fact, but it is also true that our Lord warned there would be wars and rumours of wars in the end times. We certainly are hearing rumours of war at present. Perhaps coming events are beginning to cast their shadows!

1 Corinthians 13:13  
There remain then,  
faith, hope and love;  
but the greatest of these is  
LOVE.  
Inserted by Ivan Bell

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## **EASTER: Perspective Is Everything – An Easter Devotion**

THE darkness and coldness of the night are deepest just before dawn. How dark and cold Good Friday must have seemed to Jesus' followers who had put their hope in Him. And in the afternoon, when actual darkness shrouded the land, how terrifying that darkness must have been. Yet all was not as it seemed – and this is one of the profound lessons to take away from the suffering and terror of Good Friday.

**Yes, perspective is everything.** Jesus' followers, family and friends saw Christ's crucifixion as an appalling injustice. Their loved one, their hope, was hanging on a cross, crucified for a crime – blasphemy – He did not commit, purely to appease hatred. The Jews who earlier had shouted 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' saw Christ's crucifixion as thoroughly deserved. The Romans saw Christ's crucifixion as the end of a trouble-maker. Meanwhile, God in Heaven saw a Lamb being slain in the name of everlasting love. He saw the penalty of sin being paid to enable reconciliation between God and man. He saw people from every tribe, language, people and nation (Revelation 5.9) being redeemed, brought out from under that shroud of death that covers all peoples (Isaiah 25.7) and given access to God's Most Holy Place (Hebrews 10.19).

Dear struggling prayer warrior, dear persecuted believer – trust in God. Things are not always as they appear and the dawn is just around the corner. This wonderful and mysterious truth gives us confidence to know we can trust God and follow Christ in attitude, amidst suffering and through the veil. Trusting that our sovereign, provident and faithful God is always at work, we can follow Christ by adopting His attitude. 'Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus, who humbled Himself, taking the nature of a servant, and was obedient even to the point of death – even death on a cross' (Philippians 2.5-8.)

Trusting that our sovereign, provident and faithful God is always at work, we can follow Christ by modelling His faith. It was only after Christ Jesus endured the cross in humility and faith that 'God exalted Him to the highest place' (Philippians 2.9-11). Jesus did not doubt that God would be faithful. He did not fear being rejected by the Father and left in hell. He entered the darkness with absolute faith that God the Father, who is faithful by nature, would be true to His promise, and that He would emerge victorious at the dawn of the third day.

Trusting that our sovereign, provident and faithful God is always at work, we can follow Christ through the veil. Christ went through the veil and into the Most Holy Place for us. Our souls are now anchored there through our union with Him (Hebrews 6.19,20). While one day we will live there with Him and see Him face to face, even now we enter through the veil by faith whenever we make intercessions for ourselves and for others. How much this great mystery is misunderstood! How sadly this great privilege is neglected! Dear believers – enter through the veil into the courts of the Lord and do business with God in the confidence that Christ opened the way for you.

Why is there so much pride and arrogance? Why is faith so shaky? Why is there so little prayer? May Easter be an encouragement: things are not always as they appear and the dawn is just around the corner.

Jesus Christ has shown us the way. May we follow HIM.

– Elizabeth Kendal, international religious liberty analyst and advocate.

*This prayer bulletin was initially written for  
the Australian Evangelical Alliance  
Religious Liberty Commission.*

## Three Stories Of Hope At Easter

CHRISTIAN Television Australia, in association with international aid agency Samaritan's Purse, presented three stories of hope and new life at 12 midday, on Good Friday on the Seven Network.

'Each of the stories came out of disaster,' said host Karl Faase, Senior Pastor of Gynea Baptist Church. 'We look at the work of Samaritan's Purse in helping people recover from the Victorian bushfires, the work they are doing to bring relief and aid to the people of Haiti and how they are helping communities in Cambodia recover from the tragedy of the Pol Pot era,' Karl said.

Marina Prior, an ambassador for Samaritan's Purse, featured in the pro-

gram. Marina has seen the work of Samaritan's Purse in Cambodia first hand, having visited the country a number of times.

'The key message of the program is that no matter what type of disaster occurs in the world, whether bushfire, earthquake or the disaster of man-made genocide, Christians and Christian organisations are found going towards the disaster to provide help and comfort,' Karl said.

'Like the first Good Friday, when the disciples of Jesus found themselves alone and without hope as they watched their leader led off to be tried and executed, people today face



Cast and crew take a break.

equally black situations. However in the same way the Australian bush regenerates after fire, the message of Easter is that there is always the hope of the resurrection,' Karl said.

Produced by Olive Tree Media for CTA, the program aired on the Seven Network. – Credits: Martin Johnson

### Five Five-Minute Reasons To Tune In To The Geneva Push Video Channel

IF you haven't had a chance to check out The Geneva Push's *Vimeo* video channel, then here are five more reasons to do so!

Short, sharp comments from participants at The Geneva Push's recent coaching conference, including:

- Bryson Smith and Wayne Conner from Dubbo Presbyterian Church on keeping your talks sharp, and tech advice for church planters;
- Ray Galea from Rooty Hill Anglican Church on the importance of family life for would-be church planters;
- Tim Baldwin from EV Church on understanding and connecting with your local culture;
- Martin Trotman, a university chaplain from Armidale, NSW, shares tips on keeping up with non-Christian contacts.

There'll be new content from church planters and experienced pastors arriving every week, so stay tuned to *The Geneva Push Channel*. To find these and more constantly updated print and audio resources for church planters go to: [www.thegenepush.com](http://www.thegenepush.com)



### New Lausanne Global Conversation Website Launched

THE new Lausanne Global Conversation website launched this month ([www.lausanne.org/conversation](http://www.lausanne.org/conversation)) with an open invitation to Christians around the world to participate.

You are invited to learn about the pressing issues facing the global church and in doing so help empower other Christians with your experience and insight on these issues.

The conversation, begun as a part of Cape Town 2010, is focused on important issues related to world evangelization like:

- How can Christians respond to religious pluralism?
- Is wealth an impediment for being able to understand spirituality?

- The Gospel must be contextualized, but how far can we go without violating the Gospel?
- How should Christians respond to ethnic conflict?

These global issues need global conversations – and your voice in the conversation is needed!

Cape Town 2010 invites you to join the conversation:

- Create a free account to participate fully in the conversation.
- Join existing conversations about the issues that matter to you.

Lausanne Global Conversation input and interaction will be made available to the CT2010 Program Committee to help serve and inform the development of presentations at the Congress on the issues.

**Donations Make A Difference!**  
**Call Alison On 03 9890 3377**  
**To Donate And Help Us**  
**Extend And Maintain Our Ministry!**

## Church Volunteers Are A Blessing To Wider Community – NCLS

FAR from being inward-looking and focused only on their own church group, church-going volunteers are part of society's powerful, invisible safety net, according to the National Church Life Survey.

NCLS Research has found that church attendees are more likely to be volunteers than the general community (57% vs 35%). In addition, volunteering within the congregation is strongly related to volunteering beyond it, with many people volunteering in both the congregation and the community.

NCLS Research director Dr Ruth Powell said: 'This is because of widely-known Christian messages about helping others in need, because church attendees are reminded of those messages and because most churches provide structured opportunities for volunteering, such as congregation-based

activities in welfare and social justice.

'In fact, the middle-aged well-educated female churchgoer is very likely to be one of Australia's many volunteer heroes.'

Information about the voluntary activities of church attendees across Australia was collected as part of NCLS Research's National Church Life Surveys in 1991, 1996, 2001 and 2006. An analysis of that data was published last year in the *Australian Journal On Volunteering*.

Associate Professor Rosemary Leonard from Social Justice and Social Change Research and Associate Professor Richard Ollerton, School of Computing and Mathematics from the University of Western Sydney, are working with Dr John Bellamy from NCLS Research on a project funded by the Australian Research Council to

examine the contribution of churchgoers within their congregations and the wider community.

The findings showed that churchgoers not only contribute to their own groups but also to communities generally. As well as the fact that overall rates of volunteering were higher among Christian church attendees than for the general population, these rates were relatively stable across the years.

The strongest finding in their paper was that 'Volunteering among Christian church attendees 1991–2006' was the positive relationship between volunteering within and beyond the congregation for all denominations and all years. It suggests that volunteering within the congregation is not an obstacle to volunteering in the community; indeed, quite the contrary.

## New Rose Honours Olympic Legend Betty Cuthbert

FOUR-TIME Olympic gold medallist and committed Christian Betty Cuthbert has been honoured for dedicating nearly 40 years to championing the needs of people living with multiple sclerosis (MS) through the naming of a rose by famed rose grower, Treloar Roses, who will donate \$1 from the sale of each rose to MS Australia.

The Betty Cuthbert Rose was launched by Treloar Roses at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show on 26 March. The dis-

ease-free shrub grows to a height of approximately 1.5m and is decorated with large clusters of soft apricot blooms that have an almost camellia-like appearance, along with a mild sweet fragrance.

Labelled the 'golden girl' of Australian athletics after setting two world records at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne, Betty Cuthbert now aged 70 was diagnosed with MS in her late thirties and since her diagnosis has devoted a vast amount of her time and

energy to raising awareness about the disease.

Speaking from the nursing home in Western Australia where she now lives Betty said: 'I am delighted to have a rose of such beauty named after me. It is so wonderful to know that every time a person buys the rose they will be helping to better the lives of people living with multiple sclerosis. I hope the rose will brighten many gardens and help many people for years to come.'

**Have You  
Recommended  
New Life  
To  
A Friend  
Recently?**

### JESUS Film And SAT-7 Reach Millions With The Story Of Jesus

WHEN television became the primary source of information in the Middle East, a Christian station became a must. SAT-7, a Christian satellite television service to the Middle East and North Africa, was created as a strategic and creative way to reach people in that area with the Gospel. In the last three years, SAT-7 has partnered with the JESUS Film Project to show the JESUS film hundreds of times on TV. Many have responded to the film by placing their faith in Christ. Pray that many more would come to know Him through this resource.

## Easter Show Bans Jesus

BIBLE Society NSW has received communication that it was not able to secure a *Jesus. All About Life* stall at the Sydney Royal Easter Show this year due to it being of a religious nature.

'It's a curious thing that an event bearing the name "Easter" has disallowed anything to do with the very thing Easter is all about – the death and resurrection of Jesus,' says CEO of Bible Society NSW, Daniel Willis.

Thousands of Easter Eggs, Scripture resources and youth material meant to be handed out at this year's Royal Easter Show will now be given away at an alternative location.

Bible Society NSW, organiser of the *Jesus. All About Life* multimedia campaign, has expressed dismay at not

being allowed to have a JAAL stall at the Show.

Preparations for the event began weeks ago on Bible Society's understanding that it was being considered for an available exhibition space at the Show.

However, a letter sent last week by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, organisers of the Sydney Easter Show, advised Bible Society that there was no space available.

Bible Society is still intent on disseminating the resources, and has invited churches, Christian ministry groups and youth to its offices to collect the resources they sign up for (resource and contact details are on <http://www.jesusallaboutlife.com.au>).

– Bible Society Press Release

### Easter Show Shouldn't Keep Religion Out – ACL

The Australian Christian Lobby has urged Sydney Royal Easter Show organisers to rethink their refusal to allow a *Jesus. All About Life* stall at the Sydney Easter Show because of its religious nature.

'This is a family event held at the most sacred time of the year on the Christian calendar and one would have thought it was entirely appropriate to provide space for the Bible Society stall,' ACL NSW Director David Hutt said.

'When was it decided that religion should be kept out of an Easter event and expunged from family activities? What a deplorable message to be sending out at Easter time,' he added.

## Here, There And Everywhere (Continued from p.2)

### Internet Evangelism Day

THERE are 1.7 billion web users, and over 3 billion people use mobile phones (increasingly these are web-equipped). The web is not just another means of communication, but a hyper-medium that subsumes, links together, and enhances all previous media.

Internet Evangelism Day exists to help Christians understand the huge and growing potential to share the good news of Jesus through digital media. It offers two complementary concepts: an annual focus day on the last Sunday of April each year and a year-round resource guide, with ideas and strategies for all types of digital evangelism. For details go to: [internetevangelismday.com](http://internetevangelismday.com)

### Peter And Kim Johnstone, Pioneers

PETER and a team, including his son Wray, have recently returned from a work party helping out at Gideon Theological College, Melut, Sudan. Good progress was made on the home for Gerald and Kath Donker, as well as on several other key buildings. Ki continues to regain strength after her chemotherapy.

### Pray For Japan

OMF reports that there are over 30,000 suicides every year. The num-

ber is even high among the over 60's and professionals over 30. Most have suffered from depression. Less than 1% of the population of 127 million are Christian, and few university students know where to turn in times of trouble.

### Kiribati Mission

THERE are great needs on this South Pacific island nation with a population of just under 100,000, most of whom are strongly Christian. Tangintebu Theological College is bursting at the seams under Principal Dr Kambati Uriam.

### Hong Kong Summer School

THIS is a bi-ennial event at the China Graduate School of Theology and will be held from 7-11 June. Speakers will be Dr Rod Wilson, President of Regent College, Vancouver, looking at *Church Leadership*, and Dr Ross Hastings also from Regent College looking at the Book of Hebrews. Closing date for registration is 30 April.

### Men Wanted

COLIN and Jill Bakon from Loja, Ecuador are beginning to prepare for Home Ministry Assignment in May. Pray for those who will be continuing their ministry. SIM needs Christian men who are strong in their faith to work in the Loja Province of Ecuador, South America.

The men need role models as Christian men, husbands, fathers and friends. Phone 02 9580 1422.

### CNEC Partners International

JOHN Wandera, a dynamic pastor from Eastern Uganda, will be visiting Australia from 28 April – 7 June. His ministry encompasses the training of pastors, church planting, child sponsorship and community development. Contact 02 9712 8222 for details.

### New Roberts-Dale Campus At SMBC

THE new SMBC adjunct campus at Croydon Park has just been opened and is named after two former missionary graduates, Stan Dale and Fred Roberts.

This year Dr David Cook celebrates 25 years as Principal and both of these events will be celebrated on Saturday 29 May at 2.30 pm at 140 Croydon Road, Croydon Park. The guest speaker will be John Chapman. RSVP 25 May 02 9747 4780.

### Hilary Carne and Jan Irish

HILARY and Jan have had to come to Australia for medical care and would appreciate prayer for their health. They are staying at Cairns while continuing to work on materials for their Adult Literacy work at Nononob with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

## GETTING THE WORD OUT

# 163 Theological, Counselling And Southland Students Graduate, Equipped To Take God's Word To God's World



RYDE Civic Hall in Sydney was standing room only with the new combined graduation of Morling Theological students, counselling and education students. The graduating and commencing students had the support of family and friends who attended the annual Commencement and Conferral Service which was held on Monday 8 March.

The Morling community welcomed 57 new full-time Bible and Theological students, 110 new part-time residential and distance students, 12 new counselling students and 19 Plunge (gap year program) students. Over 650 students will be studying theology, counselling and teaching through Morling and Southland colleges in 2010.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Professor Bridget Aitchison, Vice President for the College of Adult and Professional Studies at the Indiana Wesleyan University, USA. Prior to moving to the USA, Bridget was the Principal of Education at Morling College, so it was fitting for her to return for the first combined graduation.

Based in 1 Samuel 3.1-10, Bridget gave an encouraging address on hearing God's voice and challenging all to

obey what God says, no matter the cost. The graduating and commencing students were especially encouraged to listen to God's voice on where He wants them to be and although the journey may be hard, God is faithful.

163 women and men received their awards from Rev Kel Willis, Chairman of College Council and Rev Dr Mark Harding, Dean of the Australian College of Theology. 2010 saw the start of the new Master of Counselling program, with 2009 students graduating with Graduate Certificates in Counselling and Graduate Diplomas of Counselling. This evening represented the culmination of years of study and preparation for each of their journeys for future life.

These students are going out to serve God, God's people and God's world in a wide variety of ministries. Some are now pastors in local churches; some have already or soon will enter cross-cultural ministry; others will take up new and creative opportunities to contribute to God's Kingdom, including re-entering secular employment better prepared to be salt and light in the workplace.

The education students will investigate teaching from a Christian perspective and counselling students will serve others in a variety of ways. Morling is pleased to have also extended its ministry training to Christian education.

This night saw people graduating at graduate and post-graduate level in Christian Education. The graduates came through the two agents associated with Morling: Southland 'the wholly-owned subsidiary', and the National Institute of Christian Education.

Four graduates were interviewed: Chris Hall has committed his life to preaching and pastoral ministry and has joined the ministry team at Merrylands Baptist Church; a student who can't be named due to ministry in Asia; Amanda Slinn continues to work in women's refuges in Chang Mai, Thailand; and Lucelle Cook, who will continue to use her Master of Education to better equip her in teaching at Bethlehem College in New Zealand.

Morling is committed to raising up a generation of students equipped to take God's word to God's world.

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## PERSECUTION WATCH ...

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



### Egyptian State Security Demolishes Anglican Church, Assaults Pastor

A MIDDLE Eastern journalist reports that an Anglican Church pastor and his wife were assaulted by Security agents in Luxor on Thursday 18 March in order to evacuate them by force from their home and demolish church property. Only a small amount of property was left standing.

Mary Abdelmassih, writing for the Assyrian International News Agency, states that Pastor Mahrous Karam of the Anglican Church in Luxor, 721 kilometers from Cairo, said that a 500-man force of Central Security and State Security blocked all roads leading to the church compound, forced their way in and broke into the pastor's residence, dragging the family out by force. In an effort to save the buildings from demolition, the pastor sat on the fence of the church compound to prevent the demolition work, but was beaten and dragged away, and this

was reported by *Katiba Tibia News*.

The pastor's wife, Sabah, said that two men went into her flat and evacuated her by force, slapping her face, pulling her by her clothes and dragging her by her hair. 'They threatened that if I do not leave the place they would take my three year old boy and throw him under the bulldozers which came for the demolition work,' she told Sherif Ramzy of Freecopts. 'Twenty traumatized children were dragged out of the attached nursery and thrown into the church hall,' Sabah said.

She added that all their belongings were left in the street, and they have nowhere to live. 'I believe they wanted to give us an Easter present, the way they gave the Copts of Nag Hammadi the Christmas Eve Massacre.'

Pastor Karam said that the community centre lies within the archaeological excavation for the 'Rams Road'

project. 'We are not against giving the community centre up, we just want a replacement building,' he told Luxor-based Coptic activist Samir Rafaat. 'We want equal treatment in our own country. The city council replaced the Islamic Association with a building of 20 flats before demolishing their building. We just want the same treatment.'

*Dan Wooding, ASSIST*



**Demolished Anglican Church in Luxor, Egypt.**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH!

### Another Christian Executed In Somalia

EARLIER this month, underground church leader Madobe Abdi escaped an attempted kidnapping in Somalia. However, Compass Direct News reports Islamic Militants caught up with him two weeks ago and murdered him. What made his death more alarming is that Abdi was an orphan raised as a Christian, rather than a convert from Islam. Islamic militants have hunted leaders of the underground church movement as a means of discouraging others from responding to the Gospel.

### Christian Man Burned Alive, Wife Raped In Pakistan

A PAKISTANI Christian man passed away on 22 March after he was set on fire by Muslims in Rawalpindi three days earlier. Arshed Masih (38) and his wife, Martha (33), had been threatened with dire consequences' by their employer, Sheikh Mohammad Sultan, unless they agreed to convert to Islam.

The couple steadfastly refused.

In the days before the attack, Sultan reported a theft of 500,000 rupees and, although Arshed and Martha were not named as suspects, Sultan offered to drop the case if they renounced Christianity. When they were brought in for questioning, Arshed was assaulted and Martha was raped by police. Arshed was set on fire on 19 March in front of the police station by a group of Muslims, some of whom were reportedly officers and religious leaders. He sustained burns to 80% of his body. The couple's three children – Mary (12), Nasir (10) and Neha (7) – were forced to witness the horrific violence against their parents. (Sources: BosNewsLife, AsiaNews, International Christian Concern)

Ask God to comfort this family as only He can. Pray for God to heal Martha's physical and emotional wounds in the aftermath of these tragic events. Pray that Mary, Nasir and Neha will look to their heavenly Father

for all they need at this time and continue to seek His face (Psalm 68.5). Pray that authorities will act swiftly and justly.

### Muslims Murder Pakistani Christian With Axe Blows

COMPASS Direct News reports that six Muslims in Khanewal district in the southern Punjab Province of Pakistan, killed a Christian with multiple axe blows for refusing to convert to Islam this month, according to family and police sources. The CDN story says: 'The six men had threatened to kill 36-year-old Rasheed Masih unless he converted to Islam when they grew resentful of his potato business succeeding beyond their own, according to Masih's younger brother Munir Asi and a local clergyman.'

'The rival merchants allegedly killed him after luring him to their farmhouse on 9 March, leaving him on a roadside near Kothi Nand Singh village in the early hours of the next day.'

*– Dan Wooding, ASSIST*

# Gates Can Establish Dates

## Dr Clifford Wilson Explains ...

IN our last issue we talked about important finds at the Israeli city of Gezer where I had the privilege of being an Area supervisor with the American Schools of Oriental Research. It certainly was exciting to lead one of the teams that found evidence indicating that we were in the very location of Solomon's stables.

### Solomon's Three Chariot Cities Were Found

The Book of Kings tells us that Gezer was one of three cities mentioned in one verse as important places in the time of Solomon. The other two were Megiddo and Hazor. It seems that Solomon had hundreds of horses and chariots. They would have been stabled in those three cities, and it is interesting to find that they are remarkably linked in archaeological findings.

Professor Yigael Yadin who was largely responsible for the wonderful findings of the Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran, had conducted a major excavation at the city of Megiddo, and this was followed by an important excavation in yet another city – Hazor. Thus Megiddo, Hazor, and Gezer were linked together both in the Bible and in archaeological research.

Let's first fill in a little bit of background to make a point clear about these three cities – and of course Gezer – because of my own involvement in two excavations of that city.

### Three Guardrooms On Each Side Of The Gate

Professor Yadin had been successful in excavating at Megiddo, and the gateway was especially challenging. It was clearly a protection so that inhabitants of the cities could shut themselves inside in case of an enemy attack. The entranceway can still be seen by the many hundreds of tourist visitors. As well as a gateway there are several guard rooms alongside each gateway – three on each side.

Now Professor Yadin was excavating at another of those three cities viz

Hazor, which was the largest of the Israeli cities at that time in the northern part of the country. It had a double row of three rooms as well as the very strong gateway.

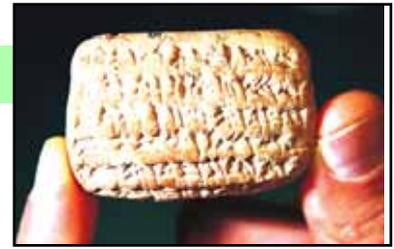
The Professor's curiosity was rightly aroused. A strong gateway, with

three guardrooms at each side ... this was a site that was remarkably similar to the sort of structures already found at Megiddo, and now also at Hazor. But just a minute – didn't the Bible say something about a third city that possibly had the same structures? That third city of course was Gezer, which is clearly mentioned with the other two at 1 Kings 9.15-19 (See also 2 Chronicles 1.16,17, 1 Kings 4.26-28). Professor Yadin had already spoken with leaders of the team at Gezer and they had reason to believe there would be significant points of likeness with each of those three gateways and sets of guardrooms. He was a thorough man, and he decided that the best way to check out the similarities was to make a personal visit to Gezer.

Down he came to Gezer, ready to take personal measurements and be sure what the true picture was. The team at Gezer were of course excited to have an unexpected visit from one of the giants of Biblical archaeology to check them out.

He already knew exactly what the measurements were at Megiddo and Hazor, so there was great excitement as they watched him make his own investigation measuring gateways, rooms and noting in particular the slope of the land, etc.

Now Professor Yadin was in a position to make an important announcement. The measurements, locations, etc of those three cities were remarkably similar. There were slight differences because of what could be called



'the lay of the land', but undoubtedly those gateways and structures had been built under the instruction of someone who had the right to decide the design of the three gateways and the guardrooms which were alongside the gateways.

### The Bible Was Right After All

According to the Bible there was only one man who had the right to make such a decision – his name was Solomon! The Bible had it right.

It's a pity that a story such as this is not more widely known, but unfortunately over and over again when something is found that supports the Bible there is a tendency on the part of many scholars to put the facts aside and either to disregard them or to hide from them, rather than face the criticism of colleagues who do not want to offer anything that supports the integrity of the Bible.

It is still true, as the Lord Jesus Christ said about the Scripture: 'Thy Word is truth'. John 17.17.



Megiddo Reconstruction

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## MOVING FORWARD ...

### Luis Palau Addresses Historic Vietnamese Pastors Conference in Hanoi

SPEAKING to 500 Vietnamese pastors and hundreds more by live internet feed, evangelist Dr Luis Palau commended Vietnam's pastors for their unity, respect for authorities, and passion for church growth. Dr Palau was in Vietnam 11-17 March, leading an American delegation that held meetings in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City with Vietnam authorities, US diplomats, and pastors representing every denomination.

Pastors described the event as historic and unprecedented, evidence of significant changes that are taking place in Vietnam on many fronts. The

two-day conference organized by the Vietnamese pastors included addresses by Dr Palau, Intel executive Rick Coulson, San Diego pastor Mike MacIntosh, and investment banker and former Secretary of the Navy John Dalton.

The conference kicked off in Hanoi and then moved south to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon.

In Hanoi, Dr Palau and his delegation met with US Ambassador Michael W. Michalak, who told Palau there has been progress on issues related to religious freedom. He cited as an example the Vietnamese government granting



**Luis Palau speaks at the pastors conference in Ho Chi Minh City (Photo: Luis Palau Association 2010 - Photographer Brad Person)**

permission last December for house churches to hold a one-day celebration attended by 40,000 people.

While in Hanoi, Dr Palau also greeted worshippers at the Hanoi Church. In each public appearance, Dr Palau and his hosts expressed gratitude to the authorities. Dr Palau said he was honoured by the opportunity to speak to the Vietnamese pastors, but was more interested in learning from them. In interview after interview the pastors told Dr Palau that this was a new day in Vietnam.

Dr Palau said he was impressed by the faithfulness of God's people in Vietnam. 'What encouraged me most was to see evangelical Christians continuing to reach out to their neighbours and government leaders, and to see the development of the gifts of the Spirit in Vietnam,' he said.

Dr Palau praised the pastors for their heart for holiness, and for living transparent, clean lives that honour God. He said he was also encouraged to see their enthusiasm for developing Christian business leaders.

#### Progress In Religious Freedom

By most accounts progress in the area of religious freedom seems to be the result of Vietnam's economic liberalization and growing middle class.

In Ho Chi Minh City, many more pastors and leaders wanted to attend the second day of the conference than could be accommodated by the venue. Organizers had to designate certain slots to each denomination in order to ensure that every denomination was appropriately represented by their congregation size.

Leader after leader repeated: 'This is a new day for Vietnam.' The program lasted 11 hours with Dr Palau addressing the audience three different times.

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**Live the Life!**

# FITNA IN MOROCCO

TIME magazine has published an article by Lisa Abend entitled: *In Morocco, a Crackdown on Christian Aid Workers* (21 March 2010).

Abend's article mentions a number of cases not previously mentioned in other reports; such as that of a Korean-born Protestant pastor in Marrakesh who was arrested as he led a worship service in his church. It also includes a moving 55 second film clip which shows the distress suffered by the orphans at the Village of Hope orphanage on 8 March after they learned that their foster parents were going to be taken from them and deported. Furthermore, it also gives us another hint as to what might be simmering beneath the surface.

Quoting from Abend's TIME magazine article: 'According to the Moroccan Government, the deportees all broke the law, using their status as aid workers to cover their proselytizing. "They are guilty of trying to undermine the faith of Muslims," Interior Minister Tayeb Cherkaoui said in a press release.

'But were they? Broadbent denies the charges. Part of his job at the Village of Hope was to ensure that staff members understood the rules prohibiting proselytizing, and he notes that all the orphanage's children received instruction in Islam. "We weren't teaching Christianity in any formal way," he says. But asked if reading the Bible to Muslim children constitutes proselytizing, he said: "We understood that it wasn't. And in any case, the authorities have always known that these children were being raised in Christian families".'

Herein lies the problem – it is a matter of perspective. The foreign Christians and the fundamentalist Muslims are viewing the issue of Christian aid work through completely different lenses. The Christian aid workers believe that as long as they are not pressuring Muslims to convert to Christianity then they are not guilty of proselytizing. They believe that for a con-

version to be genuine it must be of the heart and absolutely free, so they have no interest in 'proselytizing'. They simply believe in liberty, and that it is an idea's ability to stand on its own two feet in the open market place of ideas that gives it worth. But for the Muslim fundamentalists who are doubtless behind this move and possibly pressuring the reformist government for concessions, the issue is fitna.

## What Is Fitna?

In his book *The Third Choice, Islam, Dhimmitude And Freedom* (Deror Books, 2010), pastor, linguist and Islam-scholar Rev Dr Mark Durie notes (p.96): 'The Arabic word fitna "trial, persecution, temptation" is of crucial importance in understanding Muhammad's metamorphosis' [from rejected 'loser' in Mecca, to victorious 'winner' in Medina]. 'The word,' explains Durie, 'is derived from *fatana* "to turn away from, to tempt, to seduce or subject to trials".' (Quote taken from E.W. Lane, *An Arabic-English Lexicon*, Book 6, p.2334ff.)

Thus fitna, which is equated with persecution, involves anything that could cause a Muslim to leave Islam – anything from vile torture to magnetic grace. The whole purpose of jihad was to eliminate fitna. For some, this simply meant that infidels had to be so totally subjugated and humiliated, to the point of wretchedness and paralysis, that the alternative to Islam was abhorrent and repulsive. For others, the elimination of fitna required the elimination of infidels in order to ensure that there was no alternative that could threaten Islam in any way.

For according to the Islamic order, Muslims are superior – the most noble/best community ever raised up for mankind (Q3:110) – and therefore must dominate. It is the Muslims who are called to success. Thus a thriving dhimmi would be a source of fitna for the Muslim community. Of course a thriving apostate is the most threatening embodiment of fitna imaginable. This is why the dictators of Islam are so

desperately apostaphobic.

Durie writes (p.97) concerning the fitna phrases in the Quran (Q2:190-193 and 217, and 8:39): 'These fitna phrases, each revealed twice in the Quran, establish the principle that jihad was justified by the existence of an obstacle to people entering Islam, or of inducements to Muslims to abandon their faith. However grievous it might be to fight others and shed their blood, undermining or obstructing Islam was worse, for, as the Quran states: "... to turn men from the way of Allah, and to disbelieve in him . . . is a greater transgression with Allah [than fighting in the sacred month], for persecution (fitna) is worse than killing..." (Q2:217)

## Fitna In Morocco

Consider again the words of Tayeb Cherkaoui, Morocco's Interior Minister, who has accused the Christian aid workers of being 'guilty of trying to undermine the faith of Muslims', and the words of Christian aid worker Chris Broadbent, who flatly denied that any 'proselytisation' had taken place.

Obviously MP Cherkaoui has determined that nothing shakes the faith of a Muslim, tempting him/her to leave Islam, as much as the sacrificial gracious love of a Christian. As far as he is concerned, every one of the deported Christian aid workers was guilty of fitna (persecuting Islam, attacking Islam, seducing Muslims away from Islam) whether they were aware of it or not.

For active evangelisation is not the only form of fitna presenting a challenge to Islam. The fundamentalists know that in order to really eliminate fitna, they must eliminate every demonstration of Christian sacrificial love, Christian mercy, Christian grace, Christian joy, Christian assurance and Christian peace – for these amount to the most devastating fitna of all!

The expulsion of foreign Christian aid workers from Morocco may well set a precedent. All does not bode well for Christian aid work in the Muslim world. – *Religious Liberty Monitoring*

## Russian Ministries Equips Growing Army Of Next-Generation Christian Leaders

AS churches across the former Soviet Union face continuing political, economic and spiritual challenges, Russian Ministries is mobilising a growing missionary force of next-generation Christian leaders through their unique *School Without Walls* program.

During a recent *School Without Walls* conference in Irpen near Kiev in Ukraine, Russian Ministries' Senior Vice President Sergey Rakhuba explained how this training initiative came about: 'We started *School Without Walls* just over five years ago, when we realized after analyzing our ministry and the overall situation in the former Soviet Union for the evangelical movement, that there is still a great need to have young people involved in ministry.

'There are many issues with formal education institutions, like Bible schools and seminaries that got opened after the Soviet Union collapsed, but they have a hard time recruiting young people.

'There are a lot of churches with young people, but we wanted to make them become more pro-active on behalf of the Evangelical Church and go out to the world with the Gospel and make a difference. So that's why we started *School Without Walls*. It's a unique concept as we don't need to have campuses or big staff or infrastructure. So on behalf of their church-

es they will become more proactive in starting new innovative, progressive evangelistic ministries and reaching out to the neediest people in society, helping orphans, alcoholics, drug addicts and special needs families, basically to fulfil the mission of the church.'

*School Without Walls* now has 64 training centres in eight countries with almost 2,000 students.

Rakhuba highlighted some of the most challenging issues their teams are facing: 'Of course they're facing lots of challenges in politics. Look at what's happening in Russia today, after so many years of freedom, all of a sudden the mission field was given to the Orthodox Church. But the young evangelical Christians can continue to carry that torch.

'When foreign missionaries were pushed out of Russia, national next-generation leaders can do the job. In Ukraine there is another challenge because of this recent election, where we see the situation might change as well with a new pro-Russian leader that may restrict mission activities.

'Also we have co-ordinators from Central Asian countries with the challenges of Islam, which is resulting in direct persecution on Evangelical Churches and they have to go work



*School Without Walls co-ordinators.*

underground.'

Despite the challenges, Rakhuba says the highlight of their work is seeing young changed lives: 'It's amazing when you see these young people who were just regular churchgoers spending time with their youth. But when we asked them to join *Schools Without Walls* after a couple of seminars, we could see how their personalities changed and they became more active in terms of evangelism and living out a Biblical lifestyle and then they go out and start new outreach initiatives.

'They're planning to reach out to thousands of kids this coming summer as well as reaching thousands of students. That's what happens when you equip young people to experience God's gifting, to discover their calling from God and start leading active lives – they become leaders on behalf of their communities and start leading and initiating evangelistic programs.'

– Peter Wooding, ASSIST

## Thai Churches Unite For Ambitious Church Planting, Community Radio Goals

BIRTHED by a desire to reach Thailand for Christ, members of the Thai Conference on Evangelism are striving to network Thai denominations to plant churches nationwide. Unity in Christ, evangelism and discipleship are the passions of this group.

The group's ambitious goal to plant 7,000 churches—one in each village of the country—is being realized. Despite many challenges, the team is halfway to meeting that goal. Seeing community radio as integral to discipleship, the group also formed the Thailand Christian Radio Network.

Now set on creating a network of

more than 100 community radio stations, TCRN anticipates partnerships with 50 existing stations and adding more that will be owned and operated by local churches. HCJB Global Voice is committed to helping the local believers, at their invitation, by providing technical assistance, equipment and training.

Acknowledging that less than 2% of Thai people consider themselves evangelicals, these leaders determined to place responsibility for evangelism on the shoulders of Thais, with less dependence than before upon the West. Group members also observed that

people were coming to Christ in the cities, but when these new converts returned to their villages, they had little support in their faith and didn't grow spiritually.

Jeff Ingram, HCJB Global's Director for the Asia Pacific Region, views the Thai church's move toward unity as a great example for believers worldwide. 'What they have already accomplished and the dreams they have for the future are a testament to what God can do when His people care more about doing His will than receiving credit for accomplishments,' he said.

– Ed Giesbrecht, for HCJB Global

# hotshots



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## What's in a name?

Underline the names in this Bible reading.

### Genesis 17:1-8

Abram was ninety-nine years old when the Lord appeared to him again and said, "I am God All-Powerful. If you obey me and always do right,  
<sup>2</sup>I will keep my solemn promise to you and give you more descendants than can be counted."<sup>3</sup>Abram bowed with his face to the ground, and God said:

<sup>4</sup>I promise that you will be the father of many nations. That's why I now change your name from Abram to Abraham.

<sup>6</sup>I will give you a lot of descendants, and in the future they will become great nations. Some of them will even be kings.

<sup>7</sup>I will always keep the promise I have made to you and your descendants, because I am your God and their God.

<sup>8</sup>I will give you and them the land in which you are now a foreigner. I will give the whole land of Canaan to your family forever, and I will be their God.

#### Prayer Idea:

God is good to his people. Think of some of the good things God does for you, then say a thankyou prayer.

What name did God call Himself in verse 1?

What new name did God give Abram?

This name means  
FATHER OF MANY.

God also promised Abram a land of his own. Tick when you've underlined this promise in verse 8.

But best of all, God promised to be their God.



## AN EASTER MEDITATION

# Time For A New Beginning

The Easter Message for 2010 delivered by the Rev Dr Keith Garner, Superintendent, Wesley Mission, Sydney

AUSTRALIA has emerged from an unprecedented period of economic upheaval and natural disasters. Our nation and far too many individuals still bear the scars of fire, flood and ongoing economic insecurity. While these issues loom large in the public mind, the green shoots of hope are emerging in rural Australia and in our cities: for many people this is a time for new beginnings.

The message of Easter is about new beginnings. But for many of us a new beginning is often sought in a new job, a new car, a new home ... and even in a new relationship based on the dubious belief that it will restore our lives in some way.

Children can also be seen as the embodiment of a fresh start: we see their unbridled potential and have an unswerving hope that they will kick decisive goals in the game of life.

It can also begin when we ask for forgiveness. Sadly, forgiveness may not be forthcoming and a door is closed in our face.

Like a life-saver straining at the oars of a surf boat, we feel that our efforts to save relationships are in vain. We feel pressed on all sides and our options are limited.

Like a fast-approaching bushfire or a rising river we feel cut off from hope: our escape paths have vanished and our direction is lost. In our desperation, we blame ourselves and, moreover, we fail to forgive ourselves.

God, however, has a higher view of us. He wants to restore the brokenness of our fractured lives and He knows when we are ready to remake our lives with a new vision and purpose.

Jesus Christ came to demonstrate the love which God has for us, which is seen in the cross itself. God gave Himself to us in Jesus: holding nothing back. When our surf lifesavers rescue a struggling swimmer from dangerous surf, they give their all to save another



human from certain tragedy. It is an act of the will. The cross and empty tomb speak this message with clarity and show the extent of God's love.

At the heart of Jesus' life and mission is love – not a sentimental stirring of the emotions, but a meaningful concerned embrace by God. It is a love that reaches beyond our narrow understanding, breaking down barriers and bringing about a life which is new, refreshing and restoring.

Love is the mainspring of life itself. It is God's solution to the heart broken and dejected. God's love brings about the possibility of new life in a barren land and green shoots amid the concrete cracks of our lonely cities. It's a love which transforms lives: that is the powerful message of Easter.

## IT SEEMS TO ME ...

### Forgotten Verses?

'NARROW is the gate and difficult is the way ...' (Matthew 7.14). This verse is followed by 'Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing ...' 'When the Son of Man comes will He really find faith on the Earth?' (Luke 18.8)

The Western Church is more than unwell, it is very sick. Why? Because of an unbalanced diet. I enjoyed and agreed with a recent article (NL 18-3-10) by Raymond Hawkins which reminded us of the words in Jude: 'contend for the faith'. Raymond Hawkins said this epistle is a call to intolerance (of some wrong things).

How does God feel when He so often hears preachers only preaching half the truth, the 'nice' bits. Sometimes telling half the truth is just like lying. Yes, God is love and loves sinners, but what about verses like Romans 11.22, 'Consider the goodness

and severity of God ...' John 8.11, 'Go and sin no more'. We need to be encouraged to live the lives of people changed into those who love what God loves and hate what God hates.

Yes, God does hate some things. In Revelation we are reminded in the Letters to the Seven Churches that God commends some good attributes but is not silent on the things that are wrong. In these times of the Loadian Church, God says: 'Because you are luke warm, neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.' Revelation 3.16. A few verses later we see a picture of Jesus standing outside the door – knocking. 'If anyone hears My voice ...' How many people want to hear all of what He is saying? As the

Apostle Paul said: 'The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine ... having itching ears they will heap up for themselves teachers and they will turn away from the truth'. 2 Timothy 4.3,4.

Do teachers realise as James says: 'Let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment' (James 3.1). If we want to truly love people as Jesus did we will tell them the whole truth as Jesus did, or do we think we've come up with a 'nicer' way of doing it? When we all stand before the Lord, surely we want Him to say: 'Well done, good and faithful servant' not 'they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God'.

– L Willis, Manning Valley, NSW

**Read 'The Objective Evidence For The Christian Faith'**

**by David Holden at:  
[www.defenceofthefaith.org](http://www.defenceofthefaith.org)**

# The Christian's Joyous Task

## – A Meditation On Psalm 105

PSALM 105 is an historical Psalm which recalls with gratitude God's gracious dealings with His people Israel down through the ages. It was He who promised great things to the patriarchs, and who accordingly brought their descendants out of bondage in Egypt and into the Promised Land of Canaan. So the Psalm begins: 'Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!' The very first verse exhorts us to praise, prayer, and proclamation – and all because of what God has done in the history of His covenant people. As Charles Spurgeon has commented: 'Memory is never better employed than upon the things that God has done.'

### **Our First Joyous Task Is PRAISE**

'Oh give thanks to the Lord'. God's people are to be a grateful people. One of the marks of the unbeliever is that he has some idea of God but does not honour Him as God or give thanks to Him (Romans 1.21). Ingratitude is the mark of unbelief. G. K. Chesterton once mused that 'The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has no one to thank.'

Life becomes only an unfulfilling anti-climax. Our best moments as Christians are surely those when we can sing from our hearts: 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!' (Psalm 103.1)

We ought to praise the Lord for His mercies and benefits to us (Psalm 103.1-5), for the goodness of creation which points to the kindness of the Creator (Psalm 104), for God's leading of His people to grant them His gracious promises (Psalm 105), for His kindly and holy chastening of His wayward and ungrateful people (Psalm 106), and for His special love to those in distress who cried out to Him (Psalm 107).

The happiest New Testament book is possibly the epistle to the Philippians where Paul tells us repeatedly: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice' (Philippians 4.4). And why not?

When we were dead in Adam, the One who was in the form of God emptied Himself in order to take on the role of a servant, and to die the worst of deaths that we might know the greatest blessing (Philippians 2.6-8).

When we find ourselves with no righteousness of our own from the law, faith enables us to know righteousness in Christ (Philippians 3.8,9). In Him our lowly decaying body will be transformed to be like His glorious body (Philippians 3.20,21). It is grievous that so often we deserve the barbed rebuke of Christ directed at the nine lepers who were happy to receive good things from His hand but did not return and give thanks to God. They were shown up by a Samaritan. We may well be shown up by a similar outsider (see Luke 17.11-19).

### **Our Second Joyous Task Is PRAYER**

'Call upon His name'. Yet so often we do not pray, or we pray in such a way that we would be ashamed if anyone should overhear us, or we try to manufacture a spiritual-sounding prayer. Not only at the beginning of our Christian lives but all through them our prayer ought to be that of the disciples: 'Lord, teach us to pray'.

An appropriate and helpful way to begin is to do what the Psalmist does in Psalm 105 – recount the goodness of God in times past. Remember your sins, remember how you tried to hide them, remember your reluctance to come to Christ, and remember His irresistible grace when He brought you to understand and embrace His Son as Lord and as Saviour.

On 21 December 1807 John Newton died, having first composed his own epitaph. The first half of it reads: 'John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long laboured to destroy.' A grateful man prays, and that is one of the lessons of Newton's life.



### **Our Third Joyous Task Is PROCLAMATION**

'Make known His deeds among the peoples!' This is there in the Old Testament, where there is a chosen nation in a chosen land, and where the word for 'heathen' could also be used as the word for 'Gentile'. When David told Goliath what he would do to him, he announced that one effect would be that 'all the Earth may know that there is a God in Israel' (1 Samuel 17.46).

This was no petty squabble between tribal deities. The honour and glory of the God who created Heaven and Earth was at stake. Similarly, at the consecration of the temple in Jerusalem, Solomon prayed: 'when a foreigner, who is not of Your people Israel, comes from a far country for Your name's sake (for they shall hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm), ... hear in Heaven Your dwelling place and do according to all that which the foreigner calls to You ...'

Christ is no longer to be regarded simply as King of Israel but as King of Heaven and Earth. We are to be a missionary people because God is a missionary God whose deeds ought to be made known to all nations and all peoples.

– Peter Barnes, Minister,  
Revesby Presbyterian Church, Sydney

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## Have You Walked With Jesus On The Emmaus Road?

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 24.13-36, 44-48.

*Outline of a sermon preached by the Rev Perry Smith, whose prayer is: May the Scripture record ... and specific words impact us with relevance now.*

❖ **Consternation.** These were puzzled, sad travellers with dashed hopes (21), but the Risen Jesus came alongside.

Their problem was already solved in Him! 'Slow to believe' at first (25), Jesus now opened their minds with the Scriptures (27,32,45).

❖ **Explanation.** What a Bible Teacher they met on that road! They never expected what would happen, though they later recalled how their 'hearts burned' as He explained His life, death and resurrection. But wait, there's more for us, as we have the whole whole New Testament!

❖ **Invitation.** They urged Him to stay (28) – as we sing in MHB Hymn 941:

*Lord Jesus, in the days of old, two walked with Thee in waning light;  
And love's blind instinct made them bold to crave Thy presence thru the night.  
As night descends we too would pray: O leave us not at close of day.*

Jesus did what they wanted and needed, and what blessing came! He opened their minds, the Scriptures, and home. The Guest became the Host, sharing the bread. Did they see the nail-prints?

❖ **Revelation.** Their eyes were opened – 'they recognised Him' (31) as He broke the bread, like a veil lifted. The ordinary meal became extraordinary, but He disappeared. In our breaking of bread at Holy Communion we celebrate His aliveness 'unseen but not unknown' (AHB 508), but in the common ways of life we too may know Him – with the eye of faith.

❖ **Communication.** 'Go and tell', the angel and Jesus had said at the Tomb (Matthew 28.7,10). Though 'slow to believe' (25), now they were quick to tell – with opened lips. The disciples had already heard. As they shared (34-35) Jesus suddenly appeared (36), assured them, showed them His hands and feet ... and shared food. Then He expanded on the words spoken in the Emmaus home, and commissioned them (44-48). Acts 1:8 would give them the scope! Grasp the 'must' of the Cross and resurrection (Mark 8.31; 9.31; 10.33,34; John 3.14). It led to world communication of the Gospel.

**Conclusion:** Are we part of God's amazing plan as foretold in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New?

## DALLAS CLARNETTE ASKS: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CHURCH HISTORY?

1. Under whom was St Paul martyred?  
(a) Galba (b) Vespasian (c) Nero
2. At which College did Billy Graham study in 1936 (a) BJU (b) Moody Bible Institute (c) Northwestern University
3. During which period did St Augustine live?  
(a) 354-430 (b) 325-375 (c) 415-465
4. Where was Ruth Bell, Billy Graham's wife born?  
(a) Singapore (b) China (c) South Africa
5. Who introduced the 'anxious seat' into evangelism  
(a) Moody (b) Chapman (c) Finney
6. With which Bible version were Westcott and Hort associated?  
(a) New English Bible (b) Revised Version (c) American Standard Version
7. Which American evangelist began life as a shoe salesman?  
(a) Finney (b) Sunday (c) Moody
8. Who founded the China Inland Mission?  
(a) Ed Kilbourne (b) Jonathan Goforth (c) Hudson Taylor
9. The Revised Standard Version was published in  
(a) 1962 (b) 1948 (c) 1952
10. The New English Bible was released in  
(a) 1961 (b) 1972 (c) 1952

### ANSWERS:

1c 2a 3c 4b 5c 6b 7c 8c 9c 10a

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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

### THIS ISSUE:

'Jesus In Old Testament Shadows' and 'Jesus The Master Teacher'.

**Available online at:** [www.nlife.com.au](http://www.nlife.com.au) for \$7 each or in

**Hard copy from:** New Life, PO Box 457, Mitcham, Vic 3132  
[office@nlife.com.au](mailto:office@nlife.com.au) for \$12 each inc GST, plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

## Christianity and Islam in Africa – The Religious Fault Line



IN early March, more than 500 Christians in Jos, Nigeria, were killed by what the *New York Times* called 'ram-paging Muslim herdsman.'

The killings were only the latest outbreak of violence in Nigeria's Plateau State, which sits on the dividing line between the country's mainly Christian south and Muslim north.

It's also part of a larger conflict between 'a surging Christianity' and what Penn State professor Phillip Jenkins calls 'an unyielding Islam.'

In the pre-dawn hours, Muslim Fulani herdsman set the homes of Christian villagers on fire and then killed the occupants, mostly women and children, as they fled. The resulting massacre left a scene that a Doctors Without Borders representative called 'unreal.'

Why did they attack women and children? The *Times* said it was 'apparently in reprisal for similar attacks on Muslims in January.' But the *Times* didn't give any details about these so-called 'similar attacks'.

A subsequent report quotes a proud perpetrator saying that Christians killed 'a lot of our Fulanis in January,'

but provides no evidence of these attacks besides his allegations.

A businessman spoke for many Christians when he said that Muslims believe they 'are born to rule' and want to drive our indigenous Christian population out.

We have good reason to think he is correct. Professor Philip Jenkins of Penn State places what happened in Nigeria in a global context.

He says a 'tectonic plate of religious and cultural confrontation runs across West and Northwest Africa, through Southeast Asia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.'

This line of confrontation, about ten degrees north of the Equator, marks the boundaries between traditionally Muslim areas and increasingly Christian ones. It's the 'increasingly' part that really matters.

According to Jenkins, 'one factor driving Islamic militancy is the sense that Christianity is growing.' It used to be that these were animist areas to the south. The people were considered inferior by the Muslims, and if they did convert, it would be to Islam.

But the explosive growth of Chris-

tianity, especially in Africa, changed that. Christianity is now competing with Islam, and is even making inroads among some Muslim groups, especially women.

The *Jesus* film has become, in Jenkins' words, 'a weapon of mass instruction,' and those being instructed are often Muslims.

As a result, 'even nonpolitical Muslims' worry that their grandchildren might become infidels.

This accelerating 'Christian expansion ... in what should have been dependable Muslim territory' is one factor helping to drive the growth of a 'new and highly militant' form of Islam.

What's happening in Nigeria and all along the 10th parallel suggests what Samuel Huntington called a 'clash of civilizations,' but is in reality, a religious divide running around the girth of the world and into Europe.

Which is all the more reason for us to lovingly and peacefully present the Gospel to those Muslims who are showing increasing interest in Christianity. If Jenkins is right, this is the best antidote to the continuing, tragic violence.

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## Making Drugs Look Trendy Is Not Effective Anti-Drug Education

THE Australian Christian Lobby has voiced concern that so-called 'anti-drug education' in NSW actually appeared to be sending the wrong message to young people – that illicit drug use was trendy.

ACL Managing Director Jim Wallace said a controversial postcard describing cocaine as 'nose candy' was the latest in a number of drug prevention strategies gone wrong in the state and questioned

the agenda behind these campaigns.

'Young people need to be given clear messages about the harm drugs can do to them and how to say "no" to drugs. The NSW Government and health authorities can't afford to be watering down this message – or, worse still, sending out messages which might make drugs seem appealing,' Mr Wallace said.

'One has to question what is behind these campaigns. The Government appears to be blindly following a harm minimisation philosophy without regard to the effects of the messages they are sending out on this issue.

'When illegal drugs are being promoted in a "fun" way to teenagers it is clearly time to rethink the policy.'

# POSITIONS VACANT



## Principal – Leadership Role

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**The School** has enrolments of around 380 students encompassing Pre-School, Primary and Secondary, offering a wide range of subjects to VCE level, with a staff of 40. The school has a modern, single campus, set on substantial grounds in a major growth corridor. Established 25 years ago under the auspices of the local Presbyterian Church, King's College has developed outstanding facilities, and will finalise a major capital works program in 2010, positioning the school well for future growth.

**King's College** is situated in the major regional city of Warrnambool, located on the coast approximately 3 hours from Melbourne in the vibrant and growing South West region of Victoria. The school's current Principal of 15 years will retire at the end of 2010 and the School Council now seeks expressions of interest for the role of Principal, commencing at the start of 2011.

**The School Council** seeks to appoint a talented and experienced professional to effectively lead the organisation and build further on the school's success, providing educational, organisational and spiritual leadership and implementing the Council's vision for sustained growth.

**The Preferred Candidate** will be a committed Christian with a well developed Christian world view and a passion for Christian education. They will be supportive of a subject and mastery-based approach to education. The Principal will be a proven, dynamic leader, displaying a flair for organisational growth and development, demonstrated educational leadership and organisational skills, along with strong people and communication skills. Candidates should possess post graduate qualifications in a relevant field, with demonstrated successful classroom teaching experience.

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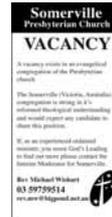
### To Obtain An Application Package:

Contact the Council Secretary on 03 5562 6302 or email: haywendy@hotmail.net.au

### Applications Close:

23 April 2010 and should be addressed to:

The Council Secretary, King's College, 23 Riverview Tce, Warrnambool, VIC, 3280



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## Ramon A Williams – Worldwide Photos

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**Applications close 30 April 2010**

## Many Exciting Ministry Opportunities Have Opened Up In Victoria.

### Will YOU Be A Part Of It?

**Small-To-Medium Country Town**, in mid-northern region, seeks a part  
or full time ordained minister or home missionary. The facilities are  
great, but more than that, the Church Family consists of loving  
Christians just waiting for the right pastor to lead them into the ministry  
into which the Lord is calling them.

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**Part-Time Pastoral Assistant Required** for ministry in north-western  
Victorian regional towns. Are you a team player? Do you love country  
ministry? Parish is being re-organised and is in need of a dedicated  
proven preacher and Bible Study leader who is not afraid to drive an  
hour to serve on a rotation at three centres.

**Congregation In Key Regional Centre** in far north-west (pop. 30,000)  
seeks minister or home missionary. You would work alongside a small  
but supportive band of Christians. Modern manse, great schools nearby.

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rural and industrial population with the Gospel in the heart of Gippsland.  
A growing city on the Princes Highway in the La Trobe Valley, sustained  
by a diverse and growing population (currently 15,000), seeks a pastor  
willing to work with a team to establish and build the Lord's work within  
this ripe harvest field.



**For further information on these or other vacancies  
please call our Ministry Development Director,  
Rev Dr Robert Carner, on 03 9702 0548.**

To register your interest in a position, please forward your  
Resume to: [ministry@pcvic.org.au](mailto:ministry@pcvic.org.au) or to Presbyterian  
Church of Victoria,  
Ministry Development, PO Box 617, Berwick VIC 3806

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## THINKING THINGS THROUGH ...

# MAF To Benefit From History Making Round-The-World Flight

TWO men from Bendigo, Vic, are preparing for a world-first circumnavigation of the globe in an aircraft totally designed and manufactured in Australia – and Mission Aviation Fellowship will be one of only two organisations to benefit from funds raised by the epic journey.

Ken Evers, 33, and Tim Pryse, 51, will depart from Bendigo Aerodrome in May bound for Norfolk Island. Ken and Tim attend local Baptist churches with their families.

They will continue their journey across the Pacific to California via Hawaii then on to Arizona and New Orleans. From there they will touch down to refuel in Jamaica and Barbados before heading south to Brazil, then due east across the Atlantic to Africa, on to India, Vietnam, the Philippines, PNG and back to Australia.

The history-making endeavour commemorates Australia's Centenary of Flight when the famous contortionist Harry Houdini conducted Australia's first controlled, powered flight at Digger's Rest outside Melbourne in March 1910. Houdini's efforts changed the landscape of flying in this country forever.

To mark the event and to raise awareness of the global impact of malaria in many countries, Ken and Tim will take off in a GA8-TC Airvan and cover a total of over 26,740 nautical miles in 230 flight hours. The eight-seat Airvan is manufactured by Gippsland Aeronautics in Morwell, Vic.

Malaria is the world's most common infectious, mosquito-borne disease, claiming over a million lives annually. Most victims are those least able to afford preventative drugs or treatments.

The pilots hope to raise \$1,000,000 in the fight against malaria by inviting donations online to two nominated charities – Mission Aviation Fellowship and the Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and Pacific.

People in many of the tropical and sub-tropical areas the pair will fly across suffer from malaria, including Papua New Guinea, where Ken Evers



*Tim Pryse (left) and Ken Evers.*

grew up as a teenager and was deeply impacted by the work of MAF.

### 'MAF Pilots Are My Heroes'

'For me, MAF was the epitome of aviation. MAF pilots are my heroes,' Ken said.

'Living in PNG and watching the work of MAF taught me the lesson that you can use the gifts you have been given to do the right thing. And of course in the case of MAF it is using the gift of flight to help people.'

'I watched what MAF did in PNG. I saw my friend's life saved (by a MAF flight) and now I want to offer my support. I think MAF is such an unsung group. People fail to see that MAF is saving countless lives every year.'

Ken said he was determined to join the global battle against malaria after seeing the effects of it in Papua New Guinea. After personally seeing people suffer and die from malaria it is simply impossible not to become passionate about taking action against the disease,' he said.

'I was frustrated by my inability to do anything about it, so when this idea came up and the potential for making it happen became a reality, I pursued it wholeheartedly. This is my chance to finally take some action.'

For further details about Ken and Tim's epic journey and an opportunity to donate online to MAF, go to [www.millionsagainstmalaria.com](http://www.millionsagainstmalaria.com)

### 'Glorious Things - A Protestant's Guide To London'

What to look for and how to find places associated with people and events which shaped Protestant Church History, compiled by Rev Bob Thomas.

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## TIME TO CELEBRATE

### EVERYMAN'S Turns 70

THE 70th anniversary of Everyman's Welfare Service will be celebrated with a Dinner to be held at the Victoria Barracks Club, Victoria Barracks, Petrie Tce, Brisbane on Thursday 22 April at 6.30pm for 7pm.

Special guest speaker will be Lt Gen Adrian Hurley, AC, DSC, Vice Chief of Defence.

RSVP by Friday 9 April by email: [headquarters@everymans.org.au](mailto:headquarters@everymans.org.au)  
phone: 07 3233 4236.

There is no charge for the evening, but please come prepared to donate to the work of Everyman's.

## DID YOU KNOW?

FamilyVoice reports that 49 Christian leaders were in Parliament House Canberra on 25 February when the Senate debate on the homosexual marriage bill came on, so they began praying. Prayer turned to praise when the bill was soundly defeated 45 to 5.

They were in Canberra to see key MPs. FamilyVoice NSW State Officer Steve Estherby says: 'We did not know about the debate when we planned the visit. This was not a co-incidence, but a God-incidence!'

## QUOTABLE QUOTE:

'CREATURES are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger; well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim; well, there is such a thing as water.

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world ...

I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country which I shall not find until after death. I must make it the main object of my life to press on to that other country.'

— C. S. Lewis



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## Bible Society Tas Dedicates 'Most Southerly Bible House In The World' – In Launceston

MORE than 200 people gathered on Sunday 28 February for a time of praise and thanksgiving as the new Bible House & World Mission Centre at 116a St John St, Launceston, was dedicated. Mr Rick Streefland, Chairman of the Board of Bible Society Tasmania, welcomed supporters who joined the Launceston Salvation Army Band in a stirring rendition of *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* and other hymns of praise. The Mayor of Launceston, Albert van Zetten, spoke of the importance of God's Word and officially unveiled the plaque, dedicating the building for the Glory of God.

A group representing Bible Society in Tasmania and Australia, the United Bible Societies, Heads of Churches and local pastors, and other mission organizations, took a large Bible into Bible House, symbolising that all activities in the building would be under the authority of God's Word. After leading in prayer, each member of the group then carried a Bible out of Bible House, symbolising the purpose of Bible Society, that of getting God's Word out to all the world.

A Combined Churches Celebration followed at the Door-of-Hope Christian Church, attended by over 700 people who came from all areas of the state as well as the mainland.

As the day coincided with Schools Sunday, recognition was given to those who have Christian input in schools. Many chaplains, teachers, Scripture teachers and support staff were present and were prayed for as part of the program.

Video greetings were shown from several international leaders of Bible Society, and written greetings from New Zealand and Norway were shared, the latter being the most northerly Bible House sending greetings to Tasmania which now carries the distinction of being the most southerly Bible House in the world. That honour was previously held by Wellington, New Zealand.

The Tasmanian launch of a new edition of the Bible



*Bible House, Launceston, Tas*

was part of the Celebration. *The Poverty & Justice Bible*, published by Bible Society in partnership with World Vision, was launched nationally in Canberra last September. It is receiving good commendation and good sales, reflecting the growing awareness by Christians of these issues. Complimentary copies are being offered to community leaders.

A very moving testimony was given by Steve Davies, Executive Director, Bible Society Queensland, as he shared his journey of coming to know Christ. While living a life which was far from Christian, Steve was given a Bible by a cleaning lady and challenged to read it. He did, and Steve's life was soon turned around.

'It was a time of exultant celebration following the purchase of and renovations to Bible House', said Alan Harris, the Executive Director of Bible Society Tasmania. 'Without the input of prayer and God's provision in kind, finance and endless hours of labour, Bible House would not have been completed.'

'Along with many businesses and individuals, we particularly acknowledge the support of Mobile Mission Maintenance workers, who gave generously of their time and skills. They were a blessing and joy to have with us.'

The purchase of Bible House in early 2009 was made possible through a bequest to Bible Society Tasmania from one of its supporters, the late Mr Henry Baldwin of Hobart.



*Unveiling the plaque.*