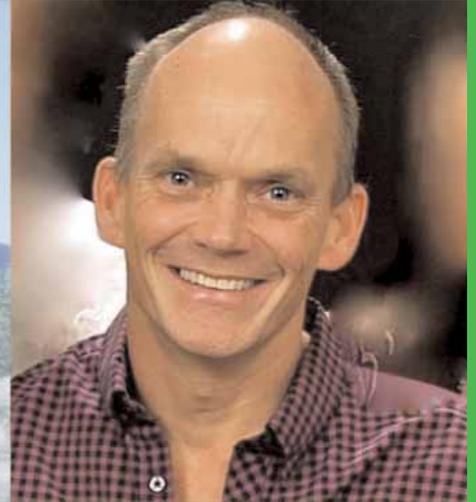


MST Announces Tim Meyers as its Next Principal



MELBOURNE School of Theology has announced that Mr Timothy Meyers will take on the role of Principal of the college from December 2011.

MST Council President Ian Cathie said the council was united and excited about Mr Meyers' appointment and expressed the council's thanksgiving to God: 'The council earnestly sought the Lord's leading over many months to identify the person of His choosing for this unique and strategic role, and we give thanks to God for providing us with such a clear sense of conviction.'

'We are truly grateful for the gifts of leadership and strong relationships Tim will bring to this new season in the development of MST and we ask supporters to support and pray for Tim as he prepares to take up his new responsibilities,' Mr Cathie said.

'Tim joins the college at a strategic point in its development, highlighted by the move to new premises at Wantirna to co-locate the various arms of MST.'

College's Strategic Growth

The move to the new campus follows strategic growth in MST Nash Institute, serving the church through postgraduate research; MST Chinese, training Christian leaders in the Chinese-speaking church in Australia and across Asia, and the Centre for the Study of Islam (CSOI), helping Christians understand Islam academically and engage with

their Muslim neighbours at a community level.

MST's strong growth has also been reflected in the appointment of four new faculty members: Dr Andrew Brown (Old Testament), Dr Scott Harrower (Theology and Church History), Dr Peter Tie (Theology, Chinese Faculty) and Peter Orr (completing his PhD in Biblical Studies at Durham University UK).

Tim Meyer's appointment also coincides with record enrolments for second semester, with at least 50 new students signing up to study at MST.

Tim Meyer's Response

Tim Meyer comments that he and his wife, Kathryn, are both delighted to accept the invitation to come on board at MST at such a strategic time in its growth.

'I am acutely aware of the challenge, responsibility and honour of spiritual leadership this appointment brings with it, and feel deeply honoured to be asked to take on this strategic position in the work of the Church and in the ministry of the Gospel,' he said.

'I carry a profound awareness of my personal need, and of the entire college community, for a fresh outpouring of grace and wisdom, courage, vision and clarity of purpose, that will enable us all to continue to facilitate the incredible contribution and blessing that has been the ministry of MBI, BCV and MST over so many years.'

FROM THE EDITOR

Not Before Time – US House of Reps Votes To Establish Protection of Christians In Middle East And South Asia

YAHOO News reports that the US House of Representatives has voted to establish a US envoy to protect the rights of religious minorities in the Middle East and South Asia, amid rising concern over Egypt, Iraq and Pakistan. The House voted 402 to 20 to require President Barack Obama to set up the envoy post. The Senate must follow suit, but senators from both parties have voiced support.

The envoy will be tasked with pressing minority rights in a broad region covering the Arab world, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent. But the bill asks the envoy to prioritise Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Lawmakers voiced concern for the safety of Egypt's Coptic Christians during the transition following the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak. At least two dozen people died in religion-related violence in Egypt in March and May.

Representative Chris Smith of New Jersey called the fate of Egypt's ancient Christian community, which makes up 10% of the population, 'the bellwether of the rights for religious minorities in the Middle East. As the largest and one of the oldest minorities, they are suffering and their escalating agony portends suffering throughout the region,' Smith, a Republican and devout Catholic, said. Smith said he heard accounts that Coptic women and girls as young as 14 'are being systematically lured from their families or kidnapped off the street corners and forced to change their religion and forced to marry outside of their community.'

Lawmakers also voiced worries over the treatment of Christians in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Ahmadiyah Muslim minority in Pakistan, Bahais in Iran and Hindus in Bangladesh. 'In Afghanistan and Pakistan, countries where the United States has invested its treasure and the lives of countless brave American soldiers, persecution of Christians runs rampant,' said Representative Frank Wolf, a Republican from Virginia who sponsored the bill. He pointed to the case in Pakistan of Asia Bibi, a Christian mother of five who was sentenced to death for allegedly insulting the Prophet Mohammad, and the assassination this year of two politicians who defended her.

This is welcome news. More than this, it is an example for governments such our own Australian government to follow. Muslims coming to Australia enjoy freedom to practise their religion without fear of persecution, let alone injustice, disadvantage, kidnapping, rape, torture and death. Our government bears a threefold responsibility: to keep secure the rights of people of all faiths and none in Australia; to do everything in its power to ensure such rights are accorded in other countries; and to ensure the rights of people to convert from one religion to another.

– Bob Thomas



VOLUME 74 NUMBER 4. ISSN: 1033-7903

ISSUE DATE: 15 August 2011.

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SUBSCRIPTION FREE ON REQUEST.

ACCEPTANCE OF ADVERTISING DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.

PUBLISHED BY: New Life Australia Ltd.

ABN 15 005 035 138.

How Can YOU Help *New Life*?

SINCE the closure of *New Life* as a print publication, a number of people have contacted us offering to help in one way or another if only we would keep *New Life* in print. Sadly, the print edition cannot be revived – the numbers just don't add up to viability – but we have been able to put together a business model which will enable us to revive it as a web-based and email publication.

To do this we would be extremely grateful for your help and support in the following ways:

- ◆ Keep us in your prayers.
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- ◆ Forward *New Life* to your friends.
- ◆ Advertise with us.
- ◆ Send in your news and pix.
- ◆ Make a donation as you feel led.
- ◆ Check out our web-site from time to time (www.nlife.com.au).

Dangerous Days For Christians In Indonesia

BECAUSE President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono depends on Islamist support in parliament, he is reluctant to challenge the issue of increasingly violent Islamic intolerance. Because the ascendant China is courting Indonesia, the US is reluctant to challenge Indonesia over its serious decline in religious liberty.

West Java is a hotbed of militant Islamic fundamentalism where Christians are less than 2% of the population. Last year Muslims there were called to form Islamic paramilitary forces in readiness for jihad.

As tensions grow and protection diminishes, Christians in West Java and Papua become increasingly vulnerable. Islamic zeal and belligerence will escalate as Ramadan progresses during August. A city council has threatened 'mass mobilisation' against the Chris-

tian population, for whom these are dangerous days. Please pray for God's intervention and protection.

Please Pray That God Will:

- draw His people into prayerful dependence, that they might 'wait for Him' (Isaiah 30.18) and see His salvation; through it all, may the Indonesian Church – in grace and by the power of the Holy Spirit – be light, salt and yeast for the glory of God.
- intervene for the protection of His people and the advance of the Gospel in Indonesia, expose the intolerance of Islam, while frustrating the schemes of the wicked (Psalm 146.9).

– *Written for the Australian Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission by Elizabeth Kendal, international religious liberty analyst and advocate.*

Proposed Laws in Nepal Would Virtually Eliminate Religious Freedom – Urgent Prayer Called For

CURRENT drafts of the new Nepal Constitution contain language that bans any activities leading or contributing to conversions. Anti-minority sentiment in the police force and courts could easily use this language to criminalise all public expression of minority religions.

Nepal's proposed criminal code goes further and bans conduct which insults or undermines a religion. The religious provisions in the proposed constitution and criminal code reinforce one another. Together they create a comprehensive legal framework that will virtually eliminate religious freedom of conscience and choice for all Nepali.

If Nepal adopts this constitution, religious liberty will retrogress to pre-1990 monarchy-imposed restrictions on religious choice, and it will seriously harm the rights of religious minorities. The damage might take a generation or more to undo. Please commit this matter to urgent prayer.

Genocide Of Nuba By Starvation In Sudan

CONTINUAL aerial bombardment has displaced hundreds of thousands of Nuba, the predominantly Christian African tribes indigenous to the Nuba Mountains in Sudan's South Kordofan State. Furthermore, the Government of Sudan is preventing humanitarian aid entering the region. Sudan experts warn that if there is no intervention 70,000 or more Nuba will starve to death within the next two months. This is exactly what the genocidal and racist GoS wants as it pursues total control of the resource-rich Nuba Mountains. Eye-witnesses report that Christian pastors specifically are being targeted for arrest, torture and execution, because the Church has been labelled an enemy. Please pray for God to intervene on behalf of His imperilled and besieged people in the Nuba Mts.

Pray That God Will:

- draw the Nuba and the global Church into dependent prayer for divine intervention. May Khartoum's bombers be neutralised and Omar el-Bashir's arrogant and racist reign of terror ended. (Psalm 10)
 - provide displaced Nuba with their every need of shelter, food, healing and protection; may He ease their anxiety, bring rest to their souls and increase their faith.
 - protect Nuba pastors, hiding them from those who intend to torture and kill them; may those imprisoned be protected and preserved, experiencing God's presence and being assured of His love.
- 'Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm rules for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His recompense before Him. He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.'* (Isaiah 40.10,11 ESV)

– *Elizabeth Kendal, for the Australian Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission*



MOVING FORWARD

– ‘Moving From Event Mode To Movement Mentality’

REPORTING on the recent Lausanne Biennial Leadership Meeting, Doug Birdsall, Executive Chair, says that this was the most productive and gratifying meeting he has seen since 2004. ‘We praise God and give Him thanks for the progress made and for His presence and direction,’ Birdsall said. ‘Dr Leighton Ford, Honorary Lifetime Chair of The Lausanne Movement, believes Lausanne is now the strongest it has ever been. I believe the most significant accomplishment is that we successfully transitioned from *Event Mode* to *Movement Mentality* and came away with a clear sense of unity, vision and direction, strong leadership and growing momentum.

Three Factors Made This Possible:

- Gaining clarity on our vision and message for the future.
- Restructuring Lausanne’s leadership to serve the needs of a global Movement.
- Aligning the entire Lausanne Movement with *The Cape Town Commitment* which serves as our road map for the next 10 years (www.lausanne.org/ctcommitment).

‘Additionally, we officially launched the Global Executive Leadership Forum. Approval was given for the development of the monthly *Lausanne Global Analysis*. Support was also given to proceed with plans for the first “Davos-like” *Lausanne Global Briefing* in 2013 for 350 of the world’s leading pastors, scholars, mission leaders and business executives. At those biennial global consultations we will assess progress in world evangelisation with respect to *The Cape Town Commitment*. We also began the initial planning for the Younger Leaders Gathering in 2015.’

Stepping Forward

Birdsall reports the following steps forward:

- 1. Cape Town 2010 Celebration:** We had a grand celebration of the achievement and impact of *Cape Town 2010*. ‘God is on the move’, as we heard in story after story from around the world. I hope you’ll be as encouraged as I was when you watch the following short video on the Congress: <http://www.lausanne.org/cape-town-2010/short-documentary.html>.
- 2. Lausanne Board Leadership:** The restructuring of the Lausanne Board, including the addition of new members from every region, allows the Board to now be positioned to serve as a ‘global board of elders for evangelicalism with respect to world evangelisation. Ram Gidoomal has agreed to serve as Board Chair. Ram is a man of great distinction with experience in business, government, higher education and mission. He is the prototypical 21st Century global Christian leader, a convert to Christ from Hinduism, a Diaspora man of South Asian heritage.
- 3. International Deputy Directors:** Our team of 12 International Deputy Directors, working under the leadership of International Director Lindsay Brown, has been further strengthened and reconfigured with seven new members. Lausanne IDD’s provide global presence and regional advocacy for the Movement.
- 4. Global Executive Leadership Forum:** The emergence of GELF may prove to be one of the most significant developments of Cape Town 2010. Under the leadership of Bob and Leslie Doll, along with GELF Chairman, Atul Tandon, GELF will connect and resource business leaders of global influence who have a profound commitment to Christ and the mission of the church in the world.
- 5. Cape Town Commitment:** To ensure that we are making solid progress in the priorities articulated in this document, 30-35 Lausanne Senior Associates will be appointed who will each take responsibility for one of the Commitments. They will be supported by mission organisations and networks who will serve as resource partners. These Senior Associates will work to convene consultations and catalyse new initiatives in their area of specialised responsibility over the next three years.
- 6. Younger Leaders:** As an expression of Lausanne’s historic commitment to the development of younger leaders, plans were initiated for the next Younger Leaders Gathering in 2015. In the years leading up to that global gathering, younger leaders will be identified, developed and connected to mentors and to one another in each of the 12 Lausanne regions.

(Continued p.5)

LAUSANNE – MOVING FORWARD

(Continued from p.4)

7. Pew Forum Research: During the meeting, Luis Lugo, Director of the Pew Forum On Religion And Public Life, released the results of their research done among the 4,000 participants at Cape Town 2010. This report, which has been distributed and reported globally, reveals the dynamism, complexity and maturity of global evangelicalism. The report also raises the visibility of Lausanne in the eyes of the Church and with scholars and journalists as a Movement that is intellectually vibrant and strategically engaged in holistic mission. Read the executive summary report here:

<http://pewforum.org/Christian/Evangelical-Protestant-Churches/Global-Survey-exec.aspx>

8. Lausanne/Cape Town 2010 Curriculum: You will soon have access to curricula for use in colleges and seminaries, as well as course material carefully developed for adult study groups, Sunday School classes and mission committees. This will include course outlines, video clips of presentations at the Congress, and carefully edited papers prepared for the Lausanne Global Conversation and the Congress.

'At a moment in history when we are dealing with unanticipated global challenges and with unprecedented opportunity for bearing witness to the power of the Gospel, it is a sign of hope to see fresh vision, new expressions of unity and a rising generation of leaders come together with renewed passion for "the whole Church to take the whole Gospel to the whole World",' Doug Birdsall concluded.

Intervarsity Inspired To Better Reach Secular Campuses After World Assembly

AFTER a week of worship and workshops, the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students World Assembly in Poland is over. After meeting with student ministries from all over the world, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff say they're inspired. InterVarsity's Tom Lin says, 'We've learned a lot about ways to gather students, ways to reach out to students, and ways to grow student work even when not allowed on campus.' Eric Rafferty, who's planting an InterVarsity Chapter in Nebraska, met two students who each lead 1,000 others in their countries. 'After seeing that picture, that's really what I want for my students – to carry leadership like that on their campus and have a bigger vision for the whole world.' InterVarsity President Alec Hill says ultimately, 'I think it's our interconnectedness with the global Christian community that there are student workers in Mozambique, in Peru, in Singapore, who, though they look different and they have different languages, we are one in sharing the Gospel and building Christian community among students and faculty.'

Pope's Reading Tip For The Holidays: 'Read the Bible'

'MANY Christians do not know the Bible at all or only superficially', said the Pope on the occasion of his General Audience (3 August) on the main square of Castelgandolfo, Italy, according to Vatican Radio.

The Pope stresses the importance of holiday time to relax and recuperate. Many believers do not know what they miss out on if they do not care about the Book of all books. In order to strengthen the inner senses it would do no harm to engage in some soul searching under the parasol, according to the Pope. 'Spiritual emphasis enriches the holiday time and provides true relaxation', emphasises Benedict XVI and adds: 'The Bible is a mini encyclopaedia in itself. Parts in the Bible are unknown to many – even to sincere Christians.'

In September 2010 during a reception for the staff of the papal residences at his summer residence in Castelgandolfo the Head of the Roman Catholic Church had previously stressed the importance of the Bible. 'It is of fundamental importance for every Christian to have a personal relationship with the Word of the Lord', he said. 'The Bible cannot be regarded as a message of the past but should be read as the living Word of God and a challenge for the modern man.'

– APD News Service

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VIEWPOINT

Fred Nile Supports Scripture Classes In Public Schools

ON Tuesday 9 August, the Rev Fred Nile gave an important speech in the NSW Legislative Council on the value of Scripture Classes, known as Special Religious Education in our State Government Schools.

Mr Nile outlined the value of Scripture Classes based on the Bible for all children, as stated by Prime Minister Julia Gillard concerning the importance of the Bible. She stated: 'The Bible has formed such an important part of our culture. It's impossible to understand Western literature without having that key of understanding the Bible stories and how Western literature builds on them and reflects them and deconstructs them and brings them back together'.

'All NSW children are required by law to attend the weekly Special religious Education classes, which is conducted by the teachers representing their various Christian Denominations or one of the world's other main religions, such as Buddhism, Islam, etc,' Rev Fred Nile said.

'It is a pity that some parents write letters requesting their children be withdrawn from SRE, which is their legal right under the NSW Education Act 1990!

'This means their children are missing out on this most important area of life as we are all body, soul and spirit, and the vast majority of Australians (over 80%) believe in God,' he stated.

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Sunday September 11, 2011
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JODI CLARKSON Her exceptional voice will delight us all! Jodi comes from a very gifted musical family and is currently a Worship Pastor at 'Riverside Church.'



TARRYN STOKES She has used her beautiful voice at 'Hillsong Conference 2009', weddings and special events, including on Guy Sebastian's Album, 'Like It Like That' and as a backing vocalist for Jessica Mauboy, Paulini, Nathan Cavaleri & Israel Houghton and on '7's 'Home & Away' theme. Tarryn will join Jodi for two lovely duets.



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WITH CHRIST

John Stott Remembered In Sydney

ARCHBISHOP Peter Jensen led a thanksgiving service for John Stott in Sydney, hailing the humility of Stott's leadership and his remarkable effect around the world. 'From the middle of the 20th Century, three outstanding overseas leaders helped shape the life of the Diocese of Sydney', Dr Jensen told the congregation. 'The great evangelist Billy Graham; the great theologian Jim Packer; the great preacher John Stott. To this very day, the converts of the Graham Crusades can be found in all our churches; the books of Jim Packer can be found in all our libraries; the preaching of John Stott inspires all our pulpits. John's was a cross-shaped life. In the end, nothing will take the place of the school of the cross, of the living sacrifice in response to the one great sacrifice of the Saviour,' Archbishop Jensen said.



The service, at St Andrew's Cathedral on Friday 5 August, concluded with *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* from Handel's *Messiah*, sung by Karen Buck, which the great British evangelist was listening to when he died. Hundreds of people, from those who had known Stott for many years to young theological students who had felt his influence, packed the cathedral for the service of thanksgiving.

Those attending were urged to share their stories about John Stott, and to share in prayer of thanksgiving to God for his life and work.

Wendy Toulmin, the Australian Executive Officer of Stott's ministry organisation, the Langham Partnership, told how his work touched people around the world. Dean Phillip Jensen, who led the service, read a note of appreciation from aboriginal ministry pioneer Aunty Jean Phillips, who spoke of Stott's love and understanding of indigenous ministry. Canon John Chapman gave personal remembrances of how Stott's model of biblical, expository preaching landed like a bombshell in the diocese in the 1960's.

The head of the Australian Federation of Evangelical Students, Rev Richard Chin, spoke of a mission to Sydney University in the 60's when Stott lost his voice. 'In his words, he "croaked the Gospel out" and many were saved that night,' Mr Chin said.

John Stott died at his retirement home at St Barnabas College on the afternoon of Wednesday 27 July. His funeral was held at All Souls Church in Langham Place, London, on 8 August. A Memorial Service for John Stott will be held at St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne on Sunday 28 August at 2.30 pm. The Rev Canon Dr Peter Adam will be the preacher.

A video tribute to John Stott that was shown at Cape Town 2010. That video is now available to view online at: www.lausanne.org/lausanne-blog/john-stott-memorial-video.html Lausanne Executive Chair Doug Birdsall says: 'We encourage you to watch the video, share the link with others and use it, via Internet link, in any memorial service you may be planning. As you watch it, I am sure you will be moved once again as we all were at the Lausanne Congress in Cape Town last October.'

— Russell Powell, CEO Anglican Media Sydney. Picture: Ramon Williams, WorldWide Photos

New Resource For Leadership Training

OLIVE Tree Media has produced a third series of *Inspirational Leadership* videos. The theme of this series is *Handling Change*. Karl gives four reasons why churches and Christian ministries should continue to evolve and change, and his challenge to leaders is this: what is the greatest area of change that your ministry needs to see?



Leadership videos are produced each month. They provide a great springboard for discussion and are designed to encourage and develop Christian leaders in their roles and to provide a resource for their teams. Go to www.olivetreemedia.com.au for further details.

WHAT'S ON?

Ministry Renewal Retreats – Victoria Facilitators Training

LAST July, 15 facilitators of Ministry Renewal Retreats – Victoria met for three days' training at Point Lonsdale. They were inspired and encouraged by the input of Tim Dyer and Graeme Cann. Tim works with John Mark Ministries as a trainer of church consultants, mentors and leaders throughout Australia. He covered a number of facilitation skills and taught on *Emotional Intelligence* and *Spiritual Formation In Ministry*. Graeme Cann, a Churches of Christ minister for 50 years, led sessions on *Disappointment In Ministry* and *The Nature Of Renewal*. The group reviewed the direction of the Retreat Movement and looked at new directions and formats for retreats.

Begun in Victoria in 1994, retreats have been vital in helping participants not only to survive, but thrive and grow as people in ministry. Some have said they most likely would not still be in ministry if they had not had the trusted support and encouragement offered in their Ministry Renewal Retreat group.

Known until 2011 as John Mark Ministries Renewal Retreats, Ministry Renewal Retreats – Victoria provide the opportunity of separate groups for men and women, both clergy wives and other women in ministry, to engage in a three year cycle with others in similar roles from a range of different denominations and ministry contexts. The cycle consists of an annual four day retreat and quarterly catch-up days. Some denominations encourage their clergy to commit to such a renewal retreat as part of their professional development and support in ministry.

New groups are being formed for the 2012-2014 cycle and expressions of interest are invited. Contact Diana Dow at pastors@bethtephillah.com or call 03 9397 2430.



Interserve Great Weekend Away will be held on 26-28 August at the beautiful Adanac Campsite in Yarra Junction. IGWA is a good chance to catch up with old friends, meet new ones, to relax and engage with some fantastic teaching.

The speaker this year is Rev Dr Bryson Arthur, who will be travelling out from a theological seminary in the Middle East. He will be teaching on *Persecution, Risk And Suffering*. There will also be a number of great speakers for workshops and some fun activities planned.

Register online through the Interserve website www.interserve.org.au/#pid=242 Or contact the Interserve office on 03 9729 9611.

Belgrave Heights Women's Convention will be held at the Convention Centre on Saturday 10 September from 9am to 4.30pm. Guest speaker will be Kathy Jack, Co-ordinator for Community Bible

Study International. Contact the Convention Office 03 9752 6855 to register.

Word In Song Seminar will be held at Ormond Anglican Church, 436 North Rd, Ormond on 10 September. The cost is \$65. Register online: www.mts.com.au/events

Changing The Culture

Helen Parker, founder and President of *The Babes Project*, will speak about a Victorian initiative to house women in crisis pregnancy and promote adoption and parenting as an alternative to abortion. She will speak at a *Family Voice Australia* seminar to be held from 2-4pm Sunday 11 September at Oakleigh Baptist Church, 183 Warrigal Rd, Oakleigh.

Advance Notice:

Living In The Light Of The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ is the theme for the Christian Youth Convention at Belgrave Heights from 2-4 March 2012. Ed Springer is Speaker. www.vcyc.org.au

PLEASE PRAY ...

THE Rev Fred Nile MLC, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party, has called for prayer for his wife Elaine as she goes through a major operation to remove a cancerous tumour from her liver.

'Please pray for Elaine to have the strength to cope with the operation and for the skill of the surgeons as they carry out this difficult operation on 11 August at St George Public Hospital, and for a speedy recovery,' Fred Nile asked.

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PERSECUTION WATCH

Kidnapped Christian Girl In Sudan Escapes, Traumatized

HIBA Abdelfadil Anglo, 16, has escaped from a gang of Muslims who kidnapped her last year, but it may be a long time before she recovers from the trauma. As she told Compass how the kidnapers beat, raped and tried to force her to convert from Christianity to Islam, she broke into tears for nearly half an hour. Abducted on 17 June 2010, she was reunited with her family on 10 July. 'Several times I was warned that if I do not convert to Islam, then I risk losing my life,' she said. 'The man who put me in his house on several occasions tortured me and threatened to kill me. He did not allow me to pray Christian prayers. He even insulted my family as a family of infidels.'

Hiba said that after a year of captivity, she had given the unidentified man who housed her enough of an impression that she had converted to Islam and accepted her fate that he left her unguarded. She was able to leave the house in the Soba Al Aradi area south of Khartoum and beg a motorist to take her to her home two hours away, she said. Her widowed mother, Ikhlas Omer Anglo, told Compass the kidnapers targeted them because they are Christians, members of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church in Khartoum.

She was initially locked in a room and beaten until she was unconscious. The leader of the group raped her, and she is still suffering pain in her right eye from a blow he recently dealt her, she said. 'Apart from abusing me sexually, he tried to force me to change my faith and kept reminding me to prepare for Ramadan,' she said. 'I cannot forget this bad incident, and whenever I try to pray, I find it difficult to forget. I ask believers to pray for me for inner healing.'

– Compass Direct News

Pakistani Flood Victims Still Homeless

MANY Christians living in the southern belt of Pakistan's Punjab Province who lost their houses in last year's floods remain homeless despite a plan by the Punjab Government to allocate land to residents in the area, area Christians said. A resident of Kot Addu in Muzaffargarh District said the provincial government has not set a quota for granting of land to members of minority communities left homeless by the devastating floods that began in late July 2010. The list of homeless people was prepared by local land revenue officers who did not do so fairly, said another Christian. A Christian identified only as Wasim, who is minorities co-ordinator of Kot Addu, added that one person who owns 22 acres of agricultural land has been allotted more land under the government rehabilitation plan. Napoleon Qayyum, a minority rights activist and leader of the Minorities Wing of the Pakistan People's Party, said that under Pakistan's constitution, minorities should be given a 5% quota in all government plans. He added that the Punjab Government should adhere to that quota as well. Officials from the local administration responded to the allegations by saying they did not directly handle flood rehabilitation, adding that plots were allotted to homeless people through a lottery draw.

– Compass Direct News

Chinese House Church Alliance Leader Sentenced To Labour Camp

AUTHORITIES have sentenced Shi Enhao, deputy leader of the Chinese House Church Alliance, to two years of 're-education through labour' – a sentence that requires no trial or conviction, according to the China Aid Association. Shi was officially charged with holding 'illegal meetings and illegal organising of venues for religious meetings,' due to his leadership of a house church movement of several thousand people meeting in several venues around Beijing, CAA reported. Police have since ordered Shi's church members to stop meeting for worship and confiscated musical instruments, choir robes and some 140,000 RMB (US\$21,740) in church donations. They also raided Shi's house on 1 June and have threatened and intimidated Shi's wife, Zhu Guangyun, and their four adult children, according to the CAA. A government article analysing reasons for the growth of Protestant Christianity in China last year indicates how much the expansion of Christianity threatens officials. 'Western powers, with America at their head, deliberately export Christianity to China and carry out all kinds of illegal evangelistic activities,' writes government advisor Ma Hucheng and in the article published by the China Social Sciences Press. 'Their basic aim is to use Christianity to change the character of the regime in power in China and to overturn it.' Ma also claims that Christianity would endanger national security by destroying the 'present balance between religions' in China, largely because house churches have 'avoided government control' and persisted in 'illegal Christian evangelism.'

– Sarah Page, Compass Direct News

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

Kyrgyz Government Allows Team Of Believers To Bring More Scriptures

TWO years ago, the Scriptures were presented for the first time to an isolated group in Kyrgyzstan. Now an Audio Scripture Ministries team is going back. Tom Dudenhofer says, 'This is just sort of a follow-up and a challenge to see how God's going to be working.' They'll also be providing more audio Scripture players and some basic medical supplies – interestingly, with the government's support.

Despite the nation's jaded past regarding religious freedoms, 'The changes that have taken place

in Kyrgyzstan at the political level also seem

to have opened the doors, as far as the reports that we're getting back from the team over there. The team's even been given access to unofficial border crossing roads. Pray for more relationships to be established to further spread the Gospel. I don't think this is going to be the last chapter at all: probably just chapter two in the story of trying to minister to this very isolated, lonely group.'



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'... LIVING STILL ...'

'Mr Preacher' – A Challenge To Students At Melbourne Bible Institute –

By The Rev Dr J. Graham Miller

PREACHING changed the face of Scotland. The only weapons John Knox had for the overthrow of popery, of tyranny and of ignorance were the burning heart, the Bible, and the pulpit. He spoke for God.

God has ordained these means for the reformation of nations, the reviving of churches, the raising of preachers, the edifying of congregations and the salvation of the lost.

By the preaching of Ambrose in Milan God spoke to Augustine. By the preaching of Savonarola God spoke to Florence. By the preaching of Whitefield and Wesley God spoke to Britain. By the preaching of hundreds of young men today God will encourage His dispirited people, banish ignorance, plant faith in His Word, and kindle the steady fires of revival in church and nation. A lost generation will be found and fed.

Where are these hundreds of young men? God is calling, but many are hesitating to answer the call for a number of reasons.

The preaching office is in disrepute. On all sides you hear inhibiting talk about the problem of communication, the generation gap, the changing structures of the Church. These are rationalisations for an age which has lost its pulpit power.

Mr Preacher, do you think you belong to a dying race? Never! Good preachers are disciplined men of the Word. They have experienced its power in their own lives. They refuse to believe that God has changed His chief weapon for the saving of sinners, the maturing of Christians, and the renovation of society.

All over the world there are conspicuous Bible ministries today. But they are the exception. They need to become the rule. The younger churches are crying out for expository preachers. In the home churches exposition is a lost art. God promises no blessing on the clever preacher; and there is too much slovenly preaching.

The preacher's Gospel is the whole Bible with Christ as its centre. He spends a lifetime in conscientious presentation of every facet of God's many-sided revelation. This taxes all his powers of mind and heart. But it proves satisfying, edifying and revolutionary. And he is a man of prayer.

Is the sickness of the church a reason for turning away from the charge to Preach the Word? Were Hosea, Jonah, Jeremiah deluded?

When God says 'Preach!' we preach; nothing stops us. Nothing except ourselves. We assist Satan by our guilty silence.

A Bible College can help to fashion preachers. It can ground them in the Bible – read, marked, learned and inwardly digested. It can school them in their use of their Sword. It can lay a firm foundation for the later years in a theological college. It can establish a life-long pattern for the soul's fellowship with God.

Fewer men are entering the ministry today. It is a bad omen for our future. There are reasons for this, but they are bad reasons.

Mr Preacher, if God is calling you to show yourself approved unto Him, let nothing stand between you and His perfect will. One biblical ministry can produce a dozen preachers. The dozen can, in God's good time, produce a hundred.

Will you be that minister?'

CAN YOU HELP?

The above article appeared recently on the website of *Reformation21* and was reprinted in *Banner Of Truth Magazine* No. 574. It is one of many such articles, sermons, devotionals etc written by Dr Graham Miller over the years of his remarkable ministry. These could be collected and compiled into a useful and helpful book. If any readers could assist by sending in copies of any such articles they might have kept from earlier years, I would be pleased to receive them with a view to possible publication. – *Bob Thomas*

Email: editor@nlife.com.au **Phone:** 0417 592 646 **Mail:** PO Box 457, Mitcham 3132

EYES ON THE PRIZE

'Christian' Kate Wins MasterChef 2011

AS the Central West NSW city of Orange received its moment of MasterChef glory, Kate Bracks was intent on crediting husband Luke for supporting her through the MasterChef journey. When asked about the importance of her children and the challenge of being away from them, Kate explained she could only do this because her husband was 'such a great father' and that he kept urging her on.

The judges polished off her dessert and praised her methodical approach in the kitchen.

The winner's prize includes training, \$100,000 and a cook book deal. When asked how she felt after winning, Kate said she could faint and was incredibly thankful for the entire experience.

The prayers of the various Christian communities of which Kate has been a part upheld her and helped her success. (Earlier in the competition Kate came to attention for declining to call the Dalai Lama 'Your Holiness'.)

Several Christian communities around NSW with which Kate has connections have been cheering her on, including Orange Evangelical Church, Darling Point Anglican in Lilyfield and Greenacre Baptist Christian Community School where she taught some years ago.

Kate leads the organizing committee of a non-denominational Christian Women's Conference held in Orange, NSW, which meets on the first Saturday in May each year.

— Peter Hallett

The Babes Project is making plans for a Pregnancy (Support) Centre in Croydon. The building used to be an 'Adult Shop' but as Christians have prayed, it has closed down, and will now be used to save lives, rather than destroying them! — FAVA

Changes At Gospel Recordings Network

SEVERAL changes to the international structure of Gospel Recordings Network have been made, creating a new position of International Director. The Council has appointed the present National Director, Graydon Colville, International Director from April 2012.

Prayer is asked for the GRN Council as they search for a new National Director. Suggestions or enquiries can be made by writing to: The CEO Search Committee, GRN, Locked Bag 9019, Castle Hill NSW 1765 or by email at AusCEOsearch@globalrecordings.net

Graydon would also appreciate ongoing prayer as he takes on this new challenge. To be placed on his own prayer and newsletter list, send an email to: graydoncolville@globalrecordings.net

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Ramon A Williams – Worldwide Photos

WANT TO SEE MORE?

'New Life' can only publish a small selection of photos, but you can see more of those attributed to Worldwide Photos by going to:

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e-mail: rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au

ECUMENICAL RESPONSE GROWS TO LONDON RIOTS

THE Church of England has opened its churches to help care for those affected by the worst rioting England has seen in years. The priority has been clearing up the debris, assisting victims or simply providing a quiet place to pray after four days of rioting and looting that began on 6 August and has since spread to neighbouring towns.

Police have so far made 1,200 arrests following the shooting, by police, of Mark Duggan, a local man who had been under police investigation. What began as a peaceful demonstration to protest the shooting turned violent on the streets of Tottenham in North London.

Faith leaders, politicians and youth leaders from Tottenham gathered on 8 August for a 'Vigil Of Hope' organised by local churches from the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, the Pentecostalist and Independent churches, and representatives from the Muslim and Jewish faiths.

At least three Church of England bishops have also issued statements condemning the violence and appealing for calm. 'The events of the past few days in London are appalling

but not wholly unexpected,' said the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres. 'Whatever the real motivations of those who have brought violence to our streets, there will be a proper time for sober analysis and an assessment of the role of gang culture in the capital.'

In their appeal to those responsible for the disturbances to stop, the Bishop of Southwark and Bishop for Urban Life and Faith, Christopher Chessun, remarked that 'The images of violence and destruction on our screens do not represent the strong, hopeful and vibrant communities ...'

Bishop Chessun said he would visit affected communities. 'I continue to promise my support for, and solidarity with, all who seek to build positive and constructive engagement,' he said.

In Luton, which so far has been spared civil disruption, the Bishop of St Albans, Alan Smith, led clergy and faith community leaders in appealing for 'a calm heart.'

The Church of England has issued a special prayer for peace that has been distributed via Twitter and Facebook and diocesan and parish websites. *— Anglican Journal News*

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'... We... know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.' (Galatians 2.16)

BOOKS WORTH READING

GOD'S MANY-SPLENDORED IMAGE: THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION, Nonna Verna Harrison, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

TRY not to let the daunting title put you off reading this book, for it is well-worth the effort! A Foreward written by Metropolitan Kallistos (Timothy Ware) is highly appreciative of this thoughtful book that explores the value of our human individuality using the resources provided by early Greek theologians and the desert fathers (and mothers) like Saint Anthony.

It goes without saying that we need a robust Christian understanding of true personhood in the present age of de-personalisation and cynicism about human nature and motives. Is human nature inherently evil? Sister Nonna argues that the image of God is the core of what defines us as human beings and that the image is reflected in a multiplicity of aspects: human freedom, spiritual perception, connectedness to God, virtues, reason, connectedness to the natural world, creativity, royal dignity, community and mystery. These different aspects are explored in successive chapters with the assistance of early Greek writers, who have certainly been under-utilised by most Western Christians with their heritage of Latin Christianity (Catholic and Protestant).

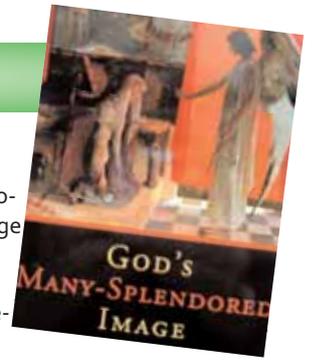
The author emphasises human freedom and our need to cooperate with divine grace in a way that sometimes smacks of the Semipelagianism inherent in the ancient Greek philosophers, so that the desert fathers would have benefitted from reading Augustine. On the other hand, the teaching of Athanasius on the Incarnation of the Word which healed our nature and restored the soiled image of God, and Irenaeus on how the human race finds a new head in Christ (Recapitulation) are biblical and beautiful, with their picture of salvation embracing the cosmos, the race and the individual.

Sister Nonna argues that if we see people as they truly are, we will see the image of God and be moved to love them. This requires spiritual perception. The role of humility (learning to trust God) in the development of moral virtues is explored.

The fact of the divine image gives equal dignity to women and it also makes slavery totally wrong, for it infringes on the royal dignity of all human beings. The Christian does not live a disembodied existence, and the body is not to be thought of as inherently evil. Human dominion is to be expressed in the care of animals and of the environment generally. Sister Nonna shows that the achievements of the arts, culture and science are the result of the image of God in us, but I cannot accept her justification of the use of icons as windows into heavenly realities.

People can bear the image of the Trinity when they live harmoniously together in community. I am familiar with an emphasis on the Trinity as a model of community life from the instruction of my old theological college principal, Dr Broughton Knox. This book will help us to become more human, for the image of God is to become more and more obvious in our character and relations. Through Christ, we can become all we were meant to be, for in taking human flesh, Jesus became the perfect manifestation of the image of God. Here, then, is a book that can transform how you think about yourself and how you view others. A book like this reminds me of why, during my theological training, I so enjoyed reading the early Greek Christian writers.

— Greg Goswell



THE BIG IDEAS: THE GREAT THEMES OF EVANGELISM, Michael Frost, Evangelist and Lecturer at Morling College, Morling Press, Sydney, 2011.

WHEN Michael Frost came into possession of Colin Campbell's 1954 lectures in evangelism he realised to his surprise that the material was every bit as fresh as if it had been delivered yesterday. Rev Ron Hansard was a student in that 1954 class, who sat under the teachings of Colin Campbell. It was due to his belief in the importance of these lectures and the timelessness of the ideas, that he passed them into Morling College.

Taking Campbell's big ideas, Michael Frost has expanded on and updated the original 1954 lectures and shown that although he and Campbell, and their students, come from different generations, the Gospel itself is timeless.

A reminder to those who knew Colin Campbell's passionate evangelistic ministry, and a new resource for today's church leaders, *The Big Ideas* is a rare glimpse into the unchanging nature of the Gospel and our enduring responsibility to share it. The book was launched on Friday 22 July at the NSW Baptist Assembly by Brian Powell on behalf of Morling Press, the publishing arm of Morling College. Rev Ron Hansard was on hand to give some background to Colin Campbell as both a lecturer and in his ministry work. Michael Frost spoke of the timelessness of these lecture notes and how he felt they needed to be published and shared with others. *The Big Ideas: The Great Themes Of Evangelism* is available through Morling Press for \$17 plus postage. Contact Benita Clark morlingpress@morling.edu.au or phone (02) 9878 0201 for copies of the book. — *Morling College Press Release*

APOLOGETIC PREACHING AND TEACHING FOR THE CHURCH AND THE MARKETPLACE – How To Preach The Word On The Tough Issues, Rev Dr Ross Clifford, Principal and Lecturer at Morling College, Morling Press, Sydney, 2011.

ROSS Clifford is often questioned on how best to address the tough issues like suffering, atheism, Islam, is the resurrection true and if so, so what? Also he is asked how to write a sermon that captures the truth and relevance of the Gospel, so he believed it was time to write a 'how-to' guide on these topics. Whether you are a beginner preacher, a long-time preacher or just hold an interest in how to teach apologetically, *How To Preach The Word On The Tough Issues, Apologetic Preaching And Teaching For The Church And The Marketplace*: is a practical guide meeting you where you are at. The book contains sample talks to show how a person can engage apologetically with an audience. With contributions from Rod Benson, David Claydon, Michael Frost, Peter Jensen and Stuart Robinson, this book is a helpful addition to any bookshelf.

The book was launched on Monday 8 August at the Morling College Preaching Skills Day by Rev Dr Michael Frost, who reflected on Ross's ministry as an apologist and endorsed the book as a most helpful and practical guide. Ross Clifford concluded the time by urging those in attendance to share this book with others and quoted Graham Johnston: 'Reach the listener, and Uphold the Word of God.' *Apologetic Preaching And Teaching For The Church And The Marketplace* is available through Morling Press for \$20 plus postage. For more information on Morling Press or to order copies of books contact Benita Clark at: morlingpress@morling.edu.au or phone (02) 9878 0201.

— *Morling College Press Release*

Q & A

New Life Associate Editor Dr Clifford Wilson Answers Questions On The Genesis Account Of Creation ...

DOESN'T the statement at 2 Peter 3.8, 'One day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day' mean that each day of creation could have been a thousand years?

2 Peter 3.8 is not referring to the beginning of time in the Genesis account, but to the ending of time with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. It just does not fit the facts of the beginning of time, when the products of some days' creation were inter-related and inter-dependent with others. Those inter-related plants and insects simply could not 'sit around', waiting for each other, until another thousand years had passed! No, the days of Genesis are meant to be taken as short periods of time. Why not 24 hours?

IS there any other evidence from the Bible against this idea of a day being 1,000 years?

Yes. At Genesis 5.5 we read that when Adam died he was 930 years old. He was created on the sixth day (Genesis 1.26ff) and God rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2.2). Clearly, the days of Genesis were not 1,000 years each. Otherwise Adam would necessarily have lived for much longer than 930 years.

DO you reject the 'gap theory' on theological grounds?

Yes. The 'gap theory' is that there was a great 'gap' in time between Genesis 1.1 and Genesis 1.2. But the word 'was' is simply part of the common verb 'to be'. In the Old Testament it occasionally has the meaning of 'became', but to build a doctrine on one possible translation of a word seems to be a wrong approach to sound Biblical exegesis. The doctrine that develops from this translation has great relevance to sin, judgment, and redemption, and it is reasonable to believe that the teaching would have been made clearer in other parts of Scripture if it was according to truth.

Teachings of the Bible do not need to depend on isolated words. Important truths are developed in various parts of Scripture, but no clear case is established for the 'gap theory' by appealing to a possible translation of one word in a way that seems to be out of proportion to the consequent teaching. In any case, linguistically 'became' would be a wrong translation in this case.

WHY did so many Christians of a previous generation accept the 'gap theory'?

When the 'gap theory' was first espoused, it seemed to be established that the world was at least millions of years old, largely because of the fossil evidence. Now it is known that almost all fossils can be explained by the Flood of Noah's time, and long ages were not involved in their formation. The 'gap theory', while it is held firmly by many sincere Christians is both unnecessary and non-factual.

WELL SAID!

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

'THE Christian life is essentially life in the Spirit, that is to say, a life which is animated, sustained, directed and enriched by the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit true Christian discipleship would be inconceivable, indeed impossible.' – *John R. W. Stott (1921-2011), Quoted in 'Soundbites'*

Another appreciative article of the life and ministry of John Stott has been written by Mike Raiter, Principal of Melbourne School of Theology and is found on the MST website at: <http://www.mst.edu.au/sites/default/files/Stott%20and%20MST.pdf>

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