

Micah Challenge Welcomes Aid Review Focus On Effective Aid And Poverty Reduction

MICAH Challenge Australia has commended the findings of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness. A particularly encouraging aspect of the announcement is the headline affirmation that 'The fundamental purpose of Australian aid is to help people overcome poverty.'

'This is good and right' said Micah Challenge National Co-ordinator, John Beckett. 'Both the review and the government's response have acknowledged that poverty reduction is our first priority for the aid budget. This, in turn, promotes stability and serves Australia's national interests in our region and beyond.'

Micah Challenge also welcomes the response by Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Kevin Rudd MP, on behalf of the government, who announced that it will move to adopt 38 of the 39 recommendations made by the review panel.

The review, commissioned by the Federal Government and implemented by a committee of independent experts, has embraced many of the recommendations concerning aid effectiveness made by Micah Challenge in their January 2011 submission.

Micah Challenge key campaign areas, including water/sanitation, child/maternal health and climate/environment were all highlighted as priority areas for aid delivery. The geographic focus of the aid program will remain on the Asia Pacific region, while also recognising the potential for Australia to contribute to global initiatives focused on Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia where the majority of the world's poor live.

Mr Rudd reaffirmed the existing bi partisan commitment to increase aid to 0.5% of Gross National Income by 2015, and acknowledged the potential for Australia to do more. 'This represents a big change from the 0.23% we fell to in 2002,3. When we reach 0.5%, we will have reached the average of the world's wealthiest countries, but no more.'

The review has recommended a new four-year strategy for aid which will be formed in the coming months and implemented from the beginning of the 2012/13 financial year.

'The coming months will be vital for forming Australia's response to

poverty through until 2015,' said Mr Beckett. 'Our supporters have no intention of pulling back on their advocacy efforts. Time and time again, Jesus made a point to stand with those on the margins of society – this is not an optional extra,' he said.

Micah Challenge is encouraging Christians in Australia to speak to their political leaders by registering for the upcoming Voices for Justice Conference from 17-20 September in Canberra.

Mr Beckett said, 'Our focus now must be on holding the government to these commitments. We need to make sure that these commitments result in increased funding to vital health and sanitation initiatives. We need implementation. Implementation of targeted and effective aid is what will ultimately make a difference for the poorest people in our region and beyond.'

Micah Challenge is a global movement of Christians speaking out against poverty and injustice in support of the Millennium Development Goals. In Australia, more than 50 aid and development agencies, as well as churches, schools, groups and individual Christians endorse the campaign.

See www.micahchallenge.org.au



FROM THE EDITOR:

Be Afraid, Derryn, Be Very Afraid

HUMAN Headline Derryn Hinch tells us that he's 'not scared of death. Not one scintilla' (*Age Good Weekend*, 9-7-11, p.20). Not wanting to be picky, but it does seem that for someone so unafraid of death he's going to great lengths to stave it off by accepting a donor liver in a twelve hour operation which might have gone to someone else.

That aside, however, the point of our own headline is that not only Derryn Hinch, but everyone else living on the face of the Earth should have a healthy fear of death, for the Bible stands firm in its declaration that 'It is appointed unto all men once to die and after this the judgment' and that 'We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.' In the same breath we hasten to add that 'There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.'

The vast majority of people today, as we know, turn a blind eye to both the reality of death and the warnings of Scripture about the state of the unbeliever after death.

If we Christians dare to call on people to make a reality check then we're immediately labelled as 'hard-hearted', 'unkind', 'insensitive' etc, etc, etc.

If we preach on Hell on the one hand, we're la-

belled 'morbid' even though, as Toplady put it: 'The terrors of death and of Hell with me can have nothing to do – my Saviour's obedience and blood hide all my transgressions from view'.

If on the other hand we preach on Heaven, we're still labelled as 'morbid' even though, as Charles H. Gabriel put it: 'When by His grace I shall see His dear face, that will be glory, be glory for me'.

Meanwhile the likes of Derryn Hinch and Kerry Packer are free to proclaim their denial of Scripture truth, leading many astray as they trumpet abroad their smooth defiance and mockery of God and His eternal decree, but pleasing the common herd, whose heads are planted firmly in the sand.

Well, in the face of all this, we are still tasked with being about our Father's business, honouring Him by believing and obeying His Word, accepting its promises and trembling before its threatenings, proclaiming the Gospel in all its fullness to all mankind, so that at least some will turn from their rebellious ways, look to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation unto eternal life and therefore be truly delivered from the fear of death.

– Bob Thomas

***'I preached as never sure to preach again,
and as a dying man to dying men.'***
– Richard Baxter



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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:

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MATTERS FOR PRAYER

Zimbabwe: Churches Targeted Amidst Political Violence

ON 9 April some 500 Christians from Harare, Mutare, Bulawayo and Gweru gathered in the Church of the Nazarene in Glen Norah for a special 'Praying for Peace to Save Zimbabwe' church service. The gathering in this densely populated suburb of Harare included four bishops and 46 pastors.

Their prayer for peace was shattered when a truckload of some 20 armed riot police arrived, firing tear gas into the church and storming the sanctuary wielding batons and brandishing rifles. Ironically, the service was also planned to commemorate the 11 March 2007 'Save Zimbabwe Prayer Rally' in which one participant, Gift Tandare, was shot dead by police and over 100 were arrested and tortured. As with the March 2007 rally, a sharp escalation in political violence ahead of elections had prompted this April 2011 prayer service.

About a week later a Roman Catholic priest, Father Mark Mkandla, was arrested in Lupane after delivering a powerful sermon against violence to a special church service organised to pray for national healing and reconciliation.

Further to this, officials from President Mugabe's Zanu (PF) have been visiting churches with the aim of forcing members to sign an anti-sanctions petition. Pastors who resist find their congregations split, with pro-Mugabe members being offered Zanu (PF) support to start new churches. As an incentive, the regime is offering church leaders land for loyalty.

President Mugabe recently issued a call for early elections, despite the terms of the power-sharing Global Political Agreement stitched together by the Southern African Development Community after the 2008 elections. The GPA mandates that before the next elections, a new constitution must be approved by referendum and a new voter registry must be drawn up. It is unlikely these conditions will be met because the police, the judiciary and the Zimbabwe Election Commission are all partisan and the rule of law has collapsed. The next elections will be stolen by means of a grossly rigged electoral register and State violence.

Meanwhile, the same as Mugabe is violently confiscating white-owned farms in the name of 'indigeni-

sation', his accomplice bishop, Nolbert Kunonga, is violently confiscating Anglican properties under the same pretext. Kunonga was unfrocked by the Anglican Church of the Province of Central Africa in November 2007 for heresy, schism and suspicion of complicity in the murder of ten clergy. However, he now controls 40% of all Zimbabwe's Anglican churches, including 30 in Harare alone. Their doors are opened on Sundays, but only to pro-Mugabe supporters. The vast majority of Zimbabwe's Anglicans now worship in any facility open to them. Anglicans suspect Kunonga of complicity in the February 2011 murder of Jessica Mandeya (89), a lay leader in the rural parish of Mashonaland East who was raped, mutilated and strangled after she refused to join Kunonga's pro-Mugabe faction. Kunonga denies any part in this, retorting that if he were going to kill anyone, it would be his nemesis, Bishop Chad Gandiya, who was elected by the Anglican Church to replace Kunonga as Bishop of Harare. According to Gandiya, Kunonga has five bishops on a hit list for 'elimination'. 'We're all being followed,' said Julius Makono, the Bishop of Manicaland, one of the five. Godfrey Tawonezvi, Bishop of Masvingo, another of the five, was recently visited by two of Kunonga's men. 'They had all our phone numbers, [and] our home addresses,' he said.

PLEASE PRAY SPECIFICALLY FOR GOD TO ...

◆ shield His courageous servants who faithfully shepherd His flock through trials and tribulations; may He execute justice for the oppressed and frustrate the schemes of the wicked. (Psalm 146.)

◆ bless the faithful in Zimbabwe who continue to worship and serve with integrity despite the risk of serious political violence, rejecting enticements; may the Lord meet all their needs and increase their faith.

◆ build His Church in Zimbabwe; for 'Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.' (Psalm 30:5b ESV.) May the LORD hasten Zimbabwe's 'morning'.

– *Elizabeth Kendal, International Religious Liberty Analyst and Advocate, for the Australian Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission.*

KACHIN FLEE TERROR IN BURMA (MYANMAR)

CIVIL war has erupted in Burma's Kachin State, a state defined by its Christian culture and home to a predominately devout Christian people. The trigger has been China's building hydro-power mega-dams that will displace hundreds of thousands and threaten the food security of millions of Kachin. Reports of massive displacements, brutal killings of civilians, gang-rapes and property confiscations have led some to conclude that the junta is actually engaged in a campaign of systematic ethnic cleansing, fuelled by ethnic and religious hatred and greed. About 16,000 Kachin refugees are in five camps in and around Laiza and 4,000 in the jungle. Some 20,000 are massed on the Chinese border, but China denies them entry. No humanitarian assistance is getting through. Please pray for our Kachin brethren.

– *Elizabeth Kendal*

MOVING FORWARD ...

Lausanne Movement Sets Out Its Road Map

- ❖ 'Cape Town Commitment – of global significance and eternal consequence' – Birdsall.
- ❖ 'Lausanne Movement – Christ-centred, biblically-orientated, missiologically-focused' – Brown.
- ❖ 'A vital document. I love its Confession of Faith as a basis for its Call to Action' – Verwer.

AT its leadership meeting in Boston in June, The Lausanne Movement adopted *The Cape Town Commitment*, issuing from The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation, as its 'roadmap for the next ten years'.

Doug Birdsall, Lausanne Movement Chief Executive, said, 'We trust *The Cape Town Commitment* will prove to be of global significance and of eternal consequence. We sense a burden of spiritual responsibility as we now work to implement it.'

The Lausanne Movement aspires to be Christ-centred, biblically-orientated and missiologically-focused. 'Its purpose,' said Lindsay Brown, International Director, 'is to strengthen the evangelical Church to bear witness to Christ in every area of the world. To do this, we must engage with every region geographically, with every sphere of society, and, too, with the realm of ideas.' He said *The Cape Town Commitment* captured this spirit and intent, describing it as 'profoundly elegant, and panoramic in its biblicism'.

George Verwer, founder of Operation Mobilisation, spoke of his desire to distribute 100,000 copies of *The Cape Town Commitment* in the West and in the majority world. 'It's a vital document,' he said. 'I love its Confession of Faith as a basis for its Call to Action. We will see some results from it soon. But

others will be invisible, and will surface only in years to come around the world.'

Ram Gidoomal, a London-based businessman and entrepreneur and a former Vice Chair of the Movement, has been appointed Chair of the Board, to succeed Doug Birdsall, who will continue to lead the Movement; Grace Mathews, from Delhi, Director of the Program for The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation, has been appointed Vice Chair. Ram Gidoomal said, 'I am honoured to take on this role. It will be a joy to serve with the board, and with Doug Birdsall and Lindsay Brown as we implement *The Cape Town Commitment*.'

Beginning in 2012, The Lausanne Movement will host a series of consultations on major issues identified in *The Cape Town Commitment*. 'These will be global in scope, and draw on the sharpest evangelical thinking in each field,' said Doug Birdsall.

The Third Lausanne Congress engaged hundreds of thousands of evangelicals through its webcasts, GlobaLink sites and multi-lingual Global Conversation. Future plans for The Lausanne Movement include a Global Briefing for leaders in the church, in mission engagement, and in the public arenas of government, business and academia; and the development of a multi-lingual publishing imprint 'The Lausanne Library'.

SEE FOR YOURSELF IN TIMOR LESTE

FURTHER to the story on page 12 of our last issue (2011-07-01), the Leprosy Mission has announced that it will hold a nine day impact adventure tour in Timor Leste in October, called 'Camping for Communities' which will give people the chance to learn about leprosy and explore the beautiful island nation.

While leprosy has been eliminated as a major public health threat in Timor Leste (formerly East Timor), it is still a disease which is impacting the lives of hundreds of people around the country, and TLM is still hard at work to alleviate the suffering it causes.

Tour participants will spend one day with TLMA's project manager, Natalie Smith, learning about capacity building and rehabilitation projects which are working in conjunction with the Timorese Government to transform the lives of people affected by leprosy. They will then have the opportunity to snorkel the abundant marine eco system and discover the country's pristine beaches and luscious green mountains, visiting such places as Baucau, Mount Ramelau, Maubisse and Jaco Island. Participants will be required to raise \$2,000 in sponsorship either before or after the tour.

Camping for Communities, held from 3-12 October, costs \$2,400 per person, departing from Darwin. For more information about Camping for Communities or other TLMA impact adventure tours, contact Graham Peck or Glenda Hunt, on 03 9890 0577.

'MORE THINGS ARE WROUGHT BY PRAYER ...'

OM To Pray For Muslims

MUSLIMS in the Mediterranean countries are still largely unreached. Transform 2011 Conference hopes to change that as they pray for these people.

Operation Mobilization is celebrating 50 wonderful years of ministry with their all-new Transform 2011 Conference in Rome this month. This conference is partnered with OM's Pray4MuslimPeoples, a year-long prayer initiative.

A prayer baton will start in Rome at the Transform 2011 Conference, where a Transform prayer team will spend time in worship and prayer for the Muslim people of the Mediterranean. They will pray for two weeks and then pass the prayer baton to another team with OM for a week. The prayer baton will be passed among teams from week-to-week up until the Transform 2012 Conference next July. Various weeks will feature different Muslim people groups so that all may be covered with prayer.

This drive to celebrate their anniversary through prayer is fitting, considering OM was born after the fervent prayers of a young college student. God gave founder George Verwer a vision for missions when he was still attending Moody Bible Institute in the 1950s.

In October 1961, OM started its first Muslim outreach ministry in Turkey. Since then it has grown to

over 1,000 workers stationed in 50 different countries. And it all started with the power of prayer!

4-10 July is dedicated to prayer for the Muslims in Turkey. In their prayer newsletter, OM states, 'To be a Turk is to be a Muslim.' Apparently the majority of Turkish provinces are still unreached with the Gospel, and they come with this presupposition that Islam is the only way. Over 40% of the Turkish population is under the age of 21, yet there is still little effort to reach the youth in Turkey.

To join OM for a specific week of focused prayer, please pray that God would remove these pre-conceived ideas that a Turk must be a Muslim. Also pray that missionaries would rise up to reach the young people of Turkey and that they, in turn, could witness to their families.

For upcoming weeks of prayer this month, the areas of focus will be Lebanon, Egypt, and Qatar. Eventually, the Muslim people in the more than 20 countries of the Mediterranean region will be covered with the prayers of believers. 450 million people live in these countries, but too few know the message of redemption through Jesus Christ.

Besides prayer, Transform team members are gathering to prepare to go on several mission trips. 30 teams will travel to 17 different countries to minister to Muslims in those regions.

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VIEWPOINT ...

Baptists Set The Record Straight – Marriage Not For Same Sex Couples

REV Rod Benson, Ethicist and Public Theologian at Tinsley Institute, Morling College, writes:

'The sentiments expressed by the Rev Nathan Nettleton in an ABC *Compass* program on same sex marriage legislation broadcast on Sunday 10 July do not represent the views of Australian Baptist Ministries or an overwhelming majority of Baptists in Australia and around the world.

'In November 2010 Australian Baptist Ministries reaffirmed marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and has commended the Australian Government for reflecting the biblical teaching on marriage in the Federal Marriage Act. Marriage is not the appropriate institution for same sex couples.

Australian Baptist Ministries supports the rights of all couples to justice with respect to property and like entitlements and acknowledges that people, including some in Baptist churches, face difficult issues with respect to sexuality. Recognition of such rights and difficulties does not justify major changes to our convictions about marriage or to marriage legislation.

'It is regrettable that Mr Nettleton failed to consult with Australian Baptist leaders before express-

ing his personal views about same sex marriage on national television. To his credit he made it clear in the program that he was not representing the official Baptist position on marriage. It is disappointing that ABC staff chose not to invite a more representative Baptist voice to participate in the *Compass* program,' Revd Dr John Beasy, President of Australian Baptist Ministries, said.

'The Baptist World Alliance, representing over 47 million baptised believers and 210 Baptist Unions and Conventions in more than 200 countries, shares the views of Australian Baptist Ministries on marriage.

'The Baptist World Alliance views homosexual lifestyle as incompatible with the teachings of Scripture and no BWA member body affirms, promotes or approves of same sex marriage.

At the Baptist World Alliance annual gathering in July 1994 in Uppsala, Sweden, the BWA General Council passed a resolution confirming that the BWA "proclaims the Biblical definition of the family, a permanent, monogamous, heterosexual union, as the original divine plan for family life which must continue to serve as the foundation and ideal for an ordered and effective society".'

St Andrews Hospital, Toowoomba, Bans Abortions

BRISBANE'S *Chronicle* of 6 July reports the banning of abortions at St Andrews Hospital, Toowoomba. This followed decisive action by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, which owns the hospital. *The Chronicle's* report said: The church sacked former long-standing board chairman Treg Rowe and eight governors two weeks ago after the church feared the former board was attempting to overturn the church's influence on the running of the hospital. The row centres on the hospital's abortion policy with the church attempting to take a hard-line moral stance on the issue. (Board Chair) Rev Andrew Clarke yesterday confirmed that a resolution was passed at the inaugural meeting of the new board on 29 June to change the current hospital policy on hysterotomy/abortion. The current policy was in accordance with Queensland legislation where an 'abortion is lawful when carried out if there is serious danger to the woman's physical and mental health from the continuance of the pregnancy'. He said the new interim policy would effectively mean there would be no terminations performed at St Andrew's.' – Report by Rev Dr Dallas Clarnette in the Newsletter of the Christian Democratic Party, Victoria.

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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)

ON THE MOVE

Long-Time Workers Among Cape York's Indigenous Population To Retire

RON and Jean Lyon have retired from their ministry to indigenous people in Cape York and are heading back to Cairns. First, though, they will be in Aurukun on 22 July for a dedication of the oral New Testament in the Wik Mungkan language. Barbara Sayers recorded it at Kangaroo Ground Vic (SIL) and will travel to Aurukun for the dedication.

The Lyons will be succeeded by Jim and Margot Stuart, who will continue the ministry to Aboriginal folk in Mapoon, Weipa and Aurukun. They will arrive in Weipa in late July to begin their ministry.

Please pray and support Jim & Margot in their ministry to indigenous people, for health and safety on the roads and getting to know Aboriginal people as they settle into Weipa.

Jim Stewart grew up in Darwin and became a surveyor and pilot. As part of his journey to fly with Mission Aviation Fellowship he attended the Bible College of Victoria in 1980. Margot grew up in Brisbane and became a Physiotherapist, studying at the University of Queensland. She attended the Bible College of Queensland in 1980 with a call to mission. After marrying in 1981 they served in Papua New Guinea with MAF until 1989 when they relocated to Nhulunbuy, NT, again with MAF. Jim followed his career with MAF with jobs in indigenous business, education and training, and a love of God's creation led him to study forestry and native landcare.

After their three daughters were married in 2008/9, they spent ten months in Niger (French) West Africa in food security and medical work with SIM. In the past year they have pursued roles in Indigenous communities in Cape York and are keen to see Australian Christians take their jobs and families into remote Australia for Christ, teaching His Word and sharing His life.

Ron and Jean Lyon are deeply grateful for all the prayers and support they received during their ministry with Australian Presbyterian World Mission to Aboriginal people in the Cape.

CTA Chairman Steps Down After Nearly 20 Years Of Service

THE board of Christian Television Australia has paid tribute to their former Chairman, Rob Adsett, who has stepped down from his role after almost 20 years of service.

Robert Young Adsett became a Director of Christian Television Australia Ltd on 11 May 1992 and resigned on 8 March 2011. Rob's contribution to the ministry during those years has been enormous.

'Rob's first passion was not for the success of CTA but for the possibilities the visual media presented for the distribution of the Gospel,' said CEO Martin Johnson. 'Throughout his years of service, Rob demonstrated the spiritual leadership which is essential for any para-church organisation to progress. Rob was the catalyst behind the *Jesus. All About Life* prime-time media campaign which Bible Society ran in South Australia (2005), Canberra/ACT (2006), Tasmania (2008) and throughout Sydney, NSW and WA in 2009.

'In responding to the question, "What would you do for the Gospel using the media if money was no object?" Rob established a think-tank, chaired by Rev Karl Faase. At the end of a year-long series of meetings, the Christian Media Project was created which then became *Jesus. All About Life* under the development of Bible Society NSW.

'Rob's encouragement to CTA staff and producers has been enormous and his understanding of the changes in the Australian Christian, political and societal landscapes has been a great contributor to the effectiveness of CTA's ministry throughout those years.

'In all, Rob might well be described similarly to the "men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do". (1 Chronicles 12:32).'

Rob has been succeeded by new chair, Neil Pfeffer who attends Tabernacle Baptist Church in Brisbane.

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URGENT NEED FOR PRAYER

Nigeria: Bomb Explodes At All Christian-Fellowship Mission In Niger State While Maiduguri Is Rocked By Violence

A MAN and two women died when a bomb exploded at the All Christian-Fellowship Mission in Suleja, Niger State on Sunday 10 July, while Maiduguri in north eastern Nigeria was rocked by violence that has been described as the worst this year. The blast in the Suleja church occurred just after 3pm as several church members were taking part in a committee meeting after the church service. Two people died on the spot, including Justina Odogbo, the wife of the committee chair. Four others were critically injured, and were rushed to hospital, where one died.

Suleja is situated close to the Nigerian capital, Abuja. The area may have been picked as a softer target, since security in the capital has been tightened and a curfew is in place there. Although no group has claimed responsibility for the blast, the attack follows unconfirmed reports of a message issued by the militant Islamist group Boko Haram warning Nigerians to avoid Christians, security agents, and government institutions and functions, or risk death.

Over the weekend the north-eastern city of Maiduguri suffered a further upsurge in violence, which one resident described as 'hell let loose'. On Saturday night, two days after the Borno State government banned the use of motorcycles in order to thwart further attacks by Boko Haram, multiple explosions rocked parts of Maiduguri. Also on Saturday, members of the Joint Military Task Force charged with security in the state are reported to have gone 'on a rampage and caused a lot of havoc'

after an army patrol was targeted in a bomb and gun attack by Boko Haram. According to local residents, the military closed off the area where the attack occurred, and went from house to house rounding up and executing males within a certain age bracket, who were deemed to be possible members of Boko Haram. On Sunday, churches in Maiduguri remained closed following the previous night's violence and warnings of imminent targeted attacks by the Islamist group.

Stuart Windsor, Special Ambassador for Christian Solidarity Worldwide, said, 'If the alleged Boko Haram statement is accurate and their target is now shifting increasingly towards the church, Christians are in greater danger than ever, as their places of worship provide soft targets. It is vital that state and federal authorities ensure that adequate protection is afforded to these establishments and that security is deployed during church services. However, reports of possible irregular actions and extrajudicial executions by some members of the JTF are deeply worrying and must be investigated as a matter of urgency. It is crucial that security arrangements for the country as a whole and for Maiduguri in particular are conducted with sensitivity, in order not to alienate and further victimise innocent members of the public, who are already traumatised by the actions of this violent group.'

– Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a Christian organisation working for religious freedom through advocacy and human rights, in the pursuit of justice.

Pakistan: Asia Bibi's Case Still On Hold, But Family Remains Hopeful

THE case of Asia Bibi, the 45-year-old Pakistani Christian mother-of-five who is under the threat of the death penalty for alleged blasphemy, is still on hold, but her family remains hopeful. According to a story released by Spero News (www.speroforum.com), Bibi has waited for months for an appeal trial but Pakistani judges 'do not appear in a hurry to add her case to their agenda.'

Bibi has denied the blasphemy charge that stemmed from an accusation after a dispute in June 2009 involving Muslim women who refused to drink from the same water bowl as Bibi. When she challenged them on this, they then charged her with committing blasphemy, for which she was found guilty in a case that has caused uproar around the world. The Christian woman's attorney, S.K. Chaudhry, filed again for an appeal after four judges were suddenly replaced.

For Saleem Murtaza, a legal expert who has been following up Asia Bibi's case, 'The High Court is delaying the hearing due to the pressure from extremists and clerics. There is a great possibility that if the High Court takes up the case, it will maintain the death sentence. The pressure from extremist groups and the bounty over Asia's head will increase the threat for the judiciary as well.'

A worldwide prayer campaign has been mounted for Asia Bibi. *– Dan Wooding, ASSIST News service*

WHAT'S ON?

Broadway Actor To Present 'Theatre For The Mind And Spirit' In Australia

BIBLE Society Australia is bringing Broadway actor Bruce Kuhn to Australia as part of its 400th Anniversary celebration of the King James Bible. He will present *The Gospel of Luke* from the actual text of the KJV, in language that lends naturally to a Shakespearean stage.

Kuhn's theatrical credits include the lead roles of D'Artagnan in *The Three Musketeers* and Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He has taught storytelling in nine countries and currently tours his one-man shows to universities and churches throughout North America and Europe.

His work is described as 'theatre for the mind and spirit' and in a compelling 90 minutes he renders the entire *Gospel of Luke* with the passion and surprise of an eyewitness account. Alone on stage, Kuhn weaves the tale of the Christ without props, sets or period costume, but with powerful and the-

atrical delivery that has won him rave reviews.

The play opens in WA on Friday 22 July and tours the nation until Sunday 7 August.

22 Jul	7pm	WA	Subiaco Church of Christ.
23 Jul	2pm	WA	Karrinyup Anglican Church.
23 Jul	7pm	WA	Mt Pleasant Baptist Church.
26 Jul	7pm	SA	Concordia College, Highgate.
27 Jul	7pm	SA	Scots Church, Adelaide.
29 Jul	7pm	VIC	Melbourne City Conf Centre.
30 Jul	7pm	VIC	One Community Church, Blackburn
1 Aug	7.30pm	TAS	Ferrall Centre, Mowbray (Laun'ton).
2 Aug	7.30pm	TAS	Burbury Theatre, Sandy Bay.
4 Aug	7.30pm	NSW	Abbotsleigh School, Wahroonga.
5 Aug	7.30pm	NSW	Village Church, Annandale.
6 Aug	7pm	QLD	Metro Church, 17 Mile Rocks.
7 Aug	7.30pm	QLD	Metro Church, Taigum

To help cover the costs of the tour, entry is by ticket purchase, \$10 each or five for \$40.

Tickets are only available online at the www.kjv11.com.au website.

Free Live Stream From BGEA Friday 15 July Features Renowned Christian Speaker Josh McDowell

ON 15 July at 7.15pm American Eastern Time (9.15am 16 July Aust Eastern Time?? – Ed), participants from around the world can visit www.thecove.org to experience a free live streaming seminar from renowned Christian speakers **Josh McDowell** and **Sean McDowell** as they present the first session of *Unshakable Truth, Relevant Faith*, a three-day seminar at **The Cove** aimed at revealing the essentials that should stand at the centre of every believer's faith and give them the passion to share their love for Christ with the next generation. Josh McDowell has been reaching the spiritually skeptical for almost four decades, most notably with his book *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*. For more information visit www.thecove.org You can also connect with The Cove on these social media sites: Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

HCJB invites you to hear Dolly and Christopher Kirubakaran of Genesis Media Training Association, Delhi on Friday 29 July at HCJB Australia, 281 Colchester Rd, Kilsyth at 10am or 7pm. www.hcjb.org.au

◆ ◆ ◆
Challenge Victoria 2011 Conference for those wishing to enquire about ministry will be held at Melbourne School of Theology, 5 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna on 30 July from 9am to 8pm. Speakers will be Archie Poulos of Moore Theological College, Sydney, and Murray Campbell, Senior Pastor of Mentone Baptist Church, Melbourne. Register online at www.mts.com.au

Trinity Theological College, Perth, is holding its Annual Trinity Lecture on Monday 1 August, 7.30-9.30pm, with Dr Andrew Cameron of Moore College

speaking on *The Gospel In The Public Space*. www.ttc.wa.edu.au

◆ ◆ ◆
Queensland Theological College is hosting a conference with John Piper: *Don't Waste Your Life* on 25 August at Brisbane Convention Centre. www.qtc.edu.au

◆ ◆ ◆
CRE8 Business Leaders Conference For Sydney – Unpacking God's Purpose For The Marketplace AFTER impacting over 1,000 people over four years in Melbourne, the CRE8 Kingdom Business Conference is coming to the Hills Centre in Sydney on 27, 28 October. In partnership with local churches, CRE8 delivers focused teaching and provides resources on the characteristics of business success.

Michael Baer from the US, au-

thor of *Business As Mission* will be one of CRE8's 2011 keynote speakers. Other keynote speakers include Professor Graeme Clark, Amanda Wells, Peter Irvine, and Karl Faase. The complete program with full list of speakers and sessions is available on the CRE8 web site at: www.cre8conference.org

◆ ◆ ◆
Sunraysia South Anglican Church presents a Bible Teaching Weekend with Bishop Stephen Hale on 28-30 October at the church, 25 Heath St, Red Cliffs, Vic. www.apos.org.au

◆ ◆ ◆
ESA Country Ministries keeps up a busy schedule of camps for people of all ages. www.esa.org.au

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PERSECUTION WATCH

Conflicting Information Surfaces Over Iranian Apostasy Case

AN appeal by an Iranian pastor convicted of apostasy has failed. However, Todd Nettleton with Voice of the Martyrs says conflicting information has just reached them which their partners are working hard to confirm. 'The reports over the last 24 hours are that, in fact, the Supreme Court did not uphold the death penalty. They sent the case back to the local court in his area where he would have the opportunity to recant and if he did that, then the death sentence would go away.'

This 2009 case stems from Pastor Youcef Nardarkhani's refusal to teach his son the Qu'ran. A guilty verdict wasn't surprising. However, 'In the last 20 years, no Christian has been executed by the state for apostasy. So, it's rare that we have a verdict and that the sentence is actually carried out.'

While the apostasy law may have been intended to squelch the Gospel, it might have had the opposite effect. 'When their government fails or when there is injustice, they see that as the failure of Islam. They are very open to other messages, including the message of the Gospel of Jesus.'

Full story: <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/15931>



Pastor Youcef Nardarkhani and his wife. (Photos courtesy Voice of the Martyrs)

Cuban Pastor Receives Asylum In United States As State Interference In Church Affairs Continues

CUBAN pastor and denominational leader Carlos Lamelas flew to Florida recently, along with his wife and two daughters, after being granted asylum by the United States Government.



According to a news release from human rights organization Christian Solidarity Worldwide, the former President of the Church of God in Cuba had been imprisoned for four months in 2006 and was prohibited from working legally after his release. CSW said Lamelas was originally detained in February 2006 and charged with human trafficking. His home and most of the family's belongings were confiscated by the government. CSW believes Lamelas was targeted because of his public criticism of government interference in internal religious affairs during his time as leader of the Church of God denomination.

CSW said he was released in June 2006 after a massive international campaign, but the charges were not dropped. In December 2006 he was put on trial. However, the state prosecutor failed to appear and he was found innocent. Despite the positive verdict, CSW said, the family home and belongings were not returned. For the past five years they have lived in cramped conditions in the one bedroom apartment of Lamelas' elderly parents in Old Havana. Because of the work prohibition, CSW said, Lamelas and his wife depended mainly on support from family and friends.

Since Lamelas' detention, CSW said its sources in Cuba have reported a change in tactics by the authorities from overt forms of persecution, such as the destruction of churches and lengthy prison terms, towards short-term detentions and the more targeted harassment of pastors. CSW said it believes this is an attempt to deflect international attention from the ongoing harassment of pastors and that there are also consistent reports from pastors of all denominations of government interference in church affairs, and official pressure being brought to bear against church leaders who refuse to expel families of political prisoners from their churches.

— *Jeremy Reynolds, Senior Correspondent for ASSIST News Service*

The Dangerous 'Road To Somalia'

THE frontlines of danger are becoming a reality for Kenyan Christians at the Frontline Shepherds Conference. Thousands of Somali Christian refugees are fleeing into Kenya from brutal attacks and persecution by the Al-Shabaab. But sometimes, even crossing the border doesn't stop these Muslim groups. Jonathon Shibley with Global Advance says Kenyan Christians at their conference were moved to reach out to Somalis, despite the danger. 'They've called their project "Road to Somalia," and they're targeting refugees that have come across the border into Kenya. They're working with people who are living there in these camps and discipling future leaders that are going to go back into Somalia. Somalis need brave Christians to cross the frontlines of their borders and bring hope. Kenyans trust that with their efforts, Somali believers will be able to better evangelise to the lost in their country. Pray that God will soften the hardened ground that's out there and that God will put Somalia on the hearts of many believers in east Africa.'

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD ...

'To The Corinthians' – Again

It's been some time since the Apostle Paul wrote his two letters to the Corinthians, but in the coming northern summer vacation some 750 villages and towns in the area surrounding Corinth, Greece, will again be receiving the letters from Paul, as well as the rest of the New Testament writers.

Some 300 volunteers from around the world will take part in a mass distribution of Scriptures to 90,000 homes in the area. The copies of the New Testament will be in modern Greek published by the Bible Society.

Very few Greeks own a copy of the Bible as it is regarded as a study book for theologians and clergymen and not intended to be read by the masses. Those who do possess a copy of the Bible treat it more as a good luck charm or an ornament.

During this project 90,000 households will be receiving a beautifully bound copy of the New Testament in a language they would expect to find in their daily newspaper – the sort of Greek the venerable apostle would have used if he had been sending out his epistles today.

Greek New Testaments

The campaign is being organized by Hellenic Ministries, a Greek-based evangelistic mission operating out of Athens, Greece. The mission was started by Costas and Alky Macris who had returned from their own work as pioneer missionaries in Irian Jaya for health reasons and immediately began a new ministry in their native Greece.

This project is the biggest evangelistic effort in the long history of Greece. When Paul wrote his two epistles to the Corinthians it was probably delivered to a small handful of believers, who were facing real problems. This time 90,000 homes will have access to the Word of God as found in the New Testament.

Johnathan Macris, President of Hellenic Ministries, and his small staff are confident that the area will be greatly impacted, for 'the entrance of Your Word brings light, it brings understanding to the simple.' (Psalm 119.130). Their vision is to distribute a million copies of

the New Testament throughout rural Greece. Over the past few years 224,000 New Testaments have already been distributed to homes across Greece.

How the Apostle Paul would have loved to have had such an enthusiastic, energised group at his disposal!

For further information and application forms to join this exciting project see: www.operationjoshua.net or contact the Project Co-ordinator, Janet Sewell. joshua@hmnet.org.gr

– Nico Bougas, Special to ASSIST News Service



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FORWARD NEW LIFE
TO?**

DEFINING OUR TERMS

'IMPUTATION' – The DNA Of The Christian Faith

'UNDERSTAND the term "Imputation" and you'll understand Christianity because "imputation" is the DNA of the Christian faith,' Geoff Thomas told a gathering in South Yarra Presbyterian Church on Friday 8 July. The pastor of Alfred Place Baptist Church, Aberystwyth, Wales was visiting Melbourne for the Evangelical Ministries Trust, publishers of the journal *Evangelical Action*.

He said that 'imputation' is an act of crediting the merit of one person to another person (or debiting the demerit of one person to another) and that there are three applications of imputation in the Bible: the imputation of Adam's sin to us; the imputation of our sin to Christ; and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us.

The pattern of imputation outlined in Romans 4.21 onwards is not just a process which applies to super Christians; it applies to all Christians. It answers three questions:

Why Am I A Sinner?

We are sinners because we are all descended from Adam. Adam was created upright by God, who gave him a simple command, but Adam did not trust and obey. To accept or reject God's Word is the age-long conflict in the heart of all mankind, of whom Adam is the federal head. The Fall brought mankind into a state of sin and misery, guilt and want of righteousness.

Why Was It Necessary For Christ, The Lamb Of God, To Die?

Although He knew no sin, Christ has been made accountable for our sin, and on the cross His innocence is confirmed; all this because the great problem is not: how can man be reconciled to God, but how can God be reconciled to man?

This world is in the grip of a God who is light. Search out God and all you will find is utter perfection. God, who sees *all* sin, can by no means clear the guilty. Sin, and you will answer to God for it. But God has laid our sin on Christ. On the Cross our sins have been punished as Christ gave His life a ransom for many.

God's righteousness is satisfied on the Cross as Christ finishes His work. The price of our liberation has been paid to the penny.

How Can I Get To Heaven?

Because Christ's righteousness is then imputed to us (not imparted, not inhaled, not infused) we have a change of status before God because He has dealt with us in love and mercy.

Our task as God's people made righteous in Christ is to declare Him in all His glory, to ask: 'Are you in Adam or in Christ? Cry out to God to loose you from Adam and join you to Christ. Have your filthy robes of sin been replaced with Christ's Robe of Righteousness?'

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'WHEN THROUGH FIERY TRIALS ...'

We're Sorry This Issue Is Late, But ...

AS announced in the last issue of *New Life*, we can now see our way clear to publish *New Life* fortnightly, on the 1st and 15th of each month, 15 February to 1 December inclusive. However, just as this issue was nearing completion, *New Life* editor Bob Thomas with his wife Alison and their friend Una Linton (known to many through Wycliffe Bible Translators connections) were involved in a serious car accident, so this issue is a few days late. Bob writes: 'Alison and I give thanks to God for our survival in a serious road accident on Thursday night, 14 July. We were travelling home after celebrating our grandson Zach's birthday and about to deliver his other grandmother, Una Linton, home, when we were diverted to a minor road which went down a steep hill with a sharp turn at the end. Our brakes failed and the car ran away from us, crashing into a tree and fence. Airbags and seat belts saved our lives. The car's a write-off. Thank God we're not.

The people whose fence we destroyed were on

the spot in a minute, called police, ambulance and rescue, all of whom arrived in five minutes. We all ended up in Trauma at Royal Melbourne where we were given excellent treatment. Alison has a cracked vertebrae so is now in a body brace for at least six weeks. Una has a cracked rib and cracked vertebrae with a blood clot next to it. She will be in hospital for longer than we were, but she's in good spirits. I'm badly bruised and sore all over, but nothing broken. We were both discharged on Saturday. We're feeling better and better, but will have a long convalescence on the road back to normality.

We're grateful to God for His protection, to Rose and Nick who've been wonderful, and our dear friends in the neighbourhood, and to all who've helped and prayed. We will be glad of your ongoing prayers so that we can get back into the work at St Kilda-Balaclava, *New Life* and PresAID, and Blackburn Lake Primary School where Alison has been teaching Scripture for 22 years.

'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.

Available from: PTC Media,
684 Elgar Rd, Box Hill North 3129.

Cost: \$6.60+\$2.20 p&p.

(Please make cheque payable to PTC Media)



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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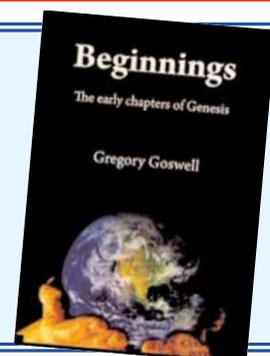
'Beginnings' – A Commentary And 24 Studies

On Genesis 1-11

Written by Greg Goswell, Old Testament Lecturer,
Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne

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NOTICE BOARD:



Science & Faith: Conflict Or Conversation? – Tabor Faraday Conference – 30 Aug–1 Sep

TABOR Adelaide in collaboration with the prestigious Faraday Institute for Science and Religion, based at Cambridge University, UK, will present the Tabor Faraday Conference, *Science & Faith: Conflict Or Conversation*.

This three-day conference aims to develop a deeper understanding of the relationship between science and faith in today's complex and fast-paced world.

Key speakers have been drawn from around the world in an outstanding program that will address many of the questions people are asking today about the connection between science and faith. The program has been organised under the auspices of Tabor's new Graeme Clark Research Institute, to be officially launched on the day prior to the conference. Professor Graeme Clark pioneered the Multi-channel Cochlear Implant for severe-to-profound deafness. Graeme Clark is a pioneer in his chosen field, much like Tabor Adelaide is a pioneer in the delivery of higher learning in a nurturing environment.

For any additional details or to register, contact Michele D'Aloia, PO Box 135 Findon SA 5023, phone 0417 837 896, email michele.daloia@bigpond.com

John Flynn – The Man On The \$20 Note – 'Flynn Of The Inland'

REV Robert Benn recently addressed a gathering of over 300 supporters of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in the auditorium of the University of the Sunshine Coast, Qld. Because 2011 is the centenary of Dr John Flynn's ordination, and 2012 is the centenary of the formation of the Australian Inland Mission (now 'Frontier Services' of the Uniting Church and 'Presbyterian Inland Mission' of the Presbyterian Church), Robert Benn's address was on *The Life And Ministry Of The Rev Dr John Flynn*. Robert is willing to make this address available for other groups, delivering it in person.

Topics Covered Include:

- Flynn's birth, childhood and education (at Moliagul, west of Bendigo; in Sunshine, south of Tullamarine in Victoria; and Melbourne University);
- his spiritual growth and the crafting of his walk with God;
- his ministry as Home Missionary in Victoria, and experiences at Ormond College;
- the origin and development of *The Bushman's Companion* and *Shearers' Missions*;
- the incredible amount of investigative travel he did so as to serve our Inlanders with the Gospel and the hand of friendship;
- his commissioning to the Smith of Dunesk Mission in South Australia;
- the formation of the AIM and its service to 2/3 of Australia;
- the ongoing realisation of his visions for the outback – nursing homes; wireless communication; literature; and the Aerial Medical Service;
- his supporters - H.V. McKay (Sunshine Harvester Company), Hudson Fysh (QANTAS), Sidney Kidman (Cattle King), Alf Treager (technican), Dr Allan Vickers (Flying Doctor), Rev Andrew Barber (Minister of Hamilton, Victoria);
- his ongoing legacy and recognition by church and state.

The talk is supported with about 200 contemporary and archival pictures and is approximately one hour in length. Donations for this ministry will be directed to the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

Call Rev Stuart Bonnington (Convener of the PIM Committee) on 08 93981304 or email at: melbonn@bigpond.com ; or call Rev Rob Duncanson (PIM Superintendent) on 08 89457878 or email at: rob@darwinpresbyterian.org.au or Rev Robert Benn directly on 0431 062 853 or 02 47574144, or email at: rbenn@exemail.com.au if you wish to make use of this service of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

**Have YOU Checked Out Our Website?
Just Google 'New Life'**

BOOKS WORTH READING

FOR USE AS DIRECTED, David Senator, Published For The Author By Book Pal, 2009

EVERY missionary no doubt has at least one book in him or her. I hope that David and Sim Senator have more than one, because this book is a delightful read as it recounts the life and work of one who describes himself as 'an ordinary man' who has written his book 'to show the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ ... to tell of the reality of God's gracious hand in the life of our ordinary family, and to show that in our experience God has never let go ... how God could use a not-particularly gifted couple ... about what Jesus Christ can do with us if we just centre our lives on Him ...'

Here we have a family who were unafraid to take God at His Word, going where He asked them to go, doing what He asked them to do and relying on His enabling to do it.

Rev Peter Jenkins, Queensland Baptist Minister who worked with the Senators on the field for many years, says of the book: 'I first met David and Sim in 1966 at the Kerang Convention, mentioned in Chapter Eight, and have valued them as prayer partners, supporters, colleagues and close friends ... I found the book frank, fascinating, amusing at times, and inspiring. I appreciated the way David sought to give God the glory as being gracious and faithful to answer prayer. I enjoyed the insights and anecdotes about the countries where

they have lived. It is a worthwhile read for anyone contemplating cross-cultural ministry to unreached people groups, as well as for the more seasoned worker. It will challenge the thinking and living of Christians and those still on the way to knowing Christ.'

David Senator is an evangelical Christian pharmacist. He spent his early life in the UK before coming to Australia and later serving with SIM in Ethiopia and Liberia. In *For Use As Directed* he uses his narrative as a didactic tool, drawing out many helpful lessons for Christians, especially prospective missionaries, to learn.

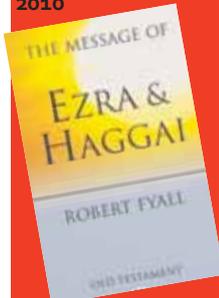
Chapter 39, *Can A Muslim Be Saved?*, is particularly appropriate to our present situation in which many Christians are prepared to make dangerous compromises with Islam while others are fearful of approaching Muslims with the Gospel. David Senator prayed for wisdom in that situation – and received it in a way which brought glory to God.

For Use As Directed is available for order from any Angus & Robertson book store throughout Australia. It's a good book, a good read, and with all profits going to missions, it's a good way to help extend the Kingdom.

– Bob Thomas



THE MESSAGE OF EZRA AND HAGGAI: BUILDING FOR GOD, Robert Fyall, Nottingham: IVP, 2010



ROBERT Fyall is senior tutor in ministry for the Cornhill Training Course in Scotland. He has previously written popular books on *Daniel* and *Job* and is a faithful and thoughtful commentator on the Bible. In the case of this new study on *Ezra and Haggai*, his insights and applications have been given a 'test-drive' in sermon series on these two important postexilic books. Fyall provides a useful introduction to each book in terms of their main themes, structure, background and style. He succeeds in showing the on-going relevance of these Old Testament books to contemporary church life, consistent with the practical aim of the commentary series, *The Bible Speaks Today*.

Both Bible books concern the building of the House of God. Fyall provides a lucid summary of the temple theme throughout the Bible, though he might have mentioned that the temple was viewed as God's 'palace' (which is what the Hebrew word means), so that it represents God's presence as King among his people. Fyall makes helpful wider connections with biblical theology more generally, assisting us to see the connections between Old Testament anticipation and New Testament fulfilment. This is important if we are going to preach these books. In applying Ezra 3, Fyall makes pertinent comments about contemporary worship that needs fresh biblical input. The portrait of the reformer Ezra is shown to be an example worth emulating, because he practised what he preached and put God's Word into practice before he tried to teach that Word to others (see Ezra 7.10). Fyall also tackles the vexed issue of the morality of the divorcing of non-Jewish wives in Ezra 10.

In turning to the book of Haggai, Robert Fyall shows that its message echoes and confirms earlier prophecy, and that Haggai's focus on the temple was not due to mere ritualism, but reflects the Kingdom of God theology at the heart of his message. In line with many other commentators, Fyall sees Zerubbabel as a messianic precursor, though the prophecy itself is silent about his membership of the House of David and looks forward to the dawning Kingdom of God (2.20-23). All in all, however, this volume is sure to excite interest in these two fascinating Old Testament books and will assist those who want to understand them better. Pastors will discover that these two Bible books are eminently preachable!

– Greg Goswell

READING THE BIBLE WITH GIANTS: HOW 2000 YEARS OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION CAN SHED NEW LIGHT ON OLD TEXTS, David Paul Parris, Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2006.

HUMILITY demands that we take note of how earlier generations of believers read and understood the Scriptures and that we acknowledge that like dwarfs standing on the shoulders of giants, we will see further if we do! This approach is now given the fancy title 'reception history', and the principles behind the study of the history of the interpretation of the Biblical text is now graced with the title 'reception theory'. Parris is writing, however, for the ordinary layperson, so he explains and applies these principles in a remarkably non-technical manner.

Parris stresses the importance of working hard to understand the original context and meaning of a particular Bible passage lest we impose our contemporary thoughts upon the text. Actually, it is only since mountaineering in the Alps became a popular leisure activity for wealthy Europeans in the 19th Century that we have thought of mountains in that way! Next, he illustrates how the meaning and connotation of words change over time. A knowledge of how earlier generations of readers understood the Bible provides us with fresh perspectives and possibly valuable guidance as to how to understand and apply the Bible today.

– Greg Goswell