

Melbourne Prayer Breakfast Hears Of The Forgiving, Restoring, Healing Grace Of God



Participants in the 28th Melbourne Prayer Breakfast.
(Inset: Jonathan Aitken, left, with Bob Brooks of
Prison Fellowship South Australia.)

JONATHAN Aitken knows the high and lows, the ups and downs of life – and the ins and outs of the prison system. This former high profile Cabinet Minister and Member of Her Majesty's UK Government has also spent time 'at Her Majesty's pleasure' in Belmarsh Prison, London – for perjury.

The first night was a nightmare, going through all the processes of 'induction' into the system, the slamming of the cell door behind him, the taunts of his fellow prisoners now this high profile figure had arrived among them.

The experience did wonders for his prayer life, though. What had previously been an intermittent, formal process became a cry from the heart – and received a gracious answer as next morning his fellow prisoners began to show an unexpected friendship, which grew as his empathy and usefulness became manifest.

Many of the inmates were illiterate, and Jonathan soon became indispensable as a reader and writer, which gave him opportunity to witness. Soon came the opportunity to pray with individuals, then gathering together with them into 'cell groups' (giving a whole new dimension of meaning to a present-day Christian buzz word).

Experience Summarised In Four Words:

PAIN – couldn't be suppressed, but it was part of the process of building a closer relationship with God through prayer.

PENITENCE – Matthew 3.8 points up the need for penitence for sin from all people leading to the fruit of repentance.

POWER (OF GOD) – being in a helpless situation throws us onto the power of God to sustain us – and He does.

PRAYER – prayer changes things, whether in the days of the First Century Church or the 21st Century. Jonathan saw miracles of grace in the lives of his fellow prisoners, and a marked decrease in recidivism. Years later, 15 out of a group of 20 men have 'gone straight', four have re-offended and gone back to prison, one has died.

Jonathan concluded with an appeal to anyone present who would like to make a change for the better in life by turning to the Lord and inviting Him in.

28th Melbourne Prayer Breakfast

John Peberdy, Chair of MPB, defined the purpose of the meeting as 'to pray for our city and its leaders and to provide inspiration to those in attendance through hearing how God has changed the life of our speaker today.'

This aim was admirably achieved at the 28th Melbourne Prayer Breakfast, with Bible reading (Psalm 130) by Neil Angus MLA, prayers offered by Andie Patchett, Toby Hall, Christine Campbell and Travis Bail, musical item by Vita Adam, compere Penny Mulvey.

How Can YOU Help *New Life*?

- ◆ Keep us in your prayers.
- ◆ Recommend us to others.
- ◆ 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 website (nlife.com.au)

FROM THE EDITOR

Sports Chaplaincy – Is It The Next Big Thing?



IN a sports-mad nation like Australia, an organisation like the Christian Church which seeks to be 'all things to all men that (it) might in one way or another save some', will naturally want to reach out to the sporting community.

Sports Chaplaincy Australia is working hard to fill the need for chaplaincy in all kinds of sporting activities all around the nation. At their recently held National Conference and Awards Dinner in Geelong, reports were given on chaplaincies already in place – more than 40 chaplains in a variety of sports from cricket and football to V8 motor racing are in place, but 1,600 could be placed in Victoria alone!

Jeremy Dover, Victorian State Co-ordinator and a chaplain for 14 years says that sport is the place where people meet and when chaplains can be placed, God uses them in remarkable ways. Chaplains are people carers. Being believers they know how to live life to the full and how to encourage others to do so too. They have numerous opportunities to minister, from critical incidents, accidents, losses and failures to advising and helping in personal matters. The goal of SCA is to place a chaplain in every sporting club.

Some of the more prominent placements are: Paul Reis, Chaplain to the Brisbane Lions AFL Club; Cameron Butler, Chaplain to the Melbourne Football Club ('Only God could get a chaplain in to the Demons,' says Jeremy); Paul Cameron, Chaplain to Richmond Football Club; Allan Dunn, Chaplain to Essendon Football Club; Roger Johnson, Chaplain to the South Australian Redbacks Sheffield Shield cricket team. But openings are available everywhere for both men and women. For further enquiries go to: www.sportschaplaincy.com.au

Sports chaplaincy is not a one way street. Jon Van Groeningen runs Red Dust Role Models, which gives sports men and women opportunities to serve in disadvantaged communities bringing encouragement and hope to the kids in need. The likes of Jimmy Bartels and Tom Lonergan of the Geelong Football Club give a good deal of their time to being Red Dust Role Models.

At the Dinner, former Wallaby Jimmy Holbrook told of his return to faith. 'There's nothing greater than knowing God,' he said, 'and I owe it all to Him because of the ministry of sport chaplains.'



Jeremy Dover makes a point.

'Sport is where people meet,' says Jeremy, 'and where God uses chaplains in a remarkable way.'

SCA National Director Cameron Butler agrees, and adds: 'Chaplains reach people the Church never gets to.'

Here is yet another open door for the Church to go through. Only God knows what can and will result from going through that door. May He raise up many more to take the opportunity of sharing with and caring for those involved in sport in all its forms, and those who surround them.

– Bob Thomas

Annual Reformation Day Service

**Sunday 30 October 2011
at 3.30pm**

**Lygon Street Christian Chapel, Carlton
(next to Trades Hall)**

Speaker: Rev Rod Scott

Sermon:

**'The Bible – The Key To The Reformation,
Revival And Renewal'**

**Rev Rod Scott Is The Pastor
at Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church.**

**He previously served at
Mayfield Presbyterian Church (Mernda).**

**He will be assisted by:
Choir of the GRI Indonesian Church,
Lygon St, Carlton.**

Enquiries:

Victorian Protestant Federation

Phone: 03 9329 8483

MOVING FORWARD

JESUS Film Project Makes Great Leap Forward

– Innovative Technology To Bring Films Straight To Smart Phones And Websites

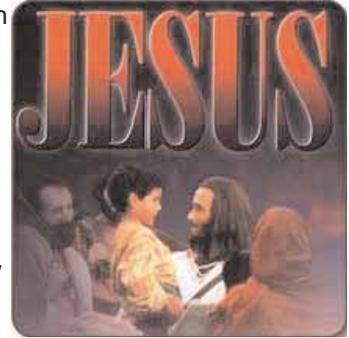
FOR more than 30 years, *The JESUS Film Project* has focused on carrying out one mission: to engage people with Jesus through films in their native language. The field staff and partners have travelled the world equipped with backpacks containing the *JESUS* film, projectors, and movie screens, to share the story of Jesus.

Now, JFP is developing a new strategy to multiply this global reach through digital distribution, according to a media update from the ministry.

The media release says that over the years, JFP's library has grown to include more than 40 video products in 1,136 of the world's languages. The new technology will allow JFP the capacity to make these assets globally pervasive, so they can be seamlessly embedded in websites, cell phones and apps of ministry partners around the world.

To date, the classic *JESUS* film has been shown in 220 countries with more than 6 billion viewings. These innovations will allow JFP media to impact the lives of the next 6 billion people in 1/3 of the time it previously took!

Founded in 1979 with the film *JESUS*, JFP continues to carry out the mission of spreading the story of Jesus through film. Today, JFP's catalog contains over 40 video products, including *The Story Of Jesus For Children* and *Magdalena*, a version for women.



The films are available in over 1,100 languages, and JFP continues to produce resources into languages that have 50,000 or more speakers.

Also, the digital technology provides JFP with quantifiable information about the use of their products. JFP will be able to see how many times the different films are viewed, downloaded, in what languages and from where. This information will help in the development of new materials.

For more information, visit www.jesusfilm.org

– Michael Ireland, Senior Correspondent, ASSIST

National CDP Convention 'Looking To The Future'

THE 120 delegates at the 2011 National Christian Democratic Party Convention at Merroo Conference Centre, Kurrajong Heights, NSW, held from Friday 30/9/11 to Monday 3/10/11, confirmed their opposition to the development of coal gas wells on prime agricultural land. In addition, during the CDP's policy workshop at the Convention, the delegates expressed strong concern to the lengthy delays in the public hospitals, the promotion of same-sex homosexual marriage and the Green Party boycott of Jewish shops etc.

The Opening Address was given by the National CDP President, the Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC, who reported on the opportunities in the NSW Parliament with the new Coalition Government led by Premier Barry O'Farrell. He updated delegates on the Ethics Course Repeal Bill and the forthcoming Federal Election. The Hon David Clarke MLC, a prominent member of the Liberal Party, gave a challenging address on the growing influence of secularism and the secular Left in the media, academia and the Green Party. He also spoke on Islamic Fundamentalism in the USA, UK and Australia. Author Bill Muehlenberg spoke on *The Homosexual War Against Faith And Family* and drew on information in his new publication *Strained Relations: The Challenges Of Homosexuality*. He gave many examples of the court cases against Christians who will not compromise their consciences when same-sex homosexual marriages were legalised in some of the States of the USA, or the extreme anti-homosexual discrimination laws in the UK. An active ALP Member of the NSW Parliament, the Hon Greg Donnelly MLC, spoke on the need for Christians to be fully involved in politics in the political party of their choice. He spoke of his concern over the promotion of 'homosexual marriage' and the coming debate at the National ALP Conference. He also congratulated the Rev Fred Nile MLC on his 30 years of Service in the NSW Upper House of Parliament, since 19 September 1981. The Convention delegates spontaneously applauded his congratulations to Rev Fred Nile.

The Hon Paul Green MLC, the newly elected CDP Member of the NSW Upper House, gave a report on his first six months of serving Jesus Christ in the NSW Parliament and his many opportunities to speak and ask questions. Ann-Marie Kitchener gave an address on her Youth Ministry work on the streets of the Central Coast. She gave an encouraging report on her team's success in influencing many young people who were not involved in any church activity. Vickie Janson of the Q Society, Melbourne, and author of *Ideological Jihad* gave a detailed report on the growing influence of Islam in the education system and food production through the Halal dedication to Allah.

MEET ...

A Girl Named Bel

A GIRL NAMED BEL might sound a bit out of the ordinary, but this artist is different, so it fits. Bel Morrison is an Australian singer/songwriter who's not easily labeled, which is clearly how she likes it.

Since graduating from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 2003, Bel has landed gigs at East-erfest, World Youth Day, New Zealand's Parachute Festival, and toured throughout Australia.

On *You Are My Destination*, her third CD release, Bel's expressive and poignant songs show off a voice that'll stop you in your tracks. *Joseph's Song*, her first radio single, has already made people sit up and take notice. And *In Time With You* garnered first place in the 2010 National Australian Songwriting Competition.

But it's Morrison's ability to let her songs do the talking, untrammelled by the niceties of pop production – inspirational, yet grounded in real life, polished but never overwrought – that distinguishes her pop/country/folk inspired melodies.

Very simply, *You Are My Destination* is about the songs, stories and prodigious voice of Bel Morrison.

Breakthrough

You Are My Destination is a breakthrough album for Bel. The songwriting, vocal strength and the record's production mark her coming of age as a musician.

First and foremost, it is almost entirely written by the artist. And for the first time, she's playing both guitar and keyboards herself. 'I always write on guitar or piano, and when I've written the song, I'll work out the arrangement. That hasn't changed from day one to now,' Morrison says.



Working with producer Caleb James (formerly of Rhubarb) has added a new perspective, freeing the Queensland-er to create simpler, more refined song structures and arrangements which have helped emphasise her gift for melody.

'Caleb helped me cement the project as a complete statement too, rather than just a collection of disparate songs. As a result, I felt very comfortable singing this time. I could be dramatic when the songs called for that; other times, much more expressive.

While Bel can write perky tunes with the best of them, it's her investigations into the telltale heart and spirituality that have made her an audience favourite. She writes grown-up pop with a twist of folk and country about themes of betrayal, courage and finding hope in brokenness.

You Can See And Hear Bel Perform At:

- 23 October – Warwick, Queensland
- 05 November – Logan City, Queensland
- 18 December – Dalby, Queensland

For details about these performances, please visit: www.belmorrison.com

– Wes Jay

The Grandfathers Traces Martyred Missionaries' Legacy To Capture New Audience

A DOCUMENTARY film that has been more than 50 years in the making now completes the trilogy of movies that tell the story of Nate Saint and the four other missionaries martyred for their faith in the jungles of Ecuador in 1956.

The Grandfathers, a motion-graphics film about the struggle and influence of a young man's heritage, completes a trilogy produced by EthnoGraphic Media that includes *End Of The Spear* and *Beyond The Gates Of Splendor*. These first two films tell the unforgettable and inspiring story of the killing of five missionaries by a Stone-Age tribe deep in the Amazon jungle. The impact of this tragic event lives on today in the families of these slain men as well as among those responsible for their deaths.

The Grandfathers chronicles the personal quest for greater connectedness and significance. It is also a moving tribute to ordinary people living extraordinary lives in extreme situations. Hanon stated, 'Forgiveness is an awe-inspiring virtue that seems to have been passed on by the Saint family and is shared by many among the Waodani tribe – both demonstrate a profound capacity for forgiveness and healthy self-healing.'

– Michael Ireland, Senior Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE ...

Nobel Peace Prize Awarded To Lutheran African Peace Activist

LEYMAH Roberta Gbowee, a Lutheran Liberian peace activist, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Gbowee, a member of the Lutheran Church in Liberia, is responsible for organising a non-violent women's movement that brought an end to a 14-year civil war in Liberia.

Gbowee was awarded a scholarship from the International Leadership Development Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2006,7 to support her study in peace building at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va.

The ELCA and the Lutheran Church in Liberia are members of The Lutheran World Federation, a global communion of 140 member churches in 79 countries, representing more than 70 million Christians worldwide.

The Liberian women's movement led to the ousting of ex-President Charles Taylor and to the election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf as President of Liberia, the first African nation with a female President. President Sirleaf also has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

'The war in Liberia began in 1989, but the

women's movement, our protest, didn't begin until 2003,' Gbowee, a mother of six children, said. 'The starting point of the women's movement was war fatigue. Gbowee said she grew tired of watching children die from hunger and 'waking up every morning and not knowing whether a tomorrow was possible. Along with thousands of other women from across Liberia, Gbowee wanted to dream of a better community.

She decided it was time to stop the war and called together women of all faiths – Christian, Muslim, indigenous and others – from across Liberia to 'step out,' recognizing that Liberian women can play a critical role in peace building.

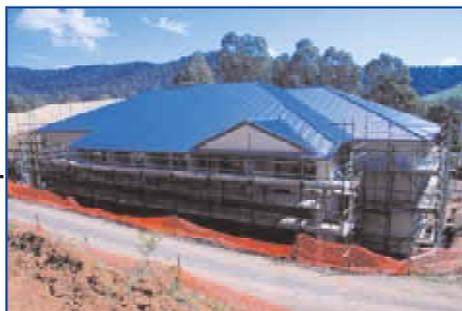
'You always see your saviour in someone else other than yourself,' Gbowee said. 'So us women, having never been socialised to believe that we have powers to interfere in the politics of our country, were waiting for the bold men. (But) every time the bold men rose up, they rose up with guns and other things,' she said, '(so we) realised that women needed to bring the much-desired peace for ourselves.'



THE ROOF IS ON!

975 Buxton Rd, Marysville 3779 www.elkanahmarysville.org.au

Now there's a roof over our head we can start the fit out!
And now's the time to sign up to help. We need plasterers, painters and general building skills. No qualifications necessary – professional leadership provided. Groups welcome!
Check the El Kanah website for more news, stories and pictures of the new building.



We'd love you to add your own favourite memories and pictures of El Kanah too! Visit www.elkanahmarysville.org.au and spread the word ... El Kanah is back!

Contact Peter and Vera Gill for all volunteer enquiries and bookings:

0414 864 329 or 0414 564 309

INASMUCH ...

Agape Children's Home Needs Love Gifts – Your Opportunity To Help

SO we hear about children with AIDS in many parts of the world, and we wish we could help. But how?

The Agape Children's Home in Chiang Mai, Thailand is home to 84 young people, from babies to 19 year olds. Most of these children are orphaned and HIV positive. Here is an opportunity to help.

Any home with a family needs a constant stream of new supplies, and this place is no exception.

Agape's Founder and Director, Avis Rideout, recently visited Sydney, Melbourne and Smithton Tasmania on a fundraiser and awareness trip, telling how, as with any home, ongoing financial costs mount up.

Agape's Main Needs Include:

- ◆ **Sponsorship** – a full year's funding helps to buy school uniform, shoes, bags, clothes for general wear, and tutoring costs – at \$30 AUD per month.
- ◆ **Support Resources** – a financial gift helps to pay for general administration costs, eg medical supplies, stationery, toys.
- ◆ **Volunteers** – to assist the children, especially the pre-schoolers.



Avis and some of the children.

- ◆ **Funding For A Swimming Pool** on their grounds, as HIV precludes the children using a public pool.
 - ◆ **Teams Of Helpers** are welcome to paint, attend to landscaping the grounds and general maintenance, such as repairing flat push bike tyres, painting play equipment and removing dead trees.
- For further details, contact Judith 0432 411 593, email jbondjet@hotmail.com
Monetary donations can be made through the website www.nikkisplace.org

– Judith Bond

Mission Outreach To Deaf Children Helps Open Their World

THE deaf people group is the fourth largest in the world, and Deaf Ministries International helps deaf children to develop the ability to communicate with others to establish friendships and develop a sense of community.

Social awareness is strengthened within the loving boundaries set by the DMI teachers and leaders, and the isolation previously experienced by deaf students progressively becomes a thing of the past, while Christian love and acceptance becomes part of everyday-life.

When a timid Maurine was originally brought to the DMI ministry school in Kenya, the staff were told that her mental capacity would be extremely low, although she did smile a lot! Within six months of DMI enhanced education Maurine went on to top her class. A few years later she was granted a full year's scholarship from Austine School for the Deaf, Brattleboro, Vermont, USA. This type of opportunity very rarely happens to any children in Kenya, deaf or non-deaf, and especially to those who come from a very poor family background. But teachers at Austine were very impressed with Maurine's skills in reading and her other all-round abilities. Maurine is now 18 and continues to attend Kenyan Christian School for the Deaf in Oyugis – a much valued senior school pupil.

Without an education, how can the deaf read or understand the Gospel; how can they become leaders in their communities or churches? DMI partners with the Deaf Action Overseas Aid Fund (Deaf Action) to facilitate the running of educational facilities, from kindergarten through to college.

Over the past 30 years Deaf Ministries International have established 140 churches for the deaf; seven schools in the Philippines, Myanmar, Uganda, Kenya and Thailand; four Bible schools; two colleges; several workshops; farming and self-help/micro-enterprise projects. In addition DMI supports over 400 deaf children and young adults through the child scholarship program (Deaf Action Fund) and also supports 90 full time pastors (mostly Deaf) in 20 countries, which include South Korea, the Philippines, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, Taiwan, Myanmar (Burma), Egypt, Burundi, Congo, China, Japan, Thailand, Tanzania, Sudan and South America. DMI has sent ten missionary workers (both hearing and deaf) to some of these countries.

In Thailand, a small group of DMI's deaf workers are producing videos for use on local television. These address aspects of living a deaf life that the hearing community rarely become aware of or even consider. Video production has become a vitally important income-generating venture and qualifies as a micro-enterprise venture under the Deaf Action program - a registered DGR entity. For further details go to www.deafmin.org

URGENT NEED FOR PRAYER

Aust. Parl't Speaks Up For Plight Of Copts In Egypt

THE House of Representatives honoured Australia's commitment to religious freedom on 13 October with a clear endorsement of a historic private member's bill addressing the ongoing persecution of the Coptic Christians of Egypt.

Mr Craig Kelly MP, Liberal Federal Member for Hughes moved: That this House:

- (1) recognises that Coptic Christians in Egypt are suffering ongoing and increasing persecution;
- (2) condemns the recent attacks on Coptic Christians in Egypt;
- (3) expresses its sympathy for Coptic Christians who have been victims of recent attacks in Egypt; and
- (4) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) issue a public statement condemning the ongoing attacks against the Coptic Christian minority in Egypt;
 - (b) make immediate representations to the United Nations to end the persecution of Coptic Christians in Egypt; and
 - (c) strongly urge the Egyptian Government to provide equal rights and protection for all Egyptian citizens regardless of race or religion.

Unprecedented Period Of Transition

Speaking to his private member's bill, Mr Kelly noted that Egypt 'is currently experiencing a period of unprecedented transition, the success of which hinges on full respect for the rule of law and compliance with international human rights standards including freedom of religion.' Mr Kelly's motion was passed by all members of the House.

With approximately 30 Coptic Christians observing proceedings from the Gallery, Mr Kelly acknowledged the presence of His Grace Bishop Suriel, Rev Father Johnathan Isaac, Rev Father Gabriel Yassa and former Sutherland Shire Councillor Magdi Mikhail.

In his statement to the House, following the passing of his motion, Mr Kelly referred to the brutal military violence against Coptic Christian demonstrators on 9 October 2011, which left at least 24 dead and at least 270 injured. He stated the motion just passed could not have been more timely. He was right.

Mr Kelly urged members of the House to view videos demonstrating armoured military vehicles ploughing into unarmed Christian protestors, 'although graphic and horrific ... to understand the gravity of the situation.'

In an emotional recount of a young Christian woman's testimony, the House heard of how Miss Vivian Magi, tried to protect her dead fiancé's body from soldiers after he was run-over by an armoured vehicle. She told Egyptian TV:

'His body was in the middle of the wheels. His legs were torn. His head hit the pavement, breaking his skull. Soldiers gathered around us and started to beat him up. I begged them to leave him ... Then a soldier with a red cap came, shouting, cursing and hitting me with a stick, then tried to beat him up. I threw my body on him (her fiance) ... and the soldier said to me: "You infidel, why are you here?"'

Mr Kelly condemned the violence of the military, the very body that was meant to be protecting its civilians. He said that on that fateful day, the army had committed 'mass murder' in Cairo. He also referred to the role that Egyptian State television played by instigating the violence, calling on so-called 'honest Egyptians' to rush to the defence of the military who were under the attack of Coptic protestors, when in reality, it was the Copts who were being gunned down and beaten.

He spoke to the role of the international community, stating: 'Now is not the time for silence or appeasement from the international community, for as the Copts go, so may go the entire Middle East. If a Christian minority cannot live in a country with a Muslim majority population without suffering persecution and institutionalised discrimination our future looks bleak.'

Moderates Must Step Up

'The moderate voices in Egypt must be put on notice in the strongest terms to root out any anti-Christian element in the army and to give equal rights to all Coptic Christians and to ensure their protection.'

The Australian Coptic Movement thanks Mr Kelly for voicing the concerns of Australian Coptic Christians and for bringing the plight of the persecuted Christian minority of Egypt to the attention of the Australian Government. After attending a protest held by the ACM earlier this year, Mr Kelly did more than appreciate the extent of ongoing persecution that the Coptic Christians have suffered for decades. He did more than just offer words of sympathy. It is because of his tireless efforts that the result of this vote in that Chamber went the way it did.

WHAT'S ON?

VICTORIAN delegates at Oxygen are invited to a meeting with other Melbournian Christian leaders to pray and plan for a monthly prayer event in the city in the lead up to a city-wide outreach event next year.

Meetings will be held from 8pm – 9.30pm on 18 October, 15 November, 20 December (the 3rd Tuesday of every month) at CrossCulture Church of Christ Studio 277, 277 Little Lonsdale Street,

Melbourne
Please
come and
bring other
keen people
to pray. For

more information, please contact Shane Rogerson (shaner@stmatts.com.au). All future events will be organised by Shane.



THE GENEVA PUSH is running its next Network Event in Wanniasa, ACT, on 21 October where Andrew Heard and Craig Dobbie from EV Church will be talking about creating and leading mission-driven churches. Andrew Heard is the Senior Minister of EV Church, which he established in 1996 in Erina, on the Central Coast of NSW. In 2005 he was elected the founding President of a new association of churches called FIEC. This association contains churches in most states of Australia with more being added each year. He is one of the founding Directors of The Geneva Push. Craig Dobbie is responsible for the wider mission work and MTS training at EV church on the Central Coast of NSW, where he has been for 13 years. Venue: St Matthew's, Wanniasa, Cnr Laurens St & McBryde Cres, Wanniasa, ACT. Cost: \$25. Go to www.genevapush.com for further details and to register.

CONVERGE 24-7 WEEK OF PRAYER will be held at Wesley Uniting Church, cnr. of William and Hay Streets, Perth from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 October, co-ordinated by various churches, parachurch groups, local and international prayer leaders. The entire week is open for participation in prayer and worship.

Edna Walter, Leader of Converge/Commonwealth Prayer Initiative, believes that Converge is a divine appointment when the Holy Spirit will display the glory of Christ in the unity of the church as it prays for the nations.

THE Victorian Branch of the Christian Democratic Party is sponsoring a meeting in Castlemaine Senior Citizens' Centre at 7.30pm on 21 October at which William Kininmonth, a consulting climatologist with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology for 38 years; and the delegate to the World Meteorological Organization's Commission for Climatology (1982-1998) will address the subject *Climate Change Is A Natural Hazard*.

TEAM – Teaching English as Ministry Afternoon – will be held in Canterbury Presbyterian Church, 146 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury, Melbourne, on Saturday 12 November from 1pm-5pm. This is a great opportunity to network and to encourage and be encouraged. Come and join with others in engaging and practical electives that will inspire you and give you skills to be involved in this exciting ministry. Cost: \$35 or \$20 for TEAM members. For a detailed program and to register for electives email Kim Hood: admin@itateach.com or call 0421 681 801 for more info.

THE fourth annual John Saunders Lecture will be held on Wednesday 19 October at Morling College from 7.30-9.30pm. This year's address is by Rev Dr Andrew Sloane on the subject, *Justifying Advocacy: A Biblical And Theological Rationale For Speaking The Truth To Power On Behalf Of The Vulnerable*. Entry is free, but please register online to assist planning: http://www.morling.nsw.edu.au/morling_college/news_and_events/upcoming_events/event/?id=101 The John Saunders Lecture is an initiative of the Social Issues Committee of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT.

TRANSFORMING Melbourne is calling for a gathering of all pastors, leaders, denominations, networks, prayer ministries and intercessors to a Solemn Assembly on Friday 11/11/11 at 10.30am till 11pm at Church of Christ, 680 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster, Melbourne. 'We will share a time of silence at 11am for Remembrance Day with others across Australia, followed by prayer and intercession, Holy Spirit-led worship, and listening to God.'

PASTOR Daniel Nallieh of Catch the Fire Ministries is available for ministry after 13 August 2012. Contact Jason Golden, 03 9794 8211, for further details.

PERSECUTION WATCH

Fate Of Iranian Pastor Still In Balance

THERE are new disturbing and conflicting falsehoods being spread by Iranian state-funded Press TV. The latest report from this Iranian-controlled media states that the Judiciary Chief Mohammad-Javad Heshmati of the Gilan Province, where Christian Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani's apostasy conviction originated, has stated that 'Youssef Nadar-Khani has been charged with a crime and is in a prison based on an arrest warrant issued against him. There has been no execution order. No conviction at all has been issued yet and it is up to the court to finally decide the verdict after studying his case.'

On the one hand, this article reports that 'there is no execution order' and that 'his verdict has not been finalised,' and then in the same article calls him 'a convicted rapist' who is 'guilty of his crime.'

These are more lies being spread by the Iranian Government in an attempt to silence the international outcry calling for Pastor Youcef's release, as more and more American leaders and international diplomats put pressure on Iran.

What is clear from these developments is that Pastor Youcef remains in grave danger of execution more now than ever. In news just in, Pastor Youcef is said to have been granted a retrial. The fear of this, however, is that he may be found not guilty and released only to be murdered by secret police. PRAY!

Christians In The Firing Line

MUSLIMS in Pakistan's Mian Channu area in southern Punjab Province shot dead an unarmed Christian and injured 21 others, six of them critically, during an attempted land-grab on Wednesday 5 October. Residents of the area told Compass by phone that 40 to 45 heavily-armed Muslims on 10 to 12 motorcycles, two tractor-trolleys and in a car reached Chak 134-16/L village in Khanewal district and forcibly entered the home of Adeel Kashif, a Christian carpenter who was living on a government-owned piece of land.

'The attackers forced their way into Kashif's house and started throwing the family's belongings onto the street,' Wazir Masih, a Christian elder in the area, told Compass. 'They also tore the clothes off Kashif's three female family members, Violet, 40, Parveen, 35, and Esther, 17, and tortured the family.' Masih said the Muslims wanted to take illegal possession of the small piece of land which the government makes available to labourers or craftsmen in exchange for the help they can offer to vil-

lagers.

A previous Muslim resident of the property had falsified a sale of the land to a local Muslim group, a fraudulent act as no one is permitted to sell government land in a personal capacity, Masih said. He said the Muslims suddenly began firing indiscriminately on the Christians, killing 25-year-old Sajid Bashir Masih and seriously injuring 21 others, including women and children. Six of the injured were in critical condition, one of them Sajid Bashir Masih's younger brother, Haroon. 'The Christians had done nothing to provoke the Muslims into employing such brute force,' Masih said. 'They just opened fire on the defenceless people with their automatic rifles and shotguns.'

Sudanese Churches Threatened With Closure

LOCAL authorities have threatened to demolish three church buildings in Omdurman as part of a long-standing bid to rid Sudan of Christianity, Christian sources told Compass. Church leaders from the three churches in the Madinat al-Fath area of Omdurman – the Sudanese Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church of Sudan and the Roman Catholic Church – said they were surprised to see government officials come to their church premises on 11 September, accusing them of operating churches on government land without permission. The church leaders told Compass the buildings were not located on government land and required no permission. Officials from the Ministry of Physical Planning and Public Utilities-Khartoum State appeared and asked church leaders who gave them permission to build on government land, the church leaders said. The officials marked the three church buildings for demolition with red crosses. Jafer al Sudani, manager of Church Affairs in the Ministry of Guidance and Religious Endowment, said officials there had no knowledge of church buildings to be demolished. At the same time, area Christians said they believe the government is quietly carrying out surveys on Christians and church programs as part of a broader effort to make Islam the official state religion; officials from the Ministry of Guidance and Religious Endowment have called church leaders asking them to reveal information about their church members and activities of the Churches, they said. 'This is purely for intelligence purposes, so that they can put more restrictions on churches and Christians,' said the Rev Yousif El-Denger Kodi, General Secretary of the Sudanese Lutheran Church.

– Compass Direct

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

Gardens Program Keeps Hunger, Terrorists At Bay In India

THE FAITH (Food Always In The Home) Garden project of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board has taken off in a village in India. The area is known for terrorist activity, as well as malnutrition. Hunger and terrorism go hand-in-hand in the village: boys who wish to fill their stomachs join the ranks of the terrorist group to ensure they're fed.

Recently, though, a missionary came to the village and led a FAITH Gardens seminar, teaching the villagers how to grow food to feed themselves and then how to sell the excess. The program is created to work as a solution to hunger, but also a money-maker so parents can afford to send their children to school where their chances of joining a terrorist cell are significantly decreased.

In just a few months, the FAITH Gardens missionary has seen a world of improvement – not only in the nutrition of the people, but in their spiritual health. Mothers are less anemic now that they know to eat dark green, leafy vegetables. Children are no longer scarred with the sores of malnutrition now that mothers know how to nourish them. And the village has begun to pray. 'Since we started doing that every day, there is much peace in our village,' noted one villager.

This village may never have heard the Gospel message otherwise. The terrorist group only let the missionary in because she had useful information about health and hunger. As the community begins to understand who Christ is, though, they are quickly transforming.

– Mission Network News



SAT-7 – Reaching And Teaching

ACCORDING to the US Centre for World Missions, one in 7 people around the world are followers of Jesus Christ. While that's a huge number, there are still many who have yet to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. But it also means there are many new believers in hard-to-reach areas of the world who need training. The Middle East and North Africa are two of them.

SAT-7, Christian satellite television for the Middle East and North Africa, is doing something about this through a partnership called TEACH – Theological Education for Arab Christians at Home – 43 courses, all in the Arabic language to be put on air and online over the next five years.

TEACH is a partnership between SAT-7, Overseas Council, and Middle East Council for Middle East education. TEACH is designed to answer a need in the countries of Morocco, Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia where they don't have churches or Christian schools, seminaries, or Bible colleges, or even materials to grow and strengthen the church. So this

effort is really intended to strengthen the church of North Africa and of course the Middle East.

Apple Technology Helps Get Scriptures Out To The Unreached

AS the world mourns the loss of a visionary, Christian organisations are thankful for the technology God allowed Apple co-founder Steve Jobs to create. Jobs died on 8 October after battling pancreatic cancer. Bill Lohr with *Faith Comes By Hearing* says the Apple technology has been a platform for God's Word. 'We have moved into the digital world in terms of getting God's Word out there in ways people can access. And Apple has been a big part of that: Iphone, Ipad, the iTunes store, through our Bible.is ap.' Scripture in 590 languages can now be carried into creative access nations on I-phones and similar devices. For FCBH alone, Lohr says they've had 5,812,562 downloads from the AP store. Through the store that was created by Apple through Steve Jobs' undertaking, many people have been able to turn around and access God's Word. Funding for more languages is needed.

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FROM ALL QUARTERS

Pakistani Judge, Who Sentenced Governor's Assassin, Vanishes

THE Pakistani judge who imposed a death sentence on the assassin of Punjab Governor Salman Taseer has gone underground due to threats from Islamic fundamentalists, Pakistani church officials have confirmed. 'It is true that the judge has vanished. Nobody knows where he is now,' Azariah, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Pakistan, told ENInews on 14 October from his office in Lahore.

Justice Syed Pervez Ali Shah of the Anti Terrorism Court had sentenced to death on 1 October policeman Malik Mumtaz Hussain Qadri for shooting Taseer on 4 January. The Governor had criticised a Pakistani blasphemy law that makes it a crime to insult Islam.

Lily Johnston – Faithful Servant Of Christ – Called Home

Lily Marjorie Johnston (nee Genrich) was born on 20 May 1912 in Crow's Nest, near Toowoomba, Qld, the youngest of eight children. She continued the hard work ethic she had learnt on the family farm all through her life and, when in her 90's she had to slow down, she was very disappointed.

Lily left school after grade five. Later she worked in the Queen Alexandra Orphanage for Children in Murgon, Queensland, where she was able to show her great love for children that lasted all her life.

She married Rev Edgar Johnston in 1943 and served with him at Springsure, Bald Hills, Wilston, Atherton (where several new churches were opened), Flemington (in Melbourne), Batesford and Reservoir. Lily was always busy, working with the women and children, teaching Sunday School and Religious Education in Schools. She always seemed to be the last to bed and the first up in the morning.

After the inauguration of the Uniting Church, the Presbyterian Church in South Australia had no Presbyterian minister in all of Adelaide. Edgar was still a young 67 so he felt called to Adelaide, where he was responsible for 14 preaching places. Lily worked very hard to establish women's groups in each area, knowing that women are often the backbone of the church. There were fewer children but she worked very hard in this area too.

Edgar and Lily moved to Frankston in 1979. They lived there for several years, with Lily again working very hard with the congregations. Finally Edgar retired, but Lily kept on working in the house, the garden, and the church. In her 90's she was disappointed she could not do all the things she wanted to. However, she was able to look after herself, and her cat, in her home until almost 95. She celebrated her 99th Birthday last May.

Lily Johnston was loved and respected by everyone who knew her. Now she is with the Lord Jesus Christ who she served so faithfully. We, her children (Ron, Noel and Margaret) thank God for the life she lived before us, and for everything she means to us. We miss her very much. We can imagine Jesus saying to her, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.' (Matthew 25.21)

– Noel Johnston

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EYES ON THE PRIZE

Fred Nile Celebrates Thirty Years Of Parliamentary Service

THE Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC, National President of the Christian Democratic Party, celebrated 30 years of Service in the NSW Parliament as an elected Member of the New South Wales' Upper House (NSW Legislative Council). To mark this important milestone the President of the NSW Upper House invited the Rev Fred Nile to open the NSW Legislative Council in prayer in accordance with the Standing Orders. The Members, as is normal practice, joined aloud in the Lord's Prayer. 'I thank the President, the Hon Don Harwin MLC, for this privilege in recognition of my 30 years of service in the Upper House. I was elected on Saturday 19 September 1981 and sworn-in on 28 October 1981,' said Rev Fred Nile.

Fred Nile also had three victories in Parliament with the restoration of the NSW Governor to NSW Government House, the traditional residence of NSW Governors since 1846; the restoration of the historic Member's Oath of Allegiance in accordance with our NSW and Commonwealth Constitution; and the restoration of the portrait of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II of Australia and husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, which were personally autographed and presented to the NSW Parliament on her Majesty's visit on 20 February 1992.

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Q&A – WITH DR CLIFFORD WILSON

ADAM AND EVE AS ACTUAL PEOPLE

In the Hebrew, 'Adam' is the word for 'man'. Do you insist that he was one historical being and the first man?

Yes! I believe that the historical nature of Adam the first man is thoroughly attested, both in Genesis and again in Romans 5.12-14. The latter reference states: 'Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: for until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.'

This is not just 'representative man' sinning. In any case, it would be difficult to imagine how a group could rebel as such unless it was incited by a ringleader. When all is said and done, what man would be taken seriously if he claimed that he himself had never personally been guilty of sin?

As we go on in that portion of Romans, it is clear that Adam is a literal man. His disobedience is the cause of the curse on man, and it led to the death of Christ. Death reigned through Adam, but life is available because Christ died to give us forgiveness.

Do you accept the story of the formation of Eve as a literal happening?

Again, yes! When we come to the actual story of the formation of Eve, we find that there is really nothing that is incredible to thinking man. A man goes into a deep sleep and part of his body is removed. From that a new life is formed. The deep sleep and the 'operation' are not problems, and in fact they rather remind us of what happens in operating theatres all over the world every day. As for the new life that is then brought into being, the only problem is that this involves a miracle. That is no problem if we are prepared to take the essential step of belief in God, and that necessarily involves belief in the possibility of miracles. Thus God's chosen method of forming a woman, as revealed in this chapter, can certainly be accepted.

How is the Apostle Paul's statement about all men being made of one blood relevant at this point?

One big lesson from the record of creation is that God created man and then also gave life to a woman – a mutually dependent couple from whom all the races of the world were to spring. As Paul put it in his address on Mars Hill, recorded in Acts 17.26, 'God has made of one blood all nations of men.'

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BOOKS WORTH READING

MANIFOLD GREATNESS: The Making of the King James Bible, Ed Helen Moore and Julian Reid, Oxford: Bodleian Library, 2011

THIS is a magnificently illustrated volume published by the Bodleian Library, Oxford University, where the reviewer saw the linked exhibition of historical memorabilia in July this year. The title *Manifold Greatness* is a paraphrase of the opening words of the letter of dedication to King James I in the 1611 King James Bible ('Great and manifold were the blessings ...'). This is a fitting title for a book that celebrates the influence of the KJB over English language and culture during the last 400 years. Of course, for *New Life* readers, it is the religious influence of the KJB that is of prime importance, but it is worth remembering that its influence outside the Church has been almost as great as its influence within the Church.

The opening chapter describes the history of the Bible in England before the KJB, going back to a translation into English of part of John's Gospel by the Venerable Bede (d. 735) and a prose translation of the first 50 Psalms by King Alfred. We are told of course about Wycliffe, Tyndale and the *Geneva Bible*, which were important precursors to the KJB. The origins of the translation project that resulted in the KJB at the Hampton Court Conference in 1604 are explained. The actual work of translating was dependent on the humanist colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, where the study of the languages of Greek and Hebrew was in full swing.

There is a description of the six subcommittees ('companies') of translators, whose highly educated members represented the full range of opinion within the variegated Jacobean English Church. The translation did not represent the views of any one school within the church, and it came before the shattering of the fragile unity of the Church of England.

Especially significant is John Rainolds, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, whose urgings had caused the king to promote a new translation. The chapter provides representative bibliographies of some KJB translators, who numbered about 50 in total. The illustrations provided include photographs of the manuscript outlining the 14 rules for

translators and the list of the names of the members of the six companies, two companies each at Oxford, Cambridge and Westminster.

The rules disallowed the type of marginal notes that caused the king to object to the Geneva Bible. The translators' knowledge of Greek and Hebrew was advanced for its day, and they had resources such as the *Greek New Testament* of Erasmus, various polyglot Bibles and Jewish medieval commentaries such as those by Maimonides, Rashi and Radak.

We stand amazed at the breadth of their learning and the comprehensiveness of the resources available to them that represent the previous century's rapid advance in biblical scholarship. In many ways it was the right time for producing a translation of enduring worth and usefulness. The obvious aim of the translators was to produce an accurate word-for-word rendition of the original, and it resulted in a grand Hebraic kind of English in the KJB.

We who know the subsequent history of the KJB will be surprised to learn of its lukewarm reception for the first 50 years of its existence, having to vie for popularity with the *Geneva Bible*. It really only became dominant due to the 1660 Restoration of the Monarchy and the incorporation of KJB readings the 1662 Prayer Book.

Its use in Handel's *Messiah* also played a part. Of course, the KJB went on to become a cultural icon and fed the poetry of George Herbert, the hymns of Charles Wesley and the writings of Daniel Defoe. If anything, it was even more culturally influential in America than in England, with Melville's *Moby Dick* and Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* as leading examples. It was also the source of the rhetorical tradition exemplified by the speeches of Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King and Barak Obama.

It is plain that despite a plethora of more recent translations of the Bible, due to changes in English and advances in biblical scholarship, the KJB is by no means dead.

— Greg Goswell



Australian Church Record Now Available Free Online

THE latest issue (Issue 1903, October 2011) of *The Australian Church Record* is now online and can be downloaded from the ACR website at <<http://www.australianchurchrecord.net>> ACR is published by the Anglican Church League within the Diocese of Sydney and carries many helpful articles of interest both to Anglicans and those in wider Christian circles.

BOOKS WORTH READING

NEARING HOME WITH GRACE, Billy Graham – Practical Road Map For Finishing Well

NEARING Home: Life, Faith and Finishing Well contains personal autobiographical reflections from Billy Graham on how he has come to view old age, including the realisation that the time to prepare for one's senior years is now.

In this context, of course, 'nearing home' means approaching death – something Billy Graham says he does not fear. Growing old? That's another story. 'All my life, I was taught how to die as a Christian,' he writes. 'But no one ever taught me how I ought to live in the years before I die.' So Mr Graham decided he would take the lessons he has learned along the way and impart that wisdom to others.

Nearing Home offers practical answers to questions such as: How can I find God's purpose as I age? How can I cope with my fears, struggles and growing limitations? How do I face the future with hope instead of despair?

Mr Graham reinforces time and again that the Bible is a book of hope – that is where we should be looking. *Nearing Home* is rich with Scriptural examples of people God has used late in life with great impact. These heroes of the faith demonstrate that in spite of the limitations and challenges of old age, the later years can be some of the most rewarding and fulfilling of our lives.

Because of his failing eyesight, Mr Graham dictated the book to a team of assistants who helped with the writing process, and he wonders 'if God in His sovereignty allows the eye sight of the aged to cast a dim view of the here and now so we may focus our spiritual eyes on the ever after.'

Growing Old With Purpose

Nearing Home, says Franklin Graham, is full of insight on practical matters like how to get your house in order 'so you don't leave that for your kids to do. And my father has done that himself. He's worked with his lawyers for years on his estate. And for him, he wants to give as much of it as he can back to the Lord's work.'

Another key purpose for older people is training a younger generation, says Franklin. 'My father touches on that; it's something he talks about. I think we live in a society where we discount older people – if you're retired that means you don't know much anymore. What we're doing is we're missing a great reservoir, a great wealth of knowledge in our older generations that we need to be tapping into and listening to.'

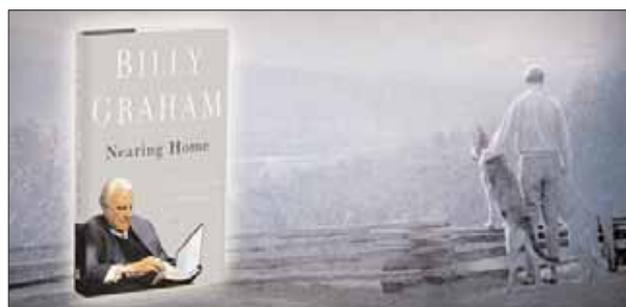
A Crusade Between The Covers

As readers might expect, Mr Graham shares the plan of salvation in *Nearing Home*. The evangelist approaches book writing from a ministry rather than a marketing perspective. He is hoping this will be a message that is not just informational or educational, but transformational.

Similar to many of Mr Graham's messages through the years, the book will resonate on different levels. For the believer, there is empowerment and encouragement. For someone who isn't of faith, there is information on how to prepare themselves for those later years, and information on overcoming the generation gap and influencing the next generation.

Regardless of where someone is in their spiritual walk, *Nearing Home* is going to be a compelling read. For those who aren't believers but may be seeking and have an interest in spiritual things, Mr Graham talks about the foundation on which our lives can and should be built.

– Janet Chismar



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