

In Support Of Traditional Marriage

'MEDIA balance is a curious thing,' says FamilyVoice SA state officer David d'Lima.

'News outlets across the country have reported that about 70 people gathered outside Bob Katter's Mount Isa office in support of "gay marriage" on the weekend of 10,11 September.

But no report mentioned that over 500 people had braved the wind and rain outside Adelaide's Parliament House to affirm the complementary, man-woman meaning marriage has had since the beginning of time.

'Australians are not hearing the whole story,' Mr d'Lima said.

Robyn Grace compered the rally on 10 September. Speakers included David d'Lima of FamilyVoice Australia, Hon Dennis Hood MLC of Family First, former MP Andrew Evans and Archbishop John Hepworth. Several of South Australia's MPs, including Michael Pengilly, Martin Hamilton Smith and Senators Bernardi, Fawcett and Farrell,



Part of the 500-strong crowd on SA Parliament House steps.

sent messages of support.

David d'Lima said that the current Greens federal and state 'marriage equality' bills are an experiment with marriage, family and children.

'Children do best when raised by mother and father who are in covenanted union. Children do less well when they are raised in other situations,' he said.

'Marriage is fundamental to family, which is the basic unit of society. If we lose marriage we lose family, and if we lose family we lose everything.'

— FamilyVoice Australia

Turkey Overturns Historic Religious Property Seizures

— Christian And Jewish Communities To Reclaim State-Confiscated Properties

THE Turkish Government made a historic U-turn in state policy on 27 August, issuing an official decree inviting Turkey's Christian and Jewish communities to reclaim their long-confiscated religious properties. The decree comes 75 years after the Turkish Government seized hundreds of lands and buildings owned by its Greek, Armenian, Syriac and Jewish communities.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the surprise decision on 28 August in Istanbul, addressing a large gathering of Istanbul's non-Muslim religious leaders representing 161 minority foundations. Invited as the honoured guest for an iftar (breaking the fast) meal near the end of the Muslim month of Ramadan, Erdogan declared, 'The times when citizens in our country were oppressed for their beliefs, their ethnic heritage or the way they dressed is over.'

The landmark decree is a significant step towards eliminating decades of unfair practices imposed by the Turkish state against its non-Muslim citizens. Their former holdings include schools, churches, cemeteries, stores, hospitals, orphanages, houses, apartment buildings and factories that were seized by the Turkish state and re-registered as public or foundation properties. A number were later sold to third parties. The new decree states that owners of properties sold by the state to third parties will be reimbursed at market value. The return of these extensive properties to their rightful owners has been a key demand of the European Union, to which Turkey is applying for full membership.

— Barbara G. Baker, Compass Direct News

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FROM THE EDITOR ...

When 'New' Is The New 'Old'

IF it weren't so serious it would be funny – the sign outside a prominent Melbourne church building proclaiming 'THE NEW FAITH'. The 'minister' of this 'church' gets nought out of three for this piece of misleading advertising.

In the first place there's nothing definite about it, so the indefinite article 'A' would be more appropriate than the definite article 'THE'. This off-shoot of Christianity is very much a make-it-up-as-you-go thing, accepting from the Bible what suits you (or indeed accepting nothing if that's what does it for you). There's no certainty in this. You can't be sure of anything. And there are more variations to it than you could poke a stick at.

Then there's the word 'NEW'. In fact this stuff is as old as the Garden of Eden when the serpent asked Eve: 'Did God *really* say ...?' That question has been at the bottom of every assault on the Christian faith since then from both unbelievers outside the Christian Church and pseudobelievers inside the visible Church.

So what about the word 'FAITH'? We're told in Hebrews 11.1 that 'faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see' and we go on to read of creation by Divine decree and succeeding generations living out their faith in fellowship with and obedience to their creator God.

Clearly FAITH is something of real substance which has its foundation in belief that the universe was created by God, the God who desires to have a personal relationship with the pinnacle of His creation – man whom He created, male and female, in His own image.

Some people seem to think that 'faith' is the spiritual equivalent of 'No More Gaps' – filling in the empty or otherwise inexplicable spaces of human knowledge. Others seem to think that if you line out every piece of human knowledge, when you get to the end, you make a leap into the dark, and that's called 'faith'.

Some years ago, a lecturer in the Bachelor of Divinity course at Sydney University, notorious for her highly imaginative approach to the Dead Sea Scrolls, opined to her students that 'faith was a matter of treading water'. One of those students, a friend of mine, said to her, 'But why would I want to tread water when I can put my feet on the Rock?'

Sure, if you leapt into 'the abyss of faith' you'd jar your ankles – except that you'd straitway find that 'underneath and round about (were) the Everlasting Arms', and you hadn't really fallen at all.

Now my complaint is not with those who have honest questions about difficult aspects of the faith, but with those who wilfully depart from the faith they have declared they hold and will maintain – and who drag others down with them.

It's one thing to be like Thomas, another to be like Judas. To the honest doubter Jesus says, 'Be not faithless but believing.' But to the apostate He says: 'If anyone causes one of these little ones – those who believe in Me – to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.' (Matthew 18.5-7)

Pray that everyone who has been given the responsibility to preach God's Word may heed the Apostle Paul's injunction: 'Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.' (2 Timothy 2.15)

– Bob Thomas

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

Nigeria: Jos On Knife Edge; Sudan: War In Blue Nile State

RELIGIOUS tensions soared in volatile Jos, Nigeria, after a sectarian clash in Gada-biu District of Jos North Local Government Area on 29 August left at least 20 Christians and 22 Muslims dead.

As was expected, Muslim youths immediately plotted revenge, forging plans to attack Christian places of worship the next Sunday, 4 September. However, Jama'atu Nasril Islam and the Council of Ulama Plateau State set up a committee to mediate in the crisis. They managed to convince the Muslim youths to 'sheath their swords' and leave the matter in the hands of the police. Despite this, around 2am on the Sunday a mob of some 30 Fulani Muslims – reportedly with 'sophisticated weapons' – crept into Tatu village and forced their way into the home of the Chollom Gyang Christian family. Apart from the couple's fourth child who was away, all eight other family members were massacred in their beds, including a four-month-old baby. Due to rumours that they would be attacked there, most Christians stayed away from their churches all day.

Later that night of 4 September, mobs of Fulani Muslim tribesmen accompanied by uniformed Nigerian soldiers raided several predominantly Christian villages, shooting sporadically and hacking down those fleeing. Seven people were killed and three injured at Zallaki village near Babale in Jos North. A 74-year-old man, his wife and two grandchildren were murdered at Dabwak in Jos South and ten were injured in nearby Farin Lamba. The al-Qaeda-linked, Maiduguri-based Islamic fundamentalist group Boko Haram has reportedly sent funds, vehicles and trained militants to Jos to help mobilise a 'mass attack'.

Previously a suicide bomber struck the heavily guarded UN offices in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, on 26 August, killing 23 and wounding some 80. Boko Haram claimed responsibility for this, their second suicide bombing in the capital where they had struck the police headquarters on 16 June. Churches in Abuja are employing security and closing early in daylight hours. Fear and anxiety are rising.

Sudan: War Erupts In Blue Nile State

Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile are three border regions located in the Arab and Muslim-dominated north but are populated by predominantly Christian African tribes. According to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement they were entitled to determine their own futures by means of popular consultations. Fully defying the CPA, the Government of Sudan has seized and ethnically cleansed Abyei and is now doing the same in South Kordofan. On 1 September fighting erupted in Blue Nile State as GoS forces attacked the home of elected governor, Malik Aggar in Al-Damazin, the capital of Blue Nile State. The GoS then launched a full-scale assault on Sudan People's Liberation Army positions. In what is being described as a 'political and military coup', President Bashir subsequently dismissed Governor Aggar, declared a state of emergency and installed Major General Yahya Mohamed Khair as military ruler. Reports are flowing in of military deployments, aerial bombardments and massive displacements across the region in yet another GoS-engineered humanitarian crisis.

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

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Please Pray Specifically That God Will:

- bring Nigeria's Boko Haram and Sudan's President Bashir to account (Psalm 10.10-13) sooner rather than later, in answer to the prayers of many (2 Corinthians 1.11);
- grace Nigerian and Sudanese Christian leaders, both civil and religious, with great spiritual wisdom and authority so they might rightly lead God's people through this 'valley of the shadow of death' (Psalm 23.4);
- intervene for His suffering people in the ethnic-religious fault-line regions of Nigeria and Sudan, providing all their needs and keeping them safe; may He draw them into prayer, hear their cry and answer it (Isaiah 30.18,19) 'that all the kingdoms of the Earth may know that You alone are the LORD' (Hezekiah's prayer, Isaiah 37.20b ESV).

MOVING FORWARD

Learning Technologies – New Ministry For Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship

SINCE joining with Mission Aviation International Asia Pacific, CRMF has begun a new ministry called Learning Technologies. Although this ministry has been part of MAFUS for many years, it is new to Papua-New Guinea and the challenges are different to many faced by MAF in other countries.

In PNG many pastors ministering in isolated communities have received little formal training, so they struggle in their ministry. CRMF aims to help make them better equipped to teach and train the people in their churches.

Goals:

- To train and equip local pastors.
- To provide Scripture resources in audio format for oral societies.
- To enable others to conduct in-service training for remote pastors.
- To facilitate the translation of discipleship materials into Tok Pisin and then into audio format for oral learners.
- To link pastors with local Bible Colleges to access resources for sermon preparation, teaching and training.

Solar powered audio players loaded with Scripture and other training materials have been demonstrated to many groups including pastors, translators and literacy supervisors.

Many of these people are living and working among the remote populations and instantly see the benefits of audio material.

Learning Technologies PNG is a unique ministry that will fill gaps which exist between mission organisations and the church in remote parts of PNG.

Recently a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Christian Leaders Training College in PNG and Learning Technologies PNG. This MOU has given LT PNG permission for CLTC's Theological Education by Extension Christian Marriage and Family Life study to be converted into

Ban The Bong

BONGS will be banned from next year as the Victorian Government stamps out laws allowing sale of marijuana-smoking devices. Fines of up to \$1465 will be imposed on offenders. The legislation will also ban the sale, display and supply of bong components and kits. Almost a third of Victorians over 14 say they have used cannabis. – *Peter Stevens,*

Vic State Officer, Family Voice Australia.

audio format. This is the first project to be undertaken, and LTPNG is also working closely with CLTC to help in other areas.

A lecturer at Christian Leaders Training College said, 'LT ministry could become an instrument that would qualify non-Bible School trained pastors to be competent in their ministry.'

Caine tells of a man, Penias, who told him that he began a church meeting because all in his community have a fear of death, sorcery and witchcraft which was strangling the normal patterns of their community life.

Caine said, 'As Penias shared how fear was affecting the family, my heart went out to him, because he was expressing a need that the LTPNG ministry could help with. The power of the Scriptures in Psalm 23.4 came to my mind as I took out an Audible Bible and handed it to him. Penias stared at me for a few minutes without uttering a single word. Then he sat down for two hours – just listening. He then showed the player to his wife Beryl and they both sat listening to God's Word all that night and into the next day.'

Penias and Beryl have since started a small Bible study group to help their family and relatives focus away from the fear of evil that was affecting them. These times of meeting together and sharing the Word of God has really benefitted them.

CRMF is excited to see how the provision of Scriptures and discipleship material in audio format is having such a huge impact on this society and asks for prayer that they will use their resources wisely and God's Word will impact those who hear.

For further details go to: www.crmf.org



Penias and friend listening to Good News.

Peter also reports that In Federal Parliament, 18 out of 30 MPs said a big majority in their electorates supported traditional marriage, compared with only six who said most opposed it. The debate was in response to a motion by federal Greens MP Adam Bandt to have MPs around the country report back their electorate's views. FAVA is continuing its campaign around the country to defend marriage as between a man and a woman only.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL

Are These Jewish Men 'On The Road To Damascus'?

KAYCHAN Park is a Korean pastor working in Sydney with Christian Witness to Israel. He reports that recently he had a very personal talk at Bondi Junction (Sydney) with a Jewish Rabbi and anti-missionary. 'In the past he has been very arrogant towards me believing that it is his duty to disturb and disrupt me from making contact with Jewish people,' says Park, 'but this time he was much different. He was more friendly and shared his personal story; how and why he became a Rabbi, that his grandpa was also a Rabbi who was exterminated in a Nazi concentration camp etc.

'In turn, I shared my testimony; how I met the Messiah of the Jewish people, how Jesus changed my life. At the end of the chat, I proposed an open prayer for us to bless each other with true hearts. So the Rabbi and I agreed to bless each other in Hebrew. He blessed me first in a loud rabbinic way and so I blessed him even louder from both the Old and New Covenant and ending in the name of Yeshua.

'We also prayed that the God of truth may lead each of us to know Him rightly through His good guidance. It was a wonderful experience to have a united prayer with a Rabbi.'

'A Student From Israel Visited My House'

'A young man, a PhD student researching on the environmental policy in Israel, came from Melbourne to present his research to a Sydney conference and stayed with us for five days. He shared a

lot of things such as his family stories, his personal history and academic achievements so far in an Israeli university.

'During his stay we chatted, ate, laughed and talked about faith together. In particular, he was interested in meeting a Jewish pastor, Jeff Read, when I said to him that it would be good to hear his story of how and why he came to know Yeshua as his Messiah. One Sunday morning we went to hear his sermon and to chat with him after the service. It was also my joy to join him on a short Sydney tour. He hopes to come back to work here in Sydney if it is possible.'

These Men Need Prayer

● Pray that the rabbi may be a 2C21 Saul on the road to Damascus and that the Lord will give me an open-safe door to him. He was sent to Australia for preventing Jews converting to Jesus and to spy on existing Jewish Christians. We are in a great spiritual war!

● Praise the Lord that Doron and I had an important time at Chatswood Presbyterian Church with Rev Jeff Read. Pray. Also pray that Doron may have an open door to work in Australia.

● Pray for the street evangelism, letter box dropping and book table in the Bondi areas. Pray that more Israeli backpackers and Jewish people will be interested to talk about the Gospel.

E-mail: kaychanpark@gmail.com

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MARRIAGE

ANNOUNCEMENT

John David Gostt and Wu AnMin, wish to announce to all their friends that their recent marriage took place in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, Peoples Republic of China, on Monday 29 August 2011.

This is the second marriage for both of them. For the present they plan to spend time residing partly in Melbourne and also in Chengdu.

When in Melbourne they will worship at Holy Trinity, Doncaster, where John is part of the Sunday 10am congregation.

They may be contacted by email:
jgpanda2010@gmail.com



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Gov't Must Find New Money For Secular School Workers, Not Dilute Chaplaincy Money – ACL

FUNDING for new secular welfare workers in schools announced on 7-9-11 by School Education Minister Peter Garrett must come from a separate program, not from the same pool of money funding chaplains, according to the Australian Christian Lobby. Managing Director Jim Wallace said Prime Minister Julia Gillard had given an election commitment that the National School Chaplaincy Program would not be secularised.

'The Government's commitment before the election was that the chaplaincy program would retain its unique faith-based pastoral care emphasis,' he said. In a video interview conducted two weeks before the election, Mr Wallace asked Ms Gillard to reassure the Christian constituency that there were no plans to change this.

The Prime Minister replied: 'Yes I do see that con-

tinuing ... My view about the chaplaincy program is yes it would continue as a chaplaincy program with everything that that implies.'

While any large government program was likely to experience some problems, Mr Wallace was concerned the government's move to introduce secular welfare workers on top of existing secular school counsellors was responding to a small number of aggressive secularists and the anti-chaplaincy Greens.

'We welcome Mr Garrett's comments supporting the great work chaplains do in school communities', he said, 'but we believe the government has an obligation to find additional sources of funding for secular welfare workers rather than taking this from the chaplaincy program budget which was pledged before the election.'

National History Curriculum 'Politically Correct' But 'Intellectually Absurd'

THE new national history curriculum has been designed as a 'politically correct' course. It does not mention Jesus Christ, chooses BCE, BP and CE instead of BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini the Year Of Our Lord). These weird terms mean 'Before Common Era', 'Before Present', and 'Common Era'.

Archbishop of Sydney, Peter Jensen, has slammed the curriculum as an 'intellectually absurd attempt to write Christ out of human history'. He said 'It is absurd because the coming of Christ remains the centre point of dating and because the phrase "common era" is meaningless and misleading. It is akin to calling Christmas "the festive season",' Archbishop Jensen said.

The Rev Fred Nile said the deletion was 'An absolute disgrace ... the direction of the national curriculum is towards almost a Christian cleansing to remove from our history any references to the role Christianity had in the formation of Australia and still has today. This is the final insult, to remove BC and AD which are still recognised around the world,' he said. Bill Muehlenberg sees this as a sign that society is at war with Christianity.

– Rev Dr Dallas Clarnette, Secretary, CTA Victoria.

With Compassion And Justice, Both Parties' Refugee Solutions Could Work – ACL

THE Australian Christian Lobby has called for all parties to stop playing politics with the refugee issue and co-operate on a solution that addresses both the real needs of refugees and necessary border protection.

'We have people in urgent need of refuge, and other people who will try to take advantage of any system we institute to make money. Any solution must address both realities,' ACL Director Jim Wallace said. 'Unfortunately we have both major parties playing politics with this, trying to marginalise the others' solutions and the Greens' throwing up anything that will profit politically from the predicament of both. Australian voters and more importantly those in real need and danger deserve better. No solution to this problem is going to be perfect, but if we know a minimum of eight boats may have vanished in the last two years making money for people smugglers, clearly we must break this criminal model.

'At the same time, refugee camps are full of people in real need, and with 750,000 likely to die in camps holding Somalian refugees in just the next few months, surely there are urgent needs to be addressed. Australians must reject the politics being played here and demand better of all parties. I am particularly annoyed when I receive a number of pleas for help from people living under threat of their lives as minorities having escaped trouble spots, and see both politics and criminality impeding our ability to address these real needs,' said Mr Wallace.

'LEST WE FORGET'

'The Day The World Stood Still' – 9/11 Remembrance Service In Sydney

REMEMBERING the day that changed the world, St Andrew's Anglican Cathedral in Sydney changed its 10.30am Morning Service, on 11 September to a Day of Remembrance for the tragedy known as 'The Day the World Stood Still.' This was a special time of remembrance for the victims of the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. The packed Cathedral saw a practical outpouring of feelings and thoughts for what this occasion represented.

The Consuls-General of the United States, Niels Marquardt, and the United Kingdom, Richard Morris, were in attendance, as well as chaplains and representatives of various services, including RAAF, Fire, Police and Federal Police. Federal and State Governments were also represented, by the Hon Peter Garrett MP and Mr John Robertson (NSW Leader of the Opposition). Scripture Readings were presented by Consul-General Niels Marquardt (Ecclesiastes 3.1-11) and the Hon Peter Garrett (Mark 15.21-39).

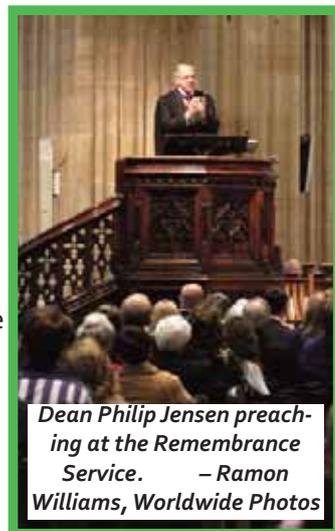
An emotional American member of the Cathedral congregation, Danita Murdoch led in prayer for her fellow Americans and the sermon was presented by the Dean of Sydney, the Very Rev Phillip Jensen. 'To put first things first,' he said, 'let us offer our condolences and prayers to those who have suffered the great tragedy of 9/11. Firstly to the families: husbands; wives; children; parents; uncles; aunts; sib-

lings – who lost their loved ones. 'The news media has a two week attention span but the tragedies and disasters of this world continue for much longer for the personnel involved. The pain, the loss, the suffering – they go on for every day; for months; for years; for decades.

'Secondly we give our condolences to the nation.' Philip Jensen went on to praise the efforts of rescuers and those involved, putting their lives on the line for friends and unknown people. He then referred to the Scripture passages and said: 'When Jesus died, not only was it the day the world stood still, but also the day eternity stood still. A decade later it's right that we remember 11 September. And two thousand years later it's right that we remember the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on that first Good Friday.'

The audio of Dean Jensen's sermon may be found at www.sydneycathedral.com/sermons/special-services/9-11-service-day-world-stood-still.

Photos may be viewed at: community.webshots.com/user/ramon_williams



Celebrating 'The Book That Changed The World'

BIBLE Society Australia will hold a Bible Exhibition in Melbourne featuring an original 1611 King James Bible and a 1607 Geneva Bible with Shakespeare's handwritten notes. The exhibition will be held at Melbourne City Library, 253 Flinders Lane, 2-28 October.

Public Forum

What's The Bible Ever Done For Us? – a discussion on the Bible in British and Australian history, culture and public theology – will be held at Melbourne City Convention Centre, 333 Swanston St, at 7pm on Saturday 1 October. This will be a joint event sponsored by the King James Bible Trust and Bible Society Australia, with Lord Salisbury, current member and former leader of the British House of Lords, Dr Greg Clarke, Bible Society CEO and Rev Dr John Harris.

A Celebration Service in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible will be held in St Paul's Cathedral at 2.30pm on Sunday 2 October. The speakers will be Rev Dr Charles Sherlock and Rev Dr John Harris, with performance by Sons of Korah.

**Contact Mignon at office@nlife.com.au
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URGENT NEED FOR PRAYER

Cyprus Blast Disrupts Television Ministry

THE shockwaves of a deadly munitions explosion in Cyprus last July are still being felt. The Cyprus President blamed a 'failure of the system' as the root cause of the blast that killed 13 at a naval base.

While the rubble is visible, the explosion also triggered both political and economic crises. Damage estimates are in the multi-billion-dollar range and could hamper the country's economic growth. Experts say the plant meets more than half of Cyprus' power needs, and it could take up to a year to fix the power plant.

SAT-7, a Christian satellite television ministry to the Middle East and North Africa, says their office in Cyprus is working, but it has been extremely difficult, with daily rolling power outages that often come without warning.

As more power generators have been bought by the government, power in Cyprus is stabilising. However, the bills to pay for the new power source are going to be much higher. It affects much more than the actual television show production.

Crippling average daytime temperatures are a problem. Without temperature control, electronic equipment does not run properly and can easily overheat

or break down. SAT-7 has been using emergency generators (pictured above) in one main room to keep servers going and employees productive.

Battery and generator failure, excessive costs, and high temperatures have made it difficult for SAT-7 staff to uphold the high standards of quality they typically maintain. While employees are doing as much as they can, intermittent power is an issue.

Pray for the staff. They are trusting that something good will eventually come out of this situation for the people of Cyprus. Pray that there would be a quick resolution to the crisis and that sharing the hope of Christ would continue, without disruption, in difficult circumstances.



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CONSTRUCTION IS FLYING!



WHAT'S ON?

Rugby World Cup And Engage

AS the Rugby World Cup momentum builds, *Engage* wants to share with international friends what their initiatives are for engaging with those involved.

Engage is encouraging individuals and churches in New Zealand to register on the website www.engagenz.org to find out all about what *Engage* is doing, including producing radio advertisements on NZ's Rhema network and a 2 minute video on www.youtube.com/user/EngageMinistry. *Challenge Weekly*, New Zealand's Christian Newspaper, published a full supplement, with 80,000 copies circulated as part of their weekly issue.

An *Engage* smart phone application is available at <http://m.strangepunch.com/engage/> providing a range of tournament and city information for visitors and locals alike. A *Gospel Of Luke* is being published with player's testimonies and there are a host

of big screen events occurring, family days and the 'Taga Tour, where Timo Tagaloa will visit and speak at 32 churches NZ-wide during the tournament.

The small team involved in *Engage* have been putting in many hours to bring these opportunities to the event and to encouraging individuals and churches across NZ to help demonstrate the connection between sport and our faith in the 23 NZ cities which host one of the 20 teams during the tournament.

There have already been exciting developments and possibilities for future tournaments and for sports ministry in NZ. Prayer and support through to the final on 23 October would be appreciated by the whole *Engage* team.

– Andrew Kerr, *Engage* Director and Convenor,
Christian Sports Network NZ

Jim Wallace In The Lion's Den

NEXT Monday night, 19 September, at 9.30pm, Australian Christian Lobby's Managing Director Jim Wallace will be appearing on ABC1's QandA.

Also appearing on the panel will be: Kristina Keneally, Raimond Gaita, and Christina Rad. If you're into social media and Twitter, don't forget to use the #qanda hashtag.

March For The Babies 2011 will be held on Saturday 8 October at 2pm. Meet at Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne to remember the 20,000 babies who die through abortion each year in Victoria. We pray for changes to Victoria's laws which at present do not protect these innocent unborn babies.

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2154, NSW.

PERSECUTION WATCH

Christian Convert Attacked With Boiling Water By Muslim Asylum Seekers In Norway

AN ex-Muslim convert to Christianity has been attacked with boiling water and acid by Muslims at an Asylum Reception Centre in Norway. www.Mohabatnews.com says that 'Ali' (not his real name), an asylum seeker in an immigration centre in Jaeren, Norway, had boiling water poured over him after he converted to Christianity and would not comply with Ramadan fasting rules. He and the other converts at the centre now fear for their lives.

Mohabat News says the incident was accompanied by the message from other asylum seekers: 'If you do not return to Islam, we will kill you.' Ali refuses to disclose his real name for fear of further reprisals. This is also why he is pictured face down in the accompanying image. The news agency reports that if Afghan authorities found out about the incident, and he were to be subsequently deported, Ali says he risks being sentenced to death by stoning.

Ali survived the incident, but has been left with a severely disfigured back, covered with flaking skin under bandages. Ali's Christian roommate, Reza, has been tending to the oozing wounds.

Nevertheless, Ali – his face distorted in pain – maintains a calm voice as he tells his story: 'Two of the Muslim residents asked why I had not fasted during Ramadan. When I would not answer, they began to discuss the matter. One of them said that he knew I was Muslim and converted to Christianity, and that they had to engage in Jihad,' Ali told Mohabat News.

Ali stated that one resident held him down while another struck him on the back of the head with a pot of boiling water, and that he collapsed to the floor. Several other Muslim residents joined in the attack. A third man walked into Ali's room and began to trash it. Police arrived an hour later, the damage already having been done, the agency said.

'I was still on the floor when police arrived. I told them a little, but was in too much pain to talk, so I was taken to hospital,' Ali said. After a night in the hospital, Ali went back to the reception centre, knowing that danger had not passed. When he checked the door handle to his room he found it was covered with an acidic substance that causes burns on contact. He summoned the staff, who washed away the chemical, but the Christian Afghan still does not feel safe.

– Michael Ireland, ASSIST News Service



Injuries sustained after burning with boiling water and acid. (Photo courtesy Mohabat News).

Somali Convert Kidnapped, Beheaded

A KIDNAPPED Christian convert from Islam was found decapitated on 2 September on the outskirts of Hudur City in Bakool region, southwestern Somalia. Juma Nuradin Kamil was forced into a car by three suspected Islamic extremists from the al Shabaab terrorist group on 21 August, area sources said. The kidnapping and subsequent manner of murder suggests that al Shabaab militants had been monitoring him, Christian leaders said. Muslim extremists from al Shabaab, a militant group with ties to al Qaeda, have vowed to rid Somalia of Christianity, and they control the area some 400 kilometres from Mogadishu.

Bhutan Christians Seek To Dispel Regime's Mistrust

CHRISTIANS in the Buddhist nation of Bhutan have been awaiting a decision on whether they will receive official recognition, but it appears they will first see a measure against fraudulent conversion that the prime minister acknowledges is essentially

designed to deter evangelism. Prime Minister Jigmi Yoser Thinley told Compass the proposed clause in the penal code was 'essentially ... to deter conversion,' saying there was no reason why Christians should seek to induce others to join their faith.

In an exclusive interview in his office, Thinley said Christians seek to convert other Bhutanese citizens with the power of money and an attitude of spiritual superiority, accusations that Christian leaders in the country deny. Church leaders said they were distressed with the government's notion of Christians and Christianity, which they said was far from true. 'No evidence of such allegations has come to our knowledge, but still we will never try to defend anyone who indulges in unethical conversions,' said a Christian leader from Thimphu on condition of anonymity. Bhutan Minister for Home and Culture Minjur Dorji told Compass that his department has yet to decide whether Christians could be recognized officially. 'There is no legal provision for that,' he said. 'It's not in the constitution.'

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

Billy Graham Library's New Exhibit Highlights The Grahams' Use Of The Written Word

THE Billy Graham Library is unveiling a new exhibit, *A Legacy Of Literature: The Writings Of Billy & Ruth Graham*, highlighting the illustrious writing careers of Billy and Ruth Graham.

Visitors will learn about their books, many of which have become bestsellers and have been translated into scores of other languages. The exhibit will include photos, original manuscripts, handwritten edits and more.

'God has used my father and mother in a remarkable and unique way to advance the Gospel,' said Franklin Graham, President and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. 'Through their books, many have come to know Christ or had their faith strengthened. I believe even more will be impacted in the years to come.'

'Billy and Ruth Graham always approached their writings as opportunities to present the Gospel,' added Debra Cordial, Director of the Billy Graham Library. 'This exhibit reflects that principle, and we have some really unique items on display that showcase the prayer and planning that went into each project.'

Items On Display During The Exhibit Will Include:

- A copy of *Calling Youth To Christ*, the first collection of messages by Mr Graham.

- A small recording device circa 1949 which Mr Graham used in preparation for his writing projects.

- A 1963 carbon copy of the original 'outline' of chapters for the future *World Aflame* book, along with a spiral notebook of Mr. Graham's handwritten draft of the preface and dedication to his mother.

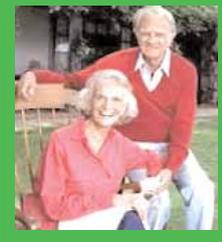
- Original drawings by Ruth Graham for her book *Legacy Of A Pack Rat*.

In addition, visitors will have the opportunity to write messages to Billy Graham about how his books have personally impacted their lives.

A Legacy Of Literature: The Writings Of Billy & Ruth Graham began on 1 September and is open to the public through to the end of October. This northern autumn, Billy Graham will release his 29th book and his first in five years, *Nearing Home: Life, Faith And Finishing Well*.

About The Billy Graham Library

The Billy Graham Library opened in 2007 and has since had more than 500,000 visitors from around the world. The Library is open Monday to Saturday, 9.30am to 5pm. Admission to the Library is free. For more information on the Library and upcoming events, or to schedule a group tour, visit www.billygrahamlibrary.org



History Made In Pakistan: Constitutional Amendment To Reserve Four Seats For Non-Muslims In The Upper House Of Parliament

IN an historic move, the Senate of Pakistan will now, under the 18th Constitutional Amendment Act 2010, have four seats reserved for minorities, one each from the provinces of Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This is the very first time in the history of Pakistan that there will be representation of Pakistani religious minorities in the Upper House of the Parliament and this will take place in the forthcoming Senate elections (March 2012). The minorities have been deprived of these 'reserved' seats for more than 38 years but, on the other hand, seats were reserved for Muslim religious scholars, technocrats and women.

– Dan Wooding, ASSIST News Service

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How To Beat The Fear Of Death

WHEN I was involved in the dispute over the banning of corporal discipline in schools I was once asked by Melbourne radio announcer Derryn Hinch to be interviewed. I consented, and he rang and launched into his first question: 'Do you think that Jesus went around Jerusalem bashing children?'

By this time I had become rather weary of journalists and radio gurus who thought that being morose was the same as being provocative, so I snapped back: 'If you don't know the difference between bashing and discipline, you ought to buy yourself a little dictionary and look these words up.' Clearly this made him as annoyed with me as I was with him, because he hung up on me. It was the shortest interview that I gave in the whole campaign!

I was reminded of that exchange a few weeks ago when I read an interview with Hinch, facing the prospect of death through liver cancer. After putting in a plug for euthanasia, he beat his chest: 'I am not scared of death. Not one scintilla. I have no regrets. If I hadn't drunk so much, I might have been a better person, a better husband. I might have blown less money. But that's not a regret. We all had a hell of a lot of fun.'

One's first response is that Ahab showed more remorse than Hinch managed (1 Kings 21.27-29). One's second response is that this is just bravado. It is a variation of the newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst, who in his latter years imposed a strict rule on all guests to his house: not to mention death in his presence.

The Bible is rather more realistic. It states that 'Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, [Christ] Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery' (Hebrews 2.14-15). Death is at first the great unknown, and it comes certainly and swiftly. As William Wordsworth lamented:

*How fast has brother followed brother,
From sunshine to the sunless land!*

Death is relentless in its pursuit of us all. We are

all going there, but we are not sure when or in what manner. Furthermore, death is often associated with pain. Christopher Hitchens has spent his life railing against God but now finds, like Derryn Hinch, that he is stricken with cancer. He has recorded: 'You feel swamped with passivity and impotence; dissolving in powerlessness like a sugar lump in water.' This is pain with no real meaning in Hitchens' view: 'Against me is the blind, emotionless alien'. To the question 'Why me?', Hitchens imagines a barely interested cosmos replying: 'Why not?'

However, the most disturbing thing of all about death is the suppressed sense in all of us that it ushers in the judgment. The Son of Man shall come in His glory, with all His angels, and He will separate the sheep from the goats. To the sheep, He will say: 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world' (Matthew 25.34). To the goats He will say: 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels' (Matthew 25.41). This will be the day above all other days, and the word above all other words. Our eternal destiny will be announced.

That is why so many reject Christ's words – they don't want them to be true, so they suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1.18). This can be done by adopting a superior stance and insisting that death holds no terrors for us. Or we can simply avoid the issue. Or shrug our shoulders and pretend that we know so little. Or we can do what Rob Bell has just done, and argue, badly, that 'Love Wins', and we all get to Paradise in the end.

All these responses are simply disguised fear. The only true way to overcome this fear of death is to entrust ourselves to Him who has defeated death for the sake of His people. As Stephen confronted a hostile crowd of Jews, he declared: 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7.56). He called out: 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit' (Acts 7.59). That is how to die without fear.

– Peter Barnes,

Revesby Presbyterian Church, Sydney

Continued Prayer Asked For Hon Elaine Nile

THE Rev Fred Nile has thanked everyone for their prayers and support at this time for Elaine Nile. 'Elaine has now been transferred from St George Hospital, Kogarah, to Calvary Hospital Palliative Care Unit, Kogarah. Please continue to pray for Elaine and God's peace and comfort at this time,' asked Fred Nile.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Please Pray For Us ...

Gospel Recordings Network Aus

Bangladesh: There has been a lot of rain recently which threatens to flood the low lands, along with much political unrest. Pray for ongoing ministry in this very challenging environment.

Australia: Pray for good opportunities to share about GRN in some country areas in NSW. Alex and Sybil Shaw will be in Orange and Cowra, David and Katrina Miller will be visiting Moree.

Pakistan: The team seek to make recordings in the 14 languages of Chitral. Praise God for recordings made in Dhatki, Lasi of Baluchistan, Saraiki, Jangli and Faqir (gypsy tribe).

South Africa/Aust: Keep praying for Anton and Lucy Meyer applying for their visas to work in Australia. They need to provide various documents, and have medical insurance and finances in place.

Philippines: Pray for the team as they explore 'yet-to-be-reached' Indigenous people groups in the Philippines. Pray for more prayer partners, and contacts in extending the Great Commission of the Lord in every region and beyond.

Global: Pray for the health of GRN workers and their families around the world. Remember Na Tisdale (Thailand), Chandana Roy (India), Jonathan Ramos (USA), Annette van Kampen (Netherlands), Naomi Elliott (Canada) and Heather Roper (Aust).

Europe: The Netherlands team give praise for the opportunities to share the Word of God with visitors and locals at the World Youth Day conference in Madrid, Spain last month. Pray for that Word to continue to be nurtured and to bear much fruit to the glory of God.

Peru: In a small town (unnamed, as terrorism is active in the area) Eduardo and Elda recorded in the Nomatsiguenga language. Pray for good distribution of the *Look, Listen & Live Book 7, Good News* and other messages and songs.

Australia/USA: Graydon Colville is attending the International Orality conference from 12-16 Sep. Pray that outcomes from the conference would help in the task of reaching and discipling oral learners around the world.

Feedback: 'I was browsing through the (GRN) website and come across this recording in Kamano Kafe language. As a child growing up my father had discs we used to manually turn in a box type machine and listen to the Bible. Noah was my favourite story. I thank you for preserving this great audio that has had a big influence in my life.'

Australia: As recordings continue to be made our digital archive is constantly growing. Pray for David Miller as he manages that growth. Over the next few months there will be major expansions required as the current systems reach capacity. (For more prayer fuel go to: globalrecordings.net)

Reachout! Really Does ...

GRAYDON Colville, of GRN, reports that the annual Reachout Missions Conference, 13-14 August 13-14, was a great event with good Bible teaching, useful seminars and more than 40 missions represented. The goal of Reachout is to help people in their journey towards active involvement in God's work in the world.

'It was exciting to talk with many people about their interest in mission,' Graydon says. 'About 30 people plan to be actively engaged in short term or long term cross-cultural mission within 12 months. A few were of 'mature' years but most were young, heading out for the first time. It is a wonderful encouragement to see something of God's answer when we "Pray to the Lord of the harvest".'

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CHRISTIANS – IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL

Seminars Focus On Fire And Flood Recovery

SEMINARS held recently in Toowoomba and Gatton focussed on fire and flood recovery. Combating hopelessness and improving communications were two of the major issues discussed. The seminars, organised by Global Care, the social justice and disaster relief arm of Christian Outreach Centre, were addressed by community and disaster relief specialists from the Kinglake Bushfire region in Victoria and both the Lockyer Valley and Ipswich/Goodna flood disaster areas in Queensland.

Key Issues: Hopelessness And Low Morale

Brad Quilliam, President of the Kinglake Ranges Business Network, told delegates that the main lesson he had learned in the aftermath of 'Black Saturday' in February 2009 was that combating hopelessness and low morale was a key issue in rebuilding community and business confidence in the wake of a major disaster.

Brad, who runs a printing company in Kinglake, and lost his own house to the fires, said communities and businesses had to reinvent themselves after a tragedy, and it was important that people recovered in different ways and over different periods of time. 'There are strained relationships at all levels, as people battle exhaustion and both physical and mental fatigue. Issues include insurance, financial records and facing piles of bills.

'It is important that there is good leadership, and that all groups within the community work closely and co-operatively to rebuild and restore confidence ... there is a need to put wisdom over emotion, with groups such as local councils and service clubs leading by example to lift morale and restore hope,' he said.

Meeting Immediate Needs

Anne Leadbeater, Manager of Community Engagement with the Office of the Victorian Emergency Services Commissioner, said with 747 homes destroyed and 46 dead, Kinglake Ranges residents felt isolated and confused after the fires, with lack of fuel, water, perishable food and – above all – information.

She said: 'There were no phones, internet or TV. The community was traumatised, with people displaced and kept away from their homes by roadblocks, and nobody could get any accurate information in the immediate aftermath of the fires. 'The need for accurate and timely information was paramount, and we learned quickly that we had to build constructive partnerships with the media and devise methods to give people vital information.

'We learned very quickly how important word of mouth and face-to-face communication is, and we set up community briefing sessions several times a day in our big white tent set up in a central location. We had to provide only facts, with no speculation, and keep the information simple – in bullet points.'

'We also had to tailor information to the needs of the people, and we did that by listening to the questions. At first they were all about survival issues like food, fuel and water, but within two weeks, people were asking about BAS statements and how to pay their rates.

'The courage and resilience of ordinary people is what amazed me, in the face of too much grief, too many tears and too many funerals. Recovery is a long journey, and we just have to put one foot in front of the other till we get it right.'

Global Care's National Co-ordinator, Pastor Russell Wright, who had himself spent two years in Kinglake, said volunteers and organisers alike had been able to learn from the experience of the bushfire disasters in handling the recovery of the Queensland floods.

He said: 'The seminars helped us learn from the experiences in Kinglake, and I think this has given people a new empathy for those devastated by a natural disaster, be it flood, fire, tsunami, earthquake or hailstorm. For people who have lost so much through a natural disaster, nothing is ever the same again ... they have to come to terms with a 'new normal', and make peace with a whole new reality and life.

'One of the most important things is to encourage people to become self-reliant and confident again, and not to slip into a long-term welfare mentality where they expect everything to be done for them. We try to inculcate self respect, resilience, courage and hope.'

Pastor Jonathan Oastler, Director of Global Care's flood recovery work in the Lockyer Valley and Ipswich/Goodna regions, said Global Care played its most important role in the secondary, or long-term secondary recovery phase of a natural disaster.

Pastor Oastler, who is also Senior Pastor of Citilife Christian Outreach Centre Church in Toowoomba, said: 'Within two or three weeks, most of the early response providers such as the Army move out, and it is essential that agencies such as Global Care remain in place to help people work through the pain and confusion of rebuilding lives, families and businesses after the emergency winds down. Global Care's motto is: "mates helping mates", and we commit ourselves to be there for as long as it takes to help people through.'



From left, Pastor Russell Wright, Pastor Jonathan Oastler, Anne Leadbeater, Global Care Operations Manager Glenda Hare, Pastor Joe Casey, and Brad Quilliam.

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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)

A BOOK WORTH READING

JOHN KNOX AND THE REFORMATION, D.M. Lloyd-Jones and Iain H. Murray, Edinburgh, Banner Of Truth, 2011.

THIS book brings together three addresses on the great Scottish reformer, two by Martyn Lloyd-Jones and one by Iain Murray. It also provides a helpful timeline of the main events in the life of John Knox. At a meeting celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Scottish Reformation, Lloyd-Jones asks and answers the important question: why look back at all?

His answer is that at the Reformation people looked back to the New Testament and rediscovered the Gospel, and it is by turning back to the Bible that the life of the Church is transformed (and the transformation of society follows in its train). He goes on to speak of the biblical convictions, fervent prayers and powerful preaching of larger-than-life men like John Knox, whom God raised up at the time of the Reformation.

In a second address, Lloyd-Jones shows the international character of Knox's work that was not limited to Scotland. When describing Knox, Lloyd-Jones speaks of his extraordinary energy, discernment, wisdom, humility, moderation and courage.

Knox thought things out for himself. He was a powerful and influential preacher, and his prayers were no less effective. All this made him in many ways the 'founder of Puritanism'. As such he favoured a 'root and branch' reformation of the life

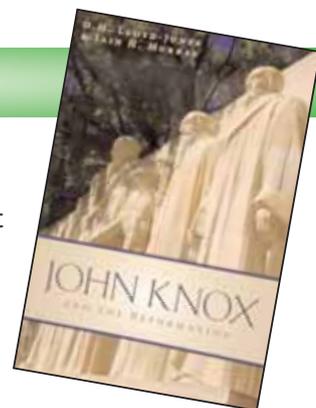
of the Church, stripping it back to its biblical essentials, and he acted on his convictions.

Though long after his death, the overthrow of Charles I and the American War of Independence both reflect his thinking and writings about revolution. It can be truly said that Knox shaped the destinies of three great nations, Scotland, England and America.

Iain Murray opens the final chapter with these words: 'John Knox remains one of the most controversial figures of history'. Murray gives a lucid account of the 57 years of Knox's eventful life. He shows that Knox was an international Christian, spending time on the continent as well as years in England (his first wife was English!). He was no parochial Scot! Knox was a man of principle but one who also was able to show flexibility and inventiveness in situations of crisis.

It is about time that people abandoned the common caricature of John Knox as wild, uncouth and fanatical; and here is a little book (130 pages) that will help them do this as it reveals the man behind the myth!

— Greg Goswell



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS ... , J.V.Fesko, Evangelical Press, North Darlington, 2011.

JUST when you thought that everything that could be said about the *Fruit of the Spirit* had been said, a book like this crosses your desk. While others lavish their attention on the individual fruits, Dr Fesko goes for 'the bigger picture', placing Galatians 5.22 within the whole context of Scripture. Numerous books on the *Fruit Of The Spirit* focus on the individual fruits, even all of them together, but this deceptively small work goes behind and beyond the individual fruits as it places them in the context of the wider teaching of Scripture on the topic.

Thus, Dr Fesko encourages Christians to move ever further from Egypt (representing a life of bondage to the Law and sin) and ever onwards toward the New Jerusalem and a closer walk with Christ through manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. He urges us to 'seek Christ in the visible and invisible word ... and cry out in prayer that Christ would conform us to His holy and righteous image.'

— Bob Thomas

The Briefing Set Free

MATTHIAS Media has made *e-Briefing* a free download as from 1 September. To download your *e-Briefing* #395 (Sept/Oct), go to the following web page:

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At this page you will find further instructions and a link to the file.

This is the first of the new format for the bi-monthly *e-Briefing* magazine. The file will remain at this location for four months, and then will be deleted.

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HOW TO GROW IN THE WORD

'Lord, Open Our Eyes To See Wondrous Things In Your Word'

A FEW days ago, two policemen arrived at Mukti's door in the early hours of the morning holding a tiny baby who may have been born 24 hours before. His lips were parched, his body was covered with dirt and he was shivering with the morning chill. I assumed that someone was trying to bury this precious child in a lonely sugar-cane field where no one would spot this act. My hands trembled with anguish and my eyes filled with tears as I held the baby in my arms. Praise God someone had sharp enough eyes to spot this hidden treasure

Isn't this how it is when it comes to the Word of God? While searching Scripture and spending more and more time with God's Word, He helps us find all the hidden treasures in His rich storehouse. This will happen provided we possess these fundamental qualities.

1. Willing To Commit: God's alarm clock is Isaiah 50.4 '... He wakes me up every morning. He makes me want to listen like a good student.' Before the pressures of the day swallow up our time and our minds get clouded with many worries, spending the wee hours of the morning listening to God's voice is vital for our spiritual growth.

2. Willing To Dig Deep: The narrator of Proverbs emphasises the fact that it is imperative to dig deeper as we would look intently in a gold mine to find something of great value. Proverbs 2.1-4 says: 'Search for it as you would search for hidden treasures.' This will lead to exciting discoveries and will give us joy as we minister to the hurting and broken-hearted.

3. Willing To Sit At Jesus' Feet: The Lord reprimanded Martha, even though she opened her home and was preparing a sumptuous meal for her Master. Instead Jesus commended Mary as she had made the right choice to sit at Jesus' feet. 'But only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better. And it will not be taken away from her.' (Luke 10.42.) What a commendation to receive from Jesus!

Friends, what are the choices we make when the pressures of the world can so easily suck us in? There's no better reward than hearing from the lips of our Master, 'Well done!'

– Lorraine Francis, Superintendent, Mukti Australia,
5 Court St, Box Hill 3128; phone: 03 9890 0211
www.mukti.org.au

WELL SAID!

If you are a saint, if you are one of God's people, you are going to Glory, and nothing can prevent that from happening. Do you know that you are a saint? Are you certain that you are one of God's people? Make certain of it. Then, having made certain of it, dwell upon it, apply your mind to it, read the Scriptures, delve into them, commit them to memory, repeat them to yourself daily. Say to yourself, 'This is what I am destined for, this is the inheritance which has been prepared for me, this is how I am going to spend eternity'. How much of our time do we spend in doing so? Let us pray for ourselves what the Apostle prayed for the Ephesians. Let us pray God by His Spirit 'to enlighten the eyes of our understanding' that these things may become real to us, so that we shall not spend all our time in thinking about this world, and this passing life, but rather about that which is coming for certain, and which is so glorious: 'The riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.'

– Dr D.M. Lloyd-Jones

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