

MAD (Mission Aviation Discovery) Day At ACMA

MISSION Aviation Discovery Day will be conducted by the Australian Centre for Mission Aviation on Saturday 10 September at its base at Coldstream Airfield, 96 Killara Rd., Coldstream (Melway 281 J8).

The program commences at 11am and finishes at 4pm. It will include a wide variety of activities suited to people of all ages.

Major attractions include:

- ◆ aerobatic displays
- ◆ fixed wing and helicopter joyflights
- ◆ free children's activities, Jumping Castle, animal farm, face painting.
- ◆ free flight simulators
- ◆ model aircraft display (you won't believe what they do!)
- ◆ hot food and drinks can be purchased on site.

Door prizes including free joy flights and Devonshire Teas will be announced throughout the day.

Entry to the day is by gold coin donation. Proceeds will be directed to mission aviation training.

For further information call Jennifer on 03 9739 0612 or visit www.acma.vic.edu.au

Mission Possible On Wings And Prayers

For 5 days in July at ACMA (Australian Centre for Mission Aviation) students and staff had the privilege of being involved in 28 young lives. Twenty five guys and three girls came from as far away as Queensland and Perth to the annual ACMA camp. It was a week of aviation re-



lated activities, classes, excursions and devotions based at Coldstream Airport. They came as strangers and went away friends. They came to have fun, fly over the beautiful Yarra Valley, learn about the impact of aviation in a world of need, and hear testimonies from staff and students about what God is doing in their lives. They went away more aware of how God is using mission aviation, encouraged in their walk with God, and some with a clearer idea of God's direction in their future.

Praise God for this opportunity to meet together and share in what God is doing in these young lives.



JOHN STOTT Called Home

WORLD renowned Bible teacher Rev Dr John Stott, Rector Emeritus of All Souls, Langham Place, London, passed away peacefully on 27 July, having recently turned 90. See pp 2,5,7,14 for Tributes and Obituary.

TRIBUTES TO JOHN STOTT

Many Tributes Are Flowing In Following The Death Of John Stott, Including ...

DR Geoff Tunnicliffe, Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance, was personally impacted by the teachings of Dr Stott. Tunnicliffe writes: 'The entire World Evangelical Alliance family mourns the loss of one of the giants of the Christian faith, Dr John Stott. Through his preaching, teaching and writing, John Stott had a profound impact on the global Church, in particular, the evangelical community. Through his biblical exposition and spiritual insights he shaped an entire generation of Christian leaders.

'His commitment to biblical orthodoxy, global mission and unity in the body of Christ were foundational in my spiritual journey. John Stott was a great friend of the WEA. He was the primary author of the Preamble to the 1951 Constitution of the WEA. He often spoke at WEA-related events, where he extolled the virtues of Christian unity, evangelism and social justice.'

Doug Birdsall, Head of the Lausanne Movement, writes: 'While this is a day of sadness as we mourn the loss of a friend, teacher and pastor, it is also a day in which we celebrate the life of a person who was faithful to Christ and who deeply impacted the world in which he lived. John Stott impacted the Church around the world in many ways. Perhaps his greatest contribution was to articulate clearly and to defend robustly the evangelical faith which he always understood to be biblical faith, grounded in the New Testament. Evangelicalism was to Stott an expression of historic, orthodox Christianity. The Cross of Christ was central to the message. Stott preached the Cross as the sole means by which men and women could be made right with God. The resurrection of Christ was the great hope of his life, as it is for all mankind, and the hope for life beyond death. This is the great reality he is now experiencing as the reward and vindication for all he preached and for which he lived during his ministry in London and around the world.

'Perhaps more than any other person in the last century, John Stott restored confidence in the authority of God's Word and in the centrality of biblical preaching and teaching. He inspired many evangelicals around the world to make a robust and clear affirmation of biblical truth while at the same time emphasizing that this must be backed up with a distinctive, godly Christian life.

'He was able to hold together, in constructive biblical tension, a passionate commitment to evangelism along with a profound commitment to ministering to the needs of people in the context of suffering and brokenness. This is best expressed in *The Lausanne Covenant*, of which he was the chief author, and which is seen as the defining evangelical document of the 20th Century.'

See Page Seven for Obituary.



VOLUME 74 NUMBER 3. ISSN: 1033-7903

ISSUE DATE: 1 August 2011.

FOUNDER: Eric J. Daley (1910-1992).

EDITOR: Rev Bob Thomas.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Dr Clifford Wilson.

EMAIL: editor@nlife.com.au

PHONE: 0417 592 646

BUSINESS MANAGER: Mignon Goswell.

EMAIL: office@nlife.com.au

PHONE: 0434 313 646

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 457, Mitcham VIC 3132.

WEB-SITE: www.nlife.com.au

SUBSCRIPTION FREE ON REQUEST.

ACCEPTANCE OF ADVERTISING DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.

PUBLISHED BY: New Life Australia Ltd.

ABN 15 005 035 138.

How Can YOU Help *New Life*?

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

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

- ◆ Keep us in your prayers.
- ◆ 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 web-site from time to time (www.nlife.com.au).

Discrimination And Genocide Rock Sudan

SOUTH Sudan seceded from the North on 9 July 2011. Only four days later, Sudan's parliament in Khartoum passed a law that stripped citizenship from over a million South Sudanese who live in the north. Those predominantly Christian Southerners are also losing their jobs and rights.

President El-Bashir has already stated he will amend the constitution, making Islam the state religion, Islamic Sharia the main source of law and Arabic the official language. Meanwhile, the Satellite Sentinel Project has revealed visual evidence of three mass graves capable of holding many thousands of corpses, adjoining the Episcopal Church of Sudan compound in Kadugli, South Kordofan. Many thousands of African, predominantly Christian Nuba, are believed to be buried there, victims of the new Nuba Genocide.

Please Pray For Sudan And Its Christians

'Why, O LORD, do You stand far away? Why do You hide Yourself in times of trouble?' (Psalm 10.1 ESV)

Like the wicked of Psalm 10.2-9, President Omar el-Bashir crushes the helpless (v.10) while saying in his heart: 'God has forgotten, He has hidden His face, He will never see it (v.11). [He] will not call [me] to account' (v.13).

❖ 'Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up Your hand; forget not the afflicted' (v.12). This we know: God does see and take note in order that He might act (v.14).

❖ O LORD, break the power – political, economic, military – of the wicked and evildoer, 'call his wickedness to account till You find none' (v.15).

❖ O LORD, You who are King forever, hear the desire of the afflicted; strengthen their heart; incline Your ear to do justice, 'so that man who is of the Earth may strike terror no more' (vv.16-18).

– *Written for the Australian Evangelical Alliance*

Religious Liberty Commission

by Elizabeth Kendal,

international religious liberty analyst and advocate, and a member of the AEA RLC team.

SIMaid Responding To The East Africa Food Crisis

SIMaid has responded to the widespread food security crisis in East Africa and is providing immediate assistance to people affected in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia. SIMaid emergency funds will be sent to the region where SIM field staff and their partners are providing assistance on the ground.

According to the United Nations this famine is fast becoming the highest food security crisis of our time, with more than 11,000,000 people facing starvation as a result of poor rains and crop failure. A large proportion of those whose lives are in jeopardy are women and children, many of whom have been forced to leave their homes and even their countries in search of food. UNICEF is describing the situation in Somalia as the children's famine, with more than 2,000,000 children needing food and 1,000,000 at risk of dying from malnutrition.

With its long history of work in communities in the Horn of Africa SIMaid is well placed to direct its assistance where it will have an immediate impact. SIMaid works in co-operation with local communities and governments, and collaborates with the UN World Food Program.

SIMaid Food Security Projects

SIMaid has been investing in long-term food security projects across Sub-Saharan Africa. Taking lessons from the 1984 drought in Niger and Ethiopia SIMaid has been working on agricultural research and development projects which, with the assistance of the CSIRO and in collaboration with other aid agencies, have proven the utility of Australian acacia plants as a source of nutrition, firewood and building material across this drought prone region of Africa.

SIMaid has led the way in this research for more than 20 years. The Australian Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd, has called for the sort of food security program which is already well established by SIMaid in Niger and Ethiopia and has the potential to be replicated across other parts of northern Africa. SIMaid is looking to send \$50,000 to East Africa to provide assistance to those in immediate need.

Your emergency donation can save lives right now, with contributions being directed to the field where it will provide relief to those most in need.

Gifs can be mailed to SIMaid (PO Box 42, Penshurst, NSW 2222) or donated online at www.simaid.org.au

Funds intended for famine relief should be made against SIMaid Project: Emergency Fund # 68001.

MOVING FORWARD

Radio – Still Making An Impact For The Gospel – And You Can Help

FOR over 60 years the Far East Broadcasting Company has used radio to preach the Gospel where due to geographical, political or religious boundaries, missionaries cannot go.

'Far East Broadcasting has been one of the world's most effective and consistent voices in evangelical Christianity', said Dr Billy Graham.

Kevin Keegan, National Director of FEBC Australia, said he continues to be amazed at the impact radio has for the Gospel around the world.

'It's so easy to forget, living in Australia with scores of radio and television stations plus the internet, that much of the world is very poorly served with these comparatively recent technologies,' Kevin said. 'For millions of people in the two-thirds world, radio is the only means of hearing any news from outside their immediate community. FEBC is committed to using radio to enable them to hear the Gospel.'

'Despite oppressive regimes, listeners are often able to get messages of thanks to the stations: "I have listened to every one of your Bible Correspondence programs since I first heard it on the radio. I use what I learn through your Bible program to en-

courage (other believers). Thank you to your radio team for being such a blessing," said one listener.'

As well as producing programs and establishing radio stations, FEBC also provides radios that are solar powered or hand power generated into communities affected by natural disasters or that are under political oppression.

'We supply these to prisoners, to those in remote villages and to thousands of others who could not afford them,' Kevin said.

'We distributed over 10,000 to those impacted by the Asian Tsunami. One recipient said, "I cried when I received this radio. Now my family is so happy because we can listen to Christian programs whenever we want."

'I want to encourage Australian Christians to support the work of FEBC. We have so many communication channels that we tend to forget the impact that one radio together with Christian programs in a listener's own language can make in their lives,' he said.

One way of helping FEBC extend their ministry is by purchasing gifts from the FEBC Catalogue. Check it out on-line at www.febc.org.au



Hills Bible Church

Passionately equipping people to:

- **KNOW** God's Word 2 Timothy 2:15
- **LIVE** by God's Word 1 Peter 1: 22 - 2:3
- **COMMIT** to God's Work Romans 12:1-2
- **IMPACT** God's World Matthew 28:18-30

Services 10:00AM

Pastor: Rev Martin Pakula

7 Aug - "Running the Race to the End" 1 Cor. 9:24-10:13

14 Aug - "Christian Freedom" 1 Cor. 10:14-11:1

From Zephania: The Judgement & Salvation of God

21 Aug - "Judgement Day for the People of God" Zeph. 1

28 Aug - "Judgement Day for the Nations" Zeph. 2

4 Sept - "Salvation - From Shame to Praise" Zeph. 3



Hills Bible Church

A Baptist Fellowship

43 York Street, Mont Albert, VIC

Visit our website: www.hillsbiblechurch.org

- To learn more about us
- To read and comment on our blog page
- Utilise multiple tools and resources
- Subscribe to the HBC eNewsletter

Mailing address: P.O. Box 4239, Balwyn East, 3103, VIC

inquiries@hillsbiblechurch.org

JOHN STOTT REMEMBERED

John Stott Had A Close Connection With The Anglican Diocese Of Sydney. Archbishop Peter Jensen Remembers ...

THERE are a few, a very few, who deserve to be called a Prince amongst the people of God; John Stott was one. The thing for which we will mainly remember him was as one who expounded the Bible as God's Word.

John Stott took passages rather than texts and gave rigorous attention to the context and the meaning of the passage taken as a whole. And he spoke with such spiritual vibrancy that you could immediately tell that the biblical text was shaping and informing his faith and his walk with God. Here was a man with something to say, precisely because he took it from Scripture.

The effects were profound. Not only did people come to know Christ through his preaching and not only were people built up in Christ. He modelled a preaching style which others could use as well. He was not the great orator who can only be admired but never emulated. He was a servant of the Word, which showed what can be done by faithful attention to the text of Scripture. Obviously few had his intellectual and theological skills; nonetheless we could aspire to use his model.

His ministry had a multiplier effect. First and foremost, he helped you to revere and love the

Bible. His expositional commitment underscored the sufficiency of Scripture. His expositional method underscored the clarity of scripture. You were more inclined to say, what a great passage, than what a great preacher.

There were two features of this preaching which I remember in particular. The first is to do with its simplicity. It was not that he strove for popularity and delivered trivia.

On the contrary. It was the simplicity of the master craftsman, who could analyse the text of Scripture and by carefully tracing the development of its thought, help his hearers to be better readers. We could see what he could see, and we could be inspired to believe that we too could read the Bible for ourselves.

You can only achieve true simplicity by working very hard. That is what he did. Our debt to him, under God, flows from his willingness to give time and energy and thought to the study of Scripture in the light of modern thought and modern needs and to pastor us through his preaching.

In this, as in much else besides, he was a Prince amongst God's people.

**Only a minute to read, but food for thought
for the whole day!
Short devotional blogs at:
www.barbarafurman.com**

**Could You Make A Donation To
New Life?**
**Donations Are Important -
They Enable Us
To Continue And Expand Our Ministry.
Donations Can Be Made Through
Our Website: www.nlife.com.au
Or By Telephone: 0434 313 646
Or By Mail:
PO Box 457, Mitcham 3132**

**LOOKING
FOR
A BOOK?**

(A pre-loved title?)
Enquire at:

**New Life Books
& Archaeology**

Mon-Sat,
10am-2pm

**44 Dublin Road
Ringwood East**

AH Call John
on 03 9893 4521

Victorian Church Leaders Affirm Work Of ACCESS Ministries In State Schools

IN the midst of the ongoing campaign being waged by secularists against the teaching of Special Religious Education in schools and the appointment of school chaplains, Dr Evonne Paddison and Ms Denise Nicholls of ACCESS Ministries addressed the Victorian Church Leaders' Meeting, a body representing 11 major Christian denominations, on Thursday 14 July.

According to Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson, Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, and Chair of the Victorian Church Leaders' Meeting, they provided an excellent presentation detailing the work of ACCESS Ministries in both Special Religious Education and Chaplaincy and the current community debate about those programs.

Ms Dobson writes: 'Those in attendance were

deeply appreciative of Evonne's and Denise's time and their professionalism, and decided that an expression of support for the Board and staff of ACCESS Ministries should be sent, stating:

"We affirm the place of Special Religious Instruction within the education curriculum of Victoria. We affirm that it is instruction provided by Christian churches and other religious faiths based on their distinctive religious tenets and beliefs, governed by the 2006 Education and Training Reform Act and administered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

"We also affirm the role of Chaplains within Victorian schools as they provide care, advice, comfort and support to students and staff, irrespective of their religious beliefs."

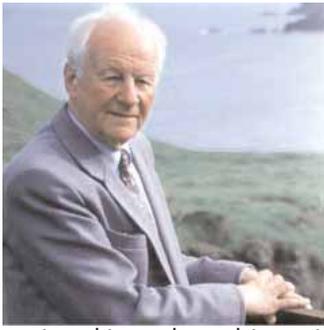
Is Norwegian Mass Murderer A Fundamentalist Christian?

A VARIETY of prominent news organisations have described him as 'an extremist Christian' or 'a fundamentalist Christian'. But if Norwegian terrorist Anders Breivik is a fundamentalist Christian, he forgot something fundamental to the teachings of Jesus: 'Love your enemies.' At the earliest televised news conference, a Norwegian police official, Roger Andresen, helped to create this impression when he said, 'What we know is that he is right wing and a Christian fundamentalist.' Additionally, Breivik's Facebook page lists his religious affiliation as 'Christian.'

It appears that Breivik's horrific acts were motivated by a violent hatred of Muslim immigration into Norway and other countries in Europe. His rage against Muslim immigrants finally consumed him, with many innocent victims in his wake. If Breivik read the Bible, then he also forgot about God's love for the poor and needy, widows and orphans, and yes, immigrants. In the Book of Exodus, God gives the following command: 'Do not mistreat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt.' Similarly, in the Book of Psalms, David writes, 'The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but He frustrates the ways of the wicked.'

The famous Dutch Bible smuggler, Brother Andrew, captures this sentiment when he says that I-S-L-A-M stands for 'I Sincerely Love All Muslims.' Brother Andrew knows the West cannot defeat radical Islam with bombs. This is a spiritual battle, and it will be won heart-by-heart, as Muslims experience the power of the Father's love for the first time.

Was the Norwegian terrorist really a fundamentalist Christian? In his rambling 1500-page manifesto he describes himself as 'moderately religious,' and he calls for 'a reformation of Protestantism leading to it being absorbed by Catholicism' – an unconventional view for a fundamentalist. In the manifesto he also mocks salvation by faith, referring to Protestantism as 'the Marxism of Christianity.' Moreover, on page 1361 he states that those who join his cause do not need to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. 'As a cultural Christian, I believe Christendom is essential for cultural reasons. After all, Christianity is the ONLY cultural platform that can unite all Europeans, which will be needed in the coming period during the third expulsion of the Muslims,' he writes. 'You don't need to have a personal relationship with God or Jesus to fight for our Christian cultural heritage,' Breivik continues. 'It is enough that you are a Christian-agnostic or a Christian-atheist (an atheist who wants to preserve at least the basics of the European Christian cultural legacy (Christian holidays, Christmas and Easter).' So, is Breivik a Christian, fundamentalist or any other kind? Ultimately he will face the judgment of God. In the meantime ... we wonder. – Mark Ellis



John Stott Called Home

JOHN STOTT, the British preacher, author and evangelist, died in Lingfield, Surrey, England, on 27 July 2011, aged 90. He passed away peacefully at 3.15pm UK time. Close friends and family were with him during the morning.

John Stott shaped much of the course of evangelicalism in the 20th Century through his writing and preaching, and in 2005, *TIME* magazine placed him among the world's '100 most influential people'. He was chief architect of The Lausanne Covenant (1974) and Honorary Chair of The Lausanne Movement. The work of Langham Partnership International is perhaps his major legacy to the world Church. This strategic threefold initiative, now under the direction of Christopher J H Wright, works to strengthen the Church in the Majority World by training preachers, funding doctoral scholarships for the most able theological thinkers so they will be equipped to teach in their country's seminaries, and providing basic libraries at low cost for pastors. John Stott's own considerable royalties were all 'recycled' into the production and distribution of theological books for the global south.

While at Rugby School aged 17, his future plans changed. A friend invited him to the Christian Union where he listened intently to the visiting speaker, E.J.H. Nash. Seeing his potential, Nash (better known as 'Bash') drew him into leadership of boys' public school camps. Bash's discipleship training, alongside the vibrant life of the Cambridge Inter-Collegiate Christian Union, established John Stott in his faith.

John Stott has been described as 'a renaissance man with a reformation theology'. He had remarkable intellectual reach, and always worked to bring his mind under the scrutiny of the Bible. John Stott loved Scripture and for over 50 years he read the whole Bible through annually, using Robert Murray McCheyne's reading plan. Martyn Lloyd-Jones had introduced him to it in the early 1950s and he valued the way it began with the 'four great beginnings' of Genesis, Ezra, Matthew and Acts, and opened out Scripture's 'grand themes'. It became a pattern to rise at 5am daily to read and pray, and to listen to the world service.

Stott summed up his priorities as 'students and pastors'. He saw the critical nature of the university, and was an energetic Vice-President of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. While Billy Graham, a long-time friend, was drawing tens of thousands to football stadia, Stott's mission field was the university campus. Numbers were smaller, but the strategic influence for the Gospel could not have been greater. He conducted week-long evangelistic missions for IFES national movements in many of the world's universities, drawing even the most cynical students into the pages of the New Testament to read for themselves of the historic Christ. His warm yet serious style, and sheer conviction of Scripture's authority, brought students back night after night.

Through his work with students, 'Uncle John' as he was known, met many of the sharpest up-and-coming Christian thinkers worldwide while they were still at university, and he kept in contact with them as they graduated. He wanted to apply biblical truth to all areas of thought and progress, and would invite sharp thinkers at the new frontiers of science and technology to help him do so.

In 1950, aged just 29, he was appointed Rector of All Souls Church, Langham Place in London's West End. He had grown up through its Sunday School and served there as a curate. His gifts in expository preaching were to become widely celebrated. As invitations to travel increased, he was given the title Rector Emeritus in 1975 and released by the church to serve globally and to write. Much of his substantial writing – over 50 books translated into 65 languages – was completed at 'The Hookses', a remote cottage on the Welsh coast which he purchased in 1954. Over the years it was developed by working parties to host study groups, and has been left in trust to The Langham Partnership. John Stott's books included the million-selling *Basic Christianity* (1958), *Christ the Controversialist* (1970) *Issues facing Christians Today* (1984) and the one he always considered his best: *The Cross of Christ* (1986) which he dedicated to his secretary, Frances Whitehead, who worked with him for more than 55 years.

John Stott pioneered several influential movements. Among them was the National Evangelical Anglican Congress which first met in Keele University in 1967 to bring about a unified evangelical voice in the church. He also founded the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (1982), of which the sociologist and broadcaster Elaine Storkey later became Director, succeeded by Mark Greene. His initiatives in drawing together groups of thinkers led to several other ventures; The Frontier Youth Trust and Tearfund are two examples.

Stott served as Chaplain to the Queen from 1959 and then as Extra Chaplain. He was awarded four honorary doctorates in Britain and America including a Lambeth DD, and his life and work became the subject of several doctoral theses in his lifetime. He was made a Commander of the British Empire in the Queen's 2006 New Year Honours list.

The life of this urbane and gracious visionary and strategist who loved the natural world and who determined to express the eternal truth of the Christian Gospel to the well-educated, the less privileged and dropouts alike, will attract much further attention as future history slowly unveils the extent of his quite extraordinary influence.

Thanksgiving services are being planned around the world. For details see www.johnstottmemorial.org

URGENT NEED FOR PRAYER

MAF Preparing For Famine Relief Flights In Africa

MISSION Aviation Fellowship is staging seven planes in Kenya for flights to Dadaab Refugee Camp and South Sudan where the United Nations has declared a famine in parts of the region. Across the region, 11 million people are facing a hunger crisis caused by several years of severe drought.

MAF is ramping-up flight capacity in response to the famine in the Horn of Africa. In times of crisis, the Christian relief agency provides flight, communications, and logistics services. An airplane from the MAF program in South Africa is flying to Kenya to reinforce the mission organization's response to the famine in the Horn of Africa.

Over the past week, MAF has flown leaders from relief and mission organizations, as well as ambassadors from several countries, into the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya to assess the situation.

MAF says the organization is also experiencing increasing demand for flights into South Sudan fol-

lowing the country's independence earlier this month. 'MAF is in contact with a number of relief organizations working in the area,' said John Woodberry, MAF manager of disaster response and security. 'We are ramping-up our capacity to respond should the need for relief flights continue to grow.'

With this additional plane, MAF will have seven aircraft in Kenya. To maximize flight capacity, MAF crews have been working into the night so that planes are ready to depart early each morning.

MAF is a family of organisations with a singular mission: to share the love of Jesus through aviation and technology so that isolated people may be physically and spiritually transformed. Serving in 32 countries with more than 140 planes, MAF supports the efforts of some 1,500 Christian and relief organizations. Go to www.maf.org to learn more.

– Michael Ireland,
Senior Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

Indian Churches Launch Hunger Strike To Protest Treatment Of Christian Dalits

MAJOR churches in India took part in a hunger strike from 25 July to 28 July in New Delhi to demand an end to discrimination against Christian Dalits. 'This strike is the expression of hunger for justice, hunger for equality and hunger for the human dignity of Christian Dalits,' said Rev Roger Gaikwad, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in India at the launch of the protests.

COMMUNISM CAN'T STOP CHRIST IN CUBA

THE church is exploding with growth in spite of Cuban communist oppression. Cuban pastors say the Vision Beyond Borders sponsorship program has expanded their ministries. One pastor saw 8,000 new believers saved in the last six months. Pastors in Cuba make an average of \$10-\$20 per month and often work several side jobs just to stay afloat. Sponsorships enables them to focus more fully on spreading God's Word. To learn more about this ministry, you can check out <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/15981>



ACMA
Australian Centre for Mission Aviation

Mission Aviation Discovery Day

Saturday 10 Sept 2011
11am-4pm

Coldstream Airfield
96 Killara Road Coldstream
Melway Ref 281 J8

Phone 03 9739 0612
www.acma.vic.edu.au

Aerobatic displays
Joyflights
Fixed wing \$40
Helicopter \$60
Amazing model aircraft
Free Flight Simulators
FREE children's activities
Face-painting, jumping castles, rides & more...
Devonshire teas & Hot food

VH-FGN

Special thanks to Gold Coin Donations

Entry by gold coin donation

WHAT'S ON?

Giving, Asking, Ministering And Leading As Joyful Stewards

CHRISTIAN Management Australia has launched a new (free) book and announced a series of one-day events in three cities, signalling their shift into a new area of focus for the organisation.

At their recent conference in Sydney, CMA launched the second booklet in its principles and standards series, *CMA's Guiding Principles Of Ministry Resourcing*.

The booklet was written by Tim Matthews from Pilgrim International/Triumph Communications, with CMA National Director, Gary Williams, as series editor. It is not a 'how-to' guide for ministry fundraising, but looks instead at 12 key principles that should undergird the overall process of resourcing Christian churches and organisations. The booklet is available at no charge from CMA at www.stewardship.org.au

With the booklet now being distributed widely, the next step is a series of one-day events, in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, entitled *Radically Faithful: Giving, Asking, Ministering And Leading As Joyful Stewards*. The event will feature speakers

from USA (Dr Scott Rodin, former president of the Christian Stewardship Association), UK (David Jones, former CEO of the Christian charity, 'Stewardship'), and a range of Australian presenters.

The purpose of the event is to explore the connected but distinct issues of generosity, stewardship and fundraising. According to Gary Williams, 'for ministries who used to get by with low-key fundraising but are now faced with greater "competition" in the non-profit world, there is a tendency to adopt the transactional techniques of the wider sector, without accounting for the God-Factor.

'There is plenty to be learned from a mature charity sector, but uncritically importing their techniques without considering the bigger spiritual issues of generosity, stewardship and faith, represents a stunted view of ministry resourcing'.

The days will be gatherings of donors, pastors, fundraisers and ministry leaders. Full details, booklet download, and registration is available at www.stewardship.org.au



The course: *The Life Of Muhammad – A Christian Perspective*

started on Wed 27 July. The cost of the 13 week course (every Wednesday from 7.15 to 9.30 pm) is \$300. However it will cost more if you want to take it for undergraduate or post-graduate credit. The course will take place at 277 Little Lonsdale St, City (beside Melbourne Central). It is an interesting course using a variety of teaching methods. Contact Kathryn Simon on 03 9881 7800 extn 3 if you would like to enrol.

Belgrave Heights Women's Convention will be held at the Convention Centre on Saturday 10 September

from 9am to 4.30pm. Guest speaker will be Kathy Jack, Co-ordinator for Community Bible Study International. Contact the Convention Office (03) 9752 6855 to register.

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

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

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

The speaker this year is Rev Dr Bryson Arthur, who will be travelling out from a theological

seminary in the Middle East. He will be teaching on *Persecution, Risk And Suffering*. There will also be a number of great speakers for workshops and some fun activities planned. Register online through the Interserve website www.interserve.org.au/#pid=242 Or contact the Interserve office on 03 9729 9611.

Looking For Female Room Mate - Cute Weatherboard Two Bedroom House - Box Hill North, Available Now!

I am a professional, working full time and have recently purchased a house.

I am now looking for a room mate.

Prefer female and someone who likes dogs as I have a very friendly Maltese who lives inside too.

\$185 per week.

If interested, please reply to office@nlife.com.au with 'Room Mate' in subject line.

PERSECUTION WATCH

Funeral Held For Christians Killed In Suleja, Nigeria Bombing

– Church Leader Makes Urgent Call For Government To Restore Order

MEMBERS of a church in Suleja, Niger state, on the northern outskirts of this Nigerian capital city, culminated a week of fasting and prayer on 17 July with a memorial service for three Christians killed in a bombing by an Islamist sect. Muslim militants from the Boko Haram threw a bomb into the building of the All Christian Fellowship Mission Church on 10 July as members were leaving a Sunday service, authorities said.

Church member Christopher Ogbu told Compass he lost his wife, Ifeanyiwa Justina Ogbu, in the explosion. 'I have now been transformed into a widower, as my wife has been killed here,' Ogbu said.

At the funeral service for the three Christians who were killed, the Rev William Okoye, general overseer of the church, lamented the lack of security in Nigeria. He urged the government to halt the violence that has ravaged the country this year before it is plunged into religious war. He told Compass that he rushed to the church site when news of the explosion reached him. 'I got here to discover that indeed an explosion had occurred in my church here in Suleja,' he said. 'Two died here, while the third died in the hospital in Abuja.'

Shortly after the church was bombed, he said, the church declared a week of fasting and prayer. Security authorities believe members of Boko Haram, which has declared a jihad on the government in a bid to impose a strict version of Sharia (Islamic law) on the country, threw a bomb onto church premises the afternoon of 10 July.

'We received a report about the explosion in this church, and we rushed here to discover that it is true the church has been bombed,' Sanusi Lemu, assistant commissioner of police, told Compass. 'We then brought in our men from the bomb disposal unit, who recovered the injured and those killed.'

Church member Uche Alfred confirmed that the explosion occurred as members were leaving the Sunday service. The explosion marks the third time this year that bombs have targeted institutions in Suleja, just outside the political heart of the nation. The first explosion occurred early in the year at the Suleja office of the Independent National Electoral Commission, killing more than 25 persons. A second bombing took place during a political party's rally, killing several persons, including elementary schoolchildren.

Members of Boko Haram, or the Jama'atu ahlus Sunnah lid da'awati wal Jihad, have claimed responsibility for other church bombings and attacks. The extremist Islamic sect is reportedly expected to launch a terrorist offensive at the end of this month, the two-year anniversary of the death of Boko Haram founder Mohammed Yusuf. Nigerian security forces captured Yusuf on 30 July 2009 and the next day he was dead under mysterious circumstances.

Boko Haram reportedly formalized links with Al Qaeda of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) last year, prompting fears that Nigeria could see unprecedented large-scale terrorism, including suicide bombings. The government is reportedly expecting more than 100 jihadists trained in Sudan and Somalia to lead a terrorist assault planned for the end of the month.

The jihadists, who reportedly received training from AQIM, would lead attacks planned for Borno as well as the northern states of Katsina, Kaduna and Yobe.

Sharia is already in force in 12 northern states, where Christians are supposed to be exempt but are often compelled to comply by various sectors of society. Borno State, where Boko Haram has its base, is one of the states implementing Islamic law.

Dr Abdulateef Adegbite, secretary-general of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, has said Muslim leaders do not support the activities of Boko Haram.

Nigeria's population of more than 158.2 million is divided between Christians, who make up 51.3% of the population and live mainly in the south, and Muslims, who account for 45% of the population and live mainly in the north. The percentages may be less, however, as those practising indigenous religions may be as high as 10% of the total population, according to *Operation World*.



Scene of the bomb explosion in Suleja.

– Obed Minchakpu, for Compass Direct

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

IFES World Assembly Begins –

To Inspire, To Share, To Strategise, To Fellowship

HUNDREDS of delegates from 154 countries are meeting in Krakow, Poland, not to discuss politics or finances, but to discuss Jesus.

Three or four student and leader delegates from each of 150 student movements in the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students meet every four years as part of the week-long World Assembly.

IFES was founded in 1947 as a way to gather student ministries together into one world mission. The IFES web site says of its founders, 'Their one big dream was to see a clear witness to the Lord Jesus established in every university in the world.'

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is just one of the dozens of student movements involved in IFES and represented at the World Assembly.

Bob Grahmann, is director of the IFES Eurasia Institute for Staff Development and Training in Kiev, Ukraine. He previously served as director of Bible and Life for InterVarsity in the US. Grahmann is attending the Assembly as a US delegate for InterVarsity.

Grahmann says this year's Assembly will serve four main purposes. 'The number one thing is just inspiration,' says Grahmann. 'Everybody comes back more fired up to do evangelism and share the Gospel at their university campus.'

Secondly, the World Assembly serves as a place for hundreds of world ministry leaders to share ideas of what's worked, what hasn't, and what their experience has been over the last four years.

'Everybody goes home with new ideas and strategies for ministry and evangelism on their campuses,' explains Grahmann. 'So the end result of this World Assembly will be more, and better, and deeper, and more effective evangelism to students in universities around the world.'



This year, one of those shared ideas is the special focus on Biblical teaching for university students.

'We're trying to develop improved methods of teaching young people around the world how to study the Bible, because we think that's the most important thing.

'If they can learn to study the Scripture, they can defend themselves against the cults and false religions, and they can grow deeper in their relationship to Jesus.'

Grahmann will be leading many of the seminars on methods of Biblical teaching.

The World Assembly's last two purposes are to consider major world issues – such as AIDS or preaching to closed areas – from an evangelistic angle, and to talk details about practical IFES-related decisions.

Ultimately, this Assembly will serve as an opportunity for student leaders from all over to share and fellowship. Many of these leaders attended the recent Lausanne Conference in South Africa and will go on to inspire generations of students toward the Gospel.

Grahmann feels it's an invaluable experience for America's InterVarsity. He mentions that it's good for US leaders to meet with student leaders from other nations who have been persecuted or imprisoned for their work with university students.

Grahmann says the main prayer for the Assembly this year is that they'll learn 'how to effectively share the Gospel with this generation of young people who are at university campuses around the world, especially since the leaders of all the nations of the world come from the university.'

**WHO CAN YOU
FORWARD NEW LIFE TO?**

Visiting Melbourne?

Join us at

St Kilda Presbyterian Church, cnr Alma Rd/Barkly St
Every Sunday 11am and 7pm;
St Margaret's, Balaclava, cnr Hotham St/Denman Rd
Every Sunday, 9.30am.

Rev Bob Thomas. Phone 0417 592 646

You're welcome at 'The Church on the Hill' – a Friendly, Caring, Bible-Believing Christian Fellowship

Important Event Coming Up?

Advertise In New Life – Best Rates, Great Coverage
Call Mignon On 0434 313 646; Email: office@nlife.com.au

Prayer – Some Suggestions

OF all the practices in the Christian life, prayer is one of the most difficult. If we have 30 minutes at our disposal, it is far easier to preach than to pray. John 'Rabbi' Duncan, asked on one occasion to lead family worship, prayed at very great length. Rather sheepishly he confessed at the end: 'I fear I have been very long today, but when one thinks one has got in, it is very difficult to get out again.'

One of Jesus' disciples pleaded with Him: 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples' (Luke 11.1). The Apostle Paul too confesses: 'For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words' (Romans 8.26). The 'we' is almost as wonderfully consoling as the promise of the Spirit's help. Then we have Peter, James and John, in the great drama that was Gethsemane, falling asleep three times when they were commanded to watch and pray (Matthew 26.36-46). These verses give us consolation when we find it hard to 'get in'.

What could be worse than hearing a recording of all our prayers over the past week? And what if they were posted on the internet? Yet God hears and knows all our prayers, even before we utter them! No wonder we feel ashamed. There is no magic technique, but some suggestions might help and encourage us.

1. Prayer Is A Gospel Activity

We need to remember that 'through Christ we both [Jews and Gentiles] have access in one Spirit to the Father' (Ephesians 2.18). We are seeking the Father who dwells in light inaccessible, but Christ is our mediator (1 Timothy 2.5). He alone has provided access for us in His death to pay the penalty for sin, and by His resurrection to defeat death. Indeed, even now He is interceding for those who rest on His person and work (Romans 8.34; Hebrews 7.25). The news gets better – we have the Son of God interceding for us in Heaven, and the Spirit of God interceding for us on Earth (Romans 8.26). It is good to remember this in prayer. We are not trying to climb the ladder to Heaven, but responding to the grace of the Triune God in reaching down to Earth to save sinners.

2. Make Much Use Of The Psalms

In all his trials, Athanasius looked to the Psalms for comfort and wisdom, as he saw in them 'the emotions of the soul'. There is a place for the penitent (eg Psalms 32, 51, 130), the depressed (Psalms 42,

43, 77, 88), the grateful (Psalms 103-106), the fearful (Psalms 27, 91, 121), the one in danger (Psalms 3, 57), the worshipper (Psalms 145-150), and the seeker after God's will (Psalm 119). We are taken into the depths of the human soul and raised to the heights of the glories of God. Those who pray are helped thus to understand themselves, and also taken out of themselves, to draw near to God.

3. Take Some Time To Order Our Prayers

Dale Ralph Davis writes on this: 'I do not want to advocate eloquence in prayer, but I want to reject thoughtlessness in prayer.' Even a sigh can be a prayer, as can the brief and silent request of the heart (Nehemiah 2.4). Two lovers may sigh at each other, but a relationship consists of more than sighs. So too with God. It is too easy for us to resort to set phrases or fill-in words that do not mean much. The ACTS acronym is a help in prayer: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. The prayers in the Psalms have an order to them. Too many of our prayers, I suspect, are rushed and rather mindless efforts.

4. Concentrate On God First

C. S. Lewis once commented: 'Don't you find that, if you keep your mind fixed upon God, you will automatically think of the person you are praying for; but that there is no tendency for it to work the other way round?' All the powerful prayers of the Bible start with God (eg 2 Samuel 2.1-10; 1 Chronicles 29.10-12; 2 Chronicles 6.14,18).

The Lord's Prayer begins with God: 'Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven'. By that far into the prayer, most of us would have been deep into all our trials and ills, and looking for help, but Christ has simply reminded us of who God is.

5. Develop A Better Prayer Life By Reading Good Works On Prayer

Books such as Arthur Bennett's *The Valley Of Vision* or Matthew Henry's *A Way To Pray*. We pray extemporaneously, and rightly so, but we can be helped by reading the prayers or suggestions of others. These two works are not meant to be read in a few sittings, as with other books, but slowly and repeatedly. A page or two a day might be sufficient.

Following all this, we may hopefully, to use 'Rabbi' Duncan's terms, 'get in' more often.

– Peter Barnes, Revesby Presbyterian Church

EYES ON THE PRIZE

TEAR Appeal For Africa

TEN million people across Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan have been affected by what has been described as the worst drought in 60 years. Worst hit has been Somalia, which has also been caught in an ongoing conflict. It is estimated that there are currently 430,000 Somalis in IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps in Kenya and Ethiopia (380,000 in Dadaab Camp alone).

The cost of maize, the staple diet for the majority of families, has dramatically increased by 300% over the past six months due to food shortages. At the same time the value of livestock has fallen dramatically as pastoralists have been forced to de-stock because of a lack of fodder for animals to eat. Most families have been forced to reduce their diet to one meal a day.

TEAR Australia are working with partner Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in Kenya on a Food for Work Program, which is a scaling-up of their current drought-relief work. CRWRC have been responding to chronic drought and food shortages in east central and coastal Kenya for the past decade, and have vast experience on the ground. The program will see 14,000 households in 10 districts benefiting from monthly rations in return for growing animal fodder.

The program will provide a total of 56 x 10,000-litre water storage tanks as well as trucking in 8.4 million litres of water each month for household consumption. It will also include a peace-building component to help communities deal with conflict over grazing patterns for their cattle and access/usage of water within the targeted areas.

To find out more, or donate, visit: www.tear.org.au

An Australian Christian Response To Islam

WHAT is an appropriate Christian response to Islam? How about prayer? August is the Islamic holy month of Ramadhan. Let's pray for Muslims.

Come along on Friday 5 August at the Melbourne School of Theology, 5 Burwood Highway, Wantirna, VIC 3152.

Come at 6 pm with some food to share (fast during the day if you can).

Join us from 7-9pm for prayer, news from the Muslim world, testimony from former Muslims. Come along and be encouraged!

Enquiries to Bernie Power 0449 768 932 or Lauren Dale 0448 101 470

Prestige Pianos & Organs



102 Bell Street, Preston, Victoria 3072 (MELWAY REF 31 B2)

- The largest range of new and reconditioned pianos, organs, keyboards and digital pianos
- The best advice in selecting your next instrument

Phone: (03) 9480 6777

www.prestigepianos.com.au



Since 1994

96.3 Rhema FM has been broadcasting

The Reality of Life in Jesus Christ

24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Tune in for the latest in Christian music and quality teaching programs.

For your free program guide: Ph 03 5241 6550

Email: rhema@rhemafm.org.au www.rhemafm.org.au

Mail: PO Box 886, Belmont 3216

Live the Life!

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

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

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

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

(Please make cheque payable to PTC Media)



Ramon A Williams – Worldwide Photos

WANT TO SEE MORE?

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

by going to:

http://community.webshots.com/user/ramon_williams

e-mail: rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au

JOHN STOTT – THE MAN WHO RESTORED MY FAITH

I'VE never forgotten John Stott's first lecture in his expositions of *Ephesians* at Regent College Summer School 1976 and the experience of listening as he dealt so graciously with the approaches of various liberals to the critical questions, while affirming the traditional. Some of the things that struck me were: 1. It was worth coming all the way from Sydney to Vancouver just to hear this; everything else will be a bonus. 2. I've never heard a liberal deal this graciously with an evangelical. What a splendid example of a gracious Christian this man is. 3. Deep, methodical scholarship has been on display here as opposed to the 'obscurantism' etc that liberals taught us to believe was all that evangelicals were capable of. 4. This man could have gone to the top of any tree, but praise God he turned to the study of God's Word.

That wonderful exposition of *Ephesians* placed *Ephesians* front and centre in my ministry both as to its content and its delivery. Some people in my parish thought it was a bit extravagant to fly all the way from Sydney to Vancouver to attend that Summer School but it changed the whole course of my ministry and restored me to the fullness of the Faith after having fallen for liberalism in theological college.

Alison and I were house parents at a student residence, where one evening Uncle John came to tea and stayed to 'meet and talk' with the students afterwards. He was especially gracious to our then three-year-old and somewhat precocious daughter Rosemary, to whom, when she bounded up onto his knee and said, 'Hi John', he suggested: 'Perhaps, Rosemary, you'd like to call me "Uncle John!"' Several years later he preached one day in St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. I joined the queue afterwards to speak briefly with him and reminded him that I'd been so blessed at that Summer School. 'Oh yes,' he said, 'and how's Rosemary?'

'They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.' (Daniel 12.3)

– Bob Thomas.

27 JULY 2011 was a day of great sadness for me as I remember the influence of John Stott on my life – from my earliest days as a Christian reading *Basic Christianity*, to a National AFES Student Conference in the 1970's where I heard him expound *Ephesians* with such clarity, to his other books which helped me understand more clearly how to read the Bible, the nature and importance of the cross, what preaching was all about, how to understand current day issues from a Biblical perspective, and so much more.

It was a great honour to know John personally in my years on the staff team at All Souls, Langham Place, in the late 1990's. There I discovered a man of deep humility and prayer who always took an interest in me and my family. He would remember our children by name and where they were at in their schooling which showed me that he had been praying for us.

He has had a huge impact on evangelical ministry in Australia, and his books continue to be used in many of the courses at Ridley. The work of Langham Partnership will ensure his legacy continues on.

– Richard Trist, Ridley College, Melbourne.

WHEN by grace I became a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, the first Christian book given to me was *Basic Christianity*. It had a huge impact on me and I began to read the other books by John Stott. It was a great pleasure to meet John personally when he visited Perth in April 1991 on a speaking tour and thank him for *Basic Christianity* and his other books. Just two weeks ago I quoted from the BST volume on *Galatians*. What a blessing John Stott was by the garce of God to so many people!

– Stuart Bonnington, Perth, WA.

(Go to: www.johnstottmemorial.org to read more tributes and place one yourself if you feel led, also to see details of various Memorial Services planned, and much more. John Stott's exposition of *Ephesians* is available under the title *God's New Society* in *The Bible Speaks Today* series by IVP.)

– Ed.

'Two Steps Forward, One Step Back'

ALISON and I are continuing to improve slowly and steadily following our car accident on 14 July. Una Linton sustained a worse injury than we did, but she is also on the mend. She is still in Donvale Rehabilitation Hospital. Our car is a write-off. We are all thankful to the Lord to have survived, and are grateful for the ongoing prayers and support of many people in our recovery.

– Bob Thomas.

Are You A Newshound? Writer? Journalist?

We Welcome Readers' Contributions.

Go to www.nlife.com.au /Free Downloads/Guidelines

Submit articles to: editor@nlife.com.au

ptc
Presbyterian Theological College
Evening Short Course at PTC

History of Covenant Theology

Rev Dr Jared Hood will lead the series. Jared has completed a ThM at Westminster Seminary in historical theology and has a PhD from the University of Melbourne. He has spent thirteen years in pastoral ministry and is the Church History lecturer at PTC.

August 10 - September 14, Wednesday nights, 7:15pm

- Week 1. Early Church and Medieval Origins
- Week 2. 16th Century (Luther, Zwingli, Bullinger)
- Week 3. 16th Century (Calvin, Beza)
- Week 4. Federalism 1 (Ursinus, Olavian)
- Week 5. Federalism 2 (Rollock, Dickson, Westminster Assembly)
- Week 6. Recent challenges (Barth, Shepherd, Federal Vision)

Presbyterian Theological College 684 Elgar Road Box Hill North
www.presbyteriancollege.org 03 9896 9364 info@presbyteriancollege.org



COMING TO

WESTERN AUSTRALIA?

Come to Scots Church

Fremantle,

90 South Terrace

(next to Fremantle Markets)

Reformed and Evangelical

10am and 5pm Sundays

12:30 pm Wednesday Lunch Time Worship

Also at Southern River,

Bletchley Park Primary School, Balfour Road

9 am Sunday

Rev Stuart Bonnington

08 9398 1304

melbonn@bigpond.com

A BOOK WORTH READING

JOHN MACARTHUR: SERVANT OF THE WORD AND FLOCK, Iain Murray, Edinburgh, Banner of Truth Trust, 2011 – Reviewed by Greg Goswell

Iain Murray's gift as a biographer is again on display in this encouraging record of the remarkable life and ministry of John MacArthur, whose radio ministry and many books span the globe and have helped many thousands. It is plain that Murray views MacArthur as a living example of what an evangelical leader is meant to be.

His father and father's father were Gospel preachers before him, and while at college he responded to God's call for him to become a preacher. He has been the pastor of Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, Los Angeles since 1969, believing that it is those who minister in the same place for a long time who will have the deepest (and widest) impact for Christ. At the start of his ministry he committed himself to 30 hours of study and preparation each week and to preaching hour-long sermons! What is more, the elders of the church knew that before they issued the call! What some might view as a recipe for disaster has produced (under God's blessing) a large church where the majority of members are actively involved in various kind of Christian service. All this has not been without its trials, opposition and heartache, most notably a clergy malpractice suit against him that dragged on for eight years in the 1980's. The honesty of this story will help many an embattled and discouraged pastor.

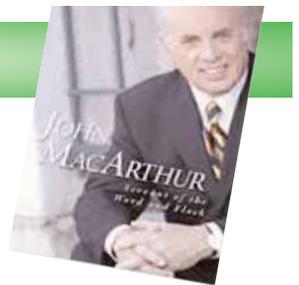
MacArthur is quoted as saying: 'If church history teaches us anything, it is that different times do not require different messages'. It is his conviction that 'Man fundamentally is a product not of his times but of the Fall'. Believing that, he does not see the need for gimmicks or excessive humour in the pulpit, nor does he try to mould his message to his audience as he preaches consecutively through whole Bible books. It is the plain expository preaching of John MacArthur that

rings chords of recognition in the hearts of grateful Christians all over the world.

Without a doubt his most important book is *The Gospel According To Jesus* (1988). It exposed and corrected the 'gospel' preached in many evangelical circles, with MacArthur insisting on repentance (not just a 'decision' for Christ) and saying that conversion involved submission to Christ's lordship (not just receiving Him as Saviour). This book challenged the easy-believism of much modern Christianity. He also caused controversy by charging the Charismatic Movement with undermining the centrality of the Scriptures as our guide and rule for Christian living. In taking unpopular stands, he was not seeking notoriety but only to be faithful to the God of the Scriptures.

There is a moving chapter about his wife Patricia and the irreplaceable role she has played in his life and work. This should be compulsory reading for all ministry couples! MacArthur's ministry is seen by Murray as part of a recent widespread resurgence of Reformed belief, for MacArthur's in-depth study of the Bible has more and more led him in the direction of what he sees as full-blooded doctrinal Christianity. He is not, however, triumphalistic, for he acknowledges that future developments are entirely in God's hands (which is just what someone of Reformed persuasion should say). He would not attribute any success in ministry to anything other than the blessing of God upon the faithful preaching of His Word.

Iain Murray teaches us many lessons in this biography, but perhaps the most important is that we need more humble and hardworking servants of the Word like John MacArthur.



An Aid To Jewish Evangelism

CELEBRATE Messiah Australia is a ministry dedicated to bringing the Gospel back to the original messengers, The Jewish people. It is an inter-denominational, evangelistic society which raises the banner of The Messiah, Jesus Christ, amongst God's ancient people in Australia, Far-East Russia and the World.

CMA offers lecture/sermon length messages, presenting on the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. The next few months will experience a number of the richest of Jewish festivals, all of which Jesus would have experienced as He walked the Earth. As biblical holy days, they had rich historical meanings which prophesied of a Messiah to come. Hanukkah was another festival, mentioned in John's Gospel, which Jesus celebrated as He joined others and commemorated the re-dedication of the temple. The first Hanukkah set the stage for the entrance of The Messiah.

Any church interested in hosting a speaker, perhaps in the lead-up to Christmas, to talk on *The Credentials of the Messiah*, providing insight into some of the most important Messianic prophecies in the Bible and expounding references to Jesus being the promised Messiah and Saviour of the whole world could contact Julie Blinco, CMA Church Relations Team, email: churchrelations@celebratemessiah.com.au phone: 03 9563 5544.

Rev Prof Allan M Harman, Principal Emeritus of Presbyterian Theological College, says: 'There is an urgent need for evangelical Christians in Australia to recognise their responsibility to reach out with the Gospel to the Jewish people ... Celebrate Messiah is doing just that ... This is the type of Jewish evangelism we need to support.'

**Read *Who Are The Brisbane Christian Fellowship?*
at www.defenceofthefaith.org**

CHURCH AND NATION

Redefining Marriage Not About Discrimination; Just Has Little Support – Jim Wallace

THE senior Labor backbencher, John Murphy, is right to point out that there is little genuine public support for redefining marriage, Australian Christian Lobby Managing Director Jim Wallace says.

Mr Wallace said he was also right to again point out that discrimination against same-sex couples had been eliminated through amendments to 85 pieces of legislation in 2008, something ACL supported.

'There is no discrimination and the Australian public is starting to better understand despite the propaganda of the gay lobby,' Mr Wallace said. 'Marriage has been between a man and a woman for millennia and across cultures and no case has been made for changing it now. 'This selfish agenda is being pursued by a small group of activists completely insensitive to the social, cultural and even religious reasons why most people value marriage.'

Time For O'Farrell Government To Reconsider So-Called Ethics Course

THE NSW Council of Churches has joined the call to urge the NSW Government to repeal the laws that led to the establishment of so-called ethics classes in state schools. The history of these classes is worth remembering.

The classes were introduced, trialed, supposedly reviewed, permanently introduced and then legislated for, all in the dying days of a government bent on appeasing a minority of inner city voters in a desperate attempt to get re-elected. The Education Minister, Verity Firth, saw this as a personal crusade.

'The then Opposition opposed introduction of the classes and voted against the legislation to enshrine these classes in law,' said the Rev Richard Quadrio, President of the NSW Council of Churches. 'The then Opposition initially promised that if they were elected they would remove these classes being held at the same time as SRE. Later the then Opposition reversed their policy on the grounds that they would not control the Upper House so it was pointless promising something they could not deliver.

'Mr O'Farrell made it crystal clear at a gathering of church leaders before the 2011 state election that the only reason they had changed their policy was that they would not control the Upper House after the election. Now it's time for the new O'Farrell Government to live up to its original commitment to reverse Labor's failed so-called ethics in schools program,' said Rev Quadrio.

WELL SAID!

UNITY, NOT UNIFORMITY

THE task is not, in essence, the securing of uniformity, or co-operation, or Church reunion, or any of the external forms, through which nevertheless the unity may be manifested. Within the wide bounds of the Christian Church there is abundant scope for the multiplicity of races, languages, and social conditions; room also for separate organisations with different traditions of faith and order, and much diversity of operation. But there is no room for strife or hostility, for pride or self-assertion, for exclusiveness or unkind judgments, nor for that kind of independence which leads men to ignore their fellowship with the great company of believers, the communion of saints. These things are contrary to the revealed will of God, and should be made at once to cease. As these disappear, the outward manifestation of unity will come in such ways as the Spirit of God shall guide.

– G. T. Manley in *Christian Unity*

'Beginnings' - A Commentary And 24 Studies

On Genesis 1-11

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

\$19.50 + \$3.50 postage

Available from: PTC Media on 0400 880 515

684 Elgar Rd Box Hill North Vic 3129

