

## Show And Tell Your Faith – Challenge Given At Sydney Prayer Breakfast

THE Annual Sydney Prayer Breakfast organised by the Sydney Prayer Breakfast Ltd took place in the Westin Hotel, Sydney, on Friday 3 June 2011.

Over 600 business leaders registered for the event. Politicians and church representatives were provided with thoughtful items for prayer, a tasty breakfast and a challenge to show by their lives and actions what they believe, and not just say it with words.

Neville Cox, Chair of the organisation, explained that the Sydney Prayer Breakfast is to be an annual gathering of Christians from all denominations who work or live in the Sydney CBD. Mr Cox is recognised for his work as a director of several companies in the banking, superannuation and technology industries as well as the not-for-profit sector.

He stated three aims for the Sydney Prayer Breakfast: 'First, we seek to call on our Heavenly Father for His mercy and blessing upon the people of Sydney and in particular upon those working and living in the city. Secondly, we endeavour to encourage believers in their trust and obedience to Jesus Christ. Thirdly, we strive to be a light to our fellow workers and neighbours in the city. May this event provide you with the opportunity to connect with others and encourage you to pursue God's agenda in your place of work or influence.'

### **Be A Living Testimony**

The guest speaker, Mark Scott, Managing Director of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, shared his own personal background in family life and growth as a Christian. Prior to his appointment as ABC Managing Director, Mark Scott spent almost 12 years in a variety of editorial and executive positions with John Fairfax Publications.



*Mark Scott  
addressing  
Sydney Prayer  
Breakfast*



He emphasised that a Christian working in the media found it hard to live according to their beliefs and meet the needs of a journalist. However the challenge presented was not just to say what you believe, but show it by your actions and way of life, by being a living testimony for the Lord.

Rebecca Babbington of Mission Australia led prayers for 'The Needy'; Mark Bilton, CEO of Hagemeyer in Australia, prayed for 'The Business Community'; medical student Jane Lee prayed for 'Young People and Health'; Vice Chancellor Michael Spence led in prayer for 'Students, Teachers and Learning' with Parliamentarian Mike Baird closing with prayer for 'Civic Leaders.'

MC Shar Allen then invited those seated at the tables to join in prayer as they felt led. Multi-national groups prayed in their own languages, with some standing in linked groups, praying together.

Committee member Fred Chilton closed the meeting with a reading from Scripture and prayer.

Sydney Prayer Breakfast places the aim to present the Lord Jesus Christ to the fore, in business and personal lives, in a new and contemporary manner. If you would like to attend next year's event, call the office on (02) 9232 870 or contact the Sydney Prayer Breakfast Ltd, GPO Box 3266, Sydney 2001.

*– Story and pictures by Ramon Williams,  
Worldwide Photos*

## FROM THE EDITOR:

# A MODERN DAY MEDIA MIRACLE

THERE'S no easy way to get an article favourable to Christianity into Melbourne's *Age Newspaper*, let alone onto the front page, much less an article about conversion to Christ. For *The Age* to publish a front page article which shows conversion in a favourable light, giving benefit to the convert, is nothing less than miraculous. But that's what happened on Tuesday 21 June 2011. Praise the Lord and thank you *The Age*!

Under the heading 'Faith sustains condemned man Andrew Chan', Indonesian correspondent Tom Allard wrote: 'Andrew Chan's devout Christianity is his armour, enabling the Bali Nine member to shrug off the news that his death sentence was confirmed for the third time. But his unswerving belief in a benevolent afterlife can't help him reconcile what he has done to his parents.' (Allard seems unable to make the connection between Andrew's faith and his penitence for what he did and how it has affected his parents, but we can forgive him that – after all, a secular journalist can't be expected to recognise all the nuances of conversion.)

Allard notes that Chan 'is unlike any of the other members of the Bali nine ... or Schappelle Corby. He is almost always upbeat and quick with a joke, often at his own expense ... Most other prisoners like him ... The Governor of Kerobokan Prison admires him and defended him in court, asking for clemency ... Chan organises courses in prison, leads the English-

language church service and is a mentor to many ... When he heard the news that his appointment with a firing squad was closer, he says it didn't faze him. "I don't really fear it, death. Even if I pass away, I'm still going to have a life up in Heaven and obviously that's going to be for eternity. I still have faith that things can turn around ... I believe God will intervene and do something amazing within my life. A lot of people might think I'm putting on this Christian act, it's a facade or whatever. But it lifts me up," he said.'

Testimonies are always a help to the side. They represent 'the proof of the pudding' as it were; they show that Christ is at work in His world today; they encourage us to keep up the work of evangelism because they demonstrate that the same Lord Jesus Christ who could confront Saul of Tarsus in all His risen power can do so today in the seemingly most intransigent of people – even in you and in me, so why not in absolutely anyone at all?

Incidentally, for another excellent testimony go to *Eternity* No. 15, June 2011, p.7 and read Andrew Lynch's testimony.

Ah, yes, as Augustus Montague Toplady put it:  
*'Grace, 'tis a charming sound,  
harmonious to the ear;  
Heaven with the echo shall resound,  
and all the Earth shall hear.'*

– Bob Thomas



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## 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).

# Refugees: Christians Take Flight

ACCORDING to the angel, the birth of Jesus – 'a Saviour who is Christ the Lord' – was an event of 'good news of great joy that will be for all the people' (Luke 2.8-14). Despite this, it would not be long before 'an angel of the Lord' would appear to Joseph to warn him of the threat to the child's life, and instruct him to gather up his family and flee to Egypt (Matthew 2.13,14). And so Jesus became a refugee.

This Jesus, however, has become our great high priest, and '(not) a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin'. And so the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews exhorts us, 'Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.' (Hebrews 4.14-16 ESV excerpts)

Today, the number of Christians fleeing for their lives is skyrocketing. Those with financial means may emigrate or fly out and apply for refugee status in the West, an arduous enough process. However, poorer Christians seeking refuge in a neighbouring state must risk death traversing deserts, oceans and dangerous cities, while dodging bandits and people-traffickers.

Lately, finding refuge is becoming increasingly difficult. Since 2003 Iraq's Assyrian-Chaldean Christians have been fleeing for their lives into Syria and Jordan. But today secular minority-ruled Syria is in turmoil and is at risk of falling into the hands of Sunni fundamentalists or erupting into a regional sectarian conflagration. Jordan is volatile.

As the doors close, where will Iraq's threatened Christians go?

Christians fleeing repression and persecution in totalitarian Eritrea have normally headed for Egypt or Yemen, two states previously run by US-allied, politically secular dictators. Egypt and Yemen, however, are no longer 'safe'. Reaching Israel involves crossing the Sinai Desert which is not only perilous in itself, but riddled with unscrupulous people-traffickers. According to Barnabas Fund an estimated 500-600 Eritrean refugees are presently detained by authorities in Egypt, while an estimated 100-200 are in the hands of traffickers.

The greatest risk for North Korean refugees is that instead of finding the 'underground railroad' (safe passage organised by Christians) they will fall into the hands of Chinese security forces who return them to

North Korea and certain incarceration or execution.

Likewise, many Hmong, Montagnard and other Christians fleeing persecution in Laos and the Central Highlands of Vietnam do not always find refuge.

Hundreds of thousands of Ivorian Christians now live as refugees in Liberia, having fled ethnic-religious-political cleansing in Ivory Coast. Many more remain in Ivory Coast amidst terrible insecurity.

As fighting intensifies on Sudan's North-South border, hundreds of thousands of predominantly Christian Southerners are being displaced, forced to flee as Khartoum bombs the oil-rich regions to clear and claim them. Where will they go? What of the Christians residing in North Sudan?

The time Jesus spent as a refugee was no accident, having been prophesied long beforehand: Jesus, Mary and Joseph had not slipped through God's fingers; they were not outside God's providence. Furthermore, the time Jesus spent as a refugee in Egypt predated His coming 'out of Egypt': an event filled with theological significance and pointing to Jesus being the 'son' of God, for '... out of Egypt I called My Son' (Hosea 11.1b; Matthew 2.15).

We need to pray for the safety and refuge of Christians forced to take flight, and that they might discover that 'they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles ...' (Isaiah 40.31a).

### **Please Pray Specifically For All Christian Refugees!**

◆ That God the loving Father will keep them safe as they flee; hidden from wild animals, people-traffickers and criminals; sustaining them in oceans, deserts, dangerous cities and hostile environments.

◆ That the Holy Spirit will sanctify them as they seek their place in the purposes of God, confidently looking to Jesus, their great High Priest, as one who will empathise with and meet their every need.

◆ Particularly for those who are currently in the hands of gaolers or unscrupulous people-traffickers: may the God of all grace, mercy and justice draw these vulnerable believers into His presence, deliver them from violence and brutality and restore their liberty and security.

For more information, updates and helpful links see Elizabeth Kendal's blog *Religious Liberty Monitoring* <<http://elizabethkendal.blogspot.com>>.

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

## TAKE AND READ ...

### Australian Christian Book Of The Year – 2011 Short List

THIS is the short list of books for the 2011 Australian Christian Book of the Year Award:

**Bible Bites: 365 Devotions For Aussie Families**, Ladeane Lindsay, Anglican Youthworks.

**Christianity Alongside Islam**, John Wilson, Acorn Press.

**Economics For Life: An Economist Reflects On The Meaning Of Life, Money And What Really Matters**, Ian Harper, Acorn Press.

**Hot Rock Dreaming: A Johnny Ravine Mystery**, Martin Roth, Ark House Press.

**Isaiah: Surprising Salvation**, Kirk Patston, Aquila.

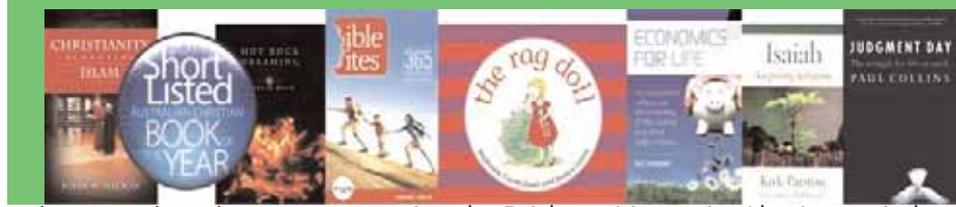
**Judgment Day: The Struggle For Life On Earth**, Paul Collins, UNSW Press.

**The Rag Doll**, Stephanie Carmichael and Jessica Green, Matthias Media.

#### **This Year's Judges:**

Libbey Byrne is a member of the Religious Sisters of Charity of Australia and currently serves on their congregational leadership team. Libbey has degrees in theology and education and a master's degree in spirituality. She has been a secondary school teacher, has trained religious education teachers for NSW state schools and now works in adult faith formation and spirituality. Libbey enjoys reading, movies, body surfing and the company of friends.

Alex Crawford holds degrees in arts, law and theology. He is a practising barrister in Brisbane. Outside the law, he is interested in books, music and



seeing the Brisbane Lions win. Alex is married to Penny. They have three adult children and attend St Mark's Anglican Church, Clayfield. He is the secretary of the Mathew Hale Public Library based in Brisbane.

Allan Demond is Senior Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Melbourne. He holds degrees in philosophy and theology and a PhD in education and homiletics. Allan teaches at Whitley College, Victoria, and the Australian College of Ministry. He enjoys good books, beautiful music and rare Aussie stamps. Allan is married to Janet, an artist. They have three adult children.

#### **Award Presentations**

The 2011 Australian Christian Book of the Year will be announced and prizes awarded at St Alfred's Anglican Church, Blackburn North, Vic, corner of Springfield Road and Koonung Road (Melway 48 A7) on Thursday 18 August at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

Celebrate the power of words with writer, activist and performer, Joel McKerrow. Joel lectures at Tabor College Victoria and is the founder and co-director of The Centre for Poetics and Justice. Tickets cost \$20. To book seats call 1300 13 7725 or go to: [awards@spcka.org.au](mailto:awards@spcka.org.au)

### **Victorian Government Restores Some Religious Freedoms**

PASTOR Peter Stevens, Victorian State Officer of FamilyVoice Australia, reports that after debate until 3.30am in the Victorian Parliament early on Wednesday morning 15 June, the Victorian Government passed the Equal Opportunity Amendment Bill in the Legislative Council. This means that the Liberals have used their majority in both houses of parliament to restore religious freedoms that the previous government weakened. The passing of this bill will restore the right of Christians to hire staff according to religious beliefs.

**Have YOU Checked Out Our Website?  
There's a lot more info there  
and we're adding to it all the time.  
Just google 'New Life'**

## CHANCE TO 'ALSO SERVE' ...

### New TV Show For Families Needs Studio Audience

OLIVE Tree Media, producers of the successful television and DVD series *The Men's Series* are back in the studio for a new, follow-up show called *The Family Series*.

*The Family Series* is designed to build the strength and resilience of families as they face increasing pressures from a secular society. Host of *The Family Series* and director of Olive Tree Media, Karl Faase, said he is excited about the possibilities of this new show. 'We know that families are the building blocks of our community. When they struggle, it impacts the fabric of our whole society,' he said.

*The Family Series* will consist of ten 30 minute episodes with each one focusing on a separate subject. These will include parenting skills for different aged children, managing blended families, marriage, communication and health.

Each show will feature a guest who will be interviewed on the subject of that episode. Guests will include clinical psychologist Dr Robi Sonderegger, family therapist Colleen Hurst, former Australian Rugby League player Brad Mackay and his wife

Tracy and creator of the MYOB accounting software program, Craig Winkler.

*The Family Series* will be recorded at Foxtel Studios in North Ryde with the shows airing on the Australian Christian Channel and international outlets. It will also be released for local churches as a DVD pack to help grow and encourage families. 'Our aim at Olive Tree Media is to produce excellent material for local churches and Christian groups to use,' said Karl.

Karl and the team are looking for people to be part of the studio audience for the filming of the new series. They are encouraging churches to bring a group along to one of the two filming days (Saturdays 23 July or 20 August). Details and sign up forms are on the website for the new series: [www.thefamilyseries.com.au](http://www.thefamilyseries.com.au)

For more information contact Jane Faase: [jane@olivetreemedia.com.au](mailto:jane@olivetreemedia.com.au) or 0422 277 115.



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### DO YOU REMEMBER?

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Who Moved the Stone?  
Through Gates of Splendour  
Mr Jones Meet the Master  
Daily Light  
In His Steps  
Ben Hur  
The Robe  
Dear & Glorious Physician

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44 Dublin Road,  
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Mon-Sat, 10am-2pm**

## VIEWPOINT ...

### **Wearing Burqa Makes Mockery of Aussie Law – Fred Nile**

THE recent decision in the Carnita Matthews case (where a judge refused to find a woman guilty of a crime because she was wearing a burqa and could not be properly identified) has made a mockery of Australian law and spirit of goodwill, according to Rev Fred Nile MLC, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party.

'This case highlights the concern I've been expressing for almost a decade, he said. 'Yes we are a nation constituted from the four corners of the Earth, but we have all come here to build a future together, as one people. In a spirit of goodwill and tolerance, we allow the differing cultural, religious and racial expressions that our Australian brothers and sisters bring from abroad. We do so with an expectation that in return there will be a respect for our heritage and our collective institutions, our Australian law.

'Now we have a small demographic that believes itself separate from our nation and the inherent responsibilities of citizenship; a demographic that seeks to avoid the "nuisance" of legal jurisprudence.

'Let's have a moment of clarity here. The Burqa is an ancient cultural statement that belongs in our past along with female circumcision. If we allow the sovereignty of Australian law to become a victim to every demand of religio-ideological "right", then we are not only ethically compromised but lost. Do we allow others the religio-ideological "right" to beat their wives, butcher thieves or murder family members in the name of honour? No! Our values, ideals and law must be preserved! Our ideal of "tolerance" must never offer a "carte blanche" to un-Australian behaviour.

'There is no reason why anyone in our modern society should want to deliberately conceal their identity in public. I call on the NSW Attorney General to appeal against Judge Jeffrey's decision, to continue supporting our Police and Courts.

'If the Government are serious about addressing the issue, they must support the "Summary Offences Amendment (Full-face Coverings Prohibition) Bill 2011" that I have introduced into Parliament', Rev Nile stated.

### **'Watchman, What Of The Night?'**

RECENT events in both the West and the Middle East make it difficult to know how the Kingdom of God is faring. Is the Gospel of Christ advancing or not?

John Ridgway has been encouraging people to live for Christ for over 30 years. After completing his PhD in physics in Sydney he found his passion in spreading the good news of Jesus to people everywhere. This led John to work for 18 years in India and then in most Asian countries. John is married to Ruth and they have two adult children.

Dr John Ridgway will speak on this theme from the Scriptures and his own experience and awareness of the people of God in various locations on Wednesday evening 13 July at 7.30 pm at North Balwyn Baptist Church, 136 Doncaster Rd, North Balwyn (Melway 46 D3).

A donation of \$5 to cover expenses would be appreciated. For further details contact Janet Washington, phone (03) 9849 0693 or email [jwash3129@gmail.com](mailto:jwash3129@gmail.com)

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## ON THE MOVE

### Rev Gary Millar To Head QTC



Rev Dr Gary Millar

THE Presbyterian Church of Queensland believes that Irish eyes are smiling on Queensland Theological College with its appointment of the Rev Dr Gary Millar as its new principal and lecturer in Old Testament and Hebrew from 2012.

The college, the training arm of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, has experienced dramatic growth in the past five years under the stewardship of outgoing principal Dr Bruce Winter.

The convener of the Presbyterian Church Committee for Ministry Training, Rev Phil Strong, said QTC is thrilled at the appointment of Dr Millar to the role. 'Dr Millar is currently Senior Minister of Howth and Malahide Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Ireland. His doctoral studies focused on the book of Deuteronomy, and he has had extensive experience lecturing at the Irish Bible Institute and theological colleges around the world. Gary comes highly recommended by his fellow theological scholars. He is a world-renowned teacher and scholar, and theological students and ministry workers have widely benefited from his published work.'

Dr Millar is both a scholar and a parish minister. Interviewed at a recent Katoomba Christian Men's Convention, he said, 'I'm the pastor of a pair of Presbyterian churches in the Northern suburbs of Dublin, in the Republic of Ireland, and I've been here ten years. Dublin is a massively Catholic, or post Catholic city, so when we arrived, there was a dying, small, liberal congregation, who were all from the former ruling class, a lot of connections with England rather than Ireland. But there were about 15 people in one place and about 30 in the other. And the church was just dying on its feet. So for the past ten years we've been teaching the Bible here and trying to reach people. It's been extremely eventful and we've seen quite a few people become Christians, the church has grown significantly in one place, though if you start small enough your statistics always look good!'



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Services 10:00AM

Pastor: Rev Martin Pakula

3 July - Guest Speaker, Nathan Malpass  
"Coming Back to the Father" - Luke 15

10 July- Guest, Todd Stanton - "David's 'Secret'  
to Contentment & Happiness" - Psalm 23

Martin continues the 1 Corinthians series,  
"The Gospel & the Church"

17 July - "Single-Minded Singles" 1 Cor. 7

24 July - "Love May Even Lead to  
Vegetarianism" 1 Cor. 8



Hills Bible Church

A Baptist Fellowship

43 York Street, Mont Albert, VIC

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

[inquiries@hillsbiblechurch.org](mailto:inquiries@hillsbiblechurch.org)

## URGENT CALL FOR PRAYER

### Pray For End To Nuba Genocide, Peace In Sudan

THE Rt Revd Andudu Adam Elnail, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kadugli, Sudan, has issued an urgent call to prayer for an end to violence, the Nuba genocide, and the peace of all Sudan.

The bishop writes:

On behalf of my people in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan we are asking all Sudanese Christians wherever they are, and the Church throughout the world to join with us in a day of prayer and fasting on 26 June 2011. Once again we are facing the nightmare of genocide of our people in a final attempt to erase our culture and society from the face of the Earth. It is not a war between armies that is being fought in our land, but the utter destruction of our way of life and our history, as demonstrated by the genocide of our neighbours and relatives in Darfur.

This is a war of domination and eradication. At its core it is a war of terror by the Government of Sudan against their people.

As we approach the 9 July day of independence for the new South Sudan, President Bashir has declared for all the world to hear that Sharia will be the law of the land for the North, refusing to recognize the legitimate presence of the Christian minority. It is a declaration of their determination to also end the remembrance of our Christian heritage that dates back 2,000 years to the story of the Ethiopian eunuch (who was from modern day Sudan).

At this moment, there is a meeting in Ethiopia with the different parties of Sudan, the African Union and other international parties seeking to find a true path of peace that recognises our right to survive and thrive as a people, both Muslim and Christian alike, with equality and justice for all.

Please pray and fast with us as you are able for a solution to this crisis.

– Rt Revd Andudu Adam Elnail,  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kadugli, Sudan.



### Children's Pastor - Part-time

**Westgate Vineyard Church** in the Yarraville/Williamstown area of Melbourne is looking for a children's pastor to be employed approximately 15 hours per week.

The role includes leading and co-ordinating our Sunday morning children's ministry program to 3-11 year olds and establishing a mid-week primary-aged program.

Ideally applicants will have had previous leadership experience in children's activities but all applications will be considered. Also an understanding of and appreciation for the ministry of Vineyard churches is beneficial. You can find more information on these churches at [www.wvc.org.au](http://www.wvc.org.au) or [www.vineyard.org.au](http://www.vineyard.org.au) or by phoning 03 9399 3147.

Applications with CV can be sent to 'Westgate Vineyard Church', 31 Fourth Ave, Altona North, 3025, or emailed to [peter@wvc.org.au](mailto:peter@wvc.org.au) by 5pm Friday 8 July.

### 'NEW LIFE' TO RESUME FORTNIGHTLY PUBLICATION

2010 was somewhat traumatic for us here at *New Life* as we had to close down as a print publication. However it became possible to resume publication on a monthly basis by email and the world wide web.

This present issue marks the beginning of a new volume of *New Life* (our 74th) and the ability to resume fortnightly publication, which will enable us to bring readers the news with more immediacy.

*New Life* will now be published on the 1st and 15th day of each month. Deadline is four days prior to publication date, but earlier receipt of material would always be helpful.

## BIBLE SOCIETY – 'LIVE LIGHT'

### One National Body Moving Forward With One Purpose: To Lighten Hearts

BIBLE Society Australia celebrated its new unity by launching a bold new look at a celebration dinner held in the River Room at the Brisbane Convention Centre.

Australia's oldest continuous organisation, launched by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in 1817 and developing as state-based operations, Bible Society has been relaunched as one body.

'It was almost counter-intuitive for the boards and members of the State Bible Societies to become one,' Bible Society National Chair Richard Grellman told the celebration.

'At the first meeting of State Chairs, it was voted unanimously to begin the process. Then each board voted to proceed, unanimously. Finally, the membership, a potential voting force of 7,000, also voted unanimously to join together. It was miraculous, God's timing.

'A rigorous branding exercise over recent months saw a consistent theme of "love" emerge as the quality that the Bible Society most wanted to reflect.

'We don't really care how many Bibles people have on their shelves,' said Greg Clarke, the Bible Society CEO. 'We want people to take it off the shelf, open it, read it, and have their hearts moved by the love they find in its words. It's the product of the product we care about.'

'The new tag line, "Live Light", reflects the emphasis on having your heart lightened by the Bible's message of unconditional love in Jesus Christ. So you see a heart in our logo if you stare at it long enough.'

The new logo and branding were produced by the Banjo Advertising Agency. It set the secular agency a real challenge to understand and then brand the Bible Society.

'Of all the work we've done this year, it's the job that brought real joy,' said Banjo's Matt Busby Andrews.



Greg Clarke addresses the meeting.

### Prominent Welsh Preacher To Visit Melbourne

GEOFF Thomas, Pastor of Alfred Place Baptist Church in Aberystwyth, North Wales, will be the chief speaker at the forthcoming Evangelical Action Conference to be held at South Yarra Presbyterian Church on Friday and Saturday 8,9 July on the theme *Imputation*. He will be assisted by Dr Noel Weeks, Professor of Ancient History at the University of Sydney.

The Friday night session will commence at 7.30pm and sessions on Saturday will be from 9.30am to 3.15pm. South Yarra Presbyterian Church is situated at 621 Punt Rd, South Yarra, with parking available in the grounds.

Geoff Thomas was born in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales, and became a Christian in Tabernacle Baptist Church in Hengoed. He went to University in Cardiff to study Biblical Studies as did his wife Iola one year behind him. Geoff then went to Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, which recently awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In 1965 he was called to pastor the Baptist Church in Alfred Place, Aberystwyth where he has been ever since. Geoff and Iola have three daughters, eight grandsons and one granddaughter. His activities include maintaining the Banner of Truth website ([www.banneroftruth.co.uk](http://www.banneroftruth.co.uk)). His books include *Daniel, Servant Of God Under Four Kings* (Bryntirion), *The Life of Ernest Reisinger* (Banner of Truth), *Philip And The Great Revival In Samaria* (Banner of Truth), *Preaching: The Man, The Method And The Message* (Reformed Academic Press), and *The Sure Word Of God* (Bryntirion). Some excellent articles written by him may be found on the Banner of Truth website as well as his own church's website: [www/alfredplacechurch.org.uk](http://www/alfredplacechurch.org.uk).

For further details and to learn more about *Evangelical Action* and/or subscribe to the magazine, go to: [www.evanact.org.au](http://www.evanact.org.au)



*'PRAYER is the mighty engine that is to move the missionary work.'*  
- Hudson Taylor Taylor, quoted in *Praise & Prayer*,  
*Newsletter of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.*

## PERSECUTION WATCH

### Anti-Christian Violence Rages On In Nigeria: Pastor Slain And Village Razed

TWO tragic stories from Northern Nigeria, recently received by Barnabas Fund, graphically illustrate the brutality of anti-Christian violence in the region following April's presidential election.

A Nigerian missionary pastor in Bauchi State was tortured and murdered by a group of Muslims when he refused to renounce his faith in Christ. And an entire Christian village in Kaduna State was burned to ashes by a mob of Muslim militants and its water supply contaminated.

#### Death And Destruction

The pastor was travelling in a van when it was pulled over by Muslims posing as police. They asked if anyone in the vehicle was a Christian, and the pastor said that he was. The men pulled him out of the van and told him repeatedly to renounce Christ. When he refused, they first beat him, then gouged out his eyes, and finally killed him and burned his body. He leaves a widow and eight children.

On 18 April the village of Ung Keraw was attacked by more than 300 men armed with various weapons. The Christian villagers fled, and the mob torched the village, including the church. An estimated 183 buildings, both homes and storerooms, were burned. The Church of Nigeria Bishop of Ikara, the Rt Rev'd Yusuf Ishaya Janfalan, wrote: 'The villagers were drinking from two wells. But when the mobs arrived they broke their store rooms, carried pepper and poured inside the well. They also poured their clothes, mortars, firewood and all sort of rubbish inside the well. We have stopped the villagers from drinking from the well, as we are suspecting that the mobs poisoned the well.'

The bishop said that the approximately 300 villagers were peasant farmers who 'were attacked simply because they are Christians'. He reported that two other churches and a vicarage in the same region had also been destroyed.



*The pastor's house in Ikara, torched in the anti-Christian violence.*

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Christians and churches in Northern Nigeria have come under sustained attack since the re-election of Christian President Goodluck Jonathan in April. Supporters of defeated Muslim candidate Muhammadu Buhari have been taking out their anger on Christian communities. Around 200 churches have been burned or destroyed and over 1,200 houses razed, and at least 800 people are estimated to have been killed in the riots.

#### Help For The Suffering

Barnabas Fund is supporting the murdered pastor's widow and children, giving help with food, making repairs to their home, and counselling in their distress. They are also sending funds to help other victims of the post-election violence, and some of these will be used to provide a new borehole for drinking water for the Ung Keraw villagers.

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, International Director of Barnabas Fund, said: 'These harrowing accounts of cruel attacks on our Christian brothers and sisters in Northern Nigeria bring home to us the severe dangers they face. The essentials of life, and even their loved ones, can all too easily be taken from them in such fierce acts of violence. Please help us to meet their most urgent needs.'

#### Please Pray

- ◆ For the widow and eight children of the murdered pastor, that the Lord will give them His comfort and peace in their grief and loss.
- ◆ For the villagers of Ung Keraw, that they may be able to rebuild their village and their lives, and that they may suffer no further violence.
- ◆ For the Nigerian authorities, to have wisdom and courage to stop the anti-Christian attacks and bring those responsible to justice.

## GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD ...

# Break the Silence, Finish the Task – God At Work Through MegaVoice

TOM Treseder, Founder/Director of MegaVoice International Ltd, shares two stories of encouragement resulting from the distribution of the Word of God on the MegaVoice talking Bible ...

### 1. A Country In The Middle East

A church team that visits prison wards was given a rare permission to take the MegaVoice Player for use among the inmates for a limited time. The team members do not know Telugu language, but they took a MVP with the Telugu New Testament and God's story on it to a Telugu woman in prison.

Later, the team leader asked the guard how the response was from the Telugu woman who heard the audio Scripture from the Mega Voice player. The guard replied saying that she did not say a word but kept on crying as she heard the words from the Mega Voice Player.

How comforting it can be to hear God's Word in one's heart language, especially when the listener is feeling lonely and helpless! It is God personally speaking to her!

### 2. The Ramdas And Their MVP

'I had no other way to come out of my problems except crying to the Lord in tears for help. I thank God for saving my wife from jaws of death when she needed a pacemaker for her weak heart. I could not afford the cost of surgery. God did a miracle. He provided the best hospital and best doctor free of cost with help of a Government project to help the poor.

'I am an illiterate person from Lambada (gypsy) community. I work for a construction company in the Gulf as a helper. I had training and was given a new job as a crane operator. Two years I have been working as a crane operator but still paid salary as a helper. For six months I have not received my salary. Because of recession, our company is not doing well. I am not alone in not getting our salary for months. Christian friends paid for my visit to India to see my family and to be with my wife at the time of the surgery.

'I was given only a MegaVoice Player. That is the only MVP for my family and friends in our village. Later I was given one more player when I returned. I am never alone. As I hear

the words from the Bible, I relax as I know that my God is taking care of my family and my future,' says Ramdas (pictured with his MegaVoice.)

To learn more about MegaVoice contact Tom Treseder on (+ 61) (0)2 9713 5910, email: [tomtreseder@megavoice.com](mailto:tomtreseder@megavoice.com) or go to: [www.megavoice.com](http://www.megavoice.com)



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## HELPING HANDS

# When Disability Uncovers Ability

A YOUNG man who once lay on a hospital bed contemplating his future as a paraplegic has become a major advocate for the rights of people with disabilities in East Timor and a counterpart for local and international development professionals.

Joel Fernandes is helping to highlight the needs of people with disability to have equal access to water and sanitation in the mountainous terrain of rural Timor Leste, while the country still grapples with inadequate resources.

He has contributed to implement plans made by non-government agency technicians for new water and sanitation development projects, giving advice on disability inclusion in an environment that is hilly and uneven. He also attends local and international NGO workshops and recently attended a conference held by Water Aid, based in Australia. During his stay he spoke to supporters of The Leprosy Mission Australia in Box Hill on 2 June.

Joel, aged 31, is a voice for the national Disability Persons Organisation partly funded by The Leprosy Mission's Community-Based Rehabilitation project in Timor Leste. The group represents people affected by leprosy and general disabilities.

As a passenger in a four-wheel-drive car accident in 2006 he was left with permanent spinal cord injury and while being treated in Dili hospital, doctors told him he would never walk again. But Joel's life improved when he was visited by two members of ASSERT, a Timor Leste rehabilitation centre for

young people with disabilities, restoring his hope for a positive future.

The then 25-year-old, who was a successful motor mechanic, began encouraging other young people with disabilities which led to him joining the national DPO. This opened his eyes to discrimination and stigma against people with disabilities, who not only lacked equal access to water and sanitation but to community markets, shops, government buildings and churches. Many are still without ramp access to their own homes due to a lack of finances. 'People with disability are stigmatised and discriminated against,' Joel said. 'We are treated differently because we cannot do certain things the same way as everybody else.'

He said he found strength in his own religious faith to work for the rights and needs of people with disability across Timor Leste.

TLMA's international programs manager, Helen Nixon, said Joel's story of personal development and work with the DPO was inspiring. 'Joel's contribution to the DPO is fabulous,' she said. 'It's just part of a really broad program which aims to improve the lives of people with disabilities or those affected by leprosy across Timor. The problems of access to water and sanitation are still there for the general population in Timor Leste but the problem is ten-fold for people with disabilities.'

– Susan Masima



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## EYES ON THE PRIZE

# New Anglican Mission Society Out To Convert England

THE Anglican Mission in England held its inaugural event on Wednesday 22 June during an evangelical ministers' conference in central London.

AMIE has been established as a society within the Church of England dedicated to the conversion of England and Biblical church planting. There is a steering committee and a panel of bishops. The bishops aim to provide effective oversight in collaboration with senior clergy.

The AMIE has been encouraged in this development by the Primates' Council of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (GAFCON) who said in a communiqué from Nairobi in May 2011: 'We remain convinced that from within the Provinces which we represent there are creative ways by which we can support those who have been alienated so that they can remain within the Anglican family.'

The AMIE is determined to remain within the Church of England. Those who identify with the society desire to have an effective structure which enables them to remain in the Church of England and work as closely as possible with its institutions.

Churches or individuals may join or affiliate themselves with the AMIE for a variety of reasons. Some may be churches in impaired communion with their diocesan bishop who require oversight. Others may be in good relations with their bishop but wish to identify with and support others.

At the London conference three English clergy who have been ordained in Kenya for 'ministry in the wider Anglican Communion' with the support of the GAFCON Primates' Council were welcomed and prayed with by bishops and church leaders in support of their ministry.

The launch of AMIE follows four and a half years of discussions with senior Anglican leaders in England about ways in which those who are genuinely in need of effective orthodox oversight in the Church of England can receive it.

The AMIE will continue to encourage church planting and all forms of Christian witness in accord with the Jerusalem Statement of the GAFCON Conference in June 2008.

## CTA.tv – Christian Web Channel Launched – Looking For Australian Christian Content

CHRISTIAN Television Australia this week launched its Australian based internet TV web site called CTA.tv.

'Since we first looked at developing the CTA.tv site last year, we have seen another leap forward in the growth of video use on the web,' said CTA CEO Martin Johnson. 'CTA.tv is using the Channel Technology made available by Youtube to provides us with worldwide exposure and the opportunity for our videos to be seen by the widest possible audience,' he said.

The site currently hosts CTA programs from the past two years – most of which have aired on the Seven Network, together with some old CTA ads or community service spots, plus some segments from *The Men's Series*, a CTA co-production.

'We want the site to offer uniquely Australian content for Australian audiences. We want Australian churches to upload videos they have produced so others can use them,' Martin said.

The site will also offer a supportive creative environment so that those keen to learn the techniques of video production can seek comments from industry professionals.

'With the convergence of media and the phenomenal growth of Web 2.0 and high definition video sites, this new development is a way of continuing to serve the Australian Church,' he said.

'CTA.tv wants to hear from video producers who are keen to contribute their content. Visit the site at [www.cta.tv](http://www.cta.tv) to make a comment or contact us at: [enquiries@christiantelevision.org.au](mailto:enquiries@christiantelevision.org.au)

## The Annual Edersheim Lecture

'CAN there be peace for Israel in the Middle East?' Rev Martin Pakula gave this thought-provoking lecture, including the importance of sharing the Gospel with Jewish people at The Melbourne School of Theology and Ashfield Presbyterian Church in Sydney. The Lecture was recorded and a CD can be purchased from CWI office for \$10 (including postage). Alternatively you can listen or download the lecture straight from the website [www.cwi.org.au](http://www.cwi.org.au)

Go to Resources – audio and click on the link to listen or right click to download direct to your computer (no charge).

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## NOTICE BOARD:

### DOES ISRAEL HAVE A FUTURE?



DR Barry Horner, formerly of Melbourne as a Baptist Minister but now living in Arizona, will be speaking in Melbourne, Hervey Bay and Brisbane, then Sydney, during July. He is acknowledged as an authority on John Bunyan and *The Pilgrim's Progress*. However on this occasion he will be focusing mainly on the debated question as to the present covenantal status of the Jew, the nation and the land of Israel.

Barry had a book published late in 2007 by Broadman & Holman titled *Future Israel: Why Christian Anti-Judaism Must Be Challenged*. Highly commended by John MacArthur and Walter Kaiser, Jr, it is a detailed refutation of replacement theology, often referred to as supersessionism. This viewpoint has maintained that the Christian Church has become the new spiritual Israel. Usually this is said to be as a result of Israel's persistent unbelief and especially its rejection of Jesus as its Messiah. Hence while many may speak of the Jew in a token sense, when pressed they deny the covenantal validity of the Jew with regard to ethnicity, nationality and territory. Some believe in a future conversion of the Jewish people at the end of this age, yet this usually involves their absorption into the Christian Church and as a result, the loss of all Jewish identity.

*Future Israel* goes to some lengths to demonstrate that throughout church history, the influence of Augustine's eschatology has led to shameful consequences. Barry concludes that since the treatment of the Jewish people by Christianity has been so disgraceful even up to the present, while of course allowing for exceptions, this behaviour cannot be the fruit of a biblical eschatology. He emphasizes that Romans 11 calls for a very different attitude of kindness toward the Jew, even in his unbelief.

Two significant meetings will be a Ministers' Conference at Beit HaMeshiach Messianic Congregation, 206 Bambra Rd South Caulfield, Melbourne, Tuesday 12 July, 9.30am–12 noon, and an Eschatology Conference, Jubilee Room, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2–4 pm. For more details concerning the whole itinerary contact: Melbourne, Rev Eddie Smith, (03) 9764 9085; Hervey Bay and Brisbane, Pastor Terry Arnold (07) 1148 9472; Rev Lloyd Lanyon (07) 4613 5494; Sydney, Rev Bob Burcher (02) 4739 5168.

### MAF Celebrates 50 Years In Congo



IT hasn't been easy, but Mission Aviation Fellowship is celebrating a milestone – 50 years of ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo. President of MAF John Boyd was just 11 years old when the ministry got started there. He says civil war and unrest has had its toll on the program. 'We've had multiple evacuations [and] huge property damage over the years, but on and on we've sought the guidance of our Lord and the blessing of our Lord so we could go back in and "keep on keeping on".'

MAF currently has bases in Kinshasa, Bunia, and Lubumbashi where they deliver medicine, serve as an ambulance, and also provide commercial airplanes for missionaries. Boyd says, 'When you fly a small aircraft into a remote jungle airstrip and that's helping save the physical lives of people, sharing the love of Jesus that way and then of course sharing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus has a huge impact.'

The work continues, but needs abound. Adopt a plane to help celebrate MAF's 50th anniversary. It's cheaper than you think!

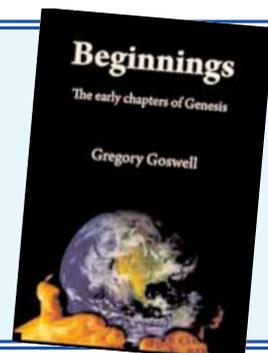
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## BOOKS WORTH READING

### THE THEOLOGY OF B.B. WARFIELD: A SYSTEMATIC SURVEY, Fred G. Zaspel, Nottingham: IVP, 2010

BENJAMIN Warfield was the greatest theologian of the Old Princeton School. He was a prolific author but never wrote a systematic theology. He scattered his thoughts among journal articles, books and periodicals, so that this synthesis and analysis of his theology is most welcome. Zaspel writes as a discerning devotee of Warfield, aiming to record as accurately as possible the breadth of Warfield's thinking on the full range of theological topics touched on in his voluminous writings.

Warfield succeeded to the professorial chair that had previously been occupied by Charles Hodge and A.A. Hodge, and he was in that chair for 34 years until his death in 1921. His work was the high-water mark of the Old Princeton School that effectively came to an end in 1929 with the reorganization of the seminary. As Zaspel explains, the polemical edge of Warfield's theology was due to the slide of his Presbyterian Church toward liberalism.

Warfield insisted that Christianity was supernatural through and through, and he made a career of explaining and defending the teaching of the inspired and authoritative Word of God. For Warfield, faith had logical grounds, so that apologetics (defending the faith) was a necessary preliminary for the theological task. His stress that faith is a response to rational evidence is balanced by an equal insistence on the need for the Holy Spirit to quicken the unbeliever so that faith is possible (such that Van Til's criticism of the apologetic approach of Warfield is quite mistaken). He also had to combat the prevailing indifference, even antipathy, to doctrine in the churches.

This book is organised, as Warfield's own thinking and writing tended to be, according to the standard theological loci (topics), and draws on all his written remains (published and unpublished). One of his greatest achievements was a careful framing of the doctrine of divine inspiration of the Scriptures, for this was the great issue of his day. As well, he shows that trinitarian thinking forms the basis of all that is said in the New Testament about salvation. He viewed Tertullian, Augustine and Calvin as the key figures in the mature formulation of the doctrine of the Trinity, and he himself laboured to eradicate any trace of subordination of the Son and Spirit to the Father. It is not surprising, therefore, that he finds a consistently high view of Christ (Jesus as Lord and God) throughout the New Testament. He insists just as strongly on Christ's full hu-

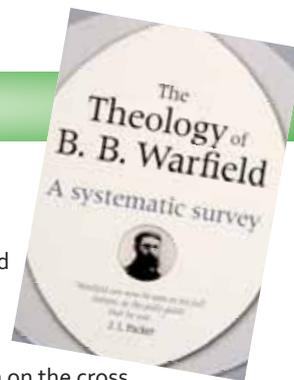
manity, including His emotional life. In his heart of hearts Warfield was a Christologist. He viewed Christianity as essentially a redemptive religion and showed that only a God-man can redeem on the cross.

Warfield by no means downplays the role of the Holy Spirit in creation, providence and salvation, and in that he sees himself as the heir to Calvin and the Puritans, who gave the Spirit his proper place in Christian theology. Warfield does not deny that God (in answer to prayer) still performs miracles, but argues that miraculous gifts died out with the Apostles, because such gifts were apostolic credentials, given by God to accredit these unique men as his messengers. He concedes that if creation and providence were not denied, some form of evolution was possible, and he allows this as a Christian option, though as an explanation of everything he labelled it as essentially atheistic. He does not see Genesis chapters 5 and 11 as enabling an approximate calculation of the antiquity of the human race (following W.H. Green).

Warfield views Christianity as a supernatural religion wherein salvation is of God from first to last. In arguing for this, he shows the precision and clarity of his biblical thinking. In his discussion of authentic Christian experience, a particular target is various brands of perfectionism (so-called higher life movements – Ritschl, Wesley, Finney, Keswick), which he saw as downplaying sin and God's law, so that a great deal of imperfection is still declared perfect! In contrast, for Warfield, sanctification in the life of the believer is progressive, though there is also a decisive break with sin in Christian conversion.

Much of Warfield's writing has a polemical sharp edge because he saw himself living at a time when biblical truth was under attack, but all his polemic has a sound exegetical base, insists on the supernaturalism of Christianity, its Christological centre, and its redemptive purpose, all with the aim of preserving and promoting the Gospel. Whether you agree with all his views or not, it is hard not to be impressed by his earnestness. We should honour him as one who strove to uphold the truth of the Bible. Here is a book that finally shows Warfield in all his splendour.

– Greg Goswell



**BROKEN POTTERY: THE LIFE OF AN AFRICAN GIRL**, Jennifer Ann, Ark House Press, Mona Vale, Australia, 2011

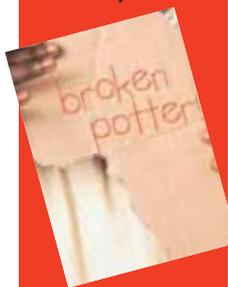
*Broken Pottery* is a work of fiction that draws heavily on real life experience. Jennifer Ann is the daughter of missionaries, who has also worked in Africa herself as a nurse and seen the devastated lives led by women with complications from childbirth including fistulas. Some readers may be familiar with the traumatic medical and social consequences for these women, many of whom are young.

In this novel Jennifer Ann explores the life of one young African girl, Aisha, in all her utter desperation. She finds hope through Abigail, a Christian woman who is the pivotal character of the novel, determined to help Aisha, however many obstacles need to be overcome. Through Abigail's inventive strategies to bring Aisha to suitable medical help, Jennifer Ann highlights some of the social mores in this African culture. Intertwined with this main theme of the book is an exploration of the missionary experience for one Australian nurse trying to come to terms with change and a place for her to minister.

At times this is a confronting and difficult book to read because the reader emotionally connects with this young girl, Aisha, who is tragically and harshly treated. It is horrifying to know this is an oft-repeated scenario of life through these countries.

The book, however, has its lighter moments, mainly provided by the minor characters of the book. As we see the healing of Aisha physically, emotionally and spiritually, we can only pray that those who dedicate themselves to this work will see more fruit in the lives of those they help. This is a novel that springs from compassion.

– Mignon Goswell



# ACL Offers Internship For Aspiring Future

## Thinkers And Leaders

JIM Wallace, Director of Australian Christian Lobby, frequently gets requests from politicians of both major parties showing the need for articulate Christian leaders with integrity, understanding and vision to enter the varying arenas of public policy. ACL also recognises this need, not simply to speak Christian values into the current political debates, but also to equip the next generation of leaders to live out the Gospel in the public sphere.

Out of that vision, ACL is proud to officially launch its new program – the *Lachlan Macquarie Internship*, aptly named after Governor Lachlan Macquarie, a leader who not only transformed Australia from a convict settlement into a colony, but did it from a Christian worldview, understanding that Biblical values would build a nation that was free, prosperous and just.

The first internship starts in August and runs for three months on a property on the outskirts of Canberra. It is a unique course aimed at fostering a greater appreciation of the relevance of a Christian worldview to public policy. It is offered to high achieving, post-graduate Christians considering careers in areas with influence on public policy, and aims to give them a foundational understanding of the intersection between religion and politics in Australia before they go into public life.

Most of the positions have been filled for the first internship, applications are now being accepted for the next course beginning in February 2012. Those interested should visit:

[www.lachlanmacquarieinternship.org.au](http://www.lachlanmacquarieinternship.org.au)

or email:

[manager@lachlanmacquarieinternship.org.au](mailto:manager@lachlanmacquarieinternship.org.au).

## Q & A – WITH DR CLIFFORD WILSON

### **WERE the days of Genesis literal 24 hour days?**

Yes. Where a numeral is linked with the Hebrew word *yom* (day) it means 24 hours. This is also true with the expression used in Genesis, 'The evening and the morning'. This is a clear pointer to actual days as we know them. Not only does the Bible point to literal days, but so does 'nature'. Plants need insects, and insects need plants, yet they were created on separate days. The time between could not be of the order of millions of years, or thousands of years, or even just years. The Genesis record with six literal days is indicated.

### **If the days were 24 hours in length, how is it that the Sun was there only on the fourth day?**

We are not ancient Egyptian Sun worshippers, expecting the Sun to be there as the first (impersonal) power. God Himself spoke, and light appeared on the first day. He knows how long 24 hours is, and on the fourth day He established the Sun in its present relationship to Earth as the light bearer to regulate the light He had already created.

### **But isn't the day linked with the Sun's movements?**

Our 24-hour day is the approximate time it takes for Earth to spin once on its own axis. This is called ROTATION, and is independent of the Sun.

### **Where did the concept of a week come from?**

From Genesis Chapters 1 and 2 – the six days of creation and the day of rest. Then at Exodus 20.8-11 we learn that this gives a pattern for man – six days of work and one day of rest, this last being especially set apart for God.

### **Does astronomy explain the origin of the time frame known as a week?**

Astronomy explains such things as the fact of a day and a night because of the Earth's daily rotation on its own axis; the 28 day month because of the monthly rotation of the Moon around the Earth; and the year because of the Earth's annual revolution around the Sun. We repeat, *a day depends on rotation – not revolution*. It is the Biblical revelation that uniquely explains the origin of the seven-day week. The week of only seven days cannot be explained by reference to natural movements; it is a direct result of the decree of God, as shown in Genesis and Exodus. This is not just a spiritual explanation – the model given in Genesis has a habit of fitting the facts. Sometimes the Bible revelation is ahead of the uncertainties of science. The fact of revelation means its statements are not limited by man's scientific knowledge.