

Exciting Start For YWAM Newcastle

DAVID and Carrie Stephenson, Directors of YWAM Newcastle (NSW) report an exciting start to the year with their January quarter Discipleship Training Schools in their lecture phase and outreach teams recently returned from serving overseas in Mexico and Africa.



YWAM's warehouse ministry centre consists of shipping containers converted into refurbished offices for our ministry departments. Last January saw the biggest quarterly intake to date with three training schools operating along with their staff training seminar for new staff joining in full time missions.

The Outdoors DTS is the first of its kind to be run at YWAM Newcastle, and is operating from the beautiful bush-clad maritime campus of Tahlee Ministries. Tahlee is 40 minutes drive north of Newcastle.

While a significant part of the DTS course is conducted in lecture format, a crucial emphasis reflects YWAM's commitment to informal learning. Students on the Outdoors DTS in Tahlee for example are 'with' their staff as the whole group camp together in bushland settings in the Port Stephens hinterland where they are able to

process the week's teaching outdoors in a context of friendship with the staff as they wrestle through issues of self, integrity, identity, discovering who God really is, and then in the midst of this have a tangible experience with God which gives rise to a lifetime of passionate and sincere adventure with Him.

Speaking of adventures with God at Tahlee, the 'Refresh' Course over the Easter weekend run by Steve Aherne, YWAM's Australian National Director, included a mix of teaching and uplifting ministry.

Meanwhile, YWAM teams roll out across the world in increasing number, seeing many people saved. Recent statistics indicate YWAM has provided young people in Newcastle alone with around 50,000 contact hours per year over recent years. Go to <http://ywamnewcastle.com> to learn more.

Bookstores Bring Hope To Greece

DID you know that more people in Greece are likely to visit a Christian bookstore than a church? That's why AMG International launched six Logos Bookstores around Greece as places to share ideas and the hope of Christ. That's why the Rev Meletis Meletiadis, Chair of the General Synod of Greek Evangelical Churches, has said, 'A Christian bookstore is the best tool of evangelizing Greece.' AMG International has taken that to heart as they have looked for ways to bring the hope of the Gospel to a disinterested country. For five decades or more, Logos Bookstores have been a consistent, public Gospel witness to the people of Greece. Logos currently operates six bookstores in Athens, Thessaloniki, Larissa, and Volos, which become evangelistic centres.

Many come into the bookstore to make copies or to purchase school supplies, others come because they're curious, and the clerks strike up friendships with their customers, eventually sharing the love of Christ with them. Logos also operates stores in Albania and Spain. The bookstores also provide the local evangelical churches great visibility in the community, a referral point for new believers, and a service opportunity for current believers. For more details go to: www.MNNonline.org/article/15562

FROM THE EDITOR:

Clifford Wilson Keeps On Keeping On

MY admiration for Dr Clifford Wilson, our Associate Editor, is well known. We have worked together at *New Life* for some 13 years. During all that time he has been a strong shoulder to lean on. At first he gave me a sound introduction to the workings of *New Life*. Then through the years he has always been nearby to provide valuable background material and answers to difficult questions, not to mention helping to keep the facts straight. He has also been readily available to keep the operation moving during the editor's absence.

His compendious knowledge of all things Christian could always be relied on. The simple question: 'What do you think about ... Cliff?' would soon be answered with a succinct and salient handwritten reply suitable for publication with little if any further editing. (Though it has to be added that Allan Penn, our long-suffering typesetter, found it a little burdensome sometimes to have to decipher the hieroglyphics before placing the article on my desk for a final approval.)

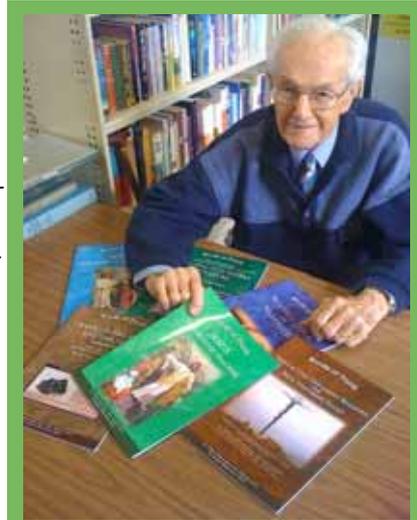
One of his projects over the years, in partnership with his late wife Barbara, was to write course notes for various topics in Biblical Studies, Archeology and Apologetics. Now some of these notes have been revised and put into a most attractive A4 format and released for the benefit of the Christian reading public in a series entitled *Words Of Truth*.

Jesus In Old Testament Shadows And New Testa-

ment Light, Meeting Jesus Of Nazareth, Jesus The Master Teacher, Jesus The Master Counsellor, The Way God Works In Nature, and Crash Go The Skulls ... And The Hoaxes bring us many helpful insights as we delve into a large pool of knowledge about the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ as well as the foundational truths of Creation.

Dr Henry Morris writes in his *Foreword*: 'Clifford Wilson ... is a keen witness to the truth and power of Biblical Christianity, witnessing with unusual effectiveness, with a consistent Christian life and through a prodigious output of scholarly works of Christian evidences and exposition.'

The books are highly commended and are available from Pacific Christian Ministries, PO Box 311, Lilydale 3140.
– Bob Thomas



Dr Clifford Wilson displays his latest publications.



VOLUME 73 NUMBER 14. ISSN: 1033-7903

ISSUE DATE: 1 May 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).

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

IVORY COAST: Where Islamic And Western 'Interests' Meet

IVORY COAST is a nation on an ethnic-religious fault-line with a predominantly agrarian Muslim north and a predominantly urbanised, industrial and administrative Christian and Animist south. Presidential aspirant **Alassane Ouattara** is an ambitious former Prime Minister and Northern Muslim who plays the race and religion cards for political gain.

This has fuelled tensions and aggravated divisions during economically stressful times as IC has been struggling under the weight of decades of mass Muslim immigration. Ouattara has long sought the naturalisation of all immigrants, which would mean an immediate Muslim majority in IC. Those who object to that outcome are labelled 'Islamophobic', 'racist' and 'xenophobic'. Ouattara has the backing of Islamic states precisely because he is a Muslim prepared to play the Muslim-as-victim card for political gain.

Ivory Coast went to the polls on 31 October 2010 even though the northern rebels, in violation of all agreements, had not disarmed. In IC, as in most democracies, an electoral commission manages the mechanics of an election whilst a constitutional council or court investigates complaints before proclaiming the final result.

On 2 December IC's Electoral Commission (dominated by Ouattara supporters by a margin of 20-2) illegally pre-empted the Constitutional Council's decision and broadcast via French TV from Ouattara's headquarters that Ouattara had won the election. When the Constitutional Council, which had been investigating irregularities, announced on 3 Dec that Gbagbo was the winner, a political stalemate ensued.

Fortunately for Ouattara, numerous foreign powers covet access to IC's immense agricultural (coffee, cocoa) and mineral (diamonds, oil) wealth.

Because he is prepared to sell out IC's sovereignty and wealth in exchange for power, Ouattara has the backing of these resource-hungry foreign powers, especially neo-colonialist France. Bolstered by the support of the 'international community', Ouattara has moved to take power by force.

As a former French colony, IC is obliged to hand over 85% of all its foreign currency reserves to the French Treasury. This poverty-perpetuating neo-colonialism is exactly what President Laurent Gbagbo, a staunch nationalist, has been fighting against. This is why France is so keen for regime change in IC that it has sent attack helicopters against the Presidential Palace and Ivorian military barracks (in the name of 'humanitarianism!') ignoring the fact that these facil-

ities not only house whole families but also abut residential areas.

While UN and French helicopters were attacking Ivorian positions in Abidjan, northern militias allied to Alassane Ouattara were pressing south. As this RLPB was being prepared, UN peacekeepers were guarding tens of thousands of civilians seeking refuge in a church in Duekoue, the southern town where some 800 were recently killed during an attack by northern militias. Virtually all state institutions, including the army, are loyal to President Gbagbo (as is at least half the registered population) so Abidjan will not submit willingly. The rebels would never be able to win or retain power without Western support. Fortunately for them, Islamic and Western 'interests' meet once again. Their goal: the removal of a secular (in this case Christian) staunchly nationalist president and replacing him with an ambitious, exploitable puppet who will advance his own interests, not IC's.

In 1913 William Wade Harris of Liberia crossed into Ivory Coast preaching the power of Christ over spirits. Dressed in white and carrying a cross, a Bible and a bowl, he baptised thousands and according to E. Isichei (1995) 'permanently rewrote the religious geography of the Ivory Coast'. But permanence can never be assumed. Good must be treasured and preserved. What Harris achieved, greed and mass Muslim immigration have undone. Once the most free and prosperous country in all West Africa, IC may never recover. Religious liberty and Christian security, once 'guaranteed', will be tenuous now.

Please Pray Specifically For God To:

- Shield His Church and deliver her from evil that she might continue to shine no matter how dark the situation becomes; may faith increase as those who trust the Lord find their refuge in Him. 'You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that they may flee to it from the bow.' (Psalm 60.4 ESV)
- Bring a spirit of peace to Abidjan, that there might be a willingness to find a political solution to this political problem; may religious liberty and Christian security be preserved.
- Awaken the West to the destruction, suffering and death that greed and neo-colonialism produce; might a voice be raised against it, in the name of justice and righteousness.

For more information, see Elizabeth Kendal's blog <<http://elizabethkendal.blogspot.com>>.

– Elizabeth Kendal, for Aust Evangelical Alliance

INTO ALL THE WORLD ...

Bible.is App Expands Global Gospel Outreach In English, Spanish And Arabic

SMARTPHONE users can now navigate Audio Bible app in three languages and listen in 188! Bible.is, the popular Bible app from the Audio Bible ministry Faith Comes By Hearing, is now available for use in Arabic.

Spoken by more than 221 million people throughout the world, Arabic now joins Spanish and English as the major trade languages available for users to navigate the app.

This is the ministry's latest step toward making the Bible easier to access for people throughout the world, and doing so in the listener's own language. Further releases are under development, ultimately including the top 20 most spoken languages in the world.

FCBH says the localization of the app was very much a collaborative process by means of a strong partnership with the Bible Society of Egypt. Since their Digital Bible Project started last year, Faith Comes By Hearing reports that Arabic has consistently been in the top five languages accessed across the multiple platforms offered by FCBH. In addition to the Bible.is app, the ministry's Audio Bibles can be accessed via podcast on iTunes, as well as streaming and download directly from its website – all free of charge.

FCBH currently has Audio Bibles in 538 languages, with 188 of those available for reading and listening on the Bible app, helping make the Digital Bible Project the world's largest resource of Bible recordings and texts.

'Today's technology has created access points to

directly deliver God's Word like no other time in history,' said Troy Carl, FCBH's National Director who also oversees the Digital Bible Project. 'The possibility of the Scriptures being freely available to all who will hear is no longer just a hope – it's quickly becoming a reality.'

FCBH said since half of the world's population cannot read and/or lives in a predominantly oral culture, the ministry continues to focus its mission on using Audio Bibles to reach every nation, tribe and people with the Gospel in their heart language. ('Heart language' is described as the language people grew up with, use in their home and use when praying.)

FCBH said the ministry's goal is to record Audio Bibles in 2,000 languages by 2016, creating access to the Gospel for 97% of the world's population. The average cost to record a New Testament is \$25,596.

For more information go to www.fcbh.org

– *Jeremy Reynolds,*

Senior Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

Luis Palau Helps Pioneer New Day For The Church In Vietnam

LUIS Palau joined with national church leaders to mark the 100-year celebration for the evangelical church in Vietnam. Palau and his son Andrew shared the Good News of Jesus Christ openly with tens of thousands of individuals on 9,10 April at an historic gathering in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. They led thousands of individuals in public commitments to Jesus Christ.

New Principal At Nungalinya

NUNGALINYA College, a national Indigenous education and training College of the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches, commissioned the new Principal, Dr Jude Long at the college campus in Darwin in April. In an uplifting service including a welcome-to-country by Board Chair Cathie Wilson and a message from Rev Lois Nadjamerrek from Oenpelli on *Jesus And The Woman At The Well*, Jude and her husband were welcomed into the College community.



Lecturer
Dr Ed Welch,
Mdiv, PhD;
Faculty member at
CCEF, Westminster
Seminary;
Counselor;
Author

ptc
Presbyterian Theological College

Master of Arts in Theology at PTC

Intensive week July 25 - 29 2011

Biblical Counselling

-The Personal Ministry of the Word
- Essential Issues for Pastors

Dr Ed Welch will share a brief history of pastoral care, the latest trends in secular counselling and developments in biblical counselling. He will pass on skills that every church member can use.

For more information or to register please contact PTC. Anyone can attend!

684 Elgar Road Box Hill North Victoria 3129 Phone 03 9898 9384
Email info@presbyteriancollege.org www.presbyteriancollege.org

REACHING OUT ...

May Designated As Digital Outreach Month

'DIGITAL media are transforming evangelism and ministry,' says the team at Internet Evangelism Day. To help Christians understand these amazing opportunities they have designated the entire month of May as a time for churches and individual believers to explore this potential. At the centre of the month is Internet Evangelism Day itself, set for Sunday 15 May.

Churches and other groups can use free downloads from IE Day's resource site to showcase these opportunities – video clips, PowerPoints, handouts, free music, dramascripts and posters.

A wide range of evangelism-related books and other resources (normally on sale) will be offered as special free downloads during the month.

Visit the IE Day website at IEDay.net for more information.

Internet Evangelism Day is a worldwide initiative of the Internet Evangelism Coalition, based at the Billy Graham Centre, Wheaton. It is supported by a wide range of leaders and groups. 'I am glad to commend Internet Evangelism Day,' says John Stott.

Free Evangelistic Articles For Print And Web
International lecturer and syndicated columnist Rusty Wright offers a wide range of skeptic-friendly

evangelistic articles for reprinting or online publication. Go to: www.RustyWright.com

@stickyjesus – New Book Explains Social Networking And Evangelism

@stickyJesus is a dynamic book about sharing faith online through social networking. Authors Tami Heim and Toni Birdsong are gifted writers and communicators. Their blog tag-line 'keeping it real & living sticky online 4 Him' sums up their vision. 'Sticky' reflects their desire that the message should be shared in such a way that it clings to people's hearts.

Heim and Birdsong 'get' social media. Many businesses, and even churches, attempt to use social networking as a one-way delivery system for their message and then wonder why they are ineffective. This book explains clearly that it should be relational, servant-like, listening, compassionate and inclusive.

A full review (available for reprint) can be found at: IEDay.net/stus

Web Follow-Up System

The Mentor Centre is an online follow-up system developed by TruthMedia.com which empowers members with the appropriate gifts to volunteer as spare-time home-based mentors.

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

LOOKING FOR A BOOK?

(a pre-loved title?)
Enquire at
New Life Books
& Archaeology
Mon-Sat, 10am-2pm
44 Dublin Road
Ringwood East
AH Try John
on 03 9893 4521

CARAVAN REQUIRED

Commencing mid to late June, retired MAF couple require a larger caravan for some months of 'on site' accommodation, within reach of Specialist Medical Support in Melbourne.

Specific requirements include an island double bed and separate toilet/shower cubicles.

large enough to cope with minor disability.

Interested in PURCHASE (or rent) of a suitable unit.

Please respond initially to Winston and Ruth Ussher
<rwussher@bigpond.com> 0437 7313 90 or 03 97275906.

Short Course www.presbyteriancollege.org
April 27th until June 1st
6 Wednesday evenings - 7.15pm - 9.15pm
**Communication
& Evangelism**
with Rev Dr Felix Chung
ptc
Presbyterian Theological College 684 Elgar Rd Box Hill 3129 03 9898 9384

HOBART HAPPENINGS ...

Placarding Protesters Pacified At *Saving Marriage* Forum

WITH the pressure on all around the country to re-define marriage to placate the more radical gay lobby, Hobart (Tas) recently saw an event to stand against this tide. *Saving Marriage* was the title of a Marriage Forum held recently at the University of Tasmania's Burbury Theatre.

Led by Rev Campbell Markham, the speakers were Senator Guy Barnett, Brigadier Jim Wallace from the Australian Christian Lobby on *What Should We Do About Same-Sex Marriage?*, and Rev Dr Andrew Corbett of the Tasmanian Family Institute on *What Should We Think About Same-Sex Marriage?*

Over 350 people attended to hear that marriage as God intended is between one man and one woman, and that the losers in attempts to change the nature of marriage are always children, as well as the moral fabric of society itself. It was pointed out that marriage doesn't need redefining, having

stood the test of time over history.

The crowd were met with around 50 peaceful protesters with placards, held in response to a campaign to label the meeting as an anti-gay tirade. Several protesters joined in the question time, although many left when attention was drawn to the love of God for all sinners.

Campbell has also been invited to address a same-sex marriage forum in Hobart at the end of April, hosted by Federal MHR for Denison, Andrew Wilkie. He will be joining a law lecturer and a gay lobbyist on the platform as he argues for the sanctity of marriage.

– Rod Waterhouse



Campbell Markham

Would
You
Like
SOUL
With
That?

HOW would you like to worship the Lord surrounded by the lovely aroma of Coffee Beans? That would be some people's idea of Heaven. 'Doing Church' these days can be very different, and one such 'different' church is Soul Church in the City of Hobart.

Soul Church is a year-old church plant of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, begun to help alleviate a space problem and reach out to the unchurched of Hobart. Supportive Christians who run a wholesale/retail coffee outlet have provided the premises, The Cupping Room on 105 Murray St, Hobart, for the church's 5pm services. Led by Rev Campbell Markham, Soul Church started with around 20-25 attending but has now doubled in size. More importantly young people who have had little church connection are dropping in for a cuppa and to hear the Gospel in a neutral environment. Passersby come in via the Rolla-door shop front due to the aroma, the friendly welcome and hearing their kind of music. Campbell has been in Tassie for a few years now, moving from Perth to be part of a wider church planting movement. Already Soul Church is contemplating calling their own pastor.

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Pastor and family urgently seeking rental accommodation in Melbourne, preferably 4br, near transport.

Also seeking a pastorate position, preferably with accommodation provided.

Currently is voluntary chaplain at RMIT.

Is maintaining a ministry with international home churches by internet.

Contact: Pastor Nelson Pervaz, **Phone:** 0422 084 088

Email: nelsonpervaz@yahoo.com. **Web:** nelsonpervaz.wordpress.com

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

Bethel Funerals
Compassion • Peace • Hope

Victoria 03 9873 8866
Mornington Peninsula 03 5975 1955
Queensland 07 3343 8444

24Hr 7 Day Service
Servicing the Melbourne Metro, Mornington Peninsula & Country Areas, SE Queensland, Gold Coast & Sunshine Coast

www.bethelfunerals.com.au

All profits support the work of missions
Providing Christ like care for grieving families

Personalised care & support
Prepaid Funeral Planning

TRAGEDY AVERTED, THE SHOW GOES ON

Easterfest Affected By Deluge

NO ONE was hurt when the Easterfest tent split under the weight of water and collapsed due to a heavy downpour and flooding of a nearby creek on Saturday 23 April. Thousands of revellers were evacuated and organisers were able to move much of the program to a different site.

Easterfest is an annual Christian music festival held in Toowoomba, Qld. Isaac Moodie, CEO of Easterfest says: 'We are incredibly thankful to God that we were able to evacuate 20,000 people from Queen's Park on Saturday night without serious injury in an emergency situation. It is a good news story that all the public were evacuated from the Entry Tent approximately ten minutes before the structure failed and that we were able to quickly set up three welfare centres across Toowoomba to accommodate campers who needed a dry bed.

'We especially want to acknowledge our amazing volunteer crew who facilitated the initial evacuation and the Toowoomba emergency services who took control of the situation in such a professional manner. Despite the flash flood, we were still able to provide most of the advertised program in the

city – albeit in different venues and at different times. With the advantage of hindsight, we are sure we could improve some operational procedures in the future, however, given the difficult circumstances we remain very proud of our entire team.

'There will be a financial impact on Easterfest from the flash flood, but our immediate priority has been to check on people's safety and then to clean up Queen's Park.

The Future Of Easterfest

'When the festival started, Queen's Park was simply one of a number of venues throughout Toowoomba. In our third year (2001) we concentrated almost everything in Queen's Park hoping to gain momentum by having a centralised location. This strategy has been successful and we are now focused on expansion into other venues throughout the city. Next year we plan on using the current entertainment precinct in Queen's Park in a similar way to the past, but focus our expansion into other city venues. We intend to extend the 2012 discount ticket offer, so please check back on the Easterfest website (www.easterfest.com.au) for details.'



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

1 May - James Snare - "Faithful & Faithless"
Malachi 2:10-16

8 May - James Snare - "Messengers of the Covenant"
Malachi 3:1-5

15 May - Dr. Greg Forbes - "Is Doubt a Problem?" - James 1:1-8
Head of Biblical Studies - Greg Teaches: Greek, Hermeneutics & New Testament at MST)

22 May - Rev Dr Ted Woods
- Teaches: Old Testament at MST

29 May - Rev Martin Pakula - The Gospel & the Church" (Continuation of 1 Corinthian series)

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

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

The Criminal On The Cross



THE CROSS means different things to different people. For some it's just a pretty piece of jewelry. To others it's a decoration for their home. To Christians it is a symbol of the sacrificial love of Christ and His conquering of the grave.

However, to criminals under Roman rule in the First Century, and those who witnessed the punishment, the cross was a symbol of torture, cruelty, death and humiliation.

As we celebrate the Easter season, we can learn from a man on a cross. This individual's name is only known to God. We find this man – a criminal sentenced to death – hanging beside Jesus in Luke 23:39-43.

Correct View Of Reality

The first lesson we learn is that he had a correct view of reality and a correct view of himself. He saw himself as a criminal who was rightly condemned for the deeds he had committed. He correctly realized that he deserved death. Further, he had a correct view of Jesus. He recognized Jesus as the spotless Lamb of God and he testified to this while hanging on the cross. He knew that he was a sinner, and Jesus was innocent.

Correct View Of Life After Death

The second lesson we learn is that this criminal had a correct view of life after death. Though he was sentenced to death and hanging to life by a thread, he believed that his soul would continue to live

after he died. Many people today live as if this life is all there is, but the Bible says that your soul lives forever and that it will abide in one of two places – Heaven or Hell. (Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:5, John 3:1-21)

The criminal on the cross: he knew who he was and who Jesus was, he knew that his soul would continue after he died, and he knew that Jesus was the Saviour. He could do nothing but cry out to Jesus and place his faith in Him for his salvation. To which Jesus replied, 'Today you will be with Me in Paradise.'

Correct View Of Salvation

Finally, we see that this criminal had a correct view of salvation (v. 42). He saw himself as totally helpless. He could do nothing to improve his odds in life or save himself. He was now bound to death and could not escape. Yet he cries out to Jesus, 'Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.' He wanted to offer the last thing he had to give (his soul) to Jesus. He realized that Jesus was the Son of God and that he wanted to be a part of Christ's Kingdom.

Have you seen the world through the eyes of this condemned criminal? Do you understand your need for the

Saviour, and – more importantly – have you cried out to Him for your salvation? If not, the Easter season is as good a time as any to surrender your life to Christ. If you have made that decision, I encourage you not to miss the opportunities God puts in front of you to share that same hope with those around you. Jesus saved the criminal on the cross, and He desires to save each of us as well.

William Franklin Graham IV (Will) is the third generation of Grahams to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ under the banner of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Will is the grandson of Billy Graham and the oldest son of Franklin Graham. Since beginning his evangelistic ministry with youth-oriented, one-day events in Canada, Will has spoken to audiences across North America, Australia, India and other parts of Asia and South America. Will also serves BGEA as assistant director of the Billy Graham Training Centre at The Cove in Asheville, NC. Will and his wife, Kendra, have three children, and live in the mountains of North Carolina. To read Dan Wooding's recent story on Will Graham go to: www.assistnews.net/Stories/2011/511040039.htm

– Dan Wooding, ASSIST News Service

YOU Can Advertise Here!
Call Mignon on 0434 313 646
Email: office@nlife.com.au

THE GATHERING STORM ...

Warning From The Ayatollahs: 600 Have Become Christian In The Iranian City Of Neyshabour

AN IRANIAN Christian news agency is reporting that the Ayatollahs of Iran say that 600 have become Christian in the city of Neyshabour.

Mohabat News (www.mohabatnews.com) says that in the last few months a deliberate and focused campaign of threats and opposition against every and any religious belief that is contrary to those of the Shiites, especially against the Christian faith, has been underway and promoted by the Shiite clerics and all media outlets that are somehow connected with the religious elite of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

'Although in the last several years the gravitation of the populous toward the Christian faith has been a source of aggravation for the ruling and religious elite of the government, the harsh statements and intimidating conduct of the religious leaders to the repressive actions of the security forces such as those of the Pasdaran Militia and media outlets belonging to these organizations have placed an ever-increasing pressure on Christian families and those who have recently become Christians,' they said.

According to reports obtained by Mohabat News from a local newspaper published in the Southern Khoarasan Province, Ayatollah Sobhani, a cleric leader in the province, in a recent meeting with several other clerics and religious leaders of the Islamic Guidance Foundation, warned these sources of the ever-increasing activities of local mystics and 'false' Christians (Protestant and born-again Christians!).

This high ranking cleric who has not given any definition for the term 'false Christianity' has stated that, 'these Christian evangelists have converted 600 people to Christianity in the city of Neyshabour.' Furthermore, he has not indicated how these numbers and statistics were gathered or which organization has collected such information. (Neyshabour is a city in the Razavi Khorasan province in northeastern Iran, near the regional capital of Mashhad).

The news agency said that Mr Sobhani has made these claims following another recent claim made by Ayatollah Vahid Kho-

rasani, a high ranking Shiite cleric, who said that he had the statistics of how many young people had become Christian in the city of Qum. He severely criticized the security and government forces in neglecting this issue and demanded that this matter be dealt with in the strongest possible manner.

Attacking the Pope in very strong language, Mr Khorasani claimed that he is actively attempting to spread Christianity inside Iran and warned the Vatican that such actions will result in exposing the Catholic Church for issues that would be very costly to the church.

Spiritual Awakening

'These confrontations between the security forces with Christians, especially those who have recently become Christians, proves that despite the ongoing suppression of believers and measures that have made life more and more difficult for the Christian community, people still and willingly embrace the Christian faith as their personal belief,' said the story. 'The expansion and the ever-increasing gravitation of the youth towards Christianity is something that the Islamic Republic of Iran is well aware of. What is clear about the young generation inside Iran is that they have reached a degree of mental maturity that propels them to research and discover various beliefs and, despite their religious heritage, the freedom to choose the belief of their choice.'

– Dan Wooding, Founder of ASSIST News Service

**Has the spiritual energy necessary to travel this journey of life seeped away?
Are you finding it harder to focus on what God wants in your life?
Then you are ready for a time apart to focus on the true priorities on life and on the Giver of Life!**
REFRESH Retreats exists to encourage and challenge women young and old to a deeper walk with Christ.
On 27-30 May at Forest Edge,
women ages 16 and up are encouraged to attend for a weekend that will inspire, encourage and impact their life for godly living in a world gone astray.
Guest speaker and author Reba Bowman will be challenging us with life lessons from the book of John.
Registrations are being taken now, and close on 13 May.
Contact Lola (03) 8407 3171 for more details.

PERSECUTION WATCH

Malaysian Christians Seek To End Restrictions On Malay Bibles

– Federation Calls For Removal Of 'Every Impediment' To Importing And Printing Scripture

COMPASS Direct News is reporting that Christian importers of Bibles that Malaysian officials detained are balking at conditions the government has imposed for their release, such as defacement of the sacred books with official stamps.

CDN says that the Malaysian Home Ministry last month stamped the words, 'This Good News (Malay) Bible is for use by Christians only' on 5,100 Bibles without consulting the importer, the Bible Society of Malaysia, which initially refused to collect them as it disapproved of the conditions.

It went on to say that BSM has since collected them 'to prevent the possibility of further acts of desecration' but will not sell them; rather, they 'will be respectfully preserved as museum pieces and as a heritage for the Christian Church in Malaysia.'

'Another 30,000 Bibles detained since 12 January remain in port after the Sarawak state Home Ministry told the local chapter of Gideons International that it could collect them if the organization would put the stamp on them. Gideons has thus far declined to do so, and a spokesman said on 5 April that officials had already defaced the books with the stamp,' the story continued.

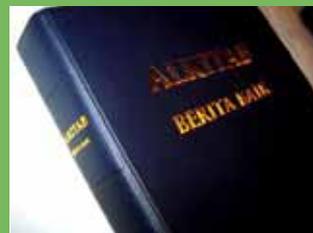
'The government has made several attempts to try to appease the Christian community; on 2 April it issued a ten-point statement that included the lifting of restrictions to allow for the local printing and importation of Malay and other indigenous-language Bibles into the country.

'No conditions were imposed on such Bibles in Sarawak and Sabah, but in West Malaysia the Bibles must have the words "Christian publication" and the sign of the cross printed on the front covers.'

However, most Christians remained skeptical. Bolly Lapok, an Anglican Bishop, told the online news agency *Malaysian Insider*, 'It's an assurance, but we have been given such assurances before.'

For more information, go to:
www.compassdirect.org

– Dan Wooding, Founder, ASSIST Ministries



The Malay Bible.

Recent Incidents Of Persecution In India

FOUR Christians, including a police constable, were beaten on 1 April in Madikeri district on allegations of 'religious conversion abetment,' as if conversion were illegal in India. **Karnataka Police** on 1 April arrested Christians after Hindu nationalists registered false complaints of 'conversion' against them (religious conversion is legal in India) in Kodihalli, Bangalore. The Global Council of Indian Christians reported that citizens identified only as Vincent, Johnson, Satyan and Naveenand Vinod were at a prayer and fellowship meeting in the home of a Christian when area Hindu extremists led by a person identified only as Prashanth stormed the house, made the accusation and forced them to the Kodihalli police station. **Himachal Pradesh.** On 17 March at Rekong Peo in Kinnur District, Hindu extremists ostracized the Christian community and warned them under threat of violence to conduct no future worship meetings. The All India Christian Council reported that Hindu nationalist extremists barred Christians from using a public road, collecting drinking water and entering a local forest.

Kerala. On 31 March on Kara Beach Road, Kodun-

gallur, Hindu extremists attacked Pastor N.V. Eliyas and Pastor Milton George of New India Church of God as they were returning home with their families from a house dedication prayer service. The extremists shouted slogans against the Christians as they accused them of 'forceful conversions,' reported the Global Council of Indian Christians.

Uttar Pradesh. On 20 March in Lonianpurawa, Balrampur District, an irate mob of 60 Hindu extremists barged into the worship meeting of The Healing Church and beat those present. An earlier incident had taken place the previous Sunday, when Hindu extremists threatened the worship led by convert Gudgi Verma and his wife Saroja Verma, according to the Evangelical Fellowship of India. Opposing their thriving ministry in the area, local Member of the Legislative Assembly Gorakhnath Baba allegedly had sent about 25 Hindu extremists to the church to deliver the warning to discontinue church services. The Christians continued, and on 16 March Baba and 50 Hindu extremists went to the site, urged them to stop all Christian worship meetings and restore Hindu idols to the house, give offerings to the temple and observe all Hindu customs.

HAVE YOU HEARD ...

... About Waiting Lists To Get Into Church?

IT'S HAPPENING everywhere. All over Australia. *Mainly Music* groups can't cope with the numbers of families who want to come to church.

Did you have to re-read that statement? The churches already using the *Mainly Music* concept as an outreach ministry into their community are astounded. Families hear the word that a *Mainly Music* group is about to commence and come; their little ones enjoy the music, the movement, the puppets, and of course, morning tea and play. The adults come because they enjoy the one-on-one interaction with their child or children. They also appreciate the effort put into the 'coffee and calories' and savour the time to speak to other adults, to be encouraged by the members of the local church who make up the *Mainly Music* team members, and to be given gifts at various times throughout the year.

The atmosphere is nurturing. The environment created is very often 'community' at its best. Mothers find themselves with an opportunity to hear words of affirmation about being 'mum'. Parents and children are provided with moment after moment of memories – the delight of a cuddle, the whisper of an 'I love you'.

That's why they queue up to find a place on the roll and are devastated when they find they have to be placed on a waiting list to come into contact with church.

While some churches increase the size of their group, others monitor their roll to ensure the 'community' being created is family-like and intimate, something encouraged by the *Mainly Music* organisation. Many a mother has commented after moving cities or towns, 'The group we used to go to, we



Mainly Music – great fun and great learning.

loved; but it was large. We just LOVE your smaller group. It's just like, like family.'

So why the waiting lists? Some churches comment, 'We thought there were already too many in our area.' NEVER. The brand of *Mainly Music* is becoming more well known in Australia since its start five years ago. And with some churches mindful of growing too large, there just isn't enough room for every mother who'd like to attend.

How about that? People knocking on the door of a church – hoping to get a place inside – finding love and encouragement, nurture and affirmation, fun and memories – and being provided with the opportunity to explore the hope provided by the message of the Gospel.

So *Mainly Music* is music to the ears.

– Jo Hood, International Director,
Mainly Music (Aus) Ltd.

Phone 03 9720 3310 or 0400 56 00 58,
or email: johood@mainlymusic.org.au

BEIJING HOUSE CHURCH FORCED TO MEET OUTDOORS

CHRISTIAN Solidarity Worldwide condemns the detention of 169 members of Shouwang Church by police in Beijing on Sunday 10 April as they attempted to worship outdoors after their landlord bowed to government pressure to prevent the congregation from meeting in his building.

Members of the 1,000-strong unregistered Protestant Church gathered in a public area to hold a service. According to reports, up to 1,000 police officers cordoned off the area and forced the Christians onto buses. Some were taken to police sta-

tions and others to a local primary school where, according to reports, they sang hymns in detention. Their personal details were taken down and many were asked to sign declarations promising they would never attend Shouwang Church again. Many refused to do so and were not released until after midnight. The pastor and two others currently remain in detention. According to China Aid, Beijing authorities put over 20 of Shouwang's leaders under house arrest on Saturday evening to ensure they did not attend Sunday's meeting.

HELPING HANDS

At Least Seven Japanese Christians Working At Crippled Nuclear Plant – Crisis Has Not Hit Bottom, Expert Says

AS RADIOACTIVE water flows into the ocean surrounding the troubled Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant, workers are scrambling to find and stop the source of damaging leaks.

'Leaks of radiation are being found everywhere,' reports physicist Michio Kaku PhD, a professor at City University of New York in a recent blog posting. 'It's like death from a thousand cuts,' he notes. 'The utility is like the little Dutch boy, trying desperately to plug up one leak, only to find another.'

In the midst of this complex and dangerous crisis, at least seven members of Fukushima Daiichi Seisho Baptist Church have been working as part of the emergency team at the nuclear plant. 'One of the seven workers had actually run away from the plant out of fear,' according to Scott Eaton, I.T. director for CRASH Japan. 'After becoming a Christian, he returned to work with a smile and Bible in

hand convicted to share the Gospel with his co-workers,' Eaton notes.

The seven workers and their families are aware of the possible consequences of working in close proximity to high and potentially lethal doses of radiation.

In an unusual twist, Eaton once attended and taught the Scriptures at the same church in Fukushima where he has returned as leader of a disaster assessment team for CRASH. He choked up as he remembered many in the church as his dear 'family.'



Fukushima workers.

– Mark Ellis, ASSIST News Service

Evangelical Church In Lebanon A 'City On A Hill' To The Middle East

A MISSION Network News report notes how the Free Evangelical Church of Beirut, Lebanon, has been 'a bright shining light' throughout the Arab world for 20 years now. From the church's first mission back in the mid 1990's – to establish a girls' home for those who'd lost parents, or were not being cared for after the 15-year civil war in Lebanon – it has been effectively reaching the surrounding community.

Called 'Beit al Safa' (Home of Serenity); the home now houses between 12 and 20 girls at a time. The church's Pastor Joseph saw it as the first step in touching the Arab world around them with the Gospel, but he met with some opposition from Believers who were weary from the long war and resistance from the Muslim community. But his vision was stronger than their complaints and Pastor Joseph pressed on to reach Middle East Muslims with the Good News of Jesus.

– Source: MNN Staff – Mission Network News

AT YOUR SERVICE ...

EASTWIDE PLUMBING SERVICES

Domestic, Commercial, Industrial; Hot/Cold Water; Maintenance; Water Tanks; Gas Fittings; Drainage; Repair/Install Renovate/New Homes.
24 Hour Service 0403 740 345
Lic no. 48991

TONER MEN

We refill Laser Toner Cartridges and supply Refill Kits.

- ◆ More cost effective!
- ◆ Environmentally friendly!
- ◆ Uncompromising quality!

Call 1300 733 920
sales@tonermen.com.au
www.tonermen.com.au

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@rhema.fm.org.au www.rhema.fm.org.au
Mail: PO Box 886, Belmont 3216

Live the Life!

'Hallelujah! Christ Arose!'

'HE AROSE! He arose! Hallelujah, Christ Arose!' ... 1,500 voices in unison sang triumphantly of the Lord's resurrection.

That's Easter for me, and Easter means the convention that I've been attending for 52 years. The Upwey Convention, begun in 1918, was an annual Christmas gathering. Then in 1950, the property was obtained at Belgrave Heights and the first summer meetings were held there. Two years later, the Belgrave Heights Easter Convention commenced in 1952.

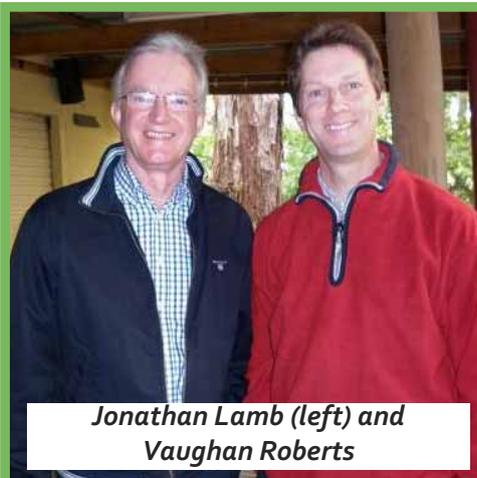
Since then we have been privileged to hear countless godly speakers from Australia and overseas share God's Word with us. Once again at this year's Belgrave Heights Easter Convention we were encouraged, entreated and exhorted as the speakers drew out truths from 2 Corinthians and Proverbs on the theme of *Faith That Works*.

Jonathan Lamb works with Langham Partnership International, as well as being Chair of the Keswick Convention in the UK. His books are available at Christian bookshops. Especially helpful are his small commentaries on *Nehemiah*, *Habakkuk* and *James*. He committed his life to the Lord aged five, in 1955, at a children's meeting in North London.

Integrity Is Integral

Integrity was the title for his series as this word has come into prominence recently and is a quality which people recognize for the function of society. Jonathan said that Evangelicals need to be known as ones who live the Gospel, as well as preach it. In the morning studies, he started by explaining the meaning of integrity as seen in Paul's life in 2 Corinthians 1.12-22. Even when charged with being unreliable, deceitful and inconsistent Paul's motives and attitudes were always transparent. He was always sincere, consistent and reliable. So should we be in all areas of life.

From 2 Corinthians 1.23-2.11 he showed that integrity has to be seen in the community by an attitude of service and forgiveness. We need to be accountable, faithful, humble and responsible in Christian service as Paul was in 2 Corinthians 4.1-6. Like Paul, we still need to show integrity under pressure, knowing that God's power is manifest in



Jonathan Lamb (left) and Vaughan Roberts

our weakness and trials.

Our behaviour reflects on our Lord, so we need to be cleansed and purified. We are the temple of the living God. Do others see Him in us?

A Passion For Proverbs

Vaughan Roberts became a Christian at the age of 18 after seeing the changed behaviour in his sister when she trusted Christ. He studied Law at Cambridge University, but changed to Theology after two years.

Now 46 years old, he has been the Vicar of St Ebbe's for 15 years. St Ebbe's, built about 600 AD and named after a Northumbrian princess who became a Christian, is in the centre of Oxford. Vaughan has a great ministry to university students, and his is one of three evangelical Anglican churches in Oxford. He has written ten books, most of which are available in Australia.

Proverbs is one of his favourite Bible books for Christian living and he enthused us with his passion as he guided us through different passages so as to draw out the significant points for us to follow in our daily walk:

- ◆ true wisdom is foundational, practical, moral and relational ... all properties embodied in our Lord.
- ◆ fools are not suffered gladly in *Proverbs* ... the short-sighted, the sluggard, the scoundrel, the simple, the scoffer. The world looks on the Cross as folly. But it is God's wisdom for salvation and the antidote to folly.
- ◆ *Proverbs* teaches the wise handling of money ... how to view money, how to make money, and how to use money for God's Glory.
- ◆ *Proverbs* teaches the challenge of taming the tongue. We need to understand the power of words, use words wisely, ask help from God, and especially look to the Word who became flesh.
- ◆ *Proverbs* teaches us about true friendship. Everyone needs friends, but we must first be a true friend. We need to be close to our friends, constant, candid, careful, and Christ-centred.

Some 28 agencies, members of Missions Interlink, displayed their different contributions to the work of reaching the lost.

– Barbara Prout ('Mrs D.P.')

NOTICE BOARD:

Changing Of The Guard In Hobart

ROBERT White has stepped down from St John's Presbyterian Church, 188 Macquarrie St, Hobart, after 12 years ministry in the historic central city church. Alistair Bain stepped into the role of senior minister after being inducted formally into the position by the Derwent Presbytery on 22 March.



Robert White (left) greets Alistair Bain

Robert came to the position from a career in education before entering the ministry 20 years ago, and intends to continue in some future ministry. A parish Thanksgiving Dinner was held the night before to express appreciation for the ministry of Robert and his wife Sue.

Alistair was previously a lawyer in Launceston

and had been an assistant at St Andrew's Launceston after training at SMBC and the Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne. Alistair is married to Rachel. They have three young children and are looking forward to the privilege and opportunity that ministry in St John's will bring.

CDP Victory In NSW Legislative Council

THE Hon Rev Fred Nile, MLC, gives thanks to Almighty God that the Christian Democratic Party have won back their second seat in the NSW Upper House, the Legislative Council, with Mayor Paul Green joining Fred Nile in the NSW Upper House.

Top Surfer's Testimony

BETHANY Hamilton, one of the top female surfers in the world despite having only one arm, says in a new video that God can change tragic events into opportunities to glorify Himself. In 2003, she lost about 60% of her blood after losing an arm in a shark attack and recalls a paramedic on the way to the hospital whispering in her ear, 'God will never leave you nor forsake you.'

– *The Christian Post*

WITH CHRIST – DAVID WILKERSON CALLED HOME

THE Rev David Wilkerson, founding pastor of Times Square Church in New York City and author of the well-known book *The Cross And The Switchblade* was killed in a car accident, on 27 April.

In his last blog, posted earlier in the day, he wrote: 'To those going through the valley and shadow of death, hear this word: Weeping will last through some dark, awful nights, and in that darkness you will soon hear the Father whisper, "I am with you". Beloved, God has never failed to act but in goodness and love. When all means fail, His love prevails. Hold fast to your faith. Stand fast in His Word. There is no other hope in this world.'

David Wilkerson spent the early part of his ministry reaching out to gang members and drug addicts in New York, as told in his bestselling book *The Cross And The Switchblade*. In 1971 he started World Challenge Inc as an umbrella for his crusades, conferences, evangelism and other ministry. The Times Square Church was founded under the group in 1987. He also founded Teen Challenge, a Christian outreach program for troubled young people. The Times Square Church is now led by Pastor Carter Conlon and has more than 8,000 members.

A memorial service will be held at Times Square Church at a date yet to be determined. It will be streamed live to give an opportunity for all to participate. Details will be posted on the church website: www.tscnyc.org

David Wilkerson is survived by his wife, four children and 11 grandchildren.

– *Dan Wooding, ASSIST*

**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'**

BOOKS WORTH READING

THE LIFE OF CHARLES HODGE, A.A. Hodge, Edinburgh, Banner of Truth.

THIS monumental biography of over 600 pages was written by Charles Hodge's son and successor as professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, and was first published two years after his death (in 1880). Thanks to Banner it is again available to instruct and inspire those who love the doctrines of the Word of God. Hodge is the man behind a valuable three-volume *Systematic Theology* (still in print) as well as the author of *Commentaries on Romans, Corinthians and Ephesians*.

The book opens with two chapters of autobiography, covering Hodge's youth up to his graduation from college in 1815 (aged 18). In the providence of God he was born into a gifted and godly family. He next studied at the new theological college in Princeton (1816-19) and never left it for the rest of his life due to his appointment as a junior lecturer on graduation. He was elected to be a professor in 1822 and continued in that role for over 50 years.

A reading of his life is enough to break any stereotype we might have of Hodge as a theologian, for he is quoted as saying: 'There is more to be learned by prayer than by study' (p.63) and 'the heart more than the head of an instructor in a religious seminary qualifies or unfits him for his station' (p.70).

His inaugural lecture as professor was on the importance of piety in the interpretation of Scripture. Two years in Germany gave him contact with evangelical theologians there, notably Tholuck and Neander, with whom he carried on a lifelong correspondence. This showed that Hodge was not as narrow as some people might think him to be, for he could have friend-

ships with those who differed significantly from his own views. According to him, 'The love of the Saviour is of all bonds the purest and the strongest' (p.170). He was moderate and charitable in all doctrinal and church controversies.

Hodge recommenced lecturing in 1828 and in 1833 was incapacitated by lameness, which dogged him for the rest of his life. He lived according to unchanging daily habits and was never tempted to change his principles or adopt new doctrines. Hodge was immune from the tendency of theological teachers to seek novelty or to try to appear to be a clever and original thinker. Instead he strove to faithfully teach the system of doctrine he found in the Bible and to make that truth clear, fresh and related to life.

In 1840 he transferred from teaching Bible to teaching systematic theology. The providential result was that his understanding of theology always had a sound biblical grounding. So too, he connected theology to Christian experience and piety. For example, in a letter to his grieving brother, he wrote: 'the doctrine of the Trinity is no mere speculative doctrine; it is an essential part of a Christian's practical faith, the truth on which he daily lives' (p.397).

Hodge was the greatest Reformed theologian of his day, and only on reading his *Systematic Theology* for myself after I left college in the 1980's did I realise how much my own teacher, D.B. Knox, was indebted to Hodge. Here, then, is the life of a man who is worth remembering and emulating.

— Greg Goswell

IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH: THE MAN WHO FACED LIONS; POLYCARP OF SMYRNA: THE MAN WHOSE FAITH LASTED; IRENAEUS OF LYONS: THE MAN WHO WROTE BOOKS, Sinclair Ferguson, Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh.

IDOLS and Heroes: what's the difference? That is the question posed in this new series of children's books, *Heroes Of The Faith*, from Banner of Truth, which aims to introduce children to men of faith through the centuries of church history. It is good to see a number of Christian publishers delving into church history for children and using respected authors to do it. Unfortunately Banner has not chosen to include any women of faith. Perhaps this can be the next series that is written? Here we have the first three books in the current series. The rest of the books to be published are shown at the back of each book.

Sinclair Ferguson writes with great admiration of these men as he focusses on the essence of their lives in these books. The picture book format is traditionally aimed at a young audience but the content is more suitable for an older age group. Two of these men were martyred for their witness to Jesus. Many adults will learn of these men for the first time along with their children. In this way they can be a valuable teaching tool for the whole family and an opportunity to discuss what real faith in Jesus means. To follow Jesus faithfully is never easy.

Banner always produces beautiful looking books. There is a look and feel to quality books that is a delight. The illustrations are by Alison Brown who will be familiar to readers as a previously published author by Banner. There is much to learn in these books, which would make lovely gift and prize books for primary aged children.

— Mignon Goswell

WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE BUTTERFLY, AND OTHER SHORT STORIES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS, Doreen Taminga, Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh.

READING stories with children is surely one of the great pleasures of family life. Here are 43 short stories that the author tells us are not only for pleasure but aim to teach definite biblical truths. They certainly do that. A helpful index tells us the particular truth conveyed in each story. The title story makes a worthy introduction and straight away points us to the saving work of Jesus. Stories are a traditional way of teaching truth. Our Lord Himself, of course, is the master storyteller.

The stories are divided into three age groups from four to twelve years. Thus the book will be helpful for the spread of family members. These are definitely Christian stories and are useful within the Christian family, Christian school or Sunday school context. The family life portrayed here tends to be idealised and traditional, with parents who take each opportunity presented to teach a biblical truth. In many of the stories the child makes a mistake, which is then rectified and a lesson is abstracted. Some are like parables.

One or two are like a fairy tale. Sometimes the conversation between the children in the story is just a little too ideal. The stories are short and comforting in that the children are allowed to make mistakes and taught that we learn through that – an important lesson of life. Mistakes and disobedience can bring us closer to God if we recognise our wrongdoing and turn from it. The author remembers with fondness her own childhood of listening to stories of adventure, stories with happy endings and above all stories meant to point her to Jesus. Christian families will always appreciate a storybook to add to their store of books to read together. Certainly we need to encourage families we know to do that regularly.

— Mignon Goswell

LIKE CALEB OF OLD ...

Caleb Ministries – Dynamic Training For Strong Leadership

CALEB is an amazing Biblical character who believed God would give the people of Israel the land He had promised them (see Numbers 13,14). All they had to do was believe and God would help them conquer the land. Caleb is a biblical name meaning 'faith, devotion, whole hearted'.

Ten of the twelve Hebrew spies who explored the land of Canaan discouraged the Israelites from entering it because of their great fortified cities and strong forces, claiming the people were like giants! However of the other two, Caleb, on behalf of Joshua, spoke up and believed that God had given them the fruitful land, flowing with milk and honey and abundance of crop. Because of their faith, the Lord promised they would both see their new inheritance. Unfortunately everyone else listened to the ten others, rejecting God's promises for them, even wishing they were back in Egypt.

Joshua's skills in leadership were noted by God and he was commissioned by the LORD to become leader when Moses died.

Caleb however is noted for his determination, his courage and commitment to the Lord. He was only given a small portion of the land for his tribe but he first had to drive out the three Anakite tribes – the descendants of Anak. He will always be remembered as the Hebrew who first stood up to the people and spoke on behalf of Joshua in the face of fear. Caleb was a support to Joshua and a guide for people to learn from.

Following In Caleb's Steps

Caleb Leadership Ministries Inc got its name from that same man in the Bible. Caleb Ministries seeks to support leaders who are servants of God, carrying out mighty work for His kingdom. Caleb seeks to build up leaders, making them successful in all they do in bringing glory and honour to God.

As an inter-denominational organisation, Caleb recognises that the local church is Christ's instrument to extend His Kingdom, and are committed to serving the local church and its members through an offering of excellent leadership training, internship and consultancy services so as to better the



Graduates from the 2009 Caleb Leadership School

church to fulfill its mandate. They are equally committed to training leaders in Christian mission agencies and recognise that they are an extension of the local and wider church to serve Christ in specific areas of ministry and expertise.

Like Caleb who stood up with Joshua to the challenge of taking the Promised Land and building a nation, God has given Caleb Leadership Ministries the challenge of equipping leaders who will successfully build God's kingdom.

Are you interested in developing your leadership? Are you looking for a place to build your skills and develop your strengths in leadership management and communication? Pastor Bill from Queensland said after doing the course that 'Caleb has given me some new practical skills to use immediately in ministry. It has taught me the tools to develop myself to a new level.'

Caleb provides a comprehensive set of practical leadership skills in relationships and team building, public speaking, motivating, ministry management, creative thinking and decision making skills and training the team. Each skill set is very functional and well exercised in a positive learning environment before being applied in the leaders work context.

Please refer to our website www.caleb.org.au and discover more about what we offer in leadership training and ministry development.

– Mark Young, Director, Caleb Leadership Ministries