

THE NON-NEGOTIABLE COMMITMENT ...

JOSSY Chacko is the founder and International Director of Empart, a global ministry that exists to ignite church planting movements among unreached peoples. Empart's primary goal is to plant 100,000 churches among unreached people in Asia by 2030. This challenging article is reprinted here with permission. May it impact many who will catch the vision! Jossy writes ...

Over the past 18 months I've had the challenge and joy of spending time with the heroes of the Orissa persecution. Our brothers and sisters there have suffered – and are still suffering – for no other reason than their faith in Jesus Christ.



Ps Jossy Chacko

At the same time I have received reports about some of our sponsors and partners reducing their support because of the global economic crisis. Please don't misunderstand me! I know that most of those changes are for genuine reasons. Let me illustrate.

I was talking to the mission director of a large church, and he shared how their missions giving had dropped this year. One consequence is that they have had to reduce their mission commitments.

I wondered where else people were making cuts in their spending – and I found that many products (McDonalds, Coke, plasma TVs etc) have actually reported growth, and predict that this will continue. However, it seems that despite the global economic crisis, spending is not being cut back in all areas.

So why is giving to missions being impacted? Is the Great Commission a 'negotiable commitment' for our Western cultures and so it can be varied according to our situation?

I am glad to report that our Church Planters have not dropped out, or cut back their hours, through lack of support. Over the past 12 months 380 Church Planters have not had sponsorship but they are still out there reaching the lost.

Where Are The Sponsors?

In recent weeks we have sent out another 250 Church Planters into unreached regions of North India – and most of them are yet to be sponsored.

It is with heavy heart that I had to write them a letter: 'I am very sorry ... I am not able to find enough sponsors ... so we

are not sure if you will get any support when you plant your new churches...'

One response was from Pastor James and he wrote, 'Pastor Jossy, we are committed to go at any cost. The Great Commission is non-negotiable for us.'

Fruit was served at a recent pastors' conference in India, and Prakash grinned at me as he ate. 'It's about eight months since I've had fruit because it has become very expensive.'

Pastor Charles shared how they have been having lots of prayer and fasting meetings. 'It is a good way to turn a negative into a positive, when we have no food.' (Charles' wife will soon have her first child.)

While we throw away excess food, these Church Planters tighten their belts to go and preach. I don't usually share things like this because I don't want to make you feel bad, but inside I am often in turmoil because I know how they live over there, and I also know how we live in the West.

The Apostle Paul pleaded with the Corinthian church to give, and to help the poor and struggling church in Jerusalem. I now want to plead with you to help. (Please read 2 Corinthians 8.9-15; 11-15.)

From your abundance (or as a sacrificial act) can you find \$50 a month to help these servants of God? At least for a year to begin with?

Right now we have profiles for Church Planters, with their photos and stories – all waiting for you to call!

I am asking unashamedly – in fact I beg you – please support these brothers and sisters in Christ today. In eternity you will be so glad you did.

– Jossy Chacko

– www.empart.org or call 1300 EMPART

PO Box 980 (3/14 Railway Cres) Croydon, Vic 3136

On a personal note I (Barbara Wilson) had the privilege of working with Jossy and Jenny Chacko when they were students at the Bible College of Victoria. Cliff and I are both greatly impressed by this work, and regard it as another example of the Acts of the Apostles continuing today. We believe that in this article Jossy is stressing a spiritual principle to which we all should take heed and respond.



Graduates now ready to be Church Planters

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE WITH THE WILSONS



Fundraising For Cambodia

KEN and Shirley Martin, Interserve Australia Inc are organising an afternoon with the Hills Angels Celtic Harpists to raise funds for His Child Orphanage in Cambodia. This will be held at Kilsyth Baptist Church, Liverpool Road, Kilsyth on 13 September at 2.30 pm. Entry is \$10 per head. Phone 03 9762 8954 for further details.

Many Languages Still Without The Bible

THE Bible Society of New Zealand says there are still 4,430 languages without any part of the Bible. This represents about 350 million people.

ESA Prayer Points

PETER, Joash and Geoff Falcke are preparing for a 4 x 4 camp from 14-16 August. Pray for safety and wisdom.

Pray also for ESA's regular work in schools throughout Victoria. Remember too the leaders and staff as they plan for Spring camps and continue to recover from the impact of the bushfires.

Equip Training

THIS is an accredited Higher Education Institute and the training arm of SIL Australia. It has been functioning in various forms and locations since 1950. Now it offers a unique combination of subjects and is accredited with the Australian government. See www.equip.edu.au for details.

Prayer Retreat

THE European Christian Mission Aus/NZ announce a prayer retreat to be held from 31 August to 4 September at Tahlee Conference Centre, Port Stephens. Rev Brian Stewart will be the guest speaker. Phone 02 9747 5446 for details or email ecmoz@optusnet.com.au.

Connect09 Day Of Prayer

SYDNEY Anglicans are invited to The Chapter House, St Andrews Cathedral on 28 August from 10am to 2pm to pray for Sydney's regions, to connect with Sydney's Muslim community, to facilitate outreach, for indigenous churches and mission, and for openings within the Sudanese community.
– www.connect09.sydneyanglicans.net.

Changes In The Kimberleys

THE Woman's Christian Temperance Union reports that there is a voluntary liquor ban among pregnant women in the Kimberley region because 90% of pregnant women are alcoholics and babies have Foetal Alcohol Syndrome. – *WCTU 03 9879 0357*

National Marriage Day

TO promote a renewed culture of marriage within our nation a special breakfast will be held in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra on 13 August. The keynote speaker is Dr James Bogle, National Marriage Ambassador for 2009. Details may be obtained from 02 6383 4242 or from www.marriageday.org.au

ReachAcross (Red Sea Mission Team)

THEY praise God for His leading in the International Executive Council meetings that were held recently in Birmingham. Pray for their workers who are actively involved in contact with Muslim friends. Especially remember Len and Wendy in Australia.

Rhema Newcastle

MUCH praise is being given to God for the finance He has provided - they are just \$40,000 short of their target of \$275,000 which will enable them to continue reaching out to their area. Their new website is being finished and is www.rhemafm.com.au

Halls Gap Youth Camp

THIS is run by ESA, and will be held at Norval Lodge Halls Gap from 19-24 September. It is for 10-16 year olds. Contact Bruce on 03 5339 5783 for details.

God At Work In Cambodia

BRIAN Harper serves with Biblical Foundations International and reports on what God has recently done in that country. Some 40 Khmer Rouge are facing the courts, one of whom was responsible for the torture centre where hundreds if not thousands suffered and died. It is reported that this man now claims to be a Christian and many are accepting his confession as genuine. Pray that this is indeed so.

Searching For The Ark

DR Randall Price from the World of the Bible in Texas is currently on Mount Ararat with a team doing more research into the possible site of Noah's Ark.

The weather has been atrocious and the team has had to move further down the mountain to escape the freezing conditions at the summit. After the brief respite they moved back to the summit and continued their search.

Word has now been received that the summit is experiencing very high winds (possibly as high as 100 mph) which threaten their tents and equipment. Please pray for safety. – admin@worldofthebible.net

2009 Petrie

Oration

DR Bruce Winter, Principal of the Queensland Theological College will be speaking at the Australian Institute of Archaeology, La Trobe University, on Friday 7 August, at 8pm. His topic is 'First Corinthians Off The Rocks'. Details from Christopher Davey 0421 595 966.

Honoured For Faithful Service

RAY and Fran Mackaway and Eric Warren were honoured by Global Recordings Network Australia on 8 August. The Mackaways had served for 40 years. GRN Australia is needing Bible College graduates with computer skills to train as recordists.

ReachOut Mission, Katoomba

THIS will be held over 15 and 16 August. Pray that many young people will be impacted for God and for His service.

The Church Has Doubled in Peru

SIM reports that over the past 10 years the evangelical church in Peru has doubled in numbers. More and more are studying the Scriptures through Theological Training by Extension courses. Pray for many more to begin studying and being motivated to live for Christ as a burning light.

Meet the New National Director!

THE Australian Evangelical Alliance Inc invites those readers who live in Perth to meet the new Director, Pam Thyer, on 22 August. Contact 03 9890 0633 for details.

Encountering The Middle East

MIDDLE East Christian Mission invites you to go to the Middle East with one of their 'Encounter' teams over the coming Australian summer. – *Find out more at www.aboutmeco.org/encounter*

Special Prayer Request ^

DUE to some upcoming staff changes within the national office of Global Interaction, they are looking to appoint a new person to the position of Personal/Executive Assistant. They request that others join them in prayer as they seek to fill this role with the person of God's choice.

Please pray that God would prompt the right person to apply, and that He would give wisdom to those leading the recruitment process. Also, pray for the smooth running of the national office during this time of transition.

Thank you for your partnership in this process. – tspicer@globalinteraction.org.au

OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES ...

NO HANDS, BUT LOOK AT THIS PICTURE ...

IT'S no wonder that retired journalist Larry Noye sent this wonderful story to *New Life*. It's about a quadriplegic who is a great example of overcoming incredible odds.

Glenn Barnett is a 62 year old former pastor living in Port Lincoln (SA) and he confesses that he has had a very full life. It involved painting, study, and an effective church ministry.

The Unexpected Happened

This is astonishing – for at 15 he dived into shallow water and became a helpless quadriplegic. Glenn was the son of a tuna fisherman, and had made trips out to sea as a boy, but all that was suddenly changed.

He learned to overcome his severe handicap as can be seen by the accompanying painting. He became a mouth and foot artist in the Dawson Ranges, and his sensitive and impressive style is clearly shown – perhaps especially in the background clouds.

One year after his physical tragedy Glenn began learning to work with a brush in his mouth or foot. His social activity consisted of getting about with a group of teenagers, and enjoying 'the booze thing' and mixing with the nurses who cared for him.

Meeting one particular nurse was important. She was Avriel Saunders, of Morris Hospital, which was an Adelaide centre for severe injuries, now known as Hampstead. He greatly appreciated her care for him, and their friendship grew.

Marriage – And Then ...

Avriel was already a Christian, and Glenn also became a Christian. They wed in 1971 when he was 24.

He continued his education, right up to PhD standard, writing notes with a pen in his mouth.

He also joined the Mouth and Foot Painting Association, which was to give him financial security, friends in many places, and a life of travel across Australia and even beyond.

(That Association has its Australian

headquarters in Sydney, but its outreach is world-wide. Far from producing only paintings, it also turns out cards and colour wrappings plus calendars.)

Life In The Ministry

Glenn trained for the ministry at the Bible College of South Australia, and after graduation the couple moved to Queensland where they

served at a church in Bundaberg. In time they returned to their native South Australia where he took up a post at Port Broughton, which is a country town out from Port Pirie.

Today, at 62 years of age, he has retired from the ministry, but he is still involved with a little group known as Koinao, which is part of the Uniting Church at Port Lincoln.

Glenn sees the country as his much preferred place to live, but it has never stopped him from visiting other places, including the foot and mouth world painting headquarters in Liechtenstein, a little principality near Switzerland.

Does Glenn Blame God?

The answer is an emphatic 'No'. As he moves around, he is not 'browned off' about his fate, nor does he live in a state of dissatisfaction towards Almighty God.

He himself puts the question, 'Could God have saved me from such an accident?' Then he makes the further point, 'Well, He is God and He is all powerful. He gives us free will. I personally chose to go up on that local jetty rail, and to dive into water which proved to be too shallow. I am not in the business of blaming God for my own mistake.'

Many people claim they see the Bible as being full of miracles of healing by Jesus and others. However, as Glenn points out, there were far fewer healings than many realise. 'A major outcome of this is that many people, and almost every disabled or



sick Christian, struggles with their life problems and beliefs.' He has encountered such misunderstanding of that situation as he mixes with people, especially those with disabilities.

He states, 'I also want others to hear me as a person who believes God can, and does, heal people. In fact I have prayed for people to be healed and at times God has healed them. However, that is not always God's way.'

God Is Sufficient

This belief has sent him down a path that has enabled him to live life to the full; to be, to do, to learn, to achieve, to enjoy and to live this life that God has given him.

Rev Glenn adds that this has had incredible implications for his whole life. However, he certainly does not forget the part played by his wife, Avriel. She has had to struggle with things not usual for most women. Men could do them easily with their extra strength but Avriel has accomplished so much more than is normally required of a woman. She is fantastic!

The Mouth and Foot Painting Artist Australian headquarters gives leadership to such people who have found the going tough, and welcomes donations and orders for paintings, cards, calendars etc.

– Their address is PO Box 2330
Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012

Phone 02 9319 1352 or phone 02 9698 3933

Website: www.mfpa.com.au

Have You Recommended New Life To A Friend Recently?

Maybe We Should Call This Column 'Points For Preachers!'



'I Will Look At Things Differently Now!'
THOSE words were spoken by John Castran after his dreadful experience of being buried by an avalanche of snow on the Rugged Range in New Zealand. An elderly man who was skiing only a few metres behind him lost his life, but his son Angus Castran turned around and shovelled madly to save his father's life.

As John Castran put it, 'Another five minutes and I wouldn't have been here to tell the story. It's now wonder that I will look

at things differently from now on. It's amazing how quickly life can change. One minute you're bouncing down a metre of snow and then bang! The ground opens up and takes you.'

As Mr Castran himself said, 'Thank God I have a son who can shovel a lot of snow out very quickly.' How true!

In my active preaching days I was always looking for illustrations for my next preaching appointment – Jesus told wonderful stories over and over again.

This story reminded me of our Heavenly Father Who had a Son Who couldn't only shovel snow quickly, but was prepared to give His life to save those who were buried in an avalanche of sin, for which the penalty was death.

Both God and His Son Jesus Christ loved us sinners so much that they were even prepared for Him to give up His life so that we could know His wonderful salvation.

You Can Forget The Need For Dentures!

JAPANESE researchers have implanted bio-engineered seed-like tissue into the jaws of mice so that they can produce new teeth. It has already worked for animals and the scientists hope that in a few years we humans will be able to develop fully functional organs to replace lost or damaged ones – teeth at first and, before very long, other organs too.

The cost of replacing one tooth would be \$4,000, but it would not be available for humans for another 15 years.

There are some animals that can replace damaged organs, but until now that has not been the case with us humans.

Is God involved? Yes! For designers are quick to tell us that the type of stem cells used already contain the instructions for growing teeth. As the Psalmist said, 'It is God Who has formed my inmost parts, He knitted me together in my mother's womb'. (Psalm 139.13ff). We are indeed 'fearfully and wonderfully made.'

Two-Track Communion

IT is reported that the Archbishop of Canterbury says that the Anglican Church might have to accept the need for two different communion celebrations. One would be for 'orthodox' Christians, and the other for persons who hold a different opinion about gay clergy and same sex unions.

Archbishop Rowan Williams said that these are two sides of being Anglican, and both sides should work together.

I'm afraid his suggestion will not be well received by many Anglicans – and other Christians – who hold clearly to the fact that one lifestyle is rejected in the Bible's teaching, and should not be encouraged.

The sharing in a communion service is a

Prayer, Death, And Guilt

His daughter was an 11 year old diabetic. He did not seek medical care for her, even though she was desperately ill.

The prosecutors claim that she should have been rushed to hospital because she could not walk, talk, eat or drink. People surrounded her and prayed. When she stopped breathing someone called for an ambulance.

Earlier the father had begun his studies to become a Pentecostal minister and he believed that God would heal his daughter. He also believed that if he sought medical help he would be disobeying God Who had said He would heal his daughter. The father believed his daughter would be healed.

He was found guilty of second degree reckless homicide, but an appeal is being lodged.

Timothy was urged by the Apostle Paul to 'take a little wine for his stomach sake' (1 Timothy 5.23) – this was because of Timothy's frequent ailments.

recognition of the fact that our sins are forgiven because Christ paid the penalty for sin, and as we take the bread and the wine we recognise that these symbols are speaking of the penalty endured and forgiveness accepted.

We read at 1 Corinthians 11.28, 29, 'Let a man examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. Anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.'

It is true that we must be slow to judge, but yet there is a place for recognising the awfulness of sin, and the greatness of our salvation. We should not lightly share in the communion service which has such a profound meaning.

Clearly legitimate medicine has a place in healing and should be used with a prayer that God will work through the use of medicine. God can indeed heal in response to prayer, but all prayer is dependent on the will of God and at times it is the will of God to say 'No'. A person may be taken to meet his Lord earlier than we would expect. The prayer of faith should always be in accordance with the will of God, and it is quite wrong to blame God if the results are not what we expected them to be.

'Decent Switch In TV Morals'

THAT newspaper heading hardly needs elaboration although it is specifically talking about the wrath of the Australian public with regard to inappropriate programming about sex, violence and moral standards.

This has been brought to a head by a team 'making fun of dying children'. The article rightly says, 'Australians have had enough of such a constant stream of unacceptable and degrading presentations'. Proper moral standards are desirable!

Dr Phil Speaks Out

I do not listen regularly to Dr Phil McGraw's programs, but he presents moral guidelines that are good to hear. He is able to hold an audience for two hours by telling of experiences in his life-long dealing with persons in need – including many who have experienced great tragedy. He is described in Melbourne's *Herald/Sun* as being 'the most famous psychologist in the world ... a man who has done more to take psychology to the masses than any one else ... He shared some personal stories that illustrated the key to a happy life is to take more control of our life ...' We are told he is a man of faith who finds it an important part of mental health. He brings faith and truth together.

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AUSTRALIA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER



Welcome Home, Bob!

BOB Thomas returns as Editor of *New Life* before our next issue, and Barbara and I are especially glad to see him return! We both have enjoyed our work as Acting Editors but it is far more time consuming than most people would believe. We offer a special 'Thank you' to his church (St Kilda Presbyterian) for releasing him from pastoral duties for this period.

Bob's heart is in the pastoral work, and always has been. Nevertheless it has been a very busy time for him, spending time in London and then Zambia. In London he participated in the School of Preaching held at the Metropolitan Tabernacle that was made famous by that great leader of a previous era, Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

The Codex Sinaiticus

We were very glad to receive the front page news for the issue of 23 July regarding the piecing together on-line of 'the oldest Bible' – the Codex Sinaiticus – which had been written in the mid-fourth century. Bob was rightly very excited to be present at the gathering in London when that sensational news broke.

On To Zambia

It was also wonderful to hear of the important contribution he had made to the students at the Presbyterian Theological College in Zambia. This was not Bob's first visit there so he knew the hardships and the difficulties he would endure on yet another visit.

Nevertheless he was especially excited to be asked to lead the first graduation ceremony of students from the college, some who would be going out to establish churches and others to pastor them.

Returning Home

We have been in regular touch with his wife, Alison, and it has been a joy to hear of the way the Lord has used Bob at this time. Another who will be glad to see Bob come back is our Office Manager, Alison King. Then there is Barbara Furman who is now in retirement, but who gladly does the proof reading so efficiently – and there are the ladies who come in each week so faithfully to despatch *New Life* to you our readers.

Much more could be said, but this is meant as a tribute to our editor from the harmonious team which works with him because of our common belief in the importance of *New Life* which has been in existence for over 70 years. Welcome Home Bob!

– Clifford Wilson

Snippets From Around The World!

Christians Protest Lack Of Protection

PAKISTANI Christians want better protection following the recent deadly rampage in eastern Punjab. Although over 100 are in custody, this makes the third attack in a month. Todd Nettleton with Voice of the Martyrs says, 'What the Christians want is some protection. They also want to see the blasphemy laws ended in Pakistan -- the blasphemy laws which are so often used against believers.'

There is risk to being in ministry, but Nettleton says their team accepts it. 'If you're a church planter, if you're a witness for Christ, you know that you're putting your life on the line. But when whole villages are rampaged, it really does raise issues of safety and protection.'

Christian schools closed this week to protest the killings. Nettleton encourages prayer that good will come from this. 'The radical Muslims see how the Christians respond, and if they are able to respond with love and forgiveness instead of anger and hostility, that can be an incredible witness for Christ.'

– MNN

Media Helps Muslims See Christ

MUSLIMS are giving their hearts to Christ after watching 'The Passion of the Christ' and reading the New Testament. The movie was recently shown on national TV in a Muslim-majority nation.

In response 65,000 people requested additional information. Missiologist Dwight McGuire with Pioneers says, 'Out of those, 6,500 were Muslims who asked for New Testaments.'

McGuire also explains, 'Research has shown that mass media is poor at persuading people to consider other religions, but it is effective at identifying people who are in the searching mode.'

'By switching our focus to looking for seekers, we often had over 100,000 respondents, eventually leading to dozens of discussion groups – precursors to cell churches.' Creative use of mass media, national television, videos, text messaging, the Injil (New Testament) and small discussion groups are all integral elements of Pioneers' ministry to see church planting movements begin among the unreached.

Pioneers want to replicate this approach in other nations, and is looking for funding and people with media backgrounds who would like to get involved. Can you help?

– MNN

Muslims Hunger For The Truth

POLITICAL confusion in the Muslim world is leading many to question their faith. Fouad Masri with Crescent Project says this has enabled mission teams to have open conversations with Muslims around the world.

'No more this idea that you take things

without thinking, or take things without questioning. Jesus welcomed questions. So for us in the Christian faith, we want people to ask questions.

'In Islam there was no questioning of the prophet Mohammed. But the new generation of Muslims are asking to change that part of Islam.'

Crescent Project offers a small-group study called 'Bridges' to prepare Christians for dialogue with their Muslim neighbours. 'The majority of Muslims today are never invited into a Christian home. Let's change that! Let's invite them into our homes and tell them that we love them, and discuss what we believe. And if they join us, hallelujah! If they say no, hallelujah! We're going because of the work of Christ on the cross.'

Orphans Lack Essential Care In Russia

A crisis centre in Russia houses 20 orphaned toddlers with just one government official to oversee them.

That's why four women stepped up to create Hannah's Hands – a ministry of Orphan Outreach. They supplement government staff to offer the nurture the kids need to develop cognitively and emotionally. As Christians, they're teaching the children to love each other as Christ loved. Orphan Outreach wants to hire more staff for the program.

– MNN

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

9:00 am Sunday

Rev Stuart Bonnington

08 9398 1304

melbonn@bigpond.com

Teens Raise Money For Needy Kids

BARRETT Mills may be only 15-years-old, but he has a passion for the ministry of World Hope International. When he heard about children from an Indian leprosy colony who needed a new van to get to school, he knew he had to do something.

At the end of July, Barrett and three friends rode their bikes 400 miles from Holland, Michigan, to Mackinaw City, raising the total \$16,000 needed to replace the run-down 1961 jeep.

You're never too young to make a difference in God's Kingdom! – MNN

Global Interaction Prayer And Praise

PRAY for rain in the many areas of the world where it is desperately needed. In Thailand many people are worried that their rice paddies are not receiving adequate rain to ensure food supplies for the year ahead.

Praise God that Dema and Carolyn's visas have been approved so that they can come to Australia for training and to develop a partnership team. (Dema and Carolyn are seconded to Global Interaction from the Baptist Churches of Mizoram.) Pray for peace and safety in their journey to Australia and ask that they will feel warmly welcomed into the Global Interaction family.

Remember the families and close support networks of all Global Interaction cross-cultural workers and candidates. These people play an integral role in supporting, praying for, and encouraging the staff.

Pray for the Outback Xposure team from Portland Baptist, Victoria, which headed to Outback Australia on 7 August. Pray that this will be a valuable and encouraging time in which they learn much about God, themselves, and cross-cultural mission.

CHRISTIANS IN THE ACTION ...

Turtles Take to the Sea for Training

EARLIER this year Christian Radio Missionary Fellowship received a request for a training session to be conducted at Heldsbach in the Finschhafen area of Morobe Province, PNG.

In the past people have come to CRMF at Goroka for training but this time the Lutheran Development Service (LDS) had a number of people they wanted to train so it was far more economical for the trainer to go to them.

So after paying for a couple of extra seats for our luggage we took off on a PMV (Public Motor Vehicle) from Goroka and travelled down from the Highlands to the coastal city of Lae. We spent the afternoon and night at the Lutheran guest house there and were able to walk around the compound.

Of special interest was the old church that has been refurbished in recent years. During the war years it was taken over by the Japanese and used as a hospital.

Next day we headed for the wharf where we boarded the Lutheran shipping catamaran for a relaxing sea journey along the coast. On arriving at the wharf we still had to make a 40 minute journey further up the coastal road to Heldsbach.

The first Lutheran missionary arrived in this area from the Barossa Valley in South Australia in 1886 and was subsequently joined by others from Germany and Australia. Heldsbach was founded as the sixth station in 1904 and is named after missionary Held who died a short time after his arrival in New Guinea.

In its hey day the station was quite a

busy place with schools, cattle projects and agricultural projects as well as the Word of God being brought to the people. We benefited from the mango trees planted by those missionaries many years ago.

Norm led the training each day and included theoretical as well as practical sessions

relating to electricity, batteries, solar panels, inverters, radios and antennas. The core of 10 of the 20 the students were LDS workers who are placed in remote villages to promote and teach practical skills in building, agriculture and maintenance.

I joined the other students mostly Tok Pisin speakers, who were ring-ins joining the class because it was being held locally and we probably understood very little of the technical details, but my excuse was not a language problem.

HF Radio is the means of communication in these isolated places, but the radio is no good if it and antennas and batteries are not maintained properly. Hopefully the students left the course after 3 days better equipped to keep their equipment in a workable state.

Norm and I enjoyed the hospitality



Norm Turtle leading the training

offered by the missionary couple and the meals provided by a lady from the village. We got to drive into the mountains behind Heldsbach and to see the many villages scattered around that area. We also had time to take a walk along the beach and hear the waves tumbling over the smooth boulders.

As a former teacher who was assigned playground duty to watch high school students, I was amused to see the pre-schoolers in the room below the training room, sent out to cut the grass with their bush knives one morning, and they swung those knives faster when they saw the camera!

Soon it was time to take to the sea again for our return journey to Lae and then back to the cool highlands climate in Goroka.

– Chris Turtle
Administrator

An advertisement for a tour of Oberammergau, Germany, in 2010. The ad features a collage of images: a large domed building at night, a mountain landscape with a church, and a close-up of a dinosaur's head. The text provides details about the tour, including dates (April 25 to May 25, 2010), the organizers (Bob and Leanne Rogers), and contact information for Integrity Travel. It also mentions that Bob Rogers is a lecturer in Old Testament at Malyon College.

Oberammergau 2010 ~ 30 April-25 May 2010
Join Bob and Leanne Rogers of Stafford Heights Baptist on a 26 day tour of Israel and The Imperial Capitals of Europe finishing with the Oberammergau Passion Play. Limited seats available - contact Bob on 07 3359 6855 or Integrity Travel on 07 3863 1007 for itinerary and application.
Bob Rogers is a lecturer in Old Testament at Malyon College.

See itinerary - www.shbc.org.au www.integritytravel.com.au

Integrity Travel

A CALL TO PRAY FOR PAKISTAN

BLASPHEMY LAWS AND IMPUNITY MUST END



Elizabeth Kendall

PAKISTAN'S infamous Blasphemy Laws (Articles 295 b and 295 c of the Penal Code) were introduced in the 1980s as the nation was undergoing a process of Islamisation under General Zia. Defiling of the Qur'an and blasphemy ('derogatory remarks') against Muhammad, the founder of Islam, are criminal offences punishable by life in prison or death. The blasphemy laws are frequently used as instruments of persecution, most commonly by Muslims with non-religious motives such as a desire to seize Christian land or close a Christian business. A simple uncorroborated accusation is enough to have the accused (who is guilty until proven innocent) removed through imprisonment or murder (honour killing).

As reported in RLPB 012, after a local Christian was falsely accused of blasphemy, a rampaging mob of some 600 armed Muslims looted and torched 110 homes belonging to Christians on the evening of 30 June in Bahmani Wala, Punjab Province. A 'reconciliation' was brokered in which the Christian victims were encouraged not to press charges or protest, but to accept a 'compensation' payment. This was despite the fact that impunity only encourages more persecution.

On Sunday 26 July Muslims in the

Punjabi village of Korian allegedly found pages of an Islamic book in a garbage tin outside a Christian's home. Police registered a case against the Christian. Muslims then rampaged against the local Christian community on the night of Thursday 30 July, torching 47 homes and forcing the village's 500 Christians to flee for their lives.

Also on 30 July, Muslims rioted against Christians in Gojra, a small city about 350km south-west of Islamabad in the Faisalabad region of Punjab Province, after a rumour spread that a Christian had desecrated a Qur'an. The accused Christian was arrested but subsequently released after an investigation cleared him of the charge.

The next day (Friday) prayer leaders called through their mosque loudspeakers for every Christian to be killed. On Saturday 1 August, hundreds of militants armed with fuel and weapons flooded in from Jhang, a neighbouring district that is a militant stronghold. When about a thousand Muslims had gathered in Gojra, they advanced on the Christian colony. Before long, one church and at least 40 homes were in flames, six Christians had been burnt to death and two more were fatally shot. Numerous other Christians were wounded, many with burns.

Christians say the police ignored their pleas for help.

Dotted with fundamentalist madrassas, the Faisalabad region is a stronghold of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) led by former premier Nawaz Sharif. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which leads the government in Islamabad, draws most of its support in Gojra from minority communities.

Investigations by *Asia Times Online* confirmed that the attackers came from two distinct groups: Muslim clerics and militants, and non-political activists including traders' associations. It appears likely that a false blasphemy accusation was made against Christians by Muslims with vested political, and or business interests. After a rudimentary investigation cleared the accused Christians, Islamic fundamentalists and militants moved to exploit the heightened Islamic zeal and social tension for their own ends.

Justice is imperative if the pogroms are to be stemmed. Concerning the Gojra pogrom, Bishop Almas Hameed Masih has registered with the police a complaint case against 800 unknown and 15 named individuals. It includes the province's administration which failed to protect the Christian community despite advance warnings that a murderous pogrom was being planned. Also at the behest of the Pakistan Christian Congress, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in Lahore has agreed to conduct an investigation into the 30 June pogrom against Christians in Bahmani Wala.

– Elizabeth Kendal (ANS)-

PLEASE PRAY SPECIFICALLY THAT:

Pakistan's Blasphemy Laws will be repealed. Impunity will end, and those who have made false accusations, those who have incited violence and those who have perpetrated violence will be identified and prosecuted according to the rule of law. Pakistan's Muslim masses will reject the sectarian incitement of Islamic fundamentalists and militants, opting instead for the true peace that only Christ can bring. God will protect His vulnerable, embattled Church in Pakistan and give deep peace and comfort to those who are grieving and living in fear; may He be their provider and the Rock of their Refuge in these troubled and frightening times. 'I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.' (Psalm 61:2b NIV)

UK Youth Movement Draws 28,000
NOW in its 17th year the growing UK-based youth movement *Soul Survivor* is reaching increasing numbers of young people each year through their summer celebrations by simply giving them space to meet God, according to one of their key leaders Mike Pilavachi.

This larger than life Greek has an infectious sense of humour and incredible enthusiasm that appeals to the younger generation. I witnessed this first hand this summer at Staffordshire Showground in the midlands of England, with more than 3,500 in attendance, a significant increase on last year's attendance of around 2,500.

Soul Survivor grew out of an Anglican church, St Andrew's Chorleywood, that was equipping Christians to live for Christ.



Mike Pilavachi

– Peter Wooding, ANS

'BEARING ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS' –

A Special Message from Dan Wooding



Dan Wooding

Dan Wooding reporting from Kurdistan, Iraq, writes: 'Greetings to you all from Irbil, the capital city of Kurdistan in Northern Iraq!

'I am here with a team of some 20 teachers, educators and ministers led by Dr

Sharon Linzey from Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California, to help start Kurdistan's first Bible School.

'This week, the team will be teaching the first Bible School classes in the churches of Irbil and Karemies. Friends from churches in Kirkuk, Karemies and Dohuk will be joining us in Irbil for the teaching ministry.

'We have already met many of the political leaders of Kurdistan and also been to the sites of some of Saddam Hussein's worst atrocities against the Kurds such the 1988 Anfal genocide where Kenneth Roth, director of Human Rights Watch, has referred to '100,000 Kurdish men and boys machine-gunned to death' during this terrible episode.

'We also visited Halabja, scene of the infamous poison gas attack that occurred in the period 16-17 March 1988, during the Iran-Iraq War.

'The attack killed instantly thousands of people (3,200-5,000 dead on the spot) and injured 7,000-10,000, most of them civilians. Thousands more died of horrific complications, diseases, and birth defects in the years after the attack.

'The incident, which Human Rights Watch defined as an act of genocide, was as of 2009 the largest-scale chemical weapons attack directed against a civilian-populated area in history.

'I had previously decided to not reveal where I was at this time, but so far our team of mainly Americans have been featured on national TV here in Kurdistan on four separate occasions and wherever we go, we are followed by camera crews. So I thought that as it is no longer a secret, I'd let you have this update.

'Please be in prayer for the rest of our trip. Blessings to you all!'

– Dan Wooding ANS

Franklin Graham Says, 'Give Thanks'

EVANGELIST Franklin Graham, president of the relief organisation Samaritan's Purse, says he hopes those who prayed for the release of two US journalists imprisoned in North Korea, have been thanking God for answered prayer.

He told CNN's Larry King: 'I hope everyone who's watching that has said a prayer for these two young ladies will just thank God for answering prayer.'

Graham, who visited North Korea twice, in 2000 and 2008, also thanked Bill Clinton, the State Department and President Obama – 'everyone that had a part in getting these young ladies back home to their families.'

Larry King had asked Graham if he was surprised the two reporters were given amnesty by North Korea's Kim Jong-Il and allowed to go free?

'No, Larry, I wasn't surprised,' Graham responded. 'North Korea wants to move on, Larry. The United States has some very serious issues before us. And, of course, those nuclear weapons – the six party talks in Beijing have fallen apart. The North Koreans have said they will not go back to the six party format. We need to be talking



Franklin Graham

directly, I think, to the North Koreans. There may need to be someone like President Bill Clinton getting involved in this kind of negotiation, because this is serious.

'I'm so proud of our country and thank God for this nation. But the fact that the president, the former president, would go to North Korea to help free these two young ladies, I just thank God for him.

'You know, we've been praying for a long time that God would somehow maybe send an angel to these girls. I shouldn't call them girls – these young ladies. And I'm sure when they opened up that door and

they saw President Clinton – former President Clinton – standing there, I'm sure he looked maybe like an angel to them.

'I thank God for what he did. And I hope that we can move this nation forward now in some kind of credible negotiations with the North. That's so important, Larry.

'This is the most dangerous area of the world. We are doing various relief projects. It is a dangerous part of the world and we have to pay attention to this.' ...

'You believe in answered prayers, don't you?' King asked Graham.

'I do, Larry. I know my mother and father prayed for me for many years. I was 22 years old when I gave my life to Jesus Christ. And it changed my life and I see what prayer has done for me. I'm just a sinner that's been saved by God's grace, and Jesus Christ died for my sins on a cross, and He was raised to life.

'Larry, if anyone confesses their sins and asks Christ into their heart, God will forgive them. Christ died for me. I don't serve a God where I have to die for him. He died for me, Larry.'

– Michael Ireland, ANS

PERSECUTION WATCH ...

'Remember those in prison ... and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.'
(Hebrews 13.3)



Irena Sendler – Lest We Forget ...

A 98 year-old lady named Irena Sendler recently passed to be with her Lord. During WWII, Irena, got permission to work in the Warsaw Ghetto, as a Plumbing/Sewer specialist. She had an 'ulterior motive' ... She knew what the Nazi's plans were for the Jews (being German.)

Irena smuggled infants out in the bottom of the tool box she carried and she carried in the back of her truck a burlap sack for larger kids.

She also had a dog in the back that she trained to bark when the Nazi soldiers let her in and out of the ghetto. The soldiers of course wanted nothing to do with the dog

and the barking covered the kids/infants' noises.

During her time of doing this, she managed to smuggle out and save 2,500 kids/infants.

She was caught, and the Nazi's broke



both her legs, arms and beat her severely.

Irena kept a record of the names of all the kids she smuggled out, and kept them in a glass jar which she buried under a tree in her back yard.

After the war she tried to locate any parents that may have survived it, and reunited the family. Most had been gassed. Those kids she helped got placed into foster family homes or adopted.

Last year Irena was up for the Nobel Peace Prize. She was not selected. Al Gore won, for a slide show on Global Warming. But what a powerful message for peace from Irena! – Go to www.snopes.com for more?

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH!

Christians Robbed And Intimidated

DOZENS of Christian families in Katin village in the Saravan province of Laos have been warned that they will lose their homes and livestock if they refuse to abandon their faith and worship the 'local spirits' of Lao tradition.

On 5 July a group of villagers, including some leaders and members of the volunteer security forces, broke into the pig pens of recent converts to Christianity and confiscated a pig from each of nine families (comprising 53 people). One pig is worth about six weeks' wages for an average labourer in the area. Later the attackers slaughtered the animals and divided the meat among

themselves. Officials stated that the families had been punished for ignoring an order forbidding them to believe in the Christian faith.

Then on 11 July all the villagers were required by the village chief to attend a special meeting. The officials issued an order that stated, 'Those who follow the Christian faith are practising a foreign religion, not a religion of Laos. We have banned the Christian faith in our village. Thus, the residents of Katin village should follow only the belief in the spirits ... the Lao religion. If any villager ... is found following the Christian faith ... he or she will no longer be under the official provision and protection of the vil-

lage.' Without such protection, the Christians will be liable to the seizure of their remaining animals and their property.

The constitution of Laos guarantees freedom of religion, and the actions of the village authorities clearly violates its provisions. In practice, however, the government is concerned about the spread of Christianity, and pressure is growing in rural areas.

Please pray for the villagers who have been threatened with ruin. Ask that the Lord will protect their homes and livelihoods. Pray for the village authorities, and for the Lao government, that they will honour their country's commitment to religious freedom for all.
– Barnabas Fund

Not Allowed To Go To Church

GAFUR Yusupov lives in a home for people with disabilities in Fergana, eastern Uzbekistan. He has been banned by the director of the home from attending the local church of which he is a member.

Gafur has no legs, so over the last few years, church members have taken him to Sunday services in a wheelchair.

The director of the home has confiscated Gafur's Christian books and audio tapes, and has forbidden him having any contact with his fellow believers. He has even been prevented from going to the gates of the home to talk to church members who try to visit him.

When his fellow Christians complained about this to staff at the home, they were

told to talk to the National Security Service. The director confirmed that Gafur is prohibited from attending church, apparently because 'he was distributing religious literature here [in the home]'.

The authorities in Uzbekistan continue to harass and raid Christian communities, confiscate and destroy religious literature, and imprison and fine individual believers (fines can be up to 100 times the monthly salary).

Gafur is just one of many Christians in Uzbekistan who have been persecuted for being active Christians or sharing their faith.

Pray for Gafur in his isolated situation, that the director of the home will relent and allow Gafur to meet with his fellow Christians again.

– Barnabas Fund

Bombs Detonated

IN July Christians came under attack as a number of bombs were detonated outside Christian sites across Baghdad and Mosul. Seven churches were badly damaged in the attacks, with one building set ablaze.

In Baghdad, a car bomb was timed to explode outside a prominent church just as worshippers were leaving the Sunday evening service, resulting in the deaths of four Christians and dozens injured.

Authorities in the northern city of Mosul responded to the explosions by introducing temporary curfews in Christian neighbourhoods. Allegedly these are to provide protection to the community, but they are thought unlikely to prevent similar attacks from being staged. Pray. – Barnabas Fund

Saving Jewish lives in the Diaspora

STORKS in nests high up on lamp posts ... patriotic Soviet memorials of Lenin ... tanks, planes or soldiers ... muddy, pot-holed roads ... endless blocks of typically Eastern European housing. Then there are horse-drawn carts ... women in head scarves working in fields ... grim, Soviet-style architecture ... Orthodox churches with their 'onion domes' – these are some of the images which remain from a week travelling in Ukraine. There are also pictures of hardship, deprivation and poverty for millions of people which can't be erased from one's memory.

I was travelling with Chevra, a humanitarian aid organisation that was established over ten years ago in neighbouring Slovakia, with a calling from God to minister to Jewish people living in former Soviet Union countries – Ukraine is one of them.

'Comfort, O comfort My people' (Isaiah 40.1) is Chevra's ministry, and director Stanislaw Gawel says it's all about 'doing the practical work of the Lord, feeding the hungry, and putting spirituality into practice.' The needs are huge, and if people didn't have help with food, they would not survive.

'This is the time to bring hope,' he says. 'They are desperately poor. Many of them are elderly and went through ghettos and concentration camps, but many are young, some even children. The people we minister to are very grateful for everything, because they have nothing,' he says.

The most common need is to feed people with food packages, and at soup kitchens, and to provide medicine. Chevra also repairs houses or provides something practical to help people survive – such as heaters to endure the long, harsh winters.

Ukraine became independent in 1991 and since then, dramatic social changes have meant increased suffering for the Jews. Many lack the basic necessities of life and the vast majority live on the verge of poverty.

Many can afford only one hot meal every two or three days, and most live on the basic pension of only \$AUD 85 per month.

Social services are few and far between, and health care is minimal. As someone told us, 'You can't be sick today because it's a very bad thing to be sick in Ukraine.'

The situation is particularly difficult with medicine. Says Gawel: 'People are dying because of a lack of medicine – it's too expensive for them. People are not thinking of food or clothing now, but how they can buy medicine.'

We visit Bella in Berdychiv, 150 kms from Kiev. Thousands of Jews were murdered here during the Holocaust. Bella has heart disease and her whole pension is spent on medicine.

In Korostychiv, the location of more horrendous Holocaust massacres, Basya has had an unsuccessful eye operation. She needs injections and medicine which are almost impossible for her to afford.

The spiritual aspect is vitally important in Chevra's work. 'We need to feed people physically, to bring them into good health, but also spiritually, to bring them into eternal life,' says Gawel.



Many elderly Jewish people are in need

'It is our responsibility to bring the Gospel to them. We in the Gentile Church need to have a heart for the Jews, who gave us our Messiah, our Bible, our salvation.'

Soup kitchens are a real witness, and are an opportunity to share the Good News. Setting up a kitchen involves finding the right team on the ground – people with a heart for the Jews. The meals 'don't just happen' and Chevra needs people with 'big hearts.' He quotes Isaiah 6: 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' Behind each meal, he says, is a practical outworking ... it's all because someone gave.

'The Lord puts love for the Jewish people into their hearts and that motivates them to give.'

Some people ask, 'Why the Jews?' They say that a lot of Ukrainians have hard lives



Vicki Francis on the Mt of Olives

too, but, as Gawel says, no-one was affected as much as the Jews. 'You can see tragedy in their faces. They lost parents, family members in the war ... it affected their whole lives. No-one suffered as much as the Jews,' he says.

Chevra also helps people make aliyah (Jewish immigration) to Israel, but many are elderly or in poor health, or destitute, and cannot emigrate. Chevra ministers to the needs of those who cannot leave, such as Raia. She is 79, bed-ridden, and lives in Korosten, not far from the site of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Half her pension is spent on medicine. She wanted to make aliyah with her cousins, but got brain damage after an operation and went blind. She could not leave and was 'left behind'. If Raia didn't receive food parcels, she would not survive.

Chevra takes seriously the words of the Lord – 'I was hungry and you fed me'. Feeding 20 people a month at a soup kitchen costs around \$US600 (\$AUD 725). Food packages cost \$US10 (\$AUD 12) per month each. But Gawel says it's not about money or numbers, it's about the Holy Spirit. 'We must stand before the Lord and do whatever He tells us to do. It's about people's hearts – it's between them and the Lord. Show the needs,' says Gawel, 'and if the Lord speaks to someone's heart, they will step into the projects.'

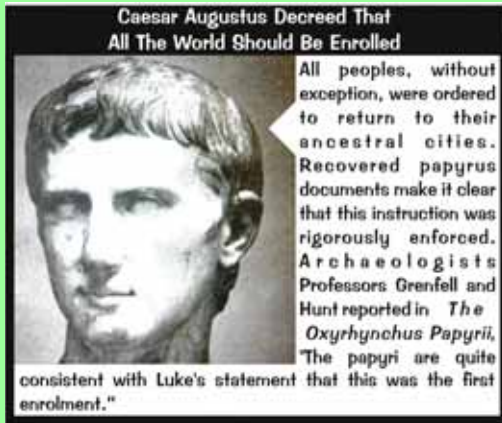
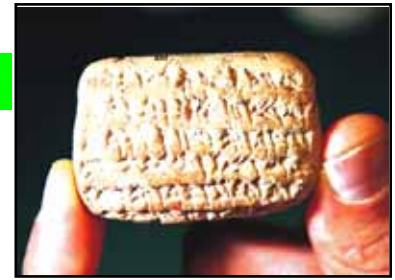
'The combination of financial with human resources is a powerful tool in God's hands.'

'We have testimonies of people who survived because someone stepped into the need. It's not a matter of money. It's a matter of whose hearts are broken for the Jewish people.'

– Visit www.chevra.sk, or email Vicki Francis (vickirae@xtra.co.nz)

Evidence For The Defence Of The Gospel

Continued from 8 August



L. The Person Of Our Lord Jesus.

Following the pattern that we have given in this series, space allows us to deal with only one evidence in this issue, others will be dealt with in future issues of 'New Life'.

1) Problems about the census at the time of His birth have been resolved.

Critics claimed that Luke chapter 2 included four major errors about the birth of Jesus:

- That the census, or enrolment, took place in Herod's reign, as decreed by the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus.
- That everyone had to return to their ancestral home.
- That everyone – without exception – who was in the Roman Empire was involved.
- That Quirinius was the Governor of Syria.

We now know that the enrolment decree was issued by Emperor Caesar Augustus and subservient kings like Herod did submit to Augustus and other emperors – an enrolment did take place as Luke stated.

We also know from Egyptian records that enrolments took place at 14 year intervals, instituted by Caesar Augustus and continuing for 200 years.

The archaeologist Dr A.S. Hunt writes in *The Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* (1, 1914, p.88): 'It is from the papyri that we gain our knowledge of the periodic census ... The object of this census was taxation, and the cycle of 14 years depended on the fact that 14 was fixed as the age at which the "poll" tax became payable.'

Drs Grenfell and Hunt have this further comment: 'The conclusion to which the data

on both sides converge is that the 14 years' census cycle was instituted by Augustus ... moreover the papyri are quite consistent with St. Luke's statement that this was the 'first enrolment'. (The Oxyrhynchus Papyri Part II, p.211.)

Another quotation from Grenfell and Hunt is relevant: 'Augustus certainly instituted the so-called provincial census or valuation of property throughout the

provinces; and there is nothing in the Egyptian Papyri inconsistent with the belief that when Augustus instituted the 14 year census' cycle, he also at the same time ordered

district to return to their own home to perform the usual business of the taxation.' (British Museum Pap. No 904.)

Another letter is from a man to his sister, asking her to enrol him. 'I cannot come', he writes, 'See if you can enrol me.' He doubted if his excuse for his absence would be successful so he stresses at the end of his letter, 'Do not neglect this my sister, and write to me about the enrolment, whether you have done it or not, and reply to me and I will come and enrol myself.' (Merrill F. Unger, *Archaeology and the NT*, p.64.)

Against this background we are better able to understand what Luke tells us at chapter 2.3 and 4; 'And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. So Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of

David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David.'

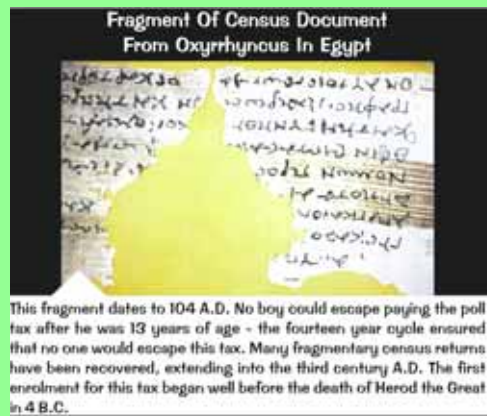
Many returned, Romans, Egyptians, freedmen, slaves and 'all the world' – ie all the 'inhabited world' as Luke puts it, were enrolled. Archaeology endorses this intention.

The old criticism that Joseph was not obliged to return to Bethlehem was unfounded. 'All must return to their own home' is what is in the edict of AD 104, and that is the picture that Luke gives as the time

approaches for Jesus' birth at Bethlehem.

Jesus was of the House of David, so Bethlehem was to be His birthplace – just as Micah predicted in one of the clearest of the Old Testament Messianic prophecies where Bethlehem was actually named (Micah 5.2). That was amazing, but it was true. Such messianic prophecies are wonderful demonstrations that the Bible is indeed inspired!

Drs Clifford and Barbara Wilson have updated their popular book *New Light On The Gospels* and it is available through 'New Life' for \$7.00 plus \$3.00 p&h. Many coloured pictures, mainly photographs, are included. **This is a must for your library!**



a valuation of property which was the first of a series...'

The Gospel writer Luke wrote long before these papyri were discovered. Luke 2.1 and 2 date the new census to the time of Augustus and to the authority of Quirinius in Syria. Archaeological findings have endorsed that, despite earlier criticisms.

Returning To The Ancestral Home
Papyrus documents from Egypt have shown that the census did take place in the time of Caesar Augustus. Luke also declares that at this time everyone must return to their ancestral home: 'Since enrolment by household is approaching it is necessary to command all who for any reason are out of their

SPREADING THE GOSPEL THROUGH MUSIC ...

From Abandoned Orphan to Top Music College



TWENTY-one-year-old Tapiwa Kudak-washe Mugadza – ‘Taps’ for short – couldn’t have gotten off to a more difficult start in life. For, when he was just two

days old he was abandoned on the doorstep of an orphanage in Harare, Zimbabwe, in southern Africa.

In Africa tribal identity is important, and a person carries a tribal identity and heritage that is very important in African culture.

‘I had no identity, in fact, based on my appearance many thought my family was from far away in West Africa. But no one really knew where I was from,’ he went on.

No Family, No Identity And Without Hope

‘I spent most of my early childhood at this orphanage home. When I was eight years old I was suddenly moved to a completely different home. It was terribly traumatic to be taken from the only home you have ever known ... But I was forced into the vehicle with four other boys and taken to another orphanage where I spent most of my teenage years.’

Music Was A Release For His Pain

One of those four boys became sick and people said it could be cancer. ‘One morning we were all ready for school and my friend who was sick didn’t come to break-

fast,’ he recalled. ‘I ran to his bed and shook him, pulled down the covers and realized he was dead. We knew he was sick, but we just didn’t know he was that sick. It was terrible.’ Very suddenly Tapiwa’s group of friends – the ‘5’ became just four.

‘At an early age, I found a place to release my pain. All the pain of unanswered questions was released into my music. I found that when I would sing to myself, it brought me an inner peace in such a special way.

He went on to say, ‘My love for music is not a premature love, but it has been built through years. I believe it is not what you get from a dying world that matters, but it’s what you give to a world in need.’

One day a church group came to visit the boys’ home, and one of the church members gave an old beat-up guitar to his friend. It had but four strings, and none of them knew how to play it, but when Tapiwa played with that old guitar he made music!

God used music to radically change his life – and what an amazing change! He gave his life to Christ, and his Lord became the father he never had. He saturated himself with the gospel. Within three years, Tapiwa Mugadza, the shy forgotten orphan with no real family but his group of four, the orphan boy who never had a single music lesson – was leading worship, playing guitar and piano at Celebration Church, the largest church in Zimbabwe!

‘Three years ago Tapiwa met one of our fulltime missionaries based in Zimbabwe and he soon joined ROCK of Africa Mission as worship leader for their mission outreach

– and what an impact he has had! His ability to lead people into worship, in a wonderful Africa style, has had a dramatic impact on every outreach in which he participated.’

‘Tapiwa has a remarkable vocal range and to hear him sing, play the guitar, and the piano so magnificently – all without one single formal lesson – is stunning. We are certain God has great plans for Taps and we wanted to give this most gifted orphaned young man a chance at a real education,’ said Megill, the Director.

During the summer of 2009 Taps visited one of the most prestigious music colleges in the world, the Musicians Institute of Los Angeles whose unique campus is located in the centre of Hollywood in California.

There he was interviewed, given an audition, and immediately received a most unusual verbal guarantee of his acceptance as a student. Through the help of many wonderful individual sponsors who recognised Tapiwa’s very special natural talent, ROCK of Africa Mission has been able to raise enough support for Tapiwa to begin his music education in October. Taps has now returned home to Africa to apply for his student visa, before returning to the United States to attend school.

‘My goals at the school are to become a better vocalist, and to become an instrument for change in my country. With this help, I am one step further in making a difference in my country. I know if I am able to attend school and have access to the tools I will become a much better artist and better musician and be able to make a difference.’

– Dan Wooding, ANS

Baptist Children's Summer Camp in Trouble

UZBEKISTAN'S Baptist Union is facing criminal charges brought by Tashkent City Prosecutor's office for allegedly unlawfully teaching children religion, and for supposedly misusing their property in a resort area as a summer camp. Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country in Central Asia, formerly part of the Soviet Union.

It was reported that local Baptists are very concerned by the claims and think that Pavel Peichev, the Baptist Union's Chair faces huge fines, the confiscation of the property, imprisonment, or some combina-

tion of these penalties.

The charges relate to Uzbekistan's Criminal Code articles, and accuse the Baptists of a host of violations, including ‘involving under-age children in religious organisation as well as teaching them religion against the will of the children, their parents or persons substituting them.’

Violating Uzbekistan's Criminal Code results in serious punishment ranging from huge fines many times the minimum monthly salary, to hard (‘correctional’) labour or six months incarceration.

They claim ‘Children attend religious meetings every evening. They study various Protestant books. They ask Jesus for forgiveness of their so-called sins. Children become psychologically traumatised in the camp.’ They claim that sanitary-hygiene or fire-prevention rules are non-existent in the camp, and children are underfed.

The mass media has been used to encourage intolerance of freedom of religion and belief, and to encourage religious hatred and intolerance.

– Jeremy Reynolds, ANS

COMING UP – MAD DAY AT ACMA ...

SATURDAY 5 September is a day worth noting in your diary.

It is the Mission Aviation Discovery day, conducted by the Australian Centre for Mission Aviation (ACMA) at its base at Coldstream Airfield.

The purpose of the event is to engender interest in the ministry of mission aviation among the community generally, and within the Christian community in particular.

Huge Interest And Enjoyment

Previous MAD days have generated a huge amount of interest, and this one promises to be even better!

The program commences at 11.00 am, and includes a wide variety of activities suited to people of all ages.

The major attractions will include:

- aerobatic displays by Yak, Winjeel, and one of the RAAF Roulettes (the Roulette display is at 1.30pm)
- fixed wing and helicopter joyflights
- children's activities
- special seminars – outstanding aviation events (Mac Job) and careers in aviation (Mark Emerson)
- music by Carter and Carter
- model aircraft display (you won't believe what



'Wow! Let's fly away ...'

The 'Madhatter' himself comes along!



- they do!)
- flights in a tethered hot air balloon
 - mission displays (AIM, JAARS, MAF, New Tribes, Helimission)
- Flight simulators will be available and hot food and drinks can be purchased on site.

Intriguing insights into

mission aviation will come via Volkher Jacobsen (long time mission pilot in PNG and now Manager of the Flight Training Centre at ACMA).

Present students engaged in training for this ministry will be helping in many and varied ways.

Door prizes including free joy flights will be announced at the main presentations scheduled for 11.30 am and 3.30 pm.

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

For further information:

Call Jennifer or David on 03 9739 0612

Or visit www.missionaviationtraining.com.au

ACMA – TRAINING IS OUR MISSION.
MISSION IS OUR PASSION

30-Days Muslim Prayer Focus - 22 August - 20 September

MANY of us know Muslims personally at work, or in our neighborhood or community. Islam is certainly very much in the news these days and Muslims around the world are gearing up for Ramadan.

What Is Ramadan?

According to a media release, Ramadan is a time where Muslims re-evaluate their lives in light of Islamic guidance. They try to make peace with those who have wronged them, strengthen ties with family and friends, do away with bad habits – essentially to clean up their lives, thoughts, and feelings.

The Arabic word for 'fasting' (sawm) literally means 'to refrain' – and it means not only refraining from food and drink, but also

from evil actions, thoughts, and words.

For the 18th year in a row, Paul Filidis of www.WorldChristian.com is asking Christians to pray that many Muslims will come to know Christ during their holiest time of the year. Filidis is the North American co-ordinator of the 30-Days Muslim Prayer Focus, a worldwide event.

The 30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus is a worldwide prayer effort that is designed to raise awareness, educate, and mobilise new support and workers to reach out to people groups who practise Islam. Young people in countries like Iran are finding Christ on Christian satellite television and the Internet.

Paul Filidis says many Christians want

to participate in Muslim evangelism, but don't know where to begin.

www.WorldChristian.com has produced the 56-page 30-Days Muslim Prayer Guide to help you on your prayer journey. Each day focuses on a specific area of the Islamic world. As you pray, you'll gain knowledge and understanding of the Islamic culture and a heart for the people that transcends the headlines.

Filidis says this is doing more than providing education. He says it's 'expanding our ability to love. As you pray for people, you get God's perspective, God's heart, and it's hard not to have a certain love for them that transcends the headlines.'

– www.30daysprayer.com/muslim (ANS)

hotshots



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Why don't we always get what we pray for?

It seems like sometimes prayer works and sometimes it doesn't.

Prayer is a bit like a traffic light.

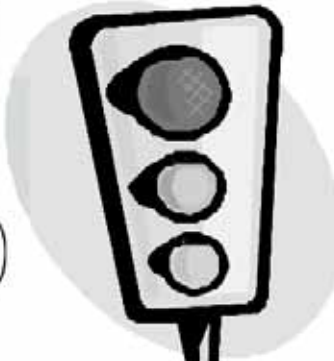
Sometimes God says No.

Sometimes God says Yes.

Sometimes God says Wait a while.

Why doesn't God always answer our prayers?

I'll bet nobody in the Bible ever felt sad or worried like our family is now!



God knows what is best for us in the long run, even though sometimes it seems really tough going or disappointing at the time. He may also want us to learn something ... like patience or maybe to trust in God more.

Romans 8:26, 28a

"In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that we can't put into words..." We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him.

Alana felt grumpy. Jessica was still very sick and the doctors were having lots of meetings with Alana's Mum and step-dad. It was a really tough time for the whole family. All the Hotshots were quiet – this was a tough time for all of them.

Kate remembered Paul in the Bible who asked God to make him better.

2 Cor 12:8, 9a

"Three times I begged the Lord to make this suffering go away." But he replied, 'My kindness is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.'

Think of someone you know who is having a tough time. Send them a card, an e-mail or ring them up.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you that even in tough times we can still know you are in control. Thank you that you give us all the kindness and love we need.

BOOKS WORTH READING

Transforming the World? The Gospel and Social Responsibility, Edited by Jamie A. Grant and Dewi A. Hughes.

(Apollos, an imprint of Inter Varsity Press, Nottingham, England, 2009)

I like to find books that are true to the inspiration of Scripture and the acceptance of essential Biblical truths which can be confidently read by readers. This book is in that category.

Jamie Grant is a lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Highland Theological College, Dingwall, Scotland, and Dewi Hughes is Theological Advisor to TEAR Fund in the United Kingdom.

A typical statement from one of the authors is in an article by David L Baker who writes about the law and social care. He tells us that 'The care of widows, orphans and resident aliens is dealt with in several Old Testament laws. According to the Book of the Covenant, God is concerned for the vulnerable and He warns the Israelites of dire consequences if they do not show a similar concern.'

Another nice quote is from *The Biblical Paradigms of Redemption: Exodus, Jubilee and the Cross*. It is by Christopher J.H. Wright who is the International Director of the Langham Partnership International in

Darwin, Creation And The Fall

Edited by R.J. Berry & T.A. Noble. (Apollos (IVP), Nottingham, 2009.)

THIS book's chapters are edited versions of papers given at meetings of the Tyndale Fellowship in July 2008. Their theme, and the title of this book, link in with the current anniversary celebrations for Charles Darwin's birth (200 years) and for the publication of *On the Origin of Species* (150 years).

Two of these papers review some details of Charles Darwin's life, the extent of his observational and conjectural science, and of his religion/philosophy. However, there is no reference to Charles' dependence, evidenced in his diaries, on the evolutionary ideas of his atheistic Grandfather Erasmus. (This dependence is brought out in the new CMI documentary *The Voyage That Shook the World*.) This documentary also reveals that Darwin recognised that there could be no rapprochement between his transformism through natural selection and a miraculous creation by God.

Because Berry & Noble largely accept Charles Darwin's proposals for the evolu-

tionary development of increasingly complex creatures over aeons of time, culminating in mankind, and because, as evangelical Christian scholars, they want to continue believing and proclaiming Bible truths, they face enormous theological challenges.

London. It tells us that 'The Jubilee embodied practical concern for the family unit. In Israel's case, this meant the extended family, the 'father's house', which was a sizeable group of related nuclear families descended in the male line from a living progenitor, including up to three or four generations. This was the smallest unit in Israel's kinship structure, and it was the focus of identity, status, responsibility and security for the individual Israelite. It was this social unit, the extended family, that the Jubilee aimed to protect and periodically to restore if necessary.'

The last quote at this time is from an article entitled, *The Servant Solution: The Co-ordination of Evangelism and Social Action* by Melvin Tinker, the Vicar of St John Newland Church, Kingston Upon Hull, England. This in fact was originally presented as the John Wenham Lecture in July 2006 and was first printed in Wenham's contribution in *The Enigma of Evil* (Leicester, IVP, 1985.) The quote we are giving comes from Wenham's lecture.

I like the way he reminds us that 'Jesus was kind as well as severe – kind in an utterly unsentimental way which combined depth of feeling with total self-giving. He pre-eminently showed the kindness of God

These challenges are considered specifically in four chapters of their book. If Christians are to accept evolution as true, when did mankind acquire his 'imageness'; how long after this acquisition did the original humans – two, or many – undertake their rebellion and fall from Grace; and how was the rest of the world affected by the Fall? A few different theologians – Augustine, Irenaeus and Blocher – have grappled with these questions and some of their thoughts and conclusions are examined.

There are also chapters on the Christian doctrine of creation and the best way to interpret the accounts in early Genesis – but a literal acceptance is not allowed!

One of the papers in this collection recognises a role for Jesus Christ as Redeemer, and seems to imply that His good-work for the world only began at the Cross.



to the world, for He "taught" God's love and His followers to love; a love "demonstrated" by "deeds" and "words". It would be argued by many that this is sufficient justification for maintaining that it is the task of the church likewise to express the same divine love to a needy world by declaration and deed, evangelism and social action.

I also thought it was especially relevant to see how he deals with the Sermon on the Mount and its Isaianic background.

This is a book that is especially suitable for those who are involved in social action and want to understand the Biblical basis for their call to action. Bible teachers and those in their classes would also find it very helpful.

It is especially interesting to see the way Rene Padilla emphasises the 'Christ-event' as the basis of social ethics. He tells us that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is also at the very core of Christian faith and of Christian life. (C. Rene Padilla, Director of *Ediciones Kairos*, Buenos Aires, Argentina.) I highly recommend this book. – C.A. Wilson

This implication, apparently based on Paul 'getting carried away' in Colossians Chapter 1, ignores the clear declaration of John 1.1-3 and Hebrews 1.1-4. The second Person of the Trinity was present and intimately involved in the processes and events of creation week. Thus any statement or theologian that overlooks His pivotal and miraculous efforts is suspect. That Berry and Noble give more credence to Darwin than to the inspired Apostle is very disappointing.

This reviewer believes that we must recognise the poverty of Darwin's conclusions. Natural selection has been shown to be a real process – but NOT with the results that Darwin proposed. There is NEVER change from one created kind of creature to another; and the long ages that make the evolutionary scenario plausible to many NEVER existed.

The Bible's outline of history has been confirmed – by science as well as by archaeology. The difficulty that many conservative scholars have in recognising this wonderful truth is regrettable.

– Ron F. Suter, B.Sc., M.A



HOW THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS FIT TOGETHER

MANY people in the Christian Church have wondered how the Old and New Testaments are to be connected. Partly this is because of the widespread teaching of the German liberal Protestants who had no idea how to tackle this issue.

One of the few who were not personally anti-Semitic was Adolf Harnack whose famous lectures of 1899 asked the question, What is Christianity? He answered in terms of the Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, and the infinite value of the human soul. He had little time for the evangelical emphasis on the death and resurrection of the God-man, Jesus Christ.

When he came to discuss the Old Testament, he declared: 'What a blessing to the church this book has proved!' However, he was quick to add that 'there are many of its pages which exhibit a religion and a morality other than Christian.' Indeed, he described it as 'a menace to Christian freedom'.

How Did Jesus View The Old Testament?

Jesus' view of the Old Testament was very different. As He explained to His disciples after His resurrection: 'These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled' (Luke 24.44). He told His enemies the same thing – that the Scriptures (meaning the Old Testament Scriptures) 'bear witness about Me' (John 5.39). All God's promises are 'Yes' and 'Amen' in Christ (2 Corinthians 1.20). Far from being embarrassed about this ancient Hebrew book, Jesus proclaims that the whole of the Old Testament points to Him as the Messiah, and His apostles endorsed that claim.

The New Adam

Christ is the new Adam. In the old Adam there is sin and death and judgment, but in Christ there is righteousness and life and salvation (Romans 5.12-21). Adam is the man who failed before God; Christ is the man who was always well pleasing in His Father's sight. To cite the Puritan Thomas Goodwin: 'In God's sight there are two men – Adam and Jesus Christ – and these two men have all other men hanging at their girdle strings.' As John Donne said, 'Adam sold the world.' But we can add that 'Christ came to save the world.' Adam points to Christ, albeit in a negative way.

Jesus Is Greater Than All

Moses points to a prophet who is greater than himself (Deuteronomy 18.15). Christ is the builder and ruler of God's house whereas Moses is simply a servant within it (Hebrews 3.1-6). Jonah was the great prophet to the Gentiles who was buried, as it were, for three days, but in Jesus there is one greater than Jonah (Matthew 12.41). The Old Testament prophets spoke in the name of Yahweh: 'Thus says the Lord'. God revealed His word to His prophets (Amos 3.7), but Jesus speaks on His own authority: 'I say unto you' (Matthew 5.21-22, 27-28, 32, 34, 39, 44). Not only does Christ speak God's Word – He is the very Word of God, and equal to God (John 1.1, 14).

Jesus Is Greater Than The OT Priests

The priesthood and the sacrifices also prefigure Christ. J. C. Ryle wrote that 'A religion without a priest is a poor, unhappy, useless thing.' The Old Testament priests were men who were ordained by God, but their fallenness meant that they were men who died (Hebrews 7.23-25). Also, their sacrifices first had to be for their own sins (Leviticus 4.3; 16.11), and then were repeated because the blood of bulls and goats and lambs can never take away sins (Hebrews 10.1-4). As Calvin says: 'There could be nothing more silly and frivolous than to offer the fat and stinking entrails of beasts in order to reconcile oneself with God'. They were only shadows of the reality to come (Hebrews 10.1).

... Greater Than The High Priest

The Old Testament high priest was filthy with sin, and stood in need of cleansing (Zechariah 3.1-4). Christ, on the other hand, is our sympathetic high priest (Hebrews 4.14-16) Who is sinless, and so has no need to be cleansed. Rather, He cleanses (Hebrews 7.26). He is both priest and sacrifice – a priest forever (Psalm 110.4) who offered a once for all perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 7.27; 9.12, 24-26; 10.10). Jesus is indeed greater than the Old Testament priests. Hence we sing the words of Isaac Watts:

*Jesus, my great High Priest,
Offered His blood and died;
My guilty conscience seeks
No sacrifice beside;
His powerful blood did once atone,*

*And now it pleads
before the throne.*

Christ The Lamb Of God

To cite Calvin again: 'the notion, that Christ is often offered, is a device of the devil'. Christ is the Lamb of God (John 1.29) who is also our Passover (1 Corinthians 5.7-8). The blood of the lamb – a lamb without blemish (Exodus 12.5) and with no broken bones (Exodus 12.46; see John 19.36). He protected Israelite households from the wrath of God (Exodus 12.7-10, 13, 21-23, 29-30). At the Last Supper, Jesus points out that this is the new covenant in His blood (Luke 22.20).

Jesus Is Greater Than The Temple

The temple in Jerusalem, which existed earlier as a movable tabernacle, also points to Christ. When the tabernacle was set up, the glory of God descended upon it (Exodus 40.34-35). Billy Bray's last word on earth before he died in 1867 was 'Glory!' Glory is where God is. This presence of God was confirmed at the beginning of the work of the Levitical priests (Leviticus 9.23-24). God consumed the penalty for sin, and made His glory known. Then when the tabernacle became the temple under Solomon, the ark of the covenant was brought into the temple, and again there was glory (2 Chronicles 5.11-14).

Old Testament Shadows

But this was only in shadow form in the Old Testament. Something greater was coming. Even as Solomon prayed the prayer of dedication at the opening of the temple, he realised this (2 Chronicles 6.18; see also Isaiah 66.1). God promised that He would 'tabernacle' amongst His people (Leviticus 26.11-12), but when Israel sinned by trusting in the temple of the Lord rather than the Lord of the temple (Jeremiah 7.4), God removed His glory from the temple (Ezekiel 10.18-19; 11.22-23). However, Ezekiel 40-48 prophesies that the glory will return (Ezekiel 43.1-2). So the glorious presence of God did return, in the most wondrous form. Christ 'tabernacled' amongst us and the apostles beheld His glory (John 1.14) as one who is greater than the temple (Matthew 12.6; John 2.

19-21).

– continued on page 18

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...

THANK you for publishing the information about my booklet – 'My Journey Through Cancer With Christ'.

Please could you let your readers know there is no charge for the booklet – if people want to contribute to production costs I usually ask a gold coin.

I never charge cancer sufferers. They have enough to contend with – my prayer is that they find strength and comfort in the Lord Jesus.

Mary Gustafsson

Alumni And Friends Dinner

THE Bible College of Victoria invites you and your guests to their Alumni and Friends Dinner. They are planning a great evening of fellowship whilst sharing a delightful dinner and enjoying the opportunity to meet up with old friends.

The Principal will be talking on 'Did you know? 10 Ideas that are Changing Theological Education Right Now.'

Mike writes, 'I really hope you can join us'. Warm regards, Principal.

When: Friday 11 September, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start

Cost: \$25.00 [per person] or \$230.00 [per table of 10]

Where: BCV Dining Room, Bible College of Victoria, 71-81 Albert Hill Road, Lilydale Vic 3140

RSVP: Anne by Tuesday 1 September to ahorswell@bcv.vic.edu.au or call 03 9735 8221.

Eternity Newspaper Launch

OVER a year ago two Christian media professionals, John Sandeman at Fairfax Media and David Maegraith at Anglican Media Sydney, met to share a vision for a national Christian newspaper with a large circulation delivered freely to churches in Australia.

Today that vision is a reality with the launch in October 2009 of Australia's first mass market monthly Christian newspaper Eternity. With an initial circulation of 100,000 the paper will already be close to the audience size of *The Australian* (week-day circulation 137,000).

*– David Maegraith
Publisher of Eternity*

*email: david@australianchristian.net
mobile: 0410 222 670
www.eternity.biz*

North Eastern Prayer Breakfast Inc

THE Inaugural North Eastern Prayer Breakfast will bring church, community and business people, in the north-eastern suburbs of Melbourne, together in prayer for our community. This will be a great opportunity to build church and community relationships.

Speaker Brigadier Jim Wallace AM, Managing Director of the Australian Christian Lobby, one of Australia's fastest growing political organisations, which aims to see Christian values better acknowledged in the way we are governed, and relate as a community.



To be held at The Manningham Club, cnr Bulleen and Thompsons Roads, Bulleen on Friday 21 August, 7 am for 7.15 am
Cost per person \$35. RSVP: 21 August.

*– Philip Ratcliff phone: 0413 702-555
email: admin@nepb.com.au*

'Commemorating Billy Graham'

DR Stuart Barton Babbage, Chairman of the Committee which organised the Australian crusade, and former Principal of Ridley College will be the guest speaker at an evening of celebration and thanksgiving to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Billy Graham Crusade to Melbourne.

The evening event will be held on 24 September, from 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Dining Hall at Ridley Melbourne. 170 The Avenue, Parkville 3052. Supper is provided at the conclusion of the night and the cost of the event is \$5.

Rhys Bezzant, Dean of Missional Leadership and Lecturer in Christian Thought at the college will be reflecting on the legacy of Graham and there will be inspirational stories from those converted in both Melbourne and Sydney.

HOW THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS FIT TOGETHER

continued from page 17

Therefore, there will be no temple in the new heaven and the new earth because, in different senses, the Father and Christ constitute the temple (Revelation 21.22), and the whole place is, in effect, a temple – a perfect cube like the holy of holies in the temple (Revelation 21.16).

In the Old Testament, God promises David a kingship that will last forever (2 Samuel 7.13, 16). That is strong language. What kingdom is forever? The New Testament declares that there is a king forever – Jesus the Lord, 'great David's greater Son',

is the king of Israel and of God's eternal kingdom (Luke 1.32-33; Hebrews 1.5). Christ is a greater king than Solomon, the most prosperous king of Israel (Matthew 12.42). The king of Israel (John 1.49) is revealed as the king of the whole world (Matthew 28.19-20) and, indeed, of the whole universe (Ephesians 1.20-22).

The Old Looks Forward To The New

The Old Testament is not to be viewed as Harnack viewed it. God spoke in the Old Testament; it all comes from Him (Hebrews 1.1), but He spoke, to cite the paraphrase of

the New English Bible, in 'fragmentary and varied fashion'. Now He has spoken through His Son (Hebrew 1.1-2).

God Is The Divine Author

As Bishop B. F. Westcott comments: 'While the revelations of the Old and New Covenants are thus sharply distinguished, God is the One Author of both.' The Old Testament revelation came from God, but it was the preliminary stage; it was incomplete; it looked ahead to something greater. In Christ we see what the Old Testament saints longed for (1 Peter 1.10-12).

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As We Forgive The Mirror of Christ's Love

'CAN a country known for radical brutality become a country known for an even more radical forgiveness?' That's the question BreakPoint's own Catherine Claire Larson asks in her new book, *As We Forgive*.

Larson, whose book was inspired by the award-winning documentary film of the same name, paints a gripping picture of the Tutsi survivors of genocide, who in 1994 endured 100 days of unimaginable violence at the hands of their Hutu neighbours. Nearly a million people were shot, macheted, raped, and tortured. The survivors lost everything – homes, families, hope.

But that was only their first trial. Seven years after the storm, the Rwandan government started releasing from prison more than 70,000 perpetrators of genocide.

Larson vividly describes the dreadful decision the survivors had to make. Would they choose fear and hate? Or forgiveness and reconciliation?

As Larson writes so beautifully, many

are choosing forgiveness. Take the story of Rosaria. Her sister and her two children were pummeled to death by a group of Hutu men from their village. Among them was a man named Saveri.

While in prison Saveri heard the Gospel. He repented of his cruelty, and through a reconciliation program begun by Prison Fellowship Rwanda, asked Rosaria for forgiveness. After a series of painful meetings, she forgave him – freeing him from despair, and herself from the coils of hatred.

Later, Saveri, along with other repentant killers, built homes for Rosaria and other survivors. 'Hands that had once swung machetes in violence,' Larson writes, 'now smooth clay bricks in peace.'

Or take the stories of Devota and Monique, both of whom lost all of their children in the genocide. With the help of Christian volunteers, they came to understand that Christ not only bears their sin, but their pain. And once they gave their pain to

Christ, they actually sought out their perpetrators - and forgave them.

One of the most poignant stories Larson tells is of the children of the Nyange School. These children, Hutus and Tutsis, had become close friends in the wake of the genocide. When Hutu militia invaded their classroom, their love for Christ and each other was put to the ultimate test. The Hutu militiamen ordered all the Tutsis to one side, all the Hutus to the other. The students refused to move. Many of them were shot because of their love and faithfulness to one another.

If that love, that forgiveness, can be so strong in such darkness, then it is possible for all of us.

Ultimately, what Larson shows us in *As We Forgive* is that of all human actions, forgiveness is perhaps the most powerful mirror of Christ's love.

And that love is reflected so well in this marvellous book.

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What A Wonderful Hope!

WE have given many evidences of prophecy being fulfilled. Other religions have claimed such fulfilments of prophecies, but none can do what we Christians can – take writings from thousands of years ago and see them accurately fulfilled.

Our Messiah/Saviour was to be born of a virgin. See Isaiah 7.14 and the fulfilment in Matthew 1.18-23. He would be born in the town of Bethlehem, as Micah 5.2 shows, and the fulfilment is given at Matthew 2.5,6. Malachi 3.1 tells us that He will have a herald to proclaim His coming and the fulfilment is shown at Matthew 11.7-14, and in many other passages. That forerunner was to be a voice in the desert – Isaiah 40.3-5 and John 1.23.

Messiah would enter into public ministry in Galilee – Isaiah 9.1,2, and the fulfilment

is shown at Matthew 4.13-16. Isaiah 49.6 says He will be a light to the Gentiles, and Acts 13.46f shows the fulfilment. He will be the great prophet coming from God – Deuteronomy 18.7 and John 6.14.

A Ruler On A Donkey!

He will be hated, but the Gentiles will be blessed – Isaiah 35.5 and Matthew 11.4 – fulfilled through many wonderful miracles. Psalm 35.19 and John 15.25 make it clear that for no reason the Messiah was hated. However, He would ride into Jerusalem as a ruler coming on a donkey – Zechariah 9.9 and John 12.12-16.

This wonderful Messiah will be betrayed by a friend – Psalm 41.9 and John 13.18. Thirty pieces of silver would be given to that friend (Judas Iscariot) and this was paid to purchase the potter's field – Zechariah

11.12,13 and Matthew 27.1-10.

He was given a false trial, and lots were cast for His clothing – Psalm 22.18 and Matthew 27.35.

It is surely true that the Good Shepherd was smitten and the sheep scattered – Zechariah 13.7 and Matthew 26.31; 55f. Clearly the Messiah/Saviour was being rejected – Isaiah 53.12 and Matthew 27.38.

Christ was offered at the very time of the Passover, dying as the Passover Lamb – Isaiah 53.7,8 and John 1.29,36.

He was mocked and pierced, but no bone was broken – Psalm 22.7,8 and John 19.31-36.

He will reign eternally – Psalm 110.1 and Hebrews 1.13.

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– Clifford Wilson"

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Revelation 3.10
'Because you have kept the
word of My patience,
I also will keep you from ...'
Inserted by Ivan Bell

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WITH CHRIST ...

Faithful Servants: Betty D'Evelynes

IN July Betty D'Evelynes passed to her heavenly home. She first went to PNG in August 1955 to join her husband Claude who was one of the three founders of the ministry of CRMF. Betty did not live in a comfortable home. In fact the first house that was built for the D'Evelynes went up in smoke before they even moved in, and Betty had to turn a shed into their home. Adding to the trauma of that week, Betty also received word from Australia of the death of her father.

Lifelines (p.58), speaking of Betty records: 'It is a tribute to her fortitude that this battle-seared young wife and mother turned that shed into home. She managed the cooking on an open fire about half a metre off the ground, and used a camp oven for bread.' Her husband would be gone all day

THE 'Jubilate Choir' is a mixed choir of approximately 80 members of various nationalities and denominations who will be giving a concert in the Dandenong Christian Reformed Church, cnr Gladstone Road and Outlook Drive, North Dandenong, Vic on Saturday 12 September, starting at 7.30 pm. This concert consists of a wide variety of modern and traditional sacred songs, including negro spirituals and will include various artists as well as community singing. A light supper will be served. The cost will be \$12 pp, \$10 concession and \$25 per family (up to 4 persons). Tickets are available by ringing 03 9700

CFO Healing Retreat

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1-4 October

Speaker: Canon Jim Holbeck
St Andrews Cathedral Sydney
Healing Ministry

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down at the channel, so it was by prayer and common sense that Betty learned to adjust to her dramatically different environment.

She continued to show an active interest in the work in PNG and communicated regularly with the missionary families until recently. It will be difficult to forget the founders of CRMF because some years ago their names were used as passwords for our computer systems and we still use their names each day!

Betty is survived by her son Ian, and daughter Jennifer and family. We extend to them our sympathy and give thanks to the Lord for Betty's life of devotion to Him.

Doug Hogan

ABOUT the same time we also learnt that Doug Hogan had gone to meet his Lord. As well as handling the administration of the Sydney office of CRMF during the early 1950s, Doug and his wife Ruth were involved in the Bible Adventure tape ministry of CRMF.

Lifelines (p.37) records of Doug in the

'50s. 'Those were financially lean times, especially for the home workers. The Hogans had about 9 pounds guaranteed support – hardly a living wage, even in the 1950s. Doug Hogan was responsible for finances and staff allowances. He administered the general funds, donations overseas, drafts, general office business and the trading department. He was to divide what came in between five married couples and two singles, plus profits from the Trading Department.

Doug and Ruth too maintained an active interest in the work of CRMF. He was always pleased to have visits from missionaries returning on furlough, and to hear of news from PNG. He was a faithful correspondent and supporter of the ministry.

Doug is survived by his sister Nancy Hogan, his daughters, Margaret (Mrs Garry Sewell) with two children, Gillian (Gill) (Mrs Steve Shilling) with three children, and John's wife Saw Bee with two boys. He was predeceased by Ruth in 2003, and his son, John, in June 2007. – CRMF

POSITIONS

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ROBERT 'BORNEO BOB' WILLIAMS



ROBERT 'Borneo Bob' Williams, who planted hundreds of churches in Indonesia over a 70-year ministry died on 29 July in Fresno, California, at the age of 98. He also was one of the three founders

of New Tribes Mission, now one of the world's largest missionary movements.

Williams and his late wife Rena (who died in 1998) began their missionary career in Indonesia (then known as the Dutch East Indies) in 1939. Over the next six decades he established schools, clinics, a small boat ministry and a seminary that has trained and sent out hundreds of native Indonesian pastors, teachers and evangelists.

Williams was born on 27 November 1910, and married Rena in 1930. They attended LIFE Bible College in Los Angeles before joining forces with evangelist Paul Rader and his Courier Ministry. Rader intro-

duced them to Dr. Robert Jaffray, one of the most influential leaders in Asian missions for the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

Dr. Jaffray challenged the Williams to join him in taking the gospel to places in Asia where it had not yet been preached. Instead Williams moved to Arizona where he pastored small churches and worked as a cowboy and part-time sheriff. But he said the Lord kept after him. 'One day I slipped out of my saddle, knelt in a sandy creek bed, and prayed, "Lord, if You really want to use me, I will go anywhere You send me. Let it be to people who have not yet heard the gospel".'

As missionaries of a newly formed ministry called Go-Ye Fellowship, the Williams set out with their daughter Starr and son Robert Lee for Asia with just \$12 and God's promise from Isaiah 58.11: 'The Lord shall guide thee continually.'

In 1939, they attended Dr Jaffray's language school in the Indies, then established their first mission station in West Borneo, working in partnership with the CMA.

Williams regularly walked or paddled

deep into the jungles to share Christ with the native Malay and Dayak peoples. As he planted churches among the Dayak tribes, he routinely faced dangers from poisonous snakes, crocodiles, malaria and powerful witch doctors.

The Williams family barely escaped with their lives during the Japanese invasion of Borneo in 1942. But once home in America, he continued to sound the call for missions. In 1943, Williams and his friends Paul Fleming and Cecil Dye signed the founding document of New Tribes Mission, envisioning the launch of 5,000 missionaries into unreached areas.

One of his greatest joys was the establishment of the Seminaria Theologica Kalimantan (STK) in Pontianak, West Kalimantan (Borneo), which he established with the help of Indonesian leader Ronny Welong.

He summed up his life in this way, 'Surely the Lord kept His promise to guide me continually.'

– Scott Tompkins
ANS

Missionary Pilot Dies In Kenya

MISSIONARY pilot Frank Toews died in the crash of the Africa Inland Mission AIR Cessna 206 he was flying in Kenya. The accident occurred near the Nairobi Wilson Airport on Saturday, 1 August.

His passengers, Dan Parris and Rob Lehr of St. Louis, Mo., were filming a documentary on poverty in Africa.

Lehr was ejected at the time of the crash through the plane's door which was open for the purpose of filming. He survived and helped pull the other three occupants out of the crash.

AIM AIR mechanic Ryan Williams received a fractured pelvis, multiple contusions and significant burns but has a good prognosis for recovery.

Documentary producers Lehr and Parris received only minor injuries.

Africa Inland Mission provides economical air service to missionaries and relief agencies in East and Central Africa.

.....(HCJB Global Voice has worked with local partners to install eight radio outlets in seven cities of Kenya.) – HCJB Global, MNN



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3rd Outer Eastern Prayer Breakfast

THE Hon Chris Pearce MP, the Federal Member for Aston, is Patron of the Outer Eastern Prayer Breakfast which was held at the Karralyka Centre in Ringwood on 6 August. The annual breakfast brings together members of the community and business to celebrate the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

This year the organisation is especially giving thanks for the wonderful volunteers who gave of themselves so tirelessly during the recent devastating bushfires.

The three major objectives of the breakfast are to: 1) provide a forum to share in the spirit of Christian friendship through prayer and thanksgiving; 2) to encourage local community leaders to live by their responsibilities before God; and 3) to provide opportunities to build and strengthen relationships between Christians.



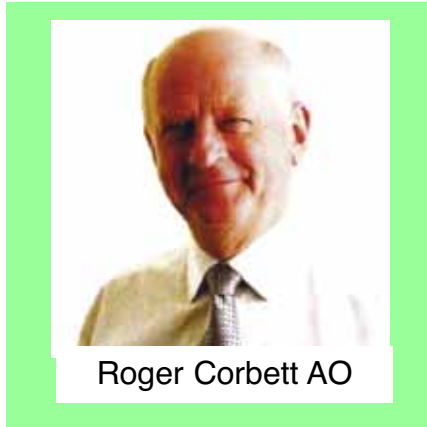
Oxley College Choir

Oxley College Choir

The choir ably led the many who attended the breakfast in the singing of the National Anthem at the commencement of the breakfast. They sang the entire anthem which was very much an evangelical witness – reminding us that:

*With Christ our head and cornerstone,
We'll build our Nation's might;
Whose way and truth and light alone
Can guide our path aright.
Our lives, a sacrifice of love,
Reflect our Master's care.*

Prior to the speaker they brought a bracket of items including 'My God is a Rock' and 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. The warm applause showed much appreciation from the attendees.



Roger Corbett AO

Guest Speaker: Mr Roger Corbett AO

Mr Corbett has been involved in the retail industry for over 40 years, rising through the ranks of Grace Bros management, and eventually holding the positions of Merchantile Director and Stores Director.

In late 1984 he joined the Board of David Jones Australia, and he was appointed to the Board of Woolworths Ltd in 1990. In 1999 he took the position of Managing Director of Big W, Australia, retiring from the position of CEO in 2006. In 2003 Roger Corbett was

awarded a 'Member in the Order of Australia' in the Queens Birthday Honours List, and in June 2008 he was elevated to an Officer in the Order of Australia for 'service to the retail industry - particularly as a contributor to the development of industry policy and standards, and to the community.'

Economic Boom ... And Bust!

In his challenging address Mr Corbett spoke of the great changes that had come into our world experience since 2007.

Interest rates had been booming and internationally the economy was strong with record prices being paid for commodities. The future seemed invincible.

However, within 12 months the whole world entered a period of crisis, generating

universal fear and panic.

'In America interest rates were kept too low', he said, 'and in England, the devastating collapse of the North Rock Bank affected thousands, resulting in long queues as people tried to withdraw their money for fear of losing their security in such uncertain economic times.

'Nations lost confidence in each other, and there seemed to be nothing that could be done to restore our stable world.'

Hope For the Hopeless

It seemed that the world was without hope, but Mr Corbett made it clear that God was still on the throne. The greatest mistake of all was that the world was trying to get by without God. Church numbers were depleted, with only some 4% attending church. As he said, that meant 96% were living without God.

The truths of the Bible were being authenticated more than any other book and it was consistently shown that the God of the Bible was the God of creation and of history. He was still on the throne!

The way back to God was to find Him through His Book and to enter into a personal relationship with God Himself.

God's Truth Will Never Fail!

The great man Gamaliel who lived in the time of the Apostles challenged the people with the fact that if Christ was not Who He claimed to be His group would soon collapse. If Christ were indeed who He claimed to be, the movement would never stop. The 12 simple men Jesus chose to be His followers changed history.

Mr Corbett made it clear that man's only hope was through Jesus Christ Who was Himself God's gift to man. He still says 'I Am the way, the truth and the life'. 'Behold I stand at the door and knock'. 'Come to me and I will give you rest.'

Many say that we live in a post-Christian age and that God is dead. Not so! We will find that – as in the days of Gamaliel – this truth does not come to nought, because Jesus Christ is alive and He still offers Himself to us in our dramatic time of need. He stands waiting for us to respond to His invitation to invite Him in to our lives. Australia needs God!

Rejecting Apathy: The Church And American Civilisation

MANY Christians, once motivated by protecting the sanctity of life, religious freedom, and traditional marriage, seem inconsolable – as if the fight is over and there's nothing we can do about it. But embracing this attitude is a certain prescription for disaster.

I received last month a newsletter by Don Reeves of the Denver Leadership Foundation. In it he gives the following quote, often attributed to an 18th-century Scottish writer:

'The average age of the world's great civilisations has been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through the following sequence ... from bondage to spiritual faith ... from spiritual faith to courage ... from courage to liberty ... from liberty to abundance ... from abundance to selfishness ... from selfishness to complacency ... from complacency to apathy ... from apathy to dependency ... from dependency back to bondage.'

These are sobering words. This question of where America is in the cycle should be extremely important for Christians. That's because I firmly believe that culture is nothing but religion incarnate – that when we see a culture losing its moral footing, it's because believers have failed to bring Christian truth to bear in society. We haven't been, as Calvin put it, making the invisible kingdom visible.

So what stage are we in? Reeves thinks we are

entering the stage of apathy. And I hate to say it, but I agree. I am finding growing apathy among believers.

Apathy manifests itself in how people dress, how they talk, how they care for each other – and how concerned they are about the great issues of the day. It resembles what the Greeks called *acedia*, a languidness, a torpor, in which we stop caring about anything.

Apathy inevitably leads to dependency. And once we become dependent on Big Brother, we are back in bondage. Can anybody really watch the dramatic growth of governmental power and not be alarmed? For the fact of the matter is that the more government acts as God, the less people depend on the one true God.

Are you angry about what's happening in this country today? Things like the elimination of the conscience clause for medical professionals, or embryonic stem cell research, or the advance of gay 'marriage', or threats to religious liberties, or government making life-and-death decisions in health care? If you're not upset about those things, you've succumbed to apathy already.

If we value our liberties, if we believe in the most fundamental principles upon which our civilisation is based, then we owe it to our God and to future generations to speak out. Rejecting apathy and trusting in God, firm in our belief in human dignity and our God-given liberties, the Church can ignite a fire in this country.

Do we get it? I pray that we do.

– Chuck Colson

Rev Hon Fred Nile Calls For Urgent Action On Islamic Terrorists

'IT is vital for our national security that unarmed civilian security officers be replaced by armed military guards on all Australian military installations.

'Our brave soldiers in training on artillery guns are not armed. Training at Holsworthy is normally conducted with blanks, not live ammunition. The Islamic terrorist threat to our Holsworthy Army base has confirmed the long held policies of the Christian Democratic Party concerning the threat of Islamic terrorist in our Australian nation.

'The Federal Government must ensure our Border Protection Forces do not simply provide escort services, but protect our shores, so that Australia decides who can come to Australia.

'There must also be close monitoring as to what is being taught in Muslim mosques, schools and prayer rooms, such as the 8 Blacks Community Prayer Centre and Mosque in North Melbourne. This is the policy of the Egyptian Government.

'It is vital that Australian citizenship is cancelled for persons who are found guilty of planning terrorist acts because they would have deliberately broken their Citizenship Oath.

'Those Muslims who show contempt for our legal courts should be charged with contempt and locked up until they agree to show respect, by standing in respect and cooperating with our legal system' said Rev Nile.

'Finally, our Australian media must not be censored and must be allowed to print the truth and report the facts on radio and TV. If the terrorists are Islamic then they must be named as such – no political censorship.'

MORE ABOUT CHRISTIANS IN NEED ...

Economic Troubles Continue in Zimbabwe

THE situation in Zimbabwe continues to decline with unemployment skyrocketing to 94 percent. According to BBC News, the inflation rate is higher than in any other independent nation in the world, and it's thought that about 3,000 people a day leave Zimbabwe for neighbouring countries, Europe or the U.S.

'Zimbabwe has just about the worst performing economy in the world,' reported the BBC. As a result, it's hard for people to obtain basic necessities such as food and clean water. Also, hospitals and medical clinics have deteriorated, and many people are dying from preventable diseases.

In response, Global Aid Network (GAIN) sent a 10-member, short-term team to Zimbabwe in May. The team delivered a 35-foot self-contained mobile medical unit to help provide for the needs of as many Zimbabweans as possible. Since then, GAIN has continued its partnership with LIFE Ministry Zimbabwe, providing medical care and sharing Christ's love and hope to the needy. GAIN believes it can have an impact on thousands of people through this joint outreach.

– Mission Network News

Nepali Christians Threatened

CHRISTIANS are being persecuted, extorted, and threatened by the Nepal Defence Army, an organisation with links to militant Hindu organisations.

Police say Ram Prasad Mainali, the NDA chief, hired a woman to plant a bomb at the Assumption Church on 23 May. Two women and a schoolgirl were killed in the attack. The NDA also claimed responsibility for killing a Catholic priest, John Prakash Moyalan, in southern Nepal last year.

Ram Prasad Mainali continues to evade police capture and has been calling churches, threatening to start a 'Save the Hindu nation' movement on 10 August. At least one copycat attempt at extortion has been made, warning of the 10 August date if the churches do not pay extortion fees upwards of U.S. \$100,000.

Militant Hindu organisations blame Christians for the 2006 abolishment of the army-backed regime of Hindu King Gyanendra. In reality, it was a pro-democracy movement that ousted the regime and enabled Parliament to proclaim the Himalayan kingdom a secular, federal state.

– Compass Direct News

Eritrean Believer Dies In Military Prison Camp

A Christian man has died in one of Eritrea's notorious military prison camps, making him the ninth believer known to have perished in detention in the East African nation, reported Open Doors. Yemane Kahasay Andom, 43, died after suffering from torture and a lack of medical care in the Mitire prison camp.

'For two weeks Andom was mistreated and tortured,' Open Doors reported. He was held in an underground isolation cell, apparently after refusing to sign a document renouncing his faith in Christ. Authorities also refused him medical treatment for a serious form of malaria. Andom, who was detained for some 18 months, was the third Christian believed to have died in the camp this year. Open Doors cited sources as saying that he was secretly buried within the camp.

Christians and several rights groups say there are some 2,800 Christians jailed in the country, many enduring horrific circumstances such as being held in underground cells and containers. Eritrea's government has denied mass Christian detentions saying, 'no groups or persons are persecuted in Eritrea for their beliefs or religion.'

– BosNewsLife

Mission Organisation Rescues Eight Girls

THE Indian Rescue Mission collaborated with police to rescue eight girls from the red light district of Pune in west-central India's Maharashtra state. The rescued girls sobbed with relief when they were rescued and the sound was akin to the 'wailing in the house of the dead,'

The girls disclosed that they had been kept within the confines of the brothel for over a year and were not ever allowed outside. One 15-year-old girl who had been targeted for rescue had been moved to another brothel before the raid took place and was not rescued. However, her location has been confirmed and a new rescue attempt is planned. The brothel owner was arrested and charged.

– ANS

Pastor And Two Others Tortured

AT the urging of local Muslim leaders, police in western Bangladesh have tortured these believers for legally proclaiming Christ. Pastor Habibur Rahman was about to meet with 11 others when local police stormed in and seized them. 'While beating us, police told us there will be no Christian in this area.'

– Assist News Service

THE 'GOOD NEWS' MOVES ON ...

True Peace In Christ

FATAH'S first party congress in 20 years is dealing with internal conflict. The turmoil comes as they move forward on electing Palestinian leadership. Many wonder what is in store.

Tom Doyle, who is in the area on a short-term mission trip with E3 Partners, says: 'Obviously, what's happening in the Gaza strip with Hamas is deplorable. With the conditions there for the people, nobody's quite sure. We've talked to people in the West Bank, people in Gaza, and they really don't know what the future holds.' Doyle says while Palestinians often have been associated with terrorists, a majority want peace.

The E3 team believes this peace will only come through Jesus: 'We hear all about maybe a "two states" solution – Israel and Palestine. We try to stay out of the politics if we can, and just say, "How about a one heart solution, where Jews and Arabs come together under the name of Jesus Christ?"'

Doyle says a well-kept secret is how much the Palestinian church is growing.

Pray for Jews and Arabs to continue to find Jesus and experience the peace He brings. – MNN

Ministry Lays Groundwork For Uganda Care Plan

NINETY percent of the northern population of Uganda was forced into internally displaced people camps because of the civil war. Two decades later, the war is over, and people are encouraged to return home.

However, Katie Sutor with Every Child Ministries says, 'Most of the people who are left in the camp really have nowhere to go. It's because either they have no means to get out or they've literally spent their entire life within the camp and they know no other home.'

Sutor took a mission team in to work for three weeks. 'We would teach Bible lessons, focusing on ABCs, counting, or word recognition; we also ran a medical clinic while we were there and served lunch to the children.'

ECM is committed to a long-term evangelistic ministry. 'ECM is in the process of opening a baby home, hoping to break ground in February. We have a missionary couple in the southern part of Uganda right now.

They run a soccer program, a tutoring program, and Bible lessons every week.' – MNN

Hands Teams Helps Open School In Belize

A short-term mission team had the chance to be the 'Hands' of Jesus in Belize.

Recently, one of Worldwide Christian Schools short-term HANDS Team went down to Belize to prepare Cayo Christian School for students. Circumstances forced the school to find a new location.

Steve Guerink with WWCS says: 'The Lord answered their prayers. They found a piece of property and a building that could hold 120 children, got permission to operate from the Ministry of Education of Belize, and all of this in extremely short notice.'

The Hands Team then came in, cleaned and prepared the building, and built an outdoor shelter.

Geurink says their partnership helped spread the hope of Christ in Belize:

'Typically when Worldwide partners with schools, we're looking for schools that have a passion to reach out with the Gospel, using the means of education to reach the needy area of the children of these different countries.' – MNN

Sixth Reservation Responds To Gospel Message

PROCESSIONS of religious leaders greeted the *On Eagles' Wings* team as it arrived at the sixth reservation of its summer tour in the United States.

Some members of the team from Ron Hutchcraft Ministries wept as they remembered the impact of traditional religion on their own lives and families.

And at the end of three days of ministry, dozens of people in the community chose to follow Jesus Christ. Praise God for what He's done in this Native community; continue praying for the OEW team. – MNN

Uyghur Christian Appeals For Help

THE family of a Uyghur Christian is frustrated with the blatant injustice of his trial, China Aid Association reports.

The court openly used forged documents to accuse Alimujiang Yimiti of 'revealing state secrets or intelligence to overseas organisations' and claimed it didn't have to prove the documents were valid.

The verdict in the case is still pending.

Pray for the spread of the Gospel through this situation, and for strength and peace for the family and the community. – MNN

‘The Sound of Heaven’ ...

LOVERS of worship will be delighted to know that the beautiful Sound of Heaven CD and DVD have been released in Australia and are available worldwide.

The vision of songwriter and worship leader, David Willersdorf, was to join with friends to passionately proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in worship.

I attended the ‘live’ recording of the CD and DVD amidst an audience of 100 people, on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast. The atmosphere was electric, the presence of God profound.

There is no doubt that David, who wrote all of the songs on this album, is uniquely gifted and inspired to bring the people of God into His presence.

The word ‘worship’ depicts an attitude of ‘reverent love and devotion.’ Through worship the people of God draw close, open up their hearts and reach towards heaven. I don’t think there has been a time when I have played this album without discovering my need to stop and worship, to bask in His presence and simply enjoy Jesus. Worship leaders around the globe have led thousands into the throne room with this song.

Made famous by Darlene Zschech and the Hillsong worship teams, ‘Let Your Presence Fall’ is a favourite in many churches, households and cars.

David, the original writer, has included a fresh new version of this classic on ‘The Sound of Heaven’ CD and DVD.

Just for fun I searched You Tube for different versions of this song and was touched by its impact and to find so many different versions from around the globe.

Twelve Beautiful Songs

You’re All My Love, All You Have Given, The Returning Song, Such a Day, With My Life (Loaves and Fishes), Because of You, To Wait On You, Greater, Let Your Presence Fall (Remix), High King of Heaven (bonus studio song).

You can listen to samples of songs at David’s website: http://www.worship.com.au/the_sound_of_heaven/

To Purchase your Copy:

<http://www.worship.com.au/store/>

– Bev Holmes-Brown ANS

LACK OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN OVER BOKO HARAM BLOODSHED ...

CHRISTIANS in the northern Nigerian city of Maiduguri are expressing increasing dismay at what they perceive as a lack of international concern for the suffering of their communities. As funerals continue, local estimates of the death toll rise to over 1,000.

During last week’s violence, Islamist Boko Haram militants attacked both Government and Christian targets, killing individuals and taking many civilians captive for possible use as human shields against government forces besieging their compound in Maiduguri’s Railway District. Once in the camp, male captives were given a choice between conversion to Islam or death, while women and girls were kept on as hostages.

Survivors of the siege informed CSW sources that the Boko Haram leader, Yusuf Mohammed, personally oversaw the forcible Islamisation of hostages, and the execution of anyone who refused to convert.

Yesterday, Maiduguri’s Good News Church held a memorial service for one of these hostages. Pastor George Orji was beheaded in the Boko Haram com-

pound, and his body was buried in a mass grave there. He leaves behind a heavily pregnant wife, and two children aged two and four.

Archbishop of Jos, Benjamin Kwashi said: ‘It is unfortunate that the mayhem unleashed on the Church is systematically downplayed in the media. The first victim was the ecclesia, which was subjugated and sacrificed prior to any attack on the establishment, yet no report is pointing to Christians as the number one target before all others. We will continue to speak out.’

There are growing concerns that the furore surrounding the death of the Boko Haram leader may be obscuring the suffering inflicted by the sect on northern civilians, and may eventually raise him to iconic status.

Yusuf Mohammed was reportedly killed in questionable circumstances on 30 July while in police custody.

Tina Lambert, CSW’s Advocacy Director said: ‘... There is an urgent need to assist and compensate the deeply traumatised victims, and for action to ensure a definitive end to this cycle of deadly religious violence.’