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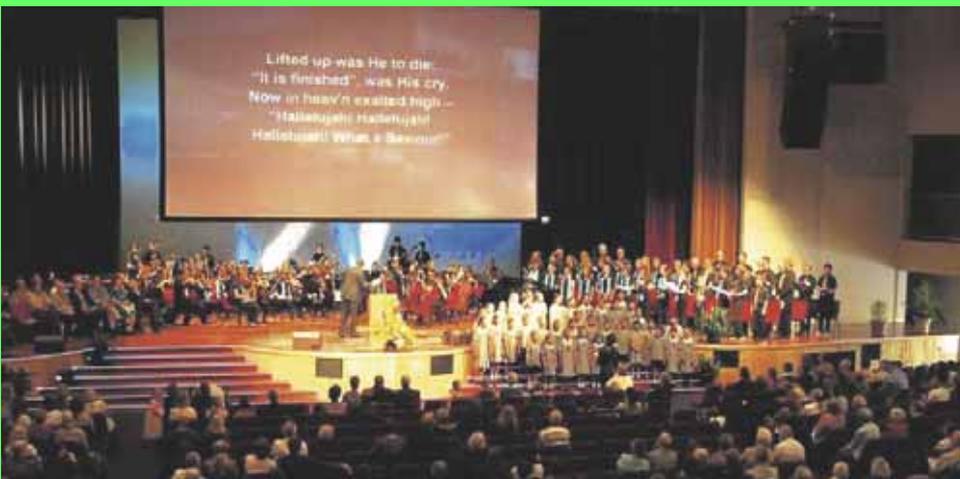
New Life

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MIRACLE ON MORRIS ROAD



'IT'S a miracle!' That's how Mueller College has been viewed for years by the neighbours in Morris Rd, Rothwell, a northern suburb of Brisbane. The miracle continues, and the latest addition to the complex is surely a miracle. When the project was first discussed in 1990 there were many who regarded it simply as a daydream. Now, nearly 20 years later, it was our privilege to be invited to the official opening of the Mueller Performing Arts Centre on Saturday 30 May.

This Centre comprises five levels – six if you count the basement parking area. The dream has become reality, and it was made very clear at the opening that the vision of Mueller College includes helping students to develop their God-given talents in the service of God and mankind by providing the best quality education and educational programs. A major objective is a distinctive to develop music in the curriculum. The college is investing in the best quality Christian education today for children to reap rewards tomorrow.

Professional, Spiritual, Musicians

The international chamber orchestra and choir, composed of students assisted by

members of Mueller Community Church, was conducted by Russian born Mr Renat Yusupov, ably supported by his own gifted wife on the piano. Another internationally acclaimed member of the Faculty was Attila Sautov, from Uzbekistan, who led the violin section.

Several items were presented by Mueller College students including some from the Primary School. There were many favourable comments as to the quality of the presentations and the spiritual nature of the students' offerings.

The Chairman, Dr Vern Heazlewood, spoke of hardships that had been overcome during the 25 years of planning, and testified that those in leadership had known the peace of God and experienced great joy as they noted progress made.

Mueller Community Church

Pastor Brian Goodwin, who had recently become Senior Pastor of the church, spoke enthusiastically of the wonderful way they had seen the hand of God on this work. The church would now be known as 'Mueller Community Church'. George Mueller was an earlier English Christian who trusted God completely, and

saw amazing answers to prayer.

The Principal of Mueller College of Ministry (the tertiary arm of the school), Dr Ivan Bowden, told how the College was accredited by the Australian College of Theology, and further developments were expected in the relatively near future. He told how cramped they had been in those early years, but now it was a tremendously humbling experience to see the provision for the College campus on the 6th floor of the new building.

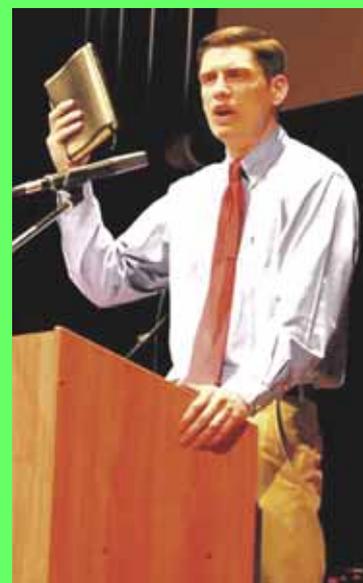
Will Graham Endorses Grandfather's Message

In introducing Mr Will Graham the Chairman, Dr Vern Heazlewood, told of the tremendous impact that Dr Billy Graham had when he first visited Australia 50 years before. He and his colleagues were now privileged to have Dr

Graham's grandson, Will, address the thousands of people who had come to praise God at this dedication.

Will Graham gave some interesting statistics: 24% of the population of all Australia came to hear his grandfather at one or more of the sites in Australia, and 4% of the population came forward at those meetings. Dr Graham has always given God the glory for those results.

(Continued on p. 3)



HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE WITH THE WILSONS



Unexpected Visit Home

JON and Lyndell Paschke are currently working in Vanuatu with Scripture Union, but they had an unexpected visit to Adelaide when Jon's father passed away on 23 May. 'He has been the best husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, brother, friend, mentor, counsellor, we could ever have hoped for,' John said in tribute to his dad.

Official Opening On 27, 28 June

AFTER months of frustration Dennis and Kate Grotto, serving in Loja, Ecuador, report that the new chapel will be opened this month. It has double-paned windows which avoids noise filtering out to the street and annoying neighbours. Their prayer is that the children's/youth section will be completed by that time. Dennis and Kate are actively involved in training local believers to be responsible for the various ministries with which the Chapel is involved. They are planning to be leaving Loja for Home Ministry Assignment as from mid-September, returning to Loja mid 2010.

89.9 Light FM

PHIL Gray, the past manager of the popular Melbourne Christian Radio Station 89.9 Light FM, has moved to the Sunshine Coast with his family, and Graham Hasler has been appointed as Acting Manager. Continue to pray for the outreach of the station and for it to reach many with the Gospel.

God Is Moving In Bangladesh

EVERY Home For Christ reports that more than 1,000 came to attend special revival meetings in Dhaka recently. Many came to know the Lord and several were healed. Pray they will find churches in which to grow in Christ.

'Abuse In The Workplace:

Can I Forgive?'

THIS is the title of a workshop to be run by Margaret Brown of the Nurses Christian Fellowship on 21 August at 7pm. Contact NCFA NSW, 5 Byfield Street, Macquarie Park 2113, phone 02 9888 5842.

Remembering Stories

MECO Magazine, Issue 1, 2009 reminds us that in 2002, 70% of the world's population were either illiterate or functionally so. This means that they learn through 'spoken words, especially proverbs, poetry or stories, all of which are designed to be understood, remembered and reproduced'. We do well to remember that Jesus used stories in

Visit By Dr Darrell Bock

MUELLER Community Church, Brisbane, announces a special seminar by Dr Darrell Bock on 25 July. Dr Bock is Research Professor of New Testament Studies and Professor for Spiritual Development and Culture at Dallas Theological Seminary. His theme will be: 'Have We Domesticated Jesus?' Contact 07 3897 2706 for details.

His teaching, and these communicated truth to the listeners. Pray for those who live in the Middle East and are hearing stories of Jesus, that they will remember His teaching.

Church In Iran Is Doubling In Size

CANADA Free Press reports that the church in Iran is doubling every six months. Meetings are held in secret but police raids continue and believers are arrested and questioned. Pray for them to stand firm in their faith in the face of this persecution and to grow through listening to International Christian radio or satellite TV broadcasting.

Update From The Shaws With GRN

ALEX Shaw has added the responsibilities of the Australian Studio Manager to his role with the mission and Sybil rejoices that recordings in PNG were done in nine languages. The Buhutu language now has over 60 songs recorded in their own language and Sybil hopes to return to PNG in October for more recording. Their son Victor is a student at Moore College and has recently announced his engagement to Claire East.

News From Global Interaction

GLOBAL Interaction asks prayer for Cliff, who serves in Central Asia, as he learns about the local culture and customs of those he lives amongst, so that he can effectively share about Jesus in a meaningful way.

New Address

AFRICA Inland Mission International (Australia) Inc has a new address: C/- Bethshan Ministries, 70 Wye Road, Wye, NSW, but their postal address is still PO Box 270, Belmont, NSW 2280.

Warning!

CHURCH Missionary Society warns us that one of their missionary's prayer supporters received a poorly written email claiming that she had requested money to be forwarded to an address in the UK. This is not the only time it has happened, so be on the alert for fake emails.

ADELAIDE College of Ministries announces the forthcoming visit of Dr Darrell Bock of Dallas Theological Seminary on Wednesday 29 July at 7.30pm in the College Chapel.

Dr Bock will be speaking on 'Jesus In The Public Square: Jesusanity And Christianity – What Is The Difference?' All are welcome.

Great News From Malaysia

CMS also reports that the first copies of the newly completed Malay translation of the New Testament and Psalms has arrived and they pray these precious books will now reach the Malay people.

Muslim Head Of BBC Religion

AAQIL Ahmed has been appointed as the Head of Religion and Ethics at the BBC in the UK. He previously worked for BBC Channel 4. The appointment has stirred up much controversy, but to no avail.

Tahlee Ministries Inc

RON and Pam Schravemade ask prayer as they conduct assemblies at the Rock Public School on 26 June.

TWR In India

FOR over 30 years TWR has broadcast in India where many have come to know Christ. Many are now suffering for their faith as they have been thrown out of their homes and persecuted in other ways. TWR broadcasts in 62 languages, 21.5 hours per day in India, bringing comfort and hope to listeners.

Look Who's Coming For Dinner!

ALAN and Deb Hirsch are back on a break from their work in the United States and they invite you to share a meal and hear what Alan and Deb have been up to. Please RSVP right away as numbers are limited! The dinner will be held on Friday 10 July from 7-9:30pm at Northern Community, Preston, Vic.

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Difference!
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03 9890 3377
To Donate And Help
Extend And Maintain
Our Ministry!**

MUELLER MIRACLE ...

Will Graham Preaches At Dedication Of Mueller Performing Arts Centre

(Continued from p.1)

When Will himself came to Australia last year, the Performing Arts Centre was very different, and very unfinished! The contrast to this day of the dedication was amazing and he spoke glowingly of the huge amount of work that had been done, and God's faithfulness in providing for it.

Totally Dedicated To God

He used the illustration of the time when Solomon dedicated Israel's Temple to the Lord. The details are given in 1 Kings 8.54ff. where we read that after praying, Solomon addressed all the assembly of Israel in a loud voice and blessed God for giving rest to His people as He had promised. The Lord is still faithful to His people, and the assurance is clear today that not one word of God's promises will fail.

He Will Not Leave Us Nor Forsake Us

Will emphasised verse 58, 'That He may incline our hearts to Himself, to walk in all His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances which He commanded our fathers.' What did Solomon mean by urging the people to incline their hearts to God?

That word 'heart' is very interesting as it means there is a personal choice on the part of one who is following God. Will's own wife was born on Valentine's day – 14 February. In America Valentine's Day is very important, and he is always careful to remind her of the warmth of his love. Three important words are emphasised: 'I love you'. (Very often the word 'love' is not used – instead there is a picture of a heart.) The point is, one lover is saying to the other, 'I have given you my heart'.



In the Scriptures the heart is the centre of our affections. The Bible refers to the thoughts of our heart, and if there are evil thoughts in our hearts, we are not really in touch with God. God expects us to serve Him with hearts that are clean and holy before Him.

He expects us to be totally surrendered to Him – all we have should be handed back to the Lord. All our possessions, our families, our futures – and our past too – should be surrendered to the Lord. He wants us to be prepared to have Him incline our hearts to Himself, to obey Him, and to keep all His commandments, His statutes and His ordinances. We should do it with a love that is complete and surrendered – the best love that is possible.

Will emphasised: 'Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes, and to keep His commandments, as at this day.'

These desires of God are not just something that was good for our fathers, and of no worth for us today. As verse 61 tells us, there is to be a practical devotion to Him

and then we will keep His commandments – that is something for this present day. That verse reminds us: 'AS AT THIS DAY'.

'Will you do that today? Are you willing to surrender to Him now? It will be a day you will never forget. The wonderful truth is that if you truly surrender yourself to Him you will find that He is able to satisfy your need to find purpose in your life. Will you do it today? If you do, you will never forget this day, and you'll never regret it.

'When you surrender to God you are doing something even more important than dedicating this building to the service of God. I want you to surrender to Him, to be used by Him for His perfect will right here in Australia. May God help you to undertake that act of surrender at this time.'

Dr Vern Heazlewood then called on Will Graham and Geoff Miller, Vice-Principal of Mueller College, to dedicate the building to the Lord. This was done with a deep sense of commitment to God, and a desire to please Him in every way, especially in the future of this important work.

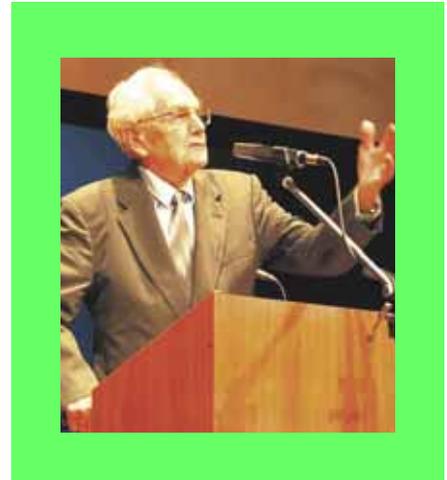
– Clifford and Barbara Wilson

Archaeological Exhibition – The Wilson Collection

The last item after Mr Will Graham spoke was a commendation and thanks to Drs Clifford and Barbara Wilson for the provision of a large number of archaeological replicas, supported by many pictures of on-site locations where archaeology, illustrations of Bible persons or events, had been found to touch the Scriptures. This exhibition is located on the 4th floor foyer. Many favourable comments were made as to its value for a college and church community such as that of Mueller.

Dr Clifford Wilson told them that while

Mr Will Graham did not know him, he had the privilege of being the co-editor of the official book of the New Zealand tour of his grandfather, Dr Billy Graham, back in 1959. He concluded: 'The title of that book was part of the theme song of the Billy Graham Crusade: *Let The People Rejoice* and *Let The People Rejoice* is an appropriate summary of the way the Bible endorses the Gospel message of Dr Billy Graham used by Him for His perfect will right here in Australia. May God help you to undertake that act of surrender at this time.'



ANOTHER BILLY GRAHAM

BARBARA and I had the privilege of hearing Will Graham at the opening of the Mueller College Performing Arts Centre – a six-storey building which now houses the newly renamed Mueller Community Church, and Mueller College of Ministry, Brisbane. As reported on pp 1,3 of this issue, the speaker at the opening was Mr Will Graham, the grandson of the much appreciated and well loved Dr Billy Graham. It is 50 years since Billy Graham campaigned in several States of Australia and a high percentage of Australians actually heard him at that time. Many thousands came forward at the end of Dr Billy's campaign addresses to ask Christ to be their Saviour.

We were wonderfully surprised at the quality of what we heard from his grandson. Will Graham rightly has a great affection for his grandfather and in his preaching it is very obvious he has studied his methods and message very carefully. The result in Brisbane was spectacular, and it was almost as though Dr Billy Graham were there again to reach our needy country. May it prove to be the case, for we desperately need another such man of God.

Many dozens came forward for counselling at the end of Will's address, for the message they heard was a real challenge from the Holy Spirit of God Himself. The crowd of several thousand heard clearly



that the time of decision was now – and they would never regret the decision they would make. He even spoke carefully of hell, and the certainty of coming judgment. Perhaps God has raised up this relatively young man to turn large numbers of Australians from indifference to, and even rejection of, our wonderful Gospel message. We – Barbara and I – both felt that very probably he was God's man for this hour, and we encourage people throughout our land to do their best to have him undertake an evangelistic crusade in their area. Thank God for him!

'Poor Told To Pack Up'

THAT is the headline to a recent article in the Melbourne *Herald-Sun*. It gives examples of very old people being faced with serious housing problems. One grandmother was told she had to leave the home she had lived in for 36 years because the Housing Department wanted to sell it. She had raised her six children there with her husband who died five years ago. She is reported as saying: 'I don't see why they can't wait for me to die before they sell it.'

Another great-grandmother had lived in her home for 54 years, but she also has been told she must move out because the Housing Department wants to sell it. She has struggled to make ends meet for 60 years, for her husband died at only 25. She had taken very good care of her home, so it was in good condition for sale. For others in that street who were faced with the same possibility it was not such a bad story, for their houses were not in good condition, so they were not put up for sale. She has cried all the time since she heard of the plan to sell. Thank God for the hope of the Christian – whose rewards are eternal and generous. Jesus Himself reminds us that when we serve the Lord faithfully, in a coming day we will hear Him say: 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'

Freak Discovery Of Jumbo Bones

AUSTRALIAN and Indonesian researchers have reported finding what they term 'a 200,000 year-old skeleton of a giant elephant in East Java'. It was about 4 metres high and alongside the Melbourne *Herald-Sun* picture a man is shown about 1.65

metres tall. We are told that it is an extinct species of enormous size. In our own book *The Paluxy River Dinosaur Controversy* we ask the question: 'When did dinosaurs die out?' And we report that a university investigation involving oxygen that was trapped in amber had been undertaken by R.A. Berner of Yale University and G.P. Landers of the US Geological Survey, Denver. After negative criticism the results were rechecked by the researchers, and other experts, and they showed that their conclusions were correct.

Their research showed that at an earlier period (which would have been pre-Flood) 'partial oxygen pressure' was 32.05 pounds per square inch whereas today it is 14.7 pounds at sea level. (Partial oxygen pressure relates to atmospheric oxygen pressure on our bodies.) The ratio of atmospheric oxygen in pre-Flood times was about 30%, where it is 21% today.

This change in oxygen pressure explains why the larger dinosaurs died out even before they reached the age necessary for procreation (capable of having offspring). Larger dinosaurs need a huge volume of oxygen for survival, and in a short period they would have died because of the insufficiency of the oxygen supply.

This is a far more realistic explanation than that a meteorite struck the Earth, killing the larger dinosaurs but leaving smaller creatures such as sparrows, dogs and horses still alive. One practical effect is that pre-Flood land creatures would have lived much longer and grown much bigger. This fits the clues in Genesis of long-living men

(Genesis 5.4) and 'giants in the Earth' (Genesis 6.4). Evidence of giant men of long ages and huge dinosaurs fits the Bible record. This explains why the elephant found in Indonesia was of such an enormous size. Probably it died in Noah's Flood.

Team member Dr van den Bergh said it was of an extinct species of enormous size, 'Much bigger than modern day Asian elephants with a femur alone being 1.2 metres long.' Dr van den Bergh is a paleontologist for the excavation.

He reported that the elephant must have suffered an uncommon demise. He states: 'Normally, such dead animals would have been ripped apart and eaten by carnivores. But it appears that the elephant became bogged in the river shallows, perished, and was quickly covered by sands – about 200,000 years ago.'

If only the world scientists would accept the truth of our wonderful Bible records, they would know that such figures are grossly exaggerated, for the flood took place less than 5,000 years ago. As Jesus said: 'Thy Word is Truth.'

A Church Meeting Banned In Fiji

IT is reported that the Fiji military regime has ordered the Methodist Church to cancel its annual conference – and they have been accused of trying to destabilise the country.

This follows the arrest of a former Methodist Church President because of a sermon he preached calling for peaceful protests to restore democracy (Melbourne *Herald-Sun*, 1 June 2009.) Let's keep praying for a peaceful solution for a very wonderful country!

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AUSTRALIA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER



The Friend Of Those Who Fear God

THE Psalmist wrote: 'I am the friend of all those who fear You, O Lord' (Psalm 119.63). These words impact the ministry of *New Life*, which seeks to raise a standard for Conservative Evangelical Christianity and particularly, though not exclusively, for the non/trans/multi/inter/denominational church.

News concerning missionary and evangelistic endeavour, especially when it goes beyond the bounds of one denomination, is grist for our mill. Nevertheless we also carry significant news of particular denominations which we trust would be of interest or encouragement to the wider church.

News items and articles come to us from many sources, sometimes from denominations or agencies whose work or focus is similar to others but whose methodologies differ. Sometimes there is an underlying 'turf war' as one group feels that another is moving in on their territory. Sometimes there is an unseemly power struggle going on, often not too far beneath the surface.

New Life generally seeks to look at each item on its intrinsic merit rather than on matters of expediency such as whether or not it is in *New Life's* interest to publish it or on external considerations such as whether or not a well-known person is the author or subject of it. In like manner, *New Life* is consciously the organ of the little people of God, those who come into the 1 Corinthians 1.26 category – and who, we are persuaded, are just as precious to God and just as vital in the service of the Kingdom as the great ones are.

Do be sure to read the article on pp 18,19 of this issue: *With Christ – Marjorie Dewe Vines*. Space is always at a premium in *New Life*, and as I necessarily cut out large parts of this obituary because of 'the exigencies of space', I was moved to tears at the sacrifices this one little woman and her late husband made, the trials they endured, if only they might minister Christ to a needy world. Shades of Gladys Aylward, shades of the Apostle Paul.

I guess we all need to remember from time to time, editors included, that the enemy is not us, but it is he who 'prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour', so that we should be friends of all the friends of God.

Bob Thomas

VIGILANT INTERCESSION AND A PROVIDENT GOD:

– Elections In Indonesia, India And Lebanon

SO far this year we have prayed about three significant elections: Indonesia, where Islamists were poised to take the balance of power; India, where analysts predicted that the Hindu nationalists would come out in front; and Lebanon, where analysts and domestic opinion polls indicated that the Hezbollah, leading its March 8 Alliance, would win the mandate it was seeking.

In each of these elections, the results predicted would have seriously undermined religious liberty and risked the security of Christians. Therefore we prayed.

Indonesia:

Whilst the Indonesian elections did give the Islamist coalition considerable influence in President Yudhoyono's ruling coalition, Yudhoyono surprised everyone in mid-May when he marginalised the Islamists by choosing Bank Indonesia governor Boediono to be his running-mate in the July presidential election. A struggle continues – more on this later.

India:

India's Congress-led United Progressive Alliance collected a swath of swinging voters and romped home, even routing the Hindu nationalists in some of their former strongholds, particularly the prayer-soaked state of Orissa. God frustrated the ways of the wicked magnificently, providing India with another five-year window of opportunity to advance liberty and combat Hindutva.

Lebanon:

In Lebanon, so many Christians (and Sunnis) deserted the Hezbollah-led opposition out of fear of Hezbollah that the scales tipped in favour of the more moderate March 14 Alliance. Now Hezbollah cannot choose which ministries it will control or claim to have a mandate to rule Lebanon or

fight Israel, which it has been claiming for some time. We must pause to acknowledge God's provident hand and to thank Him for His mercy. May the Lord alone be exalted!

Lebanon's Election Results

Lebanon's surprising election result retains the status quo. Before the elections the Sunni-Druze-Christian March 14 Alliance, backed by the Arab states and America, held 70 of the parliament's 128 seats, while the Hezbollah-led Shi'ite-Christian 'March 8' opposition backed by Iran and Syria held 58. Though opinion polls and analysis had placed the 'March 8' forces on a winning trajectory, the March 14 Alliance maintained its majority, holding 71 seats to the 'March 8' opposition's 57.

Hezbollah's ally, the predominantly Christian Free Patriotic Movement, failed to deliver Hezbollah the mandate it was seeking. In some majority-Christian districts, FPM candidates only held their seats thanks to Shi'ite votes. Despite being the election's biggest loser, the FPM is still the largest Christian bloc in the parliament.

Lebanon's Christians remain deeply divided. The 'Unity Government' established under the 21 May 2008 Doha Declaration which was formulated after Hezbollah's 7 March 2008 blitzkrieg takeover of Beirut, will doubtless continue. So too will the Doha Declaration's concession that Hezbollah have the right to veto the democratically elected government's decisions as long as it has the support of one-third of the assembly, a foregone conclusion as the Hezbollah-led opposition controls well over that.

Hezbollah will continue to operate as a state within a state: monitoring Beirut airport, running a separate telecommunications network, building up its weapons

caches and fortification, and preaching 'resistance!' to free people in a sovereign state.

In essence, little has changed domestically: Hezbollah will continue to dictate the terms, for while it might not have a mandate, it will have the right of veto and the strongest fighting force in the state. Furthermore, it will still have the support of Iran, the ascendant power in the region.

Once a cosmopolitan majority-Christian state, Lebanon's trajectory is clear. The election result has not changed that – it has only applied the brakes. What Lebanon needs is for the direction to be reversed. So we pray for Lebanon, that Christianity will be revived, but not through a return of the Christian diaspora. Rather may the Lebanese Church, particularly in Lebanon, experience profound spiritual renewal and revival, leading to the conversion of many Lebanese and regional Muslims, for peace is essentially a fruit of a spiritually transformed people. (Isaiah 2.2-4)

Please Pray Specifically:

- thanking God for His mercy and restraint, for while He is warning (roaring like a lion – Amos 3.4a,8a) He is giving nations more time to repent, and so we pray for revival in the Church leading to the drawing in of many peoples and transformation of society.
- for God to bring the eyes of all Lebanese Christians to focus on Christ their Saviour, for He is central and key to their spiritual revival, their wisdom, unity, hope and witness.

Written for the Australian Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission by Elizabeth Kendal, an international religious liberty analyst and advocate, and a member of the AEA RLC team.

News From Global Interaction

There are more than 6,000 unreached people groups around the world. This accounts for more than 2 billion people who are yet to hear of Jesus in ways that make sense in their culture. Ask God to send out the workers to share His Good News.

Bruce and Pauline's short-term visas in the Silk Road Area will soon expire. Their applications for extended visas have been submitted. Pray that the process goes smoothly in obtaining the documentation they need to stay.

As part of her role supporting farmers in Malawi, Rina is moving to a village for two months. There she will not only be able to give

training and advice but also further immerse herself in the language and gain deeper insight into what life is like for her friends and colleagues on a day-to-day basis. Pray for her health and wellbeing during this time and ask God to bless the friendships that grow.

Pray that Norm and Karen Roberts will know God's strength, health and wisdom in the coming weeks with a busy itinerary supporting the churches in Outback Australia. Pray God's blessing on the Yapa communities of Yuendumu, Willowra and Ali Curung.

Remember Nathan as he visits churches and groups to raise a partnership team to support his work in South Asia.

CHRISTIANS IN THE ACTION ...

Queenslanders Proud To Host Uganda's Watoto Children's Choir

QUEENSLANDERS have a lot to be proud of: 150 years of history, beautiful coastlines and some of the best athletes in Rugby League are just a few obvious things. But now, thanks to the support of Queensland, Ugandan children like Jackie Nalumansi, aged 10, and Fred Samula, aged 11 can realize their dreams to someday become community and government leaders in Uganda.

Jackie, Fred, and 16 other children between ages eight and thirteen are participating in a series of free concerts across Queensland and Australia as part of the Watoto Children's Choir.

Some of these remarkable Watoto children have been literally rescued from rubbish dumps. The Watoto Children's Choirs travel the globe with a very unique brand of energy and hope, and are ambassadors for the Watoto Child Care Villages.

Help From Various Sources

Hearing of the choir and the work that Watoto has done, several venues in Queensland have invited the children to perform and are very excited to host them. One dentist in Mt Gravatt, Dr John Gooley, even invited the children for complimentary dental checkups in his surgery, while other organizations such as Sunlovers Reef Cruises in Cairns are hosting the children on their first Great Barrier Reef experience.

'Seeing how the Watoto children have emerged from hard circumstances and now passionately aspire to become future engineers, nurses, and teachers for their local communities will be encouraging and refreshing for Australians', says Mark Bradshaw, Director of Watoto Australasia.

Watoto currently operates three chil-

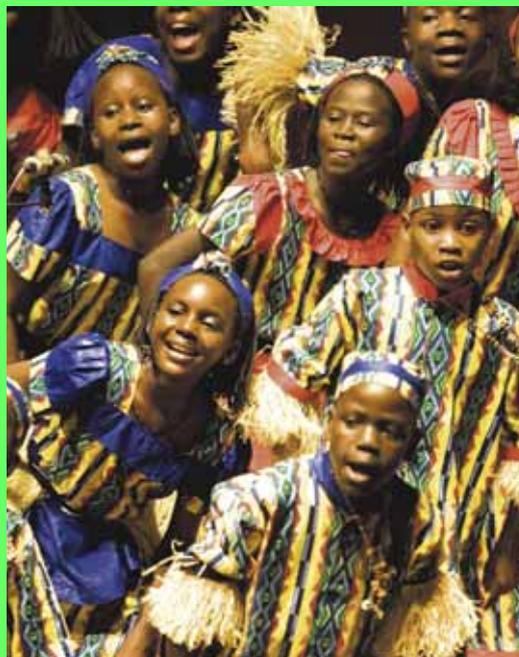
dren's villages and cares for over 1,900 children. The village homes each accommodate eight children and a mother who cares for them. These villages contain a complete school system for the Watoto children and introduce leadership principles. The Watoto villages also include things such as a medical clinic, church, community centre, and an agricultural project providing food, clean water and electricity.

'These children carry the message of hope they themselves experienced at Watoto. The people in Australia are privileged to watch this beautiful choir and to participate in the cause.

Australians will be blown away by the best of African contemporary music as presented by the Watoto Children's Choir' says Esther Agwang from Watoto's Ugandan office.

When asked what the children thought of coming to Australia, they were extremely excited. Jackie says that she wants to come to Australia because 'I want Australians to know that I'm going to sing and dance with all my strength to show God's love.' Fred says that he looks forward to seeing what Australian people eat, while his friend Bridget, also 11 years old, wants to see the big buildings and 'incredibly friendly people' she's often heard about who live in Australia.

Watoto Child Care Ministries was com-



menced in 1994 by a couple from Canada, Gary and Marilyn Skinner. Watoto Childcare Ministries exists to teach and produce the next generation of Ugandan leaders and citizens. Some of the long term goals include providing familial life and shelter, education, medical care and spiritual guidance to those children left parentless as a result of war and disease. The Children's Choir, to perform in several countries across the globe, consists of a few of these future leaders who have a heart to raise awareness of the devastation in their country and to enlist the participation of Aussies for the work Watoto has started.

For more information and schedules, go to: www.watoto.com

Steve Estherby Commissioned As NSW State Officer For FamilyVoice Aust

REV Steve Estherby was officially welcomed with great joy as NSW State Officer for FamilyVoice Australia at his commissioning service at 2pm on Saturday 20 June at St Anne's Anglican Centre, Ryde.

Rev Dr Barry Chant of Wesley Mission was the keynote speaker, and Rev Dr Peter Barnes of Revesby Presbyterian Church and Pastor Peter Rahme of Auburn Baptist Church prayed for Steve, his family and his ministry.

Contact Dr David Phillips, National President, FamilyVoice Australia, GPO Box 9894, Sydney NSW 2001, or phone: 1300 365 965 to learn more about FamilyVoice Australia.



Have You Recommended New Life To A Friend Recently?

Is Your Church A Disabled Church?



Jim Stellard tells his story via DVD.

CBM (Christian Blind Mission) threw out a challenge to the Church at a breakfast on Friday 11 June when they launched their new program: *Luke 14 – Disability Inclusive Christian Communities*. The *New Life* Editorial Team – Bob Thomas, Cliff Wilson and Barbara Wilson – were there to report it

'If your church doesn't cater for disabled people, then it's a disabled church.' That statement seems contradictory on first hearing it. But think about it. One of the reasons for the Church's existence is to share the compassion of Christ for people in all their disabilities.

'Jesus went about doing good' ... 'And He had compassion on them' the Gospel record tells us. So a church which doesn't cater for and minister to the disabled is not completely fulfilling the Great Commission – to that extent it's a disabled church.

CBM seeks to help churches cater for people with disabilities so that the church will no longer be disabled but enabled to minister the love of Christ for them.

Originally set up to specifically help blind people, CBM recognises that Jesus ministered to 'the lame, the halt and the blind' and so many others with so many different disabilities and today its ministry is expand-

ing to help people in all their various needs.

Why Luke 14?

Our Lord gave a parable about a man who prepared a great supper and when everything was ready he invited his friends and colleagues to come to the supper. The story is wonderfully descriptive, told in only a few verses in Luke 14. We can almost picture the scene. As our Lord put it – 'They all with one accord began to make excuse.' When it was clear that none of the invited guests would be coming, the Master sent his special servant with a new instruction, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel the blind, the lame and the disabled to come in, so that My house may be filled.'

At first you would think they were hardly the ones who should be invited, but they were now to be honoured guests – an invitation they would be more than glad to accept.

That is the challenge of *Luke 14 Ministries*. As CBM say in their publicity folder: 'Luke 14 is 'CBM's new initiative to equip the Australian Church to fulfil this mandate.'

Strong Faith Despite Great Disability

The supporting speaker was Nerida Fidock who encouraged and challenged us with her very personal experience with Multiple Sclerosis, especially telling of her own personal faith and commitment to Christ.

Then there was a very moving DVD of

others who had serious disabilities but now boldly proclaimed their faith. They showed us how to relate to others with such disabilities. One was Ric Mallard who many years ago dived into what proved to be very shallow water and broke his neck. Ric's future seemed hopeless but he enrolled in a course at the Bible College of Victoria where, with the help of others, he kept going until he had degrees in theology and became a tutor, helping other students learn how to write essential essays and prepare for examinations. In a coming day, many will rise up to call him blessed – as the Scripture puts it.

At the end of the presentation Mrs Lindsey Gale encouraged each participant to implement the goals of Luke 14, and facilitate relationships with those who are disabled in our local churches.

In our Lord's day Luke 14 shows that the poor, the crippled and the lame were more than welcome when they turned to the Lord Himself. That same offer is available today, and that is why CBM is encouraging able-bodied people to rigorously pursue the Luke 14 program with its wonderful principles. Teaching tools are available for those who are interested in learning how to implement such a program in their own church fellowship.

For more information go to: www.luke14.cbm.org.au, or phone toll free 1800 678 069.

– CBM CAN HELP YOU ENABLE IT!

CBM has so far produced four resources in its Luke 14 initiative. *Table Talk* DVD is a disability awareness tool for church communities. Running for seven minutes, it carries the testimonies of several people with disabilities who have been integrated with caring Christian communities, finding faith, welcome and support through the ministry of their local church. With an estimated one fifth of the Australian community, or 4.3 million people affected by disability, it presents a timely challenge to the Church to reach out to these people with the love and care of Christ in practical ways.

Accessible Church is a guide to improving the way the Church welcomes people with a disability – both emotionally in terms of establishing caring relationships and physically in making the best use of the building, providing aids such as ramps and handrails. These resources are available free of charge on request to CBM (see address on previous page).

In addition to these resources, *Church Bar None* DVD and Workbook and *Disability Awareness Sunday Manual* are also available for a small charge.

The website www.luke14.cbm.org.au provides further helpful material and directions for ordering.



John Anderson's Testimony And Endorsement

HOW many countries in the world would be blessed with their former Deputy Prime Minister courageously telling the story of how they learned their fifth child would suffer from Downs Syndrome and other serious disabilities ... and then saw that child whom they learned to love deeply, taken into the presence of the Lord after only six months?

John and Julia Anderson struggled with the same questions everyone in that situation does: Was it a waste? Why did God allow it? Where was God in that situation?

But for them there was the additional question: What would his colleagues in the Government think? They knew that their

colleague was a church-going, believing man who quietly showed his Christian faith, both in words and in action. John confided in his closest colleagues: the then Prime Minister, John Howard, and Treasurer Peter Costello, who sympathized with him and proved to be true friends as well as worthy political colleagues who at times prayed with him. All sides of politics acknowledge John's honesty and integrity, and this is reflected in his uncompromising commitment to the Christian faith.

At the CBM breakfast he shared his personal experience of disability in his family and was able to provide invaluable advice on how to implement Luke 14 in all our churches.

He was a very interesting speaker who told us that at the moment he has a personal problem in that he can't turn his mobile phone off! He lives in northern New South where they have recently had floods of such intensity that you have to walk through mud. He dropped his mobile phone, and a steer walked on it – mud and all. No problem, the phone still works – but it can't be turned off!

John has shown tremendous leadership ability in his public life and has known what it is to suffer, at times to even wonder why he has had to suffer.

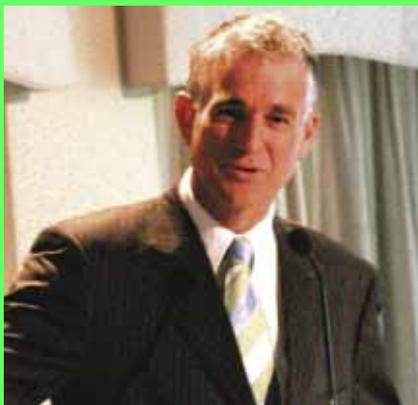
Nonetheless he has known through it all that the Lord is faithful and He has been his constant Friend and Supporter.

John acknowledges that the support he and his wife have received from fellow church members has been extraordinary. He greatly appreciated the many who showed great concern for him and others like him who have needed encouragement and strengthening.

He personally encouraged us to be encouragers of others even though we might be asking at times, 'Why? Why? Why?' He has learned from experience that God's grace is sufficient.

He referred to John Newton who wrote the very popular hymn 'Amazing Grace'. John Newton experienced God's grace in a special way when he found God in an old sailing ship where he spent ten days in a massive storm. John Anderson pointed out that all of us are disabled by sin and so we often walk away from God. We need to recognize God and let Him bring healing and wholeness – but this wonderful experience is possible on God's terms. It is important to know that we are dear to our heavenly Father. He loves us and we can know His love through Jesus Christ.

John warmly commended the work of CBM and endorsed the Luke 14 project.



PERSECUTION WATCH ...

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



GFA Women Missionaries Harassed By Mob Of Boys

THREE Gospel for Asia-supported women missionaries were cornered and harassed by a mob of nearly 30 boys. Chameli, Harshita and Vinaya were giving out tracts and sharing the love of Jesus in one of India's coastal cities when the incident took place. They had been able to reach out in the community for a while that day without incident. Then, as they were walking down one street, two young boys approached, demanding to know if the women were there to convert people.

They came toward them in full force, took away their tracts and began hitting Harshita and Vinaya in the head with them. Chameli,



the other woman, tried to calm the boys, but the boys were so enraged that they began to verbally harass the women, even calling them prostitutes. They grabbed all the tracts the women had been carrying, tore them into pieces and threw the fragments into the air. Chameli, Harshita and Vinaya tried to escape into another street but saw two more boys standing in front of them. When they looked around, they saw more boys standing at every possible way of escape. Soon, the mob grew to 30 boys surrounding them and verbally abusing them. GFA asks for prayer for such women as they daily share the Good News of Christ.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH!

Pastor Attacked, Arrested On False Charges Of Conversion In Andhra Pradesh, India

HINDU radicals attacked a pastor and reported him for distributing Christian literature in Hyderabad on Saturday 6 June at around 8.30am, when Pastor David Raju from Hyderabad went for a Christian meeting in one of his churches in a place called Mangalagiri in Guntur District.

On his arrival a group of about 20 people, allegedly belonging to Hindu radical groups, severely beat up Pastor Raju and later the attackers informed local police that he was participating in 'forceful conversion', which were false charges. The pastor was taken into police custody and released at around 2.30pm.

After a meeting with the church leaders, the matter was brought to a compromise and the police and the Hindu radicals allowed the pastor to carry on with his meeting in the church that had invited him.

James Varghese, ASSIST

Christian Girl Kidnapped In Pakistan

SAJIDA Masih, the mother of a 12-year-old Christian girl who was kidnapped in the village of Hanif Kot, Gujranwala District, Pakistan and forced to marry a 37-year-old Muslim man, is embroiled in a legal battle to recover her daughter, according to a report from Compass Direct. On 23 February, Muhammad Imran abducted Huma Masih after threatening to kill her, her aunt and her parents. Sajida was ridiculed by police

when she sought their help. After three days, officers finally filed the report but listed Huma's age as 16, the legal age for girls in Pakistan to marry. Imran subsequently demanded nullification of the report, claiming Huma converted to Islam and married him of her own will. He also submitted a fake birth certificate which listed her age as 18. Local Muslims have since tried to extort money and labour from Sajida in exchange for information on Huma's whereabouts. Pray that Huma will be returned to her family. Pray for wisdom for the family's lawyer. Pray that those who prey on Christian girls in Pakistan may experience repentance and salvation. – *Persecution And Prayer Alert*

Repressive Religion Law, New Penalties In Azerbaijan

On 31 May, a new Religion Law in Azerbaijan came into effect along with amendments to both the Criminal and Administrative Codes, according to a 3 June report from Forum18. Under the new law, all religious organizations which have currently managed to obtain state registration will have to re-register by 1 January 2010. Many religious organizations fear they will fail to maintain their legal status. Producing, importing, circulating or selling religious literature without required permission from the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations is now considered an offence. It is also now an offence to conduct religious activity at a different location from where one's religious community is regis-

tered or to be involved in religious activity not specifically listed in the organization's statute.

Pray for the Body of Christ in Azerbaijan as it faces ongoing opposition for His Name. Pray that believers will confidently entrust themselves to Christ so that they can preach the Gospel without hesitation (2 Timothy 1.7-12).

More information on the persecution facing Christians in Azerbaijan can be found at: www.persecution.net/azerbaijan.htm

Threatened Nepali Christians Stand Firm, Start Radio Stations

HINDU extremists in Nepal have threatened to bomb Christians within one month unless they stop sharing the Gospel. Ty Stakes, with HCJB Global says the Christians will stand firm. 'The Lord has really changed the climate there and created opportunity for the Gospel to flourish. And so along with that necessarily, I think, comes opposition, because this is a battle that we're in. I don't think these guys are going to give up. They're going to keep walking forward.' Christians in Nepal are starting radio stations to reach people with the Gospel. Pray that God will help them communicate well in a hostile environment. 'It's a real delicate balance they need to strike. And they need real wisdom from the Lord in order to effectively speak to the community and present their identity so that people will be attracted to the message of the cross.'

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD ...

Message Of Hope Sees Many Come To Know Jesus In Nepal

Simon Pandey, imprisoned in Nepal for his faith in Christ in the 60's, shares the following ...

THE radio ministry of the *Message of Hope* with Radio Nepal is going on as usual. We are thankful to God for His continued help and guidance to run this ministry to this date. God has been always faithful to us. We are also grateful to those friends who have been continually praying and generously supporting this ministry.

As usual, we are receiving encouraging responses from the listeners of our programs across Nepal and beyond. The listeners include both Christians and non-Christians. The Christians who listen to the programs are being blessed and encouraged, and non-Christians are opening their hearts to Jesus Christ.

Since the inception of this ministry our programs with Radio Nepal (Government media) have been running every Sunday at

9.30pm for half an hour. The programs mainly include Gospel songs and Bible messages. For the last several months I have been speaking on the subject: 'Who is Jesus?' based on John's Gospel.

It is encouraging to hear from various churches that many of our listeners are attending church services. For example, a church in Dhulikhel (some 40km east of Kathmandu), which has about 150 members, recently invited me to speak in their worship service. I found almost all of the members listen to our programs regularly. They even have been collecting some contributions to this ministry.

While we have this opportunity to preach the Gospel through national media such as Radio Nepal, and hearing such encouraging news from the listeners, we are also facing challenges for the continuation of our radio programs. One of the challenges is the funding requirements for the ministry, mainly the cost of air time, which is very high.

Hezbollah's Lebanon Election Challenge Fails

HEZBOLLAH'S challenge for power in Lebanon has failed. The March 14th Coalition, a US-backed group, retained its hold on the government. David Harder, with SAT-7 Christian television satellite ministry to the Middle East and North Africa, says: 'The coalition led by Prime Minister Hariri has a more Western outlook and has been supported by a majority of Christians within the country. That party has been the one that has been more Western looking, and I think most of the Christian community is pleased that this is the way it has gone.'

Their staff is relieved because of Lebanon's turbulent history. 'That there is peace in the country and that the losing side seems to be accepting the results is really a wonderful thing for that country that's been so divided', Harder says. As for ministry, Harder urges continued prayer. 'That's a very good thing for all of the Christians and certainly for our operations there. It means that Lebanon is remaining peaceful. At least, that's the way it appears at this point.'

More Audio Bibles For Global, Native Peoples

FAITH Comes By Hearing, an Audio Bible ministry, recently released Audio Bibles in seven more languages. These seven new Audio Bibles represent more than 530 mil-

lion people on five continents. Some, like Arabic and English, are major world languages, while others are regional or Amerindian languages.

In Mexico, for example, Mixteco de Tezoatlán is spoken by about 6,000 people in the Oaxaca area while Totonaco de la Sierra has roughly 120,000 speakers.

'Mexico has more than 200 indigenous languages, 120 of which have New Testament translations ready for recording,' said Phil Kenney, Faith Comes By Hearing's regional manager for the Americas, speaking in a news release. Faith Comes By Hearing's present Audio Bible catalogue now lists nearly 70 Amerindian languages available for ministry purposes.

Faith Comes by Hearing said research shows there are more than 6,800 languages spoken around the world, and half of the world's population is illiterate.

Faith Comes By Hearing is working to bring the Word of God to every nation, tribe and tongue. The ministry said it is coming closer to its goal of recording the New Testament in 2,000 languages and implementing two million Bible listening groups by the year 2016. When accomplished, the Audio Bibles in those languages will reach the majority of the world's speakers.

Faith Comes By Hearing now has 439 Audio Scripture recordings available in 371

We are thankful to our friends, mainly in Australia, who have been faithful in making contributions towards this program. We do hope and pray that God will give us more friends who are interested to partner with us in this ministry. We are also thankful to the Omega Training Partnership for partnering with us in organizing follow-up training programs in various places to the listeners of the radio programs. OTP has also shared their office facilities.

I am happy to write that HCJB has recently agreed to partner with us in establishing local FM stations. In this connection two stations have been established, one in Butwal and others in Dhulikhel, in co-operation with local Christians. Once again I want to express my sincere thanks to all our dear friends for your prayers and partnership for this ministry. We do trust and pray that your partnership will continue to grow in the years to come for the extension of God's Kingdom in Nepal. – *NACL News Release*

languages. More than 400 of these Audio Bibles are available for free download at: www.FaithComesByHearing.com

– *Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST*

Demand Grows For Christian Bookstores In Greece, Especially Among Students

INCREASING demand for Christian bookstores in Greece has been reported by AMG International.

Some 25,000 evangelicals live in Greece where AMG has been working for decades and had the first Christian publishing company.

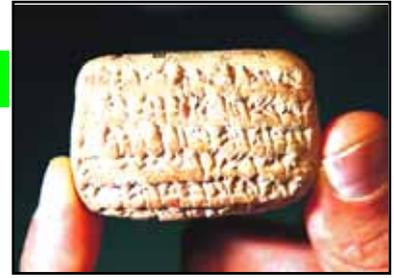
There are now five such bookstores in the cities of Athens, Thessaloniki, Patra, Larissa and Volos. Local churches in the latter three cities have partnered with the stores in those cities. More churches are available and willing to create partnerships if financial resources become available.

Many of the customers who utilize the bookstore in Patra are university students who make use of the copy machines. They ask questions about the literature they see and often encounter Christ for the first time because of the Christian workers they meet.

In Larissa, the bookstore ministry also serves as a distribution centre for Christian literature in the Albanian language – a ministry conducted in partnership with Operation Mobilization.

– *Mission Network News via HCJB*

Evidence For The Defence Of The Faith



DR Vern Heazlewood, Chairman for the dedication of the Mueller College Performing Art Centre, commended and thanked Drs Clifford and Barbara Wilson for the provision of a large number of archaeological replicas which consistently show the historical relevance of archaeology to the Bible records. These were supported by many pictures of on-site locations where archaeology has been found to touch the Scriptures or to illustrate events and even such seemingly unimportant titles of both friends and enemies of Israel.

This is a major exhibition on the 4th Floor foyer and there were many favourable comments as to their value for a college and church community such as that of Mueller.

Dr Clifford Wilson told the large group of assembled people how these replicas had been collected over many years and concluded with the comment that Christians can rejoice at the way archaeology has supported the Scriptures.

Each box reflects one period of Scripture and has a photograph and description of each item alongside the box. Each year the school is planning to rotate these and many other similar items and integrate the exhibition into the curriculum. What follows is a survey of the first portion of this display.

Of The Bible And Notes, Then Three Major Evidences

A. Genesis 1-11. This is the 'Seed-plot of the Bible'; doctrines – God, Creator, Designer, Friend, Grieving Father, Judge, Redeemer, Restorer, Covenantor, Sustainer, God in Jesus, Real history, Beginnings.

Three Major Evidences

1. Enuma Elish – Babylonian Creation Record, and also Ebla Creation Tablet. The Bible record is clearly superior. It is the original.
2. Epic of Gilgamesh – includes the Babylonian flood story. Again, the Bible record is greatly superior ... and is the original.

3. Long Living Kings at Kish (Sumerian) – supposedly they lived from 10,000 to 64,000 years – but these figures were later amended so that the total was only about 200 years different from that of the Bible. The Bible record is conservative and is the true account – Babylonian and other traditions were embellished and were unacceptable to right thinking people.

B. Genesis Chapters 11 to 36: Patriarchal records with special reference to Abraham, Father of the Hebrews. The Bible was right, and the critics were clearly wrong about the Hittites being known so early.

Three Major Evidences

1. Abraham's home city of Ur excavated by Sir Leonard Woolley, with surprising evidence of near-luxury. (There was another northern 'Ur' mentioned in the Ebla Tablets. Woolley's 'Ur' was Abraham's city.)
2. Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Despite hostile criticisms, all five 'cities of the plain' (Genesis 19) are referred to in the same order in the Ebla Tablets, which date to about 2200 BC thus preceding Abraham. It is believed the cities have now been identified on the Jordan side of the Dead Sea. (Some scholars believe they were under the southern part of the Dead Sea.)
3. Abraham's negotiations with Hittites. (Genesis 23) include Hittite words and follow known forms of such Hittite transactions.

C. Genesis Chapters 37 to 50: Especially about Joseph in Egypt. Egyptianisms and local colour are plentiful throughout the record eg the first Bible reference to the horse (47.17), the methods of embalming the dead and other burial practices as with Jacob and Joseph (50.2,3,26).

Three Major Evidences

1. Known Egyptian titles such as 'Captain of the Guard' (Genesis 39.1), 'overseer' (39.4), 'chief of the butlers' and 'chief of the bakers' (40.2), 'Father to the Pharaoh' (actually 'Father to the gods' which to Joseph was blasphemy as he could not accept that Pharaoh was a manifestation of Ra the Sun God – Joseph Hebraised the title, and so did not dishonour the true God), 'Lord of Pharaoh's House' (the palace), and 'Ruler

of all Egypt' – a plural word *mizraim* – the 'im' shows it is masculine plural (Genesis 45.8). This includes north and south Egypt.

2. Joseph's installation as Vizier (Chief Minister) is very similar to other recorded ceremonies, and his new name is known - 'Zaphnath-Paaneah' – is 'Head of the Sacred College' (Genesis 41.41-45).
3. Dead Sea Scrolls make Genesis 46.27 to be 75 descendants of Abraham, not 70, thus correcting a scribal error: Stephen's figure was right (Acts 7.14).
- D. Exodus to Deuteronomy: These four books of the Pentateuch were written by Moses, and probably at times in consultation with Aaron (priestly) and Joshua (military).

Three Major Evidences

1. The Law of Moses – genuinely written against his background, and greatly superior to other known Laws such as of Hammurabi King of Babylon and Eshnunna (1900 BC). Covenant forms are endorsed as a unity, and from the middle of second millennium BC (the time of Moses).
 2. Ten plague-judgments against Egypt's leading gods (Exodus 12:12).
 3. Ethical concepts are not too early for Moses, despite earlier hyper-criticism. (Ebla tablets (ancient Syria) pre-date Moses and, e.g., include penalties against rape.)
- E. Joshua to Saul: the conquest, Judges, and the early kingdom. The 'Cup of Iniquity' of the Canaanites was full – their evil practices were shown by excavations.

Three Major Evidences

1. Deities such as Baal, Asherah and Dagan are properly identified, with the right people.
2. City-states are identified – eg Hazor as 'the head of those kingdoms' (Joshua 11.10). The excavation of Hazor corroborated its great size.
3. Saul's head and armour were put in two temples at Beth-Shan. Both Philistine and Canaanite temples were found - the Bible record was endorsed when that seemed unlikely. (I Samuel 31:9, 10 and I Chronicles 10:10.)

To be continued.

FAITH SHIP BEGINS THE JOURNEY ...

World's Largest Floating Book Fair Opens in London – LOGOS HOPE Gets Down To Work

By Peter Wooding, ASSIST News Service



Logos Hope docked in London.

Logos Hope has docked in South Quay, London. Having received tens of thousands of visitors in Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff, the crew of this unique vessel, run by Operation Mobilization, are now welcoming the public from the country's capital on board.

During a special ceremony on the ship, Deputy Mayor of London Richard Barnes cut the ribbon to officially open the book fair to visitors of the ship that has 350 volunteer crew from more than 40 nations. 'The message you give is an inspiration, that we shall understand each other through learning,' he told the gathered crew, guests and invited VIPs.

For Logos Hope Captain Dirk Colenbrander from the Netherlands, serving on board is the fulfilment of a lifelong ambition since he visited the original Logos as a young boy and determined that someday he would serve as an officer on one of OM's ships.

'We've had some great experiences already going through the ports in Europe and knowing the other countries where we will go will attract a much greater interest,' explained Dirk. 'On our other ships we also saw long lines of people wanting to come on board, and having a bigger ship with

more possibilities and more crew to meet the visitors is really exciting.'

Graham Jack, leader of Public Ministries for Logos Hope, says visitors are already experiencing the presence of God as they come on board for the first time: 'We have some unique connection places particular-

ly with our visitor experience and we're hearing great stories coming out of this particular deck, of people who've come on board.

'They've got their first Bible in their own language. People have come on board and just sensed God's presence. Our shipping agent here even said "there's something different about this ship. I don't get this actual sense of peace on any other ship I go on". Also many people are experiencing the reality of God in their lives for the first time.'

The newly created Logos Hope Experience (converted from the original ferry's car area into two separate decks) will hold up to 1,000 visitors at any time, with capacity to host an additional 700 in the Hope Theatre and Logos Lounge. Almost 500 crew and guests can be accommodated in the ship's 200 cabins, with better facilities and spaces for catering, health services and schooling.

George Verwer says the greatest strength of the Logos Hope is its multiple uses: 'The thing that makes the ship such a winner is the multiple, different things that are all going on at the

same time. Tens of thousands have made re-commitments of their lives on the ship. Many have come to Christ in the first place.

'Many ministries trace their birth back to someone coming on the ship, usually the founder. We of course want to impact the church to do more missions. That's one of the strongest parts of our DNA. Evangelism is there, discipleship and leadership training is there as well as mission mobilization. It's all going on at once. Of course with a staff and crew of 350 when we sail into a port you can imagine what can happen through prayer.'

Logos Hope is staffed by an all-volunteer crew of 350 – even the captain and officers receive no salary. All those serve on board as a practical expression of their Christian faith. The crew are also very international, representing over 40 countries. Besides exploring the book fair, visitors to the ship will have an opportunity to meet crew members, experience their many cultures and learn how they bring knowledge, help and hope to the people of the world.

For more details go to: www.hopestartshere.info



George Verwer on deck.

New Life Now Available Electronically

FOR over 70 years, *New Life* has come to subscribers and readers through the post or Christian book shops, but we can now offer an alternative way of receiving *New Life* – by email. The email edition contains an additional four pages of news and views we can't fit into the print edition, subscribers receive it a few days ahead of the print edition, and it costs half the price!

TO SUBSCRIBE to the email edition, contact Alison on 03 9890 3377 or email her at alison@nlife.com.au

FROM ALL QUARTERS ...

Insight For Living Dedicates New Australian Office

ON the evening of Friday 5 June many people gathered at the *Insight For Living* offices to thank God for and dedicate their new premises to His work. The office had been located in the Outer Eastern Melbourne suburb of Bayswater, but due to the expansion of the business of the owners of the premises a new site was needed.

Peter Tyrell, the Executive Director of IFL, welcomed everyone and introduced the staff and board members. Everyone was then free to have a chat and look over the new offices. Bill Watson, Vice Chair of the Insight for Living Board, started the official proceedings with the history of IFL, which started in the USA in 1979 and is now broadcast in 16 languages on 2,100 outlets

and is accessible by 60% of the world's population.

IFL started in Australia in 1987 in a garage in Mitcham (Vic) and then moved to offices in Blackburn (Vic), Bayswater (Vic) and now Boronia (Vic).

Another board member, Malcolm Gill, then brought the dedication address and prayer. He spoke from Joshua 4 regarding the building of the memorial to remind the people how the Lord dried up the Jordan so they could cross.

Malcolm reminded those present to look back and thank God for what He has already done as well as what He will do.

Although Chuck Swindoll, the founder of IFL could not be there, he sent along a

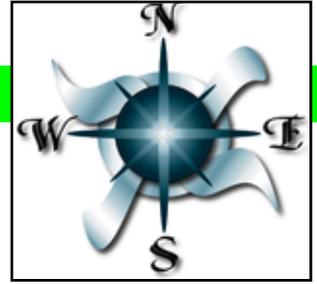
video message especially

recorded for the occasion. He thanked all of those who pray and give to the ministry as well as the staff and volunteers who serve so diligently.

Joy Solberger closed the dedication service in prayer. Afterwards everyone was free to stay, take another look around and talk to staff and board members about the ministry.

The new contact details for Insight For Living are: 2/280 Dorset Rd, Boronia Vic 3155 (PO Box 443 Boronia Vic 3155). Phone: 1300 467 444, fax: 1300 903 900.

– Alison King



Upcoming Events:

'Fire On The Mountain' 2009

FIRE On The Mountain is a weekend conference organised with the purpose of seeing God's will worked out in every area of our lives – the straight-forward and the not-so-straight-forward.

This year a seminar leader, Rev Roger Marsh, will be looking at the issue of self esteem. Every day we deal with this issue in a world contaminated by sin and selfish ideas. What does God have to say about this? Seminar leader Dr Andrew Bain will also be addressing the relevance of the Reformation to our lives as Christians today. The third seminar offered will be delivered by Rick Quinn, practising lawyer in Washington DC. He will be investigating the claim that Christ is seen throughout all of Scripture.

Main talks will be given by accomplished theologian Dr Henry Krabbendam.

For more information contact Charissa Campbell, phone 07 5545 0404, or Kim

Dale on 07 5545 2041 or visit www.fireonthemountain.org.au

Christian Worldview Monthly Forum
REV Hon Fred Nile MLC will host Chuck Missler speaking on the subject: *Global Unrest and the Bible* on Wednesday 1 July at 12 Noon in the Theatre at NSW Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney. The cost is \$10 per person (includes afternoon tea). RSVP to judy.russell@parliament.nsw.gov.au or 02 9230 2478. For more information contact Pastor Peter Rahme on 0418 249 989.

Christian Venues Association Leaders Forum 09.

PUT your leadership under the microscope. Be the Leader God has called you to be! Christian Venues Association presents its 2009 Leaders' Forum.

This conference is for Pastors, CEO's and Management of Christian ministries, Board Members, Denominational leaders, Principals, School Executive Staff & anyone

keen to learn about Christian leadership.

Keynote speakers for Leaders Forum 09 are Tony Campolo and John Ashmen.

Dr Anthony Campolo is a speaker, author, sociologist, pastor, social activist, and passionate follower of Jesus!

John Ashmen is CEO of the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, an author and eagerly sought after speaker.

Visit <http://www.christianvenues.org.au> for further information and registration details. The Forum will be held from 2-4 August 2009 at the Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach NSW.

Christian ministry requires good leadership. Equip yourself and your Board by taking part in this two day forum with Directors, Managers and Board Members from Christian Venues Association Centres and other Christian Ministries in Australia and New Zealand. Program commences with registration from 5pm on Sunday and concludes with lunch at 1pm on Tuesday.

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EMAIL: alison@nlife.com.au**

hotshots



There are 8 Hotshots books to help children read the Bible. Get them from Christian bookshops or by phoning Scripture Union Mail Order on ...
1800 808 639

Why do we close our eyes when we pray?

Mei had another question about praying.

Why do we close our eyes when we pray? Does that make our prayers work better?



Kate shocked the Hotshots by telling them that she sometimes prayed while she was driving the car and also chopping her veggies!

Daniel 6:10

¹⁰Daniel heard about the law, but when he returned home, he went upstairs and prayed in front of the window that faced Jerusalem. In the same way that he had always done, he knelt down in prayer three times a day, giving thanks to God.

Mark 11:25

[Jesus said] Whenever you stand up to pray, you must forgive what others have done to you.

You don't have to close your eyes when you pray. Closing your eyes to pray just stops you from getting distracted, so you can concentrate on talking with God and listening to him better. In the Bible there are lots of ways to pray.

In the Bible verses, circle two of the ways we can pray.

Can you think of some other ways to pray? (e.g. sitting down)

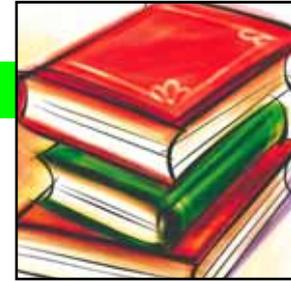
Prayer idea:

Can you think of someone who is sick? You could pray for them.

How would you like to pray?

- stand up
- kneel
- eyes shut
- eyes open
- sit down
- lie down

BOOKS WORTH READING



Desolate Beauty, Trudy Adams, Ark House, North Sydney, NSW.

TRUDY, at 22 years of age, has just launched this, her first book. My initial reaction when I was asked to review the book was one of surprise – but please read on! I was surprised because there was no page giving the table of contents, and the chapters themselves had no titles. Probably the book would be enhanced if these typical points of journalistic expression were used, but as I read the book I was increasingly impressed and no longer noticed the omission of chapter headings.

Put briefly, this is a moving book that helps us see issues facing teenagers today

expressed through the experiences and reactions of those characters Trudy so clearly brings to life.

The story is set in western New South Wales where Elizabeth Hunter is struggling with Year 12 at school and a family life that is filled with turmoil. Perhaps more than anything else she is struggling with her own identity and rebelling against anyone who seeks to help her.

Other important areas touched on include peer group pressure, bullying, shame, fear, rebellion, the results of wrong decisions, economic struggle and drought.

Nevertheless, her aunt out on her drought-stricken farm shows a very caring

Christian concern for Elizabeth and her older sister. There are unexpected adventures and unexpected relationships described. Trudy also gives us insight into the self-talk that Elizabeth hesitantly reveals as the story unfolds. The Holy Spirit was nudging her even then and touching the very depth of her being.

You will need to read the book to see how it all works out.

– Barbara Wilson

John Calvin And His Passion For The Majesty Of God, John Piper, IVP, 2009.

JOHN Piper has written more than 40 books and needs no introduction to the Christian reader, but the man about whom he writes perhaps does, for John Calvin is not as well known, and certainly not as well understood, as he should be. In terms of his devotion to Christ, grasp of the truth of the Faith, and his efforts to explain and spread that truth through preaching, pastoring and writing, Calvin is one of the greatest Christians who ever lived, yet few men have been more spoken against and slandered. John Piper seeks to set the record straight.

Calvin's zeal for the glory of God is his dominating trait, and this is what is conspicuously absent from much of modern evangelicalism with its self-focus and self-promotion. Passion for the majesty of God runs like a thread through Calvin's life and explains everything he did and wrote. It is the explanation behind his punishing program of preaching almost every day of the week for many years and of his commitment to sequential expository preaching through whole books of the Bible.

Let me encourage you to make use of this brief publication to re-examine your estimation of John Calvin, who deserves the admiration of every lover of Scripture and of all who are zealous for God's glory.

Truth For All Time: A Brief Outline Of The Christian Faith, John Calvin, Banner of Truth, 2008.

THIS pocket-sized book is Calvin's attempt to provide a brief and clear introduction to the Christian faith for the ordinary people of his day. It is translated from the French by Stuart Olyott, being a 1537 summary by the 29-year-old Calvin of the first edition of his

Institutes of the Christian Religion. As a succinct summary in crystal clear prose of the fundamental truths of Christianity it is unsurpassed.

Calvin explains that the unregenerate person sins freely and gladly, but has no natural ability to do good or to turn to God – which is what Calvin means when he denies what is commonly called 'freewill'. The first chapter, therefore, discusses our lostness and our utter inability to help ourselves. The second chapter expounds the law of God as a righteous standard that condemns us and shows us, therefore, our need for Christ as Saviour. In chapter three, Calvin urges believers to embrace the doctrine of predestination as a comforting truth, for it gives the certainty that everyone who trusts in Christ will undoubtedly be saved.

Already at age 29, the young Calvin showed himself to be a clear thinker, an accomplished theologian and an effective teacher of ordinary Christians. Small wonder that believers around the world this year are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of this faithful and gifted man of God.

Songs Of The Nativity: Selected Sermons On Luke 1 & 2, John Calvin, Banner of Truth, 2008.

ROBERT White has already translated Calvin's *Sermons on the Beatitudes* (Banner of Truth, 2007), and we are again in his debt for making available to readers of English 14 sermons by Calvin on the canticles in Luke 1 and 2. In a 13-page introduction, White explains the origin of and background to the sermons that date between October 1559 and March 1560.

The lessons Calvin draws are never mere theological niceties, but matters central to Christian faith and practice. For ex-

ample, based upon Mary's visit to Elizabeth, he shows where faith can find support, and discusses God's providential dealings with us. We need to humbly recognise the gifts and blessings God bestows on others so as to preserve Christian unity and give glory to God. Likewise, the words of Simeon show what should be the believer's attitude to death.

Calvin's doctrine of assurance, wherein the Holy Spirit convinces us of God's love for us, comes through strongly in his sermons. Calvin shows that it is the assurance of God's favour that sustains the believer in times of trouble and empowers Christian service.

The clarity of Calvin's gospel preaching is impressive, for he allows no element of human merit to make any contribution to our salvation, nor does he allow any diminution of God's glory. There is a healthy realism about the Christianity preached by Calvin: 'although Christ brings us spiritual joy, we will not be exempt from trouble and sadness'. How refreshingly different is his preaching from that of many popular pulpits today, when he declares (on the basis of Luke 2.35): 'the purpose of Christ's coming was not to deliver us from all earthly strife, cares and dangers'. As noted by Calvin, a person's true nature is revealed by their response to gospel preaching and to persecution. Calvin, in one way or another, continually proclaimed the Gospel and never minimised the difficulties and sufferings that are regular features of Christian life and service.

We will never find a better model of faithful and effective preaching than that of John Calvin, and through this book of sermons, he continues to edify the Church of Jesus Christ.

– Greg Goswell

Immoral Moralism



THE well-publicised rugby league scandal with regard to players involved in group sex has provided an insight into how modern secular Australia views issues of sexual morality. Almost all expressed some kind of outrage, either at the players or at those who were outraged at the players.

Peter FitzSimons has long prophesied regarding those involved in rugby league: 'If they carry on as if it were 30 years ago, then the 21st Century will shut them down.'

According to FitzSimons, we are moving out of the Neanderthal age of the late 20th Century (when men did not respect women) into the age of universal enlightenment in the 21st Century (when, enlightened by feminism, men will respect women) – a common though not entirely convincing view of history and ethics.

Even worse was the analysis of one professional footballer who suggested that much of the trouble could have been avoided if the players had put the woman in a cab afterwards and thanked her instead of slinking off. His conclusion was: 'It's how you treat them afterwards that covers a lot of that stuff up.' It is difficult to respond to insensitivity as hard-core as that, except to point out that there are those of whom the Scripture speaks who have their consciences 'seared' (1 Timothy 4.2).

Yet more disturbing, and ultimately more ludicrous precisely because it has the appearance of being more intelligent, was the suggestion of Adele Horin, who agreed with an American expert on date rape, Professor Mary Koss, that anything is allowable provided there is mutual pleasure.

The response to the whole sordid episode was almost as sordid as the episode itself. Human beings are inherently moralistic, but not inherently moral. To those with eyes to see, we are surely living in a culture which has no clear way of answering the question: 'What is right and wrong?' The Bible's answer is clear: 'sin is lawlessness' (1 John 3.4).

God has made His law known. When we break that law, that is sin. Hence, when God told Israel what to do and what not to do in the Promised Land, He punctuated His commandments with the oft-repeated statement: 'I am the Lord' (Leviticus 19.4,10,11,14,16,18,25,28,30,31,32,34,36,37). In know-

ing the Lord, we know what to do, how to behave, what constitutes what is right and what constitutes what is wrong.

In the recent scandal, there have been appeals to ethics based on supposed progress, self-interest, cover-ups, and mutual pleasure. The whole thing has been a shambles.

Worldly moralism is bereft of truth and power. It is the God of the Bible who reveals to us what is right and wrong, and gives us the standard by which we are able to judge all other standards. Most importantly, we are able to judge ourselves, and see clearly our need for grace.

As T. S. Eliot commented: 'Human kind cannot bear very much reality.' Even more to the point is Thomas Mann: 'Tolerance becomes a crime when applied to evil.'

How different is God's Word! As Nehemiah sought to stop the oppression of the poor in Jerusalem, he appealed to conscience (Nehemiah 5.9a, 'The thing that you are doing is not good'), to the fear of God (Nehemiah 5.9b), and to Israel's testimony before a watching world (Nehemiah 5.9c).

In Ephesians, Paul can appeal to Christians on the grounds that we are members one of another (4.25), that we do not want to give an opportunity to the devil (4.27), that we do not want to grieve the Holy Spirit (4.30), and that God has forgiven us in Christ (4.32). We will want to imitate God in Christ (5.1,2) who gave Himself for His people (5.25-27), bearing in mind always that 'the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience' (5.6).

It is simply 'right' that children obey their parents (6.1), and blessing will come of it (6.3). Ultimately, we shall all appear before the Lord in the judgment, and there is no partiality with Him (6.5-9). Paul declares: 'we aim at what is honourable not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of man' (2 Corinthians 8.21).

God appeals to the total person, and His claims upon us are powerful and convincing. The world can only appeal to part of the truth, and its claims are weak and embarrassing.

There is some overlap, of course. The husband is to love his wife as his own body because he who does so loves himself and contributes to his own welfare (Ephesians 5.28,29).

The world has some limited capacity to judge right and wrong, but the operative word is 'limited'. When the pressure is on, it becomes every man for himself. Human beings are inherently moralistic. We think in terms of right and wrong.

Even when we are wrong, we will seek to cloak that with the vocabulary of what is right. We do not lose our tempers, we stand up for our rights; we do not engage in sexual impurity, we show our sexual maturity; we do not steal, we only take what is rightfully ours; and we are not selfish, we are only looking after number one.

Yet worldly moralism is bereft of truth and power. It is the God of the Bible who reveals to us what is right and wrong, and gives us the standard by which we are able to judge all other standards. Most importantly, we are able to judge ourselves, and see clearly our need for grace.

– Peter Barnes, Minister,
Revesby Presbyterian Church, Sydney

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dangers Of Mah Jong

A GROWING number of Christians are involved in playing the game *Mah Jong*. On making inquiry to a fellow Christian worker the letter below is his reply. I'm wondering if others familiar with Mah Jong can offer information or insight into the game and whether it is a game Christians should be getting into or steering clear of?

Ron Tibbey, Mill Park Vic

Dear Ron,

Mah Jong is traditionally a Chinese game but spreading to many of other nationalities.

For the Chinese, *Mah Jong* always has gambling attached to it, and the game becomes like a drug. It seems to grip – and people have been known to play it for 48 hours with no rest. Indeed if you interrupt anyone playing a game of Mah Jong you could be extremely unpopular.

I remember a group sitting and playing a game – four people using the square table – on the stair-well of a block of flats in Sandakan. They never seemed to move!

So the main problems are the factors of gambling, addiction and time consumption. It is a totally wasteful exercise for Christians.

I have a copy of a testimony in a Christian magazine of a Chinese lady who could not stop playing the game before becoming a Christian. She was totally hooked. But when she became a Christian the bind was instantly broken and she never returned to it.

Hope this explanation helps,
Yours in His bonds, *Ian*

In Defence Of Senator Fielding

The Australian Constitution requires the government to present their taxing proposals to the Senate, which is the House of Parliament designed to review proposed government legislation.

The present government was acting illegally by not doing so and collecting taxes on Alco pop sales. Obviously they expected the Senate to rubber-stamp this illegal behaviour, thus setting a very dangerous precedent. Whether he realised it or not, Senator Fielding has nipped this dangerous precedent to usurp power in the bud, at least for the time being.

As a result of Senator Fielding's action, non-Christian commentators are calling for a range of reforms. For instance, a lecturer



in humanities at Griffith University called for a total ban on alcohol ads, across the board tax hikes and health warnings on all alcohol products and the heavy subsidisation of non-alcoholic beverages in pubs and clubs to make a sober and safe night out a cheap and attractive option (*Courier-Mail* 28/4/09). If even a fraction of the above things come to pass then Senator Fielding is to be congratulated, not condemned.

It is true that if the same legislation is rejected a second time in the Senate, there can be a double dissolution of parliament followed by a general election for both houses, but that is not mandatory. That option would be a political gamble that the present prime minister may or may not choose to take.

*V.A. Wigzell
Alexandra Hills (Qld)*

With Christ – Marjorie Dewe Vines (nee Squires)

BORN Marjorie Dewe Squires in Bluff, the southern tip of the South Island of New Zealand, Marj was the second youngest of nine children.

After leaving school, Marj went nursing and then felt the call of God to missionary work in China. In December 1935 at the age of 24 she went to Wei Hai Wei in Shandong (North China). In Beijing she studied the Chinese language. After completing her language course she travelled by bicycle or mule carts, into areas of North China where many people had never seen a white face before. She practised her nursing skills and shared about Jesus.

The Japanese army was rapidly invading the coastal areas of the country. At one stage she was trapped in a mission house dodging bullets as Japanese soldiers fired off their guns and searched for Chinese guerrillas.

Soon a romance between Marj and Reg Vines blossomed and they were married in 1940. Senior missionaries chose Reg and Marj to trial an escape route south, skirting the Japanese army on the coast. They reached free China, Siushui in 1941 where

they stayed for three years during which time they had two children, Geof and Doralle.

In 1944 the family was forced to flee advancing columns of Japanese soldiers by travelling about 190 miles on foot along hillside tracks. They had their two young children with them and for some of the walking Marj, Geof and Doralle were carried in a sedan chair by some coolies. They boarded the last plane to fly out of China and escaped to Calcutta in India.

On the ship taking them back to Australia they proved the power of prayer as not one single torpedo was fired at them.

At the end of the war the Vines family returned to China thinking the country would be peaceful. In 1948 Kelvin was born in Kiukiang. In 1949 the communists moved into their village. The communists just tolerated the Vines because they had a medical dispensary. The communists could not use the medicines, but the Vines could. The Vines were under house arrest for two years. Reg was taken in for questioning most weeks during this time.

Finally the medical supplies started to

dwindle and they knew they wouldn't be tolerated any more. They were granted a permit to leave and after a number of problems, including Reg having to kow-tow to officials, they were allowed to leave.

They travelled through southern China by train and arrived in Hong Kong in 1950. Despite all the hardships they had endured the Vines elected to continue their work as missionaries going to Malaysia in 1951, and then to Thailand in 1953.

For a number of years they were left at peace to do their work, but in 1970 Reg and Marj were both shot when they were ambushed by insurgent guerrillas. While on the main road driving south they were in a Land Rover very like the one owned by a local official. They found out later the ambush was meant for the official.

Reg drove right through the ambush despite all the bullets flying around, setting the petrol tank on fire. Marj was hit in the abdomen, but didn't feel it. Reg couldn't take his foot off the accelerator, as part of his foot had been shot away. Finally Marj jumped out of the vehicle because her hair was starting to burn. (Continued p. 19)

The President in Cairo – Islam and Religious Tolerance



SO, President Obama has given his much-anticipated speech at Cairo University in Egypt. The speech was eloquent, and powerfully given. The theme was 'a new beginning' in the relationship between the US and the Muslim world, and was well-received by its intended audience – building important bridges.

In it, the President spoke of the need to 'speak the truth' and avoid a 'self-defeating focus on the past.' Well, on that score I wish that the President had taken his own words more to heart.

The next morning, David Brooks of the *New York Times* wrote that the President's speech combined 'idealism' and 'cunning,' and included 'historical distortions, eloquent appeals and strained moral equivalences.'

Some of the President's rhetoric was simply flattery, as when the President said that 'Islamic culture has given us majestic arches and soaring spires; timeless poetry and cherished music; elegant calligraphy and places of peaceful contemplation.'

Well, I know from my own experience that complimenting a person you're trying to win over is part of diplomacy. Acknowledging a society's achievements is a way of

saying 'we respect you.' Similarly, while the President made the Treaty of Tripoli sound much more important than it really was, this was part of an effort to put his audience at ease.

But more troubling is what the President had to say about Islam and religious tolerance. The President spoke of how Islam had demonstrated 'through words and deeds the possibilities of religious tolerance ...'

Well, it's true that some Islamic societies have embodied the tolerance the President spoke of. The 16th Century Mughal emperor Akbar was so renowned for his commitment to tolerance and equality that he received a letter from Queen Elizabeth I of England telling him that reports of his 'humanity' had reached her.

But folks, that was 400 years ago. Since then, you would be hard-pressed to find another instance of this kind of genuine religious tolerance in the Islamic world.

Take the President's Egyptian hosts – persecution of Egypt's Christians, the Copts, ranges from systematic harassment to murder. An example of the former was Egypt's response to the 'swine flu' scare: it

ordered the slaughter of its pigs – the only country to do so. Since Muslims don't eat pork, the effect was to further impoverish the Coptic minority. As one Muslim Moroccan writer put it, 'The Copts are victims of the flu without ever having been contaminated.'

Why? Many Arab intellectuals – Muslims and Christians – believe it was to appease the Muslim Brotherhood, which opposes raising pigs on 'Islamic soil.' Then again, they're not crazy about raising Christians there, either. Copts are murdered and seminaries are burned. The Egyptian government's response has been less than vigorous.

Now to be fair, if you are a Christian, there are much worse places to live in the Islamic world than Egypt. But what does that say about Islam and religious freedom today?

'Speaking the truth' means acknowledging this reality. Avoiding what's called a 'self-defeating focus on the past' requires acknowledging that Akbar has been dead 400 years – and that it's time for the Islamic world to demonstrate 'tolerance' in deeds, not just words. And to demonstrate it today!

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Marjorie Dewe Vines – From Gumption To Glory

(Continued from p.18)

As Marj jumped clear she felt like she was knocked to the ground by an invisible force. A shell smashed into the side of the Land Rover sending shrapnel splinters into her face.

Locals helped Reg and Marj put the fire out on the vehicle. A passing truck took Reg to hospital. Marj, who still didn't realise she was bleeding from her abdomen wound, was left behind to guard the luggage. Later in hospital, doctors found a bullet had deflected off a rug she had knotted around her waist and gone into her abdomen. If she had not been wearing the rug the bullet

could have gone up into her heart.

The Vines went back again to Thailand after the shooting and continued there until retirement in 1978. Reg passed away in Brisbane in October 1991.

In October 1998 Marj moved into a room in the Hostel at Bethany Riverside and was later transferred to her room in Beth Lomon at Eight Mile Plains. One week before she passed way, she was moved into a High Care room in Beth Tappuah.

Marj passed away on Monday 6 April 2009. She made and cemented many friendships during this time at Bethany/The Plains, and it was with great sadness that

she watched others go to Glory before her. She was ready to go and didn't want to live to 100. She was still as sharp as a tack.

Reg spent 21 years in China and Marj 15 years. They both had three years in Malaysia and 25 years in Thailand. Geof, Doralle and Kelvin spent six years at school in India.

***'Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears
the Lord is to be praised.'***
(Proverbs 31.30)

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A Rabbi Who Found The True Messiah

Rabbi Harold Vallins, 6-4-41 to 2-6-09.
HAROLD Vallins was born the elder of the two sons of Eve and Percy Cohen. His parents had lived in London but this was the time of the blitz and so they moved to Wales where the boys were born and where, tragically, Percy died.

In 1945 the family returned to London and Harold carried lifelong memories of sheltering in the London underground rail system during bombing raids.

Later his mother married Sam Vallins with whom she had a daughter. Although the boys took the Vallins name, their relationship with their step-father was very difficult. Eventually the marriage ended.

Harold left school in his mid-teens and worked for a while as the odd jobs boy for the *Jewish News*, and did some shoe designing.

But Harold found his real calling in life when, under the influence of the charismatic rabbi, Dov Marmur, he became very involved in a Jewish Youth Group Movement, which led him to enter the Leo Baeck Rabbinic College.

After completing his studies Harold worked with the Jewish Blind Society as a social worker and established himself as outstanding in this field. From there he was appointed to St George's Settlement Synagogue in London's East End. It was during that time that he met and married his first wife Naomi.

In 1981 the family moved to Melbourne, now with two children, Daniel and Nina, where Harold was appointed the rabbi of the Bentleigh Progressive Synagogue where he became a well known community figure, much loved by many.

But his controversial approach to a number of issues was one of the causes for his forming a breakaway synagogue in the mid 1990s. It met in Gardenvale and shared facilities with the Cheltenham Church of Christ. Some years after his first marriage ended, Harold married Johanne, the mother of his two younger children, Akiva and Shiree.

During a visit to the National Prayer Breakfast in the US in 1998 Harold took the momentous decision to become a 'follower

of Jesus the Jew'. His decision placed great strains on many of his relationships. As a result the synagogue dissolved and his marriage ended. Harold felt the separation deeply and missed his young children, to whom he now had only limited access.

Harold began to undertake a wide ranging ministry among Christian churches, around Australia and abroad, to help them understand the Jewish roots of their faith and to tell his own story of discovering Jesus as his Messiah. For a time he served as a staff member of Beth HaMashiach, a messianic congregation in Caulfield, Vic.

He undertook studies at Tabor College and along the way set up a gardening business.

In recent years Harold became an integral part of Grace Court, a Christian Brethren complex and fulfilled a number of roles there as manager, gardener and 'in-house' pastor and mentor.

Harold is survived by his mother Eve and step sister Marion (UK), his brother Michael (USA), Marion and his four children.

Leading Baptist Scholars For BWA Meetings In The Netherlands

THE Annual Gathering of the Baptist World Alliance to be held in Ede, Netherlands, from July 27 to August 1, will include the participation of several leading Baptist scholars who will lead discussions on the history of Baptist witness in different regions of the world as part of the 400th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Baptist movement.

The first Baptist church was established in 1609 by English exiles in Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

These Baptist scholars include Timothy George, a specialist in historical theology and dean of Beeson Divinity School of Samford University (history of the Baptist movement in North America); Horace Russell, former president of the United Theological College of the West Indies (Baptist history in the Caribbean); Peter Morden of Spurgeon's College, London (development of Baptist witness in Europe); and Ken Manley, former principal at Whitley College, Melbourne in Australia, (history of Baptist life in Asia and the Pacific).



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The Silent Tragedy In Africa

'EVEN in countries where obstetric fistula is common, many in the general public remain unaware of its cause and therefore its prevention. It really is a silent tragedy.'

Those are the words of Brisbane urogynaecologist, Dr Hannah Krause, who has returned from West Africa again as a volunteer with Mercy Ships performing corrective surgery on a small number of the millions of women still suffering silently.

'Over the past 14 years I have made several trips to Africa, and first became aware of obstetric fistula while working as a resident doctor in a rural hospital.

Women came to the hospital as a result of obstructed labour during childbirth. Babies were stillborn, and the mother sustained a fistula. The big problem is that many such women are shunned by family and their community and are forced to become outcasts, hidden away with their shame.'

After seeing the problems faced by African women, Dr Krause received training at the now famous Addis Ababa fistula hospital ('The Hospital By The River'). Since then she has returned to West Africa to perform fistula surgery and to train local surgeons in the procedure. Her most recent time was spent in Benin on board the hospital ship *Africa Mercy*, operated by Mercy Ships. 'As with most of my visits to West Africa, I go for a short time – usually a few weeks – arrive, work hard, then leave. So I don't often get to see much of the country apart from during my days off. What I do see, however, is always very confronting. The level of poverty and suffering is heart-breaking.

'I have a lot of compassion for these women. I try to help by visiting various fistula centres, usually in Africa, to perform surgery. I usually go about twice a year for a few weeks each time during my holidays. It is hard work, but the results are so worthwhile when you see women's lives restored. My patients are so amazing and resilient. I learn so much from them. God has given me my skills and training, enabling me to do this work. When I operate I pray that these women will be healed physically, spiritually and emotionally. The fistula women have very tragic life stories.



Most have lost a child in labour and the fistula caused by the long labour causes them to leak urine and/or faeces continuously. Some of the women we see have developed this injury only recently and are still grieving over the loss of the baby. But most of those we see have had their fistula for years ... some for more than 30 or 40 years. It's remarkable how such women have survived life despite the extreme adversity,' she concludes.

'Mercy Ships provides free corrective surgery for obstetric fistula patients on board the *Africa Mercy*, currently on assignment to Benin, as well as at a dedicated fistula centre in Sierra Leone where Mercy Ships works in partnership with another organisation. Patients also have opportunities to learn about community and maternal health, while other programs seek to increase awareness of the plight of women with fistulas. When a patient is discharged there is a time of great rejoicing. Each woman receives a new dress in the fabric of her choice, signifying a new beginning, while dancing and singing reflect the change.

'Discharge teaching includes instructions about sexual intercourse, family planning and the need to have caesarean delivery for subsequent pregnancies to reduce the risk of recurrence. Provision for C-section surgeries is arranged with local pro-

viders who bill Mercy Ships for former patients. In an effort to build fistula surgeon capacity in West Africa, Mercy Ships also provides training for local surgeons interested in contributing to the treatment of obstetric fistula in Africa.'

Mercy Ships is an international Christian charity that has operated hospital ships in developing nations since 1978. Following the example of Jesus, Mercy Ships brings hope and healing to the poor, mobilizing people and resources worldwide. Mercy Ships offers a range of health and community development services free of charge. Working in partnership with local people, Mercy Ships empowers communities to help themselves. The result is a way out of poverty.

The emphasis is on the needs of the world's poorest nations in West Africa, where the hospital ship *Africa Mercy* provides the platform for services extending up to ten months at a time. Mercy Ships works on land-based projects in Sierra Leone in partnership with other organisations, while teams also work in several nations of Central America and the Caribbean.

There are 14 support offices around the world, including the Australian office on the Queensland Sunshine Coast.

Go to www.mercyships.org.au for further details.