WE'RE not here to relive the glory days of the past, but to ask God to do something new!' declared Doug Birdsall, Executive Chair of Cape Town 2010 as he welcomed 4,500 participants from 198 countries all around the world to the preliminary session in which participants were placed around tables in groups of six. The structure of the Congress had been deliberately planned to enable the fullest possible participation of those present with fellowship around the tables and give opportunity for discussion and feedback to the organizing committee.

Congress Director Blair Carlson called attention to the Congress Theme: God In Christ, Reconciling The World To Himself (2 Corinthians 5:19) and drew on Psalm 90.17: ‘May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us, yes, establish the work of our hands’ as he set the course for the Congress in coming days.

The Congress proper began with a great celebration as stirring music, colourful displays, warm welcomes and written greetings from Billy Graham and John Stott paved the way for a brilliant review of missionary endeavour from the giving of the Great Commission to the Edinburgh Convention of 1910.

Billy Graham encouraged CT2010 participants to analyse changes which had occurred in recent times but to remember that some things never change: mankind's deepest spiritual needs, the Gospel itself, and Christ's command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. He urged them to renew their commitment to live for Christ and keep their eyes on Jesus every day.

John Stott's prayer was that participants would make known the uniqueness of the Lord Jesus Christ and live lives worthy of the Gospel.

(continued p. 2)
THROUGH a new ministry known as Called To Be Teachers, SIM Int’s Karen Carlson works with a team of four Peruvians, helping teachers not only cover a lesson well, but also befriend a child.

As in many developing countries, Peru has a high percentage of children and according to UNICEF 60% of them live in poverty. Karen estimates that in Peru one child a day commits suicide. She related a recent case in which a 9-year-old hung himself with a towel. ‘Many children here live with abuse, neglect and crisis,’ she says.

Karen teaches about the pastoral care of children. She explains that often the Bible is taught in an isolated way, and they do not learn how to apply Biblical truths. ‘We want teachers to be more than teachers,’ she explains. ‘We want them to know how to befriend and listen to children so they will trust them with the crises in their lives.’

Early on in her time in Peru, Karen saw the need for better Sunday school and Vacation Bible School material. ‘We noticed that this was often written for church kids with a Bible background. Yet I was working in a place called the Street of the Seven Stabbings.’ She tried to create material that would be attractive and understandable. Titles such as “Jesus, My Powerful Friend’ touch the real needs of a child.

Her co-writer, Nimia Valladares, helped shape the material and the ministry. Karen discipled her when she was new in her faith, and now they have been working together for 25 years. ‘We couldn’t just say, “Jesus loves you”,’ Karen explains. ‘Nimia grew up with family troubles. So she challenged us to write lessons that would convince and comfort a child. ‘She is a real diamond in the rough. She makes lessons more relevant. I have been in Sunday school since I was four, and so I just accepted everything. She questioned everything. The kids identify with her doubts and hurts.’

Nimia has written more than 100 songs that go with most of the material. The songs reach kids’ hearts and are full of meaning. Titles include: ‘I Put My Life In Your Hands, Lord’ and ‘I trust You With My Happiness And Sadness’. Once they were singing in a small rural church when several of the children started crying and then asked, ‘Is this really true? Why didn’t you come sooner?’

‘Kids respond because they know they have an emptiness in their lives that needs to be filled by God,’ Karen says.

Archbishop Henry Orombe of Uganda, welcoming everyone to Africa, declared that only God can build the bridge between Himself and us, and only God can forgive and forget. ‘May the Holy Spirit of God enrich, empower and envision us for the 21st Century,’ he said.

Doug Birdsell spoke of the great challenges facing the Church today, both external pressures and internal problems such as globalization, the clash of cultures, how to lovingly engage people of other faiths with the Gospel. He spoke of Dr Ralph Winter’s challenge to the first Lausanne Commission to go out to almost 2,000 unreached people groups with the Gospel, told of how that number has shrunk and expressed the hope that if and when there is another Lausanne, the number will be zero.

Calling on the Church to move from ambivalence to confidence, he declared Cape Town 2010 to be officially opened!

– Bob Thomas

Doug Birdsell
Annual Reformation Day Service

Sunday 31 October 2010 at 3.30pm
Lygon Street Christian Chapel, Carlton
(next to Trades Hall)
Speaker: Rev Robin Fairbairn
Sermon: Deal Or No Deal?

Rev Robin Fairbairn lives near Saintfield in Co. Down, Northern Ireland.

Having previously worked for Belfast City Mission for over 24 years,
Robin now works for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and is employed as the Communications Officer for the Board of Mission in Ireland.

He will be assisted by:
Choir of the GRH Indonesian Church, Lygon St, Carlton

Enquiries:
Victorian Protestant Federation
Phone: 03 9329 8483
Euthanasia ... to logging. But it turns out it is number one Green priority, or an end to a carbon reduction scheme was the ed that? They might have thought that voted for the Greens in August expect- Territory ... 'I wonder if all those people who voted for the Greens in August expect- ed that? They might have thought that a carbon reduction scheme was the number one Green priority, or an end to logging. But it turns out it is euthanasia ... ‘The Greens are the only political party committed to abortion on demand. The other parties leave it to the conscience of each MP to decide how to vote ... Not the Greens. Their position is spelt out in their policy plat- form ...’ He took his readers on an imaginary journey from the inner city (where the Greens vote is strongest) through the suburbs to the quarter acre blocks to the semi-rural and country areas (with the Greens vote declining all the way, down to 7% in Gippsland). Then he noted: ‘If you travelled on Sunday you would notice, as you moved from the inner city to the outer suburbs that the church services attract bigger crowds. Conventional religious belief is stronger. This explains why these electorates do not warm to the Green agenda of euthanasia, abortion, gay marriage and adoption ... ‘It pays to look carefully before buying the product.’ Well said, Peter Costello! Christians are called to be responsible environmentalists by virtue of the command to be good stewards of the created order – ‘small “g” greenies if you like – but we have to be very careful about picking our bedfellows as we attempt to fulfil that calling.

South African Churches Among Exhibitors At ‘Sexpo’ Show
THREE churches were among exhib- itors at a sex exposition in South Africa, saying they aim to promote healthy sex within marriage.

The churches were among non-sex industry organizations at the four-day Health, Sexuality and Lifestyle Expo – South Africa that included a cancer prevention group, rhino protection charities and cosmetic companies. In 2009 there had been strong criticism about the exposition from some religious groups, but those churches that had exhibits felt the time was oppor- tune to preach about the Word of God, and sex, within marriage.

To be or not to be at such a gathering might spark controversy, but I for one am always pleased to see the fight being taken up to the devil on what he thinks is his own ground.

A Gubernatorial Warning – And Some Good Advice
AGAIN, in Melbourne’s Age, we read a claim by former Age editor Bruce Guthrie that the late Victorian Governor Richard McGarvie invited him to lunch one day at Government House and urged him to remain strong against the attacks of then-premier Jeff Kennett against him.

We have no way of knowing the truth of that particular matter, but it reminded me of a meeting I myself once had with Mr McGarvie.

It took place not long after I became Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 1995.

There is a quaint custom in which the General Assembly carries a ‘Motion of Loyalty to the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty’ which is inscribed on a parchment scroll and delivered by the Moderator to the Governor for transmission to the Queen at Bucking- ham Palace. In due course a letter comes back from the palace advising us of the Queen’s enormous delight at receiving the General Assembly’s good wishes.

Well Said!
Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell. – C.T. Studd

A ‘NEW LIFE’ subscription makes a great gift. Call us on 03 9890 3377 for details.
Cape Town 2010 – Great Expectations

This editorial is necessarily being written just before Cape Town 2010 officially gets under way on 16 October. Nevertheless there's a growing buzz around the Cape Town International Convention Centre as excitement builds. The Press Centre is a hive of activity registering and orientating 100 of us representing television, radio, internet and print media from all five continents. Finishing touches are being put to the various meeting areas within the Convention Centre. Early arrivers are moving around 'casing the joint' and staking out the most strategic spaces to take. Photocopiers are working overtime as pigeon holes are filling up.

Lausanne is a once-in-two-decades-or-so event. Billy Graham had the vision for what has now become a movement (The International Congress On World Evangelisation), meeting first in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1974. That meeting approved the Lausanne Covenant, under the leadership of John Stott. This is widely regarded as being one of the most significant documents in recent church history.

If Lausanne 1974 met in the heyday of Evangelical Christianity, Cape Town 2010 meets in far more challenging times.

First, these are days of generational change. Billy Graham and John Stott together with all their contemporaries are now in advanced old age or have already passed on to glory. Will the rising generation of leaders be able to fill their shoes?

Secondly, the Church is under attack today as seldom before. Our press kit contains the advice that certain participants at the Congress cannot be identified because if their presence at the Congress were known, they and their families could be at risk. Readers of New Life are all too familiar with the persecuted church, of which these participants are part. Will the martyrs continue to be the seed of the Church? Will the Church learn to cope with and overcome the strictures placed on it by secular humanists?

Thirdly, other religions, especially Islam, are rising up and challenging Christianity with a will seldom seen before. Liberalism has long since capitulated, taking refuge in universalism with all its vain imaginings about how someone might be saved outside of Christ. But the Bible gives no such consolation to the Christian. It simply drives him on to greater missionary and evangelistic endeavour in order to relieve the lost of the consequences of their lostness. Will Cape Town 2010 steel the Church's resolve to see the world won for Christ?

Fourthly, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever'. We hear a lot these days about the Gospel remaining the same but the ways of presenting it needing to adapt to the present generation. Will CT 2010 assist the Church to maintain the integrity of the Gospel if the methodology of presenting it changes?

Fifthly, just as there is a uniqueness of the Lord Jesus Christ as the only name under Heaven by which we must be saved, there is also a uniqueness within the visible church of Bible-believing evangelicals who proclaim salvation through faith in Christ crucified and risen as the only means of salvation – not by works lest any man should boast.

(continued p. 8)
MERCY Ships has a thriving Mental Health Program in West Africa, aimed at closing the treatment gap through education.

Mental Health is a problem that is rarely addressed in the developing world and the charity’s program aims to restore hope and bring healing by providing basic counselling skills to health care workers, church leaders, teachers, social workers, prison officers and many other community leaders. Teaching those skills will increase the availability of mental health resources and address issues of mental illness, epilepsy and trauma.

World Mental Health Day, promoted by the World Health Organization, is designed to raise public awareness about mental health issues. Mental health is defined as how we think, feel and act as we cope with life.

Dr. Lyn Westman, the Program Administrator, spends most of her time in the field teaching and coaching community leaders in the countries served by Mercy Ships. During this year’s field service to Togo, the Mental Health Team conducted a five-day camp for orphans and abused children. Before the camp began, a day of training was held to give an overview of the program to parents, teachers and caregivers.

Thirty one children, aged from 9 to 15, enjoyed a carefree week on the campus of a Christian school near Lomè. Each day the children had two lessons to complete in addition to songs, games and Bible stories. To help these traumatized children deal with the difficulties in their lives, the team leaders talked with them about Biblical principles – explaining that all children are special and that God loves them and has a plan for their lives. They all seemed to thrive on the loving attention they were getting.

All of the children were allowed to tell the stories of their lives, which helped them to alleviate stress. The campers were also taught how to protect themselves from abuse and how to set boundaries in their lives. The kids’ camp was an excellent way for the Mental Health Program to help young people who are experiencing unique challenges. In everything they do, the team strives to fulfill its mission of improving the availability of mental health resources to positively impact those who have lived through traumatic experiences.

When the Africa Mercy moves to Sierra Leone next year, the team will operate a similar children’s camp. Mercy Ships is a global charity that operated hospital ships in developing nations since 1978 providing free health care and community development services to the forgotten poor. Following the example of Jesus, Mercy Ships brings hope and healing to the poor. 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 world’s largest charity hospital ship Africa Mercy, with a crew of more than 450 volunteers, 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. Mercy Ships Australia, one of 25 international support offices is based on the Queensland Sunshine Coast. www.mercyships.org.au

-Amos Bennett, Mercy Ships
EXCITING PROSPECTS ...

Bible Society Australia A New Entity, Under One Banner

JESUS. All About Life, the multimedia campaign which the ABC’s “Gruen Transfer” called a “smart marketing job for brand Christianity”, has staked another branding victory – this time, for the very organisation behind the campaign.

The Bible Society, after operating in Australia for over 200 years as federated state-based units, has now merged all activities and management into a new single legal entity. The new Bible Society Australia (a Not For Profit Company Limited by Guarantee) will commence immediately.

“Jesus All About Life, which united churches across all denominations with a single message, taught us that we need a national, unified voice,” said new chairman, Richard Grellman, AM. “Bible Society Australia becomes a stronger non-denominational voice where Christians work together.”

A new national board will govern the business and will consist of those who were previously chairmen of their respective state Bible Society boards:

John Hardy - Western Australia
David Carver - South Australia
Rick Streefland - Tasmania
Bert Guy - Victoria
Richard Halstead - New South Wales

Phil Whittaker – Queensland

The members of each separate Bible Society have agreed, at recent EGMs, to merge their operations into this new national entity. The antecedent Bible Society boards and members saw many justifications for this exciting move. These include economies of scale, and the creation of one Australian face, brand and voice, together with the prospect of a new vision and strategic direction.

Richard Grellman said, "I am delighted to be given the opportunity to work with an outstanding group of people in taking this great work to a new level. The distribution and understanding of the Bible is fundamentally important and a work with which I am proud to be involved.”

The new national board has agreed that all existing offices will continue to service local relationships and opportunities. The board will work with senior management to develop a new vision for international partnerships and initiatives.

NEW CEO

THE creation of the new national entity has resulted in the need to locate and appoint a new CEO. After an extensive process during which both internal and external candidates were considered, the board has appointed Dr. Greg Clarke.

Dr. Clarke has extensive relevant experience, having worked for nearly 20 years in the Christian publishing, education and media sectors. He is a founding director of the Centre for Public Christianity, a well-known author and speaker, and a guiding voice in many cross-denominational Christian projects.

Dr Clarke said, ”I am humbled to be given this opportunity, and look forward to working with existing senior management and their staff as we focus on creating a truly national operation. The contribution of the Bible Society in Australia has been outstanding over the last 200 years and I feel confident that the new structure will serve the aims and objectives of the organization most appropriately.”

For further information about Bible Society Australia please contact:

Richard Grellman, Chairman: Mob: +61412 136671, E: rgrellman@me.com
Greg Clarke, CEO, Mob: +61432 541113, E: gjclarke@me.com

-Bible Society Australia

NEW LIFE

OFFICE HOURS

During our period of transition, New Life office hours may vary.

Please ring the office before visiting us

Phone: 03 9890 3377

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CHRISTIANS IN THE ACTION

Olympic Gold Is Not Enough

Bruce Stewart shares his experience of the Melbourne Prayer Breakfast...
BORN on the 7th April 1968 and raised in Rockhampton, Queensland, Duncan Armstrong rose to national and international fame at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 when he broke the world record to win the Gold medal in the 200 metres freestyle. Following his Gold medal victory, Duncan received many honours including Young Australian of the Year and an Order of Australia Medal.

Duncan was guest speaker at the Melbourne Prayer Breakfast very recently where 1000 of us, including my wife and myself heard some of Duncan’s testimony. Duncan spoke of himself being a very success oriented person – very determined “very driven”. This determination had got Duncan a gold medal and into successful media work with TV sports coverage and live presentations of the Sydney Olympics by radio. “I was good in the water and I was good out of the water but at the same time I was not happy”. I was in a world of wanting more – cars, success, more status symbols.

“I found that things I thought were important weren’t actually important. The values and beliefs I learnt in the pool were not sustainable in life. You find that there is an empty hole you can’t fill – no matter how hard you try”. Duncan was searching for meaning and purpose in life. In his search he found a person who “Had this calmness about him and had this strength and I didn’t know what it was”. Duncan asked him about it. He was told that that the source of this strength was Jesus Christ. Duncan laughed incredulously. But eventually he discovered that his friend was right. When I “nudged up to Jesus” and He said “open your heart” I found I did not have much. “I was ashamed of my hypocrisy – I was very challenged”. Duncan says there was not any one thing, but rather a series of events, that led him to Jesus Christ.

Duncan found the Bible a bit boring the first times he read it but then he began to love reading the Bible and get to know more about this God who loves Him. “I just want to follow Jesus. I don’t want to set goals, I want to develop a set of behaviours to display that are around relationship, forgiveness and understanding – in the world this is a very hard thing to do. I am still learning what it’s all about and still getting into The Book. I find that if I include Jesus in my decisions things will be pretty right”.

“I want to be a great Dad and a great husband. I enjoy helping people up to the level to where they want to be at and it is a privilege to work with motivated charities and motivated people, and ultimately playing a part in changing people’s lives.” “My life is rich and deep and full now”.

Thank you to Duncan for sharing some of your story to about 1000 of us at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. Thank you for reminding us that although winning an Olympic gold medal is special there are more important things in life – namely a relationship with Jesus Christ and having meaningful relationships with people around us. They are the things which really last.

- Bruce Stewart

Editorial Continued...

The Congress is being joined by ‘observers from other Christian traditions including the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and the World Council of Churches’. Bible-believing Christians will always want to maintain loving and cordial relations with others – with a view to winning them to the more excellent way. Will CT 2010 relate to its ‘observers’ in such a way that the Reformation can be brought to its desirable conclusion?

Watch this space, as they say, and keep praying that the Lord will greatly use this meeting of some 4,000 on-site participants from over 190 nations and thousands more through Globalink sites in 600 venues across 92 nations. May God use it to breathe new life into, let’s face it, a Church which has seen greater days in the past but which still faces ‘a task unfinished’ and must now work with a will to see all God’s people gathered in and the conditions fulfilled for Christ’s return.

- Bob Thomas
WHO comes to your mind as a great leader? Someone who speaks boldly? Someone who has vision or someone who has many followers? A leader to me is someone who goes against the odds and claims victory, someone like Caleb from the Old Testament.

Caleb is a Biblical name meaning ‘faith, devotion, whole hearted’. First mentioned in Numbers, Caleb was the son of Jephunneh and was a close companion of Moses and Joshua, noted for his faith in God. Ten of the 12 Hebrew spies who explored the land of Canaan discouraged the Israelites to enter it because of their great fortified cities and strong forces, claiming the people were like giants! However of the other two, Caleb, on behalf of Joshua, spoke up and believed that God had given them the fruitful land, flowing with milk and honey and abundance of crop. Because of their faith, the Lord promised they would both see their new inheritance. Unfortunately everyone else listened to the ten others, rejecting God’s promises for them, even wishing they were back in Egypt! As a result of this faithless attitude the ten were struck with a fatal plague and every other adult was denied the opportunity to set foot on the new soil of Canaan.

Joshua’s skills in leadership were noted by God and he was commissioned by the Lord to become leader when Moses died. As a humble servant before the Lord, Joshua went on to become a great and mighty general, conquering each land that God gave him. Military experts are impressed with his strategy and leadership skills and call him a military genius!

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

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

As an interdenominational organisation, Caleb recognises that the local church is Christ’s instrument to extend His Kingdom, and are committed to serving the local church and its members through an offering of excellent leadership training, internship and consultancy services so as to better the church to fulfill its mandate. They are equally committed to training leaders in Christian mission agencies and recognise that they are an extension of the local and wider church to serve Christ in specific areas of ministry and expertise.

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

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

Why not check out our website (www.caleb.org.au) and discover more about our 3-week Caleb Institute course and our Internship program for 2011.

-Melanie Price
BELIEVERS in an Indian village were working hard to construct a church building, only to have their hopes - and their building - dashed by anti-Christian extremists.

Over two days, these radicals completely destroyed the new facilities. Although the congregation had received government permission to build the church, the extremists tore it down anyway. Implying that the Christians had been untruthful in their permit application about what they were building, they accused the church members of not having the proper permission to build.

Over two days, anti-Christian radicals completely demolished the church building.

Gospel for Asia-supported pastor Paul Joseph and his congregation had completed much of the building when the anti-Christian militants arrived on September 14. That afternoon, the intruders demolished half the building. Paul Joseph and other church leaders approached the police, but they refused to help.

On the following day, the radicals pressured those living in the area to sign a petition against the church construction. Ignoring the believers' pleas to stop their destructive plan, they insisted, "We don't want any church in this area." They reduced the rest of the building to a heap of rubble.

This incident deeply saddened Paul Joseph and his family. He would greatly appreciate your prayers that the believers will remain firm in their faith, and that they will be able to rebuild their church.

- Mission Network News
FLOODING has claimed yet another area of South Asia. This time heavy rains inundated the impoverished country of Bangladesh and its neighbor, the state of Manipur, India.

In Bangladesh, 17 people have been confirmed dead, dozens more are missing and thousands are unable to return to their flooded homes. News reports say the flooding was caused by three days of pounding rains that created a tidal surge. Waves as tall as five feet crashed into populated areas along the tiny country’s coastline.

Thousands of Bangladeshis are living in shelters, waiting for the water to subside.

"This is another heartbreaking crisis for one of the most poor, downtrodden countries in the world," said Gospel for Asia President K.P. Yohannan. "It is another opportunity for us to show Christ's love by responding to the suffering as He would have us do."

Although Bangladesh was once one of the wealthiest areas on the Indian subcontinent, it is now one of the poorest, with 55 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Because of its geographic location, it is especially susceptible to natural disasters. Floods and cyclones routinely cause major damage and create intense heartache for its 15.6 million residents.

Gospel for Asia’s Compassion Services teams are already in Bangladesh reaching out to the people with practical help and the hope of Jesus.

"As this has happened in the past, we have our people on the ground who are able to respond to those who are in desperate need," Yohannan said. "They are already responding to this, we just need to get them more help."

**Manipur Flooding**

FLOODWATERS also swept across much of neighboring Manipur, India, damaging several GFA-supported churches and Bridge of Hope centres.

The floods came after several days of incessant downpours, which caused four rivers in the state to overflow their banks. The worst damage is in the Imphal City where people did all they could to move their families and their few meagre belongings to higher ground.

The local farmers are devastated as their fields of fully ripened, ready-to-harvest rice are now ruined. A large number of fish farms were also damaged by the rain.

Classes have been cancelled until the flooded Bridge of Hope centre in Manipur, India, can be cleaned and repaired.

Four Bridge of Hope centres and one church sustained damage. The buildings will be closed until the water recedes and necessary repairs can be made.

Of course, homes were damaged, too. Local government officials estimate that 55,000 households were affected by the flooding. Several GFA workers from the Bridge of Hope centres, as well as the missionaries, are also dealing with flooded homes, too.

The government has set up relief camps, and Gospel for Asia-supported missionaries are out in force, distributing emergency food rations, dry clothing and bed linens and other household items to the victims. The teams also take time to listen and pray with the people.

Please pray for God's comfort on those affected by the floods, that the Lord will comfort and take care of them and that the faith of Christians will be strengthened through this difficult situation.

- Assist News Service
World Christian Endeavour Convention-Peru

WHAT is the second driest city in the world? (Cairo is the driest and Lima Peru comes second!) To this city at the foot of the Andes, 3–7 August 2010, came Christian Endeavourers from 16 nations and USA, Germany and Peru had the largest representatives. Others were by region: Pacific; Hawaii (who consider themselves part of Melanesia rather than the USA!), Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand and Australia (seven of us flew across the vast South Pacific Ocean); Latin America: Mexico, Guyana, Dominican Republic, Peru; Europe: England, Hungary, Romania and Germany; Asia: India, Korea. No one came from Africa because of the cost.

In total there were about 450 delegates at the convention. Of these most were young Peruvian adults from high up in the Andes Mountains. (It was a fairytale sight to see the glittering Andes mountain chain when arriving from Australia!)

It was a happy convention and the Peruvians welcomed us warmly. At the resort 40km north of Lima, a large marquee was erected, with stage and the latest technology. Bands played and Bible studies were enjoyed. All those compering meetings and teaching the good Bible studies had to have an interpreter. The songs on the screen were all in Spanish and English, but the Spanish was almost exclusively sung!

Meals were mainly chicken and rice as in Asia, but pawpaw pulp for breakfast was delicious (cut pieces, raw sugar and water placed in a blender). A mission day to a nearby community earned the commendation of the mayor, as the youth cleaned up the rubbish and planted trees. At one elective, the two Indian pastors from Orissa, India, told how his people saw suffering as coming from God to keep us close to Him. In 2008, many Christians fled to the forest while Hindu fanatics burned down their homes and some were killed.

A concert on the last night closed at 2am, but the young people were up for a 7am communion service to close the convention. After breakfast, the mini buses and three wheeled taxis arrived to take the Peruvians home to the mountains. It was a great time of encouragement and Christian fellowship, despite the language barrier.

Thirty years ago, a Dutch lady went to start a guest house at Cuzco near the famous railway. Discovering so many street children, she started an orphanage. I was invited to come back to minister to these children later as I teach lots of Scripture classes in Southern Gold Coast schools. I can't wait to get back!

The World Union of Christian Endeavour provided financial assistance to enable many of the Peruvian delegates to attend the Convention. I told the World CE Secretary based in Germany that I would seek help from anyone in Australia interested in contributing to the cost of this assistance.

Any donations can be forwarded to the Queensland CE Office GPO Box 2404 Brisbane, QLD, 4001.

Geoffrey Richards
Youth Department: Queensland Christian Endeavour Union

China Bans House Church Leaders From CT2010

PRAY for our brothers and sisters in China. News has reached us that the Chinese Government has banned about 230 Chinese Christians from leaving the country and attending CT2010, where more than 4,500 participants have gathered from over 190 countries around the world.

The Chinese delegation was banned by their government from leaving the country on the grounds that ‘conference organizers were committing flagrant interference in China’s religious affairs.’

Doug Birdsall, Lausanne Chair, expressed his disappointment at the actions of the Chinese Government, saying: ‘Not having China at our Congress is like not having Brazil at the World Cup.’

Apparently the ire of Chinese officialdom was raised by the Congress not issuing an official invitation to China’s state-controlled Three Self Church and ‘holding secret communications with Christians from private assemblies’ (House Churches – Ed).

‘This act has openly challenged China’s principle of an independent, autonomous, self-governing church’, a spokesperson for China’s Foreign Ministry said.

Doug Birdsall commented that the Lausanne Movement had not officially communicated with the Chinese Government over the ban. ‘We’re very disappointed’, he said, ‘it does diminish the Congress. We’re also concerned for the Chinese participants because of what this means for their life there.’

Capetown 2010, the Third Lausanne Congress, began on 16 October with a spirit of high expectation that the Lord would powerfully use it to spur the Church on to greater evangelistic endeavour throughout the world despite all human attempts to hinder it.
Continued from page 2...

HEIDI Fawzy, SAT-7 Egypt Audience Relations Manager, reports that the number of Arab viewers who have phoned, written through the website or sent text messages has more than doubled over the last couple of years. Heidi says that it’s not only the quantity of the contacts that have been rising but also the quality and spiritual depth of the calls. One main reason, she believes, is because SAT-7 is now airing four to five “live” programs each week which are proving to be more interactive.

-SAT-7 Update

THOSE Christmas gift catalogues are starting to appear in our mail. Keep them in mind when you are going through your gift list. It is a great way to demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas to friends and family, as well as bringing lasting benefit to the underprivileged around the world.

-SAT-7 Update

SOME good news from Indonesia: A court in West Java Province has revoked a local decree that forbade the Christian activities of a church in Bekasi and has ordered officials to allow the Christians to establish a place of worship. After months of conflict and legal battles, the State Administrative Court in Bandung revoked the 2009 decree in September. The church had argued that the decree resulted from pressure by Islamist groups that did not represent the wishes of the area’s residents.

-Challenge Weekly NZ

AFTER almost 30 years in their Collins Street property, WCTU Drug-free Lifestyles have finally sold it and are temporarily based in the Scots Church building temporarily while decisions are made regarding the future. Keep up to date on their movement by emailing drugfree@net2000.com.au

-WRS

THIS year International Teams celebrate 50 years of service for the Lord, which began in founder Kevin Dyer’s apartment in Chicago in October 1960. The organization has grown to where there are about 200 teams serving worldwide today. Celebratory meetings will be held on 20 October in Brisbane and 2 November in Sydney, contact australia@iteams.org for details.

-IT Journal
**NEW LIFE** - 28 October 2010 – Page Fourteen

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**NEW LIFE Quiz No. 9**

1. In what year did the war time pope, Pius XII die? (a) 1958 (b) 1949 (c) 1950

2. When was the dogma of the bodily assumption of the virgin Mary proclaimed? (a) 1856 (b) 1950 (c) 1962

3. When did Darwin publish his “Origin of the Species”? (a) 1851 (b) 1859 (c) 1875

4. In what trial was Clarence Darrow pitted against William Jennings Bryan? (a) trial of Al Capone (b) on legitimacy of the prohibition era (c) Scopes Monkey trial.

5. Which UK bishop has been an outspoken critic of the Islamisation of Great Britain? (a) Rowan Williams (b) Nazir-Ali (c) Carey

6. The nationality of Eva Burrows, former world leader of the Salvation Army (a) Canada (b) UK (c) Australia

7. Where did convicted murderer James Nelson, who died in 2005, become a Protestant Minister? (a) USA (b) Scotland (c) Canada

8. Which evangelical leader sought the presidency of USA in 1987 (a) Jesse (b) Jerry Falwell (c) Pat Robertson

9. In what year did Karl Barth publish his /Romerbrief/? (a) 1919 (b) 1925 (c) 1948

ANSWERS:

New Life Quiz No. 9

1a; 2b; 3b; 4c; 5b; 6c; 7b; 8c; 9a.

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**Dr Clifford Wilson answers Frequently Asked Questions**

**TRICKY QUESTIONS**

**Question:** Do you accept the story of the formation of Eve as a literal happening?

**Answer:** When we come to the actual story of the formation of Eve, we find that there is really nothing that is incredible to thinking man. A man goes into a deep sleep, and part of his body is removed. From that a new life is formed. The deep sleep and the ‘operation’ are not problems, and in fact they rather remind us of what happens in operating theatres all over the world every day. As for the new life that is then brought into being, the only problem is that this involves a miracle. That is no problem if we are prepared to take the essential step of belief in God, and that necessarily involves belief in the possibility of miracles. Thus God’s chosen method of forming a woman, as revealed in this chapter, can certainly be accepted.

**Question:** How is the Apostle Paul’s statement about all men being made of one blood relevant at this point?

**Answer:** One big lesson from the record of creation is that God created man and then also gave life to a woman – a mutually dependent couple from whom all the races of the world were to spring. As Paul put it in his address on Mars Hill, recorded in Acts 17.26, ‘God has made of one blood all nations of men.’ Man and woman were the products of a distinctive act of creation, and we were made morally responsible before God. They were capable of direct obedience to God, and were given dominion over the animal creation. In their state of innocence they were told to be fruitful and to multiply, to bring into being later members of this great human race.

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NEW LIFE – 28 October 2010 – Page Fourteen
Mei’s Research Page

Water in Bible times

Parts of the Bible lands didn’t get much rain. People had to dig down deep into the earth to find water.

The well was lined with stones and had a flat rock covering it to keep the water clean. Water was precious.

Women had to walk to the well every day. There were no taps in the houses, so they had to carry all the water they needed back home in water jars.

The women carried the jars on their heads or shoulders. They were heavy!

The best part about collecting water was meeting friends and chatting.

You can still see some ancient wells if you go to Bible lands today. (You don’t need a time-shift!)
BOOKS WORTH READING

Collected Writings on Scripture, D.A. Carson (Nottingham: Apollos, 2010)

This collection of essays covers some 30 years of publications on the general topic of the doctrine of Scripture by Don Carson, who is known affectionately in Australian evangelical circles as ‘The Don’. It consists of five essays and his reviews of nine books. In each of these written pieces, Carson aims at presenting ‘a robust confessionalism’ (Carson’s words) on the vital subject of Scripture. He believes that it matters what we think about the Bible.

The first essay, ‘Approaching the Bible’, provides a helpful introduction and overview to the divine revelation of the Bible and shows that Christians believe in a ‘Talking God’. The Bible is both the ‘Word of God’ and a thoroughly human document, so that whatever its human writers say, God says (it is that simple!). In this and subsequent essays Carson’s commitment to Scripture is matched by his ability to explain its truth in a fresh, interesting and compelling way.

In the next essay, Carson critically examines recent developments in the doctrine of Scripture, especially the view of Rogers and McKim. They challenged the assumption that the modern conservative position on Scripture was the traditional Reformed view, arguing instead that it was a 19th century innovation (deriving from that bastion of orthodoxy, Princeton Theological Seminary). Carson rejects recent revisionist readings of history that try to turn an error-free Bible into a modern novelty. The thesis of Rogers and McKim was always extremely unlikely! Another target in Carson’s sights is the so-called ‘New Hermeneutic’. The discussion, though dated, is still relevant, for when it comes to challenges to the Bible, the more things change the more they stay the same. There is no new heresy under the sun.

In the third essay, the issue is the unity and diversity of the New Testament. Are its teachings so diverse (as argued by Walter Bauer) as to make a systematic description impossible? Are the labels ‘orthodoxy’ and ‘heresy’ meaningless anachronisms in the New Testament age? Carson’s main target, however, is a more recent advocate of this approach, namely James Dunn. Carson’s counter-argument is that the harmonisation implicit in systematic theology is valid, for the inspired documents of the New Testament complement but not contradict one another.

In his evaluation of Redaction Criticism, Carson notes that Ned Stonehouse pioneered an evangelical version of this critical tool. Carson shows that this tool cannot prove that any Gospel saying is inauthentic (i.e. does not go back to Jesus Himself). His overall message is to handle modern methods of Biblical study with extreme caution. This warning applies to all more recent critical methodologies of a literary nature.

In the fifth essay, Carson defends the traditional doctrine of the perspicuity of Scripture, namely that the Bible is clear and plain, so that we can expect to understand what God has revealed about Himself and His will in Scripture. All this has been challenged by Postmodernism, but Christians must oppose this trend by arguing for a Biblical worldview.

In the appended book reviews, Carson shows that those who want to criticise the approach of B.B. Warfield and try to reformulate the doctrine of inspiration, routinely end up jettisoning an error-free Bible, or limiting the truthfulness of the Bible to a narrow band of purposes (e.g. Christian doctrine and ethics). Carson is right to insist that the Bible is true and authoritative on every topic with which it deals. He exposes one-sided presentations (e.g. the recent book by Peter Enns) that emphasise that the Bible is a thoroughly human book (as indeed it is) but are not balanced by a demonstration that it is also God’s authoritative word to us.

Carson’s sharp wit and brilliant analysis of other people’s views makes this book entertaining as well as enlightening. His criticism is, however, always fair-minded and aims at upholding the Bible as God’s absolute truth. The evangelical who feels that his or her confidence in the Bible is under attack would do well to read this book.

- Greg Goswell

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Do you want to understand the Bible more? Do you want to grow in your faith? Dr Clifford Wilson and New Life offer a series of monographs to help you.

THIS ISSUE:
The Creation Series: The Way God Works In Nature and
The Creation Series: The Case For Creation, Not Evolution

Available online at: www.nlife.com.au for $7 each or in
Hard copy from: New Life, PO Box 457, Mitcham, Vic 3132
office@nlife.com.au for $12 each inc GST, plus $2.50 postage and handling.
A DEFENCE OF THE BIBLE, Dr Gary J. Baxter, www.defenceofthebible.com
IT'S all very well for convinced Christians to undervalue the place of apologetics in evangelism and faith-building, but from the rank unbeliever to the 'almost persuaded', faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour 'comes through hearing', and what is heard needs to include material which will build confidence in the veracity and authority of Scripture.

In this regard, it's not always the prize-winning, attention-getting, highly-publicised books that serve the most useful purpose for the earnest Christian. A Defence Of The Bible by Dr Gary J. Baxter, available from www.defenceofthebible.com is such a book.

Though published privately, this book makes a major contribution to Christian apologetics. It succinctly yet convincingly and powerfully demolishes many of the attacks on Scripture as it shows the strength of the Biblical record as read according to its natural sense.

Six chapters cover the major onslaughts: 'Is There Any Truth In Other Religions?', 'Is There Scientific Support For The Theory Of Evolution? (from which we quoted in a previous editorial), 'Is There Any Scientific Support For Biblical Creation?', 'Can The Bible Withstand Scientific Scrutiny?', 'The Bible And Prophecy', 'Did Jesus Really Live, Die And Rise From The Dead?'

Chapter Seven provides a helpful summary and presentation of the Gospel in the light of what has been discovered in reading previous chapters. Thus the book has a great usefulness as a resource for everyone involved in any form of preaching or teaching, as well as being a book which could be confidently placed in the hands of any enquirer or opponent of Christianity. Highly recommended.

-Greg Goswell

BOOKS WORTH READING

The Life of John Milne
Horatius Bonar (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2010)

THE biography of the Reverend John Milne by his friend, the famous hymn writer, Horatius Bonar, is a rare treat. It was first published in 1869 (the year after Milne's death), and we are in the debt of the Banner of Truth Trust for making this choice volume available to the Christian public.

Milne was not converted until after he was trained for the ministry, but once converted, for the first year after his conversion he read no book but the Bible. One sign of the genuineness of his conversion was that he had no taste for any other book. Due to a childhood accident that caused him severe concussion, in adult life he suffered repeated bouts of depression, but he did not allow this to hinder his service for Christ.

No sooner did Milne start his first ministry in Perth (Scotland) than revival broke out due to the preaching of William Burns (1840), and this book gives an exhilarating description of these remarkable events (the multiplying of prayer meetings and the people's insatiable thirst for the preaching of God's Word).

Milne lived through the Disruption (1843), leaving the Established Church with those who formed the Free Church. This gruelling experience taught him the necessity of prayer and the need for the help of the Holy Spirit for all ministry fruitfulness. Marriage brought joy and sorrow, for within five years his wife and two infant children were dead. After these losses, his heart was drawn to mission work in India, and despite determined opposition by his congregation and friends, he accepted a call from the Free Church congregation in Calcutta (1853-57).

Returning to Scotland for the sake of his second wife's health, he resettled in his old congregation in Perth. He loved the work of the ministry and hated to be idle. He was bold in the pulpit and a zealous evangelist. His last three years were hindered by illness (1865-68) and enforced inaction was a sore trial to him. When he died, God took him in the midst of his work. Despite all his hard work, he put no trust in his own efforts, but watered his labours with prayer, looking to God for blessing.

Here, then, is inspiration and instruction for all who would make their life count for Christ, the lesson being to give oneself to prayer and the ministry of the Word. This bibliography is a rebuke to our prayerlessness and sloth. May it be used by God to cause us all to love God and His work more than we do.

-Greg Goswell

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NEW LIFE – 28 October 2010 – Page Seventeen
New ‘Operation World’ Launches Global Prayer Initiative

IN OTHER NEWS...

New ‘Operation World’ Launches Global Prayer Initiative
IN a time when every ministry has a 10-year strategic plan, a marketing strategy to recruit new workers, and a formula for allowing their funding to grow, it’s sometimes easy to forget about the power and importance of prayer.

Biblica is bringing prayer back to the forefront with the 7th edition Operation World. Biblica’s Mike Dworak says, “We all feel like we need to pray more, but we don’t know how. And sometimes, praying for the whole world is overwhelming.”

Operation World contains hundreds of pages of helpful information. “It takes every nation, island, group, and it breaks it down by prayer needs, geography, religion, unreached people groups. It gives you a snapshot of what God is doing around the nations, as well as ways you can strategically pray using the content, so you can join God in what He’s doing.”

It’s probably the best book you’ve never read. “It really is a resource to equip the global Church to pray for people in every nation to come to know Him. And it really kind of guides you through it, which for me, I need all the help I can get so it doesn’t feel so overwhelming.”

It’s ironic that Operation World is being launched this month. Why? Cape Town 2010, which is the Third Lausanne Congress for World Evangelization. Biblica is hosting an event Monday to celebrate the release, which will be a great tool for many in attendance. Dworak says, “There will be 4,000 to 5,000 people from every nation around the world coming together and talking about, ‘What is God doing? How do we strategize? What do we do with that?’”

Following Lausanne, Dworak says they’ll be holding a Global Prayer Movement webcast at OperationWorld.org on Tuesday, November 9 at noon and 7:00 pm (Central time). “We have people like Anne Graham Lotz, Max Lucado, Joni Eareckson Tada, David Platt who wrote ‘Radical,’ and then global voices like KP Yohannan, Lindsay Brown from Lausanne, and others. They’ll be sharing with us why we need to pray and what will happen when we do.”

Dworak hopes this launches a prayer movement similar to that of more than a decade ago. “There was a whole prayer movement for a long time for the 10/40 Window where the unreached people groups are located - especially Muslims who are not reached. There are more Muslims coming to Christ in droves.”

Dworak says the end result is this: “We want to see God move. We want to see Him glorified. And we want to see Him change hearts and then change nations.”

If you’d like a copy of Operation World, you can receive it before it’s in stores. Biblica is providing a limited supply to MNN supporters. With your gift of $10 (or more) per month, or your one-time gift $100 (or more), we’ll send you a copy of Operation World.

-Mission Network News

A reader recently asked us who Ivan Bell is who puts Scripture verses into New Life each issue. To answer him, Ivan has sent a short account of who he is and why he does it…

WHEN I was in my early 20s I came in touch with ‘New Life’ Christian newspaper. The elderly lady with whom I boarded received a copy weekly. God spoke to me to put a Scripture in every week. This was started in 1974. It is now 2010 and a Scripture is still going in fortnightly.

This seed God had told me to plant extended to other opportunities to put similar advertisements in other Christian and secular newspapers around the world, in countries like New Zealand, United Kingdom, India and China. Over the years many have been touched through these Scriptures. Everywhere I travel Christians have commented positively about the Scripture that goes into New Life.

Not only did these Scripture advertisements go around Australia and the world, through this other media doors have opened up, ie, short-wave radio, video Bible teaching schools, audio-visual media and the printed page. This also has been used to plant churches in The Philippines and India.

The Word of God has multiplied many times over, souls have come to know the Saviour. Some ministers have used the weekly text as the subject of their Sunday messages.

One seed was sown in my life 47 years ago in my last year at High School through a Gideon’s New Testament. That seed has changed many lives all around the world for eternity. I want to encourage you too to keep sowing seed, good seed, the Word of God. The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us. It’s all about Jesus. Get to know Jesus Christ and make Him known.

I am available to share my testimony any place, any time: Sunday services, youth services, mid-week meetings, ladies’/men’s meetings and so on. Ivan Bell, PO Box 344, Mitcham Vic 3132, Mob: 0402 773 390.
Surprising Altruism: Human Love Defies Darwinian Explanation

THE world was gripped this past weekend with the high drama of watching men drilling a hole in the ground: a hole that represented the difference between life and death and a hole that illustrates why, contrary to what we have been told, we are not just another ape.

On 5 August, a copper and gold mine in Chile caved in. The tragedy turned into a national crusade when, 17 days later, it was confirmed that 33 miners had miraculously survived the cave-in. They were trapped in a rescue chamber 2,300 feet beneath the surface.

President Sebastian Pinera and his government made the miners’ rescue their top priority. Work began immediately on drilling a 28-inch hole down to the rescue chamber to extract the survivors. No expense or effort was spared, and technical help came in from all around the world. And while families maintained a silent but painful vigil, food, water and other supplies were lowered down to the survivors through a smaller hole.

This past weekend, the rescue shaft was completed. Given its width, the miners had to be removed one at a time. Since each trip took approximately an hour, it took the better part of a day to remove all the miners. Who was to go first? The weakest?

Well, there was still one more twist in store for Chile and the world. A surprised Health Minister Jaime Manalich told AP that the miners “were fighting with [authorities] because everyone wanted to be at the end of the line, not the beginning.”

A news man from the scene choked up while reporting it. You know who else should be surprised: Darwinians. They believe the race has evolved through survival of the fittest. Neo-Darwinism cannot explain altruism like that displayed by the miners. At best, it can offer a superficially-plausible explanation for what they call “cooperation.”

But caring about someone outside your immediate kinship group, much less being willing to sacrifice your well-being for theirs? Never. Richard Dawkins’ “selfish gene” would demand to be the first person out of that mine. The “selfish gene” would not have even made the miners’ rescue a national priority. It would have settled for superficially-plausible mourning.

A far more plausible explanation is suggested by the items that the miners asked be sent down to them while they waited for rescue: a crucifix and other items associated with their Catholic faith. They told officials that they wanted to set up a shrine in the rescue chamber. They signed two flags for Pope Benedict and, to make sure he got at least one, gave them to different officials.

Now ask yourself, which is a better explanation for their altruism: a “selfish gene” or belief in a Good Shepherd that gives His life for the sheep? Even without an explicit faith connection, we know that this kind of altruism is uniquely human. Females of other species will fight to the death to defend their young, but another female’s young? Never.

This is so obvious that the insistence that man is just another ape is nothing but a worldview - a humanist philosophy which is palpably false. It’s a worldview that can never account for what just happened in Chile, and makes the continued adherence to the Darwinian worldview the biggest surprise of all.

Miners Seek God Underground

THIRTY-THREE Chilean miners have emerged from spending over two months half a mile underground. Many of them left the mine wearing t-shirts bearing the logo of the Jesus Film Project and words giving glory to God.

According to CBN News, the shirts bore the phrases: “To Him be the glory and honor,” “Thank you God!” and “Gracias Señor!” as well as Psalm 95:4, “In His hands are the depths of the earth.”

Before the rescue was completed, 19-year-old miner Jimmy Sanchez sent a letter to the surface proclaiming that God was involved in what happened in the depths of the San Juan mine. “There are actually 34 of us, because God has never left us down here,” wrote Sanchez.

According to the International Mission Board, three of the miners were evangelical Christians before the mine collapsed. During their time underground, two more miners made professions of faith. One of the original believers is a miner named José Henríquez, who led the miners in prayer every evening.

Pray for God’s guidance and protection for the miners as they return to normal life and work through what has happened.

-Mission Network News
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John 21.6:
‘And He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find”.’
Inserted by Ivan Bell

谁可以邀请你订阅‘New Life’？

NEW LIFE – 28 October 2010 – Page Twenty
OFFICE MANAGER

New Life Christian Newspaper

After 22 years’ service at New Life, Alison King is moving on to CBM. New Life would be pleased to receive enquiries and applications for this part-time casual (approx. 50%) position requiring a person with a pleasant disposition in dealing with people who are making subscription, advertising and general enquiries, who has proficiency in word-processing, database and book-keeping programs, and has experience in general office management.

The hours are flexible, but would ideally be worked from 10am–2pm, Mon–Fri.

**For further enquiries:** Contact the Editor on 0417 592 646 or Email: Rev BobThomas@gmail.com

Applications will close on 31 October with a view to the successful applicant commencing mid January 2011.

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Have You Recommended New Life To A Friend Recently?

NEW LIFE – 28 October 2010 – Page Twenty Two
NEW LIFE – 28 October 2010 – Page Twenty Three

WITH CHRIST

King, Xonra Allison.
Born Queensnort, South Africa 19.9.1940,
Died Melbourne, Australia 6.10.2010.
Loved wife of Christopher, loved mother of Alison, Darryl and Delwyn.
Loving Granny of Caitlin and Jordan.
Now with Jesus.

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LESLIE, Stella Florence (nee Masters)
Treasured wife of Mervyn, loved mother of Stephen, Geoff and Lesley, and their families.
An exuberant life, serving God and others.
“So that now, as always, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or death”.
A Thanksgiving Service was held on Thursday (Oct. 7, 2010) at the East Keilor Evangelical Christian Church, and was followed by a private burial.

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King, Xonra Allison.
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Why take a year off? Have a Year On!

“WHAT do you want to be when you grow up?” If you are a teenager this is the question that you are constantly bombarded with. Whilst many younger teenagers throw answers around like “an actress”, “a policeman”, “a teacher”, “rich” - older teenagers who are at the age where they are able to make these decisions often reply with a glazed look. As a church we can make the mistake of asking this question to our young people without taking the opportunity to ask a much more important question: “Where is God leading you in the future?”

‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few...’ (Luke 10:2). Ridley Melbourne is now offering to help young people work out their next step by providing them with the opportunity to think about vocational ministry as a career. 2011 will see the launch of a new gap year initiative for school leavers Year On, designed to facilitate this discernment process.

Lisa Brown coordinator of the Centre for Youth and Children’s Ministry (CYCM) and the Year On program at Ridley says, “The Year On program is not for the faint hearted, it is designed to train, equip, disciple and provide opportunities for discernment as the participants engage in a range of different ministries”.

The year involves:
1. Two days of ministry work experience.
2. Four diploma subjects at Ridley Melbourne.
4. Attendance at a number of youth ministry conferences throughout the year.
5. A mission trip with Youth Alpha.

Apart from these there will be opportunities for each participant to grow in their knowledge and love for Jesus and the opportunity to develop lifelong friends in ministry.

“CYCM’s overall strategy is to raise up the next generation of leaders for ministry. We want to encourage young people to think seriously about the gifts that God has given them and how they can use them for His glory” says Lisa. “Year On is just one of a number of youth ministry initiatives commencing in 2011. We are also launching a youth leadership conference in January and a student leadership program.”

So where is God leading the young people in your church? Find out more about the Year On program and other new Youth Ministry initiatives at www.ridley.edu.au.

-Lisa Brown, CYCM Coordinator