

## Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrated In St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney

DIGNITARIES including the Premier, Federal Opposition Leader and British Consul-General attended the Diamond Jubilee Service at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. The service was one of the few official events in Sydney for the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne.

Hundreds of people turned out in rainy weather to hear Dean Phillip Jensen pay tribute to the Queen's 60 years of service to her nation and the Commonwealth.

In a sermon based on 1 Samuel 8 and 1 Peter 2, Dean Jensen said, 'It matters not a whit whether we like her or not, whether we are republicans or not. She is our God-given queen and we should honour the position she holds. Peter was speaking of a far less honourable and far more absolute monarch when he commanded Christians in far off Turkey: "Fear God. Honour the Emperor".

'Unlike some monarchs in some periods of our history our Queen has been a model of all that is best in constitutional monarchy' the Dean said. 'Unlike our politicians, she has been unafraid to speak out about her faith and commitment to God that undergirds her execution of duty.'

Dean Jensen played part of the Queen's 2011 Christmas message which he said contained 'none of that mealy mouthed political correctness of seasons greetings. She knows about God – not just giving sinful people what they want but giving sinful people what they need,' the Dean said, 'for while kings and rulers bring and maintain justice ... only God can deal with sin and that is what He did with His Son – the true King, the One who came and lived under the law like the constitutional monarch that He was, the One who came and gave His one life as a ransom for many. This is the queen's King.'



'Here is the Christian concept of exercising power, serving the people that God has given you responsibility to lead,' he said.

Before the congregation gave thanks for the monarch, Mr Jensen said, 'However bleak life may be and however much we may need to call out to God for help, we always have much to thank Him for, and in our Queen and her long reign over us, we do have much to be thankful for.'

*Story: Russell Powell.*

*Photo: Ramon Williams, Worldwide Photos.*

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## TO THE POINT ...

# Taking It To The Streets

YOU can imagine my surprise to arrive in Edinburgh and see emblazoned on the side of a bus: 'TRY PRAYING'. Then to see banners hanging outside numerous churches: 'TRY PRAYING'. In my experience the Scots are not all that given to wearing their faith on their sleeves, so I was determined to dig deeper into this.

At last I uncovered the mystery. The youth minister (pictured left) at Liberton Kirk in Edinburgh's southern suburbs and others decided it was time to put an idea into the minds of people out of touch with the church.

Life's tough. It's full of problems. People try anything and everything in their attempts to cope – everything, that is, except prayer!

So they set up a website ( [www.trypraying.org](http://www.trypraying.org) ). Try it, it's well worth a visit. They printed a handout booklet. They put up those banners. They took out paid advertising on the sides of those buses. They letterbox and door-knock. They reach out to schoolkids ... And they're seeing results.

It's not rocket science, this – like most good ideas – but it's having an impact for Christ. Why, we could probably do this in Australia, couldn't we?

– Bob Thomas



## Our Apologies For The Lateness And Reduced Size Of This Issue

UNFORTUNATELY we have had an outbreak of problems with both our computers. This has seriously curtailed our ability to produce and post the present issue. Sufficient of these problems have now been resolved to enable us to post this issue five days late and reduced in size. We expect to be fully operational again in time for the next issue (due on 1 July).

*'Brethren, pray for us.'*

## GET MORE OUT OF NEW LIFE

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## **Nigeria And Sudan: Jihad And Genocide**

### **Nigeria: Boko Haram's Jihad**

AT least 15 people were killed and more than 40 seriously wounded on Sunday 3 June when a Boko Haram suicide bomber rammed his car into the checkpoint outside the Living Faith Church in the Yelwa Tudu area of Bauchi metropolis. The blast, that occurred around 9:20am, sent fire and shrapnel burning and slicing through believers who were chatting outside after the church's first worship service. The explosion also rocked Harvest Field Church 25m away across the road, causing part of the building to collapse on worshippers. The death toll is likely to rise, as some believers are still unaccounted for and many of the wounded are severely burned. The Islamic jihadist sect, Boko Haram, has claimed responsibility. The Pastor of Harvest Church, Mbamingo Godia, has asked Christians not to retaliate in any way but pray to God for peace.

Increasingly, Christians in Northern Nigeria are attending worship behind barricades and checkpoints, constantly reminding them that jihadists are plotting to eliminate them. Attending worship is done at great risk. A photo obtained by Compass Direct News shows a little girl lying on the ground, covered in blood. Furthermore Muslim mobs are persisting with organised night raids against Christian communities. By murdering Christians in their beds the Muslims aim to instil terror and trigger an exodus that will have the effect of ethnic-religious cleansing. Their primary aim, however, is to pressure the government into acquiescing to their demand for Sharia (Islamic) Law. The murderous night raids have Qur'anic precedent: '... Our punishment came to them at night or while they were sleeping at noon.' (Sura 7.4 <http://quran.com/7/4>) The National President of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafar, declared Saturday 16 June a day of national prayer and fasting for the country.

### **Sudan: Khartoum's Nuba Genocide**

KHARTOUM'S genocide against the non-Arab, non-Muslims of the 'New South' (Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile) has been raging for over a year now and shows no sign of abating. Film footage obtained by Al-Jazeera in late March shows the governor of South Kordofan, the indicted war criminal Ahmed Harun, addressing his soldiers before deployment to Nuba territory. 'You must hand over the place clean,' he says. 'Swept, rubbed, crushed. Don't bring them back alive. We have no space for them.' An army commander standing near Harun then adds, 'Don't

bring them back, eat them alive.' This is clearly a call to genocide.

According to Medecins Sans Frontieres, up to 4,000 people are fleeing into South Sudan every day to escape fighting in Sudan's Blue Nile province, with around 100,000 refugees already in camps across the border in South Sudan's Upper Nile State.

Further to this, famine is starting to set in for the displaced Nuba of South Kordofan. Some 38,000 Nuba refugees have fled over the border into South Sudan's Unity State. Yida refugee camp, which already holds 35,000 refugees, is bracing for an influx as refugees desperately trying to cross the border before the rains make travel impossible. Meanwhile, Khartoum continues its aerial bombardment of refugees and its blockade of humanitarian aid. Reporting from the Nuba Mountains, Nicholas Kristoff says that around 800,000 Nuba have completely run out of food in South Kordofan, while some 50,000 are attempting the trek to Yida. However, starvation is taking its toll, with many travellers simply too weak to complete the journey. Samaritan's Purse reports that at least 10% of the children arriving at Yida are acutely malnourished. Amjuma Ali Kuku, a teacher, says the camp is presently caring for some 2,000 unaccompanied children.

Why is this genocide attracting no attention? Is it because this genocide is an openly declared Islamic jihad and talking about it would risk being politically incorrect? Well, a genocidal Islamic jihad it is! And while the world looks away, hundreds of thousands of predominantly Christian Africans are being deliberately starved to death by the racist, Arab-supremacist, Islamic regime in Khartoum.

### **Please Pray Specifically That God Will:**

- supernaturally draw the hearts of His people to Him so that in their despair and desperation they might look to Him for all things without losing heart, without losing faith; may He supply all their needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4.19)
- rupture all supply lines feeding weapons, funds and fighters into the various African jihads. '... in the name of the LORD I cut them off!' (Psalm 118.10b,11b,12c)
- rise up in wrath and indignation, in justice and righteousness, against the wicked and arrogant regime of mar al-Bashir in Khartoum. (Pray Psalm 10)

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

## **Caleb Leadership Ministries – Intensely Practical Training**

IT was a cold wintry day, but at Adanac Christian Camp the welcome was warm and hospitable for those who came to witness the final afternoon of their friends' course at Caleb.

Caleb Leadership Ministries developed from Tentmakers Youth Ministries. Four young Australians attended the training course in Minnesota, USA, which focused on establishing young adults in part-time ministry in the local church. They led the first Australian course in 1992.

In 1996 the Youth Ministry was redesigned to include pastors, leaders and other key people in churches. The organization became known as 'Caleb Leadership Ministries'.

The courses concentrate on practical ways of improving ministry for those who desire to reach their potential in serving the Lord. It is Biblically-based, with many fine Christian businessmen on the board, as well as teaching some classes. This year the course involved one week in February, one week in April and a live-in week in June. Twenty people from different backgrounds, various churches and locations enthusiastically learned new or improved skills in relationships, communication, management, decision-making, creativity, training, confidence, enthusiasm and peace of mind.

Northcote (Vic) Baptist Church has a young American pastor who graduated from Arlington Baptist College (Texas). Then he studied at Liberty University (Lynchburg, Virginia). He trained and worked as a youth pastor. Josh with his wife Jessie felt God's call to ministry in Australia. After several years of praying and seeking advice he was accepted as Youth Pastor of Coburg Baptist Church in 2008. During this time he assisted with the youth work at Northcote. Two years ago he was challenged to take on the ministry of the English congregation at Northcote. The members encouraged him to apply for the Caleb training.

The culmination of the three weeks training was when each of the 20 participants spoke for 90 seconds on the help and challenge 'Caleb' had been to them. The practical side of ministry was emphasized, learning to delegate and supervise, encouraging confidence in public speaking and dealings with others being just a few of the themes touched on. Each person testified to a life-changing experience during the three week course.

Pastor Josh said, 'The meetings were very practical, with hands-on learning experience to deal with the finer points of ministry. Also I was greatly challenged in my personal walk with God.'

Then a very challenging message was given by James Ayling, former director of Youth Ministries with Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches, currently Director of Volunteers with Prison Fellowship of Victoria. He spoke from the book of Ecclesiastes, asking the question of life's meaning. The answer, found in 1 Corinthians 3.5 is to fear God, obey His commands and do everything in life to please Him. After the group received their certificates, and prayer, a delightful afternoon tea was enjoyed.

We are glad at Northcote that our pastor availed himself of the life-stretching opportunity made possible through the ministry of 'Caleb'. To find out more about Caleb Leadership Ministries go to:

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



*Josh and Jessie*

*– Barbara Prout ('Mrs DP') attended the Caleb Graduation Day*

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### **VISITING MELBOURNE?**

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## Kirby Comments On 'Poly Marriage' Should Cause Politicians To Pause And Reflect On Gay Marriage Agenda – ACL

THE Australian Christian Lobby has released a video outlining one of the almost inevitable implications of redefining marriage.

Entitled *Marriage Equality, No Consequences? Wait A Minute*, it uses comments from former High Court Judge and gay activist Michael Kirby made at the recent Senate Inquiry.

ACL Managing Director Jim Wallace said the video has been distributed widely and highlights the logical next step if same-sex marriage is legalised.

'During the recent Senate hearings into the Greens bill to change marriage, several witnesses were asked why "marriage equality" should not be granted to polyamorous or polygamous relationships, and none could give a logical answer,' Mr Wallace said.

Mr Wallace said that Mr Kirby's response was instructive when he said, 'The question that is before the parliament at the moment is the question of

equality for homosexual people. There may be, in some future time, some other question. The lesson in courts and in the parliament, I suggest, is that you take matters step by step.'

His comments were seized on by leaders in the polyamorous community and there have since been demands for marriage from polygamous people.

'Certainly from the Greens policy on marriage it is clear that their aim is to have marriage for all, regardless of sexuality and presumably numbers,' said Mr Wallace. 'Despite frequent calls to do so, they have not denied this as their intent for marriage.'

*The Australian* has reported that the Greens 'have not excluded extending legalisation to menages-a-trois and other sexual configurations in the future'.

ACL has produced this short video <http://vimeo.com/43572718> designed to provoke deeper thought about the consequences of redefining marriage.

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## Sad To Say 'Goodbye' To Christian Endeavour

THE Christian Endeavour Movement was the Rev Francis Clark's vision in 1881. It began in Australia in 1883 but now with only six groups across four states, a *Closure And Celebration* of its influence was held in Ryde on 2 June. Christian Endeavour spread across England, and especially in Ireland, then across Europe and the world. It is a Christ-centred, church-based organisation catering for Junior, Youth, Young Adults and Seniors – and it still exists abroad. Google 'Christian Endeavour' to see their fine Website – then click CE-Online home, and Site map.

In my teens, sharing in a Methodist Young People's CE was so foundational in my discipleship and I still have my sterling silver CE badge. I voiced myself in the 'Chain Prayers', gave my first 'Paper' on a devotional theme, then a Local Preacher took me to share his services in prayer and Bible Reading. When I was barely 17 he encouraged me to preach a sermon, I became a Sunday school teacher and later a Local Preacher. Then in 1944 I volunteered for the Navy to help win the war, was drafted to Sydney and made many Christian friends here.

I linked up with a Christian Endeavour Group at Bexley Congregational Church, Youth For Christ Rallies, Campaigners For Christ, 'Everyman's Club' for Service personnel, and many churches. Two thousand attended the Central Methodist Mission on Sunday evenings in the old Lyceum Theatre where the Rev Frank Rayward's calls for commitment drew new conversions almost every week. I shared with students of the Central Methodist Mission's Evangelist's Institute in their open-air witness – and I wonder who remembers all that.

On returning to England I candidated for the Methodist ministry, being ordained in 1956 – and it all started in Christian Endeavour. As I move and still preach around Newcastle, I meet many older folk grounded in their faith through Christian Endeavour. Times change, also our society, church structures and activities, strategies of evangelism and discipling, but the basic, transforming Gospel has never changed. Charles Wesley's hymn *A Charge To Keep I Have* heads the index in many hymn books and it should be first in our priorities. Let us sing and mean: 'To serve the present age our calling to fulfil, O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will'. – Rev R. Perry Smith, retired Methodist/Uniting Church Minister, Belmont, NSW. (Mr Smith would be pleased to hear of others' experience of CE – [perysmith4@optusnet.com.au](mailto:perysmith4@optusnet.com.au))

## Life After PLC

FRIENDS of Dr William Mackay, former Principal of Presbyterian Ladies College, Melbourne, will be pleased to know that he and his wife are enjoying an active retirement in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mrs Mackay, apart from home making, has continued teaching English as a Second Language, mainly to wives of students. She has come to make many friends in that way, having taught Chinese, a Japanese, Iranians, an Italian, a German, Spanish, a Chilean, and several Poles.

Dr Mackay has been made a Professional Associate of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. He was recognised as a minister of the Free Church of Scotland in 1998 and taught Church History at the Free Church of Scotland Theological College until 2005 when a professor was appointed, Rev Dr John McIntosh, son of the Rev Alvan McIntosh, late minister of Free St George's Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in Castlereagh St, Sydney.

He was also elected an elder in the Buccleuch-Greyfriars Congregation in Edinburgh and clerk of the Public Questions, Religion and Morals Committee of the General Assembly.

In May 2001, Dr Mackay was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland and, in that capacity, was invited to Australia in mid-2001 for the Centenary of the union of the various state Presbyterian churches to form the Presbyterian Church of Australia, attending the General Assembly in Sydney.

Since then he has been appointed Chair of the International Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland and member of Council of Christian Witness to Israel.

In 2009 the Mackays celebrated their Golden Wedding. In 2011 he was invited to apply for the Fellowship of the Royal Geographical Society, London (FRGS). Recovering from open-heart surgery, Dr Mackay continues active in the work of the Lord.

## Sunday – The Deadliest Day In Nigeria

SUNDAY was a bloody day in Nigeria, and Nigerians are still reeling from the news. Carl Moeller with Open Doors USA explains, 'Swallowed under the news of the plane crash was the news that there was another suicide bomber at a church in Northern Nigeria, in Bauchi. Apparently, at least ten others were killed and 30 injured in that attack.'

Although Boko Haram didn't claim the attack, they didn't really need to. 'The reality is: this is the kind of violence that they want to precipitate across the entire country. It's the kind of violence that President of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathon, is facing spreading throughout the rest of the country.'

Last month, Christian leaders issued a stern warning that they would not take any more. But a violent response could further divide Nigeria at a crucial time. 'I think there's a deep, spiritual hunger. When Christians are being persecuted and they continue to show love to those who are persecuting them, that is the most powerful witness to the truth of the good news of Jesus.' Pray.

**FOOTNOTE:** More recently another three churches have been attacked, resulting in much death and injury. President Goodluck Jonathon has asked the world community to pray for Nigeria.

### **Pastoral Call**

#### **Belmont – Highton Baptist**

An established church in Geelong, Vic seeks a pastor.

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Our Church/Pastor Profile will then be made available in return.

**Contact the Church Council Secretary,**

Mrs Mary Donnan,

**Phone:** 0402 234 222,

**Email:** mdonnan@heathdale.vic.edu.au

## GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD ...

### Hope Centre Celebrates 10 Years

A LOT can happen in ten years, and Global Action is celebrating. Why? Their Hope Centre in Ukraine is 10 years old. The Director of the Hope Centre, Tanya Shbygunova, says each year, 1000 students learn about drugs, prostitution, smoking, and alcoholism through their ministry. Summer camp is also huge. 'We did have summer camps, and for these ten years, more than 4,000 kids were at the Hope Centre and were able to hear the Gospel. Our aim was to introduce them to Jesus – to tell them He can be their Friend.' The most recent highlight is the *Dream Project* where girls involved in prostitution are invited to be trained in the Hope Centre in cosmetology. 'All of our staff are Christian. And we want to show them what God did in our lives. It was amazing: the last day of our program and one of our students became a Christian.' There's much more to this work; go to: <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/17292> to learn more.

### Donor Will Double Funds For Island New Testament Translations

WITCH doctors and ancient practices are common in New Ireland, an island off the coast of Papua New Guinea. Fifteen out of the 23 languages spoken there don't even have their own translation of the New Testament. Wycliffe Associates is working with local Bible translators to finish New Ireland's last 15 New Testament translations in the next eight years. They have a matching donor who will double every dollar given toward this cause. To find out more go to:

<http://www.MNNonline.org/article/17290>

### Thirty Days Of Prayer For The Muslim World Now Available

MMN is offering *30 Days Of Prayer For The Muslim World*, this full-colour guide, specifically designed to be used during Ramadan, 20 July – 18 August 2012.

Ramadan is the holiest time of the year for Muslims – a time when they fast and pray in an effort to make themselves more acceptable to their god. As Muslims worldwide are praying that their god will be close to them, Christians are asked to pray that the Holy God will draw them to Himself.

Those who help support *Mission Network News* with a gift of any amount, and will receive this great resource tool to help them pray more effectively for the Muslim world now at

<https://www.MNNonline.org/donate>.

### Iranian Believer Charged With Blasphemy Released

AN Iranian believer imprisoned for sharing his faith was released last week. Voice of the Martyrs, Canada says Mehdi 'Petros' Forouton and four other Christians were charged in March 2011 with blasphemy for talking to Muslims about the Gospel. After a rough year in prison, Forouton has been released. Many other believers remain in gaol for similar crimes in Iran. Pray for these prisoners or encourage them with letters. There's a link with more information at <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/17340>



### Rehab Centre To Bring Sex Slaves Hope

FORMER trokosi sex slaves in Ghana have a shot at new lives. Every Child Ministries just bought land there with plans for a centre to rehabilitate women and girls who were enslaved in the local shrines. They plan to open the centre in August next year after construction. Lorella Rouster with Every Child Ministries says it'll boost their ministry. 'It's really a strategic spot because it's located in an area first where there are many shrines.' When the rehabilitation centre is finished, trokosi women and girls will have help to get back on their feet. 'We will offer vocational and life skills classes. There'll be counselling and Bible studies.' Most of all, ECM wants to save the women from spiritual slavery. 'Our ultimate goal is to help those former shrine slaves become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and then to send them out to reach others like themselves who are caught up in that whole system. So we hope that it will have a multiplying effect on the Gospel.' Please be praying. Full story: <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/17342>

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## UPCOMING EVENTS ...

### Jesus And The Gospels: Fabrication, Facts And The Historians' Rules

MODERN skeptics claim the Gospels are ancient fiction. But is this the view of historians? At this special breakfast Dr Darrell Bock will speak on Jesus and the Gospels from an historical perspective. What was fabrication? What are the facts? How do historians tell the difference? Join us for a fresh and stimulating look at Jesus and the Gospels. Dr Darrell Bock has particular expertise in investigating the historical Jesus and is well qualified to speak on this topic.

This (Melbourne) City Bible Forum will be held on Wednesday 25 July from 7.15am for a 7.30am start. The cost will be \$30. For tickets go to:  
[citybibleforum.org/melbourne](http://citybibleforum.org/melbourne)

### MTS Challenge – 28 July

MTS Challenge is a conference that seeks to raise the next generation of Gospel workers. Challenge helps you to work out 'how you're wired' and where you might 'plug in' to the growing Kingdom of God.

Most Aussies live tangled lives. Sin entangles us, the devil tempts us, our world tricks us into believing that money, career and family etc are what we should be striving for. It's hard to break free and 'run the race marked out for us.' *Challenge 2012* asks the big questions – What is this race we are meant to be running and how do we run it without getting tangled?

Be encouraged, challenged and spurred on to live a life worthy of the calling you have received in Christ Jesus.

This is a conference both for those thinking about a future in Gospel work and those already in ministry who want to train them.

The conference will be held from 9am – 6pm on Saturday 28 July, 2012 at Melbourne School of Theology, 5 Burwood Hwy Wantirna. The cost is: Early bird (until 23 July) \$60 standard; \$50 concession. Late (and uncatered) registration after 23 July is \$60 standard; \$50 Concession.

The speakers will be: Peter Adam, Vicar Emeritus of St Judes Carlton, and Stuart White, AFES Staffworker at Monash Clayton.

For online registration go to: <http://www.mts.com.au/events/vic-challenge-2012>



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## HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE – A DIFFERENT TAKE ...

**LOOSEN up guys, here's a little piece submitted by the Rev Ivan Ransom in *Back Again* newsletter:**

I HAVE been in many places, but I've never been in *Cahoots*. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in *Cahoots* with someone.

I've also never been in *Cognito*. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in *Sane*. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to *Conclusions* but you have to jump, and my knees can't take it anymore.

I have also been in *Doubt*. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in *Flexible*, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in *Capable*, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places to be is in *Suspense*! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in *Continent*, but I can't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing.

PLEASE DO YOUR PART NOW!

Today is one of the many National Mental Health Days throughout the year. You can do your bit by remembering to send an email to at least one unstable person.

My job is done as I've sent it to you!

## Arab Christian Scholar, Riad Kassis, Takes Up Key Leadership In Global Evangelical Theological Education

LANGHAM Partnership, a ministry working to equip churches worldwide for mission and maturity in Christ through strengthening the ministry of God's Word, and the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education, a global community of regional associations of evangelical theological schools, are pleased to announce the appointment of Rev Dr Riad Kassis to the joint roles of International Program Director for Langham Scholars and International Director of ICETE.

As International Program Director for Langham Scholars (from 1 November 2012), Riad will direct the operation and strategic development of the program, which now encompasses more than 300 scholars around the world. As International Director of ICETE (from 1 January 2013), Riad will provide leadership for ICETE in fulfilling its mandate to promote excellence in evangelical theological education worldwide.

Dr Kassis lives in Lebanon and currently serves as the Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa and Eastern Europe for Overseas Council. In this position he has wide involvement with theological education in these regions and globally. Riad, himself a Langham Scholar, serves as visiting professor of Old Testament at The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon. He has also served as Director of the J. L. Schneller Institute in West Bekaa, Lebanon. Dr. Kassis is a respected lecturer and author in Arabic and English.

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## BOOKS WORTH READING ...

### PREACH THE WORD: ESSAYS ON EXPOSITORY PREACHING IN HONOUR OF R. KENT HUGHES, Ed Leland Ryken and Todd Wilson, Wheaton: Crossway, 2007

IN 2007, Ken Hughes completed four decades as a preacher and retired from the position of Senior Pastor of College Church at Wheaton. The 11 chapters of this volume cover key aspects of expository preaching, the task closest to the heart of Kent Hughes, with all the essayists united by the conviction that the pulpit must lead the way in the life of the church.

David Jackman shows that the foundation of good preaching is our careful and disciplined reading of the text of Scripture, in other words, the hard work of Bible study to discover the unique contribution that every biblical book and passage makes to our understanding and practice of the Faith. If we do not do the hard work, we end up preaching boring and predictable sermons that reflect the preacher's set ideas, not the living and surprising Word of God.

Paul House gives much-needed advice on how to preach Old Testament narrative, with his first piece of advice being that we stop viewing the Old Testament as a problem and a puzzle, for Jesus and the apostles obviously did not view it like that, for they used the Old Testament constantly in their teaching. Leland Ryken shows that the tools of literary analysis are those needed for expository preaching, using the story of Cain (Genesis 4) as a test case. A greater appreciation of the Bible as literature will enable us to escape the Evangelical fixation on the epistles, and, if another part of the Bible is tackled, to avoid simply mining it for a few theological or moral ideas.

Wayne Grudem takes us through some of the rights and wrongs of how to interpret the Bible. As he says, it is right to spend most of our effort reading and rereading the text of the Bible, and a major mistake is to spend most of our time reading the commentaries rather than the text itself. That advice sounds a lot like Psalm 1.2. John MacArthur reminds us that true success is faithfulness to God and His Word, and a vital part of a reader's faithfulness is putting sufficient time and effort into the preparation of sermons.

Pauline expert Bruce Winter uses 2 Corinthians 10 to show the need for preachers to understand, address and undermine the present cultural mindset and social programming that stands in the way of God's truth having full effect in people's lives. Duane Litfin explains Paul's role as a 'herald' in Corinth, a role that required Paul to give a straightforward explanation of the truth. Paul's use of 'preaching' (*kerygma*) in 1 Corinthi-

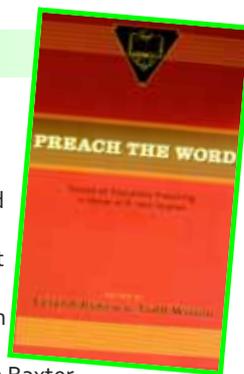
ans 1.21 refers both to the content of the Gospel and to the divinely-dictated mode of presentation (a plain declaration of its truth). The application is that a sermon is not a sales pitch!

Wallace Benn brings to our attention that classic of pastoral practice, Richard Baxter's *Reformed Pastor*, with Baxter telling pastors to visit their people as well as preach to them. Preaching is not only teaching, it must always contain practical application. J.I. Packer explains Charles Simeon's insight into expository preaching, his 2,536 sermon outlines in 21 volumes intended as models of how to preach according to certain key principles, such as that a sermon should have unity of design, clarity of thought and simplicity of diction. Simeon pioneered homiletic theory, for he believed that it was possible to teach homiletics. This does not reduce the art of preaching to a set technique, for we can only preach the truth that has first of all gripped our own hearts and transformed our own lives.

Philip Jensen discusses the theological basis of preaching, with the Bible understood as God's own explanation of Himself and us. Humility is the appropriate response, for the greatest biblical scholar will never understand as much as the apostles did. Don Carson writes of the perennial challenges to preaching as well as current challenges, such as multiculturalism and rising biblical illiteracy. Philip Ryken urges us not to give up on expository preaching. Peter Jensen argues that it takes a whole seminary to produce a preacher and that the whole course of training should have this orientation and focus.

Using 2 Timothy 2.2, Jon Dennis shows the need to multiply generations of faithful Gospel ministers, and David Holm describes how this was done in Elizabethan England through weekly 'prophesyings' (in effect, preaching workshops) and more recent efforts such as Proclamation Trust. The final chapter is a brief biography of Kent Hughes by Randy Grundenyke. It shows his disciplined study of the Word, his faithful preaching and wide influence. Here, then, is a volume that will inspire and help others to 'preach the Word'.

— Greg Goswell



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