

1 September 2012. Vol 75 No 5. Free On Request: office@nlife.com

ACMA OPEN DAY TO PROMOTE THE NEED FOR MORE PEOPLE IN MISSION AVIATION



THE Australian Centre for Mission (ACMA) is conducting an OPEN DAY at its facility at Coldstream Airfield on Saturday September 8. The day's activities are detailed in the advertisement in this copy of New Life.

The format this year will be different from previous Mission Aviation Discovery (MAD) days which targeted a wide range of people.

This year's OPEN DAY is designed for

- People interested in mission aviation generally
- People interested in TRAINING specifically as pilots and aircraft engineers for mission aviation

Why is there an emphasis on training?

It's simple. The most critical need in mission aviation is people. Trained people – aircraft engineers and pilots with a passion for mission and the transforming power of the Gospel. Without this, mission aviation will die.

There are openings at ACMA in 2013 for:

- 10 new Aircraft Engineering students
- 10 new Flight students

For details on ACMA's training programs go to <http://www.acma.vic.edu.au>

(PHOTO: ACMA GRADUATE)

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- ◆ Forward *New Life* to your friends.
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- ◆ Send in your news and pix.
- ◆ Make a donation as you feel led.
- ◆ Check out our website.

GOOD NEWS ...

BIBLE SOCIETY ENCOURAGES CHURCHES AND CHRISTIANS TO GET INTO GOOD HABITS

Last edition of New Life we read about the 'Live Light in 25 words' campaign and now over 2,000 churches and 2,700 individuals have committed to daily Bible reading as part of this campaign...

A record number of churches and individuals have signed up for Bible Society Australia's 'Live Light in 25 Words' campaign which runs during October. 'We set a target of 2,000 churches to be signed up by the end of September and to have achieved that with a month to go is great confirmation that Christians and churches are serious about daily Bible reading,' said Chris Melville, Programmes and Campaigns Manager for Bible Society.

'The 2,000 churches are spread over all Australian states and territories,' Chris said. 'With four weeks to go before the campaign starts, we're looking to attract even more churches and individuals,' he said.

The 'Live Light in 25 Words' campaign is an invitation to Christians to make a fresh start on their Bible reading habit with just 25 words. It can grow from there. 'When they do, they'll begin to experience more of what Jesus promises – to lighten the burdens we all carry,' said Bible Society CEO, Greg Clarke.

Bible Society Australia has produced a range of resources to help churches and individuals start their daily Bible reading habit. All who register on-line will receive a daily e-mail with that day's reading, together with one or two questions.

'We're asking people to take just 10 minutes each day to read that verse and consider the questions – either by themselves, or with a friend,' said Chris Melville. 'We pray that by doing this for a month, they will start the habit of a lifetime,' he said.

Other resources include:

The Good Book Talks

Nine, 20 minute talks, delivered by Australian Christian leaders, will be available to download from our website and on DVD for the campaign month of October. The talks can be used during church or for small groups. Each talk focuses on a different aspect of the Bible.

Four Bible Studies for small groups

Four Bible studies will be available for use by churches and small groups during October. The Bible Studies will look broadly at the topic of the Bible, with discussion questions based on Scripture passages.

"Read the Bible with..." online Bible devotions

It's like reading the Bible with a friend or respected Christian mentor! We have asked our friends and 'influencers' in the Christian world to read and reflect on a passage of Scripture. These Christian influencers will create daily devotions that you can access on our website and use each day in the month of October.

All these resources are available at: <http://25words.biblesociety.org.au>

– Bible Society Australia

New Life encourages individuals to sign up or use the news of this campaign as an opportunity to start or continue developing good habits when it comes to reading the Bible.

After all, the Bible is God's word to us and it is by reading it that we will get to know our great God and understand His good and perfect plan and purpose!

Psalm 119: 105, 2 Timothy 3: 16-17, Matthew 4: 4

Pakistan: Intolerance Grows

PAKISTAN celebrated its 65th birthday on 14 August. Founded by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a member of the Shia religious minority, Pakistan was initially established on a foundation of secularism and equal rights for all. Today, however, after decades of Saudi-sponsored Islamisation, Pakistan is the exact opposite of what it was founded to be.

Abductions of Christian and Hindu girls are on the rise. According to the parents, these young girls are being forcibly converted to Islam and married off to Muslim men. According to the Islamists, none of the conversions have been forced. The rise in incidence has triggered debate in the media and a Hindu exodus from Sindh Province, prompting President Zardari to call for a law banning forced conversions. Sunni jihadist violence against the Shia minority has also increased. On 16 August a bus en route to Gilgit was stopped by men in military uniforms just 100km north of Islamabad. The 'officers' then dragged at least 20 Shi'ites from the bus and executed them. It was the third such attack on that road in six months. As a minority throughout the South Asian sub-continent, Christians are the most vulnerable of all.

In June 2009 a Christian woman Asia Bibi (41, married mother of five) was abused before being accused of blasphemy and arrested. In November 2010 a court sentenced her to death by hanging. Punjab governor Salmaan Taseer and Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti (a Christian religious freedom activist) were both assassinated in early 2011 for opposing the blasphemy law and publicly supporting Asia Bibi.

On Thursday 16 August 2012 Rimsha (11), daughter of Misrak Masih, a resident of the Meherabadi 'Christian slum colony on the outskirts of Islamabad, was arrested on charges of blasphemy. Initially, police had been reluctant to act on the complaint because the accused is merely a child. However, after hundreds of enraged local Muslims surrounded the police station, blocked the Kashmir Highway for hours and threatened to take matters into their own hands, police took Rimsha, her mother and her sister into 'protective custody' -- they had been severely beaten by the mob.

Not only is Rimsha a juvenile, she is illiterate and mentally impaired. Her mental impairment has left her unable to go to school or mix with other children. Consequently Rimsha spends her days wandering through the slum. Reportedly, locals complained that Rimsha had been 'moving suspiciously' in the district,

carrying a 'shopping bag'. Actually she had been collecting papers from garbage bins to use as fuel in the family's stove. When suspicious Muslims entered Rimsha's home, they allegedly found her holding burnt pages which had Islamic text and Qur'anic verses printed on them. (They were pages from the Noorani Qaida, a Qur'an reading education program.) At that point, Syed Muhammad Umma was sent to register a complaint against the child.

On Friday 17 August the court ruled that Rimsha be remanded in custody for 14 days, pending further investigation. Understandably, Rimsha is confused and traumatised. Death threats from fundamentalist Muslims have driven over 300 members of the neighbourhood's Christian community to flee for their lives. (Some reports put the figure as high as 1000.) The All Pakistan Minorities Alliance (APMA) is providing assistance to the displaced Christians. Paul Bhatti, the National Harmony Minister, APMA Chairman and brother of the martyred activist Shahbaz Bhatti, has appealed to Islamic clerics and police to bring the situation under control as there has been widespread looting.

Leading political figures such as President Asif Ali Zardari and opposition politician Imran Khan have spoken out against the 'shameful' and 'un-Islamic abuse' of the blasphemy law. Whether they are courageous enough to take on the Islamists who have martyred previous anti-blasphemy advocates is another matter. However, this is not just about law. The problem is profound, deeply ingrained, ideological, religious hatred. Rimsha and her family -- like Asia and her family -- will need asylum in the West if they are to survive this.

PLEASE PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL:

– Be a very real and present source of strength, comfort and protection to young Christian girls who have been abducted, forcibly converted to Islam and married off to Muslim men; may they not lose faith or hope; and may the LORD rescue and restore them for his name's sake .

– Intervene for Asia Bibi and her family and for Rimsha and her family, so these gravely imperilled believers might be free to live in security.

– Redeem all this appalling suffering, and use it to shame and awaken Pakistani Muslims to the ugliness that has engulfed them, softening their hearts to the Good News so that they and even their whole communities can be radically transformed.

– *Elizabeth Kendall, ASSIST News Service*

Australian Lausanne Movement Has New Chair And A New Look

THE Lausanne Movement has unanimously elected Julie-anne Laird as new Chair of the Australian Lausanne Movement.

Over the next three years, the Movement hopes to see evangelism in Australia transformed, as a newly restructured Lausanne helps gather like-minded people together to be more strategic and share ideas.

Julie-anne has worked for the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students on Australian university campuses for nearly 13 years, focusing on reaching the university campus with the good news, helping students explain their faith and encouraging them to live faithful, outward looking lives. She lives in Melbourne and attends Greensborough Anglican Church with her husband Andrew and their four children. She is also the Victorian Co-ordinator for Arrow Leadership Australia, and last year, Julie-anne helped launch the e-Network, to encourage young evangelists to use and develop their gifts.

After going to the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in Cape Town 2010, Julie-anne was appointed to a Working Committee to help develop a plan for the future of the movement in Australia. This Committee has come up with a plan to restructure the movement, starting with identifying 9 areas they hope to gather people under:

- Truth and Proclamation
- Public Culture Influence and the Created Order
- Unity and Partnership
- Evangelistic Churches
- Personal evangelistic discipleship
- Evangelistic Leadership
- Justice, Poverty and Reconciliation
- Cross-cultural and other faiths
- Demographics and the Marketplace

In her new role as Chair of the ALC, Julie-anne is convinced building relational networks across denomi-

nations and state divides is key to developing evangelism in Australia.

'There are lots of people doing evangelism. But this is about saying, let's learn from each other and ask how we can do even better' she says.

As part of the planning process, the committee engaged research to analyse the needs of Christian leaders and their awareness of Lausanne. The research revealed:

- Aussie Christian leaders are busy, but they value evangelism and want to give it more of a priority.
- They see the need for a movement that builds bridges across denominational boundaries, mobilises churches and resources lay people.

Julie-anne says the survey shows the potential for Lausanne to provide people with an inspirational, supportive network of colleagues that goes beyond their existing connections. She says the potential to harness resources and ideas is limitless.

– Contact: julieannelaird@gmail.com



start here, go into all the world..

PTC VICTORIA OPEN DAY

Saturday 22nd September, 10am - 2pm

- EXPLORE THE FACILITIES
- FIND OUT MORE ABOUT COURSES
- MEET AND SPEAK TO STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC STAFF
- BBQ LUNCH

www.presbyteriancollege.org



WHAT'S MAKING NEWS ...

Murray Seiffert's Gumbuli of Ngukurr 2012 Australian Christian Book of the Year

THE Australian Christian Book of the Year was announced a couple of weeks ago at the Australian Christian Literature Awards in Melbourne. Gumbuli



of Ngukurr emerged victorious from over forty entries submitted this year. Second prize was awarded to A Short History of Christianity by Geoffrey Blainey. Love, Tears and Autism: An Australian mother's journey from heartbreak to hope by Cecily Paterson took third prize. What the judges had to say about Gumbuli of Ngukurr: Few indigenous Australians have been the subject

of so rigorous a biography. This is a unique and timely contribution to the story of Aboriginal engagement with western culture and Christianity. This singular story of indigenous protagonism, self-determination and leadership in the face of overwhelming obstacles—hostile opposition, blind ignorance and numbing indifference—maps a way forward for the peoples of this continent. Visit www.spcka.org.au for more information.

A delightful Sunday afternoon program has been arranged for Sunday September 16 from 1.30 pm to 4.45 pm at Diamond Valley Baptist Church at 309 Diamond Creek Road, Plenty (Melways 11 D7)

There is no charge and a delicious complimentary Afternoon Tea will be served following the program.

We will join to sing many favourite hymns and songs and our Guest Items will include:-

VIOLINIST – PATRICK ROBERTS

Well known for his brilliant concerts and recitals with his flamboyant style and obvious joy during each performance. His recent album 'All in Love is Fair' contains some of the most loved classical and contemporary pieces and it will soon be followed by his up and coming new album 'Vision', a charity release for Vision Australia.

AMANDA TUOHY – SINGER, ARTIST, POPULAR SPEAKER.

Amanda is highly qualified in creative arts, clinical pastoral education, theology and music. She is a classically trained vocalist and has sung in numerous events and conferences, including Belgrave Heights Conventions and the Sydney Opera House.

Although people of all ages attend this pleasant Sunday Afternoon, it would be an ideal outing for family members, residents of retirement villages and hostels, seniors' clubs and forgotten older people in our community. Why not invite them to travel in your car or arrange to bring a bus load? Enquiries to the Honorary Organiser, Ron Ellis on 9459 5698, Mob: 0407 306 353 or by Email: ron@ronellis.org

JOIN IN THE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP AT SPRING-TIME 'SONGS OF PRAISE

COME AND JOIN US! FREE ENTRY

SPRINGTIME SONGS OF PRAISE

Sunday 16 September 2012
2:00 pm to 4:45 pm (pre-program at 1:30 pm)

at
Diamond Valley Baptist Church
309 Diamond Creek Road, Plenty (Melway 11 D7)
Phone: 9435 9377

SPECIAL GUEST ITEMS:

PATRICK ROBERTS Outstanding Violinist
Well known to our audience for his brilliant concerts and recitals, Patrick's career has blossomed! He now performs at major venues here and overseas and also on television. His latest CD is due out in a few weeks. We are delighted that he has kindly agreed to play for us!

AMANDA TUOHY Singer – Artist & Popular Speaker
Amanda is a highly qualified young woman in creative arts, clinical pastoral education, theology and music. She is a classically trained vocalist and has sung at numerous major events, including the Sydney Opera House. Some of her beautiful paintings will be on display for sale at Songs of Praise.

Regulars, DALE PHILIP & RON ELLIS will bring songs with a message and **MATTHEW FIELD** will help lead the singing.

Sing your Favourite Hymns and Songs

Enjoy Complimentary Afternoon Tea!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS
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FAX: (03) 9624 1977

796 B J
DILLON CREEK ALLEY, BENTLEY VIC 3084
WWW.POPULARMUSIC.COM.AU

Micah Challenge's Voices For Justice Annual Event Approaches

HUNDREDS of Christians from across Australia will travel to Canberra this September in a bid to urge our nation's leaders on towards 'finishing the race' and halving global poverty by 2015.

With three years to go until the UN Millennium Development Goals' 2015 target date, campaigners at Micah Challenge's Voices for Justice event will seek to keep poverty alleviation high on the political agenda in the lead up to next year's federal election.

Voices for Justice, Micah Challenge's four-day annual worship, training and lobbying event from September 15-18, will gather first-time and seasoned campaigners from all parts of the Christian church and take the cause of the poor into the halls of Parliament House.

'Each year it's amazing to see Christians from all over the country put their faith into action by making personal and financial sacrifices to come to Canberra and speak out on behalf of the world's poorest people,' says John Beckett, National Coordinator of Micah Challenge Australia.

In private meetings with MPs and Senators, anti-poverty advocates will specifically address the priority of maintaining a bipartisan commitment to

lifting overseas aid to 0.5% of national income by 2016/17 and committing to the UN target of 0.7% by 2020 – which is 70c in every \$100.

'In recent years we have seen our Government take some significant steps in the effort to alleviate global poverty, but there is still much to be done,' says Mr Beckett.

'Australia is currently giving just 35 cents in every \$100 dollars we make as a nation to overseas aid. In a world where more than 7 million children die before their fifth birthday each year from preventable causes, we can and should do more.

Over the past five years, in response to the call of the Old Testament prophet Micah to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God, Voices for Justice participants have persistently called on Australia's leaders to increase efforts to reduce extreme poverty.

These everyday Australians have contributed to specific policy changes that have saved tens of thousands of lives, including a debt-swap with Indonesia to increase investment in health, and greater investment in water and sanitation through Australia's aid program.

- Angela Owen, Micah Challenge Australia

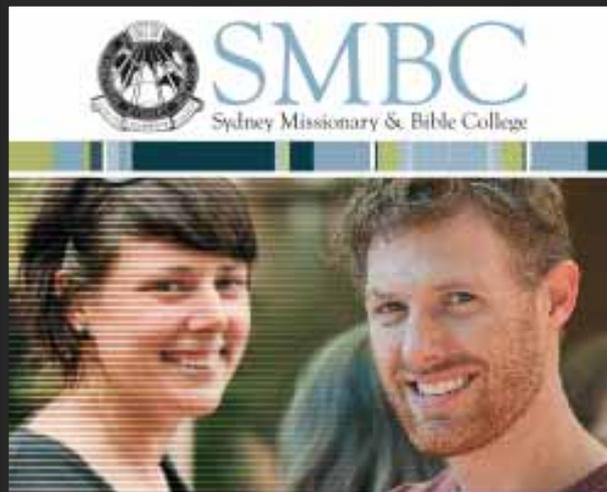
Visiting WA? Perth?

Worship with the Presbyterian Church in WA

Albany	0427 302 073
Mount Magnet	(08) 9963 4125
Bassendean	(08) 9477 4249
Bicton	(08) 9339 3542
Clarkson	(08) 6201 3794
Fremantle	(08) 9398 1304
Hillarys	(08) 9562 7263
Mandurah	(08) 9319 2208
Melville	(08) 9417 1976
Peppermint Grove	(08) 9384 9186
Southern River	(08) 9332 1829
West Leederville	(08) 9310 5935

'... We... know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.' (Galatians 2.16)

**WHO CAN YOU
FORWARD'
NEW LIFE TO?**



**FOR WHATEVER
GOD HAS IN
STORE
FOR YOU...**

- ▶ Bible-centred
- ▶ Interdenominational
- ▶ Missions-focussed
- ▶ Strong Community
- ▶ Residential or day students

www.smbc.com.au

Tens Of Thousands To Pray For The Hungry At Wembley Stadium, London

ONE in seven people go to bed hungry every night even though there is enough food in the world for everyone, says UK-based Christian relief and development agency Tearfund who will lead prayers at the National Day of Prayer to ask God to show us how we can part of ending hunger.

The National Day of Prayer on September 29th will feature a time of prayer for the 1 billion people going hungry all over the world, including communities like 10-year-old Evelyn's in Cajamarca, Peru.

The changing climate and a lack of education means that many of the farmers in Cajamarca are struggling to grow enough crops and feed their families. Evelyn wants to be a nurse when she grows up, but without enough food she may never see her big dreams become reality.

The community in Cajamarca pray together that the rains would come and that they would not go

hungry season after season. Tearfund partners and their local church are striving to be an answer to their prayers by helping them to adapt their farming to the changing climate. And together, Tearfund and their partners around the world call for the global church to come together in prayer to change lives.

'We'll join together in prayer for some of the world's poorest communities - families, widows and orphans - for whom hunger is a daily reality,' said Tearfund's Director of Integral Mission, David Westlake. 'As Christians we have a responsibility to challenge the injustices of hunger and poverty, and prayer is an incredibly powerful way to do that.'

'I have admired Tearfund for many years because it's a movement that encourages the local church to engage in the transformation of communities all over the world,' said Dr Jonathan Oloyede, convener of National Day of Prayer. 'Tearfund do not just give handouts; they are committed to the whole journey and work with the potential people already have, and that is what we are all about.'

—Tearfund, UK

New Life Evangelical Church



19-23 Holland Rd, Blackburn South, VIC. 3130
www.nlec.org.au Email: newlife@nlec.org.au
Tel: (03) 9877 9588 Mob: 0411 128 668

Vacancy For A Children/Family Pastor:

New Life Evangelical Church is a vibrant community church that consists of three congregations (English, Cantonese and Mandarin) in Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs.

We are currently searching for a full time Children's Ministry/Family Pastor to oversee various facets of our children's ministry ranging from Preschool to Grade 6.

Strong leadership and people skills, self-motivation, creativity, the ability to build and lead volunteer teams within a multi-cultural environment, and a pastoral calling specifically for children's ministry is essential.

Though a degree is preferred, experience is an asset.

If you possess the above qualities and have a proven track record in developing a growing and vibrant ministry that targets the needs of both children and their parents—this position may be right for you.

For more details please contact NLEC Church Administrator Lilian Ching.

Ramon A Williams

— Worldwide Photos —

WANT TO SEE MORE?

'New Life' can only publish a small selection of photos, but you can see more of those attributed to Worldwide Photos by going to:
http://community.webshots.com/user/ramon_williams

e-mail: rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au

96threeFM

Today's Christian Music
And Inspiring Talk
www.96three.com.au
Phone: 03 5241 6550
Email: listen@96three.com.au

HCJB Australia On Air From New International Broadcast Facility

CEO, Dale Stagg, announced today that, after a number of years of planning and construction, HCJB Australia began transmission from its new International Broadcasting Facility in Kununurra, Western Australia, on Tuesday afternoon, 24th July 2012. He said 'It's very exciting — it's a milestone for us! and the team at Kununurra have done an amazing job. We are grateful to God for his provision.' Site Manager Peter Michalke said: 'The first transmission was out to the South Pacific from the antenna we know as DP3. Almost before we closed the program, we heard from one of our volunteers in the Blue Mountains who reported greatly increased signal strength. The following day we had a similar report from a listener in Qld.' HCJB Australia will maintain its original facility as a back-up for a few months but, to all intents and purposes, have relocated to their new site. Their new, more powerful, shortwave antennas are now in operation.

In the coming months a further transmitter will be installed, adding the capability of broadcasting in digital shortwave format. This transmitter is currently in the final stages of digital conversion at HCJB's technical facility in Indiana, USA. When



installed, it will enable HCJB to broadcast high quality digital programs to the Asia Pacific region.

HCJB Australia is a respected, international, Not for Profit, Christian broadcaster to the Asia Pacific region, with a mission to reach the unreached and those with limited access to the Gospel. HCJB Australia, together with program partners, broadcasts daily in 23 languages including English.

- Sondy Ward, HCJB

(Picture: Some of the team anchoring the guy wires)

Darwin Soon To Have Three Presbyterian Churches

Rob Duncanson, Minister of Darwin Presbyterian Church writes...

'We are coming to a new milestone in the life of the Darwin PC on Sunday 2nd September when a new congregation meeting in Palmerston will start. This will mean that there will be a Presbyterian Church in each of the three main population areas of the Greater Darwin Area – Darwin, Palmerston and the Rural Area'. There are forecasts of huge growth in the Greater Darwin Area over the next 15 - 20 years. It is predicted that within 15 years, the population will have increased by 70,000, and by 2030 there will be a new city, the City of Weddell.

'God has provided a tent-making church planter. Ross Brightwell has had experience in church planting in Australia and New Zealand over the last 20+ years. Ross is strongly supported by his wife, Ruby. Ross will initially work full-time in secular em-

ployment as well as leading the Palmerston congregation. The congregation will meet at the Palmerston library which is very close to the shopping centre and the bus terminus, and is very easy to find. They have a very pleasant meeting room with good facilities and at a very reasonable rental rate.

'Ross' self-sacrificial willingness to work full-time while the congregation starts is a huge help in getting the congregation off the ground financially.'

You can receive updates on the progress of this initiative via the church website which is www.darwinpresbyterian.org.au

PLEASE PRAY!

Presbyterian Church, Palmerston commences at 5pm in the Palmerston Library on Sunday 2nd September.

Read "The Objective Evidence For The Christian Faith" by David Holden. Free at www.defenceofthefaith.org

Reaching Every Tribe & Every Earplug With The Good News



IF a new idea needs some innovation to implement, count on Australia to find a solution. One dedicated team of Aussie Christians is using computer applications and innovative technology to reach every tribe and every earplug with the Good News of Jesus.

Audio editors, web designers, mobile phone application developers and digital marketing specialists may seem an unusual combination of skills for missionaries. But they are essential skills for some of the missionaries at Global Recordings Network (GRN). GRN is seeking to record audio messages and music about Jesus for as many as possible of the world's most remote inhabitants. This unusual Christian ministry brings together translators, tribal musicians, recordists and innovative advances in new technology, to produce audio recordings of Bible stories, evangelistic

messages, Bible teaching and Christian songs in the languages of the least reached language groups of the world.

'It's an unusual situation to be in' explains Graham Schabel, who provides technical support for analogue and digital equipment in Australia and overseas. 'We use the most advanced technologies to reach the remotest and least technically aware societies.'

Global Recordings Network has a particular focus on small people groups, those with less than ten thousand speakers or even as few as one hundred speakers. As these people groups are so small they are not usually the focus of most mission agencies. 'It can take many years to translate even a New Testament for example, Schabel said.

Schabel continued, 'Our audio recordings can be done in just a few weeks. We then use the most appropriate technology to distribute the recordings. This may include anything from smart phone applications in the more technically advanced areas to the Saber hand powered mp3 player in areas with no electricity. We also run short term missions to distribute the most suitable of cassette tapes, CD's, DVD's or micro SD cards (for use in mobile phones).'

The Global Recordings Network team believe that everyone has the right to hear the Good News of Jesus in their own language. This is the primary purpose of their recordings.

(Continued over page...)



SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS ...

But they also understand that the audio materials have additional benefits in health and education. Reliable statistics tell us that over two thirds of the world's people prefer to hear than to read. Many people can't read, others simply don't want to read. They are unlikely to pick up a book. So an audio recording becomes both a powerful evangelistic tool and learning device.

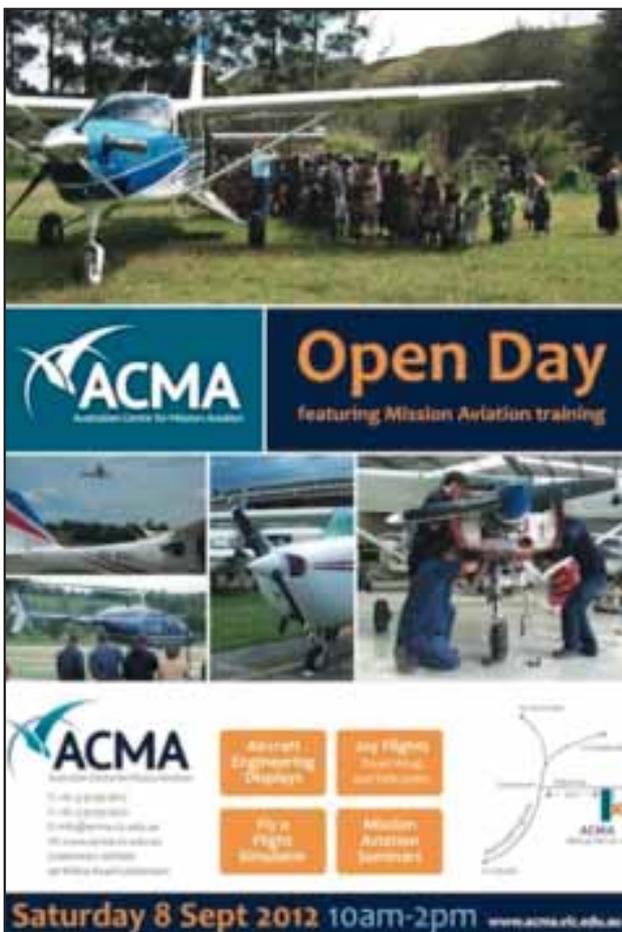
Alex Shaw, who has lived and worked in over thirteen countries with Global Recordings and now works at the GRN Australia office in Castle Hill, New South Wales as the Studio Manager explains: 'Even here in Australia there are many oral learners. Many people, even university graduates, if offered the same material in book form or on DVD, would prefer to accept the DVD. It's not that they can't read, they just prefer to listen and it's the same all over the world.'

'Working at GRN is an amazing combination of working with the latest technology, whilst being absolutely reliant on God,' says Shaw. 'For example, Gustavo, one of our recordists in Ecuador, recorded messages in the Quichua Salasaca language last year and gave out about 100 CDs in the tribal area.'

A few months ago he was on a bus travelling between Quito and Shell, when a Quichua Indian boarded. Gus struck up a conversation with him and asked which Quichua he spoke. He replied that he was from Salasaca but lived in the Galapagos Islands with many other Quichuas from his town. He said that they had heard that there were messages from God in their language. The Quichuas wanted to hear these messages, so they had pooled their money together and bought a ticket for him to go to the mainland and find the CDs for them. He 'happened' to sit on the seat next to Gus. Gus had tears running down his cheeks as he told his new friend that he could supply him with the messages from God in their language.'

More information about their unusual audio products and other GRN projects can be obtained by contacting Global Recordings Network Australia online at <http://globalrecordings.net/en/email/au>
– Dave Hughes, Marketing and Administration Manager, Global Recordings Network

(Photo 1: From Flickr, Photo 2: Taken by Dave Hughes)



The poster for ACMA Open Day features a large photo of a blue and white aircraft on a grassy field with a group of people. Below this is the ACMA logo and the text 'Open Day featuring Mission Aviation training'. A collage of smaller photos shows various aviation-related activities. At the bottom, there are four orange boxes with text: 'Aviation Engineering Network', 'The Flight Deck', 'Fly a Flight Simulator', and 'Mission Aviation Summary'. The event is scheduled for Saturday 8 Sept 2012 from 10am-2pm at www.acma.org.au.

VISITING MELBOURNE?

Join us at
St Kilda Presbyterian Church,
'The Faith Factory'
Cnr Alma Rd/Barkly St
Every Sunday 11am and 7pm;
St Margaret's, Balaclava,
Cnr Hotham St/Denman Rd
Every Sunday, 9.30am.

Rev Bob Thomas. Phone: 0417 592 646
You're welcome at 'The Faith Factory' – a Friendly,
Caring, Bible-Believing Christian Fellowship

'Glorious Things - A Protestant's Guide To London'

What to look for and how to find places associated with people and events which shaped Protestant Church History.

Compiled by Rev Bob Thomas.

Available From: PTC Media,
684 Elgar Rd, Box Hill North 3129.

Cost: \$6.60+\$2.20 p&p.

(Please make cheque payable to PTC Media)



Prayer And Support For Christians In Syria

Richard Coombs, the Director of MECO Australia recently received word from two pastors in Syria. The Christian minority is facing severe danger in this part of the world and details of how you can support MECO in supporting Christians in Syria can be found at the end of this article.

One pastor wrote:

'Dear beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, We as a family, are still in Aleppo-Syria, serving the One who deserve to be served and serving many others as well in such crucial situation. The situation here is getting very hard and critical and even worse. Few days back I was doing a short walking trip to some surrounding places near to my house and mainly to the parks. I was so surprised by the huge large numbers of families who escaped from their places and came to stay in those places which are mainly Christian places. Tens, hundreds and thousands of such families left their houses and homes and staying in open air, their ceiling is the sky and the beds are the grass of these parks. Nowadays, most of the schools have been opened in our Christian areas to receive more families. We have started to do Sunday school ministries, distributing some food parcels, doing personal counselling and so on. We need our supportive prayers.

The situation in our areas is little bit under control but it may explode at any given time. No one knows, but He is in control. In spite of missiles, and other bombings, tanks and other sounds, Lord is keeping us safe and under His gracious blood control.

The situation in general is getting much worse than before. The roads to airport are not secured or safe anymore. We used to pay 400 Syrian pounds for a lift and now they are asking for about 5000-10000 Syrian pounds.

Bread is getting well after being a dream. Gasoline is a super natural finding. No gas for cooking? No taxis for this reason. All the major places blocked. No move around apart from 200-300 meters.

Many families are in bad need. I am not sure how you may be supportive to our Christian families and the needy one in Aleppo and many other places? It is lifted up unto His throne for guidance and direction to our brothers and sisters abroad.

Keep us lifted up unto His throne for His protection, peace, security and safetiness. He is the Lord. He is in control.'

And from a Baptist pastor:

'Today, Tuesday (7 Aug), started as a terrifying day. After a difficult Sunday morning, the rest of the day was good, and we gathered in the church at 6 p.m for our Sunday worship. As well Monday was quite day in general.

'We woke up at 5.45 A.m. because of shooting very close to where we live, then it turned into a real battle, with heavy guns and explosions, and a very loud shouting of Allahu Akbar – God is big!

'It remained like this till 9.15, then stopped till 11.00, when they resumed the fight for half an hour. And it remained calm till now 3.30P.m without knowing the result of the fight. Few minutes ago, I went out to walk around and see what happened, nearly all streets are empty and many thieves stealing furniture of military center close to us!

'I wrote in the morning on Facebook: It is very unusual to have your morning tea, with the music of "normal" guns and heavy machine guns and the shouting "allahu akbar"!!! Thank you Lord for your presence with us.

'Would you please pray for an Iraqi family, attending our church, they can't go back to Iraq, no answer for their immigration papers, and [those that] call themselves [the] "revolution" gave the Iraqis and Lebanese 3 day to leave Syria or they will kill them!'

As a result of this growing tragedy MECO has started a 'Syria Refugee Crisis Appeal' to help our brothers and sisters in Syria. The funds will be distributed by trusted pastors and churches to those in need.

If you would like to give, you can access www.meco.org.au which will take you to our MECO International website.

Click on the 'Syria Refugee Crisis Appeal' photo which will take you through to information about the appeal.

Under Australia, click on 'here' to take you through to the donate page.

You can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Syria.

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GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD ...

ECUADOR

DARREN van Rensburg, team member of Operation Mobilization Ecuador – together with other OM workers and members of a local church in Ecuador's biggest city Guayaquil – has been ministering for several years to the people living on Santay Island. For many years, this poverty-stricken community has been ignored by local society and government.

Until recently, the team was discouraged by the lack of response from the inhabitants. OM workers are focused on evangelism, literature distribution, equipping and training, mobilization and community development in most of the areas where they work.

Now, they are noticing God's hand in the people's lives. 'When we visited the island last Monday, [first] we had the unexpected surprise that three men came to our service,' shares Darren. 'Mostly it's only women attending our program.'

Even more unexpectedly, at the end of the service, all three men came to the front, in front of all the women. 'They publicly professed Christ!' says Darren, smiling. 'This can only be the work of the Lord! It goes completely against the cultural grain on Santay for men to admit weakness and need in front of all these women. This is a real breakthrough!'

– Mission Network News

CHINA...

A recent report issued by the U.S. State Department indicates China is among the nations slipping backward when it comes to religious freedom. This report, however, is not causing any issues for Voice of China and Asia. President of VOCA Jonathan Brooks says their teams handed out 24,000 Bibles openly. 'There's not a distribution system in place that takes Bibles out to rural believers. For them to get a Bible, they have to find what city might have them and go and look for a registered church – if they've ever been to a major city like that, and most of them haven't. So Bibles are beyond their reach.'

Bibles are available, but not in rural areas,

and most Chinese can't afford them. Brooks says this program is effective. 'We've been told that up to five people use every Bible that's passed out. It becomes a main Bible for five people, whether it be for family members or neighbors. And out of those five people, up to three people are led to the Lord through the presence of that one Bible.'

– Mission Network News

PANAMA

LAST Friday, the Gulbronsons with HCJB Global gave the Ngobe people 50 radios. HCJB's Steve Gulbranson says these radios just play the local Christian station. 'The Ngobes have no electricity, and so what we've got are these solar-powered, fix-tuned radios. So they'll get the Gospel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.' Joanie Gulbranson says it also builds relationships. 'We hand-deliver the radios ourselves. We're just not taking the radios and dropping them off at a spot for them to pick up. We actually go and visit them.' The response? 'They're kind of the outcast of the outcast, and when we tell them that God loves them just the way they are [and] all they have to do is receive the free gift of eternal life through Christ, we've seen phenomenal response.' Pray for many to receive Christ.

– Mission Network News

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Bahrain's Monarch Grants Land For New Church

Bahrain's monarch has granted a plot of land for the building of a new church in a bold move that goes against a recent Saudi fatwa calling for the destruction of all churches in the Arabian Peninsula.

A senior church leader thanked King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, a Sunni Muslim, and his ruling family 'for their magnanimous gesture of goodwill' in providing a 9,000-square-metre piece of land for a church building in Awali. He said: 'This is a sign of openness, important for Bahrain, and I hope it will serve as a model for other countries too.'

Awali is an area with a large expatriate population that currently has one small church, which is shared by two groups. Christians comprise about 6.6% of the Bahraini population. Many of them are expatriates, predominantly from South and South-east Asia and the Middle East. Expat Christians can meet together freely, but there is a lack of church buildings, and evangelism among Muslims is illegal.

– Barnabas Fund

THE work of Deaf Ministries International has expanded to 20 countries since it was started by Neville and Lill Muir in 1979 under the name of World Opportunities Int. It has expanded to places like Korea, Japan, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. With the current crisis in Syria, they are calling for prayer for their workers there who live with unimaginable challenges in these uncertain times. The deaf are disadvantaged and can be the last ones to learn exactly what is about to happen in their neighbourhood (www.deafmin.org). *New Life* keeps readers aware of the church suffering in many locations but how often do we consider the added difficulties of the handicapped in those situations.

EVAENGELIST Billy Graham spent two days in a North Carolina hospital mid August for treatment of bronchitis. The 93-year-old made a quick recovery and responded well to his treatment at Mission Hospital in Asheville. His pulmonologist said that despite the illness, he is remarkably healthy for a man his age. Billy is currently working on a new book.

AFTER 40 years of continuous ministry as a Bible School, Capernwray Torchbearers Australia is taking a break to revise, renew and redevelop the ministry. Over the years thousands have benefited from the opportunity to study on this 12 hectare property located in the beautiful Southern Highlands of New South Wales.

TORCHBEARERS Australia is an offshoot of the international headquarters, Torchbearers Int, now lo-

cated in the US. The ministry was begun in northern England following World War II by Major Ian Thomas and his wife Joan, responding to the need of purpose and healing for youth in Europe affected by the war. Since then it has spread into more than 20 countries worldwide.

THE mission of the Bible League is to provide Scriptures and training worldwide, so that people prepared by the Holy Spirit will be brought into fellowship with Christ and His church. More than 60 countries have received Scriptures and Bible study materials since the work of the League was begun in 1938 by William Chapman in the US. One of their latest endeavours is to provide Bibles to every national police officer and their families in Ecuador where many police officers face high levels of stress and fall into alcoholism and infidelity.

EVERYMAN'S Welfare Service in is the process of moving its headquarters from Victoria Barracks, Brisbane to Gaza Ridge Barracks, Bandiana, Victoria. Louise Hochwimmer writes: 'My role is to take care of the administration and bookkeeping for EWS. A move of this scale is quite an undertaking. There have been many things to consider and processes to follow as we work closely with Defence to refit the new office, connect phones, faxes and internet, etc. It is a work in progress.' Begun from Melbourne in the 1930s under Campaigners for Christ, Everyman's purpose is to extend Christian fellowship to Australian Defence Force personnel, families, veterans and allies through 'home away from home' recreation centres on military bases.

**Contact Mignon at office@nlife.com.au
to receive your free email subscription.**

BOOKS WORTH READING ...

PASTOR-TEACHERS OF OLD PRINCETON: MEMORIAL ADDRESSES FOR THE FACULTY OF PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY 1812-1921, Selected and Introduced by James M. Garretson. Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh, 2012.

THE death of B. B. Warfield in 1921 effectively marked the demise of the old Princeton Theological Seminary, for it was 're-organised' in 1929 along liberal theological lines, but for 110 years its aim had been to produce godly pastors and faithful teachers of God's Word. This volume commemorates the efforts of the pious and gifted instructors of those years, who combined personal piety and doctrinal orthodoxy. The one feeds off the other. There is the ever-present danger that we might divide what God has joined, namely an intelligent knowledge of the divine truth and an experiential knowledge of spiritual realities. The teachers of Old Princeton did not fall into that error.

The sermon preached after the death of Archibald Alexander (1851) has as its text Philippians 3.17 ('Mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example'), and the example he left was a life of humble service, godly wisdom and constant labour for the Lord as college principal, pastor, preacher and the first professor at the seminary. The second professor, Dr Samuel Miller, was a controversialist but no bigot, combining strong conviction with courtesy and a love of peace. J. W. Alexander taught for a short time at the seminary but spent most of his life-work as a pastor and preacher, whom his congregation never tired of hearing, month after month, year after year. He said, 'To be a great preacher a man must be nothing else'. He taught Gospel truth and practised Gospel charity, and he is quoted as saying: 'The greatest heresy is want of love'.

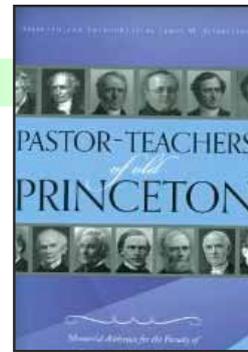
Of special interest to me is the famous Old Testament scholar, J. A. Alexander, who was 25 years a professor and died at the comparatively young age of 51 years (as did his brother just mentioned). He knew about 20 languages, and his two-volume commentary on Isaiah is justly famous. For all his erudition, he had a childlike trust in the truth of Scripture. Charles Hodge was teacher at the seminary for 58 years, and his three-volume Systematic Theology is still in print. Would that it could be said of every theological professor what was said of Hodge: 'The truth which he thought, was the truth upon which his soul lived.' He was perhaps the seminary's greatest teacher, and

almost 100 pages of this book are devoted to him. It was said of him, 'He could not be idle', as evidenced by his voluminous writings, but for all his study and learning, 'he brought to the study of the Bible the humility of a little child'.

Henry Boardman was pastor of the famous Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and 'he was well aware that power in the pulpit is the result of labour in the study'. He occupied that influential pulpit for more than 40 years. A. A. Hodge succeeded his father in the chair of Theology, but died only 8 years after his father. It was his gift to popularise theology, as shown by his Outlines of Theology and his Commentary on the Confession of Faith. Like his predecessors, he had no peculiar views and did not try to innovate for the sake of it. In other words, the men of Old Princeton avoided the common danger of the theologian, namely to think you have to say something novel to be noticed and listened to. James C. Moffatt started as a shepherd boy in Scotland and rose to become Professor of Church History at Princeton. Casper Wistar Hodge spoke for the whole Princeton tradition when he stated: 'Change is not necessarily advance'. He was a painstaking New Testament scholar, but wrote no books, for he was indifferent to fame and honours. William Henry Green taught Old Testament at Princeton for 49 years until his retirement in 1900. He held to the divine origins of Scripture and battled against the higher critical views about the composition of the Pentateuch coming into vogue at that time.

Williams Paxton was a model preacher, and he became a professor of homiletics, showing his students what he was accustomed to do in the pulpit with such great success. His basic prescription for useful preaching was: 'Work! Work! Work!' He saw the whole point of the theological college as training preachers who saved souls. B. B. Warfield stayed home caring for his invalid wife and writing, and a constant stream of learned publications was the result. In his many articles he defended the Christian Faith and the supremacy of Scripture. Apart from that, he gave himself to teaching his classes and his last class was on the morning of the day he died. Old Princeton died with him, but a value of this book is that it gives lessons for those who would remain faithful to the Scriptures today.

– Greg Goswell



MORE BOOKS WORTH READING ...

I WISH SOMEONE WOULD EXPLAIN HEBREWS TO ME, Stuart Olyott, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2011.

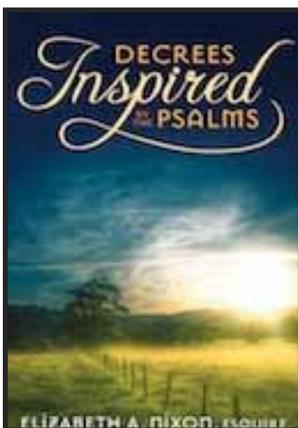
SO do I, and so do a lot of other believers who, reading Hebrews, find it a rich mine of Divine teaching and, sensing there is something special about it, nevertheless don't really know quite what to make of it. Well Stuart Olyott has done us the favour. Stuart Olyott is a pastor's pastor who travels widely in a ministry of help and encouragement to fellow pastors, especially the young and inexperienced. And if this book is any indication of his ability to do this, he does it well.

Perhaps the most difficult of the critical questions to answer about Hebrews is: who wrote it? Many of us are fed up with hearing the circumlocution: 'The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews'. And we are fed up because we are content to use one word instead of eight: 'Paul'. My reason for this is that if Hebrews was not written by Paul then it would have to have been written by his spiritual equal or superior, of whom neither the New Testament nor early church history know anything. For our comfort, however, Olyott gives a more nuanced justification for Pauline authorship. No, I'm not going to repeat it. Buy the book - it's worth every cent - and go straight to page three.

DECREES INSPIRED BY THE PSALMS, Elizabeth Nixon, XP Publishers, Arizona, 2010.

ALTHOUGH born in America, Elizabeth Nixon grew up in Australia with her Australian parents and sisters. As a lawyer registered in California, she is well-qualified to speak of the Lord's decrees.

In the introduction to her book, Elizabeth enlarges on the way most people view 'decrees' as a legal term. However, 'Decrees Inspired by the Psalms' opens our eyes to God's use of the words – court orders issued by our sovereign Lord. The Hebrew word includes the thought of dividing, separating, and destroying as shown in the defeat of our enemy, Satan. God's decrees include the separation of good from evil, and the division between God's people and the world. They are a bold statement of truth, vision and purpose that can renew the mind and change lives.



Stuart Olyott has the happy knack of simplification, though remembering Einstein's Theory of Simplification (which he quotes) that 'Things should be as simple as possible, but no simpler', he applies this theory rigorously to his exposition. What is Hebrews all about? The perils of falling back. What is Christology? The study of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ - who was He, and what did He do?

He tackles problems head on (as regarding authorship). Why do we find verse 8 in chapter 13, when it doesn't quite seem to fit? 'If, spiritually, we are not quite what we should be, it is not because Christ has changed. The fault lies squarely with us ...'

Which brings me to my final point. This book is an excellent example of godly contemporaneity. Some practise contemporaneity by throwing the baby out with the bath water. Others never achieve it despite their best efforts. But this man, who keeps Hebrews 13.8 front and centre, gets contemporaneity just right.

Stuart Olyott's exposition of Hebrews is as focussed on Christ as the book of Hebrews is itself. It will greatly assist both the preaching of it and the practising of its message.

– Bob Thomas

Elizabeth has combined words from the Psalms with contemporary expressions to weave some magnificent meditations and devotional thoughts on a variety of Psalms. For example: From Psalm 23, 'My cupboards never run low, my gas tank is always full, I can tip generously. My spirit soars throughout the entire day. My heart is never heavy'. From Psalm 119, 'God has set up traffic detours for everything that would derail me. Long before I get there, shame and disgrace are channeled far away. This journey of life that I walk each day is good'.

As I paused, and let the words from this beautiful book enfold me I really experienced the author's words: 'I embrace Him and He engulfs me.' Listening to the thirty minute CD of music, composed by Jonathan Williams, as Elizabeth recites a selection of her readings, was a real moment of praise and inspiration in my mundane routine.

For those who love the Psalms, this book will be a rich experience of worship, as well as thought-provoking in relation to our modern life-style. Elizabeth presents us with a new vision of our great God and Saviour.

– Mrs DP