

15 September 2012. Vol 75 No 6. Free On Request: office@nlife.com

'Can We Really Trust The New Testament?'

Many Come To Hear John Dickson Speak In Melbourne



OVER 150 people attended the Bible Society event on Tuesday 4 September in which New Testament historian and pastor from Sydney John Dickson, delivered a talk on the historical accuracy and legitimacy of the New Testament.

Throughout the night, Dickson proceeded to share his findings on the historical basis of the gospel in a lively and engaging fashion. He took the audience through the non-Christian sources that gave real-time accounts of Jesus' life and death.

Dickson talked about the authority of the New Testament in that it is a collection of sources, written independently by different people. This shows greater plausibility for the New Testament as all sources talk about the same events and people.

One of the most interesting parts of Dickson's talk were the amazing archaeological findings that support the gospel as truth.

At the very beginning of his talk, Dickson was clear in stating that his aim was to answer the historical question of the New Testament, and not the question of faith in the Bible as the Word of God. Hopefully for the sceptics in the crowd, this talk has planted some seeds!

For the Christians in the audience, this talk was encouraging because it is clear to see God at work throughout history!

The aim of the 'Live Light in 25 Words' campaign is to encourage Australian Christians to read the Bible every day for the month of October and turn that into the habit of a lifetime. I hope that this event has gone some way towards achieving that goal.

— Katherine Goswell

[Photo: Youth Worker at Canterbury Presbyterian Church Joy Venning (third from left) and team of youth leaders from CPC with John Dickson]

VOL: 75 NUMBER 6

ISSN: 1033-7903

ISSUE DATE:

15 September 2012

FOUNDER:

Eric J. Daley (1910-1992)

EDITOR:

Rev Bob Thomas

EMAIL:

editor@nlife.com.au

PHONE:

0417 592 646

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Mignon Goswell

EMAIL:

office@nlife.com.au

PHONE:

0434 313 646

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 457,
Mitcham VIC 3132

WEB-SITE:

www.nlife.com.au

SUBSCRIPTION:

Free On Request

ACCEPTANCE OF

ADVERTISING

DOES NOT IMPLY

ENDORSEMENT

PUBLISHED BY:

New Life Australia Ltd

ABN 15 005 035 138.

How Can YOU Help *New Life*?

- ◆ Keep us in your prayers.
- ◆ Recommend us to others.
- ◆ Forward *New Life* to your friends.
- ◆ Advertise with us.
- ◆ Send in your news and pix.
- ◆ Make a donation as you feel led.
- ◆ Check out our web-site.

TO THE POINT ...

THY KINGDOM COME!

THE dawning of God's kingdom was seen in the ministry of Jesus as indicated by his preaching of the kingdom: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matt 4:17). That God's reign was drawing near in the person of Jesus was confirmed by his healings, exorcisms and mighty deeds (Matt 4:23-25; 11:2-6). Wherever Jesus happened to be, the world was being put right and God's will was being done. Jesus explained what was taking place in his ministry in this way: "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Matt 12:28). He was binding Satan ("the strong man") and plundering his house (Mark 3:23-27). He explained what was going on when he told the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matt 13:31-32) that draws on the imagery of Daniel 4 (a tree symbolising a kingdom). The tiny seed in the parable represents the beginning of the kingdom planted by Jesus' ministry, but that seed will grow and one day the kingdom will become universal. God's kingdom came in seed-form in Jesus' earthly ministry. The cross is his throne, because it was through his atoning death that our Saviour overthrew Satan and liberated his captives (John 12:31-32; Col 2:14-15). That mighty spiritual victory over sin, death and Satan was brought into the light of day by the resurrection of Jesus, and his future return in glory will see him judging and ruling the nations (Matt 25:31-46). It would be true to say that the whole of Jesus' teaching and work can be summed up in that one word "kingdom".

When we pray "Thy kingdom come", what in fact we are asking of God is for Christ to come again as universal ruler and judge. We are praying for the return of Christ, for only then will God's visible kingdom take over this world. In line with this, the recorded prayer of the earliest Christians was "Come Lord [Jesus]" (1 Cor 16:22; Rev 22:20). The actual Aramaic word is "Maranatha" (really two words: Marana -tha: "Lord, come!"). The fact that this brief prayer is preserved in the New Testament in the Aramaic language, not just in Greek (like the New Testament generally), is a sign of just how primitive this prayer is. Aramaic was the language of the Palestinian followers of Jesus. This, then, is a prayer that may go back to the very first Christian communities in Jerusalem and Galilee. This simple, vivid, heart-felt prayer (captured in the original Aramaic) is to be the constant prayer of all God's people, for not until Jesus returns will everything be put right and this world will become heaven on earth. Then, and only then, will the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ (Rev 11:15).

Believers will not rest content until they see this great event, and that is why they are described as those who "love the Lord's appearing" (2 Tim 4:8). Their great desire is to welcome their returning Lord. They long for the eradication of sin in their own lives. It is not enough for them that they follow and obey Christ, they want all people to do the same. In evangelism, what we are doing is calling on all people to submit to God's rule over their lives. The best way for us to hasten the day of Christ's coming is to pray "Your kingdom come", to proclaim God's kingdom, and to live as citizens of God's kingdom.

– Greg Goswell

Saudi Arabia: Convert Flees; Helpers To Face Court

SINCE late July Saudi media have been buzzing with reports that a 28-year-old Saudi woman has embraced Christianity and fled the country, staying initially in a church in Lebanon before moving on to Sweden. According to the Saudi Gazette, the woman, Maryam, appeared on an Arabic TV channel saying she was tired of performing prayers and fasting during Ramadan -- rituals that never brought her any benefit. She also criticised Saudi Arabia's Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. She claimed to have been converted through a dream and said that though she was raised to hate Judaism and Christianity she has come to love those religions since finding peace in Christianity.

The woman's father said his daughter was working in an insurance company in Al-Khobar (in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province) when her boss, a Lebanese Christian man, influenced her and ultimately encouraged her to leave Islam. According to Saudi investigators, a second man, a Saudi national, helped the woman obtain false documents and leave the country. The woman's family have pressed charges against the two men because apostasy (leaving Islam) is an Islamic capital offence and a Saudi woman is not allowed to get a passport without the permission of her male guardian. The men will face court on Saturday 15 September.

Prosecuting lawyer, Humood Al-Khaldi, said that whilst the penalty in Islam of death for apostasy is clear, 'the roles played by the two men, the Saudi and Lebanese, in making the girl become Christian should be taken into consideration'. He said 'the court should make sure first that the girl was coerced into converting to Christianity and fleeing the country'. According to Gulf News, 'Most Saudis reacting to the Khobar woman saga . . . have been calling for stringent action against the Lebanese and Saudi nationals for their alleged roles in the case, claiming that they were "well aware of the consequences of their act".'

Domestically, the totalitarian Wahhabist Saudi regime will be keen to perpetuate its lie that Saudi Arabian citizens are 100 percent Muslim and that the land of the two holy mosques could never produce Saudi Arabian Christians! Consequently it will be imperative that the Saudi woman, Maryam, be deemed to have been emotionally unbalanced and coerced and/or kidnapped -- anything but a convert. Likewise the Saudi man must be deemed

to be an opportunistic criminal -- anything but a sympathiser.

Saudi media are sparing no effort to influence public opinion. Whilst initial reports described Maryam as a 28-year-old professional, later reports simply describe her as a 'girl'. (One article stated she is 17.) According to the Saudi Gazette, Maryam's conversion was nothing more than that of a 'girl' forming an 'emotional attachment to a Christian young man'. In other words, her act was emotional not rational. It also claimed the 'girl' rejected Islamic rituals only because she had not been properly taught to understand and appreciate them -- her action was based on ignorance, not reason. The Saudi Arabic daily Al Youm claimed Maryam had contacted them, denying she had appeared on television, maintaining she is still a Muslim and requesting help to return home. According to Gulf News, Maryam's family has suggested she may be 'a victim of an international organisation trafficking in people'.

On 2 September the Saudi Gazette reported that 'Interpol is co-ordinating with the Saudi Embassy in Stockholm and Swedish authorities to return the girl to her homeland before her "kidnappers" move her to another country.' The embassy reportedly has started a search for the woman, with the aid of Swedish authorities.

PLEASE PRAY THAT THE LORD WILL:

- Break the chains of fear and darkness that keep the hearts and minds of Saudi Arabs shackled to an Islamic Jesus who cannot save, while the biblical Jesus is waiting to show grace.
- ' . . . you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' (John 8:32)
- Work powerfully in and through Henna Sarkees, the Lebanese, and his Saudi colleague when they face the court in Al-Khobar on Saturday 15 September. May this trial be redeemed for the glory of the LORD. (Pray through Matthew 10:16-20 and 26-33.)
- Protect Maryam from a forced return to Saudi Arabia where, as an apostate, she may well face violent retribution, even death.

– Elizabeth Kendal,
Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin,
 ASSIST News Service

Keeping Lausanne Alive

IT'S all very well to hold a mega conference bringing thousands of leaders together in one of the queen cities of the world for a week or so, but when it's all been said and done, and usually more's been said than done, the show is folded and everyone goes home. Then the question becomes: how do you keep the spirit alive and carry the work down from the mountain top and into the valley?

Cape Town 2010, the Third Lausanne Congress On World Evangelisation, was one such experience. New Life readers will remember that we gave it extensive coverage at the time as well as the ongoing effort to keep the spirit of LCWE alive and driving the never-ending story until the Lord's return of world evangelisation.

The Congress itself gave a much-needed fillip to the task, especially to the under-resourced and persecuted evangelists of the developing world, although arguably they might have needed it less than those from the majority world who have so much but do so little by comparison, and so easily allow themselves to 'fall asleep in Zion'.

The Lausanne Movement, under the leadership of Executive Chair Doug Birdsall, is busily keeping the spirit of Cape Town 2010 alive and well. The extensive website www.lausanne.org tells the story of the event itself, networks those involved in evangelism and provides a platform for not only those who participated but also those who want to join in the ongoing dialogue. The monthly e-newsletter keeps readers up to date with current developments, and now a collection of a large number of the most significant presentations made to the congress itself have been brought together in a book: *Christ Our Reconciler - Gospel/Church/World*, Ed J.E.M. Cameron, IVP, Nottingham, 2012.

From the moving greetings of Billy Graham and John Stott and the testimony of young North Korean Christian Gyeong Ju Son, to the brief but in-depth studies in Ephesians by Ajith Fernando, Ruth Padilla De-Borst, John Piper, Vaughan Roberts, Calisto Odede and Ramez Attallah to the challenging addresses by Os Guinness, Antoine Rulayisire, Tim Keller, Chris Wright and Lindsay Brown to many other articles and extracts from the Cape Town Commitment (the complete text of which is, of course available from the website), this book brings together a galactic collection of the present-day Church's finest minds in a way which gives a concise yet thorough overview of the major input made at the congress.

As we noted in one of our reports on the congress itself there appeared to be some tensions between those who want to contemporise too much and those who want to contemporise too little, and between those who want to emphasise the social side of the Gospel and those who want to see people come to Christ in saving faith. These tensions are ironed out in a way that only a carefully reflective book can do, so that a whole, wholesome and wholistic overview comes our way.

Hard and unfair as it is to single out a 'most significant' contribution included in this book, my choice would be the essay *Truth Matters* by Carver T. Yu, President and Professor of Dogmatics at the China Graduate School of Theology, Hong Kong. My reason? The growing trend to capitulate to universalism and pluralism must be turned back if Christianity is to be true to itself, or more particularly to its Lord and Master. Dr Yu affirms that we have lived with plurality, but we cannot live with pluralism.

He targets atheism: 'While trivializing truth and framing religious truth as oppressive, many pluralists nevertheless unashamedly promote the secular worldview to be true for all. Atheism is allowed to become the new religion, and is promoted as scientific, objective and inclusive. It is now waging a war against religion in general and Christianity in particular, with unprecedented evangelistic zeal ...

'We are swept along by confusing ideologies, sinking deep into emptiness and alienation, consumed by unquenchable desires, with families broken up, societies fragmented and Mother Earth devastated.

'To turn back the tide, we have to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ fearlessly, for He is the way, the truth and the life.

'Only Jesus Christ can lead us away from the present state of godlessness, where the terror of man-made idols and selfish desires hold us captivated and perverted; where meaninglessness and silent despair seep into our bones. Jesus Christ, the way, leads us back to God the Creator, the source of meaning and goodness'

(continued end of p.5)

HCJB Global team sets up TV station for African Bible College

IN less than a month, engineering retiree Jim Heck and a small team from HCJB Global set up a fully-operational TV station for the Africa Bible College (ABC) in Lilongwe, Malawi. Heck credits the project's completion to the Lord.

'If I ever wrote a book about this, I would call it 'How God Gave the African Bible College a Television Station and Let Me Go Along for the Ride,' Heck said.

Working with Heck on the Malawi project were engineer Dwight Lind, TV pro Patrick McGuire, and broadcasting specialist Ken Van Prooyen. Equipment hassles and Africa's unique broadcasting standards pushed them all to work right up to the government's Aug. 16 on-air deadline. But as always, God provided. 'He totally brought it all together.'

Heck and his team found strength to complete this demanding project in Isaiah 46:10.

'God is speaking in those verses, and He says, 'I will accomplish My will because I know the end from the beginning,'" paraphrased Heck.

'That was a real encouragement to us as we ran into problems, but He also knows the end from the beginning of His purpose for the African Bible College's new television ministries.'

With the station now up and running, communications students will start putting together broadcasts and Christian programming. Heck said that with no prior knowledge of editing footage or putting together a TV program, students are basically starting from scratch.

'It's a developing picture for them,' explained Heck. 'They have no experience, so they're on a learning curve.'

'That will be the big challenge: learning how to use this tool and asking God to creatively guide them.'

Pray for students undertaking this challenge. Pray that God is honored and His Gospel is furthered through their productions.

While Malawi is an English-speaking nation and a portion of TV programming can be made up of popular English

shows and music videos, the government requires 60% of the station's programs to be "Made in Malawi." Heck says this is a great opportunity to reach communities for Christ as the station becomes another outlet for people to see and hear the story of Christ.

'Some of the programming that they've received is for children,' Heck stated. 'I think that it will be an excellent way to help children visualize the stories of the Bible.'

In addition to Malawi, ABC operates campuses and accompanying broadcast facilities in Liberia and Uganda. In all three African nations, national staff, and HCJB Global engineers collaborated on setting up initial broadcast facilities.

— Mission Network News

'Jesus Christ did not prove Himself by appealing to anything other than Himself. He proved Himself by His life of sacrificial love. Likewise, we can only prove to the world that Jesus Christ is the truth by His transforming power in our lives, something not even the pluralist can refute. Let us therefore preach Jesus Christ with our lives.'

Christ Our Reconciler is a most valuable book for all Christians with a heart for evangelism, and isn't that all of us? It can be read as a whole to compensate for nonattendance at Cape Town 2012 and then put up with the reference books to be dipped into from time to time as we seek guidance on the many problems facing Christians in our day.

- Bob Thomas, Editor



RECENT EVENTS ...

Many People Attend Suicide Memorial Service in Sydney

MORE than 500 relatives and friends of people who have been lost to suicide joined together to grieve and to remember their loved ones at Wesley Mission's annual LifeForce Memorial Day service at the Sydney Opera House today.

People from Sydney and beyond heard speakers share their stories of grief and hope and the importance of speaking about their sorrow.

As the breeze freshened across the waters of Sydney Harbour, Master of Ceremonies, Peter Bliss, reminded those attending that they were not alone in their grief. Mr Bliss, whose sister, Diana, passed away in Perth earlier this year, said he was still coming to terms with her loss.

The Wesley LifeForce service meant people were not alone and was an opportunity to not only remember a life but to share that life with others. 'Today's event means that you are not alone,' Mr Bliss said. 'It is important to give yourself permission to talk about grief. Suicide is a community issue that should not be hidden.'

The Superintendent of Wesley Mission the Rev Dr Keith Garner said there was no right or wrong way to grieve. 'Put no expectation or pressure on yourself,' he told the crowd. 'Celebrate their life, as well as grieve their loss. As we gather together, it is important to remind each other that we are not alone and that we have friends today. But the fact that we are not alone is also a statement that we stand with many others who have also journeyed down this painful pathway, some who share very similar emotions to ourselves.' There were no simple solutions but regaining trust was a way forward.

'Trust is one of those key aspects of life which gets fractured at a time of suicide, but it is worth reconnecting with trust, even in pain,' he said.

'The ministry of Jesus Christ was so often direct and to the point. He was able to say those words which clarify a response in a difficult situation. On one occasion, he was speaking to his disciples and he said words of this kind: 'Don't let yourself get troubled. Trust in God, trust in me.'

'At the heart, the Christian message at such a gathering (as the Wesley LifeForce service) is that God does not stand outside of our experience of suffering, but has entered it and shares our loss with us.' Sydney Harbour became a mass of colour as hundreds of yellow flowers were tossed into the water in remembrance of those who had died.

– Graeme Cole, Wesley Mission

**COMING TO
WESTERN AUSTRALIA?
Come to Scots Church
Fremantle,
90 South Terrace**

(next to Fremantle Markets)
Reformed and Evangelical
10am and 5pm Sundays
12:30 pm Wednesday Lunch Time Worship
Also at Southern River,
Bletchley Park Primary School, Balfour Road
9 am Sunday
Rev Stuart Bonnington
08 9398 1304
melbonn@bigpond.com

**DONATIONS KEEP US GOING!
YOU can help by donating
through the website
www.nlife.com.au
or sending a cheque to:
New Life,
PO Box 457, Mitcham 3132**

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

Have YOU visited our website?
Just GOOGLE New Life

RECENT NEWS ...

Young Christian Band Wins Music Awards

CASTING Crowns was recently notified that the band has received its first career RIAA certified double Platinum album for their 2005 debut project, Casting Crowns.

Casting Crowns one of eight Christian projects ever to achieve this two-time, multi-Platinum status. Other Christian artists who have achieved this status include Satellite (P.O.D.), The Beautiful Letdown (Switchfoot) and Almost There (MercyMe).

Casting Crowns was the band's breakthrough album, which included the hit song, "Who Am I." The group continues to reign as Billboard's top-selling CCM artist since 2007.

"I'm honored to work alongside Mark Hall and Casting Crowns, and congratulate them on such an incredible milestone. Their record was a game changer for Provident and CCM music and continues to minister to listeners," said Provident Music Group President & CEO, Terry Hemmings in a press release.

Serving his 18th year in youth ministry, lead singer/songwriter Mark Hall continues in his role as the student pastor at Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in Atlanta. The other group members are also active in student ministry in the Atlanta area and tour alongside of their local church commitments.

The news adds to other recent notable career highlights, including one of Casting Crowns' most successful tours to date, the "Come to the Well" tour, and recent recognition as Top Christian Artist and Top Christian Album (Come To The Well) at the 2012 Billboard Music Awards. The group has also been honored with two American Music Awards, three GRAMMY Awards, 14 GMA Dove Awards, two 2012 Billboard Music Awards. For more information on Casting Crowns, visit www.castingcrowns.com, www.facebook.com/castingcrowns and www.twitter.com/castingcrowns.

– ASSIST News Service

UPCOMING EVENT ...

MOORE COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Saturday 29 September is Moore College's annual Open Day/Spring Carnival, 1 King Street Newtown NSW.

The day will include a sample lecture from one of the faculty, a campus tour and plenty of opportunities for questions.

Running from 9.30am-2.30pm, a BBQ lunch will be provided at 12 noon.

Email openevents@moore.edu.au for more information.

OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION ...

The Highbury Centre, London, UK

Christian guesthouse on quiet private road with transport nearby.

Discount for f/t Christian workers.

Email: enquiries@thehighburycentre.org

Website:

www.thehighburycentre.org



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

Serving the
Christian
community with
**professional
accounting
services in:**

- Taxation
- Audit & Assurance Services
- Services for Not for Profit Organisations

rdl accountants
we look beyond the numbers

(03) 9878 1477
rdlaccountants.com.au
contact@rdlaccountants.com.au

FRESH START AT MT. TAMBORINE CONVENTION

SATURDAY September 1st marked a huge change and step forward for Queensland's Mt Tamborine Convention. The sixty-plus year old Convention Council was dissolved and replaced by the formation of the new Board with a number of significant sub-committees, and a Management Committee to be led by the CEO.

In this Special General Meeting of the Mt Tamborine Convention (MTC) membership, with the groundwork already thoroughly laid and explained, the one hour SGM completely revolutionised the way that the sixty-three (?) year old MTC will be organised and developed in the years to come.

Seated around the fireplace on Saturday evening, on what has been announced as the coldest September night in living memory in south Queensland, there were many remarkable testimonies shared as to the blessing that Tamborine convention has brought to these members, as well as to thousands of other folk over the years. The fifty MTC members present included one who attended his first convention in 1951, and one young man who attended his first convention as a new Christian in this past Easter.

Though numbers attending the Easter conventions have been shrinking while the costs of operation have been escalating, the new MTC Board and members came away from this weekend with a great sense of anticipation - gratitude to God, encouragement from the body of Christians present, and the challenge of the potential for development of both the ministry and the site in the foreseeable future. With this new management plan, new personnel involved, and a re-vitalised vision, the Board and membership are all trusting the Lord for great things at Mt Tamborine in the future.

Chairman of the Board Bill Vine, secretary Liz Luva, treasurer Duncan Drew, and the new CEO Basil Wood, have rolled up their sleeves, and are asking God's people everywhere to pray that wisdom will be given to the new administrative team, and that God's people will stand with them. For more details of the renewed vision plan and/or membership, contact Basil Wood by email at <brhwood@bigpond.net.au> or Bill Vine at <bill@pianopeople.com.au>

– Jim Vine, MTC Promotions

Melbourne Creation 2013 Supercamp Almost Booked Out

DR Carl Wieland, of Creation Ministries International—Australia, announced that the 2013 Creation Supercamp from 7–11 January at Phillip Island, Victoria, is almost booked to capacity.

'The response has been overwhelming,' Dr Wieland said. 'Registrations have poured in. There could be up to 900 people attending, including children. We are making special arrangements to accommodate the high demand. There is a growing anticipation about the event.'

Dr Wieland said he was thrilled that the mega-conference once again has an impressive line-up of creation speakers from around the world. 'These include marine biologist and human genetics researcher Dr Robert Carter from the US and organic chemist Dr Royal Truman from Germany. I am also pleased to have our Australian physicist Professor John Hartnett presenting.'

Dr Wieland said, 'We organise these conferences to strengthen people's faith in the reliability of the Word of God. By providing solid answers to questions about creation, evolution and Genesis people are empowered to witness for Christ to their relatives, friends and colleagues.'

Information about the venue, speakers, program, and dates is available on creation.com/supercamp.

– Creation Ministries International, Australia

Prestige Pianos & Organs

102 Bell Street, Preston, Victoria 3072 (MELWAY REF 31 B2)

- The largest range of new and reconditioned pianos, organs, keyboards and digital pianos
- The best advice in selecting your next instrument

Phone: (03) 9480 6777

www.prestigepianos.com.au



News From Australia & Overseas

IN Bangladesh there are approximately 500,000 children living on the streets due to poverty or abuse. Many girls who live on the street are sexually exploited. One of SIMaids' many projects undertakes ways to take girls off the streets and provide them with a better life. This project operates in the city of Dhaka in areas where there are high numbers of homeless groups. They provide a day and night shelter for girls, young women and their children who have been living on the streets and are in vulnerable situations.

The centre offers basic health advice and introduce the girls to local health services. Children, mothers and pregnant women have a place to wash and rest, receive education, training and an alternative income to begging or sex work. Mothers who receive training are given a monthly salary with the condition that they leave the streets and rent a home for themselves and their children. Upon graduation, they are employed by the Hand and Cloth business, allowing women to earn a stable income whilst they grow in confidence and skills. More details at www.simaid.org.au/girls.



IN their bi-monthly magazine Skywaves, FEBC reports that in the streets surrounding their Iraq FM radio station, groups of young people have begun meeting together to listen to the broadcasts. Gathering in cafes, they talk about the issues raised in the programs. One young listener has launched a Facebook fan page for the station, so far attracting 1,700 fans. Their support base is growing, with about 80 calls and messages daily and people regularly visiting the studio.

REV Ian Wright is concluding his role as CEO of Barnabas Fund Australia at the end of this month and has accepted a call to serve as Interim Senior Pastor at the City Tabernacle Baptist Church in Brisbane. Ian has given outstanding leadership to BFA for the past seven years and will be greatly missed. Mr Colin Johnston has been appointed Managing Director of BFA and will oversee the work in Australia. Colin has served on the board as a non-executive Director and Secretary since 2008.

SIMON and Meg Crittle are back doing postgrad study at Melbourne School of Theology after 17 years. They both studied at the then Bible College of Victoria in the 90's, in which time Simon gained some experience in journalism writing for New Life for a short time before they went on to cross cultural ministry in Japan.

MENTION of Bush Church Aid brings to mind rugged individuals undertaking itinerant ministry in the far reaches of Australia's outback. But this Anglican-based mission also supplies workers to

encourage and help in parishes all around the country. In answer to prayer three couples have recently stepped forward to fill vacancies. Geoff and Tracey Piggott commenced work in the Catacomb Church in Coober Pedy in July. Geoff says, 'We want to encourage the keen congregation and work together to get the message of Jesus out to the community and tourists'. Last month Brad and Joh Henley and their young family began serving in Kangaroo Island in South Australia, and Keith and Cynthia Groundwater, who are delighted that God has been at work in their retirement to open up a new opportunity for ministry, are now serving in Adelong and Tarcutta, NSW.

DO you teach children in school or at your church? International Needs runs a program, Just Like Me, a collection of resources for educators of primary school aged children with the goal of bringing about awareness of what life is really like for children their own age in developing countries. Anita Mitchell is IN's Schools' Liaison Officer. She is an experienced primary school teacher with a passion to help kids in poverty-stricken countries and is available to visit primary schools, churches and clubs in the greater Melbourne area. Interested? Visit www.justlikeme.org.au for more details.

(Here, There & Everywhere continued over next page...)

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ...

REV Dr Wei-Han Kuan starts as the new State Director of Church Missionary Society in Victoria on September 24. Wei-Han Kuan will be commissioned on November 11. He has worked in parish ministry at St Alfred's, North Blackburn since 2007 and is married to Valerie. They have three children.

Wei-Han's main responsibility in his current ministry has been leadership over St Alfred's young adult work, which has experienced growth and increased vitality in the past few years. He is passionate about raising up long-term full-time workers for the Gospel harvest field both at home and abroad, and partnering actively with other networks and organisations to do this.

Following his appointment Wei-Han said, 'God is on

a mission to redeem and restore and recreate all things and all peoples. The Lord Jesus came on that mission, and sends His people on that same Gospel mission. I'm excited by the opportunity to keep CMS at the forefront of that global mission, and to expand its vital role of encouraging and strengthening the local church through its expertise and enthusiasm.'

ARE you considering cross-cultural work? Global Interaction, the mission arm of the Baptist churches in Australia, provides opportunities for you to learn more and confirm your calling.

Unearthed is a network of young adults that gathers every few months in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Sydney. It is an informal time to feast together, share stories, chew over issues and learn from experienced mission practitioners.

The aim of Global Xposure is to expose participants to the culture of a least-reached people group and the work of Global Interaction among them. It is a three week learning experience in partnership with church teams. www.globalinteraction.org.au/ beinvolved

Special thanks to Barbara Furman for compiling the Here, There & Everywhere section of *New Life*

**Are You A Newshound?
Writer? Journalist?**
We Welcome Readers' Contributions.
Go to www.nlife.com.au
/Free Downloads/Guidelines
Submit articles to:
editor@nlife.com.au



KINGSLEY
OPEN DAY
Saturday, 20 Oct 2012
Preparing people for Christian ministry since 1949

Study for Christian Ministry **OR** Study for Christian Counselling

In collaboration with St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra

enquiries
(03) 9357 3699
enquiries@kingsley.edu.au

Refreshments provided

Saturday, 20 October 2012
10 am - 2 pm
Kingsley Australia,
1/21 Lakeside Drive,
Broadmeadows

www.kingsley.edu.au
Developing and equipping people to shape their world

www.stmarksrto.org.au
Engaging the people of God with Australian society

CHRISTIANS BLOCKADED IN SYRIAN TOWN FOR TWO WEEKS BY REBEL FIGHTERS

AROUND 12,000 people were blockaded in a predominantly Christian town in Syria for two weeks by anti-government forces, who shot down people trying to leave and refused entry to food and medical supplies.

Snipers prevented anyone from leaving the southern town of Rableh, shooting dead three men who attempted to get out: George Azar (20), an un-named 21-year-old, and married father of four Elias Tahch Se-maan (35).

Residents suffered a shortage of food and medical supplies as access to the town was blocked off; bridges had been blown up and roads rendered impassable. Motorcyclists who attempted to bring bread in to Rableh were also shot at, but they managed to escape unhurt. The electricity supply was disrupted. Government forces reportedly drove out the opposition fighters on Friday 24 August. Rableh is west of Qusayr, a city where Christians were reportedly given an ultimatum to leave by 8 June.

Christian areas are particularly vulnerable to attack by anti-government forces because the community is seen as being pro-Assad, having enjoyed considerable rights and freedoms under his rule. As the fight for Syria rages on, Christians are increasingly concerned about what the future may hold for them in a country that, if Assad is ousted, is likely to be extremely hostile to their presence.

– Barnabus Fund

SOMALIA: AL-SHABAAB SQUEEZED; CHRIS-TIANS ABDUCTED

ON 27 August US-backed Somali, Kenyan and African Union forces liberated the port of Marka, 70km south of Mogadishu, from al-Shabaab. Despite gains, Christian aid workers remain at risk in Somalia. On 11 July three Kenyan nationals (including one woman) serving with International Aid Services were kidnapped by Islamic militants, possibly with the backing of al-Shabaab, in Somalia's Puntland region. The militants are reportedly seeking a prisoner swap for alleged pirates being held in Kenya. Please pray.

KENYA: MUSLIMS RETALIATE AGAINST CHRIS-TIANS

ON Monday 27 August Sheikh Aboud Rogo Mohammed, an al-Qaeda-linked radical cleric recently designated by the US as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, was assassinated in Mombasa. He had been responsible for raising funds and recruiting Kenyans for al-Shabaab. Francis Auma, from the local organisation Muslims for Human Rights, subsequently heard the imam of a local mosque shouting through the speaker: 'blood for blood'. Muslims retaliated against Christians, whom they doubtless view as supportive of the US-driven anti-terror laws that Muslims complain discriminate against them. Two churches were burnt and looted while at least four other churches were vandalised. Riots continued on Tuesday. One policeman was killed and 16 wounded when a grenade was thrown at a policeracing to save a burning church. Islamic leaders are calling the assassination an attack on Islam. Al-Shabaab has called on Kenyan Muslims to 'take the matter into their own hands, stand united

against the kuffar (unbelievers) and take all necessary measures to protect their religion, their honour, their property and their lives from the enemies of Islam'. In particular they are calling for Muslims to boycott Kenya's presidential elections on 4 March 2013. Tensions are escalating.

LAOS: PERSECUTION FOLLOWS REVIVAL

ON 6 August Mr Tongkoun Keohavong was summoned before the village chief of Nahoukou village to explain why around 30 locals had embraced Christianity since February. He explained that the Lord had been healing diseases and liberating the people from evil spirits in response to prayer: 'We cannot deny the reality of God's power,' he said. The believers have been ordered to renounce their faith or face expulsion from the village. Similarly, Mr Bountheung, who had been living as a Christian in Nongpong village for 10 years, is also being persecuted. In May of this year, around 300 residents of Nongpong village decided they would embrace the Christian faith and worship the Lord as did Mr Bountheung. As leader of the village church, Mr Bountheung was summoned three times to explain to the authorities why people in his village were embracing a banned 'foreign religion'. On 3 August the believers were given until 10 August to recant their faith or be expelled from the village. After refusing to recant on 10 August, Mr Bountheung was told he had a week to sell his possessions. On 20 August he was arrested and taken to prison. Conditions in Lao prisons are severe and torture is routine. Please pray for the Church in Laos.

– Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

Christianity Grows In Afghanistan, Despite Islamists Threat

THE negative and suspicious view of Afghans towards Christian activities has caused Christian groups and individuals, including Christians with an Islamic background, to be targeted in this war-torn country.

According to a story by the Iranian Christian news agency Mohabat News, Christian evangelism has turned into a sensitive and complicated issue in the last 10 years. Muslims target Christians every day. They use the Islamic Sharia Law to charge Christians with blasphemy.

The rate of growth of Christianity in Afghanistan has caused Afghani Muslim clerics to consider it a threat. Also according to reports by news services, Afghani Muslim clerics warned the country's government against the spread of Christianity.

Mohabat News said the Islamic council of Afghanistan, comprised of Islamic seminary students and clerics from all around the country, called on Hamid Karzai to limit the number of aid-workers and Christian missionaries coming to Afghanistan, because they can cause Afghans to convert to Christianity.

Mohammad Hanif Atmar, the interior minister, appeared in the Afghanistan Parliament in May 2011. He said, "There are evidences of Christian evangelism in the country."

According to Mohabat News, this anti-Christian wave was sparked after a private Kabul-based TV channel reported a number of Afghans had converted to Christianity and aired their pictures praying and being baptized.

The TV channel also claimed that some foreign non-government organizations are involved in promoting Christianity in the country. This provoked parliamentary members' anger.

Today, the society in which people are raised with extreme Islamic thoughts from birth, is facing a deep change in its people's religious attitudes. Mohabat News said knowledgeable officials of the country acknowledge that Christianity has found a special place not only among youth but also among other members of Afghani society. House churches are also growing rapidly.

Christianity has spread not only among ordinary Afghans but also among Afghani elites and well-known figures.

Mohabat News said Afghan Telex News Service published a report on the conversion of some members of the Afghani Parliament to Christianity. It read in part, "Evangelism and Christian propaganda is spreading in the country at a high level, but this is the first time that those who call themselves representatives of the Afghani people not only have become 'apostates,' but have joined Christian ministries to evangelize."

According to human rights advocacy groups, Mohabat News reported, at least tens of thousands of Christian converts are living inside Afghanistan, despite persecution.

– ASSIST News Service

TWO CHRISTIAN PRISONERS WALK 'FREE'

OVER the weekend 8-9 September two persecuted and much-prayed-for Christians - Youcef Nadarkhani (34) of Iran, and Rimsha Masih (14) of Pakistan - walked free from their cells into the warm embrace of family. We praise and thank the LORD for this, while recognising that these battles are not over. The court acquitted Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani of apostasy but found him guilty of evangelising Muslims. For this 'crime' he received a three-year sentence but was released due to his time already served. Nadarkhani's life is still seriously at risk. Rimsha, who is out on bail, will face court again on Sunday 16 September and should be acquitted. Rimsha's life is so imperilled that she must remain in hiding so that Muslim mobs do not find and kill her. Please pray.

– Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

RECENT QUAKE BRINGS MEMORIES, RENEWED VISION TO BIBLE TRANSLATION

A recent quake and tsunami concerns brought stark reminders of the last time devastation hit Papua New Guinea. In 1998, a quake and tsunami took out a third of the village where Wycliffe Bible Translators John and Bonnie Nystrom were working. John explains, 'One of the Arop translators said, 'People's eyes are really open. They're much more open to the Gospel. We really need to do this now, even if it means slowing down our own translation project.' But HOW? The Nystroms discovered cluster language translations, and they've never looked back. Bonnie says now, they're looking forward. 'The dynamic of the project is not just about getting translations done in these groups, but multiplying the training and the efforts of these translators to help the other 300 languages in Papua New Guinea.

– Mission Network News

Club Solo Celebrates Thirty Years Of Ministry

CLUB Solo is a ministry to Christian Single adults. It provides an opportunity for Christian singles from all over Australia to meet together for holidays, camps, and social events. Among the 5,000+ Christian singles who have attended Club Solo's activities over the years, we have received countless testimonies of people having received meaningful ministry, forming close friendships, meeting their life partner, or simply having a wonderful time. It is not an introduction agency, but a ministry. We have a group in Melbourne, Geelong, Adelaide, Brisbane and Sydney with regular events in each of those cities.

Club Solo's purpose is to meet the social, spiritual, and recreational needs of single adults with Christian values. It would suit those 35+ years of age from any denomination. If you have never married, or been divorced or widowed, you are welcome at Club Solo. To provide single parents with a break from the children, our holidays are child free, however, children are very welcome at our social activities.

Solo was founded by Rev Bill Foster, a well-respected lecturer at Kingsley Theological College, a renowned youth speaker, and effective public evangelist. Rev Foster and his wife, Daphne, recognised the special needs of Christian singles in a church system that, 30 years ago, did not appear to cater for single adults. The Fosters committed themselves to host a holiday on the Gold Coast in 1983. Since then, the ministry has grown and established itself as a significant ministry in Australia. Holidays have been held in the USA, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Red Centre, South Pacific, and annually on the Gold Coast.

As the ministry of Club Solo grew, so did the need for the assistance of other Christians dedicated to ministering to singles. Dr Jim Ridgway, a Christian psychologist and Bible lecturer, and his wife, Melva, also a Bible lecturer, joined the voluntary staff to provide in depth Christian counselling. Since their retirement from Solo, the Rev Lionel Rose, ordained Wesleyan Methodist Minister and Chaplain to singles, has been our counsellor for the past twelve years.

There have been a number of excellent staff added to Club Solo to extend its ministry. In 1987 a Bible college student at Kingsley College was asked by Bill to come along and lead worship on a singles camp at Log Cabin Lodge in Creswick. Little did he

know at that time that Steve Mitchell would still be involved in Solo, as well as him now being the National Director of Club Solo Ministries, an auxiliary of the Wesleyan Methodist Church now.

Over the years there have been 4 Directors of Club Solo. Rev Bill & Daphne Foster were first, followed by Mr Wes Donaldson, then Mr Robert & Penny Williams, and the current ones Rev Steve & Michelle Mitchell, each one contributing to the continued blessing that the ministry has contributed to many, many folk around Melbourne, Victoria and Australia. Solo has touched a number of people from different walks of life and they have gone away a different person as a result of their time at the camps and holidays.

In an effort to thank the Lord for the wonderful ministry people had received from Him through Club Solo, the Solo Scholarship Fund was formed where over the 13 years that it was in action Solo passed on from campers to students, nearly \$90,000.

There have been many wonderful friendships and relationships that have been formed by those who have attended Club Solo camps and activities. We are here to serve you and to minister to you. Come along and partake in this wonderful ministry, and let us serve you. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Come and help us celebrate the next 30 years.

If you have been one of those that have been ministered to in the past we would love you to come back and see us especially mid you are still single. Our 30th Anniversary Holiday on the Gold Coast from 5-12 January '12 would be a great place to come and celebrate with us. If you have been on a Gold Coast camp before we would encourage you to come back and see how far we have come. A brochure is available at <http://www.clubsolo.org.au/gold1.htm> If you have fond and great memories of a camp or events that you have been to please contact Steve at solo@sctelco.net.au and pass on your memories and testimony. If you happen to have a photo or two to share then that would be great to. Next year Solo is planning a 30th Anniversary Reunion day/eventing so watch out for the details later.

– Steve Mitchell, Director, Club Solo Ministries

BOOKS WORTH READING ...

OUT OF MY BONE: THE LETTERS OF JOY DAVIDMAN,
Edited and introduced by Don W. King, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans,
2009.

THIS book sprang unexpectedly out of another book that Don King was writing, *Yet One More Spring: A Critical Study of the Works of Joy Davidman*, for in the process he had collected most of her surviving letters and discovered that they make fascinating and useful readings – and he is right! The title (*Out of My Bone*) comes from her poem, 'Yet One More Spring'.

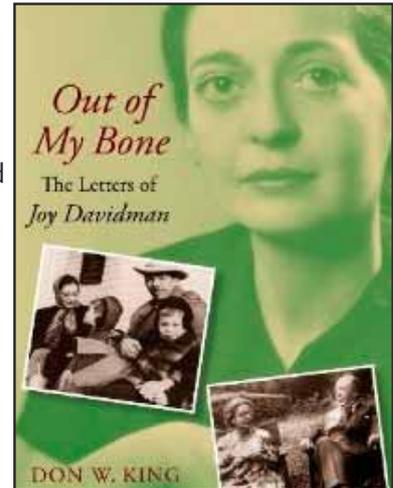
The letters reveal an acute mind and a striking individual viewpoint. They chronicle her journey from Judaism to atheism to Communism and finally to Christianity. They also reveal her side of the relationship to and subsequent marriage with C. S. Lewis and her literary collaboration with Lewis in a number of his later books. She was his intellectual equal, which is not idle flattery, and in many ways a female version of Lewis himself. It is little wonder that he fell in love with her, his bachelor-brother Warnie adored her, and she became important in his writing projects during the last phase of his life.

The letters document her trials and triumphs as a young poet and critic. Even as a communist poet her advice to another aspiring poet about the King James Bible was: 'You can skip the begats; but no one can really write English well unless he has been through the Bible a couple of times'. She started to read Lewis' books in the 1940s and to correspond with him from the early 1950s. The book includes her own account of her conversion, 'The Longest Way Round'. God broke into her life, and she was, as she says, 'the world's most astonished atheist'. Like Lewis, it was reading fantasy and receiving glimpses of beauty that prepared her for conversion to Christian faith.

Davidman eventually moved from the USA to England with her two sons, David and Douglas, after the breakdown of her first marriage, and her letters show the development of her friendship with C. S. Lewis. She was there to hear Lewis' inaugural lecture as a professor at Cambridge in 1954. Davidman became an important help to Lewis in his writing, and she is recorded as saying, 'Though I can't write one-tenth as well as Jack (= Lewis), I can tell him how to write more like himself!' Her letters also speak of her reaction when diagnosed with an aggressive life-threatening cancer. In answer to prayer, she was given a three-year reprieve before the cancer came back. It proved to be a time of great happiness for both Lewis and herself.

Why should anyone read these letters? The Lewis connection is an obvious reason for any fan of C. S. Lewis, as well, they show a real human life into which God intervened. The letters are full of good sense, strong emotion and Christian wisdom. Though not devotional literature in the normal sense of the word, there is much to encourage and help the reader because of Joy Davidman's humour, honesty and faith in God.

– Greg Goswell



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.websites.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

MORE BOOKS WORTH READING ...

THE DEATH OF THE SAVIOUR, Richard D. Phillips, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2012.

THIS is a book which draws the reader in as it outlines and analyses all the events and elements of the crucifixion, which he sees as the central event of all Scripture. In so doing he relates these events back to Old Testament prophecies and forward to New Testament fulfillments and outcomes in the Early Church.

The book began life as a series of sermons preached in the author's church, Second Presbyterian in Greenville, South Carolina, USA, and to some extent begs the question of whether or not sermons should be put into print. I'm one of those who welcome sermons being put into print, largely as preached and with a minimum of tidying up. Phillips however has given his original sermon series a comprehensive makeover to the extent that unless we were told what had happened we would never have guessed at the original genre. I think that's why, for me, this book is slow to take off. Nevertheless, as it gathers momentum it becomes evident that a vast amount of material has been gathered and refined into a really helpful book.

The cross is, of course, central to all of Scripture. Possibly the most helpful sections of the book are those outlining the various views of the atonement before settling on penal substitutionary atonement as the correct one, and the work of Christ as finished on the cross. These doctrines reside in troubled waters thanks to Romanism on the one hand and liberalism on the other, and our author steers us into the clear waters of orthodoxy first charted by Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his book *Cur Deus Homo?*

An abundance of quotes from many sources show something of the volume of work undertaken in writing this book and in themselves represent added value to an already valuable book.

The author's prayer is: 'May God bless these brief studies to magnify Christ's saving achievements in our minds, and inspire us to a more fervent adoration of Christ from our hearts ... May He who died but lives forever be glorified through God's Word.' It will surely be granted 'beyond all (he) can ask or imagine.'

– Bob Thomas

MISSIONARY READING – book reviews by Mignon Goswell

MY CHINA MYSTERY, Marion Andrews, Even Before Publishing, Capalaba, Australia 2012

Marion Andrews unfolds to the reader the life of her father, a story she had only partly known for many years. She has labored to gather the pieces of her father's missionary service in China and his two years during the Second World War in the British Army. Many of us have read biographies of missionaries with and histories of the work of China Inland Mission (now OMF). Each one gives us a further picture of the drama that is God's work in China and the self sacrifice many have given in order for God's message to be spread in this inhospitable country. Marion's research is meticulous and her presentation chronologically clear. She presents her parents in their united desire to be missionaries in China and their need to live in Australia when their mission work was cut short. Disappointment could have soured any further ministry and in this there are lessons for us all. This is an Australian story that is valuable to know. Marion is thrilled to be able to draw together the puzzle pieces of her father's life and to be there to receive (posthumously on his behalf) his overdue recognition by the British crown. But she also knows that her parents have passed into their true inheritance with the crown that only the King of Kings can bestow.

THE YANKEE OFFICER AND THE SOUTHERN BELLE, Nell Robertson Chinchen, Christian Focus Publications, Fearn Ross-shire, 2012

THIS is a thrilling and stirring autobiography. Here is a couple who trade a life of relative ease and privilege for one that the reader may view as continual struggle and hardship, yet Jack and Nell Chinchen have thrived in the midst of it. We read the story of love that never fades and of determination to follow through from business life to ministry training to life in parish to mission work. All phases of life have been approached with hard work and enthusiasm. Their family life and work in Liberia is intertwined with details of the political changes going on over the years. Nell beautifully portrays their life in Liberia and their love for the people, a love that has inspired other family members to take up work in Africa. The reader learns of the development of the African Bible Colleges and radio stations. Nell shows that mission work is a partnership with a staunch church body and all under the inspiration of God. Throughout their years in Africa the Chinchens have been supported by their church friends financially, prayerfully and emotionally. They have been willing to step out and try things and have not been overcome by setbacks, which came regularly. A great read!