

1 October 2012. Vol 75 No 7. Free On Request: office@nlife.com

Politicians Face Up To Halving Global Poverty By 2015

HUNDREDS of Christians from across the country joined politicians at Parliament House on 18 September as they added their photos to a giant *2015 Puzzle* – a symbol of Australia's commitment to halve global poverty by 2015.

Former PM Kevin Rudd, Labor MP Peter Garrett, Greens' Senator Lee Rhiannon and independent MP Rob Oakeshott were among a group of federal MPs and Senators representing most parties who added their faces to the *2015 Puzzle* in support of ending poverty.

They were joined by a group of anti-poverty campaigners who were in Canberra for Micah Challenge's annual *Voices For Justice* event, and have been urging politicians to finish what Australia started when the Government signed onto the *UN Millennium Development Goals* in 2000.

According to Micah Challenge's National Co-ordinator John Beckett, significant progress is being made towards the *Millennium Development Goals* in every country that receives Australian aid, which is why it is crucial to keep global poverty on the political agenda.

'It's great to see our political leaders come out in such strong support of such important goals, which have in some cases already been achieved. In other cases many inroads have been made,' Mr Beckett said.

'In the top ten Australian aid recipients, child mortality has fallen from between 30 to 70% since 1990. For example, in one of our closest neighbouring countries, East Timor, one in every six children was dying but that number is now all the way down to one in every 20.

'Worldwide, five million more children are living to celebrate their fifth birthday than in 1990 and aid has played a significant part in that progress. We know that aid works. But we are still off-track when it comes to the *Millennium Development Goals* that target hunger, education and health,' added Mr Beckett.



Former PM Kevin Rudd puts himself in the picture to be part of the solution to global poverty.

'Today is about getting the message on poverty back on the agenda and back into the minds of our decision-makers. We know that aid is effective for saving lives, and yet we currently give just 0.35% of national income to overseas aid – or 35c in every \$100 – which is still a far cry from the UN target of 0.7%,' said Mr Beckett.

'Over the years, both the Government and Opposition have talked about increasing overseas aid but it's now time to turn intention into action.'

Anti-poverty campaigners held around 100 private meetings with MPs and Senators to encourage all parties to support an increase in Australia's overseas aid. Micah Challenge and Make Poverty History launched a new report on Millennium Development Goal progress at the *Voices For Justice* event, and all MPs and Senators were asked to pledge renewed commitment to the international goals.

Voices For Justice is an initiative of Micah Challenge – a global movement of aid and development agencies, churches, schools, groups and individual Christians who want to influence world leaders to meet their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals. Go to: www.micahchallenge.org.au for further detail.

GROWING NUMBER OF BELIEVERS CAUSES UNEASE AMONG MUSLIM LEADERS

ACCORDING to the Mohabat News Agency, a Christian news organisation based in Iran, officials are calling for action against believers in Afghanistan. The turmoil began after a Kabul-based TV station aired photos of Afghans praying and being baptised. Under Sharia Law, if someone leaves Islam and converts to another religion, they can be executed. Afghanistan is ranked #2 on the Open Doors World Watch List.

PRAY FOR SAFETY, WISDOM FOR AFGHAN BELIEVERS. Full story: <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/17690>

VOL: 75 NUMBER 7

ISSN: 1033-7903

ISSUE DATE:

1 October 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.

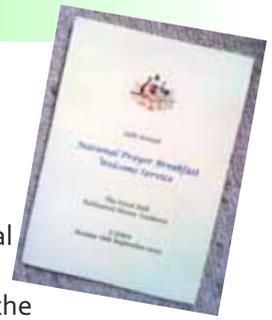
TO THE POINT ...

National Prayer Breakfast Gives Focus To Politicians' Work

MANY would see it as a propitious thing that the National Prayer Breakfast this year met in the same week as Federal Parliament debated and defeated the Same-Sex Marriage Bills. Certainly the NPB and associated events sharpened the focus of the hundreds of Christians from around the nation who joined with the more-than-60 politicians from the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship to pray for and reflect upon the state of the nation at this time.

The Welcome Service on Sunday evening 16 September drew several hundred people from the churches of Canberra together for an inspiring service of praise, prayer and testimony. Chaired by Senator Paul Neville, Senator Gary Humphries spoke of the need for role models to follow in fighting the aggressive secularism of our day, and Mr Chris Hayes MHR spoke on the need to be people who make a difference and to join prayer with action. Judith Rough and musicians from the Wesley Institute presented inspiring songs and led in the singing of the great hymns *To God Be The Glory* and *Great Is Your Faithfulness*. The Rev Joy Bartholomew, Minister of the Church of St Andrew in Canberra, gave the occasional address which took the form of a testimony, majoring on the way in which God leads His people and brings them through times of trial. Having been ordained to the ministry in the Presbyterian Church prior to the inauguration of the Uniting Church, Mrs Bartholomew was deeply disappointed when the Presbyterian Church reversed this practice after church union. Nevertheless she and four other women ministers who continued in the Presbyterian Church retained their status, and in partnership with her husband, Rev Arnold Bartholomew, her ministries in Western Newcastle, Corowa and Canberra have been well appreciated. Her address is reprinted on pp.10,11.

The National Prayer Breakfast itself, on Monday 17 September in the Great Hall of Parliament House, joined praise, prayer and patriotism with inspiring addresses from former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and prominent Sydney businessman Neville Cox. Calling on Christians to soften their hearts and be encouragers in the spirit of Barnabas, Kevin Rudd spoke of his recent experiences in China where there has been 'an explosion of faith', Berlin where by contrast the Church appears to be dying, and his home church in Brisbane which after a long period of debate had opened itself up to be a community centre for its local area. He challenged Christians to be authentic in what we say and do, to know what we believe, get out and do it, and do it as well as we can.



GET MORE OUT OF NEW LIFE

Learn more about a particular article, advertisement, contributor or advertiser!

NEW LIFE comes to you as a .PDF file, with many stories and advertisements containing links to other websites and email addresses.

Web and email addresses are printed in bold blue type.

You only have to position your cursor over the link to highlight it,

eg: **editor@nlife.com.au** ; **www.nlife.com.au**

then click and you will be taken directly to that site.

When you are finished there, click on the back button to return to *NEW LIFE*.

Praying Through The Riots – To Peace In Christ For Muslims

THE current 'Film Riots' bear many similarities to the 'Cartoon Intifada' of February 2006. The Danish cartoons had been published months earlier – even republished in Cairo during Ramadan (Nov 2005) – to no effect.

Similarly, the offensive film, *Innocence Of Muslims*, has been available on Youtube for many months. The 'Cartoon Intifada' was incited by Arab-Islamic leaders ahead of the scheduled April 2006 sitting of the UN Human Rights Commission. It was anticipated that at that sitting the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance would present his conclusion as to whether or not defamation of religion should be banned. In the same way, the 'Film Riots' were initially incited (so it seems) by Islamists, as a cover for planned 9/11 'revenge' attacks on US embassies in Cairo and Benghazi.

Because decades of radicalisation have created a tinderbox, Islamists only need to strike a spark to get the fire of arrogant, hateful rage burning. Fanned by social media, it spread quickly around the globe. As with the cartoons, the film is far less offensive than much of the anti-Christian material that offends, hurts and sickens Christians – who do not riot. Indeed, the Internet is full of anti-Islamic material that is far more offensive than the Danish cartoons or *Innocence Of Muslims*. For rioters, this is less about offence and more about the fact that Islam demands universal respect and criminalises non-submission. Meanwhile fear motivates the appeasers.

In praying through this crisis, there are three things we should particularly remember.

1. Christian Security

As security is tightened around embassies and US economic interests, Islamists may well turn their anger to softer targets with perceived US ties and/or sympathies such as Christians and churches. The riots could evolve into a grinding, communal jihad or terror campaign. We must pray concerning Christian security in these times, especially in places where Christians are already a persecuted, vulnerable minority. The situation for the Copts, Egypt's indigenous Christians, is especially perilous.

2. Freedom Of Speech

Islam's religious totalitarian, apostaphobic dictators live in constant fear that, given a chance, the masses will apostasise (leave Islam). These religious dictators will doubtless seek to exploit the crisis to advance their goal of having criticism of Islam criminalised internationally. As was done after the 'Cartoon Intifada', the riots are being put forward as the reason why criticism of Islam must be banned. Muslims should regard this as profoundly offensive as it implies that they are easily provoked and incapable of responding in a civilised manner. On the other

hand, non-Muslims should regard this as an Islamic threat.

The Grand Sheikh of Cairo's al-Azhar University, Professor Dr Ahmad at-Tayyib, has already released a statement calling on the UN to enact international laws that will punish those who insult or defame Islam. Egypt has issued arrest warrants for eight Americans (including seven Copts) who they charge have defamed Islam. They will be tried in absentia and may well be sentenced to death, possibly heralding a new wave of 'Salman Rushdies'. (On 16 September, Iran increased the bounty on Rushdie's head by half a million dollars to \$US 3.3 million.) Egypt wants Interpol to issue wanted notices for the accused. Pakistan also has appealed to Interpol for legislation that would ban 'sacrilegious [specifically anti-Islamic] materials' from the Internet. Pakistan aims to present draft legislation to the forthcoming UN General Assembly.

We can also expect to see renewed efforts by the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation for implementation of UN Resolution 16/18, 'Combating intolerance...' which equates 'defamation' with 'incitement'.

3. Awakening

If the terror attacks of 11 September 2001 left many nominal Muslims profoundly confused and conflicted, the 'Cartoon Intifada' of February 2006 compounded those feelings into deep disillusionment. So revolted and embarrassed were most nominal Muslims by the sanctimonious hysteria, barbarity and uncivilised behaviour of hundreds of thousands of Muslims around the world that the trend of apostasy increased markedly through 2007. (See Religious Liberty Trends 2007-2008, 15 Feb 2008, <http://elizabethkendal.blogspot.com.au>) We can pray for a similar awakening now.

Please Pray Specifically That:

- The Holy Spirit will draw vulnerable, threatened Christians to find shelter under the 'wings of the LORD.' (Psalm 57.1b ESV)
- God will use the struggle over free speech to expose hidden evil and awaken the world to the value of truth. (Proverbs 19.21 ESV)
- The current crisis will serve to awaken many Muslims and further accelerate the exodus from Islam. (Matthew 9.37,38 ESV)

*– Written for the Australian Evangelical Alliance
Religious Liberty Commission
by Elizabeth Kendal,*

*international religious liberty analyst and advocate,
and member of the AEA RLC team.
New Life congratulates Elizabeth on being appointed
Adjunct Research Fellow in the Centre
for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths
at the Melbourne School of Theology.*

*Islam's religious,
totalitarian
dictators live
in constant fear
that, given a
chance, the masses
will leave Islam.*

Annual Reformation Day Service

**Sunday 28 October 2012
at 3.30pm**

**Lygon Street Christian Chapel, Carlton
(next to Trades Hall)**

**Speaker: Rev Dr William McCrea
Sermon:**

'Foundational Principles Of Protestant Truth'

**Dr R.T. William McCrea has been
Minister of Calvary Free Presbyterian Church,
Magherafelt, Co Londonderry, for over 40 years;
Westminster Member of Parliament for South Antrim,
Northern Ireland, since 2005;
former Member of Parliament for Mid Ulster 1983-1997;
Gospel Recording Artist with Daybreak Recordings.**

He will be assisted by:

**The Choir of the GRI Indonesian Church,
Lygon St, Carlton.**

Enquiries:

Victorian Protestant Federation

Phone: 03 9329 8483

HONOUR FOR AUSTRALIAN CHURCH LEADER ...

Ross Clifford Elected President Of Asia/Pacific Baptist Region – Calls The Church To Focus On Asia

REV Dr Ross Clifford has been elected as President of the Asia Pacific Baptist Federation and will also head the new Executive Committee till 2017. He has called on Christians in Australia to focus on Asia rather than the West. He stated, 'Australian Christians at times appear captivated by the latest trend, church growth model or Christian speaker/author from Europe or America'. He went on to say, 'We need to refocus on our region which has so much to teach us and it really needs our support. It has 60% of the world's population, is the region where the Christian faith is growing the fastest, but it is still only 8% Christian. It also suffers from 70% of the world's disasters. A focus on the Asia and Pacific region is what the Australian church needs to hear.'

Dr Clifford was elected at the recently concluded APBF General Council meeting during the 8th Asia Pacific Baptist Congress held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 4-8 September. He succeeded Rev Dr Chu Wood Ping of Hong Kong. Dr Clifford is currently the Principal of Morling Theological College in New South Wales. He is also the former President of the Baptist Union of Australia, and currently one of the Vice-Presidents of the Baptist World Alliance.

Ross Clifford joined Morling College after 12 years of pastoral ministry. Before he entered the ministry he practised law in New South Wales and the Northern Territory. He is a graduate of the Australian College of Theology and the University of Sydney as well as Morling College. He is the author or co-author of over ten books including *Leading Lawyers' Case For The Resurrection*, *Apologetic Preaching And Teaching For The Church And The Marketplace* and is a contributor to books such as *A Spectator's Guide To World Views*. His most recent book was released in early 2012, *The Cross Is Not Enough – Living As Witnesses To The Resurrection* (Baker).

Ross has served on a number of significant inter-denominational committees including being President of the New South Wales Council of Churches and Chair of the Australian Lausanne Committee. In particular, Ross is known for his work and writing in the areas of theology, apologetics and ethics. Ross is married to Beverley, and they have two children, Briony and Joel. In 2010 he was made a member of the Order of Australia for his Christian service.

The Asia Pacific Baptist Federation is a regional

organisation of the Baptist World Alliance, representing close to 30,000 local churches, 59 Conventions in 21 countries with over 5 million baptised members across the Asia Pacific region.

APBF seeks to promote unity among Asia Pacific's Baptists with a mission to impart inspiration, promote spirit of fellowship, service and co-operation through mission and evangelism, relief and development, peace network, leadership development, theological education, information sharing and networking.

– Ramon Williams, Worldwide Photos



Rev Ross Clifford

96threeFM

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

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)

TIME TO CELEBRATE ...

'House Full' At Final Bible Society Public Events On 'Why We Can Trust The New Testament'

THE last three public talks on *Why We Can Trust The New Testament*, which are part of Bible Society's *Live Light In 25 Words* campaign played to 'full houses'. They were held in Perth, Hobart and Toowoomba with Christian theologians and speakers, Greg Clarke (Perth) and John Dickson (Hobart and Toowoomba).

'In Hobart, over 400 people packed the Stanley Burbury Theatre at the University of Tasmania to hear John Dickson answer the question *Can We Trust The New Testament?* John clearly demonstrated that the Gospels are our best sources for understanding the historical Jesus,' said Bible Society spokesperson, Mark Barry. 'He then answered some difficult questions with grace, passion, intelligence and humour. By all accounts, the night succeeded in its aim to help strengthen confidence in the New Testament for believers and unbelievers alike, and deepen their trust in the Jesus of its pages,' Mark said.

The next morning John spoke at a Pastors' and Ministry Leaders Breakfast attended by 37 pastors.

In Toowoomba, 340 people heard John speak at the Empire Theatre.

'We had great feedback after the event with attendees saying they were encouraged in their Christian faith,' said Bible Society's Chris Melville, organiser of the *Live Light In 25 Words* campaign.

At the Masterclass for Year 10 and 11 school leaders held in Brisbane, representatives from 14 schools from Gladstone, Toowoomba and Brisbane heard speakers John Dickson, Dr Justine Toh and Kaye Minnaar as they looked at topics such as *Why Trust the Gospels?*, *Love And Leadership* and *The Great Commission*. Australian magician Christopher Wayne spoke about *Using Your Faith, Talents And Personal Story* to connect with school peers.

In Perth there was standing room only at the Murdoch Lecture Theatre at the University of Western Australia as Bible Society CEO Greg Clarke spoke.

'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,' said Bible Society's Chris Melville.

A full list of details and campaign resources are available at: www.25words.biblesociety.org.au



Dr John Dickson addresses the crowd in Hobart.

To ensure they receive regular updates and information, churches and individuals are encouraged to register (free of charge) for the campaign at:

www.25words.biblesociety.org.au

**WHO CAN YOU FORWARD
NEW LIFE TO
TO HELP US REACH
MORE READERS?**

SMBC
Sydney Missionary & Bible College

FOR WHATEVER GOD HAS IN STORE FOR YOU...

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

www.smbc.com.au

A Banner Tells A Sorry Story

A BANNER outside Melbourne's Parliament House reminds MPs that more unborn Victorian babies are dying each day from abortion. The banner, held by volunteers each day Parliament sits, is growing longer and longer. By the end of August the banner spanned 120 metres, had 12,000 crosses attached and required 24 people to carry it. Protest organiser David Forster said, 'A figure is a figure, but when you see all the crosses you think, "Goodness gracious, that couldn't be happening".'



On 13 October thousands will march in remembrance of the 20,000 babies killed in Victoria each year. *The March For The Babies 2012* will begin at 1pm, Saturday 13 October, at Melbourne's Treasury Gardens.

Permanent Home For School In South Sudan

THE construction of a school that will provide 225 girls with the opportunity of an education has brought excitement in Aweil, South Sudan, close to the troubled border with North Sudan. Mayen Tiit Primary School closed in 2006 after the collapse of the traditional mud and grass classrooms. The School Principal chose to concentrate on the construction of permanent classrooms, rather than erecting temporary buildings each year. He has mobilised the community to make bricks and has approached Churches of Christ Overseas Aid to assist with the cost of cement, iron roofing and construction costs. The school will be open to both boys and girls, but it is particularly important for the girls, most of whom have not had access to education since the school's closure.

Bible Knowledge Competition Aired In Egypt

WHAT the Assistant Director of SAT-7 Egypt studio has called 'one of the best programs SAT-7 has ever done' is being aired for a second season. *Final Answer* is a Bible knowledge competition which has drawn children from Assiut, Port Said, Cairo and all over Egypt. A new studio allows space for contestants' families to be part of a live audience for the first time ever. The staff vamped up excitement surrounding the show with laser lighting, a smoke machine, LCD and plasma screens and a live band. The special effects added appeal for the show's target audience who are between 10 and 14 years old.

Presenters Marianne Khalil and Karim Bassem quiz the contestants about Bible facts. Contestants who answer correctly can win books, t-shirts, iPhones and iPads as prizes. The Egyptian Bible Society provides SAT-7 with the book prizes. Family members are welcomed on the set with a free meal to honour their efforts of travelling from sometimes faraway places.

Hope For Refugees In Austria

A LARGE number of 'temporary residents' enter Austria escaping violence and human trafficking in their homelands, as many as 20,000 arriving annually. They wait in overcrowded detention centres while their residence applications are processed, feeling stressed and fearful of being deported. The Austrian Bible Society offers hope to refugees by supplying them with free Bibles, available in 20 languages. At their centre in Vienna they run exhibitions for school and church groups explaining how the Bible is important in these changing times. As fewer people identify as Christian in secular Europe, raising funds for this outreach becomes an enormous challenge. The Austrian Bible Society is appealing for help. Australians can donate by calling 1300 242 537 or going to: www.biblesociety.org.au

News From Kingsley College

AN upcoming Spiritual Formation intensive week, Monday to Friday 15-19 October, is being presented by Kingsley College, Melbourne. The Kingsley Community Spiritual Formation subject is structured around Richard Foster's classic text *Celebration Of Discipline*. Beyond reading and reflection upon the text book participants will also read appropriate Scripture and open themselves to the work of God's Spirit. Personal reflection and discussion questions will then form the basis for class discussion with trainer Dr Mike Walters, visiting professor from Houghton College in New York.

The Kingsley College Open Day is planned for Saturday 20 October, 10am-2pm. In addition to viewing the new facility at 17-21 Lakeside Drive, Broadmeadows, and investigating courses on offer, visitors will have the opportunity to hear Professor Tom Frame, from St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra at 1pm. His book *Losing My Religion* was the 2010 Christian Book of the Year.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE (continued) ...

Creation Super Camp

CREATION Ministries annual Super Camp in Victoria gets more popular every year. Registrations for the 7-11 January 2013 camp are almost full with organisers having to source accommodation from other venues around Phillip Island. Eleven speakers from four different countries will provide plenty of variety to interest everyone. Bookings can only be made by phone now: 07 3340 9888. Further details at www.creation.com

Kids Work Growing

KIDS Outreach Int is an Australian-based, international, interdenominational Christian charity administering humanitarian aid to children in the emerging nations of Eastern Europe and West Asia, with a particular focus on Russia and Estonia. Outreach 2012 saw almost 300 people from Australia and New Zealand, Finland and the United States ministering to 6,000 children in St Petersburg, Suzun and Vladivostok. Recent initiatives are the *Be Smart, Be Safe* program that warns children about the dangers of human trafficking and teaches them how to best protect themselves from falling victim; and a university seminar held in St Petersburg at the end of last month where participants were instructed on *Health And Safety Of Today's Young Generation*. Usually it is not allowed to share, pray for the children or give away Bibles at these secular Russian camps, but their literature reveals that the Holy Spirit knows no such boundaries.

Plans are underway to send a team to Vladivostok after Christmas and preparations for the northern summer outreach 2013 are already being made. Anyone interested should contact:

www.kidsoutreach.org

New Appointments:

STEER Inc has announced the appointment of Tony Crook as its new National Director. Tony will take up his appointment on 21 January 2013. Richard Dickins,

the current National Director, will move into the newly created position of Associate National Director. Tony has spent the last 15 years with the Bible Society of Australia, the large part of that time as Executive Director of the previous Victorian state entity of BSA, and prior to that worked with ABMS (now Global Interaction) for 12 years.

DR Christine Gobuis has been appointed as the new National Director of Interserve Australia Inc. Christine has been on the Interserve board for many years and was Board Chair until length of service rules had her step down last year. She currently lives in Queensland and will move to Melbourne with her husband Kari to take up the role on 7 January.

– Missions Interlink



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.stmarksto.org.au
Engaging the people of God with Australian society

Free Speech Under Threat At The University Of New South Wales

LIFECHOICE UNSW, the University of New South Wales's student-based pro-life club, has been denied affiliation by the university's student union, Arc @ UNSW, demonstrating attacks against freedom of speech on campus. LifeChoice UNSW President Anna Fernon said that the society was established to promote a pro-life perspective on the issues of abortion and euthanasia in Australian society through informed discussion. 'I am disappointed by the blatant ideological bias in Arc's decision,' said Ms Fernon. 'To not affiliate LifeChoice reflects the prejudices of a few students who sit in positions of power, not the interests of the wider student body. Abortion and euthanasia provoke many perspectives and opinions; however the right of university students to enter into discourse on controversial issues is not contingent on whether their fellow students agree with them.'

Ms Fernon added, 'This is not about the prolife/prochoice dichotomy. Many people who disagree with our views, such as Peter Singer, support our right to be represented on campus,' referring to the Australian ethicist, who earlier this year voiced his support for the affiliation of LifeChoice USYD. This censoring of our voice on campus is extremely destructive to the quality of intellectual discourse that universities are built to promote.'

Pakistan Bishops Condemn Attack On Church Compound, Request Prayer

THOUSANDS of people broke into a church compound in Pakistan on 21 September, burnt down the church, and destroyed the homes of two priests and the school head teacher.

The motivation behind the attack in Mardan, near Peshawar, is not yet clear, but the school was looted, with newly installed computers being stolen and the building set alight. No-one is reported to have been injured in the attack.

The Bishop of Peshawar, Rt Rev Humphrey Peters, has appealed for support and condemned the attack. 'The damage has been very severe,' he said, 'and we will need to rebuild. We are asking for people around the world to keep us in your prayers.'

The Moderator of the Church of Pakistan, Most Rev Samuel Azariah Samuel condemned the attack, saying: 'This news is very damaging to relations between the communities in Pakistan and around the world. The government and faith leaders in Pakistan have a role to play in educating people that they have the right to protest, but to damage property and terrify people in this way is completely wrong. The government and faith leaders should provide the lead in preventing attacks.'

The Diocese of Peshawar, where the attack took place, provides education and health services to the local community – Muslim and Christian alike – and provided substantial support to victims of floods and a major earthquake in recent years, regardless of their religious affiliation.

Rev Fred Nile Condemns New R18+ Violent Video Game Classification

THE Rev Fred Nile, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, totally condemned in the NSW Parlia-

ment the legalisation of even more violent video games under the new classification of R18+ from MA15+ in the view of their impact on children, teenagers let alone adults.

Public Apology For Forced Adoptions

ARCHBISHOP Peter Jensen has apologised on behalf of Sydney Diocese over forced adoptions in the 1960's.

More than 100,000 Australian babies were taken from their mothers in the 1950's and 60's as health workers followed the so-called 'clean break' theory, under which babies were adopted from their mostly young and single mothers, with minimal contact.

Dr Jensen said, 'As Archbishop of the Diocese of Sydney and President of ANGLICARE Sydney, I apologise and express our sincere regret for actions that have contributed to the past and ongoing distress of adoptive mothers and their children. I unreservedly endorse the view that although policies and procedures were followed at the time, it is clear there were practices that caused emotional pain and long-term negative repercussions.

'We are working to implement the recommendations made by the Senate Inquiry into Forced Adoptions. We are also currently putting into place a healing and restoration process with the women who are still experiencing emotional distress as a result of relinquishing their children.

On behalf of the Diocese, I would like express our sincere apology to mothers, fathers, children and other family members who suffered emotional pain or any kind of distress.'

The New South Wales, South Australian and Western Australian governments have also apologised.

– Via Worldwide Photos

'THIS MY STORY ...' Rev Joy Bartholomew's Address To The National Prayer Breakfast From Khartoum To Canberra – In God's Hands All The Way

THE Psalmist said in Psalm 34: 'I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul boasts in the Lord. Let those who are afflicted hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.' These are God's words of positive praise given through someone who knew from personal experience of God's love and power.

My story, my experience is not as dramatic as that of the Psalmist; but I also have found that in times of difficulty and pain, there is peace in turning to God, peace in praise. Peace does come in God's presence.

'Khartoum to Canberra' could summarize my life's journey to date. I was born in the then Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, the daughter of missionary parents, and from my earliest days was taught of the love of God. For my parents, the Christian faith was a reality that motivated their lives. My mother went to Abyssinia in 1932 as a missionary nurse/linguist.

Twice in the 30's my mother's life was spared. Her commitment to share the Christian faith never wa-

vered; she was a woman of commitment and prayer.

My parents met in the Sudan when Dad was part of an evacuation team that came to rescue Mum after the bombing of her mission station. Dad had gone to the Sudan as a missionary with basic linguist and medical skills at a first aid level. Later in life he used his dental forceps to pull nails. While at Doro he translated Mark's Gospel into the Mabaan language. Dad was a preacher and when unable to return to the Sudan, became a Presbyterian Minister and served in that capacity for 40 years. He died aged 91 having taken his last service 18 months earlier. He was a man of commitment to God and proclamation of God's Word.

We returned to Australia when I was seven. My life has been in rural and urban centres, most of my ministry being in The Riverina and Canberra.

(Continued on page 11)



Rev Joy
Bartholomew

Become a Qualified Counsellor



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF FAMILY COUNSELLING

Excellence in Christian Counselling Training

Three Year Vocational Graduate Certificate in
Counselling & Family Therapy,

Incorporating Certificate IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma & Vocational Graduate Certificate.

Personal growth

Help others

VET Fee Help available

Career opportunities

Adelaide • Brisbane • Canberra • Melbourne • Perth • Sydney • Sydney Korean • Distance Ed (English & Korean)

Ph: 1300 721 397 www.aifc.com.au aifc.info@aifc.com.au



THIS IS MY STORY ...

(Continued from page 10.)

AFTER teacher training and theological studies in Melbourne I believe God led me to ministry in Australia. During my first appointment in Wagga Wagga I was encouraged by ministers and leading lay people to candidate for the ministry. On 2 July 1976 I was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church of Australia. This was only 12 months before the Uniting Church began, but again while life may have been in some ways easier, it was clear to me that God wanted me to stay with the Presbyterian Church as here there were people who needed to know of God's love and care, His comfort and support.

The Presbyterian Church of Australia approved the ordination of women in 1974 but in 1991 this privilege was revoked and there have been no more ordinations of women. So I went from being the first ordained in 1976 to now being the last of the five in full time ministry.

Through the debate with the Church around the concept of women in leadership I have been re-assured and re-affirmed by the Scriptures and by the Biblical stories of women like Deborah and Ruth, both unlikely women who were given leadership and responsibility by God for the freedom of His people and the message of salvation in Christ.

Living in rural NSW at Corowa, the birthplace of Federation, we experienced the support of a wonderful community. Our three sons grew up with the freedom and safety of a country town with God-given opportunities one in the city could only dream of. While we experienced distance from our own families we had the caring support of our church family.

Just as in Melbourne years before, I learnt of the beauty of Australia, the autumn leaves, the spring flowers – God's gifts to His people. There was also the clarity of the night sky, the wonder of the Universe God created, showing how great our God is, 'O Lord my God ... how great Thou art.'

Being in Corowa during the heart of the church debate on women in ministry gave me time, space and healing, and a sense of knowing that each step in life I have been led by God and guided by His hand even when I don't understand.

The leading to minister in Canberra in the National Church of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was clearly God's doing. Here there has been the honour and responsibility for co-ordinating the services of Worship and Prayer at the commencement of the year for Parliament, the last three years as Chair of the ACT Churches Council where as members of differing denominations in the ACT we work together as God's people to share the Gospel. I have been humbled by the acceptance of bishops and archbishops and leaders of other churches of my involvement, and have as elsewhere tried to give encouragement from Scripture at each meeting. Together we of the ACT Churches Council have worked for Chap-

laincy in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (our corrective services facility), the upgrading of training for hospital chaplains and the support of Christian education in our Government Schools – in all, working together with Christ for His Honour and Praise.

Once we settle the question of who Jesus is, everything else falls to place. It may mean accepting a sharp rebuke from Jesus Christ our Lord. It may mean being prepared to turn our backs on or give up something we value. It may mean taking a stand for Jesus in an increasingly hostile society. But if we are by faith following Jesus and learning from Him we will know the benefits of His Kingdom.

Following Jesus can mean facing the loss of reputation and what one values in life. But it is no more than Jesus Christ our Lord did for us.

As I look back and reflect there is much for which I thank God: the encouragement to Christian faith and commitment exemplified by my parents, the support of husband and sons in ministry – for they too have had to handle the burden, the fellowship of God's people in many places, but each step of the way God has led me through His Word, through preaching and teaching of others, through His still, small voice, so that I can praise and thank Him for doing all things well and I can accept His presence and His Peace.

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

PERSECUTION WATCH ...

Egypt Charges Coptic Christians Linked To Infamous Video

EGYPTIAN authorities have charged seven Coptic Christians living in the United States and a Florida pastor with insulting Islam and inciting sectarian strife for their alleged links to an online video that has enraged much of the Muslim world.

According to a story by Ed Payne and Saad Abedine of CNN, Egypt's public prosecutor announced the charges Tuesday. It is the latest development in the deadly backlash against the low-budget, amateurish 14-minute movie trailer produced privately in the United States and posted on YouTube.

Protesters also attacked the US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, killing US Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. CNN said the charges – largely symbolic because the accused all live outside Egypt – name alleged film-maker Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, who is identified by Egyptian officials as Elia Bassili.

According to CNN, reports that Nakoula is a Coptic Christian have raised concern about a possible backlash against the minority religious group in Egypt, where tensions between Copts and Muslims have risen. The Florida pastor charged is Terry Jones, who was allegedly contacted by the film-maker to help promote the video. Jones sparked some protests in Muslim countries last year when he staged a trial of Islam at his church. The others accused were identified as Morcos Aziz; Fikri Zokloma, also known as Esmat Zokloma; Nabil Bissada;

Nahed Metwali; and Nader Nicola. Aside from Nakoula, who lives in California and Jones in Florida, it was not clear where the others live in the USA.

In addition to charges of insulting the Islamic religion, insulting Mohammed and inciting sectarian strife, all eight are charged with harming national unity and spreading false information, according to Adel Saeed, spokesman for the prosecutor's office.

CNN reported prosecutors said they will ask Interpol to add the names to its wanted lists. US authorities would also be contacted, according to prosecutors. Although Washington has made it clear that it did not sanction the film, a week of protests have rippled from Morocco to Malaysia, spurring US officials to increase security at diplomatic missions and demand other governments to take action. CNN reported that State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland reiterated the Obama administration's stance that the video, which she called 'reprehensible,' was no justification for violence. – *Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST*



Egyptian protesters gather around a burning vehicle in downtown Cairo, early Saturday, 15 Sep.

INDIA: Pastor Told 'Leave Village Or Die'

A DEATH threat has been made against a pastor in Madhya Pradesh, according to Release Partners, trying to protect him and his community. Pastor Giri Babu and his family were on their way to the small church he leads in Kithoda village, Gwalior district, when a man with a gun stopped them. The man, suspected of being a Hindu extremist, threatened to shoot the pastor if he returned to lead worship in the area. Opposition to the fledgling church has been growing. When a local Christian donated a plot of land recently to build a 'prayer hall', some locals objected, demolishing the partially constructed building and demanding that the Christians stop meeting. Christians went to the police after the death threat but so far they have had no official response. A fact-finding team from the All India Christian Council has been to the village and is trying to work out how best to protect its Christians. AICC reports: 'These believers are strong in faith and ready to face any consequence for Jesus.'

UZBEKISTAN: Homes Raided, Books Confiscated, Property Seized

UZBEKISTAN continues to raid private homes, confiscating religious literature and halting meetings for worship, Forum 18 News Service notes. Fines of up to 50 times the minimum wage have then been imposed on those subjected to raids. In one case court bailiffs illegally confiscated basic household goods such as a refrigerator, washing machine and dining table from a Baptist family, and have threatened to confiscate more household items as they will not pay an unjust fine they cannot afford. This has been taking place alongside state media attacks on the same people. State-controlled television has stated that people should buy and read only state-authorized religious books, warning of those who allegedly 'misuse people's interest in reading books'. It also claimed that only two publishers were allowed to publish religious books – but did not name the publishers or state which beliefs the publishers cover.

Biblical Commission Of Cuba Gets Bibles To The Children



Children sing during a children's festival in Iglesia Bautista (Baptist Church) in Pinar del Rio, Cuba

THE International Ministries team has published its first *Impact Report* on a project in Cuba. Through the project, the Biblical Commission of Cuba will work with local churches to get Scriptures and Bible materials in the hands of children attending Sunday school, camps and festivals. Some 5,000 younger children will receive Portions and 5,000 older children, up to age 14, will receive Bibles.

The International Ministries team is very happy to be working with the Biblical Commission of Cuba, which has been conducting this program for children since 2008. It works through the Council of Churches of Cuba to reach children from 55 Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church.

Feeding Hungry Souls In Peru

LIFE is especially difficult for children living in urban and rural Peru. In some places, up to 30% of children are malnourished, making it difficult to focus on their education. And up to 60% of rural children abandon school to work outside the home and help make ends meet. Through this project, the Peruvian Bible Society will feed the body and soul of up to 500 children. It will provide nutritious breakfasts and snacks, as well as the Scriptures and Bible-based resources to churches that offer programs for children. The Bible Society will provide funds for food for 500 children, 1,000 Bibles and 10,000 New Reader Portions. The program will be set up in areas where no state or community food programs exist – six in Cusco and four in Pachacutec.

– *Impact Report, submitted by Daniel Willis, Executive Director, Leading Global Impact*

Unrest May Be The Key To Reaching Muslims

PROTESTS, bombings, shootings, and embassy attacks highlight the chaotic situation in the Muslim world today. What does this mean for evangelism? Middle East expert Robert Williams with Pioneers says, 'I think God is shaking these nations through unrest and disturbances. For some of the Muslims who are there, I think it is opening them up to the Gospel because they're seeing the hard and dark side of the majority religion and wondering if this is really what they want to believe in.' Williams says it's time for the western church to take action. 'Close to one fourth of the world's population – 1.6 billion people on planet Earth – call themselves Muslim. And they understand that we need to redeploy our resources to reach this large segment of the world's population, but a lot of people are fearful.' Prayer is essential, and so is funding. Full story: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/17704>

Turkish Courts Finally Put Murder Suspects On Trial

IN 2007, three Turkish Christians were brutally murdered in what was later called the Malatya Massacre. Five years down the road, Compass Direct News says justice is finally coming to fruition. Courts accepted an indictment saying military higher-ups were behind the attacks. 19 suspects recently stood on trial, but the massacre mastermind isn't scheduled to testify until November. Pray for God's peace and the speedy deliverance of justice for victims' families. Full story: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/1770>

Ministry Launches Village Education Project In Rural Uganda

THERE'S A new ministry beginning in Eastern Uganda, 'deep in the village.' In Ugandan terms, that means 'out in the styx'. Mark and Stacey Luckey with Every Child Ministries are working in the village of Naigobya, half a days' ride from the nearest city. Mark says, 'The Luuka district and the Busoga tribe, in general, are the poorest in Uganda. So in a poor country, they are the poorest. The local church asked for our help, so we launched a village education project, known as the Afayo Project. It covers the teachers, church and community development, and agriculture. "Afayo" is the Lusoga word for "He Cares". God cares for the orphans, widows, the poor, the needy. He cares for all of us, and He desires us to care for those people as well. Our job is to take the good news of Jesus to those who are in need.' They'll start with the school, with the goal of self-sustainability. Full story: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/17708>

Did Jesus Have A Wife? (Special To ASSIST NEWS SERVICE)

THE Web is by now awash with stories of an ancient text in which Jesus says 'my wife'. The story, which broke on 18 September, in the *New York Times* and some other sources, is being carried today by outlets too numerous to list. Some of the reporting is responsible, but not all. Consider this extract from The UK's *Daily Mail*: 'If genuine, the document casts doubt on a centuries-old official representation of Magdalene as a repentant whore and overturns the Christian ideal of sexual abstinence.'

We are of course in a context where there is so much ignorance of basic facts about Christianity that even when the media properly relay facts they get completely distorted and misunderstood in popular perception. This can be seen in the way derivative media put spin on the story and in the on-line comments below the news items.

Here We Try To Establish A Few Facts

The scholarly article upon which almost all knowledge of the fragment is based is here:

http://news.hds.harvard.edu/files/King_Jesus-SaidToThem_draft_0917.pdf

What's In A Name?

First, let's start with the name. The scholar involved, Professor Karen King of Harvard, has decided to call this *The Gospel of Jesus's Wife*. However, it might more appropriately be named *The Fragment About Jesus's Relations*, since there's no evidence that it was called a gospel and the text mentions at least two family members. Of course, such a name would not generate the same publicity.

Genuine Or Forgery?

Professor King has provided pictures of the papyrus, but it is not publicly known who owns it, or where it came from. If genuine, it almost certainly came from Egypt because that is where papyri like this are found.

Because it was not found in situ it is obviously possible to doubt its genuineness. Scholars at Tyndale House think that, on the basis of the limited evidence currently available, it is possible it is genuine, though there are good reasons for skepticism.

What About Date?

It is written in Coptic, the language of Egypt which descended from the even earlier language of the Hieroglyphs. Coptic is Egyptian written in the Greek alphabet with a few extra letters. Because Coptic was only emerging as a written language in the Third Century and papyrus went out of use in the

Seventh Century, the 8cm x 4cm fragment has to be dated some time from the Third to the Seventh century, and the scholars involved with this fragment have stated that it is Fourth Century on the basis of the handwriting. Since we have virtually no firmly dated Coptic handwriting, this date is just an educated guess.



Note: This is an extract from Dr. Williams' article. To read the complete one, please go to:

<http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/ReJesusWife>

Dr Peter J. Williams is Warden of Tyndale House, Cambridge, England, and a member of the Faculty of Divinity in the University of Cambridge. He is also an honorary Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the University of Aberdeen.

For more information on Tyndale House go to their website: www.TyndaleHouse.com



Editor's Note:

SINCE receiving the above article, the debate on the authenticity of this fragment has sharpened, with a carefully written article at:

<http://creation.com/gospel-jesus-wife>

from which we print the summary.

'At this point the best, most charitable thing we can say about the fragment is that it has some very, very unusual characteristics that have never come together in one fragment before as far as some of the leading scholars are aware. At this point, the virtually certain dependence on the *Gospel Of Thomas* means that whether ancient or modern in origin, this is not an original text and was written after the *Gospel Of Thomas*, probably in the last half-century.

'Much like the lead codices that were announced around Easter 2011, a fantastical new find was greeted with breathless media reporting, but scholars' blogs and essays published online mean that these forgeries can be detected much more quickly than before the Internet.

'Christians should not worry when a fantastical new document is discovered, and they should almost never take the mainstream reporting about it at face value, but rather follow up with research of their own, which will most likely prove to give a far more mundane story.'

Several respondents have pointed out that, in any case, given the various Biblical references to the Church being the Bride of Christ, the reference in the text is not necessarily to His being married to a particular woman, but to His Church.

Helping Teens (And Parents) To Cope

SEX surrounds us. It's not something you need to go looking for, and for Christian teens, the pressure to conform to our hyper-sexualised culture is immense and relentless. With over 25 years of experience as a sex educator, researcher and therapist in America, Sri Lanka and Australia, Dr Patricia Weerakoon has a unique insight into the trends of today's teens. In partnership with Fervr, she's written *Teen Sex By The Book*, the definitive guide to teen sexuality and relationships to help answer the questions that no-one else wants to deal with and help you make up your own mind about sex.

Teen Sex By The Book is frank and, in parts, explicit. It's a raw and honest journey into the teen world, exploring a number of 'taboo' topics, such as the effects of porn on the brain, sexting, cybersex and homosexuality. It also addresses questions like How far is too far? Is God against sex? and Is lust an uncontrollable force? Ultimately, this book calls teens to live God's countercultural lifestyle – one that leads to healthy, pleasurable sex and intimate, satisfying relationships that last a lifetime.

Teen Sex By The Book is written primarily with teens (aged 15 to 19) in mind, although it is an important resource for parents and those ministering to this demographic. The book is rated M15+ and is available from www.fevr.net/teen-sex-by-the-book; team@fevr.net or (02) 8268 3344. RRP is \$14.95.

Bible Translation Through The Years

BIBLE translation is a 20th Century foreign missions specialisation, but it has its roots early in the history of the Christian church. By the 15th Century there were more than 30 translations of the Bible and in the next three centuries that number was doubled. But what of the other 7,000 languages that exist in the world, including at least 700 in Papua New Guinea and 500 in Nigeria? The modern missionary movement changed the entire complexion of Bible translation. No longer was the work delegated to meticulous scholars in monasteries or musty libraries, it was being undertaken by untrained missionaries stationed all over the world who carried out their translation work in thatched-roof huts with illiterate informants.

The Baptist missionary William Carey is regarded as the first and most prolific of missionary Bible translators and in the 19th Century translations appeared in nearly 500 more languages. But in the 20th Century, with the introduction of the science of linguistics, translation work became a specialised ministry and missionary translators have felt compelled to provide the Word of God in every language, a goal that is hoped to be fulfilled by 2025.

Wycliffe Bible Translators, started in 1934 by W. Cameron Townsend, has made an invaluable contribution to the progress of world evangelism. As 'Uncle Cam' Townsend said: 'The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue.' Praise God, computers and specialised programs have speeded up the translation process and the associated task of dictionary making.

– Ross Jones

Have YOU visited our website?
Just **GOOGLE** New Life

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

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,
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

Outside The Box: Being Creative In Ministry

'THE professionalism of ministry' has arrived. Mirroring the structure of the corporate world, we often construct complex ministry categories based on rigid rules, criterion and check-lists. One downside of specialisation, despite its perceived efficiency, is that it tends to put people into boxes, often limiting our creativity to the perimeter of the box.

Similarly, we as individuals sometimes have a mental box defining how God can use us. But the question is: do we really believe that God is omnipotent? We don't have to be so limited in our thinking when we know that God can do anything through us. Instead we should strive for creativity in ministry; we should cultivate fresh ideas about how we can most effectively reach today's generation for Christ.

Creativity is biblical. It is in the very nature of God as seen from the very first verse in the Bible. We know that God is not limited to categories, for He created something out of nothing – and what a remarkable universe He has created! And we are called to be imitators of God (Ephesians 5.1), which means we have the privilege of expressing our creativity to the glory of God.

In today's highly professionalised society, how counter-cultural is Apostle Paul's declaration: 'I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some?' (1 Corinthians 9.22) Paul skillfully connected to different people using different modes of communication and methods throughout his ministry.

Some of us may be thinking, 'That's great, but God would never use me like Paul.' But the point is simply that we need to break down our own mental boxes of how we expect or want God to use us. In my own life, God has led me to several ministries I would have never imagined possible. What I learned through these experiences was that I just had to be willing and obedient to His leading.

As a former IT professional, I am particularly interested in the creative use of technology to share about God's love. Here are some examples:

1. MercyTalk: In this age of social networking, it is easy to spend a lot of time in trivial or self-focused conversations on the social Web. *MercyTalk* is a small microblogging site focusing on God's love and mercy through sharing Bible verses, quotes, prayers or testimonies using 200 or fewer words. Personally, engaging in this flow of God-centred conversations for the past couple of years has helped me greatly in my walk with God, and to cut down unnecessary time on *Facebook*. (Website: www.mercytalk.com)

2. MegaVoice: Jesus said 'Go and make disciples of all the nations' but how do we reach people who cannot read, people who don't have a written language, people who prefer to listen rather than read, and people living in areas where there is no electricity? *MegaVoice* produces solar powered digital players programmed with audio Bibles (currently available in 4,600 languages and dialects). I had the privilege of distributing some of these audio Bibles to several ministries in the Philippines and Ethiopia. A friend of mine sent them to Uganda and Haiti. We can all testify how effective these devices are in helping people gain access to the Scriptures in their own language. (Website: www.megavoice.com)

3. One Laptop Per Child (OLPC): This non-profit project has started in 2005 with the goal of distributing affordable educational devices for use in the developing world. The first model, dubbed as '\$100 laptop' was designed to be distributed to children in order to provide them with access to knowledge and opportunities to explore, experiment and express themselves. The laptops are sold to governments to be distributed to students, much like school uniforms, and remain the property of the child. I haven't yet been involved in distributing OLPC laptops but it certainly looks like an interesting project, with over 2.4 million laptops already distributed to schools around the world. (Website: www.one.laptop.org)

You may know of other creative ministry initiatives. Let's be open to new possibilities, ideas and initiatives. You never know how God is going to use you in surprising ways. I pray that we allow God to work in us in whatever way He desires, not just the way we know. Can you think of something creative in your ministry today?



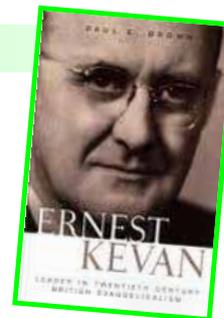
Daniel Jang is a Press Service International volunteer Comment writer for Christian Today Australia. He comes from Newcastle, NSW, and is serving with Operation Mobilisation's ship Logos Hope.

For more information, visit www.om.org.au

BOOKS WORTH READING ...

ERNEST KEVAN: LEADER OF TWENTIETH CENTURY BRITISH EVANGELICALISM, Paul E. Brown, Edinburgh, Banner Of Truth, 2012

ALL I knew about Ernest Kevan before reading this book was that he was the author of *The Grace of Law* (1964), a study of Puritan teaching on the place of God's law in the Christian life (the published version of his doctoral thesis), but this useful account of his life introduced me to the founding Principal of London Bible College, and before that, the pastor of three Baptist churches in London. His life covered the first 65 years of the 20th Century and for the last 20 years of that he was one of the most influential evangelical leaders in Britain.



Kevan grew up in a godly Strict Baptist household and was converted at age 14. A decline in family fortunes meant that he had to leave school early. Without any formal training, he became the pastor of Church Hill Baptist Church at 21, but what he lacked in education he more than made up through effort, for he knew the value of hard work, so much so that, at one stage, it threatened his health due to nervous exhaustion. From the start of his ministry he preached and showed by his actions that Calvinistic doctrines were not incompatible with evangelistic enterprise.

After ten years he was led to become pastor of Zion New Cross Church, where children's ministry was a focus and delight, in part because he and his wife were unable to have children. He is not the first or last Christian leader where early work among children and youth helped him to later become an effective theological educator. Through part-time study he earned the BD degree at the University of London and later an MTh from the same institution. At this time, his interest and belief in the importance of doctrine became plain, for he was not one who thought that biblical exegesis made clear enunciation of theology unnecessary. His love of good doctrine did not lead to a narrow or critical spirit, and he had good fellowship with faithful men outside his own denomination, something that also fitted him for his later college work.

In 1943 he accepted a call to Trinity Road Chapel, seeing it as a God-given opportunity to minister in a church with an open communion and many non-Baptist members. This situation was an ideal transition for the next stage of his work, to teach at an inter-denominational college, the soon-to-be-started London Bible College. He ministered in the church for two years before taking up teaching at the college, but remained in membership for the rest of his life.

In 1946 he became the college's first Principal, though he had never been to a college himself. He was a pastor to the students and an effective leader of the staff. The students were prepared to sit for the BD examinations of the University of London. This required the study and evaluation of liberal approaches to the Bible, but this was done in the totally evangelical atmosphere of the college. I remember using some of the duplicated class notes from London Bible College in my own preparation for London BD exams in Australia in the 1970's. Kevan defended the policy of preparing students for examinations set by a secular university, for he desired to rid evangelicalism of the charge of obscurantism and its addiction to sloppy or no scholarship. He strove to be faithful to the Scriptures and to uphold the highest standards of education in training men and women for Christian service.

Kevan had a vital role in the production of the *New Bible Commentary* (1953) as assistant editor, and in 1962 he received his doctorate from the University of London for a study of the Puritan view of the law of God. He was not well, however, and had been suffering from angina for several years. He died in 1965, fulfilling his wish to 'die in harness'.

In the life of Ernest Kevan we see the Christ-like combination of strong biblical convictions, courage to live them out and courtesy to his opponents and those who thought differently to him. Kevan set a new standard for scholarship and theological depth in Bible College training in Britain, but his first love was to preach the Gospel, and, for him, the task of scholarship was to undergird and support this first priority. He played an important role in the renaissance of evangelical scholarship in the 20th Century and deserves to be remembered (and emulated) by a rising generation of Bible teachers and preachers. — Greg Goswell

**Read *The Christian Sabbath Or The Jewish Sabbath,
Which Should I Follow?*
by David Holden. Free at www.defenceofthefaith.org**

BOOKS WORTH READING ...

On Giving Ourselves To Prayer And The Preaching Of The Word

TWO recent publications from the Banner Of Truth Trust will help to spur ministers on to ever greater endeavours in their Kingdom work, and to give the Lord's people greater understanding concerning the work of the ministry and how they can undergird that work through prayer. The books are brief but concentrated, and all the more valuable for that. Since the Apostles prioritised prayer as the empowerment of their preaching (Acts 6.4) we take the book on prayer first ...



PRAYER – A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE, Eric J. Alexander, Banner Of Truth Trust, Edinburgh, 2012.

WHEN asked if he prepared his prayers, Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones is said to have replied: 'I prepare myself to pray.' There is of course a world of difference between the two. The Rev Eric Alexander's book will be an invaluable aid for all who wish to prepare themselves to pray. One suspects that if asked the same question, Dr Alexander could have given the same answer, for he was widely known as a powerful expository preacher in similar vein to the Doctor.

He begins with a word of personal testimony concerning his coming to Christ and early lessons as a scholar in God's school under the tutelage of his brother, who first taught him to pray. Later we read a charming little anecdote of the prayers of a great aunt who died before he was born, but who prayed for her sister (his grandmother), her children and her children's children. 'We often wonder what part that old lady had in the invasion of grace into our family,' he notes, 'Lord, teach us to pray!'

After first defining what prayer is not and then what prayer is, Dr Alexander takes us through the teaching and example of Jesus in prayer and praying, deals with the example of Paul and the other Apostles, brings in the needs of David for prayer, challenges us to individual and corporate prayer, then answers some questions often raised about prayer.

But wait, there's more! The book concludes with an Alexander's hymn. (No, not *that* Alexander.) Eric Alexander's hymn *Teach Us To Pray*, which could be sung to a Short Metre tune such as *St Audoen*, would adorn any hymn book that majors on hymns which are meant to be sung like hymns.

This valuable little book, in which one of the great preachers of the 20th and 21st Centuries, shares the secret of powerful praying, will benefit us all, young or old in the faith, preacher or person in the pew, for we all need to be constantly 'growing unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ'. And this will surely happen as God in His grace answers the prayers of His people.

PREACHING THAT GETS THROUGH, Stuart Olyott, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2011.

OUR second book, then, is another little gem from the pen of Stuart Olyott. And speaking of Dr Lloyd-Jones, this booklet first saw the light of day as the *Martyn Lloyd-Jones Memorial Lecture 2010* sponsored by the John Owen Centre For Theological Study, London.

Books on preaching around the name of Dr Lloyd-Jones run the risk of being like minnows around a whale, especially in the light of the Doctor's own book, *Preaching And Preachers*, but 'little fish are sweet', and this is a sweet little book on this vital part of the Church's work.

Stuart Olyott is a master teacher who engages his reader from the start, giving some insight of the end from the beginning. The booklet is divided into three parts: *True Or False?*, *Aristotle And Paul*, and (intriguingly) *Upside-Down Thinking*, designed to help preachers discover how to preach by thinking about how *not* to preach.

'We have caught sight of the ocean ...' our author writes at the end (on page 38) of his book, which in itself represents just a drop in that ocean, but it is only one of a number of books he has written on this and related subjects (*Ministering Like The Master*, *Reading The Bible And Praying In Public*, *I Wish Someone Would Explain Hebrews To Me* and his translation of Calvin's *Truth For All Time*).

Many of us make a habit of reading at least one book on preaching each year. *Preaching That Gets Through* is mine for 2012. – Bob Thomas

You Can Advertise Here
Phone Mignon:
0434 313 646
Email: office@nlife.com.au

COME, JOIN THE CELEBRATION ...

Come, Meet With Songe Chibambo, Pan African Missions Director With African Enterprise, As African Enterprise Celebrates 50 Years

SONGE Chibambo comes from Malawi and moved to South Africa in 1992. He became Pan African Missions Director for Africa Enterprise in 1997. Educated in Malawi, completing Bible College in Lagos, Nigeria and an MA in Intercultural Studies in Oregon USA, Songe is involved in Missions, Teaching and Preaching. He is an expert in using Stratified Evangelism to reach all levels of society.

Songe was part of the Mission to Monrovia, Liberia in 2009, after the civil war. He led the Mission to Juba, South Sudan in 2010 and to Maputo, Mozambique and Lilongwe, Malawi in 2011. He shared in the recent *Choose Zikhethele* Mission in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

African Enterprise, established 50 years ago by Michael Cassidy is an all African Mission with teams in ten African Countries. AE East Africa was established by Bishop Festo Kivengere of Uganda 40 years ago. The Mission Statement is to 'Evangelize the Cities of Africa through Word and Deed in Partnership with the Church.'

Since 1962, through preaching, aid and development, peace-building and reconciliation, and leadership development, African Enterprise has impacted many nations in Africa.

Meet with Songe Chibambo at the following venues :

• **Saturday 13 October at 7 pm**, Spit Roast Dinner With Songe Chibambo at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church Hall, Cnr Warrigal Rd and Canterbury Rd Surrey Hills, VIC 3127. Cost: \$20 per head. RSVP (with payment) by 3 October, to: Joan Addison, 2/35 Dunscombe Ave, Glen Waverley, VIC 3150, phone (03) 9802 3601 or 0412 523 609, email : jmaddison@bigpond.com

You may download your invitation and payment slip at <http://aeinternational.org/australia>

• **Sunday 14 October at 10.15 am**, St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Cnr Warrigal Rd and Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills, VIC 3127.

LOOKING BACK ON PICTON, NZ, FROM THE INTERISLANDER FERRY TO WELLINGTON

**'One thing I do: forgetting what is behind
and straining toward what is ahead,
I press on toward the goal to win the prize
for which God has called me heavenward
in Christ Jesus.'
(Philippians 3.13,14)**

