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Air Tragedy Revives Memories For Outback Patrol Padre

THE TV news on Monday evening 1 October told of Des Porter and his five passengers, including his wife Kathleen, when his cherished DH84 Dragon crashed in dense bush with the loss of all lives. Their last communication was at 2.45pm when they were 45nm inbound and west of Caboolture (Qld) in low cloud.

We've flown the plane together on several patrols. Des had a great heart for patrols. I toted up around 40 hours in UXG with him calling the shots. It's single control, and in impeccable condition – one of the best tuned Gypsy Majors anywhere in the world.

In 2006 we were the only two approved and insured to fly it. The plane was created first in 1932 as the original De Havilland DH84a Dragon. It was used during World War 2 as a navigational trainer, then with John Flynn's Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Then in 1961-1975 it flew with Outback Patrol with me at the controls. More recently we flew it



Des Porter (left) and Les Nixon (Outback Patrol) with the 1934 De Havilland DH84 Dragon at Bankstown Airport (Sydney) on 27 May 2006. Photo: Ramon Williams

on an extensive patrol inland with Didge artist Adrian Ross.

We served families at Barcaldine, Birdsville, Charleville, Longreach, Yulara, Coober Pedy, Hawker, Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Ivanhoe, Deniliquin, Canberra and Goulburn – flying all the way in Des's Dragon. – Les Nixon, Outback Patrol.

Nigerian Believers Pray for 'Change of Heart' by Boko Haram Islamist Group

MULTIPLE sources are confirming that an incident in which about 25 to 30 Christian college students were massacred at a university in northeastern Nigeria late at night on 1 October has caused Christians to pray for a change of heart among the extremist Islamist group Boko Haram to put a stop to the continued violence. A report by Katherine Weber of the *The Christian Post* says that while there is speculation as to the motive of the massacre, sources close to the human rights watchdog Open Doors USA confirm that the massacre was performed by Boko Haram.

Emily Fuentes, the communications and public relations co-ordinator for Open Doors, who recently visited Nigeria, spoke to Christian leaders about Boko Haram and told *The Christian Post* that believers around the world can agree that prayer is 'the only thing that will change the people of Boko Haram.' 'There are people who are turning to Christ who used to be in the Boko Haram, and God is changing their hearts,' Fuentes told the online Christian news outlet. A lot of Christians believe that God will change these peoples' hearts,' she added.

The Christian Post says the killings reportedly occurred in the late night hours when masked gunmen went door-to-door in the off-campus housing section of Federal Polytechnic College in Mubi, a city in the remote Adamawa State in northeastern Nigeria. Open Doors USA sources confirmed that the gunmen separated the Christian students from the Muslim students, addressed each victim by name, questioned them, and then proceeded to shoot them or slit their throat.

– Michael Ireland, ASSIST News Service

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TO THE POINT ...

Keep Looking Forward, Pressing On – Abp Jensen

ARCHBISHOP Peter Jensen, in his final Presidential Address to the Anglican Diocese of Sydney Synod challenged the diocese to continue the diocesan mission and look towards 2060.

'Ten years ago in obedience to the Lord we bound ourselves to our ten-year Diocesan Mission. Under God, what have we done? What have we learned? And most important, what now? What of our future? To this mission and its future I dedicate these *Last Words*,' the archbishop said. 'We gave ourselves a big goal, to reach at least 10% of the population in 10 years. The 10% has been a blessing: we are constantly reminded to pray, as only the Lord can move like that; He has kept before us the big goal of reaching the whole population; He has changed our mind-set about evangelism and church ministry. He has yet to give us 10% of the population, but, remarkably, in contrast with voluntary organisations in general, we have experienced numerical growth. How has the Lord blessed us? As I think of our four policies, to preach and pray, to plant and penetrate, to multiply and train, to reform, I see significant progress on all fronts. As far as we can tell, the growth during the decade has been approximately 7.1%, from 75,000 to 80,000 regular attenders. The experts tell us that by comparison this is quite notable,' Dr Jensen said.

On church planting, he said, 'As far as we can tell ... there have been 109 new church plants and congregations and at least 105 other groups initiated. A particular joy is the number of new parishes and especially specialised ethnic ministries. For years we have been gently stagnating at around 260 parishes, quietly amalgamating the dying ones, leaving suburbs unpastored and letting buildings go. We have now begun to go forward, refusing to close parishes or amalgamate them without the hope of re-opening them in the future, finding new congregations and uses for buildings and doing what we had forgotten to do – inaugurate new parishes. This changed mind-set must be permanent. Even better news: we have seen our responsibility for our neighbours from all nations grow. In 2002 we had an impressive 18 ethnic congregations. In 2012 we have 60! I cannot tell you how excited I was to attend the birth of our sub-continental evangelistic fellowship.'

Dr Jensen urged the synod to keep looking forward. 'Much of what we have done is right,' he said. 'We need to keep the momentum going, not start again from scratch or abandon it at this point. What we are doing is not for the short term – we must plan ahead to at least 2060 for a start.'

Dr Jensen will retire when he turns 70 next July. An election synod in August 2013 will choose the next archbishop.

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

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India: Unrelenting Persecution

PERSECUTION of the Church in India is unrelenting, primarily due to the Hindu nationalists' incitement of racial and religious hatred; the impunity afforded to violent persecutors; and the authorities' lack of political will. The following incidents were recorded by the Evangelical Fellowship of India. They are typical – and are just the tip of the iceberg.

On 24 September, 12 Hindu extremists disrupted a prayer meeting in Kandhamal, Orissa, verbally abusing the believers and chasing them out into the forest. When junior pastor Mantu Nayak tripped and fell, the Hindus beat him mercilessly, leaving him with head injuries and fractures in both arms. On 11 September police in Kashganj, Uttar Pradesh, accused Christians of 'forcible conversions'. The next day, a mob of armed Hindus arrived and threatened the believers, demanding they 'return' to Hinduism.

Reacting against news of an impending Christian inter-caste marriage, the Hindus drove the bride-to-be and her family out of the area. On 7 September Pastor John Pargy was distributing Gospel tracts quietly when he was accused of insulting Hinduism. He was then assaulted and arrested. On 4 September Pastor Anand Nirala was arrested in Jangir Champa, Chhattisgarh, after Hindus accused him of 'forced' conversions, insulting Hindu deities and disturbing social harmony. On 1 September Hindu extremists in Balod, Chhattisgarh, stoned a church and beat the pastor and believers. The next day, a 600-strong mob returned and terrorised the believers, eventually driving them from their homes. On 26 August a large mob of Hindu extremists burst into a prayer meeting in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, and violently attacked the believers, leaving two Christians seriously injured. Accusing the believers of 'forced conversions', the Hindus rampaged through the village. One local Christian, Edwin Raj, was beaten to death.

On 29 August the Evangelical Fellowship of India had a minor and partial victory when the High Court of Himachal Pradesh struck out one section of the Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, a law that regulates conversions. The judge struck out section 4, which mandated that anyone intending to change their religion must inform the district administration 30 days before conversion takes place (essentially to obtain permission) or else face a fine. Whilst the judge ruled that section 4 violated a person's right to privacy, he did not agree with the EFI

that the HPFR Act, which criminalises religious 'force', 'fraud' and 'inducement', violated the constitutional right to religious freedom. ['Force', 'fraud' and 'inducement' are defined in a way that effectively criminalises virtually all Christian witness. In India, 'freedom of religion' is essentially understood as freedom from religious 'interference'.]

According to the High Court, freedom of religion must be subject to the interests of public law and order. Though Christians are said to have full rights, in practice conversions and Christian witness must be restricted if they lead to Hindu rioting. This is exactly the same backward thinking involved in Islamic blasphemy legislation. Confident they will be appeased, religious dictators incite violence, blame the victim and extract concessions. Though governments might find appeasement expedient in the short term, in the long term it is disastrous as it legitimises intolerance, justifies violence and fuels persecution.

Please Pray Specifically:

- for God to grace India with awakening, so that Indians will see they are being fed lies and deprived of religious freedom by religious dictators out to perpetuate their own caste privilege. ('Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' – Amos 5:24 ESV);
- for God to grace the Indian government with discernment, conviction and courage to deal with Hindu nationalist propaganda before it devours the nation;
- that the Church will continue to grow in spite of repression and violent persecution, as God adds to her number daily those who are being saved;
- that the LORD of hosts will be a protective shield and strong, safe fortress to every Indian believer, particularly those pastors and evangelists who risk life and liberty to share the Gospel and serve the people in the name of Jesus.

– *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.*

Elizabeth is Adjunct Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths at the Melbourne School of Theology.

For more information, updates and helpful links, see Elizabeth Kendal's blog:

'Religious Liberty Monitoring'

<<http://elizabethkendal.blogspot.com>>.

Wembley Submerged By Waves of Prayer and Praise



LONDON'S Wembley Stadium was overtaken by a wave of prayer and praise when over 32,000 gathered for the National Day Of Prayer And Worship on Saturday 29 September. Tens of thousands more were able to join the day through live broadcasts and streams via GOD TV, Revelation TV, OHTV, Premier Radio and UCB. During one of the key moments of the day as 300 young Christians in red hoodies were being commissioned to carry on the baton of prayer into the next generation, a Mexican wave of united prayer engulfed the whole stadium as tens of thousands were believing for a new wave of revival to hit the UK.

The day carried the theme of the Lord's Prayer and began with a time of thanksgiving for the fulfilment of a 17 year old Wembley vision, the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics, More Than Gold and for Government. Then many key leaders from different denominations and organisations took to the stage to lead prayers for the nation and unity.

Later Samaritan's Purse UK Executive Director Simon Barrington prayed for the world's neediest children, after a touching performance by a children's choir, while Tearfund's Matthew Frost then led a time of prayer for the one billion people going hungry all over the globe.

Also prayers were said for the global church and more locally for some very new and exciting community prayer and outreach initiatives in the UK including Neighbourhood Prayer Network, Hope 2014 and Crossing London – Mission 2013.

Jonathan Oloyede, the NDOP Convener gave a mandate for everyone to take the baton of prayer back to their streets, towns, cities and stadiums. He urged all Christians across the British Isles to join the dots in prayer and mission. NDOP organisers are hoping that Wembley 2012 will be a catalyst to help regional gatherings of prayer emerge in the months to come as well as support other stadium events. To facilitate this NDOP is producing a number of resources including a Legacy DVD coming out soon, and in partnership with Neighbourhood Prayer Network a Wembley legacy book now available called *Neighbours, Transform Your Street*. For a full report go to: www.ndopwembley.com

– Reported for ASSIST News Service by Peter Wooding, an award-winning TV, radio and print journalist and media consultant (www.peterwoodingproductions.com).

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,
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Westminster Member of Parliament for South Antrim,
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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

RECENT EVENTS ...

Christian Pioneers Remembered

ON Sunday 9 September the lives and ministry of William and Mary Ann Witton were celebrated, with the restoration of their historic grave in Warragul (Vic) Cemetery followed by a service in Warragul Uniting Church. Rev Dr Barry Brown shared a presentation on the life and ministry of William and Mary Ann in the pioneering days of Methodism in Tasmania and Victoria. His book on the Wittons was available on the day.

The Wittons came to Melbourne from Tasmania with their young family in 1837. William was a pioneering local preacher and class leader in Melbourne, the Western District and Gippsland. He would walk for miles to share the Gospel in small churches. Encouraging stories were told of the Witton's generosity and involvement in the community, of visiting an isolated mission family, and that a young man made a commitment to Jesus at William's funeral. At the Jubilee celebration of the Wesleyan Methodist Church at the Exhibition Buildings in 1886, William was recognised as the 'Father of Methodism in Victoria.' When they asked him to speak he said it was all the Lord's doing, 'What hath God wrought?'

Lyn Bromage, President of the Uniting Church Lay Preachers' Association of Victoria and Tasmania, led the dedication.

– Peter Morris, Lay Preacher



Lyn Bromage, William Witton and Rev Dr Barry Brown at the restored grave.

Mobile Mission Maintenance Making Safari Plans For 2013

MMM is planning to field a Safari Team for 2013 with ten projects from organisations requesting assistance in NSW, Vic, NT, Northern WA and Far North QLD. Anyone who would be willing or are already expecting to get involved and would like more information about the proposed projects, please contact Peter Taylor on 03 9837 2700 or 0409 959 181 as soon as possible. It is expected that two teams will be needed, both of which would start about April (or earlier for one or two outback NSW projects) and then work through until about late October.

One of the projects is to return to Halls Creek to complete the internal fit out of the cottage that was begun in 2011. The materials are now being ordered for that project. There is also a project at Lajamanu, NT, replacing the floor timbers in the church house and also maintenance on an Anglican Church in Broken Hill, just to mention a few.

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VISITING MELBOURNE?

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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

RECENT NEWS ...

Invitation to a Citywide Prayer and Worship Night

ROMA Waterman and Roger Nicholson will lead another Citywide Prayer and Worship night at Crossway Church in the Chapel, 2 Vision Drive, Burwood East, at 7.30pm on Friday 26 October, chaired by Mark Conner, hosted by Dale Stephenson, convened by Peter Kentley.

This is a prelude to the River of Life Conference with Dr David Yonggi Cho to be held next year and is especially for Citywide Prayer Groups, Pastors, Church staff, volunteers and family and Christian Organisation leaders. For more information on the conference please visit: www.riveroflifeconference.org

New XV iPad/iPhone App - Zoom In/Zoom Out on the Word

THE new XV app helps you do two things: zoom out and see the magnificence of the 'big picture' of the Bible's story, and then zoom in to focus on the life-changing detail. So you'll start with a zoomed-out introductory overview of the story of the Bible in 15 stages, from creation through to new creation. It's a whirlwind tour of the big breathtaking picture of creation, the fall and the history of God's dealings with Israel, the promise of restoration, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and what is still to come—the whole story, with all its ups and downs, and with the certainty of God's promise shining through. This will give you a framework for the next phase of using the app: zooming in to study the detail of God's Word—understanding it better because of your new sense of how it fits in to the big story. Go to AppStore and look under Utilities.

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Barnabas Day Of Prayer 1 November

BARNABAS Fund urges Christians to pray for the persecuted Church. Christians across the world will unite on Thursday 1 November as part of a day of prayer for the persecuted Church organised by Barnabas Fund.

Barnabas Fund is encouraging Christians to make time during that day to pray either individually or with others. Prayer groups are forming around the globe, from Malawi to Malaysia, Romania to Bangladesh, and the Caribbean to the Philippines.

A free prayer guide, which focuses on 48 countries in 30-minute slots, is available to order now at www.barnabasfund.org/au

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Copts Speak Out On Disturbing Pattern Of Coptic Displacement In Egypt

THE Australian Coptic Movement Association is deeply concerned about the ongoing displacement of Egypt's Coptic Christians from their homes and villages throughout Egypt. Even more concerning, the Egyptian Government is helping to transfer Copts instead of affording them protection. Yet there are at least 12 million indigenous Coptic Christians in Egypt, and it is the State's duty of care to protect them, not transfer them.

At least three major incidents have been reported in the mainstream media this year alone – including displacements and forced evictions near Alexandria, Giza and now in Rafah on the border with Israel as well as unconfirmed reports of further evictions in Southern Egypt.

Such events will only encourage more divisions within Egyptian society, creating a precedent for further State-sponsored displacement of Egypt's Coptic Christians.

US President Obama has said, 'The future must not belong to those who target Coptic Christians in

Egypt – it must be claimed by those in Tahrir Square who chanted 'Muslims, Christians, we are one.' The future must not belong to those who bully women – it must be shaped by girls who go to school, and those who stand for a world where our daughters can live their dreams just like our sons.'

The ACM welcomes President Obama's commentary; however, the US Administration is failing to act and address the grave situation in Egypt. ACM is also deeply concerned about the large number of Egyptian Christians and other non-Muslims who have been arrested on blasphemy charges following Facebook activities, and calls for their immediate release.

So, as the first anniversary of the infamous Maspero Massacre approaches, ACM calls upon the Egyptian judicial system to bring justice to the families of the 28 victims who were killed by the military and the 500 persons who were injured.

Enquiries: aucopticmovement@gmail.com

– *The Australian Coptic Movement Association.*

Bible Reading Campaign Hits Record Numbers As 2,475 Churches Get On Board

BIBLE Society Australia's *Live Light In 25 Words* campaign is set to be the most successful Bible reading campaign ever, with 2,475 churches and 5,000 individuals registered to take part during October. The aim of the 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.

The campaign seeks to address the main reasons why people say they don't read the Bible: Christians are saying they just don't have the time, lives are getting busier, stresses heavier and attention spans shorter. This Australia-wide campaign is an invitation to Christians to make a fresh start on their Bible reading habit with just 25 words a day.

Bible Society has produced a range of resources on their *25 Words* web site to help churches and individuals engage with the Bible. So far there have been over 22,000 downloads from the site. Everyone who registers will receive a daily Bible reading of around 25 words, together with a short comment and a question.

Resources include videos for churches and children, Bible reading guides from leading Christians, theologians and preachers plus Bible study resources for individuals, churches and small groups.

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

– *Martin Johnson via Worldwide Photos*

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The Can Man Can

MANY and varied are the ways by which we can serve the Lord, but one that doesn't instantly spring to mind is can collecting. Geoff Kneeshaw and his wife Beryl have been strong supporters of Bush Church Aid for over 60 years. Geoff was the BCA secretary at St Andrews Anglican Church, Sans Souci, NSW, for 50 years until he moved into a retirement village.

One of the ways he has been supporting BCA over the past 15 years is through cans. Now affectionately known in his retirement village as 'the can man', Geoff walks around collecting aluminium cans, crushing them in his garage and then selling them to a scrap metal merchant across the road. The money he makes from it he donates to the society. 'There are various things you can do to serve the Lord and this is what I do,' said Geoff. 'The money is peanuts but I like the exercise and the money goes to mission. Why put it in landfill when I can clean the place up and give the money to Bush Church Aid?' – Spring 2012 issue, *The Real Australian*



Friends Peter O'Brien and Geoff Kneeshaw crushing cans in Geoff's garage.

Compassion Not Karma

INTERNATIONAL Needs, Cambodia, tells us that a famous saying sums up the inescapable law of *Karma*: 'Do Good, Get Good'. The iron law of Karma teaches that people who do bad deeds will receive bad in return, and people who do good will receive good. But indigenous Christian publishing house Fount Of Wisdom is turning this around to awaken interest in the Gospel. With support from Langham Literature, the literature wing of Langham Partnership Int, they are preparing to publish a commentary on the book of *Romans* under the title *Receive Good, Do Good*. It explains how Romans 1-11 sets out the foundations of the Christian faith.

This is a message that is already being understood, and lives are being transformed in Cambodia. The church has grown from only a few hundred in the aftermath of the Khmer Rouge slaughter to around 250,000 today.

Bible League Branches Merge

THIS year marks a special milestone for the Australian and New Zealand branches of Bible League International. After much prayer and planning the decision has been made to merge. To be known as Bible League International Australia and New Zealand, Tony McLennan, formerly heading up the Australian branch will be its CEO. Tony says, 'There is currently a global Bible famine. More people are coming to Christ than at any other time in history. This newly formed organisation means that costs saved and economies realised will greatly enhance the impact of every dollar received in donations as we seek to serve worldwide.'

www.bibleleague.com.au

Child Marriage Solution

MUKTI, the name meaning freedom, liberation and

salvation, is a Christian mission which is taking action to bring hope and a positive future to girls and women in India. Their aim is to change lives through a range of initiatives that demonstrate in a practical way the love of Jesus Christ to this mainly Hindu and Muslim nation. To this end, construction work has finally begun on a long anticipated junior college. This will help address the child marriage issue which causes much suffering in families, as girls will be able to stay on at school and receive an education in years 11 and 12. Education means better marriage prospects, more opportunities for good jobs, health education and increased confidence to face life and its challenges. www.mukti.org.au

New Mission HQs

IN late September Global Recordings Network, a mission agency seeking to record audio messages about the story of Jesus for as many as possible of the world's most remote inhabitants, announced the completion of their new missions centre at 1/36 Stoddart Rd, Prospect, west of Sydney. The fully renovated building will not only house the offices and studios of GRN, but will also include Crossroads Bible Institute and the NSW offices of Wycliffe Australia and Interserve.

'Working with other mission agencies in a shared building is a natural choice for us,' explains GRN CEO Christine Platt. 'We work every day with Bible translators such as Wycliffe to translate our recordings. We also record audio recordings of their Bible translations for use by the two thirds of the world who can't read or prefer not to read.'

The official building opening will take place on Saturday 3 November and all are welcome. Please RSVP at (02) 9899 2111 for catering purposes.

(Continued p.10)

New Office For MMM

MOBILE Mission Maintenance has finalised the sale of their Whittlesea property that was devastated by the 2009 bush fires. They have established a new head office at 5/621 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham Vic 3132, phone (03) 9837 2700. Beginning in Australia, but now operating from several international bases, MMM's mandate is to support ministries around the world by sending teams of tradesmen and professionals to build and maintain infrastructure needed for their work. This allows ministries to concentrate on their work with a minimum of distraction and cost. They would be pleased to hear from anyone who can arrange a team or assist personally with their projects. Overseas opportunities currently being considered by MMM Australia include building two churches in remote areas of the Solomon Islands and constructing an ambulance station at a Mt Hagen Hospital in PNG. For more information go to: www.mmm.org.au

CMA CEO Moves On

AFTER eight years at the helm, David Turrell finished up in his role as CEO of Christian Media Australia on 30 September. David will still be involved on a consultative basis in a number of areas. A new CEO has yet to be appointed. Formed in 1978, CMA is the peak industry body representing Christian media communicators in Australia. Membership consists of short-wave and local radio stations, Christian TV, radio and TV program producers, churches, other media organisations and record companies. Their website is:

www.christianmedia.org.au

Literature Saturation

EVERY Home for Christ's goal of providing Christian literature to every home around the world has been greatly blessed through several changes in name and methods since its inception in 1946. Impressive statistics include 192 countries reached, 2.1 billion gospel messages distributed, 30 million enquiries received and 47,500 Christ Groups formed. A recent campaign in the Ukraine saw half a million pieces of literature distributed. A total of 950 churches participated, with evangelism conducted in 1,500 towns and villages. More than 1,000 people requested Bible correspondence courses and 50 new Christ Groups were begun.

Chinese Interchange

IT was 90 years ago that the Melbourne School of Theology, then known as Melbourne Bible Institute, sent its first graduate to the mission field in China. This has now come full circle with students being assisted by the school's Centre for the Study of Chinese Christianity to come to Melbourne to do post grad research for higher education. Since 2010 three students have taken advantage of this unique opportunity. For further details go to:

www.mst.edu.au



The poster for Kingsley Open Day features a central photograph of a diverse group of young people smiling. The text is arranged around and over this image. At the top left is the Kingsley logo, a stylized flame with the word 'KINGSLEY' written vertically. The main title 'KINGSLEY OPEN DAY' is in large, bold letters, with 'OPEN DAY' in green. Below it, the date 'Saturday, 20 Oct 2012' is written in a dark red font. A tagline 'Preparing people for Christian ministry since 1949' is centered below the date. Two options are presented: 'Study for Christian Ministry' and 'Study for Christian Counselling', separated by a green 'OR' in a circle. To the right of the second option is the logo for St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra, which includes a red winged figure and the text 'St Mark's National Theological Centre'. Contact information for enquiries is provided: '(03) 9357 3699' and 'enquiries@kingsley.edu.au'. A note says 'Refreshments provided' with a small coffee cup icon. The event details at the bottom left include the date 'Saturday, 20 October 2012', time '10 am - 2 pm', and location 'Kingsley Australia, 1/21 Lakeside Drive, Broadmeadows'. Two website URLs are at the bottom: 'www.kingsley.edu.au' with the tagline 'Developing and equipping people to shape their world', and 'www.stmarksrto.org.au' with the tagline 'Engaging the people of God with Australian society'.

IRAN: Seven Christians Detained Following Raid On Prayer Meeting

SEVEN Christians from the Church of Iran were detained on 12 October following a raid by members of the security services on a house in the city of Shiraz in Fars Province.

Mohammad (Vahid) Roghangir, Soroush Saraie, Roxana Foroughi, Eskandar Rezaie, Bijan Haghighi, Mehdi Ameruni and Shahin Lahooti are currently being held in Plaque 100, the Intelligence Ministry's notorious detention centre. They were detained at around 6pm, after security forces raided a house where a prayer meeting was underway. According to sources close to Christian Solidarity Worldwide, older people who had attended the prayer gathering were threatened, but were not taken into custody. The detentions are part of a marked upsurge in a campaign of harassment of Christians of all denominations, with reports of a significant increase in arrests during recent weeks. Visit www.csw.org.uk for further details.

Niger Struggles To Contain Insurgents, Extremists

NIGER is in trouble. The country is surrounded by the threat of insurgency to the west and terrorism to the south. Christian Aid Mission Africa Director, Rae Burnett, says the first problem is poverty. Second, she says, the rebels are better resourced. 'Billions of dollars are being poured into the financing of these groups, so they have resources for guns, for whatever types of strategies they're using to take over.' Niger asked Nigeria to help them keep Boko Haram out with joint border patrols. However, 'Nigeria's not handling Boko Haram in their own country, so it's unlikely that they would be able to keep them in ... which I'm not sure they want to do, anyway.' The risk for the missionaries supported by The Mission Society in Mali, Niger, and Nigeria is increasing all the time. What can you do? 'We need to know who is doing the work of the Lord. Pray for them and send them as much help as we can to meet the needs that are in desperate situations with the purpose of taking the Gospel to them.' Full story: www.MNNonline.org/article/17782

More Twists And Turns In Pakistan Blasphemy Case

THE Muslim cleric who framed Rimsha Masih for blasphemy is out on bail in Pakistan. According to news reports, his accusers recanted their testimony. It won't change Rimsha's case though, according to her lawyer. Her innocence is established. Open

Doors says she's due in juvenile court on 17 October for a hearing. This case has opened dialogue about how the blasphemy laws are being abused. Keep praying for change. The story is in full detail at MNNOnline.org

Syrian Christians Face Violence And Suffering, But Ministry Continues

'THE violence has pushed people out of their homes, fleeing for their lives. Many are displaced internally and many others are external refugees living in the most humiliating circumstances, deprived of shelter, clean water, power, food and medical care.' According to Open Doors, that is the lament to Christians in the West from a Christian pastor in Syria, describing the deteriorating, horrific conditions in the war-torn country. 'Millions are not sleeping in their own beds, forced out of their homes to find themselves with their children homeless and living in public parks or in the wilderness. Tens of thousands of families lost loved ones. Hundreds of the injured died for lack of medical care. Thousands of children go to bed terrified of the sound of shelling. Hundreds of thousands are in camps in neighbouring countries.

'My people are hurting. I can cry like Nehemiah because the walls of our cities are burnt, I can weep like Jeremiah because of the intensity and the spread of evil. I can mourn like David because of the indiscriminate brutal killing of innocent people.'

– *Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST News Service*

Urgent Updates For Prayer From Elizabeth Kendal

- **KENYA: TERROR THREAT.** On 14 September police in Nairobi uncovered a large cache of weapons, foiling a massive terror plot due to be launched against churches. Unfortunately, on 30 September a Sunday School class was bombed, killing one child and wounding nine.
- **EGYPT: EXPULSIONS.** Christians have been ethnically cleansed out of the Sinai. What started as jihadists' terror was completed by the government of Mohamed Morsi.
- **PAKISTAN: BLASPHEMY CASE.** The three Muslims who gave sworn testimony against the imam Khalid Chishti have withdrawn their statements, claiming to have been coerced. They had testified that he had tampered with evidence so that the illiterate Christian, Rimsha Masih (14), might be accused of blasphemy and all Christians subsequently driven from the slum.

WEA Announces Panel Of Experts And Schedule For Bible Translation Review

THE World Evangelical Alliance has announced the names of the 12 experts who will serve as members of the independent panel that will review SIL and Wycliffe's translation practices of 'Divine Familial Terms'. The global group of scholars from Eastern and Western locations represents Biblical, Theological, Missiological and Anthropological expertise and includes national believers from countries with majority Muslim population.

The review panel, moderated by Dr Robert Cooley, will hold its first working session in Toronto, Canada, at the end of November 2012, with a second session planned in early spring, 2013, at a location within the Mediterranean world.

The focus of the review will be on the translation of 'God the Father' and the 'Son of God' as described in SIL's statement of best practices. The panel's mandate is to 'review SIL's translation practices, set boundaries for theologically acceptable translation methodology, particularly in Muslim contexts, and suggest how to practically implement these recommendations.' Wycliffe and SIL have agreed to abide by all the recommendations.

The attention of the panel will be on the above mentioned translation practices of Wycliffe Global Alliance and SIL International. It will not discuss wider, intense debates about contextualization, or

Bible translations in majority languages, or any other Bible translation practices by other agencies, churches, or groups, though some or all of its conclusions may well be used by others to feed into those wider debates in the coming years.

It is anticipated that the final report will be provided to Wycliffe and SIL by April 2013. Further communications about the progress of the review are at the discretion of the panel. An overview of published communications can be found online on WEA's Bible Translation Review page:

www.worldevangelicals.org/translation-review

The panel members and their expertise are:
Milton Acosta, Old Testament,
Donald Fairbairn, Early Christianity and Historical Theology,
Atef Gendy, New Testament,
Ida Glaser, Biblical and Islamic Studies,
Rob Haskell, Systematic Theology,
Karen Jobes, New Testament,
Ghassan Khalaf, Biblical Studies and Theology,
Melba Padilla Maggay, Social Anthropology,
Scott Moreau, Intercultural Studies,
Kang-San Tan, Mission Studies,
Roland Werner, African Linguistics & Theology,
Dudley Woodberry, Mission Studies,
Robert Cooley, Panel Moderator.

Teams Build Homes On The Soil And In The Hearts Of Romania

VISION Beyond Borders teams have been addressing the spiritual needs of Gypsies in Romania. VBB's Marshall Grover says he has sensed a hunger for the Gospel. 'They see their previous teachings to be dead or of no hope. So they seem to be very receptive once they get an understanding of the Gospel.' VBB teams ministered to Gypsies and built a home for the Haven of Hope orphanage. 'We worked during the day and tried to reach out to the rest of the community in the evenings.' Grover saw a passion for God's Word among the Gypsies. 'They just love having their own Bibles ... and that is such an important thing.' Pray that new believers grow in their understanding of Scripture.

Full story: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/17740>

Studio Dedication Provides Energy To Mozambique Ministry

WHAT do you get when you have guests, the Bible, a cow, and prayer? You get the dedication party of the new Crown of Victory Studio in Xai Xai, Mozambique. Sunday's ceremony (including BBQ!) was the culmination of a two-year building project, supported by Audio Scripture Ministries. The team has already started to put the facilities to use. Not only have they done a Bible distribution, but they've also started recording another audio Bible for an unreached people group in north Mozambique. Keep praying for them. Full story: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/17750>



**Contact Mignon at office@nlife.com.au
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Everyday Pray – New iPhone App Includes Personal Journal And Prayer Reminders

A NEW iPhone app, *Everyday Pray*, is available at the iTunes store. Its creation is credited to Wendy Brand, and her conviction of the power of prayer. According to a news release obtained by ASSIST News Service, the app includes a personal prayer journal with the ability to set scheduled or random prayer reminders. All prayers are biblically based and each is accompanied by a relevant Bible verse.

The first edition in the *Everyday Pray* series, *My Kids Edition*, includes over 60-days of suggested prayers that help parents pray for their children.

The news release said, 'Even if you have daily interactions with your children and loved ones, reminders to say a prayer of thankfulness, protection, peace, or wellness can improve the focus on prayer as a central part of your life. Sometimes the day gets away from you, with the scheduled and random reminders, using this app can bring prayer back to your schedule – and a focus back to what is truly important to you.'

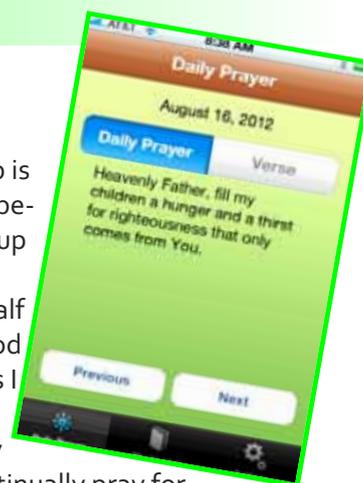
Customer ratings for *Everyday Pray* are very positive, with one of the best reviews by Pastor Sterling Severns from The Tabernacle Baptist Church in

Richmond, VA: 'This app is absolutely wonderful. I believe that we often end up being the very answers that we pray for on behalf of others. I hope that God will continue to guide as I pray for each of our three children on a daily basis. The nudge to continually pray for them throughout the day is a blessing.'

According to the news release, the app will also help Child Evangelism Fellowship, 10% of proceeds will go to this organization, that equips children with life tools. Globally, CEF is the largest agency in the world focused on children and has helped over 11 million children and their families.

In product development are additional apps for the *Everyday Pray* series with focus on spouses, parents and friends, as well as a *Proverb Of The Day*.

For more information go to:
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/every-day-pray/id559762465?ls=1&mt=8>



Busy Day Ahead For OMF

TARGET Asia will be held on Saturday 20 October from 9.30am-12.30pm at Cnr Violet and Boyle St, Croydon Park, Sydney.

COMMISSIONING Andrew and Joanna Wong will also be on Saturday 20 October from 3-4pm at West Sydney Chinese Christian Church, 90 Homebush Rd, Strathfield.

PLEASE NOTE: The article titled *How Can We Cope With Burnout?* on p.16 is reprinted with permission from the website:

www.banneroftruth.org

Someone once said that, if you want to be eternally relevant, you need to stop trying to say things that are relevant and focus on saying things that are eternal.

**- Andrew Randall, Minister,
Larbert Old Church,
Scotland, in Banner Of Truth
Magazine No 589.**

Bible Apps Available In Closed Countries

SCANDINAVIA Christian Publishing House has made 85 children's Bibles available as apps that can be downloaded and read on the iPhone and iPad. Android and Kindle formats are on their way. They are being sold worldwide, even in closed Muslim and communist countries where the written Bible and other Christian symbols are not permitted.

Scandinavia Publishing was founded to bring good news to children and families. The group says, 'Our passion is to get the Gospel out to people all over the world, and selling apps worldwide is allowing us to do that in an entirely new way.'

Once the app is downloaded, the user can start looking over all the books available. Each series has at least one book that can be downloaded free. According to the news release, Scandinavia has so far only released digital books in English, but hopes to soon release them as e-books in several other languages.

For more information go to:
www.scanpublishing.dk/about-us/contact/

- Jeramy Reynolds, ASSIST

THE PERFECT SAVIOUR: KEY THEMES IN HEBREWS,

Ed Jonathan Griffiths, Nottingham: IVP, 2012.

HERE is a book explicitly written for pastors to assist them in preaching on the *Letter To The Hebrews*, with eight essays on key themes and issues. One essay is by David Peterson, whose PhD was on the theme of *Perfection In Hebrews*, and I still remember his lectures on this key New Testament book in the late 1970's, given soon after his return to Moore College from Manchester, having just completed his doctoral studies.



Peter O'Brien, author of a recent sizable commentary on *Hebrews* in the Pillar series, explains what *Hebrews* teaches about the superiority of the new covenant in Christ over against the old covenant through Moses. *Hebrews* contains the longest quotation of an Old Testament text in the New Testament (Jeremiah 31.31-34 in *Hebrews* 8.8-12) and in the final few verses of the book, the author speaks of 'the blood of the eternal covenant', the new covenant established by means of Jesus' death. This theme is, then, both the heart and climax of the profound teaching of this letter, which, if not written by Paul, is by one who must be considered as great a theologian as the Apostle to the Gentiles. I will not, however, enter into the vexed question of the letter's authorship, except to say that Paul must have been involved in some way in its production. Jonathan Griffiths suggests that Paul may have commissioned a close colleague to write it for Jewish believers in Rome.

Griffiths shows that *Hebrews* teaches that God still speaks through the Old Testament, a revelation that was completed by the coming of Jesus, in whose life and death we find God speaking and acting. What is more, the writer of *Hebrews* believes that God is speaking through his own sermon, so his 'word of exhortation (= sermon) (13.22) must not be ignored, either by the original recipients or by us.

Richard Gaffin Jr explains the high priesthood of Christ, which is perhaps the teaching that most people think of when the *Letter To The Hebrews* is mentioned. Our saviour's ministry as priest is exercised now in Heaven on our behalf, for He is there both as our representative and as one who intercedes for us, two glorious facts that help the believer to persevere in faith. Gaffin brings out the essential connection between Christ's high priesthood and His eternal divine Sonship. This connection is but another illustration of the amazing integration within the theology of the letter.

David Gooding explains why the tabernacle features in the letter, for it is used as spatial imagery to describe Christ's entrance into the very presence of God in Heaven on our behalf, and because of that, believers can now enter the presence of God (a closeness experienced, for instance, in times of prayer).

The 'warning passages' of *Hebrews* are tackled by Thomas Schreiner, who shows that the warnings are not to be taken as saying that true believers can fall away. Rather, such warnings are a God-appointed means by which true believers are preserved from apostasy. I remember my old teacher Broughton Knox using the illustration of a warning sign placed at a cliff edge, whose purpose is to prevent anyone falling over and whose presence does not prove or imply that someone once did fall over!

Peter Walker helps us to understand two key images in the letter, the Christian as a pilgrim and as one privileged to enter the presence of God, for paradoxically we are both on the way and have arrived! This paradox is the basis of Christian assurance and of preaching that motivates. David Peterson shows that the 'perfection' theme in *Hebrews* is used to explain how Christ's sufferings perfected (= qualified, equipped) Him for His vocation as our Saviour, and the perfecting of believers refers to our ability to draw near to God through Jesus.

Making use of his expertise in Graeco-Roman cultural background, Bruce Winter illuminates the brief references throughout the letter to the sufferings (past and anticipated) of the recipients of the letter. He throws light on the exhortation in 10.25 to continue to meet together, explaining that such weekly gatherings (outside a synagogue) were against Roman law. There was enormous social and legal pressure for Christians to hide under the umbrella of Judaism. The writer of *Hebrews* warns them not to do that and encourages them to persevere in the faith. What gives these encouragements their force and effectiveness is the teaching of the letter concerning the unique role of Christ as Saviour and helper of His people.

This, then, is just the book for pastors and Bible study leaders to read when contemplating using *Hebrews* to teach and encourage God's people.

– Greg Goswell

MORE BOOKS WORTH READING ...

HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH AND MALACHI, Andrew E. Hill, Tyndale Old Testament Commentary 28, Nottingham: IVP, 2012.

ANDREW Hill is Professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College and already the author of a substantial commentary on *Malachi* in the Anchor Bible series. He acknowledges and builds on Joyce Baldwin's earlier work on the same three Bible books in the original green-covered Tyndale commentary series (1972). Time marches on, and Hill has produced a commentary that interacts with the latest scholarly trends, one aspect being that *Haggai*, *Zechariah* and *Malachi* are now seen as part of a larger prophetic collection, *The Book Of The Twelve* (= Minor Prophets), whose key themes are the call for repentance and the proclamation of the impending Day of the Lord. These three prophets, each in his own way, reflect these two themes. As well, they each address the issue of the people's involvement in the temple, which is God's earthly 'palace' (what the Hebrew word means) and as such represents God's kingship over His people and the world. The 'Kingdom Theology' of the three makes their message ever-relevant to believers.



Hill introduces each of the three prophets in turn, the person of the prophet (so far as that is known), the date of the prophecy, its audience, form, style, message and main theological concerns. Hill is a reliable guide in these matters, being both thoroughly up-to-date and faithful to Scripture. He explains rather than explains-away the Bible! Maybe the most problematic issue in *Haggai* is the reason behind the prophet's critical tone in 2.10 ('this people ... this nation'), and Hill's explanation is to see the moral failure of the people as its cause. This reviewer does not find that convincing. Several other explanations have been proposed by scholars (which, of course, Hill mentions).

The prophecy of *Zechariah* is one of the more difficult books of the Bible, so that Hill's assistance in knowing how to approach the visionary presentation and apocalyptic imagery is valuable. Both the scholar and the average reader struggle with this part of the Bible. Hill views the whole prophecy as deriving from Zechariah himself, rejecting the critical theory that chapters 9-14 have a different and later origin. The repeated mention of shepherd figures is taken up and applied to Jesus in the New Testament, notably in the Passion Narratives and by Jesus Himself, and so, despite the cryptic nature of the references, this is important material to grasp.

All we know about *Malachi* is his name, with the reference to 'my messenger' in Malachi 3.1 being a play on his name. Hill is right to insist that this is the name of the prophet and that he was responsible for all four chapters of the prophecy, which particularly focusses on covenant themes (including marriage as a covenant). However, I would disagree with Hill in that he views the last few verses of the book (4.4-6) as an editorial epilogue, written by someone else to connect Malachi as the last of the prophetic books with the Pentateuch (via the mention of Moses) and the historical books (via the mention of Elijah). I do not deny the connections, but the verses do not need to come from a later hand.

Hill's commentary is a welcome addition to resources for pastors, teachers and Bible study leaders, and perhaps with his help, some may venture to even preach or teach the much neglected prophecy of Zechariah. That is my fond hope!

– Greg Goswell

Ramon A Williams – **Worldwide Photos** –

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How Can We Cope With Burnout?

Whom have I in Heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on Earth. (Psalm 73.25)

AFTER John Wesley's 'heart was strangely warmed' at Aldersgate in 1738, he preached and laboured for the Gospel, unabated, until his death in 1791. In that 53 year period he wrote over 200 books, compiled dictionaries in four different languages, travelled 250,000 miles on horseback throughout England, averaging 20 miles per day. He preached over 40,000 sermons, sometimes as many as seven or eight in one day. He made from his book sales the equivalent in 2012 of \$US2.2 million annually, but lived on only \$50,000, choosing to give the rest to the poor and needy of England. How did he do it? What kept him going? Why did he not burn out?

Be sure of this – serving the Lord Jesus and p

people can deplete one's spiritual, emotional, and physical resources. Even the Lord Jesus Himself knew something of this. When on His way to heal Jairus' daughter (Mark 5.25ff), when walking through the huge crowd, the woman with the haemorrhage for 12 years touched the hem of His garment and He felt power go from Himself. Jesus did not begin His earthly ministry until the Holy Spirit came upon Him at His baptism (Matthew 3.16,17). And though the apostles were well prepared for their ministries, after having been with Jesus for three years, seeing Him perform mighty miracles and preach powerful sermons, though they had done many of these things themselves (Luke 10.1ff), nonetheless they were told by Jesus to remain in the city until they had been clothed with power from on high (Luke 24.44-49).

Paul was able to say, in the midst of great suffering and disappointment, 'Though we are afflicted, we are not crushed. Though we are perplexed, we are not in despair. Though we are persecuted, we are not forsaken. Though we are thrown down, we are not destroyed' (2 Corinthians 4.7-12). There is no indication that Jesus, or Paul for that matter, suffered what we typically call burn out. Why not? And why are we prone to suffer from it? More importantly, what shall we do to prevent it?

Though no doubt physically and emotionally depleted at times, Jesus remained in close, intimate fellowship with His Father. He knew fully the Father's great love for Him. Paul was able to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of people's faith and to rejoice in the privilege (Philippians 2.17) because he knew and experienced the power of a sanctified life (Romans 12.1,2). So why do we suffer burnout, depletion of our physical, emotional, and spiritual resources? Could it be our age-old problem – pride? At the root of all sin is pride. Satan wanted to be equal with God. Adam was tempted to be equal with God. We suffer the same delusion. When a pastor secretly thinks he can be the next John Piper or Tim Keller he is setting himself up for a major disappointment which can destroy him. We all tend to think too highly of ourselves and when we do not reach our expectations then dismay, disillusionment, and disgust can overwhelm us. A Christian in the work-place can do the same thing. He sets his goal on a certain level of business for the year, believing God will give that to him so that he can give more money away to the Lord's work, and it does not happen. When this disappointment takes hold of someone, it is not long before the man or woman looks to the creation rather than the Creator for help. Instead of seeking first the Kingdom of God, of pursuing a growing, vital relationship with the Lord Jesus by the Spirit, he begins to focus more and more of his affections on lesser things. These are not always bad things. Perhaps it is a hobby, his work, his exercise regime, his children; but these can short circuit his vital connection with his power source.

The mere act of living in the world can deplete your spiritual, emotional, and physical resources. So can secret sin. So can pride. So can a spirit of bitterness. Paul tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom we are sealed to the day of redemption (Ephesians 4.30). He follows that by saying, 'Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven you' (Ephesians 4.30-32). We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5.18). We are not to quench Him (1 Thessalonians 5.19). We are not to resist Him (Acts 7.51). When the root sin of pride comes into our lives, when this begins to manifest itself in an unforgiving spirit, when we hold others hostage to perform for us, when we go after lesser things; then we continue to mitigate the spiritual power in our lives.

What, then, must we do? My friends, we must seek the Holy Spirit's presence and power! It seems to me that we see so little happen in our preaching, teaching, evangelizing, and serving because we lack Holy Spirit power. The Psalmist was brought to the end of himself when he could not comprehend the prosperity of the wicked, being disgusted by his response to this mystery, and he said, 'Whom have I in Heaven, but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on the Earth' (Psalm 73.25). Overcoming burnout comes down to this – seeing the root cause of sin, especially pride; but then running to the Lord Jesus in faith. Seek daily the power and presence of the Spirit. Cling to Jesus by faith. Be sensitive to grieving the Spirit in any way. Humble yourself in the presence of God. Ask Him to show you your sin, and then repent. Expect God to fill you, to empower you, to use you in His service.

– Rev Allen M Baker, Evangelist with Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship, and Director of the Alabama Church Planting Network. His weekly devotional, *Forget None Of His Benefits*, can be found at: www.pefministry.org