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LIFE – God's Gift To Be Celebrated – Whatever Happens!

WHEN Sam Cawthorne won a 2009 *Young Australian Of The Year* award he was invited to *The Lodge* in Canberra, a guest of then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd. Sam mischievously thought: 'What can I do to make the Prime Minister remember me?' Kevin Rudd didn't know that Sam had a prosthetic hand and arm. Hidden under Sam's jacket, no-one could see that the right arm was prosthetic. So as Sam shook hands with the Prime Minister he detached his artificial hand from his prosthetic arm, leaving a surprised but highly amused Kevin Rudd holding the artificial hand!



Sam Cawthorne told his amazing story to over 800 people at the Melbourne 2012 Prayer Breakfast. 'I was born and raised under a dictatorship – Mum. And she had an accomplice – Dad! They were really strict in discipline. I'm one of 11 children – 7 girls and 4 boys – raised on a farm down in Tasmania.' Sam now has 33 nephews and nieces. His mum was Indian and his dad Scottish.

The Day Everything Changed

Sam remembers the day of the accident in October 2006 so clearly. He shook hands with a friend that morning and that was the last time he ever shook hands with anyone with the right hand. 'It was my fault – I fell asleep and veered into the pathway of an oncoming truck,' he explained. After the crash Sam heard some onlookers say, 'This guy's not going to make it'. Sam then lapsed into unconsciousness. The paramedics soon noted that Sam stopped breathing, and at six minutes past three in the afternoon his heart stopped.

The paramedics pronounced Sam dead, but some of the ambulance people persisted in resuscitation and Sam's heart started beating again. He had horrible injuries and for six days was in a coma. His wife Kate was told that first day Sam was in hospital: 'Your husband may not get through the night.' But the journey of life contin-

ued for Sam – thankfully. 'Sometimes we take life for granted,' Sam said. 'We should never do that. We should always thank our Creator for the gift of life.' Sam was hospitalised for over five months and was told that he would never walk again and be in a wheel chair for the rest of his life. Sam had played the guitar since he was seven, and was told: 'You'll never play the guitar again' because his dominant right arm had been amputated above the elbow. All this was devastating news to Sam while he lay in the hospital. But he told those present at the Melbourne Prayer Breakfast that he was reminded of God's Word: 'For we are more than conquerors through Christ who gives us strength' (Romans 8.37).

Sam went on to say that we all have problems in life and at times we might feel like giving up 'but one thing I know is that Jesus Christ gives us strength.' During the long hospital and rehabilitation journey Sam could have been very negative but he found himself being grateful – grateful for the gift of life; grateful for the air we breathe; grateful for food on the table and a roof over our heads; grateful for the care provided in the hospital; grateful for his wife Kate being with him; grateful for his children; and, yes, so grateful for the gift of life ...

– Brian Stewart

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TO THE POINT ...

ACL Welcomes WA Move To Combat Sexualisation Of Children

THE Australian Christian Lobby has welcomed a move by the West Australian State Parliament to find better ways of protecting children from being sexualised in society, or exposed to highly explicit content in the media. This comes after similar inquiries by governments in the US, France and Britain recommended a reduction in sexually charged advertising on streets.

ACL spokeswoman Wendy Francis supports the move, which goes beyond advertising to include publications, computer games and films, and highlights the important need for all states to review legislation concerning children and sexualised content.

'In the lead up to the 2012 Queensland election, now Premier Campbell Newman also agreed to look at legislating for outdoor advertising to be G-rated for the sake of our kids,' Ms Francis said. 'Allow kids the childhood they deserve without being bombarded with highly sexualised, adult images.'

ACL has recently made a submission to the Victorian Law Reform Committee's inquiry into sexting, where it called on the Federal Government to introduce an Internet filter to block refused classification material in an attempt to further protect children from the dangers of sexually explicit content.

Currently there is growing pressure for such a filter in the UK, with more than 110,000 people signing a petition calling for the Government to enforce opt-in filters on online pornography.

Day Of Prayer For The Persecuted Church

IT might be late notice, but ... the *Barnabas International Day Of Prayer For The Persecuted Church* is being held today, Thursday 1 November. This annual event is gaining momentum, with prayer gatherings taking place across the world. Barnabas Fund would like to invite you to make time during the day to pray either individually or with others. Prayer events are taking place in countries across the globe. Visit the interactive online map at barnabasfund.org to see what is happening in your area. A free prayer guide, which focuses on 48 countries in 30-minute slots, is available to order or download from their website. Prayer pointers are also available online on their prayer wall as Facebook and Twitter feeds. Please share with your church, friends and family.

(We're sorry this important event is brought to you at such late notice, but since our God is not limited by time or space, we can surely organise our own events at any time in the future. Since this is an annual event, we can also be well prepared for following years. – Ed)

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,

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*.

DARE ...

God Moves At Dare To Be A Daniel Youth Camp, Yarramundi

THE Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's first, five-day *Dare To Be A Daniel* camp in Australia, held recently at Lutanda's camp site at Yarramundi, was attended by 60 young Australians aged nine to 13. They had come to learn how to *Dare To Be A Daniel*, a reference to Daniel in the Old Testament who stood up for his faith, despite being in exile in a foreign land.

Chad Miller, Director, Children's and Youth Evangelism Training for BGEA International, visited Australia to attend the camp.

'We witnessed a mighty move of God on the last evening as nearly everyone stood and committed to following Jesus, even when times are difficult, so that they might win their friends and family to Him. It was not an easy invitation,' Chad said. 'Pray for a groundswell of evangelistic enthusiasm and that these young people might be strong and boldly speak about Jesus to their generation.'

Rodney Trinidad, BGEA Australia's Youth and Schools Relationship Manager ran the camp with the help of trained volunteers and Lutanda Yarramundi camp staff. 'Who better than youth to reach their friends with the Gospel of Jesus? That's what the *Dare To Be A Daniel* camp is all about,' Rodney said. 'Our goal was to equip youth who already know Christ with the tools they need to stand strong as young Christians and to effectively share their faith with their friends.'

'I will never forget Jiordi, a 12 year old student standing up and saying: "For a long time, I have been bullied at school and it's been really hard on me. I met new friends at camp who will stand with me by praying for me. I have also learned that, like Daniel, I can be a fearless Christian, knowing that God is always on my side",' Rodney said.

'Our vision is for the *Dare To Be A Daniel* experience to spread throughout Australia in partnership between the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and the local church. It is critically important that we equip this nation's young people for Christ as they approach their teenage years in an increasingly secularised society,' said Jorge Rodrigues, Executive Director of BGEA Australia.



Global Effort To Shine A Light On Corruption

GOVERNMENTS, businesses and churches across the globe are being challenged to expose and tackle corruption which is identified as one of the major contributing factors in ensuring millions of people remain trapped in poverty. Last week in London, a coalition of Christian organisations called 'Exposed' officially launched the start of a year-long global awareness-raising campaign which aims to mobilise 100 million Christians who will practise and promote ethical and just behaviour in all spheres of life.

Micah Challenge Australia is facilitating the local expression of the global anti-corruption campaign and encouraging Christian individuals, churches and groups to 'shine the light' on corrupt tax evasion practices by multinational corporations. 'Corruption and tax evasion drain developing countries of vital revenue they need for development and reducing poverty,' said John Beckett, National Co-ordinator of Micah Challenge Australia. 'Without adequate tax revenue, developing countries are often forced to cut essential services such as health and education and it is usually the poorest people who miss out.'

Micah Challenge is encouraging individuals and groups to sign the *Shine The Light* petition which urges the Australian government to support international initiatives to end tax evasion and introduce legislation requiring all corporations registered in Australia to report all payments they make and receive on a country by country basis, starting with the extractive industries. In over 100 meetings with MPs and Senators at Micah Challenge's *Voices For Justice* event in September, lobbyists urged Australian politicians to make country by country reporting an urgent priority. Requiring country by country reporting makes it harder for companies to shift their profits into tax havens and gives citizens access to the information they need to hold their government to account for the revenue it receives,' said Mr Beckett.

FREE DOWNLOAD – BUT HURRY – Offer Closes 9 November ...

God's Library – New e-Book From Bible Society CEO

GOD'S Library, a new book from Dr Greg Clarke, CEO of Bible Society Australia and written for the Society's *Live Light In 25 Words* campaign has just been re-released as an e-Book on the *Live Light* campaign website.

'The Bible is publishing's greatest success story, and *God's Library* is written especially for those who feel that they really should know something about the world's most influential text, but may have been afraid to ask, put off by the Church, found the black leather cover and cigarette paper pages ominous, or just never got around to it,' said Dr Clarke. 'I've tried to keep the tone light and informative, to avoid too many of the debates that stop people in their tracks. I try to answer the question: "Why would I bother with the Bible?" If I manage to succeed there and keep you with me, the second half of the book answers the question: "So what really is the Bible, and what do I do with it?"' said Greg.

Under the heading *The Bible Scandal*, the book looks at how 'millions of people have been denied a basic knowledge of the key text that has shaped their culture'. Dr Clarke writes that, 'some affirmative action group ought to set up a campaign to get compensation for people who were denied the knowledge of the Bible in their education. These people are at a definite disadvantage if they want to go on to further training. You could even argue that they are socially disadvantaged, since they have been deprived of a deep appreciation of some of the great works of art and culture,' he continues.

Dr Clarke highlights phrases used in everyday speech that few seem to realise come from the Bible. These include: 'Flesh of my flesh' (Genesis 2.23); 'The apple of my eye' (Deuteronomy 32.10); 'A lily among thorns' (Ecclesiastes 2.2); 'The salt of the earth' (Matthew 5.13) and many more.

'The Bible is clearly a central text for understanding Western (and not just Western) culture. And yet Bible literacy is in a woeful state, not only among students, but also among teachers and public figures,' Dr Clarke writes. Although written for the *Live Light* campaign, Bible Society Australia's hope is that *God's Library* will be the start of a re-evaluation of the place of the Bible in Australian culture.

God's Library by Dr Greg Clarke is available as a FREE download until 9 November 2012 from: <http://25words.biblesociety.org.au/gods-library/> together with a full list of details and other campaign resources.



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LEVI McGRATH
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This young man has a heart for reaching child victims of war and exploitation. The Centre, CEO of World Vision says 'It is remarkable to learn of his music and not be stirred into action'. From working with former child soldiers in Uganda to social work on the streets of Melbourne, Levi demonstrates a genuine concern toward to changing the world for the better that goes beyond his years.

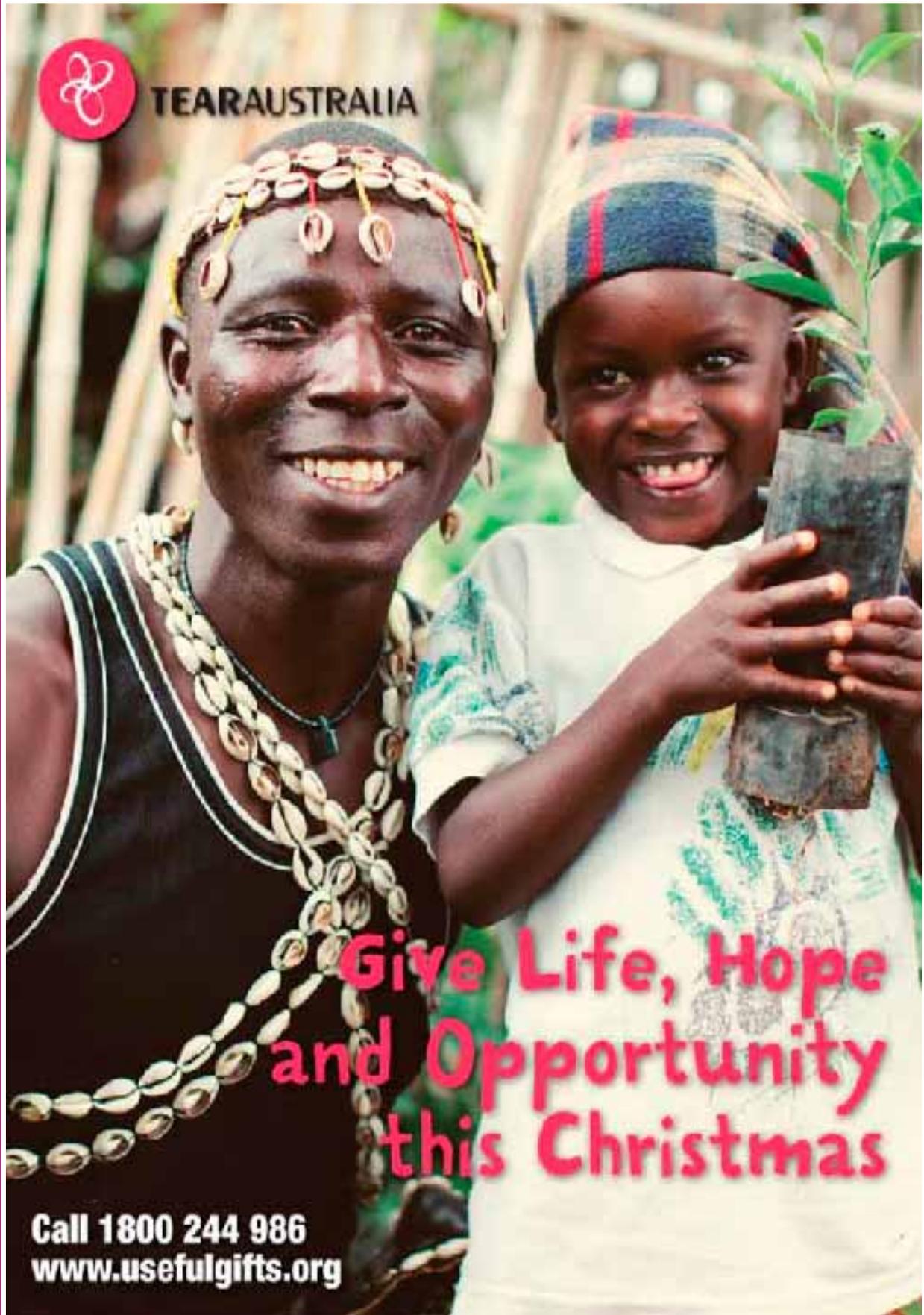
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RECENT EVENTS ...

Christian Areas Of Aleppo Invaded By Syrian Opposition Forces

HUMANITARIAN group Barnabas Aid has received an urgent prayer request from its partners in Syria for Christians in the city of Aleppo, whose major residential areas have been invaded by opposition fighters, with Aleppo seemingly falling to opposition forces. Barnabas Aid says that on Thursday 25 October the Free Syrian Army and its allies entered al-Syriaan al-Jadide and put two checkpoints in front of a Baptist church building. They also took over a local Christian school. Barnabas Aid said the other main Christian district, al-Syriaan al-Qadime, has also fallen to the opposition. Snipers have been positioned on the roofs in both areas.



Meanwhile, Barnabas Aid said, armed FSA groups have attacked the al-Zukhur district of the city, which is home to many of the (mainly Christian) Armenian community. Barnabas Aid said it appears that Aleppo is now largely in the hands of the opposition. Clashes with government forces are still being reported, but the regime may now be abandoning the city.

Barnabas Aid asked, 'Pray for Christians in Aleppo, both during the fighting and afterwards. The opposition generally regards them as government supporters, and some Islamists will attack them simply for being Christians. Pray that the Lord will shield all those who take refuge in Him.'

Barnabas Aid provides hope and aid for the persecuted church. For more information go to:

www.barnabasfund.org

– Jeremy Reynolds, Senior Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

Lausanne Movement Global Consultation On Creation Care And The Gospel

THE Lausanne Global Consultation on Creation Care and the Gospel (one of several global gatherings planned by the Lausanne Movement around more than 30 priority issues identified in *The Cape Town Commitment*) began 30 October and runs until 2 November in Runaway Bay, Jamaica. Held in collaboration with the World Evangelical Alliance, the consultation brings together 60 participants from 25 countries including specialists, theologians, scientists, and leaders of development agencies and churches.

Rev Edward R. Brown, Lausanne Movement Senior Associate for Creation Care, emphasises that participants are, 'seeking God's wisdom in understanding how Creation Care fits within the Gospel and are seeking God's guidance in developing a truly self-sustaining global Christian Creation Care Movement.' Other partners in the Consultation include Tearfund, World Vision and the Caribbean Grad School of Theology.

The gathering will focus on three major areas, *God's World* – evaluating the challenges before us; *God's Word* – a theological foundation for Creation Care; and *God's Work* – understanding what is already happening globally on this issue and then planning for the future.

Sir John Houghton, Professor Emeritus of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Oxford and former Chief Executive Officer at the UK Meteorological Office, has played a key role in shaping the program. Dr Las Newman, President of the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology and Lausanne International Deputy Director for the Caribbean, is hopeful that the outcomes of the Consultation, to be published by Lausanne, will help policymakers, citizens, and the Church as a global institution to develop effective strategies for Creation Care as a means to greater environmental sustainability.

Lindsay Brown says '*The Cape Town Commitment* affirmed our love for God's creation – not mere sentimental affection for nature, which the Bible nowhere commands; still less ... the pantheistic worship of nature (which the Bible expressly forbids); rather, it is the logical outworking of our love for God by caring for what belongs to Him. "The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it", so if Jesus is Lord of all the Earth, Creation Care is thus a Gospel issue within the lordship of Christ.'

Gordon Showell-Rogers said, 'We hope and pray that the outcomes of this consultation will shape thinking about how to model good stewardship of Creation.'

The Lausanne website is hosting the consultation papers and a discussion on *Creation Care And The Gospel* (<http://conversation.lausanne.org/en/pages/creation-care>). Reports from the consultation will be posted throughout the week at www.lausanne.org

Inaugural Celebration Of National Christian Heritage Sunday

– To Give Thanks For The Gospel Of The Lord Jesus Christ Coming For The First Time To Australian Soil.

CHURCHES across the country will celebrate the 225th anniversary of the first known Christian Service in Australia after the First Fleet arrived, conducted by the Rev Richard Johnson on 3 February 1788. His proclamation of the Gospel was based on Psalm 116.12, 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?'

Giving Thanks To Our Heavenly Father

As a nation, Australia has been blessed with plenty by the goodness and mercy of God. There is so much we need to thank our Heavenly Father for as we reflect on our parliamentary democracy, our freedom of speech, our freedom of religion and worship, our legal system and the independence of our courts of law. On the 225th anniversary may we, along with Richard Johnson, individually and as a nation pause and recognise the Lord's benefits to this nation and give Him thanks for our Christian heritage that has made Australia the great nation it is today.

Preserving Our Nation's Future

As we look to the future may all Australians seek together to preserve our Christian heritage. May we continue to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ for the good of all and the honour of His Name, in the sure knowledge that ultimately 'every knee will bow before Him; every tongue will confess to God.' (Romans

An Annual Event

The National Christian Heritage Sunday will be celebrated annually in the future on the first Sunday in February each year to give God the Glory for His blessings so freely given to our land and nation.

For further information on our Christian heritage go to: www.nchs.net.au and www.chr.org.au

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Ramon A Williams

– Worldwide Photos –

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TANZANIA: Christians Threatened By Islamisation

TANZANIA'S population is 31% Muslim and 54% Christian, although church attendance is only about 8% (according to *Operation World*). According to the Catholic Bishop of Kondea Diocese, Bernadin Mfumbusa, Islamisation is advancing. Since the mid-1980s, itinerant preachers from Saudi Arabia and the Sudan have been entering the country and spreading intolerant, fundamentalist Islam. Consequently, Muslims are becoming more assertive with their political demands and more aggressive with their verbal attacks. Demands are growing louder for Sharia Law and Kadhi (Islamic) Courts, for Fridays to be public holidays and for Tanzania to join the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation.

Bishop Mfumbusa recently said that there has been a marked increase in veiled women and Qur'anic schools (madrassas), adding, 'In the church schools, which are also attended by Muslim children, we must be very sensitive and cautious to avoid any undesirable incidents.'

As in Kenya, US-mandated anti-terror laws enacted post 9/11 have fuelled division along religious lines. Christians are generally supportive and Muslims strongly object, claiming the laws purposely target them. In the lead-up to the 2005 elections the Christian-dominated Revolutionary Party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, successfully wooed the Muslim vote by promising to establish Kadhi (Islamic) courts. However, after winning the election CCM shelved its promise. Religion has since come to dominate Tanzanian politics. Tensions are rising.

On 10 October Zakaria Hamis Mbonde (12) was walking home from Qur'anic school, carrying his *Qur'an*, when he came across his Christian friend, Emmanuel Mwinuka (13). When Emmanuel asked Zakaria if he could see his *Qur'an*, Zakaria warned him that the *Qur'an* had the power to turn anyone who defiled it into a dog or a snake. An argument ensued, prompting Emmanuel to disprove Zakaria's claim by urinating on his *Qur'an*. Naturally Zakaria's parents wanted to know what had happened to his *Qur'an*. As word spread through the Mbagala Ward of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's largest city, tensions soared. To appease the mobs police arrested Emmanuel, taking him to the police station for questioning and keeping him there for his own safety. After Friday prayers on 12 October masses of enraged Muslims besieged the police station, demanding Emmanuel be handed over to them so they could behead him. When the police refused,

the Muslims rioted, setting fire to Mbagala's Agape Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Over the next few days more churches, including an Anglican and a Church of Christ, were attacked: two in Kigoma and one in Zanzibar.

Cars were also smashed and burnt. Subsequently, 86 were arrested for rioting and 32 for destroying church properties. Sheikh Ponda Issa Ponda, the secretary-general of the Council of Islamic Organisations, was arrested for inciting the violence which he blamed on the police, saying that if the police had given the matter 'its due weight' then Muslims would not have felt so 'sidelined'.

But is it a crime in Tanzania to blaspheme, defile a *Qur'an* or hurt a Muslim's feelings? I (EK) don't think so! Yet on 23 July 2012 a judge in the coastal town of Bagamoyo sentenced Christian teen Eva Abdullah (17) to two years in prison after Islamic fundamentalists falsely accused her of defiling the *Qur'an*. Eva, who was driven from her home after converting to Christianity, had been resisting pressure from Islamic fundamentalists to return to Islam. After falsely accusing her, these radicals allegedly bribed the judge to punish Eva. Fear of the Muslims reportedly has kept local Christians from getting involved. Eva thanks the Lord that He has provided her with kind and sympathetic prison guards who are caring for her and protecting her.

Please Pray Specifically That God Will:

- Convict, motivate and embolden Tanzanian leaders, so they will rise to defend human rights, liberty and rule of law rather than appease the belligerent for false peace and short-term gain; may they clearly understand what is at stake.
- Bring revival to the Tanzanian Church, so she might 'wake up, and strengthen what remains' (Revelation 3.2), and take the life-transforming Gospel of grace to Muslims before Muslims impose repressive Islam on Tanzania.
- Comfort and protect Emmanuel Mwinuka (13) and his family as they face mass Islamic wrath over a childish prank, as well as Eva Abdullah (17) as she suffers purely because of her love for the Lord Jesus; may God supply their every need.

– *Written for the Australian Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission by Elizabeth Kendal, international religious liberty analyst and advocate, member of the AEA RLC team, Adjunct Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths at Melbourne School of Theology.*

Translation Work Vital To Church Growth

THE Boko area is regarded as the most remote of the language groups in Benin, but it has often been an example to other language groups in the areas of vernacular literature, Bible school and church organisation. There are now about 40 Boko churches and 3,000 Christians in an ethnic group that is more than 90% Muslim.

The church has had a Bible school running for more than 30 years, sometimes two days every fortnight, sometimes for three months. So there are now more than 80 trained pastors and evangelists. They see the need for a permanent Bible school to be built on the outskirts of Segbana (the principal town in the Boko area) where the government has given them a five hectare plot of land. Other church activities for youth, women and children are well catered for, and nurses have been trained and medical clinics are opening in Boko villages.

Ross and his late wife Joy worked with SIM among the Bocos from 1969 to 1984 and Ross has continued translation work among them and other related languages in the area, spending part of each year in Africa. A full time Bible School will open in January and be developed as funds come in. Details are available from Ross Jones: ross.jones@sim.org



Ross translating with Kyanga language consultants.

Not Too Late To Start

HAVE you worked for 20, 30 or 40 years and gained a lot of valuable experience, but are wondering if you could do more for the Kingdom of God than support your local church? Back in 2004 Barbara and Lindsay Fell realised the tremendous potential of this age group and that many were not aware of the possibilities.

The result is *Second Wind Network*, an organisation they started to link prospective workers with mission agencies that need what they could offer. So SWN has developed into a network of churches, mission agencies and individuals with a common goal of seeing Australian Christians in their 40s, 50s and 60s actively involved in local and global cross-cultural mission.

Their website, www.secondwind.net.au is kept up-to-date with the current needs and opportunities around the world.

Support For National Workers

PASTORS and church planters supported by Barnabas Fund are reaching out with the Gospel in often hostile contexts. One has led 21 families to Christ in Pakistan. The pastor of a large congregation comprising around 150 families, he regularly goes out to spread the Gospel, distributing literature in market places, buses and trains. He endures great animosity and the threat of violence but is unperturbed. 'Everyone is concerned about their future. But I have certainty about eternal life,' he said.

Thirty eight couples in Indonesia have been receiving funding since they started planting churches almost three years ago, and in Kenya, 30 Barnabas-supported Christian workers are making an impact for Christ among the local people.

These are just some of nearly 400 pastors and church planters who are receiving support from Barnabas Fund in 18 countries where Christians are a pressurised minority. These workers are serving the Lord in very challenging contexts. They face much opposition, hostility and danger, so it is a great encouragement to them to know that brothers and sisters around the world are partnering with them in their labours. www.barnabasfund.org

Missionary School Flooded

ON 20 August, Sahel Academy, a college for missionary children and other English speakers in Niamey, Niger, became part of the Niger River when record floods caused the dyke in front of the school to break. The school community worked tirelessly to salvage school supplies, furniture and equipment and store it safely. Fifty three missionaries and children were left homeless, along with a great number of the national people. Some help was given by other mission organisations but other suitable accommodation is hard to find in Niamey.

There is a long road ahead. This is the beginning of the wet season, with the seasonal peak of the river due in December and the water not expected to recede before next March. (Continued on p.10)

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE (Continued from p.9) ...

When the water does recede, the enormous task of restoring the buildings, assessing damage and getting the school back into a habitable state begins.

Despite the difficulties, the school community is in good heart. CEO Bill Bliss said, 'We are struggling to understand what God is doing and why He is allowing these seeming catastrophes to happen, and yet we trust in Him.'

Asylum Seekers Form A Church

INSTEAD of Afghans coming to faith in Jesus here in Australia and then joining a church, Operation Mobilisation's Ministry to Australian People (MAP) team are currently seeing a group of Afghans who are already Christians arrive and begin to establish their own church. In 2010 a large number of secret believers in this strict Muslim country were exposed as Christians. Most of these had to flee, often narrowly escaping imprisonment and torture. Some were soon recognised by the UNHCR as refugees and are now waiting to be accepted by a safe country. Others started to arrive in boats in Australian waters and found themselves in one of Australia's detention centres. Through the MAP team's connections with Christians in Afghanistan they heard about these believers here and have helped many in detention centres to get in touch with one another.

Now seven Afghan believers meet regularly in a house church. They pray for the many more believers who are currently still in detention or abroad waiting to be accepted into Australia.

A Joyful Conference

SIMCHA means 'a joyous occasion', and that is exactly what Simcha 2012 is all about – a joyful gathering of believers from across Australia, organised by Celebrate Messiah, an outreach to the Jewish community based in Melbourne. Running from 30 November to 2 December this year, the venue at Phillip Island, Vic, is expected to fill as on previous occasions. Guest speakers are Dr Mitch Glaser, President of Chosen People Ministries, USA, who has a keen understanding of the global scope of the modern Messianic movement thanks to his extensive travels and continued ministry to the Jewish people spanning almost 40 years; and Maxim K, a Russian-born Israeli who will minister to the Russian speaking believers. Other support speakers are Dr Ashley Crane, principal of Harvest West Bible College in Perth, Kelvin Crombie, Australian author, historian and inspiring speaker who has lived in Israel for 24 years, and founder and CEO of Celebrate Messiah, Lawrence Hirsch. Details and registration may be found at www.celebratemessiah.com.au

Christmas Is Coming ...

AND *New Life's* mailbox is growing fat with catalogues featuring gifts to give to that person who has everything but which would bring real help to the needy overseas. Check out the website of a Christian work that you are interested in and see if they have a catalogue available, and give two people a lot of joy this Christmas for the price of one.

Meet Songe Chibambo – 'All Find Rest In Christ Alone'

SONGE Chibambo is Pan African Missions Director for African Enterprise, the organisation set up by Michael Cassidy to evangelise the cities of Africa through word and deed in partnership with the Church. Songe spoke at a Supporters' Dinner at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Surrey Hills (Vic) recently ...

Born and raised in northern Malawi, Songe was educated in Malawi, Lagos, Nigeria and Oregon, USA. His present position involves him in mission, teaching and preaching as director of African Enterprise, which this year is celebrating 50 years of service, concentrating on bringing the Gospel to more than 1,000,000 people each year. Their ministry includes providing potable water to isolated communities, giving Godly leadership training and setting up *Foxfire* youth leadership teams.

Although Songe's grandfather was one of Malawi's first moderators, who preached the Gospel with no compromise, and Songe read the Bible, attended Sunday school and church, but was not converted. Although at the age of 10 or 12 he had a vivid dream in which he was called to be a fisher of men, he feared death and went astray as a teenager. But in September 1978 Songe gave his life to Jesus. He is now passionate for the Gospel, believing that Jesus is the only answer for every nation. Songe believes in stratified evangelism, going where people are and reaching out to them in their own locality. The Gospel is needed in the workplace, bus stations, homes, the workplace – wherever people are – so typically, to reach a city, AE would organise some 400 meetings, with 30-80 evangelists. Holy Spirit power is needed in order to make a difference for Jesus, and God is giving His power as He is doing something new in Africa and Asia to spread the Gospel as never before. Go to: <http://aeinternational.org/australia/> for more info about AE.



A Minor Christian Girl Kidnapped In Islamabad Territory – May Be 'Illegally' Married Off After Being Forced To Become A Muslim

TIMAR Shahzadi, a 14-year-old Christian girl, was kidnapped by Muslim men in the twin cities of Islamabad/Rawalpindi on 22 October as she was returning from school. According to Pastor Farooq Sadique, the girl was with friends when the abductors pounced and dragged her away. Mr Masih says that her family fears that she could be 'forcefully converted to become a Muslim and then married off if immediate steps are not taken.' He went on to say that her family reported the incident to the Koral Police Station in Islamabad, but police have not yet conducted any investigation.



*Timar Shahzadi,
the kidnapped girl.*

'The poor family cannot afford the expenses of the tribunal procedure and her father requested the higher official to take care of her daughter's issue. He also requested the human rights and women rights organisation to help him in finding his daughter,' said Shamim Masih. Her father, Amjid Masih, said that because the girl is still a minor, according to law 'she is too young' to be married. The practice of forced conversion and forced marriage is widespread: rich and powerful Muslims take advantage, especially in rural areas, and girls are victims of religious minorities. According to Fides Agency, in Pakistan there are about 1,000 similar cases each year, against Christian and Hindu girls. The agency added that to combat the phenomenon, widely recognised by civil authorities, the National Commission for Religious Minorities has prepared a draft law that Christians support and hope that it may soon be considered by Parliament.

– Dan Wooding, Director, ASSIST

INDIA – Attackers Target Prayer Meeting

A GROUP of Christians in Maharashtra State were beaten up and then accused of forcibly converting people – after withdrawing a complaint about the attack. Hindu fundamentalists attacked a prayer meeting of the New Life Fellowship in Malwan on 26 October. According to the All India Christian Council, a number of Christians – including women and children – were beaten up in the attack. One man was hospitalised.

Hindu leaders persuaded the Christians not to lodge a complaint – for the sake of community peace – but later accused the church pastor, Ruzi D'souza, and other church leaders of being involved in 'forcible conversions' (a common accusation against the church in India). On the basis of these claims local police arrested 11 Christians.

It is reported that the Hindu activists returned to the pastor's home during the night and attacked those present, causing further injuries.

Please pray for healing for all those injured in this latest incident and that they would have grace to persevere in their faith; that God would give Pastor Ruzi D'souza the courage to stand firm in the face of this intimidation.

– Release International

Joy For Re-Registration; Concern For Broader Religious Freedoms In Kazakhstan

JOEL Griffith with Slavic Gospel Association says they're celebrating a difficult achievement in Kazakhstan. Two SGA-supported churches were success-

fully re-registered with the government. 'We're happy to hear that, but from a broader, religious freedom aspect, we are concerned. One group that has religious freedom today might not be granted that freedom tomorrow.' According to Forum 18 News, officials tried to stop some Kazakh Protestants from registering their church. While SGA-supported churches succeeded, Griffith doesn't think they should relax their guard. 'They need to be very careful. In Kazakhstan, even with the registered churches, there have been difficulties.'

– MNN

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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)

Arab-Israeli Minister Calls For 'Spiritual' Arab Spring In Mid-East

A YOUNG Arab-Israeli Christian pastor, who has been beaten and stoned for his faith, is calling on Christians to pray for a 'Spiritual' Arab Spring throughout the Middle East.

Pastor Steven Khoury was born in the city of Jerusalem and grew up in the city of Bethlehem, five minutes from the birth place of Christ. On 10 May 1990, Khoury gave his life to the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 'I am glad, not for what I have done, but for what Christ has done for me on Calvary's Cross. I am glad that Christ showed mercy to me and gave His life that I might be saved. Growing up on the mission field for 20 years has not only taught me the life of a missionary, but also the struggles and battles of every believer,' Khoury says on his website, www.holylandmissions.org

Khoury adds: 'God has burdened my heart in a great way. He has shown me that Arabs can come to Salvation; I have witnessed that Jews are coming to the Messiah, and that many in Israel from all backgrounds are losing hope in life. Seeing people bleed every day, and seeing a person one day and gone the next because of violence and terrorism has made me appreciate life.'

Holy Land Missions exists to preach the Gospel to the hurting nation of Israel and the Palestinian peoples, bringing worldwide awareness of the persecution of born again Christians living in the Holy Land today – 'Building Hope in lives that lost it, Planting Love in hearts that forgot it, to build a better tomorrow,' to put it in Khoury's words.

The organisation's current mission is building a multi-purpose Worship Centre in Jerusalem.

Khoury pastors Calvary Jerusalem Church, as well as a church in Bethlehem, and four other sites in Israel. He has served in ministry in both the USA and Israel over the past seven years. He is the youngest locally-ordained Arab pastor in Israel and surrounding Arab countries.

Khoury has been published in several books and interviewed by CBN and ICEJ. He currently writes religious articles for *Al-Quds*, the largest Arabic newspaper in the Holy Land. His book is called, *In The Backyard Of Jesus*, published by Living Sacrifice Book Company, in Bartlesville, OK.

Holy Land Missions has been reaching out to the lost in Israel for the past 30 years. Today, six locations around the country are actively preaching the Gospel to a hurting nation, including Calvary Church in Jerusalem and First Baptist in Bethlehem. The ministry says that throughout the entire country there are approximately 15,000 born again Arab-Israeli Christians who are daily persecuted by the two dominating religions in the area.

On his website, Khoury explains: 'Persecution has always faced this ministry. Church members have been attacked, discriminated against. Many have lost their income, all for the sake of carrying the Cross.

Several believers have been martyred, including Dr Naim Khoury's brother, and several young girls who invited children to VBS. The church in Bethlehem has been molotov firebombed 14 times and Dr Naim Khoury has been shot at several times in the last 10 years. Nevertheless, Holy Land Missions has reached out to thousands over the years through their outreach programs such as: TV Ministry, Summer Children's Programs, Printing and Distribution of Christian Materials, Radio Ministry, Youth Centres, Church Services, Food Pantry, and Community Events.

'Holy Land Missions sends out a call for the body of believers around the World to stand behind the persecuted believers in this country,' their website says. **How Is God At Work In Bethlehem And Jerusalem?**

'We are seeing an openness in the minds and hearts of people in the Holy Land we've never seen before: openness to the Gospel, openness to Jesus, openness to come to some of the things we're doing that before they would have never been interested in coming to or doing. The cause of the openness of the people's hearts and minds was, I think, years of prayers, years of persistence – people like my father and others who stood strong in the land. I think our boldness and our love for Jesus has attracted others to who we are and the message that we have.'

– Michael Ireland, ASSIST News

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www.longfordbaptistchurch.org.au

Applications close: 30 November 2012.

Former Terrorist Now An Evangelist For Christ

'IT was just amazing to me that I was a man preparing young boys and girls to hate Christianity,' said Dr Daniel Shayesteh at a conference in Hope In Messiah Church which featured a former terrorist and the co-founder of Hezbollah in Iran who used to persecute Jews and Christians but is now a Christian evangelist.

According to the church's website, Shayesteh was a militant revolutionary who helped overthrow the Shah of Iran in 1979. As a subsequent leader in the Ayatollah Khomeini's regime, he co-founded Hezbollah in both Iran and Lebanon. He was wholly committed to the destruction of Israel and America.

But when Shayesteh decided to turn against the Ayatollah's regime, he was sent to a 'death prison' in Turkey where he studied other faiths. It was there he was converted to Christianity and ultimately escaped the region.

Today, according to his bio at Crown College in Minnesota, Dr Shayesteh is a National Evangelist for the Christian and missionary organization Exodus From Darkness. He also operates a satellite television program broadcast to millions of Muslims around the world.

Notes the college website: 'Dr Shayesteh calls for us to "search for truth together" and is confident that people who search openly will discover as he has, that eternal confidence is found only in Jesus Christ.'

– Teresa Neumann, *Breaking Christian News*



Evangelical Festival In Egyptian Desert

A CHRISTIAN leader in Egypt is calling for prayers for a huge four-day evangelistic festival in the desert north of Cairo, expected to draw 50,000 people from all over Egypt. Hundreds of buses will transport the crowds every day from major cities to the site. The event will be televised and covered by several Christian satellite channels, and is expected to attract 5 to 6 million viewers. The main theme behind all of the activities is how Jesus can change lives, according to the Christian leader. At the end of each day, there will be a worship service and a direct evangelistic message to call attendees to give their lives to Jesus.

'There is no doubt that God is moving in Egypt and showing Himself in mighty ways to many of His children, and to many who are seeking to know Him,' says the Christian contact. 'The hunger to know about Jesus and to get to know more about the Christian faith is phenomenal. These are, indeed, difficult times we live in today. With all of the political, social, economic, and religious challenges we have faced here in the last few months, all Egyptians are left with many uncertainties and concerns about the present and future. But we Christians of Egypt are realising more and more every day that God is visiting our country with a powerful divine presence, and that the things He is going to do in our country are beyond imagination. This is what we pray for, and this is what we are waiting in faith to see happen.'

The leader is calling for prayers for the safety of people traveling to the festival, and for many to come to faith in Jesus Christ. 'Of course, the evangelistic festival is certainly an event that the enemy doesn't want to see happening. He will try to do whatever it takes to stop it, or at least distort the attention of people away from listening to the Good News. We call on our brothers and sisters worldwide to join us in prayer and to watch with us as we see thousands, maybe millions, of Egyptians coming to Jesus.'

Earlier in the month, a youth festival in the desert drew 10,000 young people from all over Egypt. Egyptian Christians have faced increased persecution since the election of a Muslim Brotherhood President four months ago. Egypt is ranked No. 15 on the Open Doors World Watch List of 50 countries which are the worst persecutors of Christians.

Jerry Dykstra, Media Relations Director for Open Doors USA, states: 'What is happening in Egypt this month (October) is truly awesome. In the midst of increased persecution, turmoil, and uncertainty, Christians are reaching out to others and fervently praying "in such a time as this." Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ during this weekend event.'

An estimated 100 million Christians worldwide suffer interrogation, arrest, and even death for their faith in Christ, with millions more facing discrimination and alienation. Open Doors supports and strengthens believers in the world's most difficult areas through Bible and Christian literature distribution, leadership training and assistance, Christian community development, prayer and presence ministry, and advocacy.

HERE TO HELP ...

Twelve Books Prepared For Publication By Drs Clifford And Barbara Wilson

<i>The Stones Still Shout</i>	1998	A4	Illustrated liberally	230pp
<i>Crash Goes Darwin And His Origin Of Species</i>	2001	A4	Illustrated	315pp
<i>He's Coming Back Soon</i>	2005	A4	Illustrated liberally	150pp
<i>The Paluxy River Dinosaur Controversy</i>	2007	A4	Illustrated liberally	144pp
<i>Genesis, That Amazing Book Of Beginnings</i>	2003/2008	A5	Illustrated	100pp
<i>New Light On The Gospels</i>	2001/2008	A5	Illustrated	120pp
<i>Meeting Jesus Of Nazareth</i>	2001/2010	A4		90pp
<i>Jesus In The OT Shadows And NT Light</i>	2008/2010	A4		90pp
<i>Jesus The Master Counsellor</i>	2003/2010	A4		100pp
<i>Jesus The Master Teacher</i>	2003/2010	A4		90pp
<i>Crash Go The Skulls And The Hoaxes</i>	2001/2010	A4		90pp
<i>The Way God Works In Nature</i>	2001/2010	A4		90pp

As at 20/10/20012, copies of these twelve titles are available free from New Life Books & Archaeology, 44 Dublin Road, Ringwood East, open Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm, Thursdays 9am-4pm

Email: www.newlifebooks.info Many earlier Wilson titles are available second-hand from New Life Books & Archaeology, a market place for pre-loved Christian books.

A Very Special Offer:

Through the charity of the Dr Wilsons' Estate, one copy of each of the twelve books listed above is now available free to anyone within Australia who requests them AND sends \$20 (AUD) for packing and postage.

Weighing 4.66 kg, these books will be posted within Australia in a 5 kg Postal Bag.

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BOOKS WORTH READING ...

ARCHIBALD G. BROWN: SPURGEON'S SUCCESSOR, Iain H. Murray, Edinburgh, Banner Of Truth, 2011.

A NEW biography from the pen of Iain Murray is always a treat and I was not disappointed with this one. Murray freely acknowledges that the story of Archibald Brown would not have been written without the encouragement and researches of John Eyres, and the book is dedicated to John and his wife Maureen.

Brown had a godly upbringing and his family sat under the preaching of the youthful C.H. Spurgeon. A spiritually careless young man, Brown was converted at age 17, and his first 'pulpit' as a new convert was an upturned wheelbarrow on which he sat to read the Bible to workmen in their morning break. When only 18, he joined Spurgeon's Pastors College, though to enter at such a young age broke all the rules! It showed what Spurgeon thought of this promising young man, who shared his faith with anyone who would listen.

Brown was ceaselessly active in Gospel work, pastoring a church at Bromley while still a student. What he said in an early sermon expressed one of his deepest convictions: 'God never saved a man to let him have an easy life'. Fifty years of devoted service to Christ followed. Brown moved to Stepney Green Tabernacle in the East End of London and soon was preaching to a packed church, a result that Brown put down to the earnest prayer of many for revival. A new church building three times the size of the original was built, the East London Tabernacle, and Spurgeon preached at its opening.

Murray identifies love for God and for people as the reason that Brown was ever active and so fruitful in saving lost souls. Service that springs from love is not, of course, a mere 'formula for success' but a law of God's Kingdom. One of Brown's maxims was: 'Sow the seed everywhere'. Here, then, is a biography that is full of spiritual lessons, a book for any minister or missionary who wants to learn what it is to be faithful, to be useful, to win souls and to glorify Christ.

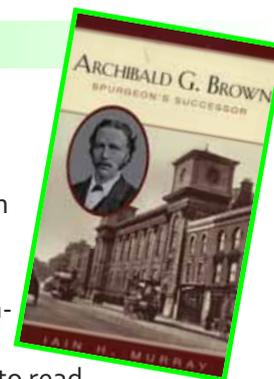
Rather than thinking of advertising or promoting the church, Brown believed that 'converted sinners are the best advertisement in the world for a place of worship'. When asked by someone why he did not have social activities in the church program, he answered: 'They find their recreation in Christ'. He was convinced that social activities would only weaken the witness of the church. He started a mission and organised a system of visitation to bring aid to the many poor of the district, but he did not make the mistake of preaching a 'social gospel', rather he preached that a person's greatest need was to know Christ.

We are told about his friendship and co-operation with Spurgeon through the years, especially in their common struggle against the downgrading of doctrine in the Baptist Union, a battle that helped to shorten Spurgeon's life. Both their congregations eventually left the Union. Brown took a leading part in the funeral of Spurgeon (1892), and sadly the years that followed showed an increasing trend among English Baptists to depart from a solid stand on Scripture.

Brown completed 30 years of ministry in London's East End in February 1897. Preaching trips to the United States and Palestine ensued. After ten years as pastor of Chatsworth Road Baptist Church, he accepted the call to be co-pastor at the Metropolitan Tabernacle with Spurgeon's son, Thomas, and then for three years was sole pastor. Brown, like Spurgeon, saw his time as a turning point in history, when many pastors and churches modified their view on an infallible Scripture and denied the sovereignty of God. We are still living with the sad consequences of this change.

Next, Brown went on a round-the-world preaching tour that took him to South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, and he died in 1922 aged 77. Brown held strong biblical convictions, but also loved those who differed from him, believing that an unforgiving spirit was alien to Christianity. Now there is an example of Christ-like balance to emulate! Final comments by Murray on preaching (strongly disapproving of preaching in series) and hymn-singing (again, quite negative about musical accompaniment) will not receive universal approval, but certainly supply food for thought. Here, then, is a book that is sure to inspire, instruct and energise all those who love Christ and seek to serve Him.

—Greg Goswell



**Read *The King James Version Debate* by David Holden
at www.defenceofthefaith.org**

Boort Baptist Church Celebrates It's 50th Anniversary



City Bible Forum Has Busy Schedule Ahead

ROBERT Martin, Director the City Bible Forum, Melbourne, reports on a busy time ahead, hosting some lunchtime forums designed to engage the public interest surrounding the conclusion of the Mayan calendar in December. Dr Peter Orr from Melbourne School of Theology and Dr Greg Clarke from the Bible Society will be present at Interactive Lunchtime Forums at 12.30pm on 14 November at 242 Exhibition St, Melbourne, and 1pm on 15 November at Level 8, 500 Collins St.

Robert will also be participating in a debate with Jonathan Meddings on one of the defining questions of our time, *Is Christianity A Force For Good In The World?* at 7pm, in The Celtic Club, 316-320 Queen St, Melbourne. The cost is \$10, with all profits going to support Medicens Sans Frontieres. This debate has already stimulated a lot of interest and over 20 people are already coming to the event including leading public atheists Fiona Patten (Australian Sex Party) and Jason Ball (Global Atheist Convention). It should be a great night. For more details go to: www.citybibleforum.org

Conference On Reformed Ministry In China

CHINA'S Reforming Churches will be a unique international gathering of Reformed church leaders and missions-minded Christians who will convene from 2-4 January 2013 in the Washington DC area to consider the status of Reformed church developments in China today. Through the sponsorship of World Reformed Fellowship member Reformed Theological Seminary, this conference will especially focus on how the North American and international Presbyterian and Reformed community can most effectively assist their Chinese brothers and sisters as they strive to advance Christ's Kingdom and develop vibrant and biblical Reformed and Presbyterian churches in this great and fast-changing nation. Prior registration by December 15 is required in order to attend; therefore any member of a Presbyterian or Reformed church who is interested in learning more about Reformed church development in contemporary China is welcome to apply, especially missionaries, pastors, elders, educators, and seminary students. For more information on the conference or how you can financially support this event through a contribution to RTS designated for the 'China Conference Fund,' please email chinaconference@rts.edu

'Fair Trade' Market Comes To GyMEA Baptist Church And Sutherland Shire For First Time

GYMEA Baptist Church, in Sydney's southern suburbs, is hosting a Worldchangers Fair Trade Market on Friday 9 November from 5-9pm. Fair Trade is a growing international movement that ensures that producers in poor countries get a fair deal for their product. Fair Trade is about consistent prices, decent working conditions and community development. It also addresses the injustices of conventional trade which discriminate against the poorest and weakest producers, enabling them to improve their position and have more control over their lives. Fair Trade ensures there is no child exploitation in the production of goods, that women are valued as equally as men, and that work conditions are safe and healthy.

More than 20 Fair Trade stallholders will be selling goods, and opportunity will be given to learn more about the fair trade movement. There will be live music, lots of food to feed the family and fun for the children – a great evening for the whole family. It will be an opportunity to not only shop for Christmas but to help those less fortunate.

GyMEA Baptist Church is at 2-4 Tea Gardens Avenue, Kirrawee. For more information call GyMEA Baptist Church on 02 9521 4611.