

www.nlife.com.au

'Tell the people the full message of this new life.' Acts 5.20b

15 November 2012. Vol 75 No 10. Free On Request: office@nlife.com

PIM - Praising The Lord For 100 Years Of Service

2012 was a significant year in the history of the Presbyterian Church as it marked the centenary of ministry to Inland Australia. In 1912, a pioneering work to provide a 'mantle of safety' was initiated under the leadership of the Rev Dr John Flynn through the Australian Inland Mission. The work of the AIM continues today as the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

The significance of 100 years of Inland Mission was recognised by the PIM in a range of ways. Two of the highlights were the centenary celebration service held at The Scots Church, Melbourne, and a weekend of celebrations at Beltana, SA.



Centenary Celebration Service

Acknowledging past accomplishments, recognising present ministries and looking to future spheres of service were all addressed at the Centenary Celebration Service held at Scots Church, Melbourne. Central to the whole service was the desire to worship God. The entire emphasis throughout the service was on all God had been pleased to do, and would continue to do, through the Presbyterian Church in remote and isolated parts of Australia. The Convener of the PIM and minister of Darwin, Rev Robert Duncanson, articulated this clearly at the commencement of the service.

An historical review of the establishment of the AIM by the Rev Dr John Flynn was presented by Rev Robert Benn. He highlighted Flynn's deep commitment to Christ, his vision, his resourcefulness and his motivation. He then launched the Coffee Table Book, *Views Beyond The Furthest Fences* that brings together a pictorial and written record of the work of the AIM and PIM over the past 100 years.

The Superintendent of the PIM, Rev Stuart Bonnington, then introduced all the present Padres and their wives. Padre Stephen Goldsmith spoke on behalf of all the other Patrol Teams, highlighting the ongoing need for prayer.

In looking to the future Rev Keith and Mrs Jenny Bell were introduced. They have been appointed by the PIM to move to Alice Springs in April 2013 to commence a Presbyterian congregation. Mr Bell spoke of the excitement they both had about the unique opportunity to establish a Presbyterian congregation in Alice Springs and highlighted ways people could help and encourage them in their work.

The Rt Rev David Jones, Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church, preached from Acts 3.1-10 and exhorted all in attendance to continue to proclaim Jesus Christ, who has the words of eternal life.

Celebrations At Beltana

The local community of Beltana planned a weekend of activities to mark the centenary of the founding of the AIM. Nearly all aspects of the town were opened to the public including the bakery, railway station, Beltana Station and the Smith of Dunesk Mission church building. Amid the hive of activity there were numerous static displays, books were launched and walking tours conducted. The PIM set up a display and an information table behind the historic Smith of Dunesk Mission.

On Sunday morning nearly 200 people gathered at the historic church. Those gathered were welcomed by David McDonald who is the PIM Padre for the Flynn Patrol in South Australia. The service was led by Rev Stuart Bonnington and the sermon was preached by the Rt Rev David Jones. His message was based on the text emblazoned on the back wall of the church from Isaiah 55.6, 'Seek ye the Lord'.



VOL: 75 NUMBER 10 ISSN: 1033-7903 ISSUE DATE:

15 November 2012

FOUNDER:

Eric J. Daley (1910-1992)

EDITOR:

Rev Bob Thomas

EMAIL:

editor@nlife.com.au

PHONE:

0417 592 646

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Mignon Goswell

EMAIL:

office@nlife.com.au

PHONE:

0434 313 646

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 457,

Mitcham VIC 3132

WEB-SITE:

www.nlife.com.au

SUBSCRIPTION:

Free On Request

ACCEPTANCE OF ADVERTISING DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT

PUBLISHED BY:

New Life Australia Ltd ABN 15 005 035 138.

How Can YOU Help *New Life*?

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

TO THE POINT

Never Too Late...



HISTORY books tell us that on 8 June 1972, a nine year old Vietnamese girl, her clothes flaming from gasoline bombs, fled the military assault on her village of Trang Bang. With her eyes screwed shut and her mouth spread wide in a scream of pain, she was captured on film in the world's most remembered Vietnam wartime photo.

An army officer, John Plummer, had many nightmares about this incident. His order had directed bombers to shower Kim Phuc's village with chemical explosives. For years, guilt over destroying and maiming the villagers haunted the officer. Alcohol became his escape.

Twenty years after the destruction of the village, Officer Plummer asked Christ to take control of his life and he knew that Jesus had died an horrific death on a cross as the ultimate sacrifice so that even he, John Plummer, could be forgiven. Although now free from guilt, he carried inside himself scars somehow linked to the thick, white scars on the neck, arm and back of the now grown Vietnamese girl. Six years later, Plummer knew he needed to find her. In an effort to meet her face to face, he tracked her down while she was visiting America.

Unlike the 1972 event, no photographer captured the moment when Plummer explained to Kim Phuc who he was. But in the middle of a busy sidewalk, the soldier, now 49 years old, and the child, now 33 years old, embraced. 'She just opened her arms to me', Plummer later said. 'I fell into her arms sobbing. All I could say is, "I'm so sorry. I'm just so sorry".'

'It's all right,' she replied. 'I forgive. I forgive.'

May we all keep short accounts with people around us and with our Creator who has made us. There is a verse in the Bible which says, 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1.9).

We have one short life to live. Don't contaminate it with bickerings and insults and unforgiveness. Might we all be willing to say 'sorry' genuinely and be willing to repent and forgive. Unforgiveness and bitterness imprison us – forgiveness sets us free.

— Bruce Stewart

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.

EGYPT: What Salafis Want From Coptic Girls

IN ISLAM, a child is given the religion of the father the day he or she is born. In Egypt, as in most Muslim countries, when children turn 16 they receive a state-issued identity (ID) card with their state-designated religion stamped on it. Those born to fathers registered as Muslim are deemed Muslim regardless of the actual belief of the father or the child because identity/affiliation is far more important than faith in Islam. As Muslims, they are not permitted to leave Islam and they are obliged to live according to Sharia Law: observing food and clothing restrictions, remaining separated from Jews and Christians, and other stipulations. Furthermore a Muslim woman must marry a Muslim man.

Christians who wish to convert to Islam – as nominal Christians sometimes do, mostly for pragmatic reasons – find getting a new ID card is easy. However, as Muslims are not permitted to leave Islam, their religious identity may not be changed. In recent years two extremely courageous Egyptian fathers, both converts from Islam, have sued the Interior Ministry for their right to change their religious identity. Both were motivated by concern for their children whom the state deems Muslim. Both cases failed because the courts would not permit apostasy from Islam. Death threats forced both families into hiding. Because their children are deemed Muslim, their daughters will be obliged by law to marry Muslim men and their sons, though free to marry a Christian, would be obliged by law to raise those children as Muslims.

It is well known that fundamentalist Muslim men are being encouraged to seduce and marry Christian girls. When married to Muslim men, the Christian girls are not only prevented from increasing the Christian demographic, they are actually used to increase the Muslim population. Fearing the influence of Christians, Salafi Muslims (hard-line Sunni fundamentalists) oppose all interfaith marriage and want it criminalised; they also want the legal marriage age for girls dropped from 18 to nine. It is well known that Salafis kidnap Coptic Christian girls for forced conversion and forced marriage to Muslim men to ensure Christian wombs are producing Muslim babies. In these cases the Salafis always insist that the girls have converted freely, ensuring that the girls cannot be rescued. As soon as the Salafis assert the girl is a convert who deserves freedom of religion, the police, local officials and wider Muslim community will rally to hold on to her as one of their own.

Born on 1 August 1998 in the town of el-Dabaa, 130km south of Mersa Matrouh (north-east of Cairo), Sarah Ishaq Abdelmalek is only 14. She was last seen on 30 September, entering a stationery shop near her school. After her father filed a missing persons report with the police, he received a call telling him that he will never see his daughter again. According to a school friend, the 27-year-old shop owner – a Salafist and the son of a local Salafi leader – had been pursuing Sarah for some time. He now stands accused of abducting her. On 28 October the Salafist Front issued a statement that Sarah, who they maintain is not under-aged, has converted to Islam freely and married a Muslim man.

The case should prove a serious test for President Morsi, for Sarah is under-age according to Egyptian law, which states the marriageable age for girls is 18. Will President Morsi bend for the Salafis out of respect for fundamentalist Islam or will he demand that Egyptian law be upheld and Sarah returned to her parents? Will he follow other precedents and have Sarah placed in a secure Muslim girls home until she is of marriageable age or will he allow Sarah the opportunity to freely declare her true faith and then protect her? Egyptian human rights organisations, including the National Council of Women, are lobbying for Sarah to be reunited with her family without delay. Still the prospects are not good. Surely a more obscene abuse of human rights would be hard to find.

Please Pray Specifically That God Will:

- Comfort, strengthen, preserve and ultimately rescue Sarah Abdelmalek; may He have mercy on this family and all families likewise grieving the loss of their abducted daughters.
- Redeem this case to draw international attention to the plight of hundreds of Coptic Christian girls who are abducted, raped and trafficked across religious lines; may the LORD of hosts expose and destroy this obscene trade.
- Enlighten many Muslims included to the terrible implications of Islam's apostasy law: not merely that it mandates death but that it forces people to live their whole lives as prisoners of Sharia, with no means of escape, generation after generation.
 Elizabeth Kendal, International Religious Liberty Analyst and Advocate, and Member of the AEA RLCTeam.

THE CHURCH'S ELDER STATESMAN TURNS 94 ...

Happy Birthday 'Daddy Bill' – Love From Tullian

IT was 2 May 1996 and I was sitting in the US Capitol rotunda with my family. We were eagerly anticipating the ceremony that was getting ready to begin. We were there because my grandparents were being honoured with the Congressional Gold Medal – the highest honour the Congress of the United States can bestow on a



citizen. In fact, Senator Bob Dole, during a speech at the ceremony, said, 'When the idea of awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Billy and Ruth Graham was first raised, it received something rare in this building – unanimous approval.' Everybody laughed. At the time, it was only the 114th medal awarded, with George Washington being the first recipient.

Hundreds came that day to honour my grandparents, ranging from then Vice President Al Gore to Kathy Lee Gifford. Newt Gingrich, Senator Dole, and Vice President Gore publicly honoured my grandparents by sharing how much my grandparents meant to each of them personally.

After the medal was presented, my granddad got up to speak. Before he could say a word, the crowd stood and applauded for a solid three minutes. Tears began streaming down my face. I was so proud of him and so thankful that God had given me such a tremendous heritage – one I had neither asked for nor deserved. Here was a man who was being publicly honoured for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to more people than anyone in history; a man who was being recognised for his love for God and love for others – and I had the privilege of calling him 'Daddy Bill.' As we all stood and clapped, I prayed: 'Lord, no matter what it is that You call me to do, I want to do it with the God-centered focus, passion, and humility that have characterised the life and ministry of my grandfather.'

No Surprise

It was no surprise that he presented the Gospel that day. He spoke boldly of sin, the cross, and the great need for repentance. He spoke about the brevity of life and the fleeting pleasures of this world. He looked into the eyes of the many high ranking political leaders who were there that day and challenged them to contemplate death and the life after. He was so bold, so unashamed of the Gospel – yet so winsome. To this day, I'm not sure I have ever heard the truth spoken in love more effectively. I had heard him preach a thousand times, but this time was particularly moving. I'll never forget that day.

Today (7 November 2012) 'Daddy Bill' Turns 94

Born 7 November 1918 on a dairy farm outside of Charlotte, North Carolina, 'Daddy Bill' (who lived the majority of his life on the world stage) rarely leaves home now. His mind is still sharp but his body is weak and frail. He says that getting old has been hard. His wife of over 60 years (my grandmother 'TaiTai') died 5 1/2 years ago. Most of his friends have died. He still sees a world in dire need but is now relegated to the sidelines – cheering his brothers and sisters on, but wishing he could still be in the game. He told me recently that he thinks he'll live another year or two. I hope it's longer.

The Essential Billy

Not long ago, I wrote a few things down that I've always admired about my granddad. Since it's his birthday, I thought I'd share them with you.

- 1. His Humility: Daddy Bill has always been keenly aware that God is God and he is not. He's always been conscious of his smallness and God's bigness, his imperfection and God's perfection. I was telling someone the other day that it wasn't until I got older that I began to realise my grandfather was a pretty important person. This is mainly due to the fact that he never, ever, projected himself to be any more or less important than anyone else. I have never seen him think more highly of himself than he ought.
- 2. His Love For The Gospel: Daddy Bill has always had a deep sense of his own sin which has led him to a deep love for his Saviour. He's always exemplified the sweet reality that you can never know Christ as a Great Saviour until you first know yourself to be a great sinner. God's amazing grace still amazes him and that amazes me!
- **3. His Faithfulness:** Although he had the opportunity to do many things (have his own TV show, become President of various colleges and seminaries, star in movies, and yes, even run for ... (Continued Page Five)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 'DADDY BILL' ...

(Continued from Page Four) ... President of the United States) he never wavered concerning God's call on his life to be an Evangelist. He knows he's not a scholar or a theologian and he's never tried to be. He's always remained true to God's calling on his life. And he has fulfilled that calling without ever being guilty of any sexual, financial, or other moral scandal.

- 4. He Has Never Shown Favouritism: I have been with Daddy Bill in numerous places at numerous times with numerous people and I have never, ever seen him show favouritism. He treats all people the same, whether they're rich or poor, weak or powerful, socially significant or socially insignificant. Because of his belief that all people are made in God's image, he has rightfully concluded that there are no little people.

 5. His Humanness: Daddy Bill is normal! He gets mad; he gets sad; he's fun to be around. His favourite restaurant is Morrison's Cafeteria. His favourite movie is *Crocodile Dundee*. His favourite drink is orange juice and he loves catfish. He's just another man with all of the limitations and idiosyncrasies that the rest of us have and I love him for it!
- Daddy Bill, you have been one of my closest friends and most reliable counsellors all my life. I want to be just like you when I grow up.

Happy Birthday! I love you! – **Tullian**

William Graham Tullian Tchividjian (pronounced cha-vi-jin) is the Senior Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. A Florida native, Tullian is also the grandson of Billy and Ruth Graham, a visiting professor of theology at Reformed Theological Seminary, and a contributing editor to Leadership Journal. This article is taken from the website of The Gospel Coalition (www.thegospelcoalition) to which he is a frequent contributor.

DONATIONS KEEP US GOING!

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

Twelve Books Prepared For Publication By Drs Clifford And Barbara Wilson

1998	A4	Illustrated liberally	230pp
2001	A4	Illustrated	315pp
2005	A4	Illustrated liberally	150pp
2007	A4	Illustrated liberally	144pp
2003/2008	A5	Illustrated	100pp
2001/2008	A5	Illustrated	120pp
2001/2010	A4		90рр
2008/2010	A4		90pp
2003/2010	A4		100pp
2003/2010	A4		90рр
2001/2010	A4		90рр
2001/2010	A4		90pp
	2001 2005 2007 2003/2008 2001/2008 2001/2010 2008/2010 2003/2010 2003/2010 2001/2010	2001 A4 2005 A4 2007 A4 2003/2008 A5 2001/2008 A5 2001/2010 A4 2008/2010 A4 2003/2010 A4 2003/2010 A4 2001/2010 A4	2001 A4 Illustrated 2005 A4 Illustrated liberally 2007 A4 Illustrated liberally 2003/2008 A5 Illustrated 2001/2008 A5 Illustrated 2001/2010 A4 2008/2010 A4 2003/2010 A4 2003/2010 A4 2001/2010 A4 2001/2010 A4

As at 20/10/2012, copies of these twelve titles are available free from New Life Books & Archaeology,

44 Dublin Road, Ringwood East 3135, 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.

Please send a cheque payable to: 'New Life Books & Archaeology', and your address c/o Mr Ron Suter, 167 York Rd, Mt Evelyn VIC 3796. (Ron is the Honorary Treasurer of NLB&A. His mobile phone number is: 0428 290 341). Stocks of *Crash Goes Darwin And His Origin Of Species* are limited. When this title runs out, only eleven books will be sent in the Postal Bag.

Back To Nepal: Hope For Hearing

CONSTRUCTING a hospital to help the deaf is just part of the vision of CMS missionaries Gordon and Ruth Russell, returning to Nepal next March after an absence of 15 years. 'Our vision is to see Nepali lives impacted by Christ's love through the use of our engineering and medical skills,' says Ruth. 'Gordon will work with a Nepali colleague to construct a Specialist and Training Centre for Deafness. Surprisingly, moderate to severe deafness is the most common disability in Nepal, and more than half is preventable or treatable.' Gordon and Ruth are currently at St Andrew's Hall, the



CMS training centre in Melbourne, prior to church deputation and their departure to Nepal in March 2013. CMS Queensland with Northern NSW has had a long-term interest in Nepal, serving disadvantaged people through health and education, and supporting the indigenous church, particularly in training young Nepali leaders. CMS missionaries Libby and Bruce Hayes have worked in Nepal for 20 years, and a number of CMS short-term volunteers work at Kathmandu International Study Centre where Libby is principal.

`CMS will second us to a mission partner, International Nepal Fellowship, that is involved with health and development programs for marginalised communities, rehabilitation for people with disabilities, medical camps and clinics for people with leprosy and TB,' says Ruth. She said that the centre which Gordon will help to establish will provide year-round treatment for hearing-impaired people, and specialist training of Nepali medical and paramedical staff. The centre will also launch community work and build up government hospital capacity. 'As Christians work there, the hearing-impaired will have the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus,' Ruth said.

Ruth and Gordon worked in Nepal for over a decade until the mid 1990s, and are very excited about the opportunity to return. They will be based in Pokhara, the third largest city. Ruth, a palliative care specialist who has worked with The Prince Charles Palliative Care Service in recent years, is keen to use her skills there, as very little palliative care is available outside the capital city, Kathmandu.



Rapid Church Growth

The church in Nepal is growing rapidly, from no Christians in 1950 when this small Hindu mountain kingdom opened its borders to the outside world, to approximately a million Christians now. The indigenous church continues to reach out to remote parts of this land. There are many opportunities for mentoring and encouraging young Christian potential leaders in the maturing Nepali church.

Nepal has seen huge changes over recent decades. Formerly ruled by a king venerated as a god with absolute power, democratic change came in 1990. Maoist uprising followed by a decade of civil war with over 40,000 killed has left this beautiful, mountainous land with many challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, significant poverty and unstable government.

To support the work of CMS or to learn more about mission opportunities, go to www.CMS.org.au or telephone o7 3112 6530.

- Sharyn Tidswell

Have YOU visited our website? Just GOOGLE New Life

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

Queen Approves Rt Rev Justin Welby To Be 105th Archbishop Of Canterbury

THE Rt Rev Justin Welby, aged 56, currently Bishop of Durham, will be enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral on 21 March 2013, following the Queen's approval of his nomination.

Dr Welby said: 'To be nominated to Canterbury is at the same time overwhelming and astonishing. It is overwhelming because of those I follow, and the responsibility it has. It is astonishing because it is something I never expected to happen. One of the hardest things will be to leave Durham. I work with a group of wonderful senior colleagues and remarkable clergy and lay people. It is an astonishing part of the country, one



The Rt Rev Justin Welby

which as a family we were greatly looking forward to living in for many years. The people are direct, inspiring and wonderfully friendly. In many ways it has been the ancient cradle of British Christianity. It is a place of opportunity and an even greater future than its past.'

Retiring Archbishop Dr Rowan Williams expressed his delight at the appointment of Dr Welby, saying: 'I have had the privilege of working closely with him on various occasions and have always been enriched and encouraged by the experience. He has an extraordinary range of skills and is a person of grace, patience, wisdom and humour. He will bring to this office both a rich pastoral experience and a keen sense of international priorities, for Church and world. I wish him – with Caroline and the family – every blessing.'

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Primate of All England (the 'first bishop' of England), and shares several roles with the Archbishop of York. Based on his oversight in the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury became the original sign of the unity of the bishops and local churches of the Anglican Communion, with a total of about 80 million members throughout the world, which has developed over the last 200 years or so. He is the focus and spokesman of its unity today, but shares his oversight as President of the Communion with other bodies.

The Most Rev'd Dr Eliud Wabukala, Archbishop of Kenya and Chair of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans, says: 'I welcome the news that Bishop Justin Welby is to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. I believe that his appointment should give hope to all of us who long to see renewal, reform and genuine unity. Bishop Justin will bring to the Anglican Communion a special combination of gifts and experience. I know him as a deeply committed servant of Jesus Christ who honours the Scriptures as the Word of God and as a courageous peacemaker. I am confident that these qualities, together with his sustained involvement in business and finance, will enable him to articulate the Lordship of Christ to a watching world. I assure him of the prayers of this Province of Kenya and the global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans as he prepares for this great calling to serve the Church of England and the wider Communion.'

Ramon A Williams - Worldwide Photos –

WANT TO SEE MORE?

'New Life' can only publish
a small selection of photos,
but you can see more of those
attributed to Worldwide Photos
by going to:

http://community.webshots.com/user/ra
mon_williams
e-mail: rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au

Bible League Helps Children Take The Greatest Step TODAY'S children are tomorrow's leaders and decision makers. Children touched by God's Love can be powerfu

makers. Children touched by God's Love can be powerful agents for transformation and renewal within their families, local communities and the nations in which they live. Bible League is seeking to bring this transformation to the nations of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia and Thailand through a partnership with Samaritan's Purse Australia by funding all the print materials for their children's discipleship program – *The Greatest Journey*.

The program helps children learn about God, faith and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ through a colourful, interactive discipleship program in their own language. After completing all 12 lessons, each child receives their very own Bible. During 2013, the plan is to reach 21,000 children through *The Greatest Journey*. Go to: **info@bibleleague.com.au** if you want to learn more or partner in this project.

Miracle In The Philippines

REBECCA Coulson, from One Community Church, Blackburn, Melbourne, has just spent eight months volunteering in the office of Vineyard of His Grace Ministries, International Needs Aust's partner in the Philippines. She relates one highlight of her time there that she will never forget:

She had the opportunity to accompany IN's partner doctor, Doc Jack, in the annual medical check-up for all their sponsored children. Only sponsored children were to be seen due to time and resource constraints, but one desperate mother brought her two-year-old baby to the doctor begging for



something to help fix the huge rashes with open sores and scabs all over the legs of the child. It was heart-breaking to see, and Doc Jack asked her to come back at the end of the session.

That's when a miracle happened! During the health and nutrition discussion after the check-ups, Doc Jack suddenly recognised a tree that was growing there beside the house had a medical leaf that was used to treat skin allergies among other things. The team collected the leaves and, under the guidance of the doctor, made a batch of medicinal cream for not only that child, but enough for all of the sponsored families. That was just the beginning of an idea for Vineyard, and this simple, 'accidental' discovery could be the start of a new medicinal program in the Philippines.

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Munro, son-inlaw of Don and Barbie Prout, on being elected Mayor of Whitehorse City Council in Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs.

Holiday Programs

OAC Ministries' goal is to take the Gospel to people who would not otherwise hear it. They aim to achieve this through local community events and camps all through the year. Thousands of people throughout Australia are reached during the summer holiday season in caravan parks, on beaches, at holiday clubs, camps etc. Staff and trained voluntary workers employ a wide range of creative techniques to present exciting, attention-getting programs. Children and families hear the good news through puppets, catchy songs, sketchboard stories, object lessons, Bible verse memory games and much, much more. For information on where to find them this year, or any other enquiries, contact the OAC office in your state: www.oac.org.au

Helpful Children's Material

OVER 26% of the world's population are children aged o-14. Whilst Gospel Recordings Network's stories are well used by adults, they can also be effective in children's ministry. GRN also offers Sunday school materials that have been designed to be used together with the flipcharts and recordings. They can be downloaded from the web. Have a look at http://globalrecordings.net/en/download Radio Programs Advancing The Kingdom
OVER the past few years across Africa a change of

direction has been taking place in the ministry of Christianityworks. As their radio presence has grown, they have been encouraging local pastors to join them on-air. The objective is to build a bridge through the media to connect listeners into the church. Local pastors are invited to go on air following the broadcasts, either to take talkback and answer questions, or to provide a local perspective on what's just been taught from God's Word. Thus people hear his insights and also his church is promoted. In Rwanda, eight pastors are volunteering to take talkback after the Saturday night program broadcast across the entire country. So now Christianityworks is about to start taking this partnership to a new level, across Africa, India and beyond. It's a Kingdom perspective that's all about bringing many more people into a dynamic relationship with Christ in each town, city and region where God has given them access to the airwaves.

The Lord Prepares The Way ...

HOW do you begin to develop a new Christian radio ministry in a Muslim country? When God laid that vision on the hearts and imaginations of Far East Radio's Eurasia team, He had already prepared the way ahead. Not only was an FM studio complex offered to them, but for years the Lord had been preparing those who would staff this new ministry, speaking the local language and knowing the culture intimately. FEBC Australia supporters are praying and providing finance for Radio OK in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. (Continued, p.9)

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ... with Barbara Furman

(Continued from p.8)

This year donors gave over \$26,000 towards the refurbishing of the studios that had been sold at a knock down price to the FEB Central Asian group. As part of the ongoing co-operative support, Australia has pledged to fund \$17,000 each year to reach into this largely unevangelised land.

– Skywaves, Nov-Dec 2012

Mission Info Holiday

HERE is your opportunity to join The Leprosy Mission Australia on the adventure of a lifetime! Not only can you have a dream holiday, but you can also give hope to people affected by leprosy. During the next 12 months TLMA has arranged three tours to countries in which they work. Nepal and Thailand tours are already full, but how about Timor Leste? This tour will include the capital Dili, trekking Mt Ramelau, Baucau, Maubisse, Jaco Island and more. Participants are able to visit the work of the mission as part of a wonderful holiday. For more information contact TLM national office on 1800 617 679.

Christian Training With A Difference

NOT all of us have the ability or the leading to train in higher education. In the Christian community there are those wonderful people who are very practical minded, giving so much support and help to the work of the Lord. If you are one of those but would like to gain a better understanding of the Scriptures and how this translates into everyday life, have a look at what www.cornerstone.edu.au has available. Cornerstone Community grew out of a dream shared by a small group of friends with a passion to make sense of Jesus Christ and His message for people today. They developed a concept of fostering intentional and missional communities whose shared lives would be shaped by God's purposes. The goal was not to retreat from the realities and challenges of modern life, but to help men and women discover life in all its fulness in the middle of

96threeFM

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

Email: listen@96three.com.au

common things and daily experience. Since the first small community was established west of Bourke NSW in 1977, the movement has grown, establishing branches in numerous places to provide training and community involvement. Training campuses have been based in various places in New South Wales and Queensland, while there are campus communities in Victoria and New South Wales. Their educational curriculum delivers Certificate IV, Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses.

Write A Letter

VINH is a pastor in Vietnam whose congregation grew to 100 believers within six months. This attracted official attention and last July he was abducted, threatened and beaten up, with blows being delivered to his knees and his jaw broken in four places. His jaw was miraculously healed by the Lord following several weeks of intense prayer from the local believers. He is now on his way to a full recovery and is preparing to head back to the church he started, to continue his ministry. Open Doors is asking Christians everywhere to write him an encouraging letter which they will forward on to him. They request that Open Doors not be mentioned, keep it brief and include a couple of Bible verses and provide your name and country but not your full address. Greeting cards and postcards (enveloped) are the most suitable and can be sent to Open Doors Aust, PO Box 6237, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086. No money is to be included.

With Christ – Rev Dr Alexander Thomas Stevens REV Dr Alex Stevens, who was born on 20-9-1919, was called Home on 10 October 2012. In the course of a long and faithful ministry he ministered in Woodville (SA), Wangaratta, Balaclava and Canterbury (Vic) Presbyterian Churches, and was a lecturer at Melbourne Bible Institute. In retirement, Alex and Malcia Stevens resided at Salford Park, Wantirna South.

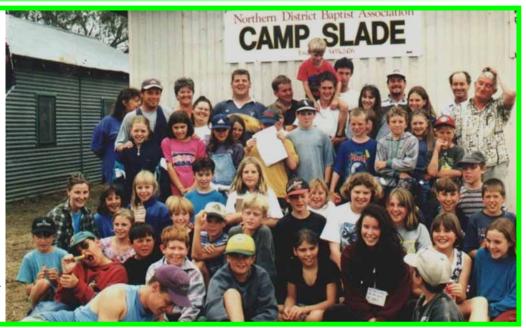
Many tributes were paid by family and friends at a Thanksgiving Service led by Rev Clinton Le Page in Donvale Presbyterian Church. Rev Bill Clarke, Chaplain of Salford Park and long-time student and friend of Alex and Malcia, said that as the Lord had called Alex into His service, He had given him a rock-solid belief in God's purposes for his life, resulting in a life that has overflowed in a stream of blessing to so many, a blessing that continues to spread through others as it is passed on around the world. 'We give thanks for Alex's faithful journey', Mr Clarke said, 'and look forward to that Day when we will join him in that Home above.'

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

HAPPY DAYS

THE Northern District (Vic) Baptist Association camps at Camp Slade on Lake Meran – of which Boort Baptist supplied many leaders and campers – had a rich history of ministry – many young people became followers of Jesus there and many others grew in faith.

– Bruce Stewart



The Highbury Centre, London, Christian guesthouse on quiet

Christian guesthouse on quiet private road with transport nearby.
Discount for f/t Christian workers.
Email: enquiries@thehighburycentre.org
Website:

www.thehighburycentre.org



COMING TO

WESTERN AUSTRALIA?

Come to Scots Church Fremantle, 90 South Terrace

(next to Fremantle Markets)
Reformed and Evangelical
10am and 5pm Sundays
12:30 pm Wednesday Lunch Time Worship
Also at Southern River,
Bletchley Park Primary School, Balfour Road

9 am Sunday Rev Stuart Bonnington 08 9398 1304

melbonn@bigpond.com

PASTOR WANTED:

Longford Baptist Church is a vibrant, welcoming church in Northern Tasmania.

We are seeking a pastor to encourage us for ministry and mission, helping us grow in Christ.

For further information, go to:

www.longfordbaptistchurch.org.au

Applications close: 30 November 2012.

WHO CAN YOU FORWARD NEW LIFE TO?

YOU CAN ADVERTISE HERE.
CONTACT MIGNON

office@nlife.com.au Phone: 0434 313 646

Prestige Pianos & Organs

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

 The largest range of new and reconditioned pianos, organs, keyboards and digital pianos

. The best advice in selecting your next instrument

Phone: (03) 9480 6777

www.prestigepianos.com.au



Christians Called To Unite To End Modern-Day Slavery

ON Sunday 25 November churches around the country will come together to call for the end of modern-day slavery. Abolitionist Sunday is an annual day when Christians join the next generation of abolitionists by engaging with the fight for freedom and justice of millions of people trafficked and exploited worldwide. Last year, nearly 16,000 Christians participated in the movement. Human trafficking is an abuse of rights and human dignity. Despite state-sanctioned slavery being outlawed over 200 years ago, up to 27 million people around the world are still trapped in slave-like conditions today.

'Trafficking and exploitation is a \$32 billion industry that preys on the poor and vulnerable to satisfy a global demand for cheap products and services,' said World Vision Australia's Leigh Cameron.

As well as raising awareness, the day asks Christians to encourage Federal MPs to continue support for international anti-trafficking initiatives. Poverty is a leading contributor to trafficking and slavery so it is important that governments around the world uphold their commitment to global poverty through overseas aid. 'It's encouraging to see so many Australian churches connecting with this important issue. Like William Wilberforce and the abolitionists of old, the church can play a significant role in challenging this unjust system and bringing liberation,' Mr Cameron said.

World Vision works in the heart of communities affected by trafficking. Projects focus on prevention, protection of vulnerable people and advocacy to inform policy on this complex issue.

Pastor Killed In Church Blast In Garissa, Kenya

CHAPLAIN Julius Mukonzi was killed and 11 others were injured on 4 November when suspected Islamic extremists cast a grenade or other explosive at a church in Garissa, eastern Kenya. According to *Morning Star News*, at least three of the 11 injured had wounds so serious they were air-lifted to Kenyatta General Hospital in Nairobi.

A source who visited the site told *Morning Star News* that a grenade or stronger explosive device hit the church in the Administrative Police compound at 10am. 'The explosion was so loud, beyond that of a normal hand grenade,' *Morning Star News* reported. 'Church worship services in Garissa ended prematurely, then followed several gun shots.'

The grenade is said to have landed right at the podium where the chaplain was delivering a sermon, hitting him right at the forehead, and he died immediately. Most of the injured suffered head and chest injuries. *Morning Star News* reported that, home to a church of 100 worshippers, the Administrative Police Church building is located in Garissa's town centre in a predominately Muslim area. Police suspect Islamic extremists from the Somali rebel group Al Shabaab. Kenya is nearly 83% Christian and 8.32% Muslim, according to *Operation World*, but Garissa is rife with Islamic extremists, with a large presence of Al Shabaab rebels.

Pakistani Preacher Gaoled For Sermon At Funeral AN evangelist accused of defaming Islam was telling mourners at a funeral about the sacrifice of Christ when Muslims present took offence, his son said. According to a story by *Morning Star News*, Karma Patras, a 55-year-old resident of Chak 113-

RB Bado Malhi of Punjab Province's Nankana District, has been in gaol since 13 October for allegedly 'outraging the religious feelings' of Muslims at the funeral of a Christian where most of those present were church members. He faces a sentence of 10 years in prison and a fine under Section 295-A of Pakistan's widely condemned blasphemy statutes. 'My father addressed the gathering at the bereaved family's house by sharing Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection,' his son, Robin Masih, told Morning Star News. 'He did not know that there were some Muslims sitting among the mourners. He shared with the people how Christ had sacrificed His life for our sins. Muslims have a different view on this subject, and those present thought he was challenging their belief of sacrificing animals. They fiercely objected to his sermon and even tried to attack him,' Morning Star News reported Masih said. 'He escaped a beating due to timely intervention by the other Christians.' - Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST Azerbaijani Pastor Arrested In Church Raid A CHURCH meeting in the home of a village pastor 450km from the capital Baku was raided by police on Wednesday, according to Release International's partners in Azerbaijan. Ten officers took Pastor Hamid Shabanov and another Christian, Ramiz, to the police station and confiscated all the religious books and other materials that were in the house. The pair were later released but police are checking all the materials to decide if any further action can be taken against them. Please pray that God would guard Hamid and his church and that the police who read the materials would be touched by the truth of the Gospel.

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

Bishop Tawadros New Pope Of Egypt's Coptic Christians

BISHOP Tawadros has been chosen as the new pope of Egypt's Coptic Christians, becoming leader of the largest Christian minority in the Middle East. The 6o-year-old succeeds Pope Shenouda III, who died in March aged 88. He takes over as attacks on Copts are on the increase, and many say they fear the country's new Islamist leaders.

-

The new pope has studied in Britain and has also run a medicine factory, the BBC's Jon
Leyne in Cairo reports. 'He is a man of broad experience and with managerial skills,' Lyne said, adding that
he will need all those talents to lead the Copts as they face an uncertain future in a country now debating
the role of Islam following last year's revolution. 'No-one in Egypt expects the new pope to introduce radical changes to the deeply conservative church.'

Pope Shenouda died in March. Under his leadership, the Coptic Church expanded significantly, including outside its traditional Egyptian base. 'He was a passionate advocate of unity among the Christian churches, and also clashed with then President Anwar Sadat, particularly over their conflicting views on the future of Egypt's relationship with Israel. Coptic Christians have long complained of discrimination by the Egyptian state and the country's Muslim majority,' said Leyne.

In October 2011, 25 people died in clashes with the security forces after a protest march in Cairo over the burning of a church, and since that time there have been numerous other attacks on Coptic believers and churches. But when President Hosni Mubarak was ousted last year and succeeded by the Muslim Brotherhood, their fears grew.

— Dan Wooding, Founder, ASSIST News Service.

Revival Of Faith Spreading In Egypt Despite Persecution

A REVIVAL of faith in Jesus is spreading throughout Egypt. For example, 25,000 people received Christ at a *Count It Right* rally near Cairo recently. The rally presented the message of salvation and called people to make a statement of faith. Open Doors USA reported that Christians in Egypt are being persecuted even more since Muslim Brotherhood President Mohammed Morsi was elected. Pray that these new believers will have the courage to live out their faith. Full story:

http://www.MNNonline.org/article/17864 Single Backpack Gives Hope To Hundreds

HOW can a single backpack give hope to a remote people group? By giving them the Gospel. The JESUS Film project has put together a backpack with a video projector, a collapsible screen, a DVD player, sound system, battery and solar chargers. It allows one person to bring the hope



of Jesus to a village, no matter the terrain. In a matter of minutes, the system is set up, and the *JESUS Film* is ready to be viewed by hundreds. Pray that this powerful tool can reach the unreached with the good news of *JESUS*.

Scriptures Delivered To Hostile Areas Through Digital Publishing

WITH religious freedom losing ground worldwide,

getting Bibles to believers is becoming increasingly difficult. 'Web sites, the Internet, mobile technology: those kinds of things are tools that we see as very useful in helping to advance Bible translation and Scripture distribution', Bruce Smith, CEO of Wycliffe Associates, says. 'Operation Timothy gets the job done with digital publishing. Christians can pull up God's Word using their smartphone. It's definitely a trend that will continue to increase in the future. Many parts of the world are actually even ahead of the United States in terms of the use of cellphones and mobile technology for their own communications.' Full story:

http://www.MNNonline.org/article/17876

Thousands Of Muslims Receive 'Bible Chip' BRINGING the Gospel in the Middle East is a risky enterprise. But the Bible Chip, developed by Bible League International and the Digital Bible Society, reduces this risk significantly. It's a small data card the size of a stamp that contains several Bible translations, audio files, hundreds of books, and over 200 hours of video on evangelism and discipleship, all in Arabic. It's programmed not to leave any traces on a PC or mobile phone. Wagih Abdelmassih, pastor of the Agape Arabic Christian Centre in London, calls the Bible Chip an answer to prayer. He distributed thousands of copies to Arabic speaking visitors to the London Olympic Games. While printed Bibles would not be easily accepted, the Bible Chip turned out to be a much wanted gift. During one-on-one conversations a total of 12,600 Arabic Muslims received a Bible Chip.

VIEWPOINT ...

Time For Grown-Up Debate On What Sort Of Children Will Be Allowed Into The World

FORMER Deputy Prime Minister of Australia John Anderson has strongly criticised the level of public debate in Australia and Western society. Speaking at the launch of *Fearfully And Wonderfully Made: Ethics And The Beginning Of Human Life*, Mr Anderson lamented the lack of understanding of what a civilised debate requires, and observed that valuable contributors to society's understanding of complex matters are often put off by the way debates unfold in the public sphere and by the demonisation to which contributors are frequently subjected.

'If there's one thing I can say with absolute certainty after 19 years in public life, it's that there is no such thing as a good public policy outcome that's derived from a sub-standard, inadequate, or misinformed public debate. It doesn't happen. And the West is deep in crisis, frankly, because it no longer knows what an honest debate is. It draws the line at too many subjects that ought to be debated and compromises too many of the debates, such as they are, that we do engage in.'

Professor Jonathan Morris, a respected obstetrician and specialist in maternal fetal medicine, echoed Mr Anderson's call for reflection and civil debate, particularly in the area of reproductive ethics. 'The beginning of life issues are perennial and important, but the implications of the new genomic era are pressing and urgent,' Professor Morris said. 'And it's something we must all reflect upon. We do need to start a debate. We need to discuss whether our significance is really determined by our genetic sequence.'

Author of Fearfully And Wonderfully Made, Dr Megan Best, spoke of her hopes for the book in similar terms. 'My hope and prayer for the book is that not only will it help those who want to make informed decisions in their own lives, but also that it will precipitate a long-overdue public discussion. I expect that realisation of what is happening will come as a surprise to many people, and I hope that many will take the time to read the book and find out for themselves at least about the eugenics agenda of the reproductive business, and the commodification of the unborn which is currently underway.

Fearfully And Wonderfully Made is published by Matthias Media and is being distributed in Australia, the UK and the USA. The book is available now in Australia. To order go to:

http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/fearfully-wonderfully-made

Blocking Child Abuse Material Does Not Obviate Need For Filtering Legislation

THE Australian Christian Lobby has said that the federal government's announcement that it will require internet service providers (ISPs) to block a list of child abuse websites is welcome but falls well short of the internet safety commitment it gave prior to the last election.

In answer to ACL's 2010 federal election questionnaire, the ALP committed to 'introduce mandatory ISP level filtering of content that is rated Refused Classification'. ACL Managing Director Jim Wallace said that while it was positive the government was enforcing the obligation of ISPs under the Telecommunications Act 1997 to block illegal child abuse websites on the INTERPOL list, this did not obviate the need for more widespread filtering of other harmful online content.

'Although child abuse material is the most heinous element of the Refused Classification category, it is just a part of the prohibited online content the government committed to blocking at the ISP level prior to the last election,' Mr Wallace said. 'Having ISPs block only illegal child abuse material does not meet the government's cyber safety election commitment to mandatory ISP filtering of Refused Classification material. The government's decision not to legislate to the full extent of

its commitment is a great disappointment.'

Mr Wallace also said the fact that there are no reports of adverse impacts on internet speeds and congestion by the several Australian ISPs already blocking sites on the Interpol list for over a year made a nonsense of the scare campaign perpetuated by civil libertarians against ISP filtering. It also proved that it was technically possible to block further harmful

content where there was political will to do so.

- Ben Williams, ACL Media Release

VISITING MELBOURNE?

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

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

An Evening With Reggie And Ladye Love Smith

FROM the moment Reggie bounded onto the stage, grabbed the microphone, and burst into song with Great Is Thy Faithfulness' (sung a cappella), the audience in Lilydale were treated to a whirlwind of various musical genres. Reggie and Ladye Love have been part of Bill Gaither's Homecoming team of musicians for over a decade, first as back-up artists and later as a vocal duet. They have performed in some 12 countries, either with the Gaithers or as a duo.

With their 10 year old son, they are based in Nasheville, Tennessee. But their selection of songs ranges from Southern Gospel, Blue Grass and contemporary worship through to majestic anthems. One section included some 'Big Band' romantic tunes from the 1940's. Reggie explained that whenever they are on a Gaither Cruise, Bill programs one evening of fun and romance to encourage love in marriage.



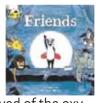
Reggie and Lady Love Smith.

Their versatile voices blend perfectly, as they effortlessly move from solo to duets within a song. For two hours we experienced a joyously uplifting concert of praise to the Lord. In between items Reggie and Ladye Love chatted as to a group of friends, testified to their faith in Jesus Christ and encouraged us all to keep on the Christian path or discover the Lord for ourselves.

Most of the songs had the backing of an orchestra, but sometimes Reggie played the piano very expertly. The evening concluded with a magnificent rendition of Thank You Lord, which is the title of their latest CD, available in Christian book stores. – Barbara Prout (Mrs DP)

Friends – Helping Kids Look Beyond 'Number One'

IN the belief that friendship has to mean more than just being with people who make you feel good, Nathan Lee and Mark Hadley have teamed up once again to deliver Friends, the second book in the Panda series. Speaking of friendship, Mark says that 'the Aussie idea of being a good mate begins with being there for your friends and being aware of what they're going through. But when the individual comes first—what I like, what I want to do, what I'm prepared to put up with - we end up with an environment where friendship is starved of the oxy-



John Wesley's Wisdom On Voting



"I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them, 1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy: 2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against: And, 3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

- John Wesley, October 6, 1774

gen that makes it grow: service'. In Friends, Panda takes his second journey of discovery, this time learning about an essential ingredient for building healthy relationships. He learns that inward-looking friends who show no concern for one's identity or desires are hardly friends at all

and real friends put their pal's needs first.

Perfect for kids aged 5 to 8, Friends is full of quirky illustrations (by Nathan Lee) and references to modern culture, and will engage children to think more deeply about their own friendships. It's as relevant for them as it is for us adults, reminding us that God calls us to love others in the same way that He loves us. Included are teaching notes for parents that provide helpful questions and talking points to further uncover the themes in the book.

Go to: www.cepstore.com.au for an online review of Friends, which is available from Growing Faith and Koorong Bookstores.

BOOKS WORTH READING ...

JOHN CALVIN, SERMONS ON GENESIS: CHAPTERS 11.5 – 20.7 Translated by Rob Roy McGregor, Edinburgh, Banner of Truth, 2012

A NEW book by John Calvin? Well, not exactly, but this is the first translation into English of Calvin's 48 sermons on these ten chapters of Genesis. The sermons break off after Genesis 20.7 because a whole series of sermons on Genesis have been lost. Calvin expounds the biblical text for the benefit of ordinary believers with their daily struggles. Both Calvin the pastor and Calvin the theologian shine through these pages, and as a preacher he knows how to warm the heart and pierce the conscience of his hearers.

In the incident of the Tower of Babel, we see God mocking the pride and confidence of puny humanity, and the application Calvin draws is that we should acknowledge our weakness and dependence upon God. This is a regular theme in Calvin's preaching, showing that a 'proud Calvinist' (though known to exist!) is a contradiction in terms. God's favour toward the line of Shem and his choice of sterile Abraham is used by Calvin to teach God's miraculous preservation of 'the Church', the title he routinely gives to the Old Testament people of God to show the connection they have as fellow-believers with us. As well, Calvin calls Abraham 'the father of the Church', for he sets us an example in that he turned his back on worldly security and ventured forward in faith into an unknown future.

Calvin by no means minimises the trials that Abraham went through, and he draws valuable lessons about trusting God, living on God's promises and being willing to face the loss of all earthly comforts. We must remember that many in Calvin's congregation in Geneva were refugees from France, who had been through similar trials. No doubt with such refugees in mind, he says, 'So let us learn from [Abraham's] example not to miss what we have left behind'. So too, the faults of Abraham are said to be useful in showing that 'no one is so perfect that he does not go astray, that he is without shortcomings, and that he does not need God's mercy'.

A highlight is Calvin's four sermons on justification based on the text, Genesis 15.6. In his *Institutes* Calvin describes this doctrine as 'the hinge on which all true religion turns'. Of this passage in Genesis, he says, 'it holds the key that opens all that is required for salvation'. Calvin uses it to explain what true faith is and what is meant by God imputing righteousness, such that it excludes works, merit or human pride. For Calvin, the imputation of righteousness is the same as the forgiveness of sins, a teaching he derives from the opening of Romans chapter 4. No one ever had a clearer grasp of the Gospel than Calvin, and his sermons will help us to be crystal clear on the way of salvation.

Calvin deals with that 'old chestnut' about whether Paul and James disagree over faith and works, which, of course, they don't. James' point is that saving faith leads to a life of good works. We live in a day in which many who presume to teach in churches are confused and muddle-headed about the Gospel truths, and we can do no better than enrol as students in Calvin's school if we want to understand the Gospel. Calvin uses the institution of circumcision in Genesis 17 to explain the role of the two sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper as supports for our feeble faith. Calvin does not try to excuse or cover up Abraham's weaknesses and failings, for this encourages the ordinary believer to try to emulate his virtues and to trust in God in trying circumstances, just as did our father in the faith.

Throughout these expositions, Calvin combines the various qualities needed by an effective preacher: he explains the text and does not shy away from difficulties, he constantly makes applications that address the lives of ordinary believers, and he points his hearers to God as ever-faithful to His people. After more than 500 years, this is still the kind of preaching that honours God and builds up churches. Thank you Rob Roy McGregor for making it available to us!

— Greg Goswell

† GOOD NEWS SPOT:

PASTOR Dale Stephenson, of Crossway Baptist Church in Melbourne, presently ministering in India, reports that snake charmers are lower than the untouchables. In the caste system they are not considered humans. But this whole village of snake charmers has come to know Jesus – a revolution of dignity and opportunity has begun.



BOOKS WORTH READING ...

RICHARD DAWKINS' FICTIONAL WORLD, Richard Compston, Sword & Trowel, Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, 2012.

THIS is one of those little books which packs a big punch. Richard Compston, a systems architect who is a deacon at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, where he leads an outreach team, shows in this readable little book that if only Richard Dawkins had a workable knowledge of the Scriptures and the faith he repudiates, he would be better placed to call God 'a delusion' and make a case. As it is he is shown to have an abysmal lack of knowledge of all these things.



Compston is able to demonstrate that Dawkins' approach creates 'a fictional world' as he contrasts that with the revelation given in Biblical Christianity and critically examines a number of extracts from *The God Delusion*. 'This is the materialistic dream,' Compston writes of *The God Delusion*, 'an attempt to give a purely naturalistic explanation for life. But it leaves out too many factors to be an explanation worthy of our respect.'

Others, such as Professor John Lennox, might have answered Richard Dawkins at greater length and with sharper wit, but Richard Compston does so in a gentler but no less effective way. He displays a commendable pastoral concern towards both Dawkins and those who follow that line, and his obvious hope is that they all will not be turned away and confirmed in their faithlessness but will rather be drawn to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Richard Dawkins' Fictional World is available from www.TabernacleBookshop.org

- Bob Thomas

BOOK REVIEW ...

A FAITH TO LIVE BY, Roland Ashby, Melbourne, Mosaic Press, 508 High St, Preston 3072, 2012.

THIS anthology of interviews is one of those books which has something for everybody. Roland Ashby, as Editor of *The Melbourne Anglican* over many years, has brought together and refined some 25 interviews he had with a wide variety of Christians and Churchmen of all shades, from Archbishop Rowan Williams to novelist Morris West, apologist John Lennox to former Jesuit priest-turned-social-commentator Paul Collins.

For me, the interview with John Lennox is the stand-out, opening a window into the life and thought processes of this Professor of Mathematics, so gifted in combining simple profundity with profound simplicity, yet withal so warm-hearted and winsome towards his opponents.

But let me content myself with giving the last word to Dr Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne: 'This is a book which exudes optimism in a humanity which is created in the image of God and which by grace is restored, redeemed and renewed.'

– Bob Thomas

LATE NEWS ...

New Appointment For Melbourne School Of Theology

TIM Meyer, Principal of Melbourne School of Theology, has announced that Dr Doug McComiskey will be joining the faculty from 2013 as the Director of MST Postgraduate Institute. 'On behalf of the faculty, staff and the entire MST family, I'm thrilled to welcome Dr McComiskey to the MST Faculty. He comes with outstanding credentials, both personally and academically, 'Tim Meyer said. 'He is



widely regarded as a gifted and passionate teacher, pastor and mentor, with over 12 years serving faithfully and very effectively at our sister ACT College, Ridley Melbourne.

'His appointment follows a comprehensive, prayerful and participatory process, in which candidates from across Australia and internationally were carefully considered. With a growing student body and particularly our doctoral studies program, this is both a timely and very strategic appointment for MST which I'm confident will enable us to continue to effectively equip, shape and train men and women to serve Christ and proclaim the Gospel to a diverse and changing world.'

Prior to his new appointment at Melbourne School of Theology, Dr Doug McComiskey served ACT College, Ridley Melbourne, for 12 years as Senior New Testament Lecturer, Director of Overseas Student Affairs and Chair of Postgraduate Studies. As a scholar, Doug has published widely, including books and chapters, book reviews and several major journal articles, based on significant research, in international academic journals. His research interests include Biblical theology and exegesis, the Gospels, the books of Hebrews and 1 Peter, the theology of Biblical narrative and he is currently writing a book on a biblical theology of restoration from exile.

Members of the wider MST family will have the chance to meet Doug and Robin at the 2012 Graduation and Celebration Service on Friday 30 November at 7.3opm at MST, where Doug will be introduced to the MST Faculty and staff, students and alumni.