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Operation Christmas Child Celebrates Distribution Of 100 Millionth Shoe Box

SAMARITAN'S Purse will celebrate the 100 millionth gift-filled *Operation Christmas Child* shoe box in 2012. The concept of *Operation Christmas Child* began in 1990, when Dave and Jill Cooke from Wales were watching a broadcast on Romanian orphanages. They asked the question: How can we help these children, who live in these situations day after day? They knew they could not stop the wars,



but they could offer the gift of love. Together, they filled a convoy of nine trucks with medical supplies, food, clothing and Christmas gifts for children, and headed into Romania, which had recently been devastated by war. This was the beginning of the world's largest children's Christmas program.

In 1993, Franklin Graham, International President of Samaritan's Purse, adopted *Operation Christmas Child* and the project has now spread worldwide. Speaking recently in the UK to primary school students as they packed their shoe boxes, Mr Graham said: 'This year we will reach an historic number, that is our 100 millionth shoe box worldwide, and so we appreciate the prayers you send with these gifts that will be sent in Jesus' name.' Coincidentally, Samaritan's Purse Australia/New Zealand celebrates the sending of its three millionth shoe box in November 2012. *Operation Christmas Child* shoe boxes from Australia/New Zealand are delivered to children in need in countries across Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Operation Christmas Child is totally dependent on the generosity of the Lord's people, as it receives no government grants and has no cash reserves to draw from. For this reason people are asked to include a donation of \$9 with their box to help cover the costs of the project. This \$9 per box covers the cost of the sea freight, transportation costs in the receiving countries, training the National Leadership Teams of volunteers who distribute the shoe boxes in each country, rent, staffing, communications and many other costs essential to make this program possible.

Understandably, many who pack shoe boxes are school children, pensioners or families who are already making a great sacrifice and are unable to include a donation with their box. Approximately one out of every ten boxes arrives at the processing centres without the \$9 donation.

Some people can give packed shoe boxes but can't afford the \$9 donation. Others may not be able to give the box but would be willing to give the \$9 donation. To give a donation to this year's *Operation Christmas Child* and help cover all the essential costs of reaching these precious children with the power of a simple gift, call 1300 884 468 (Australia) or 0800 726 274 (New Zealand), or contact them at:

donations@samaritanspurse.org.au

MAF Papua, Indonesia Adds New Kodiak Aircraft To The Fleet

MISSION Aviation Fellowship invites you to take some time and join with them in thanking God and praying for a highly effective ministry through this new aircraft, now deployed in the Lord's service in Western Papua.



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LATE NEWS ...

Dr Mark Thompson New Principal Of Moore Theological College

DR Mark Thompson has been appointed to succeed Dr John Woodhouse, who retires early in 2013, as Principal of Moore Theological College. The President of the governing board of the College, Dr Peter Jensen, said 'I greet the appointment of Dr Mark Thompson as the next Principal with great enthusiasm. Mark is thoroughly committed to Christ as Lord, and is a fine teacher and a caring pastor. His gifts as a speaker, theological educator, author and theologian have been recognised internationally as well as locally. His clear and strong affirmation of the Gospel and his capacity as a leader are going to be significant gifts he brings to the College'.



The Archbishop described the college as 'well positioned to meet the challenges of change. The campus requires development and a new building is planned. The educational opportunities are new and they offer the possibilities of extending the teaching of the College and attracting even more students. With the help of the faculty and staff of the College, Mark is well equipped both to maintain the theological stance of the College and to oversee the developments we need to best serve Christ and His people.' he said.

Dr Thompson has lectured at the college since 1991. He currently lectures in Christian Doctrine and is head of Moore's Department of Theology, Philosophy and Ethics and has served variously as Academic Dean and as acting Principal. Internationally, he has been a member of the GAFCON Theological Resource Group and has helped strengthen Moore's international links and build its profile overseas.

Himself a graduate of Moore, Dr Thompson was ordained in 1987, serving in parish ministry in St Swithun's Pymble, St Luke's Dapto and Quakers Hill Anglican. He is married to Kathryn and they have four daughters. He and his family attend St Matthew's, Ashbury.

Dr Thompson is a member of the Diocese of Sydney Standing Committee and chairs its Doctrine Commission. As an author, he has researched, lectured and published on the doctrine of Scripture including his recent book *A Clear And Present Word: The Clarity Of Scripture* (in the *New Studies In Biblical Theology* series). A further interest is the importance of theological education to the future of the diocese. He is also a prolific blogger.

Dr Thompson, in the statement announcing the appointment, described it as being 'a great privilege to be invited to serve the College in this way. I'm enormously excited because I believe that Moore College is on the cusp of a range of opportunities for providing strong, clear, biblical, theological education in a rapidly changing world.'

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ERITREA: Christian Prisoners And Refugees Suffering Unimaginably

ERITREA, in the Horn of Africa on the Red Sea coast, has one of the most brutally repressive dictatorships in the world. The population is equally divided between Christians (90% Eritrean Orthodox) who live mostly in the highlands and Muslims who live mostly in the coastal lowlands. Eritrea won its independence from Ethiopia in 1991 and Isayas Afewerki has been President since independence was declared and internationally recognised in 1993. In 2001, in the wake of a two-year border war with Ethiopia (1998-2000), Afewerki began cracking down hard on anything that could be viewed as a threat to national unity. He cancelled elections and closed all independent media. Opposition figures – politicians, activists and journalists – were removed, mostly to underground 'secret prisons' for the 'disappeared'.

In May 2002, reportedly at the behest of the Eritrean Orthodox Church, the government began cracking down on 'foreign' and 'non-traditional' religion. A Biblical revival and renewal movement had exploded within the EOC. While some priests accommodated or even embraced the movement, others resisted, forcing those desiring a more evangelical Christianity to leave the EOC for Protestant fellowships. The exodus has caused great angst in the hierarchy of the EOC. Now only state-sanctioned Muslim, Eritrean Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Mekane Yesus (Evangelical Lutheran) denominations are legal, and worshipping in a Protestant fellowship is a criminal offence. However, by mid-2005 the authorities were oppressing the EOC as well, specifically those EOC priests supportive of the renewal movement and protesting religious persecution. When EOC head, Patriarch Abune Antonios, complained about the persecution of his priests, Afewerki had him deposed, placed under house arrest and replaced with a government administrator.

By the end of 2010 an estimated 3,000 Eritrean Christians of all denominations (mostly Protestant) were incarcerated purely for their faith; today the number is estimated at around 1,500. Whilst most prisoners are held in shipping containers in desert camps, some are kept in underground cells. The conditions are inhumane: children and the elderly are amongst the prisoners sharing skin diseases, dysentery and other horrors in confined, unventilated spaces. Torture is routine. Amnesty International has reported on the tortures suffered by Christian prisoners. Several Christians have died in custody and others have perished in the desert trying to escape.

Because Eritrea has no independent media, news of persecution is difficult to obtain for it must be leaked at great personal risk. Open Doors reports that on 30 October a Christian by the name of Adris Ali Mohammed (31), a Muslim convert from the town of Tesenai, died in custody. Adris had spent almost two years in a suffocating dungeon located in Eritrea's Aderset Military Camp, where some 100 Christians are believed to be detained. According to sources, Adris had stood firm through two years of terrible suffering and systematic torture aimed at forcing him to renounce his faith. According to OD, 'Military officials secretly buried Adris outside the camp.'

The repression has created a refugee crisis with many Christians amongst them. In July *The Guardian* reported that the Eritrea military runs a business kidnapping Eritrean refugees out of refugee camps in Sudan and trafficking them into the Sinai where they are sold to Bedouin gangs 'who use starvation, electrocution, rape and murder to extort up to \$40,000 from relatives in the Eritrean diaspora for their release'. According to *Strategic Policy* magazine (4, 2012) Major-General Tekle 'Manjus' Kiflai has been identified as the 'co-ordinator of the human smuggling operation' which reportedly serves as 'a major revenue source for the the ruling People's Front for Democracy and Justice. This very powerful Major-General Tekle, an ethnic 'Christian', is rumoured to be a possible successor to Afewerki.

Eritrea also funds, arms and trains anti-Ethiopian forces across the region, as well as rebels fighting against the Government of South Sudan. But change is looming. For many years Afewerki had been funded and propped up by Gadhafi (Libya) and Mubarak (Egypt). With these two backers now removed, Eritrea's principal ally is US-allied, Islamist Qatar which is fully occupied trying to orchestrate regime change in Damascus, Syria. Furthermore, Afewerki is so unwell that when he disappeared in March, rumours circulated that he had died. Eventually he quelled those rumours by making an appearance on State TV on 29 April. Afewerki allegedly has a liver complaint for which he has received medical treatment in Qatar.

Whilst Eritrea is ripe for change, the rot runs deep.

Please Pray Specifically That God Will:

- interpose Himself in Eritrea to bring deep and radical change; may He bring judgment on all who trade in suffering and terror, and bring an end to belligerence and repression. May He open the door to a new era of justice, liberty and peace, to His glory.
- have mercy on His sorely persecuted Church. Lord, comfort and protect them, sustaining them in body and soul, especially prisoners and refugees. Lord, provide all their needs, fanning their faith into flame so they may not lose hope; may their trust be in You.
- redeem this era of intensive persecution by refining and unifying the Eritrean Church and use their stories of faithfulness to soften the hearts and open the eyes of multitudes.

– Elizabeth Kendal, International Religious Liberty Analyst And Advocate, And Member Of AEA RLC.

'THE LORD PROVIDES ...'

New Home In Warwick, Qld, For Darling Downs Easter Convention

WHEN Darling Downs Easter Convention Committee were advised that Kingswood Camp in Warwick, where they had met for the Easter Convention for the past 50 years, was to be sold due to financial reasons, they were somewhat perplexed about what to do, where to go, and even wondered if the Lord wanted the Convention to continue or was its season finished?

However, the Lord made it very clear that He desired it to continue and that He would provide a new home for the Convention. Over the next few months, He raised up people to carry on the task and also provided the Senior Citizens rooms in the centre of Warwick CBD as the new meeting place.

For the next few years this venue was to be a blessing and people came and enjoyed the teaching, fellowship and praise along with youth activities and primary school meetings. Then the Convention began to outgrow the facilities there. Along with this, there was a strong desire to find a venue that would have accommodation attached at a reasonable price to go back to the original vision of being a family – eating, sleeping and worshipping together over the Easter break. So the Lord encouraged the committee to take the next step in the journey for a larger home for the Convention.

In 2011 the committee discovered that the Warwick Christian School Board would purchase the Anglican Slade School property which had everything needed – dormitories, industrial kitchen, large dining hall, plenty of meeting rooms, sporting fields etc. Arrangements are now in place for the Convention to move to Warwick Christian School Slade Campus, 70 Horsman Rd, Warwick.

Everyone is invited to join with the Warwick Convention family over Easter 2013 to celebrate Christ and His faithfulness. For more details go to: www.ddcc.net.au

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Two Giants Pass On...

Rev John Chapman ('Chappo'), a much loved son of the Diocese of Sydney, died on Friday 16 November, aged 82. He is best known as the Director of Evangelism in the Diocese of Sydney (1969–93) and as an exceptional preacher and teacher whose influence spread across the world. The evangelistic passion which today characterises the Diocese of Sydney owes much under God to Chappo and his ministry. He stirred generations to evangelise through expositions of the Bible. Right to the end he challenged us to keep Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life with God at the centre of our message and our life together. Chappo was also Emeritus Vice-president of the Australian Church League and his memory will encourage us to remain vocal and stand firm in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Rev Dr Stuart Barton Babbage, another significant contributor to the cause of Christ in Sydney and the world, also passed on that day. At various times he had been Dean of Sydney (1947–53), Dean of Melbourne (1953–1962), Principal of Ridley College Melbourne (1953–63), Master of New College at the University of New South Wales (1973–83), and Registrar of the Australian College of Theology (1977–92). Dr Babbage made a distinctive contribution to the life of the Australian church with a breadth of perspective and depth of intellect which few could match. In 1995 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia.



They were two men of very different temperament, style and ministry concerns, yet both were mightily used by God to build His church and encourage His people. We thank God for all that He did through them. May those who were closest to them and who feel most keenly their loss know the comfort of the Gospel and the hope of the resurrection.

– Gav Poole, President, Anglican Church League.

FamilyVoice Australia Welcomes Defeat Of SA Sex Work Bill

FAMILYVOICE Australia has welcomed the defeat on 15 November of a private member's bill in the South Australian House of Assembly to decriminalise the sex trade. 'The *Sex Work Reform Bill* failed by one vote (19-20),' said FamilyVoice national research officer Ros Phillips. 'It was a narrow defeat, but we rejoice that it has put an end to an attempt to bring in "open slather" prostitution and pimping. Similar laws in NSW and elsewhere have resulted in a boom in legal and illegal brothels as well as street prostitution. They are out of control.'

Hon Steph Key, the bill's sponsor, abruptly brought on the second reading vote, despite acknowledging that other MPs had wanted to speak but were absent (some because of the Adelaide visit of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton). Mrs Phillips said Ms Key is clearly not across the latest evidence about the SA sex trade. 'She claimed that sex trafficking in SA brothels is "a myth" – ignoring a recent report quoting the Australian Federal Police confirming such trafficking,' Ros Phillips said. Ms Key also claimed sex workers suffer less sexual ill-health compared to the general population. 'She is apparently unaware that evidence to this effect comes from sexual health clinics. It does not take into account the vast majority of the population who see their own GPs,' Ros Phillips said. Mrs Phillips said the abrupt end to the second reading debate meant that speeches outlining the many downsides to the legislation were not allowed to be heard. Nor were speeches noting countries which have cut trafficking rates by using more enlightened models of prostitution law.

Australian Coptic Group Rejects Islamic Dictatorship in Egypt

EGYPT'S President Mohamad Morsi has issued a decree virtually giving himself absolute power in post revolutionary Egypt. Whilst claiming to be a 'protector' of the revolution, his new broad-ranging powers mean that he cannot be challenged on any decision he makes. The declaration denies even the judicial oversight powers against the President; in a nutshell President Morsi has basically declared himself a dictator. The Australian Coptic Movement Association rejects such moves and sees them as an opportunistic move to capitalise on western praise following the Egyptian brokered cease fire between Hamas and Israel. The hundreds who gave up their lives on 25 January 2011, both Muslim and Copt, did not do so to install a fundamentalist Islamic nation. This is exactly what President Morsi is achieving right at this moment. Furthermore, President Morsi promised to be a President for all Egyptians, however it is clear that he only represents the whims of the Muslim Brotherhood and ignores the rest of the Egyptian population who do not adhere to their political-religious ideology.

Eleven Books Prepared For Publication By Drs Clifford And Barbara Wilson

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|----|-----------------------|-------|
| <i>The Stones Still Shout</i> | 1998 | A4 | Illustrated liberally | 230pp |
| <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 28/11/2012, copies of these eleven titles are available free from New Life Books & Archaeology, 44 Dublin Road, Ringwood East 3135, open Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm, Thursdays 9am-4pm

Website: 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 eleven books listed above is now available free to anyone within Australia who requests them AND sends \$20 (AUD) for packing and postage.

Weighing about 4 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).

Luis Palau And 100 Churches Build On A 30-Year Legacy To Reach Newcastle's Next Generation

MORE than 30 years after his first campaign in Newcastle, evangelist Luis Palau returned to help more than 100 local churches reach new generations with the love and Good News of Jesus.

An estimated 30,000 people flocked to Newcastle's Foreshore on 16,17 November for *CityFest* – two days of live music, kid-friendly shows and activities, and the Gospel message presented nightly by Palau. 'I have seldom felt the presence of God in a crowd like I felt it tonight,' he said after speaking on Saturday.

CityFest included performances by *Australian Idol* winner Stan Walker, New Zealand rockers Evermore, and praise powerhouses Darlene Zschech and Hillsong. Stunt demonstrations and personal testimonies by extreme sports athletes highlighted the festival's youthful bent. By the end of the weekend, several hundred people had made the decision to follow Jesus Christ.

Several individuals who came to faith during one of Palau's previous events in Newcastle helped cast the vision for today's model. Jenny Allen, Dean of Students at the University of Newcastle and chair of counselor training for *CityFest*, said her role had everything to do with the decision she made in 1979.

'My hope and dream for this festival is that in 33 years, someone could be sitting here filming somebody else who remembers 17 November the same way we remember '79,' she said in a video interview, 'that they sit here because of the moment in time when they were confronted with the reality of Jesus.'

Andrew Cole, pastor at New Vine Baptist Church, oversaw the festival's Kids Zone. Cole accepted Christ as a teenager during a Palau crusade in 1982. 'I was a messy, 18 year-old, beer-swilling, rugby-playing young person. When I heard Luis speak, that got my attention,' he said. 'It's been such a wonderful thing for me to contribute into this festival, knowing that 30 years ago a whole bunch of people gave me the opportunity to hear.'

For months leading up to *CityFest*, more than 1,000 volunteers from churches across the Hunter Region of NSW performed 60 community service projects through an initiative called *CityServe*. 'When the church is serving, it's shining,' Festival Co-ordinator Rick Prosser said of the outreach. 'Our hope is that *CityServe* becomes a culture for the body of Christ to serve our community. It really established tremendous bridges in the community, into the schools, into the business sector, into the civic arena. We were tremendously embraced by the city.'

The two-day festival was the culmination of an entire season of ministry, including 16 evangelistic events for students, military personnel, civic leaders, and business professionals. The campaign also included a unique time of training and mentorship for more than 50 Australian evangelists.

'This campaign was built on a foundation laid 30 years ago and has set the tone for the future. Whatever God's doing in Newcastle, *CityFest* was not the end but the beginning,' Festival Director Colin James said. The Palau team is currently working with local churches to follow up with each new believer and connect



Luis and Andrew Palau on stage. On Saturday night, Luis Palau spoke about what a staggering event it is when someone surrenders their life to Jesus Christ.

*(Photo: Luis Palau Association 2012
– Photographer Brad Person)*

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them with a church in their area. Evangelist Luis Palau has brought a message of hope through faith in Jesus Christ to more than 1 billion people through radio, television, and other media. He is the author of more than 40 books and countless articles on issues of faith. His latest book, *Out Of The Desert Into The Life God Intended* was released earlier this year. For more information, visit www.palau.org

Celebrate The Joy Of Christmas

A DELIGHTFUL Pleasant Sunday Afternoon program, *Christmas Songs Of Praise*, has been arranged for Sunday, 2 December from 2pm to 4.45pm. There is no charge and a delicious afternoon tea will be served following the program. A pre-program of music and DVD'S starts at 1.30pm. The venue is Diamond Valley Baptist Auditorium at 309 Diamond Creek Road, Plenty (Melway 11 D7). The program includes singing many favourite Christmas carols and guest items including Alana Conway, singer and harpist, semi-finalist on *Australia's Got Talent 2010*; Matthew Field, concert pianist whose outstanding performances captivate his audiences; Darebin City Brass Trio And Ensemble and Levi McGrath, singer/guitarist/songwriter, who has a heart for rescuing child victims of war and exploitation. Regulars Dale Philip and Ron Ellis will present one of their popular Christmas Duets.

Although people of all ages attend, these Pleasant Sunday Afternoons would be an ideal outing for residents of retirement villages, hostels, seniors clubs and forgotten older people in our community. Why not invite some of these folk to travel in your car, or arrange to bring a bus load? Enquiries can be made to the organiser, Ron Ellis on (03) 9459 5698 or by email: ron@ronellis.org *Songs Of Praise* is an initiative of the Diamond Valley Baptist *Women In Focus* group.

'No Sweat' Marriage Conferences

FAMILYLIFE Australia, as a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ Australia has been a powerful catalyst for today's Australian family for over 12 years. By offering practical, Biblically-based marriage conferences, radio broadcasts and resources for real-world issues faced by people every day, *FamilyLife* has helped marriages and families become stronger as they discover a 'love that lasts'. This CCCA movement runs a number of one-day conferences around the country called *A Day Together*.

Lynn Menhennitt works alongside her husband, Peter, in the movement. She says, 'Generally these events have 20 to 30 couples attending, so most couples don't feel too crowded in an audience of that size.' The conference doesn't have any group sharing, much to the relief of most of the men, who would be rather scared at opening up in front of others. Lynn points out that speakers at *A Day Together* events are not perfect couples. They are very real and honest when it comes to sharing their victories as well as their tough times.

Pastoral staff are pressured by so many topics these days and marriage is just one of them. *FamilyLife Australia* is therefore able to assist pastors by addressing the topic of marriage for one whole day – and the pastor doesn't have to do anything other than attend the day with their spouse and enjoy the event. Contact FamilyLife on: enquiries@familylifeaustralia.com to receive an information pack.



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A Different Take On Mentoring

ANGLICARE Victoria's Transformers Boys Group has been running for five years, giving boys aged 8-12 who have anger and self-control issues a place where they can learn to deal with their emotions. Many come from separated families and have experienced trauma, while some also have diagnosed psychological disorders.

Normally two Anglicare staff work with the boys to teach them how to 'stop, think, then do'. But a highlight is when members of the Longriders Christian Motorcycle Club roar into the back of the Croydon, Vic, premises on their motorcycles.

After some games to break the ice, the riders tell the boys their stories. Even boys with attention deficit disorder are transfixed. Some talk about their angry days when people needed to cross the road when they saw them. Others discuss how they never dealt with the pent-up anger inside them. For most the motorcycle club has given them trusted mates they can really count on and be accountable to.

'Some of the boys are just angry at the world and we know what that is like, so we want to show them they have choices and that people care,' says Vic Heyward, a life member of Longriders. *Imagine, Sep 2012*



Humanitarian Crisis In DRC

WORLDSHARE, formerly CNEC Partners, has received an SOS from their ministry partner HEAL Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. M23 rebel forces are now claiming control of the city of Goma on the Rwandan border. Tens of thousands of people are fleeing the city, resulting in a growing humanitarian crisis. Dr Justin Paluku Lussy, who visited Australia in June, has sent an urgent call for help. 'We are going through a difficult time in Goma. So far, we have not received any assistance from anywhere and have used almost all our anaesthetic drugs, antibiotics, fluids, and pain killers', he said. 'We are using a generator and very soon will be short of fuel.' Plans are currently underway to purchase critical medical supplies in Kigali. Prayers and financial support are urgently needed. More information at www.worldshare.org.au

New Start For Radio Station

ELWA Radio in Liberia was begun in 1954 by SIM and over the following 35 years grew into a well-respected Christian radio station, broadcasting God's Word into the unreached areas of much of West and North Africa. During the 14 year Civil War in Liberia the radio station was bombed and looted. Since the end of the war, the station has been relocated to an old ELWA garage building. Sadly in 2011 this was completely burnt down and at present they are working from a temporary building. The vision for the radio station is still strong however and rebuilding was expected to start last month. It is hoped to provide a newsroom, studios and control rooms for live programs and the facility to record

in a number of different languages. Technical advice and a construction manager are already available and about a third of the expected funds are in hand. Further information from www.sim.org.au

Ridley Marketplace Institute

FOR many Christians the Sunday-Monday divide is felt most during the sermon. You may be urged to be more engaged with the church's program or to be a better wife or husband. Often the sermon relates to an important matter of personal piety and ethics. Yet it all feels so far away from the kind of experiences that you face on Monday. The launch of the Ridley Marketplace Institute, one of the elements of the 2008-2013 Ridley Vision, sought to bridge that gap. It represents a broader agenda for Ridley College in Parkville, Melbourne, and a desire to reconnect with lay people, plus positioning the college to help its students to meet the demands of a changing world. The recent appointment of Dr Ken Barnes as inaugural Dean and Ms Kara Martin as Associate Dean is a bold new step in implementing this vision. Dr Barnes, an American who has lived in the UK since 1992, will be based in Oxford, making two eight-week trips to Melbourne each year. In addition he will conduct conferences in Oxford, giving the Melbourne Christian business community access to his extensive network. Although almost all the objectives of the Institute can be achieved, the board realised that, with Ken based in Oxford, to provide continuity and support culture change within the college, it is vital to have a person 'on the ground'. Consequently Kara Martin has been appointed as Associate Dean. More info: www.ridley.edu.au

Read *Who Are The Brisbane Christian Fellowship?* by David Holden at www.defenceofthefaith.org

'España Por Christo'

'SPAIN For Christ' is the passionate cry of a vibrant young woman from Eastwood, Sydney. Chloe Wolfson grew up in an average suburban Christian family. In retrospect she can see the Lord's hand leading her through Sunday School, school and university. She has always loved anything to do with Spain ... the culture, language, food and climate. After graduating from university, Chloe went on a short-term mission trip to Bolivia. This opened her eyes to the world-wide harvest of souls waiting for the words of eternal life.

An awareness of missions led her to apply to Sydney Missionary and Bible College where she mixed daily with people preparing themselves for cross-cultural service. At first Chloe prayed for the others, but gradually the Lord laid His call on her heart; especially towards Spanish-speaking people, which to her meant South America.

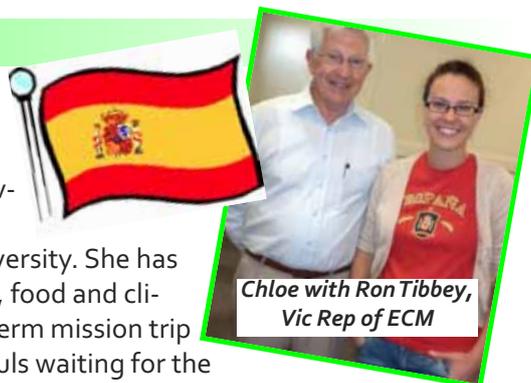
Then she met Ray Busuttill, the Australian Director of European Christian Mission, who opened her eyes to the needs of Europe, and specifically Spain. She went home from the ECM office with application forms that were completed within a week.

October 2009 saw Chloe arrive in Cordoba, the capital city of the Spanish province of the same name, in a very traditional area of Southern Spain. After a year in language school she moved to De Penarroya-Pueblonuevo, a small town of 11,000. It is 13 hours by car from Barcelona, with very little Christian witness. Her role is to help in the church, among young people, and especially with church planting. ECM's aim is to plant a church in every town with over 5,000 inhabitants. Penarroya was noted for coal-mining, but most of the mines are now closed. High unemployment in the area is a challenge to the small Evangelical Church. They are praying for ways to alleviate the suffering and create on-going employment opportunities. It is a very superstitious area, dominated by the Roman Catholic priests. But the biggest problem is secularism in the schools. When one young woman whom Chloe had been mentoring came to the Lord, she told Chloe she had to speak to the priest.

'What will you say?' Chloe asked her. Her reply really embraces the reason for ECM to be in Spain: 'Since a child I have attended mass, made special prayers, given money and celebrated Saints' days, but in the ECM church I am starting to read the Bible and learn about God!'

No-one speaks English in the town, but they are all eager to learn, so free English classes are a means to friendship and evangelism. Chloe enjoys a game of tennis, which helps her get to know the townsfolk. They are fascinated by an Australian, never having met one before. They visualise Australia as the end of the world.

Chloe returns to Spain in January. Perhaps you could add her to your missionary prayer list. To learn more about Chloe Wolfson and ECM go to: www.ecmi.org (email: ecm.oz@ecmi.org)
 – Mrs DP (Barbara Prout)



Chloe with Ron Tibbey,
Vic Rep of ECM

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'... 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)

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'REMEMBER THE PERSECUTED ...'

Training 'Forgotten' Church Leaders On The Thai-Burma Border

DODGING bullets and praying for peace is part and parcel of life for Karen refugees on the Thai-Burma border, where a CMS team recently trained local church leaders. For the past three years CMS Queensland with Northern NSW has provided trainers to the School of Biblical Training to equip local leaders of the Karen people to handle the Bible with care and preach well. Sam McGeown, CMS Church Liaison and Missionary Development Officer who led the training team, said that the pastors lead the members of a church the world has largely forgotten about.



Karen Church Leaders.

'For 25 years the Karen people have been dodging bullets from the Burmese army,' he said, 'living in jungles and refugee camps, waiting and praying for peace and the chance to return to their homes and villages.'

This year's training brought together 55 pastors, Bible college students, children and youth workers, and mother's ministry leaders from refugee camps and outlying villages. They gathered for six days for teaching on *Isaiah* and basic Bible study tools from Sam McGeown, Rev Richard Shumack and Tim Hill. The thanks expressed by one of the pastors sums up the impact of the training: 'There is no way we can gain any kind of access to the material we have received during this week. The training has increased our competency and confidence in preaching from the Old Testament, especially from *Isaiah*. Thank you. When you come back again next year could we continue looking at the Old Testament?'

Seeing the impact the training is having over repeated years is a great blessing to Sam. This was his third time there, and he plans to return in 2013. 'Each time I have returned there has been renewed trust built and relational bridges strengthened,' said Sam. 'The pastors and leaders are taking the training on board. We saw it in the sermons that they preached – in their growing ability and delight to handle God's Word, not just with care but with delight.' To learn more about the work of CMS in equipping church leaders throughout the world, visit www.cms.org.au or phone 07 3112 6530. – Sharyn Tidswell

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Christian Church Vandalised In Jerusalem In Spate Of Attacks

ON 12 November, Calvary Baptist Church in Jerusalem, led by an Arab Israeli Christian pastor, is the latest congregation to be hit in a string of vandalism incidents to hit Christian holy sites in Israel this year. 'The sign pointing people to the church was defaced with white paint,' said Pastor Steven Khoury.

According to Pastor Khoury, church members are taking precautionary measures to ensure that no further attacks are carried out against the church. He told ANS that security cameras are being installed and round-the-clock watch groups will patrol near the church building in the interim.

'It is our wish to help law enforcement in east Jerusalem to help capture any culprits who think to further vandalise as has occurred over the last few years to Christian, Muslim, and Jewish holy sites,' remarked Khoury. Police are currently investigating the matter. Khoury is calling upon the State of Israel to clamp down on these incidents and have perpetrators who commit these types of acts of vandalism to be prosecuted under Israel's hate crime statutes. Khoury emphasised that it is important that Israel demonstrates that defacing holy sites is a serious offence under the law as well as its democratic values.

Khoury's ministry, Holy Land Missions (www.Holylandmissions.org) 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.'

– Michael Ireland, ASSIST News Service



Pastor Steven Khoury pictured in a video by Worthington Media Int.

Iraqi Christians 'Feel Forgotten' – Fleeing To Other Countries

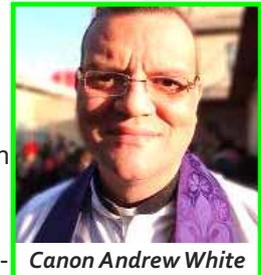
AS THE Middle East continues in turmoil, an Anglican minister serving in Iraq says that he is seeing more believers fleeing Iraq. Canon Andrew White, who serves as Vicar of St George's, Baghdad, writes: 'As I watch television, I see stories of killings in Gaza, Israel and Syria – such terrible news. 40 people killed in Gaza, 3 in Israel and 9 in Syria; that is 52 people, quite terrible. But by 12 noon today there had been serious bombings in Iraq and 119 people had been killed.'

'Just as we were about to go to our service I wrote on my Facebook account the following: "We are about to go and worship now. G-d has not left us, everybody else has. We have just had 119 people killed in two terrible car bombs and you do not see even one line about it in any of the international media".'

'Our people are really frightened and feel forgotten,' said Canon White. 'People have started fleeing again in their masses, things are just so bad. People have nothing. One of our staff saw one of our congregation begging on the street yesterday. He asked her why she was doing this. She said all the food she had from church has run out and she has no money to pay her rent. We will give her everything she needs today, but this is another example of the terrible needs. All may have left us, but our Lord is still here.'

'Our Gospel reading today was from Mark 13. In it, Jesus tells the disciples that before the Second Coming there would be "wars and rumours of wars." Well we have sure got them. Our congregation all took hope in this, because 'soon and very soon we are going to see the KING".'

– Michael Ireland, ASSIST



Canon Andrew White

Burned Church Investigation Underway In Turkmenistan

CHURCHES in Turkmenistan have come under increasing fire within the last six months. Slavic Gospel Association spokesman Joel Griffith says that proved to be more than a figure of speech for one church there. 'The Baptist House of Prayer in Turkmenbashi (Kranovodsk) had been burned to the ground. Apparently, the authorities in Turkmenbashi called President Vasily Korobov, (he is the President of the Turkmen Baptist Union), notifying that this church had been destroyed.' When Pastor Korobov came in to talk to authorities, he found himself in an interrogation. 'It just seemed like by the questions that they were asking him, they were looking for something other than just a church fire. He's not really sure what the authorities are doing.' A lot of officials are involved in the investigation, and nobody knows if it was arson yet. It's too early to tell how ministry has been disrupted. 'We are really praying for the church, because anything like this that happens involving a church, obviously the pressure sort of intensifies because you don't know what the government is going to do.' Full story: <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/17895>

King's Strike Teaches More Than Chess

AT times, people can feel like mere pawns in the game of life. *King's Strike*, a new program on SAT-7 TÜRK, offers Turkish speakers a strategy for understanding this life on Earth.

According to Melissa Brown, Communications Assistant, SAT-7 USA (<http://sat7usa.org>), chess is steadily becoming an important game in Turkey. It is even taught as a course in public schools. During September 2012, Istanbul hosted the 40th World Chess Olympiad.

King's Strike uses the language of this trendy game to communicate the Christian message,' she wrote. 'The 13-episode series is written and presented by Mr. Tunç Alankus, a Christian believer, a member of the Turkish Chess Federation, and a gifted communicator.' Four segments comprise each episode: a lesson in chess strategy, video clips from the World Chess Olympiad, anecdotes related to chess, and a related lesson from the Bible. Ultimately, the goal of the program is to teach the fundamental topics of the related Christian message alongside, and by means of, the game of chess.

Melih Ekener, Executive Director at SAT-7 TÜRK, explains the symbolism between Christianity and chess: 'The pawn can be said to represent a true Christian. Like the pawn, once the Christian moves forward, there is no going back. He must progress steadily towards the goal. His ultimate goal is to become royalty. The Turkish Christian population is small, and some have trouble finding Bible studies and churches where they can fellowship. But Turks watch about eight hours of television daily, making television programs a strategic opportunity for Turkish Christians to share their message with the rest of society.

– Dan Wooding, Founder, ASSIST News Service



A screenshot from the show.

The Language Of A New Generation

A NEW television program in Iran focuses on the language of a new generation. The program is called *Chandelier* and is produced by SAT-7, a Christian satellite television ministry to the Middle East and North Africa. *Chandelier* introduces Christ through the window of Persian literature, history, and poetry. The program aims to use poetry to attract Iran's younger generation to Christ. Pray that God will use this ministry to continue to reach the younger generation in Iran. Full story:

<http://www.MNNonline.org/article/17893>

Audio Bible Ministry Introduces Deaf Bible App

IF you are an Audio Bible ministry, with New Testament recordings in over 690 languages, is it strange to produce a Bible app for a group of people that will never hear your work? *Faith Comes By Hearing* doesn't think so. 'When I took on the mission to get God's Word to every person, I assumed He meant every person,' said Jerry Jackson, founder and president of *Faith Comes By Hearing*. 'Taking the deaf community worldwide as a whole, they are the fourth largest unreached people group in the world.'

The World Federation of the Deaf estimates that 70 million deaf people use sign language. Of the total population, it is estimated that less than 2% have been reached with the Gospel. When that statistic was brought to Jackson and the rest of the

ministry's leadership team, they knew immediately they wanted to be a part of an outreach to those who are not able to utilise their Audio Bibles. Having recently created their own Bible app – **Bible.is** – they asked their developers to investigate the possibility of an app for the Deaf community. The result is the **Deaf Bible.is** app. While also having the text available to read, the app primarily centres on access to video that allows the user to view the Scriptures being signed in their language. The initial app released utilises the American Sign Language version of the Bible. However, just like the original Bible.is app, the ministry will add other languages as they become available. FCBH said it is partnering with Deaf Missions, DOOR International and long-time Bible Society partners around the world who are supplying much of the video content to reach this often overlooked people group.

'Because of this amazing digital technology, we now have a method to reach millions more of the deaf population,' says Jackson. As with all of the ministry's online digital resources, the **Deaf Bible.is** app is free of charge.

Faith Comes By Hearing has been in ministry for 40 years and remains committed to bringing God's Word to the world. It currently has audio Scripture recordings in 692 languages. For more information go to: www.fcbh.org

– Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST News Service

VIEWPOINT ...

What A Sad State Of Affairs!

IF you are at a post office getting Christmas stamps, this bears thinking about when purchasing. This year there are five Christmas stamps, only two of which have a spiritual significance – one local 55 cent stamp and one \$1.60 stamp for mail going overseas.

Recently I went to the Post Office to buy some stamps to send Christmas cards enclosing a letter to family and friends in the UK. I was astounded when the lady behind the counter became very apologetic. 'I'm really sorry to have to tell you this, but we only have religious stamps, and many people are refusing these. Are you willing to accept religious stamps?'

When I looked at the beautiful stamp with the picture of the Nativity I nearly burst into tears. As I type this I feel emotional. A humble stamp with the simple message of what Christmas means to us has become the target of derision. I came out thinking what can I do? Nothing, I thought. Then this morning I thought: I will write to those people with addresses in my email box and let them know that if they have letters/cards to send abroad, why not request the religious stamps? Perhaps now is the time to make a stand. Those that don't believe in Christmas are quick to make their views known, so why don't we?

I made it very clear to the lady behind the counter that I was delighted to buy the religious stamps 'because it's what my faith is based on'. Jesus is the reason for the season. She looked shocked.

We can make a point of requesting the stamps that show the Nativity – a scene from a silk tapestry in South Australia, as it happens. Please feel free to share this email with others – and Happy CHRISTmas!

– Jacqui (A Salvo in Perth) via Rosemaree Knight via Worldwide Photos

Baptists Call For Further Gambling Reform

AUSTRALIAN Baptist Ministries has cautiously welcomed the introduction of long-awaited gambling reform legislation in Federal Parliament, saying it was a small step forward but much more needed to be done to provide consumer protection for gamblers. *The National Gambling Reform Bill 2012* calls for all Australian poker machines to be fitted with voluntary pre-commitment technology by 2016, an ATM cash withdrawal limit of \$250 to be operating by February 2015, and the establishment of a federally funded National Gambling Research Commission.

'It is encouraging to see progress being made on federal gambling reform, but Australian Baptist Ministries continues to support the objectives of the Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce which include adoption of a national mandatory pre-commitment scheme, \$1 maximum bets on all electronic gaming machines, and enforcement of restrictions on online gambling,' Director of National Ministries for the Baptist Church, Rev Keith Jobberns, said. 'Australian Baptists have a long tradition of advocacy for gambling reform and there is widespread public support for mandatory pre-commitment measures to limit the impact of problem gambling on individuals, families and communities,' Mr Jobberns said.

Former President of Australian Baptist Ministries and Chair of the Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce, Rev Tim Costello, said the measures included in the new bill countered one of the gambling industry's key arguments against reform: that modifying

poker machines to enable players to set their loss limits would be expensive and send the industry broke. Tim Costello said further reform was essential and voluntary pre-commitment was about as safe as voluntary speed limits on the road.

– Press Release from Australian Baptist Ministries

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HERE TO HELP ...

Christmas CD: *Advent*. Songwriters: Mike Begbie, Nicky Chiswell, Greg Cooper, Trevor Hodge, Phillip Percival, Simone Richardson, Rob Smith, Luke Woodhouse. Ten songs, 45 minutes. Emu Music, Annandale NSW, 2012

RELEASED in time for Christmas, *Advent* is a CD that celebrates the message of this glorious season of the year and in particular thoughtfully portrays Jesus in His role as King. The lyrics are its greatest strength, focusing on the theology of the Incarnation. The artists are well known names in the Australian Christian music world. The words are well worth meditating on. Not all are what one might initially think of as Christmas songs until the listener remembers that the Incarnation is not to be thought of in isolation from the saving purpose for which Jesus came.

There is a progression in the salvation message within individual songs and also in the whole CD, from the first song, *Grace Has Now Appeared*, to the last, which is a prayer to hasten the day of Jesus' appearing. The music is rather repetitive to an older generation, but that is not the opinion of my 20-something daughter. I would have appreciated a little more light and shade in the music, such as featured in the song *Great Things*, with its percussion and echo. Certainly the teenage and young adult market would not only like this CD but be helped by its Jesus focus. As for motivating us in our Christian walk (and also because it reminded me of *Bethlehem* tracks I have so long enjoyed!), I responded well to *Make Us Like Jesus*. As the chorus says: 'For this is the reason your Spirit's within, to make us like Jesus, make us like Him'. May we all heed that challenge! *Advent* is not traditional Christmas fare, but the Gospel message of the birth of Jesus is very much present. You may well find yourself listening to this CD all year round, not just in December.

– Mignon Goswell

Making Goat's Milk Soap

HAVE you ever heard of goat's milk soap? It's what one Mexican tribe is producing to bring more revenue to their people. Goats are commonplace among the Guarijio tribe, and missionaries serving with New Tribes Mission taught believers how to use goat's milk to make soap in their homes. As the Guarijio are able to make a living at this, their hearts will be encouraged to live in obedience to God. Pray that God would bless this project.

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY ...



THE Ballarat North Baptist Church Shed (pictured above) is a hive of activity as many invested in 'Fair Trades'. The proceeds of a night such as this, about \$1,700, go directly to the handcrafters – all of them impoverished – perhaps a widow of a coal miner killed in a country where there are no government helps ...

– Bruce Stewart

BOOKS WORTH READING ...

SERMONS OF THE GREAT EJECTION, Edinburgh, Banner Of Truth, 2012 Edition.

IT IS said that the best sermons make good listening but poor reading. Why then should we read a volume of sermons that were preached in the early 1660's and in very different times to our own? Read on!

The Lord Jesus warned that persecution would come from the unbelieving world (eg John 15.18) and every issue of *New Life* tells of this. Paul also warns that troubles would arise from within the church (Acts 20.29,30). The troubles from within are harder to bear – for these are people who claim to be brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Such a scene lies behind this volume of sermons. They arise from the confused religious landscape of England in the early 1660's. The rough and tumble of the 17th Century saw the national church change in character, parliament rebel against King Charles 1 and execute him, the rule of Oliver Cromwell and then a period of chaos. Finally, many of those who had supported the revolt joined in the request for restoration of the Stuart monarch and so King Charles II came to the throne.

Now came the trouble from within. Part of the settlement included restoration of a national Anglican Church of a somewhat compromised character. The 1662 *Act Of Uniformity* gave little flexibility to those of a more tender conscience and who sought a more Biblical church order. The result was the great eviction of August 1662. About 2,500 pastors were ejected from their ministries and subjected to great restrictions on their ability to minister as independents or members of the various dissenting groups.

What do you say in your last sermon when the 'Christian' government and bishops have evicted you? These sermons are the result. The seven sermons in the book did not come from wild-eyed rebels. Most of the preachers were educated in Oxford or Cambridge, two of them had opposed the execution of the king and some had supported the recall of the Stuart monarchy. They occupied significant ministries and one was offered a bishopric before he refused the oath and was ejected. These were good, reliable and godly men! And these preachers are a model of restraint. They directed their people to the Word of God that they might consider its consolations in distress; its encouragements in hardship; and its warnings of God's judgment. In the language of the day, they applied a 'sweet cordial' to those who drank from the wells of bitterness. Underneath the tumult of their times and its difficulties they saw the comforting hand of divine providence.

These men were rejected and ejected, but certainly not dejected. So why republish these sermons from 1662 in 2012 and why should anyone read them? For the following reasons:

1. Christians remain under external persecution and these words of encouragement, warning and comfort are still a 'sweet cordial' to us.
2. Issues such as same-sex marriage and the linked consequences are resulting in Biblically faithful Christians coming under pressure and exclusion from within mainline denominations. These 'last words' from the 17th Century speak directly to such a situation as this.
3. These preachers and those who stood with them burned with faithfulness in the 1660's. The pressure came off them with the 1672 *Act of Toleration* and they soon gained an accepted place in the nation. But

easy times are dangerous times and the Dissenters were only a shadow of their former selves when the 18th Century revival started. The later cold embers of the fire once represented by these sermons is a warning to the godly of all ages.

4. The book closes with a *Nonconformist's Catechism* which succinctly states why the ejected generation felt they could not remain in the Established Church. It challenges today's church regarding the introduction of extra-Biblical elements to its life and practice.

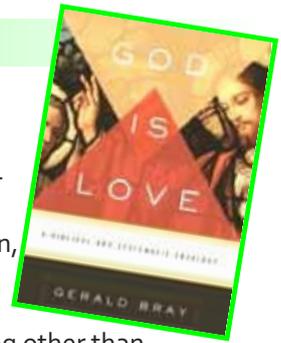
Like many books published by Banner, this book is a warm read and nourishment for the soul. It's well worth the modest effort to enter into the world of 1662 and hear a word for 2012. – David Burke



Ramon A Williams – Worldwide Photos –

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**GOD IS LOVE: A BIBLICAL AND SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY,
Gerald Bray, Wheaton: Crossway, 2012**



THIS book is a warm-hearted explanation of Christian doctrine as it is given to us in Scripture. It is aimed at those who normally find systematic theology unappealing and incomprehensible – through no fault of their own! True to the subtitle, almost without exception, only Bible references appear in the footnotes. Bray uses simple, straightforward language, avoiding all theological jargon. His model is the language of the *Gospel Of John* that is at once simple and profound. This theology is also non-partisan, promoting nothing other than the great, central doctrines of the faith, what C. S. Lewis called *Mere Christianity*.

As I read this book, I could not help recalling my old teacher, Broughton Knox, who likewise taught that there is a loving God at the heart of the Universe, and who only ever quoted the Bible and not theologians. As a good theologian, Bray recognises and respects the God-given boundaries of our knowledge and refuses to speculate. Though Bray recognises that the traditional 'proofs of God' are not logically watertight, he makes the point that they do reflect the fact that God's care extends to the whole human race, not just Christians, so that God has not left Himself without a witness to humanity.

Bray's faithful explanation of the authority of the Bible upholds its relevance and truthfulness without unnecessarily alienating many readers by copying the excessive zeal of some proponents of 'inerrancy', whose special-pleading, outlandish explanations of 'difficulties' and judgmental attitude give Bible-believing Christians a bad name. Bray himself sets an example to all by upholding the truth of God's Word and by doing so with Christian grace. In answer to the objection that theology is divisive and should be jettisoned, Bray reminds us that we are to speak the truth in love and that the most important truth is the truth about God (= theology).

He shows us that our description of God must begin with His personhood, the fact that He is a Trinity of three equal Persons. He has a long discussion of what 'person' means in both ancient and modern church discussions. This is the most difficult section of the book, as must inevitably be the case if one is trying to describe and explain God as Trinity! However difficult, we cannot abandon this way of speaking about God, for personhood (divine and human) is the capacity to give and receive love. Bray fails to find evidence of the Trinity in the pages of the Old Testament, but he also argues that we cannot simply equate the God of the Old Testament simply with the Father. The God of the Old Testament is the Trinity of the New Testament. He also does not see the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament as a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ, for to have Jesus make visits in the Old Testament would run the risk of endangering the uniqueness of the Incarnation.

Bray's sane and calm discussion of Science and the Bible avoids unnecessary antagonism. He shows that Science does not have all the answers and has not disproved the Christian understanding of reality as dependent on God the Creator and Preserver of all things. He argues that physical disasters are not morally evil, though they do have unfortunate consequences when human beings get in the way. Bray comes close to equating the image of God with the human exercise of dominion, and to do that would be a mistake, for the precise language wording of Genesis 1.26,27 disallows equating of the two. The image is, in fact, left undefined in the Bible.

I was surprised, but then pleased, by the length and thoroughness of Bray's discussion of Satan and his demonic followers. He gives a perceptive analysis of other religions and of resurgent atheism, maintaining that Christ is the exclusive Saviour, who alone can reconcile us to God. Bray combines straight-talking with courtesy, exposing other religions and those with no religion as denying the truth of God and living in rebellion against God. As he says, there are only two camps: Christians and the rest.

Another outstanding feature of this book is the inclusion of theological and practical ethics at appropriate points in the discussion, including the Christian attitude to marriage, sport and politics. Even when dealing with doctrine, his discussion regularly turns in a practical direction, so that when discussing the Christian hope, for example, he addresses the problem of the experience of failure. The doctrine of union with Christ leads to an explanation of the place and importance of prayer: 'To be a Christian without praying is like being married but never speaking to your spouse'. In his discussion of what is the church, he gives a down-to-earth explanation of what is essential and what is not in church life.

Here, then, is a book that is likely to turn its readers into lovers of doctrine. It will not only help anyone who readers it to understand God and His purposes, it will equip us to explain our faith to others in a way they will understand and see its connection to the real world.

– Greg Goswell