

## **BUILD ON THE ROCK – TEACHING KIDS ABOUT JESUS**



THE vital Christian Gospel message of ROCK – Reaching Out to Clayton Kids (and beyond) was presented to children (and adults) in April around Easter time.

The death and resurrection of Jesus (God the Son), repentance from sin, and forgiveness and deliverance from sin by the cleansing power of Jesus' Blood, comprised the ROCK Gospel message.

The specific theme of this Easter ROCK mission was; JESUS SAID: I AM (John 8.12; 10.9; 10.11; 14.6). ROCK's rescue mission was that Jesus (1 Corinthians 10.4) is the only Saviour and Lord, and Jesus alone is to be worshipped (Acts 4.12). Prayer, gospel songs, bible stories, skits and drama focussed on Jesus Christ, the only Saviour and Lord. The Easter ROCK team (41) mainly comprised secondary college and university students. On the day with the best attendance, over 129 people were present at the gathering.

The drama was presented as daily episodes with each episode closing at an exciting point. The gifted drama team was inspirational and the children (and adults) were delighted, inspired and encouraged.

Praise and thanksgiving are given to God for the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the children and adults at Easter. 2013. God willing, the next Summer ROCK will eventuate in early January 2014 at Namatjira Park, Clayton Vic. Please pray!

– Dr Des Gaffney

**VOLUME 75  
NUMBER 19**

**ISSUE DATE:**  
15 May 2013

**ISSN:** 1033-7903

**FOUNDER:**

Eric J. Daley  
(1910-1992)

**EDITOR:**

Rev Bob Thomas  
**Phone:** 0417 592 646  
**Email:**  
[editor@nlife.com.au](mailto:editor@nlife.com.au)

**BUSINESS MANAGER:**

Mignon Goswell  
**Phone:** 0434 313 646  
**Email:**  
[office@nlife.com.au](mailto:office@nlife.com.au)

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**

PO Box 457  
Mitcham VIC 3132

**WEB-SITE:**

[www.nlife.com.au](http://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**



## 'Grace Abounding' In A Distant Corner Of The Vineyard

'I WAS in the Spirit on the Lord's Day' - in Aberystwyth, Wales - and what a joy it was to sit under the ministry of Dr Geoff Thomas, Pastor of Alfred Place Baptist Church for more than a quarter of a century. Lengthy ministries bring stability to congregations, and Geoff's ministry has not only been used of God to establish his own congregation, it has also fed into many others as generations of students at the University of Wales have themselves been established and built up in their faith while attending Alfred Place before going on to take part in the Lord's work elsewhere in the UK and many other parts of the world. And the Lord Himself only knows the full extent of the usefulness of this faithful, godly ministry through Geoff Thomas's writing and preaching now freely available on the websites [alfredplacechurch.com.uk](http://alfredplacechurch.com.uk) and [sermonaudio.com](http://sermonaudio.com)

But how can a man sustain a ministry in one place for so long? Clearly, by being much in prayer, holding his people on his heart and seeking the Lord's leading in every part of the preacher's task, from the selection of Scripture to wrestling with its meaning, and in Geoff's case to the wringing out of the text in applying it to the needs of his people, especially to their deepest spiritual needs - of acknowledging their sinful state before God and their need of His own gracious and saving work through the sacrificial, atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If James Montgomery wrote down a pattern for ministry in his ordination hymn, Geoff Thomas puts it into practice, and so by God's grace may we:

Pour out Thy Spirit from on high; Lord, Thine ordained servants bless;  
Graces and gifts to each supply, and clothe them with Thy righteousness.

Within Thy temple when they stand, to teach the truth, as taught by Thee,  
Saviour like stars in Thy right hand may all the Church's pastors be.

Wisdom and zeal and faith impart, firmness with meekness, from above,  
To bear Thy people in their heart, and love the souls whom Thou dost love:

To watch and pray and never faint, by day and night, strict guard to keep,  
to warn the sinner, cheer the saint, nourish Thy lambs, and feed  
Thy sheep.

Then, when their work is finished here, in humble hope their charge  
resign;

when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, O God, may they and we be Thine.

— Bob Thomas

## MATTERS FOR PRAYER (1)

### Iraq: Danger As Sectarian War Looms

#### A call to pray for the gravely imperilled Church in Iraq

THE last US troops left Iraq on Sunday morning 18 December 2011. Ahead of that day, this prayer ministry issued a call to prayer which now provides essential background to today's reality. (See IRAQ: PROPAGANDA VERSUS REALITY, Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin, 138, Wed 14 Dec 2011)

As soon as the US vacated Iraq, al-Qaeda in Iraq got to work, regrouping and rebuilding. It also developed a potent fighting force inside Syria: the Al-Nusra Front which is currently leading the rebel forces in the battle for Syria.

On Tuesday 23 April at 5 am the Shi'ite dominated Iraqi security forces raided a Sunni protest camp in the northern city of al-Hawijah in Kirkuk province. For months, some 4000 Sunnis have been protesting in the streets, calling for Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki's resignation. They accuse the Shi'ite-dominated government of persecuting the Sunni community and detaining Sunni civilians on spurious accusations of involvement in terrorism. Many believe Maliki, a Shia, is seeking to bolster his Shia credentials for political gain in the face of rising Shi'ite opposition, particularly from the Sadrist Movement of radical Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. More than 50 Sunni protesters were killed, dozens wounded and around 400 arrested in the al-Hawijah raid. Predictably this has compounded Sunni anger. In Fallujah, some 1000 Sunnis took to the streets after calls of 'War' were broadcast from mosques. In Ramadi, the capital of Sunni Anbar Province, Sunnis rioted, attacking Iraqi military vehicles and personnel. The regime responded by resorting to extreme military violence, including the use of attack helicopters. By Friday 26 April at least 215 people (mostly Sunni civilians) were dead, with hundreds more wounded. Al-Maliki claims the protests are part of a foreign-backed conspiracy. [Maliki, an ally of Iran, has been letting Iran run flights into Syria via Iraqi airspace -- about which the US has protested.]

Enraged by the massacre, Sunni tribes across central Iraq are joining forces and arming to fight the Shi'ite-dominated government. These include the 'Awakening' (Al-Sahwa) militias, whose leaders in Anbar Province have announced the formation of the 'Army of Pride and Dignity'. Its task is to protect the Sunni province from the US-backed, Shi'ite-dominated, Iran-allied government. If Maliki cannot pacify the Sunnis, their anger could pave the way for an alliance between former enemies: US-backed 'Awakening' and a revived al-Qaeda. On Monday 29 April car bombs exploded in four Shi'ite districts south of Baghdad, killing more than 30 people.

Meanwhile, it appears the Kurds are exploiting the chaos to make a move on the oil-fields of Kirkuk. Erbil, capital of the Kurdish province, has deployed Kurdish troops to Kirkuk, claiming they are simply filling a security vacuum. However, Baghdad sees this move as a 'dangerous development' in violation of agreements.

This RLPB ministry has long maintained that the real war for Iraq would not begin until after US troop departed and that 'the mother of all battles' would be fought over control of Kirkuk. The coming war will pit Sunnis vs Shi'ites; Kurds vs Turks vs Arabs; federalists vs centralists; nationalists vs international jihadis; anti-government vs pro-government forces and alliances; Iran vs Saudi Arabia; international jihadis vs everyone else; and probably more. (This is just as in Syria, but possibly worse!) Underneath it all, the region's indigenous, long-suffering, besieged, remnant Christians will be victims of every contest, targeted by all forces.

– Elizabeth Kendal, *Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin (RLPB) 208*,  
*Special to ASSIST News Service*

#### Please Pray That:

- our holy, just and sovereign God will be powerfully at work amidst the chaos, advancing his purpose and glory.
- the Lord of Hosts will bring down all that is false and destroy all repressive systems so that God alone will be exalted and healing faith might bloom in freedom. (Isaiah 2:10-21)
- our Lord Jesus Christ will comfort, encourage and sustain his faithful ones, covering them with his hand, gathering them in his arms, fighting for them, supplying their needs and fuelling their faith '... that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.' (Isaiah 61:3 ESV)

## MATTERS FOR PRAYER (2)

### Protestants In Uzbekistan Harassed And Bullied

UZBEKISTAN'S President Islam Karimov rules according to Communist Soviet methods, so society is heavily regulated. Revolutionary and jihadist Islam are real threats to his regime. Religious laws primarily targeting these Islamic groups are also used to persecute Protestant Christians whom the regime considers are threatening social cohesion. Small house churches are routinely raided by hostile security police. Protestants charged with breaching the religion law by possessing Christian literature, witnessing or worshipping without registration face exorbitant fines often 50 and 100 times the minimum monthly wage. These fines leave them destitute. This persecution has nothing to do with state security and everything to do with making Protestant Christianity undesirable to its members and to the masses. Despite this, Uzbekistan's Protestant and independent churches are growing. Please pray for them.

– *Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

### BANGLADESH

Where a long struggle for the heart and soul of Bangladesh appears to be entering a critical and dangerous stage. Having displayed their people-power by bringing hundreds of thousands of supporters out onto the streets, Hefajat-e-Islam has given the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina an ultimatum: meet their 13-point demand by the end of the month or they will lay siege to Dhaka on 5 May. The Islamists are demanding the enactment of blasphemy laws with a penalty of death for those found guilty of defaming Islam. The PM is rejecting this, assuring the Islamists that current laws can be used to punish defamation of Islam. It is highly unlikely that the Islamists will be satisfied with the PM's compromise. A showdown is imminent. Meanwhile, the masses are polarising and Islamist violence against vulnerable minorities is escalating. For more details see: Bangladesh: Islam Rising, by Elizabeth Kendal for RLM 7 April 2013.

– *Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

### EGYPT

Where refugees being trafficked are tortured for ransom and routinely killed. The refugees -- mostly Eritreans, many of whom are Christians fleeing religious persecution -- are kidnapped from Sudanese refugee camps and sold to Bedouin gangs in the Sinai. Eritrea, Sudan and Egypt refuse to do anything to stop what is a highly lucrative business that is hurting only people about whom they care absolutely nothing. Pray that the Lord of Hosts will bring justice to the Sinai (Isaiah 59:15b-19). Egypt is pouring tanks into the north-eastern Sinai in breach of its peace accords with Israel, ostensibly to tackle terrorism (which does not include human trafficking). May God's will be done! Pray for radical change in Eritrea, the source of the humanitarian problem.

– *Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

### South Sudanese refugees return to continued devastation

Aid groups are bracing for a refugee influx in South Sudan. It means inadequate resources will be stretched to the breaking point. Matt Parker with Kids Alive International says most people are coming back home to nothing. 'There's huge poverty in the country [and] very little education provision. In fact, about three quarters of the population of South Sudan is illiterate.' That poverty has resulted in an explosion of another population: street children. Survival is brutal, and children lose their innocence quickly. Whose job is it to care for them? 'All of us, as Christians, have a responsibility to do what we can and to show the love of Christ.' Kids Alive began working in the town of Wau getting kids off the street, opening a Children's Home and Care Center. The transformation over seven years has been stunning. 'They're in school. They're doing well socially. We've seen a lot of development. They're very involved in the local church. For many of them, they have a very real relationship with Christ.'



**Only a minute to read, but food for thought for the whole day!**  
**Short devotional blogs at:**  
**[www.barbarafurman.com](http://www.barbarafurman.com)**

– *Mission Network News*

## ON THE HOME FRONT

### Government Breaks Foreign Aid Promise

THE Government has announced yesterday it will delay its promise to increase aid levels to 0.5% of gross national income (GNI) until 2017-2018 and will divert a further \$375 million from the aid budget to fund onshore asylum seeker programs.

The Micah Challenge coalition is deeply disappointed with the Government's decision to delay its commitment to reaching this target and divert further money from the aid budget to fund domestic priorities.

'This is the second year in a row that we've been disappointed by the current Government's broken aid promises. It's starting to feel like groundhog day,' said John Beckett, Micah Challenge's National Coordinator.

According to Mr Beckett, while the Government's decision to raise aid levels to 0.37% of national income in 2013/14 is a welcome increase, it is outweighed by the delay in timetable which equates to a significant cut in overseas aid spending.

'By deferring its commitment to 0.5% GNI in last year's budget and now this year's budget, we estimate the Government is cutting upwards of \$4 billion from projected funding over the next four years at the expense of the world's poorest people,' said Mr Beckett.

Foreign Minister, Bob Carr, also announced yesterday that the surprise diversion of \$375 million of overseas aid to fund domestic asylum seeker programs will be repeated this year, making Australia the third largest recipient of its own aid.

'The Government's decision to divert \$750 million over two years away from life-saving programs overseas to its own refugee program is historically unprecedented in this country, and is double the average for developed countries,' said Mr Beckett. 'The diverted funds could save 185,000 lives or educate 750,000 children overseas. So this decision is no light matter for our country as it will literally cost people's lives.'

– Angela Owen, Micah Challenge Australia



#### LEAD PASTOR REQUIRED

The Austral-Asian Community Church (AACC) is a young interdenominational and intergenerational Christian Church based in the Eastern suburbs of Adelaide, South Australia.

We are a contemporary family church with a focus on life groups, missions and community outreach. Our Sunday morning attendance is around 250 – 300 adults with a Children's Church running concurrently.

We are seeking a **Lead Pastor** who is called and experienced in working with a congregation comprised largely of migrants from Asia, many of whom have either been long term residents of Australia, or were born and have grown up in Australia.

The Lead Pastor will be responsible for spiritual leadership and pastoral care of the church along with the Leadership Team.

A Position Description, Church Profile and Application Form is available from the church office on 08 8364 0070 or via email at [aacc@aacc.net.au](mailto:aacc@aacc.net.au).

Applications to be submitted by **7th June 2013** to [aacc@aacc.net.au](mailto:aacc@aacc.net.au).

Further information on the website [www.aacc.com.au](http://www.aacc.com.au)

### 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](mailto:melbonn@bigpond.com)

**Who Can YOU  
Forward New Life To?**

## SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS OVERSEAS

### Serving As Missionaries Later In Life

NEPALIS have a proverb: 'Argo thapnu mudako, kura sunnu budhako'. A rough translation is: 'If you want to warm up, stand by a fire with big logs, if you are looking for good advice, ask an old person.'

Gordon and Ruth Russell, now CMS Missionaries in Nepal 'felt convicted by the Lord to use our senior years to share our faith and knowledge of God with younger people. God has an eternal rest prepared for us in heaven. Now is our opportunity to labour as good stewards of all that God has entrusted us.'

Gordon served in Nepal from 1983 to 1995 and worked mainly with constructing hydroelectric projects. 'All Nepal's electricity is produced from hydroelectricity and the long-term strategy for the three projects constructed by the mission was to train Nepalis how to build future projects. Ruth came to Nepal in 1985 and we married in December that year. She worked in some of the mission hospitals and in clinics set up at the construction projects. There is a deep tradition of respect and honour for older people in the Nepali culture. In fact, I think it's probably the same in most non-western cultures!' says Gordon. 'Younger people recognise the wisdom gained through years of life experience and are keen to learn from it.'



Speaking with a couple Ken and Alison in their 60s who are serving in Nepal for one year, Gordon says, 'Ken told me that several young men from his church in Nepal have individually come to him asking if he would disciple them. He has been meeting with them for a few months one-to-one to read the Bible, pray and chat with them. These young guys really value his life coaching in being a Godly man.'

'Because the church has grown so quickly here, there is a shortage of older Christians to mentor the younger generation. Ken's time in Nepal is coming to an end in a couple of months and he asked me if I would be prepared to take over mentoring these young guys. This is something I believe the Lord has been preparing me for.'

Encouraged by the words of Psalm 71:18 ('Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.'), Gordon and Ruth are excited about, 'the many opportunities to befriend, encourage and mentor younger Christians as well as show and share the reality of God's love to us in Jesus with those who haven't yet heard, or responded to this good news.'

Gordon is a Civil Engineer and Ruth is a palliative care specialist. They will be involved in development work in Pokhara as part of the International Nepal Fellowship's (INF) integral mission ministries. INF is a Christian organisation involved in health and development projects, particularly among the poor and marginalised. Gordon will initially manage the construction of a specialist ear hospital in Pokhara, while Ruth will utilise her palliative care skills.

Many opportunities exist for older Christians to have a valuable contribution in cross-cultural mission situations. However, Gordon and Ruth emphasize that serving as missionaries later in life you need lots of flexibility, patience and openness to God's leading.

If working in mission is something that you are considering, serving as missionaries later in life or indeed at any age, then please talk to Sam McGeown on 07 3112 6530 or email him on [smcgeown@cms.org.au](mailto:smcgeown@cms.org.au). Please also visit [www.cms.org.au](http://www.cms.org.au).

– Rachel Claessen, CMS

## CHURCH AND NATION

### A Joyous Reunion of Open Air Campaigners from Years gone by in NSW



ABOUT 80 participants gathered at the Salvation Army Collaroy Centre north of Sydney April 21-24 for a Retirees Reunion. The group consisted of former staff and voluntary workers, committeemen and others

who had all been active in OAC work in the post-WW2 era. Most of these cheerful souls were in their 70's, 80's and 90's, but oh how they could fellowship, sing, reminisce, worship and listen to the Word of God expounded together. It was agreed that it was an event 'which needed to happen' and that the next one would be held in Heaven!

This event not only brought recognition and joy to these people who served so faithfully and courageously during their time with OAC either as staff or as voluntary workers, but also with many of them it brought a sense of closure, healing and affirmation as well. Representatives were also present from Ambassadors for Christ International, Sowers, Mill Valley Ranch, Every Home for Christ, Acts International, and Outback Patrol as these organizations were sprinkled with folk who had OAC involvement in earlier years.

Merv Jensen gave a report on OAC Ministries in Australia Today and the International President of OACI, Rob George, told of the work of OAC now in 30 countries of the world. Jim and Grace Vine were commended for their central role in putting it all together, and all were convinced that the Lord was truly honoured at this event.

It was obvious that the Australia that these veterans worked in all those years ago was vastly different to Australia today. Yet today's staff evangelists can be inspired by these old folk – their passion for the lost, their preaching of the Cross and resurrection, and their courageous and persistent telling of the Gospel of Christ with its call to repentance and faith included.

One could say it was a reunion with a lot of reminiscing, lots of laughing and joy, and also tears. All have gone home with their hearts burdened to pray for our nation, and for OAC Ministries Australia and similar evangelistic organizations as the Gospel is taken out to those who need to hear and believe it in our land. May there yet be multitudes brought in to gather round the Throne in Heaven who have been won for the Lamb through these ministries. To God alone be all the glory.

– A. Robin Pocklington, Chairman, OAC Ministries Australia



Former Sydney Anglican Archbishop, Harry Goodhew



### The Highbury Centre, London, UK

**Christian guest house on quiet**

**private road with transport nearby.**

**Discount for f/t Christian workers.**

**Email: [enquiries@thehighburycentre.org](mailto:enquiries@thehighburycentre.org)**

**Website: [www.thehighburycentre.org](http://www.thehighburycentre.org)**

## SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

### GIDI Churches in Papua, Indonesia Celebrate 50 Years



We're not done yet! Our mission is not yet completed. Evangelism is still the unfinished task.

*Penginjilan belum selesai! Penginjilan belum selesai!*

WITH these three words, approximately 12,000 voices enthusiastically chanted the ongoing focus of the GIDI churches. They had gathered in the large stadium in Sentani, Papua to celebrate the Jubilee, marking 50 years since the Gospel first brought hope and new life in Jesus Christ to the Dani tribe and subsequently to many others throughout Papua and then to other parts of Indonesia. Although they reflected on the past, thanking God for what he had done and honouring those who had brought the Gospel, they also focused on the work ahead of them. There was lots of singing and speeches, but for many the highlight of the three hour celebration was when a large globe (about 4 metres in diameter) was hoisted on the shoulders of a dozen young people. With torches and globe and a crowd following them, they moved around the stadium amid singing and shouts of *Penginjilan belum selesai!* (Evangelism is not yet finished).

The Jubilee celebration was significant because believers from many tribes and tongues praised God together for what he had done. We were also encouraged by the fact that they were not about to build a monument to the past, but rather empower a movement that will reach around the world. Representing the world yet to be evangelized were believers from Sumatra, Sulawesi, and other parts of Indonesia. The GIDI church uses as its motto Acts 1.8 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses everywhere..in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.'

The growth of GIDI is amazing, considering the first missionary (Fred Dawson, UFM Aust.) arrived in the then Netherlands East Indies in 1950. Then the entrance to the highland Stone Age illiterate Western Dani tribe (the largest tribe in Papua) in 1956; followed by the first baptisms in July 1962 among the Dani tribespeople where there was a mass movement and acceptance of the Gospel. Within a number of years the Dani church was sending missionaries themselves to other tribes in Papua. By 1971 there were over 40,000 members. Now in 2013 the GIDI church records show nearly 1 million members in Papua, Java, Bali, Sumatra and Sulawesi and is now the biggest church in the province of Papua. Throughout Indonesia GIDI now has 1030 churches with an additional 1700 preaching places; and they have 191 national missionaries throughout Indonesia reaching out to animists, Hindus and Muslims. The vision ahead is continued evangelism. GIDI remains faithful to the Gospel, salvation through Christ alone, emphasising the Scriptures and reaching out to others with the Gospel. The scriptures have been translated into a number of languages in Papua. There are Bible Schools operating in a number of language groups as well as a Theological college at Sentani, near the capital of the Papua province.

GIDI is an acronym for Gereja Injili Di Indonesia or the Evangelical Church in Indonesia. This church grew out of the work of UFM Aust/NZ. (which became APCM and is now part of Pioneers), RBMU (now World Team), and UFM (now Crossworld). In the 1960's and 1970's hundreds of missionaries from these three missions served and helped in establishing the GIDI church.

*(continued p.9)*

## SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

Past missionaries and their children were invited by the GIDI chairman Rev. Lipiyus Biniluk to attend seminars and the celebrations at Sentani. Nearly 30 came from Australia, New Zealand, North America and Canada. Also invited were a delegation of 10 from ECPNG (The Evangelical Church of Papua New Guinea – they now have 2 missionary couples in Indonesian Papua) and a pastor from a Messianic Jewish congregation in Israel, both of which have a memorandum of association with GIDI. Our hosts, GIDI, provided accommodation and meals.



*Jim and Rev Lipiyus Biniluk, Chairman of GIDI*

Prior to the 50th celebrations a 4 day seminar was held, where we heard reports of evangelism and conversions in other parts of Indonesia. Discussions were held to further document more on the history of GIDI, and about the priorities for the next 50 years. There were about 3,000 present for the Sunday service.

Lukas Enembe, an active GIDI church member was officially announced as Governor of the province of Papua two days after the Jubilee celebrations. The new chairperson and vice chairperson of the Provincial Parliament are also both GIDI members as are a number of Regency Governors in the highlands.

We thank God for the growth of GIDI and the expansion of the Gospel in Indonesia and pray for continued unity in the leadership and body of GIDI. A number of problems are facing the church and members. There is an ongoing problem of AIDS in many communities in Papua, resulting in many deaths. Pray for the church to be able to help more in the community to seek to lessen the impact. There has also been resurgence amongst some dabbling in old animistic ways. Pray that the church leadership will give example and teaching to combat this.

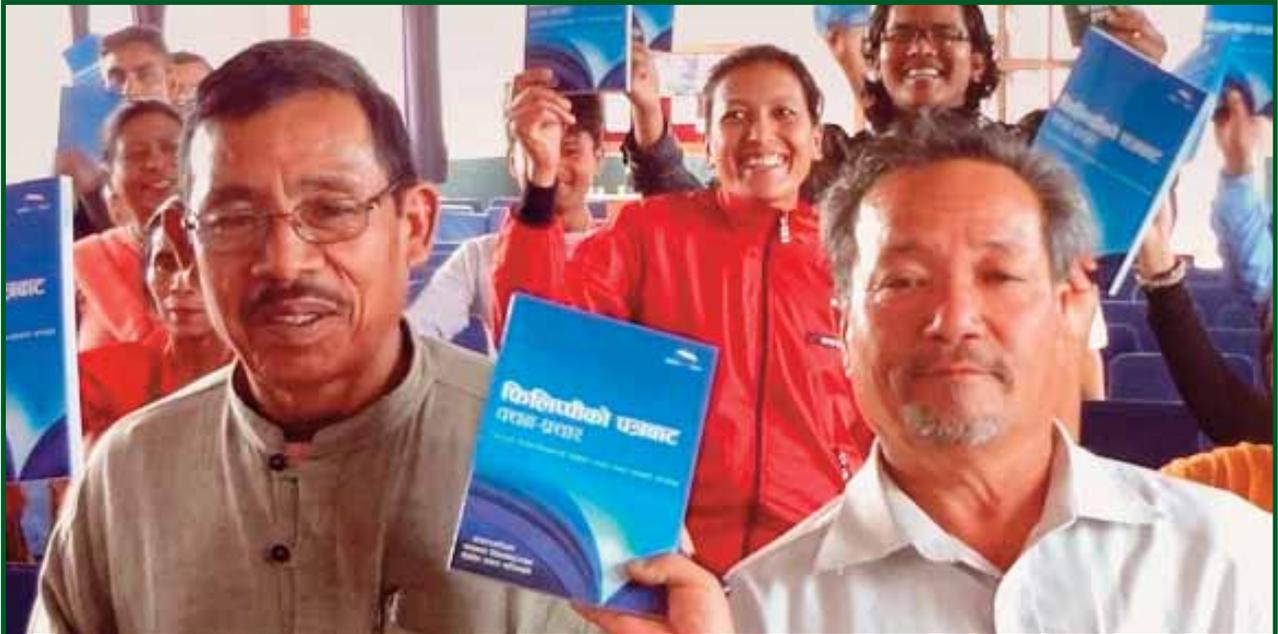
*– Jim Sterrey (with some acknowledgement to D Martin & M Winch)*

	<p>BIBLE TEACHING 2013</p>	
<p>WITH <b>REV BILL CROWDER</b></p>		
<p>REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE WIDELY USED <i>OUR DAILY BREAD</i></p>		
<p><b>BRISBANE 29 MAY</b> 7.15PM – 9.30PM CITY NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH, KEDRON</p>	<p><b>BRISBANE 1 JUN</b> 1.00PM – 5.00PM SUNNYBANK DISTRICT BAPTIST CHURCH, RUNCORN</p>	
<p><b>MELBOURNE 5 JUN</b> 7.00PM – 9.30PM SUBURBAN BAPTIST CHURCH, HOPPERS CROSSING</p>	<p><b>PERTH 8 JUN</b> 1.15PM – 5.30PM WOODVALE BAPTIST CHURCH, WOODVALE</p>	
<p><b>NO ADMISSION CHARGE</b> FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 03 9761 7086 OR E-MAIL <a href="mailto:AUSTRALIA@RBC.ORG">AUSTRALIA@RBC.ORG</a></p>		

## PERSECUTION WATCH

### Pray. Prepare. Preach

#### News From The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia



THE Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ arrived in Nepal after the country was opened to the outside world in 1950. Since the first church was planted in 1957 the number of believers has grown rapidly. There are now about one million Christians in Nepal. However, the church is still young and one of the many obstacles we face is the great need for Christian literature in the Nepali language.

For three years Crosslinks and Langham Preaching trainers have been conducting workshops for Nepali pastors and Bible teachers. With the permission of The Good Book Company in the UK they are now helping us to publish Nepali translations of the Pray-Prepare-Preach series of guides for Bible teachers. I have the privilege of coordinating the translation and editing.

An SPCKA grant enabled us to launch the first title, Preaching Philippians, in March this year during a week-long preaching workshop in Kathmandu. I am confident that this book will be a great blessing.

After helping the reader understand the background to the text, Preaching Philippians provides twenty sermon outlines. It will help pastors to avoid taking the text out of its context, honour its original meaning and apply it to the needs of their listeners.

Whether they have formal theological training or not, any pastor, teacher or leader who can read will now be able to understand and teach Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Thank you for your partnership in this project. Will you pray that the Nepali edition of this book will be put to good use in Bible study groups, house fellowships and cell groups and make its way into the most remote village churches?

Thanks to your encouragement we are now working on Preaching Mark.

– Ram Kumar, Principal of Nepal Ebenezer Bible College, Kathmandu

### VISITING MELBOURNE?

Join us at *The Faith Factory*: St Kilda Presbyterian Church,  
Cnr Alma Rd/Barkly St. Every Sunday 11am & 7pm;  
*Living Stones* Korean Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday 12.30pm;  
St Margaret's, Balaclava, Cnr Hotham St/Denman Rd. Every Sunday 9.30am.  
Minister: Rev Bob Thomas 0417 592 646

*You're Welcome At The Faith Factory*  
– A Friendly, Caring, Bible-Believing Christian Fellowship –



## God At Work In Iran

IRAN has the fastest growing church in the world today according to researchers for Operation World, the missions reference book and prayer guide published regularly. One of the crucial tools God is using in the growth of the Iranian church is satellite television. Although it is illegal in Iran to have a satellite dish, some sources estimate that up to 80% of the population has access to satellite TV programming.

Hormoz Shariat, an Iranian and former Muslim, who now leads Iran Alive Ministries, a Voice of the Martyrs USA partner, describes Christian TV as dessert for Western Christians but he said in Iran it's the main source of spiritual food. "In Iran (Christians) don't have even the basics of spiritual food available to them. They don't have Bibles, and very few churches remain open. Christian TV isn't ice cream for them, it's bread!"

The government's increased control of Christian activities has made satellite TV broadcasts an even more important tool for sharing the gospel. Today Iranians are much more guarded and discussing Christianity in a public setting is extremely difficult and risky. However they are still curious about Christ. When they see fraudulent election results and government leaders more intent on building a bomb than making sure people have food to eat and paved roads to travel, these are failures of Islam to them. When these spiritually hungry people are in the privacy of their homes, many of them eagerly tune into Christian TV broadcasts.

– *Voice of the Martyrs, May 2013. www.vom.com.au*

Story and Photo Source: VOM USA, courtesy of Voice of the Martyrs Australia



### Global Outreach Day 2013

The second Global Outreach Day is scheduled for Saturday 25 May. The vision is for every Christian to share the gospel with one person in any way possible, according to their own personal gifting and calling, but to do it all around the world on the same day, ensuring massive prayer covering and a united attack on the kingdom of darkness.

The inaugural event launched in June last year exceeded all expectations with evangelical churches and missions, from the ultra conservative to the hyper spiritual, embracing it and since then the idea has spread further around the globe with many more involved this year.

The vision is for a massive mobilisation movement in the body of Christ to fulfil the Great Commission in our generation. It seeks a revolutionary change in the culture and thinking of the global body of Christ concerning practical evangelism, with the whole church, every single believer, stepping out to reach the lost.

Check it out on [www.globaloutreachday.com](http://www.globaloutreachday.com), prepare yourself in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to open up an opportunity for you to share your faith

on that day – and maybe every day after that!

### A New Mission Field Opens Up

The Katkari community, a primitive forest tribe in the Indian state of Maharashtra, is on the brink of extinction. This community is composed mainly of labourers, farmers, experts in hunting and stone crushing. Even today many continue to work in bonded labour for their sheth (master) and they are routinely exploited by non-tribals. They are very poor economically, illiterate but very hard working. Being naturally timid and fearful by nature, their Hindu faith takes on a mixture of spirit worship and animism.

In the middle of 2012 Asia Evangelical Fellowship India appointed Debsingh Singh, their missionary involved in Kalundre, to launch a new ministry among the Katkari. Debsingh made several visits to understand the community and identified a home for meetings. Now around 30 people come regularly three times a week for prayer, Bible study and a children's club. Five families have come to know Christ since the new work started.

– *Harvest Asia, March 2013*

## HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ... *With Barbara Furman*

### Hope and Aid for the Needy

The motto of Barnabas Fund is "hope and aid for the persecuted church". On this, the start of their 20th anniversary year, their literature is reviewing some of the many and varied projects in which they have been involved in response to that aim. Currently these include transporting people at risk out of Sudan to the relative safety of South Sudan; focussing their relief work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on disabled people, many of whom are Christians who find it more difficult than others to obtain aid; care of new Christians in Uganda who have been rejected by their families; providing water and electricity to a Christian town in an isolated location in Egypt; blankets and food given out in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and temporary support to help establish a fledgling congregation in Central Asia.

A unique children's club in Egypt is reaching 7,000 children and teenagers who started at the weekly meetings last year through 53 churches in Upper Egypt. A magazine that is the only Kyrgyz-language Christian children's magazine in Kyrgyzstan is so popular that one copy can pass through many hands. The magazine is also translated and distributed in Kazakhstan and Bulgaria. Then, of course, BF is very involved in getting aid to displaced Christians in Syria. Between January and March this

year, \$A581,855 was sent to help relieve Christians caught in the Syrian crisis.

– *Barnabas Aid, May-June 2013*

### Help Needed in Northern Territory

Arnhem Human Enterprise Development is a project in responsive and sustainable development designed to bring hope, prosperity and new possibilities to desperately disempowered indigenous communities in remote Australia.

AHED fills a service gap in isolated communities. Its aims are to ensure sustainable social and economic growth that is locally driven and locally controlled; combat welfare dependency; provide appropriate functional literacy education for engagement with mainstream economic and social systems; create jobs, and identify and target limitations to social and economic development.

The AHED team is looking for a working party (maximum total of 8) to join them in Galiwin'ku, (Elcho Island) for up to two weeks during the period 22 June-21 July to assist with urgent renovations and landscaping needed for the team's accommodation. The need is for a welder, plumber, electrician, general tradesperson/builder and strong helpers. Volunteers must be willing to live simply while in Arnhem Land and be involved in physical labour. More details from <http://www.whywarriors.com.au/ahed-project/>.

### River of Life and CRE8 Conferences

I was only able to attend these conferences for the church and business world in Melbourne on May 9 and 10 for half of the second day, so I can only give a few personal impressions. Very uplifting was the combined meeting in the evening, To worship, pray and learn together with so many other believers was most encouraging.

Some found the English of the two featured speakers from the Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, Korea, difficult to understand, but what was noticeable, considering the huge growth and importance of this, the largest church in the world, was the humility of these two men and the simplicity of their message.

Current senior pastor Dr Young Hoon Lee shared the things he sees as having facilitated its phenomenal growth: the Word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and prayer. Many meetings, especially business meetings, kill a church, he maintained. It is prayer and ministering the Word that gives life.

The elderly founder of YFGC, Dr David Yonggi Cho, based his message on the story of Moses sweetening the bitter waters for his people to drink in Exodus 15:22-25. Humbling incidents in his own life which God used to develop his Christian character rang bells for many of us. He encouraged us with mention of just a mustard seed of faith, how the Word of God builds this up, how the Lord gives us a vision to pursue, the healing work of the Holy Spirit, but over and above it all, the unconditional love of God for His children. He concluded by leading us in the type of combined prayer, with everyone praying aloud at once, that is a feature of his church.

And the CRE8 conference for Christian business people? Well, its workshop topics, things like humility, integrity and authority, plus testimonies of business growth honouring the Lord were a far cry from the usual motivational sessions one would expect. The emphasis was on raising up the Kingdom of God in the market place and being a blessing to the community.

## CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS

### Australian Christian Lobby Leadership Changes

THE Australian Christian Lobby is making a number of leadership changes effective from the 2nd May 2013, which are designed to position the organisation for the future.

After 13 years as Managing Director, Jim Wallace has been elected Deputy Chairman. Lyle Shelton will become the Managing Director, and Nick Overton the Chief of Staff.

In emails to ACL financial supporters and church leaders this week, Mr Wallace explained that the transition plan had been in the making for two years.

'In the role of Deputy Chairman I will head the ACL's efforts to establish strong relationships with a number of like-minded international organisations. We believe that by collaborating more closely through shared research and experiences, and co-ordination of our campaigns, we will be able to greatly increase our effectiveness in this globalised world,' Mr Wallace said.

Recent events had clearly shown that even issues clearly won at home, can quickly be put at risk by ground shifting overseas and that the Lobby needs to be better networked internationally to respond to this on a range of issues.

Mr Wallace said Lyle Shelton, who has been the Chief of Staff at the ACL for the past six years, is ideal to take on the Managing Director position, with strong professional credentials in journalism, politics and the church.

He was a rural journalist before becoming a youth pastor at Toowoomba City Church. In 2000 he was elected to the Toowoomba City Council where he served as a councillor for six years. After a short stint as a political advisor, he joined the ACL as Chief of Staff in 2007.

'Notwithstanding the international networking requirements, after 13 years leading ACL I believe it is time to hand over the day to day operations, and I am confident in Lyle and Nick's ability to take these on and move them forward,' he said.

– Australian Christian Lobby

## Donations Make All The Difference!

Going on-line has breathed new life Into *New Life*,  
and being able to send it free on request by email  
has opened our ministry up  
to everyone, everywhere, who wants to receive it.

**BUT**

We **DO** have expenses

**AND**

The generous donations of members of the *New Life* family  
**DO** make the difference between the red ink and the black!

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION:**

By cheque to: New Life, PO Box 457, Mitcham 3132 Vic.

By using the *Make A Donation* button  
on our website ([www.nlife.com.au](http://www.nlife.com.au))

## GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

### YOUTH TEAM FROM AUSTRALIA VISITS PNG

A team of thirteen Australians have just returned to Sydney after spending a week at the Christian Leaders' Training College in Banz. The team was invited by CLTC to lead the yearly Ministry Week at the College. During the week the team taught by means of demonstration and practical sessions how to manage children and Youth ministry in the churches of Papua New Guinea.

Many College students had believed it was an easy task to teach children. But after a day or two the students realised children/youth ministry took careful preparation and time.

The team from Australia were aware of the high proportion of young people in PNG and the need to motivate the College students to spend time with them as they are the leaders of tomorrow.

The team felt their time far exceeded expectations and learned as much as the students about PNG and its culture. They took home fond memories of their time in PNG and are planning follow up with CLTC.



– John Hunter, Development Officer, Banz, CLTC.

### SALVOS PREPARE TO KNOCK ON DOORS



ONE in 20 Australians will need the help of the Salvos this year – and now the Salvos are asking for Australia's support.

The Salvos help over a million vulnerable Australians every year - this works out to be about one person every 30 seconds.

The Salvation Army Australia hope to raise \$79 million across Australia before the end of the financial year. Money raised through the Red Shield Appeal goes directly to supporting Australians in need. These donations ensure that the 600 social programs across the country can continue to operate.

The Salvation Army are asking for 100,000 Australians to volunteer two or

three hours of their time to the 2013 Red Shield Appeal Doorknock Weekend on May 25th and 26th.

The Salvation Army is one of the world's largest Christian social welfare organisations with more than 1,650,000 members working in over 124 countries. They have been in Australia for over 130 years. Currently, the Salvos have more than 8,500 active officers and staff delivering in excess of 1000 specifically designed social programs across Australia.

The mission of The Salvation Army Australia is to transform lives, care for people, make disciples and reform society. It is now estimated that 2.2 million people live in poverty in Australia, including 12 per cent of Australian children.

When you hear volunteers knocking on your door on May 25 or 26 please consider giving. If you see Salvation Army volunteers collecting at intersections on doorknock weekend - please wind down your window and consider giving.

To find out more about the Red Shield Appeal for 2013 and the work of The Salvation Army please call **13 72 58** or visit [www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au).

Content take from 'Romans: Momentous News' Published by 10Publishing, used with permission.

## Read Romans 1:8-17

Paul concludes the introduction to his letter with three 'I am' statements in verses 14, 15 and 16. First (v 14), he says 'I am obligated'. He is obligated (literally, indebted) to 'Greeks and non-Greeks' – that is, to all culture – and to 'the wise and the foolish' – that is, to all classes within those cultures.

What was the source of this obligation? It came from God's grace to Paul. Once, he was the persecutor of the church. Now, he is Christ's apostle. Such grace rendered Paul a debtor to all people.

There is no sense in which grace can be earned. But receiving it so freely puts us under obligation to all. Paul probably felt more at home with people from a similar background to himself, but his sense of obligation extended to everybody without discrimination.

That is why he says (v 15) 'I am so eager'. This is a rare word in the New Testament. It means, literally, to be single-minded. Such a mind is the essence of maturity. See, for example, in Philippians 3:15 where maturity refers to the eagerness of mind expressed in the two preceding verses. Contrast that with the immaturity which Ephesians 4:14 describes as 'being tossed about', as moving from one novelty to the next. FF Bruce says of Paul, 'He strikes us as a man possessed of an uncommon strength of will', such is his eagerness to preach the gospel in Rome.

Finally (v 16), he says 'I am not ashamed'. Far from being ashamed of the gospel, Paul is ready to share its message because it is the power of God to bring people to salvation. Its scope is 'everyone'. It is received by faith. Works do not earn it.

Paul longs to come to Nero's Rome as an ambassador of this gospel, with a conviction about this gospel. He will not come with a large entourage. He will not come with conventional weaponry. He will come with a message. It is a message about a crucified Jew. In Nero's Rome, this message must have seemed laughable, yet the historian, TR Glover, said that the day would come when men would call their dogs 'Nero' and their sons 'Paul'.

### Reflection:

How has your experience of God's grace led you to recognise your obligations?  
How does your sense of indebtedness show itself in your giving, your praying and your activities?  
Does being unashamed of the gospel lead you to share it with others?

**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 contacting Ramon Williams,  
e-mail: [rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au)

**96threeFM**

Today's Christian Music  
And Inspiring Talk  
[www.96three.com.au](http://www.96three.com.au)  
Phone: 03 5241 6550  
Email: [listen@96three.com.au](mailto:listen@96three.com.au)

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](http://www.prestigepianos.com.au)



## BOOKS WORTH READING

### PSALMS: A MENTOR COMMENTARY, Allan Harman, 2 Volumes; Fearn, Ross-shire: Christian Focus, 2011.

This is an expanded new edition of Allan Harman's 1998 Mentor commentary of the Psalter, now in two volumes and with footnotes added (Psalms 1-72, 73-150). His aim is to explain the Hebrew text, though he assumes no knowledge of that language by the reader and any references to Hebrew are by way of transliteration in Roman script. Dr Harman is adept at explaining the text in a way that the ordinary Christian reader can understand and draw maximum benefit from.

The commentary proper is prefaced by an 80-page introduction in which the author sets out his approach to the Psalms. He explains some of the key characteristics of Hebrew poetry (as opposed to prose). In the Psalms we hear the believers of the Old Testament (notably David) declaring what they believed about and had experienced of the Covenant God of Israel. The Psalms put the creed of Israel into song, so that the Psalter touches the heart, feeds faith and aids the memory of the things that matter most, or as Allan Harman says: 'It is Israel's creed, sung not signed'. The Psalter provides both a popular and profound theology of God.

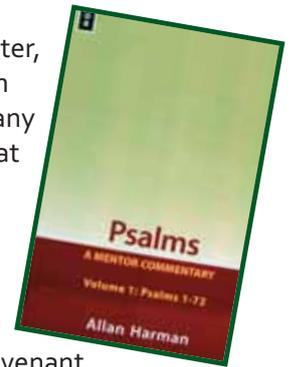
In line with recent scholarship on the Psalms, Dr Harman sees Psalms 1 and 2 setting the context for the rest of the Psalter, but he declines to suggest an overall theme for the Psalter, though he does want to find in it a covenant theology. Perhaps it could be suggested that the Kingship of God in its different facets is what unites the different things said about God in these glorious sacred poems. Nor does Allan Harman find a comprehensive plan for its overall shape. His focus remains the individual psalms, and the strength of his commentary is his close analysis of the inspired text, often verse-by-verse.

He explains the different psalm 'types': hymn, lament, thanksgiving etc, but warns that such classifications must not be allowed to downplay the distinctive features of each particular psalm. In other words, he avoids the excesses of traditional form-criticism on the Psalter. The portrait of God in the Psalms as majestic, yet compassionate – the two attributes stressed by Dr Harman – are calculated to move us to praise and thanks. He links the imprecatory (cursing) psalms to the curses that fall on covenant breakers and has published his views on that matter previously in the Reformed Theological Review.

With regard to Christian use of the Psalms, he reminds us that they were extensively used by Jesus himself (regarding himself) and, following his example, by the Apostles in the writings of the New Testament. The Psalms point to Jesus and enrich our understanding of our Saviour. In bringing out the meaning of the messianic psalms (eg Psalms 2, 22, 42, 110), he does not fall into the trap of over-interpreting and reading in a whole lot of Christian content that is not supported by the wording of the psalms themselves. On the other hand, he does show that these psalms point to Jesus and throw light on his role as Messiah and Saviour. Perhaps there could have been a stronger link made between what the Psalms say about God and Jesus as the Divine King.

The Psalms also teach us how to pray, they can be used in sung praise, and as passionate expressions of devotion to God. When preached, they should be preached with passion too. A lifetime of use and study of the Psalter has gone into this commentary, and the church should be grateful to Dr Harman for his labour of love. Unlike some commentaries that, in trying to academically dissect the text of Scripture, spoil what they handle, here we have an exposition of the Psalms that will only add to our enjoyment of this choice part of God's Word and fan the flame of Christian devotion.

– Greg Goswell



### 'Glorious Things - A Protestant's Guide To London'

What to look for and how to find places associated with people and events which shaped Protestant Church History.

Compiled by Rev Bob Thomas.

**Available from:** PTC Media,  
684 Elgar Rd, Box Hill North 3129.

**Cost:** \$6.60+\$2.20 p&p. (Please make cheque payable to PTC Media)

