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– Australian Centre for Mission Aviation

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## When The Lesser Overtakes The Greater

SOMETIMES when I show some slides of Edinburgh I show a picture of Greyfriars Church and ask, 'Now who's buried here?' Almost always the answer comes back: 'Greyfriars Bobby.' Oh dear! The Covenanters are buried in Greyfriars Church Yard - those brave men who signed The Solemn League And Covenant with their blood back in the Seventeenth Century to protest the King's efforts to impose episcopal government and worship on the Church of Scotland. For their labours they were imprisoned for a time in an open prison, hanged at a gallows down from the church, in the Grass Market, then buried in the church yard.

Greyfriars Bobby, of course was that cute wee puppy dog who came every day to sit by his master's grave until he too died some years later, and whose story so tugged at the heart strings of Queen Victoria that she had him buried with his master and a statue of him erected nearby. Fancy the dog's story so overshadowing the bravery of the Covenanters that they are almost forgotten, but the dog is still so widely remembered!

But it happens all the time - the lesser overshadowing the greater - whether it be Cain murdering Abel, Jacob depriving Esau of his birthright, or worldly ways, morals or thought patterns entering into the ways of the Church.

Paul exhorted Christians not to conform to this world, but to be transformed by the renewal of our minds. But over and over again the world seems to overtake us. The moral standards of the world seep into the Church, where so many Christians cave in to them. The world's way of thinking, which begins in skepticism, overtakes believing scholarship. Worldly ways and desires characterised by selfishness overtake humility and servanthood.

When we are tempted to lower our standards, doubt our faith, put ourselves on the throne, may we remember the Lord Jesus, who stood far above all sin and shame, who gladly became servant of all and who upheld the truth of the Word over the wisdom of men and seek the Holy Spirit's power and enabling to overcome the world so that the greater light and life of Jesus will prevail over the lesser darkness and death of the world.

*– Bob Thomas*

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### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: THREAT OF THE LRA

A rebel army known as Seleka ('alliance') has seized control of Central African Republic. What international media and human rights organisations are failing to acknowledge is that while CAR is French-speaking and 76 percent Christian, the supposedly poor and marginalised yet exceedingly well-armed rebels are Arabic-speaking Muslims with many foreign jihadis in their ranks. While France (the colonial power) refused to aid the government – something that triggered angry protests outside the French Embassy in Bangui – French soldiers are now patrolling the streets at the behest of the rebels. Targeted attacks against churches and religious workers have led church leaders to question Seleka's intentions. Many other questions remain unanswered too, such as: 'Who backed this regime change and why?'

As if this were not bad enough, another threat hangs over the Christians of CAR: the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA is a Ugandan rebel militia that emerged to wreak terror in Uganda's impoverished and marginalised north in the 1980s. However, when the Islamic regime in Sudan started sponsoring it, LRA activities expanded to fighting all of Khartoum's 'enemies', such as Uganda and its allies in southern Sudan.

LRA terror escalated markedly in late 2002 such that, in May 2003, this prayer ministry (then under the auspices of WEA RLC) launched an international prayer campaign, triggering an intensive spiritual battle. The first call to prayer went out on 14 May 2003. This was immediately followed by an unprecedented mass of defections from the LRA to the Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative. Kony responded on 14 June 2003 by ordering his troops to 'kill all clergy'. An urgent call to prayer was immediately issued, that God would 'bind all the demonic spirits allied with Joseph Kony and the LRA, to keep drawing defectors from all ranks of the LRA, and to effect the escape and rescue of hundreds of abducted children.' We prayed also for God to protect and bless all 'clergy, nuns, and Christian workers, especially those in front-line danger.' To each request, God answered, 'Yes!' Over the next 12-18 months, intercessors continued to battle against the LRA. Eventually the group was so decimated that violence had subsided greatly and re-development had begun.

But the LRA was not dead! Now just a band of some 200 fighters, the LRA still conducts hit and run raids, usually just for food, rarely to kidnap, but sometimes just to kill. In recent years the LRA has moved its operations into northern Congo and CAR. In February 2010 they killed two and wounded many others in an attack on a church in the southern CAR town of Rafai.

Today the LRA has sanctuary in Sudan's contested territory of Kafia Kingi in southern Darfur bordering north-east CAR. In October 2011 US Special Operations troops entered CAR to assist African troops in the hunt for LRA leader, Joseph Kony, a former Catholic altar-boy turned blood-thirsty spirit medium. The Seleka coup has brought that to a halt. Analysts fear the chaos and insecurity in CAR will work to the LRA's advantage, enabling it to re-group and replenish supplies. The LRA has weapons from Sudan, but what they need is children. According to Voice of America, the US is now waiting to see 'how Seleka might pursue Kony'. One of the problems with the hunt for Kony has been the militarisation of large regions where soldiers tend to abuse civilians just as much as the LRA does!

Because the hunt is so profoundly fruitless – Kony has been a wanted man for some 30 years – it well may be that the thousands of soldiers being paid to hunt Kony believe it is not in their economic interests to find him. If the US brokers a deal with Seleka on the pretext that Seleka rebels will 'pursue Kony' – maybe even arming and funding them to do so – then the threat to the Church will only be multiplied. The Church in CAR desperately needs our prayers.

– Elizabeth Kendal, *Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

#### Please Pray That The Lord Will:

- confuse and confound the rebels to bring down their illegitimate rule and end their reign of terror.
- so shield all CAR's children and all CAR's families (Isaiah 40:11) that they will know the Lord of justice is there for them; may their faith be multiplied.
- the Holy Spirit will revive the Church in CAR, awakening her faith to fuel prayer. (While she may not have any allies amongst the nations, she does have an ally in Yahweh Sabaoth, the Lord of hosts! See Isaiah 40:10.)

## MATTERS FOR PRAYER

### Praying for Christians around the world

#### IRAN: REGIME TARGETS FARSI CHURCH

Middle East Concern (MEC) reports that on 21 May Pastor Robert Asserian of the Assemblies of God (AoG) church in Tehran was arrested while leading a prayer meeting at the church. Earlier all his computer equipment and books were confiscated. Pastor Robert is now incarcerated in Tehran's Evin Prison. After months of intensive pressure, the AoG church in Tehran has now closed. The AoG church in Ahvaz has been closed since December 2011. On 1 May 2013 its pastor, Farhad, his wife Shahnaz, and two members, Davoud and Naser, began a one-year prison sentence. MEC reports: 'The authorities have made clear that they will consider releasing these four and Pastor Robert if the AoG agrees to cease all services in Farsi.' The authorities simply do not want Iranian Muslims hearing the gospel in their own language. May God confound the regime's every effort! On 8 May Pastor Saeed Abedini, a US citizen in Evin Prison, was released from solitary confinement and returned to the general prison population. Saeed's wife, Naghmeh, told Voice of the Martyrs how Saeed experienced God's presence in that 'small dark hole'. [For details see: The Promised Presence.] Several imprisoned believers are in dire need of medical attention. Pray for Iran's imprisoned Christians. Pray for the Church in Iran.

#### SAUDI ARABIA: TWO BELIEVERS IMPRISONED OVER CONVERSION

In July 2012 Maryam (28), a Saudi convert to Christianity, fled the country. Subsequently, her employer, Henna Sarkees (51), a Christian Lebanese national, was charged with abusing his position by coercing her to convert. Also, an un-named Saudi national was charged with facilitating Maryam's flight from the country. On 11 May 2013 Al-Khobar District Court sentenced Sarkees to six years in prison and 300 lashes for the crime of 'evangelism' (Lebanese media) or 'brainwashing' (Saudi media). The Saudi national was sentenced to two years in prison and 200 lashes. Lawyers for both men say they will appeal. However, Maryam's Muslim father has rejected the ruling as inadequate. He too will appeal, saying, 'We will ask the court to keep him [Sarkees] behind bars until our daughter comes home.' Pray for Maryam, Henna Sarkees and the Saudi national. Pray for the growing but perpetually imperilled Saudi Church.

#### SYRIA: CONFLICT SET TO ESCALATE; CHRISTIANS STRUGGLING

On Tuesday 28 May France and the UK convinced the European Union (EU) to let its arms embargo on Syria lapse. So, while Russia and the US are trying to organise peace talks in the hope of finding a political path to peace, France and the UK will be free to pump more weapons into the jihad (which, it might be noted, is blowing back into Iraq). The decision will fuel escalation. Meanwhile, sources in Aleppo report that rebels are blockading government-held areas so that food cannot get in unless enormous 'taxes' are paid. Christians are kidnapped almost every day. Bishop Yohanna Ibrahim, head of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Aleppo, and Bishop Boulos Yaziji, head of the Greek Orthodox Church in Aleppo, were kidnapped by Chechen jihadists on 22 April. They remain in captivity. No group has claimed responsibility and no ransom demand has been made. Whilst a spokesman for the opposition's National Coalition maintains that the bishops are in 'good health', nobody has been permitted to have even phone contact with them. Pray for the Church in Syria.

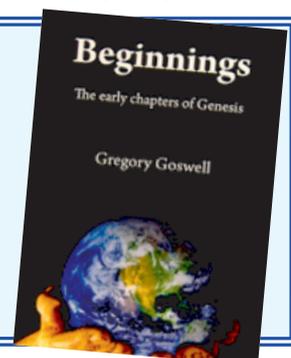
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– *Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin*

### 'Beginnings' – A Commentary And 24 Studies

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## SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS

# Reaching the Unreached and Counting – SIM Celebrates 120 years



I was one of the sixty, or so people, who gathered at Bundoora Presbyterian Church to enjoy a scrumptious breakfast and learn of SIM's ministry from 1893 to 2013. Sudan Interior Mission is now "Serving in Mission"

Neill Sim, the state director for SIM led the meeting and helped us understand the roots of the mission. It began when Walter Gowans, a young Canadian, became convinced that The Sudan, with its 60 million people without any missionary, was where God wanted him. No mission society in North America, or England, would send men to such a disease infected area. When Walter's mother tirelessly called for helpers,

Rowland Bingham responded. Born in England, he migrated to Canada in 1885. He joined Thomas Kent from New York and they sailed to meet Walter in Lagos, West Africa. They arrived December 4, 1893.

They were told they had no chance of survival in the interior of Africa. Even before they left the coast Bingham had succumbed to malaria and had to stay at Lagos. Within one year both Gowans and Kent were dead. Bingham returned home, shaken in his faith, but still convinced of his calling. In 1898 the official board for SIM was established. His third attempt to reach the Sudan, in 1901, was successful, resulting in a mission station being established at Patigi.

In 1893 'Ceylon & India Mission' joined SIM, followed by 'Poona & Indian Village Mission'. 'South Africa General Mission' became part of SIM in 1894, as did 'The Bolivia Indian Mission' in 1907. In 1998 'African Evangelical Fellowship' merged with SIM. Today the mission works in over 60 countries with 1,600 members, including 107 Australians. The purpose of SIM includes church planting, evangelism, strengthening and partnering with churches. SIM is passionate about the Gospel and seeks to fulfill God's purpose in reaching the lost. There are still 7,000 unreached people groups in the world today. We need to pray, to give and to go!

Phil and Carol Short spoke of their 30 years working in Niger with the nomadic Fulani people; to equip the church to fulfill God's mission of evangelism. God gave them the vision from Psalm 72:9 to reach the desert people of Niger. They faced isolation, a difficult climate and language, the nomadic lifestyle of the tribes and the barrier of Islam. To be a Fulani is to be a Muslim. But gradually Phil and Carol met people at the wells and in the market place. They were invited to camps and to spend time in their homes. Through the years many Fulani and Wodabe people have become believers. In 2009 a training centre was established to equip key believers to teach God's truth to their own tribes.

Phil spoke of Abraham and the blessing he received which spread to every nation. He was a friend of God and a partner with God as he obeyed the call and went out in faith. So did those early SIM pioneers who went to the unknown, dangerous, disease-ridden country of Sudan. SIM missionaries need a faith like Abraham to face the unknown. We all need faith like that of Abraham. We need to be people of faith in the way we invest our resources.

'Faith mighty faith, the promise sees  
Looks to God alone, laughs at impossibilities,  
and cries, 'It shall be done!'

See the website [www.sim.org.au](http://www.sim.org.au) to learn more about the ministry of SIM, and to see if one of these very enlightening meetings is scheduled for your area.

– Mrs DP (Barbara Prout)



It has been a privilege and joy to volunteer on my 5th consecutive mission trip at the Agape Home, Chiang Mai, Thailand. This seven week self-funded trip was a happy and memorable time. It was a warm welcome by the 48 school age children with hot weather 39C most of the time. A few 'cool' days of 35C!

I noticed stability amongst the children. Yet each child has their own heart breaking story, physical and educational needs.

This year's rotational group activities were enjoyed by all. Robyn gave a variety of craft and Lurline taught the recorder. I taught English, including conversational sentences. All instructions were in English. The children loved the educational fun and strategy games. Often, the children were singing There is one who loves me x 2, All day long or Jesus loves me, while playing games. It was fun!

Easter and Songkran were celebrated. Outings were to beautiful gardens where the children chased and caught pigeons; swimming twice in a man-made lake; two visits to a local swimming pool and to Tiger Kingdom. How special for the children to touch a 2 month old tiger! They did, not me. The children loved braiding plastic scoobies, making key chains, fish, heart and helicopter shapes. Many made up to 10 scoobies on the one ring! I ran out of plastics!

We visited a child in hospital twice, giving him an activity pack to fill his hours, which he received with delight. One 39 year HIV lady passed away in hospital and the Christian funeral at the home was attended by all staff and children. Two extra children arrived, one stayed and one left. We visit a village home, the pastor Dad had taken the two Megavoice to the Lahu hillside villages. The village people cannot read or write, but they can listen to God's Word on audio ([www.megavoice.com](http://www.megavoice.com)).

I loved the 1 on 1 time with a child. It could have been reading a story, playing Connect 4, snap, memory or showing how to make a scoobie. This special time gave me great satisfaction. On the last morning, I spent two hours with one child who was receiving oxygen. Others came and sat nearby; small groups were a special time.

I bought 30 loaves of thick bread for toast; 5 kg strawberry jam and 8 tins of condense milk. This was enough for four x afternoon snacks. Thick toast is a special treat with jam and sweet milk. I also shared chocolate sprinkles, yes on toast and sweet milk!

The final week was a highlight... On the Monday, all the children completed a leather thonging scoobie. At the Friday afternoon farewell concert, the children played their recorders; Robyn, Lurline and myself performed the 'flea' mime skit, (which went over very well as the children had deflea-ed their hair) and the children sang songs in English, including The Lord's Prayer.

As a surprise, we then handed to each child and Avis, their own Agape memory photo album. The children were so happy and pleased to have their own photos. To watch them look at their own little book, this was so special, I was stoked. I thank God for the seven weeks of heart warming time with the beautiful children in this Christian home ([www.nikkisplace.org](http://www.nikkisplace.org)).

## CHURCH AND NATION

# Visiting Speaker From Zambia



CONRAD Mbewe is a Baptist pastor in Lusaka in Zambia. He has been speaking at a number of venues in Victoria under the auspices of Evangelical Action.

One of venues was the Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne at chapel on May 15th. Here he preached on Paul's letter to Titus with particular emphasis on the role of pastors as shepherds of their flock. He encouraged the students to put substantial effort into all aspects of shepherding. The good shepherd teaches his flock well and gives people a lot of time. Real change, he stressed, does not happen quickly but people need a great deal of attention if they are going to develop a true Christian

lifestyle. Conrad comes to Australia with a high reputation as a powerful preacher. He was also questioned about the church in Africa. He spoke of the need for more expository preaching there to truly build up Christians. He also commented that hospitality is a hallmark of the African church whereas in our society we need to work harder at that aspect of our corporate Christian life. When he had first been converted his own pastor he said was a great role model and that example has had a major impact on his on ministry.

Certainly Conrad's time with the students that day was a great blessing to all. As well as his reputation as a fine preacher Conrad is editor of Reformation Zambia magazine and a regular column writer in two weekly national newspapers and is also a published author.

Apart from preaching around Melbourne, Mr Mbewe also preached to appreciative congregations in Geelong and Bendigo. Theological colleges, pastors' conferences and church gatherings were addressed. The climax occurred on the Sunday at normal church services (Surrey Hills Presbyterian and Geelong Re-

formed Presbyterian) when large audiences were challenged by Conrad's passionate preaching. The content of his messages was taken from Psalms 1, 2 and 73, as well as the apostle Paul's pastoral epistles to Timothy and Titus. Many were blessed indeed through the preaching of Conrad Mbewe.

– Contributions by Mignon Goswell (PTC Melbourne) and Spero Katos (Secretary, Evangelical Ministries Trust)

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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)

**Who Can YOU  
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## WITH CHRIST

### Rev Neville Horn (1916-2013)

NEVILLE was born on January 1st 1916, in Brisbane QLD. He was the third of five children. His father, Robert, was a Baptist Minister. The family moved home frequently, in both Australia and New Zealand, which Neville says 'prepared him for the life-long experience of change to more than 20 homes to live in and situations to embrace'.

After finishing High School, Neville went to night school to learn the basics of lettering, free-hand drawing, perspective and design. When the family moved yet again in 1931, back to Brisbane, he managed to find work at an advertising agency.

On 18 March 1934 Neville was baptised. As a testimony he sang a solo 'take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to thee' and he meant every word of it. His increased Bible study and reading led to a desire to share these words of truth, so he joined the Baptist Lay Preachers Society. Neville then began Bible College studies, firstly in Brisbane and then to Sydney's Baptist College.

When World War II started, large military camps were established across Australia. Open Air Campaigners were given several huts in Army Camps in which to base their work among the troops before they went overseas. Neville took up a post in the Dubbo camp and in his first three months there, he had the privilege of leading three soldiers to Christ.

While in his last year at Bible College Neville ministered in the Ingleburn Army Camp. Finishing his studies made it possible for Bessie and Neville to marry on December 19, 1942 at Taree Presbyterian Church. But their first year together was interrupted when Neville was asked to apply as a chaplain in the army, which meant going firstly to South Australia for three weeks training and then off to Bougainville in the Solomon Islands.

When the war ended Neville was enthusiastically welcomed home at the Taree train station, not only by Bessie, family and friends but also their daughter Joy, who was already 2 years old. A new era was starting. In January 1946, Bessie, Neville and Joy moved to Katoomba Baptist Church in the Blue Mountains. It was in Katoomba that Neville began his convention ministry at Christmas and Easter. Many of the other speakers at these conventions became good friends. This resulted in many invitations over the following 20 years, across Australia and also including 19 visits to New Zealand. After four years with the Victorian Baptist Committee for Evangelism, Neville and family moved back to Sydney in 1953 to take a pastoral position at Stanmore Baptist. These 8 years were the among the best ministry years of his life. It was here that Neville's passion for missionary advocacy and support bloomed. A total of 16 missionaries were sent out of Stanmore during his ministry.

From February 1960 through to 1973, Neville was South Pacific Director of Back to the Bible Ministries based in Melbourne. During this time Neville travelled extensively teaching in India, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea and he also wrote two short books on Christian Discipleship. He also gave regular lectures at Melbourne Bible Institute. There was further ministry in Sydney before in 1987 moving back to Melbourne to be near family where he and Bessie continued to be well used in God's service. In 2005 they moved into Karana Nursing Home where Neville continued to encourage all who came to visit. Family members saw Neville as having lived 'a life of dedicated service flowing from immense gratitude. He saw each season in life as a gift coming from the hand and heart of a loving God.'

Neville Horn went to be with the Lord on May 21, 2013.

*– Adapted from details provided by Ross Jones, son in law of Neville Horn*

### VISITING MELBOURNE?

Join us at **The Faith Factory**: St Kilda Presbyterian Church,  
Cnr Alma Rd/Barkly St. Every Sunday 11am & 7pm;  
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## MISSION AROUND THE WORLD

### WEC Celebrates Its Centenary

HE seemed ageless. The old man was full of bright ideas and never ending action, in spite of the fact that a doctor had described him as a 'walking museum of tropical diseases'. To the young Alfred Buxton it was as if he had to run to keep up with C. T. Studd. Even a privileged upbringing, fame as an English cricket cap, ten years of service in for God in China and a stint in India could not slow him down. 'Cannibals want missionaries' was the message that sparked his interest in Liverpool England, but created a yawning gap in his heart. Who would tell the people of Congo about Jesus? He tried to recruit others but only Buxton responded. With the motto 'If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him' he had to go with the young man.

So in 1913 they started the Heart of Africa Mission with a passion to see the story of Jesus also impacting other places where the Gospel was not known. By the time of his death thousands of Congolese had responded to the gospel appeal and members of what became known as WEC (Worldwide Evangelization for Christ) International were starting to reach out to other regions of the world. The fledgling mission did not die out when he passed on but grew like wildfire with hundreds of new workers and a steady stream of new fields opened. The target was to aim at the tough and unreached areas of the world and today over 1800 workers from 50 nations serve in more than 80 countries.

The price has been high; several lost their lives while sharing and living out the gospel message. Conflict caused some doors to close but new ones to open. The challenge to maintain the principles of sacrifice, holiness, faith and fellowship has pushed all to keep Christ central and to trust for a holy church. WEC believes for a constant stream of workers. Multi-cultural fields enjoy the privilege of seeing people come to faith in Christ and the church grow. Ministries such as Betel, planting churches out of rehabilitated drug addicts, have produced a harvest of souls and lives dramatically transformed. Doors that seemed closed have been challenged as windows were opened by prayers of faith and today WEC's biggest fields are in the most difficult places. Bible and training colleges sent out hundreds of workers to be evangelists and pastors. It was a special privilege this year to see the church in D. R. Congo alive and well in spite of difficult conditions.

Mrs. C. T. Studd started Australian WEC in 1922 and since then hundreds of Australians have served with distinction in many places. Pat Symes blazed the trail in Colombia in spite of early opposition. Ken and Cec Booth served their Lord throughout Asia, Betty Nowland in Ivory Coast, Bruce and Annette Rattray saw hundreds come to Christ in Kalimantan and Barry Lambert has spent 44 years in Brazil. It has been a bold venture, but so worth it.

Centennial celebrations have taken place around the country and will continue throughout this year. Now as we celebrate our centenary we can unitedly say 'Much to celebrate, Much still to be done!' WEC has identified 33 People groups to which it intends an outreach. 1200 new workers are needed to cope with current needs and future developments, and many prayer groups raised up to support the teams around the world. We thank God for what He has accomplished but we trust him for all that remains to be done. Visit the website [www.wec.com.au](http://www.wec.com.au) for more information.

– Evan Davies, WEC

#### SENIOR PASTOR

Applications are called for the position of Senior Pastor at the Bright Church of Christ. The Bright Church of Christ is a community of 80 regular attenders meeting in its own worship building with hall for other activities in the heart of Bright.

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Applications can be sent by 30th June to Blair Davis – [blair@castlemainecofc.org](mailto:blair@castlemainecofc.org)

## PERSECUTION WATCH

### Pray for Children Fleeing Syria



FOR most children a park bench is a place for picnics, sunshine and fun. But for Yasmin, 4, it's home.

She's been living there with her mum, dad and three older brothers since they fled fighting in Syria for Lebanon's Bekaa Valley with just the clothes on their backs. They stay by the bench all day and at night they sleep in a local mosque or an open train carriage in the town centre.

Yasmin's mum Layla\* says they had no choice but to leave Syria as fighting intensified in recent months. They fled when their neighbour's home was attacked. They were terrified theirs

would be next.

Yasmin and her family are among the more than 1.5 million Syrians who have fled to neighbouring countries - including Lebanon and Jordan - since fighting started two years ago. A further 4.25 million have been forced out of their homes by conflict, and are now displaced within Syria.

In Lebanon, some refugees have been able to find accommodation with friends, and some have built makeshift shelters on rented land. Yasmin's family hasn't been able to find shelter anywhere. "All I want is shelter for my children," says Layla. "I don't care about anything else."

Like all parents fleeing Syria for nearby countries, all Layla and her husband Ahmed want is somewhere safe for their children to live. But they couldn't even afford an empty garage. Instead, they call the park, train and mosque home, and scrape together their meagre funds to buy bread for Yasmin and her brothers. It's hard to imagine how they will cope when winter arrives and brings the snow.

Children hold a special place in the heart of God. Throughout the Bible we see God's passion for justice for the poor and oppressed peoples of the world. It is a sad fact that children are paying the price for conflict in the world. Children make up the bulk of those who are oppressed and living in poverty.

World Vision is working in Jordan and Lebanon to provide refugee families like Yasmin's with hygiene kits, blankets, stoves and food vouchers. Child Friendly Spaces are also being created so refugee children have somewhere safe to play and learn.

In Matthew 25:35 Jesus says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Children like Yasmin need urgent support. World Vision is calling on Christians to pray for the children of Syria, and to donate to the Syrian Refugee Crisis Appeal.

\*Names have been changed to protect the identities of people in this story.

– Story and photo courtesy of World Vision

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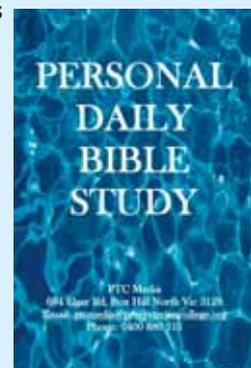
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## Flying the Archbishop of Canterbury

ARCHBISHOP Justin Welby, and his wife Caroline, together with his Secretary for Anglican Communion Affairs Joanna Udal, and Eliud Wabukala, the Archbishop of Kenya, engaged the services of Mission Aviation Fellowship Kenya to fly them to Dodoma, Tanzania for the installation of the country's new Anglican archbishop. Dr Jacob Chimeledya, on 19 May. On a beautifully sunny afternoon, ably captained by pilot Adrian Rose, they enjoyed a smooth trip in a PC12, and were even able to catch a brief glimpse of Mount Kilimanjaro on the way.



Thanks to a gap year spent in Kenya and his previous work in the oil industry, the Archbishop is a seasoned traveller in Africa, remembering particularly well his experiences as a passenger on the small planes that fly around Nigeria. He was reassured by program manager Ian Sinkinson that his trip with MAF should be significantly less hair-raising! During the flight, the Archbishop shared something of the challenges he faces in his role, the biggest of which he described as 'working out what not to do'. The prioritisation of need, especially when it appears so overwhelming, always presents a struggle, as no doubt every MAF program manager and operations director knows only too well.

Of his experience with MAF Archbishop Welby said, 'It has been an eye-opener. I had no idea of the scale or effectiveness of what you do. I am very struck by the extremely clear spirituality of it.'

– Katie Machell, [www.maf.org.au/news](http://www.maf.org.au/news)

### Biblical Truth for Turkey

All the seven churches in the book of Revelation, including Ephesus, were located in what is now Turkey. Christ had a message for them 2,000 years ago and He has a message for them today. The church in Turkey needs help. Langham Literature is trying to respond by supporting a small but strategic publishing ministry called Haberci (the Messenger). Haberci is dedicated to opening up the message of the Scriptures to first generation preachers and teachers. They have selected the Bible Speaks Today series of commentaries as the most appropriate for their current context. Spokesman Derek Malcolm writes: 'I cannot describe the thrill every time a Bible Speaks Today commentary is published in Turkey. It is generally the very first of its kind. Most books of the Bible still do not have a single commentary in Turkish. Believers in the West are rich in biblical helps and resources, and if they wish to deepen their

understanding there is a vast array of resources at their disposal. However in Turkey the picture could not be more different. Unless a Turkish believer knows German or English, there is very little to draw from.

'The Turkish evangelical church all but disappeared for many generations, and is only in its first generation again. Turkish believers face much hostility. There is the ever present threat of heresy and also the growing danger of the cults. It is vital therefore that good tools are in place which will help facilitate the teaching of the Bible and build up believers in their faith,' Derek Malcolm said.

– Colin Macpherson, *Langham Literature*

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

### Good News from the Outback

Four years ago Global Interaction team members Bill and Pauline Morrison sold their house, packed up and moved to Central Australia with the knowledge that the Outback was where God wanted them to be. Living in a different culture is not easy, but having minds to learn and hearts to listen gave them a good start.

'Last year was an incredible time for us,' they write, 'as stories emerged among the communities of how God was transforming individuals, families and churches. Uncharacteristically men are taking an active leadership role in church services, baptisms and men's Bible study groups. Men are meeting just to sit and talk about Ngaj (God). Most significant is their desire to care for and provide for their families. We can see that these happier couples are raising happier children and this has improved school attendance.

'We are delighted to see so many people who are growing strong in their faith. It is thrilling to see the depth and commitment the community leaders are showing by guiding, encouraging and practically assisting the church. This has been an amazing time of growth, especially in Kalkaringi, and we see God being truly praised and honoured every day. To see men and women holding their heads up with purpose and joy is truly moving.

'We love to see fathers who have softened their hearts towards their children. Gambling has almost ceased, children are being fed, school attendance has increased and a hunger for the Word of God continues. Spiritual growth abounds and the people share joyous meetings to learn, pray and encourage one another. These are but a few of the signs and wonders we are witnessing every day!'

– *Global Interaction Vision Autumn 2013*

### Israel's PM's Bible Study

The Bible plays a key role in modern Israel among Orthodox and secular Jews alike. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not religious, but he often invokes God and the biblical destiny of the Jewish people. Against that background he has revived the Prime Minister's Bible Circle, started by Israel's first leader David Ben-Gurion.

Netanyahu noted that the weekly Torah portion from the first chapter of the book of Exodus is proof that some things never change. The chapter says that 'a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph', and this Pharaoh subsequently mistreated the children of Israel. 'Just as it was then, so it is today,' said Netanyahu. 'In Egypt, the regime has been replaced, in Syria the regime is falling, and this could also happen in the Palestinian Authority. Everyone knows that Hamas could take over the PA. It could happen after an agreement, it could happen before an agreement like it happened in Gaza.'

Another secular Jew, President Shimon Peres, also invoked the Bible at a reception for Christian leaders. 'Peace is not just a desire, it is not just a call from heaven. I think it can be attained and achieved,' Peres said. 'We have to act determinedly, honestly and courageously to achieve it. That was from the very beginning, from the Old Testament to the New Testament and throughout the Scriptures.' At the age of 89 it seems that Peres has also discov-

ered the power of prayer: 'If there is one thing that clearly unites all of us it is the prayer for peace, the hope for peace.'

– *Shlomo Mordechai & Ryan Jones, Israel Today*

### Welcome Back!

About three years ago SGM Lifewords (previously Scripture Gift Mission) announced that their Australian office was to close and their Bible work was to be outsourced to a partner distributor. Now comes news that the ministry has been rebuilding over the last 12 months and is again making Scriptures freely available in creative Bible booklets and programs here in Australia and overseas.

Saturday 25 May, a 125th anniversary dinner was held in Thrive Community Church, Caringbah NSW, celebrating Scripture distribution since 1888. Guest speakers were Pastor Gunar Sahari from Indonesia and Geoff Richards.

SGM Lifewords partnership with Scripture Union saw 5,000 Bible booklets given to holiday makers during SU's summer missions. Throughout the year a full range of their literature has been going into schools, nursing homes, youth groups, hospitals and prisons. While in Indonesia more people are being reached through their Pavement Project and The Visible Story programs, as well as foreign language titles that are being developed.

Sign up for regular news on [www.sgmlifewords.com](http://www.sgmlifewords.com).

## EVENTS

### Sydney Prayer Breakfast: Why Breakfast is Good for the Body



THE morning's keynote speaker General David Hurley AC, DSC, Chief of the Australian Defence Force, had spoken of four key features of today's warfare environment: Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity (VUCA). The answer to these, he shared, is in Christ, with whom stability, certainty, simplicity and clarity are found.

Looking around the Sydney Convention Centre that morning, where tables were shared by people of all manner of church styles and denominations, it was clear that these had been unifying factors to us all. I watched as

Greek Orthodox priests were ushered to their seats by a member of the Anglican Church, Pentecostals welcomed Catholics to their table, and Presbyterians joined in prayer with Baptists.

Each person represented a host of others who could not be there, yet whose support was felt in a morning of heart-warming unity. We worshipped together, led beautifully by Fatai Veamatahau of The Voice, and prayers were led by Governor of the RBA Glenn Stevens, among others. After the program, people stayed to mingle and share with those who they may not, in another context, have a chance of meeting.

Facilitating such inter-denominational relationship and making way for us to pray together serves as one of the greatest purposes of such events. I am not much of a breakfast person, but the chance to break bread in such a rich environment of diversity, where differences can be treated as a source of strength rather than anything else, is not one I was going to pass up. Even if it did start at 6:30am.

The morning showed how breakfasts like this build the body of Christ, the Church, in a way that could be very significant moving forward. Jesus was very clear in his desire to return for a unified body of believers who had ironed out little wrinkles and disagreements in favour of harmony. Another reason why breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

Join the Sydney Prayer Breakfast next year. Tickets and more information at [www.sydneyprayer-breakfast.com.au](http://www.sydneyprayer-breakfast.com.au). City Bible Forum organises regular inter-denominational events in major cities ([www.citybibleforum.org](http://www.citybibleforum.org)).

– Grace Mathew



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

## Read Romans 1:8-17

Most commentators agree that verses 16 and 17 constitute the theme of the letter.

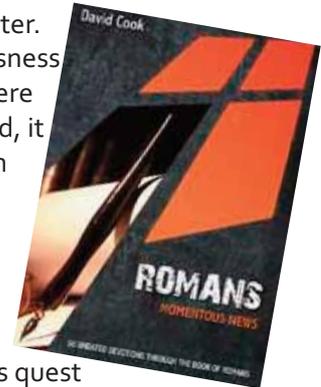
Verse 17 tells us that the gospel reveals 'a righteousness from God'. Righteousness is normally used to speak of a relationship that is right. Paul may be speaking here of the righteous character of God – that God is just. When the gospel is preached, it reveals God's justice and yet, at the same time, it reveals how sinful humans can have a right relationship with Him.

Paul makes it clear that this relationship is by faith as distinct from being earned. He quotes Habakkuk 2:4, that those who are righteous are righteous simply by faith – by trusting God.

Martin Luther, the 16th century Augustinian monk, was haunted by God's righteousness and by his own sin. He tried every means the church offered in his quest for peace with God. 'I greatly longed to understand Romans and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, 'the justice of God', because I took it to mean that justice whereby God is just and deals justly in punishing the unjust. My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience...Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which, through grace and sheer mercy, God justifies us through faith. Then I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.'

Luther went on to lecture on Romans and to write a commentary on it. It was on hearing a public reading of the introduction to Luther's commentary that John Wesley felt his heart 'strangely warmed' and was converted.

Here is a truth that has changed the course of history, a righteousness coming to us by grace, through faith, based on the finished work of Jesus Christ. This is what the gospel and 'the righteousness from God' is all about.



### Reflection:

What does it mean in your life each day to enjoy a right relationship with God, not because it has been earned or through merit, or even because of faith – but all because of Jesus?

Why do you think seeking to win God's favour by religious activity is both impossible and unnecessary?

### On The Lighter Side

TRANS World Radio have begun broadcasting a Christian sitcom called Grandpa Ted, reports Life And Work, Magazine of the Church Of Scotland.

Grandpa Ted is a likeable old gent whose hopes for a quiet life are constantly frustrated by the schemes of his fellow house group members.

TWR is available on Sky digital channel 0138, Freeset channel 790 and online at [www.twr.org.au](http://www.twr.org.au) and all episodes are available for download after broadcast from [www.twr.org.uk/ondemand](http://www.twr.org.uk/ondemand)

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### Upcoming Event – Canberra

Symposium on the persecution of Christians in the 21st Century – Elizabeth Kendal

**Saturday 29 June**

**7.30pm – 9.30pm**

Guest interviews – the perspectives of persecuted Christians

Canberra House of Prayer for all Nations  
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Elizabeth is the Christian, Faith & Freedom  
Director of Advocacy

Elizabeth is a professional religious liberty monitor with 15 years experience, author of 'Turn Back the Battle', and an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths at the Melbourne School of Theology.

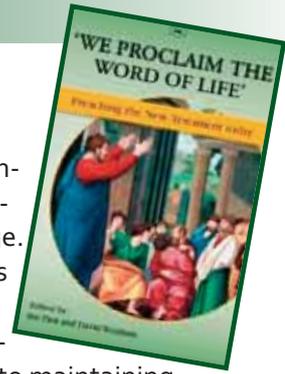
For more info: [admin@cffreedom.org](mailto:admin@cffreedom.org)

## BOOKS WORTH READING

**We Proclaim the Word of Life: Preaching the New Testament Today**  
Edited by Ian Paul and David Wenham (Nottingham: IVP, 2013)

ISBN 978-84474-610-1

THIS volume by leading evangelical New Testament scholars, who are also preachers, affirms the need to preach (as well as read) the New Testament. It is the product of the 2011 New Testament Study Group of the Tyndale Fellowship, Cambridge. As the editors point out, much of the Bible itself is the record of preaching: Moses in Deuteronomy, the prophetic books, the teaching of Jesus and the sermons of Acts. The gap between the text of Scripture and people understanding and applying its truth is bridged by the practice of preaching, hence its central importance to maintaining the health of the church.



Don Carson makes the point (and it is a vital one) that preaching the Gospels must focus on Jesus himself, not on the psychological process by which those who met Jesus moved toward faith in him. Carson encourages preachers to deal with larger units of text and to be alert to the key themes that only emerge as we read and reread large slabs of text. The late R. T. France (the book is dedicated to his memory) confronts the historical difficulties connected to the infancy narratives. Following Ken Bailey, he shows that Jesus was not born in a stable! This revelation does not need to spoil the telling of the Christmas story, instead adds to its authenticity and the birth of our Saviour is shown to have occurred in a real time and place.

As Klyne Snodgrass points out that, whatever the difficulty of preaching the parables of Jesus, their personal and concrete language give them the ability to penetrate people's defences and bring God's truth home. Preaching the miracles of Jesus faces a host of issues, which Stephen Wright handles well. The miracles are to be explained and proclaimed, not explained away and apologised for in a scientific age. David Wenham shows that the Sermon on the Mount is no impossible ethic, nor is it a form of Christian legalism, though it has often been treated as one or the other by Christian scholars and preachers. It must be expounded and applied within a Gospel framework of the grace of God found in Jesus Christ.

Christoph Stenschke helps preachers to differentiate between what is normative and what is historically relative in the narrative of Acts. Not everything in the Acts of the Apostles has a direct contemporary application, and preachers often find it difficult to know what directly applies to today and what does not. Justin Hardin and Jason Maston expose some of the common pitfalls to avoid when preparing to preach Paul's letters. They highlight the need to take into account their genre, historical setting and theological rationale when proclaiming and applying their doctrine and ethics. The Letters to Timothy and Titus prepare for the post-Pauline situation (which, of course, is our situation), and Howard Marshall emphasises their continuing relevance to church life and Christian morals.

Despite the special challenges of preaching on the Letter (really Sermon) to the Hebrews, it speaks to jaded modern Christians who are tiring of following Christ. As Charles Anderson shows, Hebrews is also a parade example of how to interpret the Old Testament in relation to the culmination of salvation history found in Christ. The whole Bible, properly understood and applied, leads to Christ and encourages us to keep on serving and trusting him. Mariam Kamell stresses the General Epistles as a grouping coming from apostolic pillars and the half-brothers of Jesus. They deserve more attention than they commonly receive in preaching and have for too long lived in the shadow of the writings of the Apostle Paul.

Much needed help is provided by Ian Paul on how to tackle the book of Revelation, including an interesting (and sober) discussion of numerology, namely John's use of symbolic numbers to convey his message. Stephen Travis helps preachers with some thorny issues connected to preaching the judgment of God, which is a topic not to be avoided, though Christ-like sensitivity is needed. There are also a number of other useful issues addressed in subsequent chapters. More often than not, the text for the Sunday sermon is from the New Testament, and so here is a book that helps preachers to be more effective in this core activity of church life

– Greg Goswell

## BOOKS WORTH READING

**THE MINISTRY**, Charles J. Brown, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2006. ISBN-13: 978 0 85151 931 9.  
[banneroftruth.com.uk](http://banneroftruth.com.uk)

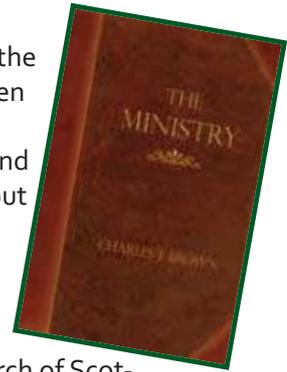
CHARLES J. Brown, little known to us today, is nevertheless up there in the Cloud, the w-Cloud, that is - that 'unseen cloud of witnesses who compass us about'. It has been given to some of the 'witnesses' to build with large blocks - your Baxters (The Reformed Pastor), Spurgeons (Lectures To My Students), Lloyd-Joneses (Preaching And Preachers); to others such as to Charles J. Brown it has been given to fill in and fill out what the great ones have done.

Iain Murray tells us in his Biographical Introduction that Charles Brown and his brother David became assured of a saving relationship with Christ during student days in Edinburgh in the 1820's, going on to study for the ministry. Charles Brown was one of the Disruption Ministers, following Thomas Chalmers into the Free Church of Scotland in 1843. He ministered in the New North Church in Edinburgh from 1837 until his death in 1884 - one of those long, stabilizing and fruitful ministries.

This book, on *The Ministry*, is by no means a text book on the subject, but it is an invaluable handbook on the need for a life to be dedicated and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ through a saving knowledge of Him BEFORE embarking on the noble task. It is full of gems of wisdom and knowledge from a man who fully practised what he preached. And it is inspirational for anyone contemplating ministry or involved in ministry or supporting those in ministry.

Oh yes, and whenever you come across a book with an introduction by Iain Murray, you'll find that the rest of the book is a bonus.

– Bob Thomas



### **BY THE WAY: Know the Joy of the Journey, Irene Voysey, Mountain Peak, 2012**

THE name Irene Voysey is best known to New Life readers from her articles we have published when she was editor of The Bible Society of Australia's national magazine, so it was particularly interesting to read *By the Way* and learn a lot more about her life and passion for the gospel.

Irene was converted in mid-life and has never attended a Bible college or done theological training, but these 30 short chapters, covering a wide range of subjects related to evangelism, are sprinkled with her own experience of how the Lord can use someone who has child-like faith and is willing to trust Him with whatever her day to day experiences bring her way. In the Early Church everyone was an evangelist and they spread the gospel wherever they went. This she sees to be the natural thing for Christians to do and she has certainly lived like that.

Her role for the Bible Society opened up chances for her to visit many countries around the world, many at a time when pivotal events were happening: Russia, Cuba, Mongolia, Cambodia, Uzbekistan, China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Jordan, Turkey and Myanmar as well as Western nations. Through it all the Lord was teaching her more about Himself and growing her faith.

The picture that emerges is of a talented woman with a simple faith in a great God who sees opportunities everywhere to share what the Lord had done for her. Each chapter is filled with advice out of her own experience and concludes with a short list of lessons she has learnt. This very readable book is ideal for home groups, and an accompanying study guide written by Harriet Connor contains 14 studies for that purpose.

– Barbara Furman

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