

## A Prayer For A Prince

THE Church of England issued this prayer for the newborn Prince of Cambridge: 'God our Creator, who knows each of us by name and loves us from all eternity; we give You thanks for new life and human love. Bless William and Catherine as they welcome their son into the world. Give them patience and wisdom to cherish and love him as he grows. Surround the family with the light of hope and the warmth of Your love today and always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'



Kate Middleton has been confirmed into the Church of England during a private ceremony at St James's Palace conducted by the Bishop of London. Sources close to her say that the step is not a constitutional nicety, but rather a decision she took as part of a 'personal journey' into the faith.

### A Great Role Model

Charles Gardner, writing for ASSIST News Service, says, 'The young prince has a magnificent role model in his great-grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, who has stood firm in her Christian faith through all the many supposedly enlightened changes of recent decades, going against the grain of an increasingly secular society as she passionately urges her people to put their faith in God. For example, her annual Christmas messages have become more evangelistic as the years roll by. Last year she invited her massive and adoring audience to give their hearts to Jesus in the words of the carol *In the Deep Midwinter*, which finishes: "What can I give Him, poor as I am? ... Yet what I can I give Him, give Him my heart".'

## What Can The Righteous Do?

'THE Modern World is the child of Christianity', said Rev Peter Corney, retired Vicar of St Hilary's Church, Kew, at a gathering of media people in One Church, Blackburn on 23 July. The Australian Media Engagement Project sponsored the meeting under the leadership of director Bob Simpson.

Speaking of the present disconnect between the church and the world, though, he analysed the factors which had brought this about: the present-day obsession with minor issues, the role of the media, increasing limits to free speech, a creeping surveillance culture, the falling away of class distinctions, the diminishing influence of Christianity and consequent rise of secularism, the growth of hyperindividualism, religious extremism, uncertain social experimentation, cutting loose from the Christian foundation.

In the face of all this, Christians have a unique and positive contribution to make because we've been here before. Our theological commitment to a series of core ideas: love, grace, forgiveness, equality in community, our international community, the Bible in all languages, the ethos of serving in faith, hope and love need to be displayed through practice in Christian life today.

To be sustained, democracy and citizenship need Christianity, Christian virtue, Christian faith in the transcendent moral affirmative. There is a need in the world today which Christianity can reach, teaching that only those who can govern themselves as individuals can govern for all and that rights must be accompanied by responsibilities. *The Future Of Democracy In a Post-Christian West* and other papers by Peter Corney will be found at his website/blog: [www.petercorney.com](http://www.petercorney.com)



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## 'The Need Of The Hour'

I'LL admit it: I've lost count of the number of times I've read, heard, read about or heard about a book, article, sermon or lecture called *The Need Of The Hour*. And if I may say so, the need seems to change hourly.

Well here's my contribution as to what is the need of the hour for the Christian Church: the need of the hour is for Christians to 'encourage one another, and all the more so as the Day draws nigh.'

Two of my Facebook friends have recently posted examples of encouragers whose encouragement encouraged great Christian soldiers to stand firm and stay at their posts.

Warren Hicks wrote: 'As a descendant of a First Fleeter who became a Christian during the ministry of Australia's first Chaplain (Rev Richard Johnson) I was greatly moved by what John Newton (author of *Amazing Grace*) wrote to a much-discouraged Rev Richard Johnson: "I have not been disheartened by your apparent want of success. I have been told that skillful gardeners will undertake to sow and raise a salad for dinner in the short time while the meat is roasting. But no gardener can raise oaks with such expedition. You are sent to New Holland, not to sow salad seeds, but to plant acorns; and your labour will not be lost, though the first appearances may be very small, and the progress very slow. You are, I trust, planting for the next century. I have a good hope that your oaks will one day spring up and flourish, and produce other acorns, which, in due time, will take root, and spread among the islands and nations in the Southern Ocean". To the praise and glory of God, Johnson did indeed 'plant acorns' which were the merest striplings in his day, but have grown into mighty oaks, with thanks due to the encouragement of John Newton, who had lobbied the British Government in the first place to appoint Johnson as Chaplain to the First Fleet and the Colony of New South Wales.

John Ross's contribution is to be found on page 15 below, of John Wesley's encouragement to William Wilberforce not to give up his fight for the eradication of slavery.

Just two little letters of encouragement, but who can measure the immense effect for good they had? God can.

Contrast that with people who think the church is a wide game in which whoever shouts the loudest at meetings should win the day, however specious their argument; who make the minister or other leader their whipping boy, always on the alert to pick out splinters despite the planks in their own eyes; for whom no mole hill is too small to make into a mountain.

Who can measure the immense effect for evil they have? God can.

Friends, the need of the hour is for a recognition that the enemy is not us; the enemy is 'his Satanic majesty' and all his subjects; and we need a blossoming of Barnabi who will stand by, behind and with one another to advance the cause of Christ. Or as a former Prime Minister of Australia might have said:

'Get on the bus, Son, the Barna-bus!'

— Bob Thomas

## MATTERS FOR PRAYER

### RAMADAN

commented on 9 July and will run through to 7 August.

Please pray for Muslims during Ramadan. For resources, visit <http://www.30-days.net/>

### EGYPT UPDATE:

There has been another assassination in North Sinai.

Christian businessman

Magdy Lamei had been kidnapped by Islamic militants in Sheikh Zuwayed on 6 July, the same day a Coptic priest was assassinated in neighbouring al-Arish.

Lamei's bound and decapitated body was found dumped in the street on 11 July. He had been an active Christian who ministered in the church and regularly opened his home for prayers.

### PAKISTAN: False Claims, Blasphemy And Interpol

ON 11 December 2011 Muslim clerics in Gojra reported to police that a Christian man by the name of Sajjad Masih, a resident of Pakpatten (a two-and-a-half-hour drive south-east of Gojra), had sent them blasphemous messages via mobile phone. Upon learning of the accusation, Sajjad immediately went into hiding. Eventually Christian leaders in Gojra convinced him to accompany them to the Gojra City Police Station so he could record his statement. Once the police had Sajjad in custody they refused to release him. *Morning Star News* reports that as soon as the Christian leaders left the police station, the police started beating Sajjad. To co-erce a 'confession' they hung him upside down, connected his feet to electric wires and threatened to electrocute him. Sajjad 'confessed' and was transferred to Toba Tek Singh Prison.

On Saturday 13 July 2013 the court in Toba Tek Singh District, Punjab Province, found Sajjad Masih (29) guilty of blasphemy. Sajjad was fined 200,000 Rupees (\$A1,980) and sentenced to life in prison. The judge was not bothered that the case was full of anomalies. According to the prosecution, Sajjad Masih was engaged to Ruma Masih, a Christian girl in Gojra Christian Colony, who then betrayed him by marrying a man in the UK. It is alleged that the vindictive Sajjad then used a mobile phone SIM card that he purchased in Ruma's name to send blasphemous messages to clerics in Gojra in the hope that she would be blamed and punished for her 'betrayal'. The court accepted the prosecution's case despite a total lack of evidence. *Morning Star News* and *Pakistan Christian Post* both report that the prosecution was unable to produce the SIM card, the mobile phone, phone records or eye witnesses to support their case. Furthermore, evidence was provided to the effect that Sajjad had been in his office all day on the day the SIM card was alleged to have been purchased. Also, the complainant in the case, Tariq Saleem, backed down under cross-examination, confessing that he had been coerced by police to file the case when in truth he had never received a blasphemous message. Despite all this, Sajjad was charged, convicted and sentenced, all due to pressure from Islamic clerics.

If this were not enough, *Indian Express* reported on 14 July, 'Muslims and clerics of Gojra also pressured police to try Ruma under the blasphemy law.' So, 'On the request of police, the federal interior ministry sought a red corner notice from Interpol for the arrest of Ruma in the UK but she is yet to be traced. Pakistani police have declared her a 'proclaimed offender' or 'fugitive'. According to Attorney Javed Sahotra, some 'young Muslim men' in Gojra had plotted against Sajjad Masih to 'punish him for being friends with a local Christian girl'. No-one has yet explained why they cared about Sajjad's relationship with Ruma. Maybe these young Muslim men framed Sajjad to get him out of the way. Perhaps they are seeking to punish Ruma for not submitting to their will.

This case shows how police actions and court rulings are being dictated by belligerent 'Muslims and clerics' rather than by law or reason whilst the government is either unwilling or unable to do anything about it. Clearly Pakistan is no longer ruled by law, but by vindictive and intolerant Muslims and clerics who persecute with impunity and dictate to police, judges and lawmakers. Even in the rare case of an acquittal, a person who has been accused of blasphemy is targeted for life in Pakistan and are living with a continuous threat to their life. When the rule of law collapses in a society infected with intolerance and hate, what is left to restrain evil?

– Elizabeth Kendal,  
for the Australian Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission. Elizabeth is Adjunct Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths at the Melbourne School of Theology and Director of Advocacy for Christian Faith and Freedom, Canberra.

#### PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- God will cause Sajjad to be acquitted on appeal, and deliver both Sajjad and Ruma from Islamic mischief and vindictiveness.
- the Lord of Hosts will send His heavenly forces to restrain and pacify the Muslims and clerics of Gojra so that Gojra's vulnerable Christian Colony (ravaged by a deadly Islamic pogrom in August 2009) will be spared more violence.
- our Sovereign, Redeeming God will intervene in Pakistan to graciously effect a breakthrough that will halt the decay and reverse the way being taken; may justice and righteousness be established for the sake of the Church and the 'harassed and helpless' Muslim masses who need to hear the Gospel.

## 'INTO ALL THE WORLD'

### Lausanne Movement Strides Ahead

THE Lausanne Movement has made clear strides ahead since The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization (Cape Town 2010).

The Evangelical Fellowship of India hosted Lausanne's first Global Leadership Forum in Bangalore in June, drawing 350 participants from over 60 nations, selected from the public arenas, churches, agencies and the media. Its main work was to assess progress in issues identified in *The Cape Town Commitment*, and to stimulate further collaborative action towards the goals of its *Call to Action*.

The Forum Director was Grace Mathews, Vice-Chair of the Lausanne Board. 'Our issue groups gathered sharp minds and strategic thinkers,' she said, adding: 'Partnership has remained a core value since our early days under the leadership of Billy Graham and John Stott. So as we did in Cape Town, we plan to make much of the Forum available online to gain wide participation in the discussions.'

The four days each began with Bible exposition from a different continent, accompanied by a multi-cultural Bible study in table groups. The Forum then moved to explore ways in which the Church can better engage our culture – in particular through the local church, through the workplace and through cultural influencers. Evenings brought news from across the continents, with time for unhurried prayer.

At the end of the Forum, Doug Birdsall, Executive Chair of Lausanne from 2004, and now President of the American Bible Society, formally passed the leadership to Korean-American Michael Oh (42), founding president of Christ Bible Institute in Nagoya, Japan. As the newly-appointed Executive Director/CEO, he emphasized his desire to see more younger leaders engaged in the movement.

The first of a series of global consultations on critical issues identified in *The Cape Town Commitment* has already taken place, in Jamaica, looking at the mandate for creation care. Gatherings to explore issues surrounding ethnicity, *The Prosperity Gospel* and *The Gospel And Media* are currently in the planning stage.

To receive *Lausanne Global Analysis* to your inbox, a bi-monthly review of news and trends relating to world evangelization, or to find Lausanne's growing list of published books, go to [Lausanne.org](http://Lausanne.org). Here you may also read the full text of *The Cape Town Commitment*.



*Doug Birdsall (right) hands over leadership to Michael Oh.*

### Bible College Of South Australia Appoints New Principal

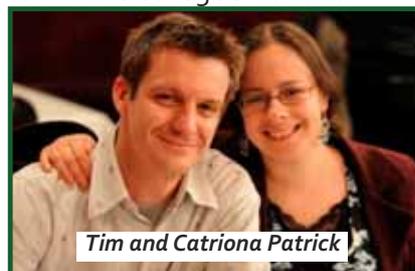
THE Council of Bible College SA is pleased to announce that the Rev Tim Patrick has been appointed as Principal, commencing in January 2014. Tim is a gifted evangelist and leader, and his appointment continues Bible College SA's commitment to equipping Gospel workers in both local and global mission. He is an outstanding teacher and preacher of God's Word, and is passionate about the good news of Jesus. In addition, Tim is a thoughtful contributor in public forums and is able to speak winsomely to unbelieving audiences about the Christian faith. He is able to articulate vision and has a track record of leading an organisation towards achieving its goals through strategic planning and implementation.

While Tim comes to the college with ministry experience in church planting and pastoral leadership, he also has strong academic skills and is completing his PhD in Reformation Doctrine through Macquarie University. He is currently based in Cambridge, England, where he is finalising his thesis. Tim originally trained as a scientist and holds a BSc

with first class honours from the University of Sydney. After graduating, he worked at the CSIRO for four years before commencing theological study at Ridley Melbourne where he graduated MDiv.

Tim has held various ministry appointments including Project Leader at City Bible Forum, Church Planter at St Jude's in Parkville, Senior Associate Minister at St Jude's Carlton, Adjunct Lecturer in Evangelism at Ridley Melbourne, and Associate Staff Worker with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students. Tim has also been a Branch Council Member of CMS Victoria and looks forward to forging stronger relationships between Bible College SA and mission organisations in Adelaide.

Tim is married to Catriona. They have a daughter, Poppy, and another child due at the end of the year. He is excited about seeing God build further on the strong foundations of Bible College SA and for more men and women to be equipped for faithful Gospel ministry in Adelaide and beyond.



*Tim and Catriona Patrick*

## TAKING THE WORD TO THE WORLD ...

### Don't Die With The Hug In You Unshared, Urged Tireless Aid Worker

IRENE Gleeson – 'mama' to thousands of Ugandan children – went home to be with the Lord last week. Irene was the Australian grandmother who, in the last two decades of her life, ran a charity looking after thousands of Ugandan children displaced by civil unrest. One of the last things she had up on her Facebook page was a call to people 'not to die with the music, dance or hug still in you ... share it with others.'

Irene certainly lived that faith. She was a 47 year old grandmother when she gave up a comfortable life in Australia to start Childcare Kitgum Services (now the Irene Gleeson Foundation). Moved by the trauma she saw in Uganda, she started looking after, feeding and teaching '50 children under a mango tree.' Since 1991, that work has grown to care for more than 20,000 children. Bible Society supporters, through a former project of Bible Society NSW, sent Bibles for the children, helping them know that God loved them and was in control of their lives. 'Sharing God's Word was very important to Irene; she was always quoting Scripture when she spoke to people,' says the Bible Society's Chris Melville who liaised with Irene on the project.

Mid last year Irene was diagnosed with cancer of the heart and lungs. Facing this with her trademark faith—and equally, her concern for the children of Kitgum—she returned to Kitgum. 'Please God, comfort and nourish my motherless children in Uganda,' was the prayer in her heart as she went about setting things in place for the work to continue after her. 450 workers are carrying on Irene's work, many of them the very children she looked after in the early years. The Irene Gleeson Foundation currently supplies food, medicine and an education for 8,000 Ugandan children. The one school has grown into five, and there is also a radio station, an AIDS hospice, a music recording studio and a cultural arts studio. Irene also helped create water wells, and established many community churches.

Anyone wishing to help Irene's legacy continue can visit: [www.irenegleesonfoundation.com](http://www.irenegleesonfoundation.com)



Irene Gleeson – 'Mama' and sons.

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### Good – As Far As It Goes

I WAS pleased to see Dr Ross Clifford's article (NL 1 July 2013), *Alcohol Abuse, Time To Act*. For some years I have been researching the issue of alcohol in our community and I am glad to see it raised in *New Life*. But I was somewhat surprised by the last phrase of the opening sentence, '...no-one wants prohibition'.

I have heard many similar statements made over the years, generally prompted by the widespread opinion that prohibition in USA early last century was a failure. But it seems that very few people here in Australia know how successful it was, especially in producing growth in employment and great prosperity.

Today we need only to look at the extreme damage alcohol does in our country to realise what a terrible curse it is. It produces many serious health problems, adversely affecting the heart, lungs, brain, liver and kidneys and is a significant cause of cancer.

Almost every day in Australia we hear the sad news of more hospital admissions, driver and pedestrian deaths, road rage, suicides, child abuse, fire injuries, falls and drownings, workplace injuries, violent crimes, rape, homicide, domestic violence, broken homes and much more, largely the result of the use of beverage alcohol.

In the light of all this I find it difficult to understand why people generally, and even many Christians, call only for reducing the problems rather than aiming to eliminate the major cause.

God bless you as you continue your ministry with *New Life*.

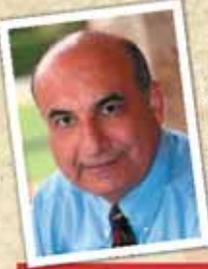
– Bruce Raymont

### 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)

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### Fighting Porn: Filters Needed

'SUSIE O'Brien is exactly right about the growing porn problem among young Australian teenagers (*Herald Sun*, 22/7/13) – we urgently need tougher action,' says FamilyVoice research officer Ros Phillips. 'The new sex ed program developed by Victoria's Education Department will require state school students to analyse pornography. This is likely to be counter-productive – these powerful, extreme images cannot be erased from a child's mind by discussion. The increase of serious sexual assaults in schools suggests that more needs to be done.'

'Australia urgently needs mandatory filtering at the ISP level to protect children and maintain a healthy society. Parents can install filters on their home computers, but that's not enough. They cannot protect their children from pornography on unfiltered mobile phones that other children take delight in passing around. There is instant access to hardcore material, where women are treated as objects to be sexually abused in the most demeaning ways,' Mrs Phillips said.

Meanwhile, British Prime Minister David Cameron announced on 22 July that Internet providers will be required to block pornography as a default. In Iceland, there is a similar battle to restrict internet porn.

'Last year, Communications Minister Senator Conroy broke his election promise of a mandated ISP clean feed service,' Ros Phillips said. 'Can we count on a new Rudd government to take serious action?'

### SA Votes To Uphold Marriage

'THE defeat of Dr Susan Close's Same Sex Marriage Bill in the SA House of Assembly is good news for our community,' says FamilyVoice research officer Ros Phillips. 'Several MPs mentioned that they had received a huge number of letters and emails from constituents asking them to retain the natural, man-woman meaning of marriage. Moreover our legal advice supports what Liberal MPs and others have argued in the debate – that marriage is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Parliament. A state same-sex 'marriage' bill would be constitutionally invalid because it would be in conflict with the Federal Marriage Act.'

'Marriage is fundamentally a complementary union of a man and a woman who have the potential to conceive and raise the next generation with both male and female role models. Gold standard research by Dr Mark Regnerus, based on a very large randomised sample with matched controls and objective reports by the children in adulthood, shows that children do best on a whole range of measures when raised by their married biological mum and dad.'

'Another gold standard study on child abuse and neglect, which looked at outcomes in six different family types, found that children are safest by far when raised by their natural married parents.'

### ACL Welcomes British PM's Action On Internet Porn

THE Australian Christian Lobby has welcomed moves by British Prime Minister David Cameron to crack down on the proliferation of child abuse images and pornography on the internet. ACL's Managing Director Lyle Shelton said Mr Cameron's speech acknowledged the fact that parents feel powerless when it comes to preventing their children from seeing porn and that government intervention is needed.

'Mr Cameron spoke of how government has "neglected our responsibility to children" and called for internet service providers in Britain to automatically block access to pornography sites unless customers opt in,' he said. Mr Shelton said the ACL will be asking political parties in Australia how they intend to deal with the proliferation of pornography on the internet as part of an election questionnaire. 'ACL will be asking this question along with many other topics including asylum seekers, gambling, poverty and family in the questionnaire which will be available in coming weeks on [australiavotes.org.au](http://australiavotes.org.au),' he said.

'Last year ACL was disappointed to see then Communications Minister Senator Stephen Conroy renege on the government's election promise of a mandatory ISP clean feed to block illegal material, despite Government trials showing it worked without slowing the internet. Parents are looking for clear and trustworthy commitments from the government and genuine action to protect children online,' he said.

## A WARM HEART IN THE RED CENTRE ...

### New Church Opened In Alice Springs

AROUND 50 people gathered from all around Australia for the commencement service of Alice Springs Presbyterian Church on the Lord's Day, 21 July 2013. While the occasion



was special in nature, the defining purpose, empowered by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, was to worship God through our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. Rob Duncanson, Convener of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and pastor of Darwin Presbyterian Church, led in a call to worship from Psalm 122, reminding those present of the joy of gathering as the dwelling place of God to praise His Name. Stuart Bonnington, Superintendent of the PIM and pastor of Scots Church, Fremantle, delivered a comprehensive narration of the steps which had led up to the commencement of Alice Springs Presbyterian Church, in particular, the negotiations to gain use of the AIM building and residence as a home for the church and the appointment of Rev Keith and Jenny Bell as church planters.

David Jones, Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and pastor of Mt Stuart Presbyterian Church, Hobart, prayed, constituting Alice Springs Presbyterian Church and declaring it established as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in word and deed to the people of Central Australia.

Sam Hauzel of Alice Springs Presbyterian Church read Micah 6.1-8, the passage from which the sermon of the day would come. John Wilson, Clerk of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, led the congregation in prayers of intercession which included Timor Leste and South Sudan, our own nation, along with the city of Alice Springs and the mission and ministry of all the Gospel-believing churches and Christians who are part of it. Riak Gordon of Alice Springs congregation read from Mark 12.28-34 which related the great commands of Scripture and how obedience and relationship with God are innately united.

David Jones developed these themes in his sermon, encouraging the new church about the great works which God has done for His people through the Lord Jesus Christ, which are both the source of enabling and motivation for the works of ministry and mission God's people are called to carry out. The great imperatives of doing justice and loving kindness flow from the indicatives of His great redeeming work which His people have experienced, and which we experience through Jesus.

The service closed with the singing of *To God Be The Glory*, which summed up both a wonderful time of remembering God's good works and the expectation of His future good purposes for the work of the Gospel in Alice Springs, across our nation and throughout the world.

Alice Springs Presbyterian Church is located at 20 Parke Crescent, Alice Springs and Rev Keith Bell can be contacted on 0438 719 956 or

[keith.jenny.bell@gmail.com](mailto:keith.jenny.bell@gmail.com)

— Gary Ware



*Presbyterian Moderator General, Rt Rev David Jones, (front, centre) leads the singing.*

### 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.  
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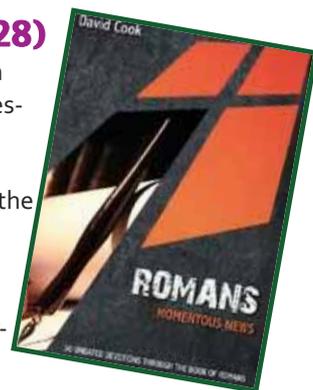


**How's Your Heart?**

**(Read Romans 2.17-28)**

WHILE the Jew has not been excluded to this point, Paul now has the Jew specifically in mind. Jews were entrusted by God with the law, yet Paul makes it clear that mere possession of the law does not qualify one to be a guide, a light, an instructor or a teacher (vv 19,20). If the law is not lived, God is dishonoured (vv 21-23). Verse 24 is heavy in its condemnation that the Gentiles blaspheme God's character because of the lawless lives of the Jews, God's people.

Paul now turns from the law to the issue of circumcision and its inner, spiritual meaning. He argues that, just as mere possession of the law is no protection against God's condemnation, circumcision is only of value if it indicates a circumcised heart. A non-circumcised Gentile, who keeps the law and lives as though he were circumcised, will condemn the disobedient, circumcised Jew (v 27).



**FOR REFLECTION:**

*THINK about how you may be tempted to put some of your faith in doing thoroughly good things, even things like this Bible reading time.*

*Such things can replace Christ as the basis of our relationship with God.*

Jewishness is not outward and physical; it is inward and spiritual. It is a circumcision of the heart (see Deuteronomy 10.16; Jeremiah 9.26; and John 8.39-45). Thus the Jew who depends on the superiority of having God's law and the mark of the covenant in his flesh is in for a big surprise. Unless these outward signs are matched by inward experience and integrity, they are empty. (Paul illustrates this later in the case of Abraham, 4.11.)

The application to the issue of sacraments is obvious. Sacraments are empty signs if they are not matched by the inner reality they symbolise. Baptism, the initiating rite, is a symbol of our new birth, our death with Christ, and our resurrection to new life. The Lord's Supper is a reminder to us of the foundation of our right relationship with God through the work of His Son on the cross. Unless these truths are real in our experience, participation in the sacraments is of no use.

Paul's concern is to show how the Jew is lost. The Jew is lost because of disregard for God's lordship, and no amount of religious activity can compensate for that before God. What of your heart? Is it right with God? That is the thing that counts today!

**Content taken from 'Romans: Momentous News' by David Cook, published by 10Publishing, used with permission.**

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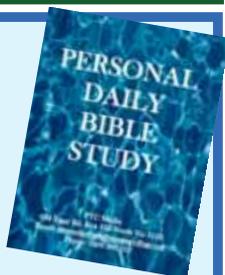
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**'...We...know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.'** (Galatians 2.16)

## PERSECUTION WATCH

### Five Indian Women Beaten In Public Marketplace For Sharing Love Of Jesus

FIVE Gospel For Asia Women's Fellowship Leaders (pictured) have been beaten by a man in the Andhra Pradesh region of India while sharing about the love of Jesus in a public marketplace. Amazingly spared, they retreated to safety, thanking God for the honour of suffering for His sake. The women had been sharing with store owners and shoppers when one man demanded to know what they were doing. The assault began with a powerful slap to the face of one woman and continued to the others, one of whom was isolated and surrounded by five men.



'Jesus promised persecuting and hardships,' said Daniel Punnose, vice president of GFA ([www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org)). 'These young ladies see it worth facing the beatings in order to share the love of Christ.' The women, Bansari, Jaladhi, Kuyil, Sunita and Viveka, were beaten on their faces, ears and heads. All report that no bystanders came to their defence during the ordeal, and that they miraculously escaped from their multiple attackers and were delivered from further harm.

GFA-sponsored Women's Fellowships are intentional ministries across South Asia for women reaching women with the love of Christ in cultures where men are severely limited in ministering to women. Local Women's Fellowships are often nurtured by one of 2,000 GFA-sponsored women missionaries.

Special prayer is requested for the women attacked in Andhra Pradesh, India, and for all the women missionaries and leaders of Women's Fellowships who work in cultures where women endure cultural oppression and degradation. 'When we see young women publicly beaten for their faith, it tells us what the future holds in regards to persecution,' said Punnose. 'Things will get worse, but the Lord is faithful in all things.'

— Gospel For Asia Press Release via ASSIST News Service

### Muslim Ambulance Driver Refused To Deliver Body To Assyrian Church

A KURDISH ambulance driver refused to transport the body of an Assyrian woman from the hospital to the church because it's forbidden by Islam. The Assyrian woman died on 21 July at Zarkari Hospital in Arbel. Her body was placed in an ambulance to be brought to the Assyrian town of Ankawa. According to Christian tradition the body of a deceased is brought to the church. However, the Kurdish Muslim ambulance driver refused to drive to the church because it's forbidden in Islam. The media director at the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Kurdish Regional Government in the north of Iraq has asked the Ministry of Health to open an investigation into the case. — *Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST*

### Protestant Churches Feel The Heat In Kazakhstan

OFFICIALS are trying to stamp out Christianity in Kazakhstan. A ministry supported by Christian Aid Mission says nine elderly believers are charged with outrageous charges and fines. They're falsely accused of illegal religious activity and drug sales, facing nearly \$5,000 in fines. Protestants in Kazakhstan are viewed as a threat to the government. Pray for a change in heart and attitude. Full story: [www.MNNOnline.org/article/18797](http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/18797)

### Month Of Bombs, Shootings Kill 750

THIS month's death toll in Iraq is over 750. Terrorism

continued with bombs and shootings. Christian Kurdish refugees in Iraq have an especially hard time finding work in the chaos. That's why Open Doors USA started a micro credit program. If a refugee submits a business plan for approval, Open Doors gives them a small loan for the start-up. It's helping the refugee Church flourish in Iraq and reach out to others with their business. Learn the full story on: [www.MNNOnline.org/article/18802](http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/18802)

### Violence Escalating In Iraq – Christians Suffering

WHEN coalition forces left the country, Iraqis thought peace would come to their nation. However, sectarian violence has actually increased, so much so that many are saying a civil war is looming. Spokesman for Voice of the Martyrs USA Todd Nettleton puts the violence in perspective. 'So far in July, almost 600 people have been killed in different attacks. In May, the UN said 963 people were killed, which was the biggest casualty toll since 2008.' Christians are suffering. Nettleton says you can help them through VOM Action Packs – 'a bag with humanitarian aid materials and clothing items. Then we deliver those into Iraq to Christian families there. Another key way that we're involved is delivering Bibles.' Packing Action Packs would be a great project for youth groups. Learn more at [MissionNetworkNews.org](http://MissionNetworkNews.org) under 'Featured Links.' Also pray for hope for believers in Iraq. Full story: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/18796>

## Happy Birthday ESA

THE Evangelisation Society in Victoria, now referred to as ESA, celebrated an amazing milestone recently. For 130 years ESA has been active in Gospel ministry and was responsible for the great evangelistic meetings held in Melbourne in the late 1800's and early 1900's. This is a significant history and much of the evangelistic DNA of Victoria is a result of the committed men and women who put on those rallies.

The official celebration in Bendigo saw 160 present for afternoon tea and 150 for the dinner. The occasion brought people together who had not seen each other for decades, and many testified to the impact ESA had had on their lives, most often in recent times through the camping ministry for children and teens. While best known for these outreaches, the current staff are working day in and out in the local communities building relationships, engaging with schools, community leaders, families and campers.

Currently ESA has over 800 campers a year, 280 volunteer leaders, 10 employed staff, seven board members, 25 camps per year and engagement with 640 of the 900+ postcodes in Victoria, just to name a few things. More about ESA: [esa.org.au](http://esa.org.au) – *Keeping In Step, July-October 2013*



*Serving long in the Lord's service: Jenny Douglas (left), Yvonne and Bruce Mackintosh (above).*



### Rob Isaachsen's New Ministry

REV Rob Isaachsen, formerly of *Transforming Melbourne*, has set up a new ministry, *Future Now*. His new website is: [www.future-now.info](http://www.future-now.info) and his ministry email is: [robisaachsen@future-now.info](mailto:robisaachsen@future-now.info) Lilian Schmid, of *Transforming Sydney*, writes: 'We honour Rev Rob Isaachsen and we continue to support his new ministry *Future Now* in Melbourne. Rev Rob supported *Transforming Sydney* and its leadership. We are grateful for his wisdom and kindness since we started *Transforming Sydney*.'

### 20 Centuries Of Church History In 20 Talks

THE story of church history is most often absorbed according to eras of large periods of time. For example, we first study 'the early Church Fathers,' then 'the Middle Ages' etc. The Rev Dr John Wilson's *Church History Survey Of 20 Centuries* allots the same amount of time in reflecting on every century, and closes each reflection with a song that emerged from that century. It is a work of love produced by St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Reservoir, Melbourne, for the Church of Jesus Christ and for His glory. Each talk is about 45 minutes long and covers highlights of church history of a particular century, concluding with a hymn from the century covered in that talk sung by choristers from Res Pres. Further information can be found at <http://www.cenc.org.au/index.php/cenc-downloads/church-history-series>

### Where Are The Men?

IN Africa Inland Mission's new video, *Men Of Mission*, it is noted that 82% of single missionaries joining AIM

through the USA in the past five years were women. It is a similar story in Australia and around the world, and one that spans generations. Where are the men? Pray that men will accept the challenge of God's mission. See: [www.aimint.org.au/explore/videos/158-men-of-mission.html](http://www.aimint.org.au/explore/videos/158-men-of-mission.html)

### Local Believers Produce New Radio Program

DUHDIM Nin, which means 'abundant life' in the Chin Hakha language, is one of several new programs that HCJB Australia started broadcasting early this year. This is the main language spoken in the isolated mountainous Chin state of Myanmar. There are also significant Chin populations living outside of Burma: in Bangladesh, India and as refugees in Malaysia. While many of their Asian program producers still live in their home countries, the Chin programs are being recorded at HCJB's Melbourne studios. The main voices are those of pastors to some 500 Chin refugees meeting every week at Mooroolbark Baptist Church, Melbourne. News has already been received from some in the remote rural areas where the Chin people live that they have listened to the program, and the radio signal was very clear.

[www.hcjb.org.au](http://www.hcjb.org.au)

– *Voice & Hands, June 2013*

### New Venture For The Philippines

GLOBAL Recordings Network Aust have felt led to investigate a new initiative: purchasing a bus to run as a business in the Solomon Islands to generate income for their work there. The goal is for the team there to be financially independent of Australia. This project fits well with the skills of Jones Sanga, one of their workers who has transport experience, and research indicates that there is significant demand and good profitability from this type of business in Honiara. The income from such a business could provide sufficient funds to support an office and a number of staff. [globalrecordings.net/en/au](http://globalrecordings.net/en/au)

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

### Sharing With The Unreached

AN unreached people, as defined by the *Joshua Project*, is 'a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelise this people group'. One of the college mission teams sent out from Sydney Missionary & Bible College this year was a group of students who worked amongst just such a people group in Asia. Although outwardly committed to a major world religion, in private these people often have a complex mixture of folk beliefs. Most believe their prayers offer protection from evil nocturnal spirits; many revere their ancestors and visit their graves. Superstitious practices surround life events like crop planting, childbirth, entering manhood, marriage and death. The students worked with local Christians who have given up their jobs to teach English or literacy to open doors for quiet and careful sharing of the truth. Others had come to Christ as a result of visions or dreams which God used to lead them to Christians. Some have opened their homes to local children and share the truth with them as opportunities present. This is not a safe or easy place for Christians, but those involved see God at work, bringing people out of the shadows to meet His Son, the Light of the World.

— Anthony Brammall, SMBC News.

### Anniversaries And Opportunities

IN March Fusion Australia celebrated the official opening of their own centre at Cranebrook in Western Sydney. It is 30 years since their work began in the area. Then June marked the 10th year of running youth crisis accommodation in a new government funded building in South East Melbourne, a ministry amongst homeless young people that has been operating for well over 30 years. Also Fusion's work in Western Australia will reach the 40th year mark this year. It would be difficult to quantify the number of lives which have been changed and the impact on those communities made over that long period by God's grace. Fusion is part of the Charity Mobile Plan, a partnership between Network Communications and Optus. If you sign up or renew your existing Optus post-paid plan with NC, you can choose to support Fu-

sion at no extra cost. Fusion then receives a 5% donation of your monthly mobile bills. Call Network Communications on 1300 118 281.

### Some Melbourne Events

- 4-11 August will be the inaugural African Enterprise week which includes the Great Big Annual Dinner, a \$10 light meal of soup, rolls, cake and fruit to raise money for the work of AE. This will be at 'Beth Tephillah' 55 Park Cres, North Williamstown on Wednesday 7 August at 6.30 pm. Book before 5 August (03) 9397 2430 or at [pastors@bethtephillah.com](mailto:pastors@bethtephillah.com)

- MuktiMission is hosting a visit by Lorraine Francis to Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane from 22 August to 10 September. Lorraine, with her husband Anil, has worked in India with Mukti for 25 years. She has amazing stories to tell of God's transforming power in the lives of destitute and abandoned babies, girls and women of all ages. She will be in Victoria from 21-22 August and 4-6 September, the major event in Melbourne being a dinner on 6 September at New Hope Baptist Church, North Blackburn. Bookings to Jill on (03) 9890 0211.

- Sherwin Mariano, CEO of Vineyard Of His Grace Ministries in the Philippines, is also visiting Australia during August and September to share his story and his ministry. Sherwin was sponsored through International Needs Aust as a child. Meetings in Melbourne will be from 17-24 August at Geelong, Ringwood and Blackburn, including a Philippine cake and coffee afternoon on 24 August in Ringwood. For details go to:

[www.internationalneeds.org.au](http://www.internationalneeds.org.au)

Earlier this year Vineyard Youth Camp was run for the first time, enabled by Australian donations through IN. Over 100 disadvantaged teenagers spend three days together, supported by 27 volunteers. The theme for the camp was *Jesus Cares About Me*, a life-changing lesson for these young people from some of the poorest regions in the country. Campers were given lessons on health and hygiene, first aid and career options, as well as hearing about God's view on manhood and womanhood.

### WITH CHRIST: Kathleen Elizabeth Coleman, 27 January 1926 – 17 July 2013.

THE *New Life* family gives thanks to God for the life and witness of our dear friend Kaye Coleman, devoted wife of our second editor, The Rev John Coleman. Kaye came into a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ early in life and from then on 'gave (her)self wholly to the work of the Lord' first in the Salvation Army then as a pastor's wife in Baptist Churches in England, Perth (WA) and Camberwell (Vic). Kaye was a cherished member of Camberwell Baptist Church for 41 years, the first 12 as the minister's wife. She had a firm and exuberant faith, and like Dorcas of old 'was full of good works'. Widely known as an excellent cook, it was less well known that she was a diabetic and therefore unable to savour much of the fruit of her own labours, which others so greatly enjoyed. Kaye never sought the limelight, yet did so much in the background. She often came in to *New Life* to prepare the materials needed for distribution and remained a firm encourager of the editors who followed John. As she entered into the presence of the Lord she simply said: 'It will be wonderful!'



## GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

# Church In Tunisia Invests In The Future

THE Anglican Church in Tunisia has embarked on an ambitious project to create new facilities for theological training, community outreach and hospitality provision to address the spiritual and social needs of a growing indigenous congregation. 'There is a moment of opportunity in Tunisia at the moment. Tunisian Christians are being recognised and accepted, even consulted by the new government,' revealed Bishop Bill Musk, Rector of St George's Anglican Church in Tunisia's capital Tunis and Assistant Bishop for North Africa Episcopal Area in the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa. 'New believers are appearing at a fast rate and they need help in maturing and becoming meaningful church members. Leaders especially need training and forming within their own context and this needs to be handled very sensitively in a Muslim-majority nation,' said the bishop.

'The main goal of the Legacy Project is to provide theological training for future leaders of the North African Anglican and other church communities,' said Bishop Musk. 'This will include on-site training of local leaders and bringing students from other countries in North Africa to study in Tunis.'

St George's Anglican Church in Tunis is set in a poor yet bustling community of Hafsia in downtown Tunis, famous for its large second-hand markets and has over 300 congregants. 'St George's also wants to establish facilities for community outreach to empower local people,' said the Bishop. 'We want to create better facilities for hospitality such as larger kitchen facility, modern restrooms, storage space, and a worship space for small groups; establish seminar rooms for theological training, classrooms and workshops for community outreach, accommodation for trainers and trainees and a medium-sized worship space for small groups.'

– Bellah Zulu, *Anglican Journal*, via *Worldwide Photos*



*Bishop Bill Musk, Rector of St George's Anglican Church, Tunis. Photo: Diocese of Egypt.*

## An Afghan Church Grows In Delhi

BETWEEN 200 and 250 Afghan converts from Islam to Christianity who feared persecution from the Afghan authorities and the Taliban have found refuge in Delhi. In a South Delhi neighbourhood, the sound of a man reciting Dari, a Farsi dialect spoken in Afghanistan, over a loudspeaker attached to a modest two-story building rises over the din of vegetable hawkers. The building is a church run by Afghan refugees who have converted to Christianity. The man is a young Afghan priest reading the Bible before a Sunday service in its basement.

'The number of converts to Christianity increased as the US presence increased after the fall of the Taliban,' says the pastor, who leads the Bible service. 'Most of the Christian converts lived in urban areas, so the threat from the Taliban was minimal,' he added. But the Christian converts started fleeing Afghanistan around 2005, fearing their identities might become public. Most came to India after video footage of their secret churches found its way to Noorin TV, a Kabul-based television network, in May 2009. Their lives were further endangered in 2010, when an influential member of the lower house of the Afghan Parliament, Abdul Sattar

Khawasi, called for the converts' execution.

The pastor said that what started him on his road to Christianity was distress over infighting between different Muslim factions in Afghanistan.

'Everybody in Afghanistan claimed to be a true Muslim and kept fighting,' he said. 'I couldn't find a single Muslim in them.' Then he met some Christian missionaries working in Afghanistan. 'The fact that God has given His son to His followers in Christianity is what attracted me towards the religion,' he added.

The pastor left his parents in 2007 after he received a number of threats to his life from Muslim Afghans. His family did not approve of his new religion. 'The families of many converts became very hostile when they learned about their conversions,' he added.

Afghanistan recognizes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which includes the freedom to choose one's religion. The war-torn country has also signed and ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but it adheres to a conservative interpretation of Islamic law.

– Neyaz Farooque

## GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD ...

### TIME TO POSSESS THE LAND IN GREECE

OVER 300 volunteers descended on the Biblical town of Neapolis (the modern Kavala) to partake in what is potentially the biggest evangelistic effort in the history of Greece. The project is being co-ordinated by Hellenic Ministries; an indigenous evangelistic ministry in Greece is in the midst of an ambitious plan to distribute a million copies of the New Testament in modern Greek. Very few people in Greece have ever read the Bible. To them it is a 2,000 year old book written in an archaic Greek that only the academics and theologians can understand. Up until fairly recently it was the only translation available and it didn't even need to be translated because it was the original language but the modern Greek regards the Bible as an archaic book completely irrelevant to the stresses and problems of modern life.

#### Vision

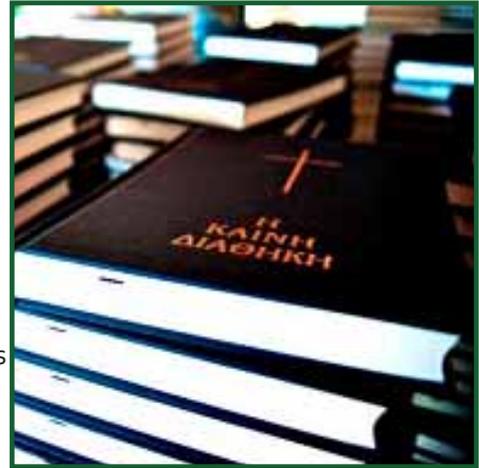
*Operation Joshua* is Hellenic Ministries' effort to facilitate a Bible distribution program throughout the entire nation of Greece. It was birthed out of the desire to see all of Greece canvassed systematically with the Gospel, reaching the hundreds of cities, isolated towns and rural villages for Christ. In faith, Hellenic Ministries are marching out into the land to systematically cover all of mainland Greece with the light of the Gospel – by prayer, proclamation and the distribution of God's Word. It is their desire that the Word of God, in modern Greek, be available in every home and for every Greek.

#### History of Operation Joshua

*Operation Joshua* follows two successful Bible distribution projects to the Greek islands originally called *Operation Gideon*. During *Operation Gideon* in 2004 and 2006 Greece's 80 inhabited islands were covered with the distribution of New Testaments. Since then the vision has expanded to the mainland in the form of *Operation Joshua* which aims to distribute one million New Testaments to the doorstep of each home throughout Greece in the upcoming years. To put things into perspective, in the last week of July the team of volunteers distributed copies of the New Testament to 160,000 homes. Reckoning on an average of four people per household. That will mean 640,000 people will have access to the New Testament in modern, newspaper Greek. They can then truthfully say, 'This is all Greek to me!'

Johnathan Macris, President of Hellenic Ministries, is very upbeat about the prospects for this project, 'We are encouraged to believe that if just 3.2 % of these people actually respond to the Gospel invitation presented in the packages and receive Christ as their personal Saviour we will actually double the number of evangelical believers in Greece. And even if just 1% respond it will mean reaping a harvest of 6,400 people coming to know the Lord. Is anything too hard for the Lord? This is a huge day of opportunity. Perhaps never since the days of the Early Church has Greece been more ready to receive the good news of personal salvation in Christ. We are asking people all over the world to join us in praying for a significant breakthrough in this unique opportunity.'

– Nico Bougas, ASSIST News Service



*'THIS is a huge day of opportunity. Perhaps never since the days of the Early Church has Greece been more ready to receive the good news of personal salvation in Christ. We are asking people all over the world to join us in praying for a significant breakthrough in this unique opportunity.'*

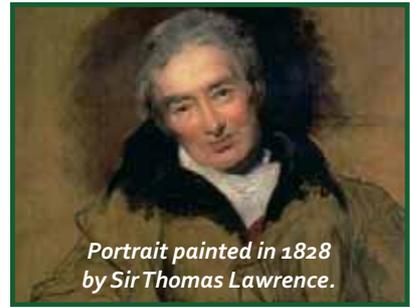


**Local Greek women gladly receiving the Word.**

**'... LIVING STILL ...'**

## **The Power Of Persevering Faith**

THE Rev John Ross, Minister of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus Free Church, reports via Facebook that on 26 July 1833, as William Wilberforce lay dying, word was brought to him that the Bill to outlaw slavery everywhere in the British Empire had passed in Parliament. The dream for which he had struggled for decades was now within sight of fulfilment! Forty years earlier when tempted to give up the struggle, Wilberforce had received this encouragement from the dying John Wesley:



*Portrait painted in 1828  
by Sir Thomas Lawrence.*

Dear Sir:

Unless the divine power has raised you up to be as Athanasius contra mundum, I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing that execrable villainy which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them together stronger than God? O be not weary of well doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of His might, till even American slavery shall vanish away before it.

Reading this morning a tract wrote by a poor African, I was particularly struck by that circumstance that a man who has a black skin, being wronged or outraged by a white man, can have no redress; it being a 'law' in our colonies that the oath of a black against a white goes for nothing. What villainy is this?

That He who has guided you from youth up may continue to strengthen you in this and all things, is the prayer of, dear sir,

Your affectionate servant,  
John Wesley

## CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ...

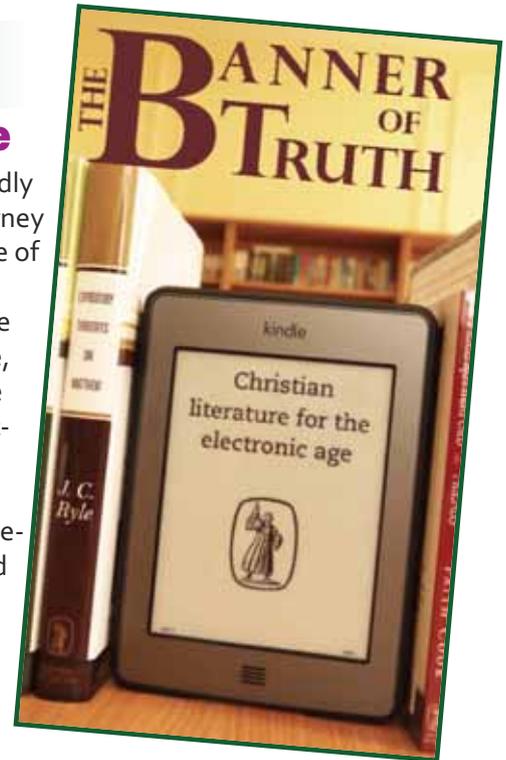
### Christian Literature For The Electronic Age

THE popularity of electronic books, or 'e-books', has increased rapidly over recent years. Anyone regularly taking a bus, train or plane journey will be well aware of that. Between 2007 and 2011, the market value of electronic reading more than trebled—and it continues to rise. This presents Christian publishers with a great opportunity—not only the potential to reach people hitherto unexposed to Christian literature, but also to make sure that quality material continues to fall into the hands of new generations of Christian believers, for whom the 'electronic age' is the only age they have ever known.

Banner Of Truth therefore plans, over coming months, to roll out many of its most well-known titles, as well as all of its new titles, in e-book format, available to download from their soon-to-be-renewed website. Once purchased and downloaded from the website, Banner's e-books will be readable on several different devices—either dedicated e-readers (like the Kindle, Nook or Kobo) or on other multi-functional devices such as smartphones, tablets, or desktop computers.

The experience of reading an e-book may not be exactly the same as reading a physical book, but for many people the convenience of being able to store, transport, and read a potentially limitless library of 'books' on an electronic device will be very useful, and in some parts of the world, a great improvement in what is currently available. Lovers of 'real' books need not fear though—the Banner will not be abandoning the medium of print any time soon. The Trust asks for prayer as it enters this new phase of its work.

'The times change,' says General Editor Jonathan Watson, 'and we, naturally to some degree, change in them. The substance of vital Christianity, however, does not change, and the aim of the Trust is, as it has been from the beginning, to produce material that is perennially useful to those who seek to honour God in the present. There is as great a need now as there was in 1957 (when Banner first began) for good Christian literature to be available, and we hope that the development of Banner e-books will help in bringing such literature to the attention of a wider readership.' [www.banneroftruth.co.uk](http://www.banneroftruth.co.uk)



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## BOOKS WORTH READING

**LET'S STUDY Colossians And Philemon, Mark G. Johnston, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2013. ISBN: Print 978 1 84871 239 3; Kindle 978 1 84871 240 9; EPUB 978 1 84871 241 6.**

PERHAPS Colossae was the most spiritually blessed spot in the 1st Century world, because it was to Colossae that the Holy Spirit revealed through the Apostle Paul the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ in all His glory, and the relation between Christ and His believing people. We therefore must see it as an invaluable piece of revelation to all churches everywhere throughout all time. *Colossians*, with its lofty expression of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, is beautifully complemented by the little letter to one of the Colossian church's greatest sons, *Philemon*, commending works which flow from faith. So the publishers rightly say: 'Let's Study Colossians And Philemon will help readers to see the horizons of both letters as extending to the Church of all ages. Paul shows us that the acid test of the spiritual health of a church is whether or not Christ is at its heart – not just in some vague and general sense, but Christ in all His glory as He is set before us in God's Word.'

Mark Johnston, formerly minister of Grove Chapel, Camberwell, London, is now the senior pastor of Proclamation Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and joins the ranks of those pastor-teachers who have the happy knack of bringing the fruit of believing scholarship into the pulpit, not to confuse but to convince their hearers of the truth of God's Word and the blessings which flow when we trust and obey it. In 17 chapters for *Colossians* and three for *Philemon*, he sets the scene for each portion being studied then gives practical application of it.

Our author has a strong sense of the continuity between the church in Biblical times and the church of today. He defines 'the Colossian problem' as being a 'drift away from Jesus Christ as He is presented in the Gospel' – surely the most often recurring cause of problems in the church in all ages. 'Even though the "Colossian problem" is tied to a particular place in the world and a specific time in history,' he writes, 'the issues bound up with it have surfaced again and again throughout the life of the church. So, being aware of what was happening there and then in the past has a lot to say to us in what we are facing here and now in the present.'

This makes *Let's Study Colossians And Philemon* a particularly valuable book for us, ideal for both personal and corporate Bible study, notwithstanding the fact that it reads more like a series of sermons than a verse-by-verse commentary – or perhaps because of that.

– Bob Thomas

**Read *The Christian Sabbath Or The Jewish Sabbath, Which Should I Follow?*  
at [www.defenceofthefait.org](http://www.defenceofthefait.org)**

**FANNY CROSBY: THE BLIND GIRL'S SONG, Lucille Travis, Christian Focus, Ross-shire, 2013, ISBN 9781781911631**

THIS book in the popular *Trailblazers* series for primary-aged children is a brief introduction to one of the most prolific writers of hymns in the English language. Writing poetry was a delight to Fanny Crosby from an early age and remained so all her long life. Sometimes her wit got her into trouble. Her gift of writing hymns has been a blessing to many Christians ever since.

The young reader will learn of Fanny's childhood, of the way her mother worked hard for her to have the education she needed, of her teaching, of her marriage and of the association Fanny had for many years with some of the well-known hymn tune writers and evangelists of her generation. Her fearlessness in speaking at evangelistic missions and her willingness to live simply so she could give to the needy she came across show the dual aspects of Fanny's Christian life. Evangelism and Christian compassion were in full view. To know more of the background to our hymns and their writers allows us to appreciate their words even more. Adults and children alike will benefit from reading this book.

– Mignon Goswell

