

## Sydney Anglicans Elect Glenn Davies 12th Archbishop

A SYNOD of more than 800 members has overwhelmingly elected Bishop Glenn Davies as the 12th Archbishop of Sydney. Dr Davies succeeded Dr Peter Jensen who held the post for 12 years. For much of Archbishop Jensen's tenure, Dr Davies served with him as Bishop of North Sydney.

Bishop Davies is an experienced leader, overseeing a large region of Sydney parishes and multi-cultural ministries as well as fulfilling other roles in the Australian church and internationally.



## Where Can You . . .



- Build and fly model aeroplanes, powered by an elastic band?
- Chat with helicopter pilots at the Police Air Wing near Melbourne, see helicopters take off and land, and sit in the cockpit?
- Fly in a Mission Aviation Cessna over the Yarra Valley doing 2G turns?
- Visit the RAAF Museum at Point Cook and talk to a retired RAAF pilot after his air display in a CT4 military trainer?
- Take the flight controls of one of ACMA's 2-seat training aircraft for the first time in a Trial Instructional Flight?
- Hear great stories from inspirational people about the work of God in their lives?
- Meet new friends who share a love of aviation?
- Eat marshmallows while chatting around a blazing campfire?
- Enjoy lots of great food?
- Play great games?

### Where can you do all this?

#### At ACMA Aviation Camp, that's where.

Nineteen young people came to Coldstream (Vic) for a fun, entertaining, interactive, informative, inspiring and eye-opening five days in July to attend the Mission Aviation Camp 2013. The campers were especially impacted by the amazing leaders (present students and staff) described by one person as a 'life-changing group of people'.

The eventual impact of these camps on young lives is unknown. However, the campers' final comments give some idea ... 'The camp was really fun and entertaining. I have learnt a lot about mission aviation, the Bible and God'; 'Eye-opening. Seriously considering my future options and choices'; ... 'Very well run, friendly staff, good food, confirmed my career choice of Aviation'.

These comments show how significant these camps are to impact young lives today and help them make important decisions about tomorrow.

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## Culture, Values And The Digital Revolution



MARK Scott, Managing Director of the ABC, labelled as 'one of God's secret agents,' was guest speaker at Christian Management Association's CBD Breakfast in Melbourne at the Athenaeum Club on 8 August. The man who describes himself as 'a card-carrying Christian', looking out at the gathering of Christian business men and church leaders said he felt 'like a lion in a den of Daniels.' Be that as it may, he gave the impression of being a man who took his robust Christian faith with him into the workplace, where it was on discreet display. As he said: 'What does being a Christian mean? It means that we leave no great credibility gap; there must be harmony between our word and our work.'

Mark Scott sees a link between journalism and faith: while on the one hand journalists are trained to be sceptical, so Christians are trained to search and seek answers; the world journalists see and the world Christians see are connected; both can see that surely life is not meant to be like this; perhaps the Salvation Army sets the best example of being where the church needs to be. Regarding his work at the ABC, Mark is presiding over a media organisation which like all others is being transformed by the digital revolution. While the dramatic cut in the cost of publishing means that virtually anybody can become a publisher, and even iconic brands are falling apart if they are unable to transition, the ABC is doing well with such innovations as iView and moving more into news, especially local news, and Australian drama.

Mark is a member of St Andrew's, Roseville, in Sydney, where the high profile minister is John Dickson. One of his favourite pastimes is reading the Bible, and he advocates reading whole books of the Bible at a time in order to 'get the big picture.'

Christian Management Association holds regular CBD Breakfasts and an Annual Conference. For further details go to: [www.cma.net.au/events/](http://www.cma.net.au/events/)

*'What does being a Christian mean? That we leave no great credibility gap. There must be harmony between our word and our work.'*

## MATTERS FOR PRAYER

### PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- *Our God, who created the Heavens and the Earth with a word from His mouth, will work multitudes of little miracles every day: to enable safe travel, to shield from shrapnel, to provide food, water and medical aid, to enable secure and efficient money transfers, to bring comfort and enable healing and to sustain faith.*
- *The Lord is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed. 'Oh, save Your people and bless Your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.'* (Psalm 28.8,9 ESV)
- *The Lord of Hosts will effect a breakthrough to end the siege of Aleppo.*
- *Islam will be totally discredited in Syria as being a highway to death and may the God of Grace reveal Himself to Syrians. 'Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I AM the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life".'* (John 8.12)

## SYRIA: Terror And Siege In The North

THE Syrian Arab Army is based in Damascus (in the south), Syria's political capital. The north is logistically difficult to defend as heavy military hardware needs to travel long distances along exposed, open roads and a long supply-line needs to be maintained. Just months ago the regime won a strategic victory in liberating Qusair (south). Now it is ascendant in the 'rebel capital' of Homs (central) in the north-south, Aleppo-Damascus corridor. However, it is still a long way to Aleppo, meaning the stalemate and siege are set to go on for some time yet. Meanwhile, the regime essentially has abandoned the remote north-east.

### Christians Abandoned In The North-East

Adjoining north-western Iraq's Nineveh Province and the Kurdish region of Eastern Turkey, north-eastern Syria's Deir al-Zour and Hasakah provinces have long been home to sizable Kurdish and Christian populations who are Syrians, Armenians and Assyrians. The region is being fought over by Kurds and jihadists, with Turkey supporting and arming al-Qaeda's al-Nusrah Front to fight the Kurds as it does not want to see an independent Kurdish state established in Syria. Across the north-east, towns and villages are slowly being emptied of Christians, as believers – who are totally defenceless – flee for their lives. Kidnappings, extortion and forced conversions are endemic. When al-Qaeda's al-Nusrah Front seized control of al-Thawrah on the Euphrates River in Ar-Raqqah Province (north central Syria), Christians fled leaving behind everything, which was looted then as war booty by Muslims. Today the roads in Ar-Raqqah are full of jihadists, making travel exceedingly dangerous. Displaced Christians, desperate to return to their own homes and jobs, are being told they will have to convert to Islam – otherwise they will be killed. For these Christians, having lost everything, the future is bleak indeed.

### The Siege Of Aleppo

Aleppo, in the north-west, has long been Syria's commercial heart. Aleppo's two million residents are predominantly loyalists, most being secular-minded, business-oriented Sunnis, as well as a 10% Christian minority. The rebels who have besieged Aleppo are overwhelmingly outsiders, being rural, madrassas-educated fundamentalist Sunnis and foreign jihadis. Having captured large tracts of Aleppo, they despise the locals as loyalists and abuse them, accusing them of being 'Shabiha' (pro-Assad militias). The rebels are also blockading all aid from government-held areas, creating siege conditions. According to a Protestant pastor in Aleppo, real hunger is driving many Christians to make the dangerous journey on foot into rebel-held territory in search of food. If food is to be found, it will be at exorbitant prices. For example, bread was 15 Lira per kg, now 225 Lira; cheese was 180-200 Lira, now 1200 Lira; powdered milk was 290 Lira, now 2000 Lira; an egg was 3 Lira, now 25 Lira. Meat, fuel, infant formula and medicines are nowhere to be seen. Without work, nobody has income and their money is running out.

On 1 August Christian aid and advocacy group Barnabas Fund published a harrowing report on the situation in Aleppo. BF's partner in Aleppo, an aid worker supplying food, water and medical care, describes a humanitarian catastrophe brought about by the rebel blockade and constant kidnappings. He reports that rebel-fired mortars are constantly landing in Christian districts, causing serious, crippling and fatal injuries to believers, young and old. Hundreds have been kidnapped, including minors, usually while trying to flee. Great effort goes into just resisting pessimism and despair. He quotes Habakkuk 3.17,18; Psalm 27.1 and Micah 7.7,8.

– *Written for the Australian Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission by Elizabeth Kendal, international religious liberty analyst and advocate, and member of the AEA RLC team.*

# TESL – A Great Way To Share The Gospel

SCOTT Sanders, of the Geneva Push church planting network, tells of the effectiveness of TESL in Gospel outreach ...

SINCE moving to Arncliffe in Sydney, I've increasingly wrestled with the question: 'How will we reach those new to Australia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?' People like me living in Arncliffe are in the minority – I'm Christian and both my parents were born in Australia. The percentage of my neighbours with both parents born overseas is 67.5% and my neighbours' top four religions are: Islam (26.2%), Roman Catholic (20.0%), Eastern Orthodox (15.6%), and No Religion (11.9%)



According to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, the number of new people to Australia in 2011–12 totaled 245,270 people, an increase of 14.9% over the previous year. New Zealand has become the main source country, followed closely by India, the People's Republic of China and the United Kingdom. Keep in mind that these figures do not include the refugees who in desperation fled their homelands to find a home and safety in Australia.

Jesus' words ring true: 'The harvest is plentiful, but the reapers are few ...' Before us is an amazing opportunity to reach the nations right on our door step. We need to continually experiment with different kinds of evangelism whether new church plants, congregation plants within churches, new fellowships that ripen into church plants, re-potting old churches – while also creating new opportunities and ventures within our existing churches to reach our neighbours 'from all nations' (Matthew 28.18-20).

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

### ESL – A Great Opportunity

Over the last 12 months, Grace Christian Community has been running a weekly English Club in their local library. It's attended by 12-14 students. During the first hour a lesson on an English topic is covered, followed by a reading from a Gospel together in the second hour. It's proved to be a wonderful way to love their community as well as share the Gospel. Salt Church in Wollongong has made new connections with Japanese Students in their area.

These are just two examples of how Teaching English as a Second Language can become a great outreach tool. Let's keep praying to the God of the nations that He would use us to be a light to this world.

To find out more about effective Gospel outreach and church planting go to: [genevpush.com](http://genevpush.com)

**SPRINGTIME  
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**Sunday, 15 September 2013**  
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**SPECIAL GUEST ITEMS:**

**RICHARD THOMAS** — OUTSTANDING MUSIC THEATRE PERFORMER  
He recently concluded the role as 'The Phantom' in Wombat Theatre Company's 'Phantom Of The Opera'. Over the last 15 years, he has performed in nine major theatre productions and at numerous corporate, charitable and musical events. Richard is a popular wedding singer and a regular artist for St Paul's Cathedral and the Melbourne Singers. Last year he performed for Princess Charlene of Monaco at the opening of the Grace Kelly Style Icon Exhibition. He has recorded three superb albums.

**THE LAU TRIO** — KYLIE, DAVID and RACHEL LAU  
Kylie (guitar), David (drums/vocals) and Rachel (bells) are siblings who have grown up playing together. All classically trained musicians, they each teach music from their home in Melbourne. It has been their great joy and privilege to share their music in a variety of events in Australia and overseas, but they mostly enjoy sharing the great songs of their faith in worship of God.

**SAXOPHONIST - ALANA MOSS** — will present two beautiful pieces.  
Alana has performed at many events at Monash Secondary College including fundraising and music nights and has won several awards. She has been playing the saxophone for six and a half years and recently won 'The Lightning Ridge Talent Quest' prize of \$1,000. Alana is a valued member of our SOP Music Ensemble.

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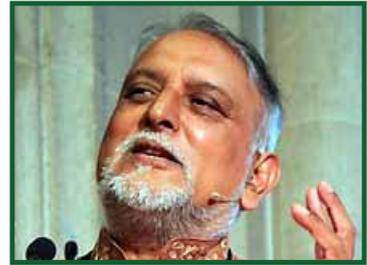
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& SONGS**





## TAKING THE WORD TO THE WORLD ...

### What Made The West Great?



BESTSELLING author of *The Book That Made Your World*, Dr Vishal Mangalwadi has stimulated audiences in Brisbane with his insights on what made the West great. In a nutshell, the answer is 'Christianity'. 'Christianity uniquely paved the way for freedom for the oppressed,' Vishal told the crowd of over 200 at the Mueller Performing Arts Centre, Rothwell and at a seminar at Beenleigh. 'Christianity shaped the West into a thinking, humane, optimistic, just and moral civilisation,' he said. 'It also inspired a search for truth – facilitating scientific, technological and economic success.'

Dr Mangalwadi was born and raised in India, where he studied philosophy – surrounded by Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic cultures. 'Indian philosophical traditions do not cultivate the intellect,' he said. 'They believe that rationality is a product of cosmic illusion – maya. The Christian belief in the idea of logos, or the rational word, laid the foundations of modern Western civilisation.' He urged Australia not to abandon these vital foundations.

An audience member asked him why multiculturalism doesn't seem to be working. 'Things don't work when people are not bound together by one law and one God,' Vishal replied. 'Australia does not need to go into decline. There is hope for renewal if we return to biblical values: upholding marriage, protecting life and preserving freedom.'

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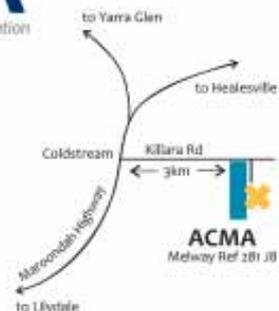
**Saturday 7 Sept 2013 11am-4pm**

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## VIEWPOINT



### ACL Welcomes Push By Melbourne City Council To Ban Sexualised Advertising

THE Australian Christian Lobby has welcomed the decision by Melbourne City Council to push for the banning of ads that sexualise women. ACL spokesperson Wendy Francis says the initiative is a much-needed step towards dealing with the objectification of women in outdoor advertising. 'ACL congratulates Lord Mayor Robert Doyle for his stand against offensive and sexist imagery in Melbourne's public spaces,' she says. 'This sets an example for other city councils around Australia to crack down on sexualised advertising that threatens our children's innocence and promotes negative representations of women and girls.'

Apart from advocating for a ban on advertising that sexualises and objectifies women, the Council will also encourage the community to report such material. The plan also includes creating special safety zones for women in the inner city with CCTV surveillance, strong lighting and security patrols. 'It is encouraging also to see the Brisbane City Council pass new legislation around flashing billboards so they don't cause distraction to drivers. We urge other city councils and state governments to follow suit; there is currently an inquiry into sexualised outdoor advertising in Queensland to provide greater regulation around this issue.'

### POSITION VACANT - MCBC

Melbourne Chinese Bible Church (MCBC) is currently seeking expressions of interest for a Pastoral Leader (part-time) for the English speaking congregation.

MCBC is located in the West of Melbourne with approximately 100 regular members.

#### Essential requirements include:

A genuine commitment to the Evangelical Faith and a passion for teaching God's Word.

A certified qualification or current training in Theology or Ministry is strongly desired.

Experience in pastoral care and counselling is further advantageous.

#### For more information, please contact:

The Pastoral Search Co-ordinator, Mr Charlie Huynh,  
by email at [ckvhuynh@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ckvhuynh@optusnet.com.au)

Applications close at the end of September, 2013.

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### 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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When you are finished there, click on the back button to return to *NEW LIFE*.

## CHURCH AND NATION

### ACL Announces Premier Election Event: *Make It Count 2013* Election Panel

THE Australian Christian Lobby announces its *Make It Count 2013* Election Panel event will be webcast live on Monday 2 September in the lead-up to the federal election. The panel event will be comprised of leading Christian thinkers and subject matter experts: Rev Dr Keith Garner, Chief Executive Officer and Superintendent of Wesley Mission; Hon John Anderson, former Deputy Prime Minister; Hon Robert McClelland, former Attorney-General and retiring ALP member for Barton; Dr Megan Best, bioethicist and palliative care specialist; Dr Justine Toh, Centre for Public Christianity. ACL Managing Director Lyle Shelton will facilitate the discussion in front of a live studio audience around issues including refugees, gambling, poverty, sexualisation of society, family and marriage, religious freedom, life issues and more.

This event is being made available for churches by registering at [webcast.australiavotes.org.au](http://webcast.australiavotes.org.au) Mr Shelton said it is the first time the ACL has used a panel event during an election and was confident it would provide essential information for Christians in helping them decide how to vote. The event is organised by Australian Christian Lobby and sponsored by Christian Super.

### Fred Nile Condemns Kevin Rudd's Promise Concerning Legal Same-Sex Marriage

THE Rev Fred Nile, leader of the Christian Democratic Party, has strongly condemned Mr Rudd's promise to introduce same-sex marriage legislation within 100 days should he be re-elected as Prime Minister. 'Sadly, Mr Abbott avoided giving a clear answer to the same-sex marriage question and said it would be up to the newly elected Party Room if he is elected as Prime Minister,' said Fred Nile. 'These answers, by both potential Prime Ministers, are totally unsatisfactory. This means the Australian voters, who oppose legal same-sex marriage, have no option but to vote one for the Christian Democratic Party Federal Candidates and then the party of their choice. The Christian Democratic political party is firmly opposed to same-sex marriage as it fully supports Australia's historic, traditional marriage between a man and a woman.'

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## ON THE JOB IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL ...

### EVANGELISM IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD – THESSALONIKI, GREECE – A PRACTICAL MODEL



LAST year, when I was starting to consider which country to visit for my church planting practicum, my initial reaction and interest was fixed on Europe. Why? I was fascinated with the notion that Christianity as a religion and as a social convention had existed in Europe in one form or another for 2,000 years. Indeed, a few short years after Christ gave the Great Commission, Europe was one of the first places to receive the Good News. Europe would soon be the home of almost every cultural and social revolution that humanity could conjure up over the next few millennia; revolutions that would sway away from the idea of religion, and then return back to it, but with a steady trend towards humanism.

As a high-school student who 'majored' in modern history, seeing the various effects and perspectives on religion projected by the Dark Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the French Revolution, Industrial Revolution, and the many wars started, sparked my interest in the survival of Christianity as a social influence in Europe. So, when presented with the opportunity to travel to another field and observe church planting techniques, I wanted to know how one went about planting a church in a country where Christianity has long been established but had since faded into irrelevancy. And as Providence would have it, Thessaloniki, Greece was the perfect opportunity to observe evangelism in a post-Christian world.

It is clear that something has to change in the way that the church is going about reaching the lost, especially those wrapped in the consumeristic, humanistic philosophy that has engulfed modern Western civilisation. Christianity as a whole is on the decline, especially when you look at the influence of Christian thought in past centuries compared to now. This undeniable influence was what propelled Christianity forward in terms of evangelism in times past, but today that same methodology does not transpose very well into the 21st Century.

#### **Thessaloniki In The 21st Century And Today**

As you may have observed, there are many points of difference between today's church – the body of Christ – and the host culture at large. Ralph Winter describes it something like this: On a continuum where you have numbers, each number represents one significant cultural barrier to the effective communication of the Gospel. These barriers might include language, cultural expression and differences in world view, all of which the long-established church has firmly distinct set standards. In cross-cultural mission, we can easily see the differences in culture and language and must package the Good News of Christ in a way that is understandable to the host culture.

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**Very little has been uncovered at ancient Thessalonica because Thessaloniki sits atop the remains. The area pictured above and at right was formerly a bus station; when it was moved in 1962, this 1st or 2nd Century AD Forum was revealed. Excavators found a bathhouse and mint dating to the 1st Century AD below pavement surrounding an odeum. An inscription (30BC to AD143) from the Vardar gate bears the word *politarches*, the word Luke used in reference to the officials of the city before whom Jason was brought by the mob (Acts 17.6). The word does not appear in any other Greek literature but does match the archaeology of the site.**

## ON THE JOB IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL ...

(Page 8) But we don't often think that way when it comes to evangelism amongst predominantly Western cultures in Europe, the USA, Australia etc, because we assume that Christianity's longevity in Western culture warrants its future success. We need to reconsider this assumption.

The church has its own language, its own cultural expressions (music, films, art in general), and its own world views, each of which are different in varying degrees from that of the majority of today's Western culture. Of course, back in the day when Christianity almost dictated cultural norms, these distinctions particular to the church were not a problem, as the church was a major influence on society and therefore was directing cultural traffic (for better or for worse) inside its own – rather large – sphere of influence. Today, that sphere of influence has shrunk considerably, and the church is becoming increasingly isolated as a result.

While the church still has the potential to reach those within its own cultural orbit, in order to evangelise beyond the rapidly shrinking sphere of influence that the church has, we as believers have to adopt a cross-cultural missional policy – even within our own so called 'culture'. Often, western church evangelism is centred around bringing people from other cultures and other backgrounds into the safe folds of the church culture.

### **Cultural Diversity**

In effect, we try to remove them from the society of which they have previously been a part, and 'church' them into the social group that has been the church. We expect them to do the cross-cultural work to change themselves to fit the model of the church. The more we 'convert' others, the more we are effectively distancing ourselves from the host culture as we are developing our own culture and expecting new-comers to adopt said culture.

According to Alan Hirsch in his discussion about post-Christian evangelism, this is contrary to what Christ intended missions to be for three reasons:

1. Mission is to be inherently incarnational. It doesn't matter whether you are trying to reach a 'foreign' culture or not, Jesus showed us that we are to get in amongst a culture, spend time building relationships, and we are to communicate the Gospel within an existing culture.
2. It violates the command of Christ to 'go' and make disciples not to merely draw people into the church, or expect them to be attracted to the church through traditional means of evangelism.
3. If you bring everyone into the same place you can no longer circulate ideas that spread a movement or 'viral mentality'. Essentially stagnation of the spirit occurs.

Einstein asserts that the problems in the world cannot be solved with the same thought paradigms that created those problems in the first place. So in applying that logic to the current issue, we need to look at new cross-cultural ways to meet the people of Western civilisation where they are, and pioneer new ways of establishing and discipling groups of Christ-centred people.

### **Pastoral Experience Of Thessaloniki**

While in Thessaloniki, a city which has known Christianity since the time of Paul, I observed and participated in an evangelistic method usually used in a cross-cultural setting, even though the target of the evangelism was a group of native Greek young adults.

The method employed by the pastor was not to distribute literature, or to invite the group to a church outreach event, or even to share those four spiritual truths. It was simply to invest time in building a relationship with them in their cultural norm. The pastor would watch movies, play sport and share a meal with them, all the while building a genuine relationship and being Christ's ambassador in the lives of these young adults. In the time that I was amongst them, I could see that the pastor was well respected in the eyes of the young adults, and that the young adults were now quite comfortable in visiting the church to spend time with the pastor. It's this sort of relationship that God can then use to sow the seed of the Gospel into the heart of the unbeliever.

In a discussion I had with the pastor, he described his methodology like this: 'People don't care what you know, until they know that you care'. And I think that in a civilisation that has grown tired of 'the church's' organisational influence and tentacle approach to evangelism, this sort of cross-cultural attitude is at least one way that we can see the expansion of God's Kingdom in a post-Christian world.

– Blaine Packer



*Blaine Packer is studying for a Bachelor of Cross-Cultural Ministry degree at Worldview Centre For Intercultural Studies in Launceston, Tasmania.*

*Blaine's previous articles may be viewed at*

[www.pressserviceinternational.org/blaine-packer.html](http://www.pressserviceinternational.org/blaine-packer.html)

*The picture and quote in the side-bar on page eight are from:*

[www.bibleplaces.com/thessalonica.htm](http://www.bibleplaces.com/thessalonica.htm)

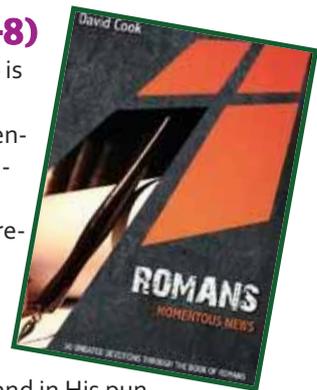
**Knowing God**

**(Read Romans 3.1-8)**

IF, as far as God is concerned, Jews are not better off than anyone else, what advantage is there in being a Jew, one of God's people?

Paul says the advantages are many, although he lists only one (v.2). Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God, the Old Testament Scriptures. Israel's supreme privilege is that she was the first to know the mind of God.

Paul anticipates two other questions. The first is in 3.3,4. Does Jewish unfaithfulness release God from His obligation to be faithful? 'No way!' says Paul. 'God always remains faithful.' Calvin said that this is 'the primary axiom of all Christian philosophy.' God is faithfully committed to His Word. David acknowledged (v.4, see Psalm 51.4) that God was just to punish him for his sin. God is therefore faithful. He stands by His covenant promises and His covenant threats. His faithfulness is seen in His punishment of David and in His punishment of Jewish faithlessness.



**FOR REFLECTION:**

*The condemnation of the Jews is a reminder to us that one can be zealous, knowledgeable and religious, and yet not know God.*

*Do you know God or do you merely know about God?*

The second question comes in vv.5-8. If God's faithfulness is shown when He punishes our sin, then why not continue sinning? Isn't God unjust to punish us when our sin highlights His faithfulness? 'Absolutely not!' Paul responds strongly (v.6). If that were the case, God could never judge us. Notice here how Paul accepts God's judgment as a fact. It is immovable. Your thinking is wrong if it rules out God's judgment.

Paul says that those who justify sinning because it enhances God's character are justly condemned (v.8). Paul had been slandered. It was claimed he encouraged sin, no doubt because of his emphasis on faith, not works. Others were not slandered like this, no doubt because their version of the Gospel had an element of human contribution to it.

In the endeavour to justify ourselves and condemn God, we see the depth of sin in the human heart. If a doctrine causes us to have a slack attitude to sin, and to live below God's moral standard, then it is not the truth. It is not of God.

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

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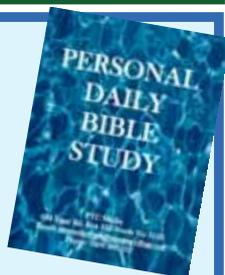
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## PERSECUTION WATCH

### Syrian Rebels To Assyrian Christian Refugees: 'If You Want To Come Back, Convert To Islam, Or Be Killed'

ACCORDING to the Assyrian International News Agency ([www.aina.org](http://www.aina.org)), Assyrian Christians who have fled from an area of Syria called al-Thawrah (also known as al-Tabqah), have been told by rebels, 'If you want to come back, convert to Islam, or you will be killed.'

An AINA story monitored by the ASSIST News Service ([www.assistnews.net](http://www.assistnews.net)), said, 'Accounts by Assyrian refugees from Syria reveal the real face of the Islamist undercurrent within the Syrian opposition. Furthermore, these accounts serve as a stark and chilling reminder of what has already been suffered by non-Muslim communities in Iraq since 2003.'

On 11 February, rebel fighters from the al-Nusra Front took control of the city and its strategic dam, the largest of its kind in the country. They also seized control of the three quarters that housed dam workers – many of whom were Christian Assyrians. Whilst they allowed the dam's original staff to remain in the city in order to continue its operation, management and upkeep, those who were not Sunni Muslim were not afforded the same privilege.

One Assyrian refugee was reported as saying, 'Everything is now in Jabhat al-Nusra's hands. All the Muslims stayed there, but if any Christians want to go back they have to become Muslim or else they will be killed.' The story goes on to say that Christians report their property being stolen, their homes confiscated, and their possessions being sold on the black market in order to buy weapons and ammunition.



Assyrian Christians at prayer

#### VIETNAM: Couple Beaten, Threatened by Officials For Accepting Christ

A VIETNAMESE couple have been beaten and threatened by officials for converting to Christianity. The wife was hit in the face with a stick, and the authorities threatened to take the couple's land and home if they did not renounce Christ and return to Buddhism. The couple became Christians last month. They have three sons, aged 10, 12 and 14, and survive by subsistence farming. The Communist regime in Vietnam views Christianity as a Western import that poses a threat to 'national unity.'

#### EGYPT: Muslim Youth Help To Defend Churches Under Attack By Morsi Supporters

MUSLIM youth helped to protect churches in Minya from invasion by suspected supporters of ousted Islamist president Mohammad Morsi. Molotov cocktails were thrown at two church buildings on Saturday 27 July, but the assailants were blocked from breaking into them by local Muslims and Christians who were guarding the sites. Two other church buildings in the area had previously been raided on 3 July. Christians have been targeted in Minya as a result of sectarian tensions related to Morsi's removal from power. Three, including one child, have been killed and Christian homes attacked, prompting several Christian families to leave.

#### Anti-Conversion May Get Stricter

STRICTER anti-conversion laws may be imposed in central India. The state of Madhya Pradesh already makes it

hard to apply to change religions. Last month, legislators proposed an amendment so the law requires a one-month notice for conversions. Anyone resisting will get up to four years in prison and heavy fines. It's still under consideration. The Voice of the Martyrs says this encourages more harassment of pastors and Christian converts. Pray for religious freedom in India.

Full story: <http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/18829>

#### Indonesian Evangelists Jailed For Three Years

TWO Christians in Indonesia have been given a three-year jail sentence after being arrested originally for 'evangelising Muslims'. The two Christians, known as Kashfi Rasyid and Jalaludin, were convicted despite their lawyer's insistence in court that the trial violated their human rights. Much of the debate in court revolved around whether or not the pair were in fact still Muslims because of their religious background. The men insisted they were Christians. Five other families associated with the ministry which the men lead were forced to flee for their lives. Release has provided practical support to help them to resettle elsewhere. Lawyers for the two men say they plan to appeal to a higher court.

– Release Partners

Only a minute to read, but food for thought for the whole day!

Short devotional blogs at:  
[www.barbarafurman.com](http://www.barbarafurman.com)

## **Christian Resources For PNG Schools**

FOR many years there have been countless denominations and sects in Papua New Guinea, all teaching their own brand of religion. Recently the Alotau Pastors' Fraternal, Milne Bay Province, embraced the vision to bring true Christian religious education into schools. This need had been expressed by various teachers and pastors who taught at the schools.

Following this, CRMF Learning Technologies, now partnering with Mission Aviation Fellowship in PNG, received a request to research the materials available for such a project. The task is to have a standard curriculum that would cover the doctrines of the established mainland churches and the teachings of the various Pentecostal movements represented in the country.

It was resolved that the Word of God was the only way to solve the issue of what to teach. Now the LT team has the task of thoroughly checking to see that denominational emphases are not obvious in the Word of God-based material.



– Caine Rurak, *Flying For Life*, August 2013

### **In The Footsteps Of Paul Around Greece And Turkey**

HAVE you ever wished you could see 'where it all happened' for yourself? Well, an opportunity exists for visiting the Biblical sites in Turkey and Greece (the Seven Churches of Revelation and some of the places where the Apostle Paul travelled). Rev Gerald Vanderwert is leading a tour to these places from 19 March to 7 April 2014 (Turkey) with the optional Greece extension from 7 to 16 April. Speaking of his own experience from previous trips, Gerald Vanderwert says, 'Visiting these places changed my life and brought a whole new perspective to my reading of the New Testament. In addition to the Biblical sites, what I also found to be of great interest was the richness of the Turkish history and culture. There is so much to learn, experience and see, that you will really be enriched by it. The food is great, and you will need to forget any aspirations of weight loss! You will also get to visit Gallipoli – an experience that will be etched in your mind for the rest of your life. We have planned the itinerary to include time for relaxation as well, and time for shopping at the famous Grand Bazaar in Istanbul.' For more information contact Gerald Vanderwert at [vander@alphalink.com.au](mailto:vander@alphalink.com.au) and obtain an itinerary.

### **Changes Afoot For CRE Here?**

STUART Conkie, Melbourne Director of OAC Ministries, writes: 'It seems to me that community attitudes towards Christian Religious Education in schools are changing, that more parents are denying permission for their children to be a part of CRE. I think OAC needs to be looking at potential new approaches in the not-too-distant future. As the number of students not doing CRE increases so does the inconvenience to schools. Recently we assisted a CRE team that, instead of half hour classes each week, had arranged with the school to have a half day once a term with the students. Our team presented to the whole school for an hour at the start of the

day and then each year level had follow up on the teaching. The school was very happy with the way the whole program worked.

– OAM Ministries Victoria

### **Christian Publishing In Cuba**

WITH the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990, Cuba adopted a more tolerant attitude towards religious expression. Within five years the church doubled in size and has continued to grow rapidly. Overflowing churches are planting new congregations both locally and further afield. Training pastors to meet the need for leadership is challenging. Typically, seminary students are already pastoring congregations. Most can't afford to relocate or study full-time. In a country where transport is scarce and costly, extension courses bring Bible training to local church communities. Over 1,000 church planters, pastors and members of their congregations are currently studying the Moore College in Latin America intensive Bible overview courses. They represent more than 12 denominations and 11 of Cuba's 15 provinces. To meet the demand for books generated by these courses publisher Torrentes de Vida has begun printing books in Cuba. Supported by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Aust, a Spanish edition of *Preaching The Whole Bible As Christian Scripture* by Graeme Goldsworthy has been published and made available to church planters and pastors in the strategic interdenominational *Training The Trainers* program.

### **Generous Support For Christian Radio**

LISTENERS around the nation have demonstrated support for their local Christian radio station during this year's radiothon season. On-air appeals at the capital city stations and the nation-wide Vision Radio Network have received donations totalling more than \$2.6 million. Hope 103.2 in Sydney raised a record amount of \$792,632 while 89.9 Light FM Melbourne raised an amazing \$816,939. The station shared how LightFM has helped Create Belief in the lives of listeners by telling many of their stories.

– Renee Garvin, *SquawkBox*

## **When God Leads Children**

WHEN Golden, a young teenager in a high caste Hindu family, began attending SIM's Duncan Academy at Raxaul in India, he heard about Jesus for the first time. Families from a variety of religious communities regularly send their children to this Christian school because it provides the best education available in their rural town. Through the witness he heard at Duncan, Golden quietly became a believer. His brother Ajit also became a believer and together the two boys began to grow in their faith. And while the seeds of faith were planted by teachers at Duncan Academy, they sprouted and grew without the knowledge of any believing adults.

One day a visiting Australian volunteer came in contact with the brothers and learnt that they were believers. Delighted and amazed, she was able to connect the boys with some leaders in the local church so they could be encouraged in their faith. As their story continued to unfold, it became evident that perhaps these boys had just as much to teach as they had to learn.

Before any adult was involved in mentoring them, Golden and Ajit had felt called to reach out to those in need. All by themselves they had established a ministry to the children in the untouchable caste. Three days a week, after they finish their own studies at Duncan Academy, they transfer what they're learning by teaching, reading, writing, maths and Bible to a group of boys from the poorest slum in town. They happily recount how God has blessed this endeavour in response to their prayers – even providing a meeting place for their small class. – *SIM Aus July e-news*

### **SAT-7 Earns Human Rights Journalism Award**

THE Lebanese Centre for Human Rights recently granted Juliana Sfeir, on behalf of SAT-7, the *Human Rights Journalism Award*. Sfeir is a Special Projects Manager at SAT-7 Lebanon and is an Executive Producer of social impact programs for SAT-7. The Lebanese Centre for Human Rights granted the award to five recipients 'for their dedication to promoting Human Rights through the media.' SAT-7 has produced quality programming advocating for human rights since 2003. It is an honour for SAT-7 to be recognized for its professionalism and high-calibre work alongside several other prestigious organizations such as *L'Orient le Jour*, *The Daily Star* and the UN news service, *IRIN*.

### **Springtime 'Songs Of Praise'!**

SPRINGTIME Songs Of Praise', will be held on Sunday 15 September from 2pm to 4.45pm at Diamond Valley Baptist mud brick complex, 309 Diamond Creek Road, Plenty. (Melway 11 D7). There is no charge and a delicious Afternoon Tea will be served following the program. Guest items include: Richard Thomas, outstanding music theatre performer; the gifted 'Lau Trio' - Kylie, David and Rachel Lau; Alana Moss, saxophonist. Regulars include: Dale Philip, baritone and song leader; Matthew Field, song leader and accompanist; Ron Ellis, compere and soloist. Enquiries to the organiser, Ron Ellis on 03 9459 5698 or by email:

[ron@ronellis.org](mailto:ron@ronellis.org)

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Friends of Indian Evangelical Mission, Old Branch, are holding their annual fundraising dinner on Saturday 31 August. Guest speaker is Mr Dev Daniel, National Director of FIEM Australia. FIEMA supports the work of evangelists, training new missionaries, hostel projects among tribal orphan children, construction of new churches in Andhra Pradesh and transportation needs of missionaries. Enquiries and bookings to Vincent, (07) 3411 3099.
- *Jesus Reigns: Living In The Light Of God's Kingdom* is the

theme of Interserve's Great Weekend Away 2013, to be held 11-13 October at Adanac Camp, Yarra Junction, Vic. Speaker is Tim Meyers, Principal of Melbourne School of Theology, and previously in senior mission leadership roles with Pioneers Aust. There are to be workshops on various subjects of interest and a children's program. Early bird registration closes on 31 August, so see their website, [www.interserve.org.au](http://www.interserve.org.au) or phone (03) 9729 9611 to book in.

- The annual conference of the International Conference of Computing and Mission Aust (ICCM) will be held in Newtown, Sydney from 21-24 October. Speaker is Roy Campbell from International Teams, Canada. The theme this year is *Technology For The Least Of These*. Early bird registration closes 30 August. [www.iccm-australia.org](http://www.iccm-australia.org)

### **Empart!**

- Jossy Chako, founder of Empart, will be speaking in Ballarat on Sunday 1 September at two services: 10am at Rise Christian Church, 10 Learmonth Rd, Wendouree (Ballarat Apostolic); and at 7pm at Ballarat Christian College, 111 Yarrowee St, Sebastopol. [jc@empart.org](mailto:jc@empart.org)

### **River Of Life Conference**

RIVER of Life is partnering in the *One & Only* prayer conference with the Australian Prayer Network and the Arabic Prayer Group, seeking to honour Jesus as the one and only answer to the deepest needs of our country. An important aspect of the conference will be to pray together on polling day for God's will to be done in voting more Kingdom-minded candidates into the Federal Parliament. This conference will be a celebration for people from all backgrounds and walks of life to come together to pursue God's destiny for their lives, encourage one another, and intercede for our city and nation. The conference will be on two separate days: Friday 6 September, 7.30am–9.30pm and Saturday 7 September 10am–9.30pm in the Christian Reformed Church, 255 Outlook Drive (near Gladstone Rd) Dandenong North 3175. Register at: [oneandonlymelbourne.eventbrite.com.au/](http://oneandonlymelbourne.eventbrite.com.au/)

### Exploring Personal Identity

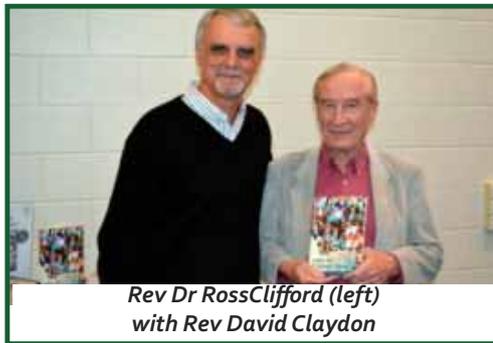
DAVID Claydon's new book, *Who Do I Think I Am?* was launched during the REVIVE conference on Friday 9 August at Sydney Showground by Rev Dr Ross Clifford, Principal of Morling College.

Author David Claydon, from Hornsby Heights, grew up in orphanages in Palestine and Egypt without any knowledge of his European heritage or even his date of birth. His quest for his own identity led him to write this book, which draws on both Scripture and his own personal journey to explore what true identity really is.

Rev Steve Dixon, the Director of Baptist Youth Ministries (NSW/ACT) and Co-ordinator of Youth Studies at Morling College states about the book, 'What feels like daily increases of voices screaming a variety of responses to the significant developmental question of identity enters a biblical, personal and wholistic voice.'

Throughout the book, significant questions are addressed such as: *Am I Important? How Do I Know Who I Am? Does My View Of Myself Impact My Spiritual Health?* These and other questions are answered with a Biblical perspective. At the end of each chapter is a list of thought-provoking questions that can be used for either personal reflection or group discussion.

*Who Do I Think I Am? Exploring Personal Identity And What It Means To Be 'In Christ'* is now available for sale through Morling Press and other online retailers. ISBN: 978-0-9806421-9-3. Publisher: Morling Press, 120 Herring Road, Macquarie Park NSW 2113. Phone: 02 9878 0201. Online: [www.morlingcollege.com/morlingpress](http://www.morlingcollege.com/morlingpress)



Rev Dr Ross Clifford (left) with Rev David Claydon

### GOSPEL IMPLICATIONS OF MORSI'S OVERTHROW

– *Middle East Reformed Fellowship Reports:*

DEPOSING Morsi resulted in the collapse of the newly enforced Islamist Constitution in Egypt, stimulated the hunger for freedom and improved living standards already rising in young, educated Egyptians and others, created a momentum of disenchantment with Islam among many more Muslims in Egypt and beyond, increased the opportunities for Gospel witness, which must be utilized with extreme wisdom. (The Egyptian Church made a public commitment to separate itself from political activities and urged all to make no remarks offensive to Muslims.)

T. Kharabawi, a famous former Islamist and respected writer, recently wrote, 'What happened in Egypt dealt the hopes for Islamic hegemony an eternal fatal blow.'

In response to reading the *Arabic Gospel Of Matthew*, F.T.M. of Egypt writes: 'I love hearing about Issa's (Jesus') Kingdom of peace and love; He is the truest messenger of God.'

### Beauty From Brokenness Out Of Japan

DEBRIS from the 2011 tsunami still washes up in Ishinomaki, Japan. The shattered contents of homes and communities stand as a bleak testament to brokenness left by the disaster. Against that stands the Nozomi Project, through Asian Access. Sue Takamoto, who helped found the project, explains: 'What if we could do something with this pottery and allow it to bring employment, hope, and dignity to women in this region?' Nozomi means 'hope.' The women of Nozomi either lost a loved one or a home in the disaster. Today, they fashion jewelry from the pottery shards and tell a story of beauty. Through the restoration of dignity and hope, Sue says, the Gospel emerges. 'We're just finding that women are



beginning to see the reality of Jesus and of who He is in their lives. Women will say, "My image of God was bad until I began to work here and began to meet many Christians who are living out something different".' Full story:

<http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/18831>

### Bible A Best-Seller In Norway

The Bible was Norway's best-selling book in 2012. A new translation by the Norwegian Bible Society has sold 160,000 copies. Anne Veiteberg, of Norway's Bible Society, commented that immigration has been a factor, with 250,000 immigrants settling in Norway in the past 6 years, 60% of whom claim to be Christian. She said, 'Now that we're exposed to other faiths, Norwegians have taken more interest in their own faith.' – *Associated Press via FEB News*

## GOOD BOOK FEST ...

### Australian Christian Book Of The Year

SPCKA hosted the Australian Christian Book Of The Year Awards at St Alfred's Anglican Church, Blackburn North, on 8 August. These were the winning entries:

**First Prize:** *Forged With Flames: A True Story Of Courage And Survival*, by Ann Fogarty and Anne Crawford, Wild Dingo Press, ISBN 9780987178510.

Where is God when it hurts? This question has rarely been answered more eloquently than by Ann Fogarty and Anne Crawford as they tell the story of Ann's ordeal by fire. This is a distinctively Australian saga. Ann's epic trial began in Upper Beaconsfield, Victoria, when the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires left her with life-threatening burns to 85% of her body. Firefighters, surgeons and nurses became her companions in adversity. Ann brings to her writing the same humour, honesty and courage with which she suffered the pain, doubt and despair. The hope forged by this extreme experience is shared with simplicity and an open heart. It is profoundly comforting to follow her growing assurance of God's presence and loving care. Ann's story is compelling, unforgettable and inspiring.

**Second Prize:** *Driven By Purpose: Charities That Make The Difference*, by Stephen Judd, Anne Robinson and Felicity Errington, Hammond Press.

This book is a call for Christian charities, ministries and missions to re-discover their reason-for-being and a practical guide to the process of ensuring that their strategy, organisation and operation reflect this purpose. A book as indispensable as it is timely.

**Third Prize:** *A Faith To Live By: What An Intelligent, Compassionate And Authentic Christian Faith Looks Like*, by Roland Ashby, Mosaic Press.

In conversation with Roland Ashby, 25 Christian thinkers and leaders reconcile the tensions between belief and nonbelief, faith and science, and the church and the world. This is a reasoned, honest and expansive response to the roar of the new atheism and an antidote to the silence of the Christian cringe. Faith in Jesus Christ emerges as real, adult and vital: a faith to live by.

**Young Australian Christian Writer Award:** Matthew Pullar, *Imperceptible Arms: A Memoir In Poems*.

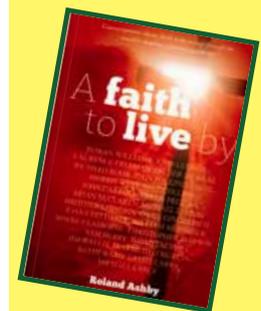
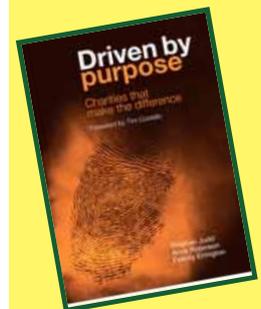
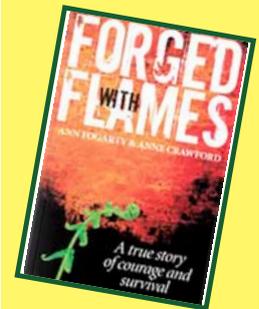
With honesty and an open heart a poet examines the dimensions of grace and hardship, including mental illness. Effortless rhythm and rhyme display a mastery of a range of poetic forms and structures. There are punchy sonnets and compelling couplets. These reflections on faith are beautiful, thoughtful and accessible.

**Australian Christian Teen Writer Award:** Alex Chi, *Hello God ... It's Me*.

As her family breaks up, Emily's relationships with her parents and with God evolve. Legalism gives way to grace as she struggles with the reality of her parents' separation and her feelings of abandonment. Strong dialogue, clarity of expression and sensual description evoke mood and emotion and propel the narrative. True to the experience of any young person whose world is being torn apart, this story is open-ended. When resolution eludes us, maturity beckons.



Prize winners (left to right): Roland Ashby, Ann Fogarty, Anne Crawford, Stephen Judd, Anne Robinson. Photo credit: Worldwide Photos.



there is a God?

Melbourne Town Hall  
Friday 16 August 2013  
7:00 – 9:00pm

## **Pastor Lamb Called Home**

**PASTOR Samuel Lamb**, One of the best-known Christian leaders in China, died on Saturday 3 August in Guangzhou, aged 88. He had been arrested during one of the first big waves of persecution in Mao's China and was first imprisoned from 1955 to 1957, when estimates put the number of Christians in the country at a few million. Lamb was targeted by the government because of his refusal to merge his illegal house church into the Three-Self Patriotic Movement, the state-regulated Protestant Church. The Chinese authorities sentenced him a second time in 1958, when he spent 20 years in labour camps. He saw his wife for the last time during the five months that he was on remand; she died in 1977, a year before Lamb's sentence ended.

After his release, he again took up his work as a pastor, when he was able to witness the exponential growth of the Chinese Church. In 1979 he started his house church in 35 Da Ma Zhan in Guangzhou. Attendance grew quickly and he had to move his congregation to a bigger building in the same city. Today his urban house church is still unregistered, but tolerated by the authorities. He became an example for millions of believers in China, where today estimates say there are now about 80 million Christians – some estimates claim one tenth of the population is Christian. His story of steadfast resolution and determination has also inspired and encouraged millions of Christians outside China

### **Background**

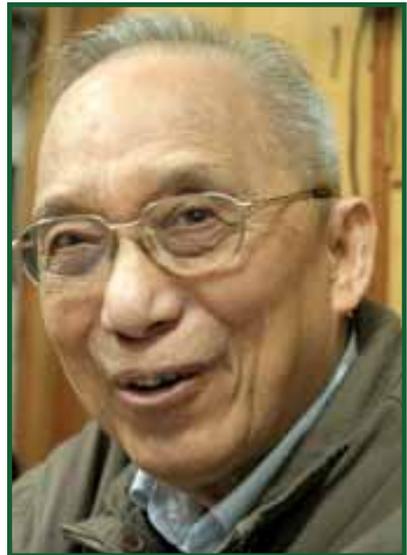
Samuel Lamb was born in 1924 to Chinese Christian parents in a mountainous area overlooking Macau on the southern coast of mainland China. His father pastored a small Baptist Church, so Lamb was raised as a Christian. He first preached when he was 19.

The government used to forbid Christian leaders to preach about the second coming of Christ and to teach minors under 18 years old, but Lamb's theology challenged the government and the attendees of his church, as well as other Christians inside and outside China. He taught that Christians should obey the government unless those leaders directly opposed God with their law enforcement. 'The laws of God are more important than the laws of man,' he used to say. 'We must be prepared for the fact that we may be arrested. Before I was sent to prison, I already prepared a bag with some clothes, shoes and a toothbrush.'

### **The Importance Of Suffering**

Suffering played an important part in many of Lamb's sermons. He was famous for repeating: 'More persecution, more growth'. That phrase had not only to do with numbers of believers, but also with spiritual growth. Lamb saw that China has changed in the past decades and that Christians are now granted more freedom. Still he wanted to make sure that Christians do not too easily assume that nothing will happen to them. Even though his congregation was still illegal, it hasn't been raided in years but he always remained cautious about the government. He always warned: 'We must be prepared to suffer. We must be prepared for the fact that we may be arrested. His memory used to occasionally let him down, but with a broad smile on his face, he regularly received international visitors to his house church.

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*'Christians should obey the government unless the leaders directly oppose God with their law enforcement.*

*The laws of God are more important than the laws of man, and we must be prepared for the fact that we may be arrested.*

*'Before I was sent to prison, I already prepared a bag with some clothes, shoes and a toothbrush.'*

*- Pastor Lamb*

## CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH ...

### A Woolly Tale For Kids – And Adults Too!

'AT Glenurquhart (Scotland)' writes Rev John Ross, Minister of Glenurquhart and Fort Augustus Free Church, we are a farming congregation and after the recent Black Isle show the children's talk had to be about sheep. So this morning's was about *Shrek, The Sheep*, a New Zealand merino. By hiding in a cave, Shrek managed to evade the shearers for six years. But the price he payed for straying from the shepherd was a massive burden of wool, some 130kg weight (a normal merino fleece is about 13kg), enough to make 20 men's suits. We too burden ourselves with guilt and life's handicapping worries when we are out of contact with the Good Shepherd whose invitation is: 'Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11.28)



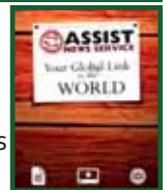
### ANS App – Free For You

KEEP in touch with the world with the new ASSIST News Service app. It's free and can be downloaded for either Android or Apple Phones or Tablets. 'Many people today prefer apps over websites because they are easy to find, and easy to navigate,' said Wooding. 'This means that people who use mobile devices can now keep up with all of our stories, and learn more about our ministry by installing this new app. It is a wonderful step forward in our media ministry, which is to let the world know what God is doing in His World. You can also see some of our videos, listen to my *Front Page Radio* show, and learn more about the ministry by installing one or both of these apps.' To install the Android app, go to:

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=hr.apps.n53206700&feature=search\\_result#?t=W10](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=hr.apps.n53206700&feature=search_result#?t=W10)

And for your Apple app, just go to: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/assist-news/id619739107?mt=8>

After you have downloaded and run your app, Dan would be pleased to get your input on either or both of them. Just send him a message at [assistnews@aol.com](mailto:assistnews@aol.com) with your comments.



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## BOOKS WORTH READING

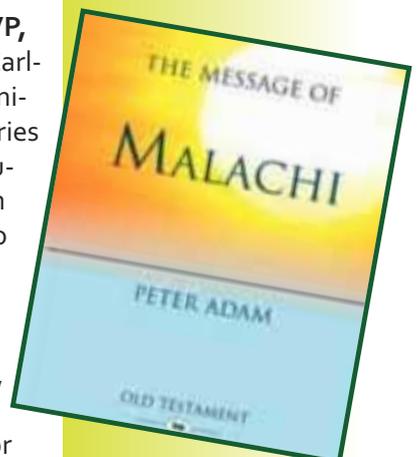
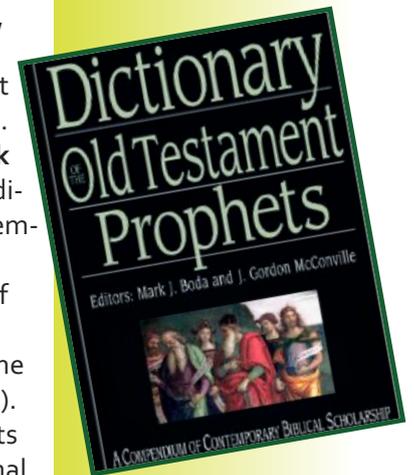
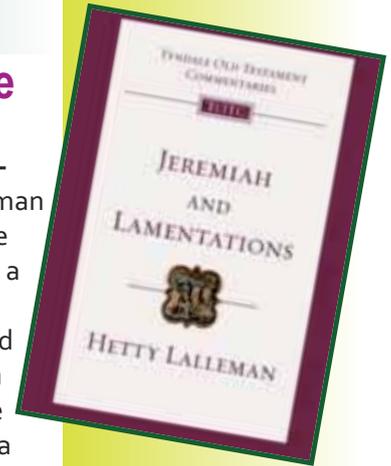
### New Resources From IVP For Studying The Bible

HERE are several recent helps from IVP UK for the serious study of the Bible:

• **First, JEREMIAH AND LAMENTATIONS: AN INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTARY, Hetty Lalleman, TOTC 21; Nottingham: IVP, 2013.** Hetty Lalleman is a tutor in Old Testament at Spurgeon's College, London and member of the Tyndale Fellowship. Her own doctoral studies were in *Jeremiah*. She provides a balanced and insightful survey of the theology of these two closely-related Bible books. The combination of the themes of sin, punishment, suffering and God's involvement in events found in *Jeremiah* and *Lamentations* provides an important background to the suffering of Christ at the cross. These books are also relevant for the suffering of God's people generally. This commentary is a worthy replacement for that by R. K. Harrison (1973) in the original Tyndale series. As Dr Lalleman shows, Jeremiah is someone we feel we get to know personally, for his book contains his personal laments ('*Confessions*') and has more biographical material than the other prophetic books, his prophecy containing stories about the prophet as well as his message. In *Lamentations*, the upsurge of hope in chapter 3 does not ignore or discount the suffering of God's people, nor does it provide a simplistic solution to the 'problem of suffering', but *Lamentations* does show where comfort and strength is to be found in difficult times, namely in the credal affirmation of God's love, mercy and faithfulness.

• **Second, DICTIONARY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS, Ed Mark J. Boda and J. Gordon McConville, Nottingham: IVP, 2012.** As its subtitle indicates, this substantial volume of nearly 1000 pages is a 'compendium of contemporary biblical scholarship'. It is written by leading evangelical scholars and contains articles on all the individual prophetic books, as well as discussions of key themes (eg worship, retribution, law, judgment, justice, death, Zion), and helpful explanations of contemporary issues and approaches in the study of the prophetic books (eg literary approaches, conversation analysis, hermeneutics). Every article has an up-to-date bibliography of scholarly resources for students to chase up for further and fuller information (commentaries, books and journal articles). I was pleased to find articles on what are sometimes neglected issues such as 'Writing and Prophecy' (Alan Millard), 'Marriage and Divorce' (Tom Parker), 'Cosmology' (Brian Peterson) and 'Prophecy and Wisdom' (Martin Shields). This will certainly become the go-to book for theological students and pastors studying Old Testament prophecy.

• **Third, THE MESSAGE OF MALACHI, Peter Adam, BST; Nottingham: IVP, 2013.** Peter is well-known to *New Life* readers as Vicar Emeritus of St Jude's Carlton and past Principal of Ridley Melbourne. As a gifted preacher and communicator, his approach to Malachi is richly homiletical. *The Bible Speaks Today* series emphasises the application of Scripture, and that is where Dr Adam is particularly strong. He sees the teaching of *Malachi* as especially relevant to modern churches wherein apathy and the half-hearted service of God is a problem. To that end, Peter Adam focusses on the connection of the message of the Old Testament to Christ and its usefulness for training in godliness and ministry. He stresses the corporate application of the Word of God through *Malachi* to the church as the 'body of Christ'. In line with the popular nature of this book, most of the footnotes are simply Bible references (many of them New Testament texts). This is not a book for ministers preparing sermons so much as for laypersons wishing to have their faith in Christ and service for Christ illuminated and refreshed.



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## BOOKS WORTH READING

|Page 18| • Fourth, **DIG DEEPER: TOOLS TO UNEARTH THE BIBLE'S TREASURE**, Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach, Nottingham: IVP, 2005, which is an accessible guide to discovering, using and mastering the tools available to study the Bible. By 'tools', the authors mean the different approaches that need to be taken to the inspired text, and some 16 tools are provided for that purpose, for example, the 'Author's Purpose Tool', the 'Context Tool', the 'Structure Tool' and the 'Vocabulary Tool'. Each discussion is followed by a worked example of the use of that tool and then an exercise to be done by the person(s) using this book. These are things that are second nature to those who have studied the Bible for many years, though it is also true that we easily get into bad habits or lazy ways and do not use all the tools we should to faithfully read, understand and apply the Bible. This book began its life as a series of talks and studies at St Helen's, Bishopsgate in London, and it is an ideal resource for ministers or youth leaders to use to train those who lead Bible study groups within the church.

– Gregory Goswell

**FROM FIVE BARLEY LOAVES: Australian Baptists In Global Mission 1864–2010**, Ed Tony Cupit, Ros Gooden and Ken Manley. Global Interaction With Mosaic Press, 2013.

AFTER years of researching, writing and editing, *From Five Barley Loaves*, a comprehensive account of the pioneering global mission work of Australian Baptists, is now in print. Beginning with the incredible story of a group of women who came to be known as 'The Five Barley Loaves', the story has embraced long years of service in the Indian sub-continent and subsequent mission work across Asia, Africa, Central America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East as well as to and by our own Indigenous people.

The contributors are mostly former Global Interaction staff. Whilst disappointments are reported and failures acknowledged, there are many heart-warming, soul-challenging accounts of heroic self-sacrifice, long lifetimes of service, revivals and mass movements into the Christian faith.

Dr Stuart Piggitt of Macquarie University has commented: 'A really quite astonishing record of an astonishing part of the church family which says to the rest of us, "Go and do likewise".'

The book can be ordered online at [mosaicresources.com.au](http://mosaicresources.com.au) or by phone: 03 9880 6161.

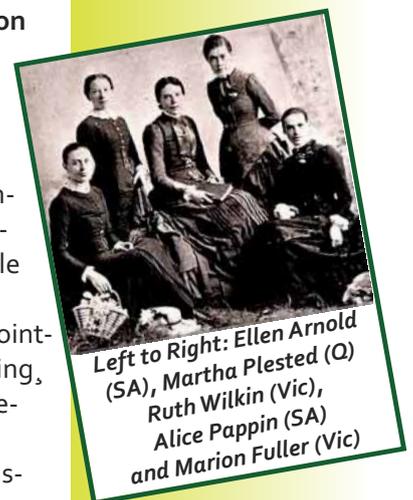
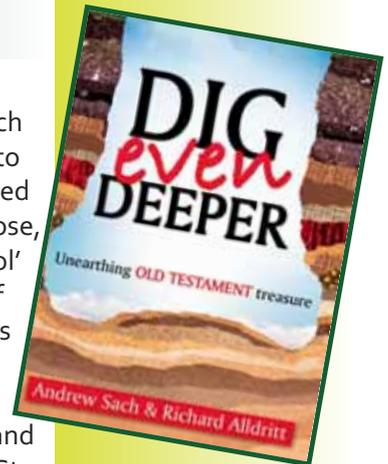
– Press Release

**IN GOD THEY TRUST? The Religious Beliefs Of Australia's Prime Ministers 1901-2013**, Roy Williams, Bible Society In Australia, 2013. ISBN 978-0-647-51855-7. [www.biblesociety.org.au](http://www.biblesociety.org.au)

MOST of Australia's leaders since Federation believed in God. Some were serious Christians and very few were indifferent towards religion. Roy Williams examines the spiritual life of each of our Prime Ministers from Edmund Barton to Julia Gillard. He explores the ways in which, for good and ill, their beliefs (or agnosticism) shaped the history and development of the nation. Featuring extensive interviews with John Howard and Kevin Rudd, and pulling no punches, *In God They Trust?* will appeal to voters across party lines and excite plenty of debate among believers and non-believers alike.

Roy Williams won the Sydney University Medal in law in 1986 and practised as a litigator for almost 20 years. He now writes full-time. His first book, *God, Actually, A Rational Defence Of Christianity*, was a best-seller in Australia and has since been published in Britain and North America.

– Press Release



Left to Right: Ellen Arnold (SA), Martha Pledsted (Q), Ruth Wilkin (Vic), Alice Pappin (SA) and Marion Fuller (Vic)

