

Hundreds Attend Christchurch Cathedral Dedication

YOU'VE heard of the Crystal Cathedral in Los Angeles? Well in the wake of rebuilding after the massive earthquake, Christchurch now has a Cardboard Cathedral.

Anglicans turned up in their hundreds on Thursday 15 August to attend the dedication service for Christchurch's Transitional Cathedral.

Around 600 people from throughout Canterbury and the West Coast attended the ceremony at the A-frame cathedral, which is made up of large cardboard cylinders.

Those spoken to by Radio New Zealand were full of praise for the cathedral's radical design, courtesy of Japanese architect Shigeru Ban. Bishop Victoria Matthews says she visited the cathedral several times when it was a construction site but wasn't prepared for her reaction the first time she saw it set up as a church. 'The tears came to my eyes and I really had a hard time keeping control because it was just so powerful,' she said.

Bishop Matthews hopes the cathedral will provide a place for Cantabrians to reflect on what is really important in life following the earthquakes. She says it is very special to have the empty chair memorial to the 185 earthquake victims and the site of the CTV building close by.

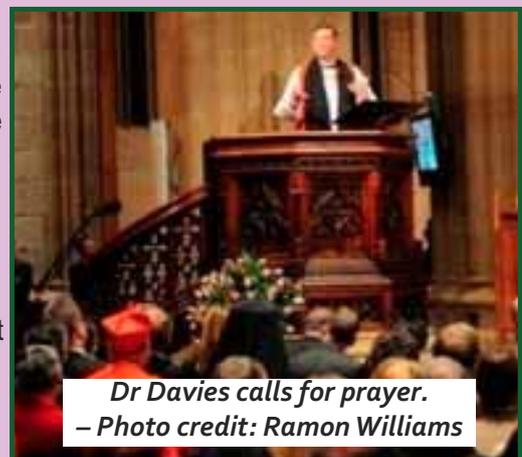
The *Sydney Morning Herald* has named the cathedral the ninth best new attraction for globetrotters to visit in 2013. It is open to the public every day from 9am until 5pm.

– Anglican Communion News Service



'PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!' – Glenn Davies, New Archbishop Of Sydney

ARCHBISHOP Glenn Davies' message to the clergy and people of Sydney Diocese at his inauguration was: 'Join me in prayer, continue to pray that together we would make known the love of Christ and we would do so by our love for one another. That whatever difficulties we might have as a large diocese, that the love we have would be so redolent, would be so obvious, it would be so magnetic that people would long to see what is different about us. How is it that they have such a love for one another? That love of course is born by the spirit of God and is an answer to Jesus' prayers.' To fellow church leaders and state and civic leaders, Dr Davies said: 'We pray for our city. Just as Jeremiah encouraged the exiles to pray, we pray for this great city of Sydney and the whole Diocese beyond. We pray that eternal life might be known by people, and we pray for you.'



Dr Davies calls for prayer.
– Photo credit: Ramon Williams

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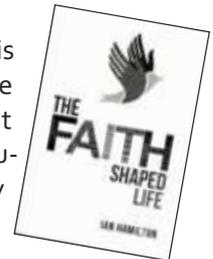
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Treat Yourself To A Faith Lift

THE FAITH SHAPED LIFE, Ian Hamilton, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2013. ISBN 978 1 84871 249 2 (print); 978 1 84871 250 8 (ePub); 978 1 84871 251 5 (Kindle).

WE can scarcely put too much of a premium on faith. Faith is the ground of our hope and the spur to our love, so the more we 'build (our)selves up in (our) most holy faith,' the better it will be. And here's just the book to help us do that. As our author states, 'The Christian life is a faith-shaped life. Not only is faith the instrument that unites us to Christ, it is the reality that shapes how we live in union with Christ.'



Ian Hamilton, Pastor of Cambridge Presbyterian Church in England, has written this eminently readable little book which in its 149 pages traverses in simple, straightforward language, the whole gamut of 'faith' from faith's first flowering to faith's fulfilment.

This book is thoroughly practical in its application to everyday life and experience of what many see as an abstract concept. *Faith And Disappointment*, *The Anchor That Keeps Faith Steadfast*, *Faith In The Dark*, *Faith's Great Delight* and *Faith At Work* are chapters which prove that point.

Many years ago, like me, you might have learnt: 'Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11.1).'

The Faith Shaped Life beautifully expounds and unpacks that verse for us today.

It's perhaps a minor point, but whoever designed the cover in its elegant and stunning simplicity should be kept on the payroll. — Bob Thomas

Get Your Autographed Copy Of *By The Way*

IRENE Voysey will hold a Book Signing of her book *By The Way* at The Book Haven, Stockland Mall (near Post Office), Baulkham Hills, Sydney, on Saturday 7 September from 11am-12noon.



Born and educated in Bangalore, India, migrated to Australia at 19, married and lived in Hong Kong for 17 years, Irene offers this book, with its many true stories, as her verbal act of hospitality. It welcomes you into her life as an ordinary Australian who worships an extraordinary God.

Because we all treasure the Gospel, her stories centre around observations of the way we decide if we should share the Gospel, with whom; how we prepare ourselves to share this Good News, and the way we do it.

Irene is also speaking at the 31st Annual Galston Christian Education Association Fundraising Dinner at the Galston Club on Saturday 7 September at 6.30pm. This will be an encouraging time for her to meet up with a lot of Bible Society supporters who know her so well from her ten years as the Bible Society's *Sower Magazine* Editor.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

KAZAKHSTAN: Pastor Victim Of Soviet-Era Methods

THE population of Kazakhstan is 63% Turkic (mostly ethnic Kazakhs) and 31% Slavic (mostly ethnic Russians). It is 54% Muslim, 34% non-religious and 12% Christian (who are overwhelmingly Orthodox). Protestant fellowships are viewed with suspicion, derided in the media and targeted in policy as 'new religious movements' (cults) and 'foreign'. Religious liberty has been in decline for several years. The treatment being suffered by several dissidents (including a Protestant pastor) indicates Kazakhstan is returning to Soviet-era methods of social control. The President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, was appointed Prime Minister of the Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan in April 1990. He has continued on as President since the break-up of the USSR.

False Allegations

Lyazzat Almenova (34) is a member of Grace Church in Kazakhstan's capital, Astana. In July 2011 her mother alleged that she had developed paranoid schizophrenia as a result of Pastor Bakhytzhan Kashkumbayev's religious services, confirmed in September 2012 by a state 'expert'. In October 2012 authorities launched a criminal investigation into Pastor Kashkumbayev (66) 'for causing considerable harm to the psychological health' of a church member. On 17 May 2013 Pastor Kashkumbayev was arrested, accused of violating Criminal Code Article 103.1: 'Intentional inflicting of serious harm to health'. In court, the prosecutor alleged that 'the crime was carried out by Kashkumbayev under the guise of carrying out charitable and religious activity by means of exerting psychological influence on church members, including using stupefying substances with the aim of collecting gifts for the use of the association'.

Lyazzat Almenova, who has been subjected to forced psychiatric treatment by the state, told Forum 18 that Pastor Kashkumbayev is 'totally innocent and has not harmed my health at all'. In a letter to the Astana Prosecutor's Office, Almenova claims she is psychiatrically healthy and the psychiatric assessment conducted on her in September 2012 was conducted illegally; she appealed for the case against Pastor Kashkumbayev to be dropped. Likewise, other church members are adamant that Pastor Kashkumbayev has not done anything wrong nor has he harmed anyone. The 'stupefying substances' alleged to have been administered have turned out to be nothing other than the readily available red tea used by Grace Church as a non-alcoholic communion wine. With the case against Kashkumbayev falling apart, the authorities appear to be making moves to save face.

Astana Police Investigator Vyacheslav Glazkov has ordered that Kashkumbayev's detention be extended until 17 August so he can undergo further psychiatric assessments. On 19 July Pastor Kashkumbayev was transferred to Almaty City Detention Centre No 2, from where he would be transferred to the Almaty City Psychological-Psychiatric Assessment Centre. Pastor Kashkumbayev protested, writing in a letter that, while he does suffer many physical ailments, he knows he is 'psychologically healthy'.

Kazakhstan's use of forced psychiatric treatment on dissidents has drawn international condemnation. Kashkumbayev now fears that the authorities may move to whitewash his case by having him committed as insane. 'In order to make me mad they will inject me with special substances,' he writes. Since he was forcibly moved to the Almaty Psychiatric Centre, Kashkumbayev's family and lawyer have not heard anything.

Prosecutor Alen Tlenchiyev confirmed to Forum 18, 'Kashkumbayev is charged with the serious crime of inflicting serious harm on the health of citizens. [He] prayed for the sick, and psychologically influenced [Church members] ... [and] 'people's health was harmed as a total result of his actions.' Pastor Kashkumbayev's son, Askar, believes the police investigator is trying to find evidence that does not exist. 'He may also hope that my father will be diagnosed as mentally ill so he can close the case now that there is so much international attention to it.' This would allow the Pastor to be confined in a psychiatric hospital. 'Our only hope,' said Askar, 'is the support we can get from the wider public and international community. The local news media publish materials against my father. It looks like the authorities are intent on punishing my father.'

Written for the Australian Evangelical Alliance Religious Liberty Commission by Elizabeth Kendal, international religious liberty analyst and advocate.

Please Pray That:

- *the ever-present Lord of Hosts will shield, protect and deliver Pastor Kashkumbayev. 'Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings, from the wicked who do me violence, my deadly enemies who surround me.'* (Psalm 17.7,8 ESV)
- *the Lord, who does not approve of abuse and injustice (Lamentations 3.34-36), will intervene in Kazakhstan to reverse its slide into darkness. May Kazakhstan's citizens be awakened to reject and protest this shameful and dangerous regression.*
- *God will give Kazakhstan's Protestant and independent Christian fellowships great wisdom, courage and grace in these delicate and difficult days. May the Holy Spirit bless their Gospel witness with effectual transforming power.*

'INTO ALL THE WORLD'

New Leaders At CLTC

REV Dr William Longgar has been appointed Principal of Christian Leaders' Training College of Papua-New Guinea in Banz from the end of this year when current Principal, Mr Ezekiel Ivihi and his wife Anne, will return to their home in Bougainville after serving the College faithfully for 13 years, the last six as Principal. The news of the appointment of Dr Longgar was greeted with much enthusiasm by the CLTC community as he and his family are currently serving on the faculty at Banz and are therefore known and appreciated by all.

Originally from Kavieng, New Ireland Province, William completed his elementary and high school education locally. He did further studies over the next 30 years, graduating BA in Religious Studies from UPNG, BTh from CLTC, MTh in Pastoral Theology from Pacific Theological College in Fiji and DMiss from Asbury Theological Seminary, USA. He was ordained a minister of the United Church of PNG in 1999.

This impressive academic record has been complemented by service and ministries with the Bible Society of PNG, the faculty of CLTC (both at Banz and the Port Moresby Urban Ministry Centre), the Rarongo Theological College, the United Church Training In Mission And Leadership Centre, the Melanesian Institute in Goroka and more recently again at Rarongo where he was Principal of the School Of Theology And Mission for 3 years.

Dr Longgar is a man of great faith and prayer, a respected Bible teacher and preacher with pastoral gifts. His wife Iru supports him well with her own gifting. They have two children and one young grandchild. As Dr Longgar responded to the announcement of his appointment and the prayers of those present, he stated: 'The office of Principal is no one person's property – it is God's office. It is a sacred office and only with God's enabling will we be able to cope with the enormous task ahead. I pray that the Lord will give us the wisdom, the strength and the vision to undertake such a task.'

In 2014 CLTC enters its 49th year of service as it trains men and women of PNG and the Pacific Islands for leadership responsibilities for those nations.



Dr William and Mrs Iru Longgar.

'The office of Principal is no one person's property – it is God's office.

It is a sacred office and only with God's enabling will we be able to cope with the enormous task ahead.

I pray that the Lord will give us the wisdom, the strength and the vision to undertake such a task.'

– Dr William Longgar

Providing Affordable Solar Lighting In Developing Countries

TODAY, 1.6 billion people in the developing world live without access to electricity and some are forced to spend up to 1/3 of their income on fuel for cooking and lighting. Every year hundreds of thousands of men, women and children are admitted to hospital with burns from fire or kerosene lamps.

Recently Genesis Aid has sourced a supplier in Melbourne who can provide solar lights for \$15 each. Pilot studies have been completed in Tanzania, Philippines and Indonesia where these robust solar lights have been distributed into poor households that were previously reliant on kerosene for lighting. There are measurable health, safety and educational impacts. The economic benefit to households was significant across all countries.

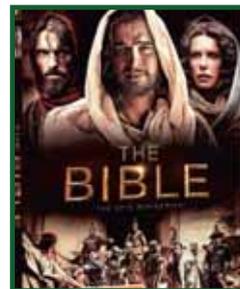
Genesis Aid is a ministry of Genesis Counselling & Training Service Inc, commenced in Western Australia in 1982 by Ray and Cheryl Jenner. From humble beginnings in a back room of their home their work has expanded to include counselling, training others to counsel, international aid via containers to Africa, child sponsorship, community development and income generation for widows. Current projects are operating in Kenya, Uganda and Indonesia. For further information go to: www.genesisaid.com



Villager with solar light.

TAKING THE WORD TO THE WORLD ...

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD COMES TO BLU-RAY AND DVD



THE Bible — the Emmy® nominated, epic 10-hour miniseries is coming to Blu-ray and DVD on 23 October and may be pre-ordered now from JB Hi Fi. The home entertainment release follows *The Bible's* successful broadcast airing recently on Nine Network.

The Bible features powerful performances, exotic locales and dazzling visual effects that breathe spectacular life into the dramatic tales of faith and courage from *Genesis* through *Revelation*. The Blu-ray and DVD further explore this impressive production with hours of never before seen behind-the-scenes footage and making of featurettes.

Narrated by Emmy® winning actor Keith David, *The Bible* features a stunning international cast including Portuguese actor, Diogo Morgado as Jesus Christ and beloved actress, Roma Downey as Mother Mary. And for the first time since their award winning collaboration on *Gladiator*, Oscar® and Grammy® winning composer Hans Zimmer reunites with acclaimed Australian vocalist Lisa Gerrard to create the majestic musical backdrop for this epic production.

The four-disc Blu-ray and DVD set dives deeper into the making of the series and features a behind-the-scenes look at how the ground-breaking docudrama came together. Interviews with producers, directors, and cast illustrate creative collaboration on-set and off and show how the remarkable Moroccan scenery was transformed into the world of the Bible.

First Australian Ethical Fashion Report Launched

THE first Australian Fashion Report was launched in Sydney by international development organisation Baptist World Aid. The report assesses the ethical practices of 128 clothing brands and aims to empower consumers with the knowledge needed to purchase fashion ethically.

The report found that only 12% of companies received an A rating for their labour rights management systems, and disturbingly, only 5% of companies had a fully implemented policy to ensure workers received a living wage (a wage sufficient to cover a family's basic costs of living).

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VIEWPOINT

Fred Nile Calls For Muslims Brotherhood To Be Named A Terrorist Organisation

IN a speech to the NSW Parliament on 28 August, Rev Fred Nile said:

'I speak on the Coptic Christian protest and the tragic events occurring in Egypt. I am greatly disturbed and alarmed, as are many Christians, including the Coptic Christians in Sydney, by the rapid turn of events in Egypt and the senseless loss of life overall. I had the opportunity of observing some of these events during my nine-day visit to Egypt, which commenced on 30 June this year. I arrived at the climax of the peaceful revolution by 33 million Egyptians calling for the removal of President Morsi. Coptic Christians are now living under siege all over Egypt as the Muslim Brotherhood unleashes its terror after having launched widespread co-ordinated attacks on Coptic Christians throughout Egypt. For that reason, I believe the Muslim Brotherhood should be declared a terrorist organisation.

'As a result of these disturbances and violence, more than 80 Coptic churches, monasteries, schools, and Coptic-owned properties across the country have been destroyed in violent rampages by members of the Muslim Brotherhood since the military crackdown. Hundreds of Copts have been killed and injured. Eleven Coptic Christian institutions have been looted and burned, including an orphanage. Coptic churches dating back as far as the 4th Century have been destroyed. The Copts are not the only target. In an effort to terrorise the entire country, the Muslim Brotherhood has also reportedly killed hundreds of policemen, stormed and attempted to take over police stations, burned blood banks, and damaged hospitals and public buildings, including historic museums in Upper Egypt where more than 1,000 ancient Egyptian artefacts were stolen. They even attempted to burn the Library of Alexandria. They are intent on turning Egypt into a rogue State for their own agenda.

Peaceful Protest In Sydney

'In light of these events, the Coptic Christians and others held a protest on Saturday 24 March to rally against the Muslim Brotherhood's attacks targeting Coptic Christians and the general population of Egypt. Hundreds of Egyptian Australians and members of the Australian public attended the rally in Martin Place, Sydney, to protest against these violent co-ordinated attacks by the Muslim Brotherhood. The protest was organised by the Australian Coptic Movement Association in conjunction with a number of Australian-Egyptian organisations.

'Australian Coptic Movement spokesperson Peter Tadros gave a detailed account of former President Morsi's record and reiterated the view that the ousting of former President Morsi was a revolution not a coup. The following members of Parliament addressed the rally: Mr Laurie Ferguson, Federal Labor member for Werriwa; Mr Scott Morrison, Federal member for Cook, shadow Minister for Productivity and Population, and shadow Minister for Immigration And Citizenship; and Hon. David Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice. I was privileged to address the protest rally as well. We want to see Australia supporting a peaceful Egypt so that Coptic Christians can live in peace in Egypt and not have to leave as refugees.

'Other speakers included Dr Mustafa Rashid, who re-iterated earlier calls by me for the Muslim Brotherhood to be listed as a terrorist organisation. Dr Safwat el Banna also delivered an impassioned speech. A large number of Muslim citizens supported this rally and opposed the violence in Egypt. The 33 million people who took part in the peaceful revolution in Egypt included many millions of moderate Muslims who oppose the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood. Let us pray for the people of Egypt, especially the Coptic Christians.'

– Christian Democratic Party Press Release



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Steer Incorporated will have an office suite available for rental in the Melbourne suburb of Box Hill from late September 2013 onwards.

The suite is located in a building occupied by a number of mission agencies, and would suit another mission agency or other Christian organisation.

Location: 5 Court Street, Box Hill (just off Whitehorse Road).

Space: 145 square metres, divided into a reception area, open office area, 5 separate offices and a small waiting room/office.

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 - Back-to-base security system.
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 - Pleasant environment shared with 6 mission agencies.

For further information contact Richard Dickins, Associate National Director,

Phone: 03 9899 6413 or 0419 748 318 or **Email:** richard_dickins@steer.org.au

www.steer.org.au

PERSECUTION CONTINUES IN CHINA

Chinese House Church Leader Beaten, Threatened With Death

CHURCH leader Li Shuangping, a leader at Linfen church, was beaten and threatened by unknown assailants on the night of 13 August.

According to human rights organization Christian Solidarity Worldwide, relying on reports from China Aid, Li had been driving to his home in Shanxi Province and was forced to stop his car when a man who seemed to be intoxicated staggered onto the road. CSW said Li was then dragged into a black car which had pulled up alongside his vehicle, tied up, blindfolded and pinned down while three men beat him around his head and body. One man also threatened to kill Li and his family members, including his children. Li was then thrown out of the car.

Li believes the alleged perpetrators were working for the local government and he sees this is an attempt to threaten house church leaders. During the incident, one of the men asked Li how he would like to die as a result of being a house church leader.

In 2009, CSW reported that the 50,000-strong Linfen church was raided by several hundred police and plainclothes officers, after which Li was sentenced to two years of re-education through labour. During the raid on the property, Bibles and the building itself were damaged and a number of church members were beaten and injured.

— *Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST News Service*

Sat-7 Broadcasts Hope And Peace In The Midst Of Syria's Chaos

AS the war drums beat louder in Syria, people in Damascus, Aleppo, and Homs are drawing near to Christ. Residents in these cities only get four hours of electricity a day, and many are using it to watch a SAT-7 Christian program. SAT-7, a Christian satellite television ministry to the Middle East and North Africa, broadcast *Just for You – Syria* every week to pray with Syrians and offer the hope of Jesus Christ. Please pray for all those affected by the Syrian conflict.

Full story:

<http://www.MNNOnline.org/article/18918>



Acts 2:42 places fellowship alongside teaching and prayer and is therefore meant to be more than Christian social activity. Jerry will help us understand biblical fellowship and how to apply it in order to have true community.

Jerry Bridges is an evangelical Christian author, speaker and staff of The Navigators. He has authored more than a dozen books, including *True Community* and *The Pursuit of Holiness*, which has sold more than one million copies.



Join us for an inspirational evening on **True Community**

Thursday, 3 October 2013, 7:30pm

Melbourne School of Theology, 5 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna, Victoria (Melways ref 63 C8) between Burwood & Mountain Hwys), (\$15; student/concession \$10; family \$30)

RSVP is preferred by 20 September 2013 to Barb at

bjbro@optusnet.com.au, 03 9877 4809;

or Frank 0432 743 673 (enquiries welcome)

See the Navigators website for sessions in **Sydney, 9 Oct** (RSVP sonothunder5@gmail.com or 0408 191 531) and **Brisbane, 11 Oct** (RSVP stuandvee@yahoo.com.au or 0400 390 512) - www.navigators.org.au/conferences.php

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- Your current resume.
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For further information contact the MECO office: Phone: 03 9898 0077 or

Email: richard@meco.org.au
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**For Further Information And Position Description,
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Phone: (02) 6056 0988.

Email: secretary@kingrivercamp.org.au

Marked For Destruction, Christian Targets

Daubed With A Black X

CHRISTIANS in Syria and Egypt need help, protection and prayer. Barnabas Fund has been working through Christian partners for the last 18 months to get food and other essentials to those in greatest need. They are also supporting Syrian Christians who have fled to Armenia and Lebanon.

On Sunday 1 September, churches and individuals are urged to hold a time of prayer for Syria and Egypt's Christians. Barnabas Fund is using a black X for this campaign as a symbol of solidarity with Christians who are being targeted because of their faith. Islamists have daubed this sign on the walls of Christian homes and businesses in Egypt to identify them for attack, while Muslim properties have been painted with a red X for protection.

Christian areas in Syria are being targeted by Islamist militants within the opposition to President Bashar al-Assad. As the US and UK move towards military intervention in the war-torn country, they do not seem to have considered the unintended consequences such action may have on the already endangered Christian community.

CHURCH AND NATION

New iPhone App Takes Activism To Next Level

THE Australian Christian Lobby is pleased to launch an iPhone App that it hopes will revolutionise online political activism. ACL's Managing Director Lyle Shelton said the app has been six months in the making and will make it easier for people to get in touch with parliamentarians.

'Based on users' data, the app identifies their local MP and how they can reach them,' he said. 'ACL is putting the new App to good use this election, make the parties' responses to its election questionnaire available through the App. In the lead up to the election this will be invaluable information people can view to help them cast an informed vote.'

'We've developed this App in response to changes in the way people interact and use mobile phones to read news, respond to issues and share information with others. The ACL is in the process of developing an Android version. The iPhone app can be downloaded free of charge from Apple Store.'

Other Features Of The App Include:

- The latest updates from ACL in your state and nationally.
- ACL's weekly radio program, *The Political Spot*.
- Push notifications let you know about new campaigns.
- Know when to send an email or sign a petition.
- An ability to share ACL campaigns through Facebook, Twitter and email.



MAF Launches Digital App For Sharing The Gospel And More

A NEW mobile app could revolutionize discipleship and evangelism in hard-to-access nations around the world. Mission Aviation Fellowship has launched *Estante*, which in Spanish means 'bookshelf.' *Estante* is meant to be a very simple, easy-to-use digital library tool for isolated pastors and church leaders to get the appropriate audio, video, or text-based resources into their hands. An internet connection isn't needed but it will allow Christians to share *Estante* resources with others. It's a huge need as more than 3,000,000 isolated pastors around the world have received little or no Christian training. It also enables the ability to have Christian materials on your phone in places where you typically can't have them physically. You can download Android only app for free from this link: <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/18907>

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Knowing Ourselves

(Read Romans 3.9-20)

FOLLOWING the Rabbis' pattern of substantiating their case by a list of Old Testament Scriptures, Paul quotes from *Psalms*, *Ecclesiastes* and *Isaiah* to summarise his argument about the state of humanity.

The repetition of 'no-one', 'not even one', 'no-one', 'no-one', 'not even one', stands out in verses 10-12. There are no exceptions, we are all worthless. The word used is of 'milk gone off.' Having been created for relationship with God, none of us has this relationship or displays any sign of seeking it.

This lack of relationship with God, or righteousness, is evident in our conduct. What stands out in verses 13-17 is the prominence of the 'throat', 'tongue', 'lips' and 'mouth'. The mouth is the accurate indicator of the state of the heart (Matthew 12.34).

The tongue is shown to be full of cursing, uncleanness, destruction and deceit, and our activities (vv 15-17)

parallel our words. To explain the reason for this, Paul quotes from Psalm 36, 'there is no reverence for God before their eyes,' the eyes being the windows for the soul. The concluding summary of 1.18-3.20 is stated in verses 19-20. The Law, God's unchangeable standard, silences all excuses.

JB Phillips renders these verses as, 'it is the straight edge of the Law that shows us how crooked we are.' The Law makes us conscious of our sin. What the Law will not do is provide a right standing with God through observance of its requirements. God, therefore, justly condemns humanity, and there is no way out. We cannot work our way out. Any solution must come from God's side.

We do not like to face the reality of ourselves. It is like looking at an unflattering photo. We protest about bad focus or bad developing. But here is God's perfectly focussed photograph of ourselves.



TO REFLECT ON:

THINK about your growth in knowledge, and ask:

Do I really know myself? What is it that Jesus knew that kept Him from trusting people (John 2.24,25)?

Read and reflect on Jeremiah 17.9.

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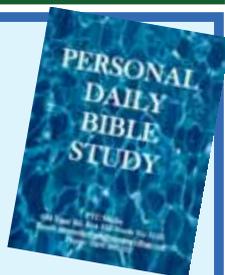
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PERSECUTION WATCH

Coptic Pope Blasts Muslim Brotherhood, US, European Union

SINCE former President Morsi's ouster on 3 July, attacks on Egyptian Christians by members of the Muslim Brotherhood have taken place in most areas across Egypt. According to a story by Mary Abdelmassih of the Assyrian International News Agency, these attacks have escalated since security forces ended the pro-Morsi protests in central Cairo on 14 August.

During their six weeks of protests, Muslim Brotherhood leaders explicitly threatened to harm the Copts should they be forced to end their protests, which they vowed to prolong until Morsi is restored to power.

'Over the past weeks we have witnessed an increasing trend of anti-Christian rhetoric calling for "the attack upon and eradication of Christians and churches in Egypt",' said Coptic Bishop Anba in the United Kingdom. 'The result of such incitement, at least in part, has been the unprecedented attack on 52 churches and numerous Christian homes and businesses across eight governorates in Egypt within 24 hours.'

According to AINA, Dr Naguib Gabriel, President of Egyptian Union of Human Rights Organization, said '82 churches, many of which were from the 5th Century, were attacked by pro-Morsi supporters in just two days.'

'Against Any Religion, Any Moral Code, Any Sense Of Humanity'

Coptic Pope Tawadros II has issued a statement expressing his views on the violence which engulfed Egypt, accusing the Muslim Brotherhood of fomenting sectarian clashes. The Pope pointed out the need to look beyond the squares where the Muslim Brotherhood have been holding their protests, in order to gain a general overview of what has been happening for weeks in Egypt. 'The attacks on government buildings and peaceful churches terrorize everyone, whether they be Copts or Muslims. These actions go against any religion, any moral code and any sense of humanity,' he said.

The Coptic Church also criticized the way in which the crisis is reported outside of Egypt. It expressly speaks of 'false broadcasts by Western media,' and urged for an 'objective' revision to be made of the descriptions given to the actions of those 'blood-thirsty radical organizations.' Pope Tawadros reaffirmed his support for 'national unity,' and rejected any form of 'international interference in our internal affairs.'

The views of the Coptic Church are also held by Copts in general, who are angry with the US and EU powers, 'who almost daily issue statements threatening to take further actions against our interim government and army, portraying the Muslim Brotherhood as victims while not even mentioning the destruction of over 80 churches, as well as monasteries, orphanages, businesses and Coptic schools by the Muslim Brotherhood,' according to Coptic activist Wagih Yacoub who believes that this attitude emboldens the Muslim Brotherhood and its supporters to carry out further violence.

Adding Insult To Injury

Yacoub added, 'To add insult to injury the Muslim Brotherhood this week hoisted the black Al-Qaida flag on top of St George's Church in Sohag. Three churches were turned into mosques in Minya and Friday prayers were held inside them.'

– *Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST News Service*



'INSTEAD of legitimizing the Muslim Brotherhood with global support and political coverage while they are trying to wreak havoc and destruction upon our beloved land, report all events truthfully and accurately' ...

'The Church is on the side of Egyptian law, the armed forces and all the Egyptian civil institutions when it comes to confronting violent armed organizations and terrorizing forces, either within the country or from abroad.'

– Coptic Orthodox Church



PERSECUTION WATCH (Continued) ...

Because Of So Much News From The **Persecuted Church** This Fortnight We Can Only Bring You The Headlines ...

IRAN: Farshid Fathi Tells Of His Agonies In Letter From Prison.
SRI LANKA: Buddhist Nationalism Major Threat To Christians.
IRAN: Convert From Islam Jailed 10 Years For Christian Activities.
UZBEKISTAN: Children's Camp Raided By Riot Police; Youngsters Questioned.
VIETNAM: Convert To Christianity Beaten By Brother, Arrested, Electrocuted And Fined.
PAKISTAN: Christian Jailed For Life Over Blasphemous Text Messages Despite No Evidence.
INDONESIA: Petrol Bombs Thrown Into Christian School Compound.
CHINA: Churches Raided As Showang Leaders Remain Under House Arrest.
PHILIPPINES: Christian Villages Attacked.
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Christians Highly Unsafe.
SYRIA: Despite New Threat, Gospel Workers Carry On.
NIGERIA: Weekend Attacks In North East Claim At Least 50 Lives.
SOMALIA: Islamic Extremists Abduct Christian Mother Of Two Young Children; Husband Receives Threatening Text Messages From Kidnappers.
INDIA: Extremist Hindu Death Threats Against Pastor.
UKRAINE: Slavic Gospel Association Reports Possible Kidnapping Of Ukrainian Church Member.
EGYPT: 42 Churches Attacked.
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Islamist Rebels Attack Christian Villages; At Least 15 Killed.
NIGERIA: Impunity Said To Aid And Abet Persecution Of Christians In Nigeria – National Christian Leader Calls Islamic Extremist Assaults 'Genocide'
SYRIA: Christians Shot Dead In 'Safe Area' By Rebel Fighters.
INDIA: Pastor's Mother Told To Convert Or Face Death, Beaten By Hindu Extremists.
INDONESIA: Security Forces Raid Church In Papua.
IRAN REJECTS American Pastor Saeed Abedini's Appeal, Affirms Eight Year Prison Sentence.
IRAN: Bombs, Bullying And Final Exams: The Life Of Christian Students In Mosul. College students are overcoming assault and adversity in Mosul, Iraq. Amid ever-increasing violence, Open Doors USA says universities are still holding classes. For Christian students, being inside a school doesn't necessarily give them safety. Female students are threatened because they don't wear headscarves. Some were physically attacked for not wearing a veil. Pray for these students. Full story: <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/18902>
NIGERIA: Muslim Mob Injures Church Leaders, Choir Members.
LEBANON: 'The Future Very Bleak'. [MNNonline.org/article/18923](http://www.MNNonline.org/article/18923)
(Sources: *ASSIST; Barnabas Fund; Release Int; Mission Network News; SGA.*)

THE USE OF CHEMICAL WARFARE IN THE FIGHTING BETWEEN WARRING ISLAMIST FACTIONS IN SYRIA IS BAD AND INHUMANE. BUT WHAT ARE OBAMA, CAMERON, RUDD, ET AL, DOING ABOUT PROTECTING CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

FRIDAYS ARE DANGEROUS IN EGYPT

THIS month, there's been a 'Friday Of Martyrs,' a 'March Of Anger,' and a 'Black Friday' – all after Muslim prayers end. Each time, rampages against Christians have destroyed property, homes, and lives. Open Doors is working closely with local church partners to support those suffering for their faith in Jesus Christ. They're trying to raise \$430,000 to help. The money will go to what is most needed to bring hope and relief to the devastated Christians.
FULL STORY:
<http://www.MNNonline.org/article/18925>

Crisis At Nigerian SIM Hospital

WITH its medical director leaving on 1 August, ECWA Hospital in Egbe, Nigeria, and its whole community, face a crisis. The hospital's entire family medicine residency program, lifeline for so many, is at risk. Without a lead physician, the four Nigerian doctors on staff cannot meet the requirements of their training. Local medical care will be greatly diminished. For the people of Egbe, the loss threatens to undo years of hard work. One new teaching physician is scheduled to arrive in early 2014, but her presence depends on provision of another missionary doctor to practise alongside her.



Egbe Hospital is a study in faith, hope and a people's ability to unite in common cause. Founded by SIM in 1952, it has had a major impact on the physical and spiritual wellbeing of the region. Many area churches were founded by people who discovered Christ at the hospital. Recently, the Egbe Hospital Revitalization Project has galvanized the community. Hundreds of volunteers have been working to improve the grounds while buildings are upgraded. Village sons and daughters who grew up to have successful careers far away still remember where it all began, giving over \$80,000 to modernise their hometown hospital. But without leadership, all those gains can be lost.

There is an urgent need for experienced medical personnel (at least two years' experience) who can commit to go to Egbe. Specifically, a family physician, a general surgeon and a hospital administrator are required. For further enquiries contact <http://www.sim.org.au/enquire>

Alarming Research Findings From Salvation Army

THE recent annual National Economic and Social Impact survey shows the alarming reality facing the members of the community who come to the Salvation Army for support. The report collected data from 2,705 clients attending 237 Salvation Army centres across Australia. The research reveals that 66% have cut back on basic necessities; 28% cannot afford a substantial meal even once a day and 92% have little or no savings for emergencies; 27% can't afford heating or cooling in even one room and 58% can't pay utility bills on time; 35% cannot afford prescriptions after a doctor's visit, 51% have gone without means (often in favour of their children), and nearly 40% of children are missing out on school activities, annual dental checkups and new or up to date school books/uniforms.

'The current structures that support employment capacity do not seem to be working for many marginalised and disadvantaged people,' said Dr Bruce Redman, spokesperson for the Salvation Army. 'For example, 39% of clients surveyed have no computer skills, 41% have felt it necessary to sell or pawn possessions, 53% have borrowed money from friends or family and 23% have taken on new debt through credit cards and loans.'

— *On The Street, Winter 2013.*

Old Mandate, New Name

SPCKA (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Aust) has come up with a clever new name, *SparkLit*, which incorporates the old initials and fits well with their motto, 'Igniting Christian Writing'. But the mission of

this centuries-old institution has not changed. They seek to advance God's Kingdom by empowering Christian writers, publishers and distributors, embracing strategic opportunities and discovering hidden talent. They enable partners worldwide to create life-changing and culturally appropriate Christian writing. As a result, indigenous churches are given a voice, Christ is made known and lives are changed.

Australia's connection with *SparkLit* began back in 1786! Rev Richard Johnson, chaplain to the convicts going to Botany Bay, was introduced to the board and presented with books and tracts from the society's stores for the use of his charges. The brevity and sobriety of the society's records written in copperplate script 226 years ago belie the audacity of this initiative. A gift from SPCK, Australia's first library, arrived at Port Jackson aboard the *HMS Sirius*, flagship of the First Fleet, sending 4,000 books and tracts, including 100 Bibles, 400 New Testaments, 500 Psalters, 400 children's readers and 100 spelling books to the other side of the world to help build a Christian foundation for the new colony.

Good News For Mission Outreach

STEER Inc's Annual Review for 2012 has just been received by our office, with encouraging news of this 51 year old organisation's continued promotion of mission work worldwide. The 12 months in question enabled them to distribute over \$3.5 million, a 20% increase over the previous year and bringing the total since their founding to \$56.5 million.

/p.14/

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

Good News For Mission Outreach \p.13\

Steer works with ministry partners all around Australia through a range of partnership programs which generate income tax-exempt funds. Income earned is distributed to agencies according to donor requests. Avenues for the fund raising includes interest-free loans, rental properties, crops and livestock, family trusts and a new initiative, memorial funds.

The start of this year saw Tony Crook take over as National Director of STEER from Richard Dickins who has remained with the organisation in the new role of Associate National Director. Previously Tony worked with the Bible Society for 15 years, and prior to that he served 12 years with the Australian Baptist Missionary Society (Global Interaction).

Leadership Change At CCC

CAMPUS Crusade for Christ Aust has announced that after 14.5 years of service as National Director, Bill Hodgson and Faye will be stepping out of this role, effective 1 October. He is passing the baton to Allan Gibson supported by his wife Mandy. The appointment has followed a two year leadership transition process facilitated by CCCA's National Leadership Team.

Bill Hodgson will be remaining with CCCA to take on the national leadership of a new ministry initiative mobilising leaders, pastors and church planters to launch multiplying missional communities across Australia. He will also invest time engaged in global leadership development roles as part of the Global Church Movements Leadership Team.

Allan and Mandy Gibson have been serving with Campus Crusade for Christ for 27 years, formerly as the Na-

tional Ministry Leader of Student Life. They spent five years in Orlando USA, with the International Campus Leadership Team where Allan was involved with coaching and equipping leaders in many countries.

37th FCC Annual Assembly

THE Fellowship of Congregational Churches (website: www.fcc-cong.org) will hold their 37th Annual Assembly at Wollongong Congregational Church (33 Market St) on Saturday, 21 September, commencing at 9am. Bible Teaching messages will be brought by Pastor Michael Hunt of Revesby Congregational Church.

The Youth Night will be held at Miranda Congregational Church on Saturday, 21 September, commencing at 6pm.

The Fellowship of Congregational Women's Assembly Coffee and Dessert Night will be held at Padstow Congregational Church, on Thursday, 19 September, commencing at 7.30 pm. Deanne Chapman will be presenting an illustrated Gospel message using flower arranging. A donation of \$10 per head would be appreciated. The proceeds from an auction of the flower arrangements will be divided amongst the FCW missionary fund and KAIROS. An RSVP should be sent to cnbates49@gmail.com or by phone to Christine Bates on (02) 9520 7346 by 10 September.

Song Books Needed

Goondiwindi Congregational Church wonders if there would be any churches who have *Mission Praise* word books that are surplus to their requirements and would like to sell (or preferably give) them to the church. If so, please contact the Church Secretary, Mrs Thea Beare, on (07) 4671 2687.

**Read *The King James Version Debate* by David Holden At:
www.defenceofthefaitth.org**

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BOOKS WORTH READING

BEYOND THE EDGE, 100 Stories Of Trusting God,

Ed. Evan Davies, CLC Publications, 2012. ISBN 1-936143-94-1.

MISSION is the great romance of the Christian Church, and those who go where none have gone before are the missionaries I most admire. Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ is one of those missions whose missionaries go to the edge, yes, and *Beyond The Edge*. Now retired International Director of WEC, Evan Davies, has brought together a thrilling series of stories told by those who are prepared 'to boldly go' on account of their love for Him who first loved them.

Here is a collection of first-hand accounts by men and women of strong but simple faith so derided by the world and worldly minded 'Christians', but so precious in the sight of the Lord; men and women 'of whom this world was not worthy' ... 'who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle ...' in fact, who personify Hebrews 11 as they follow in the footsteps of those mentioned there.

Here are stories that thrill the soul, perhaps none more so than *Stay Or Leave?*, the anonymous testimony of a missionary family in an unnamed Middle Eastern country where war broke out in 2003. They stayed, and God mightily used the witness of their faithfulness to build up believers in that troubled land. But there are 99 other stories from others, all of whose faith we should follow. As 'DP' used to say: 'Read it and be blessed.'

– Bob Thomas

FOOTNOTE: Read The Book For Yourself

IN a spirit of celebration and to inspire Christians with the need for mission, Worldview Centre For Intercultural Studies in Launceston, Tasmania, hosted a Creative Arts competition and exhibition with four categories: painting, photography, song and short film. Entries were inspired by stories from the book *Beyond The Edge, 100 Stories Of Trusting God*.

Evan Davies, former Worldview Principal, edited the book and presented the awards. On Saturday 10 August visitors browsed the exhibit, voted for the people's choice, had refreshments in cafes decorated in either Asian, Middle Eastern or European style, toured the college, used the prayer room or kids space.

The winners were announced on Sunday and Evan reminded those present that God is in the business of using people who trust Him. Mahalia Smith aged 10 was very excited to receive both the judge's award and people's choice for her painting based on the story, *Saved In A Wheel-Barrow*.

Seen On Facebook:

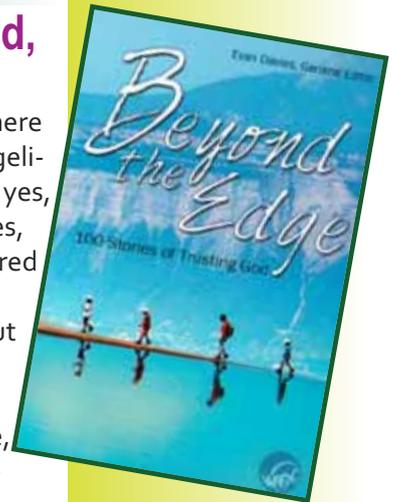


The motto for WEC International's centennial year is: *Much To Celebrate, Much To Be Done*. The book *Beyond The Edge, 100 Stories Of Trusting God*, encapsulates that motto and challenges readers to go, pray for and/or support mission.

Marylou Townsend

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Mahalia Smith with Evan Davies after receiving her rewards.

BOOKS WORTH READING

ART AND THE CHRISTIAN MIND: The Life and Work of H. R. Rookmaaker, Laurel Gasque, Wheaton: Crossway, 2005. ISBN 1-58134-694-8.

THIS is avowedly the story of a mentor and friend who meant much to the biographer, and this record of his life and thought draws on written records, personal recollections, interviews with family members and Rookmaaker's own extensive writings. My own interest in this outstanding Christian man can be traced back to the early 1970's when as a university student I read his classic work, *Modern Art And The Death Of A Culture* (1970). It opened up the world of art to me and to many other students. Hans Rookmaaker, together with Francis Schaeffer played an important role in raising the profile and showing the legitimacy of art in Christian circles and together they educated a generation of university students. His comparatively short life of 55 years (1922-1977) has had a wide and continuing impact.

Rookmaaker was Professor of Art History at the Free University of Amsterdam. He was not at all the kind of person you would think would excite and motivate young people in the days of student marches and protests, but he understood his time and he helped many students to gain a Christian perspective on cultural issues, especially the dehumanisation of life as shown in the rise of modern art. Like Schaeffer, whom he later met and with whom he co-operated, he gave Christians the tools they needed to read modern culture and to analyse modern art through a biblical lens.

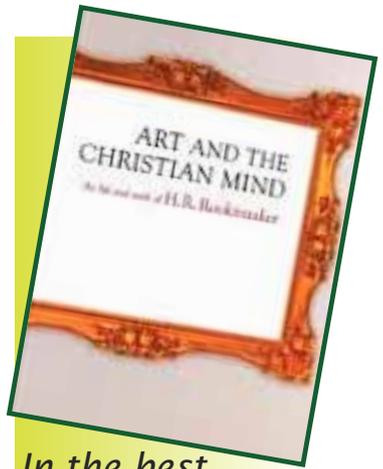
Young Hans Rookmaaker developed an absorbing interest and expertise in Afro-American music and was an obsessive record collector. His fiancée Riki was killed in Auschwitz, and later Hans was converted through reading the Bible in a prisoner of war camp, where he also found a teacher in J. P. A. Mekkes, through whose tutorship he became an ardent student of Christianity and Dooyeweerdian philosophy. After the war, he turned to the study of art history and after several years married Riki's good friend Anky (1949), and it was through her that he met Francis Schaeffer, a meeting which proved to be a key point in both their lives.

Hans was a born teacher and had particular ideas of how teaching should be done, so that it was his conviction and practise that 'art-historical education was founded on constant exposure to original works of art under expert guidance'. Though not naturally gregarious, he made deep and lasting friendships with people who deeply influenced him and he them, friends such as Mekkes, Schaeffer and Calvin Seerveld. He stood up for his friends and defended Schaeffer against a small but vocal group of Reformed American critics. He did not demand that his friends think exactly the same way that he did and he was willing to learn from those who thought differently to him, the lesson being you cannot teach others unless you yourself are also willing to learn from others!

In the best tradition of Reformed Dutch Christianity, this remarkable man saw Christianity connected to the whole of life (including the arts). True faith was not just about church life or an inner devotional sphere (a common evangelical failing). Rookmaaker saw Christianity as about truth, freedom and beauty, and he affirmed the important role of Christian artists in the development of Christian lifestyle, service, worship and mission. On the other hand, he exposed the philosophical presuppositions (anti-Christian worldview) behind much modern art, which he took it seriously, and he did not just dismiss it as nonsensical because of its typical abstract form.

Rookmaaker profoundly influenced his students just because he treated them as his intellectual equals, being willing to learn from them as well as they from him, and so he did not produce clones of himself but rather free-thinking individuals who, in turn, went on to influence many others in an ever-widening chain-reaction. This, together with his encouragement of many Christian artists, is his greatest legacy. He helped countless young believers in Europe, Britain and the USA through his almost constant travelling. He is a man worth remembering. For those who want to read more, see *The Complete Works Of Hans Rookmaaker* in six volumes.

– Greg Goswell



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