

## Brisbane Church Leaders Unite To Shine A Light On Corruption



*Brisbane church leaders unite in prayer against corruption at Wilson Outlook Reserve, Brisbane in preparation for next year's G20 meeting.*

As part of the global *Exposed* campaign and co-inciding with Anti-Poverty Week recently, Brisbane church leaders have joined Micah Challenge and Christians from around the world in prayer and action against corruption which keeps people in cycles of poverty. The church leaders, including the Churches of Christ QLD Director Dean Phelan, Catholic Bishop of Brisbane the Most Rev Joseph Oudemans, Salvation Army (South QLD) Second in Command Major Rick Hoffman, Youth Alive National Director Cameron Bennett, and Uniting Church Moderator the Rev Kaye Ronalds took part in one of an estimated 2000 prayer vigils happening across the globe over the week.

'It's exciting to know Christians are gathering in many places this week to unite in prayer against corruption, and shine a light for integrity in our churches, businesses and government,' said John Beckett, National Co-ordinator of Micah Challenge Australia. 'Together with brothers and sisters around the world, it is our desire to see transparency in the global financial system. Companies are avoiding paying billions of dollars in taxes by shifting profits to tax havens under a veil of secrecy. This money could be used by developing nations to fund hospitals, schools, roads.'

A year from now the leaders of the world's wealthiest nations will descend on Brisbane to discuss collective responses to global issues, and Australia, who takes on a year-long Presidency of the G20 in 2014, will play a key role in setting the agenda of what gets discussed and decided.

Prior to the prayer vigil at Wilson Outlook Reserve in Brisbane, Tim Costello (CEO of World Vision) and Gershon Nimbalkar (Advocacy Manager, Baptist World Aid) led a meeting with the church leaders for Micah Challenge to discuss how to best use this opportunity to make sure the voices of the global poor are heard at the G20.

'We know that God has a deep concern for the poorest in our world. The G20 presents Christians in Australia with a unique opportunity to speak up for justice in our global economic system,' said Mr Nimbalkar. 'It's a chance for us to make sure the global tax system works for the poor. It's a chance for us to address inequality, and ultimately to save and improve the lives of millions who are suffering.'

Micah Challenge Australia's *Shine The Light* campaign will seek to ensure that issues of transparency are high on the agenda for consideration by the G20 next year and will seek to channel the voices of more than one million Christians across Australia and around the world into the G20 process.

For more about *Shine The Light* campaign visit: [www.micahchallenge.org.au/shine-the-light](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au/shine-the-light)

VOLUME 76  
NUMBER 9

ISSUE DATE:  
1 November 2013

ISSN: 1033-7903

**FOUNDER:**

Eric J. Daley  
(1910-1992)

**EDITOR:**

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

**BUSINESS MANAGER:**

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

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**

PO Box 457  
Mitcham VIC 3132

**WEB-SITE:**

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

**SUBSCRIPTION:**

Free On Request

**ACCEPTANCE OF  
ADVERTISING  
DOES NOT IMPLY  
ENDORSEMENT**

**PUBLISHED BY:**

New Life Australia Ltd

**ABN: 15 005 035 138**

**CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE  
NOTE:**

*New Life* is archived by the National Library. It is assumed that contributors agree with this arrangement and so are willing to be published on this basis.



## 'Guilty On All Counts'

I FIND that often one of the best ways of answering our critics is with the word 'Yes'.

'You're a "fundamentalist"! 'Yes, although "Bible believing Christian" would be a better way of expressing it.'

'You're a "Bible-basher"! 'Yes, although "Someone who tries to live as God directs" would be a nicer way of putting it.'

'You're a "Wowser"! 'Yes, and it's never done me any harm.'

Regular *New Life* contributor Andrew Lansdown asks: 'What do we say to people who claim that Christ is a crutch?'

And he gives a really good answer:

'Basically, I think we should agree with them. In a spiritual sense we all have broken legs. None of us can stand upright without help. By God's grace Christians understand and acknowledge this. Yet here is a paradox: By being dependent on Jesus, Christians can be independent of everything else. Drugs, gambling, pornography, peer approval, worldly pursuits – those crutches that take only so much weight before they collapse – are avoided or discarded by people who walk with Jesus. Christians are often astonishingly free of vice and harmful dependence. There is no boasting in this, only joy. We are not ashamed of Christ our crutch. He is not like those worldly crutches that ultimately cripple those whom they appear to prop up. He uplifts whom He upholds. We gain independence through dependence on Him. We stand surely by leaning on Him.'

There's nothing new about 'those who are in love with this present world' trying to disparage Christians with nicknames and caustic comments, but the good thing is that in a way they're so often right – they just don't realise it.

'Christian' and 'follower of the Way' were the earliest of them. But through the centuries, other names were given in jest or disparagement only to eventually become badges of honour. 'Lollard', 'Puritan', 'Enthusiast', 'Methodist', were perhaps among the most noteworthy.

Reading *The Way To Happiness* by 17th Century Puritan Ralph Venning, published by Banner Of Truth, I came across this gem of advice to Venning from one Viscount Kenmure: 'Because you are but a young man, beware of temptations and snares; and above all, be careful to keep yourself in the way of means; resort to good company; and howbeit you be nicknamed a Puritan, and mocked, yet care not for that, but rejoice and be glad, that they who are scorned and scoffed at by this godless and vain world, and nicknamed Puritans would admit you to their society; for I must tell you, when I am at this point as you see me, I get no comfort to my soul by any second means under Heaven, but by those who are nicknamed Puritans. The Puritans are the men that can give a word of comfort to a wearied soul in due season, as I have found by (my own) experience ...'

Ah yes, we do find by experience that as fundamentalist, Bible-bashing, Puritanical wowsers whose crutch is Christ we are so greatly blessed by Him that 'we'll care not what men say, we'll labour night and day to be true Christians.'

– Bob Thomas.

## MATTERS FOR PRAYER

### Kazakhstan – And Central Asia's Complex Reality

BAKHYZZHAN Kashkumbayev (aged 67), a convert from Islam and pastor of Grace Church (Presbyterian) in Kazakhstan's capital, Astana, was arrested in May 2013 after the mother of a church member accused him of making her adult daughter mentally ill. Charged with 'intentional inflicting of serious harm to health' – essentially for praying for the sick – Pastor Kashkumbayev was detained and sent for psychiatric assessment. Despite an international outcry, Pastor Kashkumbayev's detention continues. Other prisoners of conscience recently treated this way include the atheist blogger and anti-corruption campaigner Aleksandr Kharlamov (63), charged with 'inciting religious hatred' for criticising religion, and Zinaida Mukhortova (56), a lawyer deemed delusional after she filed complaints against a regional governor.

Forum 18, closely monitoring the case, reports that Pastor Kashkumbayev was transferred back to Almaty's Investigation Prison in September. Then after being released to house arrest on 8 October, he was immediately re-arrested on charges of 'extremism'. If deemed guilty, the pastor will face seven years in prison. 'Expert analysis' of the activities of Grace Church has labelled books found at the church 'extremist' and in breach of the law against inciting religious hatred and social discord. The authorities regard evangelical witness to be just as much a threat to peace and social cohesion as jihadist or revolutionary Islam because it creates problems they would rather not have. For the authorities, it is easier to deal with the problem of unwanted minority Protestants than with the problem of majority religious intolerance.

If the troublesome, witnessing Christian is a foreigner, the usual action is deportation. Vyacheslav (Victor) Lim (37) was deported in August 2013 on the grounds he had attracted eight administrative offences in eight years: traffic infringements, late payment of tax, failing to report travel, insufficient fire safety and the like. All fines were paid immediately, even those Lim disputed. Lim was accused of conducting 'illegal missionary activity' because he had been leading a local congregation of the Grace Protestant Church (Baptist) in Borovoe, north of Astana. He had been a legal resident for eight years with a residence permit valid to 2020; his wife and two children who left Kazakhstan with him were all Kazakh citizens. Kazakh human rights activist, Yevgeny Zhovtis, considers Lim was deported for his religious activities. He described it as a 'typical religious case' and a 'misuse of justice'. Russian Orthodox priest Fr Sofrony was deported from Almaty Region around the same time for reasons of 'national security'. A Russian citizen, Fr Sofrony had been a legal resident since 1991. He was the priest at St Sergy's Church in the village of Tuymebayev. He also ran an orphanage there that cared for around 110 children and an aged care facility that was home to some 120 elderly people.

#### The Complex Reality Of Central Asia

Central Asia has real and serious problems. Soviet-imposed borders continue to be a major cause of ethnic tensions and peace is tenuous. Islamic jihadist and revolutionary groups agitating for an Islamic state pose a real and serious threat. Poor governance marked by widespread corruption, human rights abuses and indifference to suffering has turned many Muslims against the government and towards groups such as Hizb-ut-Tahrir which present Islam as the solution. Whilst the laws against 'extremism' and 'inciting religious hatred' were designed to target the Islamic threat, they are routinely abused to intimidate disgruntled Muslims and persecute witnessing Protestants. That the West is seen to be siding with jihadists further complicates the states' relationship with Protestants. Protestants in Uzbekistan have long suffered harassment, repression, arrests and the confiscation of property. Also as noted by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the government in Kyrgyzstan has recently proposed tightening the administrative punishment (no trial necessary) for 'illegal missionary activity' and 'religious propaganda'. The proposed law would ban collecting tithes, the propagation of religion in educational facilities and religious conversions.

– Elizabeth Kendal

### PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WILL:

† Intervene on behalf of Pastor Kashkumbayev and end the persecution of him and Grace Church; may the Lord have mercy on this family and this fellowship of believers; may justice be done.

† Intervene for Pastor Lim and provide him and his family with everything they need, particularly a secure place of refuge and a divine appointment where they can witness to the Lord's goodness.

† Intervene in Kyrgyzstan to stop the highly repressive, punitive and retrograde amendments to the religion law; may the Holy Spirit infiltrate any debate about religious liberty and use it to open eyes, minds and hearts.

† Raise up righteous, wise leaders in Central Asia who will address the real and serious issues of ethnic tension, Islamic jihadist and revolutionary movements, corruption, poverty and hardship while upholding religious liberty and confronting religious intolerance.

† Empower great and effective Christian ministry and witness in Central Asia; may the Holy Spirit bring transforming revival to Central Asia.



### TURN BACK THE BATTLE: Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today.

With persecution escalating globally, **Elizabeth Kendal** calls us to revisit the prophecy of Isaiah, maintaining that Isaiah 1-39 provides an unambiguous treatise on how God's people are to respond to persecution, suffering and existential threat. For purchasing options, visit:

[www.turnbackthebattle.com](http://www.turnbackthebattle.com)

## 'INTO ALL THE WORLD'

### New Relief Centre Opened For Refugees

BAPTIST Global Response has set up a new community centre for refugees in Syria. The project is helping to centralize refugees and to build a strong community. Partners are helping build homes for refugees so they may start their lives over in a new home. Needs are still high, but food, medicine, and making Jesus known continues on. For updates on the relief program and more details, click on:

<http://www.MNNonline.org/article/19088>

### Burmese Radio Program Commenced

HCJB Australia is excited to announce that from October they began broadcasting in Burmese. Program manager Derek Kickbush said, 'Our relationship with program provider Watchmen Radio Ministries continues to grow with the addition of the Burmese language program.' Since October 27,

they have been broadcasting in six different languages on behalf of Watchmen. This brings the total number of languages aired by HCJB Australia to 27. – *HCJB Australia Bulletin, October 2013*

### Visit Of Middle East Expert

OPEN Doors is hosting a visit to Australia by 'Brother George', international expert on the situation in the Middle East with first-hand experience of what it is like to be a Christian in countries like Syria, Iraq and Egypt where Christians are living in constant chaos and mayhem. They do not know how they will feed their family or when the next bomb will explode. They do know that Jesus is with them and that God is at work in the midst of chaos. From 16-24 November meetings will be held in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Details from (02) 9451.2999 or [www.opendoors.org.au](http://www.opendoors.org.au)

### Op Shop Provides Opportunity To Help Mission

TWO ladies on the Sunshine Coast, Qld, have launched an op shop to help support missionaries working with Asian Tribal Ministries.

Jan Richardson and Maria Yujnovich operate the registered charity, Fountain Gate Caloundra, from the shop at 3/8 Anning Ave Diamond Head just south of Golden Beach.

Asian Tribal Ministries are working on the border between Burma and Thailand. They deliver a feeding program to widows and orphans, provide medical supplies and shelter, teach women sewing and various crafts so they can support their families, and share the Gospel. The sole purpose of the op shop is to raise funds for the missionaries to show the love of Christ to these people.

The shop is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturday mornings. They always welcome donations of suitable goods for sale, and they also plan to open Tuesdays and Thursdays as competent volunteer staff become available.

Prayer has been requested that God will use the shop to abundantly supply the missionaries with support, and that many Asian people will see the love of Christ in action and come to know and follow Him. – *Stan Hunt, Fountain Gate Caloundra*

## THE BANNER OF TRUTH AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE for Ministers & Wives & Christian Workers



4 to 7 March 2014

### VENUE:

The Collaroy Centre,  
Homestead Avenue, Collaroy, Sydney NSW

### SPEAKERS:

- **MURRAY CAPILL** – Principal, Reformed Theological College, Geelong Vic.
- **SIMON MANCHESTER** – Rector, St Thomas, North Sydney NSW.
- **IAIN MURRAY** – Edinburgh UK.
- **JOEL RADFORD** – Pastor, Baptist Church, Drummoyne NSW.
- **STEPHEN TURNER** – Pastor, Shore Baptist Church, Auckland NZ.
- **NOEL WEEKS** – Elder, Christian Reformed Church, Macarthur NSW.

### ENQUIRIES TO:

Mrs Robyn Phillips,  
PO Box 29, Sylvania Southgate NSW 2224.  
Email: [ajp162@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ajp162@bigpond.net.au)

## A POINT TO PONDER ...

### Miracle In The Mountains

AMIDST the negative hype of the media and the accurate reporting of the Fire Department, one thing slipped the eyes of the nation, and that is the 'miracle' of unexpected rain which came down on the fires on Tuesday 22 October.

At the beginning of the week the weather bureau's predictions were mid-30s and definitely no-one spoke of rain on Tuesday. Well, Pastor Daniel Nalliah of Catch The Fire Ministries, who was very sad to hear of the disaster in NSW, called on Christians across Australia to *pray for rain*. He felt very strongly to go to the Blue Mountains and pray. He called Christians across Australia to pray all day, including a special time of prayer from 3pm to 4pm across the country. A few hours later he landed in Sydney and was rushed to the Blue Mountains, where he was met by 30 other Christians, only 10 minutes away from one of the worst fires. From 3pm to 4pm falling on their knees in prayer, they cried out to God for protection and asked Him to send the necessary rain so that the disaster may be averted. While praying, the 'miracle' started, as it began to rain right there in the Blue Mountains. On Tuesday night 22 Oct there was a soaking rain which fell all across the bush fire areas in the Blue Mountains. This rain was not at all predicted by the weather bureau. In fact, some Fire Department Officials called it 'a miracle'.

Fire Chief Shane Fitzsimmons stated, 'The blessing which came on Tuesday night and the moisture helped control the fires.' Thankfully, no more homes nor lives were lost later in the week, although NSW State Premier Barry O'Farrell stated early in the week that it would be a miracle if more homes and lives were not lost.

'Well,' says Pastor Nalliah, 'it is definitely a 'miracle', as on Wednesday 23 October it was supposed to be the worst fire danger. Instead the Fire Chief declared that the fires were under control. We thank our brave Fire Fighters, SES Personnel and Government Officials for a job well done, but let's not forget to thank God for answering prayer and sending the much needed 'miracle' rain on Tuesday night, followed by the further 'miracle' of no further loss. When will the media give some credit to God for the rain?'

### *Olive Gardens Christian Retirement Association*



**35 Olive Road, Eumemmerring, Vic.  
Modern, fully renovated 1 and 2 bedroom units  
in a popular retirement village  
close to shops, public transport and freeway.  
Unit must be owner occupied.  
Price only \$125,000 and \$135,000.  
Contact: Herman Schuring: 0400 131 339.  
or Tony Smit: 0418 591 765.**

## HERE TO HELP

### Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief Team Responds To NSW Bushfires

THE Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief Team has deployed to the Blue Mountains using Springwood Baptist Church as its base of operations. Distribution of Bushfire Recovery Tool Kits began on Tuesday 22 October. The plan is to distribute a tool kit to every homeowner who has lost their property. These kits contain essential tools which have been found to be very useful by victims who have lost their property, both overseas and here at home during the 2013 Coonabarabran bushfires, the 2013 Tasmanian bushfires and the 2009 Victoria 'Black Saturday' bushfires. As more volunteers are mobilised, Samaritan's Purse plans to work alongside churches and community groups in the affected areas in clean-up and recovery of personal belongings. For further details phone Abby McPharlin on 0414 714 112.



*Kenneth James, Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief Manager helping volunteers pack Bushfire Recovery Tool Kits.*

#### We Have Been Advised Of The Following Bush Fire Appeals:

- **Baptist Churches Bush Fire Appeal** to raise funds for the churches in the fire zones, to provide invaluable community support and aid. This appeal will provide churches with money for: Emergency Relief, Accommodation, Clothing, Bill Payments, Food, Crisis Counselling and more. Go to [www.mybaptistchurch.org.au/donations](http://www.mybaptistchurch.org.au/donations) to make a tax deductible donation to the Bush Fire Appeal via Credit Card or a pledge that can be paid by Credit Card, Cheque/Money Order or Direct Debit. If you own a holiday property and would like to offer it to families needing respite care in the coming months contact [kclendinning@baptistnsw.asn.au](mailto:kclendinning@baptistnsw.asn.au)

- **Anglican Aid** has launched an urgent appeal to respond to the needs of people in Sydney affected by the fires. The distribution of funds will be overseen by the Bishop of Western Sydney, Ivan Lee. Working through established networks, Anglican Aid and Bishop Lee will be able to identify and respond to the urgent needs of many. Donations which are tax deductible can be made as follows:

Online <https://www.thankq.net.au/donate/V247/Donate1.aspx?ref=5856389756&pid=7> Electronic Funds Transfer: BSB 032078 Acc#253493 Ref Bushfire Appeal (please also email [enquiries@anglicanaid.org.au](mailto:enquiries@anglicanaid.org.au) with details of name and address so receipts can be issued. By phone to 1800653903.

### New Rep For EMF

REV Keith Knoldt has recently been appointed honorary representative for NSW/Vic of the European Missionary Fellowship. This is a moderate sized UK-based mission with 47 couples in 16 countries in Eastern and Western Europe, occasionally referred to in the *Banner of Truth* magazine. For more information about EMF go to:

[www.europeanmission.org](http://www.europeanmission.org)

Keith writes: 'Perhaps many Christians in Australia think of Europe as a "Christian" place with churches in every village.

'Perhaps so, but Europe is a Gospel desert. (EMF) has church plants in Spain and Greece particularly. I would be pleased to come to your church to present something of Europe's needs and EMF's work.'

Keith Noldt can be contacted at:

[keithjan@tpg.com.au](mailto:keithjan@tpg.com.au)

## Signposts of the Second Coming

Israel Regathered	Nov. 3
Confusion & Chaos	Nov. 10
Fearful Sights	Nov. 17
Days of Noah	Nov. 24



Friendship Baptist Church warmly invites you to attend our weekly Sunday services during November to hear Pastor Kyle Sutton speak on the many signs of Jesus' Second Coming.

Meeting at Carnegie Primary School Auditorium  
Corner of Glen Huntley and Truganini Roads, Carnegie  
10:15 sharp each Sunday morning  
Ch. Office 8802-7566 — [www.friendshipbc.com.au](http://www.friendshipbc.com.au)

## CHURCH AND NATION

### Fred Nile Stands With Pro Life Doctors In Condemnation Of Victorian Medical Board

THE Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC, Leader of the Christian Democratic Party, together with pro-life NSW and Queensland doctors, has sharply criticised the Victorian Medical Board in the wake of further revelations about the dysfunctional *Abortion Law Reform Act 2008* in Victoria. Miranda Devine, writing in the Victorian *Herald Sun* and the NSW *Sunday Telegraph* (6-10-13) has told of the allegedly oppressive behaviour of the Medical Board of Victoria which has instigated a 'Star Chamber' prosecution of a Catholic GP in Sunshine, Melbourne, Dr Mark Hobart, because of his Catholic views and conscientious objection to abortion. Five months after Board investigators 'raided' his surgery, Dr Hobart cannot find out who his accuser is.

In 1985 the threat of similar anonymous accusations against NSW doctors led to mass civil disobedience by doctors and a wholesale re-structure of the NSW Medical Board. The conflict contributed to the downfall of the Unsworth Government.

Dr Jim Wilkinson, a senior anaesthetist, has said that the Victorian Board was totally out of touch on this issue. Ms Devine's article centred on the apparent abuse of the easy access to abortion in Victoria by allowing abortions of healthy, normal female foetuses even when fully formed and for no other reason than that they are female. 'This is a repugnant abuse of the liberalised law in Victoria, said Dr Wilkinson. 'The Chairman of the Victorian Board, Dr Laurie Warfe, had the opportunity months ago to make a statement condemning the practice when I wrote to him with my concerns – three personal letters have had no response from him whatsoever. The prime purpose of any medical registration body is the protection of the public from wayward or unqualified practitioners. The public interest is manifestly against aborting normal, healthy babies that are conceived within marriage just because they are female – that is the ultimate travesty of the defective Victorian legislation. The Victorian Board has totally failed in its duty to protect the most vulnerable in our society. The controversial new law was passed on a 'conscience vote' of MPs, but seeks to deny doctors any rights in conscience to say no to abortions for a reason as repugnant as the fact that the baby is a girl.'

Rev Fred Nile currently has 5 Pro Life Bills before the NSW Parliament on behalf of the Christian Democratic Party, and congratulates Dr Mark Hobart for his strong, pro-life stand.

### Council Of Churches Supports High Court Challenge To ACT Same-Sex Marriage Law

'PRIME Minister Tony Abbott is to be commended for his Government's support of uniform national marriage laws and the decision to vigorously challenge the ACT Government's new same-sex marriage laws in the High Court. We can't have States and Territories passing laws that deeply divide Australians and that are guaranteed to face expensive legal challenges,' the President of the NSW Council of Churches, the Rev Dr Ross Clifford, says. 'The NSW Council of Churches believes that a change in Federal marriage law would be contrary to our Australian culture and heritage.' NSW Council of Churches Public Affairs Director, the Rev Rod Benson, said. 'It is imperative that Prime Minister Tony Abbott remain firm in his support for the current definition of marriage in federal law, and true to his Government's election mandate to defend the meaning of marriage as currently defined in Commonwealth law.

'From its opening chapters, the Bible clearly upholds that marriage is intended to be a relationship between a man and a woman. Australia needs conviction politicians who are willing to take an uncompromising stand on social issues, who will uphold traditions and customs that have served society well in the past,' Dr Clifford said.

## VEHICLE WANTED

**Suitable For Towing Medium Size Pop-Top Caravan.  
About To Trade-In Or Sell?**

**Retiring Missionary Couple Seek Vehicle Still In Good Condition.  
Contact Ron Or Jeanette Tibbey (03) 9436 5825.**

## 'INTO ALL THE WORLD ...'

### Where Can Morling Take You? New Interactive Map Shows Morling Graduates In Action



MORLING College, Sydney, has launched the new *Alumni* section on their website *Where Can Morling Take You?* featuring an interactive world map that highlights where some Morling graduates are serving today. This is a new addition to the website launched by Morling College in February this year. The website has already proved to be a valuable resource for users and this new addition promises to enhance the overall user experience.

The graduates have been divided into five main categories; Pastors, Cross-Cultural Workers, Counsellors, Educators, and Other. Each graduate story can be found by clicking the pin-drop on the interactive map. Vice Principal Rev Dr Graham Hill says, 'I like the way you can see how Morling has been preparing people for Gospel ministry across various fields.'

This interactive map has been designed as a tool for prospective students to hear a bit more about the experiences of Morling graduates, for current students to be able to see the opportunities they may have once they complete their studies, and for Morling's current alumni community to be able to stay connected with one another post-study.

'Looking at this map, I'm excited to see Morling having a global impact for the Kingdom of God,' says Morling graduate Rev Megan Du Toit, Associate Pastor at Gordon Baptist Church. The graduates on this website have each been interviewed about their journey at Morling and how it has helped to equip them to serve in their current ministries. An example is Morling Theology And Counselling graduate Ricky Su, who says, 'I chose Morling College because it offered distance education and they provided the flexibility that I needed while working as an Australian Army Officer.'

*Where Can Morling Take You?* can now be viewed online at: [www.morlingcollege.com/alumni](http://www.morlingcollege.com/alumni)  
For further information please contact Bronwyn Jenkins, Marketing And Recruitment Director, at Morling College [enquiries@morling.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@morling.edu.au)



Adelaide • Brisbane • Canberra • Melbourne • Perth • Sydney • Sydney Korean • Distance Education (English & Korean)



# become a qualified counsellor

Diploma of Counselling and Family Therapy, Advanced Diploma in Counselling and Family Therapy and Graduate Certificate in Counselling and Family Therapy.

Obtain a counselling Post-Graduate qualification in 3 years.

Help yourself & others overcome personal, family, marriage, anxiety, depression, addiction, grief, sexual and other problems.

[www.aifc.com.au](http://www.aifc.com.au) Enquire Now Ph: 1300 721 397



## e-SALVOS STORES

### My Salvos Stores Officially Launch Online eBay Shop!

MY Salvos Stores and celebrity Brand Ambassador, Barry Du Bois, officially launched the My Salvos Stores eBay Shop at Districto1 in Surry Hills, Vic, on 29 October. Furniture and homeware items being sold on the eBay shop were on display, and guests browsed the Salvos Stores eBay Shop on interactive iPads, with the option to bid on items or 'buy it now' – with one guest purchasing a vintage table and taking it home on the night! Salvation Army officers welcomed guests, including media, celebrities and Salvation Army staff, and expressed their thanks for the great support they have received with the launch of the online eBay shop. Colonel Richard Munn, Chief Secretary at The Salvation Army, explained the range of community work that the charity does and how the funds raised from selling items on the eBay shop will greatly assist with their work, with all proceeds raised going towards The Salvation Army.

My Salvos Stores have been helping struggling families and individuals for over 125 years, and have raised millions of dollars to support The Salvation Army. Selected furniture items that have been donated to My Salvos Stores across the Eastern Territory will be sold on the eBay shop. Items will be available to purchase online through eBay's buy it now or bidding option. Items sold will depend on what has been donated, with the focus being on vintage and unique household items. All proceeds raised from the Salvos Stores eBay shop will go towards The Salvation Army.

For more information visit [www.salvosstores.salvos.org.au](http://www.salvosstores.salvos.org.au)



## Manager – Cheshunt Christian Camp (Trading as King River Camp)

Location: 953 Upper King River Road, Cheshunt South, Vic 3678

### Job Description

- A unique opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic, hard working Christian couple who desire to serve in the field of Christian camps.
- King River Camp is situated in beautiful bushland close to the King River.
- The camp is dedicated to the outreach of the Gospel through providing a Christian environment where all can experience the adventure of being in the bush and enjoying the tranquility the camp site offers.
- The manager's job is a hands-on role with responsibility to manage all aspects of the camp site.
- The manager will work with the camp committee who share in both physical work and administration of the camp.

Check out the features of our camp by visiting our web site – [www.kingrivercamp.org.au](http://www.kingrivercamp.org.au)

Imagine living in a comfortable four bedroom home next to the forest and mountains.

Travelling to work is simply a matter of walking out the back door.

For information, including position description, please contact the secretary on 02 6056 0988.

or by email: [secretary@kingrivercamp.org.au](mailto:secretary@kingrivercamp.org.au)

Applications Close 15 November 2013.

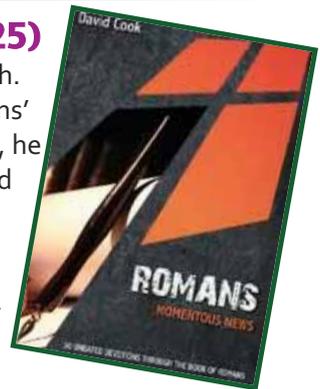
**Knowing God's Plan**

**(Read Romans 4.16-25)**

**FOR REFLECTION:**

*In what way is Abraham's faith in God a challenge to our own? Which of God's promises to us are you finding hardest to trust today? Why? How does Abraham's example help you?*

ABRAHAM is the father of all those who have faith. The name 'Abraham' means 'father of many nations' and that is what he is. Since Abraham is our father, he is our model or pattern. Paul says that the way God relates to Abraham is the way God relates to us. Paul repeats (vv16,17) that Abraham's justification was not earned but was by faith. His faith is a model for ours. Its object (v18) was the promise of God. Faith has no inherent value apart from its object.



Paul Little said, 'A strong faith in a weak bridge will not bridge the gulf, but a weak faith in a strong bridge will get you to the other side.'

Faith's strength (vv19,20) is seen in that Abraham believed, in spite of the seeming impossibility of the promise, that the aged Sarah would bear the aged Abraham's son. The focus of his faith (v21) was God's ability to do what He said. Abraham was not put off, because he was convinced of God's power. The blessing that flowed (v22) was righteousness, credited to him graciously through faith. The reason this incident was recorded was not for his sake, but for ours (vv23-25) – that just as Abraham believed in the

promise of God, so we are to believe in the work of Christ as the basis for our justification.

Just as Abraham believed God could bring an heir from one as good as dead, so we trust in the God who brought His own Son from death to life.

Verse 25 reminds us that the death of Jesus was because of our sin. His resurrection was like God's confirmation that Jesus' work on the cross had been accepted. Therefore our justification is sure.

Abraham believed the promise of redemption (v17) and so do we (v24). Abraham looked forward to the blessing that would come to his life (Genesis 12.3); we look back to the Redeemer who came, through whom we are blessed, as was Abraham.

Abraham's life was one of great blessing. He had known persecution and harassment, yet God blessed him, and today there are approximately 1.4 billion living sons and daughters of Abraham. He is indeed our father, our model and our pattern.

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

## PERSECUTION WATCH

### GFA-Supported Believers Church Elder Murdered In Nepal – Man Attacked Elder He Had Sought Out For Healing

DEBALAL, an elder of a Gospel for Asia-supported Believers Church, was fatally attacked Sunday, 20 October, in Phattepur, Nepal. 'Opposition, persecution and martyrdom are part of the cost of following the Lord and bringing the Gospel to a desperately needy world,' said Dr K.P. Yohannan, Gospel For Asia ([www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org)) founder and international director. 'We are always heartbroken when we lose someone, but while we weep here on Earth, there is rejoicing in Heaven over those who came to know Jesus through this man. We expect persecution, but our hearts are deeply grieved at this loss. Let us pray for this grieving family and for our brothers and sisters sharing the love of Jesus in difficult situations. Many now know the love of Christ through their lives and sacrifice.'



*Pastor Tuhinsurra and believers gather at the funeral for Debalal. Debalal spent his last moments of life praying for the man who fatally slit his throat.*

Elder Debalal, 36, was slain by Kumar, 29. He had asked Debalal for healing prayer. Kumar had been ill for some months and was improving gradually as Debalal prayed for him. Debalal lived approximately 30 minutes away from Kumar and often visited the sick man to offer comfort and to intercede on his behalf. Kumar attacked Debalal around 3am, slitting his throat with a khukuri, a knife with an inwardly curved edge, used as both a tool and a weapon in Nepal. Police took Kumar into custody at the Area Police Office in Kanchanpur. An official video statement and latest updates are available at:

<http://www.gfa.org/persecution/murder/>

#### Prayer Is Requested For:

- Debalal's family, as they grieve the loss of their husband and father.
- All the believers, to stand firm in their faith during such a grave situation.
- The man who did this, and his family.

## Donations Make All The Difference!

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

**BUT** We **DO** have expenses **AND**

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

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION:**

**By Cheque To:** New Life, PO Box 457, Mitcham 3132 Vic.

**By Direct Deposit To:** Account Name: New Life Australia Ltd.

Bank: Westpac. BSB: 033-112. Account Number: 16-8239.

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

## PERSECUTION WATCH (Continued) ...

### ERITREA: 185 Christians Detained At Prayer Meeting

ERITREAN security forces have arrested 185 Christians in a raid on a prayer meeting in a suburb to the north of the capital, Asmara. Release partners report that Eritrean church leaders are fearful that this mass arrest in Maitemenai may herald a wave of further arrests. They also say that the Christians had apparently gathered to pray about the worsening exodus of Eritreans from the country. The majority of those arrested are women. The whereabouts of the detainees has not been officially confirmed but their relatives believe at least some are being held at a police station in Edaga Hamus, in an adjoining district. Pray for the swift release of these 185 Christians. Pray too for the release of the estimated 1,500 other Christians detained in Eritrean jails due to their faith. Pray that President Isaias Afewerki's Government will bow to pressure for policy reform. Pray specifically for reform of its repressive religious policies, which currently ban all churches except Orthodox, Catholic or Lutheran.

– Release Partners

### IRAN: Christians Imprisoned In Shiraz

SIX Christians from Shiraz, Iran, including a 17-year-old, have lost their appeal against a conviction for 'attending

a house church', among other charges. Their sentences total 20 years in jail, although two of the six, including the teenager, are serving suspended sentences. The others are being held in Adel Abad prison in Shiraz. Release sources say that there is no further right to appeal. Please pray that these six Christians will know God's peace and His presence – and pray that they will be pardoned.

– Mohabat News

### As Scourge Grows, So Does The Resistance

LIKE the plague or black mould, human trafficking is spreading in India. According to both the UN and US State Department, the trade is expanding from red-light districts to residential areas. Bright Hope International is working on the local level to fight it. Churches they partner with are joining forces with local police. Bright Hope is not just rescuing girls from this evil trade. They're telling them about Christ and helping them build a new life. 'The rescues get a lot of attention. They're exciting...it's arrests and convictions... But the restoration and rehabilitation is the long, hard work that has to be done if we're really going to see these girls thrive.' Full story: <http://www.MNNonline.org/article/19143>

## New Resource!



### TEACH US TO PRAY:

#### The Lord's Prayer And The Gospel Of Jesus

Edited by Greg Goswell and Greg Munro.

Commentary and studies for personal and group use.

1-7 copies \$16 per copy plus \$2 per book postage.

8-14 copies \$12 per copy plus \$14 postage.

15+ copies contact PTC Media for postage.

Great to use in your Bible Study Group!

#### AVAILABLE FROM:

PTC Media, 684 Elgar Road

Box Hill North Vic 3129

Phone: 0400 880 515

## 96threeFM

### Today's Christian Music And Inspiring Talk

[www.96three.com.au](http://www.96three.com.au)

Phone: 03 5241 6550

Email: [listen@96three.com.au](mailto:listen@96three.com.au)

## Visiting WA? Perth?

### Worship With The Presbyterian Church In WA

Albany	0427 302 073
Mount Magnet	(08) 9963 4125
Bassendean	(08) 9477 4249
Bicton	(08) 9339 3542
Clarkson	(08) 6201 3794
Fremantle	(08) 9398 1304
Hillarys	(08) 9562 7263
Mandurah	(08) 9319 2208
Melville	(08) 9417 1976
Peppermint Grove	(08) 9384 9186
Southern River	(08) 9332 1829
West Leederville	(08) 9310 5935

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

## 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)*

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

### Destructive Cyclone Hits Orissa

MANY have been praying about the massive Cyclone Phailin that hit the east coast of India last month. The focal point of this cyclone was Gopalpur, in Orissa where the regional support base of Empart mission is located. The base includes a Transformation Centre, children's home and farm.

Empart's Regional Director, Pastor Johnson, reported what it was like to be in the midst of such a destructive force: 'For 13 hours we were all terrified and continuously prayed – not knowing if we were going to live or die. The last time a similar cyclone hit this area more than 10,000 people were killed. As we prayed, strong winds over 240km per hour hit our small buildings and suddenly, with a massive noise, the entire roof of our Transformation Centre was blown away. All the students got under the beds for safety. In the middle of all this some of the students started to sing and praise the Lord. It was an amazing moment; we truly experienced the presence of the Lord.

'When we looked outside we could not believe it. Our trees, plants, our beautiful farm and vegetable garden were all wiped out. Our kitchen and dining area was completely gone, cooking things, plates, etc were all flying in the wind. The two vehicles we have were also damaged and their windows smashed.

'Since the cyclone life has been miserable. We have no electricity, no clean water and we can't buy any food – the food we had was all damaged by dirty water. All the roads are blocked with broken trees and power lines. More than nine million people have been affected, with more than 300,000 homes destroyed and over one million acres of farms and produce all gone. Already this year we had experienced the worst monsoon in over 100 years, so food shortages and price increases will be a major challenge for us.

'We now need to begin rebuilding the roof of the Transformation Centre, the kitchen and the children's home. We need to replace bedding, kitchenware and other damaged items. The process of cleaning up and replanting the farm has already started but there are major costs involved. We would also love to provide clean water and food to some of the nearby villages and medical help through medical camps. For example, near to us there are some very poor fishing villages. This is the third major disaster to hit them in the last 10 years. They now have nothing. Their little wooden boats were washed away in this cyclone. We would love to be helping them more as they are so near to us and such poor, sincere, loving people. None of them are Christians so this is a good opportunity for us to be Christ-like to them.'

Pastor Johnson is appealing for prayer and financial help to rebuild and help others in their region. Empart's Australian office can be contacted at (03) 9723 9989.

– Jossy Chacko



Remains of Gopalpur kitchen and garden.

### Dr Miyon Chung Joins Morling Faculty

MORLING College is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Miyon Chung as Lecturer in Theology, commencing in February 2014. Dr Chung will join current theology lecturers, Ross Clifford, David Starling and Andrew Sloane, thus strengthening an already strong team in the field of Systematic Theology, Apologetics, Ethics.



Dr Chung joins Morling from the faculty at Torch Trinity Graduate University in Seoul, Korea where she has been the Associate Professor and Chair of Systematic Theology; Program Director of the Doctoral and Masters Programs; and Editor in Chief of *Torch Trinity Journal*. Dr Chung has also previously lectured at Guatemala Baptist Seminary; Carson Newman University; Oriental Theological Seminary; South-western Baptist Theological Seminary and Dallas Baptist Seminary (Korean). Dr Chung brings a wealth of experience from many leading theological colleges around the globe.

Dr Chung is currently a Baptist leader in Asia, and in her home church, Suwon Central Baptist where she has been the Associate Missionary and translator. She works with the Lausanne and other evangelical groups.

### Question Evolution!

#### COSMIC ACCIDENT or DIVINE DESIGN?

**Dr Mark Harwood** - CMI scientist and author will give a power point illustrated talk on *Evolution And The Bible* followed by Question Time and a Light Supper.

**SATURDAY 9 NOVEMBER – 7pm**

**MULGRAVE RESERVE GOSPEL CHAPEL**  
127-133 Garnett Rd, Wheelers Hill 3150 – Mel. 81/A1

**Everyone Welcome**

**Admission Free (Donations Accepted).**

Creation books, DVDs etc for purchase.

**Enquiries:** Vic Akehurst, Phone: (03) 9764 3841

Email: vic.akehurst@bigpond.com



CREATION.com

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

### New Salvation Army General Visits Australia

ON 3 August last, Commissioner André Cox was elected 20th General of The Salvation Army. Their first overseas visit as international leaders of this historic movement saw General Cox and his wife, Commissioner Silvia Cox, share with Salvationists of the Australia Eastern Territory at the *Freedom Celebration* in Sydney in mid-September. He is scheduled to return in late November to take part in the Southern Territory's commissioning service. Born in Zimbabwe to an English father and Swiss mother, André spent his childhood years in Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom before moving to Switzerland where he met and married Argentinean-born Silvia. He was commissioned as a Salvation Army officer in 1979 and was appointed as the Territorial Commander of the work in Finland and Estonia in 2005, a post he held until he took command of the Southern Africa Territory in October 2008.



André and Silvia spent four years as leaders of the Southern Africa Territory, which included work in the countries of South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, the Islands of St Helena and Swaziland. They then served for six months as the Territorial Leaders of the United Kingdom with Ireland Territory before their present appointment. — *On Fire*.

### Challenges At Mukti

MUKTI Mission faces a huge task of building a boundary wall to retain land that could otherwise be lost. The Mukti property of 230 acres at Kedgaon, in the Indian state of Maharashtra, provides a safe haven for hundreds of women and children. However 147 acres have either inadequate fencing or no fencing at all. Local people use some sections as a thoroughfare and there is a great risk of squatters settling on the land, resulting in Mukti Mission losing access for current usage or future development. A two metre high stone and brick wall urgently needs to be built. Erection has started thanks to large donations from an Australian foundation and other donors in Australia and New Zealand, but funding is still needed to complete it.

Another project needing completion, especially to assist the visually impaired residents at Mukti, involves a large section of ground between their home and the

front gate and church that has no proper pathway. This would enable the visually impaired ladies and young girls to have access to a proper safe walkway, free from obstructions regardless of the weather. The new section will also pass by the residences of Mukti nurses and teachers, giving them a safe walkway. — *Peter Warren, Glenda deJagar, MuktiPulse, Issue 4, 2013*

### 'Teach Us The Word'

TIM and Mel Downes, cross-cultural workers with Global Interaction, the outreach arm of Australian Baptists, have been facilitating adult literacy classes for a while in Malawi. Mostly women attend the classes. In a recent class when they began to teach phonics and reading, the local teacher explained to Mel, 'The ladies and I are happy with you coming and encouraging us with education, however we know the real power is in God's Word. Could you teach us more about the Word of God when you come so we can really understand it?'

### WITH CHRIST: LLOYD LANYON – Inland Gospel Ministries

ORIGINALLY from a farming background in the Barraport and Boort districts of Victoria, God laid His hand on Lloyd in 1959 when Lloyd and Lois went to the Billy Graham Crusade in Melbourne. That was when Lloyd came to the realisation that being a Christian in name only didn't cut it and that having a living faith in a living God was more important than anything else, and accepting the forgiveness offered by God was vital. After some 12 years of farming, his focus and purpose gradually changed. He became very concerned for the spiritual welfare of people in the inland of Australia, not least his own children.



Lloyd and Lois Lanyon

In 1972 Lloyd and Lois decided to enter full-time Christian ministry. By now Lloyd had obtained a pilot's licence and purchased an aircraft, mainly with the purpose of reaching remote communities with the Gospel. They subsequently moved to Moree, Dalby, Hervey Bay, Adelaide and finally Toowoomba, through different phases of their ministry. Lloyd delighted in taking people on trips out west, and encouraged them to share their faith, as they went village to village, property to property.

Lloyd never really retired, he just slowed up bit by bit. He was always visiting somebody or having people over. He preached his last sermon at Harristown Christian Assembly just a few months ago. While he gave up flying over 20 years ago he proceeded to wear out two four wheel drive vehicles in ministry.

To sum up Lloyd's life one word comes to mind: 'passion'. He was passionate about his wife, his family, and his ministry, but most of all he was passionate about his Saviour. Lloyd went to be with his Lord on 14 September in Toowoomba, Qld. He is survived by his wife and family, who all walk with the Lord.

## ONESIMUS AND FRIENDS – HERE TO HELP ...

### Christians In Scotland To 'Try Losing It'

IN April 2014, churches the length and breadth of Scotland will 'Try Losing It' – not in a literal sense, but by the simple action of 'using and losing' a copy of the *trypraying* booklet in the weeks leading up to Easter.

**Week 1 will be 'USE IT' Week**, when congregations will take home and use a copy of the booklet to pray by themselves for a week.

**Week 2 will be 'LOSE IT' Week**, when they find someone to give the booklet to – a friend, family member, the postman ... or maybe even leave a copy on the bus or at the doctors.

There are two powerful things about this:

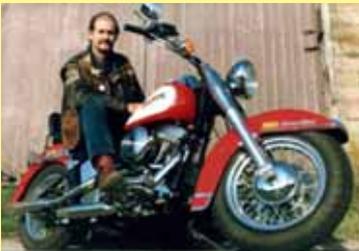
- The booklet and its youth and children's editions are simple invitations to pray, but they also clearly explain the Gospel – so they are life-changing for people who seriously use them.
- By doing this together, including putting the logo into the public space, there will be a visible expression of unity, which will let the world know about the love of Jesus (John 17.20ff).

For more info go to: <http://www.thereishope.co.uk/join/>

### Over \$55,000 Pledged In Support Of 'Smithy' Film

IN a 60-day campaign on crowd-funding platform Pozible, Melbourne filmmakers Don Parham and Warwick Vincent have successfully reached their target, receiving over \$55,000 in pledged support from people keen to see a film made about John Smith. Smith is the Australian founder of God's Squad Christian Motorcycle Club and a respected keynote speaker at festivals and conferences worldwide.

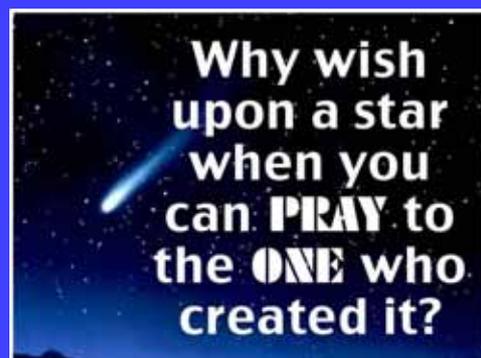
Don Parham, Producer and Director of the feature length documentary *Smithy: Something In Every Hue* commented: 'The Smithy production now begins in earnest;



we look forward to jumping into a major first cut of all the material that has already been shot and collected in recent years. We'll be conducting more in-depth research on John's story and making decisions about what other interviews need to be filmed with his family, friends, colleagues, critics and commentators. We also plan to shoot another major interview with John himself.' The film is slated for release in mid-2014.

– Vic Campbell: [vcmedia@gmail.com](mailto:vcmedia@gmail.com)

### SEEN ON FACEBOOK:



Read *The Practicality Of Christianity* by David Holden

Free at: [www.defenceofthefait.org](http://www.defenceofthefait.org)

Support the International Day Of Prayer  
For The Persecuted Church  
Sunday 3 November 2013

See <http://criticalprayerrequests.blogspot.com>

## BOOKS WORTH READING

### HONEY FROM THE ROCK: DEUTERONOMY FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD, James Robson, Nottingham: Apollos, 2013.

ISBN 978-1-84474-625-5.

JAMES Robson, Tutor in Old Testament at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, describes the book of *Deuteronomy* as 'sweet words from God for His people, like "honey from the rock" (Deuteronomy 32.13)', and so it is, for it is the inspired preaching of Moses. The contents of *Deuteronomy* stress the ongoing relevance of the events of the exodus and Israel's encounter with God at Sinai to all generations of believers. This claim is confirmed by its prominent place in the teaching of Jesus and the writers of the New Testament.

Robson approaches *Deuteronomy* in a theologically serious way, discovering that its moral teaching is grounded in God's promises to the Patriarchs, Israel's experience of divine rescue in the exodus and their meeting with God at Horeb (Sinai). He shows that the repeated use of 'today' signals that the nation of Israel is at the point of decision: will they trust and follow God or will they not? Every subsequent generation is faced with the same decision. However, far from turning everything into the existential present of choice and commitment, it is noted (with Robson's assistance) that *Deuteronomy* tells the story of the relationship between God and His people, past, present and future, a story with its highs and lows, and one in which divine faithfulness triumphs over human waywardness.

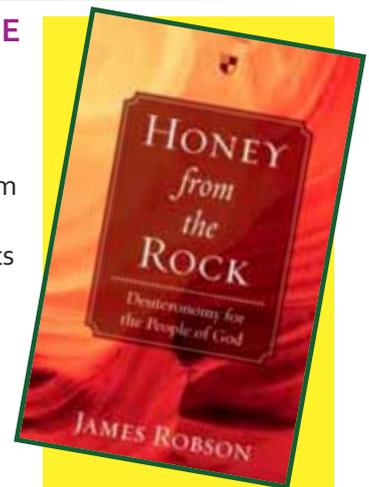
Robson shows that God is acting to redeem and restore creation, and the 'land' focus of *Deuteronomy* indicates that salvation in the Bible includes the physical dimension, with salvation history culminating in the new Heavens and the new Earth. He goes on to show the continuities (and discontinuities) of *Deuteronomy* with the rest of the Old Testament story, and then plots how Jesus Christ fulfils the hopes of *Deuteronomy* but also goes beyond them. The work of Jesus, the great prophet like Moses, is both expected and unexpected. Robson helps us see the Gospel logic of ethics in *Deuteronomy*: what Israel should be (set out in the laws of chapters 12-26) is rooted in what Israel is by the grace of God – a redeemed, loved, chosen and holy band of brothers.

There are common pitfalls for Christians seeking to appropriate and apply the ethics of *Deuteronomy*, pitfalls that Robson exposes and corrects. The instructions of *Deuteronomy* cannot be relegated to the dustbin of history; nor can they simply be picked up and rigidly followed. Robson by no means underestimates the challenge of applying the ethics of *Deuteronomy* today, but still insists (rightly) that this must be done, for we see that Jesus' and the Apostles' use of *Deuteronomy* becomes a model for what we in turn should do.

Everything laid down in *Deuteronomy* is still relevant, though the specifics often require radical adjustment, but there are underlying moral and social values. With Chris Wright, Robson thinks in terms of ethical paradigms, especially its view of fraternal relationships between Israelites, its humane stance, its life-affirming attitude, but the details of Deuteronomical legislation are transformed (sometimes radically) by Christ, not because Moses taught what is wrong but because what he taught was provisional. Robson uses the debt laws of *Deuteronomy* 15 as a specific text to work through to the point of application in a Christian sermon.

*Deuteronomy* helped shape the ministry and teaching of Jesus and the life of the early church, and Robson's book will assist us to enter the world of *Deuteronomy*, be shaped by it, and return to our own world better people and more useful in Christ's service.

– Greg Goswell



**'THIS book encourages and provides practical assistance to the preacher who wants to use *Deuteronomy* and to do so respecting it as inspired Scripture, reading it in the light of the Gospel of Christ, and applying it authentically with insight and sensitivity. I do not know of any book that does this better than this new Apollos book by James Robson.'**



## TIME TO THINK ...

# I Was A Stranger Visiting Your Church And ...



IN the last several months I have been on the road. This includes visits to churches in Canada, Singapore, Thailand, England and Scotland. These churches have been small and large; established and independent; their services traditional, contemporary and more. It has been a learning time on how to welcome visitors – and how not to.

This reflection is written in the light of Hebrews 13.1-2. It is interesting that the first expression of brotherly love is to receive strangers well. Behind these words there lie the old commands to care for strangers (eg Leviticus 19.34). Undergirding all this is the Gospel grace wherein God shows hospitality to those who are strangers and even estranged from Him (eg Romans 5.10). And finally, to welcome a stranger is akin to welcoming the Lord Himself (Matthew 25.35). So ...

To you I am an unfamiliar face. It's not too hard to see that I'm visiting as I may arrive well before the service or a little late. I don't walk in with familiar ease and may appear uncertain and tentative. I don't know who sits where, what to do at different parts of the service, where the toilets are or what happens when the service ends. In short, I stand out from the regulars.

Who am I? I may be a committed believer who is passing through. Or a newcomer looking for a church home. Or I may be a local person enquiring about the faith. Or a desperate unbeliever seeking help and solace where I think I can find it. I may be on the edge of despair-driven suicide or it may be that walking into your service was a conscious choice to avoid a traveller's temptation. Whoever I am and however long I stay, I am an opportunity for you to show God's hospitality.

### What To Do:

- Give me a warm greeting as I enter, hand me any books or service sheets and help me find a seat (I didn't know that seat was reserved for the elders!).
- Somewhere, somehow (handout, slide etc) tell me anything I need to know during the service, where the bathrooms are and any post-service arrangements (behind the 'small hall' is not a destination I know).
- If you are sitting near me, say 'Hi' and take an interest in me – after the service take me over to the coffee venue and ask if you can help with information about the church or area.
- Have a welcoming team watching out for visitors and assign someone of a similar demographic to link with me.
- Notice my name and use it when talking to me (I'll try and do the same to you).

### What Not To Do:

- Don't single me out during the service by asking visitors to identify themselves (I'm already uncertain about walking into your space).
- Don't come on too strong with an overly heavy greeting and an evangelistic spiel when you first meet me.
- Don't try to sign me up for something unless I express interest.
- Don't leave me standing by myself during coffee time (I'll be the person lingering over the outdated notice board or bookstall or standing near the door).

### And Finally.

If you don't know what to do, just put yourself in my shoes. How do you like to be welcomed when you are the stranger and visitor?

– David Burke, Lecturer at Presbyterian Theological Centre, Sydney

## VISITING MELBOURNE?

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

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

