



'Thinking Back/Moving Forward' – Giving Momentum To Mission

MISSIONS Interlink held a highly successful Short Term Mission Seminar at Sydney Missionary and Bible College on 22 February with more than 50 people either recently returned from or preparing to go on short term mission. Janice Collins, who serves with International Teams and has led ten short term mission teams to various countries, was the chief speaker for the day. With the aim of helping returnees to 'splashdown rather than burnout' she outlined how things have changed, how returnees have changed as a result of experiencing another culture and how those at home have changed. Although we now have constant access to the world through the web, we can be unaware of even our own changes, fail to realise that others have moved on, and we may be seeing things as they were rather than as they are.



Small groups provided the highlight of the day for this writer, himself having served as a short term missionary.

Rod Bishop, having served with Compassion in Kenya, said the main lesson he learnt was not to be more thankful for what he has but to be more generous with what he has.



Nathan Cheah from Castle Hill, who has done street evangelism with young people in Turkey, was impressed with the depth and reach of world mission and the huge variety of ways the Lord works through His people.

Upcoming events organised by Missions Interlink are: *Reachout/Connect and Short Term Training Weekend*, 16, 17, 18 May at SMBC; *Light In The Darkness*, 9,10 August, at Katoomba Christian Convention site.

Contact Judy Kay at jkay2x2@optushome.com.au for further details.

Kim Jong-Un 'Orders 33 People Executed' For Making Contact With Christian Missionary – South Korean Press

'Kim Jong-un is fast gaining a reputation for brutality and destroying those closest to him,' says a reporter with Britain's *Daily Mail*, which claims that 33 North Koreans face execution after being charged with attempting to overthrow the repressive regime of Kim Jong-un. www.dailymail.co.uk 'The Koreans have landed themselves in hot water after it emerged they had worked with South Korean Baptist missionary Kim Jung-wook and received money to set up 500 underground churches. It is understood they will be put to death in a cell at the State Security Department,' wrote Mark Shapland in a story for the paper. 'Experts believe the North Koreans are being punished more harshly than usual as North Korean leader Kim Jong-un combats a wave of dissatisfaction at the regime's isolationist doctrine.'

Shapland said that Missionary Kim Jung-wook was arrested and jailed last year for allegedly trying to establish underground churches. Last week he held a press conference at which he apologized for committing 'anti-state' crimes and appealed for his release from North Korean custody. He told reporters that he was arrested in early October after entering the North from China and trying to make his way to Pyongyang with Bibles, Christian instructional materials and movies.

The North Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo reported that they said that Kim told them to build a church on the site where a massive statue of North Korea's founder, Kim Il-Sung, stands in Pyongyang whenever the regime falls. – Dan Wooding, Founder, ASSIST News Service, www.assistnews.net

VOLUME 76
NUMBER 15

ISSUE DATE:
15 March 2014

ISSN: 1033-7903

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(1910-1992)

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Free On Request

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PUBLISHED BY:

New Life Australia Ltd

ABN: 15 005 035 138

**CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE
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newlife
AUSTRALIA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

Hope For Kids



HOPE For Kids is a unique and powerful resource that equips children's ministry leaders to share the Gospel with kids and teaches them how to train kids to share the Gospel message with others. It's a powerful tool that often does more than transform the lives of individual children – it also impacts families, churches, and schools as well.

At the end of last year two children, a brother and sister, attended a Hope For Kids training being held in a local church in Sydney. Their mother was not a Christian but decided to let her kids attend while she sat at the back of the hall and watched. During the training these children decided for themselves that they wanted to follow Jesus. There were obvious changes seen in their lives directly following the training, and the team of leaders continued to pray hard for them and their family. The mother began to attend Sunday Worship regularly with her children, and on 22 December 2013 she was touched by the Holy Spirit after listening to the sermon and accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour.

There are heaps of Hope For Kids trainings happening across Australia. To find out more go to www.kidsee.com.au. Why not sign up for a course and see how Hope For Kids can mobilize your church's children's ministry?

– *Evangelism Explosion*

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MATTERS FOR PRAYER

Elizabeth Kendal's Report On The Persecuted Church

Christians Subjugated In Raqqa, Syria

SINCE January 2014 the terror group ISIS has ruled the northern city of Al Raqqa. Sharia is enforced and the whole community lives in terror of ISIS's extreme violence. Recently 20 Christian leaders were taken captive and given three options: convert to Islam, submit to Islam as dhimmis (humiliated and subjugated under Islam) or 'face the sword'. The Christian leaders signed an agreement committing the Christian community to submission. Just as in the Middle Ages, Christians must now pay protection money (jizya) as mandated by the *Qur'an* (Sura 9.29). They must demonstrate respect for Islam and Muslims and abstain from all public expressions of Christianity and from renovating churches and monasteries. If they breach the agreement, ISIS will resume war against them. Please pray for Syria and its Christians.

Dozens Detained In North Korea, 33 To Be Executed

ON 27 February captured South Korean Baptist missionary Kim Jung-wook (50) fronted a North Korean press conference in Pyongyang to 'confess' to 'anti-State' crimes and plead for mercy. Dozens of people accused of assisting Kim were immediately arrested and banished with their families to labour camps. It now emerges that 33 of the accused have been sentenced to death and will be executed in a secret cell at the State Security Department. This will be a horrific and traumatising blow to North Korea's remnant Church. Furthermore, security agents now have new signal detectors that enable them to intercept mobile phone signals in real time and arrest mobile phone users within minutes, further isolating the State. Please pray that God will intervene in North Korea and pray for the remnant Church.

Iran: Pastor Irani Returned To Prison After Surgery

SENTENCED to five years in jail on charges of 'crimes against national security', Pastor Behnam Irani (40) has since come close to death due to internal injuries caused by routine beatings and severe stress. There has been much prayer for his life. We thank God that on 22 February Pastor Irani finally received surgery to treat his internal injuries and painful bleeding stomach ulcers. He was returned to Ghezal Hesar Prison on 25 February. Please pray for Behnam Irani, his wife, children and congregation. Please pray for Iran's Christian prisoners and that God will continue to build His Church in Iran.

Tanzania: Churches Targeted In Zanzibar

ON Sunday 23 February a home-made bomb reportedly containing a mixture of ball bearings and chemicals exploded at an Evangelistic Assemblies of God Tanzania Church in Zanzibar. The explosion shook the building just as worship was concluding and there were no casualties. The next day a bomb was remotely detonated outside Christ Church Anglican Cathedral in Stone Town, Zanzibar, about 1 pm. Minutes later, another bomb exploded at a nearby seafront restaurant popular with tourists. The attacks may or may not be connected to the news on 19 February that British police will now join the hunt for the attackers who doused two teenage British girls (both Jews) in acid while on a gap-year in Zanzibar in August 2013. The girls had been working in a local Catholic nursery school and were volunteering at a local charity.

Aceh, Indonesia: Sharia For Everyone

ACEH'S provincial administration and legislative council have approved a new by-law that will force everyone in Aceh to abide by Sharia (Islamic) Law. The *Qanun Jinayat* (a by-law governing behaviour) will apply to the territory of Aceh as distinct from applying to Muslim individuals. Muslims and non-Muslims, local population and visitors, will all have to observe Sharia, following Islamic codes of dress and behaviour. Christians who violate Sharia will be tried under Islamic law and punished accordingly (usually by lashing). Councillor Abdulah Saleh said it was important to have one law for all so that Muslims did not feel they were being treated unfairly. Clearly Saleh fears that Christian liberty could cause fitna (strife or temptation for Muslims) and accordingly Christian liberty must end so that everyone suffers equally.



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

'GO INTO ALL THE WORLD ...'

HCJB Global Mission Becomes 'Reach Beyond'

IN changing their name from HCJB Australia to Reach Beyond, this vital Gospel broadcasting ministry is heralding the ending of one chapter and the beginning of another.

'It is not the end of our ministry but rather the end of an era,' says a recent press release. 'In this chapter is written the story of those who made great sacrifices and commitments to see the ministry and work of HCJB grow. It is a chapter of those who against many odds trusted in God and He honoured their faith and allowed HCJB to grow and prosper. Now we begin a new chapter and we do not yet know the details thereof. It is the chapter of Reach Beyond where a new generation will take the baton and run with the vision to reach the unreached with the Gospel, to change people's lives through the power of God's message, reaching beyond all boundaries.'



Could You Be A Pal Of New Life?

We were encouraged recently by a new member of the *New Life* family setting up a monthly donation of \$10 via our website (nlife.com.au) using our PayPal facility. It's a great way to ensure *New Life's* ministry continues.

Signs Of Progress

'There are many aspects of the ministry affected by the change of name, we ask for your prayers and patience as these changes take effect. We are relaunching our website under the new name during April and hope it will be more vibrant and easier to navigate.

'Please pray with us that the process of informing everyone about the name change will be successful and efficient, and that the new name will be received well. One particular need for prayer is for staff numbers in Kununurra, which are very low.

Pray with us that God will send the right people to fill the vacancies.

Darling Downs Easter Convention 18-21 April 2014 Christianity With Its Boots On - Dr Don Hardgraves

COME and share a weekend of challenging teaching on the book of ROMANS and learn how it is so relevant for assisting the Christian Community in our journey of life. Walking the walk and talking the talk. Learning to communicate the truths revealed in the Word in a way that is full of Grace, Dignity and Love.

Dr Don Hardgrave, the chief speaker, has been sharing these truths for many years. He has taken part in camping ministry, challenging both high school students and young adults. He has served in pastoral ministry in both the Wesleyan Methodist and Baptist Churches. Don has also had the privilege of lecturing in both Switzerland and the USA. He is currently serving as Senior Pastor at the Bowen, Qld, Baptist Church

Program For The Weekend:

- FRIDAY 18 APRIL:** 9am—10.20am: *Paul's Confidence And Concern.*
11am—12.15pm: *God's Message Through Creation To The World.*
3.30pm—4.45pm: *A Faith That Changes Us And Our World.*
7.30pm—8.45pm: *The Peace Of God That Flows From Forgiveness.*
- SATURDAY 19 APRIL:** 9am—10.20am: *Assurance Of Salvation And The Struggle With Sin.*
11am—12.15pm: *Freedom Of Life In The Holy Spirit.*
3.30pm—4.45pm: *Mission Speakers.*
7.30pm—8.45pm: *Passion For Lost Souls—Evangelism In The Market Place.*
- SUN 20 APRIL:** 7am—7.45am: *Communion In The Chapel.*
Attending Church Services Of Own Choice In Warwick.
2pm—3.30pm: *Mission Speakers.*
7.30pm—8.45pm: *Renewing The Mind—Living Godly In A Fallen World.*
- MONDAY 21 APRIL:** 10.30am—12.30pm: *The Delight Of Duty: Country, Government, Neighbourhood.*

**PLACE: WARWICK CHRISTIAN COLLEGE SLADE CAMPUS
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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO OUR WEB SITE. www.ddcc.net.au

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF TODAY

GRN Workers Boldly Go To Mexican Drug Growing Area

GLOBAL Recordings Network is working in the Mexico region where the world's most-wanted drug baron, Joaquin 'El Chapo' (Shorty) Guzman was arrested.

These courageous evangelists are sharing the Good News with the agricultural workers who flood into the area to work the fields. The world's media recently featured the arrest in Mazatlán, Mexico, of the world's most-wanted drug baron, Joaquin 'El Chapo' (Shorty) Guzman, who headed the fugitive list of US drug officials. 'Shorty', the head of the Sinaloa Cartel, a notorious drug trafficking, money laundering and organized crime syndicate based in the city of Culiacán, Sinaloa, has been on the run for many years. He was eventually found living in a house in Culiacan and at the last minute escaped through a tunnel under the bathtub into the sewer system and went into hiding in a room in a Mazatlán Hotel, where he was eventually caught. Guzman has been charged in a federal indictment in Brooklyn, New York, along with five co-defendants, with running the massive Sinaloa Cartel – which one official says has brought more cocaine, heroin and meth into the US than any other organization.

Now comes the news that GRN co-workers have been risking their lives for 24 years for the sake of the Gospel in Culiacán, the drug capital of Mexico. The fearless workers from the group, also known as GRN (www.globalrecordings.net) which since it was founded in 1939 by American missionary, Joy Ridderhof, has produced Gospel recordings in 6,208 languages and are available without cost have been taking the Good News to the people of this area where a great deal of the winter vegetables in the USA, like tomatoes, are grown in the fields around Culiacán.

Each year thousands of poor Indians from Oaxaca and Chiapas States in the far south of Mexico are trucked up to work in the fields. They often bring their families. At the end of the winter harvest season a great deal of their earnings go to pay off their debt to the camps' company store. Some of the camps have a single room for the families to live in and others are small cement three-wall rooms in which they use the open side for camp-like cooking. Sometimes, older children as well as the parents work in the fields. These Indians are under great persecution from the state church where they come from if they become born-again Christians. However, in the camps they feel a freedom from this Christo/pagan living situation in their home villages.

Each year Global Recordings Network Mexico enlists Christians to go out to these camps each evening in February to take part in *The Culiacán Project*. In the daytime they distribute recordings in the tribal language of the dwelling they visit and at night movies such as the *JESUS Film* are shown on a movie screen. Thousands come to Christ each year during these weeks of evangelism in the agricultural camps. – Dan Wooding, ASSIST



GRN staff prepare the open air movie theatre.

Pastor/Senior Pastor

Chinese And Australian Baptist Church—Thornleigh, NSW

The Chinese and Australian Baptist Church at Thornleigh is looking for a Pastor with at least three years' pastoral experience, who is fluent in Cantonese and English, and preferably also Mandarin.

The church has five congregations, two Cantonese, two English, and one Mandarin, with about 420 people attending worship each Sunday.

The precise role of the new Pastor will depend on experience. With sufficient experience the new Pastor will be called to fill the role of Senior Pastor with responsibility for all five congregations. At the very least, the role will involve pastoral responsibility for the two Cantonese congregations, and a supporting ministry to the Mandarin congregation.

Responsibilities will include preaching and teaching God's word from the pulpit and in Bible study classes, pastoral care, an advisory role to different church ministries, and administration.

Please apply to the church secretary, Pak San Tam, at
<recruit@cabc-t.org.au>

'CHRIST FOR ALL OF LIFE'



National Day Of Thanksgiving – An Opportunity To Practise The Gentle Art Of Gratitude

TODAY, more people than ever are suffering from anxiety and depression. According to *Lifeline*, suicide is the leading cause of death in Australia for men under 44 and women under 34, and mental illness is just as prevalent in Christian circles as it is in the rest of society.

Why So Blue?

Life events, family history, medical issues, drug and alcohol abuse are all contributing factors, but according to researchers, part of the solution could be as simple as saying 'thank you,' following the discovery of a direct link between gratitude and happiness. In a controlled experiment, researchers asked one group to write down five things they were grateful for each day. Another group was asked to write down the things that annoyed them each day. The 'grateful group' showed, amongst other positive outcomes, increased alertness, better sleep, improved social interactions, improved health and even reduced blood pressure.

In a similar study amongst Grade six and seven students, the 'grateful' students showed increased academic outcomes, improved relationships with their parents and teachers and improved social interactions. **'More Blessed To Give ...'**

In Acts 20:35 Jesus said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' And that can certainly be said of 'giving thanks.' *The National Day Of Thanksgiving* is held on the last Saturday of May each year. Saturday 31 May 2014 is a unique opportunity for all Australians to celebrate and give thanks for our God-given heritage as a nation, and to demonstrate the values of honour, respect, thankfulness and gratitude towards each other. In 2013, over 1,600 communities and an estimated 250,000 people participated in *National Day Of Thanksgiving* events across Australia. Former Townsville Mayor, Les Tyrell AOM said: 'This is what I always thought the Church should be like. It is the finest hour for the Church in our city.'

This year, the focus is on thanking those working in the transport and travel industries, such as bus, train, tram, taxi, and truck drivers, pilots, couriers, and travel agents – and neighbours, from those living next door, or in your street to any who, through their thoughtfulness and kindness, contribute to making your life more pleasant. There are endless opportunities to 'share the gratitude' with a simple message of 'thanks.' Individuals and churches can play an important role in nurturing health and wellbeing in their communities and amongst their own congregations. *The National Day Of Thanksgiving* is a great place to start. To find out more visit www.thanksgiving.org.au

– Annette Spurr

SPEND SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH US! — FREE ENTRY!

AUTUMN Songs of Praise

Sunday, 30 March 2014
2.00 pm to 4.45 pm (Pre-program at 1.30 pm)

Diamond Valley Baptist Church
309 Diamond Creek Road, Plenty (Melway 11 D7) Phone: 9435 9377

PLEASE BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

SING YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS & SONGS AND ENJOY COMPLIMENTARY AFTERNOON TEA

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Classically trained, Melbourne born singer/songwriter and recording artist, will sing the songs of Dame Vera Lynn from the war years.

THE WALTON SISTERS
VIOLIN DUET
Briere and Jessica study at the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School and perform with the Melbourne String Ensemble. We are delighted that they will play for us at the Autumn Songs of Praise.

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MATTHEW FIELD
Song Leader

AN INITIATIVE OF THE LIVING HERITAGE INITIATIVE

EARS TO HEAR

EARS Inc Helping People Hear In Malawi

ACCORDING to the World Health Organisation, 360 million people live with disabling hearing loss and the majority live in developing countries. Nine per cent (32 million) of these are under 15. Although most cases can be treated through early diagnosis and proven interventions, in developing countries, hearing issues are seldom assessed. Deaf and hearing impaired children often experience delayed development of speech, language and cognitive skills. Adults with hearing loss can experience exclusion, isolation and frustration. Cultural or superstitious beliefs regarding hearing loss may create a barrier to prevention, treatment or rehabilitation.

Established in 1998, EARS Inc. is an Australian, Christian, not-for-profit organisation which aims to reduce the impact of deafness and increase access to hearing care through training and equipping health workers and teachers in developing countries. Their philosophy is to build local capacity and establish sustainable programs, empowering people to help themselves and others.

Audiologists Peter and Rebecca Bartlett completed many short term trips to support audiology services in developing countries before responding to God's call to establish a hearing clinic and training program in Malawi, one of the poorest regions in the world. In 2010, Bec and Peter, together with their three young daughters, packed up and moved from Ballarat in country Victoria to the African Bible College in Lilongwe.

In the last three years, the Bartletts have seen amazing answers to prayer in their ministry. The only registered audiologists in a country of 15 million people, they have opened a hearing clinic, run an extensive outreach programs to villages, taught teachers at Schools for the Deaf to test hearing and make ear-moulds, acquired equipment to screen babies' hearing, and developed an audiology training program at ABC, with six students graduating this year. One of the most amazing blessings was when the Bartlett's application won an Australia-African community grant to build a state-of-the-art hearing clinic and training centre on the campus of the ABC, the first of its kind in Malawi.

The ABC Hearing Clinic and Training Centre was officially opened by Malawi's Minister of Health, Mrs Catherine Gotani Hara, on 4 October 2013. The Minister's speech was full of understanding and appreciation, as she acknowledged the importance of the Ministry of Health working collaboratively to make the most of this unique facility. In the moving ceremony, Peter Bartlett started by honouring God in the facility's establishment and prayed, 'Let this place bring praise to Your Name'. He also thanked the many

churches and individuals in Australia and USA who contributed to the centre, as well as major facility donor AusAID and major equipment donor Hear The World Foundation.

A young lady spoke of how she has benefited from the audiology services and hearing aids provided at ABC. She received a standing ovation following her speech describing her life's struggles before she received her hearing aids, and the difference this ministry will have in detecting hearing loss in children at a younger age than she and her twin sister were when their loss was diagnosed.

All who spoke mentioned the considerable impact this mission has had in just three years and of the size and quality of the new clinic and its equipment.

– Margaret Anderson



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GETTING ON WITH THE JOB

SAT-7 Wins Prizes For Quality Film Production

– Short Film Competition Encourages Dialogue in Egypt

On Saturday 8 March, filmmakers celebrated an awards ceremony for the Egyptian short film competition, *Dialogue Without Walls* (in Arabic, *Hewar bila Aswar*). SAT-7 and Egyptian national television stations aired the ceremony live from the Nile Hall in downtown Cairo, Egypt.

Through the short film competition, SAT-7 aims to encourage conversation and build bridges between people of different political and religious backgrounds. It also gives young filmmakers a platform to express their opinions independently of commercial pressures.

A committee of independent judges, comprised of filmmakers, chose three award winners from 52 film submissions. First prize was awarded to *The Shot*, produced by Tamer Arnest, a young Egyptian filmmaker living in Kuwait. Tamer is a member of the media group at Kuwait Evangelical Church, which trained with SAT-7 two years ago.

Out of four SAT-7 productions submitted to the competition, two were awarded second and third prizes. The second award went to *A Harmonic Film*, directed by Shokry Zikry (pictured centre, front) and with screen play by Amir Nessim. *A Harmonic Film* centres on a young filmmaker trying to make a film that wins an award. His mentor advises him to compromise his values to impress the audience. At first he agrees, but then at the last moment, he sticks to his convictions and does not compromise.

Third prize went to *Braids*, produced by Farid Garas. *Braids* is a film about a young woman fighting within herself for freedom from misconceptions about women in the conservative Middle Eastern community. Her father tries to liberate her, but during the course of events, he dies. She is left to suffer but she does not surrender her cause. Both SAT-7 films were produced in December, 2013 in partnership with the Family Life Network. SAT-7 organized Dialogue without Walls for the first time this year, in collaboration with Catholic Cinema Centre and the Synod of the Nile: Dialogue Council. The Catholic Cinema Centre is highly respected for its values, as it is the only institute that can nominate Egyptian films for the Oscars and Cannes festivals.



POSITION VACANT – TRAINING & COMPLIANCE OFFICER

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe culture within our churches, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria invites applications for the position of:

Training & Compliance Officer (part-time)

Safe Church – Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The position is between 2 and 3 days per week (negotiable), reporting to the Manager of Safe Church Unit – PCV, presently the Clerk of Assembly.

Starting 1 July 2014, the position involves:

- computer data-entry and filing cabinet record-keeping;
- development and delivery of training modules for ministers, elders and church members of the PCV;
- compliance checking throughout the denomination.

To register expressions of interest, and for a more detailed job description, please contact:

John Wilson, Email: wilsonjp51@gmail.com SMS or Phone: 0418 537 209

Closing date for applications: 5.00 pm, Thursday 17 April 2014.

'IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE'

Ridley Melbourne To Commemorate The Leon Morris Centenary

2014 is the centenary anniversary celebration of Leon Morris' birth on 10 March 1914. Leon Morris is arguably Australia's greatest biblical scholar, best known for his masterful works on the biblical teaching about the Atonement as well as studies on *The Gospel of John*. Leon Morris was also Principal of Ridley College from 1964 to 1979.

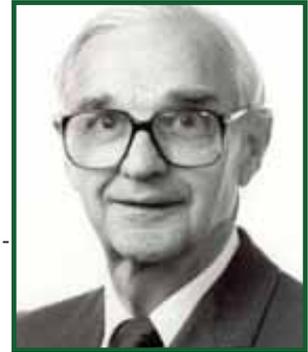
In honour of Leon Morris's memory and his legacy in evangelical biblical scholarship, Ridley Melbourne is celebrating his centenary in several ways.

First, throughout the year a number of scholars will be featured on the Ridley Blog writing about their memories of Leon Morris and reflecting on the significance of his contribution to biblical studies. The first blog post is by the current Ridley principal Brian Rosner. He writes: 'At a time when evangelical biblical scholarship was at best marginal, Leon Morris attained a worldwide reputation as a New Testament scholar of the first rank. With a Cambridge PhD, he was the first Australian to be elected to the international scholarly Society for New Testament Studies. He was one of the first Wardens of Tyndale House in Cambridge, was a translator of the NIV Bible, and gave visiting lectures in colleges around the world. Morris was a prolific author. He wrote more than 50 books, which have sold over 2 million copies. They include classic texts on *The Cross Of Christ* and many books about the New Testament. At Ridley and in Melbourne he was known for his careful attention to the biblical texts in the original languages and for his skillful communication in a variety of contexts. He combined firm convictions about the core truths of the Christian faith with a winsome humility.' Further blog posts will be coming from Don Carson, Tom Schreiner, Andreas Kostenberger, Graham Cole and others.

Second, Neil Bach will be delivering a special lecture at Ridley Melbourne on 24 March 14, at 10am on *Leon Morris And The Cross Of Christ*. The lecture will explore how and why Leon Morris left the depth of a mining town to mine the depths of the Cross of Christ. More particularly how he took on the theologians of his day to shape the thinking about the Cross of Christ for 50 years. Neil Bach is a Graduate of Ridley Melbourne and has been in Parish Ministry for 36 years. He currently chairs the Leon and Mildred Morris Foundation and has been writing the *Biography Of Leon Morris* since 2008. He has recently concluded his time as Vicar of Forest Hill to complete the biography.

Third, this year's annual *Leon Morris Lecture* will be delivered at Ridley Melbourne on 26 May by Mariam Kamell of Regent College, Vancouver, on *Living The Kingdom Law*. This talk asks the question of what this command meant biblically, where it consistently appears amidst calls to holiness, and what it means practically, as we seek to live out Christ's transforming love in our culture.

— Michael F. Bird



Australian Christians are holding their Annual Conference on Saturday 5 April 2014.

Go to: <http://australianchristians.com.au/news/victoria-state-conference-2014/>,
call: 03 8338 0280 or write: PO Box 258 Croydon 3136 to register. (Web bookings preferred.)

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Worship

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Rev Stuart Bonnington
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melbonn@bigpond.com

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GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

Wenxi Li Uses Prison Time To Advance The Gospel

WENXI Li, a man imprisoned for his faith in China, is bringing fellow inmates to Christ. According to Voice of the Martyrs USA, Chinese courts gave Wenxi Li a two-year prison term last year for trying to set up a Christian bookstore. His family recently shared an update with Voice Of The Martyrs, saying Li has been sharing the Gospel with fellow prisoners. As a result, several have put their faith in Christ. Pray that these new believers will grow in their knowledge of Christ. Pray that God will use Li (pictured, right, courtesy icommittoprayer.com) to disciple the new believers.



Before his arrest, Wenxi Li worked at a Christian bookstore in Beijing. In 2012, Li traveled to Shanxi province to help local Christians open a new book store in the capital city of Taiyuan. But police raided the new business, Enyu Bookstore, and confiscated \$6,000 worth of books that Li had brought with him from Beijing. When Li was asked to come retrieve the confiscated literature, they immediately arrested him and put him in jail. Li was reportedly denied bail because of the seriousness of his 'crime.' Cai Hong Li, Wenxi Li's wife, tells VOM that after the police arrested her husband, they told her it was because Wenxi Li was involved in an 'illegal business.' However, the bookstore at which he worked has a legal licence to operate, and Li wasn't involved in managing the business. 'He was just sent to find a rental place for a new store,' Cai Hong Li told VOM. Since Wenxi's arrest, Cai Hong Li and their two children have been harassed by anonymous sources. Cai Hong fears for her children's safety.

On its Web site, VOM says 'China continues to arrest, torture and jail Christians associated with illegal house churches as they attempt to control or eliminate all religions.' Though all religions are being persecuted, those who follow Christ appear to be the hardest hit. Despite the government's crackdown, Joshua Project and Operation World say China holds between 70 and 75 million evangelical Christians. – *Katey Hearth, Mission Network News*

At 60, Fruitful Past Heralds Future For Ministry Of TWR

TRANs World Radio just marked its 60th anniversary of Gospel broadcasting by expanding its reach to even more people needing hope in places like Cuba, China, and Afghanistan. Not content to rest on yesterday's accomplishments, TWR officials offer thanks for six decades of God's blessings but insist on keeping the spotlight on the media ministry's newest initiatives. 'It's a privilege to be living under the call of God for 60 years,' says Lauren Libby, President of TWR International. 'Not only a privilege, but also a legacy that we go with into the future. Our founder, Dr Paul Freed, believed God for big things. We're still doing that. And the goal is still the world, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and producing lasting fruit by mass media.'

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PERSECUTION WATCH

South Sudan Refugees In Bad Shape

BUILDING the state of South Sudan was ambitious, exciting, and hopeful. However, in the days after ethnic killings exploded in South Sudan in December, an estimated 10,000 people died in the fighting, and delayed hope has led to disillusionment. Since the start of the year, the United Nations estimates 234,000 people have fled fighting but became Internally Displaced People. The number of people who have fled from South Sudan to neighbouring countries has increased to 226,000. The United Nations reports that up to 3.7 million people now face extreme hunger or starvation because of the conflict. The humanitarian aid group made a plea for help, only to receive a lacklustre response.



Image courtesy Baptist Global Response

Baptist Global Response executive director Jeff Palmer says, 'I think there's just a weariness of seeing all of this war. But at the same time, we have to remember these are still people who are suffering, that are really in need of our help. The Bible says, "Let's not grow weary in well-doing," and I just pray that people do not get weary, because the needs are not going away.' What's more, as the story faded from the headlines, a potential genocide has gone under the radar. 'One people group goes out to purposefully and publicly exterminate a whole other people group because they're from a different tribe or of another faith. We're seeing some of this happen in South Sudan.'

The atrocities were triggered by a political struggle between the presidential guard between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir, who belongs to the Dinka ethnic group, and supporters of former Vice President Riek Machar, of the Nuer ethnic group. Now the fledgling country must grapple with the future. Palmer says, 'Part of it is how do we get beyond the violence? What we're dealing with in Baptist Global Response is how we help the folks that have been dislocated by that violence and help those that are suffering.' First and foremost, BGR is about the Gospel. 'Not neglecting the physical needs that are there, but at the same time, not neglecting the fact that people do need to hear a Word of Truth and a Word of Comfort from the Gospel.'

Yet, with this kind of upheaval, continuing outreach has been tricky. The Southern Baptist International Mission Board recently featured the story of a pastor whose ministry was disrupted by the fighting. Aside from the innocence of his children being lost, his ministry will have to start over if/when the family can return home. One of the regions that saw the most violence was Upper Nile, where John Monychol has worked as a church planter for 14 years, planting 11 churches. Upper Nile is an area where both tribes live, making it a volatile region. Monychol and his family are now living in a refugee camp on the border as he waits to return to Upper Nile to check on his more than 600 church members in the area.

'My desire is to minister to them and also do some counseling,' he said. 'We need to pray together with members to see how we can promote peace and reach out to our area.' Monychol is encouraging South Sudanese believers to be united and not divided. Monychol's plight highlights the scope of the problem faced by hundreds of thousands who are fleeing anywhere they feel safe. Palmer says, 'Don't think of big UN camps because they're more makeshift camps. There's just not a lot of help getting to them right now. We're probably going to do food, maybe some water.' In order to determine what that looks like on top of the ongoing projects, Palmer says an assessment team is on the ground this week. 'Pray for the survey teams that are in there right now, to give them wisdom and understanding as they look at the problem, what are the best ways to address the issues? Pray for our projects on the ground and our teams on the ground inside the country.'

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HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ... With Mignon Goswell

'... And A Little Child Shall Lead Them.'

EACH year Holbrook (NSW) Anglican Church runs an Open Gardens day in the Holbrook community. Four families from the community offer to open their beautiful gardens for the public to enjoy. One of the gardens hosts a lunch which is run by a local charity or community group as a fund-raiser for themselves. The church also raises money from this event by charging a \$5 entry fee to each garden. It is a wonderful community day as people go out together to enjoy the amazing creativity of the gardeners and of course our designer God!



Rev James Coates, Rector of Holbrook, reports that after visiting the gardens, the rectory kids wanted to host their own Open Garden! He owns up to not being a very good gardener, but thanks to lots of self-sufficient bulbs and the recent hard work of a friend from church the rectory garden was looking lovely. So the girls got to work scrubbing everything in sight outside and then tidying the toys inside! A few of their friends helped out, and following kids church the next day they held an Open Children's Garden, with bubbles, the trampoline, face painting pens, sausages in bread, a cake from the freezer, and a garden treasure hunt to finish. Both the adults and the kids – and it was all thanks to the kids. Well done kids! You're the best!

– *The Real Australian* www.bushchurchoaid.com.au

Challenging Service At Opening Of NSW Parliamentary Year

THE Sydney Anglican Archbishop, Dr Glenn Davies, has encouraged MP's from both sides of the NSW Parliament to live up to their calling as 'ministers of God' at a Sydney church service for the opening of the Parliamentary year. The cross-denominational service at St Stephen's Uniting Church on Tuesday 4 March in Macquarie St, included representatives of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship in NSW including Christian Democratic Party MLC, the Rev Fred Nile. Premier Barry O'Farrell, Speaker Shelley Hancock and MLC Greg Donnelly, on behalf of the Opposition leader. Premier O'Farrell and Greg Donnelly gave Bible readings, including Romans 13, in which the apostle Paul argues that human authorities have been instituted by God.

– *Fred Nile.*

fred.nile@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Did You Know?

RECENTLY Australians have been reminded of the plight of women in developing countries. Here are some statistics which shed light on why many aid organisations have a special focus on women in their projects.

- Women in developing countries carry much of the load of poverty and injustice.
- 70% of the world's poor are women.
- Women make up two-thirds of the world's illiterate population.
- Women do more than two-thirds of the world's work, yet earn less than 10% of the world's wages.

- A woman dies in childbirth every minute.
- For women aged 15-44, gender violence accounts for more deaths and disability than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war.

– www.tear.org.au

CMS Victoria Is On The Move

CMS Victoria hopes to be moving to 630 Mitcham Rd, Mitcham by late April.

Will Graham To Visit Australia And PNG

WILL Graham (grandson of Billy Graham) is planning to head to Broken Hill (NSW) in the Australian Outback. The *Will Graham Reality Event* is scheduled for 9-11 May. Two months later, he heads to Papua New Guinea for a *Celebration In Mount Hagen*, scheduled to take place 25-27 July.

– www.billygraham.org

Flying Bible Ministries Relocates

IT'S the same pilot in the same plane, but the Flying Bible Ministries' David Curtis now takes off from a new location since the ministry relocated from Darwin to Cairns, where the Piper 6XT is now based at the Missionary Aviation Fellowship regional headquarters. Flying Bible Ministries already works with MAF to deliver resources and Christian ministers to the interior, so the move is a natural next step. With the move, the Resource Centre formerly operated by the Bible Society is now at Darwin's Nungalinya College. 'Having this on campus means that the students can easily access resources and then take them back to their communities,' says Nungalinya Principal Dr Jude Long.

– www.biblesociety.org.au/flyingbible

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ... *With Mignon Goswell*

With Christ – Jerry Beavan Called Home

JERRY Beavan, formerly an associate evangelist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, was called Home recently at an advanced age. Among other things he anchored the news reporting of the 1959 Crusades in Australia and New Zealand. '59ers' can see a number of brief appearances of him in this role in the DVD *Remembering '59*. In his latter years he wrote and published an e-newsletter *Evangelical Viewpoint*. Go to:

http://www.youtube.com/attribution_link?a=tnEioE-BaWb4&u=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DZ2vZ1Alo4yQ%26feature%3Dshare uploaded by Martin Johnson and forwarded to us by Ramon Williams to view a clip on YouTube.

With Christ – Dr Bob Bowman Called Home

ON 12 March 2014 Dr Bob Bowman, the FEBC founder passed away and went to be with his Lord. Dr Bowman's vision and passion for the work of FEBC has made it possible for millions to know and follow Jesus. Just recently, Dr Bowman encouraged FEBC leaders with these words: 'Remain focused on the main thing. It's all about Jesus. Just share the Gospel; it will change lives.' (Dr Bowman was just a few days short of turning 99). Today the work he began over 65 years ago continues to grow. FEBC is broadcasting in 52 countries, delivering over 760 hours of programming, in 100 languages and dialects to many of the most unreached peoples of the world. Their potential listening audience covers two thirds of the world's population.

International Directors Of Barnabas Fund To Visit

DR Patrick Sookhdeo and his wife Rosemary and Caro-

line Kerslake (Projects Director) will be visiting Melbourne on 30,31 March to provide an update on persecution and Barnabas projects around the world. They will be at these locations times:

30 March, 10.30am, The Edge Church cnr Blackburn and Woodhouse Rds, Doncaster East;

30 March, 6pm, Doncaster Assembly of God, 600 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster;

31 March, 10am, Keilor City Church, 80 Harrick Rd, Keilor Park.

The main ministry of Barnabas Fund is to raise prayer and financial support for Christians where they suffer because of their faith. Come and learn about the vision and heart of Barnabas Fund from the international directors. Patrick Sookhdeo will also be launching his new book *Understanding Islamic Theology*.

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo To Speak In Perth

'THE situation in Syria is getting worse day by day – with more than 5 million children suffering. It is also the world's foremost terrorist training ground. We need to understand why,' FamilyVoice WA officer David Lowe says. 'We've invited two experts to speak on *Australia, Syria, Sharia* at the Perth Town Hall on Friday 4 April. Barnabas Fund international director and world authority on Islam Dr Patrick Sookhdeo will bring a focus on victims of violence, and Dr David Seccombe will present Islamic ideology as one of several threats in dismantling Australian law and values. All donations collected on the night will go to a Barnabas Fund project to help Syrian children caught up in the crisis',

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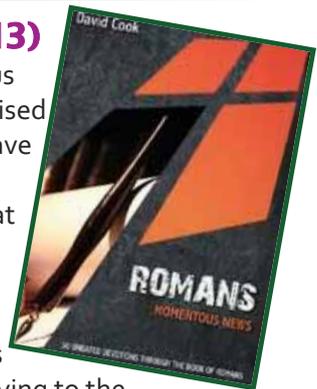
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The Law And Us

(Read Romans 7.1-13)



FOR REFLECTION:

Do you seek to honour the law as did our Lord, Jesus Christ?

How often do you search your life in the light of the law, so as to realise the extent of your sinfulness?

It is only in the light of conviction of our sinfulness that we realise the greatness of the rescue we have in Jesus.

Paul has used the image of our solidarity with Jesus (6.1-14) – we died, we were buried and we were raised with Him. He has used the image of the master/slave relationship (6.15-23). Finally, now, he uses the image of death (7.1-6). The point Paul makes is that death frees a person from the binding of the law (7.3). If a woman’s husband dies, she is free to re-marry. But if she marries while her husband is still alive, she becomes an adulteress. The difference is that death legitimately terminates marriage. By dying to the law, the believer is legitimately free to ‘marry’ (that is, to be united with) Christ and thus to serve in the new way of the Spirit (7.4-6).

What then is our relationship to the law? Do we fear it like the legalist does? Do we hate it like the person who sees the law as the source of our problems? No. We love the law. We do so because it represents the will of God and because Christ kept it. The law is holy and good (7.13), though it will not save us. The problem is not the law but our sin (7.8,9, 11). The law’s role is to identify sin (7.7,8) and to show us our condemnation as sinners (7.9-11). When was Paul alive apart from law (7.9)? It was probably when he believed he had lived consistently with the law (see Philippians 3.6).

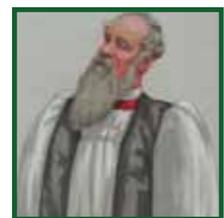
When he realised the true jurisdiction of the law, not only over outward actions but inner attitudes, he realised how lost he was.

So Paul summarises (7.13): the good law identified sin and condemned Paul as a sinner. In that way, it prepared him for the Saviour to come (7.24,25). The law gets us ready for the coming of Christ as it brings conviction of sin (see Galatians 3.24,25). As law-abiding believers, we love the law yet we recognise its limitation. It cannot save or sanctify us. The problem lies with us. To blame the law, according to F.F. Bruce, is to be like the prisoner in gaol blaming the law which put him there as though it were the law’s fault and not his own.

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

'... Living Still ...' – J.C. Ryle

Three Simple Rules For Listening To A Sermon



‘It is not enough that we go to church and hear sermons. We may do so for 50 years, and be nothing better, but rather worse. “Take heed,” says our Lord, “how you hear.” Would anyone know how to hear properly? Then let them lay to heart three simple rules:

- 1) **We Must Hear With FAITH**, believing implicitly that every word of God is true, and shall stand. The word in old time did not profit the Jews, since it was “not mixed with faith in those who heard it” (Hebrews 4.2).
- 2) **We Must Hear With REVERENCE**, remembering constantly that the Bible is the book of God. This was the habit of the Thessalonians. They received Paul’s message, “not as the word of men, but as what it is – the Word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2.13).
- 3) **We Must Hear With PRAYER**, praying for God’s blessing before the sermon is preached, and for God’s blessing again when the sermon is over. Here lies the grand defect of the hearing of many. They ask no blessing, and so they have none. The sermon passes through their minds like water through a leaky vessel, and leaves nothing behind.

Let us bear these rules in mind every Sunday before we go to hear the Word of God preached. Let us not rush into God’s presence careless, reckless, and unprepared, as if it mattered not in what way such work was done. Let us carry with us faith, reverence, and prayer. If these three are our companions, we will hear with profit, and return with praise.

– Bishop J.C. Ryle

ONESIMUS AND FRIENDS ...

WORD IN SONG – Melbourne Music Ministry Conference

MUSO'S, pastors and congregations are warmly invited to this conference on 3 May from 9am to 5pm at Bundoora Presbyterian Church, 3/19 Enterprise Drive, Bundoora.

WORD IN SONG is intended to be a great time of building up, resourcing and encouraging musicians who are serving in God's churches throughout Melbourne and beyond! The cost is \$57 for the day, and student and assisted rates available. Registration is available soon at wordinsong.com.au

The special guest speaker and artist will be Mark Peterson, a music director at the Trinity network of churches in Adelaide. He is a songwriter and performer, with well known congregational songs including *Highest Place*, *See Him Coming* and *Hallelujah To The King Of Kings*. – Ministry Training Strategy Victoria, 36 Queens Ave, Doncaster, Vic 3108.

'... Living Still ...' - Gems From George Whitefield:

'The doctrines of the Gospel are doctrines of peace, and they bring comfort to all who believe them.'



† † †
'If you will live godly, you must suffer persecution; you must not expect to go through this world without being persecuted and reviled. If you were of the world, the world would love you; for it always loves its own. But if you are not of the world, it will hate you; it has done so in all ages; it has never loved any but those who were pleased with its vanities and allurements. It has been the death of many a lover of Jesus merely because they have loved Him; and, therefore, my brethren, do not be surprised if you meet with fiery trial, for all those things will be a means of sending you to your Master the sooner.'



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BOOKS WORTH READING

GOD IN THE WHIRLWIND: How The Holy-Love Of God Re-Orients Our World, David F. Wells, Nottingham: IVP, 2014.

STARTING with *God In The Wasteland* (1994), David Wells has written four influential books exposing and critiquing Evangelicalism's compromise with modern Western cultural norms and trends. The focus of his new book is not cultural analysis (though it includes that) but the loss of understanding of the character of God and its 'weight' in the evangelical church: what Wells calls the 'holy-love' of God.

As noted by Wells, one major problem is that our focus on God is made difficult by the current bombardment of distractions through mass media and the internet, so that our mind goes in many different directions at the same time. Another problem in this self-focussed age, is that we want a non-judgmental God and a God found only within self. The result is that the church often echoes modernised society rather than providing a much-needed alternative, with a moral framework in which God is the determining centre.

Wells traces salvation history as presented in the Bible, starting with Abraham and culminating in Christ, showing that God-centredness leads to Christ-centredness, with the death of Jesus on the cross the greatest and final revelation of what holy-love means. Wells shows that the way of justification (according to grace, by faith and through Christ) is the same in both Old Testament and New Testament, with Adam, the Exodus and David each 'types' of Christ and His work. The Holy Spirit is at work in the Old Testament, but with the coming of Christ, He works in close co-ordination with Christ and unites believers to Christ.

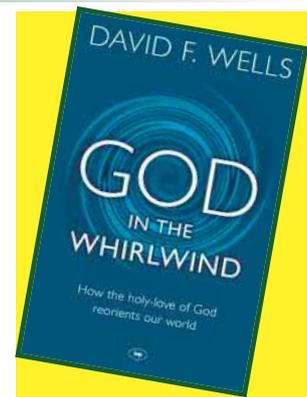
We think we know what love is, but we don't until we come to know God's love in Christ, and Wells provides a profound and moving exposition of this theme.

With the clarity of a master theologian, Wells goes on to explain how the cross atones, insisting on the substitutionary character of Christ's atoning work: he took our place and bore our punishment. He also insists on the centrality of the doctrine of justification, in the face of the efforts of some evangelicals to dethrone it from its premier position in any faithful presentation of the Gospel message. The cross is the brightest display of God's holy-love: God's holiness demanded that the debt of sin be paid, and God's love led to Christ paying that debt on our behalf. This is why it is at the cross that we find the fullest revelation of God's character.

In the light of confusion among some evangelicals, Wells shows from Scripture that justification (God's declaration of our right status) and sanctification (God's work within us progressively making us right) are neither to be equated or separated. In regard to Christian ethics, Wells shows that true love is never morally indifferent, so that, yet again, love and holiness are hand-in-hand.

Wells writes with an eye on our present situation of information overload and he underlines the necessity of daily seeking God's face and reading God's Word, so that our lives have God as the stable centre. He provides a theological analysis of the 'worship wars' that have afflicted the church in recent decades, calling for a return to God-focussed worship in churches riddled with individualism and consumerism. He is right in saying that we must start with God and not our needs and tastes (in music), which means that the Bible must shape what happens in church. If this sounds hopelessly old-fashioned, it reveals how far many evangelicals have drifted on the tide of postmodernism from their biblical foundations. Finally, Wells shows that Christian service encompasses our daily work, whatever it might be, which is a holy calling if offered to God and done in a Christian way.

– Greg Goswell



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