

Spreading the Good News in Thailand



Students from Thonburi University after hours Christian club. Several Muslim girls attend for the fun and fellowship.

'DON'T get sick and don't die!' The parting words of evangelist Somchai Soonthornturasuk.

George and Rita Galieh have spent the last twenty years working with this representative of the Thailand Pocket Testament League. His advice accompanied the information for churches which have already booked the Galiehs for the latter part of 2014.

The Galiehs are privileged to work together telling the Good News in Buddhist government high and primary schools, hospitals, correctional institutions, shopping malls, orphanages, and various churches. The Galiehs believe the combination of music and art accompanying the message opens the doors to all these wonderful opportunities. Also many thousands of Thai Gospels of John are given freely at each venue as follow up.

According to Somchai's recent report: 'Some headmasters and teachers remark that they have never heard or seen such an amazing program before. And where free to do so, challenges to accept Christ as personal Saviour were offered. Many raised their hands. Praise and glory to our Living God! After ministering at Santisuk, Bangkok-Thonburi University, Samui Island, South Thailand, Eastern Thailand at the Cambodian border, Maung Mai Bang Pree, Ban Haeng Pra Pon Church at Samrong District, and Saeng Sawang Chinese Church and later at Saengkaroon Church, George and Rita returned to Sydney.'

Besides other invitations, the Galiehs are co-speakers on VANTAGE POINT, a weekly five minute Gospel program broadcast Australia-wide. They can be contacted at PO Box 101, Moorebank NSW 1875. Ph: 02 9600 7292. Email: ritagal@optusnet.com.au

VOLUME 76
NUMBER 16

ISSUE DATE:
1 April 2014

ISSN: 1033-7903

FOUNDER:

Eric J. Daley
(1910-1992)

EDITOR:

Rev Bob Thomas
Phone: 0417 592 646
Email: editor@nlife.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Mignon Goswell
Phone: 0434 313 646
Email: office@nlife.com.au

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 457
Mitcham VIC 3132

WEB-SITE:

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.

newlife
AUSTRALIA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

New Big Bang Evidence Supports Creationism



THIS week's announcement that scientists had finally confirmed the existence of gravitational waves rippling through the universe, claimed that this bolsters the *Big Bang Theory*, and that it would presumably be a blow to those who believe in the Bible.

Not so, Professor Nathan Aviezer of Israel's Bar Ilan University told *The Times Of Israel*. 'In fact, the modern theories, which don't yet explain all the observed cosmological facts, bestow new meaning to the Biblical verse in Psalm 92.6: "How great are Your deeds, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep". Without addressing who or what caused it, the mechanics of the creation process in the *Big Bang* match the *Genesis* story perfectly,' Aviezer explained. 'The universe had a definite starting point—a creation—as described in the *Book of Genesis*. To deny this now is to deny scientific fact.'

In remarks to *The Jerusalem Post*, Professor Aviezer S. Fraenkel of The Weizmann Institute noted that science is actually moving closer to, rather than further from, the Biblical account. 'Whereas ancient philosophers were of the mind that the universe had existed forever, modern science now knows that there is a definite beginning.'

Leading international physicists, including Professor Stephen Hawking and the late Paul Dirac, both avowed atheists, have long supported the notion that the universe had a starting point, though they admit that modern science is incapable of determining why, how or by whom it was started.

— *Israel Today Staff* (20 March 2014), *Breaking Christian News*

GET MORE OUT OF NEW LIFE

Learn more about a particular article, advertisement,
contributor or advertiser!

NEW LIFE comes to you as a .PDF file, with many stories and advertisements containing links to other websites and email addresses.

Web and email addresses are printed in bold blue type.

You only have to position your cursor over the link,
eg: editor@nlife.com.au ; www.nlife.com.au

then click and you will be taken directly to that site.

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

UZBEKISTAN: Vast Needs Of Registered And Ethnic Churches

BY 'AV', a religious liberty advocate with a particular concern for and involvement in the former USSR. 'AV' based this RLPB on a recent interview with one of key Uzbek Church leaders. Elizabeth Kendal returns for the next issue.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s there was a large influx of missionaries from Western countries and South Korea to Uzbekistan. From then until approximately 1998, missionaries planted many new churches, organised discipleship seminars and social charity projects, and held youth and children's camps.

Following several terrorist acts in 1998 organised by Islamic extremists, the Law on freedom of conscience and religious organisations was tightened. As a result many religious organisations lost registration. The number of members needed for registration of a church or any other religious organisation was increased to 100. The Law prohibits proselytism, missionary activities and printing, storing or distributing religious literature. The changes in the Law mainly targeted Islamic extremist groups but Christian and other religious groups were affected also.

For some time after the changes were made, the Law was not enforced. However, in 2003 the government started applying a policy of getting missionaries to leave Uzbekistan. They were asked to leave voluntarily, but no visa extensions were granted. Many missionaries who left the country temporarily were not able to get back into Uzbekistan. Later the amendments to the Law were published, disclosing harsher punishment for violating the Law, including heavy fines and in some cases imprisonment.

After the political protests and massacre in the city of Andijan in 2005, the government started escalating severe measures against religious organisations, continuing until 2013. Believers experienced oppression and persecution that targeted especially evangelism, group meetings and religious education. Their homes were searched, literature, DVDs and other educational resources were confiscated. Believers were detained, interrogated, sentenced to pay very large fines and sometimes were imprisoned. During that period Christian churches and other religious organisations and groups faced sustained oppression on a massive scale.

The case of Pastor Dmitry (David) Shestakov, who was imprisoned for 'religious extremism' in 2007-11, became well-known globally and many Christians participated in a prayer campaign for Dmitry and publicised his situation. Many Christians, especially ethnic believers, left the country or moved elsewhere during that period because of persecution. Other factors were financial hardship and unemployment. However, the Church continued to do God's work despite the oppression.

The situation for religious organisations began to improve in 2013 and the authorities started to dialogue with Christian organisations. They no longer searched or watched homes at random but only in response to specific allegations. Because the authorities clearly defined what is and is not permitted, the churches came to understand their boundaries better. To meet in homes is prohibited. There are few registered ethnic churches so the majority of ethnic believers have to meet secretly. Religious freedom is especially restricted in Karakalpakstan because there are still no registered churches.

The situation with Christian literature is very critical. It is practically impossible to get an official permit to publish or import Christian literature. Any unauthorised printing, storage and distribution of literature is punished by huge fines, which can have a devastating effect on individual believers who are struggling with financial hardship.

The restrictions on religious freedom also affect the education of Church leaders and members. There is only one registered seminary in Uzbekistan which is allowed to take only seven to ten students each year. The department of religious affairs controls the process and no ethnic believers are allowed to study there.

Despite all the difficulties and pressure from the State, the churches in Uzbekistan faithfully continue to worship God and fulfil the Great Commission. They need daily prayer support from the global Christian community while they go through a long, difficult period of severe restriction of religious freedom.

PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- the registered organisations will help the unregistered churches.
- the ethnic churches will continue to grow and get freedom to worship.
- Christians can have Christian literature without fear of fines.
- the applications for entry of religious experts will be successful and be granted quickly; for God's protection from demands for bribes.
- Christians can get good quality theological education within the country and that ethnic believers will be allowed to study.
- the authorities will not consider Christians a threat to national security.
- God will keep safe and protect all Christians in Uzbekistan.

'They have greatly oppressed me from my youth, but they have not gained the victory over me.

Ploughmen have ploughed my back and made their furrows long.

But the LORD is righteous; he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked.'

(Psalm 129.1-4 NIV)

'EVEN UNTO OLD AGE ...'

Pioneer Hits The Road Again To Commemorate 30 Years Of Bike For Bibles.

HE'S doing the first and last 20 kilometres of an 890km Sydney-Melbourne ride, but you'll appreciate it's amazing anyway for 82-year old Bob Forrest. He's looking forward to being with Bible Society's Bike For Bibles team as they reprise the ride that started it all 30 years ago.

'People ask why, after 30 years, I'd still want to be riding on the first and last day of another long- distance bike ride,' Bob says. His answer is to the point. 'Your donation will encourage me to keep pedalling in God's name, thank you.'

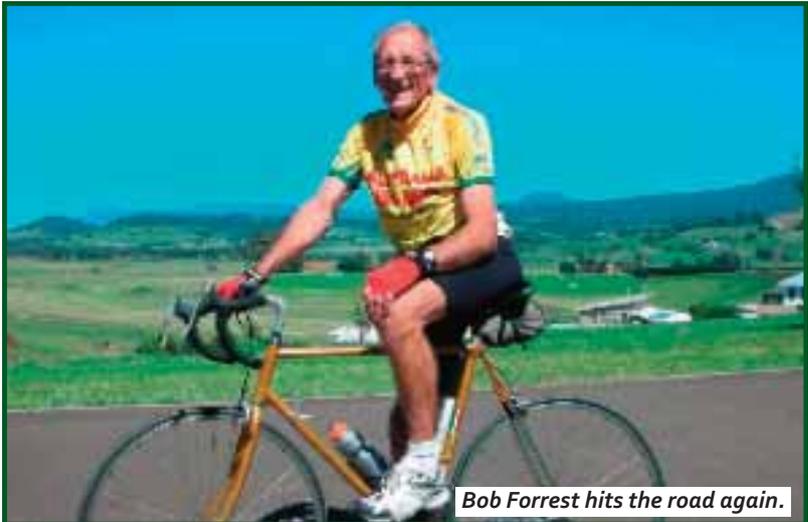
Bob Forrest is passionate about sharing the Scriptures, and for many years he led the Bike For Bibles program, which fundraises for that purpose. 'But I'm just a cog in the wheel. Years ago God had a plan to raise up a vast team of cyclists, roadies, donors and prayer partners who'd commit time and energy to raise money, and distribute God's Word to the world.'

Since 1984 thousands of BFB riders and support crew have raised over \$13 million for Bible distribution. But it's not just about sending Bibles alone. When it started sending Scriptures to all parts of Australia and to the world, Bible Society realised there were many people who couldn't read to begin with. 'Illiteracy is a scourge; many of those in Australian jails are there as a result of it and what it's led them to. So when we started in 1984 we included a focus on literacy,' Bob recalls. Since then BFB has supported many Bible-based literacy projects, like in Rwanda where the work is greatly welcomed by the government. On the 30th anniversary ride, BFB is fundraising in part for a women's literacy project in Rwanda. 'BFB took us out to the non-Christian market,' Bob says, explaining that many are happy to donate knowing that Scripture-based materials are helping people to read and write, and have a better future.

Bible Society hopes many will get behind Bob as well as the other 60 riders and crew as they fundraise on the 30th Anniversary ride. It also appreciates help with spreading the Word, especially in towns along the route. For further details please visit biblesociety.org.au/bikes

On the Bike For Bibles 30th Anniversary Ride the team will travel 890km:

5 April: Sydney–Goulburn; 6 April: Goulburn–Boorowa; 7 April: Boorowa–Junee; 8 April: Junee–Lockhart; 9 April: Lockhart–Corowa; 10 April: Corowa–Benalla; 11 April: Benalla–Seymour; 12 April: Seymour–Melbourne.



Bob Forrest hits the road again.

A promotional poster for a convention. At the top left is the logo for "Belgrave Heights Convention" with the text "WEEK 4 APRIL 18-21 2014". In the center is a large black cross. Below the cross, the text reads "THE WORD AND THE WORLD" in large white letters, followed by "EASTER FRI 18 - MON 21 APR 2014" in smaller white letters. At the bottom left, it lists "SPEAKERS: DR STEVE BRADY & REV SIMON MANCHESTER" and "CONCERT - 9PM SATURDAY: STEVE MESSER'S STRANGE COUNTRY". Below that, it says "NO REGISTRATION FEE". At the bottom right, there is a logo for "WORLD" with the website "www.worldevents.org.au" and the text "DAY VISITORS WELCOME!". The background of the poster is a textured, reddish-brown color.

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

"The Christian News" - Thailand



Rev Dr Paitoon Chowwanapong and his wife Prem have worked together on this monthly newspaper for twenty years. It specializes in Christian news items from all over Thailand. Prem says 'We don't focus on politics, but the Good News of Jesus Christ.' Somchai and the Galiehs have often been featured when they minister in Bangkok.

This couple moved into a new area several years ago with their two grown daughters and began a church in their home for local villagers. As new converts joined they built a two-story church. They specialize in outreach services by inviting locals to dinner on tables set beneath huge rain trees and cooled by breezes from the nearby Gulf of Thailand.

This enthusiastic couple and their young church need prayer as Rev Dr Paitoon has lost much of his sight because of diabetes.

(Continued from page 1)

Bible for the world's 600 million blind and vision impaired

Whilst Braille was invented in 1821, most of the world's languages still do not have a Braille Bible, or any portion of it in Braille. Of those that do exist the cost is over \$800 a copy, making it a very expensive item for many people to purchase.

MegaVoice International has now brought to the world a very compact, hand held Bible, one designed for easy use by all 600 million blind, visually-impaired and poor sighted children and adults alike.

The new, well laid out, simple control panel, is especially designed for blind people to feel and operate easily. With a raised buttons, it also helps those who are poor sighted.

The Envoy is so designed that any church, mission, ministry or agency is able to load and reload their messages, up to 700 hours of audio content, anywhere in the world, at anytime and in any quantity, direct from their computer whilst the message is secure so that the end user cannot change it.

Director of Wycliffe/SIL Bible Translators on the island of Vanuatu, Ross Webb says, 'This means that with the MegaVoice Envoy, it is now possible for all blind people to own God's Word for themselves - and even hold it in their hand!'

- Tom Treseder, MegaVoice, www.megavoice.com

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.



26 Nations Represented At First Sat-7 Conference In Turkey

SAT-7, the Christian satellite TV broadcaster watched by 15 million Arabic-, Farsi- and Turkish-speaking viewers in the Middle East and North Africa, held its annual *Network* conference in Turkey for the first time from 26-28 March.

TV producers, supporters and partner representatives, church leaders and SAT-7 staff from across the region offered perspectives on events and shared news of the network's six TV channels.

SAT-7 CEO Dr Terry Ascott said this was a record attendance, with representatives from 26 nations, including the USA, Korea, Singapore and Australia, which shows just how high on people's agendas the Middle East and its beleaguered Christian communities are.

Taking the *Network 2014* theme *Broadcasting Hope In An Era Of Hopelessness*, Dr Ascott gave a keynote address looking at both the reasons why there's a lack of hope – even a sense of despair – and what it is that SAT-7 does to bring hope and positive change in the lives of their audiences in this troubled region.

New Life editor Bob Thomas attended the conference and will report in a later issue.

We are grateful to Katherine Goswell for editing this issue of *New Life*.

Why Should I Read Good Books? by David Morris

SOME people appear to be born with books in their hands, and every time you look up, they are reading. I have never been like that, and quite a few of my school reports indicated this was an area that required attention. I need a good reason to read a book. There has to be something weighty about it, something that isn't obvious or frivolous.

I grew to love books just after I was converted. I knew nothing about what to read, but I was drawn irresistibly towards my local Christian bookshop in Southampton, and there I selected my first serious hardback book: 'The Christian Warfare – an exposition of Ephesians 6:10-13' by Dr D M Lloyd Jones. I wasn't really encouraged by older believers to read; in fact I recall that a few actively discouraged me from reading 'The Sovereignty of God' by A W Pink.

I studied theology part time with the Evangelical Movement for Wales, which for me was an excellent course. This led to a thorough addiction to visit any second hand bookshop with my long-suffering wife. It was as if I had entered a new world that so many it seemed were unaware of as I read the writings of great men. They pointed me to their Lord who seemed far greater than anyone had really made me aware of.

As family duties emerged, and as work responsibilities increased, demands on my time squeezed my reading down to very little. It is surprising how satisfied and comfortable life can be without the reading of great books, and in a sense I fell asleep. More recently my priorities have changed, and I have picked up some weightier tomes, which take time and effort to read. This has been a veritable 'Freemantle Doctor' to me! The books I am reading at the moment are lighting fires in my soul, and I wonder why it took me so long to get back to them!

So what is the reason for this? Why should I read good books? As I thought about these questions, I thought about one of the authors I am currently reading: F F Bruce. His book 'The Spreading Flame' contains 420 pages of packed narrative, with many footnotes. The effort Professor Bruce put into writing this work is huge. Every page is the distilled essence of his patient detailed research and very wide reading. I think of him in his study, struggling, scribbling notes, striking out, rising to pull down another reference to make sure he is being accurate, and then painstakingly writing his manuscript. Day after day, night after night he would be immersed in his subject, I am sure. And as I read some of the fruits of his labour, I sense the thrill in his heart as he discovered some of the things he is sharing with me. His delight in these things becomes my joy too. It really is infectious! So you can understand now why I still scour the secondhand book lists for more of Professor Bruce's works – and there are quite a few. They are hallmarked with the same scholarly care and accuracy, yet they are written for ordinary readers like me. If it wasn't for the fact that Professor Bruce has been with Christ in glory for some time now, I would write to him and let him know what a friend he has been to me, even though we have never met.

And it doesn't stop there! I am making more friends all the time: Alec Motyer, Faith Cook, Leon Morris, Sinclair Ferguson, Norman Grubb..... How rich we are in the English speaking world, to have a legacy that of such friends of the Gospel whether they remain with us, or go to be with Christ, their writings have a fragrance of heaven about them.

My reading continually challenges and corrects my thinking, and I am a happy life long student. Don't you need similar help as you grow up in Christ?

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

Encouragement From Preview Trip



WHEN you accepted Christ, one of the first things you did was get a Bible, right? Did you know that in some countries, whole congregations learn from one beat up Bible?

It's true in the Philippines. Christian Resources International recently returned from a preview trip distributing half a million dollars' worth of Bibles. In the Philippines, there is a great hunger for the Bible.

Christian Resources International has worked for many years providing Bibles for pastors in the Philippines to distribute to their congregation. The team plans to return in October. Their goal is to raise \$6 million dollars' worth of Bibles.

CRI is encouraged by the success of this initial trip. For more information visit www.cribooks.org – MissionNetwork

**Easter Service 20/04/14
4pm Easter Sunday
Easter Vintage Festival,
Highfields Pioneer Village
Highfields QLD 4352
(07) 4696 6309**

We're Encouraged!
One Of Australia's Major Mission Agencies
has advised us they send each edition of
New Life around to everyone in the office
and to the members of their
National Council.
Who Can YOU Forward New Life To?

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
70 HORSMAN STREET WARWICK**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO OUR WEB SITE. www.ddcc.net.au

MISSION SPOT

JOY VENNING: LEAVING AUSTRALIA FOR GLOBAL MISSION

Ask Joy Venning what her favourite things about Melbourne are and you're likely to get an answer along the lines of: Carlton Football Club, coffee, cafe's and church. Soon, 25 year old Joy will leave the comforts and familiarity of life in Melbourne and call the north of India 'home'. Initially for six months, Joy hopes to spend the next two years sharing the love of Jesus with the people of India. Katherine Goswell caught up with Joy to discuss why she's going and what she'll be doing...

What have you spent the last few years doing?

I've been working at Canterbury Presbyterian Church as a youth worker. That means training leaders to teach the Bible, reading the bible with teenagers and sharing the gospel with their non-christian friends. I've also been supporting youth ministry across Victoria through involvement with Presbyterian Youth of Victoria - particularly in leadership development, strategy and mission. I have also spent some time on university campus reading the bible with international students.

What next?

Soon I'll be going overseas to India to serve in the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, working with students preparing for ministry and discipling teenagers in the church and community.

Why India?

India has by far the most unreached people in the world. India is a country that needs the gospel and one way of being a part of the spreading of the gospel around India is to train locals to pastor and teach in various ministry contexts so that Jesus might be worshipped.

Have you been to India before?

Yes, a couple of years ago I was involved in leading a short term mission team to India where we also had an opportunity to support the local work happening there. I've always been excited seeing young people excited about mission and spreading the gospel across the world.



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)

What most excites you about going on mission to India long term?

I am really excited to see God at work in the lives of His people in India. I'm excited about ministry in a different context. I am also excited for all the challenges that come as living as a witness for Jesus in a completely different place.

What do you think will be some of the big challenges for you?

Some of the challenges will be learning to relate to people from an Indian culture, being in ministry in a country where English is not the first language, the isolation of being so far away from church and family and friends, and just the complete change in lifestyle.

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

MISSION SPOT

What's one way that *New Life* readers can pray for you?

Please pray that God will go first and prepare the way for me. Especially when it comes to the stress of the unknowns and newness of lifestyle.

Looking back, how can you see that God has prepared you for mission to India?

Some of the things that I'm thankful God has been working out in my life are the opportunities for ministry in a church that is cross cultural, opportunities to live with people from a different culture and teaching English and sharing the gospel with people that aren't from Australia. I've also had so many opportunities to learn more about how to do Evangelism and how to share the gospel with people from different religions.

Finally, why is it that you want to go on mission?

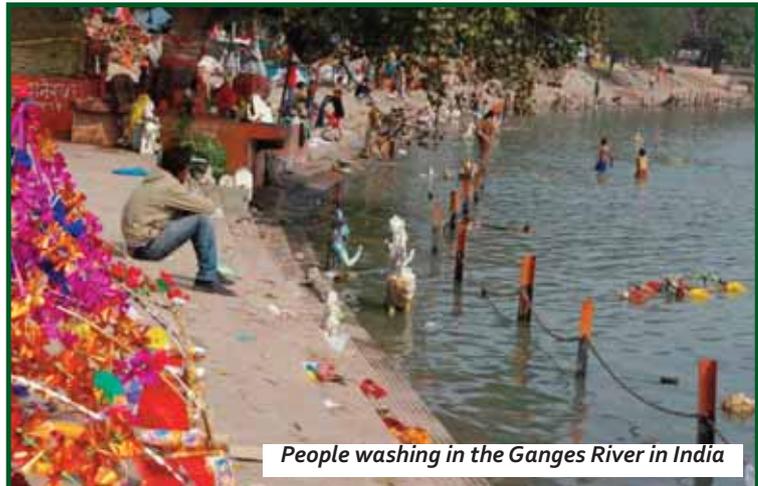
I really want to invest the time and resources and training that God has given me at this time in global mission so that the gospel might continue to spread across the globe. As a twenty something single female, there's time and opportunity *now* to go and I would like to use that and spend that time sharing the gospel with people who may never have heard it before.

How to support Joy in India

If you would like to consider supporting gospel work in India you can donate via:

Cheque: Make it out to 'Australian Presbyterian World Mission' and post to APWM, 81 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood NSW 2134.

You can also donate via direct deposit. For more details please email Joy at jrvenning@gmail.com



People washing in the Ganges River in India

MISSIONAL OPPORTUNITY – Melbourne City

Lygon Street Christian Chapel is an independent evangelical church located on Lygon Street, Melbourne City, Victoria.

We are seeking expressions of interests for a theologically trained associate pastor to join the team with a heart to minister to retirees/near retirees in a new area of ministry that we hope to establish.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO:

- has a missional heart to establish a new ministry for growing congregation of retirees;
- is well versed in the Word of God and passionate in proclaiming it;
- has a passion for retirees and senior citizens;
- has a consultative relationship and leadership style;
- has the ability to work with a team of pastoral staff/elders and lay people.

FOR ENQUIRIES OR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST, PLEASE APPLY IN WRITING TO:

Melvin Lo (Pastor)

54 Lygon Street, Carlton 3053, Victoria.

For further information please ring (03) 9663 5706 / 0402 227 506

or visit our church website: www.lycc.org.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 30 April 2014

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

Gospel For Asia To Drill 5,000 'Jesus Wells' By Year End

GOSPEL For Asia (www.gfa.org) plans to drill 5,000 water wells across India and South Asia over the course of this next year for those struggling to find clean water. GFA is highlighting its 'Jesus Wells' ministry for World Water Day observed on 21 March. Gospel For Asia 'Jesus Wells' are drilled deep enough so that the water supply doesn't dry up during hot, arid summer months

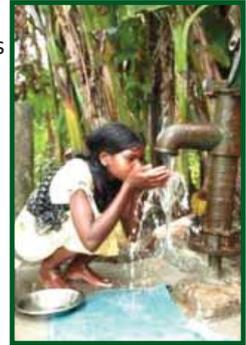
Millions across Asia are considered Dalits or 'Untouchables,' those deemed inferior simply because of their caste. 'Untouchables' are likely barred from using village water wells, placing these individuals and families in desperate and life-threatening situations. 'Jesus Wells,' a GFA ministry, are often the only water option for 'Untouchables' and countless others. The wells not only provide critical access to drinking water, but they also ensure villagers have clean water essential for cooking and other necessary household chores.

'It is our heart to provide clean water to all people regardless of their background,' said Dr K.P. Yohannan, founder and international director of GFA. 'Wherever we place our "Jesus Wells," all people can drink clean water freely.'

An adequate water supply is not only a challenge for Dalits. Millions of others across Asia struggle daily to find sufficient water resources. Traditional village wells often dry up because they were not drilled deep enough. Or they dry up during the hot, arid summer months, putting entire villages at risk. It's also common for families to walk several miles just to find enough water for basic household needs.

To help address these challenges, 'Jesus Wells' are drilled deep into the ground. They are strategically placed in villages accessible to the greatest number of people. In addition, local contractors are hired to drill numerous wells at a time, ensuring great cost savings. In Andhra Pradesh, India, one GFA worker said the summer drought is a crisis point for his village. They have to wait more than six months for the rain to arrive again. In another village, a GFA worker said people travel at least four miles during the summer to the closest village to retrieve water.

The 5,000 wells GFA plans to dig this year will help address water scarcity for tens of thousands. As villagers receive this precious gift of water, they are able to experience the love of Christ, and they seek to learn more about Him. Through the 'Jesus Wells' project, hundreds of villages have already received clean water for all in the community. Village life has literally been transformed. By the end of year, GFA hopes many more villages will find respite from their thirst. 'I am so grateful for every village that can now have access to clean water for all,' said Yohannan. 'It's another opportunity for people to experience the love of Jesus and know His grace in their lives.'



We're Counting On YOU! YOUR Donations Keep Us Going!

Going on-line has breathed new life Into *New Life*.
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.

(Please send an email to office@nlife.com.au when you direct deposit).

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

PERSECUTION WATCH

More Than 100 Christians Slain As Herdsmen Burn Homes, Church Buildings In Nigeria

– Muslim Gunmen Raid Three Christian Villages In Kaduna State

IN yet another vicious attack against believers in Nigeria, the land of my birth, Muslim herdsmen armed with guns and machetes on Friday night, 14 March, launched attacks on three villages in Kaduna state, killing more than 100 Christians and destroying homes. Scores of the ethnic Fulani assailants simultaneously attacked the Christian villages of Ugwar Sankwai, Ungwar Gata and Chenshyi in the Kaura Local Government Area for about four hours, sources said.

The Rev Yakubu Gandu Nkut, chairman of the Zankan area chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria, told *Morning Star News* (<http://morningstarnews.org>) that a pastor's wife and her three children were among the dead. 'The unfortunate attack on our communities has led to killing of more than 100 Christians,' Nkut said. 'The wife of one of our pastors, Mrs Jummai Likita Riku, and her three children, from the Evangelical Church Winning All church, Ugwar Sankwai, were killed in the attack.' According to the Nigeria correspondent for *Morning Star News*, ECWA and Anglican church buildings were burned down by the herdsmen in Ugwar Sankwai, Nkut said.

Daniel Anyip, vice chairman of the Kaura Local Government Council, confirmed the attacks and the death toll, telling reporters women and children were burned to death in homes the assailants set ablaze. 'There is no justification for this inhuman act,' Anyip said. *Morning Star News* went on to say that in Manchok, where several Christians have taken refuge, Nuhu Moses of Chenshyi village told reporters that the Muslim Fulani herdsmen killed about 50 Christians.

'The cattlemen who attacked my village were more than 40 – they were armed with guns and other weapons,' Moses told *Morning Star News*. 'As I talk to you, there is no single house that has not been destroyed as the attackers set fire on our houses. As we made efforts to escape from being killed, our attackers shot at every one they saw. It was a miracle that I escaped alive.'

– Dan Wooding, Founder of ASSIST Ministries



Fulani herdsmen on the rampage.

Russian Church Liquidated

WHILE the world continues to watch Russia's annexation of Crimea, Ukraine, the country continues putting pressure on evangelical churches there. In recent years, churches have been bulldozed, pastors have been fined, and property confiscated. It's happened again. Project Manager for Russian Ministries Wade Kusack specializes in religious liberty issues in the former Soviet Union. Kusack says the Harvest Church of Saint Petersburg, Russia, is devastated. 'The church was liquidated because the government decided that the church conducted unregistered educational activities.'

Why is registration important in the Russian church? Kusack says, 'In Russia, the church is supposed to have registration. Without registration,

no-one has the right to practise their religion. The church was stripped of its legal registration.' Now church members have no right to meet for worship and call themselves a church.

South Sudan Refugees Forgotten

SOME 77,000 South Sudanese civilians hiding in United Nations peacekeeper bases over the last three months are to be moved to new camps, said UN officials. So far, over 705,800 people have been displaced by tribal violence. Overcrowded conditions and the problems they're bringing have been worsened by the early arrival of torrential rains. Brutal fighting broke out in December with reports of massacres and targeted ethnic killings. With the tit-for-tat reprisal killings threatening to spiral into genocide, people are afraid to return home.

Read *God's Method Of Saving Sinners*, by David Holden
at: www.defenceofthefait.org

Operation Mobilisation's Logos Hope

The Logos Hope visited 15 different ports across the Indian Ocean, South East Asia and the Gulf in 2013. The ship sailed more than 12,000 miles in total and over 670,000 visitors walked up the gangway. Logos Hope is undergoing four weeks of dry-dock maintenance in Hong Kong in March and April. She remains in Hong Kong until April 23, then will visit Japan and dock in Nagasaki (April 28 - May 13) and Kanazawa (May 15 - 27).



Far East Broadcasting Service (FEBC) Radio Program

On the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)'s World Radio Day, on 13 February 2014, FEBC has highlighted a series of free radio broadcasts targeted at victims of abuse including female genital mutilation and foeticide. Women in India face violence at every stage of life, with thirty five percent of women aged 15-49 experiencing physical and sexual violence in their lifetime.

FEBC has found that its programs aren't only educating and empowering the women with choice, they are arming the men of the family with the truth, and options to protect their families from outdated, traditional practices. FEBC's thousands of donors in Australia contributed directly to creating community programming.

<http://www.febc.org.au>

Australian Christians are holding their Victorian Annual Conference on Saturday 5 April

Venue: Heidelberg Presbyterian Church cnr Darebin and Hawdon Sts, Heidelberg, Melbourne. Program

begins at 9am.

Speakers: Bernie Power, Peter Kentley, Robert Martin, Kristan Dooley, John Ballantyne. Topics include 'Building a Great Nation through Church and State Cooperation' and 'Religious Beliefs have Political Consequences'.

The day's program will be followed by a Conference Dinner in the evening 'with a taste of the East.'

More details and links to online registration on the website

Go to:

<http://australianchristians.com.au/news/victoria-state-conference-2014/>

P: 03 8338 0280 or write: PO Box 258 Croydon 3136 to register. (Web bookings preferred.)

Scripture Teaching News from Campbelltown (Sydney, NSW)

The Campbelltown Area High Schools Ministry (CAHSM) seeks to provide Scripture Teachers for the high schools in the Campbelltown area. CAHSM is led by an inter-denominational board that has representatives from numerous churches in the Campbelltown area.

The vision of CAHSM is to place Scripture Teachers in every high school in the Campbelltown area. The mission of CAHSM is to change young lives through Christ. In 2014 Scripture is happening in the following schools in cooperation with the work of local churches.

- Airds High (Year 7-10 and Support Unit)
- Thomas Reddall High (Year 7-8 and Support Unit) -
- Eagle Vale High (Year 7-9)
- Leumeah High (Year 7)
- Robert Townson High (Year 7-10)
- Sarah Redfern High (Year 7)
- Ingleburn High (Year 7-8)
- Campbelltown Performing Arts (lunch group)

More details of this ministry on cahsm.com

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Mladen and Josephine Petrovic (nee Bolton) announce with pleasure the marriage of their third son, **Michael Donovan Petrovic** to **Hannah Adriana Attenborough** in Toowoomba, Qld, on Saturday 8 March 2014. Michael is a grandson of the late Jasper and Ruth Bolton who were associated with the Christian Brethren Assemblies in Melbourne and on whose own wedding day in 1946 had Jasper's great friend and co-founder of New Life, Eric Daley, as Best Man.

'HOW GOOD ... WHEN BROTHERS DWELL TOGETHER IN UNITY'

Banner Conference At Collaroy, Sydney

THERE was a fine spirit among those who gathered for the Banner Of Truth Ministers' Conference at Collaroy, Sydney, 4-7 March 2014. Allan Blanch reminded the gathering at the outset that a primary purpose of the conference is to build relationships and that needs days together. We had people this week from various parts of this vast land, including Tasmania and Western Australia. There was also a happy mix of age groups and nationalities. We have looked for more of the younger age group and there were a few more this year, including one Eritrean, converted in Australia and presently studying for the Gospel ministry. Reformers' Book Shop, Sydney, provided a large supply of Banner books and it was good to see how many were taken up. I had asked the shop for a good supply of *Sermons Of Archibald Brown*. I had to plead somewhat with our gathering to get Brown taken up but, thankfully, with success!



I suppose the oldest member of the conference was Donald Howard, author of the Banner titles on *Grief [Christians Grieve Too]* and on *Burial Or Cremation?* He continues to be a stimulus to us all. His book, *Preach Or Perish*, published in Australia, ought to be better known than it is.

The conference began with a sermon on *Christ Risen*, and it was an appropriate beginning. The three evening sessions were taken by Murray Capill, Principal of Reformed Theological College, Geelong, on the subject of *Application In Preaching*. Although the conference is no longer for pastors only, or male only, the whole gathering valued these addresses on a very relevant need in preaching.

Speaking at the conference for the first time, but much at home in our midst, was Simon Manchester, who serves at St Thomas' Anglican Church, North Sydney, and reaches around 100,000 by radio every Sunday morning at 8am on Sydney's Christian radio station. In two addresses he spoke on the necessity of godliness in the church, and on *Steadiness For The Long Term*. His, and other addresses, were especially valued by men serving in small congregations, and his practical observations from his own ministry since the 1980s were relevant for us all.

Simon Manchester's subjects dove-tailed with an address from Joel Radford, pastor of Drummoynne Baptist Church, Sydney, on *Liberating Ministry From The Success Syndrome*. With the hope of many years' ministry yet before him, the conference were much encouraged to hear Dr Radford, and the reminder he gave us that faithfulness, not success, will come first in God's judgment. He also directed us to valuable reading material by Kent Hughes and Jeremiah Burroughs (*Divine Art of Christian Contentment*).

In terms of lighting-up the meaning of Scripture, the exposition by Noel Weeks of the *Book of Judges* will long be remembered. Not only did we see that book, and its characters, in a new way, but principles for the understanding of history came in by the way. Peter Barnes, who chaired that session, underlined the value of the two titles by Dr Weeks published by the Trust, *Gateway To The Old Testament*, and *The Sufficiency of Scripture*. While the latter may be of special use to students, the former is suited to all Christians.

Variety helps in a conference and there were two sessions of a different nature this year. In one of them I sought to give a bird's eye view of Puritan history from Tyndale to 1662, with a view to deepening interest in evangelical history. In the other Stephen Turner spoke under the general title of *India Today*. Since the early 1990s, Stephen has combined his long pastorate at North Shore Baptist Church, Auckland, with an annual visit to South India where, with the co-operation of churches, he gathers young Tamil men and potential future leaders, and spends extended time with them going over the text of books by such authors as Packer, Stott, Lloyd-Jones, and Piper (the latter's *We Are Not Professionals* has been particularly popular). From this, long-standing relationships have been built up with these young men and pastors.

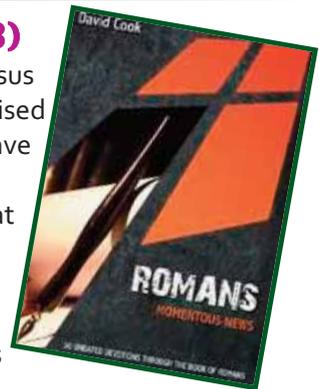
An unplanned addition to the conference, on the afternoon after Stephen spoke, was the showing of the film, *The Story Of Amy Carmichael And The Dohnavur Fellowship*. The large number who wanted to see this film, and the comments which followed, showed how much it was appreciated. For further reading, the biography of Carmichael, *A Chance To Die*, by Elisabeth Elliott was especially recommended. 'Love is a great thing, a great good indeed,' says Carmichael, 'which alone makes light all that is burdensome, and bears with even mind all that is uneven.' The work at Dohnavur was, and is, a powerful testimony to the love of Christ.

What a great blessing is the communion of Christians! It encircles the world and is in union with Heaven. Charles Wesley's hymn (363 in *Christian Hymns*) has these fine verses:

'Let saints on Earth together sing with those rest is won,
for all the servants of our King in Earth and Heaven are one.
'One family we dwell in Him, one church, above, beneath,
Though now divided by the stream, The narrow stream of death.'

Knowing God's Plan**(Read Romans 7.1-13)****TO REFLECT ON:****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.



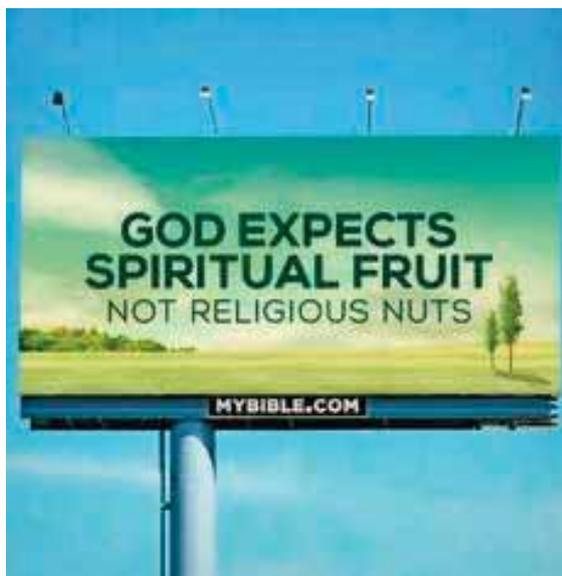
By dying to the law, the believer is legitimately free to 'marry' (that is, to be united with) Christ and thus to serve in the new way of the Spirit (7.4-6).

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 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.

Seen On Facebook:**96threeFM**

Today's Christian Music, Inspiring Talk

www.96three.com.au

Phone: 03 5241 6550

Email: listen@96three.com.au

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

VIEWPOINT ...

Churches Move To Save Christian Holidays

THE NSW Council of Churches has expressed strong support for workers threatened with the erosion of restricted retail trading hours on public holidays. Council President, Rev Dr Ross Clifford, said the current restrictions on retail trading hours should be retained in NSW in order to support a healthy work-life balance for workers and their families. 'We take the view that all persons are created equal, in the image of God, and must therefore be treated with dignity and respect, including in the workplace. A few days of designated public holidays out of 365 days in a year is not too great a burden for employers to carry in support of the common good,' Dr Clifford said.

Christians affirm that work done should be justly remunerated; that workers have a right to adequate rest from their employment; and that a healthy work-life balance delivers measurable benefits to workers, their families, their employers and the whole community. Leaders from the Anglican, Catholic, Uniting and Baptist churches, and representatives of Wesley Mission and the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association, have signed an open letter to NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell, urging him to guarantee that retail trading hours will not be extended to include Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Anzac Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. 'We appreciate the exemptions currently in place covering tourist areas and parts of the Sydney CBD – a sensible compromise. If people are desperate to shop they can avail themselves of these special trading areas on a public holiday. But if retail trading hours are deregulated for Boxing Day, employees will need to work on Christmas Day to prepare stores, and that is unacceptable,' Dr Clifford said. Rev Fred Nile remains committed to opposing plans to extend retail trading hours.

St Patrick On Sharing The Gospel. (Will The Real St Patrick Please Stand Up?)

'AFTER I reached Ireland I used to pasture the flock each day and I used to pray many times a day. More and more did the love of God, and my fear of Him and faith increase, and my spirit was moved so that in a day [I prayed] from one up to 100 prayers, and in the night a like number; besides I used to stay out in the forests and on the mountain and I would wake up before daylight to pray in the snow, in icy coldness, in rain, and I used to feel neither ill nor any slothfulness, because, as I now see, the Spirit was burning in me at that time.

'According, therefore, to the measure of one's faith in the Trinity, one should proceed without holding back from [fear of] danger to make known the gift of God and everlasting consolation, to spread God's Name everywhere with confidence and without fear ...

'And I was not worthy, nor was I such that the Lord should grant His humble servant this, that after hardships and such great trials, after captivity, after many years, He should give me so much favour in these people, a thing which in the time of my youth I neither hoped for nor imagined.'

– *The Confession Of St Patrick, 14, 15, 16*

(Contributed by the Rev John Ross, Minister of Glenurquart Free Church Of Scotland, who adds: 'Tradition has it that much of Patrick's youth was spent in slavery, tending animals on and around Slemish in County Antrim.)



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 –



BOOKS WORTH READING

STIRRED BY A NOBLE THEME: The Book Of Psalms In The Life Of The Church, Edited by Andrew G. Shead, Nottingham: Apollos, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-78359-011-7

CHRISTIANS love and use the book of *Psalms*, but there is a problem and a challenge to face: in the contemporary church they are underused and misused. We are using the Psalter less than we used to, given the loss of the regular singing of psalms and cycles of reading the Psalms in churches. We do not use the *Psalms* well, namely legitimately connecting them to Christ, sanctifying our emotions, guiding our behaviour, renewing our vision for service and mission, and deepening our praise of God. These 12 essays derive from the 2012 Moore College School Of Theology, and they are sure to help the reader to make more and better use of this uniquely precious portion of Scripture.

In line with *Psalms* scholarship since the 1990's, James Hutchinson seeks to elucidate the overall meaning of the *Psalter* as indicated by its macrostructure, though his findings fall short in not taking account of that fact that the main theology of the *Psalter* centres on God's Kingship, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the God-man. Hutchinson seems to think that only the David connection is significant for reading the *Psalter* as a Christian. On the contrary, all that God does in the *Psalter* can also be predicated to the Lord Jesus. John Woodhouse addresses some of the issues involved in reading the *Psalms* as Christian Scripture, but he too seems to want the full weight of the *Psalter* to rest on the David-Christ connection, yet surely Jesus is not only the Christ (the promised Messiah), but, as God in the flesh, He is also the Divine King. Woodhouse ignores this vital facet of the Christology of the Psalms.

David Peterson studies the Christological use of the *Psalms* in *Luke-Acts* and *Hebrews*, noting that uses of Psalm 110.1 play an important role in all three books, with Jesus identified as the 'Lord' referred to in this key verse. As observed by Peterson, this psalmic verse and Psalm 102.25-27 (both quoted in *Hebrews* 1) effectively equate Jesus with God. Mark Thompson is right to choose Psalm 22 as a model of how to draw deep theology from the *Psalter*, and this leads to reflection on what theology is and should be, namely words addressed to God as most of the psalms themselves are.

Seumas Macdonald provides excerpts of patristic sermons on Psalm 45 by Basil of Caesarea, John Chrysostom and Augustine of Hippo. Andrew Shead writes about the challenge of translating the Hebrew poetry of the *Psalms* into English, with translations usually reverting the lyrical poetry of the *Psalter* to banal prose. He shows how it is possible to translate poetry as poetry (requiring the use of rare words, unusual word order, picture language and brevity) and that should be our goal. Andrew Shead and Andrew Cameron call for the reinstatement of the regular and systematic reading of the *Psalms* as central to Christian worship, for, according to the authors of this chapter, the *Psalter* shows a Gospel-shaped plot and communal use of the *Psalms* enables us to journey with Christ (as depicted by type and prophecy in the *Psalter*) from suffering to glory.

Tara Stenhouse explores the ministry of the lament psalms to those suffering pain, because they give us permission to grieve. They give pain a voice and they put personal pain in a broader context. Kit Barker offers a theological interpretation of the imprecatory (cursing) psalms, making use of Speech Act Theory, arguing that they are righteous responses consistent with the Christian command to forgive (when there is penitence). Dan Wu explores the experience of perplexity reflected in the *Psalter*, including the God-imposed limits of our knowledge of God and His ways, which should lead to wonder, humility and trust. This is a helpful reminder for Evangelicals who sometimes give the impression to others of being know-all.

Andrew Sloane shows how the *Psalms* may inform our political imagination, breeding a holy dissatisfaction with wrong social structures and fostering social engagement that seeks to reflect God's character and purposes. This prevents our use of the *Psalter* degenerating into a 'feel good' exercise. Finally, Greg Anderson uncovers the rich mission theology found in the *Psalter*, with all nations called to praise and worship God. Here, then, is a helpful volume of essays which will assist the use of the Psalms in Christian worship, ethics and mission.

– Greg Goswell



'Here is a helpful volume of essays which will assist the use of the Psalms in Christian worship, ethics and mission.'