

## Sydney Wakes To Radiant Praise And New Hope On Easter Sunday

**The Rev Dr  
Keith Garner  
speaking to a  
large crowd at  
the Sydney  
Opera House  
and on national  
television –  
Wesley Mission  
Pic.**



AS the sun cast its first light across Sydney Harbour on Easter Sunday, songs of praise radiated from the Sydney Opera House and across the city. Hundreds of people from all walks of life joined to celebrate the power and joy of Jesus' resurrection at Wesley Mission's annual Sunrise Service, and by the time the service was underway, it was standing room only at the rear of the Opera House's Northern Foyer.

*Christ The Lord Is Risen Today* and *Thine Be The Glory* thundered from the heart of one of Australia's iconic buildings. The service, led by Wesley Mission Superintendent the Rev Dr Keith Garner, included contemporary music, hymns, a guest performance from singer Tanya Riches and an interview with Wesley Mission child and family worker, Michelle Parrish.

'We emphasise the theme of resurrection because we know it is the fundamental message that enables us to address a damaged world where hopelessness abounds,' Dr Garner told those at the Opera House and the many thousands watching the service on national television. 'Despair takes on many guises. However, in the unambiguous evidence of the Easter witness, we are able to see our lives transformed from hopelessness into hope and from dreariness into joy.'

'What draws us each year to this iconic venue is the fact that hopelessness has been defeated. The Risen Lord of Easter is not merely a happy-ending to a painful story, but the very cornerstone of a message that will bring hope to the world.' Dr Garner said the confidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ helped us face life's 'tough questions'. 'If we ask the question "Who is this man?" then the answer is – He is our hope and peace. We may reach out today and find His real presence – and, in doing so, will be changed,' Dr Garner said.

Wesley Mission's Michelle Parrish said her faith in Jesus Christ gave her the strength to serve people 'day by day' and to help others 'embrace the joy' of the Christian faith.

The service was broadcast across Australia through Channel 9 and simulcast by radio stations along Australia's east coast, including Light FM 89.9 in Melbourne.

Wesley Mission hosted more than 20 Easter events, re-enactments and worship services during Holy Week 2014, including a Good Friday re-enactment of the Last Supper, the trial and crucifixion journey of Jesus Christ. The event in the centre of Sydney drew more than 500 people, including overseas visitors and media. Dr Garner told SBS News that it was important to take the Easter message into the public domain. 'He (Jesus Christ) was crucified outside a city wall and on Good Friday there is no better day than to go out in the open air and make it clear that the Christian message is for real,' Dr Garner said. – Graeme Cole, Public Affairs Manager, Wesley Mission [wesleymission.org.au](http://wesleymission.org.au)

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AUSTRALIA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

## Something You Might Not Know: *Mother's Day And The Christian Connection*



**Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis**

MOTHER'S Day, observed on the Second Sunday in May, has a noble heritage. Celebration of Mothers over the centuries has appeared in varying forms and traditions since and possibly before Roman times. In the 1600s' the Church of England instigated Mothering Sunday in recognition of Mary the Mother of Jesus.

The seed for Mother's Day that we celebrate today had its beginning in 1858 with Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, a Christian lady who was working to heal the nation after the Civil War. Her strategy was to promote and elevate the important role of mothers and help them to create healthier and more hygienic homes.

When Ann Marie Jarvis passed away after a long illness, one of her two daughters, Anna, decided to dedicate her life to her mother's dream of a Mother's Day to honour all mothers around the world. As a Sunday school teacher for 20 years, she was very aware of the Fifth of the Ten Commandments, 'Honour your father and mother' and no doubt would have taught this to her students.

She shared her desire to bring to fruition her mother's dream and it was readily accepted by her friends. The first church service was held at her own church and she handed out her mother's favourite flower, the White Carnation. At first, people observed Mother's Day by attending church and writing letters to their mothers.

Although now heavily commercialised (much to Anna's distress) Mother's Day has flourished all around the world. In the USA the Second Sunday in May has become the most popular day of the year to dine out, and the telephone lines record their highest traffic.

But let us not forget the original intention as set out by God to celebrate and honour the mothers in our families, in our churches and in society.

– *Graham McDonald, Children Of The World,  
A Ministry Of Campus Crusade For Christ Australia*  
[graham.mcdonald@ccca.org.au](mailto:graham.mcdonald@ccca.org.au)

# Persecuted Because Of The Cross

TO those who believe that Jesus of Nazareth was a mere man, the Cross is a symbol of Christian foolishness (1 Corinthians 1.18). 'Jesus was executed,' they scoff, 'and it is ridiculous to suggest that a dead man would rise.'

To Muslims, who believe that Jesus was a mere prophet of Allah, the Cross is a symbol of Christian blasphemy. 'Jesus was never crucified,' they object, 'and it is blasphemous to suggest that Allah would permit such a thing.' (<http://quran.com/4/157-159>)

To Satan, who knows exactly who Christ is, the Cross is a symbol of his defeat. 'It must not be seen,' he demands, 'and it must not be heard, lest people come to understand what it means.'

To Christians, who believe that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah), the Cross is a symbol of everything we believe about sin, judgment, justice, redemption, salvation, hope ... and love. 'It is in the Cross that God shows His love for us,' we say, 'because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' (Romans 5.8)

On 4 November 2013, as part of Australia's *Festival Of Dangerous Ideas*, an episode of the ABC program *Q&A* was broadcast from the Sydney Opera House. Peter Hitchens, the lone conservative and Christian amongst a panel and audience of 'progressives', was laughed at, mocked and pilloried for an hour. Finally the panellists were asked: 'Which so-called dangerous idea do you each think would have the greatest potential to change the world for the better if it were implemented?' Peter Hitchens responded, 'The most dangerous idea in human history and philosophy remains the belief that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and rose from the dead, and that is the most dangerous idea you will ever encounter.'

The panel and audience laughed and cheered until they realised that something must be wrong if they were agreeing with Peter Hitchens! At that point, confusion took over and Peter was asked to explain. 'Because,' he said, 'it alters the whole of human behaviour and all our responsibilities. It turns the universe from a meaningless chaos into a designed place in which there is justice and there is hope and, therefore, we all have a duty to discover the nature of that justice and work towards that hope. It alters us all. If we reject it, it alters us all as well. It is incredibly dangerous. It's why so many people turn against it.'

To fallen humanity, the Cross represents a truly dangerous idea, a dangerous choice. For some the Cross represents a threat to their personal sovereignty, sexual freedom and status in the world. For those in hostile environments the Cross represents a threat to their family, liberty and even life. Across the world, including Kosovo, Egypt, Raqqa (Syria) and Zhejiang (China), crosses have been pulled down and smashed, sending a loud message to the Church and the local population that 'Christianity is not welcome here'.

The Cross will always be a symbol of persecution at the hands of a hostile world that wants to be rid of Christ. But for those who understand and believe, the Cross will always be wondrous, a symbol of divine love, hope and life in all its fullness.

**WE THANK YOU LORD** for Your amazing love, which led You to the Cross for us.

**WE PRAISE YOU LORD** for Your perfection, which meant death could not hold You and now cannot hold any who are 'in Christ'.

**MAY WE** never be ashamed of the Cross of Christ our Saviour.

**MAY WE** never be ashamed of those who are persecuted because of the Cross of Christ.

**LORD GIVE US** boldness and faith to exalt Your Cross at all times so that peoples and nations might see, hear, understand and believe.

**AMEN**

*This RLPB was written by Elizabeth Kendal,  
international religious liberty analyst and advocate.*

*Elizabeth is Adjunct Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths  
at the Melbourne School of Theology.*

*She is Director of Advocacy for Christian Faith & Freedom based in Canberra, Australia.  
Elizabeth Kendal is the author of **Turn Back The Battle: Isaiah Speaks To Christians Today**  
(Deror Books, Dec 2012)*

<http://turnbackthebattle.com/thebook.html>

## TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING ...

# Lausanne Movement Convenes Global Consultation On Islam

## - Resourcing The Church To Understand Islam And Engage With Muslims



FORTY scholars and practitioners from 20 countries, representing every continent, gathered 6-12 April in Accra, Ghana, for the *Lausanne Global Consultation On Islam*. The group included researchers, professors, broadcasters, church leaders, executives of NGOs, and strategic specialists and trainers, all with extensive experience of ministry in Islamic contexts, and several who had come to faith from Muslim backgrounds.

Chaired by John Azumah, Lausanne Senior Associate for Islam, and hosted by Nana Yaw Offei Awuku, Lausanne International Deputy Director for English, Portuguese, and Spanish-speaking Africa, the consultation was intended to resource and equip the Majority World Church in understanding Islam and engaging with Muslims.

'For a very long time, Christian witness to Muslims has been a specialized, clericalized, and professionalized task,' says John Azumah. 'Mission to Muslims has been left to a number of specialists out of the 2.6 billion members of the global church. Many Christians (lay and ordained) have been largely paralyzed by fear, and in some cases, hatred, inspired mainly by militant Islam. We need to work at de-clericalizing the task and de-escalating the fear and hatred, and inspire the 2.6 billion with the confidence to witness to Muslims and to do so in informed and loving ways.'

Morning devotionals were presented by a Nigerian, an Egyptian, a Filipino, and a native of France working with North Africans. Building on the emphasis of love toward people of other faiths as sounded in section IIC of *The Cape Town Commitment*, each explored a different dimension of the grace of God that Christians are called to express to their Muslim neighbours.

The first half of the consultation explored five faces of Islam—*Mystical And Popular Islam, Missionary And Polemical Islam, Ideological And Political Islam, Militant And Violent Islam, and Progressive And Liberal Islam*—with presenters from East Asia, Anglophone Africa and the Middle East, and respondents from South Asia, Francophone and Anglophone Africa, and the South Pacific. Participants continued to explore the implications of these five faces throughout the week and in regional meetings for Africa, Asia, and Middle East/North Africa.

### Easter Trauma In Nigeria, Syria

EASTER was a time of great distress for the parents of 187 teenage girls kidnapped by Boko Haram militants from the Christian enclave of Chibok, Nigeria. On 17 April parents and volunteers on some 1500 motorcycles found the militants deep in the Sambisa Forest but without military backing there was nothing they could do. Weeks have passed since the mass abduction and the girls still have not been rescued. Pray that God will liberate these girls. Meanwhile, in Syria, the Battle for Aleppo has intensified. The Syrian Army is fighting rebels who are attempting to invade Christian areas. Shaken by rockets and bombs, traumatised and besieged Christians have been without food, water and medical supplies for weeks. Please pray for the Church in Aleppo.

— Elizabeth Kendal

During the second half of the consultation, participants met in four focus groups, exploring needs, opportunities, challenges, and current resources, as well as developing action plans related to training for ministry to Muslims in the context of local churches, seminaries and Bible colleges, mission agencies, and study centres. A consultation statement, which will serve as a basis for inviting others to network and collaborate in witness to Muslims, with particular focus on identifying and developing resources for churches in the Majority World, is forthcoming. Videos of the presentations will soon be available. This consultation on Islam is the third in a multi-year series of *Lausanne Global Consultations* coming out of *The Cape Town Commitment (2010)*, exploring urgent and strategic topics important to world evangelization. For further details go to:

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

— The Lausanne Movement  
via Ramon Williams, Worldwide Photos

## THE WORD GOES OUT ...

### SAT-7 Broadcasts Easter Hope In Troubled Middle East

At a time when many people in the Middle East are experiencing great danger or uncertainty, the Christian satellite TV organization SAT-7 has broadcast the Easter message of redemption, fresh hope and new life.

This year the Easter festival fell at the same time in the Eastern and Western Church calendars, and SAT-7 transmitted worship services from all the main regional denominations and from churches in Syria, Egypt and Lebanon. Through its Arabic, Farsi and Turkish language channels SAT-7 gave millions of Christian viewers and others across the region access to the message of Easter, and worship in many traditions.

Many of the services and special worship meetings were broadcast live, and began with a special *Family Prayer Night* from Kasr El Dohara Evangelical Church in Cairo on Monday 14 April. Organizers say this event has been held for the first time as an opportunity to affirm that God is in control of events in Egypt, to give thanks for the forbearance and peaceful witness of Christians after attacks on churches and properties last August, and to renew their commitment as families to be salt and light for Christ.

Other SAT-7 broadcasts included prayers for Easter recorded at the Christian Unity Church in Damascus, Syria, an Easter service from a Maronite Catholic Church in Lebanon, an Orthodox Easter Mass from Egypt on Holy Saturday (19 April) and a praise concert and Easter celebrations from Cairo and Heliopolis in Egypt on Easter Day.

On both the SAT-7 ARABIC and SAT-7 PLUS channels, Easter broadcasts climaxed with a live eight-hour recording of an Easter night of prayer from Wady el Natroun, between Cairo and Alexandria.



#### Walk Thru The Bible Becomes 'Leadequip Bible Ministries'

– Previous Directors Very Happy With Relaunch Under Al Watson

REV Garry Coleman, National Director from 1993-2014, is thrilled that 'there is new energy and motivation to again expose Australians to this unique way of teaching the "Big Picture" of the Bible. Our board members are both thrilled and relieved that Al Watson is taking the helm.'

The new *Walk Thru The Bible* is being established in Melbourne under the new name *Leadequip Bible Ministries*. Rev Coleman will continue teaching, preaching, conducting ministry overseas, working within the LBM framework for at least another three years.

[leadequipbible@yahoo.com.au](mailto:leadequipbible@yahoo.com.au)

### MECO MIDDLE EAST TOUR 8-25 October 2014

- Where did Jesus spend His first Christmas?
- Where was Jesus baptised?
- How about sailing on Galilee?

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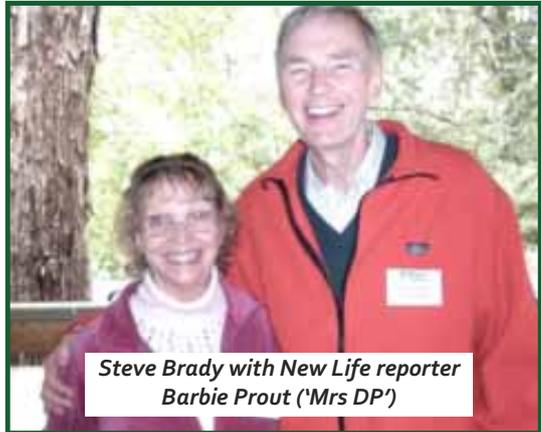
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THE blast of the trumpet echoed through the rafters of the auditorium as about 1,200 gathered for the service on Easter Sunday. Campers and day visitors from far and wide had again converged on the convention grounds at Belgrave Heights to celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection. The magnificent singing lifted the hearts of God's people; especially the wonderful voice of Rebecca Raymond, who presented a magnificent anthem of praise at many of the meetings. She is a professional singer from Adelaide and a member of the Salvation Army, who delights to use her voice for the Lord.



Steve Brady with New Life reporter Barbie Prout ('Mrs DP')

The convention caters for all age groups. Bill Merriweather, a retired missionary with APCM in PNG, has just turned 97, while six-month-old Jasmine Campbell will probably spend her childhood in a cross-cultural environment as her parents (Ian and Rachel Campbell), candidates with Pioneers, are ready for God's call on their lives. OAC continued their tremendous ministry with primary and secondary students. The superb missions display set up in the foyer emphasized the plight of children world-wide and their need for the hope of the Gospel.

Both speakers, Dr Steve Brady (Principal of Moorlands College, UK) and Rev Simon Manchester (Rector of St Thomas' Church, North Sydney) were welcomed back again to the platform. As old friends, they worked well together, and appreciated each other's ministry. The congregation benefitted from their easy camaraderie.

Steve Brady has been principal of Moorlands College, near Bournemouth, UK, for the last 15 years. He said, 'It's an incredible privilege to see students develop and grow in the Lord, to go into the world and win souls. Many of the theological students become pastors, missionaries, or evangelists.' Steve has been married to Brenda for nearly 40 years. They have two children and four grandchildren. Steve presented the book of *Ephesians* over five sessions in a very winsome, practical and inspiring manner.

**1. DESTINY IN AN ABSURD WORLD (Ephesians 1.1-14)**

- **Look Around:** this world is not enough, since God has planted eternity in our hearts. People see a crazy world spinning out of control, yet believers have the hope of eternity.
- **Look Up:** here's our security – loved by the Father, blessed in the heavenly realm; chosen before creation; predestined to be adopted as His sons. This is our incentive to holiness and stimulus to humility.
- **Look Back:** here's our dignity – redeemed by the Son. God the Creator is the only One who can fix our problems.
- **Look Forward:** here's our vitality– indwelt by the Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance in Glory.
- **Look Onward:** here's our victory – our best years are ahead and we have great expectations of God who is not a time Lord but the Lord of Time.

**2. INTIMACY IN A SHALLOW WORLD (Ephesians 3.1-21)**

- **Eternity In A Finite World:** Paul was in prison yet he was still fulfilling God's purpose of spreading the Word. We can be imprisoned by countless circumstances, yet we should still be doing His work.
- **God's Presence In Adversity:** Often the very things used to break us can be used for God's Glory. Make sure you are 'detained at His Majesty's pleasure.'
- **God's Program In History:** The mystery is an open secret: that salvation is for the Gentiles as well as the Jews. God's purpose through the Gospel is to let all men know of the unsearchable riches in Christ.
- **Intimacy In A Shallow World:** Move on from superficiality (seeker-sensitive, user-friendly) to become more like Jesus. Intimacy with God can be replaced by cheap familiarity. We need to know God better, deeper, higher.
- **Seek God For His Resources:** Be strengthened through His power in our lives and fortified by His Spirit.
- **Give God The Glory:** The purpose of a convention is to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God's Word. God's grace will make us like Jesus. Don Carson wrote: 'Although I think it extremely dangerous to pursue a second blessing ... I think it no less dangerous not to pant after God at all, and to be satisfied with a merely credal Christianity that is kosher but complacent; orthodox but ossified; sound but soundly asleep!' (Continued Page Seven)



(From Page Six)

**3. INTEGRITY IN A DECEPTIVE WORLD (EPHESIANS 4.17-32)**

- **Think Clearly:** Once there was a standard of morality. Now anything goes. People are living as if blind-folded in a world of illusion. Mental darkness leads to moral depravity. As believers, we have put on the new self so we can live in righteousness and holiness.
- **Live Consistently:** We need to curb our tongues, control our tempers and consecrate our talents.
- **Behave Compassionately:** Be kind, useful, happy, forgiving others as Christ has forgiven us, and use our gifts for Christ, not ourselves. If we are made to be like Him; to be His image-bearers, we need to be different. We need to be light-bearers, living sincere and transparent lives.

**4. HARMONY IN A CHAOTIC WORLD (EPHESIANS 5.15-6.9)**

- **Surrender To God's Rule In Your Heart:** We have been baptized into the Body of Christ at conversion. In Acts 2.13. We need to be under His control, not out of control. We need to be constructive, not destructive. We need to be exuberant, yet calm and ordered. John Stott said: 'We need to ask God every morning to be filled with His Spirit!' God fills us when we thirst after Him. We need to focus on Christ and continually be thirsty for His Word.
- **Be Faithful In Marriage.** The world teaches 'love, sex, marriage.' The Bible teaches 'love, marriage, sex.' Not all are called to marriage. Singleness can be a gift. Jesus was single, perfect and whole. We must all live a life of grace.
- **Maintain Harmony At Home:** Children are not a necessity in marriage, but parents need to be realistic, loving and disciplined. Likewise children need to respect, honour and obey their parents.
- **Work With Dignity:** Do a good day's work, as you are serving a higher Master. Always do your best, in humility. To do so, we must be filled with the Spirit. This is practical, possible and personal.

**5. STABILITY IN A WARRING WORLD (EPHESIANS 6.10-24)**

It is possible, practical and personal to live for Jesus in an absurd, shallow, deceptive, chaotic and warring world. Conflict is unavoidable. There is a war waging. We need to be clad in the armour of God. We were never meant to win the spiritual battle on our own. Like Roman soldiers, who locked their shields together for protection, we need to be united in the fight against evil in this world. Already Christ has disarmed the principalities. He won the victory at Calvary. We must focus on Him, walk with Him in the power of His Spirit. Then no-one and nothing will touch us.

**TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD – GLOBAL MISSIONS MEETING**

A powerful plea was made for all believers to spread the Gospel and many responded to the challenge of cross-cultural ministry as they were urged to:

- **Digest Christ's Optimism.** Jesus said 'The Gospel will be preached' – even though the world is falling apart. Only God's Kingdom will last forever. We need to tell others of His salvation.
- **Invest In Evangelism.** You can never speak to the wrong person. The Gospel is inclusive ... it is for *all* mankind.
- **Manifest Some Dynamism.** In 2 Peter 3.12 we are told: 'We must always be ready with an answer.' Others can see what Jesus means to us by our lives and lips. We are all called to be the focus of God's people to get His work done.

– Barbara Prout, ('MrsDP')



*Time to relax – at the popular coffee shop.*



*The convention crowd – fully engaged.*

### Victorian Court Denies Freedom To Uphold Bible Teaching

'RELIGIOUS freedom is under threat in Victoria, now that a court ruling has denied a Christian-run camp its right to maintain biblical standards of conduct on its premises,' FamilyVoice state officer Peter Stevens has said. The Victorian Court of Appeal recently dismissed an Appeal from a VCAT decision in 2010 which ruled that Christian Youth Camps had discriminated against Cobaw, a group for same-sex attracted youth, in the provision of accommodation.

Lawyers for the organisation told the Court of Appeal the group was not refused because their members were homosexual, but because the group would promote a message that it is okay to have sex outside of marriage.

The Christian group's appeal was dismissed by a majority of 2:1, with Justice Robert Redlich dissenting. Justice Redlich said that section 77 of the Equal Opportunity Act is an exemption available to a corporation and that CYC and its employee Mark Rowe, who refused the booking, were taking steps necessary to comply with their genuine religious beliefs that promotion of homosexuality was wrong.

In the original 2010 ruling, the Tribunal ruled that CYC's biblical beliefs about marriage, sexual relationships or homosexuality are not doctrines of the Christian religion. 'This is an extraordinary denial of the facts,' Pastor Stevens said. 'Jesus Christ, the Founder of the Christian religion, clearly taught that marriage is a man-woman union in Matthew 19.4,5. He taught that porneia (a Greek term for all forms of sexual immorality, understood by all Jews to include all forms of sexual intercourse outside marriage, including homosexual activity) is evil in Matthew 15.19.

'The Cobaw vs CYC case highlights the erosion of our freedom of religion and association,' FamilyVoice state officer Pastor Peter Stevens said. 'We have now reached a stage where a judge is deciding what Christians should believe – and Christians have lost the freedom to uphold and promote biblical sexuality for the common good.

'This outcome is tragic. Natural marriage and family are foundational institutions of our society.'

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### High Court Challenge For National School Chaplaincy To Be Heard 6-8 May

PETER James, Director of Scripture Union Qld reports on SU's recent *Back Our Chappies* bus tour, which came to an end recently after a 6,000 kilometre trip around Queensland, stopping in more than 25 Queensland towns, and in each meeting with chaplains who told incredible stories of what has taken place in their local community.

'Every day, chaplains are making a positive difference in their schools. Children and young people are assured there is someone available to talk to when they need – and in many communities this assurance also extends to teachers, principals and parents.

'We also met with supporters, who continue to make all these stories come to life,' says Peter. 'The simple fact is that without supporters' contributions, chaplains can't work in schools – and if chaplains aren't there, school students who are finding life tough would be left to struggle on their own.

'Shortly, we go to the High Court of Australia to defend Federal Government funding for school chaplains. The funding we receive accounts for a very significant proportion of the cost of keeping chaplains in schools, so this is a very important case for chaplaincy on a national scale.

'There are three potential outcomes to this case: the challenge could be overturned and funding continue as before; funding could be diverted to State Governments, who would then determine whether they will pass it on; or funding could cease altogether.

'We have been working hard in the months since the writ of summons was received building a strong case of support for school chaplaincy funding. We are so grateful to have received many donations and many words of encouragement from our supporters, and for that I would like to offer my sincerest thanks. To hear from so many people about their love for chaplaincy has been overwhelming and has encouraged us greatly.

'But what we really want to do at this time is to look ahead. Regardless of the outcome of this High Court challenge, chaplains will continue to encourage and support children and young people in state schools.'

– Reported in *National Association of Christian Leaders Newsletter*

## HELPING FIND THE ANSWER

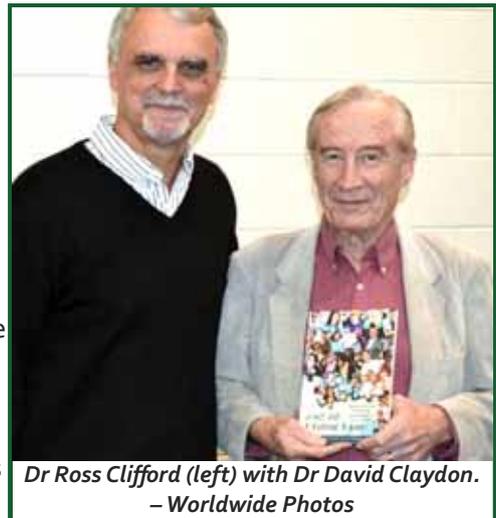
### Exploring Personal Identity

– David Claydon's New Book, *Who Do I Think I Am?* Launched.

DURING the REVIVE Conference on Friday 9 August at Sydney Showground, David Claydon's new book, *Who Do I Think I Am?* was launched by Rev Dr Ross Clifford, Principal of Morling College. David Claydon, from Hornsby Heights, NSW, grew up in orphanages in Palestine and Egypt without any knowledge of his European heritage or even his date of birth. His quest for his own identity led him to write this book, which draws on both Scripture and his own personal journey to explore what true identity is.

Rev Steve Dixon, the Director of Baptist Youth Ministries (NSW/ACT) and Co-ordinator of Youth Studies at Morling College says about the book, 'Into what feels like daily increases of voices screaming a variety of responses to the significant developmental question of identity enters a biblical, personal and wholistic voice.' Throughout the book, significant questions are addressed such as: *Am I Important? How Do I Know Who I Am? Does My View Of Myself Impact My Spiritual Health?* These and other questions are answered with a biblical perspective. At the end of each chapter is a list of thought-provoking questions to use for personal reflection or group discussion.

Rev Dr David Claydon spent his early years in Palestine and Egypt, leading to an international and diverse ministry of teaching, speaking and writing. For 18 years he headed Scripture Union, training youth workers throughout East Asia and establishing Scripture Union ministry in the South Pacific Islands. David was Rector of St Matthew's, West Pennant Hills, Sydney, for six years and then headed up the Church Missionary Society of Australia, also serving as president of the United Mission to Nepal. He currently chairs groups such as the Heads of Churches Conference and the Human Rights Organisation for Middle East, North Africa. He has edited the Lausanne series *A New Vision, A New Heart, A Renewed Call* and most recently *Islam, Human Rights And Public Policy*. Cecily Paterson has written a biography of David and his wife Robyn, called *Never Alone*.



Dr Ross Clifford (left) with Dr David Claydon.  
– Worldwide Photos

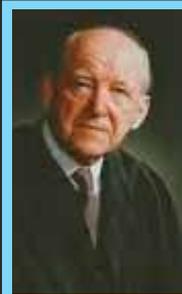
Read *The Objective Evidence For The Christian Faith* by David Holden,  
at [www.defenceofthefaith.org](http://www.defenceofthefaith.org)

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*'...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)



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Enjoy!

(Courtesy Rev Iain Murray)

#### 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?

## GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE OF OTHER FAITHS

### Bernie Power Heads Up Outreach Programs To Those Of Other Faiths

BERNIE Power, one of Melbourne's foremost leaders in engaging with those of other faiths is hard at work with several programs underway or about to start.

On Friday night 2 May he will lead a meeting at the ACTIVATE conference at the Melbourne School of Theology, 5 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna, at 5pm for prayer, followed by dinner at 6pm. Call Lauren on 0488 101 470 if you can come, and bring some food to share.

Bernie's *Apologetics To Islam Course*, also to be held at MST, 5 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna, Melbourne, starts on 8 May. Call Bernie on 0449 768 932 or email:

[BPower@MST.edu.au](mailto:BPower@MST.edu.au)

#### Middle East Mystery Short Term Team – January 2015

Bernie plans to take a team of up to ten God-trusting and flexible people into a 'creative-access' country in the Middle East next January, leaving Melbourne on 30 December and arriving back on 23 January. The team will be teaching conversational English at a university. Cost will be about \$3500 including airfares. Anyone interested in joining should call Bernie on 0449 768 932 or [BPower@MST.edu.au](mailto:BPower@MST.edu.au)



Bernie (far right) and the team in Bourke St.

### CMI Supporter's Meeting

MELBOURNE Friends of Creation Ministries Int meeting will be held on Monday 5 May at 7.45pm in South Yarra Presbyterian Church, 621 Punt Rd, South Yarra, VIC. Dr Geoff Downes, a scientist and one of CMI's adjunct speakers, will be there and will be happy to chat with visitors at this upcoming information evening.

For further enquiries please contact Gerardine Hansen. Email: [melbourne.friends@creation.info](mailto:melbourne.friends@creation.info) or phone: 0425 751 297.

#### Amazing Fruit Found On The Street

Jesus said: 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.' But there are some fruit-pickers at work every Saturday in Bourke St, Melbourne. Bernie reports that over the past few weeks, a number of people have committed their lives to Christ through the witness of members of this outreach team. 'God is at work in Melbourne,' Bernie says. 'On one day, four people, including two Muslims, invited Jesus to come into their hearts. If you would like to join our team of harvesters, contact Richard on 0407 061 574 to get details.'

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### Abducted Nigerian Girls' Families Fast Losing Hope Of Rescue

– President calls emergency security council meeting over teenagers

*rounded up at gunpoint despite guard's presence*

*Reported by Monica Mark in Abuja [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com) Saturday 26 April 2014*

THE families of more than 230 Nigerian schoolgirls abducted by Islamist insurgents more than ten days ago say they are fast losing hope of seeing their daughters again despite government assurances they will be found. The mass abduction of the girls watched over by government soldiers is the most devastating in a series of recent attacks on state schools – and comes as the government debates extending a year-long state of emergency across three north-eastern states from which the militants have operated for five years. On the same day as the kidnappings, a massive bombing by Boko Haram insurgents killed more than 75 commuters hundreds of miles south on the outskirts of the capital.

The girls, who were mostly between 16 and 18 years old, were rounded up at gunpoint after militants overpowered a military guard assigned to a boarding school in Chibok, in north-eastern Borno state. They had just finished their final school exams. The school was the only one still open in the area following threats and attacks by Boko Haram, whose ideology opposes both so-called western education, and particularly women's education.

After several attempts by unarmed parents to comb the vast forests where militant camps are located – and where near-daily air raids by the Nigerian army have been halted since the kidnappings – many said they had little faith in the government. Hamma Balumai, a farmer whose 16-year-old daughter Hauwa was snatched, pooled his savings with other parents and ventured on a two-day trek into the forest. 'Even my wife was begging to come as she is so disturbed she hasn't been able to eat anything. Our daughter Hauwa is only 16 years old and she has been missing for 11 days now,' he told *the Guardian*. The parents turned around only after being warned by communities in the forest that their rag-tag group, armed with machetes and knives, would be gunned down by the militants, who wield sophisticated weapons.

Parents expressed their despair after President Goodluck Jonathan convened an emergency security council on Thursday with state governors, security chiefs and spiritual leaders from across Africa's most populous, religiously mixed country. The government said its priority was to rescue the girls, kidnapped almost two weeks ago on 14 April, amid a deteriorating security situation.

'We must do everything to ensure that the abducted children are retrieved and rehabilitated and returned to their parents, and the military assured us that they are working on it,' said Kayode Fayemi, of the southern, Christian-majority Ekiti state, following a seven-hour meeting at the presidential villa in the capital, Abuja, in which attendees also addressed fears that Boko Haram, which is seeking to carve a northern Islamic enclave, is extending its geographical reach southwards and deeper into a linchpin country in a region already plagued by Islamist militancy. Even for around two dozen girls who escaped, there has been little respite. Godiya Usman, an 18-year-old finalist who jumped off the back of the truck, said she feels trapped by survivor's guilt. She and her cousin huddled together as the insurgents stormed into their dorm room. 'When my cousin Lami started crying, one of them pointed a gun to my head and said if she didn't stop, he would shoot both of us. I held her and told her we had to just follow their instructions, but I was so scared I could barely even whisper the words.'

She began to panic as her cousin could not stop crying as they drove into the night. 'They drove us into the forest and each time we got to a village, they stopped and started shooting and killing people and burning their houses. I told the girls in my truck that when we got to another village and they were busy attacking, we should all jump down and run into the forest.' But the other girls, terrified by the dozens of armed men, were unable to keep to the plan. 'When we got to another village, they started shooting. I jumped down and I was expecting my friends to jump too, but they didn't. I just started crying and running into the bush,' Usman said, her voice breaking as she recounted the nightmare. Hours later, she stumbled upon a group of other parents and local youths who were searching for the girls in the forest.

The mass abduction underlines how even the vast military might of a country that has long been a regional peacekeeping giant is failing to contain the insurgency raging in the north-east of Africa's most populous country. Tens of thousands of civilians fleeing the vast, arid north say they are caught between the militants and brutal army reprisals. The government said recently that nomadic herdsman who frequently clash in cattle raids further south, in a tinderbox of ethnic tensions known as the Middle Belt, were now being infiltrated by fighters with sophisticated weapons rather than the homemade shotguns traditionally used by Fulani herders. More than 300 have been killed in such clashes in the past month. Go to [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com) for further updates.

## **CURE Hospital In Mourning After Afghanistan Attack**

THE US Embassy in Kabul confirms an Afghan security guard shot and killed three Americans at the CURE International hospital on 24 April. Officials said the three killed were doctors, including a visiting father and son. Another doctor and a nurse were wounded in the attack. Investigators said a guard suddenly turned his weapon on the staff he was supposed to be protecting and started shooting, before turning the weapon on himself. He is being treated at a military hospital. The motive for the attack was not immediately clear. One of the doctors killed in the attack was identified as Dr Jerry Umanos, (pictured) a pediatrician, originally from Chicago. He worked at the Lawndale Christian Health Centre in Chicago.



### **Congratulations**

FRIENDS of Maleka Kabendama, General Secretary of CCAP Synod of Zambia, will be pleased to know that he graduated BTh on 26 April. 'Pray with me in thanking God' writes this deeply spiritual church leader who is 'always abounding in the work of the Lord' – and pray for more church leaders like him.

### **Pray For Unreached People Groups – Africa Inland Mission**

AIM invites you join their *30 Days Of Prayer* during May 2014. You can pray for 30 unreached people groups, one per day! Sign up on the Pray Africa website: <http://prayafrica.org> You can sign up and begin the Journey anytime. Day 1 starts the moment you sign up! Join this *30/30 Journey* and you will get a daily update on an unreached people group that includes a profile, scripture, and up-to-date prayer requests – all the information you need to pray specifically for the people group. You might also ask your friends to join you! Ask your church, Sunday school class, home group, prayer meeting group – and take the journey together! As you pray, pray for open hearts to the Gospel of Jesus! Read Matthew 9.38 and Luke 10; and pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send out workers into His Harvest Field! A prayer close to God's heart, one He is waiting to answer!

### **Activate Missions Conference 2014:**

MELBOURNE School Of Theology is holding *The Activate Missions Conference* this coming weekend (Friday 2 May from 6.30-9pm and Saturday 3 May from 8.30am to 5.30pm), aiming to help Victorians activate toward mission engagement. Meetings will be held at MST, 5 Burwood Highway, Wantirna, Vic. Admission is free, but a donation would be welcome. Further details: [www.activateaus.org](http://www.activateaus.org)

### **Support Needed For Indigenous Ministries**

AUSTRALIAN Indigenous Ministries writes of a growing need: 'We have some centres with accommodation and a church but without personnel. We

have aboriginal pastors and church leaders pleading for people to come out and provide support by standing alongside them and providing encouragement. We need people equipped with sound training who function well in a team setting, who are gifted to minister cross-culturally in often difficult situations and who have a supportive church background. For further information go to:

[australianindigenousministries.org.au](http://australianindigenousministries.org.au)  
**Scripture Teaching In Rural NSW**

THE Bush Church Aid Society is excited to announce a new partnership with Genr8 Schools Ministries <http://www.genr8.org.au> to promote Special Religious Education (Scripture) in the bush. BCA has committed to provide \$450,000 over the next five years to support the employment of two additional Bush Scripture Advisers. The advisers will work with local churches to raise funds for the appointment of new SRE teachers and support those teachers currently in place. 'God has given the BCA family a wonderful opportunity to partner in supporting Christian ministry in our State High Schools. We are hoping and praying that by the end of the decade every state High School in rural NSW will have an SRE teacher in place,' said Revd Dr Mark Short, BCA National Director. More information: <https://bushchurchaid.com.au>

### **Interested In Making Videos?**

FOR some good hints on how to make promotional videos go to [www.afes.org.au](http://www.afes.org.au) where you will see a link on their front page to practical advice that has come through experience. At the same time you can find out what is going on in Australian universities through Christian groups.

### **Open Days**

ARE you interested in studying at Bible or Theological College? Some around the country are holding Open Days in May. If you want to jump into a course in Second Semester now is the time to find out and apply. Look in your state for more details. Go to the website of a college that might suit you.

## 'WITH CHRIST ... BETTER BY FAR'

### COLIN DENNER – A Practical Christian Who Walked With God

COLIN DENNER would have been embarrassed at the plaudits expressed at his memorial service in Toowoomba, Qld, on 31 March, marking Colin's 94 years of earthly life, for he walked very humbly with his God – a man of short stature but a giant for Jesus, his Saviour and Lord.

Colin met his deeply loved wife, Betty (who went to be with the Lord in 2004), through Christian Endeavour rallies in Bexley, Sydney. In 1939 they both responded at a Dr. Oswald Smith meeting, determined to find God's will for their lives. They studied at Croydon Bible College in 1940,41, became engaged, and married in 1943.

Prior to that, in 1942, Colin was waiting for the end of the war so he could go to Papua with the Bamu River Mission, but God had other plans. With Bruce Langridge, Colin spent nine months serving with The Gospel Fishermen's 'Gospel Van No 1', travelling and preaching through country districts. Subsequently, Colin and Betty spent nine nomadic years ministering throughout northern and north-western NSW and Queensland. June (Wyton) and Graham were born during those years and David was born later in Warwick. Eventually, in the Darling Downs town of Warwick, they were invited to inspect 'Kingswood', a large, empty, colonial home just outside the town. They opened it as a combined Gospel Fishermen/WEC Easter Convention facility, the Denners subsequently settled there. The first Darling Downs Easter Convention was held in 1952 and still continues today, though at a different Warwick venue. Colin and Betty Denner's service through Kingswood conventions and camps impacted the lives of thousands of people, with scores testifying to God's call to missionary service through its ministry.

Colin Denner's capacity for hard work is legendary – excavating and building a swimming pool, maintaining and repairing buildings, innovating and extending facilities to eventually accommodate 250, and always ministering. His service was cheerfully practical, mostly on a shoe-string budget with (by modern standards) limited equipment, but with an unflinching faith in his Lord, and a never-failing God-honouring ability to share his faith, encourage young believers, counsel seekers, expound the Scriptures. Even in 'retirement' to Toowoomba he was very active in the Highfields Baptist Church, preaching and pastoring. Colin Denner, born on 16 June 1919, received his Lord's 'Well done' on 24 March, 2014.



– Royce Perkins.

**MARY GILLAN.** Recently I attended the funeral service for 81 year old Mary Gillan – great grand daughter of Rev Dr John G Paton (missionary to the New Hebrides). Here was a lady: so frail ... of no notoriety or worldly acclaim ... suffering much, yet cheerful, thankful, godly and always wanting people to come to know the Saviour. The Christian thanksgiving service for such a devoted, faithful but frail lady was so dignified and God-honouring. Of no account in the world's eyes, but angels rejoiced at her presence. The service was beautifully planned by Mary and her sister Helen. Rev Dr John G Paton would have been moved to tears also. 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ... they will rest from their labour and their deeds will follow them.'

– John Wilson.

### Quotable Quote:

THE Bible is not in our hands to treat as we think or please. It belongs to God. He owns it. He fulfils its promises. He brings to pass its blessings and its judgments. We are not its judge. We are frail mortal men to whom God says, 'Your fathers, where are they? But My words and My statutes, did they not take hold of your fathers?' (Zechariah 1.5,6). God is eternal and so is His Word. 'All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. But the word of the Lord endureth forever.' (1 Peter 1.24,25)

– Rev Iain Murray, in *Evangelical Holiness*

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**Our Majestic Hope**

**(Read Romans 8.1-17)**

**FOR REFLECTION:**

*HOW do you encourage the hope of our inheritance to be more dominant in your thinking?*

*The Puritans thought about Heaven on a daily basis.*

*Why? Do you? (See 1 Thessalonians 1.3)*

WE come to an especially majestic section of Romans. In it, Paul shows two things:

**First**, we are delivered from the just condemnation of the law. The law could not justify us because we could not keep it (v 3), so God provided His Son who perfectly met the requirements of the law (v 4) and then took our place as the perfect offering for sin (v 3).

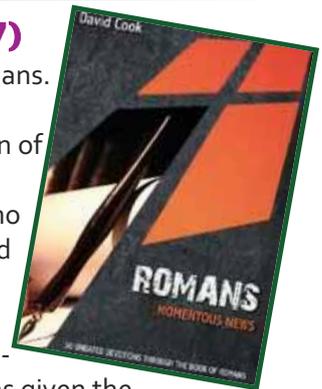
**Second**, while the sinful nature of the 'old man' remains a powerful force within the believer, God has given the believer a powerful gift, the indwelling Spirit who enables us to do God's will. (There are more references to the Spirit in Chapter 8 than in all the other chapters of the letter.)

**In Verses 5-8, Paul Contrasts Life In The Spirit With Life In The Flesh**

Being children of God means that we have the Holy Spirit (v 9). (See Acts 2.38 for the great blessings of the new covenant.) The Spirit revitalises our ageing, dying bodies (vv 10-11). The Spirit leads us to put to death the misdeeds of the body (vv 14-15). He empowers us for godly living. The Spirit gives us deep assurance that we are God's children (vv 15-16).

We can now relate to God on the most intimate basis and call Him 'Abba Father'. The very essence of being a child is that we have a parent. Since we have a parent, we are heirs and have an inheritance (v 17). Here we are reminded that we are heirs of God our Father and will share the inheritance with God the Son, our elder brother (v 29b). However, this inheritance will not be split 50/50. Being a 'co-heir' means that everything that is Christ's is ours, so it is 100/100. Our entry to our inheritance is like His. For Him the inheritance was the crown via the cross; for us too it will be glory via present suffering (v 17).

Here Paul answers two questions: Am I condemned by my past life? Does God leave me without resources in the battle with the flesh? The answer to both is 'No.' Because of what Jesus has done, we are not condemned, and because God has given us His Holy Spirit, we are not without resources.



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

**Food For Thought ...**



*Didn't mind being stopped at red lights with a challenge like this confronting us.*

**KATOOMBA BAPS.**

Celebrating [First!] 100 years on 9 November 2014. Keen to invite past members/friends; so, if you've been associated with the KBC or know of those who have been, please email: [kbc.100@exemail.com.au](mailto:kbc.100@exemail.com.au) or call (02) 4702 6258, (02) 4782 7373.

**SEEN ON FACEBOOK:**



To Look Up Back Issues Of *New Life* Back To August 2007  
Go To: [www.nlife.com.au](http://www.nlife.com.au)

## BOOKS WORTH READING

### THE LOVE OF CHRIST – Expository Sermons On Verses From *Song Of Solomon* Chapters 4-6, Richard Sibbes, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh

HERE is a love letter straight from the heart of God – to thrill our hearts! The Holy Spirit teaches the newborn babe in Christ that a Christian is someone who once rebelled against an unknown God, but has now come to love the Lord Jesus Christ and wants to follow and be with Him.

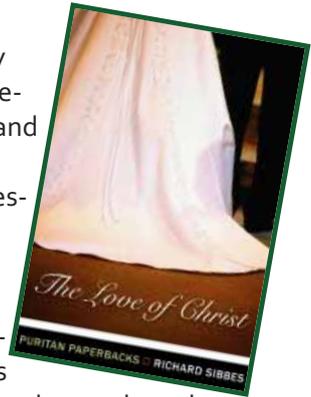
As a new believer, I began my love story with Christ understanding the barest essentials, and I have often found myself in tune with the bride in *Song Of Solomon* Chapter 5, looking for her Beloved, but being frustrated by preaching that kept me in a confused muddle.

In 1635, a Puritan preacher called Richard Sibbes breathed his last, having written a book called *Bowels Opened*, which the Banner Of Truth have re-published as an affordable paperback (renamed *The Love Of Christ*) containing some of the most heavenly and sweet teaching I have ever had the pleasure of enjoying. Modern readers might be easily put off by the lack of contemporary credentials, but once you start reading, you will find that this reveals both your heart and Christ's heart in a way that you have yearned for all your Christian life. You simply will not hear sermons like this today, but you can read 20 here that will move you to 'wonder love and praise'.

It is often said that the good is the enemy of the best. So many contemporary commentaries on the *Song Of Solomon* are anxious to show that the church can be relevant to a sex-obsessed world. What we overlook is that what this world idolizes, sooner or later passes away, and will not be missed by the Lord's people, because of their obsession with someone far more precious in Christ Himself.

Richard Sibbes gives us light that we can taste! Sibbes really does 'get' this love letter and he is eminently qualified to teach it to us in such a way that thrills our souls with Christ. Who should read this book? Everyone who loves the Lord Jesus. I wish I had read it earlier. It makes me wish I loved Him more, and shows me how I can.

– David Morris



### SELECTIONS FROM WISE COUNSEL: John Newton's Letters To John Ryland Jr, John Newton, Ed with copious notes by Grant Gordon, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2010. ISBN 978 1 84871 089 4.

LETTER writing could become a dying art in these days of social media and messaging, when never has so much been said by so many with so little. This pocket-sized gem from Banner should assist us to revive the noble art of correspondence. Numerous saints of old have been gifted in the art of letter writing, possibly none more so than John Newton. More of his letters are available in larger Banner books, but this little pocket-sized book gives us a good introduction to his longer writings.

John Piper says, 'Some books are for tasting regularly, not reading through once. One such book is *Wise Counsel*' – and he's right. My copy is copiously underlined, for here is sound advice for many situations in life, including marriage, guidance, death, mourning, pastoral skills, preaching, Christian unity, handling criticism, avoiding controversy. This book, in its A6 format and 110 pages, is ideal for popping into a shirt pocket – our own or someone else's – and taking out to read on the train or elsewhere.

– Bob Thomas

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

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

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

## BOOKS WORTH READING

### THE SIN WE TREAT AS A VIRTUE: The Major Issue In Christ's Teaching, B Ward Powers, Trafford Publishing, 2013.

ISBN 978-1-4669-7626-9

PROLIFIC Christian author, Dr B. Ward Powers provides a prophet-like exposé of the sin of greed, though it would probably be truer to describe it as a Christ-like exposure of the power of the love of money, even over Christians, for, as Dr Powers shows, our Lord Himself often spoke in strident terms about the sinful, human propensity for greed. Certainly, avarice has reached plague proportions in our consumer society. The issue comes down to this: how different are we than our neighbours who make no profession to follow Jesus?

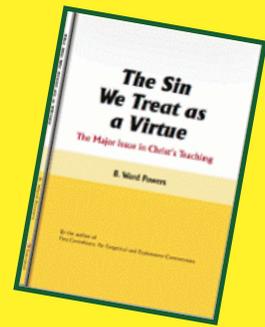
Ward Powers believes that the Bible does indeed provide clear principles of Christian stewardship and that these principles are to be found in the teaching of Jesus and His Apostles. They label greed as 'idolatry', for this sin sets up a rival god, who competes for our allegiance, with the rich young ruler a leading example of one enslaved to money and possessions. It would be true to say that the issues of money and possessions are often addressed by Jesus.

Dr Powers explains the Old Testament regulations about tithing, which included three different types of tithe, and he sees allusions to (and endorsements of) this practice in the teaching of Jesus and the New Testament writers. On this basis, he believes that tithing is mandated for Christians today. He outlines five (biblical) reasons for tithing and looks in some detail at a key Scriptural passage on the topic of giving, 2 Corinthians 9.

As Dr Powers points out, there is certainly a dearth of teaching on the subject of Christian stewardship in our churches – perhaps because of a fear by preachers of what people's reaction will be. It is helpful and timely therefore, that Ward Powers honestly faces and seeks to answer common objections to the practice of tithing: that it is legalistic; that it is not actually taught in the New Testament; that it is not spontaneous. Of course, tithing does not have to be legalistic, for there is no need for Christians to limit themselves to only giving a tenth of their income. Is spontaneity inherently Christian? What about the value of developing godly habits?

He gives advice on how the tithe may be distributed between competing needs and worthy causes. He provides helpful financial guidance for those who say they cannot afford to tithe. This is followed by pertinent counsel about the use of our possessions generally, such as opening our home for Christian ministry. He challenges churches to meet their financial budget by challenging their people to give rather than to resort to money-making activities (eg the church fete).

All in all, this book pulls no punches, and not everyone will be happy with what Dr Powers says, but it is certainly the case that Christian integrity requires us to be willing to place ourselves and our use of money under the searchlight of Holy Scripture. Not all may be convinced that a tithe is the biblical standard, but Dr Powers has certainly demonstrated that a due portion of our income should be devoted to supporting Christian ministry and works of mercy, and that more ministry would be enabled if believers rose to meet this challenge. – Greg Goswell



*'This book pulls no punches, and not everyone will be happy with what Dr Powers says, but it is certainly the case that Christian integrity requires us to be willing to place ourselves and our use of money under the searchlight of Holy Scripture.'*

### 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***  
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