

'World's Poor Foot Bill for Budget Repairs', say Australian Aid Organisations



World Vision CEO Tim Costello joins with other Australian aid organisations to call the government to keep its foreign aid financial commitment

FURTHER cuts to Australia's foreign aid budget mean Australia's overseas development assistance is contributing more savings than any other sector to the budget repair job, World Vision Australia says.

'After receiving repeated reassurances that the aid and development budget would increase by CPI, the Budget papers reveal a freeze of the aid budget for the next two years,' World Vision Australia CEO Tim Costello said.

'This represents a cut in real terms, and it will see a steady decline in the generosity of the aid program – both as a proportion of national income, and as a proportion of government expenditure.

Mr Costello said that while Australia was facing some fiscal challenges, the burden should not fall heavily on programs which assist the world's most vulnerable, including many of our closest neighbours.

'Of the major savings identified in the Budget forward estimates, more than 20 per cent comes from foreign aid – the biggest single contribution of any category.

'Australians are by nature generous people – this is demonstrated by strong support for charities and a huge range of community groups making up our strong civil society, which makes this budget completely out of step with Australians' own sense of responsibility to those less well off than us.'

The Budget papers reveal the total slashed from the aid budget over five years is now estimated at \$7.6 billion.

'Peace and prosperity across our region is in our country's best interest and a well-targeted and effective aid program is an important contributor to this goal.

'Our overseas aid program delivers a stunning level of human benefit per dollar spent.'

Micah Challenge also noted that this represents an unconscionable delay in meeting Australia's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and is a breach of faith with the Australian people who overwhelmingly support a generous and effective aid program.

– World Vision Australia and Micah Challenge

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A Book To Bring Us Back To The Bible In Faith And Practice

EVANGELICAL HOLINESS, Iain Murray, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2013. ISBN Print 978-1-84871-319-2; EPUB 978-1-84871-320-8; Kindle 978-1-84871-321-5.

SOMETIMES a book surprises the Christian as he reads. A smallish paperback, a modest cover, an eclectic name might not at first glance cry: 'Read me! Read me!'. But when the author's name is Iain Murray, the Banner men will be eager enough to read it. They know that the modest presentation belies the strength and power of the message within. Others too will soon find blessing from the incisive insights of Mr Murray.

Here we have five addresses delivered at various conferences over the years, revised and brought into print. 'Evangelical Holiness And Spirituality', delivered at the 2010 Keswick Convention, underlines the great theme of Keswick and the conventions it has inspired all over the world: the need for holiness in the life of the Christian. Iain Murray asserts that 'the means that God commonly uses to show the truth of the Gospel message is surely the evidence of changed lives ... Christians are people very different from what they were, and very different from the society in which they live. They shine as lights "in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation" (Philippians 2.15). Authentic holiness draws attention to God.' He goes on to draw out the implications of this for Christians living in an age of rampant evil in the world and rank apostasy in much of the church.

Four other addresses on 'The Attack On The Bible', 'Apostasy', 'The Benefits And Dangers Of Controversy' and 'Rest In God' are a bonus for the reader as they expand on the main theme of the first address, alerting us to pitfalls and problems but giving practical and positive advice as we seek to 'live a quiet and godly life in Christ Jesus'.

'Evangelical Holiness' could not have been published at a more appropriate time to help and encourage faithful Christians perplexed by decisions of church courts and councils which are nothing less than departure from the clear teaching of the Word of God and compromise with the world, AND to challenge those who lead the church into such compromise to repent and do the things the church did at first as it shone the light of Christ into the deepest and darkest corners of a lost and perishing world.

Praise God that in a day when much of the leadership of the church seems hell-bent on leading it astray and cutting loose from the clear and unequivocal teaching of Scripture, He has not left Himself without faithful witnesses, whose faith we may follow. Thankfully we still have faithful shepherds to lead us and feed us in the green pastures of the Word of God

– Bob Thomas

SUDAN: CHRISTIAN WOMAN FACES DEATH FOR APOSTASY

ON Thursday 15 May a court in Khartoum, Sudan, convicted Meriam Yehya Ibrahim Ishag (27) of apostasy and sentenced her to death by hanging. Having deemed her marriage to a Christian man null and void, the court also found Meriam guilty of adultery, for which she was sentenced to 100 lashes. The court ruled that Meriam, who is 8 months pregnant, should receive the 100 lashes once she has recovered from giving birth. She will be hanged in two years' time after she has weaned her infant. Meriam and her first-born son, Martin Ibrahim (now 20 months), have been in Omdurman Federal Women's Prison since 17 February. Daniel Wani, Meriam's husband and Martin's father, is a South Sudanese American citizen. He is deeply concerned about the conditions under which Meriam will give birth. Daniel's appeals to the US Embassy in Khartoum went unheeded for far too long.

Some sources say that Meriam was raised as a Christian by an Ethiopian Christian mother and, as such, never apostasised because she was never a Muslim. Others say Meriam was raised Muslim by a Muslim mother from a Muslim tribe, but then disappeared for several years before turning up again professing Christ and married to a Christian man. The details however are irrelevant as every human being - no matter how or where they were raised and irrespective of their occupation or status - must be free to seek after God.

One detail that is consistent though is that Meriam's father is Muslim. In Islam, religion is a state matter, as distinct from a faith matter. Sharia Law (Islamic law) mandates that children inherit the religion of their father. Consequently, any child born to a Muslim man is regarded as Muslim from birth and leaving Islam is forbidden. Sharia mandates that a Muslim woman cannot marry a Christian man unless he first converts to Islam to ensure the children are born Muslim. Anyone who says the rulings in Khartoum are contrary to Islam is either misinformed or is wanting to misinform. Islam underpins not only these rulings, but many thousands of honour killings committed annually, along with the impunity afforded the killers. [For a full explanation see Religious Liberty Monitoring: 'Khartoum's rulings are totally consistent with Islam', 21 May 2014.]

Concerned somewhat by the extensive international outcry, the authorities in Khartoum have opened an escape hatch, letting it be known that the ruling is not final and can yet be appealed. However, the reality is, even if Meriam is acquitted on appeal or is eventually released on compassionate grounds, this family will remain gravely imperilled just as they are gravely imperilled right now. They are at risk from those who would spare no effort to take Islamic law into their own hands, restoring Islam's honour and eradicating fitna (temptation, strife, chaos). This family needs to be rescued out of Sudan.

– *Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin* is a ministry of Elizabeth Kendal, author of *Turn Back the Battle: Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today* (Deror Books, Dec 2012)

PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- the giver of life (Isaiah 42:5), will intervene in power to preserve the lives of Daniel, Meriam, little Martin and the new baby.
- the creator of families, will intervene in mercy and faithfulness to protect and preserve this faithful Christian family. '... they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.' (Matthew 19:6 ESV)
- the Redeemer, will redeem this suffering - and all the suffering caused by Islam - by using it for his ultimate purpose: to bring down false religion so that God alone (the only Saviour) will be exalted. (See Isaiah 2:12-18.); may momentum continue against the unreasonableness and inhumanity of Islam.

NEWS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Evangelist Will Graham Shares the Hope of Jesus at 'Reality 2014' in Broken Hill

IN the outback city of Broken Hill, Will Graham, grandson of Billy Graham, shared the hope and love of Jesus with nearly 600 people over two days during 'Reality 2014.'

According to a news release, despite the city's reputation as a tough, outback community, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association accepted the invitation to hold the event in Broken Hill, seeing the strong unity in the churches there as well as their commitment to prayer.

'We started off having a monthly prayer meeting, and then it went bi-weekly, and then it went weekly and now daily, and we're getting 40-50 people at every prayer meeting,' said Pastor John Curtis of Broken Hill Church of Christ shortly before the event. 'To have people from all the churches praying together, it's creating a unity like there hasn't been before.'

Nearly 600 attended the two-day event. In a city where the average attendance on a Sunday is around 300 people, 58 came forward to make a spiritual commitment to Jesus Christ.

'God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to pay your debt. Jesus paid the price, so your relationship with Him can be restored,' said Graham in his message to the assembled crowd. 'Tonight your life can change when you give it all over to God. Christ can change everything. He'll give you a new beginning.'

In addition, a combined church service on Sunday morning exemplified the unity within the local churches, all of whom participated in 'Reality 2014,' and finished with 200 people coming forward to indicate their commitment to sharing Christ with their friends and neighbors.

Following the conclusion of 'Reality 2014,' dozens of church, community and business leaders gathered together on May 12 for one last meal, and Graham offered a straight-forward Gospel presentation. People scattered throughout the auditorium indicated a desire to pray and begin a relationship with Jesus.

Among them were two tween-aged boys who had walked in from the skate park to see if they could have a meal, and were welcomed with open arms.

'Reality 2014' was Graham's fourth outreach of 2014, following events in Sri Lanka, Japan, and Mississippi. His fifth and final multi-day Celebration of 2014 will take place in July in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea.

—ASSIST News Service



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www.designministries.com.au

FLYING FOR JESUS

WITH CHRIST: MAF CO-FOUNDER MURRAY KENDON



MURRAY Kendon, the visionary who founded Mission Aviation Fellowship and the use of aircraft to bring help and hope to people living in isolated parts of the world has died peacefully.

Born in Auckland, New Zealand, in 1917, Murray Kendon became a Christian when he was 16 years old. He had a growing passion to share the truth of life in Christ, and soon became a passionate and dedicated speaker.

As a WWII veteran, Murray considered the destructive power that aircraft could deploy: 'How come thousands of planes can be found to kill and destroy and only a handful to spread God's amazing offer of free forgiveness and eternal life in glory?'

The idea of using light aircraft to overcome physical and spiritual barriers was born.

In 1946, Murray flew to America to connect with Christian Airmen's Missionary Fellowship in 1946. Through this intercontinental meeting, the two aviation groups in the UK and USA found their vision and names almost identical, and decided to work together. They took on the common name of Missionary Aviation Fellowship, later changing this to Mission Aviation Fellowship. These were the first two groups to start operations, and soon followed by MAF Australia.

Murray worked hard to promote and build the vision of MAF in the UK until 1950, when he and Minnie returned to New Zealand, where they promoted missions and MAF throughout the country.

Today, countless lives have been transformed because of Murray's God-given vision and passion for aviation, technology and mission.

What started as a small group of young Christian pilots is now an international organisation of nearly 1,500 staff, serving in 30 countries, with a fleet of over 140 aircraft.

Murray died peacefully on Tuesday 27 May 2014, with his wife, Minnie, by his side. A memorial service will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, at 10:30am on Tuesday 3 June

– Mission Aviation Fellowship



OUR NATION

Budget Commitment to Chaplaincy Welcomed

AUSTRALIAN Baptist Ministries welcomes the Abbott Government's delivery on its election promise to strengthen support for school chaplaincy by allocating \$245 million to chaplaincy programs in about 2900 schools over the next four years.

Former Prime Minister John Howard launched the National School Chaplaincy Program in 2007. The program was continued by subsequent Labor governments and expanded to allow schools to appoint non-religious chaplains. The new regulations require chaplains to be accredited by recognised faith communities.

'School chaplaincy deserves strong community and government support,' Director of National Ministries for Australian Baptist Ministries, the Reverend Keith Jobberns, said in response to the announcement of increased funding for school chaplaincy by Federal Treasurer Joe Hockey in his budget speech on Tuesday.

'Children and young people need positive role models and strong values. School chaplains help kids to develop skills and strategies to break negative cycles in their lives. They build relationships with students and staff, and contribute to the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of the school community,' Reverend Jobberns said.

'Schools overwhelmingly recognise the value of the chaplaincy program, and Baptists around the nation strongly support the benefits delivered by chaplaincy in the lives of students. Australian Baptist Ministries welcomes the federal government's strong funding commitment to school chaplaincy,' he said.

- Australian Baptist Ministries

Poor and disadvantaged bear brunt of budget cuts

BROKEN promises in the Federal budget demean the currency of parliamentarians at a time when public confidence in them is needed more than ever, according to the Australian Christian Lobby.

Managing Director Lyle Shelton said it was profoundly disappointing that the biggest single short term budget cut was to overseas aid and that this was a broken promise.

'That there is no public outcry about the \$7.6 billion dollars that will be cut from forward estimates of aid over the next five years demonstrates that consumerism and self interest are sadly more important to us than keeping the promises we have repeatedly made to the world's poor,' he said.

Mr Shelton said it was now clear Australia's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals to increase aid as part of a global agreement to halve extreme poverty by 2015 was now all but over.

'A Medicare co-payment has been introduced to build a medical endowment fund to cure first world ills while we break our promise and cut aid to those for whom a doctor's visit would be a luxury,' he said.

'While balancing the books is important, the government painted itself into an untenable position by saying it could reduce expenditure without raising taxes and without cutting key areas.

'It would have been better if these promises had not been made in the first place,' he said.

Mr Shelton said decoupling Australia's giving to the global poor from Gross National Income was a broken promise given in writing to the Christian constituency before the election.

'It appears Australia no longer has foreign aid, we have foreign policy. It seems our aid money is directed to countries where we have a political interest,' Mr Shelton said.

'It is reasonable that the burden of reducing expenditure has to be shared, but it seems that a disproportionate burden has fallen upon the poor and disadvantaged,' Mr Shelton said.

'This sadly says something about our priorities and self interest as a wealthy nation.'

Mr Shelton welcomed news that the National School Chaplaincy Program would continue to be funded.

Mr Shelton also gave credit to the government for including funding of \$115 million, announced in March, for the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

He also said it was pleasing to see funding for the Australian Charities and Not For Profit Commission retained and hoped this was an indication that it may not be abolished as planned.

- Australian Christian Lobby

New Life Website: www.nlife.com.au

CHRISTIAN MEDIA

CONNECT 14: MEDIA CONFERENCE

CONNECT:14 Media Conference, held recently on the Gold Coast, was a significant opportunity to provide vision for the future influence of Christian Media Australia Community.

The CONNECT Media Conference is the largest national gathering for Christian Communicators and featured incredible speakers from Australia and around the world – covering: Leadership, Communications and Culture, Business and Professional Development. A few of the Highlights included:

Inspiration from a National Icon – It was a privilege to have the Hon John Anderson with us for the Conference. Mr Anderson's presence and message not only elevated the discussion with his rich insight into Australia's heritage and his authoritative views on Cultural Influence, but he also provided a strong vision for how Christian Media could be a significant influence in Australia.

A Significant Challenge – Melinda Tankard-Reist's session on The sexual world of the 21st century adolescent, was both; confronting and also proved to be an important challenge for our Christian Media Community to be actively engaged in advocating of the self worth the next generation of Australia's Leaders, who as young people today face unprecedented attacks on their values.

– Renee Garvin, Christian Media Australia

CHRISTIAN MEDIA AUSTRALIA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

THREE significant identities were honoured for their important contributions to Christian media in Australia over many years. CMA also presented Life-Time Achievement Awards to; Roger Climpson, Mike Edmiston and Dr Gordon Moyes.



Roger Climpson is one of Australia's best known and most respected television personalities who has made a life of telling stories in a voice that is immediately recognisable to any Australian over 30.

A veteran of Australian media, Roger began his career in radio theatre during the early 1950s. Two months after the commencement of Television, Roger joined Channel 9 at its inception in 1956.

In 1965, he left Channel 9 and shortly after became the voice and face of Channel 7 news, where he stayed for 20 years.

Roger started voicing programs with the Christian Broadcasting Association (now Hope

1032 in Sydney) back in the early 60's. He was the master of ceremonies at the official 2CBA station launch in 1979, this was the first Christian station in Australia, and became a member of the board in 1983.

Roger became chairman of the CBA in 1995 and oversaw significant changes to the organisation including a new format, new office and studio facilities, and new FM transmission facilities. Roger served 9 years as Chairman, 12 years as a Director and gave 50 years of service to the Christian Broadcasting Association.

He was awarded The Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division on Australia Day, 2004, "For services to the media, particularly through the Christian Broadcasting Association and to the community through a range of service groups.

Roger has devoted his time throughout his media career to charitable causes including World Vision Australia, Rotary, The Variety Club, The Bible Society, and is the Founding Patron of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

(Other winners continued on p. 8)

CHRISTIAN MEDIA



Mike Edmiston established his career in the computing industry where he quickly developed into management positions within multinational companies such as Datapoint and International Computer Limited. It was with ICL that Mike moved to Australia in 1982 with his wife, Barbara and their two young daughters.

Three years later, Mike moved to American company, Digital Equipment Corporation (now Compaq) and later transferred to Queensland as GM where he led a large organization to become the highest performing state for DEC in Australia for several consecutive years. However, despite experiencing considerable success, Mike knew that God was calling him in a new direction.

Mike was asked to establish operations in Australia for UK-based charity, Christian Vision, which had been founded by his older brother, Lord Robert Edmiston in 1988. Mike established CVC Network Ltd (then Christian Voice Australia) as a company in 2000 to acquire the iconic Cox Peninsula Transmission Facility in Northern Territory to broadcast the Gospel to Asia and beyond via shortwave radio in its major languages. Despite national government and media opposition Mike secured the multi-million dollar acquisition and restored Australia's largest civilian broadcasting site to its former glory.

Mike employed a staff of more than one hundred both in the Asia Pacific Media Centre on the Sunshine Coast, where 24 hour programming was produced and managed in English, Chinese and Indonesian.

In response to the vision to bring together multimedia resources from around the world to equip Christians to share their faith online, Mike developed www.yesHEis.com which is now used in over 6 languages and the primary online platform used by Christian Vision to outwork its mission globally.

Mike remained the Asia Pacific Director for 12 years and is now Chairman of the organization where he continues to provide guidance through his years of strong leadership and humble service.

DR Gordon Moyes was appointed to the role of Superintendent of the Wesley Mission in 1979, where he remained for 27 years, resigning in 2005.

Following Gordon's appointment at Wesley Mission, his television work began under the banner of the Christian Television Association of NSW. His first program was on Channel 10 called "Turn 'Round Australia". Originally it was a one hour program that ran for 12 weeks. When the CTA program manager told Gordon that the program had to stop and another denomination had to have a go, Gordon bought commercial time on Channel 10 while at the same time negotiated a 'statutory facilities and time' deal on Channel 9.

"Turn 'Round Australia" began a weekly half hour program, broadcast on many television stations around the country, consistently running for over 20 years.

During Gordon Moyes' 27 years as Superintendent there were several other seasonal documentary series, specials, television series and radio programs produced such as: The Discovering Series, The Christmas Pageant, the music video show Swordfish and Sunday Night Live.

The 'Discovering' series, was recognised around the world for its innovation. The series looked at the life of Jesus and then the growth of the early Christian church and was based on three books written by Gordon, who hosted the series on camera. The series was filmed throughout many historic sites mentioned in the New Testament.

In 1985, Gordon was invited to take over the 8pm to Midnight Sunday night slot on 2GB. "Sunday Night Live with Gordon Moyes" which ran for nearly 18 years,

Gordon was appointed by the Christian Democratic Party to the New South Wales Legislative Council in 2002 and went on to have a career in politics serving both the CDP and Family First for nine years.

– Christian Media Australia



Behind the Barcode: Baptist World Aid Australia

WITH mounting pressure on the electronics industry to ensure worker rights are respected, Nokia was found to be the only electronics company out of 39 investigated who demonstrated they were paying workers sufficient wages to meet their basic needs in countries like India and China, according to a new Electronics Industry Trends Report.

The research, conducted by international aid and development organisation, Baptist World Aid Australia in conjunction with their partner Not for Sale, a U.S. anti-slavery campaign, is the second report in the Behind the Barcode series released by the organisations, stemming from a need to educate consumers to shop ethically.

Behind the Barcode is a series of industry reports seeking to empower consumers to purchase ethically, and by doing so, encourage companies to ensure workers are protected and not harmed, that they are rewarded, not exploited and that they work free from the tyranny of modern slavery. The guides grade 128 fashion brands and 39 electronics companies operating in Australia, and assess the systems they have in place to protect the workers in their supply chain from exploitation, forced labour and child labour.

Individuals can order a digital copy of the Ethical Electronics Guide to help them shop ethically by visiting Baptist World Aid's website www.behindthebarcode.org.au. A download of the full Electronics Industry Trends report is also available at this website.



– Baptist World Australia

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.

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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)

With Christ...

Ailsa Knox, the widow of a long-serving Principal of Moore College, Dr Broughton Knox, has died in Sydney on May 14 2014.

Mrs Knox, who was 90 this year, passed away just days after suffering a stroke.

Ailsa Knox served with her husband in ministry for more than 45 years, including the 26 years Dr Knox spent as principal of Moore College and later as founding principal of George Whitfield College in South Africa. The Anglican Archbishop of Sydney Dr Glenn Davies described her as 'a gracious, hospitable and entirely servant-minded woman of God'.

'Ailsa modelled' Dr Davies said 'Christian virtues at so many levels. Her ministry especially among faculty wives and students was a great encouragement and a godly example. I have no doubt that the impact of Broughton Knox upon our Diocese would not have as profound or as significant had he not had the life companion of Ailsa by his side.'

– www.sydneyanglicans.net

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

African Enterprise: Women on a Mission to Kenya

THIS year African Enterprise has a project "Calling the Feminine Heart to Mission". The vision is to have Christian mothers, sisters, aunties and grandmothers from different churches across Australia and New Zealand visit various projects supporting women and children in Kenya - the sanitation project in the Koro-gocho slums, the sewing project and the clinic planted in the Soweto Kayole slum area of Nairobi.

More than 14 women have responded already to this opportunity to join this mission trip from 13-27 June. After Kenya the group will divide into 2 teams, one going to Malawi and the other travelling to Rwanda.

Those women who go to Rwanda will see first-hand how the many self-help groups are transforming the community and will visit the Centre for Champions which started out as an orphanage but has now become a live-in training facility for street kids. Malawi does not have the large urban slums that Nairobi is known for but it is a desperately poor country. Those heading there will visit the women's tailoring project and other self-help projects aimed at improving economic security through education and training. All of these AE endeavours minister Christ first and foremost to those in need.

A New Life reader writes 'Personally, I look forward to seeing first-hand those people and projects I have only been able to read about in the regular "Out of Africa" newsletter I receive from AE.' You can look up the African Enterprise website about this trip: <http://www.africanenterprise.com/en/australia/you-can/get-involved/short-term-missions/womens-trip/>

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;
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By Email: using the *Make A Donation* button
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PERSECUTION WATCH

Christians in India concerned about their freedom

INDIA'S newly-elected prime minister took the helm earlier this week. Christian ministries remain cautiously optimistic that they will be able to continue their evangelistic outreach without government interference.

Narendra Modi of the Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) was declared the runaway winner May 16. His landslide victory over opponent Rahul Gandhi of the Congress party brought to a close more than six decades of dominance by the Nehru-Gandhi family. The BJP also won a majority of the seats in Parliament.

Because Modi will be the first hardline Hindu nationalist to lead the country, both religious and secular media have raised questions regarding how the new government might reshape India's treatment of other faiths—namely Christianity.

'The BJP has never hidden its preference to run as a Hindu nationalistic party. They are clearly religiously-oriented. Obviously, that is somewhat of a concern for Christians in India,' said Sarla Mahara, the South Asia director for Christian Aid Mission, your link to indigenous missions.

During a visit to India in March, Mahara said several ministry national leaders voiced concerns over the potential impact the BJP could have on their evangelistic work, particularly in rural areas of the country.

India is a multi-party democracy, and the national constitution provides for the religious freedom of its 1.2 billion citizens, of which 75% are Hindu.

Christian Aid assists more than 200 ministries throughout India that are involved in church planting, discipleship, community development, and disaster relief. Many of these groups work primarily among lower castes and unreached tribal peoples in remote areas where persecution is the most intense.

— Mission Network News



MOZAMBIQUE: SEEKING FIRMER FOUNDATIONS

Operation World lists Mozambique's population as being 46 percent Christian (half Catholic, half Protestant), 32 percent ethno-religious, and 19 percent Muslim. Mozambique's amazing church growth has come in the wake of decades of suffering. Mozambique has had religious freedom only since 1990 when it was written into the new constitution after decades of civil war and brutal Marxist repression and persecution. Christian leaders in this emerging democracy have drafted a submission to the national parliament requesting the formulation of a specific law to protect freedom of religion and worship. The aim is that 'the churches will have a better legal framework in which to operate'. They request our prayers. May God bless their efforts, build his Church and heal their land.

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

HOPES FOR PEACE FADE IN KOREA

Koreans -- especially North Koreans -- desperately need peace, as distinct from a frozen conflict that breeds paranoia-inspired gross human rights abuses and routinely threatens war. In the North, whenever the regime of Kim Jong-un feels threatened, it intensifies repression and magnifies propaganda. Recently, North Korean security forces have been conducting surprise night raids on homes in Pyongyang, arresting and then exiling anyone suspected of viewing, sharing or copying banned materials, particularly South Korean films and magazines. At least 100 people have been 'disappeared' in the last two months, triggering widespread panic. Meanwhile, tensions between North Korea and the US-South Korea alliance are also soaring; the belligerent, threatening rhetoric coming out of both states is frightening. Pray for the Church in North Korea. Pray for Korea's peace and transformation.

— ASSIST News Service— Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ... With Mignon Goswell

You can't Miss a Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) Truck!



COLIN and Alison Morrow new on the Mungo Patrol in 2014 have had the PIM logo branded on their truck. This branding makes their vehicle very obvious as they have discovered!

They write: 'Before Easter we travelled to Ironbark, Queensland (near Ipswich) to pick up our camper which had been built and was ready to be fitted to the truck. The actual fitting took less than an hour and we were able to see how it all worked. We now have a new single bedroom apartment with a kitchen and a living area, complete with parquetry floor—luxury!'

There were a few other fittings we needed for the camper and we are now fitted out with a fridge, toilet, shower and table, purchased at bargain prices. Before getting the camper we had been on day patrols, making a start on P.I.M. work.

In our patrol area (Mungo) we have travelled as far North as Broken Hill and as far East as Balranald, visiting stations along the way. People have been very welcoming and are interested to hear of the work that we do.

We have also been approached when we've been stopped in rest areas. People see the branding on the truck and want to know more. This has created unexpected opportunities to share the Gospel.'

To find out more about what the Morrows are doing and about other PIM patrols go to <http://pim.org.au>

The Lausanne Movement 40 years on
MICHAEL Oh, Executive Director/CEO writes on his blog:

On 10 May we concluded our international leadership meeting, a European leaders meeting, and 40th anniversary celebration near Lausanne, Switzerland, where the first International Congress on World Evangelization was held in 1974.

About twenty participants from the first Lausanne Congress in 1974 attended our anniversary celebration on Wednesday night. It was an honour to hear the unique stories of how God brought them to the Congress and the ways in which he impacted their lives and ministries through it. The animation and joy with which they spoke of the Congress carried the significance and excitement of that historic event afresh to the present.

A look to our future includes Mission China 2030,



an initiative of the Chinese church to mobilise and send out 20,000 missionaries by 2030. As their gift to the global church, the Chinese church envisions sending out one missionary for every missionary received in their country.

There is much to be thankful for and much to look forward to!

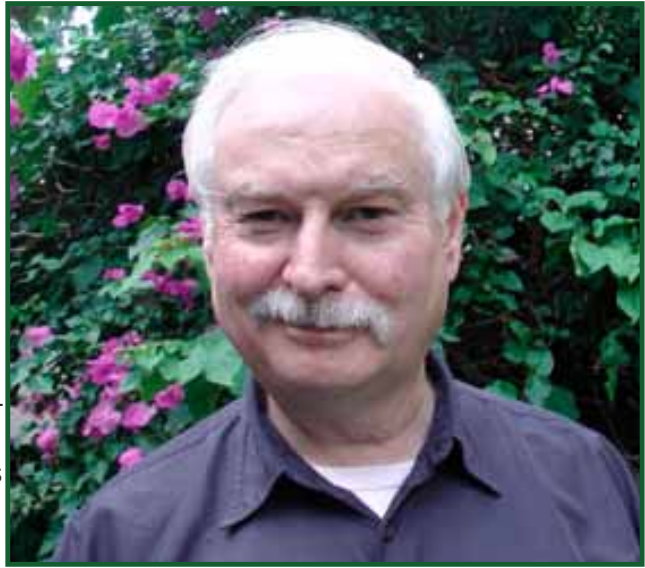
– www.lausanne.org

News from SIM (Serving in Mission)

REV Mike Wilson is the new SIM Regional Ministry Director for NSW/ACT/QLD. Mike, his wife Barbara and their four children spent seven years in Pakistan where Mike was involved in leadership training and theological education.

Since their return to Sydney over 20 years ago, Mike continued to be involved in cross-cultural ministries. This included equipping churches in outreach to migrants, refugees, overseas students and tourists. Mike has also been involved in running training events, resource development and consultancy work to encourage non-English speaking background leaders and churches.

Mike is an ordained Presbyterian minister and was the Cross Cultural Ministry Coordinator for the Presbyterian Church of NSW. Mike has lectured part-time at the Presbyterian Theological College, SMBC and Moore Theological College in Old Testament, Multicultural Ministry and a Christian Understanding of Buddhism.



– www.sim.org.au

Langham Partnership Personnel Changes

WITH Paul Windsor's appointment as Programme Director (Langham Preaching), the gap created in the coordination of the work in Asia needs to be filled. The first step has been to make a more realistic assessment of the sheer size of Asia, by dividing it into four regions:

(a) Asia: West & South; (b) Asia: Southeast & East; (c) India; and (d) China.

Langham Partnership is pleased to announce that Rev Dr Paul Barker has been appointed to a dual role within these first two regions:

(a) Regional Coordinator for Langham Preaching: Paul will provide oversight for the preaching movements in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia and Mongolia – and coordinate any new initiatives.

(b) Scholar Care Coordinator for Langham Scholars: Paul will provide pastoral support to Scholars in these regions, communicating with them and visiting them — and taking opportunities to mentor them.

This is a two year appointment, commencing 1 July 2014. It is a half-time position. It is hoped that both these positions will be filled by national leaders at the conclusion of this period.

Paul has been active as a trainer in numerous preaching movements — from Turkey and Vanuatu in the early days, through to his current commitments in Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Nepal (with Crosslinks (UK)). He is also familiar with the world of scholarship and theological education. Paul is originally from Melbourne, where he studied at Ridley Theological College. He served as Senior Minister of Holy Trinity Anglican Church (Melbourne) from 1996-2009.

'Whether it be training at the grassroots or teaching in the institution, Paul Barker's work is marked by a skill with his subject and a love for his students. We are thrilled to have him join our team in this more formal capacity.'

Paul is sponsored by CMS Australia and this appointment is only possible because of their spacious vision and generosity. We are grateful to them!

You can read more about the changes to personnel in Langham Partnership on their website. at

<http://au.langham.org>

Making Us Like Jesus

Romans 8:28-39

FOR REFLECTION:
Do you trust the God of the sovereign hidden hand and look for His hand in all things?

Suffering, groaning and a sense of our own ignorance surround us. Is there any order to the seeming chaos of life?

Paul answers 'Yes' in verse 28. God is at work in all things for our good. However, Paul limits this principle in two ways.

The first limitation is by reference to the identity of those for whom God works, described as those who love God, who have been called by God. This is not some universal principle that things just have a way of turning out well. No, God works in all things to turn them to the good of His own people.

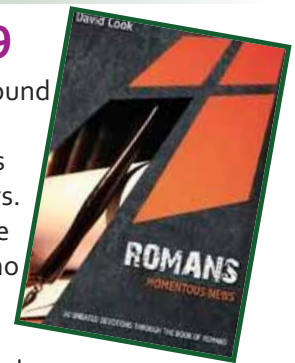
Paul limits the principle, secondly, by defining (in v 29) the good for which God works. He takes us to eternity past to show that in God's foreknowledge, before we existed, God knew us as His own. His knowledge initiated the relationship. It is not as though God knew we would choose Him and then fitted in with our choice. To those who were thus known, God gave a destiny that they should be like Jesus (v 29). Becoming like Jesus is the good for which God works. It is not our health and comfort and wealth, but our godliness which he promises to achieve.

In other words, God's purpose is to build a family like Jesus. Jesus is the firstborn, the one in unique relationship with the Father, but He is also one of us because He is the firstborn brother.

Is our conformity to the image of our elder brother guaranteed? How do we know the glory referred to in 8:17, 19, 21 and 23 will be ours? Paul says in verse 30 that it is as sure as the eternal purposes of God; for just as God has predestined us, called us and justified us, so He will glorify us. Paul places glorification, a future experience, in the past tense to underline its certainty. As God has completed the first three, so He will complete the last, our glorification.

These are such comforting truths. We are spiritual rulers; there is nothing we will meet today that we do not reign over. Nothing can come our way that is not ultimately good for the health of our soul. God will be at work in everything we meet today so that it is for our good, making us like Jesus.

This is most comforting news for us, and most frustrating for our enemies.



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BOOKS WORTH READING

A WAY TO PRAY, Matthew Henry, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2010. ISBN 978-1-84871-088-7

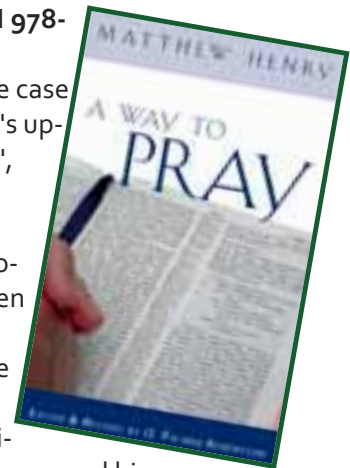
'GOOD things come in small packages,' they say, and that is certainly so in the case of this little pocket-sized 'sampler' from 'A Way To Pray,' O. Palmer Robertson's updated and revised edition of the great Matthew Henry's 'A Method For Prayer', first published in 1710.

Generally speaking, there are two ways in which Christians pray: through reading prayers written by others in earlier times, or by praying in an extemporary fashion. Both have their advantages and their dangers. Praying the written prayers of others can lead to formalism and thoughtlessness in prayer, but on the other hand, when Thomas Cranmer or John Calvin have prayed, they have left prayer fuel which can scarcely be improved upon. Similarly, extemporary prayer can be scatty, repetitive and sparse or it can be well-prepared and biblically based after the fashion of Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who when asked if he prepared his prayers, replied: 'I prepare myself to pray.'

That is certainly the way Matthew Henry prayed - by preparing himself through meditating on the Word of God, claiming the promises of God and relating those 'exceeding great and precious promises' to the needs of his people.

As Dr Robertson says, 'Prayer in this (Matthew Henry's) form is nothing more and nothing less than what the old Puritans called "pleading the promises." God has made promises to His people. His people respond by redirecting these promises to the Lord in the form of prayer. How could a God who is faithful to His Word fail to answer prayers of this kind? He has promised. He will honour that promise.'

This little booklet has sufficient in it to challenge the preacher or worship leader to prepare himself more thoroughly to pray, but should leave him seeking for more and lead him to take up the larger work, 'A Way To Pray', where he will find a deeper mine with richer lodes with which to prepare himself to lead his people to the Throne of Grace.



– Bob Thomas

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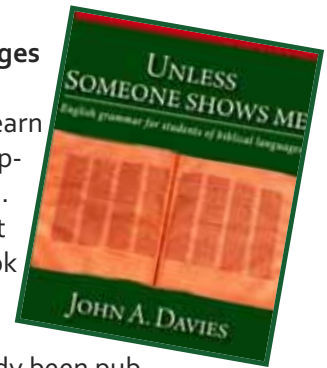
BOOKS WORTH READING

Two Helps For Biblical languages

Unless Someone Shows Me: English Grammar For Students Of Biblical Languages

John A. Davies (Preston: Mosaic Press, 2013) ISBN 978-1-74324-145-5

Most of us only really learn the grammar of our own language when we begin to learn a second language, and many a theological student has used the introductory chapter in John Wenham's *Elements of New Testament Greek* as a crib for that purpose. Now something fuller and better has been provided by Principal Emeritus of Christ College Sydney, Dr John Davies, and I have already added this book to my textbook list for students of Biblical Hebrew and I trust that my colleagues teaching Greek have (or will) do the same, for this book meets a real need.



Unlike many books (even scholarly books) that merely duplicate what has already been published, this volume is quite unique and meets a need that up to now has been ignored and in doing so fills an important gap in the publishing market. Knowing the author's thoroughness (being the self-proclaimed son of a printer!), I searched high and low for some mistake or typo, and the best I could find was not an error as such but a failure to highlight (by underlining) the relevant word in the sample English sentence concerning the use of the present participle ('going by') (page 61).

Students have often echoed the cry of the Ethiopian official, 'How can I understand unless someone shows me?' (Acts 8.31). In writing this book, Dr Davies specifically has in mind those embarking on the study of the biblical languages (Hebrew and Greek). He has taught both over many years and knows just the kind of help that students need and this has led to the writing of this book. Grammatical concepts are introduced and explained in the order in which they are usually tackled in foreign language study (e.g. nouns before verbs). As well, the focus is written English, because students of Hebrew and Greek are aiming to read and understand texts, not travel or go shopping!

A mark of John Davies' achievement is that I did not feel at all sleepy when reading it, given the fact that such books tend to have the reputation of being more soporific than lettuce leaves (an allusion to the opening of Beatrix Potter's book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*). Exercises are provided at the end of each chapter to test and reinforce understanding, and they are quite fun to do. The answers to the exercises are placed at the back of the book.

John Davies explains why there is no such thing as 'word for word' literal translation from one language to another. It is a relief to be told that we will not go to gaol if we break the 'rules' of grammar. We discover the difference between a phrase, a clause and a sentence. He explains the different functions of nouns in clauses, what we call 'case' (nominative, accusative etc), and I am a great believer in case, though, unfortunately introductory Hebrew textbooks do not always mention its existence. Dr Davies tells us about the singular pronoun 'they', which is much in use now because it is gender neutral. Much to my surprise, I am now quite uncomfortable using 'he' when referring to men and women.

Dr Davies has sensible words to say about the so-called 'divine passive', namely the use of the passive voice when God is the unexpressed performer of the verb. As he explains, this mode of expression is probably not just so as to avoid mentioning God (out of reverence for his name), but has other motivations. I was fascinated by his discussion of the all-too-familiar definite article (the) that has many more uses in English than we often realise and whose use in biblical languages is at times different to English usage and can easily trip up the student. Experience teaches me that students of Biblical Hebrew often struggle to distinguish the three uses of the adjective (attributive, predicative and substantive) but the same three uses are found in English and Dr Davies provides a clear explanation of each use with lots of examples. It was also interesting to learn of the recent massive expansion of English words now classified as prepositions.

This reviewer is thankful to Dr Davies for not writing yet another Hebrew textbook (or Greek Textbook for that matter) in an already flooded market, wherein each new book claims to make the study of the biblical languages either easier or more scientific, but he has instead provided a new kind of resource for theological students, pastors and others who want to deepen in their appreciation of grammar.

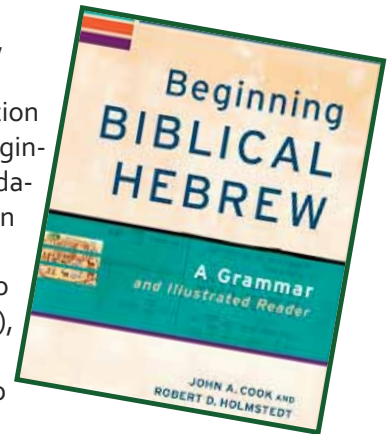
– Greg Goswell

BOOKS WORTH READING

Beginning Biblical Hebrew: A Grammar And Illustrated Reader

John A. Cook and Robert D. Holmstedt (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013) ISBN 978-0-8010-4886-9

Of the writing of Hebrew textbooks there is no end, and each new production requires explanation and justification. The authors claim that what sets Beginning Biblical Hebrew apart from its predecessors and rivals is the latest pedagogy for language acquisition (including the use of cartoons), a reduction in the amount of grammar taught, and greater place given to syntax and semantics, a focus on certain biblical texts in Genesis (not difficult material to master) and less technical jargon (replaced by Hebrew grammatical terms), though toward the end of the book, Cook and Holmstedt begin to use of lot of linguistic terms that are not always easy for the beginning student to grasp.



The reader is provided with an historical introduction to Semitic languages and to the Hebrew language in particular. Next, the consonants and vowels are taught. The first 14 chapters cover nouns and the verb is explained after that. The chapters are brief so that the student has to master only one main concept at a time in a step-by-step fashion. Some of the chapters are extremely brief. There is more focus on the meaning of word-order patterns than is common in introductory textbooks (topic, focus, foreground and background) because these are trendy interests for those with a linguistic bent.

At the end of the book are 13 readings from Genesis using comic strips, with new vocabulary progressively introduced and questions and activities related to the readings follow. Despite what people say, Hebrew is not a difficult language to learn, and this new textbook (complete with comic strips) may tempt some to tackle it in order to enrich their understanding of the Old Testament, which is, after all, the motivation of most Bible college students.

– Greg Goswell

Read *Murder at Port Arthur: Was It A Conspiracy?* by David Holden, at www.defenceofthefaith.org

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(Courtesy Rev Iain Murray)



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