

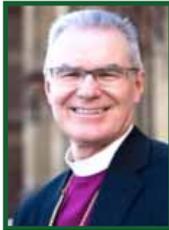
15 July 2014

Vol 77 No 2

Free On Request: office@nlife.com.au

## Abp Freier To Lead Anglican Church In Australia

THE Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr Philip Freier, has been elected Primate of the Anglican Church In Australia, succeeding Dr Philip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane.



Dr Freier believes that sustaining a national presence and strengthening the church's contribution to rural communities are among the most important challenges facing the Anglican Church today.

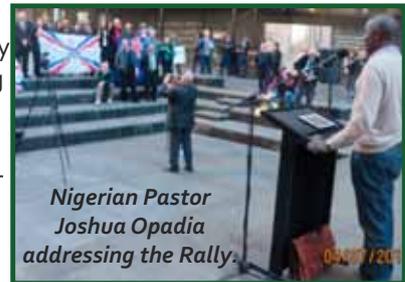
'I look forward to the opportunity of working with the church around the country. The church across its parishes, schools and service agencies makes a powerful contribution to Australian society,' Dr Freier said. – *The Melbourne Anglican*

## CHRISTIANS RALLY IN MARTIN PLACE TO DEMAND RELEASE OF NIGERIAN GIRLS AND WARN AUSTRALIA OF MILITANT ISLAM'S AGENDA

On Friday 4 July many Christians and people of goodwill peacefully demonstrated at a rally in Martin Place, Sydney, against the shocking kidnapping of over 300 Nigerian girls.

Rev Fred Nile said: 'Nearly 300 school girls have been kidnapped by the Boko Haram terror organisation in Nigeria in recent months. Boko Haram means followers of the Sunna, a group of people of the Sunna for DAWA and JIHAD. Dawa means the proclamation and evangelisation of Islam and Jihad means Holy War. The Boko Haram leader is a fanatical Islamist who preaches the example and teachings of Mohammad, the founder of the Muslim religion in the 7th Century AD. This fanatical leader has said that they are holding the girls as slaves and will sell them in the market. Boko means book and Haram means forbidden or prohibited. Therefore the name means secular Government education is prohibited for Muslims, or that "Western education is sinful". In videos obtained from militant Islamic groups, leaders in Australia are quoting "This is a war against Christians" and "Real Muslims should support the militants and KILL, KILL, KILL".'

The Rally supported calls to Islamic Muslim leaders in Australia to stop their young people going to fight in Syria and Iraq and to promote democracy and support the Australian Constitution which states 'Humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God'. They joined together to call on Christian Pastors and Church Leaders to stand up for our faith, for Jesus Christ the Son of God, our Saviour, the King of kings and Lord of lords, saying that as Christians we wish to win Muslims for Christ, to oppose any Islamisation of Australia and support persecuted Christians.



## Caution Needed On Same-Sex Parenting Study

'A WIDELY reported Melbourne study has found that children raised by same-sex parents are healthier than those in the general population – but this result should be treated with great caution,' FamilyVoice research officer Ros Phillips has said. 'The study design has serious methodological flaws.' Ros Phillips pointed out that:

- The gay and lesbian parents were not randomly selected – rather, they volunteered.
- The children were not independently assessed – their own parents reported on their progress.
- The leader of the research team is raising two young children with his male partner.
- At least two other members of the five-member team are also reported to be raising children in same-sex relationships.
- The authors have failed to acknowledge these conflicts of interest in their published paper.

'Volunteer bias is a major problem with the study,' Ros Phillips said. 'Same-sex couples whose children have health or behaviour problems would be most unlikely to volunteer. Those who did volunteer, knowing that the results could be used to further the gay lobby's agenda, would be reluctant to report unfavourably on their children's progress. The fact that at least 60% of the research team were themselves raising children in same-sex relationships would suggest that the motivation for the study may have been partly political. Its findings have been published at a time when debate on a Greens bill to recognise foreign same-sex marriages is likely to resume very soon.

'To quote a former high school pupil of mine, "It sounds suss",' concluded Dr Phillips.

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The logo for New Life Australia's Christian Newspaper features the word "newlife" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The "new" is in white and the "life" is in green. To the right of the text is a stylized green leaf with a brown stem. Below the main text, the words "AUSTRALIA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER" are written in a smaller, white, uppercase font. The entire logo is set against a bright green background.

## Hillsong 2014: *No Other Name!*

**NO OTHER NAME!** Could we find a better theme for a conference than that? I doubt it. Especially in a day when large numbers of church people, both leaders and followers, compromise Christ by outwardly proclaiming universalism in its many guises or by quietly going along with them and privately holding such beliefs themselves. Whatever criticisms some might have of the Hillsong movement, *No Other Name* is a perfectly worthy theme for their conference. And what I heard preached in the two sessions I attended was worthy of that theme. More particularly what I heard was worthy of the One whose Name was proclaimed – in word and song.

It is worth remembering that Hillsong is not the first skin of new wine to have burst on the Christian Church. One thinks of the birth of Christianity itself. Gamaliel shared his wisdom with the Sanhedrin when he said: 'I advise you: leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.' (Acts 5:38,39). Remember the ejection of the Nonconformists from the Established Church in the 17th Century, the rejection of the Methodists in the 18th Century, the initial hesitance regarding Billy Graham in the 20th Century until the converts started filling vacant pews and an army of young men began offering themselves for the ministry.

We could do well to maintain a watching brief for the present, but meantime there's a lot to like about Hillsong. I travelled out to the venue on a train filled with excited young people who themselves were filled with joy and anticipation at what the meeting would bring. When we arrived, a young man was singing *Just As I Am* in the outside overflow area. It brought back memories ... A crowd of 20,000+ had gathered in one of Sydney's largest venues to praise and worship God, pray and hear His Word. All around there were people of all ages wearing tee shirts, variously proclaiming: *Love All/Serve All; No Other Name; Jesus!* They also serve, who simply wear a tee shirt. All ages were catered for with well-designed programs led by enthusiastic presenters. Imaginative ways were employed in getting the message across, such as a book for sale titled *No Other Name*. Inside the front cover was one word: *Jesus!* The next 200 pages were blank. Get it? The joy of the Lord was much in evidence.

There are some ministries and some ministers I can think of (myself included) who would do no damage to the work of the Kingdom if they/we were somewhat revitalised in their/our own lives and work.

Last year's conference took the theme *Glorious Ruins*, looking at the Bible, *Ezra* in particular, to see how the Lord could 'revive His work in the midst of the years'. Next year's conference is titled: *Speak ... We're Listening!* Now that'll be one to watch!

– Bob Thomas

# PAPUA, INDONESIA: Desperate For Change

INDONESIANS went to the polls on 9 July to elect a new President. After 14 years of heartbreak, Papua's long-suffering predominantly Christian ethnic Melanesians are yearning for change. During Suharto's 32-year 'New Order' dictatorship, a brilliant and highly cultured Muslim cleric by the name of Abdurrahman Wahid (1940-2009) rose to prominence as a staunch defender of human rights, ethnic-religious minorities and Indonesia's secular tradition. In 1999 he became Indonesia's first democratically elected President. Wahid embarked on a program of ambitious, radical reforms. His commitment to military reform enraged not only the Indonesian military (TNI) but all the corrupt business and political elites who had long reaped financial gain from TNI business. During 2000 Wahid commenced work on a Special Autonomy Law for Papua. Created in consultation with Papuans, it mandated (amongst other things) that most of the revenue earned from Papuan resources would be returned to Papua to improve health, education and other services. Enraged, the TNI (which is heavily invested in Papua) accused Wahid of supporting separatism, evoking the memory of East Timor. Indonesia's Islamic fundamentalists were also anti-Wahid, for not only did he seek to protect the rights of Christians, he openly supported Israel.

Unfortunately, Wahid was also disorganised and unpredictable with a knack for alienating colleagues. By 2000 powerful forces were aligning against him, conspiring to have him impeached. Violence soared, especially in Maluku where the TNI was openly arming and supporting the Laskar Jihad and in Papua where the TNI was provoking 'incidents' so it could claim to be fighting 'separatism'. Terrorism escalated and the nation seemed to be wracked by insecurity. After Wahid was impeached on 23 July 2001, his successor, Megawati Sukarnoputri, set about emasculating the Special Autonomy Law. Megawati's term was followed up by two terms of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, during which nothing was done to restore the confidence of the Papuans. Javanese-Muslim colonisation, militarisation and Islamisation proceeded apace, along with poverty, marginalisation, corruption and gross human rights abuses. Papuan hope faded until eventually, Special Autonomy was declared dead, replaced by a revived yearning for independence. [Indonesia will not allow independence as Papua is simply too resource rich.] During 2013, in a last bid effort to secure a legacy, SBY engaged with Papuan governors to hammer out a new Special Autonomy law: 'Otsus Plus'. SBY had hoped to have it enacted by August 2014 before his term expires in October 2014. However, the situation is far too complex for that, especially after decades of betrayal, neglect, persecution and serious, systematic human rights abuses inspired by greed and ethnic-religious hatred.

Papuans have long suffered at the hands of Indonesian security forces. Killings, tortures and arbitrary arrests are routine, as are military 'sweeps' in which hundreds of Papuan families are driven from their villages and subsistence farms into the inhospitable jungle. Papuans are also targeted for aggressive Islamisation. One of the most insidious methods to come to light in recent years is the seduction or abduction of Papuan children who are then taken to Java, held captive in Islamic boarding schools, forcibly converted to Islam, given Muslim names and indoctrinated in puritanical Salafi Islam. Years later, once these Papuan youths are fully Islamised, they are returned to Papua as Muslim missionaries. Those who have escaped from the Islamic schools tell of harsh conditions and cruel punishments. The number of children affected is believed to be in the thousands. Furthermore, it is evident that knowledge of this practice reaches right up into the highest echelons of Indonesia's political elite who tolerate this criminal activity as it serves a political end: Islamised Papuans are less interested in independence. It appears that organised human trafficking rings are involved, including a small but active network of agents and middlemen who seek out vulnerable children and then bring them to the Islamic boarding schools. Investigative journalist Peter Bachelard comments, 'It's not known who might be funding this, but there is a suspicion that oil money from Saudi Arabia may play a role.'

Papua's predominantly Christian, indigenous Papuans desperately need change. However, it is highly unlikely that Islamists or the TNI or all the corrupt business and political elites who reap financial gain from Islamist and TNI business in Papua will simply give up their ambitions and economic rewards for the sake of those widely regarded as 'black infidels'. If change is to come to Papua, it will require profound conviction and commitment in Jakarta backed (or even generated) by a profoundly convicted and committed 'international community'.

– Elizabeth Kendal

### **PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WILL:**

- use this time of presidential transition in Indonesia to stir up international conviction and consensus that the situation in Papua is absolutely unacceptable and must change;
- awaken and energise the Church to advocacy and intercession (advocacy to the highest authority) on behalf of our gravely threatened Papuan brothers and sisters;
- flood Papua's civic and religious Christian leaders with divine wisdom, strength and grace, to lead the people according to God's will;
- intervene in Indonesia, in Papua, to change the situation radically – to 'turn back the battle'.

## TELLING THE OLD, OLD STORY TO THE THESSALONIANS

### Church Opposes Distribution Of Scriptures In Greece

ALMOST 300 volunteers from Greece and around the world are gathering in Halkidiki just outside of Thessaloniki in Northern Greece, preparing for a week-long, major summer project. The participants are coming from as far afield as Australia, Iceland, South Africa, New Zealand, Romania, Canada, the UK and the USA. Their purpose is to distribute modern Greek New Testaments to some 150,000 homes. Very few Greeks own a Bible and even fewer have ever read a modern Greek translation. So you would think that the powerful Greek Orthodox church would be rejoicing at the prospect of a national spiritual impact and the opportunity to make the Scriptures available to the common people.

Not so. A press statement was posted on 27 June on the official Greek Orthodox Church Archdiocese website warning the public of 'Hellenic Ministries, a neo Protestant group that will once again be involved in a widespread proselytizing effort with the excuse of passing out New Testaments!' They remind the Greek audience that, 'the Greek people are the only body of Christ (the Orthodox State Church) and that Greece doesn't need modern heresies or "self-ordained" (Evangelical) preachers.'

In the latest Hellenic Ministries monthly prayer letter, Johnathan Macris, President of the mission asks supporters to, 'Pray that God will turn their negative intentions into positive publicity.' He asks people to pray for a blinding of church clergy to the press statement and that instead of stirring up opposition it will create much interest and even support for the project.

Included in the Bible gift packets are an audio version of the New Testament and a testimony from a Greek pastor. (Cont. p.5)

### Archbishop Of Canterbury To Visit Melbourne

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will



attend the installation of Archbishop Philip Freier as the new leader of the Anglican Church in

Australia at a service in Melbourne next month.

Archbishop Welby, spiritual head of the world's 70 million Anglicans, is making a flying visit to Australia so he can attend the service at St Paul's Cathedral on 13 August.

Archbishop Welby, who will preach at the service, will arrive in Melbourne late on 12 August from the Solomon Islands, and fly to New Zealand on 14 August. The 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Welby is making the first visit to Australia by an Archbishop of Canterbury since George Carey in 1997.

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## BUT THE WORD GOES OUT ...

(From p.4) Also included is contact information for the mission, an Alpha Course contact and a letter encouraging people to attend the church of their choice.

### Johnathan Macris, Son Of Costas

Johnathan Macris is the oldest child of well-known Greek evangelical missionaries, Costas and Alky Macris. Costas was one of the four missionaries sentenced by the Greek courts to six months imprisonment for giving a New Testament to a 16-year-old boy. The subsequent international outcry led to the sentence being overturned. The 'boy' is now in full time missionary work serving as director of a major evangelical relief agency. Johnathan was exposed to all facets of mission life and work as a missionary kid including mechanics, jungle trips, visiting and caring for the sick. He spent the first 16 years of his life in the jungles of Irian Jaya, and accepted Christ at the age of six at a mission boarding school there.



His family returned to Greece in 1979 where Costas established a vibrant new missionary outreach to the Greeks called Hellenic Missionary Union (since renamed Hellenic Ministries). Johnathan continued his education at Moody Bible Institute, from which he graduated in 1985. During this time, Johnathan gained further ministry experience through many Chicago-area ministries such as Open Air Campaigners, and Inner City Impact. Following the successful completion of his education, he returned to Greece. He eventually went on to complete ministerial studies and was ordained as a minister of the Gospel in 1994 through the Wheaton Bible Church. Since the birth of the Hellenic Ministries Johnathan has been vitally involved in the mission's emphasis of evangelism and church planting.

While the burden for evangelism and discipleship continues to mark HM's priorities, Johnathan is emphasizing the need for HM to fulfill its role and call to raise up, equip and send Greek workers into the harvest field of world missions. The summer of 2004 was a milestone in ministry. HM launched *Operation Gideon* during the summer Olympics in Athens. It was among the largest evangelistic campaigns ever held in Greece. HM is currently involved in evangelism, social work, missions and youth ministries.

*Operation Joshua* is a summer project to place copies of the New Testament in modern Greek in one million homes throughout Greece. The project is gaining momentum. For many Greeks this has been the first time in their lives that they have ever read the Bible and the first time they have ever seen a Bible published in modern everyday Greek. The impact has been enormous and for many people the entrance of God's Word has brought light and understanding.

Perhaps its most significant ministry at present is reaching out to the thousands of Muslim refugees pouring into Greece trying to get into Europe. Most of them are stranded and homeless. HM's refugee centre and staff is reaching out to these needy people with food, medical assistance, legal aid and a place to wash their clothes – and the Gospel.

For more information go to: [www.hellenicministries.com](http://www.hellenicministries.com)

– Nico Bougas, Special to ASSIST News Service

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A very generous supporter of SMBC has pledged a 'dollar for dollar' donation. This means that for every dollar you donate to our tax deductible building fund between now and 31 July, up to our target of \$2M, they will also donate a dollar. This is a fantastic opportunity to make your dollar doubly effective for God's work. **Can you prayerfully consider whether God has enabled you to support this work with SMBC's Heart for All Nations 2014 Appeal?**

## INTERNATIONAL NEPAL FELLOWSHIP

### Aussies Help Transform Lives In Nepal

INF Australia is helping to transform the lives of poor and marginalised Nepalis living in the country's remote western district of Jumla.

'Over the last five years, a strong relationship has formed between people here in Australia and a remote district in the far north west of Nepal – Jumla,' says Phil Morris, CEO of INF Australia. 'Through the prayers and giving of people across Australia, INF's community health and development work has changed the lives of thousands of people and seen many come to faith.'

Jumla is one of the poorest places on Earth and INF's community health, development and rehabilitation programs bring help and hope to people with no other means of support. In the last year, supporters in Australia and the Australian government have given \$230,000 for INF projects in Nepal.

Sanpuli Village, Jumla, is a great example of the work INF Australia is supporting. When INF field workers first arrived in Sanpuli three years ago the public entrance to the village was essentially a place for many of the 1000 plus residents to defecate. It was filthy, unhygienic and wasted land that could have been growing crops. Many husbands, unable to find work locally, left their families each year to find employment in India. School attendance was poor and women felt they had little say in the running of the community.

Over the past three years INF's Community Mobiliser has worked steadily to encourage the development of seven Self-Help Groups. This model enables and empowers community members to work together to develop and implement action plans for the benefit of the entire village. Today green fields full of crops surround Sanpuli Village, a bridge has been built by the community, a water mill, a drainage system through the town, toilets for each household, and clean drinking water taps. INF has also worked with the community to improve school attendance, nutrition and assist in setting up income generation projects. These have seen women empowered, and more men stay in the village for work. The projects have largely been paid for by a savings scheme developed by the SHGs.

'It's a privilege to be a part of seeing people's lives transformed,' says Phil Morris. 'INF is not a church planting organisation, but it helps to create the environment where the church can flourish. Seeing small churches and fellowships spring up in remote villages is a huge answer to prayer.'

Please pray for INF's work in Jumla. To help financially, contact INF Australia: [ausoffice@au.inf.org](mailto:ausoffice@au.inf.org) or head to the website [www.inf.org/giving-asia-pacific/inf-australia](http://www.inf.org/giving-asia-pacific/inf-australia) and select Jumla.



The village kids.



### 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:

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### VISITING MELBOURNE?

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Minister: Rev Bob Thomas 0417 592 646

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## VIEWPOINT

### How To Avoid Unconscious Incompetence

WHO doesn't want to be wise and balanced in their Christian life? Particularly as we grow older, we appreciate good judgment more and more, and we take note of those who clearly have it.

In our working life we should understand our competence, and work within those limits. More trouble comes out of people working outside the area they are competent to work in than anything else. For example, would you allow a physiotherapist to diagnose and treat your heart complaint? Of course not! It does not matter that the physio takes the title 'Dr', it is out of their area of competence, and I am confident that the physio would tell you so.

But in matters of the soul we may often take our advice from a multitude of sources, and we may not be too fussy about the competence of those who push themselves forward to advise us. Go to many a Christian bookstore, and you will see a host of smiling faces on the front covers of glossy books just waiting to tell you their secret of success. Some of this is pure poison, but how would we know?

Professionals know that the most dangerous people at work are those who are 'unconsciously incompetent'. These are the people who don't know what they 'don't know'. We all know the old saying: 'the blind leading the blind', and its source in Matthew 15.14. It is a pathetic picture isn't it? Two people groping their way along a pathway, and both blind. One is full of confidence so decides that leadership must be theirs to exercise, and take the title 'Guide'. They both end up in the pit!

When we exercise pure natural ability, confidence, and cleverness in the Christian life, we might stand out from the crowd, and some people might follow us. But it is such a dangerous place to be. God's servants have always been reticent to stand up to lead, knowing their natural weakness, and knowing that they lack wisdom and knowledge. This drives them to seek it from the Lord, and as they set themselves to become life-long learners of Him, they are marked out by a deep and unshakeable hunger to read the Scriptures, to learn of Christ, and to pray.

The three 'friends' of Job took it upon themselves to rebuke Job for sin. Their reasoning was that their opinions were just as valid as Job's, and Job's terrible suffering could only be the result of God punishing Job for some secret sin. They did not know the complete picture, because that was only revealed to the readers of Scripture at the beginning of the book, and then to the friends and Job at the end.

If we would be wise and competent in spiritual matters, we need to be immersed in Scripture above and beyond anything else that we might be tempted to consult – not just ministers, but ALL of us. God makes us wise when we seek Him, and study His precious Word. Then, and only then will we be able to spot the spiritual 'snake oil peddlers' before we are taken in.

– David Morris, Melbourne

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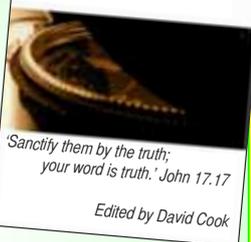
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**Contact:** David Morris,

**Phone:** 0431 960 517 **Email:** askrig@mac.com



## CAUSE FOR THANKSGIVING

### 'Calling The Feminine Heart To Mission' – African Enterprise Mission Trip

AFRICAN Enterprise Australia Director of Partnership and Youth Programs, David Lancaster and Sonya Hemsley, AE's Marketing and Communications Specialist accompanied women from Victoria and New South Wales on a short term mission trip to Kenya in June. They saw some latrines and washing stations provided by AE Australia, giving much-needed sanitation to hundreds of the many thousands living their whole lives in the Korogocho slums. They met women at the Mathare Women's Project whose lives have been turned around by being trained in tailoring. The intake this year includes Muslim women and deaf women. Penina, a graduate of a previous year, demonstrates marketing and sales skills by her continued involvement at Mathare.



Mathare Women's Project,  
Nairobi

The clinic in the Soweto Kayole slum helps thousands of people with quality medical care. Pacific Hills Christian School donated money for an ambulance in 2011. The life of one woman, Maggie, has been turned around by the love she received. She now cares for 50 orphans.

For four days, ten of the group went to Malawi, meeting Enoch Phiri and Stephen and Rachel Lungu, connecting with the Malawian FoxFires who visit schools to present the Gospel. They saw the tailoring project which brings women out of poverty. Material was presented to each woman so they can make their graduation dress. The other eight in the group went to Rwanda, visiting AEE Rwanda Centres in Kigali and Rwamagana. 25,000 self-help groups are facilitated by AE and two groups of 20 women shared their stories. A kindergarten and Catch-up school which AE began is now run by their communities. The Centre for Champions provides young people with training for a future with hope.

This women-only mission trip was a first for AE Australia but all were inspired and challenged by their experiences. The aid and development projects were wonderful, but the testimonies of those who are now followers of Jesus proves that AE's mission statement to 'Evangelise the cities of Africa by word and deed in partnership with the church' is being maintained well. <http://africanenterpriseau.tumblr.com/>

#### 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?**

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[melbonn@bigpond.com](mailto:melbonn@bigpond.com)



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

## GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

### The Good Samaritan Lives!

JOSSIE CHAKO, Founder and President of Empart Mission To India, tells a story of modern-day Good Samaritans:

Remember the story Jesus told about the Good Samaritan? Well, not long ago, Sapan (not his real name), a business man, who'd just completed some business in Nagaland, decided to try his luck in Assam. Unbeknown to him, however, tragedy was about to strike.

Arriving in town he was mobbed by a group of people. They took all his belongings, leaving him half dead beside the road. Very soon he was found by the police and taken to hospital. He was left very bruised. Being far from home he had no one to care for him. He was all alone and crying for help. Seeing his pathetic state no one dared to help him in the hospital. However, he was noticed by a Godly lady who showed him compassion. She and her husband took care of him. They paid all his bills and took him to their home. Within a month he regained his health.



### Maithili New Testament Recordings Nearly Complete

THERE'S reason to rejoice in South Asia. One of the region's 500+ languages is about to gain access to God's Word. According to Audio Scripture Ministries, Maithili New Testament recordings are nearly complete.

Between 30 and 50 million people in eastern India and Nepal speak Maithili, and the language is mostly used by high-caste (Brahmin) Hindus. High-caste Hindus have a large influence on India's culture and language, and 'non-Brahmin' speech is generally regarded as inferior.

Audio Scripture Ministries helps non-readers have access to God's Word with audio recordings of the Bible in their heart language. In a tough world, God's Word in audio can provide some hope and the knowledge that there is a God who loves them.

In the meantime the seed of the Gospel was planted in his heart. He thanked his rescuing family and promised to return. Within a month he returned and declared his faith publically through baptism.

It was the compassion of this couple that led Sapan to realise the love of Jesus in his life.

So who 'was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' (Luke 10.36). Indirectly, it is you, as you have faith and continue to pray for the people of India and Nepal. Thank you. Miracles are happening in answer to your prayers!

Visit [www.empart.org/PrayerGuide](http://www.empart.org/PrayerGuide) to view online or download a printable PDF. To receive the *Empart Prayer Guide* via email, go to: [prayer@empart.org](mailto:prayer@empart.org)

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

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

### KENYA – Extremists Kill More Than 30 In Brutal Raids



MORE than 30 Christians have died in a spate of brutal attacks on predominantly Christian areas in Eastern Kenya. The first attacks came on Saturday 5 July, when suspected Islamic extremists raided Hindi village in Lamu County and Gamba, a village in neighbouring Tana River County.

Assailants armed with guns and knives killed at least 13 people in Hindi in a four-hour attack during which homes and a church were set alight. One survivor described how her husband was tied to his bed and their house set alight. Eyewitnesses said attackers had told non-Muslims to leave the area or convert to Islam.

In Gamba gunmen stormed a police station and freed at least one prisoner held in connection with the massacre in Mpeketoni last month. Five non-Muslims at the station who would not recite the Islamic conversion creed were killed. Government officials told Reuters that at least 20 people were killed in Gamba that night.

Then, on Monday, two Christians died when Covenant Church near Hindi was set alight soon after a Bible study. A church in Gamba was destroyed the same night. Gamba is about 28 miles and Hindi 12 miles from Mpeketoni, a predominantly Christian town where gunmen killed at least 57 people on 15 June. Al Shabaab militants linked to neighbouring Somalia have claimed responsibility for the attacks – although the Kenyan Government believes the killings may have been 'politically motivated'. (Source: *Morning Star News*)

Pray that God will comfort the bereaved and heal all those injured in these latest attacks. Pray that churches in this area of Kenya will hold fast to God's promises and know His presence. Pray for wisdom for all church leaders, and that the authorities will work with them to protect these vulnerable communities.

#### News Update:

Two more members of Nanle County Christian Church in China's Henan province have been released from detention, following Pastor Zhang Shaojie's sentencing for 'fraud' and 'gathering a crowd to disrupt public order'. Zhao Guoli and Wu Guishan were reportedly released on Saturday, having been detained since 15 November. Four other members of the church remain in custody. Pray for the release of all remaining detainees and that Pastor Zhang's sentence would be overturned. (Source: *China Aid*)

– Release International [noreply@releaseinternational.org](mailto:noreply@releaseinternational.org)



#### ONLY THE HEADLINES – AS PERSECUTION GATHERS MOMENTUM

**CHINA:** Pastor Zhang Shaojie sentenced to 12 years in prison.

**LAOS:** Christians arrested; falsely accused of murder.

**TANZANIA:** Pastors charged with blasphemy.

**KAZAKHSTAN:** Criminal case against pastor continues as new criminal code signed.

**CUBA:** Government demolishes house church.

**ASSYRIA:** Christians demand protection.

**CHINA:** House church persecuted after outreach.

**IRAQ:** Christians on the run, endangered and in need.

**INDIA:** Christian convert couple killed; 250 Christians made homeless.

**EGYPT:** Christians jailed for 'blasphemy' and 'disturbing the peace'.

**NIGERIA:** Christians killed at worship, churches torched in suspected Boko Haram attacks.

**VIETNAM:** Bible school students beaten in night-time raid, interrogated by police.

**INDONESIA:** Church attacked by masked Muslims during service.

**SUDAN:** Authorities demolish church building; mosque left standing.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** British Christian National Health

Service Manager suspended for praying with Muslim colleague.

**NIGERIA:** Boko Haram strikes again but Christians persevere on two fronts.

**PAKISTAN:** Christian teenager raped and killed.

**KENYA:** AL-Shabaab attack targets Christians.

**NEPAL:** Police arrest 40 Christians following pressure from Hindus.

**EGYPT:** Christians kidnapped in Egypt as Islamist violence continues.

**BHUTAN:** Targeted pastor charged with illegally collecting funds.

**PAKISTAN:** Prayer asked for Christians' Safety.

**UNITED KINGDOM:** First western country to sell Sharia-compliant bonds.

**IRAQ:** Church being eliminated as Christians flee.

**NORTH KOREA:** South Korean missionary sentenced to life in hard labour.

**IRAN:** Pastor Irani returned to prison.

**EGYPT:** Christian gets six-year jail term for 'liking' Facebook page.

**MALAYSIA:** Christians forbidden to use the word 'Allah'.

## HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ...

### Top Lineup For Ridley Melbourne Theology Conference 2014

THE Ridley Melbourne Theology Conference will be held at the college on Friday and Saturday 1,2 August on the topic *Paul As Pastor*. Ridley Theology Conferences serve those in ministry, but will also appeal to the broader Christian community.

Robert Yarbrough, Professor of New Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary, will be the lead speaker. He will explore the pastoral horizons of Paul's letters and their continuing relevance for the church today. What can Paul-the-pastor teach pastors today?

The conference will also feature Sarah Harris of New Zealand and Brian Rosner (Ridley Principal). Along with Ridley Melbourne faculty there will also be speakers from five states of Australia, including the Archbishop of Sydney, Glenn Davies.

Registration is essential. Go to: [www.ridley.edu.au/RMTC](http://www.ridley.edu.au/RMTC)



Robert Yarbrough

### Salvos Support National Op Shop Week, 24 – 31 August

SALVOS Stores will again be partnering with the National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations in celebrating the third annual National Op Shop Week to be held from 24 – 31 August.

General Manager of Salvos Stores Australian Eastern Territory Neville Barrett says, 'Over the last ten years we have seen a 75% increase in sales for Salvos Stores. With the rising cost of living now impacting on a large section of the community, people from a diverse range of socio economic backgrounds now shop at Salvos Stores'.

All proceeds from Salvos Stores go towards running vital Salvation Army programs which assist the less fortunate. By shopping at and donating to Salvos Stores the community is also helping the environment by reducing landfill.

National Op Shop Week is a joint initiative of DoSomething! and NACRO. The week seeks to raise awareness of the importance of supporting op shops in our community.

#### Rev Dr Paul Barker Now Serving Langham Trust

THE Rev Dr Paul Barker has taken up an appointment as Regional Co-ordinator, Asia, for Langham Preaching, and Scholar Care Co-ordinator, Asia, for Langham Scholars. [paul.barker@langham.org](mailto:paul.barker@langham.org)



#### Have Confidence To Share Your Faith!

DR John Anderson, who works as a part-time GP and speaks part-time for Creation Ministries International, knows only too well the importance of the origins debate because he remembers his own uncritical acceptance of evolution as an atheist. He simply believed the 'proof' he'd seen in textbooks, and had no idea just how flimsy its foundation was. Now as a Christian, he sees clearly that anything other than a full acceptance of the Biblical account of a recent creation, followed by man's fall into sin, seriously undermines the Gospel message, and diminishes the uniqueness and glory of Jesus Christ. John will be in Melbourne on the last weekend of July with the following speaking engagements:

*The Evolution Of A Creationist* on Friday 25 July, 7.30pm, Connect Christian Church, 6 Bray St, Hastings.

*Genesis? What Difference Does It Make? Never Let the Facts Get in the Way of a Good Story* on Saturday 26 July, 5pm, Connect City Church East, 1 Coral Dr, Hampton Park.

*Creation—The Big Picture*, Sunday 27 July, 10.30am, Moreland Christian Church, meeting at Pascoe Vale North Primary School, Kent Rd, Pascoe Vale.

*The Evolution Of A Creationist*, Sunday 27 July, 5pm, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 81 Edwardes St, Reservoir.

#### With Christ:

MISS Lily Lewis, the last surviving sister of *New Life's* long-serving secretary Nesta Lewis, who turned 100 in January, was called Home recently.

#### Phillip Jensen Moving On

THE Dean of Sydney, Phillip Jensen, will leave his ministry in St Andrew's Cathedral at the end of the year. Mr Jensen took up the position in 2003 and during his ministry there has been numerical and financial growth. 'But,' he says, 'more importantly, the welcoming nature of the congregation, the seriousness of listening to God's Word, the concern for outsiders and the quality of our relationships have been significantly transformed.'

In accepting the Dean's resignation, Archbishop Glenn Davies paid tribute to the Dean, saying, 'Phillip Jensen has exercised an extraordinary ministry in the Diocese of Sydney for more than 40 years.'

Phillip Jensen will take up a position with *Two Ways Ministries* in 2015, which will involve the recruiting and training of 'the next generation in preaching the Gospel by teaching the Bible'.

#### Rikk Watts Back At MST – For One Night

DR Rick E. Watts, New Testament Lecturer at Regent College, Vancouver, will deliver a lecture on *How Christianity Changed The Ancient World* at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15 July at Melbourne School of Theology.

[www.mst.edu.au](http://www.mst.edu.au)

(Continued on p.13)

## HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ...

### Radio – The Reason Why

WE are living in the digital age with every form of communication available at our fingertips, so people sometimes ask: why Radio?

The answer? Because Radio still supersedes many modern communication methods. It does not need expensive cables to run data like the internet, you don't have to pay to listen to it and it can reach for thousands of kilometres from its original transmission point. Radios don't cost thousands of dollars like computers or phones and you are guaranteed a much better reception than you could ever get with your phone. It runs on inexpensive batteries or even solar power. Radio gives Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB) the best and most cost-effective way to reach many people with the message of hope. Many of the communities that fall within broadcast range do not have access to all our modern day technology and still depend on the radio as their major form of information and communication.

So, even though we live in the digital age, many people still use their radios, especially in remote communities where they have limited access to modern day technology. That is the reason why Reach Beyond uses Radio to reach into peoples lives.

### Partner With Reach Beyond Australia

Contact Reach Beyond for more information regarding opportunities to serve or other ways to partner with them. Phone 1300 653 853 or email [office@reachbeyond.org.au](mailto:office@reachbeyond.org.au)



(Continued from p.12)

### Professor John Lennox At Ridley

PROFESSOR John Lennox of Oxford University, the internationally renowned presenter on the interface of science, philosophy and religion, will be speaking at a conference hosted by Ridley Melbourne on Saturday 9 August from 10am to 4pm at GWAC, 800 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley. Contact

<http://www.eventbrite.com.au> to register.

### Divine Makeover – Women's Convention

THE theme of the 9th Belgrave Heights Women's Convention is *Divine Makeover*, with Fiona Krelle, Di Warren and Dotty Duke as speakers. The conference will be held at Belgrave Heights Convention from 8.30am to 4.30pm on 13 September. For further details go to: [office@bhc.org.au](mailto:office@bhc.org.au)

### ESA Gathering

THE whole ESA Community is invited to *The Gathering* at Gisborne (Vic) Church of Christ from 10am to 8pm on Saturday 9 August. Registration details are available from ESA at [www.esa.org.au](http://www.esa.org.au)

### CDP Northern Tablelands Supporters Dinner

THE Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC and Hon Paul Green MLC, of the Christian Democratic Party, will be in Armidale for an evening of fellowship, providing an insight into the CDP vision of NSW politics, along with a delicious meal. They will meet with supporters on Friday 25 July 2014 at 6pm in the Mung Hing Restaurant Conference Room, Cnr Beardy and Jessie Streets, Armidale. The cost is \$22 per guest. RSVP by 23 July to Janet: (02) 6778 1315 or Lex: (02) 6775 3117.

### Reach Beyond News

THANK God for the life of Meg Shedley who is with the Lord. Praise Him for the fruitfulness of Don and Meg's Ministry to the Aboriginal people and others in the Kimberly region. Their donation of the Bethel Property at Kununurra was the catalyst for Reach Beyond's short wave radio ministry.

Brent (Studio Manager) and Shelley (Technical Producer) Weeks are spending some time at Kununurra to familiarise themselves with the work.

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## Ramon A Williams - Worldwide Photos - WANT TO SEE MORE?

*New Life* can only publish a small selection of photos, but you can see more of those attributed to Worldwide Photos by contacting Ramon Williams,  
e-mail: [rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au)

**Two Images Of Jesus (Read Romans 9.30-10.21)**

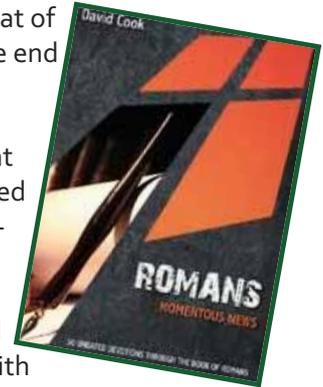
**FOR REFLECTION:**

*WHY is provision, not achievement, such good news?*

*Augustine prayed, 'O God, demand what You will, but supply what You demand'. What does God demand? How does He supply this demand?*

TWO images are used here of Jesus. The first is that of 'a stumbling stone' (9.33) and the second is as 'the end of the law' (10.4).

Israel stumbled over Jesus. Rather than finding refuge in Him, because they did not recognise that the Law was pointing forward to Him, Israel treated the Law as the means of their salvation. Paul's anguish for Israel is as a result of their choosing the wrong path. They chose to pursue righteousness by obeying the Law (9.31; 10.3) and therefore, did not submit to God's way of setting people right with Him.



Verse 2 tells us that although Israel is sincere and zealous (the qualities necessary for correctness in this post-modern world) yet she is wrong; for though zealous, Israel is ignorant (v3). Paul sets out the two ways of righteousness in verses 5-7. In verse 5, righteousness is by doing the Law and in verses 6,7 righteousness is not by human achievement but by God's provision. Christ does not need to be brought down (v6), He came down in the incarnation; He does not need to be brought up (v7), He came up in the resurrection; both of these are God's provision, God's gift of righteousness, and not as a result of human achievement.

All religions in one way or another can be categorised as achievement-based, but Biblical Christianity alone can be categorised as provision. Righteousness is something God requires and provides to all those who have faith in His Son.

Having faith in Jesus means having a particular conviction about Jesus: that God has raised Him from the dead (v9) and what the heart believes, the mouth confesses, that He is indeed Lord or God in the flesh (designated as such by His resurrection from the dead, cf. 1.4).

In verse 11, Paul quotes Isaiah, saying that anyone who has this conviction and confession of Jesus will never be shamed and that God only has this one way of putting people right with Himself. In verses 12 and 13, he says it is the same for everyone, Jews or Gentiles. Everyone who calls on the name of Jesus as God, because of His resurrection, will be saved.

**Mittagong (NSW)**

**Presbyterian Church**

**is seeking Committed Christian couples and singles to come and join us on intentional ministry service to touch lives for Jesus. Interested?**

**Contact David Hocking on (02) 4869 3118 or email: dh008405@bigpond.net.au**

This is indeed momentous, transforming news. Think of all those who labour under the burden of religion whether it is Christian religion or not, it is equally tragic. To achieve God's righteousness is both an impossible task, and totally unnecessary, because Christ, our substitute, has met God's righteous requirements on our behalf. Religion is doubly tragic, impossible and unnecessary.

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

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**'The Law is a court of justice, but the Gospel a throne of grace.'**

**– George Swinnock (Quoted from Banner Of Truth Facebook page.)**

## ONESIMUS AND FRIENDS ('USEFUL UNTO YOU')

### SEEN ON FACEBOOK:



### **TRUTH MATTERS – An Introduction To Christian Doctrine**

A GROUP of ministers led by David Cook have written *TRUTH MATTERS* as an introduction to the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith on the following topics: *THE BIBLE: The Inspiration, Authority And Integrity Of God's Word*; *THE TRINITY: What It Is, What It Is Not, Its Application To Daily Life*, *GOD: His Character, Plan And Purpose*; *JESUS CHRIST: His Person And Work*; *THE HOLY SPIRIT: His Person And Work*; *SALVATION: Its Nature, Order And Outworking*; *HUMANITY: What Are We? What's Wrong With Us?*; *THE CHURCH: What Is It, What Is Its Part In The Purposes Of God?*; For Further Reading.

Study questions are included at the end of each chapter, making this a valuable resource for individual or group study. The book is written with the average Christian in mind. It affirms the veracity, authority, relevance and sufficiency of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and points its readers on to further study.

*TRUTH MATTERS* is available as an e-Book from the Christian Education Committee, Presbyterian Church of Australia, [christianedpca@gmail.com](mailto:christianedpca@gmail.com)

### Banner To Publish Electronically



THE Banner of Truth Trust has begun to make its publications available as e-Books. The first books to be released in coming weeks are:

- *The Valley of Vision*
- *The Faith Shaped Life*
- *The Acceptable Sacrifice*
- *Discovering God's Will*
- *Indwelling Sin*
- *Peter: Eyewitness Of His Majesty*
- *When Christians Suffer*
- *Christ's Glorious Achievements*
- *Silent Witnesses*
- *The Christian's Great Enemy*

No doubt further announcements will soon be made via their website: [www.banneroftruth.com](http://www.banneroftruth.com)

### QUOTABLE QUOTE:

'I CANNOT kneel down together with, and look up with people, one of whom is looking at Confucius and another at Mohammed and another at the Buddha, and another at some philosopher. I cannot! There is only One to look at; it is this blessed Son of God ... What is the value of talking about having things in common and claiming that we are all one, if there is any question about Him, as to whether He is Son of God or only man? If there is any doubt about it there is no unity, there is no fellowship. We must confess together that there is only one Saviour, only one Lord Jesus Christ, God and Man, two natures in one person, born of the Virgin Mary, crucified under Pontius Pilate, risen again. There must be no question about Him!'

– Martyn Lloyd-Jones  
(*Ephesians – God's Way Of Reconciliation*)

## New Life Website: [www.nlife.com.au](http://www.nlife.com.au)

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(Courtesy Rev Iain Murray)

## BOOKS WORTH READING

### CAN WE STILL BELIEVE THE BIBLE? An Evangelical Engagement With Contemporary Questions, Craig L. Blomberg, Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2014, ISBN 978-1-58743-321-4

CRAIG Blomberg is Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary, where he has taught for the past 28 years. He is a mainstream Evangelical scholar who aims to be neither an obscurantist conservative nor one who caves in to critical scholarship. He seeks to remain true to the Bible and provide honest and intelligent answers to the difficult questions people pose about the truth of the Bible.

He looks at six areas of contemporary scholarship and explains how he still believes in the Bible. In the process, he debunks some current misunderstandings about what belief in the Bible entails and seeks to publicise exciting recent developments that fortify faith in the Scriptures. This is the kind of book that only a well-informed and faithful scholar like Blomberg could have written.

The issues addressed are phrased as provocative questions, the first being: Aren't the copies of the Bible we possess hopelessly corrupted? This chapter responds to the claims of Bart Ehrman that there are widespread corruptions of the textual tradition, but, as Blomberg shows, the vast majority of textual variants do not alter the meaning of the text in a substantial or significant way. This controversy is a storm in a teacup! At the other extreme, are KJV-only exponents, who claim that it is a perfect representation of the autographs, and Blomberg also again counsels his readers against this option.

The second provocative question is: Wasn't the selection of books for the canon just political? However, as Blomberg explains, the 27 books of the New Testament were not imposed by political authority, but won the affection and confidence of early Christians because of their apostolic credentials and faithful teaching. The many books excluded (none of which date from the First Century) are not serious contenders for possible inclusion in the canon, despite some advocates for the so-called *Gospel Of Thomas*.

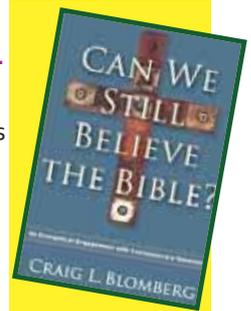
Can we trust in any of our translations of the Bible? Blomberg calls for a truce in the recent 'Translations Wars' within the Evangelical camp, for similarities far outnumber differences between the many translations in English presently available for purchase, despite the hype of certain publishing houses. He cites what he views as the unnecessary polarisation over the TNIV (2005) and the updated NIV (2011), due to disputes between Evangelical Complementarians and Evangelical Egalitarians.

Can we still maintain that the Bible is inerrant? Blomberg argues that the Scriptures are fully trustworthy, though there is debate over what might constitute an 'error', and he defends the *Chicago Statement On Biblical Inerrancy* as still useful in helping to define what an error might be. He shows that we are right to harmonise apparent contradictions, so long as we do not resort to unlikely or forced solutions. He shows the importance of genre in properly interpreting the Bible books and considers whether books like Job and Jonah might be parables rather than historical narratives. Blomberg urges that there be freedom to discuss the sometimes vexed issues of how to properly interpret the Bible, without witch-hunts and name-calling. He warns that many people have been turned off Biblical Christianity due to the overenthusiasm of some one-eyed apologists for the Bible.

The last hard question raised and answered by Blomberg is: Don't all the miracles make the Bible mythical? But science does not demand that one take an anti-supernaturalistic stance and many well-documented miracles can be cited. The miracles of the Bible have no true pagan parallels, and those attributed to Apollonius of Tyana postdate the New Testament. None of the miracles of the Bible are frivolous or random displays of power, but instead are connected to God demonstrating His reality in comparison to pagan gods or are signs of the in-breaking of God's Kingdom in the person of Jesus.

Throughout this book, Blomberg tries to strike a balance, addressing typical skeptical criticisms of Christianity but, on the other hand, urging believers not to react in an extreme way by labelling everyone as 'liberal' who does not agree with their own ultra-conservative narrow views on non-salvific doctrines. We find it dreadfully difficult to be balanced: upholding the truth but avoiding a judgmental and hypercritical spirit, but that is what Blomberg calls us to be, for that is part of Christlikeness.

– Greg Goswell



*'We find it dreadfully difficult to be balanced: upholding the truth but avoiding a judgmental and hypercritical spirit. But that is what Blomberg calls us to be, for that is part of Christlikeness.'*