

WE ARE ALL NAZARENES!

*– Large Crowds Protest Extermination Of
Christians In The Middle East*



LARGE crowds gathered in Sydney and Melbourne on Saturday 2 August to protest the extermination of Christians in countries of the Middle East, especially in Iraq and particularly in Mosul. Bishops and clergy from several Orthodox denominations joined other community leaders in addressing the rallies and calling for the media to give a greater coverage of the plight of Christians in the face of persecution by ISIS, and on world leaders, including Australia's leaders, to work towards stopping the pogrom against Middle Eastern Christians in lands which were once the cradle of Christianity.

Elizabeth Kendal's Address

The Melbourne Rally was addressed by, among others, Elizabeth Kendal, specialist in researching the persecution of Christians around the world. She made two appeals:

To The Australian Church:

'You have heard on the news that for the first time in the history of Iraq, Mosul is now devoid of Christians, but the crisis stretches far beyond Mosul. This year, Christians have been driven out of towns as far west as the Armenian town of Kessab in Syria's far north-west corner. Even now, remnant Christians are being driven out of towns right across Syria's north and east – out of Al-Raqqah, from where photographic evidence of public executions and even crucifixions has emerged, and out of the Al-Hassekah and Deir al Zour. In Iraq they are being driven out of Nineveh while a decimated remnant survives in Baghdad.

(Continued on p.3)

VOLUME 77
NUMBER 4

ISSUE DATE:
15 August 2014

ISSN: 1033-7903

FOUNDER:

Eric J. Daley
(1910-1992)

EDITOR:

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

BUSINESS MANAGER:

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

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 457
Mitcham VIC 3132

WEB-SITE:

www.nlife.com.au

SUBSCRIPTION:

Free On Request

**ACCEPTANCE OF
ADVERTISING
DOES NOT IMPLY
ENDORSEMENT**

PUBLISHED BY:

New Life Australia Ltd

ABN: 15 005 035 138

**CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE
NOTE:**

New Life is archived by the National Library of Australia. It is assumed that contributors agree with this arrangement and so are willing to be published on this basis.



Location! Location! Location! – Wherabouts Are You?

ACCORDING to real estate agents, it is all about location, location, location. It is precisely the same according to the Christian Gospel when it applies to the believer's experience of God.

Once we were located in Adam; now by God's grace, we are located in Christ (see Romans 5.12 – 21). So Paul says, 'if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation' (2 Corinthians 5.17). We have decamped, and our new address is in Christ. This was one of the first lessons Saul (Paul) learnt on the Damascus Road, that to persecute Christians is to persecute Jesus, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting (Acts 9.5)'.

Being now located 'in Christ' means that there is solidarity between Jesus and His people, and that when Christians are persecuted, Jesus takes that personally. Jesus speaks of the same solidarity when He sends out the Twelve on mission in Matthew 10.40, 'He who receives you, receives Me and he who receives Me, receives the One who sent Me'. There is solidarity between the believer and Jesus Christ, just as there is solidarity between God the Father, 'the One who sent Me' and God the Son, 'the One whom He sent'.

In Psalm 14.4-7, David says that those who devour God's people ought to be overcome with dread, for the Lord is in the company of the righteous, He is their refuge and He will watch over the fortunes of His people!

Therefore let ISIS and other such groups be warned: the outrageous threats and attacks on Christians in Iraq, the similar attacks in Nigeria, Yemen, Egypt, Syria and Gaza will not go unpunished, Yahweh is in the midst of His people. He alone is Lord and He will punish the persecutor, either now, or in judgment in eternity. Let us go to prayer for both our persecuted family and for those who persecute them. Pray that God will be merciful to the persecutors, that they will have their eyes opened to their willful rebellion and bow the knee, as did Saul, to the resurrected Lord. If they don't, they are in for a terrible, eternal shock. Pray for those who take the Gospel of light and peace to such antagonists that they will be sensitively bold and faithful in the task.

'All wickedness flows from a disregard of God', wrote John Calvin, and in another commentary, 'the hatred of sin proceeds from the fear of God'. What a wicked world we live in. It is a world under God's judgment and we must not be sidetracked by trifling concerns, but seriously pray and reach into the heart of the rebellious with the momentous news of the Gospel.

Remember: the Gospel is God's power to save. Saul was the chief persecutor of the ancient church, 'the worst of sinners' was his self-description, but God's power vanquished him, and we can be confident that the Gospel of God will continue to melt the rebellion of even the most hardened opponent.

– David Cook

'We can be confident that the Gospel of God will continue to melt the rebellion of even the most hardened opponent.'

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

To The Australian Church: (From p.1)

'Indeed, across the entire Christian heartland of Upper Mesopotamia, those who choose to remain Christian have no choice but to flee. This is the land where the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ were first called Christians (Acts 11.26). This is the land from where mission was launched west in Europe and east in to Persia and China. Christianity has been decimated in its historic heartland, in our lifetime and before our eyes.

'What's more, Christianity is in the process of being eradicated from its historic heartland. All we need to do for this to eventuate is nothing. It will happen – unless we step up and be the Church God demands us to be and has gifted and empowered us to be. The day has arrived when Church passivity must end. We are exhorted in Galatians 6.2 – 'bear one another's burdens, for in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ'. And unless we want to hear the Lord say to us, 'Whatever you did not do for the least of these children of Mine, you did not do for Me' – then we had better get serious.'

To My Christian Brothers And Sisters From Syria And Iraq:

'It is possible that those who have fled their homes and lands in recent years – in order to save their lives – may never see their homes again. Upper Mesopotamia is in the eye of a very big storm that will probably wreak havoc for a long time yet. But God has promised that one day, a highway will stretch from Egypt through Israel to Assyria (Isaiah 19.23f) – and there will be peace. In that day the Lord will declare: "Blessed be Egypt My people, Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." (v25)

'As Christians, all of us are called not merely to live righteous and just lives, but to advance righteousness and justice in the world. And so, following the manner of the prophets and apostles, we lobby the king – we exhort our leaders to do what God expects them to do: 'speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves ... plead the cause of the needy.' (Proverbs 31.8,9).

'But we do not put our faith in princes, or in humanity (Psalm 118.8,9), nor do we put our trust in horses and chariots (military hardware) (Psalm 20.7). Rather, we put our trust in the Lord Almighty, for He who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10.23).

""But," you might ask, "how do we keep faith alive through these dark days?" By remembering. When the Israelites lamented over the fall of Jerusalem, crying "God does not see, God does not care" (Lamentations 1,2), God exhorted them to remember, saying (Isaiah 40.27f): "Why do you say God doesn't see and God doesn't care? Remember! The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the Earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable." In other words: He sees! What's more, He cares! For He lifts up, revives and empowers those who wait for, who trust in Him; "they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (v31).

'Remember – so that your faith might be energised, that you might soar in God's strength.

'To the Australian Church I say: "Get to work! Don't be passive observers of suffering! Don't leave the sacrifice to others! Get active!" And to my Iraqi and Syrian brothers and sisters in Christ, I say: "Arise! And keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, for He is your shield, your glory and the lifter of your head." (Psalm 3.3)

'May we stand together as one Body under One Lord!'

WHO CAN YOU FORWARD NEW LIFE TO?



TURN BACK THE BATTLE: Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today. With persecution escalating globally, **Elizabeth Kendal** calls us to

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

www.turnbackthebattle.com

Heath Whiley: *'As a pastor in a rural community, I only have one other evangelical pastor in town. The next closest is 130 kilometres away. I'm loving Oxygen! I came with three other pastors from the Riverina, have reconnected with friends from Bible College from 20 years ago, been put onto some great resources to take back home, met up with my own pastor who led me to Christ 23 years ago and who now prays for my ministry each week, and am having my own soul refreshed ... And it's still only the first day. Thank God for those who can refresh pastors to keep doing what God has given them to do.'*



Bill Smallwood, Parishioner, St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, mobilising the laity: *'I'm enjoying Oxygen 2014 because it is very Bible-based; and because of my attendance at Oxygen 2011, I'm sure we've got great things to come.'*

OXYGEN 2014 – Keeping The Fires Burning

WHAT a difference a blast of oxygen makes! The *Oxygen 2011* Conference certainly breathed new life into long-time Christian workers and fired up many younger ones and those praying about and preparing for ministry. But that was three years ago. Time for another blast, which *Oxygen 2014* delivered in no small measure.

Held at the Australian Technology Park adjacent to Redfern Station in Sydney from 4-7 August, the conference attracted over 1,500 participants from every state and territory in Australia, 15 overseas countries and spanning 18 denominations. With the aim of 'fuelling passion for Christian ministry' several top overseas speakers were brought in to share their insights and expertise.

Top Line-Up Of Speakers

John Lennox, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University; Don Carson, Research Professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Nancy Guthrie, international conference speaker; Bryan Chapell, Senior Pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church, Chicago; Francis Chan, founder of Eternity Bible College and Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, California; Bob Kauflin, song writer and pastor with Sovereign Grace Ministries; Kathleen Neilson, Director of Womens' Initiatives with The Gospel Coalition; Paul Tripp, Professor of Pastoral Life and Care at Redeemer Seminary, Texas – such was the impressive list of speakers at *Oxygen 2014*.

While each made a significant contribution to the conference, there were certain things common to all. They were all on top of their subject, speaking confidently and without undue reference to notes; they spoke as a team, feeding off one another, affirming one another and drawing other individuals' contributions into the thrust of the whole; they engaged the audience; their addresses were Biblically faithful on the one hand and intensely practical and well applied on the other as they affirmed the truth, authority, relevance and sufficiency of Scripture.

Facing Up To Christianity's Great Contemporary Problem

Christians today are under intense pressure to deny the uniqueness and supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many in the Visible Church have succumbed to the pressure to deny His uniqueness and supremacy, to adopt 'political correctness', to be tolerant and inoffensive. This blunts the message of the Gospel and wears down the messenger.

Oxygen 2014 proved to be a great forum for enabling Christian leaders to keep on encouraging one another in conviction and courage, increase our zeal for the glory of God, love for the Lord Jesus Christ and desire to save souls.



Phillip Chang, Minister, Caulfield-Elwood Presbyterian Church: *'When a friend of mine shared how the first Oxygen Ministry Conference in Sydney went, I just prayed to the Lord that I would not miss the next one.'*

With another friend's advice and Session's strong support, I found myself in the middle of countless workers of the Lord from everywhere, who also needed reviving.'

I thank God for pouring out His grace throughout the whole conference and giving me the assurance that this coming year will be a greater year because Jesus will still be faithful. He will not let us go because He has not just saved us, but He holds us firmly in His hand for His glory.'

Perhaps you might pray for the next one. Why not? I am sure it will fuel your passion for ministry.'

OXYGEN – FUELLING PASSION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY



Greg Fraser, Stanthorpe, Qld:
'I'm back because it was so good last time. Paul Tripp was refreshing as he spoke so clearly from his heart – having a pastor's heart is what it's all about. He's a terrific speaker, so well prepared that free of notes he can completely engage his audience.'

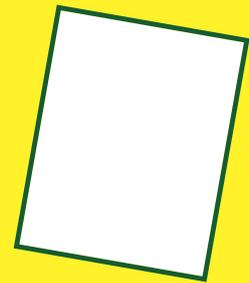
GETTING OFF TO A FLYING START

– With Francis Chan

FRANCIS Chan, dynamic founder of Eternity Bible College and Cornerstone Church in California, shared simple but vital insights from his own life and ministry:

Start Reading the Bible; **Start Talking** to your mates; **Start Bringing** them to church; **Start Calling** people in the Directory; **Start Learning** to talk about Jesus; **Start Feeling** you've got the power to share the Gospel; **Start Meeting** your neighbours; **Start Fulfilling** the Great Commission; **Start Getting** the Holy Spirit; **Start Relying** on the power of the Word to do its own work; **Start Crying** for the lost; **Start Praying** for them; **Start Living** a godly life; **Start Re-Reading** the Bible; **Start Loving** people sacrificially like Paul did in Romans 9; **Start Counting Heads** to see how many are really listening and responding; **Start Being Discontent** with the number being saved; **Start Living** your faith; **Start Understanding** the unbelieving mind; **Start Being Authentic** rather than hypocritical; **Start Examining Yourself** to see if you're part of the problem; **Start Seeing** the Suffering Church; **Start Setting Out Your Heart** before God; **Start Getting Out** of your comfort zone; **Start Hoping** in the faithful few of the rising generation.

So, to state the obvious, **Start Getting Back** to basics!



Daniel, from the Middle East: *'I've learnt a lot from the Leadership Elective – that it's not just what we know, but what we do; not just improving our strengths but understanding and using our weaknesses because if God is at work in us, our weakness is His strength.'*

MONSTER SALE!

20% OFF JULY & AUGUST 20% OFF
20% OFF all second-hand books & CDs at
New Life Books & Archaeology Inc.
(www.newlifebooks.info)

Park & Enter at Rear of 44 Dublin Road, Ringwood East.

MONSTER SALE!

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm;
Thursdays 9am-4pm

This Re-Cycling Bookshop is Organised and Staffed by
Volunteers as an Aid to Members of the Public
and to Christian Missions



Michael Lin, Executive, Business Advisor and Leadership Specialist; Board Member, AFES and KCC: *'Very challenging and encouraging for everyone. We've been encouraged to examine our heart, because leadership is more about the condition of our heart, which is more important than your experience and skill. Oxygen fuels my passion by letting me see lots of other pastors and how they're doing their ministry. It's also encouraging to hear from great pastors and how they deal with their own problems in life and ministry.'*



Russel Vander-velden, Maitland Presbyterian: *'Terrific, very refreshing, very encouraging, a breath of fresh air – it's Oxygen!'*

OXYGEN 2014 – Keeping The Fires Burning

SPURGEON knew that there was a two way street running between faith and the believer. In *The Treasury Of David* he wrote of the Psalmist, 'He is sure of his faith, and his faith makes him sure.' Likewise Peter, who knew that his Lord was praying for him that his faith would not fail (Luke 22.32) knew the importance of strengthening our faith when he wrote, 'Strive to make your calling and election sure' (2 Peter 1.10). One of the ways I try to do this is by attending conferences. The *Banner of Truth* conference, held in Australia every second year, and now *Oxygen*, which seems set to be held every third year, are two that I find particularly helpful. Both of them bear faithful testimony to the Scriptures, though *Oxygen* with its loud contemporary worship music tends to be like *Banner of Truth* on steroids. Oh well, 'as long as Christ is preached' – and He is.

The Great I AM

The overall focus of the conference was on the great 'I AM' sayings of Jesus. John Lennox said that Christianity is an evidence-based faith. John 20.21 is a piece of persuasive evangelism, affirming that John wrote his Gospel so that people will come to believe certain facts, supremely that Jesus is the Christ, and so have life in His Name. Christianity is not an illusion or delusion (to use Richard Dawkins' term). The signs and sayings in John's Gospel are evidences concerning who Jesus Christ is and what He has done. Lennox, himself a big man with a big mind, a big smile and a big heart, declared that Christianity is the biggest story ever told and challenged his hearers to see every other philosophy and religion pale into insignificance before it.

Practical Application And Help

Several streams could be followed in smaller groups. Paul Tripp led one of them and was asked about applying Biblical wisdom to loving 'difficult' people. He began by reminding us that 'difficult' people are part of the family, and like us, are saved by God's grace. Biblical ministry seeks to grow every person in the Gospel (Colossians 3.12-16), and 'difficulty' will most times involve both weakness and sin (1 Thessalonians 5.14).

So, how do we wisely grow 'difficult' people? First, we love them by engaging them in redemptive friendship. Then we get to know the 'difficult' person in order to grow them. We should try to speak to the good in them, the hard (weakness) and the ugly (sin) in them. Finally, we try to help the 'difficult' person to follow Jesus in a lifestyle of repentance and faith.

KCC – A Valuable Resource

Katoomba Christian Convention holds seven regular conventions: ENGAGE, equipping young workers; KATOOMBA EASTER CONVENTION, nurturing families; KYCK, inspiring youth; OXYGEN, refreshing Christian leaders; NEXTGEN, investing in tomorrow's leaders; MEN'S MINISTRY, strengthening men; WOMEN'S MINISTRY, encouraging women. Go to: www.kcc.org.au for more information.

– Bob Thomas with help from Phillip Chang



Craig Hooper, Anglican, Eaglevale: *'Oxygen's been encouraging. It has shown that following and serving Christ is worth it, and challenging. I've been particularly helped by Francis Chan urging us to be not just shepherds, but sheep ourselves, resting in the Lord and focussing on Christ absolutely.'*



Sami Gerges, Minister, Merrylands Presbyterian: *'Great speakers, relevant topics, in God's providence the teaching has been just what I needed. Every session was very relevant and to the point.'*

Martin Hawkins, Anglican Church Warden:

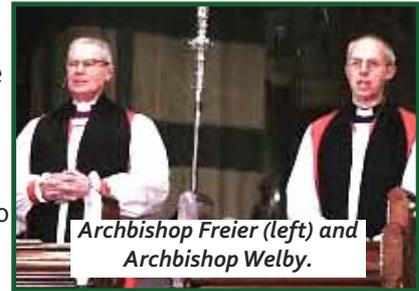
Good teaching, very challenging. I like the variety in the plenary speakers, with new speakers this time.



'THE WORLD'S GREAT HOPE ...'

Melbourne's Abp Becomes Primate

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Justin Welby, said on 13 August at the inauguration of Melbourne's Archbishop Philip Freier as Australia's 15th Anglican Primate that there was no greater hope for a war-torn, bitter and troubled world than a church abounding in holiness and wisdom. Archbishop Justin Welby, on his first visit to Australia, joined about 1,500 bishops, clergy and laypeople from across Australia and overseas at St Paul's Cathedral for Dr Freier's formal assumption of the primacy, to which he was elected in June in succession to Brisbane's Archbishop Phillip Aspinall.



Dr Freier is the third Archbishop of Melbourne to be Primate, the others being Sir Frank Woods in the 1970's and Dr Keith Rayner, who attended the ceremony, in the 1990's.

Archbishop Welby said in his sermon at the Choral Evening Prayer that a pure church was deeply engaged with everything and everyone around it, 'freed by its relationship with Christ to transform its society and make disciples'.

'Holiness and proclaiming the Gospel of salvation are entwined,' he said. 'There is no greater adventure than to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, and no greater means to that adventure than to be part of His church as it finds afresh His call, to be a church freed for purity and good deeds, abounding in the luxuriant and gracious wisdom from above. There is no greater hope for this war-torn, bitter and troubled world than a church abounding in holiness and wisdom.'

Archbishop Welby said that Christians always lived in a time of bad news and good news for the church. The bad news today is that the church, especially the traditional churches, are swimming against the cultural tide, as ever, but in new ways. 'We swim laden with our systems of governance, our assumptions of how we act, our sins of the past,' he said, 'and our associations in the public mind with what is often seen as nasty, bad, judgmental, condemning. That is in many places the reality of how we are perceived collectively in the secularised world.'

'Of course, at the local level, the picture is very different. Day by day through our churches, we visit the sick, comfort the bereaved, bury the dead, love the hungry, the poor, the outcast and the lost, seek and find forgiveness, pray and learn to love just a little better, educate, heal, challenge and serve. – Mark Brolly

Senior Pastor Required By Riverlife Community Church Permanent, Part-Time Position

The Maroochy North Shore and Bli Bli areas are located near the Coast in the Sunshine Coast Region, which is only an hour from Brisbane, Queensland.

We are seeking to employ a Senior Pastor, on a three day per week paid basis. The successful applicant will head a leadership team with a congregation seeking to grow both spiritually and in terms of overall size.

Over recent years the Church congregation has been successful in combining two former churches – Northshore Baptist Church and Bli Bli Community Baptist Church into one unified Church Family.

The successful applicant, whilst possessing a servant's heart, will be a strong leader who can build our church by showing love and understanding to the congregation and community.

Faithfulness will be demonstrated by pursuing spiritual growth and practising discernment, obedience, and stewardship.

The challenge of transforming the church will require motivation, an outward focus, whilst empowering others to be Disciples of Christ.

The successful applicant will become part of a small local church located in a key area of the Sunshine Coast.

Please contact: Robyn Chatfield, Robyn@riverlife.org.au

Brendan Henry, brendan@riverlife.org.au

Applications must be received by 1 September 2014.

VIEWPOINT

Report Signals The Way Forward On Gambling Reform

THIRTY months after the President of the NSW Council of Churches called on the O'Farrell Government to investigate the social impact of the gambling industry in NSW, a Legislative Council Inquiry (headed by the Hon Rev Fred Nile) has tabled its report on the matter.

'We welcome the release of this significant report as an opportunity for the State Government to take a lead and shift the focus of gambling from revenue raising to harm prevention in line with community expectations,' Council President the Rev Dr Ross Clifford said.

The report contains 18 recommendations on issues including the regulation of electronic gaming machines, state-wide third-party initiated exclusions from gambling venues, gambling awareness campaigns, referring problem gamblers to appropriate treatment services, and increasing industry responsibility in preventing problem gambling.

Gambling research plays a fundamental role in problem gambling prevention and treatment. The report made two recommendations to secure ongoing funding for gambling research since the national gambling research agency had lost its funding beyond mid-2014. Dr Clifford said he was pleased former Premier Barry O'Farrell had established the wide-ranging inquiry, and expressed hope that Premier Mike Baird would adopt all recommendations in the interests of public health.

Anglican Primate Appeals For Support For Persecuted Christians In Northern Iraq

THE Primate of Australia, the Most Rev Dr Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne, has launched an appeal to help Christians and other minority groups in Iraq affected by the brutal advance of ISIS militants. Archbishop Freier said: 'I have launched an appeal through Anglican Overseas Aid to help provide succour and relief for those fleeing the ISIS fighters. It is reported that more than 1.2 million people have been forced to flee, plus another 200,000 Syrians who have sought refuge in Northern Iraq. More than 200,000 people have been displaced in the past fortnight, including all the residents of Iraq's largest Christian town Qaraqosh and a large number of the Yazidi minority group. Aid agencies cannot cope with the influx, and the suffering is immense. The refugees need food, water, clothes, medical supplies and much more. I ask Anglicans and others to give sacrificially.'

Echoing Archbishop Freier's thoughts, Archbishop Welby said: 'Ever since the war to end all wars ended in 1918, humankind have been saying "never again", then we wring our hands as genocide unfolds in some distant corner. But what is happening right now in Northern Iraq is off the scale of human horror. In a globalised world where even distant nations are our "neighbour", we cannot allow these atrocities to be unleashed with impunity. And while the behaviour of the ISIS jihadis in Syria and northern Iraq is particularly savage, it is also part of rising and increasingly serious persecution of Christians in many countries. The struggle being faced is one for a world that can cope with diversity, and disagree without destruction. ISIS, Boko Haram and their equivalents seek only destruction for their own ends. The international community must document the human rights abuses in northern Iraq so that the perpetrators can later be prosecuted.'

HOME TO RENT

3-bed home in Heathmont. New carpets. Gas heating. Recent paint. Double carport. Backyard. Close transport. \$350 per week includes water. Ph: Kathy 0425 705 241.

'As Anglican leaders, we cry to God for peace and justice and security throughout the world, and especially for Christians and other minority groups suffering so deeply in Northern Iraq.'

– <http://www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au/>

Who Can
YOU
Forward
New Life
To?

Prestige Pianos & Organs

35
YEARS
Since 1973

102 Bell Street, Preston, Victoria 3072 (MELWAY REF 31 B2)

- The largest range of new and reconditioned pianos, organs, keyboards and digital pianos
- The best advice in selecting your next instrument

Phone: (03) 9480 6777

www.prestigepianos.com.au



GETTING THE WORD AROUND ...

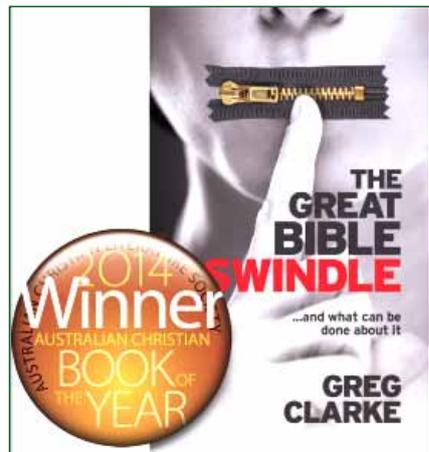
Book Of The Year Goes To Bible Society CEO

SPARKLIT's annual Book Of The Year Awards were made at a gala evening at St Alfred's Anglican Church, Blackburn North, Vic, on 14 August. First prize was awarded to Greg Clarke, CEO of the Bible Society, for his book *The Great Bible Swindle*, a concise, persuasive and friendly appeal to read the Bible. Second prize went to *In God They Trust* by journalist Roy Williams, detailing the faith of Australian Prime Ministers, and third prize went to veteran broadcaster and writer Kel Richards for his book *C.S. Lewis And The Body In The Basement*.

Apart from the awards, the highlight of the evening was the keynote address by Simon Smart, Director of the Centre For Public Christianity, a Christian media company promoting public understanding of the Christian faith (publicchristianity.org).

Simon said that in the contemporary world when so many challenges to the faith are gathering strength, we can no longer assume that we have shared foundations with other worldviews, so we need to publish good Christian books more and more to inform a world in which people know less and less about the Christian faith.

This is not a situation in which we should despair, but should rather be excited by the challenge. The Christian story still speaks into the deepest longings of the human heart – longings for significance, justice, home, hope – and the Christian story still remains good news. So Christian writing needs to have authenticity, honesty, realism and deep truth. It should be so good that it cannot be ignored – just like the prize-winners in the Book Of The Year Awards.



SEEN ON FACEBOOK



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?

COMING TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA?

Come to Scots Church, Fremantle,

90 South Terrace

(next to Fremantle Markets)

Reformed and Evangelical

10am and 5pm Sundays

12:30 pm Wednesday Lunch Time

Worship

Also at Southern River,

Bletchley Park Primary School,

Balfour Road

9am Sunday

Rev Stuart Bonnington

08 9398 1304

melbonn@bigpond.com



www.designministries.com.au

HOME AND ABROAD

ACL Welcomes Announcement Of 4000 Iraqi And Syrian Refugees – Hopes For More

THE Australian Christian Lobby has welcomed the Australian Government's announcement that it will offer asylum to 4,000 people from the crisis in Syria and Iraq. 'The Government is responding with compassion in the midst of unspeakable barbarity,' ACL Managing Director Lyle Shelton said. Mr Shelton noted that the 4,000 places were within the current 13,700 annual humanitarian intake and hoped the Government would continue to monitor the situation and assess Australia's capacity to do more.

'Sadly this crisis does not look like ending anytime soon. I am sure the government will keep the humanitarian situation under review,' Mr Shelton said. 'We are a generous nation and while 13,700 refugees is high on a per capita basis by world standards, this only scratches the surface of the need.'

Hundreds of thousands of Christians and other religious minorities have been driven from their homes by terrorist Islamic State fighters in Syria and Iraq. 'We are living in extraordinary times, and extraordinary generosity will be required before this crisis is resolved,' Mr Shelton said.

ACL two weeks ago set up an online petition at refugees.acl.org.au calling on the government to increase the humanitarian intake to assist those being persecuted. So far, more than 17,000 people have signed. 'Australian Christians have expressed a strong desire to see our nation do more,' Mr Shelton said.



Gerald Vanderwert, Donvale, Vic: 'I'm encouraged by the passion in presenting Biblical exegesis. Oxygen is a real blessing and gives incentive to keep going in ministry. It's always good to turn aside for a while and be fed yourself, so that you're not always giving out, but can be on the receiving end for a change. John Lennox has been just fantastic – he's such an insightful man who's certainly got a hold of his subject.'

More About Oxygen 2014 ...



Peter Greiner, Hopper's Crossing, Vic: 'Oxygen's been greatly encouraging, challenging us by enabling us to compare ourselves to others, but knowing God has made us the way we are. I've been challenged to get right with God first, then to go on to make disciples. I can see the need to prepare my people to do more themselves instead of taking all the responsibilities myself.'

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

Going on-line has breathed new life into *New Life*.
Being able to send it free on request by email has opened
our ministry up to everyone, everywhere, who wants to receive it.

BUT We **DO** have expenses **AND**

The generous donations of members of the *New Life* family
DO make the difference between the red ink and the black!

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION:

By Cheque To: New Life, PO Box 457, Mitcham 3132 Vic.

By Direct Deposit To: Account Name: New Life Australia Ltd.

Bank: Westpac. BSB: 033-112. Account Number: 16-8239.

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

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

PERSECUTION WATCH

Voice Of The Martyrs Call For Prayer

NEPAL: Pray For Jaya, Attacked For Evangelising

A CHRISTIAN woman in western Nepal was attacked recently for spreading her 'foreign' religion. 'Jaya,' an evangelist who has led 32 people to Christ in the past two years, was beaten by nearly 20 Hindu women and then kicked out of her village.

- Ask the Lord to fully heal Jaya both physically and emotionally; ask Him to remove all fear from her mind and give her the ability to love and forgive her persecutors.
- Thank the Lord for Jaya's faithfulness and obedience; pray that He will strengthen the faith of the believers she has led to Christ.
- Ask the Lord to pour out His mercy on the perpetrators so they too may come to repent and believe.

UKRAINE: Four FEBC Volunteers Martyred

FOUR young Far East Broadcasting Company volunteers, who were recently captured by pro-Russian separatists in Eastern Ukraine, were brutally beaten to death simply for being Christians. Two were brothers; one leaves behind eight children.

- Please pray for all those who serve the Lord in Russia and Ukraine. Ask the Lord to comfort the families, friends and colleague of those who were lost.
- Ask the Lord to use and direct the ministries of FEBC and others spreading the Gospel in Russia and Ukraine.
- Pray for an end to the violence and unrest in the region.

CAMEROON: Pastor Abducted And Killed

ON Thursday afternoon, 24 July, Boko Haram launched a massive attack targeting Cameroonian military positions at Bargaram (close to the Nigerian border).

- Please pray that Pastor Jean's loved ones will know the comforting presence of the Lord. Ask Him to be their strength as well as their protector and provider.
- Ask the Lord to bring an end to the violence and terror perpetrated by Boko Haram by frustrating their plans (Psalm 146.9).
- Ask the Lord to shield, protect and deliver vulnerable Christian communities in the area (Psalm 34.7).

– info@vom.com.au

NEPAL: Religious Freedom On The Line

RELIGIOUS freedom is at stake in Nepal as political leaders feel pressure to add anti-conversion laws to the constitution. It shouldn't be a surprise that India is pushing Nepal to make the change, says Patrick Klein, with Vision Beyond Borders. 'India's very, very influential in Nepal's politics,' Klein explains. 'This radical Hindu group that's mostly based down in India, are trying to push these anti-conversion laws because the Church [is] growing very fast in Nepal. People are seeing that Hinduism does not work and is not the Truth.' On his website, Christian researcher Russ Mitchell identifies Nepal and China as the places where Christianity is growing the fastest. He uses information gathered from a 2013 report published by The Centre For The Study Of Global Christianity.

– *Katey Hearth, MNN*

CHINA: Rights Lawyer Gao Zhisheng Unable To Access Medical Care

CHINESE human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, who was released from prison on 7 August, is suffering from a 'broad range of physical and mental health problems' but has not been able to see a doctor since his release, according to his international lawyer. Gao Zhisheng is a prominent Christian human rights lawyer best known for his work defending persecuted social groups, including Christians. In December 2006, he was sentenced to three years in prison with a probation period of five years, on the charge of 'inciting to subvert the state power.' During his probation he was forcibly disappeared and severely tortured in detention. In April 2010, Gao disappeared again, and on 16 December 2011, the Chinese news agency Xinhua reported that Gao had vio-

lated the terms of his probation and had been returned to prison for three years. Since his release from prison, Gao has been staying with family in Xinjiang, but is under heavy surveillance. Although contact with his wife, Geng He, and others has been limited, some details about his time in prison are beginning to emerge.

– www.csw.org.uk

KENYA: Somali Widow At Risk For Refusing To Recant Her Faith

A SOMALI Christian widow has been attacked and issued with death threats by Islamist extremists in Kenya who insist she send her children to a Muslim school. Hadiya (name withheld) was strangled, beaten and stabbed in the foot when a gang of eight Somalis, some women, broke into her house last month. Since she reported the attack to the police and has refused to drop the case, extremists are plotting to kill her, according to community members. Her attackers are reportedly angered by her refusal to send her six school-age children to a madrasa and to dress them according to the Islamic dress code. When police arrested three suspects after the attack on Hadiya, Muslim elders posted bail for their release, then warned Hadiya to drop the case or risk her life. Hadiya fled Somalia more than a decade ago after her first husband died.

Persecution inside Kenya forced her second husband to recant his Christian faith and return to Somalia. She has already had to move home within Kenya once before, after fellow Somalis beat two of her sons unconscious as 'apostates' in separate attacks in Nairobi in 2011.

– *Morning Star News*

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ...



Public Muslim-Christian Discussion: 'Is Muhammad The Prophet In The Bible?'

MUSLIMS claim that their prophet Muhammad is mentioned in the Bible. At a meeting at Tottenham mosque in May, attended by about 400 Muslims and six Christians, this claim was put forward to show that Islam has superseded Christianity, and so all Christians should embrace Islam. The Muslim speaker refused an immediate challenge from Dr Bernie Power, Christian lecturer in Islamic Studies at the Melbourne School of Theology, to publicly discuss this claim. However another Muslim speaker, Diaan Mohamed, from Sydney has agreed to address this topic, with a Christian reply from Dr Power. This event will be held on Thursday 18 Sept from 7.30pm at the Melbourne City Conference Centre, 333 Swanston St, beside Melbourne Central, opposite the State Library. Tickets at \$5 for adults and \$3 for concession can be bought online at www.trybooking.com using the code 'FPIT', or they can be purchased at the door on the night at MCCC for \$10 adult or \$5 concession.

Diiaan Mohamed is the founder of MyPeace, an organisation which aims to bring understanding between Muslims and Christians. He gained attention in Sydney in 2010 with his large billboards proclaiming: 'Jesus: A Prophet Of Islam'. 'Muslim attempts to

demote Jesus to a mere prophet of Islam, inferior to Muhammad, who they claim to be the greatest human who has ever lived, must be challenged from a Christian perspective,' says Bernie Power. 'But I think this disagreement can be expressed in an atmosphere of respect and honesty. That is our hope and aim. I hope that the Christian community will support this event, and bring along their Muslim friends.' For any enquiries, contact Bernie Power on 0449 768 932.

New Christian Radio Station In The West

VISION came to Yealering, an agricultural service town in the Wheatbelt of WA, on Monday 11 August. Yealering, about 220 km from Perth, is located beside a lake of the same name. While the town's population is small (about 180), it services a large district in the northern Wickiepin Shire. In addition, the Uniting Church runs a large annual gathering PNEUMA (Pastoral Network of Evangelicals Uniting in Mission Action) at Lake Yealering that will benefit from the station's presence in the area. This is Vision's 135th station in WA and 597th installation nationwide. It has taken five years to bring Vision to the town, involving several prominent WA supporters along the way. Vision Yealering 88.0 FM is a 10 watt service running on solar power, making it quite an unusual transmission set-up. —Anne Hamilton

FROM ALL QUARTERS ...

Veteran Children's Evangelist Called Home

Owen Shelley, who spent more than 30 years as children's missionary with Scripture Union, died of heart failure aged 87 on 2 August. Mr Shelley was well known to generations of Christians in Sydney and NSW for his talks and story telling at church services, outreach events and beach missions.

Describing his father as 'a pioneer in using the technology of the day (overhead projectors) to share the good news of Jesus to thousands of children throughout NSW', Stephen Shelley said he had been working with his father to create ministry resources suitable for use in the new digital age. 'He was still working on our latest project, updating *The A To Z Of Ministry With Children*, the night before he died. I shall finish this project now that he is gone. I started Shelley and Son so that his skills, knowledge and insight in children's ministry would not be lost. I am so glad that we were able to produce so much while we still had time. He was commenting the night before he died on how fortunate he has been that he has never lost any of his children. We have now lost him but are comforted by the knowledge that he is with his Lord'.

The Rev Simon Flinders, Chair of Scripture Union in NSW, described Mr Shelley as a 'Scripture Union legend. No-one in our movement's history has done more to dignify ministry to children than Owen. His zeal for the Gospel, and his creativity in telling it, have together been an inspiration and a model for many. He was energetic and enthusiastic to the last and we will miss him keenly. But we give great thanks to God for the life and service of our brother,' Mr Flinders said.

Owen Shelley's ministry resources are collected at Shelley and Sons website. Stephen Shelley is collecting stories and material about the impact of his father's ministry at: shelleyandson@hotmail.com



Ballarat Christian Convention

THE inaugural Ballarat Christian Convention will be held in October 2014. The keynote speaker will be Rev Darren Middleton speaking on the theme: *Our Sola Powered Salvation*. Support speakers will be Rev Nello Barbieri, speaking on the *METRO Program* and *The Importance Of Ministry To Men*, and Mrs Narelle Barbieri speaking on *The Importance Of Ministry To Women*. Meetings will be held from 5:30pm on Friday 24 October through to 12pm on

Sunday 26 October. Early bird registrations close on Friday 12 September. The cost will be less than \$100, which will include suppers, morning and afternoon teas and lunch.

The location will be at Ballarat South Presbyterian Church (Ebenezer St Johns), 212 Armstrong St, South Ballarat.

For further enquiries and registration go to: office@ebenezerpc.org.au or call 03 5331 3708, 0416 073 609.

96threeFM

Today's Christian Music, Inspiring Talk
www.96three.com.au
Phone: 03 5241 6550
Email: listen@96three.com.au

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

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

VISITING MELBOURNE?

You're welcome at *The Faith Factory*:

ST KILDA: Cnr Alma Rd/Barkly St. Every Sunday 11am & 7pm;
Living Stones Korean Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday 12.30pm;
BALACLAVA: Cnr Hotham St/Denman Rd. Every Sunday 9.30am.

MINISTER: Rev Bob Thomas 0417 592 646

You're Welcome At The Faith Factory
- A Friendly, Caring, Bible-Believing Christian Fellowship -



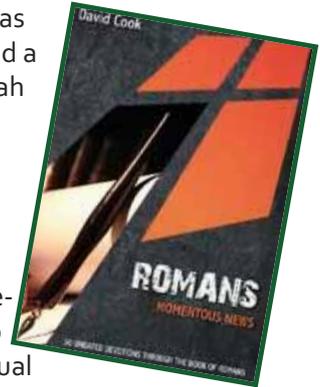
God Has Not Abandoned His People – Read Romans 11.1-10**FOR REFLECTION:**

What do you think about God's ongoing purpose for the Jews?

Should we be especially supportive of evangelism among Jews? Why / why not?

PAUL himself is an example of the fact that God has not abandoned Israel (v1). God has always reserved a remnant who will never be abandoned – Paul, Elijah and the 7,000 are examples of that (v4) – so at the present time, Paul says there is a small remnant within Israel (v6). The remnant is chosen by grace, not by merit (v5-6).

Israel's resistance and blindness is anticipated. God gave them this spirit, this insensitivity to revelation; this is God's judgment upon their refusal to heed the Gospel (v8). The darkening of their spiritual eyes (v9-10) has overtaken them all, except for the remnant.



Paul shows, by quoting Deuteronomy 29 and Psalm 69 (v8-10), that this is the verdict of Scripture, that God superintends all this activity. But what is His purpose in all this? Is this hardening permanent? No (v11). Charles Hodge says, 'The rejection of the Jews is not total, neither is it final'. In the book of Acts we see this pattern repeatedly: the Gospel comes to the Jew first, upon their rejection it goes to the Gentiles, who accept it, and so Israel becomes envious of the Gentile blessing (v11). Paul therefore makes much of his ministry to the Gentiles for this is a means of arousing Israel to envy, bringing her to her senses (v13-14). In the economy of God, Israel's stumbling is the means of so many Gentiles coming to Christ.

In verse 16 Paul uses two metaphors: dough in baking, and the root and branch of a tree. The principle is that if one part is holy then the whole of the bake run and the tree is holy. Therefore, if the first fruit or root is the Lord's then the rest is His as well; if the Patriarchs are God's then those who follow them, elect Israel and elect Gentiles, are His as well; if Paul and his fellow Jewish believers are the Lord's, then all who follow them with faith in Christ are the Lord's as well.

These are difficult verses. However, we can see that God has a plan and He is working it out. He is the great superintending evangelist, working to the salvation indicated in verse 26. Trusting Him does not lead us to inactivity but rather, to the activity indicated in Romans 1.14-16.

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

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

**You Can Advertise Here.
Call Mignon, 0434 313 646.**

Pakenham (Vic) Baptist Church

is seeking a part-time Associate Pastor (three days per week).

We are a family-focused, Christ-centred Church established within a diverse and expanding community.

Applications close: 31 October 2014.

For full position description go to:

www.pakenhambaptistchurch.org

Email your cover letter and resume to:

psc.tracey@gmail.com

To Look Up Back Issues Of *New Life* Right Back To August 2007

Go To: www.nlife.com.au

And Click On: **Previous Issues**

Bound Volumes Back To Vol 1, No 1

Are Held In

The Library Of MST,

5 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna 3152

BOOKS WORTH READING

SELECTED WRITINGS OF BENJAMIN MORGAN PALMER, Selected by Caleb Cangelosi, Edited by C.N. Willborn, Edinburgh: Banner Of Truth Trust, 2014. ISBN 978-0-85151-552-9

AS one who a number of years ago greatly enjoyed and benefitted from reading the biography of Benjamin M. Palmer (also published by Banner), it is a great treat now to be able to read this selection of his popular writings, originally written for the *Southwestern Presbyterian* (1869-70). Palmer's is the kind of writing that does not quickly date, for it is at once devotional, expository and practical.

A brief eight-page survey of his life and character is provided to introduce the author to those who do not yet know him. Palmer was a pre-eminent preacher and diligent pastor for 46 years in New Orleans. He was loved and respected by people of all creeds and none in that city, because of his wide affection and love for all types of people. As was said about him at the time, 'he got the heart as well as the ear of New Orleans'.

The opening chapter, *Never Too Late*, tells the story of a young man's death-bed conversion, an account that would give hope to all believing parents of a yet-to-be-converted son or daughter. This story is the first of 13 *Leaves From The Pastor's Portfolio*. Another is about the glorious conversion of a confirmed drunkard. Each chapter is an example of Christ's ability to change lives and save souls. He tells the touching story of a widow's loss and the long process of her coming to that point of being able to say 'Thy will be done'. Palmer helps another seeker to find assurance of salvation.

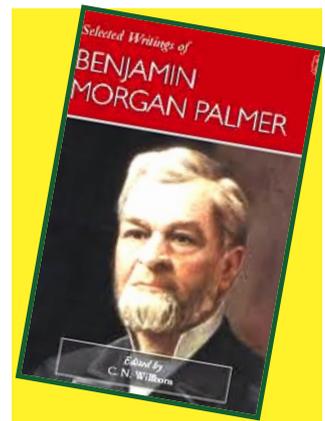
In these accounts, Palmer shows himself to be a skilled physician of souls and wise religious advisor. The accounts are full of encouragement to struggling Christians and replete with insights for those who seek to minister to the distressed and despairing. Various pastoral pitfalls and dilemmas are also helpfully explored, drawing on Palmer's own experience in pastoral ministry. For example, he warns of the danger of too readily dispensing the sacraments to the dying, and he testifies of the ability of the Doctrines of Grace to break and change hearts.

In five articles, Palmer gives his thoughts on foreign missions, insisting on the ultimate triumph of the Gospel in this world. He answers (from the Bible) those who would downplay the importance of mission, for the unconverted cannot be saved without the agency of the Gospel. As he rightly points out, to deny that truth is to call into question the whole rationale and need for the work of Christ in suffering and dying.

Next, he expounds the *Beatitudes*, interpreting them as a survey of the course of Christian conversion and sanctification, though he resists the temptation to insist on a wooden and unvarying pattern to every believer's experience. Then, Palmer deals with *Four Christian Paradoxes*, for example, our sorrowful admission of guilt before God goes with the joy of assurance of forgiveness; the believer renounces the world yet often finds more enjoyment in life's simple pleasures than do other people; the Christian glories in tribulations.

Why are the writings of Benjamin Palmer still so powerful and pertinent? The clue is provided in the *Afterword*, written by Richard D. Phillips, who says, 'Palmer is a shining example of a servant of Christ who conquered through faith over great hardships and crushing disappointments in life'. Like the great Apostle Paul, he comforted others with the comfort that he himself had received from God.

– Greg Goswell



'In these accounts, Palmer shows himself to be a skilled physician of souls and wise religious advisor.

The accounts are full of encouragement to struggling Christians and replete with insights for those who seek to minister to the distressed and despairing.

Various pastoral pitfalls and dilemmas are also helpfully explored, drawing on Palmer's own experience in pastoral ministry.

BOOKS WORTH READING

THEOLOGICAL MEDITATIONS ON THE GOSPEL, Jason Harris, InFocus, Earlville, Qld, 2012. ISBN 978-1475142280.

AS we transition in our walk with the Lord from 'milk' to 'meat', we start to grapple with new words entering our vocabulary. Words like 'atonement', 'propitiation', 'imputation', 'justification', 'regeneration'. We might hear these words being thrown around and long to be able to join in the conversation, but we scarcely know what they mean. We suspect they mean something wonderful, but they're just a little beyond our ability to define and grasp. We might begin reading books which expound the Bible, define its terms, apply it to our faith and life. The likes of Jim Packer and John Murray might be the ones who make most sense for us, but perhaps we'd like to start at the beginning and work our way up.

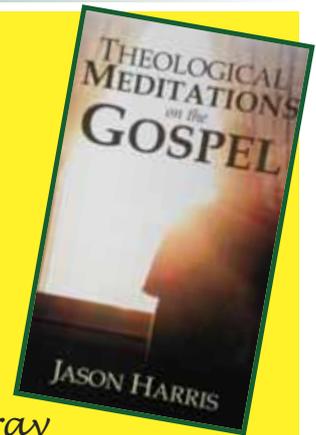
Enter Jason Harris. Jason's prayer in writing *Theological Meditations On The Gospel* is that his brief book 'will make the theology of the Gospel more accessible to ordinary believers and so fan the flame of their joy in God through His Gospel.' And he succeeds.

From his arresting first sentence to the last, just 30 pages later, his use of apt illustration, relevant Scriptures, snippets of hymns and quotable quotes join with his own narrative to inform us about these buzz-words of our Christian faith.

This is a valuable little book which can be used for individual or group study and can confidently be shared with anyone who is confused about the nature of God's saving work.

Theological Meditations On The Gospel is available from Amazon.com or jason@teaminfocus.com.au

Footnote: InFocus is an Australian group blog whose purpose is to develop the 'Blogsphere', to cultivate serious and useful discussion, and to develop a generation of readers, thinkers and theologians. Their articles and resources can be accessed at: www.teaminfocus.com.au - Bob Thomas



'I pray that this book will make the theology of the Gospel more accessible to ordinary believers and so fan the flame of their joy in God through His Gospel.'

- Jason Harris

**New Life
Website:
www.nlife.com.au**

I Have No King But Jesus – Hymns For Easy Listening

PIANIST Andy Vance of Blackburn, Vic, has released his seventh album of hymn tunes and original compositions played in a variety of contemporary jazz styles and moods.

Andy is a professional Christian Jazz Pianist who worships at New Hope Baptist Church in Blackburn North. The CD would be excellent to use as background music at dinner parties and the like.

Enquiries to: andy@andyvancemusic.com Phone: 0448 045 543.



GET MORE OUT OF NEW LIFE

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

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

Web and email addresses are printed in bold blue type.

You only have to position your cursor over the link, eg: editor@nlife.com.au ; www.nlife.com.au then click and you will be taken directly to that site.

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

**Would You Like
To Hear
Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones?
Go To:
www.nlife.com.au
Click on:
'Downloads & Resources'
Scroll Down To:
'Other Resources'
Enjoy!**

(Courtesy Rev Iain Murray)