

Dr Kent Brantly Recovers From Ebola: 'Thrilled To Be Alive'

DR KENT Brantly has recovered from contracting the Ebola virus, and has issued this statement: 'Today is a miraculous day. I am thrilled to be alive, well and reunited with my family. As a medical missionary, I never imagined myself in this position. When my family and I moved to Liberia last October to begin a two-year term working with Samaritan's Purse, Ebola was not on the radar. We moved to Liberia because God called us to serve the people of Liberia.

'In March we began preparing for the worst. We didn't receive our first Ebola patient until June, but when she arrived, we were ready. During the course of June and July, the number of Ebola patients increased steadily, and our amazing crew at ELWA Hospital took care of each patient with great care and compassion. We also took every precaution to protect ourselves from this dreaded disease by following MSF and WHO guidelines for safety.

'On Wednesday 23 July I woke up feeling under the weather, and then I was diagnosed with Ebola Virus Disease. As I lay in my bed in Liberia for the following nine days, getting sicker and weaker each day, I prayed that God would help me to be faithful even in my illness, and I prayed that in my life or in my death, He would be glorified.

'I did not know then that there were thousands, maybe even millions of people around the world praying for me throughout that week, and still today. I cannot thank you enough for your prayers and your support. But what I can tell you is that I serve a faithful God who answers prayers.



JOURNALIST MURDERED BY ISIS WAS 'A MAN OF FAITH'

ACCORDING to a Crosswalk.com article, James Foley, the journalist brutally beheaded by an ISIS terrorist, was a 'man of faith in God', as described by his friends and family. (Photo via Crosswalk.com).



Foley was reportedly kidnapped in Syria back in 2012, and prior to that had been captured in Libya the year before. In the report, Foley's mother said, 'We thank God for the gift of Jim. We are so, so proud of him.'

His father added, 'It's not difficult to find solace in this point in time ... We know he is in God's hands, and we know he's done God's work. We need the courage and prayers now to continue without him.'

Foley once wrote a letter to his alma mater, Marquette University, during the time he was held in Libya. In it, he wrote about his and his fellow captives' prayer life, noting that they would pray 'together out loud. It felt energizing to speak our weaknesses and hopes together, as if in a conversation with God.'

— Aimee Herd

Can YOU Help?

TOM Treseder, Founder and President of MegaVoice International, writes:

'Thank you for another splendid edition of *New Life* (NL 2014-08-15).

I am sending it immediately to Canon Andrew White who is the Vicar of the Anglican Church in Baghdad and a personal friend.

We desperately need to send him a further 1000 MegaVoice audio Bibles.'

If you can help, contact Tom by phone/fax: (61 2) 9713 5910 or email: tomtreseder@megavoice.com or go to: www.megavoice.com

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Hundreds Of Muslims Expected To Attend Christian-Muslim Discussion

A MEETING in Melbourne hopes to attract hundreds of Muslims and an equal number of Christians. On 18 September Dr Bernie Power, Christian lecturer in Islamic Studies at the Melbourne School of Theology, and Diaa Mohamed, a Muslim speaker from Sydney, will address the topic: 'Is Muhammad the Prophet in the Bible?' Invitations are being sent out to the 55 mosques and Muslim organisations in Melbourne. Last year's meeting attracted about 150 Muslims and the same number of Christians.

'This meeting will give us a good opportunity to analyse the claims that Muslims make about their prophet Muhammad as well as outline the teaching of the Bible. From a Christian perspective, the Bible clearly prophesies about and describes the coming of Jesus Christ, not Muhammad. It will be interesting to see the arguments that Diaa Mohamed proposes,' says Power.

This will be the sixth Muslim-Christian public discussion he has taken part in. 'They have been carried out in an atmosphere of peacefulness and respect, but the different views of both sides have been plainly and firmly presented. This is a wonderful opportunity for Christians to come and meet Muslims and to discuss issues of deep spiritual significance.

Diaa Mohamed, the founder of MyPeace, an organisation in Sydney that promotes Islam, has said: 'I am looking forward to this event.' The event is also supported by the City Bible Forum.

This public discussion will be held on Thursday 18 September from 7.30pm at the Melbourne City Conference Centre, 333 Swanston St, beside Melbourne Central, opposite the State Library. A presentation and response from each speaker will be followed by a public Question and Answer session.

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.

For any enquiries, contact Bernie Power on 0449 768 932.

Help Release Children From Poverty Through Compassion Sunday

SINCE 2011, Compassion Australia has seen almost 1800 children sponsored through the annual event, where passionate supporters share their journeys as sponsors and the difference child sponsorship makes to those living in poverty.

Compassion Australia engages with churches around the country who share Compassion's mission to respond to God's call to serve the poor and share the Gospel.

To find out how you can host a Compassion Sunday in your church, visit www.compassionsunday.com.au

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

UKRAINE: Praying For A Breakthrough

INDEPENDENT from Russia only since 1991, Ukraine is not a monolithic state. Rather, it is an ethnic-religious 'fault-line' state. The north-west is predominantly ethnic Ukrainian, Ukrainian-speaking and Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic. The south-east is predominantly ethnic Russian, Russian-speaking and Russian Orthodox. The divide is reflected in voting patterns, making Ukrainian unity extremely fragile, something to be handled with great care. When Ukraine held elections in 2010, opinion polls predicted that Viktor Yanukovich would win – and he did, convincingly. In the parliamentary elections of 2012, Yanukovich's Party of Regions won 185 of 450 seats, 84 seats clear of its next rival. As party leader, Mykola Azarov became Prime Minister. The Ukrainian ultra-nationalists and neo-Nazis won 37 seats in the parliament (almost 10% of the vote), having won none in the previous election. These groups are vehemently anti-Semitic and anti-Russian.

In November 2013 opposition forces protested in Kiev, unhappy that Yanukovich had signed a trade pact with Russia rather than the EU. Actually the deal being offered by oil and gas-rich Russia was much better than the deal being proposed by the cash-strapped, pro-austerity EU. In a democracy, protests are permitted with the expectation that they will be civilised. In Kiev, however, a coalition of anti-government, ultra-nationalist and neo-Nazi forces, including numerous neo-Nazi paramilitaries united under the umbrella of the Right Sector, joined the protest, strengthening it and putting it on a dangerous course. Anti-Semitism soared to the extent that Israel was forced to airlift Jews out of Ukraine. As Kiev started to resemble a war zone, the EU (led by Germany) and the US entered the fray, backing regime change. Eventually, Yanukovich fled to Russia and the US installed its man, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, as Prime Minister.

An interim government was formed that ensured the neo-Nazis and Right Sector militants, who had made regime change possible, were rewarded. In their first act of legislation, the new regime voted to repeal the law that recognised Russian as an official language in Ukraine. Only when the EU objected did interim president Oleksandr Turchynov reverse the ruling. It is unsurprising that eastern Ukraine's ethnic Russians felt disenfranchised and threatened and that predominantly Russian eastern regions subsequently voted to secede. Rather than dialogue, Kiev opted for a punitive military campaign under the implausible pretext of 'anti-terror'. This campaign is taking on all the characteristics of ethnic cleansing. Western silence seems to indicate that ethnic cleansing is permissible when the victims are ethnic Russians. (That looks like racism to me – EK).

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees reported on 5 August 2014 that Ukraine now has 117,000 internally displaced people, with eastern Ukrainians making up 87% of the country's IDPs. The number of displaced people from the Luhansk and Donetsk eastern regions has risen sharply from 2,600 in early June to 102,600 at the start of August and more than 6,200 civilians were forced from their homes in the first week of August. The UNHCR has complained to Kiev about lack of co-ordinated relief efforts and the paucity of shelter, especially with winter approaching. Furthermore, the UNHCR reports that masses of Ukrainians are fleeing to Russia under the visa-free regime; Russian authorities estimate the figure to be some 730,000 Ukrainians. Jews are leaving for Israel. These refugees are fleeing endless shelling and the advance of neo-Nazi Right Sector militants. According to Kiev's own figures 1,129 civilians had been killed in eastern Ukraine and 3,442 injured by 28 July.

Russia is pressing for an unconditional cease-fire and the start of political dialogue but Kiev is resisting. Russia has appealed to the US to use its influence with Kiev to get the Right Sector paramilitaries reined in and disarmed. Right Sector militants have been engaged in such unlawful actions in eastern Ukraine that Ukrainian police have been forced to arrest them. Right Sector head Dmitry Yarosh (the interim government's Deputy Secretary of National Security) responded on Saturday 16 August by slamming the police as 'anti-Ukrainian'. He threatened 'to call off all our units on the front line, start a general mobilisation of reserve battalions and launch a march on Kiev'. The next day Yarosh called off the march on Kiev when the authorities had agreed to release all Right Sector militants who had been detained.

Because the West has supported undemocratic regime change, ignored the rise of anti-Semitic and anti-Russian Ukrainian ultra-nationalism and is now tacitly supporting the ethnic cleansing of the eastern regions, it has made itself into an enemy. This puts all Protestants and evangelicals living and especially ministering in the eastern regions in serious danger as rebel fighters will assume they are aligned with the enemy. Recently four volunteers with Far East Broadcasting Company (Gospel radio) in eastern Ukraine were taken captive and savagely beaten to death, reportedly by militants from a separatist militia. Two of those killed were brothers and one was the father of eight children. FEBC's radio towers in eastern Ukraine have been crippled in the fighting and a partner church has been overrun by rebels. If ever Ukrainians needed to 'tune in' to the Gospel, it is now. So too the belligerent, self-interested foreign powers that are fanning the flames of this totally unnecessary conflict.

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

FROM ALL QUARTERS

Walk To Water For Northern Nigeria

CHURCHES and community groups across Australia are joining with Open Doors Australia to *Walk To Water* for Northern Nigeria on Saturday 13 September. Nigerian Christians are facing persecution because of their faith. Although the population of Nigeria is majority Christian, the situation has been difficult for believers particularly in Northern Nigeria for many years. Aside from kidnappings and other threats from extremist militants, many Christians in Northern Nigeria are being excluded from basic government services simply because of their faith in Jesus.

Many Christian communities are also denied other basic rights, like access to clean drinking water. Since *Walk To Water* began in 2009, Open Doors Australia and their supporters have raised \$450,000 to build dozens of boreholes in Nigerian communities, giving Christians access to clean, running water. Open Doors has also conducted training to help with the operation and maintenance of boreholes, and provided health training focusing on disease prevention as well as assisting in the rebuilding of a number of churches destroyed by militants in the Northern Nigeria region.

By taking part in *Walk To Water*, Australians can help give Christian communities in Nigeria the chance to grow and flourish. Please spread the word and help Open Doors Australia provide more deep-water boreholes to Christian communities in Nigeria. in 2014! For more information go to: walktowater.org.au

PLEASE PRAY FOR UKRAINE, THAT OUR ALMIGHTY GOD WILL:

- break through the darkness and speak peace into the chaos, so that an unconditional cease-fire will be brokered and the killing ended; may talks start and healing commence;
- impress on the consciences of local and foreign leaders the urgent need to trade ambitions and 'interests' for peace-making and healing so that Ukraine's real and deep-seated problems will be addressed peacefully in the interests of the people;
- raise up religious leaders gifted and empowered to advance reconciliation and unity in the Body of Christ; may the Church break through historic ethnic and denominational barriers to lead by example;
- magnify the voices of Christian leaders who are denouncing racial hatred and all manner of violence; may He supply FEBC and all other Gospel ministries with all their needs so they can speak grace and hope.

Banner Of Truth Launches e-Books

THE Banner of Truth is entering the sphere of the digital reader! A first ten volumes have been released as e-Books, combining a mix of classics with more modern treatments. Among the ancients you will find Bunyan, Owen, Spurgeon and Brown. More modern volumes include Edward Donnelly's outstanding *Peter: Eyewitness Of His Majesty* (the sections on Peter as a preacher and pastor make this an under-the-radar gem of pastoral theology), as well as books by Ian Hamilton and Garry Williams. Fans of *The Valley Of Vision* will be delighted to learn that this volume is also among the first tranche of offerings. All of these are available as mobi and epub files. Order options allow buyers to obtain hard copies and electronic versions in a single bundle – a nice touch for those of us who don't want to lose our 'real' books.

We are promised that further e-volumes will be rolling off the presses in fairly substantial chunks, so keep an eye on the catalogue. Banner ebooks to date can all be found at: www.banneroftruth.org here (or go here and browse ebooks).

– Jeremy Walker in reformation21 the online magazine of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals

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

TAKING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

Bible Translation Changing And Growing

BIBLE translation is changing. It's not just about translating the written Word anymore, but that's not a bad thing according to Bob Creson, President and CEO of Wycliffe Bible Translators USA. He shares why in this report:

'In the past, we would start translating maybe the Gospel of Mark, or the Gospel of Luke. Now, communities are saying, "We learn orally. Would you help us translate a set of stories that would start a project?" Creson states. Previously, Wycliffe would assign a team to translate the entire New Testament for a group of people who didn't have God's Word in their native tongue. 'It often took up to 20-25 years to translate a New Testament,' explains Creson.

Today, translation needs are driven by the local community. People groups are taking more ownership of translating Scripture into their own language. And they're working together to make it happen. Creson says, 'You might find five or six language communities working together to produce the materials that they want.' Why does it matter? 'We really believe within the next 10 or 15 years every community will have some opportunity to hear this Good News of the Gospel in a language and a form they understand,' says Creson.

Some people hear that and think, 'Well, good! The needs are all taken care of,' Creson notes. 'But that's not really true. There are still 1,800 communities who have no Bible translation projects started in their language. Will you join Wycliffe and be part of the "push" that gets the final translation projects started? Find ways to get involved here. We need teachers, we need administrators, we need IT people, we still need pilots,' he says. 'People can pray, and they can also give if they can't go.' For further information go to: <https://www.wycliffe.org/get-involved>



Wycliffe Pic

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Education Minister Gives Assurances On SRI

SOME 70 Christian leaders from around Victoria were invited to Parliament House on 27 August to attend a Government briefing organised by Eastern Regions MP, Mr Andrew Ronalds. Several members of the Government were present with Mr Ronalds; the Education Minister, Martin Dixon, and Attorney-General Robert Clark who each addressed the gathering.

Productive, Re-assuring Meeting

Among the various points made were:

- Minister Dixon admitted that the Education Department had over-reached its authority (and without his consent, from my understanding). The intent of the new guidelines was to clarify existing legislation, not to extend it or to interfere with religious clubs and programs in schools outside of SRI.
- Children remain free to meet for prayer, Bible Study, to establish lunchtime Christian groups, invite friends to church, invite outside groups to assist with their clubs, and to bring a Bible to school.
- Christian organisations retain their freedom to work with students and the school community in a whole range of activities.
- The Government recognises that our society is profoundly indebted to our Judeo-Christian heritage.
- The speakers avoided the fallacious belief that secular means atheist (a view that is being argued by a vocal minority in society). It was made clear that there is room for religious instruction and religious clubs in our secular school system.
- The Government supports religious freedom (for all religions) in our schools, which includes opportunity for students to learn and engage with these ideas as they choose.
- The Government acknowledges that the Christian community continues to have an important role in our schools. It was mentioned that in our society which is struggling to find and articulate strong values, many people in the community wish to give their children opportunity to be taught these values through SRI.
- Schools and Principals are required to offer SRI.
- If your school no longer offers SRI, Mr Dixon encouraged parents to write to their Principal and express their desire for SRI to be made available.
- Mr Dixon admitted that there have been issues with the consent forms that have been sent to parents regarding SRI. Some schools, though obliged, have failed to inform parents of the opt-in process for SRI. They are evaluating how to better communicate this for next year.
- The Government also reiterated their support for Christian Chaplains (as opposed to well-being officers, which is the alternative that the Labor Party prefer).
- There have been some issues with the way SRI has been run in a few schools, but this briefing gives confidence that the program is improving and has the support of the Government.

I appreciate the sensible approach Mr Dixon has taken to ensure the continuation of religious freedoms for students in our schools by removing the ridiculous amended guidelines that were introduced by his Department and I am thankful to Mr Ronalds, Mr Dixon and Mr Clark for their time and efforts.

– Rev Murray Campbell, Mentone, Vic, Baptist Church

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'...We...know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.' (Galatians 2.16)

SPREADING THE WORD ...

The New Shape Of ACMA

FROM the very birth of the Australian Centre for Mission Aviation nearly two decades ago, the ACMA vision has always been about training aviation personnel for an effective ministry in Mission Aviation. Over the last 20 years, the Lord has wonderfully blessed ACMA in its strategic training role:

- Accredited training programs have been conducted in both Flight Training and Aircraft Maintenance Training. In addition, Bible/Mission training has been incorporated into the technical training programs.
- Students from 21 different countries have been trained.
- ACMA has graduated 200 pilots and engineers, approximately 90% of whom entered mission aviation service. Some of those are in senior positions with a number of different mission aviation organisations.
- ACMA has had a global impact. Graduates have entered ministries internationally, and have served in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia/Papua, Timor, Cambodia, Asia, Alaska, and a number of countries on the African continent.

The original vision which gave birth to ACMA has not changed. The need for aviation personnel to be recruited, trained and sent to field programs is as strong today as it was 20 years ago. What does need to change is the way ACMA fulfils that vision.

ACMA – The Future Shape Of Mission Aviation Training

In seeking the Lord's direction for the future of ACMA, the ACMA Board has confirmed ACMA's continuing role in mission aviation training, and received a clear vision of the path ahead.

ACMA's Role: to provide specifically targeted, high quality mission aviation training that is more cost effective than typically available in the normal commercial aviation environment.

Features:

- ACMA will provide graduates suited to the range of mission aviation organisations, recognising that each organisation will have its own unique orientation training requirements.
- A major emphasis will be placed on recruiting people for mission aviation from within the Christian school network.
- Engineering Training. ACMA will take over responsibility for AvServe (the commercial aircraft maintenance facility at Coldstream, Vic). ACMA will adopt the apprenticeship model as a means of developing a 'pipeline' consisting of AvServe and other supportive Aircraft Maintenance Organisations that will, within a few years, generate a minimum of three trained engineers each year. The initial step has been taken with the appointment of an apprentice at AvServe who is to commence on September 29.
- Flight Training. From the end of 2014, MAF will cease its responsibility for flight training at the Mission Aviation Centre at Coldstream and move its own training centre to far north Queensland. ACMA will continue to conduct a 200 hour Commercial Pilot Licence at its Coldstream facility, including the single engine Instrument Rating. It will be conducted as an accredited Cert. IV in Aviation under the authority of an approved RTO.
- Bible/Mission Training. Bible/Mission/Theology training will be completed by the apprentices/student pilots either concurrently with their technical training, or before or after it. ACMA is approved by the Australian College of Ministries to facilitate delivery of ACOM's 1 year Cert. IV in Christian Ministry and Theology. A program of one-on-one mentoring will also be implemented to help build 'mission readiness' in the trainees. This will be packaged as a non-accredited Certificate in Mission Aviation.

For further information go to:
www.acma.vic.edu.au

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VIEWPOINT

ACL Welcomes Announcement That Asylum Children Will Be Removed From Detention

THE Australian Christian Lobby has welcomed the government's announcement that 150 asylum seeker children held in residential detention will be released into the community.

ACL's Managing Director Lyle Shelton said the processing of asylum seekers' claims have taken too long. 'It has been concerning the length of time asylum seekers – particularly children – have been in mandatory detention. It's no environment for the weak and vulnerable to be in long-term,' Mr Shelton said. 'We welcome this announcement but urge the government to speed up the processing of claims. The inability of asylum seekers to find work is demoralising and demeaning and we need to find a better way to process asylum seekers and resettle refugees,' he said.

Mr Shelton urged the government to increase its humanitarian intake from its current level of 13,750. 'It is disappointing that the government cut its intake from 20,000 to 13,750 and we want to be a nation that accommodates and welcomes those in need,' Mr Shelton said. 'This is particularly urgent given the sheer number of people fleeing persecution in Iraq and Syria recently,' he said. Mr Shelton said he reluctantly supports offshore processing as a way to stop the people smuggling business and prevent deaths at sea.

Thanks For The Memories

THANK you for your story about *MemoryLink* (NL 2014-06-15 p.4). As a result many elderly people from cities and small towns all over Australia are now enjoying listening to *MemoryLink*, re-living the hymns, choruses and Bible passages learnt in their childhood.

One reader gave it as a gift to his mother on her 100th birthday. He said: 'It was a wonderful, happy occasion. When we played *Blessed Assurance* her eyes lit up, her finger and hand started tapping on her knee and she started to sing along. Afterwards she told us she used to sing it in church about 90 years ago'. Another *MemoryLink* has been given for a 107th birthday! Age is no barrier! Another wrote: 'Best of all is the huge appreciation and enjoyment of *MemoryLink* from the friend with a disability I gave it to. She has used it for herself, or asked visitors to put it on, and she says she has loved it all. So thanks for such a brilliant way for handicapped and older people to reach out to God.'

For information on *MemoryLink* contact Fenton Sharpe at fsharpe@bigpond.net.au or order from www.pennanthillsuniting.org.au phone: (02) 9484 6197,

– Fenton Sharpe, Pennant Hills, NSW.

ACT And SA Govt Demand For Secular Counsellors In Chaplaincy Scheme Is Secular Overreach

THE Australian Christian Lobby said the ACT and South Australian governments' refusal to administer the school chaplaincy program unless the scheme allows secular counsellors is an overreach. ACL's Managing Director Lyle Shelton said he welcomed news that the Federal Government will provide funding to the state and territory governments to administer the program. However, Mr Shelton

said the ACT government is being unreasonable in demanding the program have secular counsellors. In denying local schools the choice to continue with a chaplaincy program, 27 chaplains will be out of work and hundreds of thousands of dollars of Commonwealth funding will be lost to the ACT.

'When the High School Chaplaincy program was introduced in 2006 the purpose and intent was for pastoral care and support,' Mr Lyle said. 'The program has been successful, and school communities want chaplains in their schools. A 2009 national study into the effectiveness of chaplains in government schools found that 98% of principals surveyed believed chaplaincy was making a major contribution to the school's morale. Furthermore the same study found that 73% of students surveyed felt their chaplain was highly important in the school,' he said. It is disappointing the ACT Government is denying local schools the choice of extra resources for their school communities because of what appears to be an anti-faith bias.'

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pbctracey@gmail.com

MEET ...

Robert Martin – A Heart For God; A Heart For The City

ROBERT Martin's great passion is taking the Gospel to the workplace, especially in the city, because he believes that's where God has prepared him to work through his own life experience.

Born and raised in a Christian home where his parents gave a consistent witness in the life they lived to the faith they professed, he nevertheless went through periods of doubt. 'Sometimes I'd lie awake at night, grappling with questions like: Is there a God? Is the Bible true? Can we trust it? Was Jesus a real person? Will there be anything beyond the grave? If there is, what will it be like?' Like many others, Robert was sincerely seeking after truth ('I wanted to be sure I was believing in the truth and not a lie,' he says) and this search in turn gave him a deep understanding of a similar journey after truth which many people take.

Robert credits his parents with being understanding and helpful in trying to resolve his doubts, but a Bible Society video, *Messages From The Memory Banks*, gave answers to his questions which really satisfied. In particular this video gave hope that when we die there'll be life beyond the grave.

Stepping Out

Leaving high school, Robert had one aim: to make a lot of money. He feels he had a God-given flair for business and enjoyed working for a number of years in business, mainly in insurance. But as time went by and with deeper reflection on the Gospel, his values changed. He began to seek beyond material things to higher things, a deeper faith and the means for sharing that faith and helping others involved in the business world to come to faith and apply that faith in their life and work. He studied for four years at Moore College, Sydney. 'It was four years of hard yakka,' he says. 'Moore taught me to think, and not be blinded by prejudice.'

Moving On

City Bible Forum proved to be just the right vehicle to exercise the gifts God has given him. 'It's where I belong; CBF gives me the right opportunity to relate to people in the business world.' And he took his cue from Billy Graham: 'Billy Graham has said that the next great movement of the Holy Spirit will be through the workplace.'

In a day and age when the church is losing respect in the community generally, Robert believes that the workplace is where Christian witness can be at its most visible and have the most opportunity to reach out.

'I ask myself: "To whom amongst the least encouraged, the least supported may I be "the beautiful feet?"'

This is a changing world in which it is more and more difficult to share the Faith, but if we invest in it with friendship, sharing the hope and life within us, God will bless our efforts in sharing it.'

City Bible Forum

Robert sees tremendous opportunity for ministry in CBF:

- CBF helps equip Christians for life and worship through meeting with others nearby.
- CBF helps Christians reach out through forums and events which provide an easy invitation to the unreached.
- CBF runs events in venues which are attractive to the present generation and speak to them in an appropriate way.
- CBF helps Christians to engage with non-Christians on questions which are on the contemporary mind.

For further information and program of events run by City Bible Forum go to: www.citybibleforum/melbourne



*I ask myself:
'To whom
amongst
the least
encouraged,
the least
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may I be
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Who Can YOU Forward *New Life* To?

HOME AND ABROAD

Baptist World Aid Sends Funds To Aid Displaced Iraqi Christians

THE Baptist World Alliance has sent an initial sum of \$US20,000 to assist Christians displaced inside Iraq. The funds will be used to help provide food and other urgent relief supplies to approximately 500 Iraqi Christian families who fled Mosul and Karakosh to Irbil city in Kurdistan state. Christians fled in haste without their possessions, including clothing. Money, jewelry and other valuables were stolen or confiscated, the BWA reported. US\$90 is needed for mattresses, blankets and a two-week food supply for an average family of six. Baptists and other Christian groups providing assistance expect the need to last through several months.

Mosul, Iraq's second largest metropolitan area after Baghdad is an ancient city in Northern Iraq that has had a significant Christian presence going back almost 2,000 years. Karakosh is in close proximity to Mosul but problems faced by Iraqi Christians escalated in June this year with the Northern Iraq offensive, when the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, sometimes referred to as the Islamic State, and aligned forces, began a major offensive in Northern Iraq against the Iraqi government. The same protagonists attacked Kurdish-held territory in Northern Iraq in August.

The BWA reports that Christians and other minority religious groups have been specially targeted by ISIS. A decree was issued in July that all Christians in the area under ISIS control, including Mosul and Karakosh, must pay a special tax of approximately US\$470 per family, convert to Islam, or leave. It was later announced that all Christians needed to leave or be killed. Christians have been leaving Iraq in droves after the 2003 United States invasion of Iraq. Violence against Christians by radical Islamist groups rose dramatically, including abductions, torture, bombings and killings. Christians were pressured to convert to Islam under threat of death or expulsion, and women were ordered to wear Islamic dress.

The BWA says that by 2007, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that 2.2 million Iraqis were displaced to neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, with a large majority being Christian. Another two million were displaced internally.

The Baptist World Alliance is a fellowship of 231 conventions and unions in 121 countries and territories comprising 42 million members in 177,000 churches. Its priorities are nurturing the passion for mission and evangelism, promoting worship, fellowship and unity, responding to people in need, defending human rights and justice and advancing relevant theological reflection. Donations may be made at www.bwanet.org

– Michael Ireland, ASSIST News Service

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PERSECUTION WATCH

Slavyansk Church Re-Opens In Ukraine

A NEW front has been opened in eastern Ukraine in recent days. According to reports, tanks, artillery, and infantry crossed from Russia into Novoazovsk, a border town near Russia. These attacks caused panic among Ukrainian forces in what Ukrainian and Western military officials described as a stealth invasion. Some believe Russia orchestrated it to help the separatists, who have been on retreat for the last couple of weeks.

One of the areas where Ukrainian soldiers successfully pushed out the separatists was Slavyansk. President of Russian Ministries Sergey Rakhuba was just in that region. 'The people of Ukraine are exhausted, and they really, really want to have peace in their communities,' he says. Rakhuba was there to talk to church leaders about how to help the victims of the conflict.

He was able to personally hand out the Russian Ministries / Care packs. 'I saw the Christian work in the midst of the crisis, and I'm so proud to see these young Christian leaders, these pastors. They are getting the Gospel advanced through the crisis.'

Good News Church in Slavyansk was taken over by Russian separatists. Rakhuba says, 'Their Sunday School classes were stuffed with explosives and weapons.' After Ukrainian soldiers retook the city, church members pooled finances and bought billboards. 'The billboard was saying, "Hope is still here. Hope is in God. Slavyansk citizens, believe, and God will come and rescue you." So, there is hope.' Rakhuba was able to worship with these brothers and sisters. 'Half of the congregation are mostly new people that came because of the crisis. The church helped them during the crisis, and they expect the church to double in size.'

– Greg Yoder, info@mnnonline.org



CHINA – Church Leaders Detained, Churches And Crosses Demolished

AT least ten leaders from house churches across Hunan province in central China have been detained in what appears to be an ongoing crackdown. The ten were accused of organising 'cults' and 'sects' and 'undermining law enforcement'. They have been criminally detained, which Release partner China Aid says is the first step towards a formal charge which 'almost inevitably' leads to a conviction. Four other Christians have been taken to Shaoyang city for a month of 'compulsory study'.

The arrests have been linked to an incident in which a Christian woman handing out Gospel tracts on the street gave one to a government employee from a local police station. A local Christian said, 'The entire police force was mobilised' to round up the Christians; money, Bibles and church equipment were confiscated from homes and churches.'

Meanwhile, church demolitions and 'modifications' continue in coastal Zhejiang Province. Officials removed the cross on Salvation Church in Wenzhou on 14 August, after weeks of confrontations between Christians and government demolition teams. And in Zhejiang's provincial capital, Hangzhou, the large Gulou Church was forcibly demolished on 13 August.

– China Aid

NIGERIA – Open Doors Reaches Out To Chibok

IT is now more than 130 days since hundreds of school-girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram militants from the village of Chibok, on 14 April. Open Doors has kept in constant contact with the community, and recently vis-

ited 140 of the parents to deliver a new batch of letters of encouragement and prayer from our supporters around the world – including some from Australia. One Open Doors worker said the mere thought of the 800km journey to Chibok was terrifying. The journey took two days, due to necessary detours to avoid towns Boko Haram had recently claimed. Beforehand, he was filled with doubt and prayed and pleaded with God for direction and peace. Along the way, he and his local contact were urged to turn back at every security check point. But at each step, they prayed and continued their journey, neither feeling God wanted them to cancel the trip. The worker continues: 'We were thankful to reach Chibok, but were shocked at the state of the town. The continued insecurity has left Chibok all but destroyed. It was almost deserted. A few animals roamed the streets. Most people have left. There is no functioning school and no functioning hospital. Many churches have been burned. Food is scarce and it is becoming very hard to make ends meet. Everyone is on edge. The militants have sent several letters to the Christian enclave telling residents to leave. No one knows when they will strike next. Experience has taught them to never rest assured. There are not many rushing to Chibok at an hour such as this. We are glad we had made it. When I greet them in the precious Name of the Most-high God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, our Maker, it is not empty pulpit language, but a reminder to these embattled believers who have not enjoyed fellowship for who knows how long, that our Maker knows them and cares for them.'

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE ...

New National Director Settles In At Campus Crusade For Christ

BILL Bright started Campus Crusade in 1951 at the University of California in Los Angeles. Today 17,000 full-time staff working in 190 countries makes this ministry one of the most successful evangelistic organizations in history. The movement came to Australia in 1967 and today 140 missionaries impact our universities, schools and sporting clubs with the Gospel. In October 2013 Allan Gibson became the new National Director at a time when the organization is experiencing great change.

Now they've settled in, Allan and Mandy Gibson attended a dinner held to welcome them to the Mission's headquarters at Mulgrave in Melbourne's east suburbs. They have given 27 years to the ministry, first serving as Student Life workers and later as National Ministry Leader. In 2007 the Gibsons moved to America so that Allan could serve with the International Campus Leadership Team coaching and equipping leaders from multiple countries.

Bill Hodgson speaks highly of the man he nominated to succeed him: 'Allan is recognized for his strategic thinking, passion for the Lord and a real desire to see people come to know Jesus personally.' As the new National Director, Allan believes that Campus Crusade faces serious challenges in the future. 'Australia is experiencing tremendous social change,' he says. 'It will soon be number 15th most urbanized country in the world. We have multicultural cities and all of the world's religions are now present. Unfortunately increasing numbers of people no longer identify themselves as Christians.

'Research has recently shown that 80% are unclear about their purpose or have a written purpose that is different to their practice,' Allan notes. 'Campus Crusade for Christ in Australia is almost 50 years old and we have seen God work in many ways. We need to be crystal clear about where we are going in the future. Otherwise the social changes will overwhelm us, or distort us, and we will soon be irrelevant. We are present in 40 Universities throughout Australia,' he states emphatically. 'Our people are also in three universities overseas and plan to be on five by 2020.' For more information visit www.ccca.org.au



Allan and Mandy Gibson.

– CCC Communication Department

Chris Chia To Speak At Donvale Pres

PASTOR Chris Chia will be conducting a teaching ministry on 1 Corinthians at Donvale Presbyterian Church, Cnr Springvale and McGowans Road, Donvale, Vic 3111, 25-28 September. The program will be: Thursday 25 Sep, 7-9pm, *Painful Reality About Leaders* (1 Cor 1-4); *Painful Reality About Sexuality* (1 Cor 5-6). Friday 26 Sep, 7 to 9pm; *Painful Reality About Divisions* (1 Cor 11); *The Glorious Reality Of Love* (1 Cor 13); Sunday 28 Sep, 8.30 am and 10.30am (Worship Services) *The Glorious Reality Of Jesus* (1 Cor 15).

Christopher Chia, a former journalist was converted from a Buddhist-Taoist background during his university days in Sydney. He trained at Moore Theological College, Sydney, and completed post-graduate studies at Harvard, Oxford and a Doctorate in Preaching at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He has been Senior Pastor of Adam Road Presbyterian Church, Singapore, since 1991. Chris has an international ministry, speaking widely in Australia and around the world. He loves preaching, being a pastor to pastors and helping churches grow to glorify God. For more information contact Donvale Presbyterian Church Office Tuesday to Friday 9am to midday. Phone: (03) 9841 7020, E-mail: contact@donvale.org

Leadership Change For CMA

NATHAN Brown has been appointed new CEO of Christian Media Australia from October. Nathan has served on the CMA Board for nearly a decade. New doors have opened for current CEO Mark Reddy and his wife Vickie, who will be moving to the USA later this year.

Ebola Outbreak Delays Mercy Ship's Sail To Africa

COLLATERAL hardship from the Ebola epidemic now includes a delay for Mercy Ships, which operates the world's largest civilian hospital ship in ports on the West Coast of Africa. The Mercy Ship was due to sail for the port of Cotonou, Benin, for its 10-month field service last week but has delayed that sail pending further assessment due to the virulence of the outbreak in neighbouring Nigeria. Earlier, in April, Mercy Ships canceled the hospital ship's planned deployment to Guinea, where the Ebola outbreak began last December. The 16,500-ton Mercy Ship is designed to deploy specialized surgical expertise and educational support but is unequipped to treat viral epidemics, according to the charity's president and founder Don Stephens. Stephens said the organization is closely monitoring the situation on the whole of the African continent.

– Jeremy Reynolds, ASSIST News Service

'WHOSE FAITH FOLLOW'

FOR CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM: The Life And Work Of Francis Nigel Lee, Dallas Clarnette, Palmer Higgs Books, 2014.

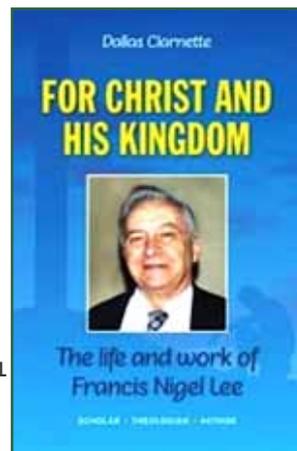
FRANCIS Nigel Lee (1934-2011) was one of those larger than life characters who appears every so often. For a start, he took up more than the usual amount of space in the Australian Presbyterian Yearbook as it listed his ten doctorates. Raised by his atheist father and Roman Catholic mother, he was converted to the Reformed faith in a goldmine explosion in South Africa in 1955.

Coming to Queensland to teach theology, Professor Lee made an impact on the wider Presbyterian Church of Australia, as well as lecturing in other parts of the world, notably the USA and South Africa. He was particularly prominent in the 1991 decision of the General Assembly of Australia not to admit women into the pastorate. For this he was sued, along with Dr Allan Harman and Elder John Mill.

In 1994 his aged father was attacked by an intruder in his home, and died as a result of his injuries. Lee was able to visit the guilty man, and presented him with the Gospel of free grace in Jesus Christ. He responded warmly to this, and the correspondence between the two men is reproduced here. It reveals that Dr Lee was more than simply a talking head, capable of arguing any case he wanted to. He was a barrister and a theologian but also a warm-hearted evangelist.

One need not agree with everything he wrote on the book of Revelation or the details of theonomy to welcome this biography of an extraordinary man.

– Peter Barnes



IN MEMORIAM: FREEMAN, Rhoda and George, 1994

Twenty years have passed since you were with us but your legacy lingers on.

Robin and Ruth, together with John, grandchildren Skye and Chad and their families Tessima, Nikita, Alyssa, Mikayla and Llewelyn are grateful for the heritage of love, honesty, generosity and faith that is theirs.

In loving memory of George and Rhoda Freeman (nee Philp) who left this earth in July and August 1994. George and Rhoda devoted their lives to the glory of God and are remembered for their work in the Echuca Convention Fellowship and their support for missionaries.

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The Antidote To Pride And Arrogance – Romans 11.17-36

FOR REFLECTION:

*Reflect on God's merciful dealings with you.
What is mercy?
How has God shown you mercy?
In what ways does this passage encourage you to humility?*

THE Gospel always quells human pride and arrogance. God is attracted by our weakness and repelled by our pride. Gentiles should not be proud, for just as God did not spare Israel because of her unbelief, so too will He not spare unbelief in those branches that have been in-grafted (v17-21).

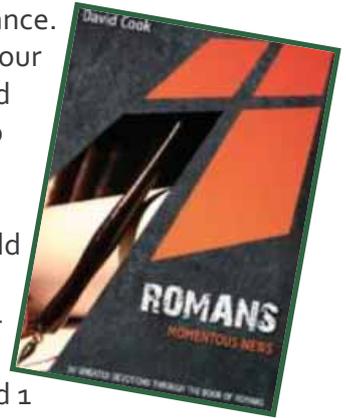
God is both kind and stern, and if He grafts a wild branch, like the Gentiles, into the tree then He is more than able to regraft the natural branches (Israel) upon their belief in Christ (v22-24).

The mystery (referred to in Ephesians 1.9,10 and 1 Thessalonians 4.13ff) is now revealed: God is at work through hardening and softening to bring the full number of Gentiles into His Kingdom, so that all Israel (that is, all the elect, both Jews and Gentiles) will be saved. Therefore, the hardening of Israel is both temporary and purposeful. This means there is a place in God's purpose for ongoing evangelism among Jews and Gentiles as one thing develops into another: Jewish resistance in the face of Gentile belief leads to Jewish envy as the Gentile number becomes complete, and then all Israel are saved.

This may mean that in the end times (v15) we may well see a widespread turning of Jews to Jesus as the Christ. Their estrangement has been the means of Gentiles coming to faith (v28) and all God's promises to them will yet be fulfilled. God's purpose is to be merciful to Jew and Gentile alike (v30-32).

Verses 33-36 are a final doxology that closes chapters 1-11. God's wisdom and knowledge is beyond ours and is not a result of our advice – He is in no way indebted to us. God is the originator of all things – 'from Him'; the director of all – 'from Him'; the director of all things – 'through Him'; the object of all things – 'to Him'. He is to be praised. Amen.

'The leading principle is that God is the source of all good; that in fallen people there is neither merit nor ability; that salvation consequently is all of grace, as is sanctification, pardon, election and glory.' 'For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things – to Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!'



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- ...used it in case of an emergency?
- ...spent an hour or more using it each day?

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BOOKS WORTH READING

ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOSPEL: FAN THE FLAME! Edited by D.A. Carson, Nottingham: IVP, 2010. ISBN 978-1-84474-489-3

ENTRUSTED With The Gospel is a series of six expositions on *2 Timothy* by leading preachers and scholars who are household names in Evangelical circles. These sermons were first delivered at the national conference of The Gospel Coalition in Chicago in April 2009. What unites these preachers is their commitment to Gospel ministry and *2 Timothy* is an ideal part of Scripture to preach to the young pastors and would-be pastors who were the ones by and large who made up the original audience.

The first sermon by John Piper echoes Paul in calling on young preachers to 'feed the flame of God's gift', so that they preach the Word with boldness. Certainly much preaching fails because of a lack of courage by the preacher – a failure to proclaim the unmixed and unadorned Truth of God without fear and favour. Philip Ryken repeats the apostolic call to faithfulness, and this requires the teaching of sound doctrine, for it is doctrine that brings life and health to God's people. If that sentiment sounds odd, it is only an indicator of how far the church has moved away from its apostolic base. Ryken is thoroughly realistic about the difficulties faced by pastors and he shows that Paul's illustrations of the soldier, athlete and farmer mean that pastors are called to hard work and suffering. Ryken reminds us that 'the best proof of faithfulness is the cross', not that everything becomes easy and we always enjoy success and popularity. This reviewer found Ryken's chapter the most helpful in the entire collection.

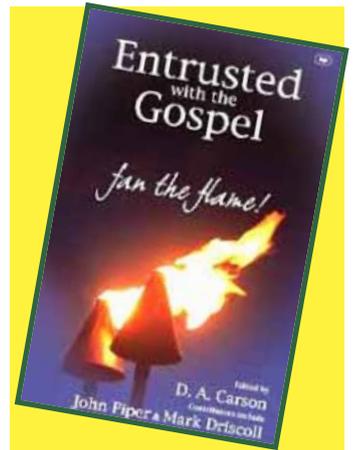
The tone set by the sermon of Mark Driscoll is positive and encouraging, 'The marks of a positive ministry', including the need to positively deal with troublemakers in church life and to positively set a godly example in your own life. In other words, we need to redefine what we think 'positive' means in the light of the pattern of ministry found in *2 Timothy*. He provides an amazing list categorising some 20 different problem people ('negatives' he calls them) in church life. An essential part of Christian leadership is to deal firmly with such people lest the 'rot' spreads. Driscoll certainly lives up to his reputation for forthright preaching!

Edward Copeland preaches on the pitfalls and parodies of Gospel-centred ministry in the context of 'the last days' in which we minister. This means concentrating on the things that matter: truth, faithfulness and courage. The Apostle Paul calls on Timothy to keep preaching the Word, and Bryan Chapell shows how a high view of Scripture as the inspired Word of God must be the foundation and centre of Gospel ministry. The closing chapter by Ligon Duncan refutes the suggestion that to reach our culture either the message must change or our methods must change. Sound methodology must flow from sound theology, so the call is to solid reading and study, unremitting prayer and striving to remain faithful to the end no matter what.

Here, then, is a book to inspire those who may have 40 years of ministry ahead of them and those who may only have five.

Be ready to be challenged and look forward to being encouraged.

– Greg Goswell



'A book to inspire those who may have 40 years of ministry ahead of them and those who may only have five.'

Be ready to be challenged, and look forward to being encouraged.'

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BOOKS WORTH READING

CHRIST'S GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2014. ISBN: Print: 1 84871 198 7; EPUB: 978 1 84871 399 4; Kindle: 978 1 84871 400 7.

ARE you looking for a good way to 'dip your toe' into Spurgeon's preaching? Well here's the book to start, with seven of his best sermons recast in an attractive modern typeface and a helpful *Foreword* by Michael Reeves, Senior Lecturer at Wales Evangelical School of Theology.

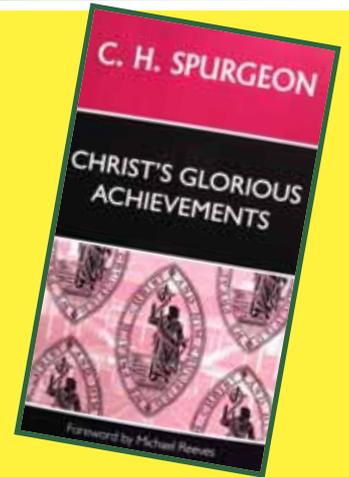
'As a man he fizzed with life and good cheer; as a pastor he was so fruitful he seems fictitious. Streams of living water flowed from within him. So what was the reservoir which fed him?' asks Reeves. 'The answer, without a doubt, is Jesus Christ.'

Indeed it was, from his first sermon ('Unto you, therefore, who believe, He is precious') to the last ('It is Heaven to serve Jesus ... If there is anything that is gracious, generous, kind and tender, yea lavish and superabundant in love, you always find it in Him.')

Yes, if anyone desires 'to preach Christ and Him crucified', Christ in all His risen power, Spurgeon is his great exemplar. He didn't have that in mind though in publishing these sermons. 'May the readers of these sermons be enabled by the Spirit of God in some degree to make increase in their knowledge of Christ. He alone is worth knowing; all other wisdom will fade away,' the Prince of Preachers writes in his *Preface*.

This will surely be the case, as these sermons focus sharply on the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Dripping with doctrine yet easy to follow, with apt illustration and rich vocabulary, this book can be placed in the hands of the newest believer or the oldest saint for their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

– Bob Thomas



'He (Christ) alone is worth knowing; all other wisdom will fade away.'

– C.H.S.

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'All the world tastes of His sparing mercy. Those who hear the Gospel partake of His inviting mercy, the saints live by His saving mercy, are preserved by His upholding mercy, are cheered by His consoling mercy, and will enter Heaven through His infinite and everlasting mercy.'

– Charles Haddon Spurgeon
via Banner Of Truth Facebook Page.

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