

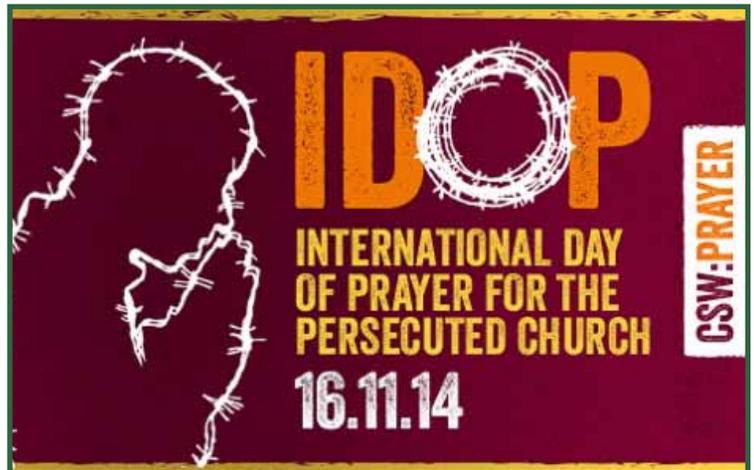
Calls For Investigation Into Violent Police Raid

CHRISTIAN Solidarity Worldwide is calling on the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior to launch an urgent and transparent investigation into raids conducted by police in Al-Minya on 23 September, in which members of the Coptic community were harassed and assaulted, their homes and property destroyed, and 12 people detained.

The raids occurred after members of the Coptic community protested outside the police station in Samalout Town in Minya Province on 16 September, demanding police action over the abduction of a Christian woman. According to the police, some of the protestors threw Molotov cocktails at the police station, leading to the arrest of over 30 protestors.

In the early hours of the following morning, police stormed the homes and properties of local Copts, destroyed property and physically abused residents, including an elderly woman and children, referring to them as 'infidels'. They also tied up a number of men and detained 12 people, allegedly on spurious grounds. Samalout Misdemeanour Court has since released those detained.

Egypt's Christian community has recently experienced an increase in kidnappings, intimidation, abuse and



killings, particularly in Al-Minya, Assiut, Sohag and other governorates in Upper Egypt. Perpetrators, including Islamist militants, often kidnap Coptic men, women and children for ransom or in revenge for the removal of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in July 2013, which some erroneously blame on the Coptic community. There are longstanding allegations that the authorities have failed to provide sufficient protection for the community, and the inadequate police response has engendered a climate of impunity.

CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas said, 'An urgent and transparent investigation into the incident in Samalout is needed in order to ensure that the full facts are established and those guilty of acting inappropriately are brought to justice. We also urge the Egyptian authorities to be more proactive in ensuring that the Coptic communities which currently suffer extortion and abductions are assisted and protected.'

Reaching Out To The Footy World

MELBOURNE is just recovering from its annual bout of Footy Fever and Scots Church, in the heart of the CBD, held its annual Reachout Service to the footy-loving community last Wednesday, with more than 200 devoted fans attending.

Led by Scots' Minister for Evangelism, Rev David Currie, the service emphasised the contribution a fine young Christian man can make as David interviewed Richmond mid-fielder Anthony Miles about his walk with the Lord. Anthony grew up in a Christian home near Albury and made the decision to give his life to Christ in his mid-teens – and that faith has stood by him throughout his footy career. 'Win or lose, you know that God still loves you at the end of the game,' he said. 'This helps you to get things back into perspective.'

His faith also helped him through the difficult experience of being delisted from one club before being picked up by Richmond, where he's had a stellar season leaving him feeling 'thankful and blessed.'

Rev Dan Bullock, Baptist minister and chaplain to the Western Bulldogs, preached on *Sticking To The Plan*. 'Just as footballers have a game plan, we Christians do too – and it's in *The Acts Of The Apostles*. We are to be 'in Christ' ourselves and then to go forth, do good, and give hope.

'We can't just huddle together in the Temple Courts though. The huddle has its purpose – to help us play the game at our best – and we need to be committed to the plan so that we can play the game the way the Lord Jesus Christ intends us to. The footy team with the best game plan and sticks to it will win the Grand Final. And so will we win the victory – if we stick to our Lord's 'Game Plan'.

FOOTNOTE: Which team won the AFL Grand Final? Hint: look at the colours of this box.

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‘Behind Every Great Man ...’

JOHN STOTT'S RIGHT HAND, The Untold Story Of Frances Whitehead, Julia Cameron, Piquant Editions, Carlisle, 2014. ISBN 978-1-909281-29-5. SO they say that behind every great man there's a great woman. But John Stott lived a celibate life, so this can't apply in the usual sense to him. Yet in a wonderful way it does. John Stott's prodigious output by pen, pulpit and podium was legendary, but it was facilitated all the way by his remarkable secretary/personal assistant of 55 years, Frances Whitehead, without whom he would never have been able to do as much as he did as one of the Evangelical Church's leading statesmen.

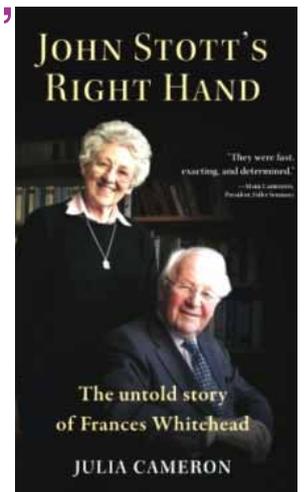
As Frances Whitehead's story unfolds we see the hand of God drawing Frances to faith in Christ as her Lord and Saviour through the ministry of John Stott and All Souls' Church. While she grew in her faith she became more and more active in the life of the church. Then one day, John Stott popped the question: 'Will you be my secretary?' After due consideration and prayer she said 'Yes'. And so began their remarkable collaboration.

Collaboration grew into complementarity, which grew into respect and affection, and blossomed into John Stott's enormous body of writing, preaching and lecturing all over the world. Through it all, Christian propriety reigned supreme in both their lives.

As you read this book there are times when you wonder whose biography it is: Frances Whitehead's or John Stott's. But our author can be forgiven on two counts. First, Frances in many ways was the power behind the throne, as the cover picture suggests, and you can't really tell the story of one without telling the story of the other. And secondly, we all love to go behind the scenes and learn more about the lives of our heroes. This book, in telling the story of Frances Whitehead, achieves a good deal of 'rounding' of the character of John Stott, and for this we are thankful.

There are many other things to take away from reading *John Stott's Right Hand*, perhaps one of the most important being the demonstration of how Christians can empower one another when they work together in a co-operative team, for Frances was not alone in empowering John. There was his long line of study assistants and the ministry team at All Souls' with their willingness to implement John Stott's constant flow of ideas.

This book is just a delightful read as both subjects are seen to be diligent, warm-hearted, devoted servants of God, whose faith we should follow.



– Bob Thomas

SAUDI ARABIA: Duplicitous, Cruel And Paranoid

THE House of Saud portrays itself as a champion of inter-faith dialogue and ally of the West. Yet behind the facade, this same regime sponsors, through its religious establishment, the global dissemination of virulent Salafi/Wahhabi (fundamentalist and puritanical) Islam, ie the version of Islam behind al-Qaeda and IS. [These groups diverge over tactics, not ends.] While Saudi Arabia sponsors Islamic jihad and Islamisation globally, it keeps its own state in lockdown with zero tolerance for any challenge, political or religious. Both domestic and foreign policy revolve around preserving the regime which supplies oil to the West and petro-dollars to Islam. There is no religious freedom – not for Saudis, not for poor expatriates and not even for exiles.

Fellowship Raided In Khafji

Virtually all Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure is located in the kingdom's Eastern Province, on the shores of the Persian Gulf. Tensions are always high there as Eastern Province is home not only to the kingdom's long-persecuted Shi'ite minority (who comprise a restive majority in Eastern Province), but to many thousands of expatriate workers, many of whom are Christians. Whilst British, European and American expatriates may gather for worship in chapels inside embassies and military bases, impoverished and abused Christian labourers from Africa and Asia have no-where to gather for prayer, worship and Bible study except in secret house fellowships, even though such gatherings are illegal.

On 5 September religious police from the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice raided a house in the Aziziyah neighbourhood of Khafji in Eastern Province, arresting 27 mostly Asian believers, including women and children. Bibles and other belongings were confiscated. The *Saudi Gazette* posted the news on its Facebook page, triggering a very interesting debate, with many Saudis declaring it ridiculous and hypocritical that Saudi Arabia should deny expatriates the freedom to worship. It is common for Christians in Saudi prisons to receive very harsh treatment from Muslim guards and interrogators who know they can brutalise poor despised Filipino, Indian and Eritrean Christians with impunity. American religious liberty champion Rep. Frank Wolf (R-Va) has vowed to press the US ambassador in Riyadh and the State Department to assist the arrested Christians.

Refugee Repatriated From New Zealand

Saudi national Khalid Muidh Alzahrani arrived in Christchurch, New Zealand, some five years ago on a Saudi Government scholarship to study English. Some time after the Christchurch earthquake Alzahrani converted to Christianity. Because apostasy (leaving/rejecting Islam) is punishable by death in Saudi Arabia, Alzahrani (42) applied for asylum in New Zealand. Whilst his application for refugee status was successful, the backlash was fierce. It is well known that Saudi agents are inserted into the student community to ensure no Saudi national brings 'shame' on the kingdom. When a convert is discovered, pressure is first applied to the convert's family, who are tasked with the responsibility of fixing the problem. If that fails then the regime applies pressure on the convert, contacting them directly and threatening to hurt their family back in Saudi Arabia. The regime is even known to use Interpol to track down converts and forcibly repatriate them as criminals.

When Khalid Alzahrani (now known as Daniel) started getting threatening messages from his brother in Saudi Arabia, he knew the situation was becoming dangerous. He continued to receive threats until 31 July, when two men arrived at his council flat in Christchurch and took him away. None of his friends have heard anything from him since. Saudi ambassador, Ahmen Al-Jojani, told the *Sunday Star Times* that the Saudi consulate provided Alzahrani with a ticket to Saudi Arabia after he 'insisted' on returning to visit his mother. The fact that Alzahrani did not pack, and left a half-eaten meal on the table, indicates otherwise. Interpol has confirmed that Alzahrani has arrived back in Saudi Arabia. Alzahrani is not the only Saudi convert to Christianity to disappear from New Zealand. In May 2013 a Saudi convert seeking asylum in New Zealand was taken from his home in Auckland by three men – his brother and two Saudis travelling on diplomatic passports. He had not packed and his phone and wallet were left in his apartment. On that occasion New Zealand officials met the party as they changed planes in Hong Kong. According to lawyer Roger Chambers, the officials asked the convert if he was returning to Saudi Arabia voluntarily. When he replied he was, the officials let the party proceed. Sometime later this convert managed to contact friends in Auckland to report that he had been tortured and threatened with beheading.

– Elizabeth Kendal,
author of *Turn Back The Battle: Isaiah Speaks To Christians Today*

PLEASE PRAY THAT

- *the Spirit of God will work powerfully to protect and preserve every Christian prisoner in Saudi Arabia; may they 'rest' in their Lord and experience His promised presence; may the Lord become their 'sanctuary' (Isaiah 8.11-14) and may they soon be released.*
- *our Heavenly Father will protect and preserve every Saudi Christian, be they inside Saudi Arabia or anywhere in the world.*
- *God will intervene to re-direct the hearts of 'kings' so that world leaders who consider themselves Christians and democrats will care less about protecting and defending the House of Saud and more about protecting and defending its victims.*

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A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATED

Christian Democratic Party Celebrates Fred Nile's 80th Birthday, 33 Years in Parliament



*NSW Premier Mike Baird with
Rev Fred Nile.*

THE Christian Democratic Party's Annual Dinner incorporated the 80th Birthday Celebrations for Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC and thanksgiving for his 33 years of faithful service for our Lord Jesus Christ and the families of New South Wales.

Monday 15 September marked the 80th Birthday of Rev Fred Nile and was celebrated by 225 people in the Strangers' Lounge, Parliament House NSW, with NSW Premier Mike Baird in attendance. Guest speaker



*Nick Farr-Jones congratulates
Rev Fred Nile.*

Nick Farr-Jones AM, past Australian Rugby Union champion Captain, in his keynote address *A Tribute To Longevity And Consistency*, honouring Rev Nile, stated: 'I have admired Rev Fred Nile's faithful service for 33 years in the NSW Parliament as well as his long term community service in other areas.'

Master of Ceremonies was Rev Dr Ross Clifford AM, who is standing with Rev Fred Nile as Team CDP for the NSW Upper House election next March. Honoured guests included John Alexander OAM, MHR for Bennelong, representing the Prime Minister and Hon Greg Donnelly MLC, Alexander John MP, Hon Marie Ficarra MLC, Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC and Dr Roza Sage MP, accompanied by friends and supporters from around Australia and organisations and cultural representatives from Aboriginal, Coptic, Jewish, Armenian, Chaldean, Fijian, Macedonian, Chinese and Taiwanese communities and the Evangelical Sisters of Mary.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott sent greetings saying Fred had been a fine advocate for the best features of our civilisation and a strong supporter of many good causes, thanking him for his friendship and encouragement. NSW Premier Mike Baird congratulated Fred on 33 years of service to the NSW Legislative Council. 'Your faith, your tireless pursuit of the causes for which you have fought, and especially your sincere commitment to the value of family across our community have all contributed greatly to New South Wales.'

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Vic Premier, Opposition Leader Pledge Conscience Vote On Forcing Doctors To Participate In Abortion

THE Victorian Premier and Opposition Leader will allow a conscience vote if a private members' bill is introduced to restore freedom to doctors to decline to participate in abortion. Denis Napthine and Daniel Andrews were responding to questions from Christian leaders at the Australian Christian Lobby's *Make It Count* forum at Queens' Hall, Parliament House on 23 September. Their commitments come following sanctions imposed on Melbourne Doctor Mark Hobart, who declined to assist a couple who wanted their baby girl aborted so they could try again for a boy.

'If a private members' bill was introduced then we would certainly allow a conscience vote,' Dr Napthine said. 'My position would be to afford a conscience vote,' Mr Andrews said.

ACL Victorian Director Dan Flynn welcomed the leaders' commitments to allow a parliamentary vote on whether or not doctors should be forced to participate in abortion by making a referral for an abortion. 'No-one should be forced to go against their conscience on an issue which involves the taking of a human life,' Mr Flynn said.

The leaders were asked about a range of issues including domestic violence, freedom of religion, poker machine reform and the ice epidemic. Asked whether 'your Government (would) commission independent research into whether there are features in poker machines that lead to gambling addiction,' Mr Andrews committed to examining 'the best research, the best evidence.'

On family violence, Dr Napthine said: 'Men particularly need to stand up.' Mr Andrews said family violence was the leading cause of death or disability for women aged 45 and under and was 'a national disgrace.' On religious freedom, Mr Flynn expressed disappointment about Labor's election policy, reiterated at the meeting by Mr Andrews, to amend Equal Opportunity laws to diminish the freedom of faith-based schools to employ staff who share their ethos.

The pre-election *Make It Count* event was attended by 150 Christian leaders from a wide cross-section of denominations and churches.

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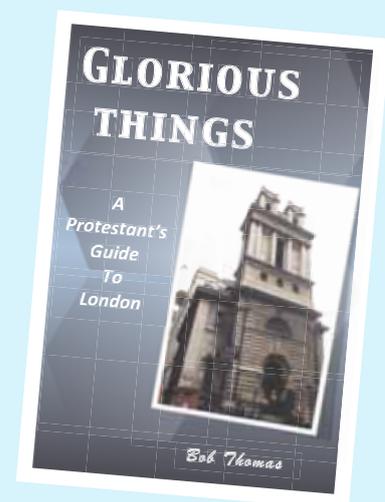
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WESLEY MISSION – 'HERE TO HELP'

Gateway's Facelift To Help Transform Young Lives

WESLEY Mission's Gateway Cottage Ministry has been transformed thanks to a \$150,000 donation from the Property Industry Foundation. The renovations were recently unveiled to representatives from the PIF, business, government and Wesley Mission at the Lewisham site in Sydney's inner western suburbs.

The CEO of Wesley Mission, the Rev Dr Keith Garner, said the much-needed refurbishment would make life more enjoyable, comfortable and secure for young people. 'Inside all the bricks, money and mortar is compassionate care, which makes all the difference to young lives,' Dr Garner said.

Wesley Gateway was established in 1964 as a short-term childcare centre for families in crisis. It cared for 14 children in those early years. 'Families have changed significantly in the last 50 years but some needs remain the same and have different faces. Care, openness and a sense of family is what we have been about at Wesley Dalmar, Dr Garner added.

The cottage now accommodates a maximum of six young people, five of which are funded under the NSW Department of Family and Community Services Out of Home Care Program with one placement funded by Wesley Mission. Referrals come from Community Services. 'While Wesley Mission is one of the largest providers of Out of Home Care in NSW, it also believes it is part of the network of support in the community, working in partnership with Government and other agencies,' Dr Garner said. 'The Foundation has provided \$150,000 for the much-needed renovations which will make life more enjoyable, comfortable and secure for young people who have experienced pain and trauma way beyond their years.'

Property Industry Foundation National CEO Rosemary Smithson said the centre would help young people grow and change. 'Young people are close to my heart,' she said. Ms Smithson thanked the PIF Board of Directors and Project Review Committee who gave their expertise and time to make the renovations a



Left to right: Wesley Mission's General Manager of Child, Family and Disability Services, Maria Maxwell, Wesley Mission CEO the Rev Dr Keith Garner, Property Industry Foundation National CEO Rosemary Smithson, and Wesley Mission's Out of Home Care Executive Manager, Nigel Lindsay.

reality. 'We are happy to give the money to change the lives of young people who are homeless, who have nowhere to go and society doesn't want them. We are absolutely delighted and we like this celebration today because it has drawn together our members who have worked hard on this project. There is a good feeling of achievement.'

Wise Words:

What keeps people from receiving God's grace is not so much their sins, but their good works. – Timothy Keller

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(Courtesy Rev Iain Murray)

A COURAGEOUS YOUNG CHRISTIAN ...

Kidnapped Nigerian Schoolgirl Shares Story Of Dramatic Escape

SHE was only 18 when she was awakened from her school dormitory at 11.34 pm by the sounds of gunfire. The terror group Boko Haram had overrun Chibok and was headed for her school.

'I called my father and he said we should not go anywhere,' says Saa (not her real name). 'He said we should gather ourselves together and pray so God will help us.' Saa is a Christian and her father is the pastor of Nigeria Church of the Brethren. Her riveting testimony was given at a forum hosted by the Hudson Institute and supported by the Jubilee Campaign for religious freedom. When Boko Haram



entered the school on the evening of 14 April, the teachers and staff had already fled. When the gun-toting extremists entered her dorm room, Saa didn't realize at first it was Boko Haram – but that soon became clear.

The girls were herded under a large tree and then loaded into trucks. 'They said if we didn't want to go they will kill us, Saa says. Saa was dismayed when she witnessed a Christian friend deny her faith. 'I was shocked and I was very sad that she said that she was a Muslim. I'm thinking at that time that maybe if they killed her what was she going to say to the Lord in Heaven?' They were packed tightly inside the trucks and they rolled away into the darkness.

As they moved down the road, Saa was startled to see a few girls jump from the back of the trucks. Saa wondered if she should try to escape herself. 'I told my friend that I decided to jump down from the trucks. I'd rather die and my parents have my coffin buried, than to go with them, because we don't know where we are going.'

Saa summoned all her courage and flung herself out the back. She spent the night under a tree. When they reached the village, they ran into people looking for their kidnapped daughters who said they would help Saa and her friend return to Chibok. The good shepherd left them, going on his way.

Some of the schoolgirls escaped during the days and weeks following the kidnapping, while at least 220 are still missing. One of the schoolgirls has been used as a suicide bomber, according to Emmanuel Ogebe, an attorney who testified at the forum.

Nigerian security officials are negotiating to free the girls with the help of the Red Cross, according to news sources. A tentative deal might involve the release of Boko Haram prisoners. Negotiations have been conducted in one of Nigeria's maximum security prisons where a few Boko Haram leaders are incarcerated.

– Mark Ellis, Senior Correspondent,
blog.godreports.com
via ASSIST News Service

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.

'Compassion Sunday is one way that we engage with churches and supporters to release children from poverty,' says Compassion Australia CEO Tim Hanna. 'Every year we are excited to see passionate supporters up the front of their churches talking about child sponsorship and how it really works. Thank you to all the churches and supporters who got involved in this year's Compassion Sunday, and also to those who signed up to be a sponsor for the first time. Our engagement with churches and the support of sponsors is seeing more children living in poverty being given the opportunity for a brighter future.'

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HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

YWAM's Ship Comes In

YWAM's new medical ship, *MV Ammari*, arrived at Queens Wharf, Newcastle, on 25 September and YWAM invites you to come aboard for a tour during the three-week stop in Newcastle, 26 September to 17 October. Some staff and students will be temporary crew during this time and may well be your tour guide!

The ship is open to the public on Saturdays (27 Sept, 4 and 11 October) from 10am to 4pm; Sundays (28 Sept, 5 and 12 October) from 1-4pm; School Holidays (Monday, 29 Sept to Friday, 3 Oct) from 10am-4pm. The *Overcome The Impossible* Campaign is a 10-port tour from Cairns down to Sydney to raise awareness of the enormous health and training needs and opportunities in Papua-New Guinea. YWAM has been delivering health, training and community development in PNG since 2010. With this new vessel, the capacity of YWAM MSA will increase by 500%.

YWAM'ers are so excited for the ship to be with them for such an extended time, knowing that it will bring a special encouragement and light to Newcastle of the incredible works happening around the globe.



Bible League Calls For Prayer

BIBLE League's partners in Mozambique have many language groups requesting Bibles. Local languages are Tsonga, Shona and Tswana as well as the need of Portuguese study portions. Pray that these Bibles will bring many people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. Around the world, Bible League International translation teams are hard at work on *Easy-to-Read™* translations in 15 major languages. Each translation takes from 7-12 years to complete and requires pains-taking dedication and precision. Continue to pray that the Lord will bless the work of these teams. In 2010, Muslims were the second largest religious group in the world (1.6 billion), Christians being the largest. Please pray that God will open the doors for Bible League International to reach more Middle Eastern people and that their hearts and eyes will be opened to the living God. Pray for 160 Church Planters who are planting new churches with the support of Bible League resources in Columbia. Pray especially for safety and that groups will be united in their endeavours to spread God's Word.

Moeller Named Biblica CEO

BIBLICA has announced that its Board of Directors, by unanimous vote, has appointed Dr Carl A. Moeller as its Chief Executive Officer, effective 14 October 14. Since 2000, Dr Moeller served three

years as a pastor at Saddleback Church, then nine years as President and CEO for Open Doors, USA, before founding Sequoia Global Resources in 2012. He will replace Doug Lockhart, who announced last March that he would transition from his role as Biblica's CEO by early 2015. As president of Open Doors, Dr Moeller helped awaken churches in the West to the ongoing persecution of Christians in other parts of the world. During his time with Sequoia Global Resources, he helped cultivate philanthropic partnerships to address some of the most intractable global needs, including poverty, autism, education, and more. He has worked in more than 75 countries around the world and is an ordained minister with the Evangelical Free Church.

Ian Paisley At Peace

DR Ian Paisley, Northern Ireland's one-time firebrand preacher, passed away on 12 September age 88, in Belfast. He was known to his supporters as 'the big man' whose most reported words were 'no', 'never', 'no surrender' and 'not an inch'. Later in life, after a career that spanned nearly 40 years, he had an extraordinary transformation, and after this occurred, he led his people to a better place. Paisley was a powerful preacher before he became involved in politics. He was born in 1926 in Armagh, the county town of County Armagh. His father was a Baptist minister and his mother a preacher. He grew up in Ballymena, which was to become his political powerbase.

— Dan Wooding, ASSIST

Read *Who Are The Brisbane Christian Fellowship?*
by David Holden. Free at www.defenceofthefaith.org

NEWS FROM ABROAD

Official Opening For Mary Jones World Visitor Centre

MARY Jones World, a new visitor and education centre, created by Bible Society on the edge of Lake Bala in North Wales, will be officially opened on Sunday 5 October. The centre will give people the opportunity to discover the story of Mary Jones and Thomas Charles and learn about the impact of the Bible, not only in Wales, but the rest of the world.

In 1800, 15 year-old Mary Jones walked 26 miles from Llanfihangel-y-Pennant to Bala to purchase a Bible from Rev Thomas Charles. Mary had saved for six years and Rev Charles was so moved by her determination to own a Bible that he helped establish Bible Society four years later. He is one of a number of notable figures buried in the churchyard at Llanycil near Bala.

Bible Society Group Chief Executive James Catford says, '200 years after Mary Jones walked to Bala to buy her Bible, we're still enabling people in the UK and abroad to access the Bible. And that story will be told at Mary Jones World.'

Workmen have been on the site at the church since February this year. The building has been transformed using traditional materials. The site at Llanycil has been a place of Christian worship for more than 1,500 years and a team of archaeologists has monitored all the excavations.

Head of Bible Society Wales, Christine Daniel says, 'Mary Jones World is a hugely exciting development for Bible Society, Wales and the world. The centre will demonstrate that the story of Mary Jones and Thomas Charles is not simply of historical note, but ongoing significance today.'

The opening will be marked by a procession from Capel Tegid, in Bala town centre, to Mary Jones World at Llanycil. It will be followed by a private ceremony attended by 300 guests, including church and civic leaders and close descendants of Thomas Charles from the UK and around the world. Mary Jones World will reopen to the public in April 2015.



Mary Jones' Church (above).



Mary and her Bible (right).



Thomas Charles' statue outside his church in Bala, North Wales.

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PERSECUTION WATCH

Ukraine At A Crossroads – Churches Step Up

THE Internally Displaced Persons from the Ukraine-Russia conflict number more than 300,000. That's the official figure, but UNHCR officials believe the real number is two to three times higher. Many simply find shelter with relatives or friends and don't alert anyone. Despite a ceasefire, the numbers keep rising. Meanwhile, rapidly-falling temperatures are causing increasing hardship for the many IDPs who fled with few possessions, thousands of whom are currently housed in temporary facilities that are ill equipped for winter conditions.

The Special Rapporteur called for the urgent adoption of an IDP law based on international human rights standards, as a vital element 'to enable all actors to respond effectively to their needs with budgets in place.' He insisted that adoption of a draft law, scheduled for 14 October, must not be further delayed and that other normative measures should be taken in the interim period.

Churches and civil groups have been stepping up to the plate to meet these needs as best they can in light of a government that can't afford uniforms or helmets for its army. It's a herculean effort, considering many of these churches and ministries have experienced severe losses of their own. Victor Akhterov, director of FEBC Russian Ministries, explains that four months ago, 'Our studios were robbed. We are grateful to God that our studios are still basically intact. We just have to replace some equipment, but the tower went down and the transmitter with it.' Then, last month, 'four people who were helping us were killed by the pro-Russian Separatists. The people who were killing them were screaming, "You evangelicals! We don't need to hear [this] on our land!"'

It was a devastating blow. Akhterov says most of the Christians they work with in the region are less than ten years old. 'Pray for the Church. This is what usually is not said: many of them are on the verge of losing their faith, especially the new Christians. They were hoping that God would protect them, and then they see the pastor's kids being murdered. We need to pray for this young church in Ukraine.'

While this station is currently offline due to sustained damage, there is good news. 'We actually recovered the transmitter from the rubble there, and [we] hope that it's still in working condition. We are now restoring the studio.' Plus, Akhterov adds, they're building a new tower. They're hoping to be back on the air soon, 'hopefully in October. And I'm speaking by faith, of course, because the war is still going. They have a so-called "peace agreement," but people are still shooting each other. We don't know what's going to happen next.'



Ukraine – in the wake of the conflict.

Pastors Who Stay In War Torn Areas Find Great Harvest

WHEN Islamic State overruns a village in Syria or Iraq, or even a city of two million people such as Mosul, many will flee, creating a huge flow of refugees to surrounding areas. But a few Christian pastors have made the courageous decision to stay behind and minister to Christians and Muslims. 'They all know they're at risk, especially if they're a visible leader,' says Steve Vanvalkenburg, Middle East director for Christian Aid Mission. He recently received a heartbreaking report from Aleppo, Syria, that underscores the danger. Pastor Imad, who chose to remain for the purpose of sharing Christ, was shot in the head by extremists two weeks ago.

His wife has disappeared, likely kidnapped. They both came to Christ from Muslim backgrounds. Vanvalkenburg doesn't begrudge those who leave, often to protect their families, but he has great esteem for those who make the conscious decision to remain behind. 'They stay because they have an opportunity to share Christ like never before. For years they've prayed for a spiritual breakthrough and now they are seeing it. Their friends and neighbours have never been so open to the Gospel.'

– Assist

Start Planning For Suffering Church Action Week
BARNABAS Fund invites you to join them during Suffering Church Action Week, 26 Oct–2 Nov, offering practical and spiritual support to suffering Christians. Go to barnabasfund.org to find out more.

MINISTER WANTED

Robinvale (Vic) Church of Christ is seeking a Part Time Minister.

Robinvale is a vibrant multicultural community on the Murray River surrounded by a broad range of horticultural industries.

'The harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few.' (Matthew 9.37)

Accommodation is available.

For further information and enquiry contact: Josh Boram: 0409 977 636

SPREADING THE WORD

Centre For Public Christianity Sets Up In Melbourne

THE Centre for Public Christianity is a not-for-profit media company that offers a Christian perspective on contemporary life and seeks to promote the public understanding of the Christian faith by engaging mainstream media and the general public with high quality and well-researched print, video and audio material about the relevance of Christianity in the 21st Century. It has operated in Sydney for a number of years under the direction of John Dickson and Simon Smart but has now set up a branch in Melbourne with Barney Zwartz as director.

With the Western World largely dismissing religion as irrelevant and divisive, and distorted media stereotypes painting faith as reactionary and anti-intellectual, some believers have felt compelled to adopt a strongly defensive posture against all critique. So CPX was launched to engage the public with a clear, measured and respectful picture of the Christian faith and the way it can impact all of life for the good. CPX holds to the historic Christian teaching found in the Old and New Testaments that centres on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and believes that a clear articulation of that teaching reveals Christianity's truth, beauty and goodness.

At a dinner to inaugurate the Melbourne branch, Barney Zwartz, veteran religion reporter for Melbourne's *Age* newspaper, shared his vision for his new appointment: 'Christianity is under increasing pressure in the public square. Militant secularists are getting more demanding at a time when public trust in the churches is at an all-time low. I don't know how strong they are in numbers, but their voice is strident.

'The church will never again have its once-privileged place in society, and that is a good thing. We have to persuade by argument, evidence and reason rather than by claimed authority, and that's good for society and for us. As religion editor, I tried to defend the idea that faith communities have made a vital contribution in the past and still do today. So I was delighted when I was invited to join the CPX team. Their goal of defending a public faith is my goal, but they also understand the importance of tone. They understand the importance of being thoughtful and compelling in a way that is also respectful and calm.'

To learn more about the Centre for Public Christianity go to: publicchristianity.org – it will be worth the visit.

HAVEN DAY CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR

The Haven Day Centre is a Community Service of the Knox Community Baptist Church. The Centre provides services to meet the needs of people suffering from varying levels of Memory Loss / Dementia and gives support to their Carers. The Committee of Management seeks a committed person to serve as co-ordinator of the Centre's program and its team of staff and volunteer staff 4 days (32 hours per week).

The Position Requires:

- Appropriate Tertiary Qualification preferably in Occupational Therapy, Nursing or Social Work.
- Day to day management of the Centre.
- Skills in policy, appropriate program development and management of HACC requirements.
- Experience in Dementia Care.
- Computer literacy.
- Drivers Licence and a Police Check.

Enquiries and request for Job Description to Rita:

administration@kcbc.org.au

Resume & names of 3 referees to the above email address by Friday, 7 November 2014

Quoted On FaceBook,

C.H. Spurgeon, Prince Of Preachers:
I plead this day for those who cannot plead for themselves, namely, the great outlying masses of the heathen world. Our existing pulpits are tolerably well supplied, but we need men who will build on new foundations.

Who will do this? Are we, as a company of faithful men, clear in our consciences about the heathen? Millions have never heard the Name of Jesus. Hundreds of millions have seen a missionary only once in their lives, and know nothing of our King. Shall we let them perish?

Can we go to our beds and sleep, while China, India, Japan, and other nations are being damned? Are we clear of their blood? Have they no claim on us? We ought to put it on this footing: not, "Can I prove that I ought to go?" but, "Can I prove that I ought not to go?"

'WHOSE FAITH FOLLOW'

'World's Fastest-Growing Church' (Iran) Celebrates New Bible Translation

A MAJOR new translation of the Bible into modern Persian, launched in London recently, marks a remarkable transformation for the church in Iran. According to a news release from Elam Ministries, the organization behind the translation, at the time of the Islamic revolution in 1979, there were no more than 500 Christians from a Muslim background in the country. Now Iran is thought to have the fastest-growing church in the world.



The translation team in action.

'A very conservative estimate puts the number of Christians in Iran at 100,000,' said David Yeghnazar of Elam Ministries. 'The generally-accepted estimate is 370,000. Some believe there are 700,000, some over a million. *Operation World* puts the annual growth rate at 19.7%. If that is the case, Iran will very soon have one million Christian believers.'

Yeghnazar believes there are a number of reasons why the church has grown so rapidly. 'The Iranian identity is not rooted in Islam and there is real disillusionment with the religion,' he said in the release. 'The house church movement has emerged, allowing Iranians to go to Christian meetings easily and not risk all by going to a public church. New Christians have zealously shared the Gospel and Scriptures and there has been on-going prayer for Iran around the world.'

Some people expected at the launch have been imprisoned for their faith. One wrote Scriptures on her prison wall for others to read. Indeed, the vision for a Bible in modern Persian was conceived when Iran's church was in the midst of murderous persecution. In 1994, three senior church leaders were killed, including Tateos Michaelian, Iran's foremost translator of Christian Scriptures and books into Persian.

'Michaelian joyfully accepted the role of lead translator for the new translation,' said Yeghnazar. 'One month later he was dead – shot in the head by three bullets. It was a military-style execution. He had spoken out one too many times against the Iranian government.' Despite grieving for his loss, Elam Ministries said Iran's church leaders continued to work on a new translation in Persian that was 'accurate, modern and elegant.' The dedication of this Bible with representatives of the international church sends out a clear message to those who persecute Christians.

– Jeremy Reynolds, Senior Correspondent for ASSIST

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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 –



Responding To God’s Mercy.

Romans 12:1,2

FOR REFLECTION:

Why do you think God is pleased with you as a living sacrifice?

Are you living reasonably according to these verses or, foolishly according to the world’s dictates?

The biggest problem faced by the believer in his thinking is to keep on recognising that God’s mercy is not a human achievement. It is so natural, given the conditional nature of human love and acceptance, to think that God’s love and acceptance is conditional also. We need to keep correcting our thinking to see that we are not working to achieve and maintain God’s mercy but rather, all we do is a response to God’s mercy.

God’s Great Mercy

Mercy is always a precondition, it is never a human achievement. Mercy is the environment from which Paul’s urging springs in verse 1. He comes to his third great



‘therefore’ in Romans – see 5.1; 8.1; and now 12.1: in view of God’s merciful dealings with us, here is the ‘spiritual’ or more literally, the ‘logical’ or ‘reasonable’ response. Here then is the very heart of reasonable living, to ‘offer your bodies as living sacrifices’. Just as the old covenant believer would bring a dead animal sacrifice in order to maintain relationship with God, we are to come as living sacrifices, as a reasonable response to the unconditional relationship we have with God and which He has established.

All the Old Testament sacrifices anticipate the central sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. His death makes the Old Testament sacrificial system redundant. It is now as superseded as the old ‘pounds, shillings and pence’ currency system. However, His death makes the other New Testament sacrifice, the sacrifice of yourself, totally reasonable.

This reasonable response, Paul says, is both wholehearted (holy) and pleasing to God. When Eric Liddle, of *Chariots of Fire* fame, was asked why he kept running, he responded, ‘When I run I feel His pleasure’. There are things which God takes no pleasure in, like sin and the death of the wicked, but you can know God’s pleasure today as you live reasonably and offer your body to him as a living sacrifice. In 2 Corinthians 5.14,15 Paul tells us what went through the mind of Jesus when He was dying on the cross. He says, ‘And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again’.

Recognising Christ’s purpose and living consistently with it is eminently reasonable. Isaac Watts puts it like this: ‘Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.’ The missionary C.T. Studd put it like this: ‘If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.’

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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)

BOOKS WORTH READING

Princeton And The Work Of Christian Ministry, Selected by James M. Garretson, Edinburgh: Banner Of Truth, 2012.

Two volumes ISBN 978-1-84871-164-8

THESE two volumes contain a splendid collection of 70 addresses, essays and articles by Faculty and friends of Old Princeton, the Theological Seminary before its re-organisation in 1929. They show that it was more than a bastion of orthodoxy, it was the cradle for evangelism, mission and pastoral work. As James Garretson remarks, 'The Princetonians' high view of Scripture was accompanied by an equally high view of the calling and responsibilities associated with the ministerial office'. The seminary was founded as 'a nursery of vital piety,' and its founders and teachers saw both godliness and scholarship as essential to a faithful and effective ministry.

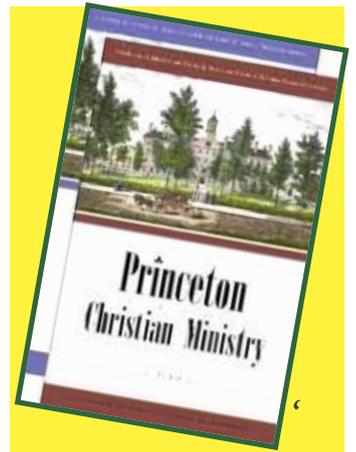
The 'plan' or constitution of the seminary (1811) makes explicit the conviction 'that religion without learning, or learning without religion, in the ministers of the Gospel must ultimately be injurious to the church'. Founding professor, Samuel Miller, in a sermon on 2 Timothy 2.2 insists that 'the first requisite to form a faithful and able minister is piety'. At the inauguration of the other founding professor, Archibald Alexander, it was stated: 'Whatever may be the talents of ministers, they are like, without personal piety, to be of no lasting advantage to the church'. Alexander himself insists on the essential relation of sound doctrine, pious feelings and moral character, and Alexander's writings on the nature and character of religious experience are justly famous. He quotes (and translates) Witsius, who wrote: 'The student of the Bible must be at the same time the disciple of the Spirit'.

The teachers of Old Princeton did not teach a lifeless Orthodoxy. An example of their emphasis is a heartfelt address by Alexander to candidates for the ministry on the need for eminent piety. Perhaps in a review it is not inappropriate to mention Alexander's lecture on *The Use And Abuse Of Books*, in which he reminds bookworms that reading is not a substitute for doing our own independent thinking on a subject. There is, then, the danger of reading too much! Samuel Miller brings out the awesome responsibilities of Gospel ministry, urging students to make good use of their years of preparation, acquiring habits of study that will go with them into ministry. Lest we think for a moment that Miller sees learning as the sole key to ministry success, he also insists that Christ is the great model of Gospel ministers. These two professors refused to separate what Scripture joins, namely study and piety, hard work and constant prayer.

Ashbel Green rejects the claim that study is injurious to piety and ministry success. A.A. Hodge in his inaugural address as professor speaks for the whole Princeton tradition when he says, 'The Systematic theologian as well as the exegete is only an interpreter (of Scripture)'. Theirs was a Bible-based orthodoxy, one that preached, evangelised and led to consecrated living for Christ. Old Princeton never succumbed to cold orthodoxy. With Hodge we should refuse to make a false divide between creed and morality, or faith and practice, rather 'truth is in order to holiness'.

The endpoint and highpoint of the Princeton tradition was B.B. Warfield (1851-1921), and his death marked the end of Old Princeton. Warfield wages a war against the all-too-common idea that the less theology a minister has the better. Volume Two contains his famous address, *The Religious Life Of Theological Students*.

(Continued on p.16)



'Old Princeton was more than a bastion of orthodoxy; it was the cradle for evangelism, mission and pastoral work.'

BOOKS WORTH READING

(From p.15) Warfield insists that the minister must be both learned and religious; it is not a matter of choosing one rather than the other. He puts it bluntly, 'There is certainly something wrong with the religious life of a theological student who does not study!'

J. Gresham Machan also wrote of the essential relation between knowledge and piety, or, otherwise expressed, between culture and Christianity. He said, 'The church is perishing today through lack of thinking, not through an excess of it'.

The twin volumes of over 1300 pages show the balanced approach of the teachers of pre-1929 Princeton, and a thoughtful and prayerful reading of these volumes will also help us to regain and maintain our spiritual balance.

– Greg Goswell

Something To Think About: What Do You Think About Life Beyond Death?

SOCIAL status usually reflects our income levels, our professional skills and networks, or the quality of our housing and our relationships. However, experiencing grief, or seeing innocent people suffer, confronts us with bigger questions about life beyond death.

Most people believe our souls are immortal; thanks to ancient Greek philosophers who saw the physical world as totally evil or, at best, copied from the real, spiritual world of ideas. This concept invites some reassurance of life beyond death, but it carries no personal or identifiable continuity with here and now.

Reincarnation is another common idea. But since it describes different life-forms, it also lacks continuity; relying more on what we do than on who we are; or on any divine or personal interaction.

A third option is Jesus' resurrection; which affirms creation as good and worth redeeming. This option also opens the way into knowing God personally within all the challenges and opportunities we face here and now.

The Bible describes Jesus' resurrected body as recognisable, personal and three-dimensional – not merely spiritual – and having none of the limits imposed by our time schedules or physical barriers.

The Bible also promises all Jesus' followers that the same body-type will one day be theirs to enjoy – a promise that builds gratitude into our personal confidence and clarity. This gratitude also dismantles spiritual arrogance and infuses our compassion with God's grace, so that anyone who is hurting may plug into the same confidence and clarity.

So status, suffering and death need no longer challenge anyone's sense of value.

– Noel Mitaxa – *Inviting you to explore God's love*
noelmitaxa@wordpress.com

Noel Mitaxa is a syndicated columnist and author who has followed Jesus: as an employment counsellor; as a pastor and as an industrial, sports and cruise chaplain; but mostly as a happy husband, father and grandfather. His weekly Good News column invites newspaper readers—whose faith may range from the religious to the remote—to examine, to explore and to express God's grace within their circles of influence.

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