

1 November 2014

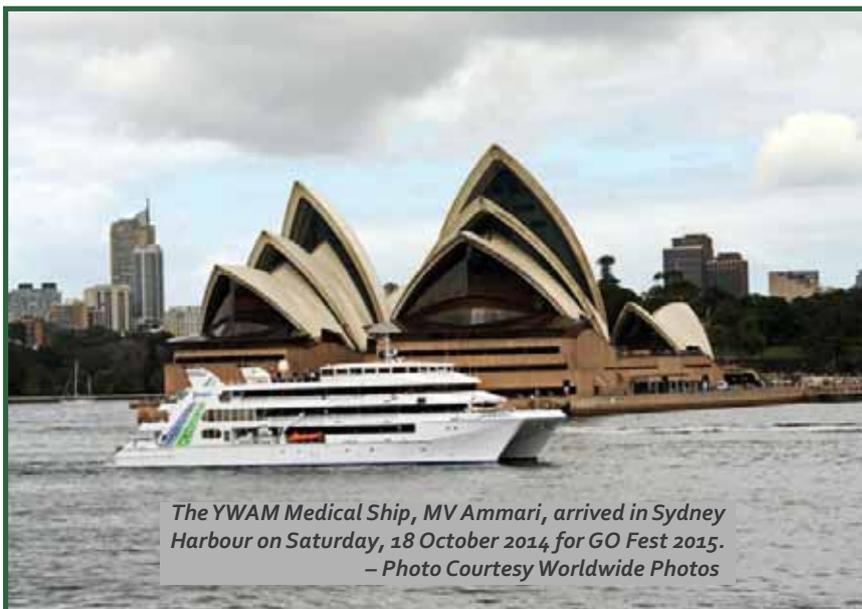
Vol 77 No 9

Free On Request: office@nlife.com.au

Find Out About GO Fest 2015 Sydney Aboard MV Ammari Medical Ship!

GO Fest 2015 Sydney is a missions conference with a twist: inviting believers from every background to come together to hear inspiring speakers, experience uplifting worship, be equipped in practical workshops, and then have an opportunity to 'GO' immediately on a short term outreach. *GO Fest* is hosted by Youth With A Mission, an international mission agency founded in 1960.

God is doing unprecedented work both at home and abroad, so YWAM's aim is to see those worlds integrally connected by working to create partnerships with churches, schools, mission groups, and the business community that will see the youth of Australia (and the young at heart) mobilised and equipped to 'GO' and



The YWAM Medical Ship, MV Ammari, arrived in Sydney Harbour on Saturday, 18 October 2014, for GO Fest 2015.
— Photo Courtesy Worldwide Photos

make disciples in the marketplace, in communities, and in the most needy and least-reached places of the world.

To find out more about *GO Fest Sydney* and opportunities to partner with this unique event, YWAM invites those interested to an information luncheon on YWAM's newest medical ship on Wednesday, 12 November from 12.30 to 2 pm on YWAM's Medical Ship *MV Ammari* docked at White Bay Cruise Terminal, James Craig Road, Rozelle NSW.

For more details (and RSVP by 7 November) please contact: Elizabeth Janas, *GO Fest Sydney* Co-ordinating Team, at elizabeth@gofest2015.com

Why Five Texas Pastors Had Their Sermons Subpoenaed

HOUSTON, we have a problem! The Houston Texas City Council issued subpoenas demanding five pastors hand over their sermon notes on the topics of 'equal rights, civil rights, homosexuality, or gender identity'. Also demanded are notes on 'restroom access'. According to the *National Review Online*, it's not only their sermons. Emails, instant messages and text messages on the same topics must also be produced.

Houston Mayor Annise Parker tweeted: 'If the five pastors used pulpits for politics, their sermons are fair game'. At issue is a citizens' initiated referendum seeking to overturn a controversial council law which allows people into toilets designated for the opposite sex.

Eric Metaxas, author of the acclaimed biography of former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's hero Dietrich Bonhoeffer, tweeted: 'A mayor demanding to see sermons is fascist intimidation. The Gestapo did this to the churches in Germany, of course.' The mayor's actions should be a big wake-up call to the church in America. And here.

Tolerance is not a virtue of the purveyors of the sexual revolution. Conformity is their demand. When same-sex marriage was briefly legal in the Australian Capital Territory late last year, the Attorney General Simon Corbell wrote to the Australian Christian Lobby to say that exercising one's religious freedom by declining to provide services to a same-sex wedding would be a breach of the Anti-Discrimination Act. Corbell was signalling that just as in the US, Australian florists, bakers and photographers would also be sued for not complying with same-sex marriage. (Continued on page 4)

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Nail It Like Luther!

'LUTHER nailed it on this day (31 October) in 1517. Thank God for a man ruled by the Word of God and ready to defy Prelates and Princes.' So writes David Burke on his FaceBook page today – with the sort of opener subeditors dream of.

'Today is Reformation Day – celebrating the date on which Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenburg Cahedral – and changed the world! As a society and a Church we owe an incalculable debt of gratitude to the courageous life of this one man!' So writes Peter Thorneycroft on his FaceBook page.

But how many people even realised when they rose this morning that 'this is the day' – the day on which the Church was woken from her slumbers and raised again from 'the death of sin to the life of righteousness'?

And all because God had stirred the heart and mind of Martin Luther and given him the courage of his convictions.

In a day and age when people are as adept at bending the truth as David Beckham is at bending the trajectory of a soccer ball, the Church has a desperate need for people who can – and will – simply 'nail it' with Gospel power, Bible truth and Spirit enabling.

We owe so much to the straight shooters of Church History, who 'rightly handle the Word of truth' and nothing to those who bend, distort or ignore it. It is the benders who lead the Church astray, create confusion and doubt in the minds of believers and unbelievers alike, and cause schism as they gain prominence and power in the Church so that from a position of dominance they can force those with a heart for God and the truth of His Word to leave and start afresh.

Mind you, these benders of the truth also create unintended consequences. Paul's letters might never have been written if it weren't for false teachers in the Church even in those days. Christians might still be living in bondage to the corruption of the Mediaeval Church without Luther. We might still be under the allure of liberalism without the believing scholarship of F.F. Bruce, D.M. Lloyd-Jones, J.I. Packer, J.R.W. Stott, Leon Morris, Broughton Knox, Allan Harman ... and so many others who follow in Luther's train.

Mind you, too, it is wondrously refreshing to have thrown off the shackles of the benders of the truth and strike out afresh in the freedom Christ gives. I can personally testify to that.

31 October 1517. This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

- Bob Thomas

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: Islamic Rebels Slaughter Villagers

BORDERING South Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda, the heavily forested, mineral-rich, north-east region of the Democratic Republic of Congo has long been wracked with insecurity. Numerous armed groups including the Lord's Resistance Army, the M23 militia, the Mai Mai, and most recently the Allied Democratic Forces have inflicted immense suffering on the predominantly Christian communities that dot the region. For the Congolese Army, it is a perpetual war zone.

On Thursday evening 16 October, ADF fighters armed with machetes and other blades attacked the Ngadi and Kadowu neighbourhoods on the northern outskirts of Beni City in North Kivu Province, which borders Uganda. Twenty-six local residents were killed and dozens wounded in a rampage of appalling violence. Earlier, on 10 October, ADF rebels attacked nearby Oicha, killing nine people, including small children. On Friday evening 17 October ADF fighters attacked the town of Eringeti, about 55km north-east of Beni City. Using machetes, axes and hoes, they slaughtered four men, ten women and eight children, bringing the toll from ten days of extreme violence to at least 80 dead, with hundreds wounded and more than 50 women raped. On Saturday night 18 October, unidentified bandits compounded the insecurity when they raided a jail in Butembo, south of Beni, releasing some 370 prisoners. Local people have begun organising their own defence militias, fearing that the Congolese Army is incapable of keeping them secure.



By Sunday 19 October the exodus had begun, with people fleeing the area. The Allied Democratic Forces is a Ugandan militia that formed in 1989 aiming to overthrow the Ugandan government of President Yoweri Museveni and replace it with Islamic rule. It is the product of a merger between the Islamic fundamentalist proselytising

Tabligi sect and remnant fighters from the (Islamic) National Army for the Liberation of Uganda. Reportedly, the ADF also includes several former commanders from Idi Amin's army. The ADF's founder and leader, designated terrorist Jamil Mukulu (68), was a Catholic and outspoken critic of Islam until Muslim scholars won him over and he converted to Islam. Mukulu spent the early 1990's in Khartoum, Sudan, where he became close to Osama bin Laden and significant Sudanese Islamists in the ruling regime. The ADF became operational in 1995, committing several terrorist attacks before the Ugandan Army drove it out of the country and into the DRC in 2002.

Mukulu laid low for the next decade, focusing on recruitment, indoctrination, illegal gold mining and timber smuggling. The ADF receives support from the Islamic regime in Khartoum, which sponsors proxies to destabilise the predominantly Christian states neighbouring and allied to South Sudan, ie Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, DRC and Central African Republic.

Since 2002 the ADF is said to have killed around 3,000 Congolese and kidnapped over 900, including some 600 Congolese women and girls. Women who have escaped report being kept in a hole in the ground and only taken out to be used for sex. Sources report that in the Oicha region, north of Beni, many priests and doctors have been kidnapped, with those refusing to convert to Islam beheaded.

The ADF resurfaced as a fighting force in 2012 and reportedly has developed ties with the Somali terror group al-Shabaab. Ex-ADF fighters report that Mukulu has been sending trained jihadists to Somalia since November 2011. Mukulu was implicated in the September 2013 Westgate shopping mall attack in Nairobi, Kenya, amidst claims that he is seeking to establish himself as an al-Qaeda leader in east Africa. Since January 2014 the ADF has been under severe pressure as the Congolese Army has gained ground, capturing some of its main bases. It seems the ADF is retaliating by escalating its terrorism against civilians. DRC is 92% Christian and Uganda is 85% Christian. This is a spiritual battle, and 'we are not ignorant of [Satan's] designs'. (2 Corinthians 2.10,11 ESV)

– Elizabeth Kendal, author of *Turn Back The Battle: Isaiah Speaks To Christians Today*, (Deror Books, 2012). <http://www.turnbackthebattle.com/thebook.html>

PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WILL:

- thwart Sudan's plans to destabilise the region, thwart the ADF's plans to terrorise and Islamise Christian peoples and thwart Jamil Mukulu's terrorist ambitions. *'The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He frustrates the plans of the peoples.'* (Psalm 33.10 ESV);
- draw the people of terror-stricken North Kivu province into prayer; may their prayers be answered and may the Church in north-east DRC grow in faith;
- impress His grief on all the churches across DRC and Uganda, so that those in the troubled border region are not left to face this trial alone; may believers unite in prayer, calling on the LORD for peace and security in DRC and the wider region. *'Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD ...'* (Psalm 33.12a ESV)



EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

Leaders Equipped At Australasian MOPS Conference

'BE brave about stepping into your area of influence – whether it's in the office, in the living room or in your communities' – was the challenge Sherry Surratt, CEO of MOPS International, gave to 180 MOPS leaders gathered for the 2014 Australasian MOPS Conference at Stanwell Tops on 17-19 October. MOPS ('Mothers Of Preschoolers') is a non-denominational church-based outreach ministry operating in over 100 churches around Australia in every State and Territory. The Conference was a wonderful opportunity for these women to be further equipped for leadership by Sherry Surratt who is also author of the books *Just Lead*, for women leaders in the church, and *Brave Mom – Facing And Overcoming Your Real Mom Fears*, which will be next year's theme book for MOPS groups.

In each of her addresses, she connected with Australian leaders in a gently authentic way. On the theme of brave leadership, Sherry encouraged her listeners to consider the courage of both Jonathon and his armour bearer in 1Samuel 14. As leaders, we might be a 'Jonathon' who needs to step out bravely in God's plan and rely on God to act, or we might be an 'armour bearer', not signed up to be the front guy but one who supports and steps forward with courage saying 'I am with you heart and soul'.

Karen Dickson, Chair of MOPS Australia, said MOPS Leadership Conferences are a great way of allowing like-minded people to connect, share stories and receive encouragement. 'The 2014 Australasian MOPS Conference was one such occasion. Women in various leadership roles came from across the country. Their vision for how they could have an impact in their sphere of influence was not only revived but expanded,' Karen said. 'Leaders are glad to know they are not alone, and many of our MOPS leaders were encouraged by hearing from their leader counterparts in other states. Hearing women share their stories of how God had grown them was beyond inspirational. God, through MOPS, has touched, encouraged, grown and matured so many women and their families.'

The purpose of MOPS is to encourage, equip and develop every mother of preschoolers to reach her potential as a woman, a mother and a leader in the name of Jesus Christ. For more information on MOPS or how to start a group in your church, visit mops.org.au or contact Lexia Smallwood, Managing Director, at: office@mops.org.au, phone: 0413 693 274.

(Continued from P.1)

The High Court's overturning of the ACT law last December meant Australian Christians did not have to face legal sanction for their religious principles. The Greens and same-sex marriage lobbyists continually told a recent Senate hearing in Melbourne that same-sex marriage would have no impact on religious freedom. Nothing could be further from the truth. What's happening in Houston is unreal. But as we can see, there are those in Australia who would like to see people who exercise their conscience fall foul of the law. It's not too late to protect religious freedom in Australia. But we will need to wake up.

– Lyle Shelton.



Sherry Surratt

Share Eternity

Sign up to yesHEis this Christmas and share Jesus online with your non-Christian friends. Access the most sharable thought provoking content available, connected to an invitation to become a follower of Jesus. Sign up and give the ultimate gift this Christmas.

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CHRISTIANS STANDING TOGETHER

664 Australian Churches Unite To Pray And Raise Awareness For Victims Of Persecution In Iraq And Syria

MORE than 664 churches throughout Australia will give part of their service on Sunday 2 November to prayer and awareness of persecuted Christians, particularly those suffering under the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Dubbed *Solidarity Sunday*, participating churches will also be mindful of other religious minorities also suffering under IS such as the Yazidis, and Shia Muslims.

'The violence brought by the rise of Islamic State has brought terrible destruction and disruption to the lives of so many Christians, Yazidis and Muslims,' ACL Managing Director Lyle Shelton said. 'Christians have been given three choices: convert to Islam, pay an extraordinarily high tax to IS or flee. Now there is not a single Christian living in the city of Mosul. They have all fled. During the three year civil war in Syria, half a million Christians have fled persecution.'

IS targeted Christians by spray painting their houses and businesses with the Arabic letter 'N' for Nasara meaning 'Christian.' Christians in Iraq and around the world have adopted the symbol in a sign of solidarity and on Sunday members of many of the 664 participating churches will be wearing T-Shirts bearing the symbol while praying for the victims of the genocide.

According to the German International Society for Human Rights, 80% of all religious discrimination and vilification is directed toward Christians. Many of the participating churches will show this short video: <https://vimeo.com/110220388> to raise awareness.

'We hope the prayer for, and solidarity with, these fellow believers from Christians in Australia will be a great encouragement to them in the midst of their distress,' Mr Shelton said.



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or Tony Smit: 0418 591 765.

CHURCH AND NATION ...

ACL Urges Vote For Candidates Supporting Doctors' Freedom Of Conscience

THE Victorian Premier and Opposition Leader have both stated that they 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 2014.

With both the Premier and the Opposition leader giving the green light to a private members bill on doctors' conscience in abortion, the Australian Christian Lobby has urged voters to vote for pro freedom of conscience candidates regardless of party.

'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. 'Victorian voters who value life are urged to vote for a pro-freedom of conscience candidate from either party at the (Victorian) election,' Mr Flynn said.

Money For School Chaplains Secured

DAVID and Ros Philips, Directors of *Family-Voice Australia*, report that Federal Education Minister Christopher Pyne has personally informed them that the Commonwealth Government has now signed contracts with all eight state and territory governments to fund the National School Chaplaincy Program. They queried the details, because the SA education minister had been reported as implying that the money might be used for secular counsellors as well. This could have meant there would not be enough to cover the salaries of all chaplains. Mr Pyne, however, said no – the funding is specifically and only to be used for chaplains.

WORTH NOTING:

'In the end, Christianity triumphed in its early Greco-Roman context not because it was the same as the surrounding pagan culture, but because it was different.'

– Michael J. Kruger, Professor of New Testament, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

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2. Direct deposit \$10 to Bank: Westpac; A/c name: New Life Australia Ltd
BSB: 033-112; A/c No: 16-8239 (Please also notify us by email).



WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS ...

G20 Means Busy Time For Brisbane Christians

CHRISTIANS in Brisbane are making the most of the forthcoming once-in-a-generation G20 meeting in their city to hold a number of meetings in conjunction with it.

THE KEY EVENTS ARE:

Micah Challenge's *Shine The Light Brisbane Campaign*

Shine The Light Brisbane is a weekend of worship and advocacy events one week prior to the G20 Leaders' Summit, which aims to raise awareness around the impact of tax dodging and corruption on developing nations and influence G20 leaders to take concrete action on the issue. They have a specific website set up to promote these events at:

www.micahchallenge.org.au/brisbane

An Evening With Graham Power

GRAHAM Power has grown and developed the *Global Day Of Prayer* and now *Unashamedly Ethical*, while owning one of the largest privately owned Civil Engineering Construction Companies in South Africa. On Monday Night 10 November Graham will share his testimony, key Biblical business principles and speak about *Unashamedly Ethical*. The event is free to attend and will be live streamed for those who live outside of Brisbane. All the details and to register are at www.grahampower.eventbrite.com.au

Important Conversations

IMPORTANT Conversations is happening on Thursday 13 November as part of a range of events in Brisbane around the 2014 G20 summit. The Group of Twenty (also known as the G20) is a forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies. Some of the brightest minds of the world will be gathering. This is your opportunity to hear from them. Listen and ask questions of some of the world's best thinkers as they comment on issues that are critical to us as a nation and to the global community of today and the future. Tickets are available now to attend on Thursday evening 13 November.

This very special forum will focus on three key issues: *Recognising First Nations, Prostitution And Trafficking Globally, Freedom Of Religion In Business*. The panel consists of Dr Brian Grim, Dr Caroline Norma, Tanya Hosch, Karl Faase, Brooke Prentis and Dr Rod St Hill. It will be facilitated by Wendy Francis (of Australian Christian Lobby). Registration is open now at www.importantconversations.com.au

To Help You Go Fishing For Men:

Global Recordings has just released the iPhone version of their *5fish* app! What is *5fish* you ask? It's a tool for accessing audio Gospel materials in thousands of different languages – well worth having on hand to share the Gospel when you meet someone whose heart language is not English.

Why *5fish*? Gospel Recordings says that the recordings available on *5fish* contain some of the most important words you will ever hear. They speak good news for everyone in their own language. Just as fish is food for sustaining physical life, the messages on *5fish* offer spiritual life. GR reckons that if everyone shares *5fish* within a week with five people who have not yet discovered it, the whole world would discover *5fish* in 15 weeks! GR reminds us that Jesus used two fish to feed 5,000 people, and GR hopes that *5fish* will be used to feed all people.

Get it from the Apple App Store. <https://itunes.apple.com/.../gospel-in-every-lan.../id659138487...> (There is also an Android version that has been out for a while).

For more information go to <http://5fish.mobi/au>



G20 Church Service

FORMER Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, John Anderson, will be the guest speaker at the G20 Church Service to be held in the Brisbane City Tabernacle Baptist Church, 163 Wickham Terrace, Spring Hill, at 10.30am on Sunday 16 November. For further information email

wendy.francis@acl.org.au

Prayer For Leaders

THE organisers of these events have been praying daily for the leaders that are coming to the G20. They have set up a separate web page for this at

www.prayerforleaders.com Enquiries about the whole series of events may be made to wesleyl@businessblessings.com.au

A MAN AND HIS MISSION ...

Military Funeral For 'Elder Statesman'

WITH the coffin borne on a gun carriage, a packed St Andrew's Cathedral farewelled Bishop Ken Short, described by Archbishop Davies as an 'elder statesman' of the Sydney Diocese. Bishop Short died on 19 October after suffering a stroke. Family, friends and colleagues from his varied ministry as CMS missionary in Africa, through parish ministry at Vaucluse and as Dean of Sydney, as well as his roles as Bishop of Wollongong and Parramatta, gathered in St Andrew's Cathedral.



His service as a soldier during the occupation of Japan and as first Bishop of the Defence Force, meant the service proceeded with full military honours. The procession was watched by his widow Gloria and family as well as Archbishop Davies, former Archbishop Harry Goodhew and Canon David Short, Bishop Short's son.

His son-in-law, the Rev Simon Manchester, delivered the eulogy and his daughters Kathy and Marion read Bible passages. Mr Manchester spoke of the late bishop's varied roles: 'He had a gift for teaching the Bible simply and strongly. In his official capacities he travelled all over the world. In Christ's service he was able to visit about 30 countries. He would faithfully explain and apply Scripture with wonderful illustrations and he was invited to speak for his skill and ability. Only Heaven will reveal how many people were transformed from that wonderful ministry.'

Canon David Short preached the sermon on the picture Revelation 21 paints of heaven, at times using his father's notes on the same passage. 'Heaven is not just a very long church service, no matter how good it is. All that's best in creation gravitates there,' Canon Short told the congregation. 'It's a place of art and culture, nothing of value will be lost. All the threads of goodness that God has woven into our world – not one thread will be missing.'

– Russell Powell, SydneyAnglicans

Another MAF Autobiography

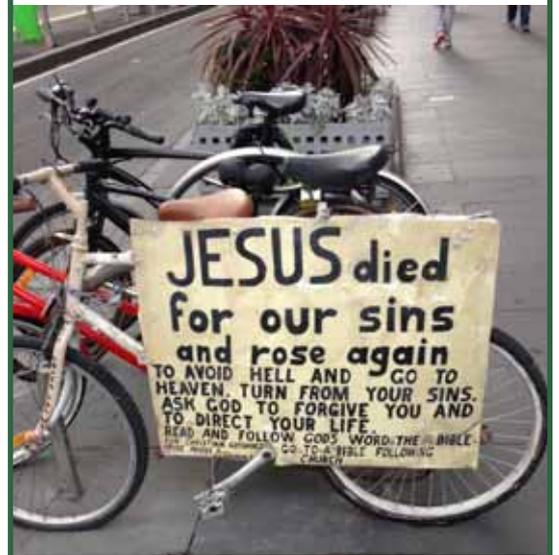
To Be Launched

RON Watts' autobiography *Crosswinds – Life On The Wing* has just been completed, with the first copies becoming available in time for the launch in early November. *Crosswinds* is the newest MAF autobiography, and Ron's purpose in writing it has gone beyond the telling of flying stories (although there are plenty of those) to exploring his own experience of God's faithfulness, no matter where the winds of change have blown.

Ron hopes that *Crosswinds* will appeal to a wide readership, and be the sort of book that can be enjoyed by all, aviation enthusiast or not, Christian or not, 'rusted on' MAF supporter, or someone who has never even heard of MAF! Copies will be available at the book launches for \$10 per copy (normal RRP \$14.95), with proceeds supporting the work of MAF.

The NSW launch will be held on Thursday 13 November from 2 – 4 pm at the MAF Australia Sydney Office, Unit 203, 14-16 Lexington Drive, Bella Vista NSW 2153. For catering purposes, please ring Freecall 1800 650 169 with numbers or email maf@maf.org.au by Monday 10 November, or phone Ron on 0414 759 067.

A Silent Witness In The City



'Witnessing For Christ By All Means Everywhere' is a well-worn but time-honoured mission statement, which one anonymous brother is keeping alive in Melbourne CBD.

Read *The Practicality Of Christianity*
by David Holden. Free at www.defenceofthefaith.org

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

CMS Promises: *Summer Under The Son To Be Better Than Ever!*

SUMMER Under The Son, CMS annual summer camp, promises to be better than ever, with Dr Rikk Watts, Professor of New Testament at Regent College, Vancouver, whose intelligent and sometimes humorous presentations are grounded in a deep love of Jesus, leads Bible Studies in 2 Corinthians.

The main guest speaker is Dr John Azumah, Associate Professor of World Christianity and Islam at Columbia Theological College, Georgia, USA. He will speak on *Islam And Mission Today*.

Missionaries Steve and Jenny Sonneman (Pakistan) and Inpa and Vana Eliezer (Cambodia) will share what God has been doing through their ministries.

SUTS is a great opportunity to start your year focussing on God and being encouraged to draw near to God and think about His big picture for the world. Call CMS on (03) 9894 4722 for further information or go to:

www.summerundertheson.org



New Vice Principal For Moore College

REV Dr Colin Bale has been appointed Moore College's new Vice Principal. Colin has been a member of the College faculty since 1999 and its Academic Dean since 2009. The two roles will be joined from 1 January 2015. Colin is principally a church historian who is passionate about Australian Church History in particular. He is also a trained teacher who was instrumental in helping Moore College prepare for its approval as Self-accrediting Higher Education Provider in 2011.

New Lecturer For SMBC

SYDNEY Missionary & Bible College announces with great pleasure the appointment of new Theology Faculty member Rev Dr David Burge, commencing in December 2015. David is currently the minister at Walcha (NSW) Presbyterian Church. David lectured in New Testament and Theology at the Union Bible Theological College in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and has worked part-time at SMBC. He has served in pastoral ministry in Uniting, Anglican and Presbyterian churches in Sydney. David's doctoral thesis compared Peter's views about God, life, death, and the after-life with alternative views in the Graeco-Roman world. David and his wife Ashleigh thank God for their years at SMBC, which developed in them a love for God's Word. David is eager to help others handle the Bible carefully and communicate it passionately.



Bible League Calls For Prayer

CONTINUE to pray for those who are being tortured and dying for their faith as persecution continues in the war zones of Eastern Ukraine. Pray for the safety of those delivering God's precious Word. Praise God for 42 people who gave their life to Christ in Lusaka, Zambia. These people received Bibles and other resources to use as they go and

share the Good News in their communities. Please pray for evangelistic teams who devote a year of their lives in bringing the Gospel through *One Year For Jesus* evangelistic outreach. Ask God for unity of the teams and to bless the evangelists spreading the Word of God in Russia! Give thanks for six students who graduated from the Bible-based Literacy class in Malaysia. Their persistence for over one year in learning English and God's Word has shown great results. Pray that these students will continue to read their Bibles and grow in faith.

INTERSERVE Needs A Communicator

INTERSERVE Australia seeks to appoint a full-time Communications Co-ordinator to implement initiatives that strengthen the Interserve brand and increase engagement in cross-cultural service, financial giving, prayer and local volunteering.

Aussies Partnering With FEBC In Kazakhstan

FEBC reports that a second Australian workparty has left its mark on their work in Kazakhstan. After the great success of the Australian team of retirees, tradies and willing workers who upgraded the studio and property facilities for FEBC Kazakhstan in April, a second team went to finish more of the task in September. A major undertaking was clearing the outside undergrowth and overgrown trees with a front-end loader they brought in to do the hard work. A carport was built, along with a gazebo as a pleasant and welcoming outdoor meeting area for interaction with local listeners. The team will be able to invite inquirers to come to the facility and sit and chat, exploring the issues they hear about on the programs. Inside, they continued repairing walls and repainting. They also upgraded a bathroom. All of these jobs make such a difference for the staff working there. The building was quite run-down when FEBC took over. Now the Kazakh team are working in a fresh and clean environment.

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD

SAT-7 Gives Hope To Middle Easterners

'THEY'RE not going to school. They've been uprooted from their homes. They don't know maybe where their parents are. They don't have any sense if they're even alive.' Speaking of children, Dr Rex Rogers, President of SAT-7 USA Christian satellite television ministry to the Middle East and North Africa, says they are the ones most affected by ISIS attacks.

More than ever, children and their parents need a message of peace. This message is being aired on SAT-7 24 hours a day, on six different channels, in three different languages: Arabic, Farsi, and Turkish. SAT-7 programming is produced by Middle Easterners, for Middle Easterners.



International Days Of Prayer For

Persecuted Christians, 2 – 9 November!

For hundreds of thousands of Christians in 2014, life has changed dramatically. Many have had every material comfort stripped away, replaced with a time of struggle, persecution and fight for survival.

All they have left is their faith.

Please join with Open Doors and Christians around the world as one global voice, in unity, lifting up the Persecuted Church in prayer during IDOP from 2 – 9 November. Open Doors has created FREE easy to download resources to help you and your audience share IDOP with your church, family, school or prayer group.

Please visit idop.org.au for more information.

Rogers says, 'We broadcast who we are. We share Christ and Christianity. We talk about human rights, like liberty and respect for property, respect for religious worship for all people. And we try to reinforce values of peace or dealing with conflict in a different way other than violence. In the Middle East, watching television is a family event.'

'All of our channels use every kind of television program or genre that you can think of that are legitimate – game shows or drama or movies.'

SAT-7 KIDS programs creatively touch the hearts of children through sing-a-longs, puppet shows, and bedtime stories. Children and their families learn the truth of Christ as presented in the simplicity and animation of children's programs. SAT-7 is completely funded through donations. Pray that SAT-7 will continue helping families and providing hope across the Middle East.

Go to www.sat7.org for more information.

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PERSECUTION WATCH

It's Time To Act At Home

PASTOR Daniel Nalliah, National President of the Rise Up Australia Party, alerts Australians that, as reported on Channel 7 on 29 and 30 October, four young boys were displayed on a stage in Sydney by older men who escorted them to the stage, where the boys speak of an Islamic Caliphate in Australia and death to democracy. The youngest boy who is just six years old, declares that you are never too young to be a soldier.

Pastor Nalliah asks: 'Is the six year old Muslim Boy a Moderate, a Radical, a Terrorist or a Mascot? Do DHS and the Government have the courage to remove these children from their families into protective custody for rehabilitation to save their lives, and more so, to protect Australia from possible disaster?'

You may watch the link below to see footage which incites young Muslim children living in Australia to hate non-Muslims. It is appalling, and needs immediate action by the Government.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/nsw/a/25383009/aussies-have-a-right-to-be-outraged-bishop/>

Pastor Daniel Nalliah stated, 'I have been warning Australia and the West for the past 15 years of the evil of fundamentalist Islam. I recommend that these children be immediately removed into protective custody, and the adults promoting this event be imprisoned and their organization shut down. But I dare say, neither DHS nor the Government will have the moral fortitude to remove these children because of fear of retaliation by the Muslims.'



ARGENTINA: Attempted Murder Of Baptist Pastor
CHRISTIAN Solidarity Worldwide is calling for a full investigation and charges to be brought against those responsible for the attempted murder of Baptist Pastor Marcelo Nieva in Río Tercero, Cordoba Province, Argentina on 21 October. Pastor Nieva, who leads the Pueblo Grande Baptist Church, which works with victims of domestic violence, sex trafficking and drug addicts, was shot at multiple times while driving in Río Tercero on the evening of 21 October along with church member Daniel Carreño. They were not wounded.

– www.csw.com.uk

KAZAKHSTAN: Believers Imprisoned For Distributing Christian Books

TWO Christian men in Kazakhstan have been given ten-day prison terms for distributing Christian literature after the authorities claimed the content of one of the books 'incites religious hatred'. – barnabasfund.org

CAMEROON: Influx Of Refugees

AFTER fleeing violent attack from Boko Haram militants, thousands of refugees are now facing hunger and thirst as Cameroon struggles to provide for so many displaced people. Hundreds of families from the north of Cameroon, where violence in Nigeria frequently spills over the border, have fled to other parts of the country. 'Christians were specifically targeted,' says one

Cameroonian pastor, of the attack on his village. 'At least three Christians died in Assigashiya and Mouldougoua.' A total of 82 families are now being housed in a local church. André, an Open Doors worker, was able to visit the group to encourage them and let them know that they haven't been forgotten. 'We took hands and then several of us prayed for them,' he explains, adding that Ichako, one of the refugees, told him: 'Thank you for visiting us to comfort us'. An estimated 43,000 Nigerians have fled to Cameroon over the past year, according to IRIN, the humanitarian news service associated with the United Nations. Almost 16,000 of them are housed in the Minawao refugee camp near Mokolo, but conditions are poor.

INDIA: Attacks On Christians Skyrocket

AFTER the right-wing Hindu nationalist BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) took power following India's general elections in May, attacks on Christians and other religious minorities by Hindu radical groups has skyrocketed. Prayer Points

- Pray that Christians who have been attacked will respond with grace and forgiveness.
- Pray that the increased number of attacks will not deter Indians from coming to faith in Christ.
- Pray for the leaders of the BJP party to recognise and submit to the authority of the one true God.

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'INASMUCH AS YOU DID IT UNTO ...'

Samaritan's Purse Relief Reaches Its Destination

THE Samaritan's Purse airlift from Charlotte Douglas International Airport, USA, included nearly 200,000 items of mixed clothing, plus 15,000 warm jackets and tens of thousands of socks and blankets along with 800,000 square feet of heavy-duty plastic used to insulate tents or unfinished buildings. Seasonal rains are coming and temperatures will drop to below freezing in some areas, making life even more difficult for families who had to flee in the face of Islamic State jihadists. Many are living in tents or houses and buildings without heat. The relief items arrived in Erbil, main city of the Kurdish semi-autonomous region of Iraq, on the morning of 16 October, local time.



Hundreds of thousands of displaced men, women, and children have been forced to seek refuge in Kurdish-controlled areas after ISIS militants captured several cities of western Iraq this summer. Among them are traditional Christians who were given just minutes to escape their homes on the Nineveh plains (Mosul area). Since the traditional Christian village of Qaraqosh fell in early August, Samaritan's Purse has been ministering to more than 200 families seeking shelter in a church in Erbil. They have provided tents, a playground, a large power generator, food, and more. In broader actions, nearly 2,800 baskets of food have been distributed since the beginning of this response. Each basket is intended to supply the basic needs of a family of five for one week.

In the past few weeks, Samaritan's Purse has reached more than 5,800 families distributing thousands of blankets and kerosene heaters and more than 3,300 children have recently received *Operation Christmas Child* shoeboxes. Samaritan's Purse has been actively delivering relief in northern Iraq since 2007. As Syrian refugees flooded into northern Iraq late last year, Samaritan's Purse provided food, medicine, clothing, bedding, and kerosene heaters, among other items and, in January, 65,000 *Operation Christmas Child* shoeboxes.

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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)

Who Can YOU
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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

TO BE WITH CHRIST ... OR TO ABIDE IN THE FLESH?

Death: A Pious Escapism?

WHILST preparing a sermon recently on Philippians 1.12-26, I was thinking how some perfectly healthy Christians see death as a welcome escape from all the trials and struggles of this life. George Whitefield used to think like that. He argued that no matter how hard life might be it would soon be over and he would be in Heaven.

Once on a trip to America, he was airing such views in the presence of William Tennent, the Irish-born and Edinburgh-educated Founder of Princeton University (via the Log College). Whilst all the others in the room piously nodded and murmured approval of Whitefield's sentiments, Tennent said nothing.

Whitefield then tapped him on the knee and said, 'Well! brother Tennent, you are the oldest man amongst us, do you not rejoice to think that your time is so near at hand, when you will be called Home and freed from all the difficulties attending this chequered scene?'

Tennent replied, 'No sir, it is no pleasure to me at all; and if you knew your duty, it would be none to you. I have nothing to do with death; my business is to live as long as I can, as well as I can and to serve my Master as faithfully as I can, until He shall think proper to call me Home ... I am God's servant; and have engaged to do His business as long as He pleases.'

If Tennent was right, and I believe he was, our personal preference simply doesn't come into the picture. So then what does? Let Paul answer: 'That now as always Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death.' Let God's plan for my future be what it may, long or short, easy or hard, my pathway is clear: 'That Christ be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death.'

– Rev John Ross, Minister of the Free Church of Scotland, Glenurquart and Fort Augustus



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Responding To God’s Mercy

Romans 12.3-8

FOR REFLECTION:

What are gifts for, according to verses 4,5? How can you be more diligent in the exercise of your giftedness? Which of the seven areas of ministry most relate to you and how can you apply Paul’s exhortation?

THE First Century Christian came to Christ, was baptised and immediately became part of a fellowship, a family, a community of God’s people. Thus, Paul’s first direction in these verses is to show how renewed thinking works its way out in the new family of the church.

It is a reflection of the individualism of the church in the West that such an emphasis would be much further down the order of priorities in the curriculum of discipleship today.

The believer is to think ‘soberly’ (v3), sensibly (as in Mark 5.15), according to the giftedness God has given him. Such gifting is contrary to our deserving (v6). The be-

liever must think humbly of self for he/she is part of a body (v4-5), and is not independent but interdependent.

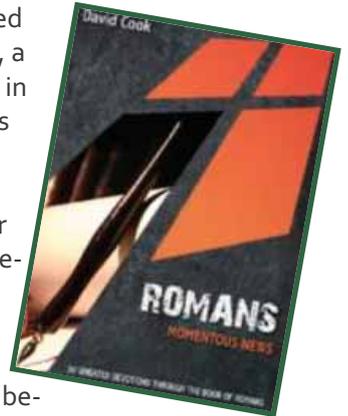
Paul lists various gifts in verses 6-8 and it is important to note that none of his gift lists, here or in Ephesians 4 or 1 Corinthians 12, are identical. There is a great diversity in God’s gifting, it is never static and God may well gift the same person differently in varied spheres of ministry.

The fact that Paul uses participles in describing the gifts shows that they are not to lie dormant but are evidenced as they are used. Paul lists seven giftings. In the last three he describes the disposition with which they are to be exercised. See verse 8 ‘contributing’, they are to be generously and rightly motivated, not for self-aggrandisement; taking the lead, they are not to slacken off; showing mercy, a personal intimate service to those in need, do it cheerfully, not in a grudging way.

I read an article recently on the elderly in which the author said that the elderly are often dominated by a fear of being a nuisance. In showing mercy to the elderly, we must be cheerful or they may well develop a ‘death wish’ so as not to be a nuisance any longer.

Here then is renewed thinking in relation to the church: sober, realistic, humble, exercising our gifting in both a joyous and self effacing way.

How can you discover your gifting? Ask your church leadership what needs to be done and ask them to direct you into the area of service for which they believe you are gifted. Don’t add to your burdens the task of discovering your gifts. Leave that to your spiritual leadership. Then get on and exercise your gifts to His glory, within the body of which He has made you a part.



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BOOKS WORTH READING

THE SUBURBAN CAPTIVITY OF THE CHURCH, Acorn Press, Melbourne, 2014. ISBN 978-0-9924476-1-8.

TIM Foster is known in Australia through his past roles in Youthworks (Sydney) and his present role as Vice-Principal of Ridley Melbourne.

A word of warning: don't judge this book by its cover. For a start, it's short (some people might think that a 144 page paperback can hardly be a serious book). For seconds, it's on contextualisation – surely an over-worn 'yawn' topic if ever there was one. However, the book is a gem, as Tim presents the results of his DMin research under a title that astute readers will read as an allusion to Luther's work on *The Babylonian Captivity Of The Church*.

The book has two parts.

Part One deals with foundational issues concerning the nature of the Gospel, culture and contextualisation. Such topics have the twin traps of compromising the Gospel for the sake of contextualisation or fudging contextualisation. Foster, however, does a good job on his overview of the Gospel, and it's worth the effort to understand his punitive / telic distinction, which is persuasive.

He is equally good on culture and contextualisation, drawing on his experience in an inner western suburban church in Sydney.

One big plus here is his recognition that it's not possible to speak of an Australian culture or even a geographically local one – we must work with the idea of tribes and consider the profile and Gospel connections of the sub-group we seek to reach for Christ. Green voting feminist vegetarians who favour abortion rights are decidedly not the same as the old post-WWII Catholic-background immigrants in the same suburb!

Part Two picks up from the title. He touches on the mainly suburban character of the typical evangelical church. We are well-adapted to ministering to people who are paired off in heterosexual relationships; have a house under repayments and who have secure employment away from the place where they live. But what about the rest? Foster touches on the profiles of suburbanites, urbanities and battlers and how the Gospel may be addressed to each. His observations are not a blueprint and he doesn't touch on Australians living in regional cities and declining rural communities. However, what's good is that this is the

There is no 'golden age' of Christianity, only an unbroken line of broken sinners saved by the grace of God and empowered to transmit the Gospel to the next generation.
- *The Gospel Coalition*

kind of book that makes the readers more observant of their surrounding community and which gives a handle on how to think about reaching it with the Gospel.

My verdict? This is a 'thumbs-up' book and it makes the reading list for the *Evangelism In Contemporary Australia* course that I teach at Christ College, Sydney. And yes, that's in the inner western suburbs of Sydney.

- David Burke.

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(Courtesy Rev Iain Murray)

BOOKS WORTH READING

OLD TESTAMENT THEOLOGY: Reading The Hebrew Bible As Christian Scripture, R. W. L. Moberly, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013. ISBN 978-0-8010-4885-2.

IN eight essays, veteran Evangelical Old Testament scholar, Walter Moberly, provides a model of how to do Old Testament Theology, as he seeks to understand the teaching of the Old Testament in a Christian framework in a way that throws light on contemporary issues. In other words, he shows how Christians are to read, interpret and apply these ancient texts. The fancy term for this is 'hermeneutics', so now you know what the word means and how important it is to get it right.

Moberly shows that the confession that God is 'one' in Deuteronomy 6.5 (*The Shema*) does not preclude the doctrine of the Trinity. This leads on to a discussion of what it means to love God and how 'idolatry' is to be understood and resisted today. He shows how to integrate Old Testament and New Testament, as well as theology and ethics. He does not downplay God's election of Israel, nor does he see it as purely an instrument (for the sake of mission to the world), nor does he accept that the monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) are inherently violent and persecuting. Moberly interprets the ban (destruction) of the Canaanites commanded in *Deuteronomy* as metaphorical for total devotion to God. Certainly, the book of *Ezra-Nehemiah* applies it in that way.

Next, Moberly discusses the provision of manna in the wilderness as an object lesson on daily dependence on God. He tackles the issues of whether God changes, for at times He is described in the Bible as 'repenting' (eg Genesis 6.6), but this seems unworthy of God. The answer is to see that this describes God's responsiveness to human action, which is an admirable divine quality and one that we should be glad God has. How humans react matters to God, and He responds accordingly.

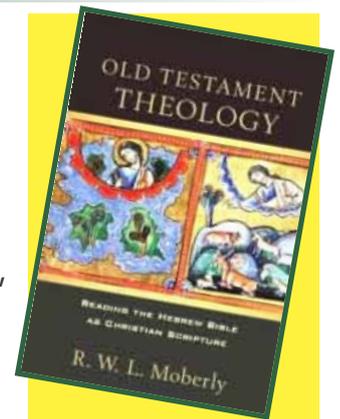
Moberly turns to the issue of how Christians should interpret the prophecy of *Isaiah*, viewing it as pointing to and culminating in the person and work of Christ, who is the ultimate example of humiliation (in the service of God) and exaltation (by God). He wrestles with the meaning of the enigmatic book of *Jonah*, in which the recalcitrant prophet protests at God's exercise of mercy. As noted by Moberly, the book does not, as such, explain what Jonah's objection to the rescue of Nineveh is, and so Moberly rehearses the options, calling on readers to rethink what mercy means.

He turns to the *Psalms*, specifically Psalms 44 and 89, where circumstance and creed clash, leading to agonising lament, with no obvious resolution. As pointed out by Moberly, it is extremely helpful that the Bible acknowledges that there is not always a happy ending (in this life) and that we may have to live with unresolved tensions. Hopefully this leads to us being less glib and more sympathetic to the struggles of others in their times of suffering and doubt, and the outcome can be a deeper trust in God on our part and their part.

In the final chapter, Moberly turns his attention to the book of *Job*, focussing on the godly wisdom of the book's main character as seen in chapters 1, 2 and 28. *Job* shows that godliness need not be banal or dull. Rather, the person who maintains faith and integrity in the face of great suffering is often very impressive and an inspiration to those around them.

Here, then, is a book that brings out something of the profundity of the Old Testament and its usefulness in addressing the perplexing questions of contemporary life.

– Greg Goswell



'THIS book brings out something of the profundity of the Old Testament and its usefulness in addressing the perplexing questions of contemporary life.'