

Australia's First Protestant University On The Way – Wesley Institute To Become Excelsia College

PLANS for Australia's first Protestant University are gaining momentum, with a formal partnership between Sydney's Wesley Institute and Indiana Wesleyan University that will see the institute renamed Excelsia College in January, with a decision on a new site and relocation to be made later in the year. The partnership will also expedite the group's application for Excelsia to become a university college, and then seek status as an Australian university.

'As part of the process to earn accreditation as an Australian university our course offerings will expand over the next few years, with a range of new courses already under development and due for launch from 2016,' says Indiana Wesleyan University's Vice Chancellor for Asia-Pacific, Professor Bridget Aitchison. 'This is an exciting time in the realisation of our vision, and we are tremendously grateful to the Australian community for the overwhelming support for our efforts so far,' Professor Aitchison says.

The CEO of Wesley Institute, Dr Greg Rough, is upbeat about Excelsia's prospects now, and into the future. 'With Christian schools being the fastest-growing school sector in the country, there is opportunity in higher education for students to continue holistic education in a Christian environment,' he says. 'We intend to fulfil this need.'

– Russell Powell



Professor
Bridget
Aitchison
and
Dr Greg
Rough

Green Light For World Class Paddington Seniors Development

THE Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust has approved what will be the biggest single project ever embarked on by Presbyterian Aged Care in NSW. While still subject to final approvals, the Presbyterian Church and its aged care arm Presbyterian Aged Care are finally set to proceed on the much anticipated redevelopment of the Scottish Hospital site in Sydney's Paddington. Named *The Terraces*, building should commence in mid-2015.

'We are building a \$180 million world class integrated senior's housing, community care and residential care development on the former Scottish Hospital site,' said PAC CEO Paul Sadler.

The Development Will Include:

- Replacement of the existing 88 bed residential aged care facility with a new 100 bed facility including a 20 bed dementia unit.
- Construction of 70 new senior's independent living units in four new buildings.
- Adaptive conversion of the Scottish Hospital heritage building to contain nine senior's apartments with the retention and restoration of heritage features such as the terraced gardens.
- Creation of space for future community care programs as well as a range of amenities for residents and visitors.
- Dedication of land to Woollahra Council to expand the public park on the northern boundary of the site.

The development will be staged, with the existing aged care building remaining open during stage one and all existing residents and staff guaranteed transfer to the new aged care building. The Presbyterian Church has been supporting the independence and care of older people across NSW and the ACT for more than 70 years at Ashfield, Canberra, Drummoyne, Gosford, Haberfield, Paddington, Thornleigh, Stockton, Walcha and Wollongong; and seniors housing at Ashfield, Beecroft, Bowral, Canberra, Chatswood, Corowa, Drummoyne, Eastwood, Gosford, Roseville, Stockton and West Wyalong. (See Artist's impression, p.9.)

VOLUME 77
NUMBER 11

ISSUE DATE:
1 December 2014

ISSN: 1033-7903

FOUNDER:
Eric J. Daley
(1910-1992)

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

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

POSTAL ADDRESS:
PO Box 457
Mitcham VIC 3132

WEB-SITE:
www.nlife.com.au

SUBSCRIPTION:
Free On Request

**ACCEPTANCE OF
ADVERTISING
DOES NOT IMPLY
ENDORSEMENT**

PUBLISHED BY:
New Life Australia Ltd

ABN: 15 005 035 138

**CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE
NOTE:**

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



The Triune God – The One And Only

IF there's one great lesson to learn from the study of *Comparative Religion* it must surely be that there is no comparison. All other religions and all aberrant forms of Christianity are 'doing religions', demanding works of their followers in futile attempts to make themselves right with whatever god or gods they believe in. Meanwhile, God-glorifying, Christ-centred, Spirit-filled, Bible-believing Christianity is a 'done' religion, proclaiming the blessed truth that Christ has done all that is required to make His disciples right with God. Surely to have come to know Jesus Christ as one's Lord and Saviour is to have found the pearl of greatest price. Surely to have done so is worth any price (as the martyrs of our present day would testify). Surely to have done so is to be filled with desire to share the Good News with whoever will hear it.

By contrast, some of these other religions are blood-thirsty, hate-filled, vengeful religions whose god or gods either directly or indirectly through a messenger call for the eradication of anyone who does not adhere to that particular religion. By contrast, the One, True, Living God defines Himself in His Word in just one word: 'love'. That's 'LOVE', 'L-O-V-E'. ('God is love' 1 John 4.8). And in fact, in the same breath as it were, God points His finger at anyone who pursues a path of hatred, be it through deceit, terror, rape, killing or any other of the multitudinous ways in which the sinful, desperately wicked human heart can conceive. ('Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.')

Another point of contrast is that of morality. We have grown up under the Biblical system of morality, which includes not only sexual morality, but such things as fairness, justice, truthfulness. And the list goes on. The uninformed and the misinformed commonly make a mistake at this point which in years to come will have tragic consequences when 'multiculturalism' has been discarded by other less gentle and more aggressive religions. That mistake, of course, is to judge the morality of others to be on the same level as Christian morality, when nothing could be in sharper contrast. To take just one example, contrast the murderous deeds of terrorists in their disregard for the sanctity of human life with the generosity of Jesus who wouldn't even allow an assailant's ear to be cut off without restoring it.

Finally, consider the blasphemy of those who claim that the gods of other religions are the same God as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ – 'O god of many names,' they say. There is, of course, a 'god of many names', though we know him principally as 'Satan' – 'the father of lies,' and whether he manifests himself as now one god, now another god, now many gods, the one God he cannot be is the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let's speak clear Biblical truth into a fast-developing whirlpool of disinformation, misunderstanding and utter confusion regarding God and the gods.

– **Bob Thomas**

LAOS: Christians Purged And Arrested

LAOS is a one-party state ruled by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. There are no free media, dissidents are jailed and prisoners are tortured. Whilst the government protects the Buddhism of the ethnic Lao and permits the traditional animism/spiritism of the ethnic minorities, it is hostile towards Christianity, which it regards as foreign. Because ethnic Hmong were allied with the 'Christian' US against the Communists during the Second Indochina War (the Vietnam War), the regime is especially hostile towards Hmong Christians.

When the war ended in 1975, persecution or retribution was so intensive that thousands of Hmong – including nearly all Hmong church leaders – fled en masse to the US. The regime subsequently expressed a desire to eliminate Christianity. The situation has since improved and the Laos Constitution of 1991 provides for freedom of belief, speech and assembly (Articles 30 and 31), and Ministerial Decree 92 'protects legitimate religious activities'. Yet the hostility towards Christianity remains. Christians comprise just 3.4% of the population but are growing at a rate of nearly 6% per annum. However for them, religious freedom is little more than a mirage. The Church's needs are enormous, especially as over 90% of Laos' 147 ethnic groups are as yet 'unreached' (*Operation World 2010*).

The traditional animism commonly practised in ethnic minority and tribal areas requires the spirits to be constantly appeased through sacrifice and ritual. If the spirits are offended then trouble will come, such as hail or drought, death or disease. Consequently animist villagers feel greatly threatened when members of the village reject spiritism for Jesus Christ. Fearing angry spirits and seeking to avoid disaster, the animist villagers will demand that Christians renounce their faith and return to appeasing the spirits. When Christians refuse to do so they are usually driven out of their homes, off their lands and expelled from the village. At other times angry villagers will complain to the local authorities who will arrest the Christians for 'disturbing the peace'.

On 13 November, Radio Free Asia reported that six Hmong families (comprising 25 individuals) were forced to leave Ko Hai village in Khamkeut District in Laos' Central Bolikhamsai Province recently after they refused to renounce their Christian faith and revert to animism. When the local authorities first tried to force the families to renounce their faith in July, they seized two of their men and detained them for over a month. That failed, and on 27 August two of the families were expelled. Then on 18 September the other four families were driven out. Though the displaced believers have all found refuge in another village, they have lost everything and no longer have the means to support themselves or to resettle. Destitute, they desperately want to return to their homes and farms. The governor of Khamkeut District told RFA he was unaware of the forced evictions and promised to investigate.

On 2 November seven other ethnic Hmong, including a 14-year-old boy, were arrested in Laos' north-western Luang Namtha Province after they converted from animism to Christianity. Five were released after they renounced their faith,

PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WILL:

- Move the conscience of Khamkeut District's governor, Thongsam, to recognise injustice and work to set things right. 'The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will.' (Proverbs 21.1 ESV) May the displaced Christians be permitted to return to their homes and farms; may they prove to be a blessing to the village and may the Holy Spirit move through Ko Hai village and Khamkeut District.
- Be a powerful sustaining presence – a sanctuary – to all those Christians imprisoned in harsh conditions in Laos for their faith; may the Holy Spirit fill them to overflowing so that those who abuse them cannot help but be deeply challenged by their enduring faith and their amazing grace.
- Provide the struggling yet growing Lao Church with all it needs for the enormous task it faces; may He provide pastors, evangelists, linguists, literature, media, labourers, comforters, supporters and especially an abundance of Divine wisdom with which to navigate the social, religious and political situation especially at the village level.



The Laotian Flag

while the two who refused were transferred to the provincial prison. Security officials in Luang Namtha told RFA that the seven were not arrested over religion but were merely taken in for questioning because they were 'disturbing the social peace'. Conditions in Lao prisons are appalling – squalid and inhumane conditions are the norm, and torture is routine. Several Christian leaders remain imprisoned in the southern province of Savannakhet.

– Elizabeth Kendal,
author of *Turn Back The Battle*
(Deror Books, 2012).

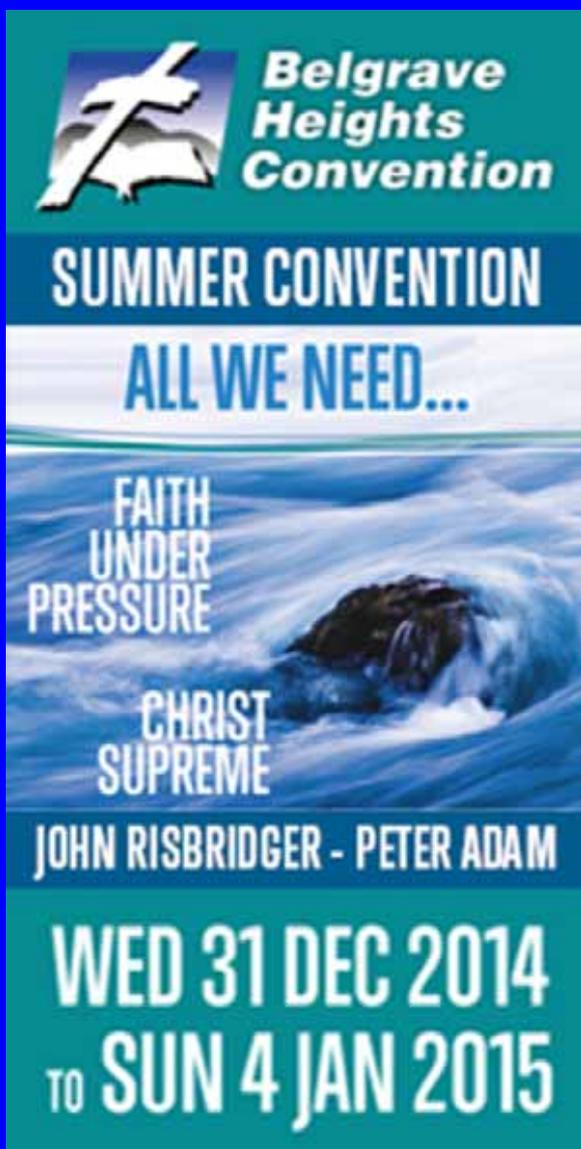
<http://www.turnbackthebattle.com/thebook.html>

CONVENTION TIME:

Top Speakers For Belgrave Heights

PETER ADAM, Principal Emeritus of Ridley Melbourne. Peter trained for the ministry at Ridley Melbourne, and was ordained in 1970. He gained his MTh from King's College London, and his PhD from Durham University UK. His major ministries have included lecturing at St John's College Durham, UK, serving in Melbourne as Vicar of St Jude's Carlton from 1982-2002, and as Principal of Ridley Melbourne from 2002-2012. Peter is currently Vicar Emeritus of St Jude's Carlton, and Canon of St Paul's Cathedral. He continues his ministry of preaching, writing, encouraging people in ministry, speaking at conferences, supervising research students, and training preachers. Peter will speak from *Colossians* on *Christ Supreme*.

JOHN RISBRIDGER, Minister of Above Bar Church in Southampton and Chair of Keswick Ministries. After coming to Christ, he studied Mathematics and Economics and was very active in the Christian Union. He worked in hospital management and then student ministry. He is currently writing a book on the theology of worship, reflecting his passion for the glory of God and the supremacy of Christ in energising our theology, our church life and our mission. He is married to Alison and they have two teenage daughters. He loves walking in the nearby New Forest, eating English cream teas and listening to classical music.



The poster features a blue background with a white cross and a white dove. The text reads: "Belgrave Heights Convention", "SUMMER CONVENTION", "ALL WE NEED...", "FAITH UNDER PRESSURE", "CHRIST SUPREME", "JOHN RISBRIDGER - PETER ADAM", "WED 31 DEC 2014", and "TO SUN 4 JAN 2015".

Belgrave Heights Convention Office:
3 Convention Ave Belgrave Heights.
Phone: (03) 9752 6855
Email: office@bhc.org.au

Gospel Of Jesus Christ Preached At Beginning Of British Settlement

SOON after the convict ships arrived in Sydney Cove, the Chaplain, the Rev Richard Johnson, conducted the first service on Australian shores on 3 February 1788 and declared the message from Psalm 116.12, 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?'

Christians throughout Australia need to continue to declare to our Government, the media and the nation that we are founded on Christian values and our hope is in the sovereign presence of the Lord Jesus.

We can do this by declaring our heritage on the first Sunday in February.

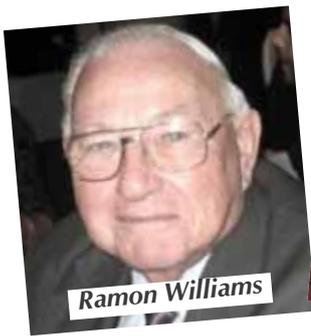
Next year Sunday 1 February will be the day to celebrate this heritage in your church. The actual anniversary of that first service will be on Tuesday 3 February at 2pm. The 226th anniversary will be celebrated at the Johnson Memorial in Johnson Square, Cnr Bligh and Hunter Streets, Sydney and all are welcome to attend.

Sermon outlines and background information may be found at these websites:

<http://www.chr.org.au/> and
<http://www.nchs.net.au/>



Interest Builds In Christian Article Registry Depository



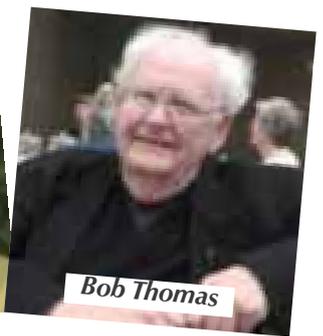
Ramon Williams



Dan Wooding and Mark Tronson



Genevieve Carney



Bob Thomas

WITH encouragement from Baptist minister Rev Dr Mark Tronson, *Christian Article Registry Depository* was launched on Wednesday 5 November by the Gold Coast's Josh Hinds and his IT company *Spiders Touch*. Already it has been recognised that CARD is ideal for editors who are looking for someone to write on a particular subject. Now they have a wide selection of Christian writers to choose from.

Up to now, we have found that internet search engines can only help so much. The person wanting information (on the one hand) or the editor chasing a writer with a particular pedigree (on the other) has to jump from one link to another (which can seem to go on forever) tracking it down.

Some long-standing members of the Christian media have already become part of CARD: Ramon Williams of *Worldwide Photos*; Bob Thomas, editor of *New Life*; Dan Wooding, chief editor of *ASSIST News Service*; and Mark Tronson, director of *Press Service International* and editor of *Christian Today*.

How CARD Helps

Ramon Williams says: 'This website invites Christian authors and writers to enter their specific details onto CARD with their name, profile and article details. Once this is done, then anyone wanting to access work by that author, or on that topic, only needs to make one click and they have access to the plethora of information on that person and their professional works. This applies to all those who have submitted their details to CARD.'

Josh Hinds explains that the site is interactive, and it provides easy access by both surname and genre (or topic). Josh is dedicating himself in this next six month period to create an IT process whereby each Christian writer/author will be able to separately log in and upload their own web page and only to that site. Currently it's the web master who has those codes who gets into the site and makes whatever additions or deletions are required.

Some Christian Media Names Already On CARD

These six illustrate how CARD Functions:

Ramon Williams – <http://www.christianwritersregister.org/ramon-williams.html>

Bob Thomas – <http://www.christianwritersregister.org/bob-thomas.html>

Dan Wooding – <http://www.christianwritersregister.org/dan-wooding.html>

Mark Tronson – <http://www.christianwritersregister.org/mark-tronson.html>

Genevieve Carney – <http://www.christianwritersregister.org/danielle-carney.html>

Jeremy Suisted – <http://www.christianwritersregister.org/jeremy-suisted.html>

Editors looking for someone to write on a particular subject can check out these six or any of the 80 Christian writers/authors currently listed on CARD. Likewise anyone seeking further material for a Bible study or wanting a particular angle can check them out.

Put Your Data On CARD

Christian writers, experienced authors and/or editors can get their data onto CARD by emailing Josh at: info@spiderstouch.com.au or phoning Josh Hinds and his team at: +61 (0)404 627 299.

Dr Mark Tronson, founder of CARD, is a retired Baptist minister who served as the Australian cricket team chaplain for 17 years, retiring in 2000. He established *Life After Cricket* in 2001. He was recognised with the Olympic Ministry Medal in 2009 presented by Carl Lewis, Olympian of the Century. He mentors young writers, has written 24 books, and enjoys writing. He is married to Delma, with four adult children and grandchildren. Mark Tronson's archive of articles can be viewed at:

<http://www.pressserviceinternational.org/mark-tronson.html>

Church Concern Over Pokies Lease Plan

THE NSW Council of Churches has called on NSW Premier Mike Baird to respond to community concerns over a proposal to allow registered clubs to lease their poker machines to other venues. Under current laws, registered clubs may only sell their poker machine entitlements to other clubs.

Industry sources claim the proposal, outlined in a memorandum of understanding signed by NSW Premier Mike Baird and Deputy Premier Troy Grant on 13 October would enable struggling regional or rural clubs to create a new revenue stream, saving clubs from possible closure and providing much needed local community assistance in the form of grants and services. But a spokesperson for the Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce expressed concern that moving poker machines to places where the money will be lost would result in increasing problem gambling and harm, even where a net benefit test can be satisfied.

'The NSW Council of Churches shares this concern, and urges caution on the part of the Baird Government regarding any plans for deregulation of gambling in NSW,' Council President, the Rev Ross Clifford, says. 'We also call on the Premier to commit to follow through and implement all of the recommendations set out in the recent NSW Legislative Council inquiry into the social impact of gambling. As well as curbing the spread of poker machines in vulnerable communities, the NSW Government should seriously consider what can be done to reform the "any time, anywhere" betting culture that has quickly taken hold as a result of new online and mobile phone technology.'

Church Leaders Call On All Parties To Leave Equal Opportunity Laws Alone

A COALITION of church leaders (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Coptic Orthodox, Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian) has called upon all parties contesting the Victorian election to commit to maintaining Victoria's current Equal Opportunity Laws. The current Equal Opportunity Laws strike a fair balance between the right to equality, freedom of association and religious liberty,' Archbishop Philip Freier said. Religious organisations provide educational, welfare and health services to Victorians of all faiths and of none. These services remove a substantial burden from the taxpayer and are often provided at a higher standard than Government service because of the faith-based commitment to the dignity of the human person held by employees. Under the current laws an employer, not a court or tribunal, can determine the inherent requirements for employing a person in a religious organisation.

'Proposals to change the equal opportunity laws would allow judges to decide fundamental doctrines, beliefs and principles of a faith to religious bodies. We regard this as anathema in a society that believes in the principle of religious freedom,' Rev Darren Middleton, Convener, Presbyterian Church of Victoria Church and Nation Committee, said.

GLORIOUS THINGS

A Protestant's Guide To London

• Revised! • Updated! • Illustrated!

Now Available As An e-Book!

GLORIOUS THINGS will help visitors to London arrive well prepared to make the most of their time there.

The guided tours will take you to places like Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral, but **GLORIOUS THINGS** will take you to important sites linked to our Protestant heritage.

COST: \$10 for the PDF version, with the right to print two hard copies.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

1. Cheque for \$10 payable to New Life Australia.

Mail to: PO Box 457, Mitcham Vic 3132.

(Please include a letter with your name and email address so that we can email the PDF to you.)

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).



CMA And Ansvar Insurance – A Great Partnership

CMA celebrated its 8th year of conducting its very popular Christian business breakfasts at the Athenaeum Club, Collins Street, Melbourne, on Thursday 20 November with Warren Hutcheon, CEO, Ansvar Insurance as guest speaker. Since November 2006 these events have attracted some 2,500 guests and continue to be a great source of witness and networking for Christian leaders.



Warren Hutcheon

Warren Hutcheon's *Reflections On Christian Business* included the need for integrity and values to be at the centre of business, personal and family life. Qualities such as encouragement, honesty, openness and transparency, with a need to gain agreement and unity are also important ingredients. 'Unity commands a blessing from God, and there is nothing more powerful than unity,' stated Warren.

In response to questions posed by interviewer Neil Bull of EA Insurance, regarding the speaker's focus on prayer, Warren Hutcheon spoke of the need to pray for wisdom in personal and work life and for Ansvar's leadership group to make right decisions for its staff, as two priorities. Questioned about his spiritual walk, Warren said that you can't be a closet Christian – your faith needs to be known.

On the question of work/life balance, Warren Hutcheon, indicated that his wife is a Christian engaged in Christian work and they were united with similar faith values. Having freedom to act and mentoring from Ansvar's Chair, Nick Barnett, were seen to be important attributes for Warren to successfully carry out his role as CEO.

Warren Hutcheon joined Ansvar as the CEO in May 2014, is a board member of the Victorian Building Authority and is also on the board of Bayside Church and its Community Care arms.

CMA's focus on leadership and governance operates by association with subscribers in every state of Australia. Its publications of *CMA's Essential Standards Of Ministry Governance, For Christian Workplaces, For Church Workplaces* and *CMA's Guiding Principles For Ministry Resourcing* are still available and eagerly sought after throughout the Christian Community. For further details on CMA resources and how you can become a subscriber, simply go to the CMA web site, www.cma.net.au

G20 On The Right Track But More Action Needed To Benefit The World's Poor

MICAH Challenge Australia welcomes the G20's ongoing work on addressing the problem of global tax dodging and corruption, yet acknowledges that the actions taken at the Brisbane Summit still fall short of the full transparency measures required to fully combat financial secrecy, and ensure developing countries benefit. 'The G20's commitments are welcome because tax dodging and corruption hurts the poor around the world most of all. Nations rich in resources have missed out on billions because of tax deals, shifting income around the world through the use of tax havens. Now the G20 has sent a clear message that this sort of behaviour is theft and it has to stop,' said John Beckett, National Co-ordinator of Micah Challenge Australia. 'We're encouraged that issues of unethical tax dodging and financial secrecy are firmly on the international agenda, however G20 leaders have failed to introduce any new or concrete transparency measures which will benefit developing countries,' said Mr Beckett.

G20 nations have agreed to share tax-related information with each other and have established high level principles for ensuring that more is known about the true owners and beneficiaries of anonymous companies and trusts. In a bid to consider the interests of low-income countries, the G20 have also communicated plans to support the administrative skills and systems of developing countries' tax systems through 'capacity-building'. While these measures will go some way towards preventing the use of offshore accounts and secrecy structures to hide the proceeds of crime, corruption and tax dodging, Micah Challenge believes the G20 Communiqué has not gone far enough in terms of including developing countries, as well as neglected some of the crucial tools at their disposal for tackling tax dodging and corruption. 'We certainly welcome the G20's decision to build capacity of developing nations, yet more needs to be done to close the loopholes which are enabling tax dodging and corruption to flourish in the first place,' said Mr Beckett.

In partnership with the global EXPOSED campaign, Micah Challenge advocates in churches across Australia have been campaigning to 'shine the light' on tax dodging and corruption in the lead up to the G20. They join with over a quarter of a million people across 172 nations who have signed the Global Call on Corruption, emailed their politicians and participated in prayer vigils.

'UNBELIEVABLE!'

Franklin Graham Slams Washington Cathedral For Muslim Service

THE Rev Franklin Graham has slammed the Washington National Cathedral for allowing Muslims to hold a prayer service there 21 November. On his Facebook account, Graham wrote, 'Tomorrow, the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, one of the most prominent Episcopal churches in America, will host a Muslim prayer service to Allah. It's sad to see a church open its doors to the worship of anything other than the One True God of the Bible who sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to Earth to save us from our sins. Jesus was clear when He said, "I am the Way the Truth and the Life. No-one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14.6).'



The Muslim prayer service, called a *Jummah* or Friday call to prayer, was hosted by Ebrahim Rasool, the South African ambassador to the US, a Muslim, and the Rev Canon Gina Campbell, pastor of the cathedral. Muslims, in two separate groups, men and women, doffed their shoes, spread their prayer rugs facing east toward Mecca, turning their backs on the crucifix in front of the chapel, knelt and prayed. Ms Campbell said the cathedral was 'a place of prayer for all people. Let us stretch our hearts and let us seek to deepen mercy, for we worship the same God.'

However, Franklin Graham disagreed strongly, as did Christine Weick, 50, from Michigan, who rose in the midst of the prayer service and shouted, 'Jesus Christ died on that cross. He is the reason we are to worship only Him. Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour ... We are a country founded on Christian principles.' She was escorted from the cathedral and turned over to police, who took her outside and let her go without charge.

The Muslims' unified chant went out in full volume: 'There is only one god, he begets not and I bear witness that Muhammad is his only servant and apostle.' The congregation of hundreds, led by an Imam, declared that 'god has no son, that Jesus Christ cannot be his son, and that there is no god like Allah.'

'THERE is no salvation but by Jesus Christ; there is no other name given under Heaven amongst men, whereby we may be saved but that of the Lord Jesus. God, out of Christ, is a consuming fire, therefore strive for an interest in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Take Him on the terms offered to you in the Gospel. Accept of Him in God's own way, lay hold of Him by faith.' – George Whitefield

**Read *Can The Theory Of Evolution Survive The Attack Of Science?*
by David Holden. Free at www.defenceofthefaitth.org**

MINISTER WANTED

Robinvale 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

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 –





Artist's impression of 'The Terraces' development, Paddington, NSW. (Story p.1)

What If? – Answers to Teens' Questions

FERVR (Christian Education Publications) announces the release of its latest title *What If?* by Kristen Young. *What If?* is a short, uncomplicated book that gives the beginnings of answers to some of teenagers' big questions about God, Jesus, the Bible and themselves. *What If?* is written in empathetic and non-judgemental language with its ultimate goal being to put the questioning teen on the right course to find answers. You can read this handy and insightful book cover to cover or just flip straight to your burning question. If your specific question isn't answered, there's also helpful resources to continue your quest. *What If?* is available from <http://fevr.net>, CEP or 02 8268 3344.

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.

yesHEis

shareeternity.com
#ShareEternity

On The Move

RODNEY and Christene Oldfield, workers with Bush Church Aid, have been transferred from King Island to Cloncurry in far north west Queensland. This is a pioneering ministry and God has laid it on Christene's heart that prayer will be the key to its success, so the Oldfields ask for continued prayer as they step out in faith.

VISION Radio Comes To Mt Isa

'THE Isa' is a city in the Gulf Country of Queensland which came into existence because of the vast mineral deposits found in the area. Mount Isa Mines is one of the most productive single mines in world history.

With a population of nearly 22,000, Mount Isa is the administrative, commercial and industrial centre for Queensland's vast north-western region. A lone prospector, John Campbell Miles, was shown deposits by a young Aboriginal man named Kabalulumana. Taken with friend's stories of the Mount Ida gold mines in Western Australia, Miles decided upon Mount Isa as the name for his new claim – a lovely name when you think about it: Isa is the Middle Eastern name for Jesus. Vision Radio came to Mt Isa with the call sign Vision Mt Isa 88.0 FM on 21 November as Vision's 608th station to go on air nationwide and 192nd station installed in Qld.

– Anne Hamilton

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Victorian Indigenous Prayer Network Asks For Prayer

Dear Friends in Christ,

You are warmly invited to join us in prayer for Aboriginal Christians in Ministry meeting at our home, 17 Daniel St, Burwood, Vic, on Wednesday, 3 December at 7.30 pm.

- Give thanks to God for a young Aboriginal Christian Law graduate, Nada Aldobasic, who is speaking at PLC on Wednesday. May the witness of her life and testimony to Jesus bring other young people to follow Him. May she be encouraged and strengthened in her faith and trust in God.
- Auntie Cath Solomon has a compassionate Gospel ministry to children, young people and families and to the Gippsland Aboriginal Community in general. She would appreciate prayer for the Christmas break-ups and for one young man in particular who is a potential leader of youth but is encountering many struggles at the moment. May Cath be given the opportunity to bring him into God's Kingdom as he is aware that she really cares about him.
- Please pray for the Worawa Aboriginal College (Healesville) girls and staff as they finish up for the year in the next few weeks and return to communities in far flung places. Give thanks for some of the girls (and staff) who love Jesus and have been unafraid to shine the light of Christ in their school.
- Pray for encouragement both academically and spiri-

tually for Aboriginal students who attend church schools in Victoria.

- Melbourne-based Indigenous Artist Safina and her husband Brandon Stewart are about to be parents again! Please pray for safe arrival of their little baby girl to join Arieta and Samuel in the next month or so. They are trusting God for His perfect timing as they will also be moving into their own home in Wonthaggi just before Christmas! Give thanks for Safina's big heart to bring the message of Jesus through her artwork.
- Praise God for Aboriginal Christian Leader, Auntie Jean Phillips, who stood alongside G20 Summit peaceful Aboriginal Protesters in Musgrave Park, Brisbane, over the past few weeks during the Summit. She was asked by the Aboriginal Elders to open the peaceful protest in prayer.

– Anne Green

A Time To Celebrate For SAT-7

IT'S time to celebrate for Christian satellite television ministry SAT-7! Almost 500 Church leaders, Parliament members, Government officials, and SAT-7 partners gathered to celebrate the launch and opening of three new studios in Lebanon for SAT-7's satellite television ministry to the Middle East and North Africa. Their new building provides ten times as much space as they had previously. SAT-7 hopes the expansion will be a blessing. SAT-7 Lebanon was established in 1996 and was the network's first production centre.

PLEASE NOTE: New Life's Annual Break

There will be **one** further issue of *New Life* for 2014 – on **15 December**.

The first issue for 2015 will be posted on 15 February 2015.

Would advertisers and contributors please consider their needs and submit material for the next issue by 12 December.

Contact Mignon by **Phone:** 0434 313 646; or **Email:** office@nlife.com.au

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

Through the generous donations of members of the *New Life* family, *New Life* is now available free on request by email to everyone, everywhere, who wants to receive it.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION:

- **By Cheque To:** New Life, PO Box 457, Mitcham 3132 Vic.
- **By Direct Deposit To:** Account Name: New Life Australia Ltd.
Bank: Westpac. BSB: 033-112. Account Number: 16-8239.
(Please email office@nlife.com.au when you direct deposit).
- **From Our Web Site:** (www.nlife.com.au)
using the *Make A Donation* button.

PERSECUTION WATCH

Bhutanese Pastor Waits

BHUTANESE pastor Tandin Wangyal presented his 25-minute defence against the Office of the Attorney General before the Samtse Court on 20 October 2014. He is accused of violating Section 105 of the Bhutan's *Communications, Information, And Media Act Of 2006* (presenting a film to the public without permission) and Section 70 of the Civil Society Organizations Act (illegally soliciting public funds).

'Most honorable judge, our supreme Scripture, the Bible, clearly says in 1 Timothy 2.2 that we are to pray for our rulers, kings, and authorities,' said Tandin. 'Every Christian in Bhutan, regardless of social background, upholds you in prayer. We are not against our king, country, or people. Our Scripture says in Romans 13.1 that we are to submit under the given authority. Bhutanese Christians abide by this. Your most honorable judge, I am ready to lay down my life for this nation.'

In response to the charge under Section 105, Tandin countered that he did not present a movie in the gathering, but a music video of the song *Above All* to usher the people to worship.

The OAG asserted, however, that they found a schedule in Tandin's hard disk revealing his plans to show three Christian movies in the days to follow. They say the attempt to show these films without permission is punishable by the Penal Code of Bhutan.

As for the funds he allegedly solicited from the public, Tandin explained that the money in question was not an unauthorized solicitation from the locals, but rather a gift given in confidence by a good friend whose name translates to 'public' in Dzongkha. The OAG refrained from further comment on this and decided to leave it to the court.

Tandin was sentenced to three years in prison. He appealed, but that verdict has yet to be rendered. Pray for Tandin and his family to remain steadfast in their faith in God. – *Lindsay Steele, Open Doors, via www.mmnonline.org*

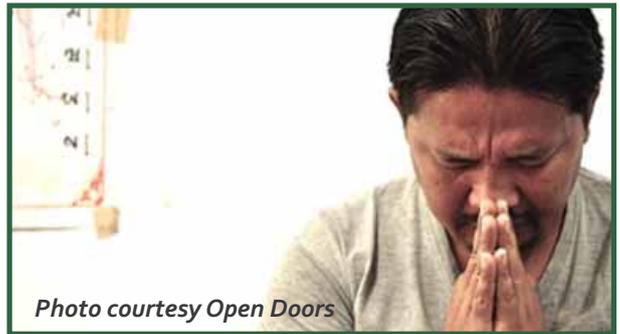


Photo courtesy Open Doors

INDONESIA: New Government Does About-Face On Religious Freedom

THE world's largest Muslim country may be looking at some significant change for religious freedom priorities soon. It's an about-face from the Yudhoyono administration. One month into his new presidency, Jokowi Widodo, is living up to his reputation as a reformer by proposing a controversial change. Voice of the Martyrs USA spokesman Todd Nettleton explains, 'He's proposing a bil to come before the Parliament within the next six months to protect religious minorities. That would include Christians. Another facet of change he wants to make would be to remove religious identity from the national ID cards the Indonesia government issues.' Part of the proposed bill would streamline the process for non-Muslims to get permits for places of worship.

– *Ruth Kramer, Mission Network News*

Child Soldiers Fighting For Islamic State

ACCORDING to multiple reports, the Islamic State has hit a new low. While ISIS isn't the first terrorist group to recruit and deploy child soldiers, one official told the Associated Press that the Islamic State's veracity and boldness sets them apart. In a report earlier this month, an Islamic State fighter in Syria confirmed Chapuis' observation to NBC News. 'We should start to train them from now because they will complete what we started: the expansion of the Islamic caliphate,' said Abu Dujana.

The Islamic State's recruitment of child soldiers comes as no surprise to Baptist Global Response, says Jeff Palmer. However, he hopes their ministry to Iraq and Syrian refugees can help prevent the exploitation. 'If we can keep them fed, if we can keep them in safe places, if

we can start to find some jobs, and ... we can provide some educational opportunities, we're thinking that surely helps,' Palmer says. – *Katey Hearth, mmnonline*

Striving To End Abuse

ACCORDING to the United Nations' Web site, '35% of women and girls globally experience some form of physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.' In some countries, the figure is closer to 70%. In Senegal, a ten-year-old girl was raped and had twins. *World Renew* reported another recent story in Senegal. One evening in the Keur Massar neighbourhood of Dakar, a young teen girl was sent out to run an errand. A man followed her, grabbed her, and forced her into an abandoned house. When he began removing her clothes to rape her, she cried for help and neighbours came to rescue her. It was a narrow escape. – *Lindsay Steele, World Renew, MNN*

Kidnapping, Forced Conversion And Collective Punishment Haunt Egypt's Copts

TWO months ago, Coptic Christians in an Upper Egypt village endured a traumatic sequence of events ending in heavy police abuse. The victims still have not received any justice from the state security authorities who broke the law and violated its citizen's human rights. According to a story by journalist Lauren Gunias for *World Watch Monitor* (www.worldwatchmonitor.org), on 16 September, in Deir Gabal al-Teir village, Egyptian security forces ambushed several Coptic homes in the middle of the night. 'They proceeded to steal and destroy the families' belongings before dragging dozens of residents out of their beds, binding their hands behind their backs and beating them with batons,' she said. – *Dan Wooding,*

Founder of ASSIST (www.assistnews.net)

Three Core Doctrines Of Evangelism



SPURGEON called them 'three doctrines that must be preached above all else,' and he drew as texts for them 'three "third" chapters (of Scripture) which deal with the things in the fullest manner.'

Spurgeon's Three R's, whether we use them or not, should undergird all our evangelism. And like Spurgeon, pastors today should make certain that these three doctrines regularly appear in the diet of biblical exposition they feed to hungry sheep.

– Jeff Robinson, PhD, is an editor for *The Gospel Coalition* (www.thegospelcoalition.org).

He serves as senior research assistant for the Andrew Fuller Centre for Baptist Studies and adjunct professor of church history at Southern Seminary.

Spurgeon's Three R's

RUIN (Genesis 3.14,15). This is what man has done. 'How did man get in this miserable condition?' Spurgeon asks. In our post-postmodern culture, we must begin here with creation and the fall. Biblical illiteracy appears to be spreading, thus many have never considered that there is something desperately wrong in our world. Beginning here establishes the problem into which God has launched His rescue mission: Man has rebelled against his Maker, broken His law, and now lives under a curse that will one day incur the white-hot, unmediated wrath of God. But in the second half of verse 15, we hear the faint promise of God's solution, one that will grow louder as history advances and as the redemption story of the Bible unfolds. The seed of the woman will crush the head of the seed of the serpent. The serpent will bruise the heel of the woman's offspring, but this Promised One will deal the death blow to the serpent, killing him as one must a serpent: by smashing head. As Spurgeon pointed out, 'this background leads quite naturally to the good news of God's rescue mission.'

REDEMPTION (Romans 3.21-26). This is what God has done. This is the good news that trumps the bad news. In the scope of five verses, Paul articulates what some commentators have called the thesis of *Romans* or the *Magna Carta of Salvation*. In these glorious verses, Paul establishes the demands of God's law, the futility of salvation by works, the law's definition of sin, the righteousness of God received by faith in Christ, justification by faith through the redemption of Jesus Christ, and His satisfaction of God's wrath against sin. This paragraph contains the entire matrix of the work of Christ that He accomplished on the cross, work that provided full pardon from the guilt of sin for every sinner who believes. It is perhaps the most glorious paragraph in human history.

REGENERATION (John 3.1-8). This is what God must do in sinners to enable them to believe. Spurgeon, along with Reformed evangelicals throughout the ages, taught that regeneration precedes faith. In other words, God changes the sinful human heart, sets it free from bondage to sin, and enables it to believe that Jesus is indeed the Way, the Truth and the Life. Regeneration, like the entire work of salvation, is a unilateral work of grace. It was a central theme of Spurgeon's preaching and evangelism, and it must be foundational to ours as well, particularly as we think through issues of 'results' in evangelism. The reality of

regeneration urges us to call sinners to repentance and faith while resting in the work of God who alone opens blind eyes and unstops deaf ears. It removes the pressure from us and frees us to boldly share the Gospel while knowing that the results are in the hands of a sovereign, benevolent God. Out of a biblical understanding of regeneration, we may call on sinners to repent and be reconciled to God while leaving the results to Him.

MATTBRIGHT
phone
0412 962 323
Painting Service
Email: mattbrightpainting@yahoo.com.au
Setting the standard in quality workmanship
Matt Kirkbright Is A Christian Painter
In Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs

New Life Website:
www.nlife.com.au

Paul Yeulett's Testimony: Shocked Into Faith

I HAD just two ambitions on returning to university in my second year. One was to join some kind of dramatic society – well, that never materialised. The other was to join a students' golf society. In my great eagerness to bring my golf clubs into the hall of residence, I managed to get them jammed in the revolving doors and they had to be freed by the porter! I think the doors were eventually repaired, and as for the irons and woods, they were serviceable enough for me to manage a couple of 18-hole rounds before the middle of October, though I didn't exactly set the course alight, and haven't managed since!



But before very long something happened which changed everything – not only the kind of society I kept at university, but everything else. I discovered to my great horror that I had failed the end-of-year exams I had sat several months earlier. So high had been my confidence, and so utterly misplaced, that I hadn't even bothered to check my results with my tutor. Now all my self-reliance evaporated in an instant, and I simply did not know what to do next.

In my first year I had been conscious of people in university who called themselves 'Christians'; friendly, warm people they all were, but I simply thought they were taking things to extremes. All my life I had thought that I was a Christian. Isn't a Christian someone who tries to be nice and forgiving to people? Why be so serious about it all; why not simply enjoy life? I had largely disregarded and ridiculed these people, to my great shame.

Yet now, reeling with the shock of personal failure, I suddenly had a sense of deep curiosity and announced that I wanted to go along to a Christian Union meeting. That evening my eyes began to be opened as I met folk who spoke about Jesus Christ as a living person and a true friend. I learned that the basic problem with me, with everyone, is our sin, the way in which we reject God and his commandments. Above all I saw that God, in His great love for sinners like me, had sent His only Son Jesus to die in our place. 'The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost' (1 Timothy 1.15).

– Paul Yeulett, Pastor, Grove Chapel, London. Taken from www.banneroftruth.org.uk with permission.

The Quran And The Bible Side-By-Side – An Aid For Muslim Evangelism

TO evangelise a Muslim stranger or a Muslim friend is no easy or comfortable task. However, it is becoming a more and more urgent thing to do, as nearly one in four people in the world are Muslim. Almost 80% of Muslims have not heard the Gospel message yet. We cannot ignore the grim fact that Islam has become the fastest growing and the second largest religion in the world.

The book *The Simple Truth*, by Samya Johnson (Call Of Love Ministries Publications) is a simple and short comparison of the *Quran* and the *Bible* side by side in 60 pages, allowing a reader to quickly compare the differences between what the *Quran* and the *Bible* teach through 60 important topics. Samya Johnson generously and thoughtfully places the falsity of Islam on top and the truth of Christianity below for each page. She also summarises each topic with appropriate Bible references to go further in depth, and then generalises with a few further statements which empower our thoughts and develop our confidence.



We stand firm that the Bible is the truth, and any false religions need to be corrected by us as Christians. As such, this book can be useful to give to a Muslim friend, or to become more knowledgeable about Islam to be able one day to start a conversation on this topic. You could sit together and talk about the Gospel of Jesus with this book in hand. When you are required to give further explanation beyond your knowledge, Samya kindly provides possible assist lines.

When Muslim neighbours need something, are we ready to deal with them in terms of making friends for life? While Muslim intellectuals are becoming more and more afraid of growing Islamophobia in the West, some Muslims might be friendly to us, making it easy for us to show them our love for Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

– Phillip Chang

Responding To God's Mercy.

Romans 12.9-13

FOR REFLECTION:

Hospitality was important in the 1st Century. Why is it so important today? How does the connection of zeal and service help you understand the dynamics of Christian living?

IN thinking about our self in the church we are to be both sober and humble. In thinking about the church itself 'sincere love' is the attitude which must dominate. Our love must not have any pretence about it, it must be 'fair dinkum'; neither will it be 'soppy sentimentality' or undiscerning in its affirmations. It will cling to and affirm good and disapprove evil. In the church family, affection and respect for one another are to be the ongoing values.

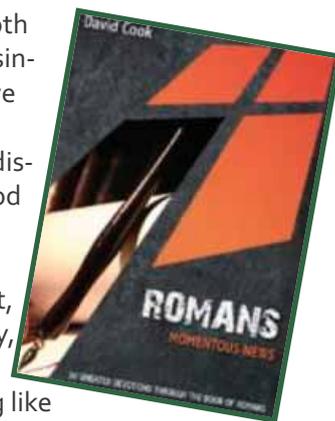
Paul closes this section with three exhortations. First, all this activity is to be driven spiritually (v.11). Secondly, it must never be lacking zeal, 'not being slack', 'keep

the fires of the spirit burning' (J.B. Philips). These two are energised by the third, 'waiting like slaves upon the Lord' (Knox translation).

Giving ourselves to Christ's service is both the surest fruit of spiritual fervour and the condition of maintaining the glow. Zeal and service are inseparable twins. Similarly, if we are to rejoice in our future hope and be patient in present affliction, we are to be consistent in prayer (v.12). As service is the feeder for zeal, so prayer is the feeder for joy and persevering patience. Being busy in service and faithful in prayer are keys to a healthy spiritual disposition.

All this is involved in being a 'living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God' (v.1). Such an attitude is eminently practical in our relationships with God's people by literally 'persecuting' hospitality, pursuing opportunities to be hospitable with the zeal of the persecuted.

Hospitality, providing a haven for the needy, is the key to sharing, prayer is the key to joyous perseverance and service is the key to spiritual zeal.



Who Can YOU Forward New Life To?

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

Email: office@nlife.com.au

We're Encouraged!

One Of Australia's Major Mission Agencies has advised us they send each edition of *New Life* around to everyone in the office and to the members of their National Council.

Who Can YOU Forward New Life To?

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

Go To: www.nlife.com.au

And Click On: **Previous Issues**

Bound Volumes Back To Vol 1, No 1 Are Held In The Library Of MST, 5 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna 3152

According to Romans 1.25, idolatry is the great lie. Worshipping the god of self is the greatest apostasy. The best friend is one who urges us away from self-seeking idolatry, reminds us that we are living sacrifices and as servants our calling is to serve! When we serve others in the ways outlined in verses 6-8 we are showing in the clearest way our true identity in Christ, this is the reasonable response to God's mercies.

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

Visiting WA? Perth?

Worship With The Presbyterian Church In WA

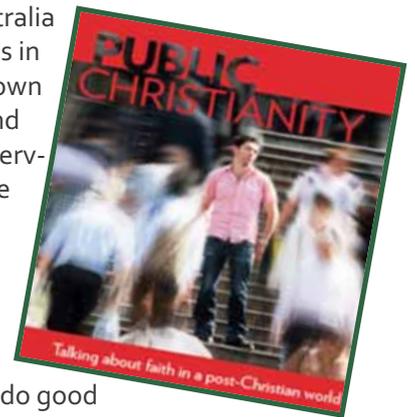
Albany	0427 302 073
Mount Magnet	(08) 9963 4125
Bassendean	(08) 9477 4249
Bicton	(08) 9339 3542
Clarkson	(08) 6201 3794
Fremantle	(08) 9398 1304
Hillarys	(08) 9562 7263
Mandurah	(08) 9319 2208
Melville	(08) 9417 1976
Peppermint Grove	(08) 9384 9186
Southern River	(08) 9332 1829
West Leederville	(08) 9310 5935

'...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

PUBLIC CHRISTIANITY: Talking About Faith In A Post-Christian World, S. Smart (Ed), Centre For Public Christianity, Sydney 2011. ISBN 978-0-9871067-0-4.

AUSTRALIAN Christianity has had a many-sided relationship with public life. Australia has never been a Christian country in the sense of having an established religion (as in the UK) or a strong religious foundation (as in the USA). Nevertheless we had our own faux-Christendom, when spires and bell tower dominated the aesthetic of cities and towns, when clergy were paraded on stage at public occasions, when national lip service was given to Christian values and when prelates, synods, assemblies and the like passed solemn motions advising politicians what to do. As this Christendom retreated, a common response was a defensive rearguard action of trying to bolster Christian influence through asserting a silent majority and seeking to enshrine Christian values in legislation. In this setting, it was all too easy to build a Christian ghetto and retreat behind its walls to a community that looks askance on an increasingly fallen world and makes occasional forays into it to rescue a soul or two, do good deeds in Christ's name and scold the decline in public life.



But is that all we can do? Thankfully, some thoughtful Australian Christians have been leading a third way of positive but critical engagement. It begins with a clear commitment to historic Christian beliefs and recognises the reality that Christians and churches are now on the margins of national life. The path of engagement seeks to be well-informed on public issues and to speak God's Word into them with faithful sharpness.

This brings us to the Centre For Public Christianity and *Public Christianity*. The Centre stands on the view that '... faith, while personal, can never be private'. It represents an attempt to keep Christianity in the public square and to have a Christ-centred worldview and the Gospel of Jesus taken seriously in public discussion.

Opening *Public Christianity* is like standing before a buffet bar. It is easy to be bewildered by the book's diversity. There are articles and interviews collected over the years on very diverse topics and involving local and overseas persons of eminence in their various fields. The book divides into these four sections:

- *In Defence Of Faith* has material from scientists like John Lennox and philosophers such as Keith Ward. It reflects an intellectual engagement with the challenges posed by the new atheism and gives plenty of apologetic material to the reader.
- *An Engaged Faith* engages with hot button issues such as euthanasia (Megan Best), environmentalism (Justine Toh), the sexualisation of young girls (Melinda Tankard Reist) and pacifism (Stanly Hauerwas).
- *A Practical Faith*, as the name implies, covers contemporary practical expressions of Christian faith in areas as diverse as poverty (Joel Edwards), slavery (Baroness Caroline Cox), refugees (Bronwen Hanna), politics (Ron Sider).
- *A Reliable Faith* digs into the objective historical roots of Christianity. Writers such as Edwin Judge, Darrell Bock and Ben Witherington III show that Christianity is an essentially historical faith, and not just a series of well-formed ideas existing in a vacuum.

This book presents us with an international buffet with distinguished global contributors among the writers and interviewees. The local contribution is also good and is evidence that faithful, thoughtful engaged Christianity is a feature of the local landscape. Not everything on a buffet bar is to everyone's taste and that will be so with this book. The writers and interviewees reflect a variety of Christian perspectives and it's easy to find fault with this or that chapter and that view. In particular, a more explicitly Biblical and theological note would be welcome in some of the chapters.

Public Christianity gets a thumbs up from me and is a welcome addition to a course that I teach on *Christian World-view* at Christ College, Sydney. It is a book to encourage 'the rest of us' that 'the faith once delivered to the saints' can be articulated and spoken into an increasingly hostile world. It is also a book to stimulate further engagement with public life in the name of Christ.

– David Burke

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

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

96threeFM

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

BOOKS WORTH READING

THE CHRISTMAS STORY – The Bible Version, Carine MacKenzie, Illustrated By Natascia Ugliano, Christian Focus, Ross-Shire, 2014. ISBN 978-1-78191-433-5

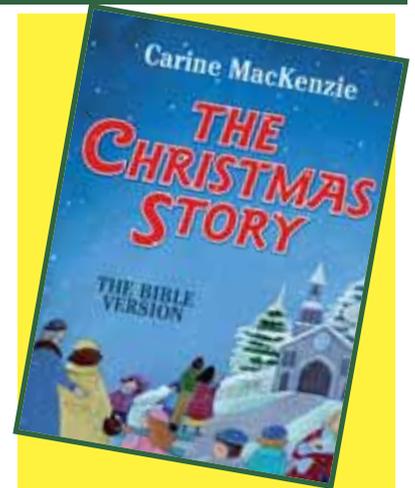
CARINE Mackenzie has written over 150 books for children. This picture book of the Christmas story puts the birth of Jesus in its biblical salvation history. Children are introduced to all the main characters featured in the early chapters of *Luke* and *Matthew*. The intended age group is 5-7 years old for reading to children and 8-11 years old for reading by themselves.

The book is a faithful retelling of the birth narratives and seeks to explain both humanity's need for a Saviour and how Jesus is that Saviour. It is difficult to do this framed in language that young children can understand and without focusing over much on the death of Jesus. Adults, therefore, often differ on what they would say to children or what they would include in a children's book.

I have some quibbles with terminology and illustrations in this book such as in part one I would hesitate to say Jesus died for the sins of his people. The real problem is Sin, not just individual faults and mistakes. The picture of Gabriel (part 3) is feminine and I would not want to reinforce the common misunderstanding of angels being women. Is the real reason that Jesus understands what it is like to be a refugee that his family experienced being refugees in a foreign land (part 16)?

There are many picture books about Christmas, but if you are looking for one that focuses on the Gospel narratives and is an opportunity to teach and discuss biblical truth, then this colourful new picture book will fill the bill.

– Mignon Goswell



With its Gospel focus, this colourful new picture book fills the bill.

How Can YOU Help New Life?

By Praying For Us? By Sending In A Donation? By Advertising? By Forwarding It? Yes Please! Because WE Want To Go On Helping YOU!

GET MORE OUT OF NEW LIFE

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

NEW LIFE comes to you as a .PDF file, with many stories and advertisements

containing links to other websites and email addresses.

Web and email addresses are printed in **bold blue** type.

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

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

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

(Courtesy Rev Iain Murray)



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