

15 December 2014

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Free On Request: office@nlife.com.au

SUDAN: Police Attack Worshipping Congregation, 38 Christians Arrested – Released After Paying Fine

POLICE in North Khartoum, Sudan, on 2 December beat, arrested and fined 38 Christians worshipping at Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church, sources told *Morning Star News*. After nearly two weeks of raiding and demolishing church property, officers armed with guns and batons arrived at the church compound at 6.30am on two trucks accompanied by seven smaller vehicles and broke through the main gate, beating whoever they found in the church complex, sources said. Security personnel surrounded the complex, preventing people from entering or leaving. Police then started to beat worshippers and arrested 38 for refusing to surrender the property, eyewitnesses said.



'We have enjoyed worshipping and praising God in prison,' one of the arrested Christians told *Morning Star News* by phone, before it was confiscated. 'The power of God was present among us; let the Name of God be praised and glorified from now and evermore.'

Police severely beat church elder Daud Bashir and tore his clothes. Officers also beat a female member who was rushed to hospital for treatment, sources said.

Leaders of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church-affiliated congregation added that police demolished a fence constructed by church youth as a sign of their refusal to surrender worship property. Police took the Christians to Khartoum North Police Station before they were transferred to Khartoum North Court. The charges against them included Article 77 of the notorious *Public Order Law of 1991*, which gives police broad powers to arrest Christians and other lowly regarded people without cause. (To p.11)

Gideons Plan Mission For Melbourne 2014-16

GOD has placed on the heart of Gideons a tremendous passion for Melbourne and a strong desire to reach many for Jesus Christ – residents, visitors, and those lost in the attractions or the shadows of the city. Their vision is for revival, for souls to be won to Christ and to support churches across the city through a dedicated commitment to outreach, witnessing, prayer and large-scale distribution of God's Word.

Gideons Have A Three Year Plan To See:

- The city flooded with the Word of God through personal witnessing and regular special events.
- Opportunities for direct participation, support work, prayer and inspiration for all Christians.
- Dedicated prayer across the city, in churches, in communities and in networks.
- A city turning to Christ, with souls being won.

Watch this short video at [Vimeo.com/m/87834910](https://vimeo.com/m/87834910) to see more about the *Mission For Melbourne*.

Word Week, 1–8 March 2015

During the week of 1–8 March 2015, there will be a massive concentrated effort to see the Word of God distributed far and wide across the Melbourne CBD, with more than 100,000 Scriptures expected to be distributed in a huge effort.

Gideons would love to share this vision in churches on 1 March and/or provide an exciting report to the church on 8 March or to provide a 45 second video for church news/notices that day, which would encourage people to pray and maybe offer volunteer support. Email melbourne@gideons.org.au to participate.

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CHRISTMAS – A TIME TO CONNECT

OURS is a momentous message. We must not let either our manner in declaring it or some side issue not central to it, be a barrier to people's hearing what we say. Here's an example of an occasional Christmas sermon:

'Christ – The One And Only'

Text: 'No-one has ever seen God, but God the one and only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known!' – John 1.18. If the prologue (John 1.1-18) is the summary of John's Gospel, then verse 18 is the summary of the prologue, and therefore could be taken as the summary of the whole Gospel of John.

Preview: The statement the verse makes is that there is only one way of knowing God – and that is through His Son, the one and only. Such a statement answers the question: 'How is the true God known?' Or if you want to go more directly, for the hearer's mind, 'Why give serious consideration to Christ this Christmas?'

Engagement: In engagement, spend time showing the hearer why this is the most vital question for them to have answered. The verse answers either of these questions in these steps:

No-one has seen God (that was Paul's verdict on the Greek philosophers in 1 Corinthians 1), this is the human dilemma.

- The One with the unique nature – 'the one and only'.
- The One in the unique place – 'at the Father's side'.
- The One who has the unique ministry – 'makes Him known'.

Response: How should we respond? Look for God where He is uniquely known, not in gurus, temples or tea cups. God is uniquely known in His unique Son, who is uniquely qualified to make God known. All that Jesus says is what God says, all that Jesus does is what God does.

Challenge: Give Jesus your serious consideration this Christmas, to know Him is to know God, and to know God is to know life itself.

Prayer: Here is a simple way to respond – simple without being simplistic: 'I'm sorry, God, that I have neglected You and lived my life apart from You. Thank You for sending Jesus to make Yourself known.

Please forgive my neglect of You, my Maker, and accept me into Your family, helping me to live as Your child.'

Follow-up: Follow up with copies of *John's Gospel* to give away at the door at the end of the service. Holding a *Christianity Explained* class beginning in the new year may be a good incentive for 'once-or-twice-a-year' attenders to further consider Jesus Christ.

The way you preach and prepare to preach is as individual to you as your fingerprint, but the above 'sermon-to-go' might be helpful as you get ready to preach on Thursday the 25th.

Have a blessed Christmas, and be a blessing to others. – David Cook

New Life Website:
www.nlife.com.au

TOWARDS 2015: India, Nigeria And The UK

INDIA: Cathedral Torched In National Capital

INDIA'S April-May elections saw Hindu nationalists win majority control of the federal parliament. With anti-Christian Hindutva ideology legitimised and entrenched, it was inevitable that persecution would escalate. In the early hours of Monday 1 December fire-fighters were called to St Sebastian's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Dilshad Garden in the Indian capital, New Delhi. It appears that kerosene was used to fuel the blaze which completely gutted the entire interior. That evening some 3,000 local people attended a candlelight vigil. Church leaders are pressing the government for compensation and an independent inquiry. Parish priest, Fr Anthony Francis, appealed for Indians to preserve the fabric of society. Should the government fail to act against intolerance in the national capital, it will signal a green light to escalate violence everywhere.

PLEASE PRAY *that our merciful and gracious Lord will move in the hearts of Indians so they will reject violence, demand justice, pursue peace and recognise truth. May the Lord preserve, revive, sanctify and build His Church in India. '... casting all your cares on Him, because He cares for you.'* (1 Peter 5.7 ESV)

NIGERIA: Falling Apart

BOKO Haram is escalating its attacks in an effort to expand its Caliphate across north-east Nigeria. The situation is not helped by divisions and corruption in the Nigerian military, with some soldiers aiding jihadists and others perpetrating war crimes. In fact the terror being perpetrated by the military and its civilian Joint Task Force is so extreme that a coalition of nine civil society groups has filed a suit in a Federal High Court seeking an order to compel the President to launch an investigation. With Boko Haram spreading into Cameroon, a coalition force is being assembled comprising 3,500 soldiers from Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Benin and Chad. It is expected to be operational within weeks. The situation is also not helped by oppositional political forces having sponsored and fuelled the destabilisation of Nigeria with the aim of discrediting President Goodluck Jonathan ahead of the February 2015 elections. Furthermore, the OPEC oil-price war – which is aimed primarily at forcing Russia to reverse its policy on Syria – is hitting Nigeria hard, further elevating the risk of widespread unrest. With sectarian tensions soaring and the economy in meltdown, the 14 February 2015 presidential poll could be explosive.

PLEASE PRAY *that our merciful and gracious Lord will protect and preserve the church in the north while reviving, sanctifying and energising the church in the south. May the Holy Spirit visit Nigeria in a powerful way, so that the Church will arise to turn back the battle. May the Lord continue to build His Church in Nigeria, especially across the north where Muslims are turning to Christ in unprecedented numbers. 'In all these things [suffering and persecution] we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.'* (From Romans 8.31-39 ESV)

UNITED KINGDOM: Defining 'British Values'

IN March 2014 a scandal broke in Birmingham, UK, when it was revealed that Islamic fundamentalists had conspired to take control of a number of public schools in the city through an operation called 'Trojan Horse'. The aim was to work with Salafi (fundamentalist) parents to have Muslim governors installed who would then oust the non-Muslim staff and Islamise the curriculum. By the time the scandal broke, four head teachers had already been ousted. Birmingham Council has confessed that while it knew what was happening, it did not act for fear of being branded racist or Islamophobic. In response, the British government has formulated new guidelines for schools. But as Christians were quick to point out, the language is so ambiguous that the new rules could actually be used as a tool to enforce ideology and political correctness – which is exactly what is happening. According to the new rules, which came into force on 29 September, British schools must 'actively promote the fundamental British values' of democracy, rule of law, liberty and tolerance. Schools must 'encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010'. Christian and Jewish schools that had previously been recognised for their academic excellence, even classified as 'outstanding', are now failing inspections and being downgraded and threatened with closure. A number of MPs have spoken out against what they regard as 'state-enforced orthodoxy'. The Christian Institute is preparing a legal challenge, maintaining the new regulations are 'flawed and unlawful'. Should the court rule that cultural and moral relativism are integral to 'British values' it would be a watershed moment for the British Church. [Relativism rejects the concept of absolute truth.] The reality that Culture Change has left the Church as a counter-cultural force facing massive resistance would be finally official.

PLEASE PRAY *that our merciful and gracious Lord will revive, energise and sanctify the British Church so that she will rise to turn back the battle. Pray for the Christian Institute's legal challenge – may the Lord work everything for His good purpose. Pray for a Great Awakening in the UK. 'I know not what may soon betide, Or how my wants shall be supplied, But Jesus knows, and will provide.'* (John Newton, 1725-1807)

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

MOVING FORWARD

Record Number Of Graduates In 2014 From Nungalinya College, Darwin

IT was a busy end to the academic year at Nungalinya College in Darwin, with five graduation ceremonies being held over a five week period. During the year, 70 students completed their courses and graduated in Certificate I, II and III level studies.

Next year Nungalinya is commencing a new Certificate IV course in Theology which will meet the needs of previous graduates who are moving into full-time vocational ministry or just want to be better equipped to serve their communities.

Please give thanks for the 70 graduates who completed their studies this year. May their new skills and confidence be a blessing to their communities. Give thanks that Federal Government funding has been extended for six months and pray that it will continue beyond that. Please pray that preparations for the introduction of the new Certificate IV course in Theology will proceed smoothly. Please pray for those who are considering studying at Nungalinya next year. May the way be open for them to do so free of the many distractions that often prevent them attending.

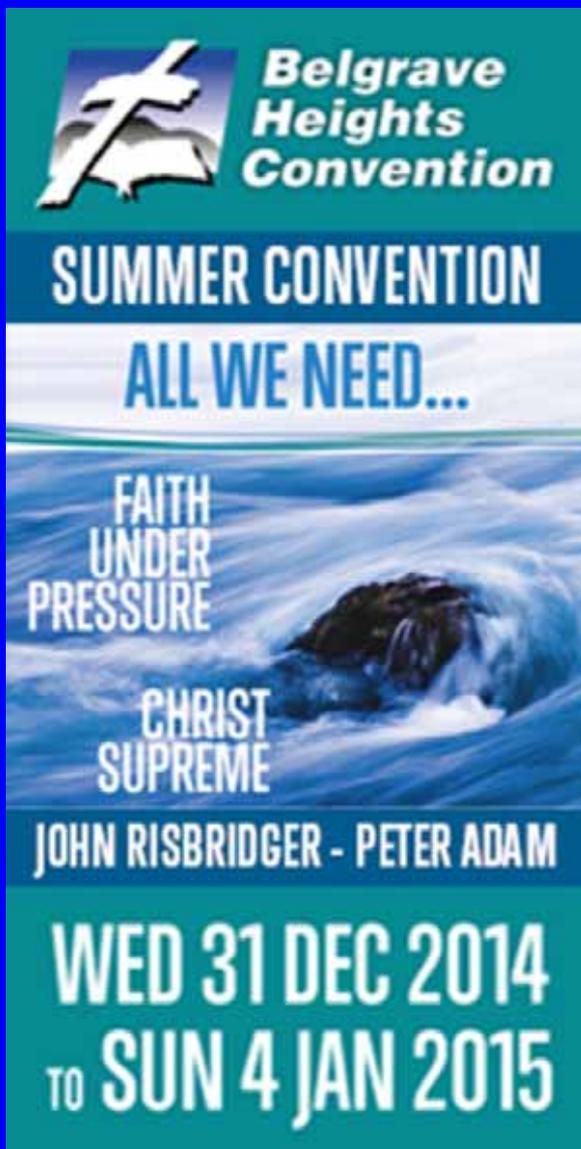


Please continue to pray for staff who are undertaking field trips this month to assist prospective students with their applications for study next year. Pray for safety in travel and good contacts with enquirers.

Give thanks for staff who have now moved on from Nungalinya and have made a valuable contribution to the life of the college and its students. Praise God for new staff coming in 2015. Please ask God to refresh the staff over the Christmas break and return them safely to the college with renewed energy for the year ahead.

SAT-7 KIDS Celebrating The Season

SAT-7 KIDS is busy preparing for its Christmas broadcasts. Whether it be the acquisition of new movies, dramas and animation for children or the production of live programs together with the less fortunate, SAT-7 KIDS has it covered. This Christmas, SAT-7 KIDS will have four live programs broadcast from a mall in Beirut and will feature refugee kids, many who have suffered greatly this year. SAT-7 KIDS staff will spend the day with them, buy them gifts and also sing songs. It will be an opportunity to shine a bit of light into their otherwise dark world. One of the main features will be interviews with the children and their families, helping the audience find out what Christmas means to them and discover what they are and can be thankful for. If nothing else, SAT7 hopes to make their dreams come true, even if only for a day.



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'INASMUCH ...'

Teaching Kids To Help Others With Gifts That Matter

CHILDREN'S entertainer and father-of-four Colin Buchanan is encouraging parents to teach their children about helping others this Christmas. After years of delighting children on *Playschool* and making music especially for kids, Colin has been advocating for Compassion Australia, a not-for-profit organisation that supports children living in poverty.

He has inspired hundreds of Compassion-assisted children through visiting Compassion centres in Tanzania and Indonesia. Last year, Colin's youngest son Riley joined him on a trip to Manado, Indonesia, to experience Compassion's work first-hand and see the difference that helping others makes. Colin believes that starting with the Gospel is the best way to teach children about helping others. 'The Gospel is the ultimate example of generosity,' he says. 'Parents need to warm their own hearts with the wonder of God's Gospel. Thankfulness turns generosity into more than a duty or obligation—generosity is a dynamic delight.'



Compassion Made Easy

An easy way to start encouraging children to help others this Christmas is by purchasing a Gift of Compassion. With gifts starting at as little as \$10, you can give everything from a toothbrush to a rickshaw. Gifts of Compassion are real goods and services given to children and families in Compassion child development centres around the world. Funds raised from the Gifts of Compassion catalogue are used to support Compassion's Critical Interventions, which aim to remove any obstacles that stand in the way of a child's healthy development. These interventions include providing clean water, disaster relief, emergency medical care, nutritional support, HIV/AIDS education and treatment, income generation for parents, community infrastructure and sanitation, immunisations, malaria prevention, vocational training, and much more. Compassion is Australia's second largest child sponsorship organisation and is part of a global network of both funding countries and 26 developing countries that is Compassion International. Together they are a Christian holistic child development and child advocacy ministry committed to working in partnership with local churches to foster the spiritual, economic, social, physical and emotional development of 1.6 million children living in extreme poverty. Around 100,000 of these children are currently supported by over 75,000 Australian sponsors. Contact Compassion at: 0437 220 128 or www.compassion.com.au

POSITION VACANT: Haven Day Centre Co-Ordinator

The Haven Day Centre is a Community Service of the Knox Community Baptist Church and operates from its property, 17-19 Falconer Rd, Boronia Vic 3155.

The Centre provides services to meet the needs of people suffering from varying levels of Memory Loss/Dementia and gives support to their Carers.

The Committee of Management seeks a committed person to serve as Co-ordinator of the Centre's program and lead a team of staff and volunteer staff, 4 days (32hrs) per week.

The Position Requires:

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

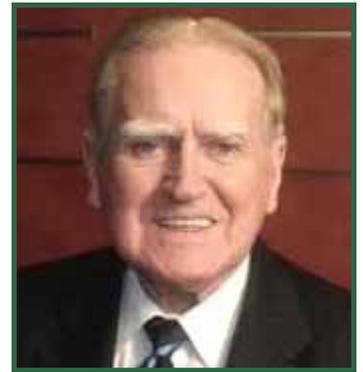
Enquiries and requests for a Job Description to: Rita Lang, administration@kcbc.org.au

Resume and names of 3 referees to the above email address by Friday 9 January 2015

Fred Nile Keeps On Keeping On

REV Fred Nile, longest serving member of the NSW Parliament and Leader of the Christian Democratic Party, reaffirms his mission: 'Our Christian Democratic Party will continue to work to:

- Keep Christ in Christmas.
- Keep Christ in our NSW Parliament with our opening Lord's Prayer.
- Keep Christ in our schools with Bible-based Scripture Classes (SRE).
- Keep Christ in our Christian Chaplains scheme in State Schools.
- Keep Christ in the NSW Parliament with our Christian Democratic Party Members.
- Keep Christ in our Defence Forces with Christian Chaplains.'



FamilyVoice Welcomes David And Cathie Sandifer!

THE new FamilyVoice NSW state director, Rev Dr David Sandifer started work on Monday 1 December and with his wife Cathie was warmly welcomed Wednesday 10 December at a service in Scots Church, Sydney.

Dr David Phillips, National Director of FamilyVoice, says that Dr Sandifer has had a fascinating life. He was born in France, educated in USA and ordained as an Anglican minister there. Earlier this year, he was awarded a PhD in history from Cambridge University, UK, for a thesis about 18th Century England, on what gave rise to the great social movements led by William Wilberforce and others? And what lessons can we learn for the challenge of influencing society today? David loves connect-



David and Cathy Sandifer

ing with people, and is looking forward to the challenges of engaging Australian culture. 'History teaches us that God can use a small number of people to make a huge positive change in society,' he said.

Cathie is an Aussie girl whom he met in Cambridge when they were both studying. They have two young children and moved to Sydney to be near Cathie's parents.

Would you be willing to uphold the Sandifer family in prayer? David plans to email a monthly newsletter to interested people. To receive his prayer newsletter, go to: <http://www.fava.org.au>

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(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

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Geneva Push Making The Most Of Multiculturalism

THE last Christian leaders' conference of the year, *Multiply14*, an authentic multicultural church planting national conference, was held right here in multicultural Melbourne, 26-28 November, with the theme *The Multicultural Face Of Australia.*

Around 170 church planters and would-be church planters gathered from interstate, Singapore, New Zealand and the US as well as parish ministers and theological students, spending valuable time together learning and encouraging one another.

Starting and finishing with invigorating Bible talks on Exodus 1-7 from Andrew Reid, all attendees were reminded that planting new multicultural Gospel ministries is right in line with God's purpose of saving the lost. Events like this help evangelistic servants of the Lord Jesus to deepen their commitment to church planting and at the same time provide a great deal of stimulation for those of us in existing churches. It was great to hear about the Gospel at work in Australia in so many different settings. True followers of Christ need to look at the changing face of Australia, which is becoming more culturally diverse. We should also recognise that our old methods may no longer be relevant. As we preach the unchanging saving Gospel of grace, *Multiply14* challenged us to think how that would look in the multicultural future of Australia.

In a sharp presentation on *Outreach*, David Williams scattered key insights on 'the homogenous unit principle' – that all authentic followers of Jesus must preach the Gospel to people-groups in their heart language so that they might also say, 'We belong to Jesus!'

Archie Poulos shared his ministry of Greek Bible Fellowship, urging all authentic evangelical Christians to intentionally try to find a particular group of people in their context who are 'slowing down the traffic'. He said that we must be open to the Lord who wants us to initiate gathering people together to read the Bible with mutual love, care, prayer and concern.

Three days of great teaching, master classes, practical breakout seminars, one-to-one input and Q&A Sessions made this a relationally-driven conference with plenty of opportunity to connect with Australian church planters. There was also the opportunity to take part in a thorough, detailed assessment of their strengths and weaknesses for a life in ministry and plans for church planting.

Multiply14 was arranged by Geneva Push (an Australian Church Planting Network) which aims to inspire, equip and unleash a new generation of church planters dedicated to evangelizing churches into existence. If you'd like to catch up on more of their gems, they are available from <http://genevpush.com/resources> and if you want to learn how to plant a church, head off to *Multiply15* to be held at EV Church in Erina NSW 18-20 May 2015.



Andrew Reid makes his point.

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 –



Christian Radio's Expanding Reach

IT'S now possible to travel Western Australia's Great Eastern Highway from Perth to Coolgardie, tuning in to Christian radio at every major town on the way: Walliston (88.0), Gooseberry Hill (87.6), Chidlow (87.6), Wundowie (87.6), Northam (87.6), Meckering (88.0), Cunderdin (88.0), Tammin (88.0), Kellerberrin (88.0), Merredin (88.0), Southern Cross (88.0), Coolgardie (87.6). On 28 November, Vision Kellerberrin 88.0 FM became the 140th relay station in the west and Vision's 609th installation nationwide. It's the 25th transmitter to go on air this year.



Kellerberrin is a town in the Wheatbelt region of WA, on the Great Eastern Highway just over 200 km east of Perth. About 1,100 people live in Kellerberrin. The name is Aboriginal, and is derived from the name of a nearby hill. One source claims that Kellerberrin is the name for the fierce ants that are found in the area, while another gives it as meaning 'camping place near where rainbow birds are found' — kalla means camping place or place of, and berrin berrin is the rainbow bird. Wheat and sheep farming, along with the manufacture of agricultural equipment is the main occupation in the town. Vision Kellerberrin 88.0 FM went on air with the assistance of the local Uniting Church and the Lions Club.

— Annie Hamilton

ACCESS Ministries Appoints New CEO To Head Up Ministry To Victorian State Schools

ACCESS Ministries Board has appointed Dawn Penney to the role of Chief Executive Officer. As acting CEO for the last six months, Dawn has demonstrated clarity of vision, a willingness to listen and an ability to encourage unity of purpose. Dawn joined ACCESS ministries in 2006 and has served in a number of key executive leadership roles in which she has developed a deep understanding of ACCESS ministries and demonstrated the value of her professional qualifications in law and extensive professional experience in management and human resources, both in Australia and in the United Kingdom. Dawn also displays a strong sense of community and civic duty, serving as a part-time Minister in her local church and wider community, as well as being involved in foster care, Girl Guides, youth mentoring and palliative care.

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.

shareeternity.com
#ShareEternity

yesHEis

Kangaroos Captain Fronts Up For Outer Eastern Subs Prayer Breakfast – Special Offer For New Life Readers

ANDREW Swallow, Skipper of the North Melbourne Kangaroos, has been confirmed as speaker at the Outer Eastern Prayer Breakfast on 19 February. Coach Brad Scott has called him 'a genuine star of the competition,' which he's proven during his career with an average of 26 disposals per game and the competition-leading number of tackles and clearances.



Andrew is also a passionate follower of Jesus, and the breakfast will be a great opportunity to hear how Jesus has impacted his life and professional footy career. When interviewed by the Bible Society, Andrew said, 'Reading the Bible is how you get through life. It continually gives you revelations and guides you.'

Do join Christians across Eastern-suburbs Melbourne for a cooked breakfast, fruitful conversations and an inspiring time of prayer for our city, government, businesses, churches and organisations at the Karralyka Centre, Ringwood, on Thursday 19 February 2015.

To purchase tickets at the *New Life Special Rate*, email Dean Troth at dean.troth@gmail.com or call him on 0432 267 184.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

NextGen Provides Youth Leadership Training

NEXTGEN is a one week training program for youth and children's leaders, and senior high school students showing leadership potential. Over 100 theologically trained strand leaders will assist participants in preparing, writing and running a Bible Study. Plenary sessions will explore *Romans*, *Habakkuk* and the topic of suffering. Workshops will aid delegates in their personal lives as leaders, develop skills of public speaking, 1-1 ministry and more! Go to <http://www.nextgen.kcc.org.au> to learn more about the *NextGen15* program.

Life Of Jesus Book By John Dickson

WHAT really happened back then in the 1st Century, in Jerusalem and around the Lake of Galilee, that changed the shape of world history? Who is this figure that emerges from the past to have a profound impact on culture, ethics, politics and philosophy? Join historian John Dickson on this journey through the life of Jesus in his soon-to-be-published book, which features a self-contained discussion guide for use with the *Life Of Jesus DVD*, promises to help you and your friends dig deeper into what is known about Jesus' life and why it matters. Available from <http://publicchristianity.org/store>

GRN Points For Prayer

GOSPEL Recordings Network invites interested friends to join with them in prayers of thankfulness to God:

- **STUDIO:** Give thanks for the old cassettes and open reel tapes that have been digitised and are now available on GRN's computer server and web-sites. Pray that these recordings will be well used.
- **NEW BOARD:** Give thanks for many years of faithful service on the board by Art Daniel, Ian Wallace and Naomi Tondl. Pray for God's wisdom and insight for the 2015 board, and for the immediate need of a treasurer.
- **PROMOTIONS TEAM:** Thank God for the relationships GRN promotions team were able to develop in 2014. Pray that many of these can grow into productive partnerships in 2015 and beyond.
- **NEW PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES:** Give thanks for the graphic design volunteers who produced new promotional materials for GRN. Pray that these will help many to catch the vision of GRN.
- **RECORDING OPPORTUNITIES:** Give thanks for many recording opportunities throughout the world! Pray that these recordings can be made and effectively distributed back to the people.



Jesus said to him: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6 NKJV

...for those beyond reach

www.hfa.org.au

PLEASE NOTE: New Life's Annual Break

This is the last issue of *New Life* for 2014. But we'll be back!

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 7 February 2015.

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

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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.

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(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

(From p.1) The Christians were released after being sentenced to pay a fine of \$250 each. Five church leaders arrested on 25 November were released that same night. Christians in Sudan are asking their counterparts worldwide to pray for the Church in Sudan.

With Muslim investors laying claim to the land based on an agreement signed by a government-installed church committee that church leaders say did not legally represent the church, a bulldozer accompanied by security personnel and police knocked down a wall of the church and houses on 17,18 November. Christians formed a human barrier to face down further demolition attempts on 19,20 November. One of the homes destroyed in the compound belonged to Nile Theological College. A Christian doctor had rented it and he lost all his belongings, sources said. The bulldozer, accompanied by National Intelligence and Security Services personnel and police, carried out the demolitions based on a court order demanding that church leaders surrender the premises to Muslim investors. The church committee of members that the Sudanese government interposed made a secret agreement with the investors to sell the church property as part of Sudan's campaign to do away with Christianity in the country, church leaders said. Church members regard the committee that arranged the transfer of the property to business interests as a 'government puppet committee' supporting the government agenda to do away with Christianity.

Harassment, arrests and persecution of Christians have intensified since the secession of South Sudan in 2011, when President Bashir vowed to adopt a stricter version of sharia (Islamic law) and recognize only Islamic culture and the Arabic language. The Sudanese Minister of Guidance and Endowments announced in April 2013 that no new licences would be granted for building new churches in Sudan, citing a decrease in the South Sudanese population.

Following the secession of South Sudan in July 2011, Sudan has expelled foreign Christians and bulldozed church buildings on the pretext that they belonged to South Sudanese. Besides raiding Christian bookstores and arresting Christians, authorities threatened to kill South Sudanese Christians who do not leave or co-operate with them in their effort to find other Christians.

Due to its treatment of Christians and other human rights violations, Sudan has been designated a Country of Particular Concern by the US State Department since 1999, and in April 2013, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended the country remain on the list.

– Morning Star News via ASSIST News Service

Lawyer Lobbies US Policymakers For Investigation Into Attacks On Baptist Church

DR Alejandro Zeverin, the lawyer for a Baptist Church in Colombia which has endured ongoing and escalating attacks for two years, briefed US policy makers in Washington DC last week and called for pressure to be brought on the Argentinean Government to carry out a full investigation and prosecution of those responsible. Dr Zeverin is the civil rights lawyer for the Pueblo Grande Baptist Church in Río Tercero, Córdoba Province. He also called for attention to legislation at the provincial and federal levels which have led to violations of religious freedom. In October, Christian Solidarity Worldwide called for a full investigation and charges to be brought against those responsible for the attempted murder of Pastor Marcelo Nieva, leader of the Pueblo Grande Baptist Church, and church member Daniel Carreño, after the car they were driving in Río Tercero on the evening of 21 October was fired upon multiple times. The church building has been vandalized repeatedly over the past two years and members of the church have suffered harassment and physical attacks at the hands of individuals allegedly linked to narco-trafficking groups and corrupt officials.

Vile Treatment Of Pregnant Christian Woman

A PAKISTANI Christian woman named Elishba Bibi

(28), who was three months pregnant, was stripped naked and beaten by two Muslim men in Sheikhpura, the same town Asia Bibi comes from, according to the British Pakistani Christian Association (www.britishpakistanichristians.co.uk). According to the BPCA report, the attack took place after she had an argument with two Muslim women who referred to her as an 'untouchable.' Two Muneeb and Mobeel Gondal then decided to enact the principle of impunity for attacks on Christians in Pakistan, that has left many disgraced, injured or dead, as Elishba had apparently argued with their mother and sister.

The BPCA report says: 'They beat her with iron rods and sticks leaving welts across her body, whilst they spat at her in disgust. The assailants were not satisfied with her public humiliation and stole 1,000 rupees (£10GBP) from her (Elishba's entire week's wages) a gold necklace she was wearing, and her mobile phone.'

BPCA says a local group of Muslims watched the beating, laughing at the disgraced Christian. 'They felt no remorse or pity and let her trudge home alone, trying to cover herself in what little had been left of her clothes, throwing stones at her for good measure,' BPCA said.

– Michael Ireland, ASSIST News Service

MegaVoice Audio Bibles Changing Lives

JAMES Sundararajan, distributor of MegaVoice Audio Bibles in India, shares the following testimonies of God's life-changing power at work through MegaVoice:

Kulandaivelu – Visually Challenged Man From Chennai-South India

I am blind from birth and I am also uneducated. I used to make my living by begging in trains. I used to sing songs in the trains and then beg for food or money. I spent all the money I got on cheap liquor. I recently received an Audio Bible at the distribution in Ambur. It has changed my life. I listen to it all the time. I have stopped drinking and begging. I sell small toys and pens on trains to make my living and I am also a member at a local church here. Although I have never been to school, I now memorize what I hear and have memorized many chapters in the Bible. I have also participated in a few Memory Verse recitation contests and have won the first place three times. To God be the Glory. I thank WCOI and its donors for helping me get this Bible. It has changed my life. Praise God!



Solomon – Blind From Birth

My name is Solomon. I am a blind person from birth. I had great difficulty during nights as I was just unable to sleep. I was so restless and my mind was not at peace. I was unable to ask anyone to read the Bible for me at an odd hour. I tried to listen to the music on the radio but it made me more restless and I just longed for some sleep and rest. I received the Audio Bible a few months back and every time I am restless and unable to sleep I just listen to the Audio Bible. It gives me so much peace and comfort. It's almost immediate and after a few chapters I turn the player off and try sleeping. I am sleeping a lot better now. I thank WCOI and all the donors who helped me receive this Audio Bible. It has brought so much peace into my life. May God bless you and your ministry.

Rajamma And Devaraj – A Blind Couple

We are a blind couple and I received this Audio Bible at a distribution in Chennai. My wife Rajamma helps raise money for the family by begging on the streets. I work at an envelope factory, making envelopes. I take the Audio Bible with me to work and listen to it all day at work. Once I go home my wife takes the Bible and listens to it for a very long time. We both have been very blessed by this audio bible. We both are not educated and we cannot read the Braille Bible as well. This recording has helped us so much to know more about our God and we are growing a lot spiritually. Thank you for helping us get an audio Bible.

–Tom H Treseder, Founder and President, MegaVoice Int. <http://www.megavoice.com>

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WITH CHRIST

SIR HENRY FREDERICK ROSS CATHERWOOD, Businessman And Politician, 30 January 1925 – 30 November 2014.

SIR Fred Catherwood, who has died aged 89, was an accountant and businessman who in 1979 became one of the first UK Conservatives to be elected to the European Parliament in Brussels. His life was shaped more directly and profoundly, however, by his evangelical Christian beliefs. He made little secret of his opposition to the economic price of Thatcherism and worked well with both sides of politics.

Catherwood was brought up in Ulster in a Presbyterian family that had been established in the province's nationalist borderlands since the 17th Century. He was educated at Shrewsbury School and Clare College, Cambridge, where he read history and then law. Any ambitions he might have had towards ordination – he had been vice-president of the intercollegiate Christian Union – were sublimated at his father's insistence that he should become an accountant instead.

His was the gentlemanly, consensual style of the 60's the conservative evangelical faith being central to his life. Brought up as a member of a Brethren Assembly, in 1954 he married Elizabeth, the elder daughter of Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones, one of the dominant voices in British evangelicalism. Catherwood's evangelicalism was of a more inclusive and participatory nature, but his memoirs make clear that he believed Britain's decline was due to moral relativism and the pernicious effect of liberal theology. He was a long-term President of the International Fellowship Of Evangelical Students and President of the Evangelical Alliance between 1992 and 2001. Catherwood was the author of a number of books, particularly on the influence that Christianity could have on business life.

He is survived by Lady Elizabeth, their two sons, Christopher and Jonathan, daughter, Bethan, and five grandchildren.



The Catherwoods at home.

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Responding To God's Mercy.

Romans 12.14-21

FOR REFLECTION:

Are you facing antagonism because you are a Christian? Pray that God will show you creative ways to respond. How can you overcome evil with good? In classless Australia, how do we show the pride and conceit of v16?

THE Christian is to resist doing what comes naturally when it comes to responding to antagonism and persecution. The renewed mind will lead us to bless the persecutor and not curse (v14), to rejoice when the persecutor rejoices and to mourn when he mourns (v15). It is natural to do the very opposite.

This section is very much like the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5.38-48. Antagonism will come to us inevitably because 'the sinful nature is hostile to God' (Romans 8.7).

This response is hard enough without also having to deal with the most debilitating situation, that of disharmony in the local fellowship. We all know that such disharmony from the least expected quarter, within the church, can be more draining of our spiritual resources than the antagonism of the world (v16). We need to resist pride which makes social and intellectual barriers within the church and remember that our Lord Jesus is meek and lowly.

Paul continues, and makes it clear in verses 17-21 that our personal standards are to be of non-retaliation. The believer will always seek to do what is right and seek to do good (v17, 21). It may well be that in the office of judge, soldier or policeman, a believer will bear the sword of justice, but on a personal level will be committed to non-retribution, thereby leaving room for God's wrath (v19). Vengeance is God's work and he doesn't need our help.

In 2 Thessalonians 1.16, Paul makes God's justice clear, 'He will pay back those who trouble you'. In v20, Paul quotes from Proverbs 25.21,22. Does this mean that our loving response is a way of bringing judgment upon the antagonist? It probably means that our response will bring him to recognise his shameful behaviour and repent. Moffatt translates this verse, 'make him feel a burning sense of shame', and F.F. Bruce comments that our response will 'make him ashamed and lead to his repentance'.

If the believer is committed personally to non-retribution, how will God bring about justice? Most often God will use the authorities and so Paul turns to them in 13.1-7.

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BOOKS WORTH READING

AS LONG AS THE EARTH ENDURES: The Bible, Creation And The Environment, Ed Jonathan Moo and Robin Routledge, Nottingham: Apollos, 2014. ISBN 978-1-78359-038-4

HERE is a thoughtful and ethical contribution to an evangelical exploration of creation and ecology. It attempts to see creation as God sees it, to understand its purposes, its future and our present responsibilities to the natural order. Most of the 11 chapters in the book are revisions of papers given at the Tyndale Conference held at Northampton, England in July 2012. I attended that conference with Mignon my wife, and I can assure you, this is a book worth reading. In these essays there is no attempt by the authors to explain away human-induced climate change, nor are they anti-science or suspicious of environmental science and scientists. Effort is directed at clarifying a Christian ethic of caring for creation that is true to the revelation in Scripture.

Alister McGrath helps us to appreciate the 'big picture' of God's creative purposes, so that we have an authentically biblical view of reality. He shows that the truth of Christianity is demonstrated by its ability to make sense of the world. It is not Bible-believing Christians who are living in a dream!

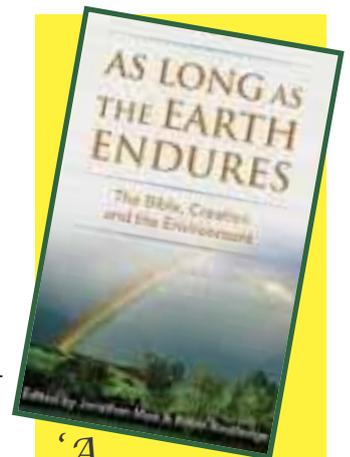
David L. Baker finds a responsible ethic of ecological care in Genesis 1,2. Robin Routledge insists that human sin did cause a disruption to the order of nature, and he notes significant differences between Genesis 1.28 and Genesis 9.2,3, though this reviewer is not convinced that 'chaos' is a feature of the Genesis presentation (as opposed to its presence as a motif in Old Testament poetical material).

Jamie Grant views the 'kingship' psalms (Psalms 93-100) as testimony to Israel's faith in God as Creator and universal King – notwithstanding the disaster of national exile. In the Psalter we find the missional call for all nations to worship God. David Firth looks at what the Old Testament says about the involvement of God's Spirit in the renewal of creation, based on texts in Psalms and Isaiah. Paul Williamson shows that the future of the Earth involves both destruction and transformation, so that elements of continuity and discontinuity are found in the Bible's teaching about the 'new Heavens and the new Earth'.

Jonathan Moo tries to pinpoint what is distinctive about a Christian environmental ethic, with the hope of the resurrection of the body being a model for the future renewal of the Earth. Especially insightful is his close study of 2 Peter 3, so that this text may not refer to the total destruction of the Earth at some future date. Sean McDonough counsels us not to ignore the 'de-creation' theme in the New Testament.

David Rainey is an expert guide to the mind-boggling theology of creation in the writings of Jürgen Moltmann, who has a genuine ecological passion, but finally has a less than adequate model for how God relates to the world (though Moltmann rejects Pantheism). Graham Watts provides an appreciative survey of Colin Gunton's approach to environmental ethics, which, however, may downplay human action and excuse passivity. R. J. Berry says we cannot ignore or deny the findings of science or the integrity of scientists, and (controversially) argues that evolutionism does not have to lead to atheism, though Berry's main concern is that 'Creationism' has sometimes led to a downplaying of concern for the environment. The volume closes with a sermon by I. Howard Marshall.

Of course, if our theology of creation does not move us to ethical concern and action to protect the environment (even if our impact as individuals is small), then our theology is defective, for what we believe is meant to lead us to responsible action. – Greg Goswell



'A thoughtful and ethical contribution to an evangelical exploration of creation and ecology. It attempts to see creation as God sees it, to understand its purposes, its future and our present responsibilities to the natural order.'

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BOOKS WORTH READING

MINISTERING LIKE THE MASTER, Three Messages For Today's Preachers, Stuart Olyott, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2003. ISBN 0 85151 830 3.

IN today's topsy-turvy world where pupils are invited to rate their teachers, I give Stuart Olyott full marks. His writing is noteworthy for its freshness, originality and faithfulness. And while this book is a rewrite of a number of lectures, sermon in tone, which he gave at the 2000 Banner Of Truth Leicester Minister's Conference, it puts the lie once again to the false idea that a good sermon can't be turned into a good book.

It is clear that Stuart Olyott is not only a gifted preacher, but that he practises what he preaches, for his own preaching style in manner and method is consistent with his matter.

I was reading this book while waiting for a Jewish friend in a local coffee shop when I noticed that it had three divisions, each of which had three subdivisions. When he arrived and asked what I was reading, I shared it with him and pointed out that things often seem to fall into three's for Christians. This, of course, led us to discuss you-know-what as the coffee grew colder and colder, the second chapter providing a wealth of material to discuss under its three subdivisions: *Point Your Finger, Bend Your Knee, Open Your Arms*. Not only the recounting of the wonderful methods of Jesus, but sharing His wonderful words helped in my efforts to show my friend that Jesus is the Messiah whom the Jewish Scriptures foretold.

If, like me, you engage on the way home from church in critically analysing your sermons and their apparent effect on the congregation, this challenging book will spur you on to greater endeavour. If you set out each year to read a book on preaching, this enchanting book will refresh you. If your heart's desire is to be more like Jesus, this perceptive book will help you do that in all the work of the ministry.

– Bob Thomas



As a communicator, the incarnate Son of God is a genius. How wise that preacher is who works to develop an oral style like His.'

– Stuart Olyott

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