

New Bishop: 'The Gospel Is For All Nations'

THE Rev Peter Lin was consecrated as Bishop of the George's River Region of the Diocese of Sydney by Archbishop Glenn Davies, at St Andrew's Cathedral on Saturday 30 May.

Mr Lin is one of the youngest bishops in the history of the Diocese and only the second of Chinese descent in Australia.

Georges River is one of the five regions of the diocese and has undergone transformation into one of Sydney's most multi-cultural areas. Suburbs such as Marrickville, Lakemba and Bankstown, once with predominantly Anglo-Saxon populations, are now multi-ethnic.

Clergy and congregants from across the Georges River area, and bishops from around Australia packed the Cathedral, and the multi-cultural broadcaster SBS covered the event for its world news bulletin.

'A Heart For The Gospel'

'Peter has a heart for bringing the Gospel to people of all nations and all levels of society. He is an able expositor of the Word of God, a fine pastor of God's people and a good administrator. I welcome him to the



Archbishop Davies (left) leads the welcome to Bishop Lin.

Episcopal team and believe he will make a significant contribution to the work of the Gospel in the Diocese of Sydney,' Dr Davies said. 'Peter is Australian-born Chinese, and while he fully understands the Australian culture he is also very much aware of the needs of migrants coming to this country, as his grandparents were. He has a heart for ministry which crosses cultures and ethnic divides with the Gospel of peace.'

Mr Lin, who is 47, was rector of the Anglican Church at Fairfield with Bossley Park, where he had worked since 1999. After the Bishop of Western Sydney, the Rt Rev Ivan Lee, he is the second bishop of Chinese descent. 'More than half the population of the Georges River region is from a non-English speaking background,' Mr Lin said. 'I'm keen to help the churches to better serve and reach out into their areas and to see more of our church communities reflect the people around them. The message of God's love in Jesus is for all nations.'

– Russell Powell via Worldwide Photos

ISIS Needs Prayer

MISSION organisation **Frontiers** is supporting a **30 Day prayer effort** to see **1,000 ISIS members** come to Christ.

ISIS continues taking territory in Syria and Iraq. Islamic State's terror path is getting wider, too. Beheadings, torture, kidnapping, rape, and human trafficking are the byproducts of this ideology. It's utter terrorism. It can't help but instill fear in everyone. That's the goal, right?

One ministry says we can't let that fear prevent us from sharing the Gospel to a group of people who need it. Perry LaHaie with Frontiers says, 'Our mission statement is, "With love and respect, inviting all Muslim peoples to follow Jesus." We are a mission organization that's focused exclusively on the Muslim world. That's why Frontiers recruits, trains, and sends people to the Muslim world.'

– Greg Yoder

VOLUME 77
NUMBER 21

ISSUE DATE:
15 May 2015

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 Only Way To Deal With Darkness

THIS world seems to be entering a new Dark Age as its people are merrily taking what Shakespeare called 'the Primrose Way to the Everlasting Bonfire.'

Among Matters For Concern Are:

- The rise of militant Islam as expressed in so many terrorist organisations in so many countries, with its determination to exterminate everyone and everything in its way.
- The refusal by many to reckon with the seriousness of the threat it poses.
- The magnitude of the persecution of Christians not only by Islam, but by Hinduism, Buddhism, Communism, Humanism, Atheism and Secularism.
- The despising of our Christian heritage as expressed in the espousal of moral values and the doing of works of mercy.
- The pursuit of materialism and worldly 'pleasures' and the throwing off of all restraint by Hedonists.
- The muted and/or confused witness of large sections of the visible church, allied to a willful disobedience to Scripture.

Light Shines In The Darkness

Nevertheless God's Word stands sure and true: 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.' Through Paul, Christians are called to 'Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that (we) may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.'" Then (we) will shine among them like stars in the sky as (we) hold firmly to the word of life.' (Philippians 2.14-16)

Well may we be concerned with the darkness of this present world, but if that darkness is to be overcome it will only be through us reflecting the light of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Note how Paul links shining brightly with setting an example of godly living on the one hand and holding firmly to the word of life on the other. Christians who uphold the truth, authority, sufficiency and relevance of God's Word, who proclaim it and live by it themselves, are those who are well placed to shine brightly into the darkness of the world.

Sadly, those within the visible church who give ground on the truth of the Bible, willfully flout its authority, declare it out of date and irrelevant to modern day life, make no impact on the world around them. Oh yes, they think they do, but in reality the more they become like the world, the more that world despises them, the deeper it slides into darkness and drags those 'who hold the form of religion but deny its power' down with them.

'In this world of darkness, so we must shine – you in your small corner, and I in mine.'

– Bob Thomas

**To Keep Up With
The Latest News Daily
Go To The New Life Website:
www.nlife.com.au**

SUDAN: Pastors Charged

AFTER predominantly Christian South Sudan seceded from the Republic of Sudan in July 2011, Sudan's Arab-Islamist regime in Khartoum declared its intention to Islamise Sudan fully. The Islamisation includes a campaign of systematic persecution, especially in the strategic major centres of Khartoum, Khartoum North (Bahri) and Omdurman. Foreign Christians have been expelled, numerous Southerners have been driven out and several churches have been seized and destroyed.

In mid-November 2014 National Intelligence and Security Services agents oversaw the partial demolition of the Khartoum Bhari Evangelical Church, a property belonging to the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. Then on Sunday 21 December 2014, Rev Yat Michael, an SSPEC pastor visiting from Juba, South Sudan, was arrested as he addressed the congregation at the partially demolished property. Then, on 11 January 2015, SSPEC pastor, Rev Peter Yein Reith, was arrested as he returned to his home at the Gerif West Bible School in Khartoum after a prayer meeting. It has been suggested that Pastor Reith was arrested because he had delivered a letter to the Office of Religious Affairs in Khartoum in which denominational leaders enquired about the arrest of Pastor Michael. Both pastors were taken to a secret location and held incommunicado without charges or access to their families or a lawyer, triggering grave concerns for their welfare. On 30 April the men were transferred from a police station in down-town Khartoum to a NISS detention centre in Khartoum, before being transferred to Omdurman Prison on Monday 4 May. Both pastors faced the Khartoum Bhari Criminal Court on 4 May where they were charged jointly with undermining the constitutional system (Article 50 of the Sudanese Penal Code); waging war against the state (Article 51); disclosure and receipt of official information or documents (Article 55); arousing feelings of discontent among regular forces (Article 62); breach of public peace (Article 69); and offences relating to insulting religious beliefs (Article 125). Of the five charges, Articles 50 and 51 carry the death penalty or life imprisonment if found guilty.

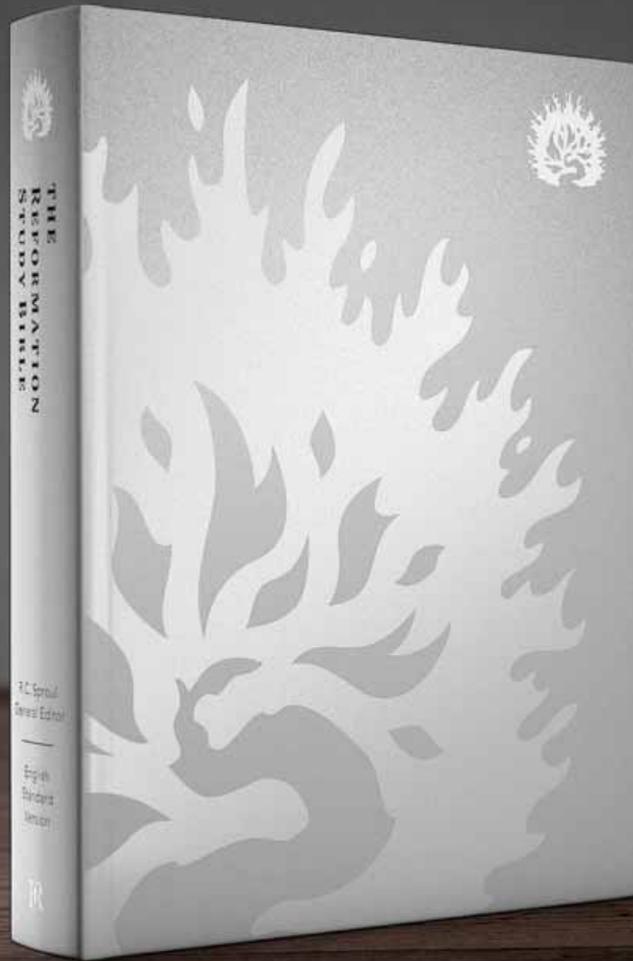
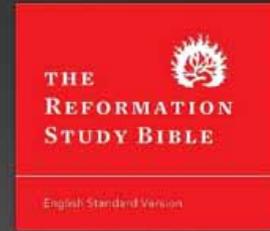
Morning Star News was able to speak briefly with Pastor Michael on 7 May. 'God will intervene and protect us even in prison despite the serious charges brought against us,' the pastor said.

'Thank you all for your prayers and concerns for us over this long period of imprisonment.' According to MSN, whilst NISS officials offered to drop the charges if the SSPEC paid \$12,000, SSPEC will not open itself up to extortion. The pastors commenced a hunger strike on 28 April to protest their detention. Their families are understandably anxious. Pastor Michael's wife implored MSN, 'Let us continue to pray for them so that God can help them to be released.' The next hearing is scheduled for Thursday 14 May. [Visit the Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin blog <http://rlprayerbulletin.blogspot.com.au> for updates.]

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- **DIVINE JUSTICE:** that the court will see the charges for what they are – ridiculous, unfair and vindictive. 'For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong ...' (Isaiah 61.8a ESV)
- **DIVINE MERCY:** that Rev Yat Michael and Rev Peter Yein Reith might be sustained and protected while in prison and then vindicated and released with all charges dropped. 'Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.' (Psalm 116.5 ESV)
- **DIVINE WISDOM:** for all Sudan's Christians – especially for church leaders – that they will know how best to navigate the escalating repression and persecution. 'If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.' (James 1.5 ESV)
- **DIVINE INTERVENTION:** in Sudan and in South Sudan, to bring war, corruption and religious repression to an end for the sake of the suffering church and millions who are harassed and helpless, lost and perishing, like sheep without a shepherd. 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.' (From Matthew 9.35-38 ESV)
- **DIVINE GRACE:** to open the hearts of Sudanese Muslims to the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ. 'For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no-one may boast.' (Ephesians 2.8,9 ESV)



BEHOLD WONDROUS THINGS

New from Reformation Trust Publishing and R.C. Sproul.

Thoroughly revised, carefully crafted.

ReformationStudyBible.com

Hardcover
with slipcase

White, ESV
Crimson, ESV

Leather-Like
with slipcase

Light Gray, ESV
Light Brown, ESV

Genuine Leather
with slipcase

Black, ESV
Burgundy, ESV

Premium Leather
with cloth gift box

Black, ESV

Now distributed by: Koorong Books (Australia), Gracebooks NZ (New Zealand)



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

John 11:25 NIV

...for those beyond reach

www.hfa.org.au

**Read: *Murder At Port Arthur: Was It A Conspiracy?*
by David Holden, www.defenceofthefaith.org**

96threeFM

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

**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*

STUDY ONLINE IN YOUR OWN TIME

JOIN OVER 100,000 INSPIRED STUDENTS!

What could you do in ministry while you are earning your degree in a Christian vocation from Vision Internet Bible College? YOU could Change Your World. Students and Graduates alike from our colleges all around the globe, are serving in active ministry.

Study from your place at your pace!

Accredited and Non-Accredited awards.

Start your journey today!

(61) 02 9603 2077

registrar@internetbiblecollege.com

www.visioncolleges.net



Churches Defend Traditional Meaning Of Marriage

THE NSW Council of Churches has restated its view that the Australian Parliament should define marriage as the union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

'Christians are guided by the teaching of the Bible, which never condones the marriage of persons of the same sex or other alternatives to the traditional norm, which is the union between a man and a woman,' Council President, the Rev Dr Ross Clifford, said. 'For practical purposes, marriage has been understood as a man-woman union since the dawn of time, and Australian law reflects that consensus. 'Changing the meaning of marriage would be a vast, risky social experiment. Children have the right to know and be cared for by their natural parents. The law should reflect and promote best practice. Amid the emotion and hype, principled arguments in favour of retaining the current definition of marriage in Australian law deserve the consideration of every federal politician.'

In response to the announcement that Federal Opposition Leader Bill Shorten would introduce a same sex marriage bill to Parliament, Dr Clifford called on church leaders and church members to contact their local federal members and senators to clarify whether they now supported federal same sex marriage laws, and how they would vote if allowed a conscience vote. 'There may also be unknown and unintended negative consequences if same sex marriage legislation is enacted in Australia. For example, some ministers of religion may not be permitted or prepared to continue to celebrate any marriage under such an Act,' Dr Clifford said. 'The Australian electorate is growing tired of this seemingly endless debate. There are many more important issues to focus the minds and hearts of legislators, church leaders and voters. We have had more than ten costly, time-consuming attempts to change state or federal law with respect to marriage in Australia. All of them have failed. It's time to move on'.

Tasmania Upholds Fundamental Freedoms

'WE applaud the good news that the Tasmanian Legislative Council has approved the Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill,' FamilyVoice Tasmania State Director Jim Collins says. 'This legislation would allow independent schools to maintain their ethos – the reason they were founded. It is based on two of the fundamental freedoms that undergird our democracy: freedom of religion and belief, and freedom of association.

'Rodney Croome strongly opposes this bill, but I am sure he would be very upset if a law forced him to employ an outspoken man-woman marriage advocate in his "Australian Marriage Equality" team. Independent schools are remarkably tolerant. They accept many students who do not share the entire ethos of the school, but they were founded by community groups who wanted their children to be educated in a particular ethos. Article 18(4) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights affirms the right of parents to determine the religious and moral education of their children.'



RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

A Colloquium organised by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

The 'Good' of Work	Christians and the Law	Marriage Matters	Religious Liberty	Persecuted Church
Islam	Church Meets State	Apologetics	Ethical Dilemmas	

When?
Friday 7th – Sat 8th
August 7-8, 2015.

Where?
Assembly Hall, 1
56 Collins Street,
Melbourne

Enquiries?
Rev. Daniel Combridge
03 5272 2433
register@yourCaN.org

Register online at
www.yourcan.org.au

Speakers

2015 Religion in the Public Square Colloquium Speakers

Keynote Speaker: Dr Scott B. Rae is Professor of Christian Ethics at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Talbot. He has a BS in Economics from Southern Methodist University, a Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. His primary interests are in bioethics and business ethics. He is the author of 11 books and has had articles published in various journals. He is married with three sons.

Other Speakers: Dr David van Gend > Dr Stuart Robinson > Dr Ryan Messmore > Dr John McClean > Elizabeth Kendal > Campbell Markham > Ben Saunders > Fleur Letcher.



Families And Tax: Joe Should Have A Chat With Barnaby

'THE word "families" was bandied about a lot during Joe Hockey's recent budget speech – but his tax white paper has ignored them, especially families struggling on a single income,' FamilyVoice research officer Ros Phillips says, 'so I hope Joe manages to have a word with his cabinet colleague Barnaby Joyce, who is asking why families with full-time mums are being ignored. The Nationals Deputy Leader said on Sky News that the tax white paper should look at why families with a stay-at-home mum miss out on benefits like paid parental leave. Mr Joyce said his wife, by staying home to care for their kids, is part and parcel of his career. She deserves equal recognition.'

Ros Phillips said the tax discussion paper asks 66 questions, but not one of them is about families, let alone single-income families. 'The 203-page discussion paper itself only mentions households and families in passing. Many couples who voted for the federal government in 2013 are feeling betrayed. They miss out on increased benefits for institutional childcare, while facing budget cuts to Family Tax Benefits.

'We commend Barnaby Joyce, Senator Matt Canavan, and others who are drawing attention to the plight of one-income families whose childcare and other unpaid work contributes so much to this country. They deserve a fair dinkum family tax system!'

Proposed US Abortion Ban An Example For Australia

THE Australian Christian Lobby has called for abortion law reform after a bill banning abortion beyond five months' gestation was passed by the US House of Representatives. The *H.R.1797 - Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act* requires doctors to determine the age of the unborn child and prohibits abortion after 20 weeks gestation.

ACL spokeswoman Wendy Francis said abortion was a bad option for a woman with an unsupported pregnancy and prospect of their unborn baby feeling pain would be abhorrent to most women. 'Victoria and Tasmania allow up to full-term abortion on demand,' Mrs Francis said. 'This is a practice only available in five countries out of 195 where the procedure is allowed. Australia can do a better job of providing real choices for women who find themselves with an unsupported pregnancy.'

Mrs Francis said all Australian taxpayers assist late term abortion practices through their Medicare levy. ACL calls on Australia lawmakers to look at the example being set by the US House of Representatives. Continuing the practice of inflicting pain on unborn babies must stop and it is certainly something Australian taxpayers should not be subsidising.'

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 –



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).



Sharing The Hope Of Jesus With Muslims In Melbourne

MELBOURNE School of Theology in Wantirna is the venue for a one-day seminar on *Christians Sharing The Hope With Muslims* on Saturday 29 August. This event is part of the Annual Australian Conference of Africa Inland Mission. This year the conference events will be shared across four states during August. Special guest speaker is USA-based author and teacher Fouad Masri.

AIM Australia and Asia-Pacific Director, Len Lesleighter, said the focus this year is encouraging the Australian church to effectively engage with our Muslim neighbours in Australia. 'The number of Muslims in Australia is rapidly increasing and they are often making headlines. However, in our churches I sense many are confused and fearful of Islam. Now is the time for us to make friends with Muslims and share Jesus,' Mr Lesleighter said. 'This year's guest speaker Fouad Masri will bring a positive and refreshing look at how Christians can effectively communicate with Muslims. The events will also highlight some of the challenges and opportunities of Africa Inland Mission's outreach to Muslim African people groups.'

Fouad was born in the war zone of Beirut, Lebanon. He is now a pastor with a passion for sharing the love of Christ with Muslims. In 1993 Fouad founded the *Crescent Project* in the USA to nurture transformational relationships between Christians and Muslims and overcome misconceptions about Christianity and Islam. He has trained more than 18,000 Christians to sensitively and purposefully share their faith with Muslims. He is author of the DVD study, *Bridges: Christians Connecting With Muslims*, and the books *Is The Injeel Corrupted* and *Ambassadors To Muslims*.

Details of the event and how to register are at www.AfricaInlandMission.org/au or are available by phoning the AIM Australia office on (02) 4322 4777. To register online, follow the links on the website. Early-bird rates close on 30 June and all registrations close on 31 July. Pre-registration is essential. The cost for the Melbourne seminar is only \$50 for adults or \$30 for students for early-bird registrations or \$60 for late registrations after 30 June.



New Dean For St Andrew's Cathedral Sydney

THE Rev Kanishka Raffel has been appointed the new Dean of Sydney, the first person from a non-European background to hold the position. 'I'm delighted Kanishka has accepted my appointment, which was unanimously agreed to by the Chapter, to become the next Dean of Sydney,' said Archbishop Glenn Davies in announcing the move. Mr Raffel has been the senior minister at St Matthew's, Shenton Park in Perth since 1999.

Born to Sri-Lankan parents in London, Mr Raffel and his family emigrated to Australia from Canada. He was raised a Buddhist and converted to Christianity in his teens. 'Kanishka has exercised a valuable ministry in Perth and although it is a big wrench for him and his family to return to Sydney, I appreciate the sacrifices that are involved,' Dr Davies said. The Archbishop described the new Dean as 'an outstanding teacher of the Bible who, God willing, will have a significant ministry to the city of Sydney. Kanishka preaches with a pastor's heart and his care and concern for people will be evident throughout his ministry,' Dr Davies said.

'I'm very excited about the opportunities for proclaiming the majesty and mercy of Jesus in the heart of the city of Sydney,' Mr Raffel said.

He served at the Cathedral as an assistant minister in the 90's with Boak Jobbins. Kanishka and his wife Cailey have two daughters, and will be starting at the Cathedral early in 2016. Prayer is asked for the congregations at Shenton Park as they will lose their pastor and friend of 18 years.



Forthcoming Reformation Tour

REV Gerald Vanderwert, minister of Donvale Presbyterian Church, Vic, will be leading a Tour Group from 19 March to 16 April 2016 focusing on significant places where the Reformation took place. It is mainly centred on Germany (Luther), Geneva (Calvin) and Zurich (Zwingli). Mr Vanderwert's phone number is 0414 407 404, and he would welcome any inquiries, and forward the itinerary to anyone who is interested in the tour.

OAC Creative Childrens' Ministry Seminar

OAC Ministries is holding a Childrens' Ministry Seminar at Diamond Creek, Vic, Baptist Church, 309 Diamond Creek Rd, Plenty, from 9.15am to 3.30pm on Saturday 1 August. For further details go to: vic@oac.org.au or call (03) 9840 1144.

ALLEN PENN – A Life Given Wholly To The Work Of The Lord

FOR just over 40 years, Allen Penn was the typesetter/cameraman/property manager/all-round good guy at *New Life*, who brightened the corner where he was. We at *New Life* were always thankful to the Lord for the wonderful working and serving environment we enjoyed there, and Allen played no small part in creating that environment and keeping it alive.

All of us who have been involved in *New Life* through the years join in giving thanks for the life and witness of our dear friend and Brother in Christ, Allen Penn, and we extend our sympathy to his wife Val, daughter Lyndell, son Michael, his grandchildren and sisters Laurel and Shirley at Allen's passing, but we rejoice that he is now in Glory.

Allen gave himself wholly to the work of the Lord and could turn his hand to many aspects of the work of *New Life*. For so many years the history of the Church in Australia passed beneath Allen's fingertips as the pages were made up, and we thank God for such a faithful servant.

In his quiet and gentle way Allen modelled so much of what it means to be 'a man in Christ'. He had a full-orbed faith. His eyes were set steadfastly on Jesus. He did everything without grumbling or complaining. Quietness and confidence were his strength. He was absolutely devoted to his Lord, his wife, their family, his church and his work, and he revelled in God's creation. We do indeed give thanks for this good and faithful servant who has entered into the joy of his Lord.

– Bob Thomas, on behalf of all *New Life* editors, staff and board members.

Val Penn's Tribute To Allen:

ALLEN was born in Narrogin, WA, just over 80 years ago. The family later settled in Albany, where Allen spent the rest of his growing years along with his two younger sisters, Laurel and Shirley. He attended the primary school, then the High school, where he was horrified to learn that he had to wear shoes to school.

As was often the case in those days, Allen left school when he reached the school leaving age of 14. Initially he worked for his father, who was the manager of the Ezywalkin Shoe store in the town. But then an opening arose at the local newspaper and Allen began an apprenticeship as a hand compositor. Later he moved into the area of Linotype setting, sitting at the large machine with its 80 key keyboard.

During these growing years the family attended the Baptist Church in Albany where, as a teenager Allen made his commitment to Christ and was baptised – a commitment he followed for the rest of his life.

As a teenager he was involved in the youth activities of the church – Christian Endeavour, Sunday School teaching and hiking and climbing around the beautiful area in which they lived. He made good friends here and has maintained contact with some of them ever since. One of the other things which was a great interest for Allen in this period was sailing on the great Albany Harbour and King George Sound, first as a deck hand on a larger yacht, but then on his own small VJ yacht.

When he had completed his apprenticeship he spent six months at Pierce Air Force Base north of Perth, as a National Serviceman, where he met his good friend Bob Dixon, who has re-entered his life in many different ways since.

He returned to the *Albany Advertiser* for a time, but feeling that God was calling him to mission service, he returned to Perth for two years to study at Perth Bible Institute. Here he again met Bob Dixon. During his time here he spent a couple of term holiday breaks driving with another friend to Mount Margaret Mission Station out in the desert, where they did electrical work – Allen very much the assistant.

When he had completed his time at PBI, being unsure what was next, he began work as a casual type setter at the *West Australian* newspaper in Perth. While in PBI he had begun to receive *New Life Christian Newspaper*, and one day saw a notice looking for a type-setter for the paper, based in Melbourne. As Allen was wont say, in those days Perth and the eastern states were so far apart it was almost closer to go to South Africa, and since most mission societies had their headquarters in either Melbourne or Sydney he thought he would help God to get him to the mission field by applying to get himself to Melbourne.

He applied for the job, being quite open about the fact he thought it was a temporary position, but he was accepted. He farewelled the family, returned to Perth the following day and flew to Melbourne. Mr Daley, the founding editor of *New Life*, had arranged for him to stay at the China Inland Mission home in Hawthorn for the first week, while accommodation was sorted out, but when the lady in charge discovered he had attended CIM prayer meetings in Perth he was invited to stay on.

(Continued on p.10)

'PROMOTED TO GLORY' ...

Val Penn's Tribute To Allen (Continued from p.9)

AT the CIM home were a number of young people – some children of CIM missionaries, but others 'extras' like Allen – among them a young school teacher named Val. There was a lot of interaction among the young people over the dishes after the evening meal and at a relaxed help-yourself supper time, and gradually Allen and Val began to become friendly. They then began to ride the motor bike, to play squash together – and the result is now history! While at Hawthorn Allen attended the West Hawthorn Baptist Church where he taught Sunday School, but later used to attend Kew Baptist every second Sunday evening and I began to attend West Hawthorn on the alternate weeks.

Allen thought his time at *New Life* was going to be temporary, but God had other ideas. Forty years and one week after he began at *New Life*, Allen retired. During this time he went through about four changes of technology, until the paper was being completely set and formatted on computer – challenges which Allen mastered one by one.

We were married in 1962 and moved into our small two bedroom fibro-cement house on an unmade road in Reservoir – a provision of God, which had been advertised in *New Life*. Lyndell was born in 1963 and Michael two years later in 1965. While at Reservoir we attended the Regent Baptist Church where Allen became a Deacon and Bible Class leader. After five years there we decided to move to Vermont.

We began to attend Heathmont Baptist Church 48 years ago. Our time here has been good. We have made so many good friends over the years. Although Allen didn't ever go to the mission field as he had expected (apart from a Church Mission Trip to Magi, Irian Jaya, in 1979) he had a mission field at *New Life* and here in the church. He has enjoyed many roles in church life. His interest in outreach mission never waned and for many years he was on, and for a time chaired, the church's missions committee. For a time he also led the Adult Class when we had an all-age Sunday School. He has been involved in small groups, and became a deacon and then an elder. He was a church delegate to the Baptist Union meetings for many years.

Allen's interest in water sports rose again when our children reached teen years and he built himself a Mirror yacht, which for a time he sailed on Aura Vale Lake and occasionally on the sea, but the children didn't really take to that. So then it was into kayaks, in which they both joined him for some time. A few others from the church also took to kayaks and an unofficial 'Canoe Club' began. The church canoe club eventually morphed into the Blessed Feet Walking Group and after 20 plus years still continues. Allen and I walked until he was diagnosed with his cancer two years ago. We have enjoyed so many great days and some weekends together as friendships developed in these informal times together. In retirement Allen also found great fellowship in Dads' Army – a special time each week.

Although Allen never got to the mission field as he saw it, his interest in and passion for mission must have rubbed off on our children, both of whom have been and still are involved in mission. Lyndell and Jon and their family have been involved for many years in Vanuatu – initially in a lecturing capacity but at present working alongside Scripture Union Vanuatu in producing written materials for the church and being involved in camping ministries etc. Michael and Karen worked for many years in PNG as hostel parents for high school students whose parents were missionaries in outlying areas. They worked with both Wycliffe and MAF in this role and at present Michael is working with MAF in Mareeba North Queensland, as logistics and stores manager, using his library technician skills to order in, catalogue, check out and dispatch aeroplane parts instead of books.

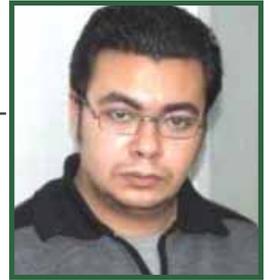
Since we retired we have been blessed to have some wonderful trips, with friends, both around Australia and overseas, and we have been blessed by the friends we have had here at church, by good neighbours in our 48 years in Vermont, by Allen's work colleagues at *New Life* and by other friends from his days in WA with whom we've maintained contact. But most of all we've been blessed by our family, and the way our children and now our grandchildren are following God as He leads them. We have been so conscious of God's hand on all that has happened in recent times – the opportunity to prepare to move to Walmsley Village, the quick sale of our house in Vermont, the care of doctors and nurses through Allen's illness, the manner of his parting, without pain, with the ability to react to people right till the end and the fact he still had his sense of humour, the prayers and care of so many of you, but most of all, for the way God has arranged that our family have almost all been able to be here together at this time. It has been a huge blessing for us all. Thank you all for your part in Allen's life. You were a blessing to him, as I know he has been a blessing to us.

– Val Penn

PERSECUTION WATCH

EGYPT – Bishoy Boulous Suffers 'Regular Beatings' In Jail

PLEASE pray now for our Egyptian brother in Christ, Bishoy Armia Boulous (pictured), who is reportedly being beaten several times a week by prison staff. Bishoy's jailers appear to be humiliating him to try to make him recant his faith. His lawyer, Karam Ghobriel, says Bishoy is being beaten several times a week in Tora Prison as well as being dragged across a concrete floor. His head has been shaved, a punishment normally reserved for violent criminals.



Bishoy, who was formerly known as Mohammed Hegazy, was detained after trying to document Christian persecution. His one-year sentence for 'spreading false information' intended to 'harm the public interest' expired in December – but he remains in detention.

Bishoy is also awaiting trial for 'blasphemy' – a charge linked to his attempt to change the religious status on his ID card to Christian. His lawyer asserts that the time allotted for investigations into this charge has also elapsed. He has filed a formal complaint about Bishoy's treatment and continued detention to Hasham Barakat, Egypt's attorney general.

Please pray for Bishoy's immediate release from jail and that all charges against him will be dropped. Pray that he will be allowed to live in peace, as a Christian, in Egypt. Ask the 'Lord of peace Himself' to give him and his family 'peace at all times and in every way' (2 Thessalonians 3.16). – *Morning Star News*

NIGERIA: Fulani Muslims Slaughter 70 Christians

AT least 70 Christians were killed in a series of attacks by Fulani Muslim herdsmen on Christian villages in Nigeria's Plateau State, in the country's middle belt, from 25 April to 11 May. 'We ... have been under siege and invasion,' said one Christian villager. 'Lives have been lost almost every day ... But we are still faithful to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'

– barnabasfund.org

PAKISTAN: Mob Violence In Lahore After Christian Man Accused Of Burning Quran

PAKISTANI Christians in Sanda, West Lahore, fled their homes in fear on 25 May after a mob of Muslims attacked the homes of Christians and threatened to burn a Christian man alive, accusing him of burning papers that contained passages from the Quran. A case has been registered against 27 year-old Humyun Masih under the Pakistani 'blasphemy' laws, despite the fact that he has been receiving long-term treatment for severe mental illness.

– barnabasfund.org

SUDAN: Aerial Bombing Kills Three-Year-Old Girl, Wounds Mother In Nuba Mountains

A SUDANESE Air Force bomb on 25 May killed a three-year-old girl and wounded her Christian mother at their home in Kauda, South Kordofan State, sources said. According to the Sudan correspondent for *Morning Star News* (<http://morningstarnews.org>), in the latest civilian death in nearly 3,500 government bombings of civilian targets since April 2012, Kaka Abdu Kuku Tiral died after the bomb hit outside her home while her mother, Hamida Osman of the Sudanese Church of Christ, sustained a head injury, aid workers said.

'Kauda is the political capital of the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N), but there is no military installation near Osman's house,' they said. 'The area's predominantly black ethnic Nuba people believe that since South Sudan split from Sudan in a 2011 referendum, the government's goal of quashing SPLA-N rebels is also meant to rid the area of non-Arabs and Christianity,' said the correspondent.

– *Dan Wooding, Founder of ASSIST Ministries and the ASSIST News Service*

INDIA —Hindu Extremism Rising

PRIME Minister Modi is accused of refusing to restrain the Hindu fundamentalists who propelled him to power. Speakers at a seven-hour protest near Parliament on 19 March condemned 168 incidents of anti-Christian violence and 222 occasions of 'hate speech and media campaigns' since his Bharatiya Janata Party came to power. A report titled, *300 Days – Documenting Hate And Communal Violence Under The Modi Regime*, compiled by the United Christian Forum, documents desecration and destruction of churches, assault of pastors and illegal police detention which 'aggravate the coercion and terror unleashed in campaigns to force converts to Christianity to return to Hinduism'. Violent crimes committed against Christians include the brutal gang-rape of a 74-year-old Roman Catholic Mother Superior.

– *Anto Akkara, Christian Faith & Freedom Newsletter*

SYRIA: Christians In Damascus Living In Danger
INTENSE fighting between Islamic State militants and government forces erupted on Monday 4 May in Damascus and media outlets warned Christians living in the area to evacuate immediately. – *VOM*

'WITH CHRIST ... BETTER BY FAR'

Harrold Dunning Steward, medical practitioner and long-time contributor and supporter of *New Life*, passed away on 29 May 2015 at the age of 97 in Adelaide, SA.

Harrold entered medical school after World War II and eventually served a three year contract with the Indonesian Government from 1954-1957, serving in a small hospital in East Java. Opportunities outside the medical area gave both Harrold and his wife Gwenda opportunities to share their faith.

Upon return to Australia, Harrold established a medical practice, led Bible studies in various churches and in the home; and supported mission organizations financially and in prayer. He helped develop the Overseas Christian Fellowship in Australia. Harrold also wrote the book *A Doctor Looks At The Bible*. For over 50 years, a group of men came weekly to the home to pray for Australia.

Harrold's influence lingers today through memories. He is survived by his children Ruth, John, Judith, Miriam, Elisabeth, Cil and families. His wife Gwenda (a long-time contributor to the *Women In Focus* page of *New Life*) and son Philip precede him in death.

A Thanksgiving Service for Harrold will be held at 2.00pm on Friday 5 June in Edwardstown Baptist Church, Adelaide. – Judith Bond

Successive editors of *New Life* give thanks to God for the Barnabas-like man of encouragement which Harrold was and his help in spreading the word about *New Life*. Our sympathy goes out to the members of his family. – Bob Thomas

Rev Graeme Best was called Home on 2 May, aged 61. He died suddenly while engaged in a *Bike For Bibles* fundraising ride with students from the Illawarra Christian School where he had taught since 2007. Previously, he had served as one of the ministers at Miranda Congregational Church from 1992 to 2006; in the early years of his service at Miranda he completed his studies for the ministry.

Prior to 1992, Graeme had worked as a government high school teacher from 1976. He was a popular, well-respected and much-loved teacher who always involved himself in the student Christian bodies in the schools where he taught.

During his years of ministry, Graeme served as President of the FCC (2000-2001), represented the FCC at the Amsterdam 2000 World Conference for Evangelists and presented one of the theme messages at the 6th WECF Triennial Meeting in Olds, Alberta, Canada, in 2001.

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)

Check Out Our Website
www.nlife.com.au
For Latest News Daily

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.

When There's Room For Differences – Romans 14.1-12

AT our sons' school a 'bullying hotline' used to operate. Concerned parents could use the hotline at any time up to midnight. The school took the issue of bullying very seriously.

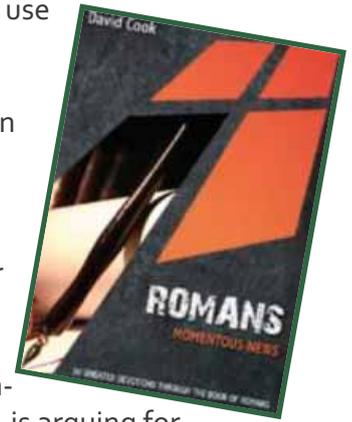
The apostle Paul takes theological bullying over disputable matters seriously. In Romans 14.1,3 he repeats the encouragement to 'stop passing judgment'. The Roman Christians are to make every effort not to cause one another to stumble.

Romans 9.33 reminds us that the Jews stumble at God's way of making people righteous. If people stumble, make sure it is not over disputable matters but over the indisputable Christ of the Gospel.

The basis of all this is Paul's conviction that no food is unclean (v14). Others may disagree but Paul doesn't wish to argue with this conviction. Rather, the conviction of fellow believers must be respected. Paul, as in 1 Corinthians 8.4 and 7ff, is arguing for the sensitive exercise of Christian freedom: love must guide liberty. In other words, we are to be our brothers' keeper. Paul sets forth the following principles:

- Love is to control the exercise of liberty (v15).
- Unbounded freedom leads to stumbling (v13), obstacles, distress (v15), destruction (v21), falling and condemning (v23). This is a serious issue.
- Liberty must be exercised recognising: the preciousness of brothers and sisters in Christ (v15); the preciousness of Gospel freedom (don't act so as to give it a bad name); that matters of eating are peripheral (v19-21); that life is about building up, not destroying (v20).
- Our convictions about disputables are not for public display (v22).
- The basis of all that Paul says is that the conscience-bound brother does not have an objective case. If he did, then the issue would no longer be a matter of freedom.

To sum up: we are to make sure we don't put obstacles in front of our brothers and sisters in Christ or destroy their faith by the insensitive exercise of our Christian liberty. The kingdom of God is about righteousness, peace and edification; work for that and keep convictions about peripheral matters to yourself.



FOR REFLECTION:

What are some of the matters that fall into the category of being disputable in the Church today?

How do you show your respect for both your freedom in living under the Gospel and for other Christians who may differ with you on these matters?

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

Seen On Facebook:

The Four Miracles of Atheism



1. Getting Something from Nothing.
2. Getting Life from Non-Life.
3. Getting Order from Chaos.
4. Getting the Immaterial from Physical Matter.

**YOU CAN
ADVERTISE HERE.**

Email: office@nlife.com.au

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

BOOKS WORTH READING

JOB, Lindsay Wilson, THOTS, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015 ISBN 987-0-8028-2708-1

DR Lindsay Wilson is Lecturer in Old Testament at Ridley Melbourne whose whole teaching and research career has focussed on Old Testament Wisdom Literature, so this new book is the mature fruit of some 30 years of thought and scholarly effort.

Dr Wilson is right to note that the setting of the book of Job is non-Israelite and pre-Mosaic, but that this need not mean that it comes from that time. This means that those with a high view of Scripture are allowed to be agnostic as to its date of writing. According to Dr Wilson, at a much later date, the biblical author started with the historical reputation of the man called Job and reworked and developed his story as part of a debate within the wisdom circles of his day.

Wilson reads the book of Job as a consistent whole, so that no verse is allowed to stand in isolation but is instead interpreted within the context of the total message of the book. This procedure may sound awfully obvious, but verses from Job (especially pious-sounding statements by Job's friends) have often been wrenched from context and used for purposes they were never intended to fulfil. Dr Wilson does not set the book of Job against Proverbs as sometimes done, though Job does correct a wooden misinterpretation of the doctrine of retribution, one that has not noticed the flexibility and nuance given to that doctrine in Proverbs.

The hero of the book has a robust and honest relationship with God in which protest and questioning are valid and appropriate. Wilson rises to the challenge of interpreting the book of Job in its full biblical form rather than attempting to amend or 'repair' this complex literary masterpiece. The result is a rich feast in three courses: introduction, commentary and theological explorations, that leaves us nourished and satisfied. Why this rambling, long-winded talkfest between Job and his friends? Because it takes time and effort to work through the deeper issues of life.

Wilson does not try to explain away what is said about Job's exemplary moral character in chapters 1 and 2, for both the narrator and God Himself commend Job in the highest of terms. For those who know Dr Wilson, it is no great discovery to find that he is routinely sensible, insightful and convincing in his explanation and interpretation of the text of Job. In particular, he does not over-Christianise Job's expression of hope for a redeemer or when he raises the possibility of post-death vindication.

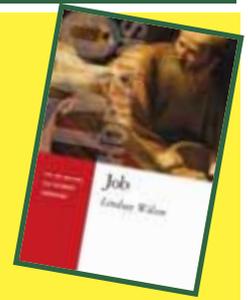
But perhaps the major challenge comes when Dr Wilson turns from commentary to theological implications. The closest Job comes to admitting fault is in chapter 42, when confessing the limitations of his knowledge of God's mysterious ways, which really is no fault at all but simply the inherent limitation of our human condition. On Job 42.6, Wilson is right to avoid the common interpretation (and translation) that has Job 'repenting', for God immediately commends Job for speaking about Him what is right (42.7-8).

In exploring various theological themes, Wilson is correct to insist that the book of Proverbs does not promote an unbending application of retribution (that a person always gets what they deserve), so 'the book of Job is best understood as a protest, not against Proverbs, but against a misunderstanding of Proverbs' (page 222). That is certainly a major canonical function of the book, whether or not the author of Job ever thought in such terms.

Wilson shows that the response of Job, the tortured protagonist, is a complex mixture of calls for vindication, attempts at litigation, lament and faith, and that, far from failing in faith, Job is a hero of faith, for at the end of the book, God endorses the general thrust of Job's complaints. Another mark of Job's godliness is that he was satisfied by the appearing of God and what He said to him.

Though the biblical book of Job does not as such address the 'problem of suffering', this commentary shows that it has much to say that brings light and comfort to those who suffer. We may be thankful to Dr Wilson for being both a doctor of biblical studies and a doctor of the soul.

– Greg Goswell

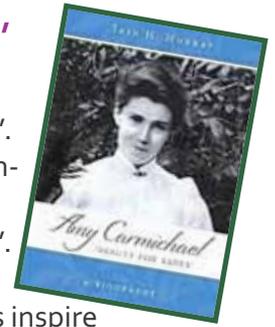


'The hero of the book has a robust and honest relationship with God in which protest and questioning are valid and appropriate. Wilson rises to the challenge of interpreting Job in its full biblical form rather than attempting to amend or 'repair' this complex literary masterpiece. The result is a rich feast in three courses: introduction, commentary and theological exploration, that leaves us nourished and satisfied.'

BOOKS WORTH READING

AMY CARMICHAEL 'BEAUTY FOR ASHES', Iain Murray, Banner of Truth, Edinburgh, 2015, ISBN; 978-1-84871-552-3

IAIN Murray has written yet another compelling biography, this time about Amy Carmichael, missionary to India, whom Murray believes is 'not known as she used to be'. As Murray read more of Amy Carmichael's writings he became convinced a greater number of modern Christians should be introduced to them, for in them we learn much of 'resolute' Christian character. Murray describes her publications as 'compulsive reading'. If, like this reviewer, your knowledge of Amy Carmichael has been fairly sketchy, then this comparatively brief biography (only 168 pages) will help to rectify that and perhaps inspire you to read the larger biographies of her life as well as her own writings referred to by Murray.



Amy Carmichael was born in Northern Ireland in 1867 with a Presbyterian heritage. Early on in life she was touched by biblical teaching calling for wholehearted dedication to God and His Word. The annual Keswick Convention and the influence of people she met through that movement was part of this process. Her life is a narrative of love for her Lord, compassion for human suffering and a willingness to sacrifice herself to whatever work God gave her to do. The abhorrent traditional religious practices that she saw in India caused her to be tireless in saving women and children both physically and spiritually and to set about developing a remarkable place of refuge in Dohnavur. The work of the Dohnavur Fellowship continues to this day.

God gave to Amy Carmichael a succession of Christian fellow workers without whom she would have been hard pressed to carry out the mammoth task she set herself in Dohnavur. Amongst others were Amy's mother who was a constant support, promoting Amy's work in England and also spending time in India helping at Dohnavur. Another was Robert Wilson who supported her financially and emotionally. Rev Thomas Walker and his wife, missionaries in India, gave true Christian fellowship, first in tutoring her in the language and sharing a home, and then working side by side with her in this ministry she took up. Amongst Amy Carmichael's many popular writings is a biography of Thomas Walker.

Intermixed with the developing narrative of Amy Carmichael's life, Murray has placed excerpts from her writings, including poems and devotional material, which were widely read in her lifetime. Be ready to be challenged by reading of the life and work of a servant of God who taught the Gospel and sought to live out that Gospel.

– Mignon Goswell

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