

Remembering The Magna Carta: Lest We Forget!

ON this day 800 years ago – 15 June 1215 – King John set his royal seal on the *Magna Carta* in the idyllic Runnymede meadows near Windsor (pictured), FamilyVoice research officer Ros Phillips has said. 'As Pooh Bear's creator, A.A. Milne, reminded us, King John was not a good man. He reluctantly agreed to the charter, drawn up by frustrated nobles who were guided by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury. The original charter was dismissed after just ten weeks, but later kings re-affirmed its wording. Its powerful ideas have echoed down through the ages:

- Freedom of religion.
- The right to private property.
- No imprisonment without trial.
- No taxation without representation.
- The law must follow due process.
- The king is subject to the law, just like the rest of us.
- Trial by peers – eventually developing into trial by jury.

Lord Denning, former UK Master of the Rolls, said the Magna Carta is: 'The greatest constitutional document of all time – the foundation of the freedom of the individual against the arbitrary authority of the despot.' Ros Phillips said it is worth paying special attention to the principles of the Magna Carta at a time when the freedoms it upholds are under growing threat in our 'politically correct' times. 'For example, governments increasingly want to limit the right of faith-based schools to choose staff who uphold the school's ethos or even to teach students the values on which the school was founded,' she said. King John may be long dead, but today we face new despots. Long live the Magna Carta! – Family Voice



Five Charged Over Al-Shabab's Brutal Murder Of Christian Students

FIVE men have been charged in a Kenyan court with 162 counts of terrorism following the deadly assault by militant Islamists on Garissa University College in April. The four Kenyans and one Tanzanian conspired to commit 'a terrorist act' at the university, the charge sheet alleges. The men have denied the charges. Al-Shabab said it carried out the attack, which killed 148 people.

The group is headquartered in Somalia, but has become increasingly active in Kenya in recent years. The Garissa attack was the deadliest carried out by al-Shabab, which is affiliated to al-Qaeda.

Most of those who died in the raid were students and the attackers singled out Christians to be killed, while sparing Muslims. The names of the 148 killed were all read out in a court in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, the AFP news agency reports.

Judge Daniel Ogembo remanded the accused in custody until 11 June when the court will rule on their bail application, it reports.

VOLUME 77
NUMBER 22

ISSUE DATE:
15 June 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.



Australian Religious Leaders Call On PM And Parliament To Uphold True Meaning Of Marriage

THIRTY EIGHT of Australia's religious leaders, representing major religious traditions and a broad diversity of faiths and cultures, have written a public letter to the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, urging him to resist attempts in Federal Parliament to redefine the meaning of marriage.

'As leaders of Australia's major religions we write to express the grave concerns that we, and those who share our various faiths, share regarding Bills that have or will be introduced into the Federal Parliament to change the definition of marriage in Australian law,' the statement said.

'The definition of marriage enshrined in the Commonwealth Marriage Act 1961 – "the union of a man and a woman, to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life" – reflects a truth deeply embedded across diverse communities, faiths and cultures.'

The 38 signatories to the letter include the Catholic and Anglican Archbishops of Sydney, a bishop of the Lutheran Church, bishops from various Eastern and Orthodox Churches, Christian pastors representing Presbyterian and other major Protestant denominations, senior rabbis from the Jewish community and leaders from both the Sunni and Shia Islamic communities.

While suffering and injustice faced by people with same-sex attraction was to be 'deplored', 'this does not require the further deconstruction of marriage as traditionally understood', the leaders said.

The religious leaders pointed out that Australia's definition of marriage as a union of a man and a woman is shared by the vast majority of nations and cultures, who represent over 91% of the global population. They emphasised the need to uphold traditional marriage for the good of children: 'as a couple, two persons of the same sex are not able to provide a child with the experience of both mothering and fathering. Only the institution of marriage between a man and a woman has this inherent capacity to provide children with both of these relationships that are so foundational to our human identity and development.'

The statement pointed out that redefining marriage would have consequences for everyone: 'In overseas jurisdictions where the definition of marriage has been changed, the public manifestation of this belief has resulted in vilification and legal punishment of individuals and institutions. This violates not only freedom of religion, but also the rights of conscience, belief and association, and the right of parents to educate their children according to their own beliefs.'

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

EGYPT: That The Copts Might Be Subdued

'Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya [protection money] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued.' (Qur'an 9.29, version: Yusuf Ali <http://quran.com/9/29>)

RIOT: Kafr Darwish is a village located in the city of al-Fashn, around 180km south of Cairo in the Governorate of Beni Suef. On 24 May Muslim youths in Kafr Darwish rioted, hurling stones and Molotov cocktails (homemade fire bombs) at the homes of Copts, the indigenous Christians of Egypt. Whilst at least ten homes were burned and a car destroyed, the damage would have been worse had not other Muslims helped the Copts defend their property until the police restored order. This fighting against unbelievers was launched to punish the Copts collectively after a local Copt named Ayman Youssef Tawfiq allegedly posted to *Facebook* a cartoon which the Muslims deemed offensive to Islam. Whilst Ayman Youssef, an illiterate labourer who works in Jordan, denied the charge, his denial is irrelevant as rioting should not be permitted under any pretext.

'RECONCILIATION': Reconciliation sessions were convened according to Egyptian protocols: the first was held at the al-Fashn police station and the next in the home of Mayor Ahmed Maher. There it was decided that Ayman Youssef's extended family – five families comprised of 19 members in total – should leave the village. The police told Ayman Youssef's elderly parents, who lost their home, crops and cattle in the rioting, they could not (ie would not) guarantee the family's safety. On Friday 29 May the Copts of Kafr Darwish began a collective fast and prayer for the return of the families. On Sunday 31 May the Beni Suef governor, Muhammad Selim, promised to visit and put things right. Whilst the Copts returned on 2 June, 'putting things right' would involve charging the Muslim rioters, securing justice (including compensation) for the Copts, while guaranteeing rule of law, equal rights and security for Christians, all of which are contrary to Islam. Kafr Darwish is not an isolated case. In recent months, near identical stories have emerged out of el-Gallaa, al-Our, Abu Qurqas and Taleyhat. As Samuel Tadros told a US House Committee on 20 May (see the RLPB blog), this cycle – from riot to 'reconcile', or in other words, from fight to subdue – has become routine, especially in Upper (south) Egypt.

FREEDOM: Long-time intercessors might remember Mohamed Hegazy, who in 2007 became the first Muslim Background Believer to sue the Interior Ministry for his constitutional right to religious freedom. The court ruled against Hegazy on the grounds that Sharia does not permit apostasy. The ruling meant that Hegazy would remain a registered Muslim, ensuring his children would be registered as Muslims and any daughters would be obliged by law to marry Muslims and produce Muslim babies. While Hegazy's wife and two children received asylum in Germany, Hegazy remained in Egypt reporting on religious freedom issues. On 5 December 2013 Hegazy, who had changed his name to Bishoy Armia, was arrested in Minya Governorate while investigating a Muslim riot against Christians. He was detained and questioned for 15 days. Re-arrested in June 2014 Bishoy was fined and sentenced to five years in prison on charges of inciting sectarian strife, 'depicting Christians as suffering from sectarian oppression', reporting the 'misinformation' to US-based television channel *The Way TV*, and insulting Islam

UPDATE: Bishoy is being held in the high-security Tora Prison where, according to his lawyer Karam Ghobrial, he is routinely beaten and mistreated. Moreover, he is denied a Bible, his glasses have been intentionally broken and his head has been shaved. Convinced that Bishoy's Christian faith is the main reason for the mistreatment, Ghobrial has submitted a complaint to the Prosecutor-General, demanding an investigation.

Intolerant Qur'anic Islam continues to advance in Egypt, including amongst police and officials. Furthermore, on 16 May an Egyptian court ruled that former President Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood be sentenced to death. Before it can be finalised, any death sentence must first be sent to Egypt's Grand Mufti for his non-binding opinion. Originally scheduled for 2 June, the final decision on Morsi's sentence has been deferred to 16 June. President al-Sisi is cracking down on MB influence in mosques. Tensions are soaring and the situation is highly volatile. If the court upholds Morsi's death sentence, an MB backlash is all but guaranteed. Egypt's Christians need our prayers.

– Elizabeth Kendal, *International Religious Liberty Analyst And Advocate.*

Please Pray That God Will

- comfort Egyptian Christians who have lost property, livelihoods, loved ones and their sense of security at the hands of Muslims who know they can fight them with impunity. May Jehovah-jireh, the Lord our provider, supply their every need, 'according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4.19 ESV);
- protect Bishoy Armia (formerly Mohamed Hegazy) and his lawyer Karam Ghobrial and give them both wisdom and strength as they pursue justice; may the Lord intervene to improve Bishoy's situation;
- move the heart of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to have the courage and conviction to move beyond rhetoric and symbolic gestures to ensure Egypt's Copts and Christians enjoy full, equal rights as valued citizens of Egypt.

DOIN' THE LAMBETH WALK:

From Melbourne To Lambeth Palace And The Community Of St Anselm

A MELBOURNE couple will be trading their busy lives for a year of reflection and prayer at a monastic program under the leadership of the Archbishop of Canterbury this September.

Rachael and Jonathan Lopez, both of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, will be joining 14 other young Christians from around the world at the Community of St Anselm, based in London's Lambeth Palace. The Community of St Anselm was established by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the program is aimed at young Christians aged 20 to 35-years-old.

Students will spend 12-months drawing closer to God through a daily rhythm of silence, study, prayer, and they will also be involved in various welfare and community engagements in London.

While the Lopezs were thrilled to learn they had been accepted, the decision to go ahead with their plans was not something they took lightly. Jonathan had to say goodbye to his students at Melbourne's Reservoir High, where he had spent the last two years working as the school's chaplain, and for Rachael, it was a break from a decade of study.

The couple applied for the program after reading it on *Facebook* because the opportunity to spend a year learning from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Prior was something they did not want to miss out on. Pupils are also required to 'swear off all kinds of habits and comforts' and make God their number one focus during their time at St Anselm.

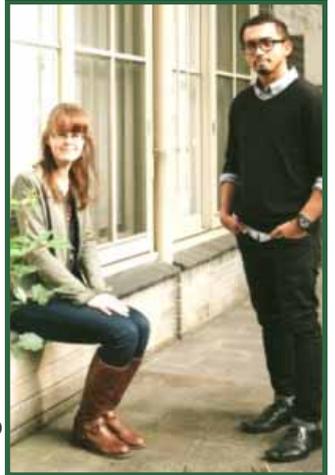
Jonathan said he would be learning how to switch off from the daily demands of life, and 'integrating it into a focused time of silence' with God. 'Social media is one of the phenomenons of the digital age, and it's quite hard to switch off. If you're engaging with relationships, and pastoral relationships, through emails and through *Facebook*, there are definitely things that are difficult to turn off from or stop doing,' he said.

Rachael said she used to be able to read a book for three hours without getting distracted, but with *Netflix*, *Facebook*, and *Instagram* accounts, concentrating for more than an hour has proved challenging. Rachael hopes to achieve a better prayer life with God by the end of the program. 'It's been something I have struggled with throughout my life. When you're in a monastic community, you can't say "Oh, I'll do it tomorrow",' she said.

The Lopezs will be heading to the UK in mid-August before the course starts in September. They are looking to raise \$60,000 towards the Community of St Anselm, with \$47,000 towards fees, and \$13,000 for flights, preparation costs and other expenses. While the Lopezs are personally funding a quarter of the cost, there is still need for funding from churches and individuals. Email lopez.lambeth@gmail.com for a giving form, and to also sign up for monthly updates.

– Michele Ong, Press Service International Columnist

<http://www.christiantoday.com.au/article/melbourne.to.lambeth.palace.st.anslem/19979.htm>



Learn About Nungalinga College, Darwin

DR JUDE LONG, Principal of Nungalinga College, Darwin, will be speaking in Sydney and Melbourne in June and July. This will be a great opportunity to get the latest news, prayer points and to ask questions. Bring your fellowship group!

SYDNEY: 28 June, St Michael's Anglican Church Vaucluse, preaching at 10am service and special presentation on Nungalinga College at 6.00 pm.

MELBOURNE: 12 July, St Jude's Anglican Church Carlton, preaching at 10am service. Venue: North Melbourne Primary School, 210 Errol St, North Melbourne.

FOR PRAYER: If you are unable to attend these opportunities to hear Jude, please pray for the college, that their budget will be met so that the college can continue to Empower Indigenous Christians.

REACHING OUT:

Chinese School Opens As Church 'Keeps On Reaching Out'

AN avowedly Christian bilingual school has opened in the grounds of St Paul's Anglican Church, Chatswood, on Sydney's North Shore. The International Chinese School has been constructed next to the church, remodelling the old hall and surrounds to accommodate students as well as church events.

Classes began with 10 kindergarten students in January but the school – whose motto is *Christ Is My Light* – was officially opened by Bishop Chris Edwards as part of a service that included songs from the children and a lot of celebration that long-held plans had finally come to fruition.

'The church already has a Cantonese, a Mandarin and an English-speaking congregation, so how do you keep reaching out to these new families? One way is through a school,' Bishop Edwards says. 'You establish a community, that community builds links with the church and I think you can do great things evangelistically, really helping people who are in your country and loving your neighbour as yourself.'

The primary co-ordinator for the school, Mrs Wendy Yu, says at this stage the school has a specialist Mandarin teacher and a class teacher, with specialist teachers also brought in for music, PE, chapel and Scripture classes. 'Parents think the idea of a bilingual school is really new, but language is just an extra component to a normal school,' she says. 'As much as possible we try to integrate the two because we're very aware of not wanting to have language as just a stand-alone topic. So at school assemblies the children sing songs in Mandarin as well as English, and when they do *Show And Tell* or news, they can perform their news in both Mandarin and English. It's all about developing the whole child and being able to give them a really global education that's rooted in Christian faith.'



Big day out: students from the International Chinese School at the opening with local Federal MP Paul Fletcher and State MP Gladys Berejiklian. Photo: Chris Jones

the church providing clear opportunities for people from a range of backgrounds. 'We've got a message for everyone', he says. 'It's international and intentional: we want to tell (everyone) about Jesus. We can't expect everybody to turn up to our place and fit in. We need to be the ones to make the change. There's a pretty good model for that – that's what Jesus did. He became one of us ... so we could understand. To step into other people's language, world and community is an exciting adventure for us as a church.'

Mrs Yu agrees. 'It really is very exciting. And the kids, their minds are like sponges. Research tells us that the best time to start learning a language is before children are nine years old. Here, we see our students moving from one language to another without any problems at all, and how much they've been able to absorb even in the first term has been incredible!'

A Good Sign:



'THEIR WORD GOES OUT ...'

Top Speakers For Launch Of The Gospel Coalition Australia

THE Gospel Coalition is a fellowship of evangelical churches in the Reformed tradition deeply committed to renewing faith in the Gospel of Christ and to reforming ministry practices to conform fully to the Scriptures. TGC is deeply concerned about some movements within traditional evangelicalism that seem to be diminishing the church's life and leading her away from her historic beliefs and practices, such things as the idolatry of personal consumerism and the politicization of faith, the unchallenged acceptance of theological and moral relativism, which have led to the easy abandonment of both biblical truth and the transformed living mandated by the historic Christian faith. And so, TGC has committed itself to invigorating churches with new hope and compelling joy based on the promises received by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

An Australian branch has now been set up, with an active website at australia.thegospelcoalition.org carrying an impressive array of articles from contributors including Peter Adam, Paul Barker, Alistair Bain, Andrew Moody and Craig Tucker.

The Launch of The Gospel Coalition Australia will take place in the Brisbane Town Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23 July. Entry will be by ticket. Speakers will be Don Carson, Peter Jensen, Peter Adam and Gary Miller. Further details: australia.thegospelcoalition.org



Good News For Muslims

YOU are invited to hear Brother Waheed, a world-class evangelist to Muslims at Melbourne School of Theology, 5 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna at 7.30 pm on Saturday 26 June. Brother Waheed will address the topic *Answering The Hard Questions That Muslims Ask*. Brother Waheed works with al-Hayat TV channel. You can see him leading an Algerian woman to the Lord at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/oB-K_xT1jmt3hdEtFRUFTeTh-feHc/view?usp=sharing

Waheed is in Melbourne for only a few days, so this is a rare opportunity. Bring your hard questions. Brother Waheed speaks Arabic, so Dr Yousry will translate into English.

Feel free to invite all you know who are interested to come along. Please email Bernie on BPowder@MST.edu.au or text him on 0449 768 932 if you are coming.

Ramadan

On Thursday 18 June 18th, a prayer meeting will be held at the Melbourne School of Theology, 5 Burwood Highway, Wantirna to pray for Muslims during Ramadan. Starting with a meal at 6pm, followed by prayer from 7-9 pm. Bring some food to share. For more detail, contact Lauren on 0488 101 470.

Street Stall News

Praise God that a young woman gave her life to Christ at the M Cubed street stall on 30 May. Heather, one of the team members, is following her up.



We're Encouraged!

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

Who Can YOU Forward *New Life* To?

The Muslim man who had been bothering those manning the street stall went too far recently when he put their pictures on *Facebook*, claiming that they were 'abusing, defaming and blaspheming the Prophet.' The police were notified, and a couple of plainclothes officers wearing very prominent guns came to talk to him. He got wind of it, pulled down the *Facebook* post, and he has not been seen since.

Ring Richard on 0407 061 574 if you would like to be part of this ministry.

'... YOU DID IT UNTO ME'

Love Me, Love My Child

IN the pre-school years, the idea of church attendance can be a daunting subject for young mothers. Is the church friendly? Will other church members disapprove of my parenting? And most daunting of all, what if my beloved child decides to scream the minister down? When we consider taking children to church we may have an image of clean, beautifully dressed children who sit quietly in pews. This is certainly not my experience!

The reality is that life with young children is just messy and unpredictable. Sometimes the baby may cry, sometimes a well behaved toddler has a temper tantrum with no warning. Sometimes a child may say in a carrying voice, 'Mummy, why is that man up the front wearing a dress?' I blush just remembering it.

The fact that a young mother brings her children to church in spite of her concerns, speaks of the value she places on it. There are many things a church can do to make it easier for parents. Children's ministries, crèches and parenting rooms are wonderful, however I believe the most important thing a church can do is demonstrate welcome and acceptance. Here are some suggestions:

- **Embrace The Mess.** The church is a place for the broken and messy. We don't want people to stay away until their lives become tidier. We can offer encouragement and support to families where they are at.
- **Get To Know Young Families In Your Church.** When a minister takes time to greet the children of a family, the parents are welcomed. As they say, 'love me, love my child ...'
- **Encourage An Atmosphere Of Grace In The Church.** If there is a child misbehaving, there is usually a mother who feels she has failed. We can let her know that she is loved and accepted; she is doing a faithful and valuable thing in bringing her children into God's house.
- **Value Children In Your Ministry.** Sunday School is not only a way to occupy young children during a service, it is also a special ministry. Sunday school fosters faith and Biblical truth in children from a young age. Jesus demonstrated His value for children when He rebuked His disciples for shooing the mothers with small children away. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.' (Matthew 19.14)
- **Encourage Child-Safe Facilities And Practices.** This may include child-friendly rooms, adequate fencing outside, toddler gates and parenting rooms. These measures do much to assure young parents that the church welcomes their little ones.

Parenting has a way of reminding us of our mortality – our hearts become softer to matters of faith in this time, and we long to instil this in our children. If we offer welcome to a family at this time, we are not only encouraging the parents, we are making a way for a whole family to experience God's love.

– Cate Stephens is a member of the MOPS Australia writing team.

MOPS Australia is a national organisation that partners with local churches to support mothers of young children.

A MOPS group is a safe, accepting place where young mums can make friends, enjoy time out from kids, have fun, gain confidence in mothering and be gently encouraged to consider the hope that comes through knowing Jesus.

MOPS provides a connection point between church and community.

There are 108 MOPS groups Australia and New Zealand. mops.org.au



YOU CAN
ADVERTISE HERE.

Call Mignon

0434 313 646

Email: office@nlife.com.au

Seen On Facebook:

There is no love without hope, no hope without love, and neither love nor hope without faith.

AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

Disappointment With Changes to Gambling Regulations

THE NSW Council of Churches has expressed grave disappointment at a decision by the NSW Government to amend the state's gambling regulations. Deputy Premier Troy Grant recently approved a raft of changes to poker machine rules including an increase in the threshold below which poker machine winnings can be paid in cash from \$2000 to \$5000, and an increase to \$5000 in the amount of money players may store in an account or smartcard.

'While we welcome the increase in the minimum period for problem gambler self-exclusion schemes from three months to six months, in the interests of public health, it is hard to understand why pokies players would want to load \$5000 on their account or smart card unless they intended to spend it in an attempt to gain a win,' the President of the NSW Council of Churches, the Rev Dr Ross Clifford, said.

'If that is the case, the change means there is a higher likelihood that more people will lose more money playing the pokies, which may be good for the NSW government's bottom line but not for those at risk of gambling addiction and their families,' he said. 'Gambling regulations should be framed in the best interests of NSW citizens rather than in the interests of the gambling industry. The government should explain how it would implement all recommendations tabled in the recent report of the NSW Legislative Council.'

Corporates Should Rethink Consequences Of Redefining Marriage

THE Australian Christian Lobby has called on businesses to think more deeply about their support for redefining marriage. ACL Managing Director Lyle Shelton said businesses campaigning for same-sex marriage risked marginalising staff and millions of customers who support the timeless definition of marriage. 'These businesses are free to do what they like with their money but have they thought through the consequences of redefining marriage?' Mr Shelton said. 'By entering this divisive political campaign these businesses risk alienating millions of staff and customers who for religious and cultural reasons will never accept same-sex marriage. Marriage is a bedrock institution of our society. Redefining marriage would re-define family. Have these CEOs asked themselves how two men or two women would be able to acquire a child? By definition, same-sex parenting involves removing a child from either their mum or their dad.

'Overseas, redefining marriage has also had serious consequences and people who hold a conscientious objection to same-sex marriage have been punished by law for living out their beliefs.' Mr Shelton said these businesses should think more carefully about the consequences of this divisive political campaign.

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).



MEET ...

Cindy McGarvie, New CEO Of Youth For Christ Australia

THE Chair of Youth for Christ Australia, Mr Chris Powell, has announced the appointment of Ms Cindy McGarvie as its new CEO. 'Following the resignation of Richard Sharp at the end of January, the Board has undertaken a rigorous and prayerful search to identify a new CEO. In Cindy we believe we have found the person God wants to lead the organisation forward into, what we believe, will be an exciting new future for YFCA as we provide the opportunity for every young Australian to meet their Lord and Saviour,' Mr Powell said.

'We are really excited to have Cindy join us,' said Mr Powell. 'Cindy is a Christ-centred leader and team player with national and international experience from the Australian Defence Force to mission teams in Africa and volunteering her time to community causes. She is an evangelist at heart and is gifted in relationships, communicating and networking.'

'YFC is an incredible organization,' said Ms McGarvie. 'It has a long history of being at the forefront of evangelistic outreach to young people both in Australia and internationally. It is a real privilege for me to be appointed CEO of YFCA as I am passionate to see growth of the Kingdom and Australia's young people set free through the hope of Jesus.'

Cindy McGarvie spent seven years in the Australian Army as a Nurse and Nurse Instructor then went on mission for 12 years with her husband to Tanzania and Uganda where she worked with SIL International in the medical support, recruitment and management fields. Returning to Australia, she worked as the Mission Director for Nexus Church for three years. She next spent time working for various members of parliament, both State and Federal, and then was the Campaign Fundraising Manager for the Federal Electorate of Lilley. For the past 16 months she has been working as the Development Manager for the Australian Christian Lobby, where she was responsible for all fundraising activities for ACL. Ms McGarvie is a Board member of Wycliffe Australia and Tabor Victoria. She lives in Brisbane with her family, where she attends Mitchelton Presbyterian Church.



YOU

Can Advertise Here
Contact Mignon
Email:
office@nlife.com.au

Prestige Pianos & Organs

102 Bell Street, Preston, Victoria 3072 (MELWAY Ref: 31 B2)

- The largest range of new and reconditioned pianos, organs, keyboards and digital pianos
- The best advice in selecting your next instrument

Phone: (03) 9480 6777

www.prestigepianos.com.au



How Can YOU Help New Life?

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

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

Abp Freier Urges Asylum-Seeker Transparency

AMID rumours that the Australian Government paid people smugglers to return to Indonesia, Archbishop Philip Freier has called for greater transparency about border patrols, saying that much of the discussion about border operations is considered 'almost a matter of military intelligence' with details being withheld from the public arena. He said the claim that the government paid smugglers was 'a remarkable allegation' and said 'we'd all be helped by greater transparency about how these policies are being carried out.'

Dr Freier, conceding that his might be a minority voice on asylum seekers, reiterated that it was 'morally reprehensible' for immigrant children to be kept in detention 'for any longer than is necessary'. Children are still in detention in off-shore facilities.

He said he was surprised that the Australian people 'seem willing to accept these things being done in their name'.

'We really need to address issues as to what motivates people to leave their own country. Most people in the world would like to be on a trajectory of prosperity and living in their own place, with their family, in the place their ancestors lived, but we seem to have every indication that this century is going to be one of the greatest human movements in history. There are people on the move in every direction,' the archbishop said. 'People need to be able to shape the society where they live rather than abandon themselves to people traffickers and all the uncertainties of living life on the fringe of another society.'

– Barney Zwartz, *Medianet*

Aleppo Witness By MERF Continues Despite War, Persecution And Destruction

DESPITE all the continuing risks and dangers, by God's grace Middle East Reformed Fellowship's ministry continues to the destitute in Aleppo, Syria's embattled commercial city, through the brave efforts of the remaining members of a local congregation. This winter 34 families received help to buy heating fuel. More than 50 needy children and many elderly people are under the physical and spiritual care of the church. Christian literature and medications are provided. 'The situation is so tough,' says Pastor SM, 'but we still trust our Lord to the restore peace.'

– vlatallah@gmail.com

COMING TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA?

Come to Scots Church, Fremantle,
90 South Terrace

(next to Fremantle Markets)

Reformed and Evangelical

10am and 5pm Sundays

12:30 pm Wednesday Lunch Time

Worship

Also at Southern River,

Bletchley Park Primary School,

Balfour Road

9am Sunday

Rev Stuart Bonnington

08 9398 1304

melbonn@bigpond.com

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.

Living For Christ In Unity

PAUL could easily have concluded his remarks at the end of chapter 14, but he keeps on like a dog at a bone. This is an important issue for the unity and integrity of Christ's church. Today unity is too expendable, denominations divide us too easily and even at the local church level we are far too portable. When there is a difference or offence we just move.

But Christian unity is God given, it is precious and we need to work hard to maintain it.

Paul's word in verses 1-6 is to the strong, the non-Jew. Such are to take the initiative and bear with those with a tender conscience. In the exercise of freedom they are to build up their neighbour. That's what Jesus did. He did not please Himself but bore the burdens of others. Indeed the Old Testament is full of examples of perseverance and endurance and of God's faithfulness.

Such consideration in the way we live does not come naturally. We need God's help, and that's why Paul wishes God's blessing on them in verses 5,6.



Romans 15.1-13

In verses 7-13 he says that both the strong and the weak are to take the initiative and accept one another.

Jesus again is the model of such acceptance. God doesn't discriminate between weak (Jew) and strong (Gentile); God's church is not exclusive; God's acceptance of both is the basis of our acceptance of one another.

Again, such acceptance does not come easily to us and Paul wishes them God's blessing in verse 13. In this verse there is a strong emphasis on hope. God is the God of hope; joy and peace in turn cause an overflow of hope. Elsewhere Paul says that the fruit of hope is endurance (1 Thessalonians 1.3). Maintaining unity can be hard work and we need to keep our eye on the prize – that's what hope does. The prize is Heaven, being in the presence of Jesus together with our fellow believers in perfect union.

We need to warmly accept and bear with one another as we live in the light of such hope.

FOR REFLECTION:

How can the example of Jesus encourage you as you seek to live in unity with believers with whom you may disagree?

How can you show that you value Christian unity highly?

How are you driven by Christian hope today?

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

Websites Worth Watching:

www.http://oneplace.com/

Audio teaching by the likes of John Ankerberg, Kevin DeYoung, Warren Wiersbe, Chuck Swindoll.

Quotable Quote:

ONE wise man may deliver a whole city; one good man may be the means of safety to a thousand others. The holy ones are 'the salt of the Earth,' the means of the preservation of the wicked. Without the godly as a conserve, the race would be utterly destroyed.

– C.H. Spurgeon

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

MATTBRIGHT
phone
0412 962 323
Painting Service
Email: mattbrightpainting@yahoo.com.au
Setting the standard in quality workmanship

BOOKS WORTH READING

KNOWING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT? A Fresh Look At Christophanies, Andrew Malone, Nottingham: IVP, 2015. ISBN 978-1-78359-204-3

DR Andrew Malone is Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Dean of Ridley Online at Ridley Melbourne. He is an accomplished scholar and an Evangelical Christian concerned that people read and understand the Old Testament as the revelation of God. Aiming to assist his readers to interpret the Bible well, he comes to the conclusion that appearances of God in the Old Testament were not pre-incarnate manifestations of the Son of God, the Second Person of the Trinity. That is what is meant by 'Christophanies'.

In this, Malone bucks the recent scholarly trend to make much of appearances of God in the Old Testament as advents of the Son alone. It is a belief that goes back to Justin Martyr in the Second Century, though that does not make it right. True, Christophanies may help to make the Old Testament more obviously of interest and relevance to Christians, who sometimes wonder what its value is, but that does not (automatically) make it right. Malone's argument is that a closer look at the Old Testament shows that this is the wrong way of reading the inspired text.

He shows that God is not inherently invisible, hence the warning to Moses in Exodus 33 about the danger of seeing God's face. God the Father can be a participant in the many Old Testament sightings. In support of that thesis, Malone must (and does) tackle the various New Testament passages that describe God as 'invisible', and he convinces this reviewer that they actually mean 'not usually seen'. He shows that none of the key texts actually assert that God is essentially and permanently invisible (eg John 1.18).

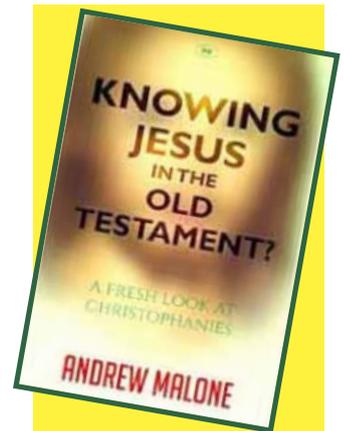
The use of hyperbole and metaphor in the New Testament have tripped up some scholars and many ordinary Bible readers. Certainly God is invisible to human prying, but He can make Himself visible when and where He chooses to reveal Himself to humans in theophanies and best of all in the Incarnation. The common idea that the Father (but not the Son) is inherently invisible must be discarded because of the biblical evidence presented by Malone.

Next, he argues that the 'Angel of the Lord' who appears in the Old Testament is the entire Trinity, not just the Son, and that the designation may well be a Hebrew way of saying 'the Angel who is the Lord'. In other words, the Angel of the Lord is God, and He is on record speaking as God as well as about God. He is not like other angels sent by God, for he is never said to be sent (for he is equal in dignity with God). As Malone shows, there is a longstanding church tradition of equating the Angel of the Lord with pre-incarnate manifestations of the Son, but there is no biblical reason that the divine identity of this heavenly visitor needs to be narrowed down to exclusively refer to the Son of God. So too, in the New Testament, John 12.41 cannot be understood as saying that Isaiah in the temple (Isaiah 6) only saw the Son in His glory.

Toward the end of the book, Dr Malone draws out several general principles about how the two testaments relate in the process of biblical interpretation. One important principle is that we are not to turn the Old Testament into the New Testament, for the one plan of salvation involves increasing clarity as God progressively reveals His will and purpose to humanity, so that the distinct roles (and persons) of the Trinity are only made clear in the fuller revelation provided by the incarnation. We must presume that all three persons of the Trinity are involved in Old Testament theophanies.

This is a book full of argumentation, but Malone is uniformly fair and generous toward those with whom he disagrees, and his judicious weighing of texts is a model of careful, believing scholarship at the service of the Church. This thought-provoking book deserves a wide readership.

– Greg Goswell



'This is a book full of argumentation, but Malone is uniformly fair and generous toward those with whom he disagrees, and his judicious weighing of texts is a model of careful, believing scholarship at the service of the Church. This thought-provoking book deserves a wide readership.'

BOOKS WORTH READING

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING – Vital Lessons From Psalm 73, Iain D. Campbell, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2015, ISBN 978 1 84871 533 2.

LITTLE books can make a big contribution to the Lord's work. Often they spur us on to read bigger books. And often, too, they are an excellent means of sharing the Faith, for many a person who feels overwhelmed or even intimidated by a large tome will gladly take up and read a smaller work. This is an attractive, well laid out and readable booklet of 32 pages.

Likewise, sermons brought to print make for great and ongoing spiritual gain, because they bring a passion to their purpose and a sharp focus on their subject. Here in *Faith Seeking Understanding* we have one sermon preached in a remote corner of the Kingdom now made accessible to Christians everywhere as they seek to understand the sometimes mysterious providence of God.



MERF Director's Queensland Itinerary:

Wed 17 June: 7.30 pm St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 113 Wills St, Townsville. Contact Rev Peter Barber, (07) 4779 5554; 0413 288 778.

Thur 18 June: Hervey Bay Presbyterian Church, 6.00pm Mission Tea followed by 7.30pm Meeting. Contact: Rev Wal Brown: (07) 4152 0769; 0438 622 829.

Fri 19 June: St John's Presbyterian Church South Toowoomba, 7.30pm Meeting. Contact: Rev Walter Jones, (07) 4635 9025; 0448 603730.

Sat 20 June: Bald Hills Presbyterian Church, 9.00am. Contact: Rev John Trappett, (07) 3496 2560; 0423 945 448.

Sun 21 Jun: Robina Presbyterian Church, Morning Worship, 10.00am. Contact: Don Evans, (07) 5525 1398; 0429 873 344.

Annerley: St John's Presbyterian Church, Evening Worship: 6.15pm. Contact: Rev Les Percy, (07) 3862 8606; 0416 194 401

Tue 23 June: Brisbane, Clayfield College, General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, from 9.00am, with a contribution to an evening presentation. Contact: Rev Les Percy, (07) 3862 8606; 0416 194 401.

Iain D. Campbell, the minister of Point Free Church Of Scotland on the Isle of Lewis, asks and answers the question 'What should we do when life's experiences seem to clash with our knowledge of God?' He preaches on Psalm 73.16,17 to do so.

It is not too often that one man covers so much ground in just one sermon, but our author succeeds admirably. In the Free Kirk way, he thoroughly analyses and expounds his text in a methodical and logical fashion which is easy to follow, edifying and satisfying – and meets the felt needs not only of his hearers, but in this case his readers also.

This is the type of book to read for our own growth in understanding of the ways of God and then pass on to others. Perhaps the publishers could sell such books as this in bulk and heavily discounted for purposes of evangelism.

– Bob Thomas

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