

Jungle Doctor's Autobiography Republished - Revised eBook Version Available Now

THE story of Dr Paul Hamilton Hume White, *Alias Jungle Doctor*, is now available as an eBook on the Apple iStore and, in the near future, Koorong websites.

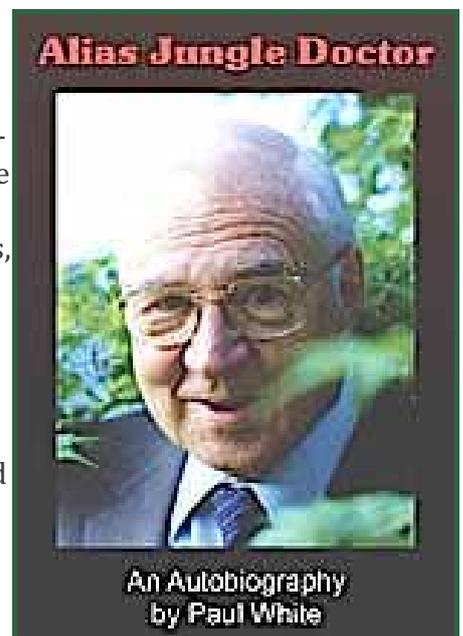
Alias Jungle Doctor encourages the reader to look beyond their immediate sphere of influence in order to reach the world, inspiring the world to mission in whatever manner.

Working with Ruth White, Paul's widow, and Tim Hall of KidsApps, ThinkSoft have republished the complete story of Paul's active and effective life in ministry through his school and university outreach, his medical training, his missionary work and his writings, which spanned multiple continents, generations and languages.

The history of the undertakings of a man committed to the Gospel are candidly presented as one who lived through hardships and good times, who was constantly looking for new ways to tell the Gospel in relevant and modern methods. Dr White created books, cartoons, comics, filmstrips, puppet shows and with his friends in Sydney enthusiastically embraced television when it first arrived in Australia.

While the in-print paperback versions of this story are no longer being produced, this electronic version will ensure that Jungle Doctor's legacy will continue. For more information go to:

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/book/alias-jungle-doctor/id994055144?mt=11>



If Poland Can Help Islamic State Victims, Surely Australia Can

THE Australian Christian Lobby has called on the Australian Government to follow Poland's lead and grant refugee visas to internally displaced religious minorities fleeing Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. ACL Managing Director Lyle Shelton said Christians in particular were being targeted and killed by Islamic State and were in desperate need of evacuation.

'While it is admirable that the Australian Government has created places for Syrian refugees in the overall humanitarian intake, they will not be considered for re-settlement in Australia unless they have crossed a national border. With neighbouring countries closing their borders, the situation is critical. It is simply not possible for people who are internally displaced, and fleeing Islamic State fighters who want to cut their heads off, to cross a national border to become refugees,' Mr Shelton said.

Last week 158 Syrian Christians, including 12 children, were flown to safety in Warsaw aboard an aircraft chartered by the Estera Foundation, funded by Barnabas Fund. Mr Shelton said humanitarian agencies and churches in regional Australia were willing to help with the resettlement costs of internally displaced refugees but were frustrated by government inflexibility.

'If the Polish government is able to find a way to grant refugee visas to internally displaced people, surely the Australian Government can. We are witnessing one of the biggest humanitarian crises since World War II and yet our humanitarian intake is stuck at 13,700 people per year'

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So Much Serenity!

DARRYL Kerrigan loved Bonnie Doon for its serenity, 'how's the serenity, so much serenity'.

After a weekend of vile terrorist activity, and the perverse normalisation of same-sex marriage in the USA through the declaration of the Supreme Court there, we need the reminder that these are days of serenity for the believer.

How can the Christian be serene when the world seems to be going mad and the moral order crumbling under our feet? We are serene (unruffled, placid, tranquil, unperturbed) because we know that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that one day, 'every knee will bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father', (Philippians 2.10,11). This does not mean that we are to be idle and apathetic, but that the foundation of all our persuasive and proclaiming activity is a theologically driven reality expressed in serenity.

God is in control, 'For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods', (Psalm 95.3).

Psalm 2 begins with the fevered plotting of the nations to overthrow the Lord and His anointed (v1-3). Then the Psalmist takes us to Heaven to show us that God is unperturbed by their plans,'The one enthroned in Heaven laughs' (v.3). God makes it clear that His Son's reign is assured (v.6,7) and makes an intimate promise to the Son, that the nations and the ends of the Earth are His inheritance (v.8).

This is no empty promise, this is a promise made by God the Father to God the Son about His rule of the nations. God responds to the pathetic conspiring of the nations by pleading with the nations to submit to, and serve the Son as the only way to blessing (vv.10-12). This is the Psalm which the Early Church quoted in its prayer in Acts 4.25,26, except now the nations are Herod and Pontius Pilate and the leaders of Israel and the Gentiles (v.27), and the anointed is 'Your holy servant Jesus', (v.27).

The evangelistic activity of the church in perilous times in Acts is based firmly on a conviction about the sovereign control of God, 'They did what Your power and will had decided beforehand should happen', (Acts 4.28).

Things are not out of control, and the way we respond to the crumbling of the West and the acts of terror and persecution, will never be marked by desperation , anger or frustration, but by a settled conviction that the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ reigns, and the perverted rebellion of humankind is laughable to God, but also draws His anger, for this is the world into which He sent His Son, the world He loves, the world which has received the revelation of His mind in the Scriptures.

All human authority, from that of a parent, employer, a judge, a Prime Minister, President or Monarch, is delegated by God. We are called to respect all authority, but when the authority acts inconsistently with the mind of God, the delegator, we must repond, 'we must obey God rather than men,' (Acts 5.29), but we will do so serenely, knowing that God will be at work in all things to glorify Himself.

So much serenity!

– David Cook.

ISRAEL: ISIS Threatens Christians In Jerusalem

THREAT: In the last week of June Arabic fliers appeared in Jerusalem, purportedly issued by the ISIS-aligned Egyptian (Sinai-based) group Ansar al-Bayt al-Maqdis (Supporters of Jerusalem/Al-Aqsa). The fliers, which accuse Christians of 'collaborating with Zionists' and 'encouraging Muslims to leave their religion', give Christians until the end of Ramadan to flee the city – otherwise they will be killed. 'ISIS soldiers will work to kill these people so this country is clean of them and ... will clean [purify] this country and the Muslim Quarter from these Christians during this holy Ramadan. ... So we tell our Christians and the non-believers: Go away now or you will be killed when the Eid [al Fitr festival ending Ramadan on Saturday 18 July] is near. And you will be slaughtered like the sheep. One month is enough for them to go away.' The fliers also ask that like-minded Muslims provide the group with the addresses of Christians.

CONTEXT: A serious ideological and power struggle is currently under way between ISIS (which is vehemently anti-Shi'ite) and Hamas which, like al-Qaeda and numerous other Sunni 'resistance' groups, is prepared to cooperate with Iran (leader of the Shi'ite dominated Axis of Resistance). On 1 April ISIS seized control of Yarmouk (a Palestinian area of Damascus, Syria), beheaded Hamas leaders and crushed the Hamas leadership. Hamas threatened revenge and on 6 April arrested a Salafist cleric in Gaza believed to have ties with ISIS. Then on 3 May Hamas forces bulldozed Gaza's 'Mosque Almtahabin', which is controlled by the ISIS-aligned Ansar al-Bayt al-Maqdis, arresting seven of its leaders. ISIS/ABM responded by bombing Hamas' headquarters in Gaza and accusing Hamas of working for the Israelis.

A PRANK? Some observers are dismissing the ISIS/ABM leaflets as a prank aimed at intimidation, noting that Ansar al-Bayt al-Maqdis is small and ISIS has minimal presence in Israel. Making no reference to ISIS/ABM or Christians, Palestinian authorities have merely denounced any effort to hurt 'the unity of the Palestinian people'. While commentators debate the significance of the threat, ISIS/ABM has nearly three weeks to incite and organise the already radicalised Muslim youths. Set as it is in the context of the Hamas v ISIS struggle for the affection of Palestinian Arab Muslims, the threat must be taken seriously. Since ISIS has killed Coptic Christians to attract militant Egyptian Muslims and killed Ethiopian Christians to attract militant Somali Muslims, then ISIS may well facilitate the killing of Arab Christians to attract militant Palestinian Arab Muslims. This Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin ministry is taking this threat very seriously indeed.

BREAKDOWN. Before the ISIS/ABM threat even emerged, Rami Fellemon, a Palestinian Christian and director of Jerusalem Evangelistic Outreach headquartered in East Jerusalem, had told *Morning Star News* that Muslim-Christian relations were breaking down and being replaced with 'a definite us versus them mentality from Islamic extremists'. This trend is being observed not only in the Palestinian-administered Territories, but in Israeli towns such as the mostly Muslim town of Nazareth where a billboard right outside the Roman Catholic Church of the Annunciation quotes Surah 4:171 threateningly warning Christians against saying God has a Son [<http://quran.com/4/171>]. On 1 May 2015 an imam at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque, Sheikh Issam Ameera, posted a video sermon on-line entitled *The Islamic State Is The Keeper Of Religion And State*, in which he incites Muslims to fight Jews and Christians. After a minor disagreement three days later, up to 80 Muslim youths rioted against Christians in the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, pelting rocks at Christians' homes and attacking an Ethiopian monastery. According to MSN, whilst Muslim elders are trying to keep the peace, the youths grow more radical by the day.

With Hamas firing rockets from the south and Hezbollah building up its arsenal (estimated at over 100,000 rockets) to the north, religious tensions and anxieties are rising across Israel. Consequently, Christians are suffering attacks not only from radicalised Muslims and ISIS-sympathisers, but from Jewish ultra-nationalists as well. MSN reports: 'Before dawn on Thursday (18 June) someone set fire to the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, a Roman Catholic church run by Benedictine monks on the shore of the Sea of Galilee in Tabgha village.' The property was extensively damaged and many books lost in what police have labelled a 'religiously motivated arson attack'. Hebrew graffiti on a nearby wall read: 'Idol worshippers will be eliminated.' Sixteen Jewish youths were taken in for questioning over the incident which left an 80-year-old monk and a young German volunteer worker with injuries requiring hospitalisation. Local Christians are feeling apprehensive and insecure.

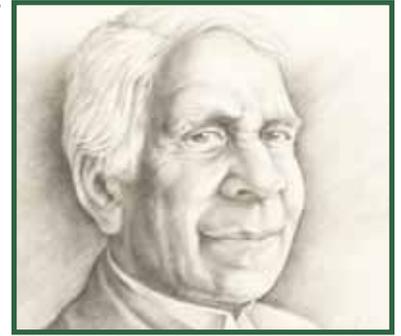
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called for a swift investigation into what he called an 'outrageous arson attack' that amounted to 'an attack on us all'. He affirmed, 'Freedom of worship in Israel is one of our core values and is guaranteed under the law. We will bring to justice those responsible for this crime. Hate and intolerance have no place in our society.' Dealing with the ISIS threat to Jerusalem's Christians could prove challenging. Any threat to Christians in Gaza, where there is no Israeli security presence, would be even more so.

– Elizabeth Kendal, Author of *Turn Back The Battle*.

FOR NAIDOC WEEK:

David Unaipon – The Man On The \$50 Bill – South Australian Gospel Preacher

THE first adult Christian at the Point MacLeay Mission, near the mouth of the Murray River in South Australia, was James Ngunaitponi, a Ngarrindjeri man whose name was Anglicised to 'Unaipon' by white people who could not pronounce it. The mission was conservatively evangelical and ruled by the stern George Taplin. James Unaipon, born c.1830, came to Christ in 1862 through the teaching of a far gentler itinerant missionary, James Reid of the Free Church of Scotland, whose name James took at baptism. He chose to accompany Reid, acting as a translator and taking his own first steps towards evangelism.



He had an immense knowledge of the (King James) Bible, and knew huge sections of it off by heart. Reid was tragically drowned in 1863. In 1864 James settled at the Point Macleay Mission. Taplin was delighted and encouraged James to evangelise his own people. James was the first of those Aboriginal evangelists later known in South Australia as the 'Taplin men'. James learned of other Christian Aboriginal people at other missions and linked up with James Wanganeen of the Church of England Poonindie Mission. Taking with them a young Point Macleay man, William Kropinyeri, they undertook missionary journeys along the Coorong and to other places where the Gospel had not yet been preached.

David Unaipon – James' More Famous Son

Better known to Australians was James' son, David Unaipon, now the face on our \$50 bill. An inveterate reader as a child, he grew up to be a remarkably intelligent and learned man with wide academic interests. Entirely self educated, he was a natural scientist, who patented many scientific and technical inventions. He read the classics and could quote huge slabs of Bunyan and Milton. Newspapers dubbed him 'the black genius' and 'Australia's Leonardo'. He had an immense knowledge of the King James Bible and knew huge sections of it off by heart. He was obsessed with correct English, the English of the classics which he so ardently read and of course the language of the King James Bible. He became quite famous, regularly sought as a speaker in the southern states. He was a political activist in his eccentric own way, a kind of unofficial spokesperson for what he termed 'Aboriginal advancement'. 'Look at me', he used to say, 'and you will see what the Bible can do'. David Unaipon defied the stereotype of the lazy, ineducable Aborigine and thus made many people uncomfortable.

He dedicated his final years to evangelism, travelling widely on foot to Adelaide and country towns of South Australia, regularly refused accommodation because of his race and often being detained by the police. But with all his talents and eccentric interests, what he loved doing best was preaching the Gospel. A Christian all his life, David Unaipon was a vigorous, outgoing preacher who modelled himself on the forceful, Bible-based style of the missionary preachers who had influenced him. With Aboriginal people he preached in the Ngarrindjeri language but elsewhere he preached in his idiosyncratic brand of English. His sermons were full of Biblical allusions, and it was said that he even sounded like the King James Bible.

For all his learning, David Unaipon never lost touch with his Aboriginal roots. He collected and recorded Aboriginal stories. He researched Greek and Egyptian mythology at the South Australian Museum, and came to understand Aboriginal stories as having a similar weight and purpose. He published three books of Aboriginal legends. David died aged 94, convinced he was about to discover the secret of perpetual motion.

'Look at me', he used to say, 'and you will see what the Bible can do'. David Unaipon defied the stereotype of the lazy, ineducable Aborigine and thus made many people uncomfortable.

– John Harris

– See more at: <http://www.biblesociety.org.au/news/the-first-aboriginal-evangelists#sthash.4LFXnPQS.dpuf>

HELP THE SALVOS HELP OTHERS:

Salvos Launch 'The Style Army' Campaign to Support National Op Shop Week!

SALVOS Stores is supporting the 2015 National Op Shop Week *Op Until You Drop* campaign with the launch of 'The Style Army'. National Op Shop Week seeks to raise awareness of the importance of supporting op shops in our community and runs from 23–30 August 2015. The Style Army encourages consumers to shop in their local Salvos Store and 'Reinvent Fashion' that is unique and affordable, to feel better by helping The Salvos continue their great work in the community, and to help the environment through purchasing recycled fashion. During National Op Shop Week The Salvos will be bringing the store to you with the Salvos Street Boutique and a fashion show in various locations throughout NSW, Qld and ACT.

The official launch of The Style Army campaign will be held on day two of National Op Shop Week, with the Salvos Street Boutique at Wynyard Park Sydney, on Monday 24 August from 8am to 3pm. A fashion show will also be staged to showcase the vintage and current recycled fashion trends found at your local Salvos Store, perfect for the fashion savvy, budget conscious consumer. Faye De Lanty, TV fashion commentator, eco/op shop fashion blogger and brand ambassador for the Salvos Stores, will be curating the fashion show in all locations and appearing at the Wynyard Park launch to give styling tips and advice! Former glossy magazine editor and fashion icon Kirstie Clements will also be lending a hand as the guest stylist and editor of this year's Salvos Stores The Style Army mini mag being re-released for National Op Shop Week.

Salvos Stores General Manager Neville Barrett said, 'Salvos Stores have been helping struggling families and individuals for over 125 years, and have raised millions of dollars to support The Salvation Army. Pre-loved and recycled furniture, clothing and goods are donated to the stores and then sold at reasonable and fair prices. All profits from these sales go towards running vital Salvation Army programs which assist the less fortunate. Goods are also distributed free of charge to those in need through The Salvation Army's network of Community Service Centres. By donating to and shopping at Salvos Stores the community is recycling and reducing landfill. This is of great benefit to our environment.

By taking part in National Op Shop Week and The Style Army campaign, as well as shopping and donating at your community Salvos Store, you are supporting the mission and programs of The Salvation Army. Salvos Stores use all their proceeds to fund vital work in the community on a weekly basis', concluded Barrett. For more information and how to support National Op Shop Week and Salvos Stores visit www.salvosstores.salvos.org.au/the-style-army or ring 13 SALVOS (13 72 58).

Reach Beyond Tackles Huge New Project

FORTY thousand might sound like a lot when you're talking about believers, but that's actually less than 2% of the population of Mongolia. With such a small amount of Christians, what's the fastest way to spread the Gospel?

Reach Beyond says: Radio. They've already partnered with six Christian radio stations in Mongolia, but their plans are much bigger. In a country where religion was forbidden thanks to Communism, a lot of people are looking for answers. Already word is spreading about the hope that can be found in Jesus Christ, and people are thirsty for the truth. In the areas where radio stations are already present, mini-churches are springing up as people gather to listen to Christian broadcasting and discuss it as a group.

Since the ministry has already proven effective, Reach Beyond is taking the next step; they're partnering with Far East Broadcasting Company, another media-based missions group, as well as local believers in the country. Their goal: to put a new radio station in each of Mongolia's provinces. – Alex Anhalt, *Mission Network News*

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 the members of their National Council. **Who Can YOU Forward *New Life* To?**

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Single, quiet, male Christian aged mid-50's is seeking reasonably priced long-term accommodation somewhere near the Lilydale train line. Ideal location would be Ringwood. Please call Terry on 0438 549 086.

SS Marriage – Tide Is Turning In Australia

ACCORDING to FamilyVoice national research officer Ros Phillips, a number of indicators suggest that more Australians are turning against Rodney Croome’s ‘marriage equality’ campaign (marriage of same-sex couples).

‘In Mr Croome’s home state of Tasmania, where the campaign has been waged relentlessly over several years, a new ReachTEL poll commissioned by *The Examiner* newspaper in Launceston found that a minority of northern Tasmanians support same-sex marriage, and only a small percentage think it is important. Liberal voters are at least 2:1 against same-sex marriage,’ Ros Phillips says. ‘Another indicator of the nation’s change of heart is the big difference between the Crosby Textor poll of last August – where 72% of Australians said they backed “marriage equality” – and the Newspoll of June this year, where the figure had dropped to 58%. The trend is clearly down,’ she said.

‘Then there is the large volume of mail in support of natural marriage flooding the inboxes of federal MPs. The *Strewth* column in *The Australian* on 14 July noted that the Mamma Mia website published a “rogue’s gallery” of the 10 people blocking marriage equality in Australia (all Coalition parliamentarians, apparently), complete with email addresses. By the end of the week the sole woman on the list, parliamentary secretary Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, was surprised by the volume of supportive emails coming her way.’ It all suggests that coalition MPs are right to back the natural man-woman meaning of marriage as a fundamental party policy,” Ros Phillips said.

‘Gov’t And Society Must Prioritise Addressing Domestic Violence’ – Fred Nile

THE Leader of the Christian Democratic Party, Rev Fred Nile MLC, has congratulated Australian Of The Year, Rosie Batty, for her dedication and remarkable efforts to bringing awareness to the severity of domestic violence in our society. ‘Dismayingly, there is currently an average of two women a week inhumanely killed due to domestic violence. It’s not just about funding, it’s about accountability and addressing the deficiencies in the legal system which fails to protect the vulnerable victims and efficiently address domestic violence,’ he said.

‘The recent Essential Research poll of 1006 people across the nation revealed that 74% of Australians believe that currently, domestic violence is of greater concern than terrorism. It is clearly evident that Government funding is currently disproportionately low compared to other law and order provisions. There should be more facilitation and training for doctors, teachers and government services which can identify the signs of violence against women and children to improve early intervention.

‘Addressing homelessness must also be a priority for the government, as there is a clear correlation between domestic violence and homelessness. The fear of being homeless is a dominant factor preventing the victims of domestic violence to taking the initial steps to avoiding domestic violence and demoralising abuse. The security systems for women and children at high risk of violence is evidently failing; the number of potentially avoidable homeless women and children and deaths from domestic violence are staggering. It’s shameful that domestic violence is evidently so apparent in our society.’

Rev Fred Nile has supported the establishment of the domestic violence register which aims to list the identification of convicted offenders. The Christian Democratic Party has also urged that a national register of convicted paedophiles be incorporated in the proposed national register. ‘Society must face the ugly reality of this avoidable, unfortunate dilemma which is harming and claiming the lives of too many innocent defenceless women and children. Unfortunately, the abuse is horrifically ongoing with physical, mental, emotional and sexual abuse,’ he said. ‘This is about the right of every woman and the right of every child to live in a protected safe household. It’s about the right to protection by strategic law enforcement and an accommodating efficient legal system, which protects innocent lives of women and children from the heinous crimes of domestic and sexual abuse. I urge the government to prioritise and escalate domestic violence and sexual abuse issues, in the hope of saving innocent lives from these avoidable crimes.’



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

'STRIVING TOGETHER ...'

Hope From Above And Wycliffe Team Up

HOPE From Above has recently formed a partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators, which will enable them to start working in the Himalayas. Such partnerships enable HFA to keep their costs down, and to fast-track the time it would take to set up HFA overseas.

Networking paves the way to achieve the goal of reaching the isolated, and allows organisations and individuals to complement each other. To give just one example, HFA staff members are currently studying a Himalayan language under the supervision and guidance of Wycliffe, which has incredible language expertise. The goal is to provide aviation and technology support to Wycliffe and other ministries in the region after the language learning is achieved.

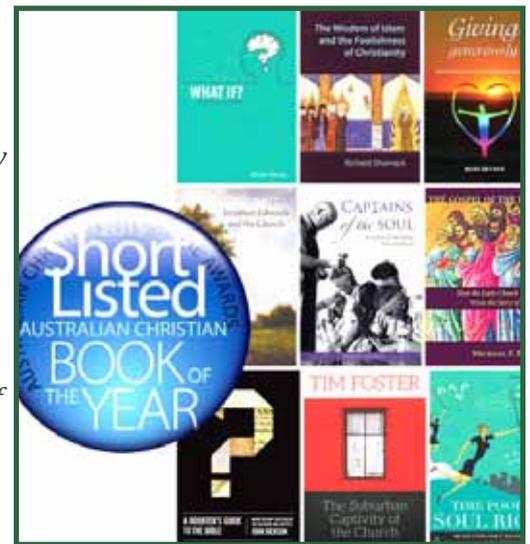
To learn more about this exciting new mission organisation go to their Afternoon Tea on Sunday 19 July at 2.30pm in Mt Evelyn (Vic) Christian Reformed Church, 45-47 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn and meet HFA staff and volunteers or look up www.hfa.org.au

Who Will Receive Christian Book Of The Year Awards?

SPARKLIT, formerly SPCKA is holding its annual Christian Book Of The Year Award Dinner at St Alfreds Anglican Church, Blackburn, Vic, on Thursday 13 August at 7.30pm, when many of the authors and Christian publishers will be present.

The short listed authors and their book titles are: *Giving Generously* by Rod Irvine, Barton Books; *A Doubter's Guide To The Bible* by John Dickson, Zondervan; *The Suburban Captivity Of The Church* by Tim Foster, Acorn; *Time Poor Soul Rich* by Anne Winckel, Ark House Press; *The Gospel Of The Lord* by Michael Bird, Eerdmans; *What If?* by Kristen Young, Fervr; *The Wisdom Of Islam And The Foolishness Of Christianity* by Richard Shumack, Island View Publishing; *Jonathan Edwards And The Church* by Rhys Bezzant, Oxford University Press; *Captains Of The Soul: A History Of Australian Army Chaplains* by Michael Gladwin, Big Sky Publishing.

To book for the dinner or for other enquiries about SPARKLIT call Allison Troth, 0400 984 288.



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

OAC Prayer Breakfast:

OAC Ministries is holding a Prayer Breakfast from 8-10am on Saturday 8 August at Ringwood Community Church, 1 Tamar St, Ringwood North. RSVP 5 August (for catering) (03) 9840 1144, email: vic@oac.org.au

Rugby + Gospel = Special Event For Men

RUGBY At Redfern is an evangelistic event for men, hosted by Katoomba Christian Convention. On 8 August 2015, men from across Sydney will gather at the Australian Technology Park in Redfern to watch the Bledisloe Cup on the (very) big screen. Dr John Best, who was the team doctor for the Wallabies, will give a short Gospel talk at the event on the topic *Getting Onto God's Team*.

Jonathan Dykes, Executive Director of KCC, explains: 'Katoomba Christian Convention is passionate about transforming lives through the power of the Gospel. We pray that many men will come and bring with them men who don't yet know Jesus. Not only will this be a fun night of great food and rugby; we pray that the lives of many men will be changed as they hear the good news of Jesus.' *Rugby At Redfern* is a free event, but tickets are limited. Men can register for the event at: www.rugbyatredfern.com Food and drink will be available for sale on the night. Contact Steven Kryger, Event Director by email: steven.kryger@kcc.org.au or phone: 0403 904 392 for further information.

Excitement At Centre For Public Christianity

TWO CPX authors are on the shortlist for the 2015 Australian Christian Book Of The Year awards! John Dickson's *A Doubter's Guide To The Bible* and Richard Shumack's *The Wisdom Of Islam And The Foolishness Of Christianity* Both books are available from CPX's online store

<http://publicchristianity.org/store>

Also, a date to put in your diaries: Miroslav Volf, who gave CPX's inaugural *Richard Johnson Lecture* last year, will be back in Sydney on Friday 21 August to give a public lecture on *Pleasure, Meaning And The Death Of God*. And on Saturday 22 August, CPX is partnering with Gospel Conversations for a day with Professor Volf at which he'll share a new initiative he's developing with his team at Yale: a manifesto for a new, publicly engaged theology. The day conference will be held at Scots Church, 44 Margaret St, Sydney CBD, titled *God And The Good Life: A Manifesto For A Public Theology*.

'Perils Of PKs And Nurturing Their Faith':

THIS is a webinar being held on 3 September, 9.30-10.30am. Cathy Tucker, Chaplain at PLC, has planted churches in Mt Druitt and Drummoyne with her husband Craig. Cathy with her 21 yr old son, Luke, speak with Al Stewart about the perils of raising pastor's kids and nurturing their faith. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2005855922440130562>

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BSB: 033-112; A/c No: 16-8239 (Please also notify us by email).



FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...

Here's Good News For You: Love – All The Way

'THE undertaker will be here at five o'clock tomorrow. Can you come and take a service for us at our place?'

Having met this family through speed-way chaplaincy, I could only say 'Yes' – despite funeral preparations usually taking much longer. But my limited time-squeeze was nothing compared to their pain – lost in the loss of what might have been.

The still-birth of their baby had ambushed their hopes.

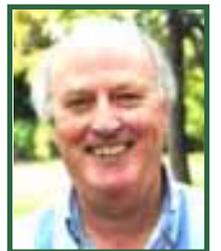
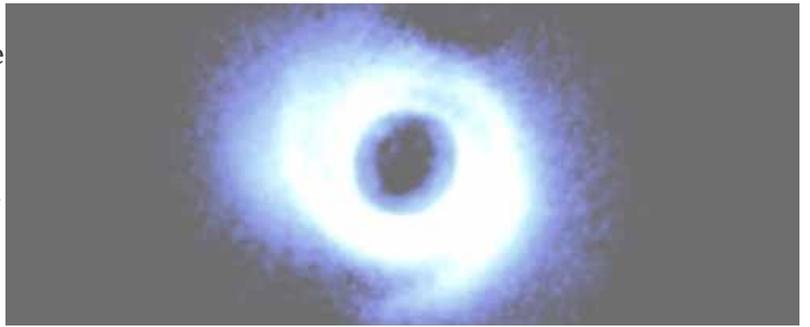
Outliving our children runs against our natural expectation. But even though still-birth figures in less than half of one percent of all births; it hammers at our sense of justice, and it can poison our confidence and our trust.

Yet only recently have affected families been offered services to recognise their loss.

Questions filled my mind: How to celebrate someone this grieving family has never met? How to encourage them to recognise God's presence in their pain – without morbidly 'protecting' God's reputation? Or feeding their fear of judgment? Their grief did not need the poison of guilt; nor to be trivialised as a sideshow in a cynical, cosmic power-play.

Suddenly it hit me that this little bloke had known nothing but love. He had been conceived in love – not merely from seasonal, animal instincts for survival – and in the womb he'd been nourished in sacrificial maternal love. And now he'd been ushered into the presence of God, whose middle name is love. This is the God whose son also suffered what we might see as premature death; but who now opens up enough grace to get His fingernails dirty in the gloom of our shattered dreams and broken hearts.

– Noel Mitaxa



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ACL Welcomes Focus On Consequences Of Redefining Marriage

THE Australian Christian Lobby has welcomed a more thorough debate on the consequences of redefining marriage as more and more senior politicians have spoken out against change.

ACL Managing Director Lyle Shelton said it was encouraging to see the campaign to preserve marriage gaining momentum. 'Redefining marriage would be a serious change for Australia with very real consequences,' Mr Shelton said. 'We should not rush into this simply because some other countries have sought to redefine marriage.'

'There will always be millions of Australians who believe marriage is between a man and a woman, no matter what some politicians say.'

'Sadly, what we've seen in other countries is that these people find themselves being punished by law for living out their beliefs. It is entirely appropriate for Senator Abetz and others to highlight the consequences redefining marriage would have for Australia. Just last month Australian Marriage Equality's Rodney Croome suggested that people should complain to the Tasmanian Human Rights Commission because the Catholic Church dared to teach children enrolled in Catholic schools the church's teachings on marriage.'

Please Pray That God Will Act For Christians In Israel:

- guide and assist the Israeli government and security forces, that they will protect Christians from Jewish ultra-nationalists and the far more dangerous ISIS-incited and organised militant Muslims.
- guide, assist, deliver and protect Christians in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter, as well as in East Jerusalem and across the whole city, throughout the Palestinian-administered Territories and other Muslim-dominated regions, and in volatile towns such as Nazareth and Bethlehem.
- insert Himself deep into Gaza, where there is no Israeli security presence so that Christians will not be left at the mercy of Hamas, but may the Spirit of God guide and assist Christians who, in the event of an eruption of anti-Christian violence, will require hiding places and escape routes.

'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the Earth gives way ... God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved ...'

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Boko Haram Attacks Spike As Jesus Saves

HUNDREDS of people across five states of Nigeria have died in suspected Boko Haram attacks over the past seven days. Suicide bombings and civilian shootings, suspected to be connected to Boko Haram are an almost-daily occurrence. However, there has been a noted rise since ISIS issued a worldwide call for more violence last week. Boko Haram certainly has been busy lately, but so has the Lord.

'There are members of Boko Haram who have heard the Gospel through these very brave ministry workers, and they've seen their need to repent and put their faith in Christ,' shares Amie Cotton of Christian Aid Mission.

God At Work

Christ-followers have been a favourite target for Boko Haram attacks since the very beginning. That fact isn't stopping indigenous missionaries from sharing Christ with their persecutors, though. 'If the church is in hiding, who will know the church? There must be missionaries who are so desperate for soul-winning that they're ready to die,' Christian Aid Mission's Africa director said in a recent report. Boko Haram mocks ceasefire. Former terrorists who came to Christ after hearing the Gospel from these missionaries have been re-located to a safe house. As they learn the Bible and become spiritually-grounded, the sins of their past are not easily forgotten.

'So many of them are just struggling with forgiveness for the things that they've done, wanting to ask God to forgive them for the mass killings that they've been a part of,' Cotton says. But it's their bloody past that will help Boko Haram converts speak to other Muslims about the Gospel. Cotton explains, 'It's an incredible opportunity when one of them becomes a believer, for area Muslims—whether they're radical or moderate—to wonder, "Well, why did they do that?" You know, "what made them change?"'

Pray for Boko Haram converts as they grow in their knowledge of Christ. Ask the Lord to protect them and use them to accomplish His purposes.

– <https://www.mnnonline.org/news/boko-haram-attacks-spike-as-jesus-saves/>

RAMADAN: A Time Of Jihad And Of Seeking

THE last ten days of Ramadan (7-17 July) are days of particular striving, *Qur'an* recitation and soaring Islamic zeal. Jihadists will expend their pent-up frustration and zeal in jihad for the sake of Allah. Christians are at risk of Ramadan violence and jihad. Pray particularly for Christians in Israel, where ISIS has threatened to kill Christians who have not fled by the end of Ramadan; in Nigeria, where Boko Haram is escalating attacks; in Somalia and Kenya, where al-Shabaab has vowed to kill 'disbelievers' during Ramadan; and in Syria, where jihadist offensives on multiple fronts put Christians at risk of genocide. Monday 13 July is the 26th of Ramadan. On that 'Night of Power' Muslims will seek divine favour and revelation. Please pray that Muslims seeking God will find Him. – *Elizabeth Kendal*

PAKISTAN: Mob Threatens To Burn Christians Alive And Publicly Humiliates Them After Blasphemy Accusation

A CHRISTIAN family in Maki Chak 460, a village in Pakistan's Punjab province, was paraded through the village by a Muslim mob in an act of utter humiliation on 30 June after Awais Qamar and his wife, Rukhsana, were accused of 'blasphemy' because they unknowingly used a banner with a verse from the Quran as a sleeping mat. Threatening that they would burn them alive, the mob publicly degraded them. They blackened the faces of Rukhsana and her sister, Rehana



Following Boko Haram attacks, people from Mubi, Adamawa state, flee to Yola 150 miles away. (Photo courtesy Christian Aid Mission).

Qamar, with soot and pulled their hair. Awais Qamar also had his face blackened and they shaved his head and paraded him through the village with shoes slung around his neck.

– *Barnabas Fund*

NIGERIA: Islamists Burn Down 32 Churches And Kill Five Believers In Church Suicide Bomb Attack

A DAY of extreme violence in north-eastern Nigeria saw 32 churches and around 300 homes torched in several villages, with nine people killed. Earlier that same day, five Christians were killed after a man disguised as a churchgoer walked into a church on the outskirts of Potiskum, in Nigeria's north-eastern Yobe state, and detonated the explosives strapped to his body at 9.55 am, just as church members were beginning to arrive for the Sunday worship service on 5 July.

BELARUS: Churches Raided And Christians Fined

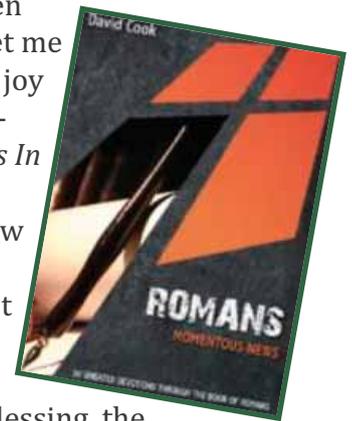
THE pastor of a church in Gomel, the second largest city in Belarus, has been fined by the Gomel Central District Court. Despite the fact that the church has state registration, the congregation has also been prohibited from meeting together since the church was raided by police during a Sunday service on 11 June where 20 members had gathered together in a rented building to worship. And in Svetlogorsk, a town in the Gomel region, armed police raided a house church and have since fined two church members and filed cases against 17.

– subscribe@barnabasfund.org

Proper Christian Ambition

Romans 15.14-33

'I HAVE dwelt for years practically alone in Africa. I have been 30 times stricken with fever, three times attacked by lions, and several times by rhinoceri; but let me say to you, I would gladly go through the whole thing again, if I could have the joy of again bringing that word "Saviour" and flashing it into the darkness that envelopes another tribe in Central Africa.' (William R. Hotchkiss, *African Missions In The 19th Century.*)



Such ambition, and that expressed by the apostle in Romans 15.20, will show itself in plans and strategies. Paul's church planting opportunities had been exhausted in the east (v23) so he planned to go west and Spain was as far west as it was possible to go. Paul would first go to Jerusalem (vv25,26) with his collection from the Gentile churches to ease the famine there. The Gentiles were glad to contribute to this (v2) for if they should share in their spiritual blessing, the Gospel, then likewise they should share materially with Jerusalem.

So Paul's plan was for Jerusalem and then Spain, via Rome. Without embarrassment Paul asks them to financially support his trip to Spain (v24).

Likewise, missionaries today must never feel self-conscious about asking for support for missionary endeavours. Such requests are actually opportunities for believers to make investments for eternity, ensuring a warm 'welcome into eternal dwellings' (Luke 16.9).

FOR REFLECTION:

*How valid is it to have plans for the future? What are their limitations?
What does Paul show here about a right attitude to the financial support of human need and evangelistic missions?*

Paul recognised that his plans were in the hands of God and he would come only in the blessing of Christ (v29). Paul further recognised that none of our plans can succeed without the blessing of God, so he urged his brothers to prayer (vv30-33).

There is to be no vestige of pride or arrogant self-dependence in our planning or strategising. God is attracted to human weakness and nothing manifests our weakness more than when we call out to God.

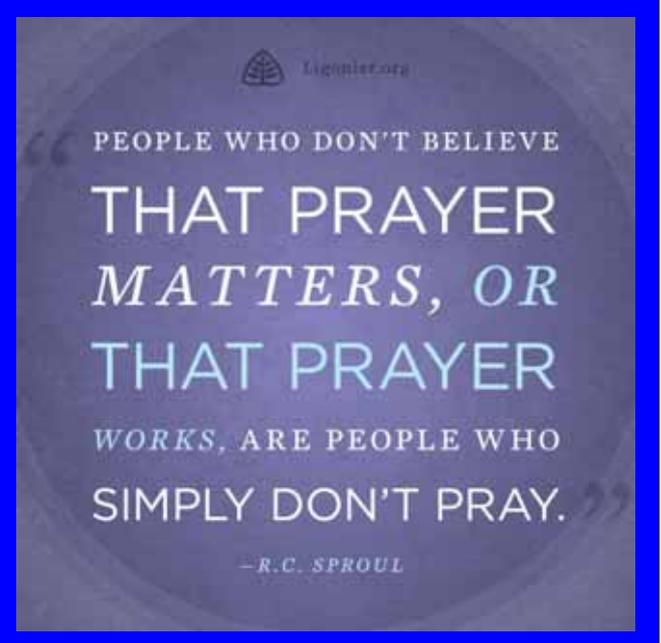
The Christian life begins with calling on God (Acts 2.21) and so it is to continue, in our calling out to God – for apart from Him our plans are meaningless. Nothing so repulses God as human self-sufficiency, pride and arrogance which shows itself in our prayerlessness.

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

Quotable Quote:

'The Holy Spirit not only originates faith, but increases it by degrees, till He conducts us by it all the way to the heavenly kingdom.' – John Calvin

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BOOKS WORTH READING

YOU MUST READ – Books That Have Shaped Our Lives, R. Albert Mohler *et al*, Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2015. ISBN 978 1 84871 566 0.

THIRTY five luminaries of evangelical Christianity have each contributed an essay to this book in which they reveal which particular Christian book (apart from the Bible, of course) has been especially helpful in moulding their life, faith and ministry.

The common thread is that all the books have been brought to publication by the Banner Of Truth Trust under the editorship of Iain Murray, and in some cases under his authorship as well – and the book is dedicated to ‘Iain and Jean Murray, with the affection and appreciation of grateful friends.’

In fact, *You Must Read* marks the Diamond Jubilee of three remarkable events: the 60th wedding anniversary of Iain and Jean Murray, the 60th anniversary of Iain’s being set apart for the ministry of the Gospel and the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Banner Of Truth Trust with the encouragement of Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones.

One is tempted to set up a *Facebook* survey under the heading *How Much Of A Banner Man Are You?* The questions would be: 1. How many of these books have you read? I’d score 90.65%, leaving me a little disappointed with myself.

2. Which book has influenced you most in shaping your life and ministry? I was delighted to find that my choice would be the same as a good friend of mine, the Rev John J. Murray: *The Diary Of Kenneth MacRae*.

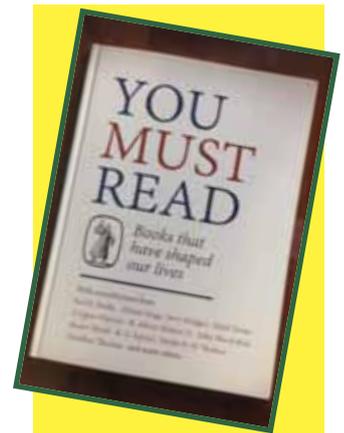
Joel Beeke, Alistair Begg, Ligon Duncan, John MacArthur, Stuart Ollyott, R.C. Sproul, Geoffrey Thomas, Sinclair Ferguson, Maurice Roberts and our own Peter Barnes, are just some of the contributors, and it is fascinating to discover the books that ‘make them tick.’ It’s a bit like opening a window into each contributor’s Christian life and ministry, which in every case enhances our understanding of them and appreciation of their own life and work.

You Must Read is a helpful book in many ways. It gives us an awareness of books we might otherwise not have heard of or have possibly passed over as not exciting our interest. In a number of cases we are given a potted biography of the authors themselves and/or those they write about. By its very nature, *You Must Read* abounds in quotable quotes such as John MacArthur’s assertion that ‘Churches lose their spiritual power when they undermine the authority of Scripture’ (p226), Maurice Roberts’ view of Haldane’s *Exposition Of The Epistle To The Romans* as being ‘a book full of light, love and life’ (p.82), Edward Donnelly’s estimation of Richard Baxter (*The Reformed Pastor*) as ‘A preacher who laboured to make plain the truth of God, who spoke from a burning heart as he pleaded with his people to close with Christ; a pastor who knew his sheep by name, speaking to them personally about the great concerns of their souls; he is not merely an historical curiosity, but a challenge and a stimulus’ (p.31) Incidentally, Dr Donnelly’s analysis of Richard Baxter as a preacher sets out a model of preaching for preachers in these latter days, while J.I. Packer’s *Introduction to The Reformed Pastor* (unfortunately not noted) is a little gem.

As an added bonus, many of the books brought to our attention in *You Must Read* contain *Introductions* by Iain Murray, J.I. Packer (see above) and others, which make the books written about in *You Must Read* worth acquiring just for the sake of the introductions.

You Must Read will provide Christians with a springboard into a sound, helpful, uplifting list of books to read even as it demonstrates how to express thankfulness to a devoted servant in a way which duly honours the God whom he serves.

– Bob Thomas



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BOOKS WORTH READING

THE GOOD SHEPHERD: A Thousand-Year Journey From Psalm 23 To The New Testament, Kenneth E Bailey, Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2014. ISBN 978-0-8308-4063-2

HERE is a unique book on the shepherd motif in the Bible, one that starts with Psalm 23 and takes us through the Old Testament and New Testament, closing with Peter's use of the figurative picture in speaking to elders in 1 Peter 5. Dr Ken Bailey has spent his long life of ministry and theological teaching in the Middle East, and in this book he draws on the experiences of the eastern shepherd as well as a range of Arab Christian sources to expound the topic of God as the Good Shepherd.

Bailey shows that Psalm 23 is an artistically designed poem with seven cameos, and each part is explained and illustrated by stories about Arab shepherds and their ways. He shows that v.3 ('He restores my soul' = He brings me back) speaks of bringing back a lost sheep – something obscured by many translations. Bailey claims that the story of rescue by the Good Shepherd is repeated some nine times in the Bible.

The next occasion is Jeremiah 23, with its striking contrast of bad and good shepherds, and God is described as regathering the scattered flock. Ezekiel 34 provides a better known (and longer) parallel text, and the shepherds condemned in this passage are final evil Judean kings whose misrule brought disaster on the nations. The emphasis, however, is on God Himself as the One who searches for and rescues the scattered sheep, so that this looks forward to the incarnation, namely to Jesus the Divine Rescuer. Zechariah 10.2-12 is another condemnation of false leaders who fail to care for the flock, so that again God must step in to regather His sheep. In all the passages, the focus is on what God does to collect and rescue His precious people.

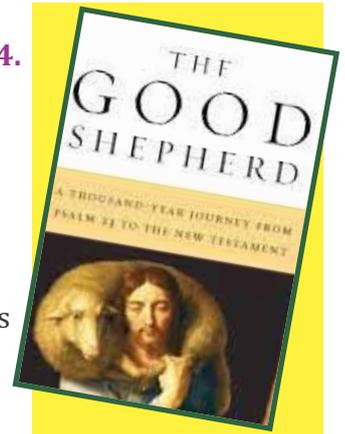
In Luke 15 Jesus presents His understanding of the good shepherd in two related parables, the first about a lost sheep. Bailey shows that this parable draws on earlier prophetic storytelling (eg Isaiah 5). Against the backdrop of Old Testament usage, Jesus' seeking lost sheep (welcoming sinners) is a clear claim to be God in the flesh. Jesus also makes the woman searching for the lost coin a model of God's concern and of Jesus' own diligent search for the lost upon whom He places a high value. Bailey has a special gift for making the Palestinian background of Jesus' teaching come alive.

Mark presents Jesus the Good Shepherd in action, including a miraculous feeding. Note that He commands the hungry crowd to recline on green pastures (a clear link to Psalm 23). Jesus' re-use and application of the parable of the lost sheep in Matthew 18.10-14 requires believers to also seek lost sheep (straying fellow-believers), not neglecting ministry to the weak and 'unimportant' in the Christian community. There is a lovely Christ-like tone to Bailey's teaching that shows a warm pastoral heart.

Next, Bailey explains in detail the parable of the Good Shepherd in John 10, the most well-known and well-loved New Testament portion on this theme, and he does so using his rich knowledge of the ways of Middle Eastern shepherds. In this biblical passage (as in all the earlier ones) Bailey shows the balanced rhetorical structuring that helps to clarify meaning. In John 10 Jesus brings out the high cost to be paid in rescuing the sheep (His death on the cross).

The last text in Bailey's study of the Good Shepherd tradition is 1 Peter 5.1-4, wherein elders are instructed and encouraged to shepherd the flock as Christ would and Peter himself does. This journey of a thousand years is sure to enrich the reader and I could not recommend this book more highly.

– Greg Goswell



There is a lovely Christ-like tone to Bailey's teaching that shows a warm pastoral heart.