

Bible With The Bullet On Display In Melbourne

UNDER intense bombardment at Gallipoli, Lance Corporal Elvas Jenkins was struck directly over his heart by a lead ball from an exploding shell.

He would have died instantly but the ball struck the New Testament which he carried in his shirt pocket. The Bible saved his life that day. But he did not survive the war. Among the first Anzacs to reach Gallipoli on Anzac Day, 25 April 1915, he was also one of the last to leave. He was among those who survived the whole of the Gallipoli campaign, only to lay down his life a few months later on the Western Front in France.

Now, Jenkins' Bible—which still has the bullet lodged in the Gospel pages—is on display at Melbourne's new Shrine of Remembrance exhibition centre. The Bible and Elvas Jenkins' story forms part of the *Australia Will Be There – Victorians In The First World War* exhibition until 11 October.

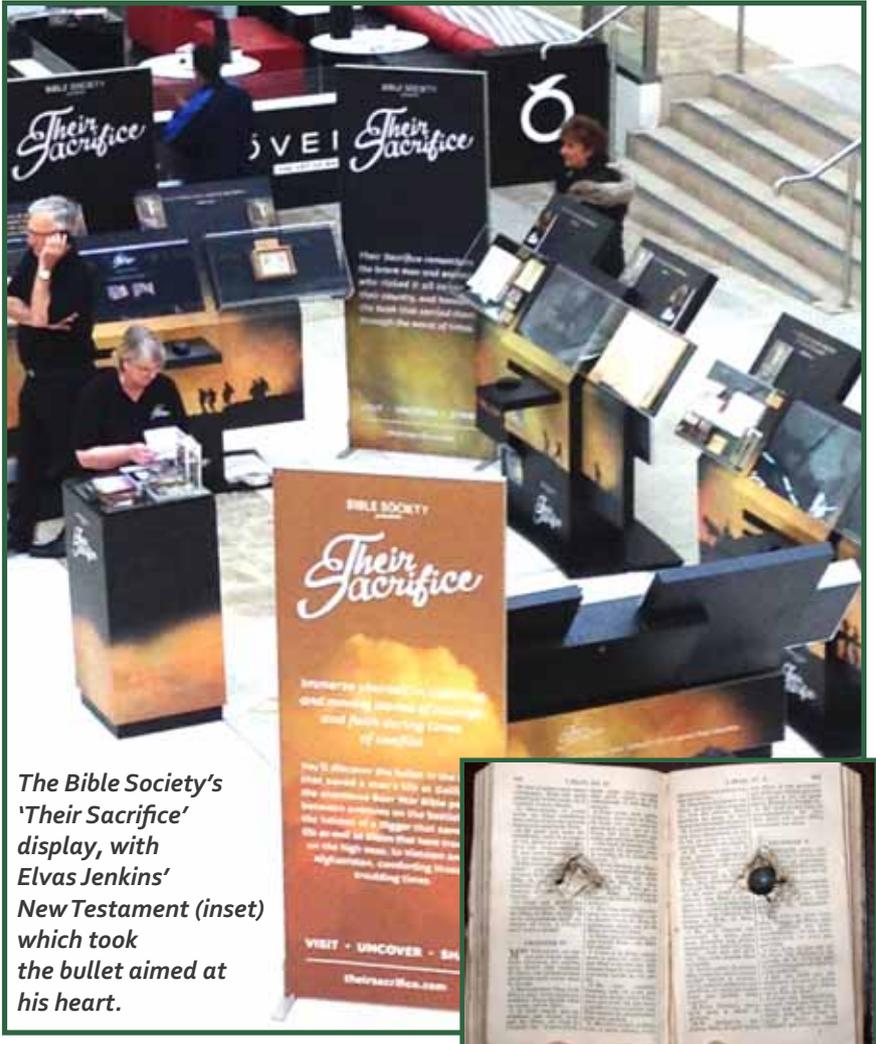
Bible Society Australia is organising an exhibition of Bibles that went through war, as part of its commemorative activities for the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign in 2015. It will include the Elvas Jenkins Bible and many others that have been generously gifted and entrusted to the care of Bible Society from its supporters through the years. See more and stay tuned for more information on the exhibition as it travels around Australia later this year at:

<http://www.biblesociety.org.au/news/bible-bullet-display-melbourne#sthash.3DUTzkgb.dpuf>

Islamic State Militants Bulldoze Syrian Monastery, Take Christian Captives To 'Capital'

ON Friday 21 August, Islamic State posted photographs on the social media showing militants bulldozing the Mar Elian monastery outside the Syrian town of Qaryatain, which fell to the jihadi group on 6 August. Dozens of the town's Christians abducted by militants have been taken to Raqqa, the so-called capital of IS territory.

- www.barnabasfund.org



The Bible Society's 'Their Sacrifice' display, with Elvas Jenkins' New Testament (inset) which took the bullet aimed at his heart.

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Reports Of Our Death 'Greatly Exaggerated'

SO there we all were, at the Australasian Religious Press Association Annual Convention, enjoying a lecture *Against The Murderous Hordes – Freedom, Religion And The Press*, when the lecturer suddenly alluded to 'the recent demise of Australia's Christian Newspaper *New Life*.'

Well, I couldn't help interjecting: '*New Life* isn't dead – it's available free on the web, and we've now got a much bigger reach than we've had before. The lecturer, God bless him, expressed his joy at the good news about *New Life* and went on to give us a couple of honourable mentions later in the lecture.

So why do I mention this? Simply because there are too many people who, like our intrepid lecturer, think *New Life* is no more. But as you know, it's not.

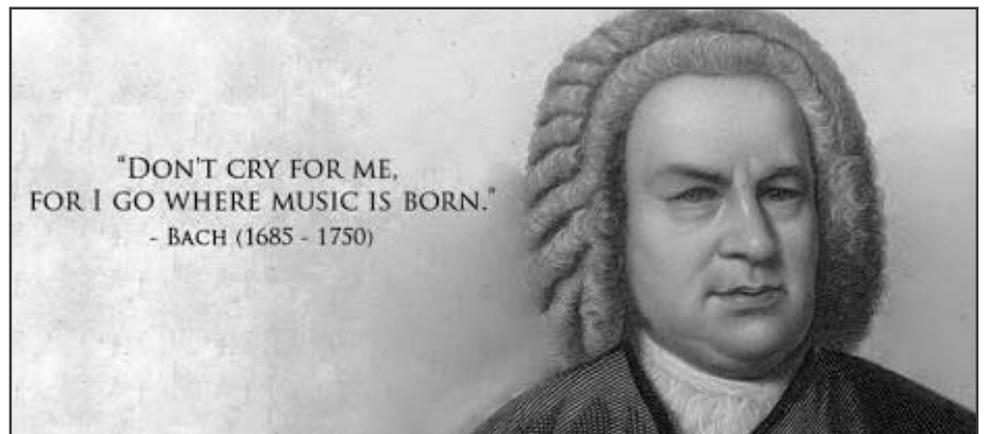
What can we do about this misinformation? Falling to prayer is always the Christian's first line of attack or defence. Please join us in prayer that the word will go out and more and more people will come on board as new members join the *New Life* family. Then talk about us. 'Have you seen the latest *New Life*?' ... 'I see in *New Life* that the Bible Society is taking it's road-show based on *The Bible That Took A Bullet* around the nation – have you been to see it?' ... 'I look forward to receiving *New Life* every fortnight because ...' And, importantly, you can forward *New Life* on to family and friends, recommending that they join up too.

We know that a good number of our readers do this, in some cases forwarding *New Life* on to fellow workers in missionary and ministry organisations. We were encouraged to receive this note from Judith Bond following her recent visit to Cambodia:

'Cambodia Care is very moving. The Founder and Director, a young Cambodian man, Koy Chhim, aged 35, loves reading the *New Life* that I forward to him every time it comes. It gives him a world view. Koy Chhim, always sends back a "Thank you" after receiving a copy of the twice monthly e-dition of *New Life*. I have previously given him four *MegaVoice* machines in the Khmer language, which he has given to church members.' So, who can you forward *New Life* to?

Thanks Judith and all our forwarders; you're all helping to show that, like Mark Twain, 'news of (*New Life's*) death is greatly exaggerated.'

- *Bob Thomas*



UGANDA: Persecution On The Rise In Eastern Region

UGANDA'S population is approximately 85% Christian and 11% Muslim, with full religious freedom. Most of Uganda's Muslims live in the Eastern Region where persecution of Christians is escalating. Two factors drive this trend. First, Islamic radicalisation is a global trend, but the degree of intolerance manifesting as violence depends largely on what is being taught in local mosques. If local mosques have been infiltrated with hard-line Wahhabi/Salafi imams, often Saudi-funded, then persecution is guaranteed to escalate. Secondly, Uganda is one of five African states contributing to the fight against al-Shabaab through the African Union Mission in Somalia. Al-Shabaab has been threatening retaliation on Uganda for years, but has increased its rhetoric in recent months as Uganda has increased its involvement in Somalia. Recent AMISOM advances in *Operation Jubba Corridor*, which has dislodged al-Shabaab from its strongholds in Southern Somalia, were largely enabled by Uganda's provision of transport and attack helicopters. AMISOM forces have rarely had air cover. With these helicopters being based in Somalia, air cover and air transport will now be more available. All this would agitate fundamentalist Muslims in Uganda's Eastern Region, inflaming Islamic zeal and stoking a desire for revenge. It is most critical that the Ugandan government combat the escalating persecution because appeasement and impunity will only open the door to further escalation. The following attacks, reported by *Morning Star News*, all occurred in Eastern Region and are simply the most recent in a string of similar attacks.

On 11 August Issa Kasoon (a Muslim) beat and strangled his wife Jafalan Kadondi, in Nsinze village, Namutumba District, leaving her for dead. However, she survived and is receiving specialist care for throat injuries. Relatives joined Kasoon in beating Kadondi and the couple's two sons, Ismael (16) and Ibrahim (18) whose arm was broken when struck with a blunt object. The reason for the attack: Kasoon had discovered that his family had converted to Christianity.

Once an Islamic teacher (sheikh), Hassan Muwanguzi is now an evangelist for Jesus Christ. He has suffered intensive persecution since turning to Christ in his early 20s in 2003. His family disowned him, his wife left him, he has been forced to fight false charges levelled against him, he is routinely beaten and in 2012 his house was burned down. Despite all this, Muwanguzi has opened a Christian school in Kibuku District. In March 2014 Muwanguzi survived an attempted poisoning at the hands of Muslim relatives. On 16 June 2014 a group of Muslims attempted to kill him, and when they could not, they murdered his daughter Grace (12) instead. On 29 June 2015 Muwanguzi (who is remarried and has three surviving children) foiled another assassination plot. Then on 2 July armed Muslims broke into his home late at night but fortunately Muwanguzi was away at a prayer meeting. Seeing Muwanguzi's home being thoroughly looted, neighbours tried to intervene, at which point the intruders brandished knives and vowed to have Muwanguzi's head because he had become an enemy of Islam.

On 17 June 2015, in Nabuli village, Kibuku District, Namumbeiza Swabura, a mother of eleven including a five-month-old baby, died after being poisoned by her sister-in-law. Swabura and her husband Mugoya Muhammad, a former sheikh, had been receiving death threats since becoming Christians in August 2014. The couple's pastor, James Kalaja of New Hope Church in Nabuli, told MSN that Nabuli village has many Muslims hostile to Christians. Kalaja is no stranger to suffering: Muslims gang-raped his 17-year-old daughter after he ignored their demands to cease his Christian ministry. Kalaja subsequently moved his family to a safer village and only travels into the village now to lead Sunday worship. His daughter is profoundly traumatised. Meanwhile, widower Muhammad, now a single father of eleven, continues to receive death threats on his mobile phone.

– Elizabeth Kendal,

International Religious Liberty Analyst And Advocate, Adjunct Research Fellow, Centre For The Study Of Islam And Other Faiths at MST.

Please Pray That:

- 'the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction' (2 Corinthians 1.3,4) will lift up and sustain those who have suffered so terribly and lost so much because of their faith in, love of and service for the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for all Ugandan Christians presently suffering for their faith: especially for Jafalan Kadondi and her sons Ismael and Ibrahim; for Hassan Muwanguzi and his family; for widower Mugoya Muhammad and his eleven children; for the Kalaja family ministering in Nabuli.
- the Lord of Hosts will guide and protect His people and frustrate the ways of the wicked. (Psalm 146.) May persecutors who seek to harm believers come to know conviction of sin; especially those who have beaten and killed members of their own family.
- the government in Kampala will move to rein in Islamic radicalisation, intolerance and escalating persecution; may the government of President Yoweri Museveni resist the path of appeasement and act to preserve freedom and security.
- local police will uphold the law, arrest the persecutors and prosecute their crimes; may there be no impunity for violent Islamic persecution in Uganda.

'STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL'

Bible Society Australia Partners With Koorong In Match Made In Heaven

CHRISTIANS across the nation are set to celebrate following the launch of a partnership which will increase access to God's Word and Christian literature worldwide and, through this, transform lives. Bible Society Australia – whose core cross-denominational mission is to translate, distribute and engage people with the Bible – has acquired leading Christian retailer Koorong Books in a deal that will make both organisations, and the Christian community, stronger.



Bible Society Australia Chair, Richard Grellman, said the partnership will allow Bible Society to deliver even more services towards a shared mission to enhance access to the Word of God for a world that desperately needs it. Bible Society Australia CEO Greg Clarke said, 'Bible Society and Koorong share a common goal and we believe that by coming together we have the potential to transform hundreds of thousands of lives. It's a match made in Heaven and will ensure that both organisations are positioned positively for growth and can thrive for years to come.'

'We will now be able to share our important Bible work with, and garner support from, Koorong customers. What's more, those who shop at Koorong can now know that their purchases will fund even more Bible mission projects here and around the world,' he said.

Managing Director of Koorong, Paul Bootes, will continue to lead operations and said it will be business as usual for Koorong, with all current staff to be retained. 'Over 40 years ago my father and mother started selling Bibles and Christian books in our garage near Marsfield, Sydney. Today, thanks to the support of our customers we have 300 dedicated employees, a thriving online business and 15 stores nationwide,' Mr Bootes said. 'We're thrilled with the new partnership as it allows us to both share the important resources that mean so much to our fellow Christians and support vital missions around the world.'

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THE WHOLE WORD
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Olympian And Missionary Eric Liddell Honoured By China

ERIC Liddell, the British Olympic champion who later became a missionary, has been honoured for his commitment to the Chinese people. In a rare gesture of respect and admiration, a statue of the Christian athlete has been erected in the city of Tianjin. It was unveiled in a ceremony attended by his daughters, as well as the survivors of a camp where he was held in the war, and the actor Joseph Fiennes who has been cast as Liddell in an upcoming film.



'The Last Race'

The film, called *The Last Race*, will focus on the latter half of Liddell's life, when he had retired from sport and moved to China as a missionary. It serves as an unofficial sequel to the earlier title *Chariots Of Fire*, which depicts his unlikely gold medal win in the 400m race at the 1924 Paris Olympics. Liddell set a new 400m world record after refusing to run in the event he had trained for, the 100m, because it was to be held on the Sabbath.

'Extraordinary'

At the unveiling of the statue, Joseph Fiennes spoke about Liddell, who decided to stay in China when it was invaded by the Japanese in World War Two. As a result, he was interned in a camp in Weifang. Fiennes said: 'It's one thing to preach Bible study or whatever, but it's another to actually live your beliefs under conditions like being in an internment camp. It's not just preaching, it's about watching someone in a set of beliefs in extraordinary circumstances, still believing those beliefs will carry him through.'

'Hero'

Liddell's daughter Patricia told *The Times* that she was taken aback at the statue being erected: 'I find it extraordinary that a statue has been raised – the Chinese don't really raise statues. My father was multi-faceted, he didn't just appeal to religious people. He was born in China, he worked in China, he died in China. He's their Olympic hero. He didn't leave the Chinese people when the going got tough.'

Selflessness

Eric Liddell died from a brain tumour while living in the camp in 1945. He had been offered a ticket out by Winston Churchill but chose to give it to a pregnant woman instead. During his time in internment, he helped smuggle medical supplies and worked tirelessly to educate other internees.



I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God.

Luke 12:8 NIV

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Ramon A Williams
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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

Woolworths Falling Behind Coles In Women's Justice – ACL

AUSTRALIAN supermarket giant Woolworths should not be left behind by Coles in removing the harmful *Zoo Weekly* magazine from shelves, the Australian Christian Lobby says. The decision by Coles comes on the back of a new policy from Hilton Hotels & Resorts to remove in-room porn services from rooms worldwide.

ACL Spokesperson For Women, Wendy Francis, said that these are necessary steps towards reducing domestic violence and showing real leadership on the issue. 'Research is increasingly telling us that this issue is strongly linked to the commodification and sexualisation of women in our culture,' she says. 'Too many of this country's women have been lost. We mourn the deaths of 58 women so far this year who have been killed through domestic violence. Large corporations like Coles and Hilton have shown great leadership towards turning this around. Community standards are changing in response to research and growing awareness of the domestic violence issue. Part of our response must be to weed out offensive magazines that degrade women in both their images and their articles.

'We call on Woolworths to follow Coles' leadership and show Zoo the door.'

WITH CHRIST

THE REV ROBERT BETTS

THE Rev Robert Betts, late Minister of Canterbury, Vic, Presbyterian Church, was called Home on 18 August 2015 after a long illness. Robert and Leonie had lived in retirement at Kirkbrae Village, Kilsyth, with Robert moving into care as Parkinson's Disease took an increasing hold on him. He was a faithful pastor, beloved by his people for his gentleness and fine sense of humour.

'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.'
- Psalm 116.15

THE REV R. PERRY SMITH of Belmont, NSW, was called Home on Friday 7 August 2015, aged 88. Born in Bradford, England, Perry became a Christian at 15, then at 16 started to preach and study for the Local Preacher's exams, beginning a ministry of more than 70 years. The British Methodist Conference accepted Perry's candidacy in 1950 and sent Perry to Dorset, where he met a young teacher and local preacher called Doreen Selby. She and Perry were married following his ordination in 1956, becoming partners in life and ministry, as well as parents to Wendy and Rachel.

In Perry's first placements in the English Midlands, parishioners noted the strong evangelistic emphasis of his preaching, his singing and the open home at the manse, all of which continued throughout his ministries. Another constant was an enthusiastic commitment to chaplaincy in the armed forces and industry.

In 1965, Perry and Doreen moved to Australia and were placed at the O'Connor Methodist Church in Canberra. This was followed by appointments to Five Dock and Drummoyne Methodist Churches (1973), Beecroft Uniting Church (1981) and finally with the Chaplaincy team at Concord Hospital, all in Sydney.

Despite formally retiring in 1989, Perry never stopped serving the wider church community, writing poems and articles for publications including *New Life*. There were still preaching appointments on his calendar when he died. Perry has now been welcomed by his beloved Lord into his eternal rest.

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Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

OPERATION Christmas Child is the largest children's project in the world. God's love is shared by sending shoe boxes filled with gifts for children all over the world. It is a project of Samaritan's Purse, and 10.4 million shoe boxes were distributed worldwide in 2014, with 321,721 shoe boxes distributed from Australia to the Asia Pacific, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Fiji, Vanuatu, Thailand, Samoa, Papua New Guinea. Victoria processed 57,000 shoe boxes. This short video shows beautifully how the true meaning of Christmas is expressed by sending a shoe box filled with gifts to a child:

<https://youtu.be/SyYypCKGRNM>

Shoe boxes include six gift suggestions for children: something to wear, something to love, something special, something for school, something for personal hygiene, something to play with. Aid and assistance are given without regard to the race, creed, gender, religion, or ethnicity of the beneficiaries.

Melbourne Community Packing Party

The first public packing party to be held in Melbourne will aim to make a double impact: to fill the shoe-boxes with products that have a social impact here or for communities in need. A variety of social enterprises, fair traders, community groups, anyone who harnesses their profits towards making the world a better place through making products for children will have a free stand to offer their products for sale to the public at the packing party to fill their gift shoe boxes with.

There will be organic sweatshop-free T-Shirts, finger puppets, greeting cards, soaps, jewellery, toys and rattles, knitted clothing for babies, knitted dolls, cards and paintings, girls' dresses, hair ties, toys, handmade bags, etc. The event will be held on Saturday 19 September 2015 from 10am to 4pm at Donkey Wheel House (<http://donkeywheelhouse.org>). Family entertainment for the day is proudly sponsored by Waggle Dance (<https://waggledance.com.au/>).



TMA And Its Editor Honoured By ARPA

ROLAND Ashby, Editor of *The Melbourne Anglican*, and his paper have been honoured with the *Gutenberg Award*, the highest honour of the Australasian Religious Press Association which is comprised of over 80 publications in Australia and New Zealand. ARPA President Peter Bentley said Mr Ashby's editorial role was 'more than simple oversight as he has been the integral foundation at the development and continuation of *The Melbourne Anglican*. TMA is a thoroughly professional publication, and quite a nuanced publication, resplendent in design, with an excellent use of photos, especially on the front page, to complement the quite diverse range of content.'

Mr Ashby marked 20 years as Editor in June this year. He said TMA was 'very much a team effort' and thanked many wonderful collaborators over the years, who had all contributed to the breadth and depth of the paper.

Until It's Done – OMF Mission Conference 2015

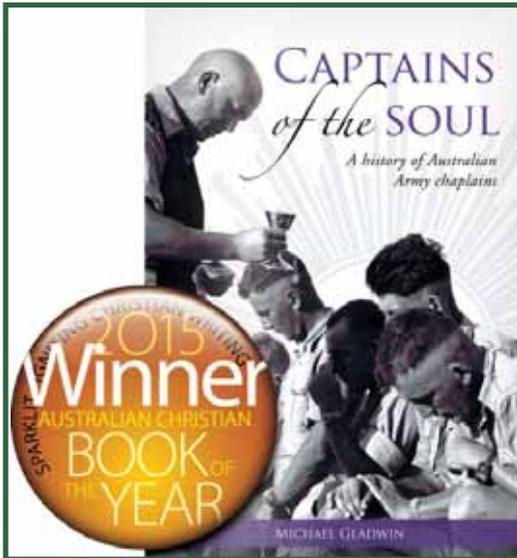
CLAYTON, VIC, Church of Christ, 23-25 Burton Ave, Clayton, invites you to join them on Saturday 12 September, from 9.30am-5pm for the OMF Mission Conference 2015.

Over the last 150 years God has used OMF to see the Gospel made known and churches planted, but there are still millions in East Asia who don't know Jesus. This is the mission God has shaped OMF for. *Until It's Done* is OMF's one day mission conference and is the perfect opportunity to get to know OMF more, to interact with experienced cross-cultural workers and to connect with God's heart for the billions of East Asia.

The Main Speaker, Sydney W, one of OMF's international directors, will be sharing from his 31 years of experience in church-planting, team-building, leadership and following Jesus in mission. The cost is: adults \$30, concession \$25, children (5-12 year olds) \$20, children under 5 free.

For more info phone (030 9898 9922, email: vic@omfmail.com)

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History Of Australian Army Chaplains Wins Book Of The Year Award

THE Australian Christian Book Of The Year Award is given annually to an original book written by an Australian citizen. This award recognises and encourages excellence in Australian Christian writing. The Australian Christian Book Of The Year Award is administered by SparkLit (formerly the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia and the Australian Christian Literature Society). SparkLit encourages and empowers Christian writers and publishers worldwide.

Captains Of The Soul was this year's winner. The letters and journals of both chaplains and soldiers animate this account of the work of chaplains in every theatre of war involving Australian troops. It surveys their changing role and experience from the Great War of 1914–18 to the recent conflict in

Afghanistan. Author Michael Gladwin does not flinch from portraying chaplains who behaved disgracefully nor from facing up to the problem of fatalism among Australian troops. However, acts of heroism and selfless devotion by 'the soldier without a gun' abound. When surrounded by conflict, chaos and suffering, chaplains represent an alternative reality.

98five Listeners Restored Sight For More Than 1800 Cataract Sufferers In Nepal

1823 Nepalese lives were dramatically improved thanks to the generosity of 98five listeners, who donated \$32 that covers a 12-minute cataract removal operation, as part of 98five's Miracles Day with CBM. Brekky with Kirste and Morro broadcast live throughout the week from Biratnagar Eye Hospital in Nepal. The duo witnessed first-hand how the simple procedure had a long-lasting impact on the lives of a Nepalese patient; their families, communities and future quality of life.

98five joined forces with 21 radio stations around Australia to restore sight to more than 23,000 Nepalese cataract sufferers.

Hillsong Pastor Launches Global Prayer Appeal Against ISIS Rape Culture

HILLSONG Church's co-senior pastor Bobbie Houston has appealed to Christian women across the world to pray at the same time each day against the 'theology of rape' that has resulted in thousands of women and children being brutally assaulted by ISIS. Ms Houston, in a blog to hundreds of thousands of followers, referred to a recent *New York Times* article that outlined the atrocities committed against the Yazidi religious minority in northern Iraq. It described the systematic rape of women and young girls by men who often knelt in prayer before and after the violent acts, believing that their religion not only gave them the right to rape but encouraged it.

Ms Houston said the lives of innocent people

are in the balance, and that she believes 'a handful of women with compassion in their hearts, empathy in their spirit and prayer in their mouth could change the world.'

'I believe that the Bible clearly teaches that prayer makes a way where there often seems to be no way.' She said that the brutality and sex slavery under ISIS can no longer be ignored.

'Pray for the victims, Pray for the perpetrator. Yes. Pray for the enemy. All I know is that prayer makes a way.' Ms Houston said she recently received a phone call from a pastor who works with the victims. 'They just want to know they are not alone,' she said.

Ridley's Marketplace Institute Lecture

ON Monday 12 October, at 6pm Ridley College Melbourne is hosting a lecture *Developing Leaders: Some Overlooked Dimensions* by Dr Robert Banks. The venue is Ridley College, 170 The Avenue, Parkville. Robert Banks is one of the leading authors and consultants in the area of integrating faith and work. Over the years he has consulted with people in business, the professions, public service and media as well as with churches and Christian organisations. He has written or co-written *God The Worker, All The Business Of Life, Private Lives And Public Policy, Going To Work With God, The Marketplace Ministry Handbook, Faith In Leadership* and the award-winning *Re-viewing Leadership: A Christian Evaluation of Current Approaches*. RSVP to Ridley College is essential.

'STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL'

Cambodian Care: Shedding Abroad The Light Of Christ

A HEART warming highlight of a recent trip to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, was visiting Cambodian Care's 'Light Of Future' School. My luggage of 32.7 kg, back pack and three other bags (kindly taken by friends) was full of supplies for this school.

The 'meet and greet' person picked me up in a tuk tuk. Ninety minutes later, after a 'hold your breath' ride in the tuk tuk, we arrived at one classroom with 71 Grade 1 children sitting five to a desk with one exercise book, a pencil and a back pack each. In another small room were 25 Grade 5 students. The students were orderly, polite and their things were neatly lined up outside. I was impressed with the keenness of the teachers who teach the Cambodian curriculum. I also visited a branch school with children who live on the train track. The parents are so grateful and happy to have their children receive education. Two grades are in one room, due to lack of classrooms.



First Grade at Light Of Future School



Judith Bond with Koy and staff.

It was a privilege to hand the teachers a pencil case each, filled with pens, pencils, a rubber, pencil sharpener, ruler and note pad, but no red pen. I now know that they use red pens for marking. We sang in English *If You're Happy And You Know It* and I taught actions in English. It was a wonderful opportunity to visit these two schools and it will be a delight to volunteer for three weeks in October/November and teach more English.

God bless Koy Chhim, heading up Cambodian Care, his wife Reny and five children. To find out more about their work go to: www.cambodiancare.org – Judith Bond

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Freed Pastors Arrive Home From Sudan

TWO South Sudanese pastors have arrived home in Juba, South Sudan, from Khartoum, Sudan, after an eight-month ordeal of imprisonment, fabricated charges of capital crimes and a ban on leaving the country. According to *Morning Star News*, while Rev Peter Yein Reith and Yat Michael were acquitted of the crimes calling for the death penalty on 5 August, they were prevented from boarding a plane out of the country the next day. Sudan's notorious National Intelligence and Security Services had ordered the travel ban when they were initially detained and gave the orders to the airport personnel.

Attorneys for the two pastors had been working for their release since then, but it was not immediately clear why they were released.

Michael and Reith were transported from Juba International Airport to a church in Hai Jebel in Juba, where they attended a thanksgiving service. 'Thank God for their arrival home,' Michael's wife told *Morning Star News* after the service. South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church leaders welcomed the pastors, who expressed their gratitude to *Morning Star News* amid the cheering congregation.

– *Jeremy Reynolds, Senior Correspondent, ASSIST News Service (jeremyreynolds@gmail.com)*



Day Of Prayer For Syria – 14 November

WHILE the issue of persecuted Christians in the Middle East has somewhat passed out of mainstream media, the issues continue. Just three weeks ago there was another kidnapping of 60 Christians, and last week the destruction of yet another church with bulldozers. Many may not realise the dire need in Syria caused by a civil war now in its fifth year. With over half of the country displaced and the church more than halved, many Christians who remain are in desperate need. Through the local church, Open Doors is currently supporting over 9,000 families in Syria and ensuring that they are able to continue operating. Despite the kidnappings of pastors, destruction of churches and other targeting of Christians, to see the Gospel leave Syria would be devastating.

So Open Doors is asking you to join in prayer for the church in Syria on 14 November 2015. Open Doors needs help to organise churches and share the need of the church in Syria. To receive updated information on Syria register now at www.opendoors.org.au/syria and invite your friends to join the Facebook event.

Eritrean Christians' Desperate Plight

AROUND 5,000 Eritreans are fleeing the country every month, according to the United Nations. Many of them escape through Sudan and then Libya or Egypt in an attempt to reach Israel or European shores. Last year, 22% of the people travelling to Italy by boat were Eritrean. The escape is perilous, but conditions are so terrifying in Eritrea that many feel they have no option but to take the risk. Many suffer horrific physical and sexual abuse at the hands of people smugglers.

Although many Eritrean Christians flee to Egypt with the aim of crossing its border into Israel, hundreds end up in Egyptian prisons, where they are held in poor conditions, are denied access to healthcare and suffer malnutrition and abuse. Police stations have

even been raided by jihadists who abduct prisoners and demand a ransom fee for their release. Barnabas has been involved in helping Eritrean Christians for some years. In Tel Aviv, they support a sanctuary that helps women recover and rebuild their lives after suffering in Eritrea and during their escape. The centre offers health services, employment advice, educational opportunities, and the chance to learn vocational skills and languages.

– www.barnabasfund.org

It's Hard Following Christ In Uzbekistan

EVEN though his father kicked him out of the house, Botir (not his real name) a Muslim-background believer has remained steadfast in his decision to follow Christ. 'My father is a Muslim and a very well-respected person in our community,' Botir recently shared with Mission Eurasia leaders. 'When he found a Bible in my room and asked if I was a Christian, I had to choose between my family and Christ.' Botir attended Mission Eurasia's School Without Walls program in Uzbekistan. SWW teaches young Christian leaders how to effectively reach others in their community for Christ and then equips them with the tools they need. 'The lessons that I learned about fiery trials at SWW strengthened me,' Botir shares. 'My father cursed me and beat me severely because I had renounced Islam. Thanks be to God that, during this difficult time, my brothers in Christ opened their homes to me,' he shares. 'I felt like Jesus was with me. It was hard to forgive my father, but SWW helped me to see that I needed to do it, so I started to pray for my family.'

Persecution is classified as 'severe' in Uzbekistan, with Islamic extremism being one of the main sources of oppression. According to Open Doors, believers are under constant scrutiny, and MBBs regularly face problems from their family, friends, and community.

– *Katey Hearth*

'GOD'S MAN' CALLED HOME

DANNY LOTZ passed away on 19 August 2015 at the age of 78. after a long battle with adult-onset type 1 diabetes that led to heart disease and regular dialysis treatments.

His wife of 49 years, Anne Graham Lotz, serves on the board of directors for Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. As an



evangelist, author and Bible teacher, Anne has followed in the footsteps of her father, Billy Graham. A post on her website called Danny Lotz, *God's Gladiator*, honoured her husband, saying, 'He was more than a man's man. He was God's man who triumphantly finished his race having fought the good fight, and having kept his faith firmly focused on the Kingdom of God first.'

Danny accepted Jesus Christ many years ago while he was a promising high school basketball player. He went on to play at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His team won the 1957 National Championship in triple overtime.

Following a sports accident he sensed God leading him to start the first chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in North Carolina.

A March 2015 *Decision* magazine article explained how Danny's friends nicknamed him 'the Gladiator' for fighting through illnesses that left him blind in one eye and deaf in one ear while enduring dialysis three days a week.

Danny was known as a devoted husband and father, grandfather and mentor, continuing to lead men's Bible studies in Chapel Hill into this year. But most of all he was known for his devotion to Jesus Christ.

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'...We...know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.' (Galatians 2.16)

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Innocent Openness And Discerning Wisdom Needed – Romans 16.17-27

IN his preface to his translation of *The Acts Of The Apostles*, published in 1955, the translator J.B. Phillips says of the early Christians, ‘... if they were uncomplicated and naïve by modern standards we have ruefully to admit that they were open on the God-ward side in a way that is almost unknown today’.

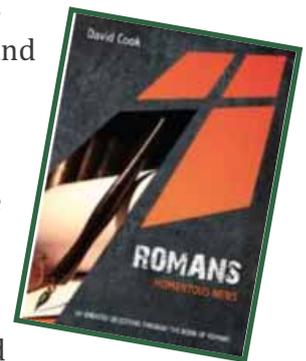
Being ‘open on the God-ward side’ could easily describe the believers in First Century Rome. There was a refreshing unpretentiousness about the Church of the First Century – their self-sacrifice, the quality of their relationships and the depth of their commitment are challenges to us all.

However, there is no such thing on Earth as a perfect church and just as Paul has urged previously in the letter (12.1; 15.30), now he urges them to be on guard against those who seek to disrupt the work by providing teaching contrary to the content of the Apostolic Gospel (16.17). These are self-serving, smooth talkers looking for the naïve in order to capture them. So Paul urges, ‘keep away from them’ (16.17). It is a simple and stark instruction.

Paul encourages them to be wise and discerning and yet at the same time inexperienced in the matter of evil (v19). Such a combination of innocent openness and discerning wisdom is rare. Note that everything Paul has taught them about love and respect for one another does not mean they depreciate the truth for the sake of love. Apostolic truth is vital and non-negotiable and must not be watered down so as to be come all-inclusive. Again Paul refers to the God of peace (v20), especially appropriate here in the context of friction and division due to the work of the flatterers.

However, this God of peace will soon end all Satan’s activity. Paul (v20) refers back to Genesis 3.15, ‘he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel’. Here J.B. Phillips, *The Young Church In Action: The Acts Of The Apostles In Modern English* (London: Fontana Books, 1959) translates: ‘God will crush Satan under Your feet’. The victory over Satan is achieved through the death and resurrection of Jesus, but he is further crushed in the personal deliverance of all believers.

As we battle in the midst of strife, we have the hope of final victory and the presence of God’s grace to sustain us in the fight (v20).



FOR REFLECTION:

How do you continually rehearse the truths of the Gospel and guard them against those who would seek to depreciate them? Can you think of situations where unity and truth conflict? Where do your loyalties lie?

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

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BOOKS WORTH READING

GALATIANS AND CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY: Justification, the Gospel, and Ethics in Paul's Letter, Ed. Mark W. Elliott, Scott J. Hafemann, N. T. Wright and John Frederick, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014. ISBN 978-0-8010-4951-4.

THIS is a cross-disciplinary conversation about Paul's Letter to the *Galatians* that started at a conference at St Andrews, Scotland, in 2012. It shows that there can be helpful outcomes when you lock biblical scholars and theologians in a room and get them to talk about the same six chapters of Scripture. It assists to add depth to the study of the biblical text and it grounds theological thinking in the Word of God. Tom Wright proposes that Jesus' Messiahship is central to *Galatians* and that 'Christ' for Paul was not a proper name but refers to Jesus' role of the promised Messiah who enables God's purposes of salvation to be fulfilled in the family of Abraham. I cannot follow Wright, however, when he simply equates Israel and the church.

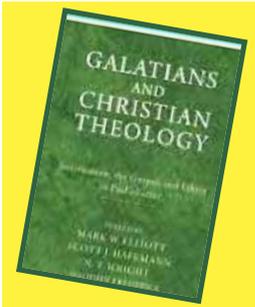
Mathew Novenson clarifies that the 'Judaism' that Paul refers to in Galatians 1.13,14 is not the religion per se, but his zealous promotion and defence of his ancestral Jewish customs and traditions, namely his Jewish activism. Paul did not give up his Jewish roots to become a Christian. Karla Pollmann and Mark Elliott show the benefit of reading early church use of *Galatians*, for example, Jerome's and Augustine's reading of the controversy between Paul and Peter at Antioch. Thomas Söding explores the ecumenical potential of a letter that has often fueled controversy between churches, arguing that the doctrine of justification, properly understood, unites all true believers.

Timothy Gombis argues that Paul's negative statements about the law in Galatians 3.10-14 are a specific response to the false teachers in Galatia and do not represent a general negative attitude to the law or to Judaism. Luther expert, Timothy Wengert, evaluates Luther's five commentaries on Galatians 3.6-14, explaining the Reformer's profound interpretation of Paul on the subject of faith. Scott Hafemann looks at the same passage in *Galatians*, warning us neither to lionize nor to demonize Luther, so that we need to say both 'no' and 'yes' to Luther on this key subject. Javier A. Garcia criticises the 'Finnish School' of Luther studies that replaces the traditional legal understanding of justification with an emphasis on union with the divine nature of Christ, the old error of Osiander.

Mark Elliott reviews the history of the doctrine of justification and says that the courtroom metaphor is not to be swallowed up by a participationist emphasis, popular at the present time, for justification remains forensic. So also, for Bruce McCormick, justification leads to a new creation in the resurrection of the dead, so that justification remains the master concept. Beverly Roberts Gaventa speaks of 'the singularity of the Gospel', not just that there is only one Gospel, but that, for Paul, the Gospel is everything and leads to a new humanity. Richard B. Hays comments on the recent evaluation of Paul as an apocalyptic theologian that leads to a rereading (not a repudiation) of Israel's history. A number of the contributors interact with J. Louis Martyn's apocalyptic reading of Paul's theology, but the sending of Christ can be no emergency Plan-B caused by the failure of Israel, but must be viewed as the culmination and fulfilment of the salvation history plotted in the Old Testament.

Turning to Pauline ethics, Oliver O'Donovan explores the flesh/spirit opposition in *Galatians*. Volker Rabens critically evaluates the is/ought (indicative/imperative) dynamic as a valid representation of Paul's ethical teaching (eg Galatians 5.25) and helps to show the empowering of the Spirit connects the two, as our experience of intimacy with God (sonship) enables us to live as sons of God should. John Barclay focusses on Galatians 6.1-6, showing that it teaches a counter-cultural ethic in which Christians live free from the usual competition for honour, for God's unconditional gift of grace in Christ means that the church is a non-competitive community. I found this an extremely helpful discussion and this is the best essay in the book (and also one of the easiest to read!). Instead of setting Paul and James at loggerheads, Mariam Kamell brings to light a number of parallels between Galatians and the Epistle of James, such that both authors want their readers to take seriously their changed reality and to live as new people in the service of others. Even Peter said that not everything Paul wrote was easy to understand, and certainly not everything that scholars write about Paul is easy to understand, but this book is worth the effort of reading, for it throws fresh light on the great Apostle.

– Greg Goswell

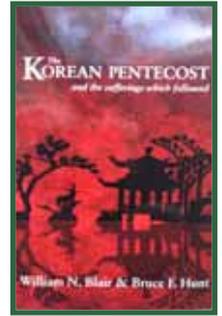


This book assists to add depth to the study of the biblical text and it grounds theological thinking in the Word of God.

BOOKS WORTH READING

THE KOREAN PENTECOST AND THE SUFFERINGS WHICH FOLLOWED, William Blair (1876-1970) and Bruce Hunt (1903-1992), Banner Of Truth, Edinburgh, 2015

THE first part of this book gives an account of a great revival in the Korean church in 1907. In the summer of 1832 the first Protestant missionary, Charles Gutzlaff had visited Korea. The visit was brief – at this time all foreigners were forbidden on pain of death from entering her borders. For 33 years no other Protestant missionary was to visit Korea. When missionaries again arrived, it was discovered that many educated Koreans could read Chinese characters, and eventually it became possible to distribute Chinese Gospels as vessels negotiated the country's rivers.



Dr Blair arrived in Seoul, Korea in 1901. He found the Koreans a loving, generous-hearted people, poetic and deeply religious by nature. Most followed Confucianism, which had largely killed off Buddhism. As soon as he knew enough Korean, Dr Blair began to preach, and Christian churches were established. In January 1907, at a crowded church service at Pyongyang (now the capital of North Korea), there was felt to be no life in the meeting. The missionaries met and cried out to God in earnest. The next day, on entering the church, each felt the place was full of God's presence. As one missionary began to pray, the whole congregation began to pray out loud, all together. To Dr Blair the prayer 'sounded like an ocean of prayer beating against God's throne.' Many threw themselves to the floor and beat the floor with fists in perfect agony of conviction; some wept, and almost screamed in agony. The meeting continued until two o'clock the next morning, with confession, weeping and praying. It was as though all were face to face with God. It seems that a time of special blessing then spread throughout the entire Korean peninsula.

The second part of the book, by Bruce Hunt (Dr Blair's son-in-law), relates the terrible sufferings – almost too terrible to contemplate – of the church under the Japanese and Communists. During his 48 years of missionary service, Mr Hunt personally knew many of the Korean Christian martyrs.

The subject of revivalism needs to be approached with caution, but we acknowledge that God, in His sovereignty, may act occasionally in a more extraordinary and remarkable way. I recommend the book, but the second part may not be suitable reading for those who find it difficult to cope with harrowing accounts of the sufferings of others.

– A review by Trevor Scott, www.banneroftruth.org

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Lisa Watson

Lisa was born and studied in upstate New York. She met her Irish-born husband Roy while studying and working with the international ministry of Word of Life. Roy and Lisa have 3 adult children. Christian Women Communicating International (CWCi) is a ministry that is close to Lisa's heart. She has held many positions within the organisation and is currently serving as the President of the CWCi International Board. Lisa's passion for sharing the Word of God, along with its practical application proven through life experiences, has been shared in her ministry in several countries. Along with her own battle with cancer, Lisa has worked in the Celebrate Recovery program ministering to those struggling with addictions, abuse and unresolved challenges in their lives. These have given her both empathy for those hurting and a deep personal understanding of our Lord's sufficiency. Lisa's delight is to share the life-giving, life-changing message of God's love, connecting with women through Bible teaching, music and testimony.



Cathie Hillman

Cathie lives in Melbourne with her husband Andi and 1 year old son Wesley. An English teacher by trade, she now lectures at Monash University in Community Development. Cathie is actively involved in youth and Young Adult Ministry at Warrandyte Community Church and is passionate about teaching God's word and seeing people's lives radically transformed as they encounter Jesus.



Program

| | Topic | Scripture |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 8.30am | Registration | |
| 9.15am | Cathie Hillman | |
| 10.30am | Morning Tea | |
| 11.10am | Lisa Watson | |
| 12pm | Electives Session 1 | |
| 1pm | Lunch | |
| 2pm | Electives Session 2 | |
| 3pm | Lisa Watson | |
| 4.30pm | Finish and Afternoon Tea | |
| Electives | | |
| 1 | Travelling with God | Cathie Hillman |
| 2 | Travelling with Others | Kara Martin |
| 3 | Travelling with Kids | Kate Ryan |
| 4 | Travelling with Depression | All Burley, Helen Teifer |
| 5 | Travelling with Singleness | Anthea McCall, Claire Bonner |
| 6 | A Story of Hope – Domestic Violence | Zoe Broomhead |

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