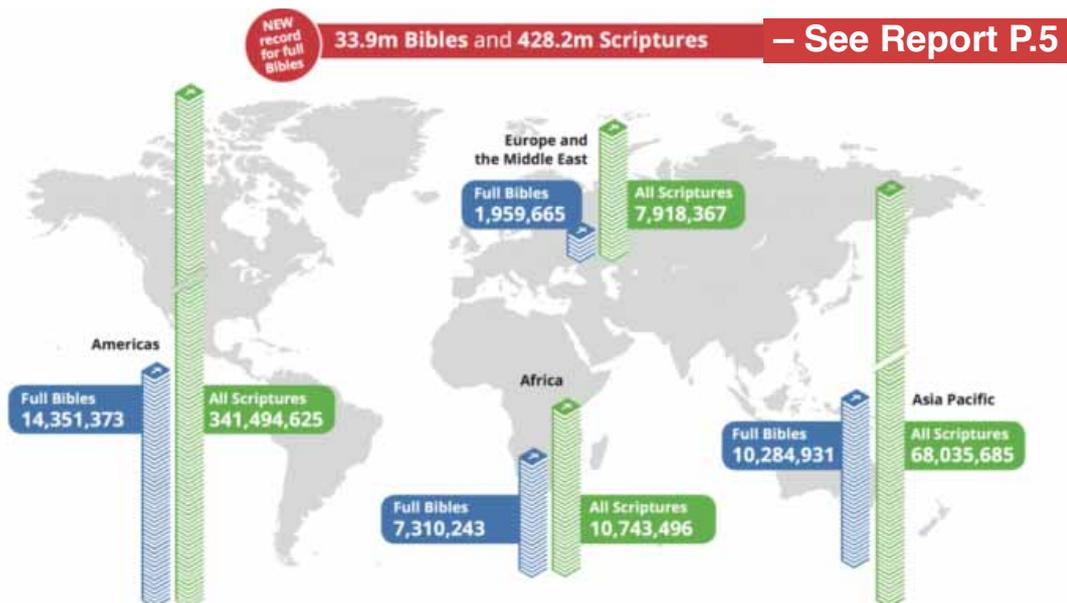


## Record Global Scripture Distribution In 2014



### More Media Objectivity Would Serve Democracy Better – ACL

SENATOR Eric Abetz has identified a major problem with media bias in Australia according to the Australian Christian Lobby. Although Christian political views do not line up neatly across Left-Right divisions, Senator Abetz has nonetheless identified a concern that has implications for our democracy.

Senator Abetz told *The Australian* newspaper that politicians with Christian or conservative views on social policy like marriage were often treated differently by the media to those who supported the media's view. ACL Managing Director Lyle Shelton said even the ABC's *Media Watch* program, in a rare admission, highlighted the media's bias in the marriage debate, but nothing had changed since. Mr Shelton said there was a double standard when people like Princeton University's Peter Singer can advocate bestiality on the ABC's Q&A program, yet when Senator Cory Bernardi references Singer's extreme views in a speech in Parliament it is Senator Bernardi who is demonised by the media.

'A regular commentator on ABC, Bernard Keane, tweeted to his 44,000 followers that I am a "nauseating piece of filth" for my views on marriage,' Mr Shelton said. 'If I tweeted that about supporters of same-sex marriage I would be hounded out of my job, yet Mr Keane is rewarded with commentary positions on the ABC. This kind of double standard is a constant disadvantage to anybody outside the media groupthink – and examples abound.'

Mr Shelton said that Christian organisations like ACL opposed policies like cutting overseas aid, allowing poker machines, an un-generous refugee intake and denying constitutional recognition to indigenous people. 'Yet despite these long-standing policies, we often find ourselves being type-cast,' Mr Shelton said. 'Anyone who stands up for preserving the definition of marriage and pro-life policies faces far more hostility than those who support the opposite views.'

'No one is entitled to a free run in the media, least of all Christians. However, more objectivity from the media would serve our democracy better,' Mr Shelton said.

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## Rev Fred Nile Wants Action On Gambling

REV Fred Nile, MLC, has welcomed the NSW Government's commitment to combating problem gambling.

'The addictive nature of gambling is evidently destructive to people's lives and their families. I'm extremely pleased that the NSW Government has respected the Christian Democratic Party's continued strong stance and our recommendations to tackling gambling issues,' Fred Nile said.

The Government is currently addressing the issue of young people and gambling through the mandatory *Crossroads Curriculum* in government schools.

'The CDP welcomes the *Crossroads* program which will be ready for school-based implementation this year and will provide the essential foundations required to teach children the risks and detriments associated with gambling. Australians must understand that there is a cultural based gambling problem that needs to be rectified from the grassroots up,' he said.

The *Crossroads* program addresses issues of health, safety and well-being, including the risks, costs and misconceptions associated with gambling. The Government also has invested \$17.2 million in education and awareness programs in 2014-15 through the *Responsible Gambling Fund*, including the *Young People And Gambling Strategy* which educates 15-25 year olds about the realities of all forms of gambling.

'These initiatives are certainly a very good start, but it's a scratch on the surface in comparison to all the CDP's proposals. I will continue to push for changes to tighten the current gambling advertising codes which accommodate and empower the manipulating practices of the current gambling industry,' stated Rev Fred Nile.

### **Support For Stronger Terrorism Laws**

IN his speech to the NSW Parliament on Tuesday 21 October, 2015, Rev Fred Nile, MLC said: 'On behalf of the Christian Democratic Party I am pleased to speak to the *Terrorism (Police Powers) Amendment Bill 2015* and the cognate *Bail Amendment Bill 2015*. The Christian Democratic Party congratulates the Government on introducing this legislation. It is necessary and important. These bills will protect our right to liberty and protect our democratic freedoms that the terrorists want to destroy. That is why we are pleased to support the bills.

There is a change in the climate. We are not talking about what was happening 10 or 20 years ago in New South Wales; we are talking about what is happening now. The Bail Amendment Bill 2015 introduces a new, more onerous test for bail. The new test will require that bail be refused unless there are exceptional circumstances. This test is more onerous than the show cause category that was introduced after the Hatzistergos interim report. The new test will apply to people accused of any offence that carries a custodial penalty where the accused is subject to a terrorism control order, has a previous terrorism conviction or has been charged separately with a terrorism offence and the proceedings have not yet concluded.

– CDP Press Release

## RUSSIA IN SYRIA

MANY hundreds of Sunni jihadist groups are fighting in Syria, but virtually all are aligned with either al-Qaeda (represented by al-Nusra) or Islamic State. While al-Qaeda and IS diverge on strategy, they have the same goals – to establish a Caliphate and attack the West – and the same attitude towards Christians, who must convert, submit or die. While the 'young guns' of IS excel in spectacular theatrics, the 'old guard' of al-Qaeda excel in strategy. While IS attracts more youths, it is also far more vulnerable. Also, though al-Qaeda is rarely mentioned in the media these days (for political reasons), it is just as dangerous as ever.

In February, when it became apparent that the Iran nuclear deal would empower Iran massively, regime-changers Turkey and Saudi Arabia began escalating their assistance to rebels, in the hope they could oust Syrian President Bashar al Assad before Iranian funds were unfrozen and sanctions lifted. Subsequently, five Sunni jihadist groups announced an alliance. Led by al-Qaeda's al-Nusra and backed by Turkey and Saudi Arabia, the Jaysh al Fateh (Army of Conquest) coalition includes US-armed and trained jihadists formerly associated with the Free Syrian Army. By late March Jaysh al Fateh had captured the provincial capital of Idlib and was threatening the Alawite heartland of Latakia. [The Assad family belong to the Alawite sect of Islam. Previously known as Nusayri, the Alawites, like the Baha'i and Ahmadiyya, follow a later prophet. Historically they have been persecuted, subjugated and killed as heretics. Shi'ites accept them as Shi'ites purely for geo-strategic purposes.]

As Jaysh al Fateh advanced through Idlib into north-west Hama and launched rockets into Latakia, IS seized Palmyra and started expanding towards Damascus. On 12 August, with Islamic jihadists advancing on two critical fronts, we appealed for the Lord's intervention. As the situation continued to deteriorate we prayed concerning the Christian crisis and appealed again for the Lord's intervention, that Christians might have safe haven and that the schemes of the wicked would be thwarted.

On 28 September Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed the UN General Assembly. Putin noted that foreign support for illegal regime change along with the arming of terrorists has reaped nothing but disaster and insecurity. Consequently he appealed for co-operation in the fight against terrorism, which, as he noted, is a threat to everyone. (Russia particularly is at risk, with an estimated 2000 'Chechens' fighting with IS and with al-Qaeda affiliated groups in Syria.) On 30 September Russia started bombing Jaysh al Fateh positions in north-west Hama and Idlib.

Aided by Russian air-cover, the Syrian army has been able to roll back Jaysh al Fateh, thereby securing sanctuary in Alawite-dominated Latakia (which is also home to many Christians and thousands of refugees) and Tartus (where Russia has long had a naval base). Russia has also been bombing IS positions from Palmyra (central Homs) and Ghouta (eastern Damascus) to the commercial capital of Aleppo in the north. Friday 16 October saw the launch of a new Battle for Aleppo. Danger looms for Aleppo's remnant Armenians and Assyrians, for not only have Sunni rebel forces acquired much US-made heavy weaponry which they will be firing into government-held districts, but Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps-Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani is on the ground in Aleppo leading an array of Shi'ite militias. Whilst the Alawite-dominated Syrian army has long protected Syrian Christians, how Iranian and Arab Shi'ite militias will respond to the Christians they come across is really unknown.

Meanwhile, the emir of al-Qaeda's al-Nusra, Abu Muhammad al Julani, has issued a video message entitled *The Russian Intervention - The Last Arrow*, referring to Russians as 'Eastern Crusaders', he called for mujahideen in the Caucasus (southern Russia) to match the killings in Syria: for every jihadi a Russian soldier; for every Syrian civilian a Russian civilian. He also called for greater jihadist unity in Syria and for an escalation in rocket attacks against Nusayri (Alawite) towns and villages. This conflict is sure to escalate. How bad it gets will doubtless depend on how long it takes the West to correctly identify the enemy.

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

### Please Pray That The Lord Will:

- Forge unity and co-operation in the fight against international Islamic jihad and the Islamic ascendancy, and stop repeating the errors of the past. May we put aside the ambitions, interests and hatreds that since the mid-19th Century have allowed Islam to play the West against the East.
- Shield, guide and provide for His imperilled people as the Syrian conflict escalates and intensifies around them, praying especially for remnant Armenian and Assyrian Christians in war-ravaged Aleppo.
- Protect Russian Christians and Russian churches as jihadists respond to al-Qaeda's call for retaliation against the 'Eastern Crusader'.  
*'Sanctify Your Church, Lord.  
May we love one another  
as You have loved us (John 13.34).  
May our eyes be fixed on Jesus  
(Hebrews 2.2) and our trust be  
in Him.'* (Psalm 56; Psalm 118)

## 'STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL'

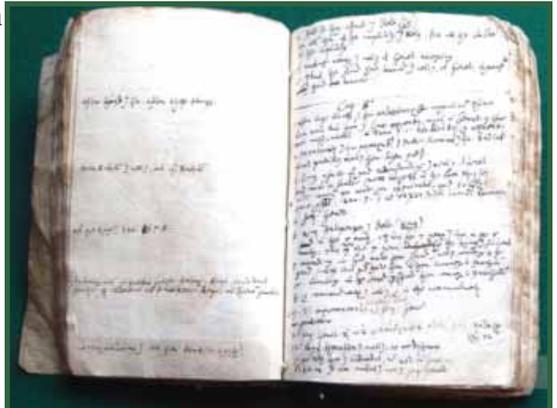
### Old Book Sheds New Light On King James Bible

THE King James Bible is the most widely read work in English literature, a masterpiece of translation whose stately cadences and transcendent phrases have long been seen, even by secular readers, as having emerged from a kind of collective divine inspiration.

But now, in an unassuming notebook held in an archive at the University of Cambridge, an American scholar has found what he says is an important new clue to the earthly processes behind that masterpiece: the earliest known draft, and the only one definitively written in the hand of one of the roughly four dozen translators who worked on it.

The notebook, which dates from 1604 to 1608, was discovered by Jeffrey Alan Miller, an assistant professor of English at Montclair State University in New Jersey, who announced his research on Wednesday in an article in *The Times Literary Supplement*.

While the notebook has yet to be examined by other scholars, experts who have reviewed Professor Miller's research called it perhaps the most significant archival find relating to the King James Bible in decades.



*Two pages from Samuel Ward's translation for part of the King James Bible. An American professor who came upon the manuscript last northern autumn at Cambridge University says it is the earliest known draft for the King James translation, which appeared in 1611.*

*(Credit: Master and Fellows of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge; Maria Anna Rogers - Photo)*

### Engaging Speaker Engaged For Melbourne Outer Eastern Prayer Breakfast

MELBOURNE Outer Eastern Prayer Breakfast will be held on Friday 26 February 2016 from 7-9am at Karralyka Centre, Mines Rd, Ringwood East, 3135. Tickets are available from: [www.OEPB.org.au](http://www.OEPB.org.au)

Pastor Ghassan Thomas will share his spine-tingling testimony of starting a church in Baghdad and being chased out by terrorists – after converting a number of them. Check out his amazing story at [www.OEPB.org.au](http://www.OEPB.org.au)

Ghassan is a gifted speaker with a remarkable story of God's goodness and graciousness. He has shared his testimony in many countries around the world, including the UK and the United States, where he has been invited to speak to both Congress and Liberty University – the world's largest Christian university.

Ghassan will share how God is working in Iraq and surrounding countries, how God sustained him and his family through many death threats and their escape from Iraq, and how an assassin sent to murder him became a believer in Christ.

– Dean Troth



**Read: *The Practicality Of Christianity*  
by David Holden, at [www.defenceofthefaith.org](http://www.defenceofthefaith.org)**



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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## **Record Global Scripture Distribution In 2014**

*2014 saw the highest number of printed Bibles ever distributed by Bible Societies around the world. Nearly 34 million full Bibles were distributed, a rise of 6% over 2013's figures, and 14% higher than the number distributed in the first year of the decade (see map on p.1.)*

THESE figures are taken from the annual United Bible Societies' Scripture Distribution Report, which compiles Scripture distribution figures reported by Bible Societies. In total, 428.2 million Scriptures were distributed by Bible Societies in 2014, including full Bibles, Testaments, Gospels and other smaller Scripture items – representing a 7% and a 17% increase over 2013 and 2010 respectively.

### **Year-On-Year Increases**

The region reporting the highest distribution in 2014 is the Americas, with 341.5 million Scriptures, including 14.4 million full Bibles. This region has seen significant year-on-year increases in Scripture distribution in the first five years of the decade, its 2014 figure nearly 20% higher than 2010.

### **Brazil Heads The List**

Far more Scriptures were distributed in Brazil than in any other country in the world. Its 7.6 million full Bibles account for more than half of the total Bible distribution in the Americas, and more than a fifth of last year's global Bible distribution. In total, the Bible Society of Brazil distributed 288.7 million Scriptures – more than two thirds of the global total. Although Brazil's distribution figures have always been high, largely due to the Bible Society's comprehensive program of social outreach and its good relationship with all churches, last year's figures were partly boosted by the many thousands of Scriptures handed out during the FIFA World Cup. Brazilians are football mad, and the World Cup was a wonderful opportunity to share God's Word with the many football fans who were celebrating the tournament.

### **Cuba's Rapid Church Growth**

Cuba's figures tell a story of rapid church growth, which is fuelling an enormous demand for Scriptures. Last year, 1.5 million Scriptures were distributed there – more than double the total distributed in 2010. And four times the number of full Bibles were distributed there last year compared with 2013, thanks to the United Bible Societies' Cuba Million Bible Mission project, which aims to provide one million full Bibles to Christians in Cuba.

### **Africa's Steady Increase**

Africa's overall Scripture distribution figures fluctuate from year to year, but it has seen a steady increase in the distribution of full Bibles since the start of the decade. The 7.3 million Bibles distributed there in 2014 represent a 31% rise over the number distributed in 2010. Nigeria and South Africa continue to be the Scripture distribution giants of Africa, at around 4.5 million and 1.5 million copies respectively, but some notable increases are taking place in smaller countries. The troubled Central African Republic, for instance, has seen its annual Scripture distribution triple from just under 9,000 in 2010 to nearly 29,000 in 2014. Most were full Bibles.

### **Increase In Europe And Middle East**

In Europe and the Middle East, the 7.9 million Scriptures distributed last year represent an increase of almost 12% over 2010. The number of Testaments being distributed has been rising particularly fast. Last year, 2.8 million Testaments were distributed in the region – 23% higher than in 2013, and 126% higher than in 2010.

### **War-Torn Syria And Ukraine**

The rises happened in some surprising places. More than five times the number of Testaments were distributed in war-torn Syria in 2014 than in 2010, before the conflict began. And, in the midst of one of the most difficult years in Ukraine's recent history, last year the Bible Society there distributed nearly 70,000 New Testaments – 48% more than in 2012 and 10 times more than in 2010.

### **Asia**

Asia – the world's most populous region – saw a 6% increase in Scripture distribution between 2013 and 2014. Some notable increases have taken place over the first five years of the decade in several Asian countries, including the two giants – India and China, which distributed 22% and 10% more in 2014 than in 2010. The Philippines – Asia's largest Christian nation – distributed 42% more Scriptures in 2014 than in 2010, and Myanmar an impressive 45% more.

In addition to distributing a record number of printed Scriptures in 2014, Bible Societies also reported significant increases in the distribution of non-print Scripture items. (These include Scripture-based products on CDs, cassettes, DVDs, mp3s, texts and internet downloads, but do not include Bible Society Scripture texts accessed through apps such as *YouVersion* or *BibleSearch*.) More than two million Scriptures were distributed in that way in 2014, 8% more than in 2013 and three times the figure for 2010.

See more at: <http://www.biblesociety.org.au/news/record-number-of-bibles-distributed-by-bible-societies-in-2014#sthash.YEpDSk3C.dpuf>

## **Triggs Should Be Held To Account For Misleading Legal Analysis**

HUMAN Rights Commission President, Professor Gillian Triggs, should be held to account for her misleading analysis of international law, according to the Australian Christian Lobby. Professor Triggs, giving evidence to the Senate estimates Committee, repeated her contention that, as a matter of law, there is a right to same-sex marriage. She further claimed that it could be concluded from the right to equality before the law. But under questioning, Professor Triggs was forced to acknowledge that she did not know the UN Human Rights Committee has ruled that the right to marriage in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights does not refer to same-sex unions.

Article 23 refers to 'the right of men and women of marriageable age to marry.' The UN Committee held that this specifically referred to opposite-sex unions, and further that disallowing same-sex unions was compatible with the right of non-discrimination and equality before the law.

'Given that the Commission is tasked with overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Australia, one would think that Professor Triggs would know how it is interpreted,' said ACL legal spokesperson Martyn Iles. 'This is the Commission's core business, yet it does not know. Why? Groups like ACL have been saying this for years. It is disappointing that parliamentarians and governments have been misled regarding the legal status of same-sex marriage under international law.

'The incontrovertible fact is that there is no right to same-sex marriage in international law. Not under the ICCPR, not under the European Convention, and not by way of any jurisprudence from the European Court of Human Rights or the UN Human Rights Committee. In fact, the opposite has been expressly held time and again by these bodies, as recently as this year.'

Mr Iles said that human rights law had become a vehicle for those with a particular ideological agenda to prosecute their causes. 'But when you really look at their claims,' he added, 'the emperor has no clothes. The law does not say what they wish it did.'



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## Chaplaincy Program For Ambos Gathers Pace

THE Chaplaincy program that serves the ambulance crews in NSW is currently expanding its work to include more volunteers. The Rev Paul McFarlane, senior chaplain and co-ordinator, says there is currently a team of about 38 volunteer chaplains from many different denominations and some from other faiths as well. He says they have recently recruited a further 12 chaplains and are looking to recruit more in the new year.

Mr McFarlane says the ambulance crews like having chaplains around, and management sees them as being an important component amongst other staff support services. Ambulance Service NSW receives an average of one emergency call every 26 seconds, with chaplains providing a listening ear after potentially traumatic callouts as well as providing support in other life circumstances.

Volunteers include clergy and lay people from a variety of ministry and occupational backgrounds.

– Sydney Anglicans

### Surging Scourge Of Gambling

SURGING gaming industry profits are coming from the pockets of gamblers in Sydney's most disadvantaged suburbs, who are betting billions more each year on the pokies, a Fairfax investigation has found. Fairfax has obtained state government data showing which of Sydney's 40 council areas lose the most money playing poker machines in registered clubs. Four of the five suburbs registering the fastest-growing and largest losses are ranked in Sydney's top-five most disadvantaged areas by the Bureau Of Statistics.

Across NSW the total amount gambled on the pokies each year has increased by more than \$7 billion since 2011. Fairfield is Sydney's highest-losing area, where gamblers are putting up to \$1.2 billion a year more through poker machines than they were four years ago.

– Sydney Anglicans

We welcome Stan Hunt, of Queensland, as a contributor to *New Life*.  
Stan regularly supplies Christian radio stations with *Faith News*,  
which he will be copying to us.  
Watch for his byline: FAITH NEWS with Stan Hunt.

### Comedian With Serious Side Chosen As New Guatemalan President

GUATEMALAN voters have chosen a comedian with studies in theology as their new President.

Jimmy Morales ran on a platform of conservative values, opposing gay marriage, abortion, and the legalisation of marijuana. He told *CBN News*: 'According to my belief, my ideology, I would have to veto such laws.' He said the role of the Christian Church is to be the Bride of the Lamb, a role of service and devotion, and also to evangelise, train and improve the talents of people.

The Guatemalan Church played an important role through a critical time for the country, holding combined prayer meetings Saturday mornings at the Central Park. The *Guatemala Prays* movement mobilized more than 700 churches for prayer vigils and fasting. For 40 days they prayed for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

– *Breaking Christian News*

### Anti Pokies Alliance Formed

CHRISTIAN leaders have joined an alliance that aims to have poker machines declared illegal in

Australia. According to the *New Daily*, Rev Tim Costello, who chairs the Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce, is working together with Melbourne-based law firm Maurice Blackburn, to bring the case to either a courtroom, or parliament. The alliance points to research that suggests poker machines are deliberately designed to produce addiction in gamblers, and cause untold social harm. Another supporter is independent Federal Senator Nick Xenophon, who entered politics in South Australia in 1997 under a No Pokies ticket. Senator Xenophon is calling for a plebiscite on poker machines to be held at the same time as the vote on same-sex marriage.

– *InFocus News*  
(*Seventh-Day Adventist Hope Channel*)

### The Best Book To Read ...

A BIBLES in schools symposium heard last week that you can't be an educated person without knowing the Bible. Bible Society's *Eternity News* reports that the symposium brought together academics, teachers and Christian providers from around Australia to discuss the possibilities and effectiveness of teaching the Bible in schools.

## **CHRISTIANITY IN AFRICA – DEEP AND WIDE**

CHRISTIANITY in Africa has benefited from sustained growth, with numbers growing from about 10 million in 1900 to just over half a billion in 2015.

But the diversity of the different forms of Christian practices and teachings on the continent means that it may be more accurate to see it as Christianities rather than Christianity, according to Canon Professor Joseph Galgalo as he delivered the recent inaugural *Mission Theology Seminar* in London at Lambeth Palace.

Professor Galgalo, vice-chancellor of St Paul's University in Kenya said: 'There is no denying that African Christianity is increasingly vibrant, and as the populations of the countries keep growing, the churches proportionately take their fair share of this growth.' He said the growth is not limited to any particular denomination, and increase in numbers often results into variety of churches.

While acknowledging the amazing development, he also noted one common criticism that this impressive quantitative growth is by no means always matched by an equally impressive qualitative growth. But Professor Galgalo said it is also true to say that African Christianity is for the most part a deep, spiritual and authentic expression of the holistic Gospel that celebrates and affirms the saving grace of God through Jesus Christ.

– *Anglican News*

### **Come And Give Thanks – Geneva Push**

TERRENCE Zheng, Marketing and Development Manager of the church planting network Geneva Push, reports that in 2015, 14 new churches have been planted, a new wives coaching network established, hundreds of resources generated, new coaching co-ordinators and directors brought on board, and so much more! A Thanksgiving Dinner will be held in Melbourne on 9 November at 6pm at Hutong Dumpling Bar, 14-16 Market Ln, Melbourne. Then on 10 November a breakfast will be held at 7.30am at the Auction Rooms, 103-107 Errol St, North Melbourne, starting at 7.30am and finishing around 8.30am.

### **Men, Are You In The Word?**

OUR world presents daily distractions that can easily displace Christ as the centre of a man's heart and life. The goal of the *ESV Men's Devotional Bible* is to strengthen and encourage men through the life-giving Word of God and sound devotional content aimed at nurturing godliness. Created under the editorial oversight of Dr Sam Storms, the *Men's Devotional Bible* features 365 theologically rich devotions, introductions to each book of the Bible, and articles addressing key issues in the lives of men—all written by a team of over 50 Christian leaders, including Alistair Begg, Bryan Chapell, Graeme Goldsworthy, R. Kent Hughes, Robert Yarbrough, Thabiti Anyabwile, and others. – [communications@crossway.org](mailto:communications@crossway.org)

### **Lenten Study Book: *Walking In Truth And Love***

DAVID Mulready in his new book, *Walking In Truth And Love*, thoughtfully explores the three letters of John through 40 in-depth daily devo-

tions. John's confronting letters encourage Christians to remain faithful to the truth as true children of God, marked by hearts of love. Conversely, John's letters also warn of threats from liars and enemies of the Gospel of Christ, who ultimately seek to destroy the Christian church.

*Walking In Truth And Love* is a useful Bible study or quiet time resource in the lead-up to Easter or at any time of the year, with questions each week to assist with discussion and reflection. Six sermon outlines are also included for ministers hoping to prepare an accompanying sermon series.

David Mulready has served the Lord in parish ministry in the Anglican Dioceses of Sydney and Armidale, in rural and city parishes, and has worked with the Bush Church Aid Society in NSW. David is the author of three previous Lenten devotional books.

*Walking In Truth And Love* is available from [cepstore.com.au](http://cepstore.com.au) or (02) 8268 3344.

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## 'CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS'

### On His Majesty's Service

IN the September school holidays, Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union holds a free activity day for primary aged children packed with activities, prizes, and Christian fellowship. *Dayspring Day* aims to encourage children to support missionaries and to be God's special missionaries themselves. Children and their parents come from all over to Wycliffe Bible Translators headquarters at Kangaroo Ground, Vic.



*The Dayspring Kids.*

This year's *Dayspring Day* was called *On His Majesty's Service*, and was inspired by the title of Helen Roseveare's biography. Helen was a former missionary to the Congo. Many children and parents dressed up as if they were princes and princesses. Rosemary Zurrer – a past missionary herself – dressed as Helen to give an 'interview'. The children then watched Helen Roseveare on YouTube telling part of her inspiring story.

Grace Middleton played 'Birthday Betty' to encourage the children to remember missionary's birthdays in a number of ways – maybe by sending them a card. The king for the day was played by Ben Nelson, and the princess was Alycia Hood. There was even a jester played by Camden Hood. One of the missionaries, Mavis Price, gave out prizes and judged events and costumes throughout the day. Douglas and Jeanette Bennett, Wycliffe Bible Translators, also put in an appearance to encourage the children. It's been an enduring feature of *Dayspring Day* that there are real life missionaries for the children to meet.

In line with the Royalty theme, children practised jousting with the Sword of the Spirit – which is the Bible. The children had to find verses in the Bible as quickly as they could. Other activities included making crowns, decorating crown-shaped biscuits, and playing games. One particularly missionary-focused game was to have the younger children match missionary's photos, while the older children matched the photos to the correct continent of service. Medals were awarded to children for reading the entire Bible, or for being a 'Rope-holder'. Many more children earned the Bible award this year; whether by reading or listening to Bible CDs. – Esther Vayne

**Ramon A Williams**  
- Worldwide Photos -  
**WANT TO SEE MORE?**

*New Life* can only publish a small selection of photos, but you can see more of those attributed to **Worldwide Photos** by contacting **Ramon Williams**,  
e-mail: [rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rlgmedia@ozemail.com.au)

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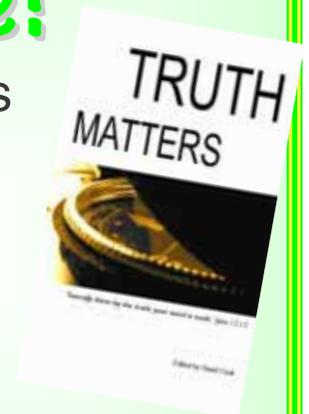
### TRUTH Matters

*'We are living in times of an explosive growth in knowledge – except in the knowledge of God and therefore of ourselves.'* – **David Cook**

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# Forced Reconversions In India

IN India, 315 Christians have been forcibly re-converted in Varanasi, the holiest city in Hinduism. Violent attacks against Christians have recently increased and many who have left lives of Hindu worship have been targeted. Forced conversion ceremonies, known as Ghar Wapsi, are carried out, with many coerced through false promises or by threats of violence.

Varanasi is considered to be the cultural centre of North India and is important in the Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh faiths. Hindu nationalism has been on the rise in India, particularly in 'holy cities' like Varanasi.

Over the last five years thousands of people have come to Christ in the area, seeking healing at two Christian centres near the city. Hindu extremists monitor these centres and pursue new believers. Violent attacks on Christian workers who share their faith is becoming more common place and Ghar Wapsi ceremonies are performed every few months.

### **Please Pray That:**

- New Christians who are facing intense pressure would not give up their faith.
- The Hindus targeting Christians, would have their eyes opened to the living God.
- The church in India, would continue to grow despite the rise in Hindu nationalism.

'But don't be afraid of those who threaten you. For the time is coming when everything that is covered will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all.' (Matthew 10.26) –Open Doors

### **PAKISTAN – Christian Headteacher Assaulted By 'Jealous' Colleagues**

PLEASE pray for our Pakistani brother in Christ, Saddique Azam, a headteacher in Punjab who has been left badly injured after being assaulted by work colleagues. Other teachers at Pernawa Government High School in Kasur District are reported to have resented Saddique's promotion over them. They had first pressured him to resign and then tried to control him. But Saddique refused to be intimidated. Tensions flared when Saddique refused a teacher's request to write a falsified account justifying two days' absence. Four days later, Muslim teachers rounded on Saddique, kicking and punching him and seriously injuring his left eye.

Three teachers were arrested – but no case has been registered against them. Saddique continues to receive threats.

Please pray that God will heal and protect Saddique, and enable him to continue his work as a headteacher. Pray that parents and community leaders in the area Saddique's school serves will give him their backing and take a stand against this discrimination. Pray that justice will be done for Saddique and Christians across Pakistan. The legal and judicial systems can often seem to discriminate against Christians, who are treated as second-class citizens.

– Source: *Morning Star News via Release Intn'l*

**Central African Republic:** Christians in the CAR are once again being targeted by armed Muslim

groups going from house to house, shooting and beheading innocent believers in an appalling display of violence. Some reports indicate as many as 200 people were killed in the clashes, their bodies thrown into wells. Around 20,000 Christians have fled their homes in terror. They have lost everything in their flight, and with the country now well into the rainy season, nutrition and health concerns are paramount. Barnabas has sent emergency relief aid to provide for their basic needs. – [www.barnabasfund.org](http://www.barnabasfund.org)

### **Asia Bibi 'Safe And In Good Health'**

THE lawyer of the only Pakistani Christian woman to be given the death penalty for alleged blasphemy met her in prison last week, reporting that she is safe and in good health.

The final appeal for Asia Bibi, is pending before Pakistan's top court after the Lahore High Court turned down her appeal on technical grounds. The mother of five has been in prison since the summer of 2009, when she was arrested on allegations of insulting the prophet of Islam.

Defence lawyer Saif-ul-Malook told *World Watch Monitor* that since early October several foreign news agencies contacted him over news that Mrs Bibi's health was worsening. After visiting the prison, Mr Malook said she is in good health and state of mind, and totally denies she ever suffered any serious illness in prison. He says she became happy when he told her that she would possibly soon be released.

– *World Watch Monitor*

## GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD:

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#### The World At Large Workshops

JOSSY Chako, of Empart Ministries, invites you to an informative free workshop series at Empart – *The World At Large*.

This is an opportunity over three nights to hear from Jeff and Annette Hammond, experts in Christian-Islam dialogue. Since 1974, Australians Jeff and Annette have been involved in leadership training and humanitarian endeavours in Indonesia. Their inspiring, Bible-based, intentional, practical teaching will help to equip you for these changing times. Sessions will be held on Tues–Thurs, 9-11 November 2015 from 7.15–9.30pm each night at Empart, 14 Railway Cres, Croydon (Vic). The workshops are free, with an opportunity for a freewill offering. RSVP: (03) 9723 9989 or [partnership@empart.org](mailto:partnership@empart.org)

#### CMS Vic Annual Meeting And *Summer Under The Son*

YOU'RE invited to the AGM of CMS Victoria on Saturday 7 November at 2pm. Come and hear about the great things that are happening in CMS Victoria, meet some young people who are on a journey towards mission and share afternoon tea. The AGM will be held at 2pm on Saturday 7 November in All Saints' Church, 18 Edward St, Mitcham. Meet people preparing to become missionaries; hear a full report on mission and ministry through CMS Victoria.

*Summer Under The Son* will be held from 13-16 January 2016. Book now to be a part of this important annual event which will inspire you and renew your passion for serving Jesus. Glenn Davies, Archbishop of Sydney, will lead the Bible studies on 1 Peter. Greg Anderson, Bishop of the Northern Territory will speak on indigenous ministry. Jude Long, Principal of Nungalinga College, Darwin, will speak on education and indigenous ministry. David Williams, Director of training for CMS Australia, looks at the changing face of Christian mission today.

Early Bird Bookings are now open and close on 30 November. You can book for a day or for the whole conference. But, whether you come for one day or for four, be sure to include Saturday 16 January to hear the best speakers, all the missionaries and stay for the Big BBQ and the finale on Super Saturday!

To find out more and to register go to:  
[online.vic@cms.org.au](mailto:online.vic@cms.org.au)

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# Getting On With The Job

**READ ACTS 1.12–26**

**AFTER The Final Separation Of Jesus From His Disciples**, now numbering about 120 (Acts 1.15), one would expect gloom to set in. But no, we find the Christians going about their business. They return to Jerusalem where Jesus told them they were to wait for the gift of God (Acts 1.4) and they set themselves to pray earnestly (v.14).

**Peter Seems Now To Be The Acknowledged Leader And Spokesman** for the group. He sees, in the betrayal of Christ by Judas and the selection of a replacement for him among the apostles, a fulfillment of Psalm 69.25 and Psalm 109.8. To qualify for selection, a man must have been with the apostles from the time John was baptising up to the ascension of Jesus and his central task is to be a witness to the resurrection. Two men are proposed, prayer is offered for guidance, lots are cast and Matthias is added to the eleven apostles.

**Why Does Luke Include This Detail?** Why not move from the ascension straight to Pentecost? After all, Matthias is not mentioned again in the book. Judas’ betrayal was a major failure of leadership that needs to be acknowledged and rectified. Luke tells us in some detail of the failure of Judas because he is providing a ‘warts and all’ coverage of the history of the church. He does not idealise the church; he recognises the hypocrisy of Ananias and Sapphira in Chapter 5, the bickering of the widows in Chapter 6, Peter’s behaviour in Chapter 10, even Paul’s impatience with John Mark in Chapter 15.

**‘The Best Of Men Are Men At Best.’** We are to recognise our own frailty and Luke shows the church facing up to the need to renew its leadership following the apostasy of one of the apostles. Damage had been done and restoration was required. The church did not then, and must not today, try to simply cover its sin; sin needs to be acknowledged and dealt with.

**In An Atmosphere Of Prayer**, Peter sets out the necessary criteria, the lot is cast and Matthias is the choice. The apostolate is now complete once more and its key function (v 22) is to witness to the reality of Christ’s resurrection. ‘See what the apostles were ordained to; not a secular dignity and dominion ... but to preach Christ and the power of His resurrection.’ – *Matthew Henry on Acts 1.22*

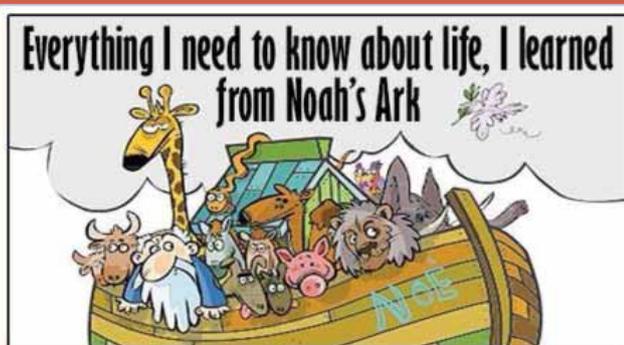


**FOR REFLECTION:**

In what ways does the Early Church provide a model for us concerning leadership selection?  
 In what ways does Judas serve as a warning to you?  
 See v.17.

*Content taken from 'ACTS: To The Ends Of The earth' by David Cook, published by 10Publishing, used with permission.*

**Seen On Facebook:**



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Don't miss the boat.</p> <p>2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.</p> <p>3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.</p> <p>4 Stay fit. When you're really old, someone may ask you to do some thing really big.</p> <p>5 Don't listen to the critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.</p> <p>6 Build your future on high ground.</p> | <p>7 For safety sake, travel in pairs.</p> <p>8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs</p> <p>9 When you're stressed, float a while</p> <p>10 Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.</p> <p>11 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting..</p> |
|--|--|

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## BOOKS WORTH READING

### HANDBOOK ON THE NEW TESTAMENT USE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: Exegesis And Interpretation, G. K. Beale, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012. ISBN 978-0-8010-3896-9.

GREG Beale is an acknowledged expert on the use of the Old Testament by New Testament writers. Together with Don Carson, he edited the massive *Commentary On The New Testament Use Of The Old Testament* (Baker Academic, 2007), and, in effect, this new book is the missing introduction to that earlier volume, setting out the principles and method behind its analysis of Old Testament quotations and allusions made by Jesus and the Apostles. Its purpose is to provide preachers, students and other serious readers of Scripture with a practical approach to interpreting the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament.

This is, of course, a huge subject, given how extensive that use is. It is also a contested area, for often scholars have found fault with how the New Testament writers use the Old Testament. This is why this handbook is doubly necessary. Beale rejects the idea that the New Testament writers ignored the context of the Old Testament verses they quoted and used. They were not prisoners to current Jewish methods of interpreting the Old Testament, for Jesus had instructed His followers on how to read the Scriptures.

But were they so eager to find Christ prophesied in the Old Testament that this distorted their exegesis? Did their use of typology (finding analogies and anticipations of later events and persons) lead to slanted interpretations of the Old Testament text? Beale assures us that we need not think like this. Jesus and His first followers saw a fuller message in the Old Testament due to the larger pattern of salvation history, so that earlier events and persons (eg exodus/Moses) foreshadow later events and persons (eg second exodus/Jesus as New Moses figure).

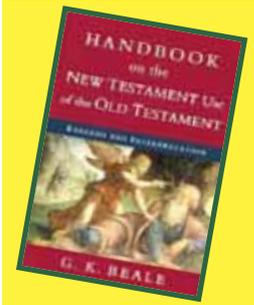
In fact, the typological method of reading the Old Testament predominates in the New Testament, and Beale is right in approving its use today. To think otherwise would be to accuse Jesus and the apostles of being poor interpreters of Scripture, which, to say the least, is unlikely to be the case!

Beale discusses possible criteria for recognising Old Testament quotations, allusions and echoes. While acknowledging that there is no foolproof method of always correctly and exhaustively interpreting the Bible text, Beale offers nine angles for viewing a text. Most of these ways of approaching an Old Testament quotation or allusion are commonsense, but that does not mean they are always done. Too often the busy pastor takes shortcuts, sometimes with disastrous results!

Next, Beale provides clear examples of the different ways the New Testament writers use the Old Testament, such as indicating the direct fulfilment of prophecy, the use of type and antitype, or modelling a New Testament scene (eg Revelation 4) on a similar Old Testament scene (Daniel 7). The New Testament routinely takes notice of the Old Testament context and uses the Old Testament in an authentic and insightful way. With all our modern academic sophistication, we are never in a position to sit in judgment or to correct what they do. We are learners; they are master exegetes.

Behind their use of the Old Testament are the grand presuppositions that God inspired the Old Testament writers and that Christ is the goal of redemption history in the plan and purpose of God. Old Testament history is understood as containing historical patterns that find a higher replica in what Jesus did in the age of fulfilment. However, this reviewer does not see that this requires Beale to view the Church as the New Israel, rather it is believing Jews within the Church who are the New Israel, with the Church now made up of believing Jews and believing Gentiles.

*(Continued on p.14)*



*All in all, Beale shows himself to be a judicious guide for those who want to understand how and why Jesus and the writers of the New Testament made so much use of the Old Testament.*

## BOOKS WORTH READING

*(Continued from p.13)*

Beale also provides an extensive bibliography of early Jewish sources that can assist us in our understanding of how the different Jewish groups in Jesus' day read the Old Testament.

Finally, Beale presents a case study illustrating the methodology he has promoted, taking as his example the use of Isaiah 22.22 ('the key of the house of David') in Revelation 3.7. All in all, Beale shows himself to be a judicious guide for those who want to understand how and why Jesus and the writers of the New Testament made so much use of the Old Testament.

This handbook contributes to a greater appreciation of the unity of the Bible, a unity that is centred on Jesus as the goal of God's purposes in history.

– Greg Goswell

## Where I Am:

### Billy Graham Writes Again

EVANGELIST Billy Graham has personally preached the Gospel on every continent and in almost 200 countries. At 96 years of age, the world-renowned preacher hopes to reach millions more with his new book, *Where I Am: Heaven, Eternity And Our Life Beyond*.

The project is being called the evangelist's final chapter. Billy Graham's son Franklin says his father started writing the book over two years ago, before he fell ill. But when he started feeling better he resumed work on the project with the help of a writer.

This is Billy Graham's 33rd book. And from its title to its final page, the evangelist explores what's written about the road to Heaven, and the road to Hell, in all 66 books of the Bible.

– Faith News

### What Does The Bible Really Say About Homosexuality?, Kevin DeYoung, Wheaton: Crossway, 2015.

KEVIN DeYoung has written this book to provide a biblical defence of the traditional understanding of homosexuality by Christians for 2000 years. The book seeks to answer this question: 'Is homosexual activity a sin that must be repented of, forsaken, and forgiven, or, given the right context and commitment, can we consider same-sex intimacy a blessing worth celebrating and solemnizing?'

In response the book breaks down into two parts, the first dealing with the five most debated and relevant biblical texts related to homosexuality. These are Genesis 1,2 – God's design for marriage; Genesis 13 – Sodom and Gomorrah; Leviticus 18.22 and 20.13 – concerning the Old Testament's condemnation of homosexual practices; Romans 1.18-32 – the New Testament's prohibition of homosexual behaviour; and specific meaning of Greek words used for homosexuality in the Bible.

Part two addresses seven of the most common objections to the traditional view of sexual morality such as: the Bible seldom speaks of homosexuality; when it does it is not dealing with it in its modern forms; other sins, such as gluttony and divorce, are worse; the church should welcome homosexuals; social values have changed; it is not fair to single out homosexual behaviour as sinful because the homosexual person cannot help being what he is; God is love, therefore we should tolerate those who are homosexual.

The book concludes with appendices on same-sex marriage, same sex attraction and ten commitments for how churches should interact with homosexuals and the homosexual agenda.

DeYoung has written a very helpful little volume. His tone is gracious but firm. He handles the pertinent Biblical texts very well, and he addresses the pressing question on homosexuality with balance. *What Does The Bible Really Teach About Homosexuality?* is an excellent primer on the subject and it provides a pattern for how Christians, who desire to be obedient to God's Word and yet loving to homosexuals, should live and think. Highly recommended.

– Gary E. Gilley, Pastor/Teacher Southern View Chapel, USA,  
Submitted By Gene L. Jeffries

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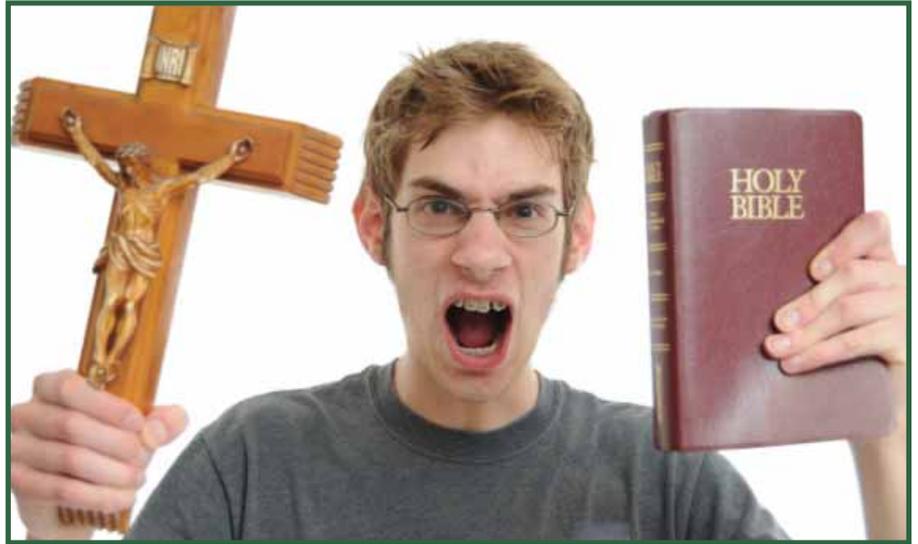
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# Four Dangerous Characteristics Of Radicalised Christians

ISLAMIC Radicalism is a growing problem. It poses a clear and present threat to society. But as many Atheist Facebook commenters have pointed out to me, Christians can also be radicalised.

As if on cue, David Cook, the leader of the Presbyterian Church, recently wrote: 'I am part of the pastoral team of an 800 member Christian Church, [and] we are all being radicalised, every meeting, every week ...'

But fear not: I will call ASIO a.s.a.p. and report these radicalised Christians! They're clearly a threat to society. In fact, if your teenagers became radicalised by the local church youth group, they might start exhibiting these four dangerous characteristics:



### 1) Radicalised Christians Love And Forgive All People, Even Their Enemies

THE radical Jesus of Nazareth said: 'But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ...'

After 21-year-old Dylann Roof massacred nine church-goers at Charleston Emmanuel Church, we saw this radicalism openly displayed in the response of the family members of the massacre victims. According to *The Guardian*: Relatives of the Emanuel Church victims stood up one by one in the courtroom, offering forgiveness to the man accused of murdering their sons, mothers and grandfathers in cold blood. Could you imagine what would happen to our schools, families, workplaces, and wider society if such radical forgiveness took hold? The word 'apocalyptic' barely begins to capture the horror of such a dystopian future.

### 2) Radicalised Christians Don't Practise Sex Outside Of Marriage

This fanaticism is straight out of the Dark Ages. I mean, without the sexual revolution that Christians have thankfully had, where would the blessing of STD's, AIDS, and teen pregnancies be?

Any dad of teenage girls would be horrified if their daughter succumbed to such radicalism: no longer would their daughter 'put out' sexually to porn-addicted boyfriends, or to older blokes at parties. Could you imagine how destructive it would be for these radicalised girls to no longer base their self-worth on their looks or sexual attractiveness?

### 3) Radicalised Christians Believe That The Unborn Are Not 'Clumps Of Cells', But Human Babies

If ever there was cause to take up arms against such radicalisation, this is it. As this 12-week ultrasound of my son (sorry, my bad choice of words: 'fetus') shows, the unborn are nothing more than clumps of undifferentiated cells. Only the most radicalised fanatic could see a baby in the ultrasound picture. Only a fanatic could believe that a 12-week old fetus has eyes, ears, reflexes, liver (making bile), kidneys, and brainwaves. Only a radical could believe that a 12-week old fetus squirms if the abdomen of the pregnant woman is prodded.



### 4) Radicalised Christians Believe In Moral Absolutes

This is truly dangerous: if you meet someone who believes that 'right' and 'wrong' are not mere opinions or made-up social conventions, but are 'stitched into the fabric of reality', then call the terrorism hotline, a.s.a.p. Fortunately, most of our western secular youth/young adults aren't affected by such radicalism.

(Continued on p.16)

## Four Dangerous Characteristics Of Radicalised Christians

(Continued from p.15)

Fortunately, most of our western secular youth/young adults aren't affected by such radicalism: they're quite happy to assert that there is no ultimate right/wrong, or good/evil: it's all a matter of human opinion. And therefore behaviour like rape is not wrong.

The future of our society is in good hands!

### Getting Serious About Christian Radicalisation

Ok, Ok, enough of the satire. This is really serious stuff!

I've been poking fun at the view that Christian radicalism is as dangerous as Islamic radicalism. Sure, the teachings of Jesus really are radical in their own unique way. But let's face it: there's a world of difference between an Islamic radicalism that beheads enemies, and Jesus' radicalism that forgives enemies. Why our secular intelligentsia can't, or won't publicly admit this obvious difference simply baffles me.

And so here in NSW, draconian restrictions are being placed on voluntary Christian lunchtime student groups in public schools. Even more bizarrely, Christian school students are now banned from telling their mates about Jesus – all in the name of preventing 'radicalism'.

But why would anyone want to prevent students from following in the footsteps of the Nazarene?

**Question:** Why do you think there's such a fear of Jesus' teaching in our public schools?

– <http://akosbalogh.com/2015/10/21/4-dangerous-characteristics-of-radicalised-christians/>

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