

Modelling Cross-Cultural Ministry In NT

BISHOP Greg Anderson's vision is to see the Northern Territory become a model of cross-cultural ministry for Australia and the world, he told the mission organisation CMS recently. Greg says, 'If we can show that we are part of one family together, worshipping the same Lord Jesus, across that enormous cultural spectrum, then I think we're showing something big about what God is doing in the world. The situation of the indigenous churches is precious – people whose traditional culture is thousands of years old, and who are thinking hard about what it is to be both Aboriginal and Christian.'

A Bishop's Vision: Bringing God's People Together In Christ

Preparing to speak at CMS Summer School Mission Conference in January 2016, Greg said that the Northern Territory's cultural diversity presented opportunities to equip Christians in serving across cultures. 'A particular opportunity for Territory ministry is for people from different cultures to read the Bible together,' Greg said, 'and be open to how God can correct our own culturally-shaped blind spots through hearing one another's perspective of what God is saying.'

Appointed as Anglican Bishop of the Northern Territory in 2014, Greg has had a long association with the Territory, having first gone there in 1986 to research the traditional songs of Arnhem Land. He was adopted into a Rembarrnga Clan and worked with musicians who had become Christian through the Elcho Island revival of 1979. He went on to study theology at Moore College, Sydney, with a view to being involved in the growth and development of the Aboriginal church. Greg and his wife Annette returned to the NT in 1995 and spent 12 years as missionaries with CMS. Greg trained Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church leaders at Nungalinga College. Greg also served as head of the Mission Department at Moore College.

Now serving again in the Territory, Greg sees a great need for equipping Aboriginal peoples to understand the Bible, develop their faith and lead churches, and for Australian Christians who love people and God to be equipped in cross-cultural ministry through serving in the Northern Territory.

Cross-Cultural Workers

Taking up the opportunity to serve cross-culturally in the Territory are Neil and Steph Hunt, short-term workers with CMS Queensland with Northern NSW. Arriving in Darwin with their son Seamus in



Neil Hunt with Aboriginal brothers.

July this year, they have been immersed in indigenous culture mainly through their work and local church. Steph, a nurse, works at Darwin Hospital where 70% of patients are indigenous and many have travelled a long way for treatment. 'They are very homesick for country,' Steph says. 'There are many opportunities to share God's love with patients and families.' Neil volunteers at Nungalinga College, working closely with four brothers from Arnhem Land whom he tutors in literacy.

Bishop Greg Anderson will be speaking on *Ministry In Northern Territory* at CMS Summer Conferences in January 2016. More information is available at

www.cms.org.au/summerconferences – Sharyn Tidswell



Bishop Greg Anderson

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'Truth Unchanged, Unchanging'

TO whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to Me? Their ears are closed so that they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it ... This is what the LORD says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, "We will not walk in it"' (Jeremiah 6.10, 16)

AS the faithful prophet Jeremiah works through his revelation of the LORD's impending judgment on His own covenant people, two things are becoming clearer: that the divine judgment from the God who loves them is going to be much more severe than they could ever have imagined; and that the people themselves were becoming much more hardened against accepting its warning. When we look at Jeremiah's words here in the light of Church history there are two things that are noteworthy:

1. In every age, God's people are very prone to moving away from the 'ancient paths', the infallible and unchangeable truths of the Scriptures. That is where the 'good way' is; that is where '[we] will find rest for [our] souls'.

2. A significant factor in making this decision 'at the crossroads' of life is the 'offensiveness' of God's truth to our fallen nature. As Paul wrote to Timothy, two of the 'useful' things about Scripture are its 'rebuking' and its 'correcting'. It is a fundamental part of our sinfulness that we 'find no pleasure' in being rebuked and corrected and will therefore do anything to oppose it: rationalising, finding excuses, blaming others, even neglecting the Bible altogether.

This is especially so today. (Post-)Modern Man finds the declaration of absolute truth very offensive. They say it is 'intolerant' and 'unAustralian' to judge our culture by Biblical truth. We are no longer free to state our position on things like abortion or same-sex marriage on the basis of what the Bible says; we have to try and defend our position using human logic alone. When we quote what God says, people's 'ears are closed so that they cannot hear'.

The saddest part of all this is assessing our own predicament in the light of what happened to Israel as a result of their failure to heed Jeremiah's warning.

Let us be thankful that, if we know Jesus as our Saviour, we have a place to hide in the 'Rock of Ages' when the final Judgment comes, because He has already borne the punishment for us!

- Bruce Christian, Chaplain, Sutherland Shire Christian School



INDIA: Violence Escalates As Hindutva Takes Hold

HINDUTVA (Hindu nationalism) arose in the early 20th Century – first as a response to British colonial rule, and also in response to the threat of Muslim secession (which would leave millions of Hindus as threatened minorities under Muslim rule). Though India has been independent since 1947 and partition is now an established fact, ambitious politicians in 'democratic' India have fostered Hindutva for political gain. No longer needed to unify Indians against colonial rule, Hindutva today is used to unify Indians behind high caste Hindu elites. Nearly a century after Hindutva activists began their long march through India's institutions, high caste Hindutva protagonists have come to dominate politics, academia, education, media and security. Despite multitudes of Indians being secular and peaceable, Hindu nationalism has captured the imagination.

Hindutva has turned India into a tinderbox of sectarian tension. Violent persecution is on the rise. The monthly reports from Evangelical Fellowship of India make sobering reading, covering incidents raging from destruction of Christian property through to mob violence (pogroms), serious assault and murder. The following are a few samples from EFI's October report, all fully verified and acknowledged as 'the tip of the iceberg':

- **On 8 September a mob of over 50 Hindu radicals attacked a church in Bastar, Chhattisgarh**, beating the believers with clubs, sticks and fists after a village council banned all non-Hindu worship. Two Christian women were beaten unconscious. The Christians are being shunned and boycotted, making living in the village close to intolerable.

- **On 22 September Hindus in Kongud, Chhattisgarh, summoned two Christian brothers to the local temple** and demanded they renounce Christ. When they refused, the Hindus beat them, accused them of forceful conversions, vandalised their home and drove them from the village. The brothers complained to the police, who refused to register a case. Despite this, the Hindus are threatening further violence if the brothers do not withdraw their complaint.

- **During the first week of October Hindu leaders in Chattarpur, Madhya Pradesh**, ordered Hindus to boycott Chattarpur's 26 Christian families, depriving them of water and other basic services. The Christians are also receiving death threats.

- **On 8 October Pastor Arvinder Singh and his family were beaten almost to death** in Phagwara City, Punjab, by a Hindu mob which included their own neighbours. Pastor Arvinder was beaten unconscious with a metal bar, his pregnant wife was seriously bashed and their 11-month-old baby boy was thrown onto a pile of bricks, causing him serious internal injuries. Nearly a month later, no police report has been registered.

- **On 12 October the mother of a pastor in Dahod, Gujarat, was stoned by a Hindu mob.** Her injuries required hospitalisation.

- **On 13 October suspected Hindu nationalists broke into the home of Pastor Chamu Hasda Purty** of the Pentecostal Church in Sandih, Jharkhand, and shot him dead.

- **On 17 October Hindu nationalist youths attacked a 50-strong prayer meeting in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh, and beat up the pastor.** Police arrived and detained the Christians, who were only released after local Christian leaders intervened.

- **On 25 October Pastor Thomas, his wife and two children were among ten Christians arrested in Junardeo, Madhya Pradesh, on false charges of forced conversions.** The children were separated from their parents and from each other. While all the adults have since been bailed, the children remain in detention – John (14) 174 km away in Narsinghpur and Kezia (12) 471km away in Shahdol.

India's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party plans to introduce a private member's bill banning conversions to both the upper and lower houses of parliament during the winter sitting, expected to commence on 20 November. The bill will propose that those engaged in conversion be subject to a non-bailable warrant and liable to a ten-year prison term. The situation in India is about to get considerably worse.

– Elizabeth Kendal, *International Religious Liberty Analyst And Advocate, is Adjunct Research Fellow In The Centre For The Study Of Islam And Other Faiths At Melbourne School Of Theology.*

PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- God will be at work amongst Indians, opening their eyes to truths (eg that Christians are doing good works), quickening their minds to discern lies (that Christians are not the enemy), and awakening them to realities (particularly that sectarian bloodshed shames India and threatens the economy); may the people wake up to and reject the self-serving ploys of the Hindu elite.

- Western political leaders and diplomats will not avoid addressing the issue of Hindu nationalism, religious apartheid and escalating religious intolerance and communal violence. [India should stand condemned but currently nobody seems to have an interest in addressing this issue.]

- Christ will build and bless His Church, leading those who need wisdom, comforting those who are traumatised and afraid, providing believers with all their needs, and redeeming all suffering for His good purpose.

Victorians Value Religious Instruction

DAWN Penney, CEO of ACCESS Ministries, has presented the Hon Nick Wakeling, Shadow Minister for Education in the Victorian Parliament, with two black boxes containing the signatures of 9,154 Victorians expressing their support for Special Religious Instruction to continue to be taught in school hours. These will be tabled in Parliament as soon as possible. These names are in addition to the 3,005 Victorians whose petitions have already been tabled on this issue.

Dawn Penney said, 'It is disappointing to the many Victorians who want to see SRI continue to be offered in schools, to see this Government not only ignore their wishes, but continue to marginalise people of faith. It is now almost three months since the Minister for Education announced the surprise policy change against the teaching of SRI in state schools, and there are now only weeks left before the end of the school year, yet SRI providers, parents and schools are still in the dark about the detail, making planning for 2016 very difficult.

'The not-so-subtle message to people of faith, of any faith, from this Government is that your faith is irrelevant to the education of your children. This flies in the face of the Education Department's own research which identifies "having spiritual beliefs" as a key protective factor in building resilience in young people. We continue to call on the Minister to listen to his Department's own research and the wishes of parents, and reverse this hasty decision.'



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A 'Dumb Rock' Becomes A Precious Stone – In Christ

'If God created everything in this world, from animals to the galaxy, he must be a creative God,' thought Swens Wong, from Malaysia, as he read the book of *Genesis* for the first time. That was at a point in his life when he was struggling to build his bakery business and was barely surviving financially, so he prayed that God would make him creative.

As a child, Swens suffered from slight autism and was told by fortune tellers that he was 'nothing but a dumb piece of rock.'

Swens' wife, who had become a follower of Jesus, encouraged him to focus on improving his baking skills. She introduced the Christian faith to him and showed him God's saving grace and true hope in life.

'Though I was told I'm a dumb piece of rock with no future,' he says, 'God revealed to me that I was a precious stone hidden in Jesus Christ the rock.'

In time Swens began to gain inspiration on how he could stand out from the crowd. Years of relentless effort led him to discover the secret of making 'the perfect icing,' and so birthed his first-ever 3D-model cake, now known widely in Penang. He remains firm that none of his success would be possible without the inspirations and creativity that was given from God.

When the missionary ship *Logos Hope* visited Penang this year, Swens welcomed the ship's arrival, baking a giant cake – a replica of the ship, and worked on board as a volunteer baker.

Veteran Evangelist Billy Graham Celebrated His 97th Birthday On Saturday 7 November

HIS son Franklin posted on Facebook: 'his desire is still there to tell the world about God's love.' Franklin says that even though Dr Graham is not able to preach anymore, his mind is still clear and his desire is that all men and women everywhere would come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and trust Him and follow Him as their Lord.

A new exhibit at the North Carolina Museum Of History chronicles the life and ministry of Dr Graham. The exhibit, *North Carolina's Favourite Son: Billy Graham And His Remarkable Journey Of Faith*, opened this month and will continue until July next year.

– *Inspire Magazine, CBN Christian World News*

Take Time To Send Personal, Hand-Written Cards For Christmas – Abp Of York

THE Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, is calling on people to put pen to paper and send personal, handwritten cards to their friends and family this Christmas – as survey results show it's still the most popular form of festive message. The survey reveals 77% of people in the UK prefer a handwritten Christmas card over any other kind of communication. The Archbishop says something has been lost in the increasing reliance on social media to connect with people. He says a handwritten Christmas card, expressing a genuine, heartfelt sentiment, is priceless in helping them to feel connected, loved and belonging to a tangible community.

– *Inspire Magazine*

God Speaks With Power Through His Word

A FEW years ago in Spain a man named Antonio cried out to God, 'If You're real, speak to me!' He was in an elevator on his way to a hotel room. Highly educated at 27 years old, he had taught chemistry and maths at a Catholic school in Spain. The bellhop helped him to his room where he

found a Gideon Bible on his bed. When he asked why the Bible was on the bed, the bellhop told him it was for those who wanted 'to hear God speak to them' – and He surely spoke to Antonio.

The same day Antonio accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour, he preached the Gospel to his entire family. In one week, 35 of his family members became believers.

Along with Antonio, his family began to share the Good News with others. Within the span of a few weeks, 200 people were born again.

And that's not all. Antonio began preaching in the prisons of two districts in Spain, and the first year, 1,000 inmates gave their lives to Christ.

He gradually expanded his outreach to all of the prisons in Spain, and today there are more than 100 'home group' churches inside those prisons.

– *Breaking Christian News*

Lausanne Appoints New TWG Chair

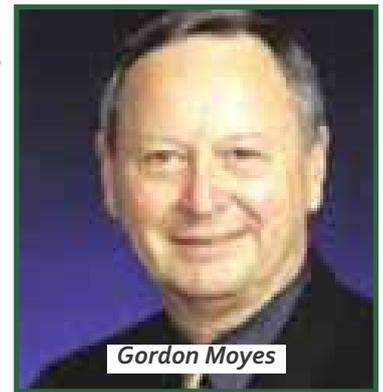
THE Lausanne Movement is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr David Platt as its new Theology Working Group Chair, succeeding Chris Wright and Tim Tennent.

In Memoriam – Gordon Moyes

AS part of the significance of the ministry of the late Rev Dr Gordon Moyes' ministry and leadership, Wesley Mission in Sydney has inaugurated a lecture to engage with and celebrate those matters and topics which were close to Dr Moyes' heart. Ordained as a minister in the Uniting Church in Australia, he served for 27 years as the Superintendent of Wesley Mission from 1979 - 2005.

The current Mission Superintendent, the Rev Dr Keith Garner, says they are delighted that the speaker for the first of these lectures is the Federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison. He says 'Mr Morrison is concerned about those matters which relate to those of us who seek to help others in the community.' Dr Garner says this lecture will bring together members of the not-for-profit sector, the wider community, parishioners and Wesley Mission staff to acknowledge Dr Moyes' remarkable legacy.

The lecture will be held at the Wesley Lyceum theatre, Sydney on Monday 16 November at 7pm. Admission is free.



Gordon Moyes

– Source: Wesley Mission

Threat To Freedom Of Speech

THE Tasmanian anti-discrimination commissioner, Robin Banks, has confirmed that a complaint against the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Hobart and the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference will proceed, likely leading to a prosecution. The complaint centres around a pamphlet that was distributed to parents of children in Catholic Schools that affirms the church's teachings on marriage.

Australian Christian Lobby managing director, Lyle Shelton, says the freedom to speak the truth about marriage is being curtailed. He says any reasonable Australian should now be asking the question: If this is what is already happening to people who support the timeless definition of marriage, what will come next if same-sex marriage is legislated?

Mr Shelton says ACL realises there may well be constitutional complexities in a Commonwealth override but it was in the interests of supporters of redefining

marriage to ensure there was a level playing field ahead of the plebiscite.

'The last thing Australia needs is an unfair and divisive American-style settlement to the same-sex marriage debate,' he says.

– Source: ACL

No Grounds For Redefining Marriage

REDEFINING marriage will lead to breaches of Australia's international human rights obligations to protect freedom of conscience, thought, religion and belief, and the rights of children to know and be raised by their parents, according to three federal parliamentarians who have issued a dissenting report of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights into North Queensland Liberal MP Warren Entsch's bill to legalise same-sex marriage.

Liberal Michael Sukkar and Nationals David Gillespie and Matthew Canavan have provided evidence that the relevant United Nations and European Union conventions provide no right to same-sex marriage.

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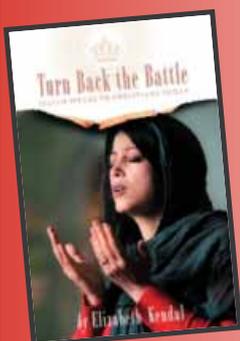
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Greens Need To Show Tolerance For Those With Whom They Disagree

FOR a party founded on violent and often illegal protest, it was hypocritical of the Greens to be seeking to ban peaceful and non-threatening protest outside clinics where pre-born babies are killed, according to the Australian Christian Lobby.

ACL's spokesperson on women's issues, Wendy Francis, has applauded LNP Senator Matt Canavan's Senate motion aimed at upholding free speech. The motion was defeated after it tied in the Senate at 29-29 when Labor joined the Greens in voting against it. 'The Greens are all for protest except when it is conducted peacefully against their ideological beliefs,' Ms Francis said. 'People protesting in the non-violent tradition of Ghandi and Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jnr are not to be tolerated by today's Greens, it seems.

'No one supports screaming at women entering abortion clinics but there is no evidence this is happening, and lawyers advise there are other provisions in the law to prohibit this without banning freedom of non-violent political protest. The Greens don't have to agree with those who silently protest and pray outside abortion clinics but they shouldn't seek to ban them just because they disagree with them.

Ms Francis said there were 300 Victorians alive today because their mothers chose not to abort them after talking with sidewalk counsellors over the past 20 years. 'Surely even the Greens could celebrate the gift of life and love granted to these children thanks to the peaceful witness of non-violent protestors,' she said.

Senator Canavan's motion followed a Greens' bill in the ACT banning prayer outside abortion clinics.

Micah Project Calls 'Time To Act' On Redress For Victims Of Child Sexual Abuse

WITH State and Commonwealth Governments considering the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse's recommendations on Redress and Civil Litigation, the Historical Abuse Network, a group of people who experienced sexual abuse in out-of-home care as children, have written two documents, one aimed at the Commonwealth, the second at the Queensland Government. Both documents consider five areas of importance which are essential for healing and justice for child abuse victims to occur.

Framework For Justice considers Truth and Healing Reconciliation, access to mainstream services, financial payment, specialist support services and policy/law reform. It relies on the Commonwealth Government's commitment to an independent national redress scheme which states, institutions and churches would contribute to. This is the first recommendation of the Report.

The second document, *Unfinished Business*, is directed at the Queensland State Government in the event that a national redress scheme is not established. *Unfinished Business* asks the Queensland Government to establish a Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. For a copy of the Report on Redress and Civil Litigation go to <https://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>

– Kerrod Trott, Media Liaison, Business Services, Micah Project



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The Ministry Of History

FOR the past 15 years Sue Pacey and Daryl Lightfoot in their various roles have exercised a shared ministry of archives and history extending across the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches in NSW. Today Sue is the Librarian/Archivist and Daryl is the Research Officer of the Ferguson Memorial Library and Archives of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. Daryl is also an elected regional Vice President of the World Methodist Historical Society.

One objective of this shared work has been to strengthen links between the Archives of these Churches and to explore the possibility of the respective Archives being located on a common site. An off-site project was later established on the former Methodist property at Epping in north west Sydney to implement a disaster recovery policy for the Presbyterian Archives, and also incorporating the Eunice Hunter Memorial Library, a resource centre for the study of Methodism in Australia and the Pacific established by Daryl in his WMHS role.

Regular seminars have been held at Epping and also in the Hunter Valley region over the past seven years, together with a 'road-show' project assisting congregations throughout NSW with special celebrations including dramatic presentations on aspects of local church history, as well as assisting congregations researching their histories.

The NSW Government's urban redevelopment program resulted in the recent sale of the former Epping Methodist property, necessitating the relocation of the Ferguson and Eunice Hunter Memorial Libraries project prior to mid-December. Extensive inquiries led to the former Methodist (now Uniting) church at Mayfield in Newcastle, where the late Eunice Hunter was an active member for many years. Sue and Daryl have for some years actively sought to further expand their outreach activities in the Hunter region, and recent developments are seen as an answer to prayer by many who have been associated with them in their work.

Now, with the full support of the Mayfield Uniting Church Council and financial assistance with relocation from the Epping Uniting Church Council, the programs conducted at Epping over the past seven years will operate from 1 February 2016 as part of an extensive outreach ministry exercised by the Mayfield Uniting congregation through the use of its property portfolio for missional purposes.

– Daryl Lightfoot

End To 'G' Time Zones Puts Aussie Kids At Risk – FamilyVoice

THE new TV Code Of Practice, effective from 1 December, has abolished all 'G' time zones on television.

'Many parents will be as shocked as I was to learn that the new Commercial Television Industry Code Of Practice no longer has any time zone that is suitable for all ages,' FamilyVoice Victoria Director Peter Stevens says. 'Zones that once contained only G-rated programs may now show PG programs as well, or instead. Programs and advertising during these zones, when large numbers of children are watching, can now include references to illegal drug use, nudity, stronger violence, and supernatural or mild horror themes. Moreover, M and MA time zones will now be moved earlier in the evening, with more gore, coarse language, sex scenes and adult themes. Where is the protection for children?'

Peter Stevens said commercial free-to-air television enjoys the privilege of broadcast licences which give automatic access to almost every

home in the country. 'Parents have a right to expect that at least some TV time zones will not contain any matter likely to be unsuitable for children to watch without supervision,' he said.

'FamilyVoice was among many groups and individuals who protested strongly when the code changes were first proposed, sending a documented submission to Free TV Australia last April. But we may as well have saved our breath,' Mr Stevens said. 'It was like asking the fox to carefully guard the hen house. The Broadcasting Act gives the commercial TV stations the right to determine their own code of practice, provided they consult with the public. The law doesn't say the public must agree. And now the Australian Communications and Media Authority has rubber stamped the new TV rules.'

Peter Stevens has contacted the office of Senator Mitch Fifield, the new communications minister, to convey parents' concerns. 'Parliament needs to amend the Broadcasting Act to better protect Australia's most precious resource – our children,' he said.

GOOD NEWS FROM ABROAD ...

Church Negotiates Release of 37 Assyrian Christians

IT has been reported that the Assyrian Church Of The East has secured the release of 37 hostages held by Islamic State. The Church is believed to have paid up to £33,000 for each hostage, however this has not been confirmed. The 37 hostages, 27 women and 10 men, are all elderly and in good health. They were released from a group of Christian hostages, believed to be around 253 in total, who were originally abducted from the northeastern Syrian Province of Al-Hasakah in February.



The release comes after 22 elderly Assyrian men and women were released in August for an undisclosed fee. Islamic State said on its Facebook page that it has now released 88 of the group it kidnapped from Al-Hasakah in February. A video released by the militant group appeared to show them murder approximately three of the hostages last month.

Given the varying estimates on how many Assyrian Christians were originally kidnapped, it is uncertain how many remain in IS captivity. **- Aaron James, premier@premierchristianmedia.co.uk**

Christ Satisfies The Deepest Needs Of A Moslem Seeker

AFTER seeing religious people who say religious things in public but live very different private lives, a young Iranian Muslim began looking for answers. At first he turned to heavy rock music, drugs and alcohol, but these left him feeling 'empty.' Then he tried Zoroastrianism, Iran's historic religion, and Buddhism, but he says these too did not satisfy. 'I wanted to fill the gap in my heart, and had a longing for a spiritual reality that could change me from the inside out.'

As a drummer, Sadegh loved to watch Arab music on TV, where he came across the Christian station SAT-7. Around this time, he received an e-mail message from a friend in England that included a *Gospel Of John*, and as he read it he thought 'surely Jesus was more than a prophet if He raised the dead and healed people.' And when he came to John 3.16 ('God so loved the world') he thought 'I am part of this world, so God loves me. He loved me so much that He sent His Son to save me.' He describes how he felt 'covered with love' as he spent hours on the floor crying with joy. 'It was like something very deep coming out of my heart - like a root of selfishness, pride, hatred,' he recalls. Sadegh married an English girl and now lives in the UK where he volunteers, helping asylum seekers. **- SAT-7 News**

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You're Invited To ...

Combined Church Libraries' Honouring Of Those Who Served

THE Baptist Historical Society, the Eunice Hunter Memorial Library, the PWA Heritage Committee and the Ferguson Memorial Library are holding a seminar, *We Will Remember Them*, commemorating the Armistice of World War 1. It will be held at NSW Presbyterian Church Offices, corner of Chalmers and Belvoir Streets, Surry Hills (Sydney), from 10am to 4pm on 21 November. The cost for the day is \$15, which includes lunch. Bookings are essential and can be made through calling (02) 9690 9374 or emailing archives@pcnsw.org.au

Extraordinary God; Extraordinary Journey

CMA Events Victoria invites Christian leaders, managers and board members in Victoria to a Breakfast Meeting on 19 November at 7am for a 7.15am start, concluding at 8.45am, at the Athenaeum Club, 87 Collins St, Melbourne.

Speaker at the meeting is Daniel Bullock, who just over 20 years ago had a transforming encounter with Jesus which was to change the course and direction of his life, taking him on a leadership journey into situations and places he could have never have predicted.

From agnostic tradesman to Bible College student, ordained pastoral ministry to his current position as Victorian State leader of the Baptist denomination, Daniel has experienced the joys and challenges of leading in a variety of contexts. Daniel will share some of his key leadership lessons learned along the way and how his extraordinary God has taken him on an extraordinary journey. For further details and to register, go to:

www.cma.net.au/victoria

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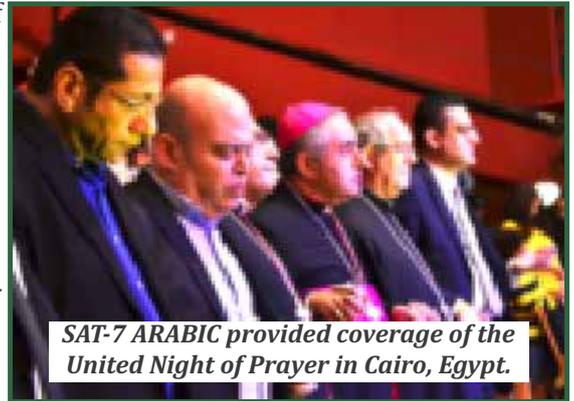
PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR SAT-7 EGYPT

THERE are no new developments for SAT-7 Egypt after the visit of the Censorship Police to the studios on 10 October. Police have kept custody of the confiscated equipment and SAT-7 Egypt's normal activities remain severely disrupted. There are no live shows running and very few programs are being recorded.

The Censorship Department removed some of the offices' technical hardware, including a router, cameras and all the computers used for editing. SAT-7 Egypt Director Farid Samir was temporarily detained, then released, but potentially still faces charges associated with licensing. The Public Prosecutor has not yet informed SAT-7 if the case will go to court or be dismissed. There are lawyers working with SAT-7 that are dedicated to this case.

The audience in Egypt have continued to send messages of support via social media. To show their solidarity, many viewers have changed their Facebook profile pictures to the SAT-7 logo. The Egypt staff have been dwelling on the book of *Acts*. In chapter four, Peter and John were released after being arrested for proclaiming Jesus' resurrection. They cried out to the Lord in their frustration and fear, and God filled them with the Holy Spirit. The Egypt team are faithfully praying for guidance. Please continue to remember them in your prayers that they would remain encouraged and know His peace in their hearts.

Farid Samir says, 'God is uniting the church for His purpose. The Holy Spirit closes old doors and opens new ones. Out of this, something good will come. We are standing on the Rock – Jesus.' – SAT-7



IRAN – House Church Members Detained

PLEASE pray for a group of at least 14 Christians who were arrested in Tehran Province earlier this month. Most of the group, who were all raised as Muslims, were detained when security agents raided a house church in Varamin, south-east of the Iranian capital, on 1 November. One Christian connected with the same church was arrested at his home in Tehran the following day. Many of those arrested used to be part of Emmanuel Protestant Church in Tehran. This church was forced to stop its Farsi-language services in 2012, and several house churches were formed as a result. Family and friends of the detainees have not been told where they are being held, which is causing them concern.

Please pray for the immediate release of our imprisoned brothers and sisters in Iran. Pray that God's peace and joy will sustain and strengthen them – and their families. Pray that all Christians who are imprisoned for their faith in Iran will be a powerful witness to God's grace and His great love to their fellow inmates and prison guards. Continue to pray that President Hassan Rouhani will keep his pre-electoral pledge to uphold religious rights for all, including Christians.

– *Middle East Concern via Release International*

PAKISTAN: Women Face Violent Persecution

CHRISTIANS in the Middle East face extreme danger, but another group is even more vulnerable. Women of minority religions in Pakistan are often

kidnapped and brutally forced into marriage and conversion to Islam.

– *Forgotten Missionaries International*

CHINA: Repression And Censorship

CHINA'S President Xi Jinping has called for the Chinese Communist Party to 'attain the goal of Communism'. Following Chairman Mao's policies, Xi wants all elements of society – particularly the arts and religion – to serve the CCP. Criticism of CCP policy is becoming increasingly dangerous. On 3 November Zhejiang-based Christian writer Zan Aizong was detained temporarily, questioned, intimidated and threatened. He had been blogging on the program of removal of crosses from roofs of churches in Zhejiang. Meanwhile, Zhang Kai, the Christian attorney who was providing legal advice to churches in Zhejiang, remains 'disappeared', having been incarcerated in a secret 'black jail'. On 4 November one of the human rights activists arrested in the August crackdown died in captivity. Please pray for China and for the Chinese Church.

– *Elizabeth Kendal*

MYANMAR: Election Signals Changing Tide

THE election in Myanmar on 8 November could redirect the country from junta rule to democracy. Votes are still coming in, but initial results show a win for the National League for Democracy. Once all the votes are counted, if the NLD does end up winning Parliament, 'The people believe that that will mean more freedom, less oppression,' says Dyann Romeijn, of Vision Beyond Borders. – *MNN*

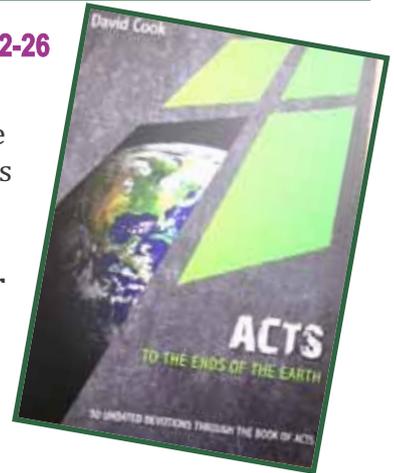
Facing A Task Unfinished

... 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. We must remember that ‘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?

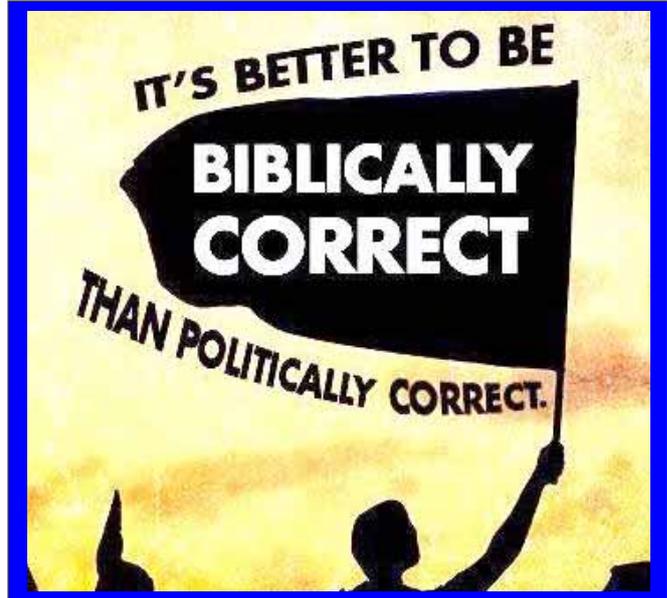
In what ways does Judas serve as a warning to you? See v 17.

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Quotable Quote:



Seen On Facebook:



Knowing Jim Packer ...

DR J.I. Packer is a peoples' theologian, fondly remembered for his many books by which he brings the great doctrines of the Christian faith to us in a way which makes them easily understood, most notably in his book *Knowing God*. At the conclusion of Crossway Books' recently released video interview with him, Dr Packer is asked how he would like to be remembered. This is his very moving response:

'As I look back on the life that I have lived, I would like to be remembered as a voice, a voice that focused on:

- The authority of the Bible.
- The glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The wonder of His substitutionary sacrifice and atonement for our sins.

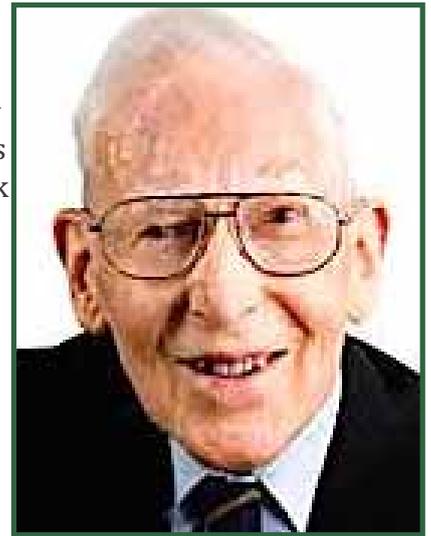
'I would like to be remembered as a voice calling Christian people to holiness and challenging lapses in Christian moral standards.

'I would like to be remembered as someone who was always courteous in controversy, but without compromise.

'I ask you to thank God with me for the way that He has led me and I wish, hope, pray that you will enjoy the same clear leading from Him and the same help in doing the tasks that He sets you that I have enjoyed.

'And if your joy matches my joy as we continue in our Christian lives, well, you will be blessed indeed.'

<http://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/justintaylor/2015/11/03/j-i-packer-in-his-own-words-a-20-minute-documentary-on-his-early-life-theological-influences-and-enduring-legacy/>



A SHORT BOOK ABOUT JESUS, THE MAN FROM HEAVEN, Paul Barnett, Aquila Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-925041-69-9.

PAUL Barnett assesses the historical evidence for the existence of Jesus; the truthfulness of the Gospel accounts; and the plausibility of the historical case that can be made for the rise of Christianity as a result of Jesus' ministry.

Dr Bill Saliar says it all in his *Foreword* really: **'Paul writes as a masterly historian.** He assesses the historical evidence for the existence of Jesus, the truthfulness of the Gospel accounts and shows the plausibility of the historical case that can be made for the rise of Christianity as a result of Jesus' ministry.

'Paul writes as a faithful theologian. He takes us through the Gospels and explores their testi-

mony to the extraordinary person of Jesus Christ. **'Paul writes as an insightful pastor.** He takes time to explore the personal implications, comforts, challenges of the story of Jesus as it unfolds.

'This a brilliant book ... It will feed your head and heart and help you to see afresh the transcendent wonder of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

Further to this, I might add that Dr Barnett provides us with an eminently readable and easily understood 'short book about Jesus'. This is not only because of the (relatively) simple vocabulary and well thought out argument but also because of the technically helpful layout of the text with copious use of subheadings, appropriate bolding and italicising of the type and helpful discussion questions at the end of each chapter – small but not unimportant matters. – Bob Thomas

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BOOKS WORTH READING

MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD, The Philanthropy Of John And Ann Goodlet, Paul F Cooper, Eider Books, 2015. ISBN: 978-0-9943580-0-4.

Available from the author at: <https://eiderbooks.wordpress.com/>.

THE Scriptures urge God's people to '... do good to everyone, and especially to those of the household of faith (Gal 6.9) and commends the visiting of orphans and widows in their affliction as marks of true religion (Jas 1.27). These texts find life in John Hay Goodlet (1835-1914) and his two wives, Anne, then Elizabeth. John came from a poor Scottish family, arrived in Melbourne aged 17 and then moved to Sydney where he soon established a building supplies business.

The name 'Goodlet and Smith' became associated with timber, clay and concrete products. Goodlet built a prosperous business that survived the depression of the 1890s and which made him a very wealthy man. He was a public figure who was on many public and private boards (eg, AMP), was a colonel in the local militia and was described as 'more valuable than gold' by the influential Sir Henry Parkes.

John Hay Goodlet, along with Anne and Elizabeth, was also a Christian. That affected the way he made his wealth and what he did with it.

Previous studies of the Goodlets have been brief and partial (eg the 1972 article in *The Australian Dictionary Of Biography*). In *More Than Gold* Paul Cooper provides a study of the Goodlet philanthropy. He estimates that the Goodlets gave away about \$17.12 million in 2011 values. However, this book's interest is more in the scope, nature and, especially, the motives of the Goodlet's giving of themselves.

Most of this book is a detailed description and discussion of the scope and nature of the Goodlet's philanthropy. Cooper uses a model of giving for relief, improvement, civic engagement, reform and spiritual engagement to track involvement that took in diverse causes. These included the Thirlmere Home for Consumptives, the YMCA, secondary and tertiary education, Christian missions in India and the (then) New Hebrides, temperance causes, Sydney Female Refuge Society and much more. Cooper shows how John, Anne and then Elizabeth each had distinctive patterns to their involvement, but worked in remarkable partnerships that persisted through John's two marriages. This was more than a detached giving of money, for John, Anne and Elizabeth were each involved in a hands-on fashion in their various projects.

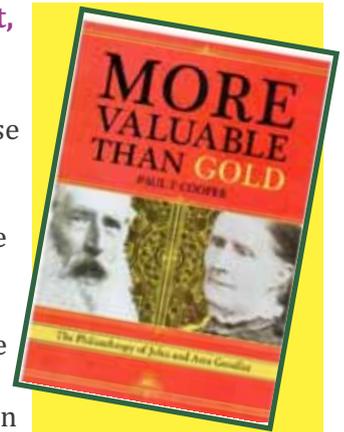
What motivated the Goodlets? The chapter on 'spiritual engagement' gives a clue. Goodlet and his wives were active Christians. John settled in Ashfield Presbyterian Church in about 1876. He was an active and generous member of that church and through it, had extensive involvement with wider platforms in the Presbyterian Church of NSW. The theologically conservative Rev Robert McGowan said of John that '... he was an earnest Christian ... He believed that he was saved by faith in Christ, and he could never forget that he was a redeemed sinner. The hymns he liked best were those which exalted the Saviour and made little of man (p260).' While an 'earnest Christian', Goodlet had little interest and was able to work co-operatively across a wide spectrum of Protestant perspectives. Here was the faith alone that saves, but a faith that was never alone and a faith that had a good sense of which matters were of first importance.

As might be expected from such generous people, the Goodlet giving raised their profile and drew public commendations. John, Anne and Elizabeth became 'must have' members of many boards and committees. However, Cooper argues persuasively that personal aggrandisement and social control were not their chief motives.

The book's last words give Cooper's conclusion as to motives: 'Their motivation was their love of God and the great needs they saw within the society where they lived (p268).'

The Goodlet story is worth telling. Paul Cooper tells it well. It is a story worth reading.

– David Burke



'Their motivation was their love of God and the great needs they saw within the society where they lived.'