

## PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS IN PAKISTAN

IN the wake of the bombing of Christians in Lahore, Middle East Reformed Fellowship asks us to pray for Lahore at this time, especially for students and staff of the Calvin Academies and the Lahore Council Of Bible Believing Churches. Lahore Council Of Bible Believing Churches, supported by MERF and Westminster Biblical Missions, runs four Christian schools: Calvin High School 1,2,3 and 4, with over 2,000 pupils in total.



## BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISM SEMINAR IN SYDNEY

EVANGELIST Will Graham, together with a number of other international and Australian evangelists and Christian leaders, are planning a one-day evangelism seminar in Sydney on 16 May 2016.

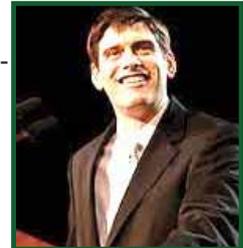
Will is a frequent visitor to Australia and has preached at a number of rallies in regional Australia over the last 10 years. His father Franklin Graham and grandfather Dr Billy Graham have preached in this country since 1959.

Will Graham says, 'Our burden is to see Australia turn to Christ. The Bible tells us, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest" (Matthew 9.37,38, NKJV).

'There is an urgency for the Gospel and we would love to encourage as many Australians as possible to equip themselves and respond to God's calling to go out and "do the work of an evangelist", as the Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy in 2 Timothy 4.5.

The one-day seminar includes complimentary registration in the School Of Evangelism online course which participants may complete at their own pace over a period of 180 days.

Information on the seminar contents can be seen at [billygraham.org.au/soe](http://billygraham.org.au/soe)



## MEGAVOICE – The Voice That Goes Out Into All The Earth

TOM Treseder, Director of MegaVoice, advises that to date, over 1.2 million MegaVoice Bibles and Scriptures have been sent out into over 160 countries and territories. There are now 36 MegaVoice Media Centres around the globe.

Tom says that people can access through the MegaVoice Audio Resource Centre, via the cloud, anywhere at any time over 16,000 Bibles, Scriptures and life-enriching messages in over 6,400 languages and dialects.

The solar-powered MegaVoice Envoy's now hold up to 1,400 hours of speech and music for as little (in quantity) as \$25 each. Being designed small and compact and able to be loaded anywhere in the world, they are going into the most hostile places on Earth and vicious and evil minded people are being transformed by Jesus.



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## The Gospel; The Whole Gospel; Nothing But The Gospel

**THERE is a spiritual vacuum in the world today.** An Australian family who recently moved to Scotland told me how astounded they were at the effects of militant secularism in our land. That shook me a bit as Australia is hardly a bastion of Christianity! We have fallen a long way, very quickly. In Scotland we used to be known as the people of the Book, but as we have largely departed from our Christian roots, it has left a spiritual hole that will not be filled by materialism, secular humanism or any other 'ism'. There is a famine of hearing the Word of the Lord – a famine for which the Church is largely responsible. We have turned away from the Word of the Lord and served up our own spiritual equivalent of junk food. In starving ourselves we have also starved others. On the eve of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation it is time for the Church to experience another reformation and renewal.

**The centre of the Christian faith is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.** That is why half of each *Gospel* is taken up with these last few days of His life. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the astonishing fact that Jesus is risen from the dead. The Anglican Michael Green summarises the importance of this: 'The resurrection is the place to begin if you are looking for a satisfying faith on which to base your life. Do not waste a lot of time investigating every religion under the sun ... examine the evidence for Jesus instead. If He is risen you need look no further.'

**Once you grasp the resurrection, you grasp the significance of the cross.** As Paul told the Italians – He was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection. Once you grasp who Jesus is, then you can understand why He died (as the atoning sacrifice for our sins) and how His resurrection is the guarantee of ours.

**The message of Christianity is forgiveness, rebirth and eternal life.** 'Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies: and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?' (John 11.25,26) The Easter message for the world today is that Christ is dead for you, and Christ is risen for you. The forgiveness, renewal and love that come through the cross is also the message for Paris, for Brussels, for Lahore today.

**This is a great message to preach.** We don't need to add to it. And we don't need to take away from it. I have been preaching this message and its implications for over 30 years and we are now beginning to see the fruit. We have seen the church grow from a handful to more than 250. We have seen new churches planted and we are planning to start more.

**We are not the only ones.** There are other churches of different denominations like this in various countries around the world today. In reliance on the Holy Spirit they proclaim Jesus through His Word; like their Lord they serve the poor, care for the sick and welcome the stranger. They remain faithful to the Bible. And they are growing. If God could raise Jesus from the dead, He can surely revive and renew the Church today!

– Rev David Robertson, Moderator of the Free Church Of Scotland,  
Minister of St Peter's Church, Dundee  
(where Robert Murray McCheyne ministered).  
He writes a lively blog under the title **The Wee Flea.**

## MATTERS FOR PRAYER:

### IVORY COAST: Al-Qaeda Strikes Christian West Africa

**AT 1 pm on Sunday 13 March heavily-armed masked gunmen from Al Qaeda** in the Islamic Maghreb's al-Murabitoon struck Grand-Bassam, a beach resort town in south-eastern Ivory Coast, killing 14 civilians and two soldiers. Only 40km south-east of IC's commercial capital, Abidjan, world heritage listed Grand Bassam served as the French colonial capital between 1893 and 1896. AQIM's al-Murabitoon is the same group that targeted the Splendid Hotel in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, over 15,16 January, killing 29 civilians, including seven Christian aid workers. In November 2015 it attacked the Radisson Blue in Bamako, the capital of Mali, killing 22 civilians. AQIM is the same group that is holding Australian missionary Dr Ken Elliot (aged 81), seized in northern Burkina Faso, and Swiss missionary Beatrice Stockly, seized in Timbuktu, northern Mali. Jocelyn Elliot has since been released.

**AQIM's strike in Grand Bassam was a strike deep into 'Christian' West Africa.** In Grand Bassam the terrorists roamed the beach shooting beach-goers and opened fire on the guests at the L'Etoile du Sud Hotel to shouts of 'Allahu Akbar' (Allah is Greater). The nearby Sacred Heart Cathedral opened its doors to offer shelter – first to dozens of people fleeing from the beach, then to some 50 hostages liberated by police from the L'Etoile du Sud. According to local media, Ivorian security forces were on high alert, having been advised 24 hours earlier that a terrorist attack was imminent. Southern Ivory Coast is predominantly Christian. If AQIM is looking for soft targets full of 'infidels' (local and foreign), the many churches, international schools, business centres and tourist resorts of southern Ivory Coast would prove hard to resist. Pray for security in Ivory Coast.

### YEMEN: Islamic State Kills Nuns, Kidnaps Priest

**YEMEN was two states before 1990:** North Yemen (facing the Red Sea) and South Yemen (facing the Gulf of Aden). North Yemen was 60% Shia and existed as a Shia Imamate for 1,000 years until 1962 when nominal Shia, Arab socialist Ali Abdullah Saleh seized power in a military coup. South Yemen, however, was 99% Sunni with a significant Marxist element. When the two states united in May 1990, cracks immediately appeared. Not only were the Shi'ites now a 30 % minority, but with power based in Sanaa in the north, the southerners, feeling marginalised, started agitating for secession. When civil war erupted in 1994, President Saleh employed jihadists – veterans of the Afghan War – to fight his enemies. When a Shi'ite rebellion erupted in 2004, it quickly developed into a regional sectarian proxy war, with Iran backing the Shi'ites and the Arabs (led by Saudi Arabia) backing the Sunnis. Though President Saleh was removed in the 'Arab Spring', no political solution has been found to Yemen's problems. The state remains blighted by sectarian war, with foreign powers backing opposing sides, while al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and Islamic State compete for territory and recruits. It is doubtful the remnant (mostly expatriate) Church will survive.

**On 4 March IS jihadists stormed a retirement home run by Mother Teresa's Missionaries Of Charity** in the highly strategic southern port city of Aden. The terrorists went from room to room handcuffing elderly residents who were then taken outside and shot. When the terrorists came across Father Tom Uzhunnalil (56), an Indian Salesian priest, praying in the chapel, they locked him in. Fr Tom had been living at the charity home since September when AQAP sacked and burned his Aden parish. Along with three staff and at least eight elderly residents, four nuns were killed in the attack. Another nun managed to survive by hiding in a fridge; she is now on her way home to India.

**All these missionaries had resisted calls to leave Yemen,** opting to stay and continue serving those in their care. After the slaughter, the jihadists returned to the chapel, handcuffed Fr Tom and took him away. His whereabouts remain unknown.

– Elizabeth Kendal, international religious liberty analyst and advocate, Adjunct Research Fellow in the Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths at the Melbourne School of Theology.

#### PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- The Lord would intervene to deliver the foreign missionaries recently taken into captivity: Dr Ken Elliot and Beatrice Stockly (both captives of AQIM in northern Mali) and Fr Tom Uzhunnalil (a captive of IS in Yemen); may the captives be safe and filled with the peace of God.
- 'Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings' (Psalm 17.8 ESV). 'And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4.7 ESV).
- The Lord would grant divine wisdom and insight to local civic and church leaders in troubled and insecure regions, thinking particularly of war-ravaged Yemen and vulnerable Ivory Coast. May the local people be alert (Acts 23.12-24); may the Church be sensitive to the Spirit's leading (Acts 16.6-10) and may the schemes of the wicked come to nothing (Psalm 146.9).

### 'Safe Schools' Victory – But Who Will Rewrite The Flawed Program?

Ros Phillips, research officer for FamilyVoice Australia, has warmly welcomed Education Minister Birmingham's admission that the controversial *Safe Schools* program is flawed, saying it is a victory for Australian parents. But she says much will depend on who is chosen to fix the problem. 'Will it be academics with the same ideology as the bullies who trashed Senator Bernardi's office?' she asked.

**Senator Birmingham said that the program will no longer be allowed in primary schools;** that parental consent will be required for children to participate in program lessons and activities; that some parts of the program will be rewritten; that sexual and gender diversity advocacy and activism should not be part of the program.

**'My heartfelt thanks go to the thousands of parents who have signed our open letter to the PM** – presented to him on 17 February – as well as those who have signed other petitions alerting MPs to the serious issues underlying the deceptively-named *Safe Schools* program,' Ros Phillips said. 'As I pointed out earlier, Roz Ward (one of the Safe Schools Coalition founders) admitted to students and teachers at the official program launch in June 2014 that the program is 'not about stopping bullying'. It's not about respecting everyone. It's about promoting homosexuality and transgenderism.'

**Ros Phillips said parents will not be satisfied until** it is clear that the final form of the program does indeed fulfil the minister's stated requirements. 'Who will do the editing and rewriting?' she asked. 'How can we be sure they will not be drawn from the same openly Marxist academics who wrote the original version? How can we be sure that third party links and branding will not quietly reappear down the track after the current furore has died down?'

**Ros Phillips said the trashing of Senator Bernardi's office** by violent, abusive student bullies on 18 March shows that *Safe Schools* is not about preventing bullying. 'Any anti-bullying program needs to make schools safe for all students, not just those who identify as LGBTIQ,' she said. The current *Safe Schools* program should be scrapped.'



Cory Bernardi's office: trashed by violent bullies who support the controversial 'Safe Schools' program

### US House Of Reps Declares ISIS Committing Genocide Against Christians, Other Minorities

**THE US House Of Representatives approved a resolution on 15 March** that declares the Islamic State is committing genocide against Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East – putting even more pressure on the Obama administration to do the same ahead of a deadline later in the week.

**The resolution passed the House with a unanimous vote of 383-0.** It came to a vote just days after the release of a graphic new report by the Knights Of Columbus and In Defense Of Christians on ISIS' atrocities. The report made the case that the terror campaign against Christians and other minorities in Syria, Iraq and other parts of the Middle East is, in fact, genocide.

**'When ISIS systematically targets Christians, Yezidis, and other ethnic and religious minorities** for extermination, this is not only a grave injustice – it is a threat to civilization itself,' Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Neb, said in a statement. 'We must call the violence by its proper name: genocide.' The resolution was voted on ahead of a congressionally mandated 17 March deadline for Secretary Of State John Kerry and the White House to make a decision on whether to make such a declaration. The measure is an effort to force the administration's hand on the issue, as the administration has so far declined to take an official position.

– Fox News

• **The US Secretary Of State, John Kerry,** has since said that Islamic State's treatment of Christians and other minorities is a genocide. In a televised address, John Kerry has since said that the Islamist group was committing acts of genocide against believers as well as Shia Muslims and Yazidis, an ethno-religious group.

## 'All's Well That Ends Well' For One Syrian Refugee And His Children

A SYRIAN refugee, who can't be named for security reasons, recently arrived in Greece asked a ministry team worker if he was a Christian or a Muslim. Guardedly, the worker asked him why he wanted to know, and as tears streamed from his eyes, the refugee said, 'I need someone to talk with me about Jesus.' The refugee told the Christian Aid Mission team they had been taught not to trust the Christians, but in Greece he had found a love he had never seen before. 'Please teach me,' he said.

**He wept as they led him to Jesus as Lord and Saviour, then he said,** 'Now, you have to teach my children. They are the future. They have to be Christians. Our time is short. Please teach them.' Sunday school teachers followed-up to teach and pray with his children.

**Ministry team members help provide food, clothing and blankets to such new arrivals,** and they distribute groceries weekly to more than 100 families. So far this year more than 126,000 refugees have entered Greece, and last year more than 500,000 arrived on the island of Lesbos alone, according to the BBC.

– Christian Aid Mission

### British PM David Cameron Upholds Christian Faith

**Easter is a time to reflect on the part that Christianity plays in our national lives,** says British Prime Minister David Cameron. He told *Premier News* 'The Church is not a collection of beautiful, old buildings. It's a living, active force, doing great works.'

**Mr Cameron said Easter also is a period during which Christians celebrate that ultimate triumph** of life over death in the resurrection of Jesus.

**He said talking about faith isolates those who have no faith.** Others argue that celebrating Easter somehow marginalises other religions.

**But he said he was an unapologetic supporter of the role of faith in the nation,** and the values of Easter and the Christian religion – compassion, forgiveness, kindness, hard work and responsibility – 'are values that we can all celebrate and share.'

– Premier News

### UK – Shops To Stay Closed On Sunday

THE Christian Institute in the UK has welcomed the House of Commons refusal to open the door for extended Sunday shopping hours in England and Wales. The House of Commons voted 317 to 286 to drop proposals in the *Enterprise Bill* to give local councils the power to extend shopping hours on Sundays. Christian Institute director Colin Hart says this is an encouraging victory for the millions of people who would have been under more pressure to work on Sundays, harming family life and further interfering with Sunday as a day of rest. The proposed law had offered no real protections for Christians who do not wish to work on a Sunday or people who simply want to keep Sunday as a family day. The British Government has given a clear message that people believe there is more to life than endless opportunities to shop. – *Breaking Christian News*

### Easter Biblethon In Ireland

A DIOCESE of the Church of Ireland conducted a marathon four-day public reading of the entire Bible as part of its Year of Opportunity – a designation it has given to 2016 during which parishes will focus on mission, generosity and children.

The marathon began on Palm Sunday with Bishop

Ken Good reading from Genesis chapters 1 to 7.

Over the course of the four days, some 192 people read for 30 minutes at a time as the project worked its way from Genesis to Revelation. The purpose of the Bible reading marathon was to encourage and welcome as many people as possible from across the whole community to share in God's Word.

– *Anglican News*

### International Day Of Prayer For The Unreached

PEOPLE who have never heard the name of Christ will be the focus of an up-coming event on Pentecost Sunday, 15 May. The *International Day for the Unreached*, a new prayer and evangelism effort organised by the *Alliance For The Unreached*, hopes to make people aware of the need. The Alliance is calling on churches, radio stations, media and individual believers to be the voice of advocacy for people who have yet to hear the Gospel. Organisers estimate that there are up to 2.9 billion people worldwide who are unreached with the Christian Gospel. They are urging Christians everywhere to be not only praying, but also looking at their own neighbourhoods and their own sphere of influence to see how they can partner and participate in reaching the unreached. – *MNN*

## NEW LIFE ADVERTISING

### *Songs Of Praise:*

#### **'A Perfect Autumn Outing'**

**WHAT** better way to enjoy a pleasant, Autumn Sunday afternoon, than to gather up your family and friends and come to *Autumn Songs Of Praise* at 1.30pm on Sunday, 17 April at Diamond Valley Baptist Auditorium, 309 Diamond Creek Rd Plenty? (Melway 11 D7).

**There is NO CHARGE** and a delicious complimentary Afternoon Tea is provided following the program. We will sing favourite hymns and songs, and several talented Guest Items will entertain you.

**Our special guests will include Superb Tenor – Michael Try** who has been singing with various groups around Melbourne for the last 25 years including the Ashton-Smith Singers and an eight year stint with the Opera Australia Chorus.

**Whimpey Brass Trio.** the girls and their father David, who plays a number of brass instruments, are pleased to play in the SOP Ensemble.

**Stephanie Huglin** Stephanie enjoys singing for the family and friends and has a love of performance, drama and art. She is currently studying singing under John Landers.

**Dale Philip Dale** has been assisting with *Songs Of Praise* in all 41 programs held to date! He has used his rich Baritone voice to bring the Gospel Message on each occasion .



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## 'BRING THEM IN'

### M Cubed – Ministry To Muslims In Melbourne (& Elsewhere)

**YOU are invited to a Muslim-Christian debate.** Dr Bernie Power and Sheikh Soner Coruhlu will debate the important topic *Has The Qur'an Been Changed?* This topic was chosen because Muslims often claim that the *Bible* has been changed and the *Qur'an* is the only religious text which has never undergone any alteration. This second statement will be challenged.

**The debate will take place on Thursday 21 April at 7.30 pm** (9.30 pm finish) at the Melbourne City Conference Centre, 333 Swanston St, which is beside Melbourne Central and opposite the State Library. Both speakers will present their cases, then respond to each other, followed by public Q&A. Tickets are available on the night at \$10 for adults, or \$5 for students/concession. However if you book online, there is a 25% discount i.e. \$8 for adults and \$4 for students/concession. Please come and join for a respectful night of assessing the textual and historical evidence for the reliability of the *Qur'an*. Invite your Muslim, Christian and atheist friends. If you have any enquiries, please call Bernie on 0449 768 932.

**M Cubed outreaches on Bourke St and Swanston Sts continue every Saturday.** The City Council has apparently decided not to act on its order that we remove our tables after we proved to them that we had applied for a permit at the very beginning. Every week our team members have significant spiritual conversations with Muslims and others, sharing with them the words of life. If you would like to join us, please contact Richard on 0407 061 574.



– Bernie Powers

### Violence Divides Muslims, Drives Many To Christ

**AS more Muslims tire of hearing how extremists use their religion to justify violence,** Muslim families are tuning in to television stations that bring them closer to a saving knowledge of Christ. The age-old divide between Sunni and Shiite Muslims continues to cause strife in the Middle East and Northern Africa, but the rhetoric of hatred is being supplanted in many homes by SAT-7 Christian satellite stations.

**'It's surprising just how much damage the Muslim world has done to itself due to this schism** between Sunni and Shiites,' says SAT-7's Director, Terence Ascott. 'It raises serious questions. People were really losing trust in organized religion. In a 2011 survey, completed before the fall of Mosul and the most deadly attacks by ISIS, 32% of Iraqis had already lost faith in Islam,' says Ascott.

**The broadcasting channels produced by SAT-7 go out to the areas served mainly by Islamic-friendly stations.** Only God knows how Christian satellite TV affects the viewers who are growing weary of the constant battles by different Muslim groups.

– Cliff Jeffery, MNN

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## HERE'S HELP

### Here's Help For Christian Ministries And Churches Dealing With 'Anti-Faith' Media

A WORKSHOP will be held in Sydney to assist Christian ministries, churches and schools to deal with an Australian media environment that is becoming increasingly hostile to faith-based organisations. Conducted by Lyall Mercer, managing director of Mercer PR, the workshop will help organisations handle negative media issues, protect their reputation, and use the mainstream media to better project their positive messages.

**Mercer, whose clients include national ministries**, one of the world's largest churches and many leading Australian companies and industry groups, is a leading faith-based public relations practitioner, and says too many Christian ministries avoid media engagement. 'Avoidance is not the right strategy, because in this digital and social media age you cannot hide,' Lyell Merver says. 'Organisations need to understand how the media thinks and acts, and use this to their advantage. The current mainstream and social media culture tries to deny churches and faith-based organisations the right to speak about their values and faith.'

**An optional afternoon media coaching session is on offer**, presented by Mercer PR consultant Ben Dobson, who has over 25 years television and radio journalism experience. 'Many organisations are not confident doing interviews, and this session will train spokespeople how to handle all types of media enquiries and interview situations,' Dobson explained.

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**The workshop offers a choice of two locations:** Kogarah Golf Club on 10 May and The Hills Lodge Hotel at Castle Hill on 11 May. Topics include *Understanding The Way Media Thinks And Acts – And Why Christianity Is The Perfect Target*, *Managing Issues And Bad Publicity – Turning Negatives Into Positives*, and *One Dumb Comment Away From Disaster – How Not To Cross That Line*. (See ad p.9) For more details go to: [www.dealingwithmedia.com](http://www.dealingwithmedia.com)

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## 'BLESSED ARE THOSE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE'

### Prayer Asked For Bible Translation In The Middle East

**MILITANTS** have killed four national translators and injured several others in a raid on a translation office in the Middle East and they destroyed all the equipment in the office including the Print On Demand equipment. The invaders burned all the books and other translation materials in the office.

Two workers died of gunshot wounds. Two other workers laid on top of the lead translator – saved his life – and died deflecting bludgeoning blows from the radicals' spent weapons.

**We praise the Lord that He protected the computer hard drives** containing the translation work for eight language projects. The remaining translation team has decided to re-double their efforts to translate, publish, and print God's Word for these eight language communities.

**Will you pray for the injured translators?** Pray also for the four national translators martyred in the Middle East. Pray for others to step up and take on the translation task. Please ask the Lord to mend the hearts and wounds of the translation team who have gone through this horrible ordeal. Pray that God will strengthen their minds, their hearts, and their bodies to be able to continue the translation of the Gospel for their people.

**Please pray for Wycliffe Associates as they come alongside this translation team to assist them,** to replace equipment, to help the martyrs' families, and the families of those hospitalized. Please pray that a new location will be found that will provide safety, security, and the freedom to continue translation and printing. Pray for the safe delivery of new computers and POD equipment that Wycliffe Associates will be providing the translation team.

**Please pray for the killers too.** Pray for these whose hearts are so hard. Pray the Lord will open their eyes to what they have done. Please ask the Lord to meet them, each one, right where they are. Pray that He will show Himself merciful, that they will know His forgiveness, His love, and His peace.

And dear friends, as you pray for this one situation in the Middle East, you may be led to give to the Emergency 911 Fund. Please take this opportunity to be an encourager to translation teams in dangerous places. And continue to pray. Pray for all the newly formed translation teams diligently translating Scripture in their own language, for their own loved ones, in extremely difficult places.

– Mae Greenleaf, Prayer Co-ordinator, Wycliffe Associates

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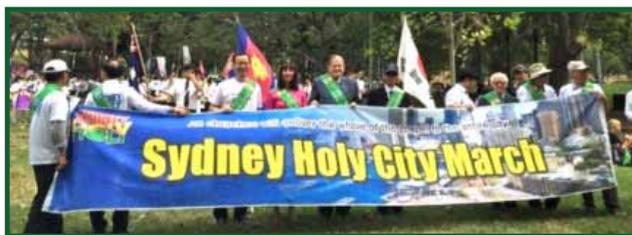
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## AFFIRMING THE FAITH

# KOREAN CHRISTIAN HOLY CITY MARCH

ON Sunday 13 March 2016 hundreds of Korean Christians marched through the streets of Sydney for the *Annual Holy City March And Service*. The marchers, with a NSW Police escort, marched from Belmore Park, Central Railway Station, along Elizabeth St to Martin Place.



**The Korean Church leaders with Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC and Silvana Nero Nile** led the marchers with a large banner followed by the Korean Salvation Army Band led by Major Hwanki Kim.

**A Service was held in Martin Place** with youth and church choirs, musicians and dancers. The guest speaker was Rev Daniel S.W. Kim from Korea. The Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC closed the Service in Prayer.

## New Anglican Bishop In Tasmania Faces Up To The Challenge

**THE Rt Rev Richard Condie, former Vicar of St Jude's, Carlton** has lost no time in facing up to the various challenges confronting the Church and church leaders today. He says the task of being Bishop In Tasmania is 'exciting but daunting' and he is determined to address the problem of helping those affected by sexual abuse. He says the church will continue to offer apology to 'anybody who's been abused' and has begun to meet with victims.

**Richard Condie has worked as lecturer in New Testament** at Ridley Theological College in Melbourne and as a research officer with the Queensland Police Service. He believes that the church needs to grow in its confidence because it has something to say and something to contribute and he looks forward to seeing the church continue to grow in Tasmania.

**The Rev Peter Adam, formerly Vicar of St Jude's himself** and Principal of Ridley College before he retired, delivered a charge to the new bishop. Warming to his theme: *A Bishop Without A Bible Is No Bishop At All*, Peter Adam said: 'It is not enough to use the Bible in the liturgy, if you don't preach from it. It is not enough to have learnt the message of the Bible, and not continue to study and learn from it. It should be a book which is old, but always new; familiar but always strange; known, but always giving us new and deeper revelations of God and His ways.'

**'Do you still trust the Scriptures?** Are you still studying the Scriptures, and learning at ever deeper levels as you study? How long is it since your reading of the Scriptures changed the way you live or do your ministry? Are you using the Scriptures in your preaching, not merely as a launching pad for your own ideas, but as the substance, content and purpose of your preaching and for the substance of your application? Are you using the Scriptures in all other parts of your ministry: counselling, evangelism, pastoral conversations, and as the guide to your leadership and wider ministries? Are you giving God the microphone in your teaching and preaching, by projecting God's eloquent words in the Bible?

**'I am sorry to say** that it is very easy to preach sermons in which the Bible is either cut short to fit what the sermon is about, or stretched beyond its natural meaning to fit the mind of the preacher. 'It is written, "We do not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"' (Matthew 4.4). (This may sound) obvious and elementary. But as a friend of mine often says, "It goes without saying, so it needs to be said"'



## TURN BACK THE BATTLE:

### Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today.

With persecution escalating globally, **Elizabeth Kendal** calls us to revisit the prophecy of Isaiah, maintaining that Isaiah 1-39 provides an unambiguous treatise on how God's people are to respond to persecution, suffering and existential threat.

For purchasing options, visit: [www.turnbackthebattle.com](http://www.turnbackthebattle.com)

**'AFTER SATURDAY COMES SUNDAY'**– *Elizabeth Kendal*

'**AFTER Saturday comes Sunday**' is the English translation of a Muslim threat expressing genocidal intent. It means, 'After we (Muslims – Friday people) get rid of the Jews (Saturday people) we'll get rid of the Christians (Sunday people),' and the seriousness of this threat is self-evident, with Mesopotamia (Iraq and Syria) already 'cleansed' of Jews and the remnant Christians now facing genocide. However, the Christian crisis does not end in the Middle East. Hindu nationalists would love to eliminate Christianity from 'Hindu India'. Just as the Burmese military would love to eliminate Burma's Christian ethnic nations, so too would the Indonesian military love to see the Christian Papuans eradicated from Papua and the Vietnamese government would love to drive Christians from the resource-rich Central Highlands. The Government of Sudan has commanded its military to 'sweep away the rubbish' – eliminate African Christians – from the Nuba Mountains. And in the post-Christian secular humanist West, those pursuing the Marxist dream of total sexual liberation are striving to achieve Christianity's death. Jesus did warn us, saying, 'If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also' (John 15.8-16.4a). Rather than being surprised or shocked, we should be ready to stand firm in our faith, and help one another.

**To the followers of Jesus, the first Good Friday was anything but 'good'.** It was absolutely horrendous. When events unfolded just as Jesus had foretold, the disciples were shocked. To make matters worse, after Friday came Saturday, and the horror of the cross was followed by the silence of the grave. As far as Jesus' followers could see, their journey with Jesus was over. But it was not! For after Saturday came Sunday and Sunday changed everything. The resurrection left death dead, silence mute and shame ashamed. It dried up tears, melted fears and ignited joyous proclamation. Christ had achieved victory over our enemies (sin and death), not through proxies or from a safe and comfortable distance, but by inserting Himself into our crisis (our captivity to sin and death) and destroying it from within, thereby setting us free. Horror and divine silence are not grounds to lose faith or retreat from the world or disengage with the persecuted. God is at work destroying His enemies (1 Corinthians 15.20-26), fulfilling His promises (Deuteronomy 7.9) and building His Church (Matthew 16.18). This is no time to retreat. Today is the day of opportunity. Have confidence that Sunday is coming!

**NIGERIA – More Villagers Killed By Fulani Militants**

FULANI militants on horseback are reported to have attacked a village in Buruku local government area of Benue state on Thursday 17 March. Residents of Tombo village were shot and attacked with machetes. About 15 people have been confirmed dead. 'It's unclear why the world still stands aloof from the genocide being carried out on the minorities in Nigeria,' one Release partner said. Please pray for an end to this repeated violence by Fulanis against Christian farming communities. Pray that Nigeria's Government would finally take strong action to protect vulnerable Christian communities and to bring those responsible for these atrocities to justice. Pray that God would intervene on His children's behalf. Pray for all those who are mourning the loss of family and friends, especially children traumatised by the ongoing violence. – *Release International*

**SUDAN – Please Pray For Detained Pastor**

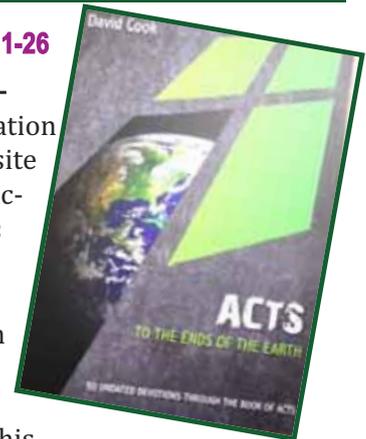
PLEASE pray for the church family in Sudan where yet another Christian leader has been taken into custody. Baptist minister Philemon Hassan of Baptist Church Hai El Esbah-Khartoum North was first arrested on Monday 14 March and held for more than ten hours. He was released in the early hours of Tuesday and since then has to report regularly to security. Intelligence and secu-

rity agents reportedly raided his home in Khartoum on 18 March, confiscating his computer and documents. Philemon's wife has urged Christians to pray for her husband, who is well known for composing worship songs. Philemon's detention is the latest in a string of arrests of Christian leaders. While some have since been released, Tela-hoon Nogose Kassa, head of discipleship at Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church, and Hassan Abdelrahim Tawor, Sudanese Church of Christ Vice-Moderator, have been detained since December. Two South Sudanese pastors, Peter Yein Reith and Yat Michael, were released in August, after spending eight months behind bars in Khartoum charged with capital offences. They had tried to defend Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church against the illegal sale of its property. Ask God to strengthen and to be close to Philemon Hassan and all the Christians in Sudan currently detained for their faith. Pray that God will use His people during their imprisonment to touch many lives with His love and grace. At the same time pray for their release and that God would comfort their families while they are detained. Pray that Philemon's whereabouts would be made known. Pray that God will sustain and strengthen His people in Sudan as the Government imposes a stricter version of Sharia (Islamic law).

– *Morning Star News*

**God's Accreditation Of His Son**

**ACTS 3.11-26**



**ONE distinctive feature about the preaching of the apostles is their obvious self-effacement.** The politicians like Herod may bask in self-glorification with disastrous results (Acts 12.21–23) but the apostles are the very opposite (Acts 14.11–15). The apostles are not gurus seeking the limelight and the acclamation of the crowds. So Peter makes it clear that it is not because of his and John's power or godliness that the cripple walks, but because of Jesus (v 16).

**Again, a clear distinction is stated** between how the Jews treated Jesus in the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – they disowned Him (vv 13,14) and killed Him (v 15) – and how God treated Jesus. God glorified Him (v 13) and raised Him (v15) – and the apostles were eyewitnesses to this.

**Peter calls for a response in vv 17–26** showing the strong Jewish heritage of the Christ and that what has happened is in fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures (see v 18 and vv 21–25). All have a strong element of fulfillment.

**God is in control; God is working out His purposes.** Therefore the Jewish crowd is to repent, for they have the privilege of being heirs to the promises of God (v 25) and their repentance will bring about forgiveness and times of refreshing, including, in Peter's mind, the return of the Christ as He had promised (vv 19–20).

**FOR REFLECTION:**

How much is ongoing repentance toward God part of your daily experience?  
How does apostolic self-effacement challenge self-exalting spiritual leadership?

**Christ's return from Heaven will be the ultimate fulfillment** of God's promises to restore all things at His coming (v 21). Peter sees Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises to Moses in Deuteronomy 18.15–19:

- Like Moses, Jesus is from among their own.
- God will put his words in Jesus' mouth.
- Disobedience of Jesus' words will be called to account.

Jesus is the prophet who not only speaks God's words but is God's Word (John 1:14, 18). When Jesus speaks, God speaks. When Jesus acts, God acts. In Jesus' attitudes, we see the attitudes of God.

**The healing of a crippled beggar is God accrediting His Son** and His words. It is little wonder that Israel should repent of their disobedience and their treatment of Him, as should we.

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

**SEEN ON FACEBOOK:**



**"Come, all you liars: come, all you pharisees: come, all you fornicators, adulterers, swearers and blasphemers, come to Christ and He will take away all your filth. He will cleanse you from your pollution, and your sins shall be done away. Come, come, my guilty brethren: I beseech you for Christ's sake, and for your immortal soul's sake, to come unto Christ."**

*George Whitefield*

*John 15.16:  
He chose you.*

**WHO CAN YOU FORWARD  
NEW LIFE TO?**

**Website Worth Watching:**

**Gene L. Jeffreys writes:**

All preachers love good commentaries, and they are among us in abundance. But If you have not discovered the online riches of W.A. Criswell, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, let me point you in that direction: <http://www.wacriswell.com/>

## BOOKS WORTH READING

**JAMES: An Introduction And Commentary, Douglas J. Moo, TNTC 16; Revised Edition; Nottingham: IVP, 2015. ISBN 978-1-78359-209-8**

**THE little *Letter Of James* is famous in Christian circles** for being one of the most practical of the New Testament writings. As Douglas Moo observes, 'James' genius lies in his profound moral earnestness'. James 'sets us on the road to a biblical, invigorating, transforming Christianity'. In a day when Christian ethics, even more than Christian doctrine, is attacked on every side, we need more than ever to listen to what God says through His servant James. Douglas Moo, Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College, needs little introduction, for he is a prolific writer, and this present volume is a revision of his 1985 commentary (originally under the editorship of Leon Morris).

**Moo argues that the likely author of the letter is James of Jerusalem**, the half-brother of Jesus, and that he wrote this letter to Jewish believers in Jesus at an early date (maybe AD45-47). He comes to this conclusion after carefully weighing the evidence and considering many alternative theories. James writes to scattered believers, not to inform them so much as to exhort them to faithful Christian living. He uses everyday metaphors and illustrations (eg the mirror, the rudder of a ship) that appeal to ordinary believers and make his appeals memorable.

**As Moo shows, James leans heavily on the moral teaching of the Old Testament** (especially the *Wisdom Books*) and the teaching of Jesus (notably the *Sermon On The Mount*). No wonder he is so down-to-earth! What we learn from James is that a 'faith' that is not put into action is no faith at all but only a parody of true Christian faith. Perhaps this is the root cause of many of our present troubles in the church and in wider society, namely that many people who profess faith in Christ live in a way that differs little from their neighbours or colleagues at work who make no profession of following Jesus. If so, the *Letter Of James* is sorely needed, and Douglas Moo is a sure guide to its meaning and application in the modern world.

**Moo is right to insist that it is unfair to label the *Letter Of James* un-theological**, for it urges readers to put their theology into practice, and his ethical instructions are built on a theology of the 'last days' (5.3,5) and the anticipated return of Christ (5.7-9). What is more, his doctrinal teaching includes instruction on the nature of God as generous and good, the coming judgment and the relation of faith and works. James provides a theology of the law (summed up in the love commandment), of prayer, of true wisdom (that consists in godly action and speech) and of the responsibilities of rich and poor.

**James teaches that true faith gives birth to good works**, a view that accords with the theology of the Apostle Paul (properly understood). It is, therefore, grossly unfair to describe the letter as a theology-free-zone. So also, it is downright dangerous to preach its ethics without noticing the theological foundations provided by James for that ethical way of life, for this runs the risk of promoting a brand of semi-Christian legalism. By pointing these things out, Douglas Moo provides a valuable introduction and commentary for this letter.

– Greg Goswell



*'James teaches that true faith gives birth to good works ... It is, therefore, grossly unfair to describe the letter as a theology-free-zone. So also, it is downright dangerous to preach its ethics without noticing the theological foundations provided by James for that ethical way of life.'*

Read: *God's Method Of Saving Sinners*  
by David Holden, at [www.defenceofthefaith.org](http://www.defenceofthefaith.org)

## A WORD IN SEASON ...

[CHRIST] is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. – Colossians 1.15-17

**THERE are many different attitudes** to the historical Jesus. Some would like to believe that He didn't really exist at all! Others maintain that He was just a reactionary against the status quo. At best, most believe that He was only a good moral teacher whose philosophy of life seems to be worthy of consideration among several others.

**But all these miss the whole point** of who He was (and is) and what His life, death and resurrection proved and achieved. The Christ of history is the Christ of Scripture; and Paul encapsulates (if that were possible!) the Christ of Scripture in these (and the following) verses. If what Paul says of Him here is true (and the whole of the Bible and recorded history bears it out) how sad and how arrogant it is when people look on Him and treat Him in any other way! Moreover, Paul's summary of Him is quite consistent with Jesus' own claims for Himself in the Gospels, and if these are not true then we ought to be suspicious of all He taught and did.

**How important it is** that our worldview has the Lord Jesus Christ at the very heart of all God's plans and purposes in creation, providence and redemption!

– Rev Bruce Christian, Chaplain,  
Sutherland Shire Christian School

## ONE DAY IN MELBOURNE

**THE One Day In Melbourne – Evangelicals Online Conference** on Saturday 16 April 2016 is a one-day gathering for editors, writers, designers, social media mavens, authors, bloggers, self-publishers – anyone in Christian media whose aim is to maximise the Gospel. It is 'industrial' in nature – with an underlying evangelical position – for maximising the Gospel. The Panelists are focusing on *Platforms, Design, Blogging, Editing and Social Media*. And it's not too late to register (see advertisement on p.16.)

**The day is co-hosted by: New Life, Well-Being Australia's Press Service International** (with 85 young writers writing for *Christian Today Australia*) and the Salvation Army, enabling the free use of the venue: Salvation Army HQ, 95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn.

**All attendees will receive a free entry onto C.A.R.D.** – Christian Article Registry Depository – which provides Christian editors around the world with a list of Christian writers, their published works and the genre, saving editors having to hunt around looking for a writer for a feature or a filler. Attendees also have access to the Whitsundays *Laguna Quays Respite* cottage for missionaries and pastors – giving every attendee a free six-day visit without the need for any donation.

**There is no charge for the day.** Every one of the professional speakers is giving their time to aid Christian outreach and mission. And the lunch has been donated. The program is industrial with an evangelical philosophy. The date 16 April sits neatly between Easter and Anzac. The philosophy is to provide a top of-the-line presentation to the 'forgotten' Christian media: missionary/mission publication editors, bloggers, and those in Christian media who are unable to attend the Australasian Religious Press Association annual conventions. Unfortunately Dr Rowland Croucher is down with shingles, but thankfully, Salvation Army Captain Peter Brookshaw is filling the panel position on Blogging.

**Delegates should fly into Melbourne by 9am to arrive in Blackburn for the 11.00am start**, and with a 4.30pm finish they can meet family or friends before flying home on the last flight of the day. Some may even stay over. It's a fresh paradigm: 'Only' *One Day In Melbourne!*

**To register:** Email [info@mark.id.au](mailto:info@mark.id.au) or [timeout@bushorchestra.com](mailto:timeout@bushorchestra.com)

## VISITING MELBOURNE?

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*Living Stones* Korean Presbyterian Church. Every Sunday 12.30pm;

**BALACLAVA:** Cnr Hotham St/Denman Rd. Every Sunday 9.30am.

**MINISTER:** Rev Bob Thomas 0417 592 646

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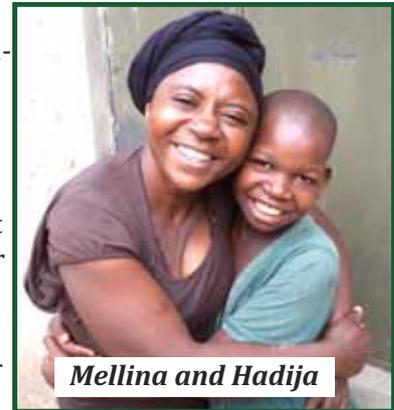


# Adopted Into Christ's Family

*- Young Muslim Girl Finds Refuge And Salvation In The House Of God*

**BURSTING with joy and gratitude**, 11 year old Hadija is a shining example of how Christ calls and saves His own despite the fiercest opposition. Hadija was born into a Muslim family in a small Ugandan fishing town on the shores of Lake Victoria. At age five, she began secretly attending church, stirred by the singing she heard coming from the church near her home.

**When her father found out he told her to stop**, saying he would beat her should she disobey. She chose to endure the weekly beatings rather than stop attending church. When Hadija was seven her world was shaken when her mother died and her father quickly relocated to live with his new wife. As young as she was, Hadija bravely searched for another church and continued attending Sunday school.



**Mellina and Hadija**

**'I became saved in the church there,' she shares.** 'That day when I received Jesus I became full of joy. I was very happy and felt peace in my heart.' When he discovered where Hadija had been on Sundays, her father would hit her with a cane and deny her food. Hadija endured the abuse and hunger rather than give up the joy she had found in the house of God. 'Whenever I would go to church my stepmother would tell my father about it and he would beat me ... I would come from school and he would tell my stepmother not to give me food until I stopped going to the church.'

**Hadija's requests to the pastor for food following the Sunday services** brought her situation to the attention of church members. The pastor, Mellina, reached out to Hadija. 'I was intrigued and befriended the young girl and gave her food as we talked. I soon came to understand the danger the little girl was facing. I knew Hadija would be beaten when she returned from church, so I began walking her home. I would stay nearby watching even though I could not stop it. It broke my heart to hear the child crying in pain as she was caned.'

**Mellina intervened and rescued Hadija one Sunday in December 2012**, when Hadija's screams of terror betrayed the escalating violence. 'Her father beat her so badly that she still bears scars on her arm. Consumed with anger, he threatened her with a knife and shouted threats to burn down the church for misleading his child.' Mellina rushed into the house, grabbed her, and they ran away. 'I was very frightened that day. I left with Mellina when she came for me. She rescued me,' Hadija explained. 'I hid her for a few days while her father looked for her. I thought he would kill us both when he found out where we were staying. Instead, he came and declared that she was dead to him. "From now on you are no longer my child! I have denounced you!" he shouted at her and spat on the ground to confirm his curse.'

**Mellina reported the matter to the police.** They did not pursue Hadija's father, but granted permission for Mellina to become Hadija's guardian. Hadija's father, a known alcoholic, is now ill and bed-ridden. After several months, Mellina and Hadija visited him and found his anger had cooled. He asked that Mellina continue looking after Hadija.

**'I still feel bad when I remember how he mistreated me**, but when I tell Jesus about all the pain in my heart I start to feel better,' Hadija said. 'Please pray that he would stop drinking alcohol and remember that I am his daughter.' Mellina makes a small income from gardening but it is very hard to make ends meet. This is causing difficulties in trying to officially adopt Hadija. Hadija is full of hope despite her circumstances. 'I want to tell young people that Jesus is good. I want to tell them that because Jesus is so good, we should please Him and preach the Gospel to other people.'

**She also has a message for others who are being mistreated** or have been abandoned because they believe in Jesus: 'I want to tell them to believe in Jesus and not give up. Also, I pray that they will find someone like Mellina who encourages me to pray to Jesus.' 'Thank you for coming to see us,' she told an Open Doors worker, with a big smile. 'Now I know that we are not unknown to the Lord! You have encouraged and blessed our hearts.'

*- Frontline Faith, bi-monthly magazine of Open Doors Australia.  
For a free copy go to [www.opendoors.org.au/frontline-faith](http://www.opendoors.org.au/frontline-faith)*

# One day in Melbourne

## Evangelicals online (conference)



Whose leaf shall not wither - Psalm 1

Editors, writers, authors, bloggers, designers, social media .....

- providing latest in technique, quality and function -
- maximising the Gospel

### One day in Melbourne

from 10.00am - cuppa, meet and greet  
 11.00am - Online: Sophia Sinclair, editor Press Service International  
 (Social Media extravaganza)  
 12.30pm - lunch provided  
 1.30pm - Panel  
 Design - David Goodwin  
 - Salvation Army former editor On Fire  
 Blogging - Captain Peter Brookshaw  
 - Salvation Army Blogger  
 Editing - Sheelagh Wegman  
 - Editor, Tasmanian Anglican  
 Platforms - Dr Bruce Redman  
 - Salvation Army Head of Media  
 \* each 14 min / breakout 4 groups  
 3.30pm - afternoon tea  
 4.00pm - Vision — Bob Thomas  
 4.20pm - Mark T — Planning for 2017 - 4.30pm close

Fly in, after 4.30pm early dinner with an associate / family - fly home last flight!

### A new niche paradigm for online

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**No charge**  
Everyone is donating their time  
All digital conf. Lunch is donated

Sheelagh Wegman is a freelance editor dealing with a variety of publications including production of the *Tasmanian Anglican* magazine.



Sophia



Bruce



Peter



David



Bob



Mark

### Venue

Salvation Army Headquarters  
95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn

### Date

Saturday 16 April 2016  
11.00am start - 4.30pm finish

### Email RSVP

Tuesday 12 April 2016  
Enquiries 0419 917 713

Name, State, Publication,  
Blog, Interest

To register  
[info@markt.id.au](mailto:info@markt.id.au)

Rev Bob Thomas editor New Life and Dr Mark Tronson chair Well-Being Australia met in August 2015 to ponder a day to offer evangelicals the latest in "online" - the result is "One Day in Melbourne—Evangelicals Online" The day is industrial, the philosophy is gospel.