

## Samaritan's Purse – Bringing Help And Hope In Jesus' Name.



*David Dawson, National Manager (centre), Leigh Minehan (left) and Jim Wilson (right)*

**SAMARITAN'S Purse**, the Christian disaster relief organisation presided over by Franklin Graham, is now well established in Australia. Samaritan's Purse mobilises staff, volunteers and equipment to help victims of cyclones, bushfires, floods, earthquakes and other disasters. Samaritan's Purse is a second responder, deploying to a disaster-affected community after the initial response has finished. **When disaster strikes emergency services are the first to respond** with immediate, life-saving aid and assistance. But when they have done their work and departed there remains much to be done by way of ongoing support and assisting in long-term recovery. Working with other agencies, organisations and community groups, Samaritan's Purse goes in to provide an efficient, co-ordinated response, supporting mid to long-term recovery.

**Samaritan's Purse works in conjunction with and through local churches**, using the SP Disaster Relief Unit (pictured above), a Site Management Team, tools, equipment and building materials. The unit is self-sufficient, with its own electricity generator, office, protective gear and a wide variety of tools and equipment – all carefully stowed and ready for action.

**Responses so far have been to:** Victorian bushfires (2014), Blue Mountains, NSW, bushfires (2013), Bundaberg, Qld, floods (2013), Coonabarabran, NSW, bushfires (2013), Dunalley, Tas, bushfire (2013), floods, South East Qld (2011), Kinglake, Vic, bushfires (2009); Tropical Cyclone Ian, Tonga (2014), Typhoon Halyan, Philippines (2013), earthquake and tsunami, Japan (2011), earthquake, Haiti (2010). **Samaritan's Purse Australia And The Pacific has just taken delivery of the Disaster Relief Unit**, which was built in the USA and shipped over to Australia. Further information is available from Samaritan's Purse, phone 1300 884 468, email [disasterrelief@samaritan'spurse.org.au](mailto:disasterrelief@samaritan'spurse.org.au) or go to their website: [samaritan'spurse.org.au/disasterrelief](http://samaritan'spurse.org.au/disasterrelief) Donations are always welcome.

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## One Day In Melbourne – Evangelicals Online

**'An astonishing and remarkable day'** – that's what we heard during afternoon tea concluding the *One Day In Melbourne – Evangelicals Online* Conference held at the Salvation Army Headquarters in Blackburn, Vic, on 16 April. More than 50 mission agency representatives and bloggers had an intense and interesting learning experience. 'The speakers were brilliant with their presentations' was a response by many who attended the 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's aim was to provide a top of-the-line presentation to the forgotten Christian media: missionary/mission publication editors, bloggers and small Christian media of evangelical conviction.

**The top-of-the-line presenters gave their time at no cost** and the Salvation Army donated the use of their premises for the conference organised and arranged by Rev Mark Tronson and Bob Thomas. Presenters were: Sophia Sinclair, Editor Press Service International, on *Social Media*; Captain Peter Brookshaw, Salvation Army Melbourne, on *Marketing and Blogging*; Rev Bob Thomas on *Changing Platforms – From Hard Copy To Online Publication*; David Goodwin, former Editor of *On-Fire*, on *Design*; Sheelagh Wegman, Editor, *Tasmanian Anglican*, on *Editing*.

**The sessions were interactive** with opportunity for discussion and response during presentations. This was particularly the case in the hour-long *Social Media* segment where Sophia Sinclair had intermittent group sessions with very specific questions which sparked lively responses.

**Rev Bob Thomas in his *Changing Platforms* session told his story** and how Australia's Fortnightly Online Christian Newspaper was unable to sustain the cost factors of printing and posting. So after a brief closure they took the momentous step of going digital. What occurred was a cleaner, more versatile and better product, and although he couldn't give an exact distribution number due to so many sharing it, he said that its reach is now way above the former hard copy had.

**Design was given a thorough hearing** as some had come to the conference to focus on this area of publishing Christian magazines 'online'. David Goodwin gave a specialised presentation having been the *On Fire* editor where design was critical.

**Sheelagh Wegman is a professional freelance editor and editor of the *Tasmanian Anglican*.** With a Power Point presentation she highlighted the fundamentals of the editor's role, with many surprising insights, to the appreciation of mission publication representatives. Her handout was instructive to say the least.

**Captain Peter Brookshaw took the final session on *Bloggging*.** He drew upon his experiences as a Salvation Army blogger where his blogs have reached around the world. Christian blogger John Lemmon in the interactive session spoke of the nature of social media distribution.

**The word of the day above all was 'quality'** – Christians in the media 'giving (them)selves wholly to the work of the Lord'.

**Watch this space for details of the next *One Day* Conference – *One Day In Sydney*, to be held in the Salvation Army's Stanmore Conference Centre on Saturday 13 August.**

– Rev Dr Mark Tronson,

Director, Press Service International, [psi\\_australia@bigpond.com](mailto:psi_australia@bigpond.com)

## LIBYA: Storm Clouds Gather

**LIBYA has multiple 'governments'.** There is the General National Congress, which is based in the western city of Tripoli, Libya's capital. The GNC is backed by Libya Dawn (a jihadist coalition which includes many al-Qaeda-affiliated militias) and is committed to establishing an Islamic State. Then there is the ousted House of Representatives or 'Tobruk Government', which is based in the eastern city of Tobruk and backed by the anti-Islamist, anti-jihadist Libyan National Army under the command of General Khalifa Haftar. In between them, al-Baghdadi's Islamic State / Caliphate (IS) controls at least 150km of coastline around Sirte. The 'international community' has entertained hopes that the Tripoli government might voluntarily integrate with the Tobruk government in a Government of National Accord to form a unified front against IS.

**Though a UN-backed deal was brokered in December 2015, hardliners on both sides rejected the deal,** with Islamists refusing to co-operate with nationalists and vice versa. Despite Western-UN backing, the GNA has neither 'legs' nor legitimacy. Nevertheless, it seems the GNA will soon invite Western powers to launch an anti-IS military intervention in Libya.

**While the UN was busy forming a 'unity government',** senior leaders of Libya's Muslim Brotherhood and the al-Qaeda-affiliated Libyan Islamic Fighters Group (who were part of the Tripoli-based government) were busy reaching out to senior leaders of other al-Qaeda affiliates and to IS, proposing the creation of a unified Majlis Shura (Islamic consultative council / parliament). The Islamists know that unity is essential if they are to seize and hold Libya's oil infrastructure while resisting the Libyan National Army and any Western intervention. According to *Defence And Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy*, the official magazine of the International Strategic Studies Association, (Issue 3, 2016), efforts to forge jihadist unity have been phenomenally successful.

**The desire for unity is driven by the realisation that Libya would be the perfect launching place for Islamic jihad** into Egypt and all North Africa, the Maghreb and the Sahel, as well as into Italy and all Europe. [Tripoli is only 300km from the Italian island of Lampedusa, complete with harbour and airstrip.] To that end, IS head al-Baghdadi has deployed some of his most senior, experienced and widely respected commanders to

Libya. He has also confirmed he is willing to work in unity with Muslim Brotherhood and al-Qaeda affiliates without requiring them to pledge allegiance to the Caliphate. IS already has some 6,500 fighters in Libya, of whom around 1,000 are women (who will doubtless be used in suicide operations). Plans are already afoot to create an IS 'navy' (for ferrying migrants, piracy, and use as boat-bombs) and to acquire anti-ship missiles from Hamas.

**It is highly probable that Libya will soon be aflame.** The threat to the remnant Church is extreme. Furthermore, if the jihadists (led by IS) have success in Libya, Egypt will then be in their sights, as will Italy and Rome (the goal). As a vulnerable, persecuted minority, Egypt's indigenous Christian Copts would be gravely and existentially imperilled, as would the vulnerable, largely Berber Church in Tunisia and Algeria. These minority Christians do not have state power or an army to protect them. Indeed, everything is better when the jihadists are divided and at war with each other.

**We must not sit idly by as evil advances,** 'for we are not ignorant of [Satan's] designs' (2 Corinthians 2.11).

– Elizabeth Kendal, author of *Turn Back The Battle: Isaiah Speaks To Christians Today* (Deror Books, December 2012).

<http://www.turnbackthebattle.com/thebook.html>

*This book offers a Biblical response to persecution and existential threat.*



### PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- Yahweh Sabaoth, the Lord of Hosts, will intervene to 'throw [the jihadists] into great confusion, until they are destroyed' (from Deuteronomy 7). May they 'fade like the grass'; may their 'arms' (means of action) 'be broken'; may they 'vanish' like 'smoke'; may they be 'cut off' (from Psalm 37). May the LORD contend with them (from Isaiah 49.24-26)!

- Jesus Christ, having already bound the strongman [Satan] through the Cross, will continue to 'plunder his house': i.e. liberate his captives and slaves; rescue the lost, including Muslims – even jihadists and persecutors of the Church. (See Matthew 12.22-32).

- Christ will pour out His Spirit in great abundance on the remnant Church in Libya and across North Africa so that believers will have all the wisdom, faith, courage and grace they need to navigate the troubled days ahead. 'The Lord is my shepherd ...' (Psalm 23)

## CHURCH AND NATION

### Leaders Of 12 Denominations Call On Treasurer To 'Stop The Clock' On Aid Budget Cuts

IN an open letter to Treasurer Scott Morrison published in *The Australian*, leaders of Australia's 12 Christian denominations called on the Turnbull Government to 'Stop The Clock' on the scheduled \$224 million cut to the aid budget. Leaders voiced their concern that a failure to act now will see the aid budget fall to its lowest ever level in Australian history. 'This is an unprecedented action from leaders within Australia's Christian denominations, instigated by a scheduled further cut to the aid budget. Coming on top of more than \$11 billion in cuts to aid since coming to office, this will be the fourth time the Government has targeted Australian aid for cuts,' said World Vision CEO, Tim Costello.

**Mr Costello also noted British Prime Minister David Cameron's vow** never to 'balance the books on the backs of the poorest'.

**Micah Australia's National Co-ordinator, Ben Thurley**, added that more than ten million Australians identify with the signatory churches and denominations and are united by their belief in Jesus, who calls us to 'love our neighbour.' Mr Thurley noted that Prime Minister Howard was the first Prime Minister to make a timetabled commitment to increase Australian aid, and that this had been a bipartisan position for almost a decade before the recent cuts.

**The letter to the Treasurer said:** 'Australia's support for aid and the flourishing of our neighbours is fundamentally a moral question and it rises above partisan politics ... Because of our shared faith, our commitment to compassion and our common humanity, and with a resolute hope that Australia can be a better neighbour and more principled actor in the community of nations, we call on you not to proceed with the scheduled cut of \$224 million and begin, instead, to restore our commitment to Australian aid.'

**'Australian Aid ensures children in poorer countries are presented with equal opportunities**, access to vaccinations and education. Aid provides access to safe drinking water and allows organisations to respond to humanitarian crises around the globe,' said Mr Thurley. Time is running out to stop our nation from becoming the least generous we've ever been.'

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## The Joy Of Seeing Loved Ones Saved

TARIKU Fufa was a 13-year-old asthmatic boy when his father evicted him from the house for becoming a Christian. Forced to live on the streets for six years, Tariku never gave up hope that God had a better plan for his life. His is an amazing story of love, forgiveness, and purpose. Eventually his father, mother and siblings also came to Christ and received him back into the family. Tariku completed his schooling, went to university, and was also trained in ministry by Campus Crusade. As an evangelist, he took the Gospel from his homeland of Ethiopia to Zimbabwe, where with the help of indigenous Christian workers he saw 398 churches planted in one year. He now believes God wants him to help send African missionaries around the world.

– CBN Christian World News

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE TO THE RESCUE

**WHEN a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Ecuador on Saturday, 16 April, Samaritan's Purse immediately began mobilising supplies and experienced relief workers to aid in the aftermath. The organisation now has a team of 30 on the ground, including medical staff, working through local church partners. An emergency field hospital has also arrived and is now operational. Approximately 40 medical personnel will staff the field hospital each day. Samaritan's Purse is utilising a newly refurbished DC-8 aircraft which can carry 40 tons of emergency supplies and dozens of personnel.**

– Assist News Service

### Bear Grylls 'Known To Christ'

ADVENTURER Bear Grylls is among the prominent evangelical Christians who feature in the new Alpha film series to go with the Alpha program for people new to church and Christianity. Filmed swimming in the ocean and lighting a fire in a jungle, he says, 'For so many years I always just strived to be strong in myself. But the truth is none of us are.' He says his faith in Christ is like a backbone, helping him to be strong when he is up against it, whether on a mountain or stuck in some jungle, or just dealing with the storms of life. He says at the heart his Christian faith is the truth that he is 'known – known to Christ.'

– *Christian Today*

### EGYPT: Hundreds Receive Christ

DESPITE the threat of government protests, thousands of people recently went to hear Dr Michael Youssef preach at a church in Cairo, Egypt, with hundreds of people receiving Christ into their lives during the three-day evangelistic event. Dr Youssef, founder of global outreach ministry *Leading The Way*, was born in Egypt, and he returned to the largest evangelical church in the country, with the hope of encouraging spiritual renewal there. Five thousand people attended, with millions more watching live via satellite television. At least 500 people responded to Dr Youssef's clear invitation to Salvation.

– *Breaking Christian News*

### INDIA: Once-Hostile District Hostile No More

A DISTRICT in India once known for its extreme persecution of Christians is now hosting massive evangelistic events where hundreds of Hindus and tribal animists are embracing Jesus Christ. According to a report from Christian Aid Mission, the predominantly Hindu Kandhamal District in eastern India was at one time 'a hotbed of Hindu persecution of Christians.' The persecution reached its peak in 2008, when Hindu extremists retaliated with attacks that wounded thousands, destroyed 300 church buildings and 6,000 homes, and displaced at least 50,000 people into the jungle. Today, those very jungle sites where hundreds of Christians died are today used for evangelistic events, which an indigenous ministry director has described as 'wildly successful.' So far, there have been 14 evangelistic events since last August, with 1,000 to 2,000 attending each one.

– *Christian Aid Mission*

### Praying For Healing Brings People To Faith

A NEW study from Baylor University shows that a majority of people turn to God for personal healing or for healing of loved ones. The study, published in the *Journal Of Religion And Health*, finds that prayer may be among the most widely used forms of treatment for medical problems. More than 75% of people surveyed have prayed for their own healing, and nearly a third do so often.

– *Breaking Christian News*

**American Pastor/  
Scholar  
To Visit**

THE Fellowship Of Congregational Churches will receive a visit from Rev Dr Gordon Hugenberger, of Park Street Congregational Church, Boston, and Ranked Adjunct Professor of Old Testament at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, who will minister to the FCC in October, 2016.



His itinerary includes the FCC Pastors' and Families' Retreat on 5-7 October, followed by the Annual Assembly's Celebration Meeting at Camp Fletcher on Saturday 8 October, and an FCC Seminar at Padstow Chinese Congregational Church on Saturday 15 October. He will preach in two FCC churches and address at least one of Sydney's Theological Colleges.

For further details phone (02) 9588 5128 or go to their website: [www.fcc-cong.org](http://www.fcc-cong.org)



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## Mother's Martyrdom Sows Seeds Of Faith

THE sons of a slain Ethiopian woman who was beaten mercilessly by her husband after she converted from Islam to Christianity last year have given their lives to Christ after witnessing their mother's strong faith in Jesus. According to global Christian persecution watchdog Open Doors, a Christian convert named Workitu, a mother in her 50s, was killed by her husband and a neighbour at the end of March in Addis Ababa.

But Workitu's devotion to her faith was not lost on her two sons. Open Doors reports that Workitu's two sons, Mustafa and Kedir, made the decision to become Christians following the witness of their mother 'even unto death.' They went to Christian leaders in the town saying that they wanted to learn more about the God their mother worshipped. Police have arrested the husband and neighbour and charged them with homicide.

One Christian leader says: 'Workitu's death has been honoured by bringing her sons to new life.'

– Christian Post

## 'Life's Greatest Joy – Finding Christ'

PEOPLE who have yet to turn to Christ will find life's greatest joy if they do, according to evangelist Billy Graham. Responding to a question posted to the *Kansas City Star*, the 97-year-old preacher explained that there are two important reasons why people should make the decision to give their life to Jesus: in preparation for death and to find the joy that only a relationship with Jesus can give.

Dr Graham says that shutting your ears and heart to God's call is 'the most serious mistake you will ever make,' because we never know when our time to face death and judgment will come – and it will come!

He says life's greatest joy comes from knowing Christ and following Him. 'Jesus didn't come to make us miserable and squeeze all the joy out of life. He came to fulfil our lives and make us into the joyous people God wants us to be.'

– Christian Post

### **The Passion Of The Christ Grips Entire Village**

ALMOST an entire village in the Philippines has embraced Christianity after hearing the Gospel and viewing a film clip of *The Passion Of The Christ*. According to a report from Christian Aid Mission, a local ministry spent eight months building a relationship with the Manobo tribal peoples in northern Mindanao. During that time, mission leaders held Bible studies, and when it came to teaching on the meaning of Christ's death on the Cross, the teachers, to make the teaching of the Gospel more vivid, used a brief video clip of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus from the movie, *The Passion of Christ*. After viewing *The Passion*, which depicts the final twelve hours in the life of Jesus on the day of His crucifixion in Jerusalem, many of the villagers were emotional, expressing anger at the mistreatment of Jesus by Jewish authorities and Roman soldiers. Moved by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, many of the villagers professed faith in His death and resurrection, and embraced Christianity.

Christian Aid Mission says, after teaching for

eight months from *Genesis* onward, almost the whole village responded and trusted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

– Gospel Herald

### **Book On Queen's Faith Is Runaway Success**

*THE Servant Queen And The King She Serves* has become so successful that more than 400,000 have been sent out across the UK. The book, published to mark The Queen's 90th birthday, and featured on a recent BBC *Songs Of Praise*, is a joint enterprise between Bible Society, HOPE and the London Institute For Contemporary Christianity. The richly illustrated 64-page book, put together by Mark Greene and Catherine Butcher, uses the Queen's own words to describe her faith in God, and explores and celebrates the place of Her Majesty's Christian belief.

Churches across the UK are gearing up for special services, street parties and a range of celebrations, with local and national events planned for May, and culminating in a massive street party for 10,000 in The Mall on 12 June.

– Inspire Magazine

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

## **Pakistanis In Melbourne Remember Loved Ones In Mourning**

**EASTER Sunday 27 March 2016** was a crisp spring day with 24 degrees, there was a buzz among the Christian Community especially in the Christian Colonies of Lahore in Pakistan. After attending the special Easter Service in the churches many families go to parks and picnic spots to have a Family Day out. This Easter, as usual, many Christian families gathered at one of the favourite parks, Gulshan-e-Iqbal in the Alama Iqbal Town, Lahore (a colony made after the name of the famous poet Alama Iqbal). **While Christians were celebrating the Risen Christ, Evil was ready to do its worst.** A suicide bomber detonated a dirty bomb metres from a play area with swings and slides specifically designated for women and children. This unwarranted incident killed 80 people and left 300 wounded. The scene was an absolute devastation, with blood, limbs and human flesh scattered far and wide in the park. Because of the innocent setting, an unusually high number of those injured were women and children.

**On 16 April 2016, All Saints Pakistani Church, Kooyong, Melbourne, held a Memorial Service** for the Martyrs and their grieving families. Bishop Phillips Huggins and Rev Peter French (Vicar) kindly consented to lead the service. The mood during the service was very sombre as the bishop's sermon reflected on Love, Forgiveness and Interfaith Harmony. Among the many people who attended the service there was a notable presence of people from different faiths especially Muslims who attended to show their unity and solidarity with the Christians at this critical time.

**The highlight of the service was Kashmala** (a survivor of the 2013 Peshawar bombing) and the Defence Advisor to Australia, Brigadier Mohammad Asghar of the Pakistan Army. The Brigadier addressed the congregation condemning these bombing attacks and assured them that the Pakistan Government and the Defence Forces will leave no rock unturned to uproot this evil. Kashmala spoke about her personal experience as a survivor of a suicide bombing attack in All Saints Church in Peshawar, Pakistan in 2013. The service was very sublime and everyone felt a part of the suffering families in Lahore.

*– Steve Khan, Pastor, All Saints Pakistani Church, Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn.*



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## 'SERVANTS OF THE WORD'

### Social Media And Marketing Highlighted At One Day In Melbourne

**ONE Day In Melbourne – Evangelicals Online** was held on Saturday 16 April as a one-day gathering of more than 50 editors, writers, designers, social media mavens, authors, bloggers, self-publishers – anyone in Christian media whose aim is to maximise the Gospel. After a welcome by Rev Bob Thomas, who chaired the day's proceedings, and a devotional featuring *Resurrection Moments* by Dr Mark Tronson, a daily columnist for *Christian Today* and the retired Australian Cricket Team Chaplain, the morning sessions got under way.

**Sophia Sinclair, editor of Press Service International**, grounded her presentation as a Biblical responsibility of sharing the Good News of Jesus. Sophia noted that today's crossroads is the convergence of different media in old and new platforms (traditional newspapers vs online news sites) along with a convergence of generations. Sophia noted young people today are making serious careers through online endeavours. She highlighted an understanding of the culture's underlying attitudes as essential – and the more we know, the better we can meet these needs. Sophia



formed the gathering into small groups to list the benefits of social media: increase trust (legitimacy), an ability to influence (really connect with supporters, connect with leaders in their field, participate in global discussions), to build community and seek global opportunities to influence. Sophia then listed these attributes as crucial: know your audience, know your voice, know how you will respond, know your limits and be aware of privacy and security of mission organisations. Sophia concluded that God is in control of social media. He is not intimidated by social media and that we are really starting to experience what it is like to become the 'exile church'

**Captain Peter Brookshaw, Marketing Director for the Salvation Army in Melbourne**, said that marketing is actually focused on behavioural change. Peter stressed that God is always fresh, innovative, creative – citing many Biblical examples such as the ark, parting the Red Sea, talking through a donkey, giving water from a rock, Jesus' healings', His resurrection – all new and different things. Marketing is doing something new, creative and innovative – which is the Nature of God. Peter said that as a society we are pretty tough on the 'creatives' and asked whether we in the church suppress 'creatives'? The church needs to legitimise and encourage the innovators.

– Rosie Timmins (Photos courtesy Dr Mark Tronson, *One Day In Melbourne – Evangelicals Online*.)



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**LIFE OF J.C. RYLE** by Iain Murray, Banner of Truth, for \$25 (post included) by about the end of May 2016.

(See p.14 for Book Review: FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH – A LIFE OF MARCUS LOANE.)

## **Record Numbers Celebrate At SAT-7 Conference**

**350 people gathered** to commemorate SAT-7's 20th anniversary at the organisation's annual conference, *Network 2016*, held in Nicosia, Cyprus, 6-8 April, and celebrated how God has used satellite TV to bring hope and love into the homes of millions across the Middle East and North Africa over the past 20 years.



**International supporters and official partners**, church leaders of various denominations, local VIP's and staff from SAT-7 offices and studios participated. Dr Terence Ascott, founder and CEO, shared how SAT-7's story is testament to God's faithfulness. 'Without doubt, God has provided for this ministry in a miraculous way – in terms of people, funding, security and overcoming many obstacles,' he said. 'More than 80% of the content on SAT-7's five channels – SAT-7 ARABIC, SAT-7 PARS, SAT-7 TÜRK, SAT-7 KIDS and SAT-7 PLUS – is today produced by local Christians.'

**Throughout the conference, participants were able to hear reports from each of the channels.** Many viewer testimonies, video clips and samples of programming content were shared. The growth of the channels, and the organisation as a whole, has been phenomenal. Today, SAT-7 operates from 11 different locations internationally, with over 840 hours of programming aired every week. 31 May 2016 marks 20 years from the date of the first broadcast; a very different time for the ministry.

**Dr Ascott spoke at several different sessions throughout Network 2016** on the courageous and inspiring work of SAT-7. Looking back to its humble beginnings, he reflected on how, first Arab Christians and later Iranian and Turkish Christians, made the brave choice to go on-camera and publicly share their faith. 'In truth, when we started, we had a great vision – to use uncensored satellite TV to share the Gospel in a part of the world that had been closed to Christian witness for many centuries. But we had very little appreciation of the practical work or skills needed to achieve the vision.'

**When the concept for an indigenous Christian television channel in the region was first presented**, it was always met with the same objections: Arab Christians would not risk showing their faces on camera; it would be impossible to fund; governments would not permit the making or broadcasting of such Christian programs. 'One by one, these objections and obstacles were overcome,' Dr Ascott said. 'SAT-7 is "owned" by all denominations; broadcasts across 25 regional countries, and today has studios in three Middle Eastern capitals, as well as at other strategic locations.'

**In this day and age, technology advancements are rapidly increasing.** As satellite television remains SAT-7's main media platform, Dr Ascott approached the question of SAT-7's relevance today, and in the coming years. 'Satellite TV is still the only visual media that can get into people's homes without the potential of censorship or jamming. It reaches even the most un-wired parts of the MENA. When it comes to consuming video content, Satellite TV is very cost-efficient compared to Internet streaming – reaching millions of people with excellent picture and sound quality, with no added costs if another million people tune in. It is also easy for non-readers to navigate the controls and view satellite TV channels. Without hesitation I can say that it is still very relevant!'

**'SAT-7 continues to branch out on to new media platforms.** There are wonderful new internet-based visual-media strategies that we are now using and should continue to develop into the near future, a future that will be very different to that of the present,' Dr Ascott says.

**The SAT-7 International Council met just before Network 2016**, to review the ministry's progress and approve the ministry's plans for the coming year. All but four members of the Council were able to attend. Among the absentees was Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim, the Syrian Orthodox Bishop of Aleppo – who was kidnapped in northern Syria three years ago, together with Greek Orthodox Bishop Boulos Yaziji, also from Aleppo. Their status and whereabouts remains unclear, as does that of dozens of other abducted clergy in Syria. For more information about SAT-7 go to [www.sat7.org](http://www.sat7.org)

## Islamic State Destroys Ancient Christian Site

**ISLAMIC State** has destroyed a 2,000-year-old structure known as *The Gate Of God* near Mosul, Syria, as the terrorist group continues its campaign against religious imagery that it considers blasphemous. (Photo credit: Flickr).

**Local activists in Mosul** who spoke to the Kurdish news outlet ARA News revealed that the terrorists demolished the gate, also known as the 'Mashqi Gate', using military equipment. The ancient gate was one of many that guarded the Biblical Assyrian city of Nineveh that dates back as far as the Seventh Century BC during the rule of Assyrian King Sennacherib.



**A source at the British Institute for the Study of Iraq** confirmed to *The Independent* that the gate had been attacked, and condemned the heinous act. 'We naturally deplore all acts of vandalism and destruction of cultural heritage, and continue to monitor the situation to the best of our ability,' the spokesperson from the British institute said. 'In the absence of specific information it is not yet possible to comment on what has been destroyed.' Mosul, formerly home to thousands of Christians, has been occupied by ISIS since June 2014 and is considered to be the main stronghold for the terror group in the region.

**The recent destruction of *The Gate Of God* is simply the latest in a string of attacks** on Christianity's heritage, which the jihadist group is steadily erasing from the Middle East. In February, ISIS ransacked Mosul's library, burning more than 100,000 old books and manuscripts, some of which were recognized as historical rarities by UNESCO. In July, the group blew up Mother Of Aid Church, which had stood in central Mosul for thousands of years, according to the Kurdish news site *Rudaw*. The blast also killed four children who were near the church at the time, Saeed Mamuzini, a spokesman for the Mosul arm of the Kurdistan Democratic Party told the news source. In April, ISIS released disturbing photographs of its militants destroying ancient Christian graves with sledgehammers and carving out crosses in the ancient city. Earlier, the group also posted videos showing its militants using sledgehammers to destroy the tomb of the biblical prophet Jonah. – *The Gospel Herald*

### **CHINA: Pastor's Wife Buried Alive**

AN anti-persecution charity has said a Chinese pastor's wife has been killed after she was buried alive during the government-sponsored demolition of her church. China Aid has said a team backed by Chinese authorities arrived to demolish Beitou Church in Zhumadian in the central Henan Province last week. Christian Aid reported that Pastor Lian Jiangong and his wife Ding Cuimei stood in the way of the bulldozer, but it carried on regardless burying them alive and destroying the building. Lian Jiangong managed to free himself from the soil in time, but Ding Cuimei could not and suffocated to death. Chinese authorities have said they have arrested the two men involved and are investigating Ding Cuimei's death. Bob Fu, China Aid's President, said: 'Bulldozing and burying alive Ding Cuimei, a peaceful and devout Christian woman, was a cruel, murderous act. This case is a serious violation of the rights to life, religious freedom and rule of law. The Chinese authorities should immediately hold those murderers accountable and take concrete measures to protect the religious freedom of this house church's members.'

– *Premier Christian News*

### **TAJIKISTAN – Bomb Threat To Baptist Church**

PLEASE pray for our brothers and sisters in the Tajik capital where a Baptist church has received anonymous bomb threats. Release contacts say that the church in Dushanbe has received two calls from someone calling himself a Muslim and threatening to blow up the church. Local Christians are concerned: the church is preparing for an Easter celebration on 1 May and fear their services could be targeted. The recent suicide bomb attack on Christians in Lahore, Pakistan, has put believers in other countries on high alert during church festivals. Please pray that God will protect His people in Tajikistan. Pray that our Tajik brothers and sisters, thought to number fewer than 100,000, will not be intimidated but will continue to walk close to God and build His Kingdom in their nation. Pray that the Tajik Government will take firm steps to protect minorities such as Christians and promote religious tolerance. – *Release International*

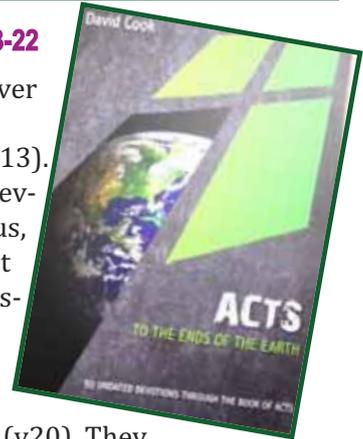
### **INDIA: Pastor And Wife Doused In Petrol**

AN anti-persecution charity has said extremists have doused an Indian church leader and his wife in petrol in an attempt to convert them to Hinduism. – *Premier News*

**APOSTLES: Hearing, Seeing, Speaking**

**ACTS 4.13-22**

IN John 17.5, the Jews were amazed that Jesus knew so much without ever having studied. In today's passage, the Jewish leaders are amazed at the courage of Peter and John and note that 'these men had been with Jesus!' (v13). **We are amazed at the blindness of the Sanhedrin**, that despite the clear evidence of the healing of the man and the claim that this was the work of Jesus, they think they can stop the Gospel by moving a motion in the assembly that there should be no more Jesus talk (v17). There is no rational debate or presentation of contrary evidence, merely this response: 'stop this talk'. Somehow they thought this would change reality and everything would go back to the way it was.



**No way! Peter and John have been with Jesus.** They had 'seen and heard' (v20). They were eyewitnesses of His resurrection and exaltation. They are under the authority of God, who is an even higher authority than the Sanhedrin (v19). They will repeat their testimony again in Acts 5.29. **Let the highest court of Judaism decide – should God be obeyed or a human court?** The Jews' own argument before the Roman courts was exactly this; their ultimate authority was no human court, but God alone. It was said of the Scottish reformer John Knox that he feared God so much that he had

**FOR REFLECTION:**

Think of the fear you have for the tribunal compared with the fear you have for God.

How could Peter and John have had such courage?

In the face of such clear evidence, why is the Sanhedrin so blind?

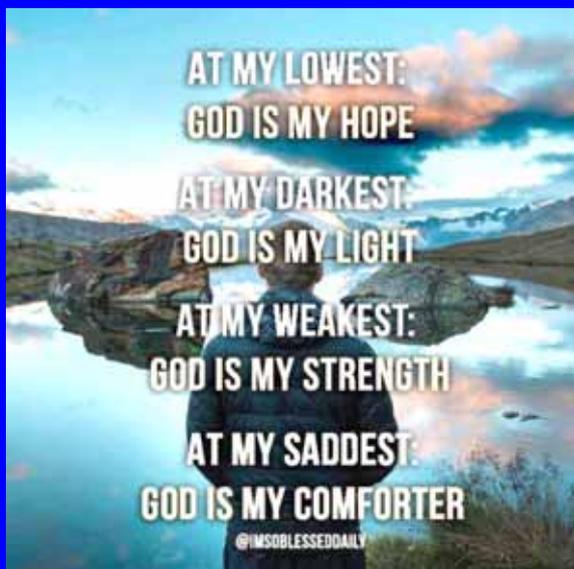
no fear to stand before any human tribunal. Peter and John had the same conviction. They were witnesses, and they had been with Jesus.

**They were the leaders of a group of people mandated by God Himself to speak.** 'We cannot help speaking' (v20) they say, and so they give us the ongoing model for our response to irrational, worldly opposition that seeks to silence our speaking of the Gospel.

**What the prophet heard, 'thus says the Lord',** the apostles saw and heard, and so spoke. Today, we can say with equal confidence, 'thus the Lord has written'. We have the historical written record of the revelation of God, the accredited testimony of the prophets and the apostles, each of which focuses on the Lord Jesus, and so we must speak. The more determined the world is to ignore us, the more determined we must be to speak.

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

**SEEN ON FACEBOOK:**



*Matthew 22.37,38:  
Pray for labourers to be sent.*

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## BOOKS WORTH READING

**IN THE LIGHT OF THE SON: Seeing Everything Through The Father's Love For The Son, Andrew Moody, Sydney, Matthias Media, 2015. ISBN 978-1-922206-74-9.**

**ANDREW Moody completed his ThD through the Australian College of Theology**, and this book is a popularised presentation of his findings. Dr Moody studied the relations of Father and Son in the Trinity, so as to show that the Father's love for the Son explains creation and salvation, the past, present and future of the Universe; the love of Father for Son is the explanation for everything that ever has been and of whatever will be. This is the heart of the Christian Faith; in fact our faith does not make sense without it.

**As Dr Moody explains, the Father and the Son work in perfect harmony.**

The Father is the initiator of all things and He does everything through the Son. As such they are inseparable and equal. If the Son perfectly represents the Father and is the agent for all that the Father does, then He must be God. The Trinity is not a mathematical puzzle about one equals three or three equals one. It is the beautiful truth about the divine relationship that explains all other relationships and makes the Christian Faith wonderfully attractive.

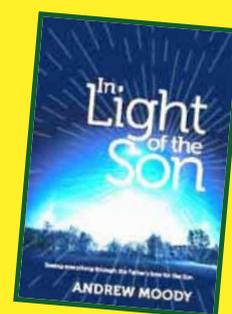
**Moody shows that Jesus is the Son of God from eternity.** This is who He is, not just an office or role He fills. That is why it is only through Jesus that we can become the sons of God and know the love of God as our Heavenly Father. Jesus becomes the pattern of our sonship and God is the only true Father and all that a father should be. This understanding of God lays the foundation for psychological healing and a healthier family life.

**What is more, Moody shows that the creation and future of the Universe** are bound up in Jesus who is Co-Creator and the Heir of all things, for His death purchased the salvation of God's people who will inhabit the new Heavens and the new Earth. Christ is not only true God, but the perfect human, and believers are co-heirs of creation through Him, our stronger, better, older brother.

**Jesus is also the ultimate Spirit-filled man**, and all He did on Earth was in obedience to His Father's will with the empowering of God's Spirit. The three Divine Persons worked continually together in perfect harmony, as they had in eternity past and will in eternity future. In other words, as Moody shows, the life of Jesus is a picture of the inner workings of the Trinity. It is the Spirit of Jesus who brings spiritual life to believers, and, though few people know or teach this, Moody is quite correct when he says that the relation of Christ and the Spirit is so close that the Holy Spirit is in the New Testament at times called 'Christ' (eg Romans 8.10: 'If Christ is in you ...').

**The Spirit brings Jesus into our lives** so that we change, we begin to serve, and we are never alone. God's Spirit gives us a foretaste of that better future world of which we will be inhabitants if we trust in Jesus. We were made for more than the present life of sin and misery, and one day Heaven will come to Earth (Revelation 21), all due to the working of the Trinity, the united efforts of Father, Son and Spirit.

**This is both an informative and moving book.** Moody succeeds in showing how central the Trinity is to our faith and how practical biblical doctrine actually is. We are thankful to Dr Moody for showing us that what was a life-changing truth for him can be life-changing for many others also. - Greg Goswell



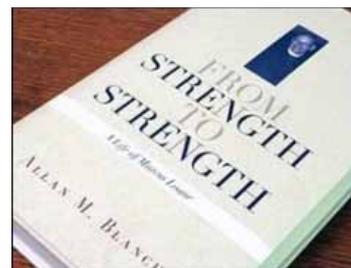
***The Trinity is not a mathematical puzzle about one equals three or three equals one. It is the beautiful truth about the divine relationship that explains all other relationships and makes the Christian Faith wonderfully attractive.'***

**Read: *The Mathematical Impossibility Of The Theory Of Evolution* by David Holden, at [www.defenceofthefaith.org](http://www.defenceofthefaith.org)**

## BOOKS WORTH READING

**FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH – A LIFE OF MARCUS LOANE, Rev Allan M Blanch, 2015, Australian Scholarly Publishing, Kew, Vic. 434 pp.**

**SIR Marcus Loane was Primate (Principal Bishop) of the Anglican Church of Australia** from 1966 to 1981. Allan Blanch has written an excellent comprehensive life story of Marcus L Loane, well researched and with personal knowledge. Blanch was a student of Loane's at Moore College.



**'All knowledge is history'** are the provocative opening words of the **Foreword** to this book, written by Professor Edwin A Judge of Macquarie University, who was also a friend of Marcus Loane. Our author, Allan Blanch, was ordained in 1966 by Marcus Loane, who loomed large in Blanch's life and ministry, and indeed in the history of the Church of England in Australia (more recently renamed the Anglican Church in Australia, Loane's opposition to the new name notwithstanding. – *Ed.*)

**This is a big book**, giving Loane's family history from Scotland via Tasmania to Sydney. The book continues with chapters such as *Schools, Ordination And Marriage, War, Early Writings, College Principal, Archbishop, Honoured Twice, Last Year In Office* and *Nearing The Goal* – Loane's last days.

**Marcus Loane was born in 1911 in Tasmania** and moved with his Christian parents to Sydney in 1914. His final two years of schooling was at The King's School, Parramatta. Writing of those times, he said that as a boy of 18 years he was ill and then turned to reading J.C. Ryle's *Expository Thoughts On John*. 'It was the first commentary I had ever read and I could not put it down. I now know that those two volumes were for my reading when a great hunger for truth had gripped my heart.' 'Loane, in later years at Moore College, was possibly the first prominent evangelical since J.C. Ryle, to teach history with the primary aim of demonstrating the impact of biblical truth', writes Iain Murray.

**Topics from this *Life Of Loane* include:** The Age-Old Problem Of Evil: 'If there be a God in Heaven why does He not right all the wrongs of the world? Why are evil-doers (such as Hitler) continued on in almost every age? To which Loane continued, 'We can only say that there are certain principles revealed in Scripture in which we should rest satisfied. Perhaps no words in the Bible are so awful, or so restrained, as the words of God, "To me belongeth vengeance and recompense – their foot shall slide in due time" (Deuteronomy 32.35)'

**Loane was a decided Evangelical, with Reformed theology, and everybody knew it.** Marcus was courteous both in discussion and debate. Said he, 'We must not be afraid to expose our doctrine to the test of controversy, if the ultimate arbiter is God's Word written.'

**In the 1976 New Year Honours List, notice was given that Marcus L Loane had been knighted** by the Queen with the Order KBE even though he was not yet Primate of Australia. Around about 2001, after Loane's long and distinguished ministry had long since concluded, some would begin to ask 'Marcus who?' or 'Marcus Loane. Who was he?' Sic transit mundi – so fades all worldly fame – but Marcus did not care. He was content to be like King David who, 'after he had served his generation, by the will of God, fell on sleep' (Acts 13.36). His confidence had always rested upon his Master from earliest years (he was born in 1911 and passed on in 2009 at the age of 98 years.)

**Four books by Marcus Loan remain in print** and are available from The Banner Of Truth Trust at <[www.banneroftruth.co.uk](http://www.banneroftruth.co.uk)> See also Berith Biblical Books Ad 'Superb Books' on p 9 of this edition of *New Life*. – This review was written by Warren Wormald, Director of Berith Biblical Books – Ed.



### 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)

## **Barbie Prout Chats With Beatrix Watofa**

**- 'Reading *New Life* Changed The Course Of My Life.'**

**BEATRIX** was born in West Papua, in 1965. Her grandfather was a head-hunter, but her parents became Christians through the ministry of Mennonite missionaries from Holland. She was educated at a Christian school. At the age of nine, she lost her mother to breast cancer, leaving her father to care for nine children. Beatrix never really grieved properly for her mother. She became angry with God, crying from the heart, 'If God exists, why did He take my mother?'

**When she was 14**, on the day before Good Friday in 1979, her church was acting out the Gethsemane story. The truth of Jesus' suffering for individuals really impacted her. 'I realised that none of my questions mattered anymore because Jesus is the Answer for everything!'

**In 1981 ABMS missionary Jessie Williamson gave her a copy of *New Life* to read.** From that day Beatrix read every copy of *New Life*, and every article in the paper. After graduating from High School in 1983, she moved to Surabaya, Indonesia, to study Medical Micro-Biology. After four and a half years she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree.

**During her second year at college, in 1984**, at a WEC Easter mission camp for university students, the Lord challenged Beatrix to consider missionary service. Although her father was a Bible teacher, he was not happy with her decision. He felt a missionary's life would be too hard for his daughter. For seven years Beatrix honoured her father's wishes. She trained to help the local people diagnose medical problems with the equipment available to them. Finally, her father gave his approval for Beatrix to attend Bible College. She was offered two different scholarships; one in Canada and one in USA.

**But through her continual reading of *New Life* Beatrix felt called to the Bible College of Victoria**, in Melbourne. David Price, with his wife Margaret, was Principal of BCV at that time. Beatrix became a member of World Team, mainly because of her family's history with the movement. For 20 years she has had an itinerant ministry around the Celebes Sea in the Southern Philippines, the coast of Malaysia and Borneo, Kalaymandan (Indonesia) working with an unreached people group.

**Since 2000 the *Jesus* film and other similar movies have been shown** in the open air to thousands of people. Sometimes 6,000 will be at a single viewing. More and more requests are being made for the *Jesus* film to be shown. People are asking questions and many find the answer to life's problems in Christ.

**In 2007, on the island of Sebatik (north of Malaysia and south of Indonesia)** Beatrix was instrumental in setting up an FM radio station. The equipment was donated by John Edminston, from Townsville. It has a computer-based radio transmitter and broadcaster with two channels. One channel transmits the New Testament in Malay as well as music and dramatisation. The other concentrates on Bible materials.

**Beatrix moves around the coast line of the Celebes Sea**, staying about three months in each area. Beatrix has little recreational time but she does love reading. At the moment she is putting together material to help different groups, and facilitating questions and answers in response to the *Jesus* film,



as well as doing translation work. She has been asked to be a comprehension checker for *Exodus*, *Leviticus* and *Luke* in Southern Sinama.

**Pray for this very busy lady and the showing of the *Jesus* film in South-East Asia.** More than 2,000 workers travel to Saudi-Arabia each year, taking the film with them. Beatrix is in the process of moving from one mission agency to another, although her work remains the same.

**For further information** Beatrix can be contacted at

**[bee64321@aim.com](mailto:bee64321@aim.com)**

*- Barbie Prout ('Mrs DP')*



*Beatrix, signing up for New Life.*

# Choosing My Religion



**THIS title may seem a bit odd, and there would be some good reasons for that,**

**I suppose.** Firstly, most people – in the West at least – are likely more concerned about what sort of coffee they might buy than what religion they may choose. And of course most folks simply pick up their religion from their parents. Far fewer folks will question what they inherited from birth, and carefully seek out what religion or worldview to run with. As Francis Schaeffer once put it, most people catch their worldviews like they do German measles – quite by accident in other words. Moreover, many people will not choose a religion because they foolishly think all religions are the same. But the only people who make that claim are those who know nothing about religion. The more you study the major world religions, the more you see how very different they are. For example, there are as many as 330 million different gods in Hinduism. However you can be a Buddhist and not even believe in God.

**Let me offer just one more example, this time between Islam and Christianity.** But let me preface it by reminding you of one of the most important principles of basic logic – the law of noncontradiction. This simply states that no two contradictory statements can both be true at the same time and in the same sense. In the words of Aristotle, ‘one cannot say of something that it is and that it is not in the same respect and at the same time’. So consider the basic creed (the Shahada) of Islam: ‘There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is God’s messenger.’ Now consider the basic affirmation of Christianity: God is One God in Three Persons, and Jesus Christ is God’s Son. Islam says it is blasphemous to say God has a son. But Christianity fully affirms this. So who is right? They certainly can’t both be right. If Islam is true on this point, then Christianity is of course false. If Christianity is true on this point, then Islam is false. So if you are choosing between Islam and Christianity, you certainly cannot choose both. It is one or the other. And it goes even further than this: according to Christianity, Jesus died on a cross for our sins and rose from the dead. According to Islam Jesus did not die on a cross and rise from the dead. Again, both cannot be true. One at least must be false. So in choosing a religion, you look at the truth claims being made by each, and then assess, compare, and contrast.

**When you choose a religion it is not about suiting your needs so much as discovering which one is true.**

Getting the wrong choice on a car does not mean the end of the world. But getting the wrong choice on religion is most certainly of greater consequence. So what should you look for when choosing a religion or a worldview?

**Well, as Norman Geisler says, a good worldview has to deal with these issues:**

1. The Nature Of God (metaphysics).
2. The Nature Of Reality, Being (ontology).
3. The Question Of Origin And Destiny Of Man (anthropology).
4. The Problem Of Pain And Evil (ethics).
5. The Question Of How We Know (epistemology).

**Or as Charles Colson puts it, every worldview must answer three sets of questions:**

1. Where Did We Come From? Who Are We? (creation).
2. What Has Gone Wrong With The World? (fall).
3. What Can We Do To Fix It? (redemption).

**Consider for example how one worldview, the secular religion of Marxism, deals with such matters.** Marxism has its own concepts of sin and salvation and the like:

1. The fall and sin = the division of labour, class divisions, management versus worker, etc.
2. Salvation = class struggle and revolution, to end the class system and destroy the bourgeoisie.
3. Prophets = Marx, Lenin, Stalin, etc.
4. Holy books = *Das Capital*, *The Communist Manifesto*.
5. The elect = the proletariat.
6. The Kingdom = a classless society run by workers with no more division of labour, etc.

**Marx had it partially right.** Alienation is a real problem. But he just dealt with economic alienation: workers being alienated from the means of production, etc. But of course the real alienation is spiritual. We are alienated from God, which results in all the other alienations; alienation from others, from self, from creation. Because he had a faulty worldview, it was an incomplete and defective worldview.

(Continued on p.17)

## THINKING THINGS THROUGH

### Choosing My Religion (Continued from p.16)

**A good worldview or religion will demonstrate these two major characteristics:**

**First, it should be coherent and internally consistent.** That is, it should be reasonable and rational, and not be riddled with contradictions. It should not violate the law of non-contradiction, for example. The system should be logically consistent. Islam can be examined in this light. For example it holds to an extreme fatalism. Everything that happens is Allah's direct will. Islam means submission, and all we are to do is fully submit to Allah and his will. On the other hand there are various religious duties the Muslim is to perform. But at the end of the day the Muslim will never know if he has been accepted by Allah or rejected by him (dying in jihad being the only exception – the only guarantee of entering paradise). He can recite the creed, say the prayers, give the alms, make the pilgrimage, and so on, but at the end of the day it is arbitrarily up to Allah who he will accept and who he will cast into hell. There seems to be a real disconnect here.

**The religion of atheism is pretty much in the same boat.** People like Richard Dawkins can go on and on about how there really is no good and evil. As he said, 'The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. As that unhappy poet A.E. Housman put it: "For Nature, heartless, witless Nature. Will neither care nor know." DNA neither cares nor knows. DNA just is. And we dance to its music.' But the truth is, every day Dawkins rails against what he considers to be evil: religion, religious education, religious fundamentalism, and so on. So on the one hand he tells us there is no good and evil, but on the other hand he keeps on telling us about what he thinks is evil (religion) while imploring us to accept what he thinks is good (atheism). Sorry, but you can't have it both ways. It has to be one or the other. Either good and evil do not exist or they do. Make up your mind. But logical consistency is not always a strong suit of the militant atheist. So we may need to think again in terms of adopting this worldview.

**Second, a good worldview or religion should correspond with the actual world we live in.** That is, it should be experientially relevant. It should make sense to the way we live. Just as a good roadmap corresponds with the way the road is, so should a good religion. It should fit the facts of reality. It should make sense of the world we live in. Many religions seem to be decidedly at odds with reality. Consider the Eastern religions and their view of evil. Generally good and evil are seen as two sides of the same coin: yin and yang. Evil is said to be an illusion, or maya. Thus we must transcend the world of good and evil and go beyond such false distinctions. But this does not fit with reality very well. If I start kicking someone in the shins, he can say he will simply transcend all this, and not admit to real evil. Well, good luck with that. He will still end up with a very painful leg. Evil is real no matter how much we pretend it is not.

**As another example, the religions of the East tend to denigrate what they call Western logic.** They say that basic logical principles do not apply to their worldview. Once again, this may sound good in theory, but it does not go down very well in practice. For example, if a Hindu is standing on train tracks and sees a train rapidly approaching, he more than likely will jump off the tracks. How come? Because he is thinking exactly in terms of cold, hard logic: 'Either I stay on these tracks and get smashed to smithereens, or I jump off pronto and save my life.' That is *Logical Thinking 101*.

**So we need to think carefully and wisely about religions.** They are not all the same, and some are clearly better than others. And some seem to fit the tests of a good worldview far better than others. Given that religion usually deals with things like life and death and matters of eternity, it is imperative that we get it right as we examine the various religions and assess their various truth claims.

**Before I became a Christian I was on a real search.** I tried out many of the alternative religions on offer. None seemed to stand up, and at the end of the day it became clear that Christianity was the one religion that fits the world I lived in, that was internally consistent, that was true, and that made the most sense of my life, my problems, and my needed solutions.

**I encourage all those who have not yet taken part in such a search to do so now.** And remember that the main thing that matters is this test: Is it true? The issue is not whether it sounds nice, or fits your preconceived prejudices, but whether it in fact is true. Jesus Christ is the one who said, 'I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life' (John 14.6). I invite you to investigate His life and His claims more closely. Start by reading *The Gospel Of John* or *The Gospel Of Mark*. You will forever be grateful you did. On the issue of truth and its importance I urge you to look here:

[billmuehlenberg.com/2013/09/25/the-importance-of-truth/](http://billmuehlenberg.com/2013/09/25/the-importance-of-truth/)

– Bill Muehlenberg

## GOOD NEWS! But Can You Help?

Attendance at Goondiwindi, Qld, Congregational Church has increased and they are looking for spare *Mission Praise* word books and/or *Blue Praise!* Hymn Books. Are you able to help? The church is prepared to pay for the books and cover postage costs. Please contact Mrs Thea Beare, phone (07) 4671 2687.