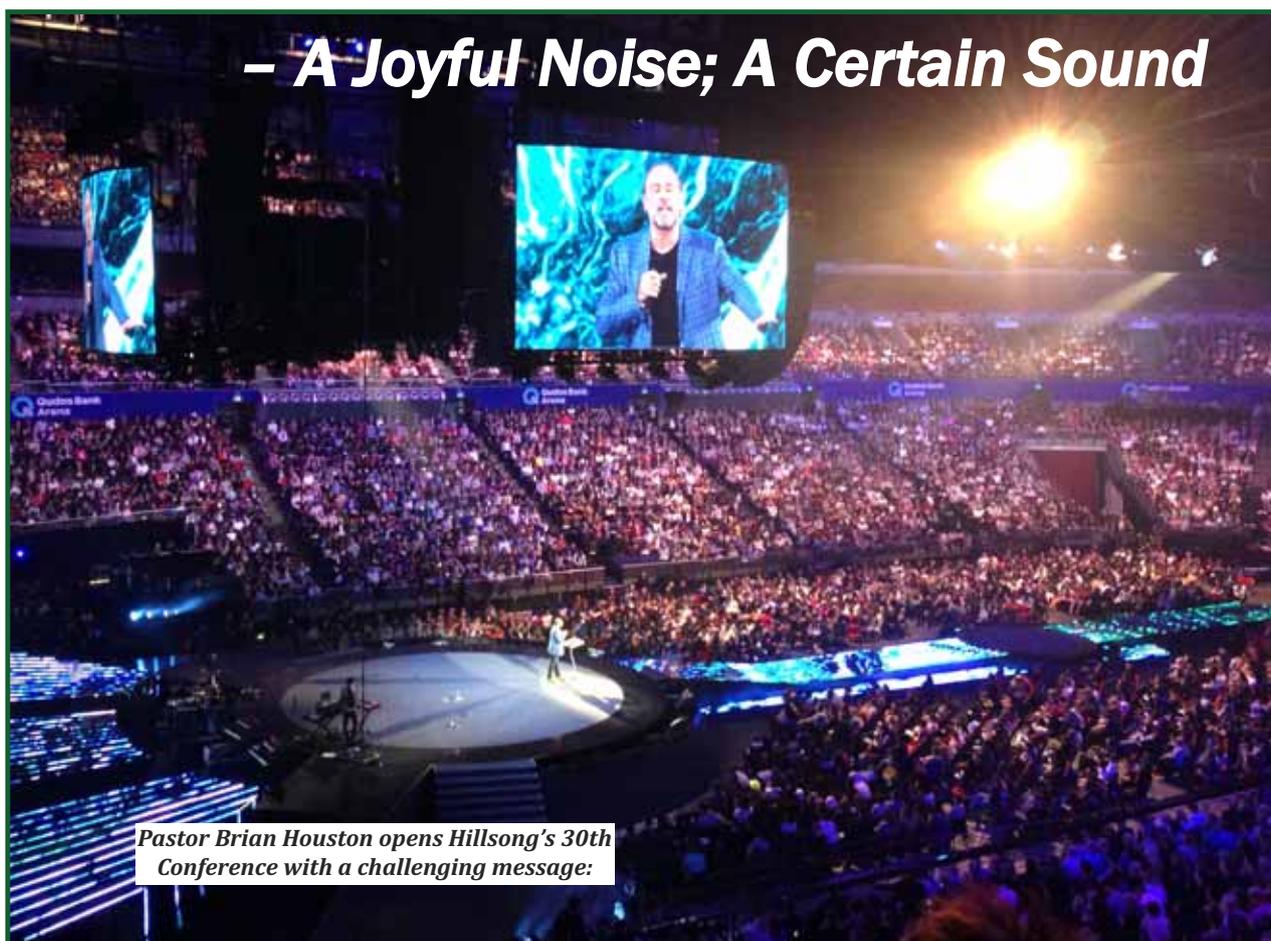


HILLSONG'S 30TH CONFERENCE

– A Joyful Noise; A Certain Sound



Pastor Brian Houston opens Hillsong's 30th Conference with a challenging message:

Christians are bidden to make a joyful noise to the Lord and are also warned against the trumpet making an uncertain sound. The 30th Hillsong Conference provided both a joyful noise and a certain sound for the more than 20,000 who gathered in the Qudos Bank Arena at Sydney's Olympic Park from 4-8 July 2016.

However, Joel Houston, Hillsong's Worship Pastor, says that Hillsong Conference isn't just about always being bigger and better, but rather aims at 'going deeper and wider.' Founding Pastor Brian Houston says he is always attempting to 'preach the whole counsel of God' and listening to his opening

address on *Receptivity*, challenging those present to be receptive to the Gospel and the Word of God, one could only rejoice to see that he was true to his word.

Hillsong's music certainly strikes a chord with the younger generation, if not with all of the older ones, but in recent years it seems to be mellowing and meeting with wider acceptance and approval than it did at first. Certainly 22,000 voices blended well in singing the first song: *How Great Thou Art!* For a full report on the 30th Hillsong Conference go to: pressserviceinternational.org and scroll down to *Hillsong Week 4-8 July*.

VOLUME 79 NUMBER 2

ISSUE DATE:

15 July 2016

FILE NO: NL 2016-07-15

ISSN: 1033-7903

FOUNDER:

Eric J. Daley
(1910-1992)

EDITOR:

Rev Bob Thomas
Phone: 0417 592 646
Email: editor@nlife.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Mignon Goswell
Phone: 0434 313 646
Email: office@nlife.com.au

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 457
Mitcham VIC 3132

WEB-SITE:

www.nlife.com.au

SUBSCRIPTION:

Free On Request

ACCEPTANCE OF
ADVERTISING
DOES NOT IMPLY
ENDORSEMENT.

NEW LIFE RESERVES
THE RIGHT TO REJECT
ADVERTISING DEEMED
UNSUITABLE.

PUBLISHED BY:

New Life Australia Ltd

ABN: 15 005 035 138

CONTRIBUTORS PLEASE
NOTE:

New Life is archived by the National Library of Australia. It is assumed that contributors agree with this arrangement and so are willing to be published on this basis.



'There's Never Been A More Exciting Time ...'?

We haven't heard the Prime Minister say it recently, but well may we ask if Australia's political scene has ever made for a more exciting time to be an Australian than now? Adjectives other than 'exciting' come to mind here. 'Interesting'; 'confusing', 'worrying', 'uncertain', 'hopeful', are just a few.

New Life seldom enters the political fray, especially in the lead-up to an election, hence our deafening silence (and somewhat disappointing silence, we must admit, to strong supporters of the overtly Christian political parties and movements). But now with the next election three years away, the political make-up of the parliament becoming clearer by the day, some of the heat dissipated, and time for reflection, one feels sufficiently courageous to offer some suggestions for the future.

1. Could the Christian parties present a more united front to maximise their vote in each state? Perhaps if Fred Nile's Christian Democratic Party stood the candidate in NSW and the ACT, if Rise Up Australia stood the candidate in Vic, if Family First stood the candidate in SA, if Australian Christian Lobby stood the candidate in Qld and Australian Christians stood the candidates in Tas and WA, we could end up with some direct representation, in the Senate at least.

2. Can we all pressure the PM into holding that plebiscite on marriage, pray for a God-honouring outcome and then, whatever the result, turn our preoccupation with matters gay into Gospelling them like Paul did in Corinth?

3. Can we look to more positive and creative ways of fighting the good fight? See p.6 of this issue for a report on the Church of England establishing free schools in England to make a Christian education more widely available. Railing against the evils of our day has its place, but it is short-term compared to the long-term aim of instilling Christian values in our children ('Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.' Proverbs 22.6.) If conditions are not right for establishing 'free' schools in Australia, perhaps Christian 'crowd-funding' could establish scholarship funds to be made available on a mass and means-tested basis for less privileged believers' children to attend the existing ones.

4. Can we maximise our use of the media, secular and sacred? Christians and our 'fellow travellers' are few and far between these days in the secular media. Those who are deserve our full support and encouragement. Thankfully, there are numerous Christian radio stations broadcasting around the nation and some ministries producing Christian content for television. They all need strong financial support. There are three broad-based evangelical newspapers: *Eternity* distributing 100,000 copies, *Press Service International/Christian Today* online, and, yes, *New Life*. We're all free and could all do with being more widely known, accepted, distributed and supported.

5. Can we see good wherever it resides under The Big Umbrella which is the Christian Church? Many Australian Christians belong to the World Reformed Fellowship whose mission statement is: 'That the strengths of some may become the strengths of all.' Such a positive inlook/outlook has brought much encouragement and help to many branches of the Christian Church and to many individuals who belong to liberal churches while personally upholding the full-orbed faith themselves. While we hold fast to Biblical truth ourselves, as we should, a generous disposition towards others will open many doors of opportunity for us both in the wider church and the wider world. As Spurgeon said, 'More flies are caught with honey than with vinegar.'

– Bob Thomas

RUSSIA: Anti-Mission Measures Signed Into Law

On Thursday 7 July Russia's President Vladimir Putin signed into law a controversial 'anti-terror' package which includes anti-mission measures that eviscerate religious freedom. In signing the *Yarovaya Law*, President Putin has defied the advice of business leaders, church leaders, human rights advocates and even his own presidential advisors. It is a difficult decision to understand and disappointing beyond measure.

We must never underestimate the impact that geopolitics has on religious freedom. The Russian government is not inherently anti-Christian. However, the denominations which will be impacted most seriously by the new legislation are non-Russian Orthodox denominations, in particular Protestants, who in times of extreme East-West geopolitical tensions can be unfairly viewed with suspicion.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists: 'If the law produces any undesired outcomes, the government will introduce measures accordingly by presidential decree.'

While this is a day for mourning, it is also a day for renewed prayer for the whole Russian Church. May the eternal truth that our God is a Redeeming God continue to inspire our prayers. May Christ, who is building His Church and shepherding His flock, sanctify the Russian Church. May Russia's denominations stand together as one – united across denominational lines – not only in defence of religious freedom, but in declaring the value of the wisdom of God and the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the sake of the nation and the glory of God.

'AFTER SATURDAY COMES SUNDAY'

A new and timely book *After Saturday Comes Sunday: Understanding The Christian Crisis In The Middle East*, is now available from the publisher, Wipf and Stock (Eugene, OR, USA) [<http://wipfandstock.com/after-saturday-comes-sunday.html>], as well as through major distributors including Morning Star Publishing (Australia), [<http://morningstarpublishing.net.au/product/after-saturday-comes-sunday/>] on-line book sellers including Amazon [<https://www.amazon.com/After-Saturday-Comes-Sunday-Understanding/dp/1498239862>] and increasingly, Christian bookstores.

Instead of preserving Mesopotamia's integrity as a buffer zone and defending its vulnerable minorities and indigenous peoples (the Assyrians and Armenians), the West has been backing neo-Ottoman Turkey and Wahhabist Saudi Arabia while brokering deals with revolutionary Axis of Resistance leader Iran. As for the jihadists, despite attracting all our attention, they are in reality just proxies, totally dependent on state backing.

Meanwhile, just as the Armenian Genocide took place under the cover of World War One, so too now, the genocide of the region's indigenous remnant Christians is taking place under the cover of a geopolitical conflict. Christians and Christianity could be eliminated from Mesopotamia and the wider Middle East; and the only thing necessary for this to be achieved is that we do nothing.

But don't think it will end there. For Mesopotamia, long known as the cradle of civilisation, is but ground zero in a battle for civilisation. This conflict is coming to a theatre near you and me; and unless the West starts listening to and believing the Christians of the Middle East, then their plight will prefigure our own.

I would be more than pleased to answer any questions on the subject matter of this book, trends in global religious liberty, and/or the plight of persecuted Christians in general. For more information see: www.ElizabethKendal.com – Elizabeth Kendal

Elizabeth Kendal is the author of *Turn Back The Battle: Isaiah Speaks To Christians Today* (Deror Books, Melbourne, Australia, Dec 2012) which offers a Biblical response to persecution and existential threat; and *After Saturday Comes Sunday: Understanding The Christian Crisis In The Middle East* (Wipf and Stock, Eugene, OR, USA, June 2016). See www.ElizabethKendal.com

PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WILL:

- fill Russia's Christian leaders with 'the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so [they will] walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. [May they be] strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy [and thankfulness]!' (From Colossians 1.9-14 ESV)
- not permit the repressive anti-mission measures to stand, and that as soon as 'undesired outcomes' emerge, may the measures indeed be 'amended accordingly by presidential decree'. May the Lord guide President Putin and grant wisdom in this regard. (1Timothy 2.1-4)
- redeem this wicked attempt to silence the Church.
- take that which was meant for harm and redeem it for good. Though these measures will certainly produce hardship and suffering, may the Lord redeem them as the means by which the door is opened for public testimony concerning the richness of the wisdom of God and the transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 10.16-39).
- though these measures have the potential to divide Christians and fuel suspicion and animosity, may the Lord redeem them as the means through which the Holy Spirit will forge unity in the Body.

There's More To Kentucky Than Fried Chicken – Ark Replica Attracts 7,000 On Opening Day

A \$100 million Noah's ark attraction which took a former Australian science teacher six years to build, saw 7,000 people attend the opening day in the US last week. The 155m-long ark is the brainchild of Ken Ham, a creationist who left his job in Brisbane three decades ago to move to Kentucky, where he has become a spokesperson for thousands of Americans living in the country's Mid-West Bible belt.



Ken Ham expects that almost half the visitors to his ark will be non-Christians. Addressing a press conference, Mr Ham said: 'In a world that is becoming increasingly secularized and biased, it's time for Christians to do something of this size and this magnitude.' Mr Ham believes the ark is going to be a 'great Christian outreach,' with people coming to see it from all over the world. The president of *Answers In Genesis* says the design for the ark was based on dimensions used in the Bible. – *My Christian Daily*

MARTIN LUTHER, EAT YOUR HEART OUT

In honour of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation, all churches in the former East Germany — starting with about 220 in Berlin, and rolling out to over 3000 in total — will offer free Wi-Fi to church-goers in the hope that it will show that churches aren't just for sermons and bells, but also 'a gathering place for communication.'

The Reformation itself gathered strength through the printing press, so why can't free internet have a similar effect, the churches are asking. The plan comes at a time when there is a widespread lack of free public Wi-Fi in Germany due to a law that makes network providers responsible for any illegal activity regarding intellectual property. As a result, the country has been known as a Wi-Fi desert, but churches are pushing ahead 'to show just how modern and useful they can be.'

If all goes as planned, the churches will be one of the largest Wi-Fi providers in Germany and they are hoping this will appeal to the younger generation. – *My Christian Daily.*

PHILISTINE CEMETERY DISCOVERED

Archaeologists digging at the southern coastal city of Ashkelon have discovered the first cemetery belonging to the ancient Israelites' dreaded and shadowy nemesis, the Philistines. The cemetery, discovered just outside the ancient city walls and dated to between the 11th and 8th Centuries BC may contain thousands of individuals.

Speaking to the press at Jerusalem's Rockefeller Museum, Daniel Master, one of the heads of the expedition, said the cemetery, 'the final great discovery' after 30 years of excavation of Ashkelon, could help shed light on the origins and customs of the Philistines.

Scholars believe the Philistines were among a number of tribes of non-Semitic peoples who migrated across the Mediterranean — possibly from modern Greece and Turkey — and settled the Canaanite coast in the early Iron Age. (*Apparently, though, no oversized skeleton has yet been found.* – Ed) – *Breaking Christian News, The Times Of Israel.*

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

A major collection of Australian Christian history will be preserved at the library of Sydney's Moore College. The collection includes two of the first books ever printed by press, the first book distributed in Australia, an ancient Hebrew parchment, a first edition of the King James Bible and many iconic pieces from the first years of the colony. The historic, irreplaceable collection is to be housed and exhibited in the college's new library, due for completion in 2017.

One of the most historic items of Australiana is the *Address To The Inhabitants Of The Colonies* by the chaplain of the First Fleet, the Rev Richard Johnson. It was printed in England in 1794 with editing by the slave trader-turned evangelist John Newton. Rev Johnson used it in his work in Sydney, making it the first book conceived and distributed in Australia. As well as Australiana, significant pieces of ancient and Reformation history will be housed in the new library. – *Sydney Anglicans*

New British Prime Minister Is A Committed Christian

The new British Prime Minister, Theresa May, and Andrea Leadsom, her last remaining opponent, are both committed Christians. Andrea Leadsom, who withdrew from the race to be PM, has given her testimony on the *Christians In Parliament* website and said the moment '(when it) became impossible ... not to believe in God' was when her first son was born. She says she always tries to ensure she is doing what she believes God would want her to do: 'I try to stay calm and measured and be the person God wants me to be.'

Theresa May, the daughter of a vicar, is a practising Anglican. When she was invited onto BBC Radio 4's *Desert Island Discs* program, she chose Isaac Watt's *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross* as one of her songs. She told presenter Kirsty Young that she 'never took issue with the church' because it was 'never imposed by my parents. It is part of who I am and how I approach things,' she said.



– *Christian Today*

CHINESE GOV'T CONFISCATES OFFERINGS

Some churches in China are being forced to hand over their tithes and offerings to government authorities as China continues cracking down on Christianity. According to China Aid, the government in the province of Zhejiang has enacted a new law which forces churches to surrender all their tithes and offerings to authorities.

Church sources told China Aid that government officials interfere with church affairs in many ways, managing donations and large-scale projects, and churches have to have the government's permission to buy equipment or decorate the church. China has been increasing its persecution of Christians and crackdown against Christianity in the last few years.

– *China Aid*

Pastor, Carmel Welsh Presbyterian Church, Sebastopol, Vic. Our Mission: 'To Know Christ and Make Him Known'

Carmel Welsh Presbyterian Church is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced pastor who:

- Is passionate about discipleship; grounded in and nourished by God's Word.
- Will help nurture, build and equip the congregation to reach out to the local community.

ESSENTIAL QUALITIES:

- Team Person/Team Player
- Prayerful/ Growing relationship with God
- Honest/Able to keep confidences
- Pastoral Heart
- Understands and can deal with dynamics of conflict
- Competent Preacher/Teacher – effective communicator
- Sense of call

The position is negotiable for 3 to 5 days per week.

A substantial manse is available as part of the stipend package.

The church congregation is part of the Calvinistic Methodist Connexion in Melbourne.

We have a significant number of Filipino families in the congregation and actively support mission work in the Philippines.

A Church profile and two documents to use for application are available on request.

Closing date for application is Friday 29 July 2016.

Contact Wendy Arnold by email on: wendy@carmelwelsh.com.au

or by phone on (03) 5335 8252.

All applications will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

How The Church Is Changing England With Free Education

The Church of England is making new waves in the country by opening more than 100 free Christian schools. The new schools will be a way for the church to have a voice in an increasingly secular government, a voice many secular leaders want diminished. The Church Of England's new initiative to open 500 free schools for underprivileged children has been derided by many critics as a poor decision, but the church sees it as an opportunity to teach children the Christian faith.



The free schools are funded by the government but can be set up and run by charities, parents, trusts, businesses, teachers, or religious groups. That is why the church has set its sights on opening some 125 new faith schools across the country during the next four years. The church currently runs just 10 free schools, but soon that number will rise exponentially with potentially millions of new students.

'This is a moment to be bold and ambitious and offer more than an apologetic for church schools but a vision for education,' Bishop Stephen Conway, chair of the church's board of education at the General Synod in York, said. A report at the General Synod says the government's free education program was a 'unique opportunity for the Church of England to renew and enhance its contribution to the education of our nation's children ... an opportunity which should be seized wholeheartedly.'

The new schools will be a way for the church to have a voice in an increasingly secular government, a voice many secular leaders want diminished. 'The significant changes we're seeing in the country's religion and belief landscape means the church's role in state education needs to be diminished not expanded,' Stephen Evens, campaign director for the National Secular Society, told *The Telegraph UK*. Despite the push-back from secular groups, Bishop Conway says the church vows 'to ensure that church schools continue to develop their distinctive Christian character.'

- CBN News via Breaking Christian News

www.morlingcollege.com

MRC MORLING
RESIDENTIAL
COLLEGE

BRAND NEW!

Morling Residential College opening in July 2016. Find out more and apply today:

www.morlingresidential.com

100
MORLING
COLLEGE

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS
OF MORLING COLLEGE

MORLING COLLEGE
**apply now for
mid year entry**

www.morlingcollege.com

STUDY AREAS

- > Bible, Ministry and Theology
- > Chaplaincy
- > Education
- > Counselling
- > Evangelism and Mission

Equipping the **whole believer** to take the **whole gospel** to the **whole world**

122 Herring Road, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 | (02) 9878 0201 | enquiries@morling.edu.au

HERE'S HELP FOR ONLINERS:

NZ: New Children's Bible App Aims To Ignite A Love Of The Bible

The Bible Society New Zealand has launched a new app for mobile devices that is designed to help parents share the Bible with their kids. Called *The Big Little Bible*, the app features New Zealand-made illustrations using a unique 'one line' art technique called contour drawing – where the pencil never leaves the page.

Aimed at 8-10 year olds, the app includes 30 Bible stories taken straight from the *Contemporary English Version* and seeks to bridge the gap from paraphrased Bible stories to independent real text Bible reading.

For illustrator and mum Meesh Holswich, the project was like a dream come true. 'God gave me the heart to draw and I have been drawing non-stop since I was a child,' she says.

And amazingly her unique style of art dovetails with the overall message of the Bible: 'One line, one thread, from the beginning of the Bible until the end – it's all one story! Each illustration is made with one continuous line, which then joins with the next illustration, and the next, representing the one story than runs through the Bible from beginning to end,' she explained. The 100 illustrations took more than six months to complete and were made especially for the app.

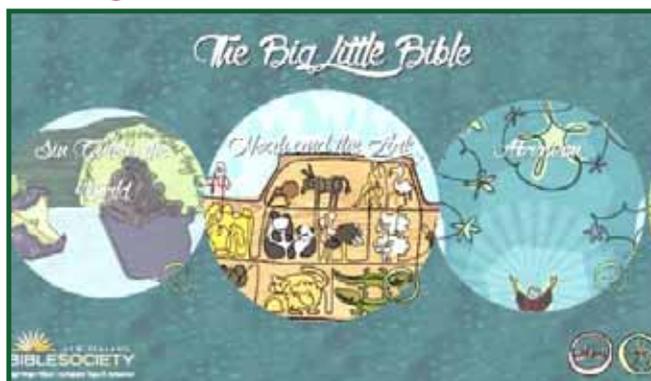
Meesh's passion for illustrating goes back to her childhood love for the Bible. 'The Bible is a precious gift that gives us insight into the great story of God's love revealed throughout time. Reading Bible stories shows us how other people, just like us, live out their lives in faith, sometimes in failure, and the wondrous things that happen when we follow God. 'Drawing Bible stories brought me back to when, as a child, I used to wonder at the beautiful illustrations in Bible story books. Remembering those days helped me think of how I wanted to illustrate each story,' she said.

Bible Society New Zealand's Biblical literacy research found that many children would read, listen to or watch Bible stories more often if they were on computer or mobile app. This will be their third mobile app and is free to download. You can download *The Big Little Bible* app at the Apple and Google Play stores now. Meesh particularly likes the camel illustrations in the Abraham and Sarah story, as well as the pictures in Noah's Ark and Adam and Eve.

– Dr Mark Tronson

Mark Tronson's archive of articles can be viewed at:

<http://www.pressserviceinternational.org/mark-tronson.html>



To Look Up Back Issues Of *New Life* Right Back To August 2007
Go To: www.nlife.com.au And Click On: Previous Issues
Bound Volumes Back To Vol 1, No 1 Are Held In The Library Of MST,
5 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna 3152

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

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

96threeFM
Today's Christian Music
Today's Christian Music, Inspiring Talk
www.96three.com.au
Phone: 03 5241 6550
Email: listen@96three.com.au

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE

FamilyVoice State Director Wanted In Sydney

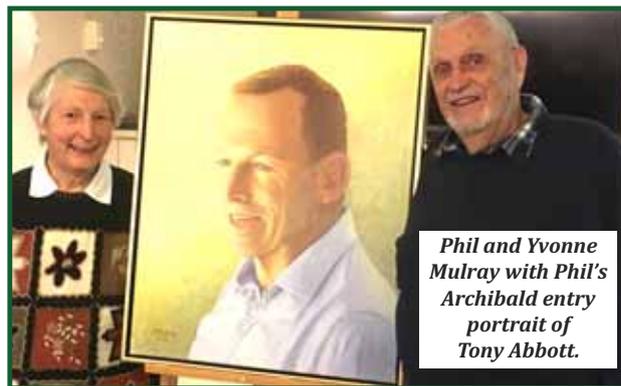
Family Voice has a vacancy for a suitably qualified and gifted person to serve as State Director of FamilyVoice in New South Wales. This is a full-time position for someone to lead and grow Family Voice Australia's ministry throughout New South Wales, with a twin focus on church engagement and advocacy in the civic arena. Further details of the position are available from Dr David Phillips, National Director, FamilyVoice Australia, 4th Floor, 68 Grenfell St, Adelaide, SA 5000. Phone: 1300 365 965. Email: dmp@fava.org.au The closing date for applications is Wednesday 27 July 2016.

Are You Prepared To SCATTER?

Are you looking for ways you can use your gifts and interests to serve Christ, but don't know where to start? This is the type of question Operation Mobilization President Andrew Scott answers in his new book, *Scatter: Go Therefore And Take Your Job With You!* Mr Scott sounds a call for a new era of missions, one that uses the global marketplace to spread the Gospel and sees every Christian — engineer, baker, pastor, or other — as God's 'global messenger.' The book lays out practical steps for understanding the key to effective ministry, which Mr Scott says begins by looking at one's abilities, passions and life experiences. He says people should not give up their talents and interests for mission, but see them as God's gifts for use in His service.

Wesley Mission Resident Enters Tony Abbott For The Archibald Prize

An eighty-year-old resident of Wesley Mission's WG



Phil and Yvonne Mulray with Phil's Archibald entry portrait of Tony Abbott.

Taylor Retirement Village at North Narrabeen in Sydney's north is a surprise entrant in this year's Archibald Prize for art. Phil Mulray had a highly successful career as an architect, including producing drawings for the Sydney Opera House and working overseas, but he had an unfulfilled passion for art. He convinced the former Prime Minister Tony Abbott to be his subject for an entry into Australia's most prized art competition. The portrait of Mr Abbott is a result of eight month's work and several sittings with the former PM. The final product was unveiled in Mr Abbott's electorate office before it was transported to the NSW Art Gallery for judging. Wesley Mission CEO, the Rev Dr Keith Garner, says the Mission is delighted with Mr Mulray's entry and it is a practical demonstration of how painting engages older Australians. Mr Mulray's association with Wesley Mission began in 1964 when he worked on sketches and architectural drawings for the refurbishment of Wesley Mission's iconic Lyceum Theatre after a major fire destroyed its interior.

— Wesley Mission.

We're Counting On YOU! YOUR Donations Keep Us Going!

Through the generous donations of members of the *New Life* family, *New Life* is now available free on request by email to everyone, everywhere, who wants to receive it.

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION:

By Cheque To: New Life, PO Box 457, Mitcham 3132 Vic.

By Direct Deposit To: Account Name: New Life Australia Ltd.

Bank: Westpac. BSB: 033-112. Account Number: 16-8239.

(Please email office@nlife.com.au when you direct deposit).

From Our Web Site: (www.nlife.com.au) using the *Make A Donation* button.

CHURCH AND NATION

Salvos Launch *Fashion With A Conscience* Campaign To Support National Op Shop Week, Sunday 21 August – Saturday 27 August

Salvos Stores is supporting National Op Shop Week with the launch of their new *Fashion With A Conscience* campaign. National Op Shop Week seeks to raise awareness of the importance of supporting op shops in our community and runs from Sunday 21 August - Saturday 27 August 2016.

Fashion With A Conscience encourages customers to Reuse, Recycle & Reinvent fashion by shopping at their local Salvos Store. Not only do Salvos Stores divert 15,000 tonnes of clothing and household items per year from landfill, but if every Australian recycled one T-shirt or a pair of jeans each year, we would recover billions of litres of water! Salvos will be officially launching their *Fashion With A Conscience* campaign on day two of National Op Shop Week, with in-store events in various locations throughout NSW, QLD and ACT on Monday 22 August from 9am. Participating stores will feature a Salvos Capsule Wardrobe display to inspire their savvy shoppers, with each wardrobe consisting of stylish outfits for all occasions for less than \$250 (for the entire wardrobe!). On Monday 22 August, all Salvos Stores in QLD, NSW and ACT will also be offering 50% off all pre-loved items, making it the perfect time for everyone to shop *Fashion With A Conscience* and create a whole new wardrobe for less whilst helping the environment.

Faye De Lanty, eco stylist, fashion commentator and Ambassador for Salvos Stores, says 'Fashion With A Conscience is about being caring, mindful and thoughtful with your fashion dollar. Sourcing your wardrobe from a charity like Salvos Stores not only helps those less fortunate but our planet too. Fashion is one of the most wasteful industries in the world, that's why it's so important to reuse, reinvent and recycle our clothing as often as we can.

Salvos Stores have been helping struggling families and individuals for 130 years, and have raised millions of dollars to support The Salvation Army. Pre-loved and recycled furniture, clothing and goods are donated to the stores and then sold at reasonable and fair prices. All profits from these sales go towards running vital Salvation Army programs which assist the less fortunate. Goods are also distributed free of charge to those in need through The Salvation Army's network of Community Service Centres. By donating to and shopping at Salvos Stores the community is recycling and reducing landfill. This is of great benefit to our environment. By shopping and donating at your community Salvos Store, you are supporting the mission and programs of The Salvation Army.

VISITING MELBOURNE?

You're welcome at *The Faith Factory*:

ST KILDA: Cnr Alma Rd/Barkly St. Every Sunday 11am & 7pm;
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

You're Welcome At *The Faith Factory*

– A Friendly, Caring, Bible-Believing Christian Fellowship –



GLORIOUS THINGS - A PROTESTANT'S GUIDE TO LONDON

• Revised! • Updated! • Illustrated! • Now Available As An e-Book!

Glorious Things will help visitors to London

arrive well prepared to make the most of their time there.

The guided tours will take you to places like Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral, but *Glorious Things* will take you to important sites linked to our Protestant heritage.

COST: \$10 for the PDF version, with the right to print two hard copies.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

1. Cheque for \$10 payable to New Life Australia. Mail to: PO Box 457, Mitcham Vic 3132.
(Please include a letter with your name and email address so that we can email the PDF to you.)

2. Direct deposit \$10 to Bank: Westpac; A/c name: New Life Australia Ltd
BSB: 033-112; A/c No: 16-8239 (Please also notify us by email).



FOR YOUR QUIET TIME ...

GRACETHROUGH HELP, HOPE AND HEALING

Pastor Peter Rahme, of Sydney's Inner West Baptist Church, has launched *GraceThrough* devotions which he plans, Lord willing, to email out daily. To have your name added to the list, just email Peter at: peterahme@optusnet.com.au Below is a recent example:

Prayer Changes Things!

The Bible says: *'Pray without ceasing.'* (1 Thessalonians 5.17)

PRAYER – It's more than a thing you do when you don't know what to do. It's an effective spiritual muscle that you can exercise even when you do know what to do.

The objective of prayer is not to inform our Saviour and Lord of our needs (God knows everything), but to transform our situations and lives in our time of need (God knows we need it).

In your own life, when pain and suffering cause your heart to feel that God is out of sight, let PRAYER (and singing) comfort your soul with the fact that He is never out of reach.

In the life of others:

PRAY also for those of your dear family and close friends who daily medicate their fragile minds with toxic doses of regular complaining.

PRAY for them individually by name, and in Jesus name, that they will be set free, by God's grace, from their self-inflicted burdens of Selfishness, Stubbornness, Stinginess and Spiritual blindness.

PRAY that they will see that life doesn't revolve around them and that the world doesn't owe them anything.

And don't forget that when you look at problems with the eyes of possibilities, on the knees of PRAYER and with the strength of perseverance, you'll see God working for you, in you and through you.

*Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us,
unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages,
world without end. Amen. (Ephesians 3.20,21)*

GraceThrough ... with Pastor Peter Rahme, © 2016 Peter Rahme. All rights reserved.

How Can YOU Help New Life?

**By Praying For Us? Sending In A Donation? Advertising?
Forwarding It To A Friend?**

Yes Please! Because WE Want To Go On Helping YOU!

YOU Can Advertise Here.

Contact Mignon. Email: office@nlife.com.au



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

New Russian Law Punishes Evangelism

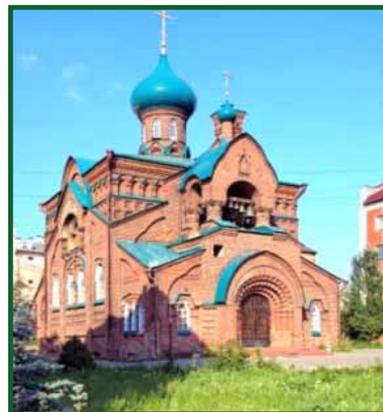
Further to our story on p.3, Mr John Reeder has provided the following news item from National Religious Broadcasters in the USA: Despite pleas from religious organizations, business leaders, and human rights activists, Russian President Vladimir Putin this week signed legislation that includes heavy-handed requirements for speech on electronic media and restrictions on religious freedom. Indeed, Russia's own Presidential Council on Civil Society and Human Rights called for the law's rejection because of its 'unconstitutionality.'

The new law is especially harmful to those who wish to preach and teach the Gospel. Government permits through registered religious groups will be required for evangelism. Moreover, such outreach efforts will essentially be restricted to church building sites. Dr Hannu Haukka,

President of Great Commission Media Ministries, which is actively engaged in Russia, said, "This new situation resembles the Soviet Union in 1929. At that time confession of faith was permitted only in church. Practically speaking, we are back in the same situation. These anti-terrorist laws are some of the most restrictive laws in post-Soviet history.'

Similarly, Dr Jerry A. Johnson, President & CEO of National Religious Broadcasters, stated, "The enactment of a law restricting the free exercise of religion by any nation should be a matter of grave concern and prayerful action by Christians of all nations. Following a pattern of other human rights abuses, Vladimir Putin's Russia is criminalizing a central duty for all followers of Christ – sharing our faith.'

Dr Johnson added, "In keeping with the Apostle Peter's declaration, "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5.29), I commend the faithfulness of Russia's evangelical Christians and urge believers across the world earnestly to seek God's protection for all those who are being faithful in their witness. I also commend NRB members who are seeking to share the Good News in Russia.'



INDIA: Congregation, Women, Children Beaten in East India Village

Recently, 50 anti-Christian extremists attacked a congregation of believers as they were worshipping at a church in east India. Michigan-based Mission India heard of the situation after their church planting partner, Biren, was one of the congregation members who was attacked. The extremists assaulted and beat everyone in the church — including women and children — with sticks and rods. Erik Morsehead shares: 'Extremists demanded that Christians leave the village or they'd face even more dire consequences just for worshipping Jesus. So, fearing for their lives, those Christians fled the village. And with all this going on, the police refused to offer any assistance. In fact, they said the church planter himself, if he continues to lead people to Christ, they will beat him worse than the extremists did.' Believers are afraid to return to their homes. They have taken shelter in another village in the area.

CHINA: Legal Assistant Zhao Wei Released Ahead Of Crackdown Anniversary

Christian Solidarity Worldwide welcomes the release on bail of 24 year-old legal assistant Zhao Wei on 7 July but remains concerned about those still in detention following the unprecedented crackdown

on human rights lawyers that started last year. Zhao Wei's arrest was part of an unprecedented crackdown on human rights lawyers in China, which began on 9 July 2015. To date, over 300 lawyers and their colleagues and families have been arrested, interrogated or disappeared at some point over the course of the year. Many have now been released from prison, but over 20 remain in detention and incommunicado.

SOUTH SUDAN: Tremendous Devastation

Now that a ceasefire has been declared in South Sudan, horrifying reports of the devastation are emerging. According to the *Christian Post*, hundreds of Christians have reportedly been massacred in many brutal ways, including being burned alive, suffocated, shot, and hanged. Even children and the disabled were not exempt from the violence, which also included widespread occurrences of rape. Church sources say it was a massacre, although the number of victims is still unknown. Thousands of people have fled to churches which serve as one of the few places of refuge amidst the civil war. Churches and humanitarian groups are offering assistance, despite many difficulties, including the lack of drinking water.

– *Christian Post*

The Early Church Marches On

ACTS 6.1-7

Luke continues with his realistic portrayal of the Christian community. At this stage, the Early Church consisted of believing Jews both from a Hebrew-speaking background and from a Greek-speaking background. The Greek-speaking Jews complained that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of the welfare, which favoured Hebrew-speaking widows. **In v 2, the apostolic response is both swift and public.** They recognise the priority of their own ministry (v 3), 'the Word of God'. But they are not implying that ministry of the table (that is, distributing food) is beneath them because they show that this is a ministry to be undertaken by men 'full of the Spirit and wisdom' (v 3).



The apostles gladly delegate this serving ministry so that they can focus on prayer and the Word, which is their key ministry. The good is the enemy of the best. Thank God that the apostles recognised God's call to the best in their own ministry of the Word and prayer, and made sure that it was not disrupted by the good, that is, waiting on tables.

The whole community (v 5) chose seven men whom they set apart for this ministry (v 6). In a community culturally divided like the Early Church, there is great sensitivity to the potential disruption which could flow from the complaint (v 1) that the Greek-speaking widows were being overlooked. Seven men, all having Greek names, were chosen; not five Greek-speakers to two Hebrew-speakers, or four to three, but seven Greek-speakers to nil.

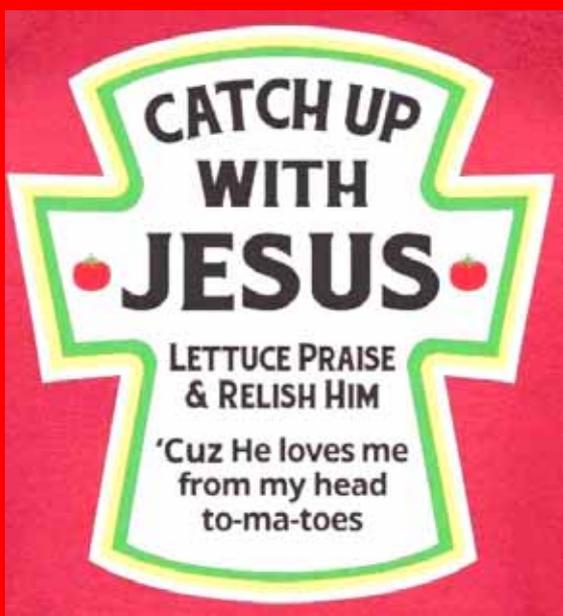
This shows the Early Church's determination 'to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4.3). The Apostles' clear thinking and their commitment to this God-given unity is blessed by God. The result (v 7) is the rapid increase of the Church, with the Gospel reaching deeply into Judaism and a large number of priests becoming obedient to the Gospel. The Gospel continues on its march to the ends of the Earth. The threat of prison, and now internal complaining, do not frustrate its progress.

FOR REFLECTION:

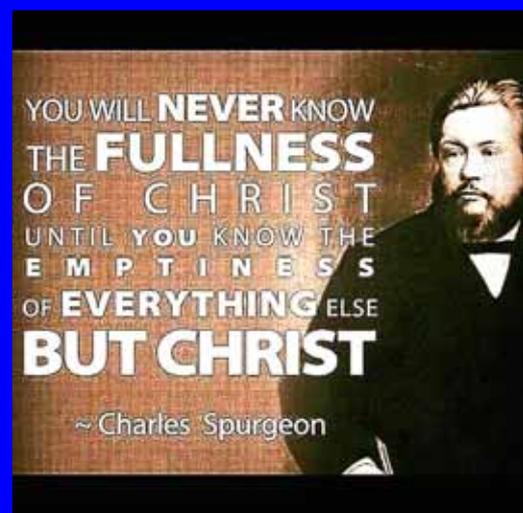
What can we learn about handling disruptions in the local church by what the apostles do here?
How does the apostolic conviction, evidenced here, encourage you in your ministry?

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

SEEN ON FACEBOOK:



Words Of Wisdom:



*1 Thessalonians 5.17.
Don't stop praying.*

BOOKS WORTH READING

INTRODUCING BIBLICAL HERMENEUTICS: A Comprehensive Framework For Hearing God In Scripture, Craig G. Bartholomew (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015).

ISBN 978-0-8010-3977-5.

Put simply, hermeneutics is the theory behind the process of interpreting the Bible, and so is something pastors practise every week in the pulpit and Christians do every time they read and seek to understand the Bible. Craig Bartholomew, Professor of Philosophy at Redeemer University College, is an experienced and sure guide to how hermeneutics can deepen our engagement with Scripture, and that is his aim in writing this book. He writes as an Evangelical Christian and finds the foundation of all Christian knowing in the Trinitarian nature of God.

The first necessary quality of the student of Scripture is to be a good listener, open to what God says in the Word and not rushing to ask our own questions, for the danger is that we will impose our agenda and concerns on the Bible. We should expect to hear God speaking in Scripture what is unexpected and new. It is not possible to be genuinely open to the message of the Bible without much prayer, so that prayer and study go together. Some of us need to pray more; others of us need to study more; most of us need to do both more!

Biblical theology tells us the grand story in which we all feature as characters, helping us to make sense of life and our own experience of it. Bartholomew says it is vital to remember that our generation is not the first to read the Bible, and hence the importance of 'Reception History'. A humble consideration of what those who preceded us thought about the Bible is a powerful tool in assisting us understand and apply the Scriptures to our own day. He takes us on a tour of more than 20 centuries of biblical interpretation. He calls on Bible scholars to engage the biblical text in ways that are faithful, theological, insightful and practical, all in the service of God and the Church (and of a needy world that will not necessarily thank us for our efforts).

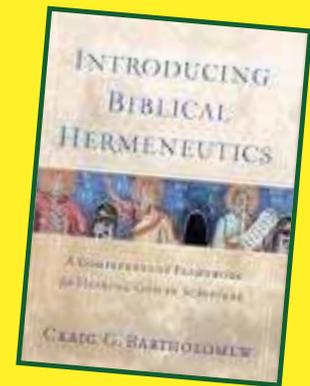
Like it or not, philosophy (eg the philosophy of language) does have a major influence on biblical interpretation. As well, Bartholomew insists that history is central to the Christian Faith, with the Bible the accurate story of what God did in history to save humanity. The Christian worldview includes belief in the providential ordering of all history, with Christ at its centre and the final Kingdom of God at its end.

The Bible is theology, story, literature and history all rolled up into one, without compromising the integrity of any of these components. It tells us the truth about God and His purposes. It does so by narrating a story that stretches from Creation to the Endtime. In doing so it is the greatest literature in the world, and its substance is revealed events in space and time.

Bartholomew challenges Christian scholarship to be at the service of the Church and world, and biblical scholars in particular have the responsibility to assist scholars in other disciplines to engage Scripture and to develop biblical frameworks for all fields of learning and research, so that Christ may be acknowledged as Lord of all spheres. Finally, Bartholomew insists that theology and the study of the Scriptures must lead to preaching and other forms of proclamation that bring God's Word to bear on the practical issues of life.

What strikes me about Bartholomew's new monumental effort to explain what hermeneutics can and should be is (as the subtitle suggests) its comprehensive nature. Bartholomew provides no one-sided quick-fix solutions. The too-simple solution too often does not really address the question. He brings to the table spread with the rich feast of Scripture all the utensils needed by those who sit down to be nourished and satisfied: theology, philosophy, history and literature. Each field has an essential role in the faithful, insightful and practical exploration and application of the Bible as the Word of God.

– Greg Goswell



'Bartholomew provides no one-sided quick-fix solutions. The too-simple solution too often does not really address the question. He brings to the table spread with the rich feast of Scripture all the utensils needed by those who sit down to be nourished and satisfied.'

ONE AFTERNOON IN SYDNEY

...Whose leaf shall not wither - Psalm 1:3

SATURDAY 13 AUGUST

Time 1:30pm – 4:00pm
Location Salvation Army's
Stanmore House
Address 51-61 Harrow Road
Stanmore, Sydney
Cost Free
RSVP by Monday 8th August
Contact info@markt.id.au
0419 917 713

Aimed to assist mission agencies-society publication editors, Christian bloggers, small Christian media outlets: co-hosted by Rev Bob Thomas (New Life), John Sandeman (Eternity) and Dr Mark Tronson (a daily columnist with Christian Today).

The workshops and panel discussion will inspire a new generation of Christian writers and agencies reaching out through online and social media.

One Afternoon in Sydney has been compacted into an afternoon as it has been combined with Press Service International's Young Writer Annual Conference and Awards - delegates are welcome to stay for the Annual Awards at 4pm.

Press Service International is a ministry of Well-Being Australia.

PROGRAM

9:20 AM Young Writer Conference
.....
1:30 PM **FAITH AND MEDIA**
with Josh Reid
CREATIVITY AND FAITH
with Justin Monaghan
2:00 PM **PANEL DISCUSSION**
Panel Chair: Chief Editor:
Press Service International,
Sophia Sinclair
Panelists:
Thomas Devenish - Hobart
Justin Monaghan - Adelaide
Tash McGill - Auckland
Charis Jackson - Brisbane
Josh Reid - Woolongong
3:30 PM **AFTERNOON TEA**
.....
4:00 PM Young Writer Annual Awards

SPEAKERS



Josh Reid

Josh Reid is an Australian media professional, author, actor and speaker. For the past eight years he has been the CEO of Pulse 94.1 FM and is currently working on a children's novel. He works with Christians involved in the creative arts and media, encouraging them as they go out and influence culture.



Sophia Sinclair

Sophia, chief editor at Press Service International, will be chairing the panel discussion in the afternoon.