

Olive Tree's New Teaching Series Released

Olive Tree Media has released a new 10 part DVD series, *Jesus The Game Changer* recently. 'We wanted to do two things with *Jesus The Game Changer*,' said series host and executive producer Karl Faase. 'First, we wanted to tell the story of Jesus from the New Testament account and secondly, look at how Jesus changed people's lives. From the Apostle Paul through to William Wilberforce, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and right up to today with Christine Caine and her founding of the anti-human trafficking organisation - *The A21 Campaign*. Throughout history, Jesus has changed people's lives in remarkable ways and in turn they have gone on to change the world.'



Jesus the Game Changer features interviews with a 'Who's Who' from the evangelical Christian world, including John Ortberg, Senior Pastor at Menlo Church, San Francisco; Eric Metaxas, radio host and bestselling author of *Bonhoeffer, Miracles, And Amazing Grace*; Miroslav Volf, the Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School; Mary Jo Sharp, Author and Professor, Houston; and Vishal Mangalwadi, an Indian philosopher, social reformer, and founder of the BOMI/Revelation Movement.

Karl Faase said that in many western nations Christian faith has moved from being viewed as irrelevant to being considered dangerous. 'What many people in western democracies don't understand is that the values their nations are built on found their origins in the life and teaching of Jesus,' he said. These values were not taught by Greek philosophers nor invented in the Enlightenment period of the 17th and 18th Centuries. These values are a direct result of the life and teaching of Jesus.'

Jesus The Game Changer follows on from Olive Tree Media's first video series. Churches and small groups can use this material for small group discussion. It is available for digital download from the web site. *Jesus The Game Changer* has its own Smartphone app which provides the discussion guides and guest bios for use in small groups and by individuals. (Search for *Jesus The Game Changer*) The series is expected to be used by Christian schools, helping older secondary students consider the claims of Christian faith. With world-renowned writers and researchers, Olive Tree Media believe this is an excellent tool for use in the educational environment. Each episode runs for 28 minutes. The series is available on a two DVD pack with study guide from Olive Tree Media.

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Nurturing The Next Generation

We read in Judges 2.10: 'When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the work which He had done for Israel.'

There is both an application for Christian ministry here and an even greater wider secular (non-religious) application to this 'generation' after 'generation'. It is this wider non-religious application where my interest lies. I invite you to consider our Australian society, let alone societies around the world.

What are we geared to? All of us focus on the next generation and the next. Government fiscal policies necessarily focus on our children. Our education system focuses on the next generation. Our inventiveness, IT, transport, the Very Fast Train, motor vehicles, engineering, psychics, flying, the sciences, medicine, mathematics, roads, public health, water, the environment ... you name it, it focuses on the next generation and the next. It's the nation's children and their children. That's the focus. **As a grandfather not only do I have a natural attention on my adult children, but on my grandchildren,** and it won't be long in the larger scheme of things, their children (ie my great grandchildren). My life as a citizen of Australia and as a Christian minister has a dual focus on the next generation. Indeed Judges 2.10 applies to me and every Christian leader; for want of a word: it is about evangelism. Unless we have a focus on the next generation we end up becoming a 'selfish' nation and 'me' focused (hedonism). The priority focus of the nation on the 'next generation' can never deviate.

My prayer for my grandchildren and their children follows the example of the great 19th Century American evangelist DL Moody, who was said to take time each morning and walk behind the woodshed where he would implore the Lord in his morning devotions for the salvation of his yet-to-be-born grandchildren and their children. So, at my eldest daughter's wedding, way back in 2004, my public prayer was for their children and their children's children in coming to salvation and serving the Lord.

This nation's political focus might be on our children and their children, the next generation and the next. For those who follow the Lord, our focus, like Judges 2.10, must be on their salvation so that it cannot be said of us that a generation arose that knew not the things of the Lord.

– Dr Mark Tronson, a retired Baptist minister who served as the Australian Cricket Team Chaplain for 17 years and established Life After Cricket in 2001. He was recognised by the Olympic Ministry Medal in 2009 presented by Carl Lewis, Olympian of the Century. He mentors young writers and has written 24 books, and enjoys writing. He is married to Delma, with four adult children and grand-children. Mark Tronson's archive of articles can be viewed on the internet at:

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

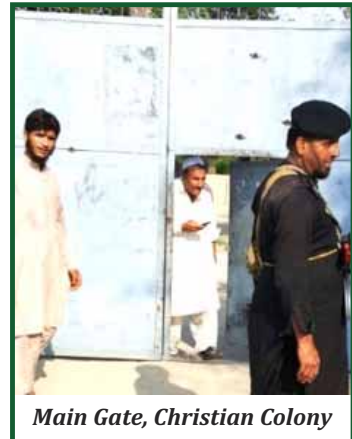
PLEASE NOTE: Because of the editor's recent heavy workload connected to other responsibilities, this edition of *New Life* is shorter than usual. He is particularly thankful to his friend and colleague Dr Mark Tronson for providing a 'guest editorial' and expects to produce a normal sized issue on 1 October.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER:

PAKISTAN: 'Persecuted, But Not Forsaken' (2 Cor 4.9)

On 16 August the Pakistani military launched Operation Khyber III in the Rajal Valley. This is close to the Afghan border in northern Khyber Agency, in Pakistan's north-western Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The operation is aimed at curtailing cross-border movements of Islamic militants and destroying militant hideouts in the tribal, rugged border region. From the outset the operation has achieved good results. On 1 September military spokesman, Lieutenant-General Asim Bajwa, told a press conference in Rawalpindi that the military campaign was progressing well and meeting with success. However, any operation against jihadists is bound to trigger a backlash.

Located close to where the Pakistani military is operating is the Warsak Dam on the Kabul River, some 25km north-west of Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. A few kilometres from the dam is a military training camp and school, the Cadet College Warsak. There is also the Warsak Dam Christian Colony, a gated colony of some 30-40 Christian families who earn their



Main Gate, Christian Colony

living labouring at the dam. In the early hours of Friday 2 September four allegedly foreign suicide bombers approached the Cadet College intending to attack it. No doubt the militants aimed to replicate the December 2014 terror attack on the Army Public School in central Peshawar in which 145 people, including 132 schoolchildren, were cruelly slaughtered. However, having intercepted chatter indicating that an attack on the college was imminent, Pakistani intelligence had strengthened security, placing security personnel on high alert. As the four would-be terrorists approached the college they could sense their plot had been thwarted. Fully prepared for carrying out an act of terror and no doubt keen to die as martyrs, the militants decided to strike the nearby Christian colony instead.

According to Morning Star News, the four assailants waited outside the main gate of the colony until Christian resident Samuel Masih (55) unlocked it at 5.30am. Whilst accounts vary, it seems that, though Masih was shot and killed, someone was able to telephone the police. Already close by and on high alert, security personnel were quickly on the scene and a fire-fight ensued. Two terrorists were shot and two blew themselves up. Later that afternoon, an Islamic terrorist detonated his explosive vest inside a district court in nearby Medan, killing at least 14 people and wounding 58, many critically. The dead and injured included many lawyers and police. Pakistani Taliban faction Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, which maintains close ties to Afghan Taliban and al Qaeda, claimed responsibility for both attacks.

In what is certainly an answer to prayer, the security forces moved extremely quickly to save the Christians of Warsak Dam Christian Colony. As intercessors will know, this is not usually the case. Indeed, police have been known to stand at a distance while Christians are slaughtered. Praise God, that did not happen this time! [A similar police intervention occurred on Friday 6 May when security personnel intervened to prevent a pogrom. This is a positive development, and in what is certainly a miracle, no Christian other than Samuel Masih was killed in the attack on the Christian colony which the militants had doubtless intended to wipe out. Though one of the terrorists detonated his vest inside the house of Farukh Masih, he killed only himself. Not one member of the family was seriously harmed. 'I thank God for saving my family and myself,' said Farukh Masih. 'In the few moments we had to think, we all just prayed to Him for protection. By His power we have all survived and the evil man who tried to take our lives will now answer to Him.'

PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- the LORD will command His angels (Psalm 91) to guard and defend Pakistan's vulnerable Christian communities;
- the LORD will intervene in Pakistan to bring about cultural change, praying especially for the hearts of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and all those in authority and all those with influence in politics, media, education, the judiciary, the security forces et al; may they have insight and courage to tackle Pakistan's problems at the root, for just picking off the bad fruit will never suffice (Matthew 7.15-20);
- Pakistan's Muslim majority may grow dissatisfied with Islam and be awakened to its failings, yearning for righteousness and justice, and may their hearts be open to the Gospel.
- the LORD may provide all the needs – material, physical and spiritual – of Pakistan's churches and Bible Colleges; and we thank You Lord for delivering the Christians of Warsak Dam Christian Colony from what would otherwise have been wholesale slaughter.

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

A Spiritual Oasis In A Foreign Land

A prayer hall, described as a 'spiritual oasis', opened recently in the busiest international airport in Shenzhen in the south of mainland China. This is the latest of several such facilities established in the country's international airports. Measuring about 30 square metres in size, the simply decorated chapel contains benches and copies of the Bible with passengers invited to spend a moment of prayer or meditation. Local media have reportedly described the opening of the prayer hall as 'a sign of recognition of the Christian culture' and noting that 'being a city with a large influx of foreigners, the initiative also helps to understand the Christian culture and promote evangelisation'. Chinese Christians have reportedly expressed their appreciation for the initiative, with some seeing it as 'an opportunity to promote faith'.

– *Sight Magazine*

Hungary Helps The Persecuted

The government of Hungary has set up a new department and prepared an initial budget of three million euros to help persecuted Christians in the Middle East. The purpose of the department is to gather information and analyze situations that involve Christian persecution. The government already has released an initial one million euros as part of its budget, a portion of which will be used to send official delegates to areas identified as trouble spots. A government spokesman says Hungary has been covertly helping Christians in the Middle East for years.

– *The Christian Times*

Young Christians Urged: Put Aside 'Weapons Of Mass Distraction'

Young Christians from 37 nations recently met in South Korea for a prayer effort, called the *Korea Uprising*. Uprising is a global prayer ministry designed to call youth to follow Jesus Christ. Organisers say young people are being side-tracked by music, sports, and technology – 'the weapons of massive distraction.' The *Uprising* participants want their tech-savvy generation 'to put down their devices and embrace the Lord.' South Korea was chosen to host the event because it has been a beacon of Christianity, and it is the second largest missionary-sending nation in the world. On the last day of the event, the delegates gathered near the North Korean border in prayer for the re-unification of the Korean Peninsula. They asked God to empower young people like He did David to defeat the Goliaths of their generation.

– *Christian World News*

Church Growth In Remote Areas Of Thailand

When Michael Phillips of Advocates Reach moved to Thailand, he didn't know about the tribal groups in the mountains nearby. But these mountain tribes, traditionally animists, are the people he believes God asked him to train in Christian leadership. When one of them became a Christian and shared the Gospel with family and neighbours, Mr Phillips started a training program, teaching through the Bible. What started as a centre with six students has grown into 30 churches and an international ministry. Some of their students oversee up to nine churches.

– *MNN*

Palestinian Christians Urged To Stay Put

Christians living in the Palestinian territories and elsewhere in the Middle East are being urged not to flee from the region as persecution intensifies. The Middle East Council of Churches, meeting beside the Dead Sea are expected to urge Palestinians in particular to stay put despite the severity of the challenges they face. Issa Misleh, of Jerusalem's Orthodox Church, and spokesman for the Middle East

Council of Churches, told *The Jordan Times* that if Christians left the Middle East as a result of the growing terrorism, the outlook will be dire. Numbers of Christians in the region have plummeted since the rise of Islamic State and the terrible executions and other horrors the hundreds of thousands of IS victims have been subjected to. Just 40,000 Christians now remain among the 4.5 million people who live in the Palestinian Territories. One ray of hope is the growing number of converts from Islam to Christianity.

– *Christian Today*

Don't Be Afraid To Talk About The Devil

Billy Graham says Christians should never be afraid to talk about the devil. Dr Graham says given that Satan is real, and is just as much at work today as ever, we need to be on guard against him. "The Bible says "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour," so we need to be alert to his schemes and on guard against his attacks,' Dr Graham said. But he said we should never make the devil the sole focus of our attention, as only Christ is worthy of that honour.

Will Graham – A Kind Of Home-Coming

Billy Graham's grandson, Will Graham, has said he wants to bring hope to a region battered by economic uncertainty when he visits the north-east of Scotland when he speaks in Peterhead in October. The 41-year-old has expressed his missionary zeal to reach out to people affected by an ailing economy and political uncertainty and bring hope to the area.

Will Graham, who lives in North Carolina, is the executive director of the Billy Graham Training Centre and an associate of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He says: 'I'm an evangelist and a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, very much like my grandfather Billy Graham. Wherever I go in the world, my singular goal is to share the hope and peace that is found in Jesus, and to invite people to begin a relationship with Him. It's amazing what happens when people turn to God. Relationships are restored, marriages and families are healed, and hopelessness turns to purpose. That's my prayer and my desire as I prepare for my time in Scotland.'



The association's globally-famous Celebration Of Hope events will be held nightly at Peterhead Academy from Wednesday, 5 October 5 to Sunday 9. Will Graham added: 'We go where we are invited. We don't just spin a globe and say, "We're going to Peterhead this year." The churches of north-east Scotland wanted to do something for this region, so they reached out to us and we've gone through a several-month process that has brought us to this point. The churches are involved, excited and ready to go. The entire region can come out and take part, hear great music, and then I will share messages that will hopefully inspire the audience and offer hope to those who need it.'

Will Graham is the third generation of the family to evangelise under the banner of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. He has addressed audiences in North and South America, Australia, India and elsewhere in Asia. October's visit marks his second trip to Scotland and he is relishing the prospect. He added: 'I was there with my father Franklin Graham when he held an outreach in Perth in 1999. I'm very much looking forward to this visit in October. Several of my ancestors were from Scotland, so this will be a bit of a homecoming for me.'

The preacher confirmed he was aware many people in Aberdeenshire were suffering from the collapse in the price of oil, and he responded: 'I would say that the current realities in Aberdeenshire and North East Scotland will help to inform my visit and my messages. I say that because when people are hurting, when the economy is struggling and people realise they don't have all the answers, then they are looking for hope. I believe that true hope – not the kind that lasts for a few days, but the kind that lasts for eternity – is found in Jesus and a relationship with Him.'

Southern Baptists Preaching Christ See Many Come To Him

Dozens of people around the world have made a decision to follow Christ as a result of recent missions conducted by Christian students from one of the world's top Baptist seminaries. In total, 128 people in five countries received Christ as Saviour following the ministry of five missionary teams sent by South-western Baptist Theological Seminary of Texas to Japan, Madagascar, Haiti, Canada and Thailand.

In Haiti, the students worked alongside Water4Nations and built three gravity-driven water purification towers to provide the community with clean water. Students say these water purification systems became a springboard for the Gospel message, sharing how Jesus provides living water so that we never thirst again.

Southern Baptists are the largest Christian denomination in the US, with nearly 16 million followers, and church planting is reportedly at an all-time high. – *National Religious Broadcasters*

Elizabeth Kendal's New Book ...

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Yet contrary to all appearances, God is at work in the Middle East and you are invited to join Him.

'Kendal's book is a godsend to anyone who is at a loss to understand what lies behind the suffering in the Middle East. Drawing on authoritative voices from the region, her clear-eyed analysis untangles the conflicts with the heart and insight of a prophet. She gives a sobering account of the West's complicity in the atrocities - and what we can do to bring healing in a crisis as appalling as is the indifference to it.'

- Jeff M. Sellers, Editor, Persecution News Service, Morning Star News.

For more information, including purchasing options see:

www.ElizabethKendal.com



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*



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Barnabas Fund Struggles To Meet Needs In Syria

'It's a constant battle with the increased needs to try and help as many people as we can,' says a Barnabas project worker in Syria. Across Syria, the continuing conflict is leaving increasing numbers of Christian families in desperate need of help. Barnabas Fund supports projects providing practical help in the worst affected parts of the country.

Helping Christians inside Syria makes a difference to their situation now, and the prospects for a continuing Christian presence in Syria for the future. 'Living as [an internally displaced person] is terrible,' says one mother who fled Aleppo, 'despite all the difficulties as long as my children are safe and me and their dad can provide their basic needs we will stick to our country "til the end"'



Barnabas Fund has helped over 120,000 Syrian Christians through feeding programs this year. Fuel and food are increasingly scarce in Aleppo. An estimated 40,000 Christians are amongst the remaining residents and Barnabas supports those who are working to meet their most urgent needs. Across Syria as a whole, this year Barnabas Fund has been supporting feeding programs that have helped more than 120,000 Syrian Christians. 'Syria is the biggest humanitarian and refugee crisis of our time, a continuing cause of suffering for millions,' UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, says.

Barnabas Fund has been assisting Christian with food, medicines, water and other basics since the outbreak of the long-running conflict. For all its challenges, 'people are having more confidence in church work and its major role in the humanitarian response in Syria,' one project worker told Barnabas recently.

Donations to Barnabas' Middle East Fund to help Christians in Syria may be made by phone on (07) 3806 1076 or 1300 365 799 or post to: PO Box 3527, LOGANHOLME, QLD 4129.

Pakistan: Father's Fights For Daughter's Honour

A Christian father has been brutally assaulted by the gang he accuses of abducting and raping his daughter. And still the police in Pakistan refuse to arrest their attackers. Please pray for Gulzar and his daughter: she has been repeatedly raped over several months and Gulzar has broken legs and a serious head injury. Punjab police are refusing to comply with a court order that they should arrest the four men Gulzar accuses of snatching his 27-year-old daughter. She had testified in court that she was kidnapped, raped, forcibly converted to Islam and forced to marry a Muslim. She managed to escape last month when her captors forgot to lock a door. Three days after a judge ordered police to arrest the suspects, two of the accused shot and beat Gulzar. They claimed his daughter had voluntarily converted to Islam and married. Gulzar's attackers have warned him to withdraw the case against them, threatening him and his sons. More than 20 Islamic clerics have pressured police to hand Gulzar's daughter back to her Muslim 'husband'.

IRAN: Converts Await Sentencing For 'Illegal' Communion Wine

Three Iranian Christian converts have been charged with 'acting against national security' and illegal consumption of alcohol during Holy Communion. (Non-Muslims are permitted to drink alcohol in Iran, but leaving Islam is forbidden, so any such conversions are not recognised.) Yasser Mossayebzadeh, Saheb Fadaie and Mohammad Reza Omidi - all from Muslim backgrounds - were charged at a court hearing in the north-

ern city of Rasht on 10 September. If found guilty, they are likely to be flogged. In 2012, Omidi was one of four Christians given 80 lashes after being convicted of the same charge. Mossayebzadeh, Fadaie and Omidi were arrested on 13 May alongside Youcef Nadarkhani, a pastor once sentenced to death for apostasy, and his wife, Tina. The couple were released later that day, but the three others were detained. Nadarkhani was later also charged with acting against national security, although *World Watch Monitor* understands he was not obliged to attend the hearing on 10 September. A verdict is expected within 10 days. More than 200 Christians have been detained by Iranian authorities since 2015. Many are in jail, while others have been released conditionally, pending sentencing or an appeal.

MALASIA: Surprise Decision

In a landmark ruling, a Malaysian court upheld the rights of a Christian to convert from Islam. The judgment establishes a precedent in a country where religious conversions, particularly from Islam to Christianity, have been steeped in controversy. The verdict reaffirms the right of freedom of religion, guaranteed under Malaysia's constitution. Rooney Rebit, the plaintiff, argued that his belief in Jesus was a fundamental human right, and the High Court agreed. The judge said: 'He is free to exercise his right of freedom to religion, and he chose Christianity.' In a country with two parallel legal systems, appeals to secular courts to right such wrongs are often referred back to the Shari'ah authorities, who don't grant permission to convert.

Stephen – Witnessing In The Face Of Death Acts 8.1-13

The early Christian, Tertullian, said, ‘The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.’ The church scatters out from Jerusalem (11.19ff) and Saul initiates a thorough search for believers, with no regard to the open-mindedness of Gamaliel.

The body of Stephen was treated with respect and his loss was keenly felt (v 2).

One of those who was scattered was Philip. He went to a city in Samaria. Through God’s blessing, great joy came to the city. It is significant that Christian repentance is a turning from sin and a turning to God. In Thessalonica they turn away from the synagogue (17.1-9), in Athens they turn away from idols (17.34), and in Ephesus they turn from superstitious sorcery (19.19). The ‘turning from’ may vary. Here, the people turn away from the flashy and spectacular emptiness offered by Simon and turn to the Lord Jesus and all that is involved in His Kingdom (v 12). The proclamation of Christ and His Kingdom is what changes people.

Even Simon the sorcerer, astonished by what he saw, believed and was baptised (v 13). (The Samaritans had an unusual experience of the Spirit, dealt with in our next reading). Simon’s motivation for believing, however, is apparently commercial. In v 18 he offers to pay for the Holy Spirit. He is a reminder to us that not all who profess faith and are baptised are truly converted. A person can look good, have all



FOR REFLECTION:

How did Simon’s unregenerate heart show itself?

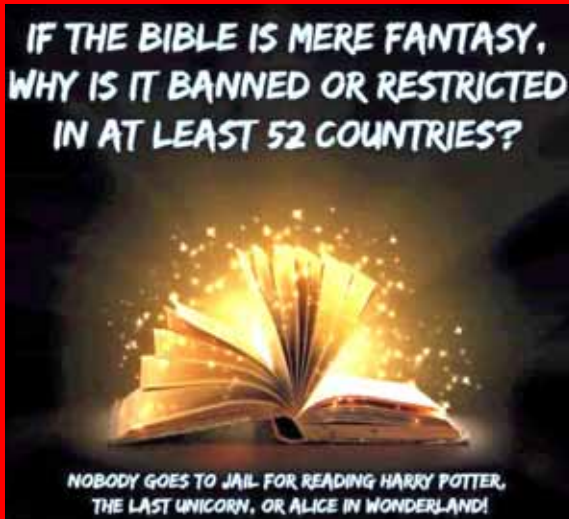
Do people still desire the Spirit and how do they receive Him according to Acts 19.1-6 and Acts 2.38,39?

the trappings, and still be full of bitterness and captive to sin (v 23)! Simon’s problem was that he understood neither the nature of Jesus’ Messiahship, nor the person and role of the Holy Spirit. He thought of both as spiritual forces that could be used to gain control of people and make money – a common attitude of the world to ‘the force’ of Christianity.

God is about to authenticate true faith in the Samaritan believers (8.14-17) but at the same time Peter declares the truth about someone who is playing a game (8.20-23). Peter is exercising this ministry of authentication and exposure, and is exercising the ministry of keys (Matthew 16.17-20).

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

SEEN ON FACEBOOK:



*John 14.2,3.
He is preparing a place.*

Words Of Wisdom:

A man may go to heaven without health, without wealth; without fame, without a great name; without learning, without earning; without culture, without beauty; without friends and without ten thousand other things but he can never go to heaven without Christ.

– A.W. Tozer

BOOKS WORTH READING

CONFESSING THE FAITH: A Reader's Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith, Chad Van Dixhoorn, Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2014. ISBN 978-84871-404-5

Professor Chad Van Dixhoorn teaches at Reformed Theological Seminary Washington DC and does the work of a pastor. He is a recognised expert on the historical background of the *Westminster Confession Of Faith*, being editor of *The Minutes And Papers Of The Westminster Assembly, 1643-1652*, published in five volumes by Oxford University Press (2012). In a Foreword, Dr Carl Trueman makes the point that this is both a learned and a practical explanation of the Confession by a scholar and a pastor, so that both head and heart, faith and life, are addressed. The 'double life' of Chad Van Dixhoorn uniquely fits him to write such a guide.

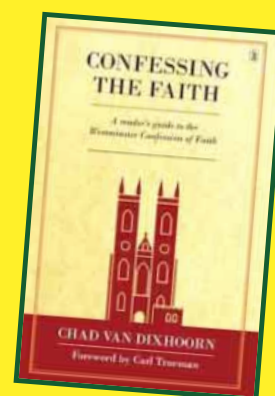
This is just the kind of refresher course on doctrine and its outworking in daily life that we need in a day when 'doctrinal nominalism is the Achilles heel of Evangelicalism' (p. xii). A Christianity that is thin on doctrine will not be able to challenge the empty philosophies of modern life. As well, the value of an old statement of Christian belief (this one from the 17th Century) is that it shows that sound theology is part of our precious heritage as believers and no recent invention or untried experiment in thought.

His exposition of the Confession, chapter by chapter, is free of unnecessary theological technicalities or party polemics. It is warm and engaging. Van Dixhoorn explains the wording of the *Confession*, and he also makes use of the *Scriptural Proofs* (Bible references) appended to it, to show how those who framed the *Confession* found this doctrine in various Bible passages. At times he refers to other works written by members of the Westminster Assembly to illuminate the meaning of the wording of the *Confession*.

This explanation of the doctrine found in the Confession is fair-minded, practically-orientated and winsome. For example, when explaining what *God's Eternal Decree* (Chapter III) does mean and doesn't mean, he writes: 'The decree of God has been the subject of too much debate in the history of the church. The reality is that the parties in these disputes are often much closer to one another than they admit. The happy truth is that those who dispute the absolute lordship of God check their arguments at the door when they enter their closets to pray. The sad truth is that those who defend a doctrine of divine sovereignty often complain when things do not go their own way, forgetting that their grumbling is against God.' Well said!

This volume places a valuable tool in the hands of Christians who want to return to or deepen their understanding of 'Confessional Christianity', namely a faith that is true to its biblical and historic roots. Nine-tenths of the teaching of the *Confession* is the common stock of Christian truth that belongs to all denominations, so that this book deserves a wide readership in all the churches.

– Greg Goswell



'In a Foreword, Dr Carl Trueman makes the point that this is both a learned and a practical explanation of the Confession by a scholar and a pastor, so that both head and heart, faith and life, are addressed. The 'double life' of Chad Van Dixhoorn uniquely fits him to write such a guide.'

Free e-Book

Christian psychologist and author David Clarke has released a free e-book resource, *The Conflict-Busting Formula*, to help couples learn a new conflict pattern so their marriage can be free to grow and thrive. With more than 25 years of full-time private practice counselling experience, Dr Clarke says if couples don't learn how to resolve conflict, their marriage will slowly die. 'It will choke on smouldering resentments and bitterness,' Dr Clarke says. 'Marriage for couples who learn to resolve conflict can be alive and refreshed with closeness and passion and joy and fun.' The free e-book is available exclusively at conflictbusting.com

– Christian Newswire

BOOKS WORTH READING

RICH IN YEARS: Finding Peace And Purpose In A Long Life, Johann Christoph Arnold, The Plough Publishing House, Elmore, Australia, 2013.

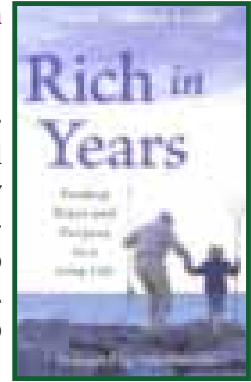
ISBN: 9780874868005

Through personal stories Johann Christoph Arnold identifies many of the challenges and blessings of older age. As we read about different real people Arnold introduces a lesson to be learnt from the experience of that person. Ageing inevitably brings changes to our way of life which may include the loss of friendships and family, loss of independence and greater ill health. Yet it also can bring opportunities to develop new skills, the joy of long term relationships and time to spend with people. For most it is a time when we need to develop greater patience and the humility to accept help.

Many years of pastoral insight are evident in the book. Behind each individual Arnold introduces us to are others who have had similar experiences. Years ago a wise friend told me that as people age it becomes harder for them to hide their true self. The challenge for us as Christians is to be people who are open to changing ourselves under God's direction. If we have practised that in younger years we will be better able to face the older years.

Older age is a time to reflect on the way we treat others. For some it is the time and the trigger to mend broken relationships and heal old hurts. As with every other stage of life, this book encourages us to embrace the challenges and opportunities and to be a blessing to others as we head closer to the end of this life and entry into the next.

- Mignon Goswell



*The heavens declare the glory of God,
the skies proclaim His handiwork.*

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