

Full Steam Ahead For The Sake Of The Gospel

Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Medical Ships have acquired a new vessel, a 65 metre supply ship for their work in Papua New Guinea. To be renamed the *MV YWAM Liberty*, the ship will be the fourth to be deployed by the organisation into the country.

Ken Mulligan, managing director of YWAM Medical Ships PNG, says that the acquisition of the *MV YWAM Liberty* represents hope for tens of thousands of people. 'The healthcare challenges in PNG are very unique because of the remoteness,' he says, 'but since 2010, YWAM Medical Ships have delivered 648,062 healthcare services and training to 145,567 people.'

The ship was due to arrive in Townsville last week and will then be repurposed over the coming months for its maiden voyage to PNG. – *Sight Magazine*. (To date we have had no report of the effect Cyclone Debbie might have had on the ship. – Ed.)



Meanwhile, Operation Mobilisation Is Not Being Left In The Wake

Hundreds of churches have been established over the years through the momentum generated by Operation Mobilisation ships like the *Logos*, the *Doulos* and *Logos II*. Partnering with the Christian community 'on the ground' has been the key to planning their outreach and reaching people with the Gospel. OM Ships works to encourage and equip local churches, which often receive new believers to disciple, or see existing members' faith strengthened in the wake of a ship's visit.

Where there are not established churches to follow up the work, new Christians have started their own in some places like India, Africa and Sri Lanka. A spokesman for OM says the Ship Ministry's impact is hard to quantify from a distance, but over four decades there are many encouraging stories of churches being planted as a result. He says only Heaven holds the inventory. – *OM Press Release*

Time To Give Thanks

Colin Buchanan, legendary Aussie muso, says that there's something about being thankful. It's got the oxygen of goodness about it. It crosses the barriers of age and race, gender and culture. It has built-in humility, the taste of grace, at least a pinch and sometimes an avalanche of celebration. Thankfulness takes a refreshing eye off the self and commends the other. 'Thanks can be a tiny, dripping spring that trickles its way to join streams, becoming cascades, feeding a deep, rich river of thankfulness,' he says. 'Ultimately, it's all flowing to the glorious, vast ocean of divine goodness. Thankfulness is something we show not just to people, but to God.'

'That's why I'm adding my voice to the *National Day Of Thanks*. Together we can recognise and appreciate what we have, honour the contribution of those who give and serve and sacrifice, take a special opportunity as a nation to offer a simple and heartfelt "Thank You"'

Australia's National Day Of Thanks is on Saturday 27 May. To find out more, go to austhanks.org.au



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AUSTRALIA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

Food For Thought!

Mukti Australia is all about creating opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalised women and children, so this Easter, we invite you to reflect upon the women in the Easter story. Consider how the women who gathered at Golgotha felt as they witnessed Jesus' crucifixion, as they took down His body from the cross and laid it in the tomb and as they held vigil throughout the night. Consider the women who discovered Jesus' tomb empty and how they felt upon learning their Lord was alive. We know the names of some of these women – like the Mary's – but many we don't; their names and perspectives somewhat hidden and their experience and faithfulness sometimes under-acknowledged.

Here at Mukti Australia, we love that Jesus first appeared in His resurrected body to women. We love what this says about Jesus and His heart for marginalised and 'hidden' people. We also love what it says about women; their capacity for faith and their thirst for restoration. Our mission is to serve and empower the marginalised and hidden women of India and Sri Lanka – girls and women with untold stories of poverty, exploitation and abuse – who, with hope and opportunity, can renew their hearts, restore their voices and powerfully transform their lives to become very visible testimonies to God's love and power.

Our Easter projects this year are about helping our partners to create spaces for marginalised women and girls (and some boys too!) to seek restoration and take hold of opportunities that promote empowerment. The two projects also involve food! Both physically and symbolically, these projects are about feeding young girls and boys – feeding their bodies to help them stay healthy and feeding their souls with a loving and supportive environment that constantly reinforces the message 'you are valuable, you matter, you are seen and your life can be transformed!'

Over 200 children from backgrounds of extreme poverty, exploitation and abuse live at Mukti Mission in family group homes. Three times a day, Mukti's dining hall is filled with the sound of children talking, eating and laughing. But the dining hall roof is made of asbestos cement, and the hall heats up like an oven in the summer months. Mealtimes are important for families and we'd like to offer Mukti's children a more pleasant family mealtime experience by replacing the roof with insulated roof panels to reduce the heat and make it a healthier eating environment.

We invite you to partner with us. Go to www.mukti.org.au to find out how you can help. – *Glenda de Jager, National Director, Mukti Australia*



EGYPT: 'Bring Back Our Girls'

On the night of 26 January the Girgis brothers went out to irrigate crops. However one brother, Rezeiky, remained at home to watch over his wife, elderly mother and sister Hanan (18) who was engaged to be married. At about 10.30pm a Muslim neighbour came to the house and told Rezeiky that a thief had been seen lurking around their livestock shed. Believing he had been duly warned, Rezeiky bedded down in the shed to protect the family's livestock and equipment while the women slept soundly in the house. When the Girgis brothers returned home at around 3am they found the front door open and Hanan missing. Whilst one slipper was found by the door, her clothes, jewellery and Identity Card were still in her room. For two days the family searched for Hanan to no avail. Suspecting their Muslim neighbour had lured Rezeiky to the shed purposely so the women would be alone and Hanan could be abducted, the family accused Mohamed Ahmed Nubi Soliman (27), a criminal and cousin of the neighbour, of abducting their daughter. Although Soliman admitted to the police that he was indeed involved, he was not arrested.

The Civil Status Authority at Esna Police Station told the family that national security services had issued Hanan a new Identity Card. The family then headed off to the national security headquarters in Luxor, only to have officers there deny having any knowledge of Hanan's whereabouts. Frustrated and desperate, the family then staged a peaceful protest outside the security offices. The police responded violently, leaving the 23-year-old Girgis brother with a broken leg. The family's lawyer, Barsoum Wahba, has accused the police of 'complicity and apathy'.

The worst thing about this horror story is that it is not unusual. Every year, hundreds of Coptic girls are either kidnapped or seduced by fundamentalist Muslims, before being violently raped, terrorised, forcibly converted and married off to Islamists. Essentially these girls are being trafficked into Islam and sexually enslaved. Because the organised Islamisation rings operate with the tacit consent and overt co-operation of Islamic clerics, law enforcement officers, local government officials and prosecutors, most of these girls never see their families again.

The situation has deteriorated markedly in recent years. Not only are the Muslim masses more radicalised, but during the years of 'Arab Spring' insecurity (from January 2011 through to the ouster of Morsi in July 2013) many thousands of Islamists – including at least 500 members of the terrorist group Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya – either escaped or were released from Egyptian prisons. Ebram Louis, the founder of the Egyptian Association of Victims of Abduction and Enforced Disappearances, commented in June 2014: 'Before the revolution five or six girls would disappear each month. Now the average is 15.' That is one girl every two days!

Of some 550 disappearances AVAFD investigated between 2011 and 2014, only ten girls were recovered. The only difference between what happens in Egypt (and Pakistan) at the hands of local Muslims, and in Iraq at the hands of ISIS, or in Nigeria at the hands of Boko Haram, is that in Egypt (as in Pakistan) the sexual enslavement is quietly un spectacular and occurs one girl at a time.

To Islamists, Christian girls are legitimate booty and halal (permissible). Meanwhile, the thousands of parents of these girls are weeping and lamenting, crying 'bring back our girls'. It is difficult to imagine a scenario more challenging to one's faith. Two thousand years ago King Herod tried to thwart God's purpose, causing weeping and lamentation in Egypt (Matthew 2.16-18). Today, as Islam does likewise, know it will fail just as dismally. 'Among those who know Me I mention Rahab [Egypt] ...' (from Psalm 87) and 'Blessed be Egypt My people ...' (from Isaiah 19.16-25). And so we pray ...

PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WILL:

- intervene in mercy and with power for the Girgis family and all Christian families suffering the devastating effects of Islamic human trafficking and sex slavery. 'Please, dear Lord our Redeemer, bring back their girls.'
- pour His Spirit into the hearts of all who are victims of, or threatened by, Islamic trafficking and sex slavery; although their faith be tested in the hottest of fires, may their eyes be fixed on Jesus and their entreaties directed to Him. 'For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.' (1 Peter 3.12 ESV)
- put into the heart of Egypt's President al-Sisi a burning desire to crack down on this evil trade which brings nothing but suffering and disgrace to Egypt. 'On that night the king could not sleep ...' (Esther 6.1; from Esther 5.9 to 6.11 ESV)

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

ECUADOR: Gospel Of Splendour Brings Light And Life To Former Killers

About a third of the Waodani tribe, who killed five young missionaries in 1956, have been baptised, and meet weekly for Bible study and prayer. Sixty years after MAF pilot Nate Saint and four friends were speared to death in the Ecuadorian rainforest by the Auca Indians – renowned for their violence – the story continues.

Jaime Saint is now touring with his show *Reckless Abandon*, telling the inspiring story of his family and his grandfather's sacrifice.

In 1959, Nate Saint's sister Rachel and Jim Elliot's widow Elisabeth were invited to settle among the Waodani – sharing the Gospel with the missionaries' murderers and teaching them about forgiveness. They were joined by Nate's son Steve, who had only been five years old at the time of his father's death. Steve was later baptised by a Waodani pastor – one of the men who had murdered his father in 1956 – in the same river that the bodies of the five martyred missionaries were found.

Steve's son Jaime has followed in his family's footsteps. He established LIFE University to provide the American Church with tools to evaluate their mission strategy and provide practical help to their communities.

– *Inspire Magazine*

SOUTH SUDAN: The Church Plays A Lone Hand

The Church in South Sudan is 'the only functioning institution in civil society,' according to a report from the *Christian Telegraph*. Neil Corkery, president of the Sudan Relief Fund, says the Church is really the only thing that's left trying to help people, especially in the remotest parts of the country.

Famine was recently declared in parts of South Sudan, where there has been an ongoing civil war, interrupted by tenuous peace, since December 2013. An estimated 4.5 million people are facing 'severe food insecurity,' Mr Corkery says, and that number is expected to rise to half the country's population – or 5.5 million – by July.

Amid war and famine the Church is still serving the most vulnerable people, and calling on President Kiir to make good on his promise that humanitarian and developmental organizations will have unimpeded access to populations in need across the country.

– *Christian Telegraph*

Jesus First For Top Cop

Retiring NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione has been interviewed by several news outlets in the final weeks of his ten-year term as NSW Police Commissioner. But he spoke with *Eternity News* about the influence his Christian identity and values have had upon his career. Mr Scipione revealed how his priorities are shaped by his Christian faith, including where he positions family, Jesus and work in his own life. Reflecting upon his own development in policing, he said he decided early on in his career that his leadership style would be modelled on that of Jesus Christ – 'servant leadership.' Mr Scipione said he had 'a million' leadership books in his library at home, 'but the one that's most important is the one that sits next to my bed every day and it's my Bible.' He said he turned to the riches of Scripture for 'everything from dealing with the day-to-day pressures, the concerns, the fears, the worries.' Scipione cast his lot in with the teachings of Christ at the age of 14 when he was converted through a youth group at his local church. He said that he and his wife Joy had

decided when they married, aged 20, that they would put God first, family second and work third. 'We took the priority order straight out of God's Word,' he said.

– *Eternity News* at biblesociety.org.au

Taking It To The Streets In Adelaide

Evangelists have moved into Adelaide's city centre, setting up a Bible exhibition next to St Peter's Cathedral, and opening up a Gospel Tent each night for meetings where they proclaim Jesus Christ. According to a report from *Eternity News*, Bryan Stewart, an evangelist with Strathalbyn Gospel, says they have had all sorts of people come into the tent including Christians, atheists and sceptics. The Bible exhibition educates visitors about the history of the Bible in Australia. It delves into the writing and development of the Bible, along with translations and the timeline of Bible production. The preachers also explain the Gospel of Christ and the relevance of the Bible today. Up to 50 people at a time attend the evangelist's presentations, and then engage with them in personal conversation.

– *Eternity News*

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Guy Mason is the Lead Pastor and founder of City on a Hill church in Melbourne. He is a very good communicator, deep theological thinker and someone who is able to take the message of the bible and apply it to contemporary culture. The church, City on a Hill, has benefited from these gifts, starting out with only a dozen members meeting in a pub to now over 1,500 across three different locations. Guy is married to Vanessa and they have four children – Summer, Zach, Jacob and Lilly. He is a church planter, long suffering Melbourne Football Club supporter and a genuine go-getter.



Charles Price has been the Senior Pastor of The Peoples Church in Toronto, Canada, and retired in December 2016. He has a weekly television programme, *Living Truth*, and also has a daily 30 minute radio program. He studied at Capernwray Bible School and at the Bible Training Institute in Glasgow. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Tyndale University in Toronto. Charles has had a long involvement with Torchbearer's International. He is now involved in an itinerant ministry of evangelism and Bible teaching. Charles has been married to Hilary since 1980 and they have three adult children: Hannah, Laura and Matthew.



Accommodation:

Most accommodation and sites are already booked. Enquire at the office for remaining options including a fully catered young adults camp.

Day Visitors: We welcome you as visitors as you join in our program of meetings and seminars. It is a great opportunity to talk with friends, visit the bookstore and mission displays. Enjoy a coffee at the cafe or a light meal at the kiosk.

Sausage Sizzle: Join in the sausage sizzle from 6-7pm on Thursday at the kiosk. Gold coin donation.

Shuttle Bus Service: To and from Belgrave Station half an hour before and after **main sessions**.

Crèche: Crèche facilities are available during daytime main sessions. Parents using this facility regularly are requested to assist.

Primary Children & Teenagers:

OAC Ministries will run exciting programs during daytime main sessions each day.

Young Adults: It's all happening at Master's Manor with daily discussion, grill the speaker, food, friends, games, campfire and a young adults workshop. 1pm & 8:30pm till late.

Koorong Bookstore: in the foyer with a wide range of books, Bibles, CDs and other merchandise. Come to the 'New Books' presentation at 1:30pm on Sunday.

Missions Focus: Visit the displays and mission reps in the foyer.

Prayer: Start the convention day with prayer in the prayer room at 9:30am (8:30am Monday).

Supper: Join us for supper and interesting speakers, in the foyer at 9pm.

Pets: Sorry, no pets permitted.

	10:30am	2:30pm	4:30pm	7:00pm
FRI 14 APR	Charles Price Jehovah: I am who I am (Exodus 3)	Guy Mason The Beatitudes – The Poor (Matthew 5:3)	SEMINARS: Murray Campbell – <i>Where is Victoria heading?</i> Global Focus	Charles Price Jehovah-Jireh: The Lord My Provider (Genesis 22)
SAT 15 APR	Guy Mason The Beatitudes – The Mourners (Matthew 5:4)	Charles Price Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord Our Peace (Judges 6)	SEMINARS: Peter Thomas – <i>Keeping Young People Engaged with Church</i> Julian Dunham – <i>Leadership and Grace</i> Global Focus	Guy Mason The Beatitudes – The Hungry (Matthew 5:6)
SUN 16 APR	Charles Price United with Christ in His Resurrection (Romans 6:3-5)	Guy Mason The Beatitudes – The Merciful (Matthew 5:7)	SEMINARS: <i>Looking to the future of BHC</i> Global Focus	Charles Price Jehovah-Tsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23)
Note time change: 9:30am		11:30am		
MON 17 APR	Guy Mason The Beatitudes – The Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)	Charles Price Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord is There (Ezekiel 48)	Global Focus Guy Mason The Beatitudes – The Persecuted (Matthew 5:10-12)	

DAY VISITORS WELCOME!

CYCLONE AFTERMATH

Devastation In Airlie Beach

Craig Yeomans, Pastor of Whitsunday Baptist Church, Airlie Beach, reports that Cyclone Debbie has definitely passed. 'It's now quite wet and we currently have a significant thunder storm with plenty of rain. We don't expect fine weather until Friday. I have been for a drive around much of the neighbourhood and connected with almost everyone in our church family by text or face to face.

'It was brought to my attention today that the two worst-hit houses in our church belong to the two men who pray with me every week. One of those families believe this to be the out-working of a spiritual battle; at the hand of Satan; allowed by God. Interesting observation! The surrounding houses are fine; most houses are fine. But theirs are significantly damaged. Haven't decided what to make of that yet.

'Whitsunday Christian College has had one side of its auditorium roof torn up along the edge for the full length of the building. The auditorium has been inundated with water.

'There are lots of power lines down – and I mean lots. More than I was expecting. Many are not just lines down but whole poles knocked over. I anticipate restoring power will take quite some time. Today our water supply ran out too. This will really start to impact people and I fear the gravity of the general destruction will really start to set in. I am expecting people to start stressing about basic needs. There are also people starting to surface who may not have work for some time as a result of the cyclone. They too are beginning to worry about their financial obligations.

'While my personal feelings were that the cyclone was not particularly catastrophic, the implications have the potential to be catastrophic in their own way. I am really feeling for our two families who have experienced significant roof damage. I'm listening to the rain, knowing it continues to do damage to their houses and belongings.

'I hope tomorrow to empower some of our people to help in some of the worst effected areas.'

– Craig Yeomans, Whitsunday Baptist Church. Mobile: 0474 464 191

Sydney Diocese Helps Tackle Debbie's Damage

The Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid has launched an appeal for the victims of Cyclone Debbie in North Queensland. One of the most powerful cyclones ever to hit Queensland devastated a large swathe of the coastline on Tuesday 28 March and caused further damage as it moved inland. Local residents, churches, community groups as well as the Army, Police and SES have begun the slow clean-up in centres such as Airlie Beach, Shute Harbour and Proserpine, as well as off-shore islands Hamilton, Hayman and Daydream were hit hard.



Debbie hits Bowen - ABC Reporter Josh Bavas via Twitter

'Cyclone Debbie was large in size, vicious in its intensity and has caused immense havoc,' according to the Anglican Bishop of North Queensland, Bishop Bill Ray. 'While the Cyclone has passed, the next major concern for many is flooding.' Anglican Aid's Director, the Rev David Mansfield, says the funds raised by the appeal will be sent to Bishop Ray and the Diocese of North Queensland to resource churches in the region to assist those most in need in their communities. 'We are asking Christians in Sydney to stand in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in northern Queensland who have been affected by the cyclone.' Mr Mansfield says. 'We are thankful to God that, so far, there has been no loss of life and no reports of widespread injuries. But many will have lost their livelihoods, particularly those working in the agricultural sector.'

Bishop Ray is resilient in face of adversity. 'There will be no short-term fix – we have to hang in there for the long haul, knowing God is with us,' he says. 'We give thanks to God for the way people have rallied to help. As damaging as Cyclone Debbie has been, the people of North Queensland will be stronger.'

For more information go to: <https://anglicanaid.org.au/projects/emergency-cyclone-debbie>

RAISING A TESTIMONY

Wesley Mission's Packed Program For Easter

Broken Made New: A Message For Australia And The World is the theme for Holy Week and Easter events run by Sydney's Wesley Mission, which will host a series of powerful Easter events, re-enactments and more than 20 worship services during Holy Week 2017. For more than 50 years Wesley Mission has taken the story of Easter into the public square giving thousands of people the opportunity to hear and share in its life-changing meaning. In a world of continuing suffering and uncertainty this year's key Easter message of *Broken Made New* resonates strongly with Australians and speaks powerfully into the minds of countless people across the world.

Wesley Mission Superintendent the Rev Keith Garner said the message of generous love, forgiveness and acceptance is a reminder that even in our deepest despair, life can be made new. 'Sadly, brokenness not wholeness marks the experience of a growing number of Australians and people all around the world,' Mr Garner said. 'This is one reason why Easter is increasingly important and a message we share with urgency. At Wesley Mission we deal with broken lives every day: loneliness, isolation, mental health issues, homelessness, poverty and relationship conflict can drive people over the edge and into despair.'

'**Since the early days of the Christian community**, Easter and Holy Week have been observed as a special time to focus on Jesus Christ and His message of grace, forgiveness and restoration. This message is timely as many people around the world and our nation seek healing, wholeness and understanding in the face of conflict, hate and fear. Easter still provides not only Wesley Mission but the broader church family with the opportunity to proclaim the good news in the marketplace. It is a time when people are open to the narrative and can reflect upon the Easter message of broken lives longing for renewal. By joining with others and taking part in the dramatic and engaging events of Holy Week, we can let that message of love and forgiveness penetrate our lives.'

Wesley Mission Easter 2017 events include: Palm Sunday at Circular Quay, 9 April at 1.30 pm. The Palm Sunday procession is a dramatic re-enactment of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Colour and movement mark this vital walk around Circular Quay. The procession begins at 1.30 pm near Phillip Street, Circular Quay. Participants begin to assemble from 1 pm. The Easter Sunrise Service will be broadcast live on Channel 9, simulcast on 103.2 FM and streamed live around the world via the internet.

Go to www.wesleymission.org.au for details of all events.



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REGISTER AT OURDAILYBREAD.ORG/NEWBEGINNINGS

GATHERING THOUGHTS

MISSION AUSTRALIA: All Ears For What Young People Think

On Monday 3 April during National Youth Week (31 March-9 April), Mission Australia will launch its annual Youth Survey and will urge young people to actively express their thoughts, concerns and aspirations. Nearly 22,000 participants had their say last year, and Mission Australia hopes to surpass that record in its 16th annual Youth Survey this year. The survey is open to 15-19 year olds until the end of July. Mission Australia CEO Catherine Yeomans said she encouraged young people across the nation to undertake Australia's largest annual nationwide poll of young people. 'We value the views of Australian young people. By checking in annually to find out what's really going on in their lives, it means organisations like ours have access to up-to-date evidence so we can advocate on their behalf for the services and broader policy changes that they need, and that are proven to work.

In 2016, the top three issues identified by young people as most important in Australia today were alcohol and drugs and equity and discrimination, with mental health entering the top three for the first time. Concerns about mental health have doubled since 2011. In the survey, young people continue to nominate coping with stress, school or study problems and body image as their top three issues of personal concern. Mental health issues were also increasingly identified as personal concerns for young people.

Mission Australia's 2017 Youth Survey is open to all Australian young people aged 15-19 years. To take part in the survey, go to www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey

New Moderator Of PCNSW

Rev David Burke is Moderator-Elect

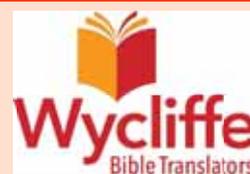
of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in NSW. He will take office when the General Assembly meets on 3 July. David is Lecturer in Ministry and Practice at Christ College, Sydney. He has had a wide and varied experience in pastoral ministry, first at Henty then Strathfield and more latterly as Senior Pastor at Orchard Road Presbyterian Church in Singapore before returning to Sydney. For most of his ministry he has been involved in both Christian Education and Theological Education and has had extensive involvement in NSW Presbyterian Church Schools. He is also involved in majority-world ministry training, particularly in Timor Leste. David and Glenda Burke have three adult children and five grandchildren. His blog will be found at: davidburke51.blogspot.com.au

Expressions of Interest

Chief Executive Officer

Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia

- Commence May 2019
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- CEO to raise their own financial support



About the Organisation

Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia (WBTA) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based Christian mission organisation. We have the deepest commitment to people of all cultures and to the uncompleted task of Bible translation bringing God's Word to life while simultaneously serving people's needs holistically.

About the Role

Reporting directly to the WBTA Board, as CEO you will be primarily responsible for managing and directing WBTA. You will be consolidating current direction and developing innovative ways to further the organisation. You will be working in partnership with the Wycliffe Global Alliance and will represent WBTA outside the organisation and develop partnerships. As CEO, you will value our Members - helping them succeed and do the best they can. This role will involve travel to other locations.

About the Person

We seek a person who is secure in their faith in Christ, seeks to fulfil His will and purpose in life, and has the capacity to relate well to the wider Australian church and community. This person must have significant leadership experience, be able to manage budgets, and oversee our financial, regulatory and compliance obligations. This person will promote trust, empower others, acknowledge the power of teamwork and be accountable. Careful and constrained exercise of power and authority is necessary, as is the ability to garner a high level of loyalty and commitment from the team.

Send Expressions of Interest to Philip Bignall, CEO Search Committee Chair.

Email: ceosearch@wycliffe.org.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

Getting The Word Out



Faith Comes By Hearing, a ministry that records audio versions of the Bible in the languages of the world, released recordings in 24 new languages in March, the most in a month since the organization was founded in 1972. FCBH passed the 1,000-recording milestone in 2016 and has set a goal of reaching 2,000 by 2022. Partners contributing to this month's recordings include the Institute For Bible Translation (Russia), Scripture Use Media (a Wycliffe organization In Papua New Guinea), Theovision International (Ghana), Vina Studios (Guatemala) and Wycliffe Bible Translators. The people groups reached by the latest recordings vary in size from more than 2 million upwards with ten recordings produced for languages spoken in Papua New Guinea. According to FCBH they provide Scripture recordings in 1,066 languages spoken by 6 billion people.

Project Hannah, a ministry of Trans World Radio, in almost 20 years of ministry has established a global prayer network of more than 50,000 intercessors in over 120 countries and a broadcasting presence in 71 languages. Now, with a new name, new look and new leader, TWR's worldwide women's ministry is revitalizing and expanding its mission to take on a third decade of service. TWR Women Of Hope is the new name of Project Hannah. The ministry will continue to speak hope and healing to women around the world and across generations, says Peggy Banks, the global director of the ministry. She says the ministry, which engages millions of people in 160 countries with biblical truth, focuses on encouraging, equipping and engaging women to pray, listen, learn, grow and give.



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FROM ALL QUARTERS

Samaritan's Purse Field Hospital In Iraq Needs More Medical Volunteers

In January, the international relief organization Samaritan's Purse, founded by Franklin Graham, opened up a field hospital on the Nineveh plains in Iraq, in order to meet the many needs of Iraqis caught up in the battle for Mosul, against ISIS. (Photo via SamaritansPurse.org). (See NL 2017-03-01 p.4.) It is reportedly the closest trauma centre to the frontline fighting. Since its opening, the hospital has performed more than 470 surgeries on children and adults. Now Franklin Graham is noting the urgent need for more volunteer 'trauma' doctors and nurses. 'We need men and women who are willing to come and work and serve,' he said in a video message on the website.

Christian medical personnel are urgently needed to staff the Samaritan's Purse hospital in Iraq for deployments of three weeks or longer. Particular needs include trauma/general surgeons, anesthesiologists, emergency medicine physicians, operating room nurses, intensive care unit nurses, surgical technicians, and operating room sterilization staff.

Equipped with an emergency room, two operating rooms, more than 50 beds, and dozens of staff, the facility provides immediate medical care and surgical aid for patients who otherwise may lose their lives before they can reach the nearest established medical centre in Erbil, one to two hours away. The hospital is the closest trauma center to frontline fighting and is operated in partnership with the Iraqi Ministry of Health. Go to: SamaritansPurse.org for further details

- Aimee Herd



Church Growing In Cuba:

Cuba's churches may still be restricted, but that's not stopping a spiritual revival in the communist nation, according to church leaders. The Council of Churches of Cuba estimates that about 25,000 evangelical and other Protestant houses of worship are flourishing across the country. The Assemblies of God has seen the most spectacular growth in recent years, growing from about 10,000 members in the 1990s to 120,000 currently. Presbyterian pastor Joel Dopica says that churches in Cuba are thriving right now. He says: 'All of them are growing, not just in the number of members but in their capacity to lead and act in society.' Even the Cuban government is now allowing churches to provide the social services that it once monopolized, including AIDS prevention, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, medicine distribution and disaster relief.

Ramon A Williams
- Worldwide Photos -
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– Jeff M. Sellers, Editor, Persecution News Service, Morning Star News.

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Silence In Case Of Missing Malaysian Pastor

Mystery and frustration surround the abduction of a Malaysian pastor. His disappearance reads like the script of an action movie. On 13 February, a group of masked men surrounded 62-year-old Raymond Koh and whisked him off the streets, all while another person stood recording the incident. It took 40 seconds to make him vanish. A video of Koh's alleged abduction surfaced soon after and went viral on social media. His family has heard nothing from the kidnappers and now fears the worst.

Meanwhile, a 31-year-old Uber driver tried to take advantage of the situation and, although he was not connected to the abduction, tried to extort money from the family in exchange for Koh's release. He'll stand trial for that charge on 26 April.

The case stands nowhere, much to the family's disappointment. What's more, the apparent lack of response is causing people to ask why the government has been silent on a growing problem facing Christians in Malaysia. Koh is not the only Christian leader who has been abducted recently. According to locals, after getting a series of threats, Pastor Joshua Hilmy, a former Muslim and ethnic Malay, went missing last November. He remains missing. Open Doors USA's President and CEO David Curry says these attacks upon Malaysia's Christians are only the latest in a series of worsening incidents of religious persecution by the Islamic authorities in Malaysia. - mnnonline.org



Pastor Raymond Koh and his wife, courtesy of TheStar.com

INDIA: Police Look On As Christians Beaten

Christians in India are finding that the very people who should be protecting them from attack – the police – are now becoming complicit in their persecution. Believers in the east of the subcontinent say officers are increasingly under the sway of Hindu extremists and are allowing persecution to go ahead unpunished. Not only are they standing by while Christians are beaten but they then arrest the victims! These allegations follow a recent attack on Pastor Ajay Kumar and a Bible college student called Assaryav in Begusarai district, Bihar state. The men were lured into a marketplace on false pretences then badly beaten. Their attackers ordered police not to interfere – and they obeyed.

- *Release International*

CHINA: Imprisoned Pastor Needs Urgent Medical Care

A lawyer of an imprisoned Chinese pastor has said that his client is in need of vital medical care. Pastor Yang Hua, the leader of Living Stone Church, is said to be 'on the verge of paralysis' after medical staff at the detention centre where he is being held denied a request for injections to treat an infection. Instead, the medical staff only provided Yang with painkillers. After his lawyer visited the pastor on 20 and 24 March, Yang was transferred to a military hospital. Staff at the hospital recommended his condition be treated with penicillin but it does not appear that Yang has been provided with the medication. Doctors warn that without treatment, Yang's legs may need to be amputated. Yang's lawyers have written to Guiyang authorities asking for a review of the case and requesting that he is transferred to a fully functioning hospital. His wife

has not been granted permission to view his medical records. Advocacy group Christian Solidarity Worldwide have condemned the treatment of Yang and his family.

- *Premier News*

ERITREA: Christian Women Die Following Hunger Strike

Two Pentecostal Christians are reported to have died in Eritrea on 17 March, days after being transferred to a hospital from detention, where they had been on hunger strike. According to the Eritrean website *Erimedrek News*, the two women, who were detained in Wi'a military camp, were transported to Massawa Hospital in critical condition on 12 March. The hunger strike was in protest at the abuse they were receiving in detention, and their bodies were allegedly marked with bruising consistent with sexual abuse. Once at the hospital, the women were reportedly kept in isolation and guarded in shifts by security personnel. Following their deaths, military commanders confiscated their medical cards. Reports have also emerged of the arrests of a significant number of Christians on Christmas Eve 2016 in the capital city Asmara, after they had been caught praying. They were allegedly transported barefoot to an unknown location. The Eritrean government is one of the most repressive in the world. Thousands of prisoners of conscience are detained arbitrarily for indefinite periods of time in unsatisfactory facilities where conditions are life threatening and torture is rife. A campaign of arrests targeting selected religious communities has been ongoing since 2002, when the government effectively outlawed all practices not affiliated with the Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran or Orthodox Christian denominations and Sunni Islam.

Church 'Still Going Strong In Albania'

Operation Mobilisation recently celebrated 25 years of The Disciples Church in Durres. An OM team of five first went to Albania in 1991, where they found extreme poverty and very little food. Durres then had a population of 60,000, and there were only eight cars in the whole city. For more than 45 years, Albania had been one of the most closed – and poorest – countries in Europe. Christians had prayed for ways to share the Gospel, but doors remained shut.

One of OM's creative projects involved floating parcels of tracts into Albania as an OM ship sailed up the coast. Some of these tracts were later found in the Museum of Atheism and Religion in Tirana, as an example of the attempts by imperialist Western governments to corrupt Albanians.

The OM team started in Albania with three goals: to learn the language, start Bible study groups and learn the culture. Within the first four weeks, the team had led five people to the Lord. From that time, the team and new believers met on Sundays, and the church grew from five believers to 150 within three years. OM reports: 'It is still going strong to this day.'

KENYA: Former Muslim Now A Bible Distributor

Christians in Kenya are often targets of persecution. On the *World Watch List*, Kenya ranks at number 18 for high Christian persecution levels. However, God is still moving. Biblica has recently been in touch with a Muslim-background believer in Kenya with a specific missional calling. Lydia Munene, Biblica's Area Executive Director for Africa, shares the story:

'We basically have a Scripture outreach program we've been running in Kenya over the last few years where we've been getting people who do not have Bibles and who need Scriptures for evangelism to use them. So we gave some Bibles to one of our partners, Lifewords, [who] was working with partners in Kilifi and people who have been doing evangelism in that area. Now Kilifi is in the coastal region of Kenya, and it is a place which is dominated by Muslims.

'So it just happened that our Bibles got into the hands of a former Muslim, we'll call him Michael. Now Michael got converted by attending a Christian meeting in Kilifi, and once he was converted, he had a passion for distributing Bibles to Muslims so they can know the Word of God, they can know the real Jesus. So he began that work, but he didn't have access to Bibles. He's been having small Bible study groups, usually he calls over his friends, they share the Word of God, he gives them passages they can be able to read, and once they get convicted, then he leads them to the Lord.

'Michael was so excited when he learned that we have Bibles we can give to support his evangelistic mission. So he picked some up and he started distributing them with small groups and friends he'd been trying to reach out to. In the process, we've heard of people coming to know the Lord through Michael's work! Witnessing in potentially hostile situations can be difficult – especially when the person you're sharing Christ with knows that converting in their situation could cost them everything. When you convert, you are actually in danger and many of them are killed or ostracized from their families.'

But Munene says there is hope as the Church is growing in Kenya. 'I think something that gives us hope is that Muslims are searching. We have those who are, of course, very radicalized – they'll not hear anything about Jesus. And so for those we just need to pray that God would have mercy on them and that He would turn their hearts against evil. In Kenya, we've had instances of Christians being killed, massacred. But even then, our greatest joy is there are those who are genuinely seeking the truth. Actually, that's how Michael was before he came to Christ. He was seeking to know the truth and he came upon Christians, he had the Word of God, and his life was transformed. And in the process, he has become an instrument of transforming Muslims.'

– Lyndsey Koh mnonline.org

**Read *God's Method of Saving Sinners* by David Holden
at www.defenceofthefaith.org**

What Makes For A Well-Taught Church? ACTS 11.19-30, 13.1-3

The church at Antioch, north of Jerusalem, is the mother of all Gentile Christian churches. Due to God’s work (v 21), there was a great number of believers there and so, the Jerusalem Church responds by appointing Barnabas and sending him as their representative to nurture the work.

When Barnabas arrives in Antioch, an even greater number of people are added to the church (v 24). Luke reports that Barnabas brought with him Saul from Tarsus. Then for a third time he tells of great numbers of people in Antioch (v 26).

Barnabas was an encourager (v 23). Both he and Saul established the church by providing sound teaching for a whole year (v 26). At Antioch, believers are first called Christians, literally, ‘people of the anointing’ (v 26).

Luke describes a well-taught church, showing clear evidence of repentance and faith.

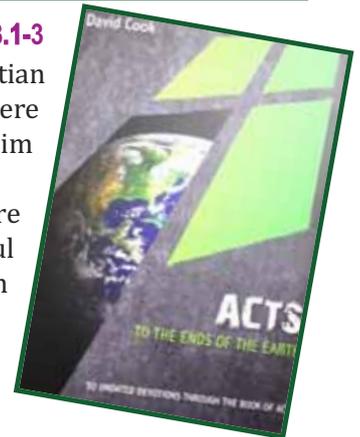
The church at Antioch:

- listens to and respects the prophetic word of Agabus (v 28);
- responds to the Word with financial generosity (v 29);
- is culturally diverse. This is reflected in their leaders, who include Jews, a black African and a north African (13.1–3);
- has leaders who are sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit (13.2);
- generously shares their finances and their personnel (13.3).

This presents a great challenge to the mindset that would keep the best for self and let God have the rest.

Again, the expansive purpose of God is at the forefront of events.

Luke records that the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them’ (13.2). Other similar words of God are recorded in Acts 5.20, 8.26, 9.15, 10.20, 16.9 and 18.10.



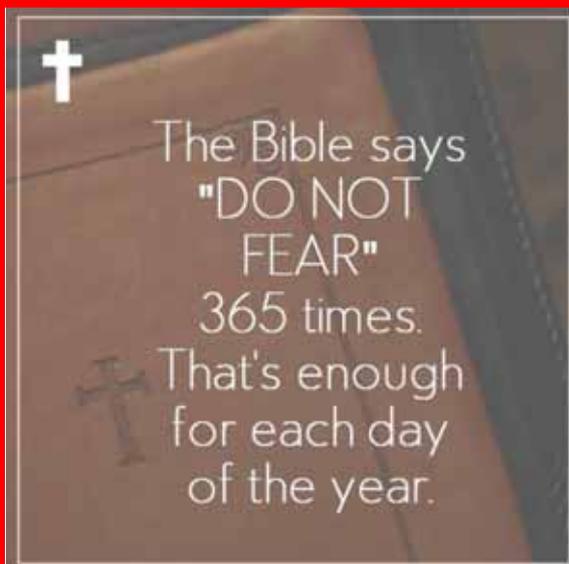
REFLECTION:

Do I keep the best and share the rest?

Does my church see its role as establishing people well in God’s grace and then acting as a clearing house, sending people out and seeing them move beyond the fringe?

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

SEEN ON FACEBOOK:



Romans 10.13
How shall they hear
without a preacher?

Words Of Wisdom:

‘Eve found God as good as His Word; and so will all they who go on in sin, under a false hope that they shall not surely die.’

- George Whitefield

Who Can YOU Forward New Life To?

FROM ALL QUARTERS

Bigger Questions Goes LIVE On 89.9 LightFM THIS Sunday Night At 9pm!

Here are the faces behind the two voices that make Sunday nights great: Clayton Bjelan (left, host of *In Conversation With Clayton*) and Robert Martin (right, host of *Bigger Questions*). Hope you can tune in on Sunday!

Robert Martin says, 'We're excited to announce that the radio show/podcast I host will be broadcast on Sunday night at 9pm. The show will reach an estimated audience of 44,000 people!! I'd like to invite you to LIKE the Facebook page for the show: *Bigger Questions*. I hope you can. The first episode of *Bigger Questions* will feature Greg Restall on the topic *Is it logical to believe in God?* Hope you can tune in.'



New Church In New Norfolk (Tas)

The Fellowship Of Congregational Churches is planting a new church in New Norfolk, Tasmania. In their most recent growth phase they have started a weekly Bible Study, which has already had some unexpected results.

'What a blessing Bible Study was tonight!' writes Pastor Cameron Douglas. 'We had a couple come along who are touring Tassie from Perth. The big issue was they had a car and caravan accident last Thursday. The accident happened in Hobart but there was no accommodation in their price range so they ended up out here. God led them to various Christians in the community and He has blessed both them and us! It's so encouraging to see God's family stand up and serve! Our reading was Colossians 1.15-23 and we were reminded of who God is and who Jesus is, then reminded we are servants of God, but not in a way that is negative. It is a pleasure to serve God who created all and loved us so dearly.'

Dr Michael Youssef Calls For Uncompromising Faith In Wake Of London Terror Attacks

Following the tragic terror attacks in London, *Leading The Way's* founder and president Dr Michael Youssef says it's vital more than ever that Christians stand firm in their faith and wake up to these radical Islamist threats. 'I grieve deeply for the victims and the people of the UK, especially as I have so many friends there,' he said. 'This is the time when we must uphold the faith without compromise. We need to stand up for the truth of the Gospel as we reach out even to militants, telling them in love that the truth can only be found in Jesus Christ. We also need to pray for these militants to be converted. We're seeing radical Muslims come to Christ, even a former ISIS leader, through our ministry at *Leading The Way*. The God I believe in is the God of the impossible and they can be reached.'

– Peter Wooding, European Bureau Chief for ASSIST News Service

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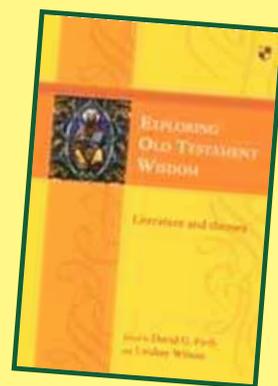
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BOOKS WORTH READING

EXPLORING OLD TESTAMENT WISDOM: Literature And Themes, Ed David G. Firth And Lindsay Wilson, London: Apollos, 2016. ISBN 9781783594306.

Christians rightly emphasise the centrality of the Gospel, but this often leads to confusion in knowing how to interpret the Bible's wisdom literature, namely the books of *Job*, *Ecclesiastes* and *Proverbs*, with the inclusion or exclusion of the *Song Of Songs* being debated. Apart from cherry picking a favourite verse or two, what is one to do with the book of *Job*? How does a Christian read the book of *Proverbs* theologically? Is God's grace through Jesus undermined by searching for wisdom elsewhere in Scripture? *Exploring Old Testament Wisdom: Literature And Themes* goes some way towards answering those questions. The aim of this volume is first, to present and explain recent developments in the interpretation of the wisdom books, and secondly, to provide some insight into other places in the Bible where wisdom themes or ideas might be found. On both points, the book is successful in achieving this aim through a collection of surveys and essays from experts in the field.



The book consists of three sections. Part one surveys the landscape of contemporary scholarship in Old Testament wisdom, part two looks at the wisdom books themselves (*Song Of Songs* is also included here), and part three examines various themes both across the wisdom literature as well as in other places of the Bible. Each chapter is by a different author, and each contributor has extensive expertise in the Old Testament. In the first part, Craig Bartholomew sets up a framework to show how to examine the different scholarly interpretations of wisdom literature up to the present day. In the second part, there are articles by Ernest Lucas, Lindsay Wilson, Katharine Dell and Rosalind Clarke on *Proverbs*, *Job*, *Ecclesiastes* and *Song Of Songs* respectively. In part three, Gregory Goswell looks at wisdom in *Ruth*, Lennart Boström looks at the theme of retribution in the wisdom books, David Firth examines wisdom in Old Testament narrative, Christopher Ansberry shows how wisdom is strongly influenced by biblical-theological themes, Simon Stocks looks at 'wisdom Psalms', and finally, Brittany Nelson explores the nature of divine absence in *Proverbs*, *Job* and *Ecclesiastes*.

Two chapters in the book stand out from the rest. Bartholomew surveys the current state of the field, and he does so by creating a framework based on a 'series of turns': historical, literary, postmodern and theological (p.4). By applying these turns as 'lenses,' he shows how different interpretations of the wisdom literature have resulted at different stages in history. Goswell's chapter highlights various wisdom themes in *Ruth*. His unique approach demonstrates how placing *Ruth* after *Proverbs 31* draws out many significant parallels between the two texts. His interpretation focuses on 'paratext markers'; indications that *Ruth* was placed after *Proverbs* in some compilations of the Old Testament books to provide a hermeneutical guide to future readers (p.123). The effect creates an image of *Ruth* as exemplary of the wisdom ethics of *Proverbs*.

While these two chapters are certainly highlights, other chapters display certain inconsistencies between the authors. Of course, in a volume of this type, such a weakness is almost inevitable. This is evident in the chapter by Clarke. Clarke's chapter on *Song of Songs* follows Dell's chapter on *Ecclesiastes*, and in it she actively critiques a position Dell has argued for elsewhere on the *Song's* exclusion from the wisdom literature. Similarly, Wilson in his overview of the book of *Job* argues that *Job* should be seen as blameless (cf. *Job* 1:8; 2:3; 42:7-8) (64), but Boström sees *Job* as having become rebellious, and as one who sees God as "capricious or evil" (148-149). These conflicting viewpoints, while understandable, create a feeling of disunity.

Overall, while some aspects of the book are quite technical in their approach, and some chapters come across as literature reviews (although this is something of the purpose of the book), there are valid insights to be found, especially in the chapters by Goswell and Bartholomew. In addition to this, the disparate backgrounds of the authors may in fact be its strength, as the different perspectives show how the interpretation of the wisdom literature can often be multifaceted. Overall, I found it a helpful book that rekindled my love for the wisdom of the Bible.

– Daniel Wood, Registrar and PhD candidate at Christ College, Sydney.