

Oh For 5,000 Tongues To Sing My Great Redeemer's Praise!

PROM PRAISE
2017



What a thrill it was to join the 5,000-strong congregation which filled the Albert Hall London for Prom

Praise 2017 on 22 April. Mass Christian gatherings can make a strong statement to the world even as they engender confidence within the Christian community. Noël Tredinnick led the All Souls Orchestra and Choir in an uplifting program of hymns old and new interspersed with some light classical items, while Rico Tyce, John Stott's latest successor at All Souls, gave an arresting Gospel message. Michael Baughen, who moved on from All Souls to become Bishop of Chester, spoke of how the strong musical tradition at All Souls developed. Perhaps the highlight of the evening was the rousing singing of Michael Baughen's now famous paraphrase of Psalm 46 set to the tune of the *Dambusters' March*. – Bob Thomas

TURKEY UPDATE

President Erdogan has narrowly won a referendum in Turkey that grants the President sweeping executive powers. Though it would have proved enormously popular with his supporter base, President Erdogan did not play the Hagia Sophia card at all.

Fortunately, Erdogan also happens to be constrained by Russia, which would not tolerate the Hagia Sophia being turned into a mosque. On the contrary, Russia has repeatedly requested the cathedral be returned to the Orthodox Church, even offering to contribute funds and expertise towards its full restoration.

This year Ramadan commences on 27 May, which in Turkey will be followed two days later by Conquest Day when Muslim Turks celebrate the fall of Constantinople to Ottoman forces on 29 May 1453.

Hagia Sophia remains a live issue. Its conversion into a mosque would be far more than symbolic with profound implications for all Turkey's Christians. Please pray!

– Elizabeth Kendal

VOLUME 79 NUMBER 19

ISSUE DATE:
1 May 2017

FILE NO: NL 2017-05-01

ISSN: 1033-7903

FOUNDER:
Eric J. Daley (1910-1992)

EDITOR:
Rev Bob Thomas
Phone: 0417 592 646
Email: editor@nlife.com.au
Postal Address:
PO Box 457
Mitcham VIC 3132

ALL ENQUIRIES, EDITORIAL,
ADVERTISING
AND SUBSCRIPTIONS
SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO
THE EDITOR, Rev Bob Thomas,
AT THE ABOVE CONTACT
POINTS UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE.

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

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS:
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.



Overcoming The Elijah Syndrome

Hello from England where I'm attending the 53rd Banner Of Truth Ministers' Conference. Some 250 men have gathered from all over the UK and 19 countries beyond for their annual spiritual refresher. Ministers and missionaries, many of whom have laboured long in the Lord's service and in distant, isolated and, yes, dangerous places, are sitting under faithful, annointed teaching from the Word of God and in the company of brethren of 'like precious faith'.

I introduced a young missionary friend of mine who works in one of the danger zones to another, older friend who has spent almost a lifetime there. 'Not many workers there,' said the young one. 'Oh, we'd all be surprised if we knew just how many there are,' said the older brother. Shades of Elijah – 'I, even I only, am left' – and yet there were 7,000 left in Israel. **Praise God that He knows the extent of His blood-bought Kingdom.** Praise Him too that he raised up this ministry, Banner Of Truth, to fan the flames of faith in the hearts of His believing people. Old believers, new believers and almost-believers alike have been drawn to faith and/or built up in their most holy faith through the books, the magazine, the conferences, the website (www.banneroftruth.org) – and all of this focussed on Christ as our Saviour and Lord, revealed in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Banner Trustee Ian Hamilton writes: 'The theme of this year's Banner of Truth Ministers' conference is *The Living And Enduring Word Of God* – an appropriate title for this year, the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, which was essentially the recovery of the authority and sufficiency of Holy Scripture in the life, worship, and witness of the Church. **'That recovery, which happened so many years ago,** is one that the Church no less needs to make today. We need to be reminded that the Word of God is never to be peripheral in the life of the Church; rather, it is always to be central and fundamental to her worship, witness, ministry, and mission. Our hope for this year's conference is that not only will we be reminded of those truths to which we all assent, but that we will also experience the power, authority, grace, as well as the truth of God's living and enduring Word.

'Our hope is that, as our speakers introduce us again to the theme of *The Living And Enduring Word Of God*, our hearts will be warmed, our minds will be stretched, and our lives and ministries will be recalibrated by that living and enduring Word; so that we will return to our congregations revitalized and recommitted to Christ and His Gospel – men who proclaim unashamedly, in this age of ecclesiological confusion, the living and enduring Word of our God.'

Well, that hope was fulfilled for those who gathered from their small corners in villages, towns and cities throughout 'Earth's wide bounds and oceans' farthest coasts', including the editor of 'the little paper for the little people of God.'

Next Year's Conference will be held from 23-26 April. – Bob Thomas

MATTERS FOR PRAYER:

NORTH KOREA: Uncertainty Looms Over Long-Suffering Church

The Korean Revival of 1907 (also known as the *Korean Pentecost*) stands in history as one of the great transformative revivals of the 20th Century. Geopolitically, it was a tense time. Aware that a spirit of fear and negativity pervaded the annual winter (January) Pyongyang Bible Class, its organisers bathed the event in prayer. On the evening of Monday 8 January 1907, the Holy Spirit descended in power on the gathering of some 1500 Korean Bible teachers, pastors and missionaries. The result was an out-pouring of prayer, marked by a deep sorrow over sin. The next day it continued: the Class was gripped by a spirit of repentance which culminated in confession, forgiveness and reconciliation. Over time the movement spread to the point that the Korean capital, Pyongyang (Pyongyang) became known as 'The Jerusalem of the East'. But, in the mystery of God, the Korean Church would not be permitted to remain on the spiritual mountaintop for long.

Located as it is between China and Japan, Korea had long been the site of proxy wars as her powerful, imperialist neighbours fought for control over the peninsula. On 22 August 1910 imperialist Shinto nationalist Japan annexed Korea, ushering in a 35-year period of intensive religious persecution. In 1919 (in the wake of World War 1) Korean Christians led a movement for independence. But the hoped-for Western support did not eventuate. Instead, they were imprisoned and the persecution intensified. One consequence of this terrible period was that Christianity became associated with Korean nationalism and the profile of the Church was raised.

During the course of World War 2 the Korean Peninsula came to be divided along the 38th parallel, with the north under Soviet occupation and the south occupied by America. On 25 June 1950 the communist north invaded the south, triggering the Korean War. Though a ceasefire was declared in 1953, the war was merely frozen, not ended. After the border closed, an estimated 2,300 churches with about 300,000 members disappeared from the north. Under the rule of the Kim family, Christianity is prohibited with the threat of death for the believer and labour camp for the extended family. Thus the Christians of North Korea have known little else but intensive suffering for over 100 years.

Despite the persecution, the Church has survived and is believed to number between 300,000 and 500,000. Those who are not struggling to endure horrendous prison labour camps, survive as secret believers. God alone sustains them, and one day they will emerge as Korea's light, salt and healing.

Today, geopolitical tensions are approaching boiling point. North Korea is convinced the US-led West would not have removed Saddam Hussein in 2003 if Iraq actually had weapons of mass destruction and that the US-led West would not have removed Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 had he not given up Libya's weapons of mass destruction. So North Korea will not willingly disarm, but will retain its weapons program for the purpose of deterrence. It remains to be seen how the Kim regime responds to a real existential threat. It is difficult to know how to pray, for though we want to see the situation change, we do not want to see Korea's long-suffering Church engulfed in apocalyptic fire. All we can do is give the situation to God, plead for His mercy and ask that He interpose Himself into the Korean crisis for the well-being of His Church and the glory of His Name.

PLEASE PRAY THAT GOD WILL:

- intervene in the Korean crisis creatively, according to His wisdom, to fulfil His good purposes, that ultimately the Church in North Korea might be liberated to be a blessing to the whole Korean Peninsula and a witness to the watching world.

'Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes refuge.'
(Psalm 57.1-3 ESV)

- pour out His Holy Spirit in power upon His beloved Korean Church, that she might erupt yet again in Spirit-led prayer that the Korean Peninsula might once again be transformed.

'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.'
(Zechariah 4.6 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



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

Community Chaplaincy Growth Spurt

Plans are underway for the Anglican Diocese of Sydney to recruit a force of 1,000 community chaplains by the year 2020. The aim is that community chaplains will act as evangelists in every community to either form churches or feed into existing churches. Already the Diocese has 70 community chaplains deployed in areas as diverse as Muslim evangelism, hospital work and prison chaplaincy as well as working among people from a Catholic background, police, ambulance workers and in sporting clubs.

The inaugural community chaplaincy forum, which was held at St Philip's, Auburn late last year, was attended by church leaders, working chaplains, training providers and many potential chaplains. The Rev Bruce Hall, who chairs the community chaplaincy task force, says those being recruited will be licensed (authorised) by the Archbishop under their local supervisor.

'Our target of 1,000 community chaplains deployed in the Sydney and Illawarra areas by 2020 requires every chaplain to recruit one or two more a year and every parish to deploy at least four chaplains,' Mr Hall says. 'We think this is achievable.'

Sporting clubs are an area of great opportunity with, currently 8,000 unfilled sports chaplaincy positions across the country. Those chaplains already in place face many demands. Raewyn Elsegood, chaplain to a netball club in Castle Hill, has been asked by Netball NSW to provide a self-esteem course for all young netballers in the state. Surf Lifesaving club chaplain Mark Gilbert (pictured) has been promoted on Foxtel as a model for providing pastoral care to young surf lifesavers facing stressful life issues. Other examples include Mel Fung, who started the *Jesus Club* – an outreach for adults with intellectual disabilities. This now runs in at least nine parishes around Sydney. Another ministry works with women recovering from domestic violence in the Rockdale area.

'An ideal community chaplain is a faithful Christian man or woman who is able to love a particular people group and communicate with them about Jesus,' Mr Hall says. The group plans to run another chaplaincy forum on Saturday 6 May 2017.

– Russell Powell, Sydney Anglicans

Brighter Days In Africa

Data from the World Health Organisation shows a much-needed positive: life expectancy in Africa is better than it was in 2000. The *World Health Statistics 2016* report shows life expectancy up 9.4 years between 2000 and 2015. This increase, WHO says, is mainly due to the success recorded in the continent's fight with the AIDS epidemic and the progress in malaria control and treatment.

But despite the positives, more needs to be done as Africa remains home to the world's lowest life expectancy rates for both genders.

– WHO

IRAQ: Open Doors Opens A Door Of Opportunity

Christian charity Open Doors has helped an Iraqi man set up a business which is now flourishing, with plans to add to the current workforce of displaced Christians. Rabeea and staff manufacture traditional Iraqi sweets and deliver to shops across the country. Rabeea opened the factory in March to provide a living to families like his own, who sought refuge in Erbil in 2014 when Islamic State forced many Christians to flee their towns in the Nineveh plains. The factory stores the raw ingredients for their treats: sacks of sugar, buckets of walnuts, sesame seeds, coconut, pistachios and almonds. Although the Church in Erbil welcomed them, they wanted to earn their own income and be less reliant on aid provided to internally displaced people. Like his colleagues in the factory, Rabeea is now able to provide an income for his family and hopes

one day to move his business and return to his home city of Qaraqosh. – *World Watch Monitor*

New Bible App For India

Audio Scripture Ministries is working on their new app that will be out in India later this year. The app will feature audio Bibles and Gospel materials in several Indian languages, and also allow users to ask biblical questions that will be answered via podcast. India is the second-largest smartphone market after China, and the ministry believes this new app will expand the Gospel's impact in India and change how they carry out their work. Even with the swell of smartphone use in India, most of India is still non-literate, creating high demand for the audio Bible distribution. The new app will also provide an easy and safe way for young people in India to engage in spiritual matters.

– *Mission Network News*

2017 ONE DAY IN MELBOURNE

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

SATURDAY 3 JUNE

Time 10:30am – 4:00pm
Location Salvation Army
Moonee Ponds
Address 880 Mount Alexander Rd,
Moonee Ponds
Cost FREE
RSVP Dr Mark Tronson
info@markt.id.au
0419 917 713

PROGRAM

10:30 AM MORNING TEA
11:00 AM CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATIONS TODAY with John Sandeman and his ETERNITY team
12:30 PM LUNCH
1:30 PM MISSION PUBLICATIONS PHILOSOPHY with Cheryl McGrath (CMS Communications)
2:15 PM ONLINE OUTREACH with David Goodwin (Christian Writer and Editor)
3:00 PM BLOGGING IN A CHRISTIAN CONTEXT with John Lemmon (Christian Blogger)
4:00 PM CUPPA & CLOSE

This year's 'One Day in Melbourne' is for editors, writers, designers, social media mavens, authors, bloggers, self-publishers — anyone in Christian media whose aim is to maximise the Gospel.

Its philosophy is to provide a top-of-the-line presentation to the forgotten Christian media: Missionary/mission publication editors, bloggers, social media mavens and small Christian media.

The top-of-the-line presenters give their time at no cost so as to ensure such mission agencies received a thorough concordant. Moreover the venue is close to Tullamarine Airport - Moonee Ponds Salvation Army – as last year, people might fly in and fly out on the same day.

SPEAKERS



John Sandeman

John was with Fairfax for 30 years and envisioned an opportunity for a weekly Christian magazine housed by the Bible Society and it is now a heralded Christian fixture.



Cheryl McGrath

Cheryl works as the Communications Coordinator at CMS Victoria, and lives in Melbourne. Cheryl is a columnist in Christian Today Australia and writes for the Press Service International young writer program with an editorial blog for their international young writers.

Solid, Biblical Teaching And Learning At Belgrave Heights

Guy Mason is the founder and lead pastor of City On A Hill Church, Hoyts Complex, Melbourne Central, Level 3. We enjoyed getting to know Guy, his wife Vanessa, and their children (Summer, Zach, Jacob and Lilly) during the four days together at the 53rd Belgrave Heights Easter Convntion. Both Guy and Vanessa come from non-Christian families which gives them an understanding of today's generation. As a child, Guy had questions about life, its meaning and purpose. But no-one in his family believed in God. His parents separated when he was nine. In year seven, the mother of a friend gave him a *Good News Bible*. Guy was drawn to Jesus' love. He was amazed by the truth of His Word and His suffering.

Vanessa came to the Lord aged 18. They met when Guy was 18 and have been married for 15 years. Guy had a hunger and thirst to know more and more of God's Word. After theological training, they started a small Bible Study in Docklands with 12 people. The meeting room in a local pub became available and the church was formed. In October they will celebrate the 10th anniversary of this vibrant fellowship. But the crowd soon outgrew the premises so they now meet in Melbourne CBD. There are 1,500 members of City On A Hill spread over three locations. Guy is a great communicator and a deep theological thinker. He relates God's Word to contemporary culture and he has a passion to reach unchurched people (the majority of today's society). Each of his messages concluded with a call for commitment to trust God and His Word. He is an evangelist in the heart of metropolitan Melbourne. We need to pray for more young men to challenge our country with God's Truth. Guy spoke on the Beatitudes.

1. The Poor – Matthew 5.3

Happiness is Jesus and the Beatitudes. 'Blessed' is the Greek word, makarios, meaning untouched beauty, bliss, true contentment; not superficial or cheap. The ancient world described the beautiful island of Cyprus as makarios or paradise. Happiness is universal. Everyone wants happiness in life.

Happiness is a quest. People spent a life-time trying to discover true happiness.

Happiness is central to the life and teaching of Jesus. The Beatitudes characterize the life of a Christian. Jesus introduces a way of life that leads to lasting and deep happiness.

True happiness is recognizing the inadequacy of the world. The word 'poor' refers to spiritual poverty, not lack of riches. One who recognizes he is completely destitute and cannot find satisfaction in the world, is the man Jesus speaks of. 'I hope everyone could get rich and famous; have everything they ever dreamed of, so they will know it is not the answer.' – Jim Carey

True happiness is found in God alone. Richard Dawkins says: 'God is probably not true, so just enjoy yourself.' But God invented joy, pleasure, fun. He is abounding in joy. He is the only One completely happy. He made us out of joy and gave us five senses to point us to Him. 'You will fill me with joy in Your presence.' – Psalm 16.11. So, do we find our joy in God? Is He our treasure? Does He mean more than sport, fame, wealth or family to us?

True happiness is for the humble. Do not relegate God to the sideline of life, making Him second to your treasures. Those who are spiritually poor are convicted of their own sin and realize they can do nothing to remedy it, as Toplady said: 'Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Your cross I cling.'

True happiness is found in Jesus. Real healing is found only in Jesus. God hears our cry. He promises to meet us in our hour of need. Jesus not only taught the Beatitudes, He also fulfilled them.

2. The Mourners – Matthew 5.4

Happiness is independent of circumstances; not superficial pleasure. True happiness is found in following Jesus' teachings. We rarely hear of sadness and sorrow contributing to happiness. The world's philosophy is to forget one's troubles. But Jesus says those who mourn are happy. There are nine words to express grief in the Greek language. Jesus uses the strongest word meaning deep inner agony and lament. When Jesus challenged the rich young ruler to sell his possessions, he went away sad (Luke 18.18-23) but Christians are joyful, even if they have to sell all they own.

Jesus wept over sin. In Luke 19.41 He sobbed aloud, with great cries of lament over the way Jerusalem had rejected God's Word and turned to sinful rebellion. Sin is the betrayal of a relationship with God. Jesus' grief over sin is different from our reaction. We often welcome and celebrate sin. We still hold things dear to our hearts that grieve God. It mocks Him because we were made for His Glory. Jesus weeps over our sin. He knows the harm sin brings.

Jesus wept over death. In John 11.35 Jesus wept at the death of a friend. We do not often speak of death. (Cont. p.9)

Fifty Two Sonnets of Glory and Grace

By Tom Chapman

Classical style sonnets on timeless biblical themes
with a biblical appendix included.

From a review:-

"Here is an excellent bedside or quiet-time companion. Don't skim through; much better to read one page thoughtfully each day"

\$20.00 posted in Australia

For more information: www.poetry.tgchapman.com/SGG.html
Contact: books@tgchapman.com



RAISING A TESTIMONY

A BANNER UNFURLED ON ACCOUNT OF GOD'S TRUTH

Banner Of Truth is best known for promoting Biblical faith through literature, specifically the production of high quality books by authors well credentialed in the defence and propagation of the faith. Other means of such promotion include the monthly *Banner Of Truth* magazine, the website banneroftruth.org and annual conferences for ministers. The 53rd Banner Conference, held at Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire, England, saw some 300 ministers from all parts of the UK and several other countries drawn together for four days of rich Bible teaching, fellowship, and encouragement in the Lord's work. The exigencies of space only permit a brief report here, but the conference was live-streamed and will be available for viewing for a further two weeks at:

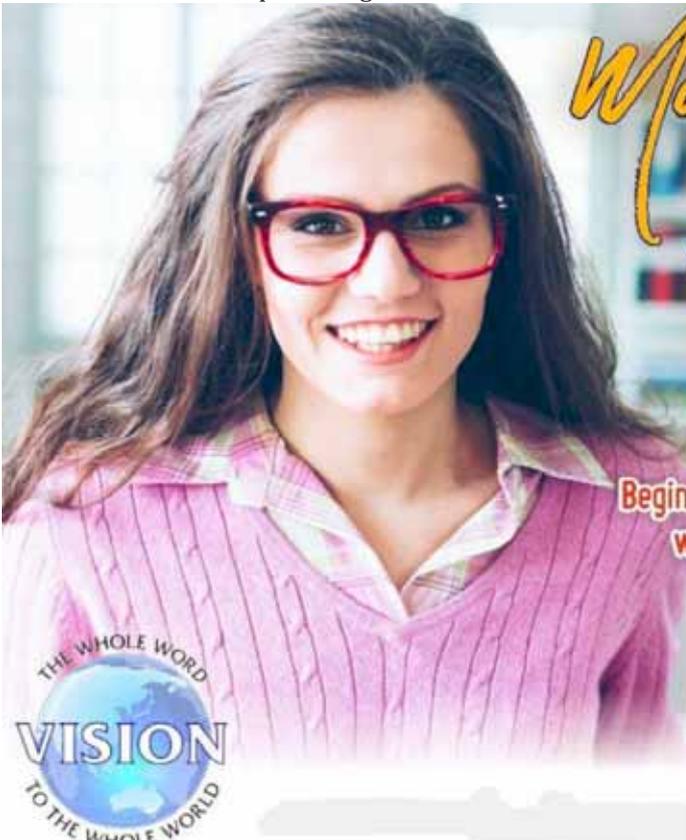
<http://banneroftruth.us6.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=10ffa82e62337a2482ad2db8e&id=535efecc69&e=314b0b579c>

The overall theme of this year's conference, being in the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, was *The Living And Abiding Word*. The following were the speakers:

Jeff Kingswood, asking What Is A Banner Man? Speaking from Ezra 7 (a Banner Man 'as one untimely borne') Ezra was as one who loved the Word of God and upheld its centrality. He was a practitioner and teacher of God's Word, and God had His hand on him because he had set his heart on God's Word. Centuries later the study of God's Word would transform Luther into one who loved that Word, delighted to study it and found that in it we meet Jesus. In our day, Banner Men are challenged to delight in the study of God's Word, for in the Word we meet Jesus. We must love the Lord's Word with our whole being and loving the Word we will be living it and proclaiming it.

Sinclair Ferguson, preaching from Philippians 3.7-10, showed that Paul's eyes were fixed on Christ and his life was centred on Christ. Christ is exalted and was Paul's all in all. Paul didn't believe that martyrdom could defeat the Church, but he knew that false teaching could, and so he wrote and preached for conversion, knowing from his own experience that real conversion brings about real obedience.

Gary Williams presented a functional doctrine of Scripture, noting that a time when many in the Church had stopped reading the Book and had turned to competitive narratives, the Reformation saw a rediscovery of the Biblical text as the written narrative of redemption history. To do justice to the Biblical narrative we must be interested in the 'big print' and the small detail because everything in Scripture is there for a reason. We should therefore recommit to preaching the Bible in all its fullness. *(Continued on p.8)*



Make a Difference for Jesus!

Begin a journey of study into the Word of God that will change your life and the lives of those you come in contact with.



Ph: 0296032077 Em: contact@visioncolleges.net Web: www.visioncolleges.net

RAISING A TESTIMONY

(Continued from page 7)

David Johnston recalled that a friend had advised him after hearing him preach to 'keep working on your preaching; keep growing in the Word.' Speaking from *Hebrews* he noted that *Hebrews* was grounded in the Scriptures that were available to the Early Church as it was punctuated with Old Testament references. True Christian preaching opens the text so that God's voice is heard by God's people, using the whole Bible to show a whole Christ, sufficient to meet all our needs and provide for us a whole salvation. Preaching must be grounded in Scripture, centred on Christ, applied to life, empowered by the Spirit and undergirded by prayer.

Stephen Clark challenged us to hold to the same view of Scripture as Jesus had. The Bible must be our own food before we try to feed others. 'It is written' was Jesus' reply to the tempter, as Scripture had informed Him from His childhood to the Cross. Jesus' recounting from the Scriptures to the travellers on the way to Emmaus had given them burning hearts, and the Bible will set hearts on fire still. Jesus showed that the Scriptures pointed to Himself and reasoned from the Scriptures with the Sadducees. The Psalmist's prayer should be our prayer: 'Oh how I love Your Law; it is my meditation all the day long.'

Andrew Young spoke on The Marks Of The Master's Ministry. From Mark 4 we see that Jesus went to the synagogue 'as was His custom'. He read the Scriptures and appropriated them to Himself. He spoke with Spirit-filled might, so if the sinless Son of God needed Holy Spirit empowerment, how much more do we? 'Preach your heart out and pastor your socks off,' he urged.

Impressions Of The Conference

Jared Bradley, from the Middle East: 'As I heard the opening prayer and sermon at the Banner of Truth Conference, I knew that I was in for a great time. The rest of the conference proved true to that – it was astounding to say the least. The rich depth of biblical insight with humble dependence upon the Holy Spirit resulted in the preaching being dynamic and explosive. To be in the midst with giants of the faith like Iain Murray and Sinclair Ferguson was also a definitive highlight. I highly recommend this conference to those who are tired and weary from ministry and those who are longing to connect with other like-minded men.'

Timothy Burden, Eastbourne Independent Evangelical Free Church: 'Banner is the only conference I go to. It's a great encouragement because they keep the main thing as the main thing: preaching the whole Scripture portraying a whole salvation in a whole Christ.'

Martin Conibeer, Epsom Fellowship Of Independent Evangelical Churches: 'I come for my spiritual development through the depth of teaching giving me a deeper knowledge of God through affirming the basic truths of the Gospel and the relevance of the Word of God for today.'

Thiemo Trets, Baptist Church in the South of France: 'I come because when a minister is giving out a lot, he needs to be refreshed, seeing important issues, affirming the sovereignty of God and enjoying fellowship with brethren with the same vision.'

Ed Collier expounded the Parable Of The Sower as being a *Persevering-Producing Parable For Preachers*, noting that the Bible gives us a right understanding of the preacher's task and what to expect, giving a realistic expectation and hope. Jesus came to Earth not only to be the Great Sower whom we follow, but the Great Saviour whom we serve.

The venerable Edward Donnelly summed up the whole conference saying: 'We're not only refreshed, but changed for the better. We'll be supporting one another and upholding one another in prayer until we meet again, whether it be on Earth or in Heaven.'

(Belgrave Heights, continued from p.9)

5. The Persecuted. Matthew 5.10-12

The Beatitudes begin with poverty and end with reality, reason and response. Persecution is a reality in the world today for all who are Christ's! 'If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first.' John 15.18 There is a cost to following Jesus. The prosperity doctrine is one of the great fallacies of Christianity. God's happiness is not reliant on circumstances or wealth. We have deep and lasting joy as we follow Him. We suffer loss and scorn because we are trusting in Jesus and walking with Him. A true Christian will love Jesus more than anything, even life itself. In many nations it is illegal to own a Bible. One hundred thousand Christians die every year for their faith. Persecution is increasing around the world. Jesus gives us the response to persecution: 'Bless those who persecute you ... Repay evil with good ... Live peaceably with all men. The heart of Christianity is not rejection of the world, but a radical love for the world. We need a bold, unashamed, unwavering faith like that seen in so many overseas believers. We need to be people who take courage in the sacrifice of the Gospel and remain firm. We rejoice and are glad. The day is coming when the faithful will receive a great reward. In the midst of trials we can rejoice and be glad. Romans 8.35-39. When the relatives of the twenty-one Egyptian martyrs were asked how they felt, their spokesman said, 'Believe me when I tell you the people are happy to have so many from our village die as martyrs for Jesus.'

(To be continued next issue)

TO THE HEIGHTS

(Continued from page 6.)

Jesus wept over sin. In Luke 19.41 He sobbed aloud with great cries of lament over the way Jerusalem had rejected God's Word and turned to sinful rebellion. Sin is the betrayal of a relationship with God. Jesus' grief over sin is different to ours. We often welcome and celebrate sin. We still hold things dear to our hearts that grieve God. It mocks Him because we were made for His Glory. Jesus weeps over our sin, knowing the harm sin brings.

Jesus wept over death. In John 11.35 Jesus wept at the death of a friend. We do not often speak of death. Death is not our friend, but it comes to all and we grieve the loss of loved ones.

Jesus wept over abandonment. In Matthew 27.46 the centre piece of God's story, is Jesus' suffering. He submitted Himself to His Father's will and accepted the separation from God. Jesus took all sin on Himself. He always knew the cost to Himself of coming into the world. Yet He embraced it willingly and joyfully. He knew that through His abandonment we might be accepted. There is comfort in our mourning over sin, with the assurance and acceptance of God. The death of Jesus comforts us because of His resurrection. He defeated sin and death. He is the risen, victorious Lord.

3. The Hungry. Matthew 5.6

True fulfillment requires a genuine hunger and thirst. When we are really thirsty we become single-minded in its pursuit. We cannot just coast through life; go through the motions. We need to really want lasting satisfaction in Jesus.

True fulfillment can only be discovered when you hunger for something more than happiness. We need to earnestly pursue holiness. Happiness is a by-product of something greater.

True fulfillment will never be found when our hunger is limited to this world. The rich young ruler was full of desire. But his hunger was misplaced so he went away empty. The world says we can be satisfied with what we can get. This will never satisfy or meet the deep longing in our hearts.

True fulfillment can only be discovered when we hunger for our true home. 'God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the heart of man.' (Ecclesiastes 3.11). Man is created with a deep desire for eternal happiness, pleasure and love. We must hunger for God's forgiveness, His truth and His righteousness which is only found in a right relationship with God. The most perfect and public demonstration of that love is in the Cross. (Romans 6.23) The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God. The essence of life is God substituting Himself for man. The Beatitudes are in the present continuous tense. We must hunger and thirst continually for God's righteousness.

4. The Merciful. Matthew 5.7

Andrew Chan, one of the Bali nine convicted of drug smuggling, found the Lord in his prison cell. He began training as a pastor. The Australian government petitioned for mercy to be shown to him and Myuran Sukumaran. But they were executed on 29 April 2015. Indonesia did not demonstrate mercy.

What is mercy? A person who is motivated by love, who is moved by empathy for someone in need, is one who is merciful. Two qualities of mercy are forgiveness and compassion. Forgiveness is an extension of mercy. Compassion is offering help to the needy.

Why must we pursue mercy? A life of mercy is the only way to discover a life of freedom. Making someone pay for an insult, or getting your own back, brings only temporary pleasure. Nurturing revenge in the heart can empty the soul. Mercy brings inner fulfillment and peace. It is a powerful force for good and reflects the goodness and glory of God Himself. We are made in the image and likeness of God; made to reflect Him. He abounds in mercy and grace. Mercy is not ignoring wrong-doing. Justice must be administered, but with the goal of restoration and maturity.

Where is mercy found? The mercy shown by the Bishop to Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables* inspired the former convict to live a life of mercy and kindness to others. He found mercy because he was shown mercy. Mercy finds you; you do not find mercy. 'God who is rich in mercy, made us alive in Him.' (Ephesians 2.4). We need God's mercy to help our enemies. How is God's mercy transforming you? If you know the mercy of God, are you extending it to others? We all need to grow in mercy. As we enjoy His mercy, it overflows in compassion and forgiveness to others. The two drug carriers sang as they faced death: 'Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.' God's grace and mercy was sufficient for the thief on the cross, as it was for Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran. God met our sin with grace and our judgment with mercy.

The Peacemakers. Matthew 5.9 Peace should characterize the church. But so often the church is marked by division and hostility. We need to respond to conflict and division by restoring what is broken; being bridge-builders. Making peace is distinct from keeping peace. Making peace may mean confrontation; speaking the truth in love to encourage reconciliation and unity. Keeping peace may mean remaining silent; avoiding conflict and apologizing. Always bring God into the situation. Own your part in the problem. Help others to see their part in the conflict.

(Continued on page 8.)

FROM ALL QUARTERS

President Trump's Easter Affirmation: 'It's A Holy Day Of Reverence And Worship'

'This Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of salvation ... It is a sacred time that fills the spirit of our nation with the faith of our people. America is a nation of Believers,' declared US President Donald Trump in a speech heading into Easter. He noted that America is a great nation because people have the ability to worship freely.

Trump then turned to terrorism, calling it 'one of the gravest threats to religious freedom.' He condemned the recent terror bombings by the Islamic State in two Egyptian Coptic churches.

'We condemn this barbaric attack. We mourn for those who lost loved ones and we pray for the strength and wisdom to achieve a better tomorrow,' he said. With God's grace, life always triumphs over death. Freedom overcomes oppression and faith extinguishes fear. This is the source of our hope and our confidence in the future,' the President added.

He closed his message by acknowledging 'struggling Americans.' 'This White House is fighting for you. We are fighting for every American who has been left behind,' he said. 'We are fighting for the right of all citizens to enjoy safety and peace, and to work and live with the dignity that all children of God are entitled to know.'

- CBN News via Breaking Christian News



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

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 1pm;

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 -



Elizabeth Kendal's New Book ...

War! Destruction! Violent Persecution! Martyrdom! Forced Displacement!

For hundreds of thousands of now destitute Christian families, this is the new reality.

Yet contrary to all appearances, God is at work in the Middle East.

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.

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

For more information go to: www.ElizabethKendal.com



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).



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 editor@nlife.com.au when you direct deposit).
- **From Our Web Site:** (www.nlife.com.au)
using the *Make A Donation* button.

NORTH KOREA – As The World Watches On

'... suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.' – Romans 5.3-5

Tensions have risen between North Korea and its surrounding nations and their allies, including the US and China. With regular nuclear and missile tests, the murder of Kim Jong-Un's brother and rumours of war, now more than ever we need to pray for the people of North Korea.

A secret church leader recently spoke to Open Doors. 'You know, following the Lord is like carrying a white jade,' he said. 'It does not lose its lustre even when it is broken. Following Him means walking on a path of faith in good and bad times. That is the hope and future of our church and we cannot make any compromises. We will make sure our Church becomes hard as a rock by staying strong in our faith in the worst of circumstances. I don't know how to thank you for your love and prayers,' he said.

God is not only at work in North Korea, but also continues to work powerfully among North Koreans in China. A local Chinese man Lee* told Open Doors about a little girl called Hannah* (* not their real names). 'Hannah was born to a North Korean defector mother. When Hannah's mother was arrested, I was asked to take care of her. As she moved into my house, the feelings of rejection and abandonment left deep scars. However, she is doing much better now and has begun to play with other children. Seeing these children transform as days go by, I came to realise that this is my calling from God.'

Through Open Doors support Lee is able to care and provide for Hannah.

– Open Doors



EGYPT: TV Host Astounded By Christian Copts Forgiveness

'These people are made from a different substance' said an Egyptian TV host astounded by the forgiveness of a Christian woman widowed during the Palm Sunday bombing in Egypt. The Copts of Egypt are made of steel! If it were my father, I could never say this. These people have so much forgiveness. But this is their faith and religious conviction.' A woman whose husband died intercepting one of the suicide bombers who attacked churches in Egypt on Palm Sunday has told Egyptian TV she completely forgives his killer, causing the news anchor to exclaim that Copts 'are made from a different substance.' Naseem Faheem, the guard at St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria, Egypt, was one of the first people to be killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the cathedral, having been prevented from entering. His widow told Egypt's ONTV that she is not angry with the suicide bomber, has forgiven him and prays that God would also forgive him too.

INDONESIA: – Blasphemy Charge Dropped

Prosecutors announced last week that they were dropping their claim that 'Ahok' Tjahaja Purnama had insulted Islam the day after the Christian incumbent lost to a Muslim in Jakarta's governor elections. Ahok will still face trial on charges of 'showing animosity toward others,' for which prosecutors are demanding a non-custodial sentence, but the blasphemy charge, which had come to define the election, has been dropped. The leader of Indonesia's largest Islamic organisation stated earlier last month that the blasphemy allegations were 'all manipulation ... for the purpose of the election.'

– From Jakarta Post via Barnabas Fund

KAZAKHSTAN: Fined For Easter Worship

Police fined four Baptists for leading Easter worship meetings in Temirtau and Taraz. Council of Churches Baptists speak of a 'new wave' of raids. An Almaty court fined a Protestant Church and banned all its activity for three months, and ordered a foreigner deported.

– www.forum18.org

YEMEN: Poverty, Famine And Death

Every ten minutes a child in Yemen dies from a preventable illness. The country's civil war continues to exacerbate the poverty and add to thousands of deaths over the last two years. Yemen is one of the four countries included in what's being called the largest humanitarian crisis in many decades, but Yemen receives little attention compared to what's going on in Iraq and Syria. A stunning 70% of Yemen's people are in need of aid. Over 14 million people are considered food insecure, and almost 20 million do not have access to clean drinking water – out of a total population of 27 million. According to World Gospel Mission, more than 1,500 schools have been damaged or destroyed in the war. That, combined with the number of children internally displaced and the teacher salaries that have not been paid, means that more than 30% of school-aged children are currently out of school. World Gospel Mission is helping provide food baskets, shelter, first aid training, and spread information about basic medical and hygiene care. They're also helping fill the education gap. In situations like this, the Body of Christ becomes an extremely viable network to distribute aid and hope. World Gospel Mission and their partners on the ground are working with Christians in their villages to co-ordinate relief efforts, and it's on this platform that the Gospel can be shared.

Chinese Flock To Christianity

Forty-one years after China's Cultural Revolution snuffed out all forms of religious expression, hundreds of millions of Chinese people are flocking to Christianity. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ian Johnson believes what's transpiring in China is nothing short of 'one of the world's great spiritual revivals' and says the world better take note because the impact of this 'spiritual transformation' could have significant global implications.

The author of *The Souls Of China: The Return Of Religion After Mao* says people in China are looking for new moral guideposts, some sort of moral compass to organize society, so they are turning to religion. Mr Johnson spent six years researching the 'values and faiths of today's China.' He says the fastest-growing drivers of this 'religious revolution' are unregistered churches or so-called 'house' or 'underground' churches.

'They've helped the number of Protestants soar from about one million when the communists took power to at least 60 million today,' he says. Church leaders say prayer has played a key role in sparking the Christian revival, pointing to one corner of northeast China, where 24 hours a day, seven days a week, thousands of Christians have been meeting in an unprecedented prayer movement. What started as a small gathering there several years ago has turned into a nationwide prayer initiative uniting hundreds of Chinese churches. – *CBN Christian World News*

James Dobson Chalks Up 40 Years

James C. Dobson, one of the most respected and influential evangelical leaders in the US, is marking his 40th year in broadcasting, having reached hundreds of millions of people over the decades ministering to marriages and families. In 1977, Dr Dobson opened a two-room office in California, leaving what he calls 'a plumb position' in academia as a Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Southern California where he had taught and conducted research for 14 years.

In a recent interview with *The Christian Post* about his past four decades as a public figure, he said when he embarked on this journey it was 'kind of scary.' 'I saw the institution of the family starting to disintegrate,' he said, noting how even in the late '70s marriage was in trouble, parents were struggling with their kids, and the culture was deteriorating rapidly.'

Though it meant sacrifice, he stepped out to do what he felt God was leading him to do. And before he blinked twice his ministry and influence skyrocketed. Within a few years, what would become an international ministry called *Focus On The Family* had hundreds of employees, and Dr Dobson's programs were aired on hundreds of radio stations. In 2003, Dr Dobson stepped down as President and CEO of *Focus On The Family* but remained chairman of the board until 2009.

The following year, Dr Dobson founded *Family Talk*, a nonprofit organization that produces his radio program, *Dr James Dobson's Family Talk*, which currently has nearly seven million likes on its Facebook page. – *The Christian Post*

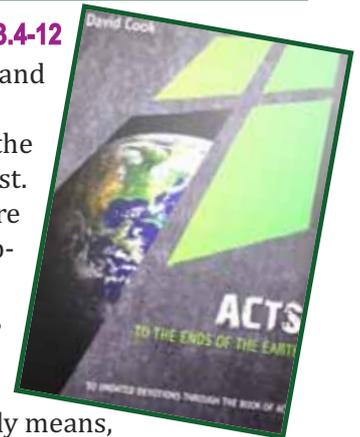
Mass Baptisms In The Middle East

More than 3,000 former Muslims were recently baptized as Christians in various churches across the Middle East, Africa and Asia, according to a report from Bibles For The Mideast. Despite the good news, the report says, the church is now going through a tough time because some of the newly baptized believers in Asia were stoned by extremists just after the baptism. Five of them were wounded, while ministry leader Pastor Paul Siniraj received head injuries requiring surgery. He is not out of danger, as the extremists found out where he was recovering and have continued to threaten him. Pastor Paul grew up as a Muslim in India. In his 20s he became a Christian and later founded Bibles For The Mideast, which smuggles Bibles into some of the most restricted nations in the world. – *Gospel Herald*

Read *The Mathematical Impossibility Of The Theory Of Evolution* by David Holden
at www.defenceofthefaith.org

Let The Journey Begin

ACTS 13.4-12



Acts is great literature. Great literature has many layers of subtle meaning and Acts is no exception.

In chapter 13, the first missionary journey begins. Note how Luke uses the names of people and places to provide emphasis, irony, comparison and contrast. Barnabas and Saul are sent on their way (v 2). Note that Barnabas is listed before Saul in this verse. This becomes significant as we read of their progress in subsequent chapters (see reflection below).

Their first stop is Cyprus, Barnabas' home (see Acts 4:36). As they travel, they move from east to west and, even though the Gentile church has commissioned them, they begin by preaching in the synagogue at each town (v 5).

In Paphos, they meet a Jewish sorcerer, Bar Jesus (v 6), a name that literally means, 'son of Jesus'. This man acts as an advisor to the Roman representative, Sergius Paulus. In verse 8, Luke uses the sorcerer's Greek name, Elymas, subtly highlighting his heretical character. This man is a Jew using a Greek name.

Saul recognises the sorcerer's true character. He is not a 'son of Jesus', but a 'child of the devil' (v 10). The man is struck with blindness. This is the first sign, or miracle, God performs through Saul and it is a declaration of judgment, very much like Saul's own experience (Acts 9.8,9).

Sergius is an intelligent man and, upon seeing what happened to his advisor and, having heard the Word of God, he believes (v 12).

From this point on in Acts, Luke uses Saul's Greek name, Paul, and this is another example of his subtle use of names to convey meaning. In the wider context of Acts, Paul is a more fitting name for the apostle, given that his ministry extended across an empire in which Greek was the common language.

In chapter 13, Luke uses the name change to indicate a close connection between the Senate's representative, Sergius Paulus, and God's representative, Paul. Perhaps his intention is to show that Paul is on equal footing with these Roman provincial leaders.

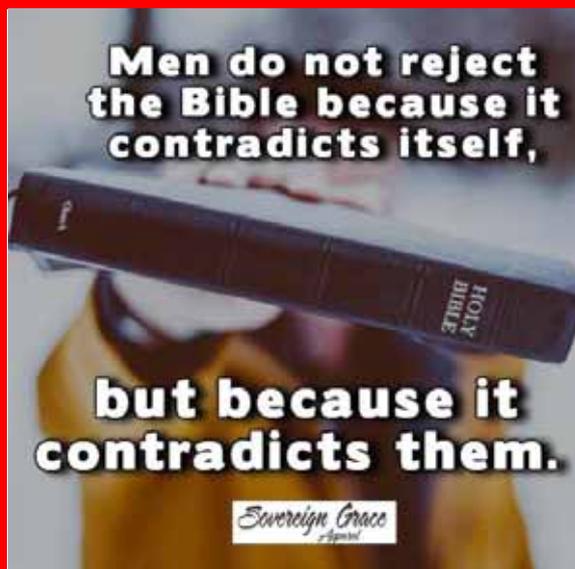
REFLECTION:

Why do you think Luke shows such interest in names? Look at Acts 4.36, 11.26, 13.6,7,9,10.

Why do you think the order in which names is used is significant? See Acts 13.2, 13.46, 14.1, 15.2, 15.12.

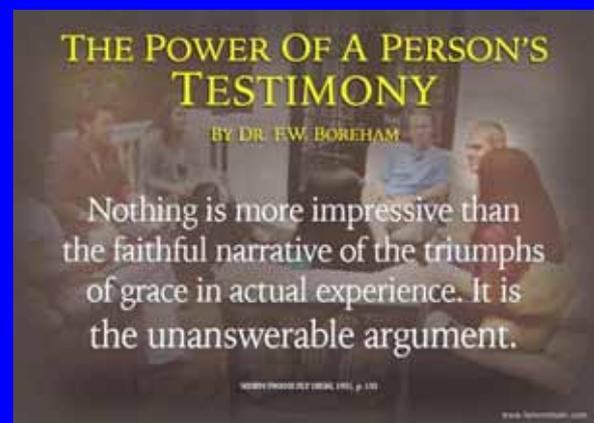
Content taken from 'ACTS – To The Ends Of The Earth' by David Cook, published by 10Publishing, used with permission.

SEEN ON FACEBOOK:



Matthew 9.37,38
Pray for labourers to go into the harvest.

Words Of Wisdom:



Ravi Zacharias Gives Advice On How To Lead Someone To Christ

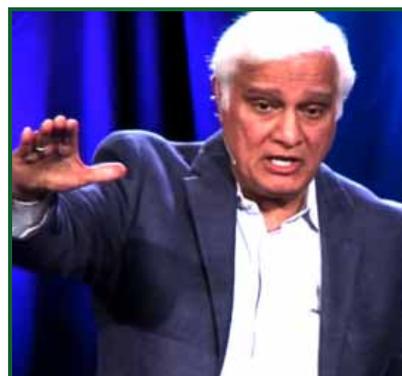
Leading someone to Christ is one of the most exciting things you can do as a Christian. But it doesn't always come easy. Perhaps you have been working on someone for years now; praying for them, inviting them to courses, bringing them to Church, giving them the best books. And yet still, nothing. So, how do we effectively reach people with Gospel, such that they respond in faith? Well, famed apologist, Ravi Zacharias has some great advice:

'Do not underestimate the role you may play in clearing the obstacles in someone's spiritual journey,' Ravi writes on Facebook. 'A seed sown here, a light shone there may be all that is needed to move the seeker or skeptic one step further.'

'Indeed, if apologetics is to be done effectively, we must connect with the person at the level of the personal. Jesus consistently drove this home. His one-on-one conversations were remarkably personal and left others looking into their hearts and considering their spiritual condition.'

Seek to engage with someone on a spiritual level today, and pray that God might shine the light of His Holy Spirit into their hearts!

- Will Maule



INDONESIA – 'Ahok' Concedes Gracefully

Ahok (a popular and respected ethnic-Chinese Christian) had been the clear front-runner to continue as Governor of Jakarta before Islamists started propagating the view that Sura 5.51 of the Qur'an teaches that Muslims must not elect non-Muslims as leaders. When Ahok made light of this, he was charged with blasphemy. This, plus several massive Islamist rallies, left Jakartans feeling intimidated and nervous. The new Governor of Jakarta is Anies Baswedan; the Islamists' choice. Ahok conceded with grace: 'Destiny is in God's hands,' he said. 'God gives power and God also takes it away.'

- Elizabeth Kendal

Easter – A Time Like No Other

There's no other time on the Christian calendar that is more relevant, powerful and moving than Easter, according to Sydney's Wesley Mission minister. The Rev Keith Garner says it is a significant period when 'we take stock of our lives and the collective life of the nation. As we look out across our country and the world, we see fear and instability, the shadow of terrorism, and a lack of certainty and hope. 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. But the message of Easter is that through our experience of brokenness we all have the opportunity to be made new through the generous love of Jesus Christ. There are no walls to His love and no barriers to His understanding or compassion. The tremendous hope Easter brings gives fresh insight and understanding of what it means to be broken and what it is to be made new through Jesus Christ.'

- Wesley Mission

PLEASE NOTE:

**Due to unforeseen circumstances all enquiries
– editorial, advertising and subscriptions –
should be directed until further notice
to the Editor, Rev Bob Thomas,
Phone: 0417 592 646;
Email: editor@nlife.com.au
Postal Address: PO Box 457, Mitcham VIC 3132**

BOOKS WORTH READING

OLD TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION: Test, Interpretation, Structure, Themes. Robin Routledge (London: Apollos, 2016). ISBN 978-1-78359-429-0.

Robin Routledge teaches Old Testament at Mattersey Hall in England. He is a member of the Tyndale Fellowship for Biblical Research and an evangelical scholar who is adept at explaining the Bible in a way that helps people to understand and respect the Scriptures. This new volume complements his earlier book, *Old Testament Theology* (2008) that examined the main themes of the Old Testament.

Routledge is right in retaining the title 'Old Testament' as a Christian confession of its significance in pointing forward to the 'New Testament' as its canonical partner and culmination. He insists on the ongoing authority of the Old Testament, which is neither to be ignored nor crudely 'Christianized'. It is different to, but compatible with the New Testament. It remains an essential source of doctrine and ethics for Christian faith and living in an ever-changing world.

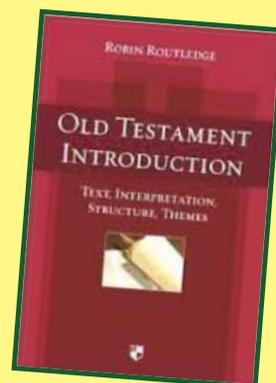
Dr Routledge gives an explanation of the different critical approaches taken to the Old Testament (eg text criticism, source criticism and form criticism), though he is sometimes a little generous as to their value for exegesis. He provides a fascinating sketch of the geographical and historical background needed to understand the Old Testament story. There is a typo on page 71, where it should say the fourth millennium (not century) BC for the 'urban revolution' in lower Mesopotamia.

Routledge next runs through Old Testament history and also considers how ancient near-eastern literature may throw light on the biblical text (eg ancient creation/flood stories), though he is always careful to note that the Bible always retains its distinctive theological perspective. One might suggest, however, that many so-called 'parallels' between the Bible and other ancient literary works are more in the mind of scholars than in the interesting but quirky material they study

Dr Routledge's explanation of poetic parallelism is marred by his wanting to retain elements of Bishop Lowth's famous system of classification that really should be dispensed with entirely. He does, however, provide a very helpful discussion of the workings (poetics) of biblical narrative and also shorter discussions of wisdom and apocalyptic material in the Bible. Attention to the genre does sharpen exegesis.

Different approaches to interpretation (hermeneutics) have a prominent place in recent study of the Old Testament, and Routledge does a good job at explaining the kaleidoscope of approaches on offer. In line with traditional evangelical scholarship, he is unwilling to let go of the importance of the intention of the biblical author in determining (and limiting) the possible meaning of a text. However, as noted by Routledge, when interpreting a text in the larger context of the Bible as a whole, a text may have a fuller meaning (*sensus plenior*) of which the original author was not aware of at the time of writing and fits into larger patterns of divine revelation (typology). In such cases, such a larger meaning extends rather than contradicts what the ancient author intended – all under the superintendence of God who inspired Scripture.

Finally, Routledge provides a book-by-book survey of the Old Testament, discussing date, composition, structure, outline of contents and main themes. An added value of this new introduction to the Old Testament is the wealth of bibliographical references provided for the student to expand their knowledge. This easy-to-read scholarly work is at just the right level for theological students and all serious pupils of the Bible.



This easy-to-read scholarly work is at just the right level for theological students and all serious pupils of the Bible.

– Greg Goswell