

## *Betty Cuthbert Has 'Run The Race, Finished The Course'*

Former Olympic champion Betty Cuthbert MBE, AM went Home to Glory on Sunday 6 August aged 79. She remains the only athlete in history to win Olympic gold in the 100m, 200m and 400m sprints. Betty Cuthbert was not only our champion athlete, though. She was also a strong Christian whose faith grew as she lived with multiple sclerosis for almost 50 years. **Of coming to faith in Christ as her Lord and Saviour,** Betty Cuthbert once said: 'I was encouraged to go to a particular church where someone said, "They'll heal you". Well, I wasn't healed but I met the Healer.' At age 47, Betty was 'born again'. She said, 'My life has never been the same since. My salvation was a free gift. I didn't have to work for it and it's better than any gold medal that I've ever won. Before then, I'm ashamed to say, I was frightened to tell people of my belief in God.'



## North Korea Frees Canadian Church Leader 'On Sick Bail'

**Hyeun-soo Lim, the Korean Canadian church leader** sentenced to life in prison with hard labour, was freed on 9 August 'on sick bail', says a North Korean state news agency. Convicted in December 2015 by the country's Supreme Court of numerous charges, including an attempt to overthrow the government, he had been detained in North Korea since February 2015. His release comes weeks after 22-year-old American student Otto Warmbier died at home, a week after he had been belatedly freed after his 15-month detention for stealing a small flag from his Pyongyang hotel.

**This still leaves three Korean-Americans detained in North Korea,** two of whom taught at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology – Tony Kim and Kim Hak Song. Tony Kim, like Hyeun-Soo Lim, was involved with work in orphanages, and it was for this he was apparently detained, not his teaching at the University. The third, Kim Dong Chul, a South Korea-born businessman and naturalised US citizen, is serving a sentence of 10 years hard labour for 'espionage'. Meanwhile, a North Korean man, Kim Seung-mo, 61, was arrested in early June on 'spying' charges after meeting Christian relatives in China.

**Hyeun-Soo Lim, head pastor at the Light Presbyterian Church in Toronto,** had visited North Korea more than 100 times to distribute humanitarian aid for nursing homes, day-care centres and orphanages. Lim's family had been disappointed in 2015 when Canada's newly elected government failed in attempts to secure his release. But his release now comes one day after a special envoy of the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, had arrived in Pyongyang. In February 2015 it was revealed that Lim had been arrested and charged with slandering the North Korean leadership and its system of government.



Lim looks over one of the Light Presbyterian Church's agricultural projects in North Korea

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## Do You See What I See?

**Evangelist Greg Laurie writes:** Every once in a while, someone will tell me that crusade evangelism is a thing of the past. That it is 'old school.' That it went out of style when Billy Graham stopped preaching.

**I wish they could see what I see** as people stream forward down those aisles. I wish they could read all of the e-mails and letters and social media comments I get.

**Let me assure you that lives are still being changed** through the Gospel at crusades. It still works, because the *Good News* is still true, and it's still good. Listen to this testimony from a woman named Leticia from Anaheim: 'I lost the love of my life, my husband, in July. It is the most painful thing I have ever felt. At the *Harvest Crusade* in August, I rededicated myself to the Lord. The topic of suffering the loss of a loved one and how God gives us hope was so comforting. Greg's words re-assured me that my broken heart will mend one day. Just the thought of being reunited with my husband in Eternity gave me some peace of mind. I am no longer afraid of death. From this day forward I dedicate my life to the Lord and hope I can help others. Thank you.'

**That's why we continue to hold crusades**, year after year. This will be our 28th consecutive year of crusades in Southern California, and I'm as excited about what God is going to do this year as I was when we held our first crusade. Each and every individual at the crusade is important to God and He has a special word for every person sitting in those seats.

**Thank you for your prayers and support** as we approach the SoCal Harvest!

– Greg Laurie. <https://www.harvest.org>

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## MATTERS FOR PRAYER:

# VIETNAM: High Cost Of Defending Religious Liberty

**Arrested in April 2011, Lutheran pastor, evangelist and religious liberty advocate** Nguyen Cong Chinh was sentenced in June 2012 to 11 years in prison for 'undermining national unity'. In prison he has been subjected to long periods in solitary confinement, torture and other cruel mistreatment and abuse. Meanwhile, his wife Tran Thi Hong, another courageous religious liberty advocate, has been routinely beaten and harassed. Both have paid a high price for their public defence of religious liberty. A little over a month ago, urgent prayer was requested for Pastor Chinh, for not only had his health deteriorated, but he was being punished for telling a delegation from the US Consulate about the torture, beatings, cruelty and harassment he has suffered in prison.

**On 28 July Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh**, his wife Tran Thi Hong and their five children arrived in Los Angeles, USA, having accepted a deal from the Communist government of Vietnam that saw Chinh released from prison on the condition that he leave the country. While we rejoice that Pastor Chinh and his family are now free and safe, we are saddened that this freedom had to come at the high cost of exile.

**Internationally acclaimed Protestant human rights lawyer** and religious liberty advocate Nguyen Van Dai has already spent four years in prison (2008-2011), followed by four years of house arrest (to March 2015) for the crime of 'spreading propaganda against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam'. He was re-arrested on 16 December 2015 as he attempted to meet with European Union representatives. Detained without charge, the authorities have extended Dai's detention three times. Denied contact with her husband, Dai's wife Vu Minh Khanh, another courageous religious liberty advocate, travelled to raise awareness of his plight. On 30 July authorities charged Nguyen Van Dai (48), his legal associate Le Thu Ha (35) and four other human rights advocates, including Pastor Nguyen Trung Ton (45), with 'carrying out activities aimed at overthrowing the People's administration' under Article 79 of the Penal Code. Communist Party mouthpiece, *Viet Nam News*, reports that the Investigation Security Agency under the Ministry of Public Security has commenced legal proceedings. This is an extremely serious charge. If found guilty, Nguyen Van Dai, whom *Viet Nam News* labelled 'the alleged instigator', could face 12 to 20 years of imprisonment, a life sentence or even capital punishment, while his 'accomplices' could face sentences of 5 to 15 years.

### UPDATE On Iranian Prisoner Amin Afshar-Naderi

Prayer was asked last June for believers imprisoned for their faith and witness in Iran, in particular for the nine Iranian men – pastors and evangelists – who had recently received extremely harsh sentences. Of these, particular concern was raised over the well-being of Amin Afshar-Naderi. Sentenced to 15 years, Amin wrote a deeply moving letter to the authorities and commenced a hunger strike. After 19 days without food, he had lost some 10kg and his health was failing. On Tuesday 25 July Amin was temporarily released from prison, pending his appeal, after signing over property deeds worth \$US 80,000 to secure his bail.

### PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- God would bless, comfort, encourage and bring healing to Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh, his wife Tran Thi Hong and their five children, as they settle into life in the USA; may the Lord provide their every need and continue to use them in His service and for His glory.
- The Lord will send out more workers into the 'fields' (Luke 10.2) of the Central Highlands of Vietnam.
- That He will intervene on behalf of Nguyen Van Dai and his co-accused, that justice and reason will prevail. May the charge be exposed as ridiculous, malicious and vindictive. May the accused, along with their families, friends and churches, cling to the Lord and remain firm in faith; may God redeem all suffering to bring good from this evil.

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](http://www.ElizabethKendal.com)

**WHO CAN YOU INVITE TO SIGN UP FOR A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO NEW LIFE?**

## PRAYING ALWAYS

# SAT-7's Week Of Prayer, 5-12 November

War has forced 13 million children out of school across the Middle East and North Africa. Refugee and displaced youth are being denied access to quality education. Violence and turmoil take a toll on entire families and communities. The repercussions for their mental and physical health are immeasurable.

**A healthy childhood leads to a healthy adulthood.** As the pillars of their families, parents need support to be strong for their children and help to process their own trauma. Teachers need encouragement to educate and impact their students positively.

**SAT-7 is striving to bridge the gap.** Founder and CEO Dr Terence Ascott says: 'Equipping the next generation is about developing positive values and attitudes, and teaching children how to think and make important life choices. We want to shape a productive, inclusive and democratic future society in the region by better equipping children to learn, parents to parent, and teachers to teach. In other words, by providing life-changing knowledge through engaging TV programs, SAT-7 wants to equip and empower this "lost" generation.

**'We invite you, your church, and your community** to join thousands of Christians all across the globe to commit this crisis to God. Be a part of praying into the next generation. Learn how SAT-7 is answering many of the needs, and how you can help us make a difference. We ask you, your church, and your community to join us for SAT-7's Week Of Prayer, from 5-12 November.

**'We look forward to uniting with you for our Week Of Prayer,** as we equip the next generation of the Middle East and North Africa. Go to: <http://sat7.org/week-of-prayer-2017> for more information and resources on this *Week Of Prayer*.'



- SAT-7



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## Christians Around The World Called To Pray For Korea

The World Evangelical Alliance, together with the World Council of Churches and the World Communion of Reformed Churches, called on churches around the world to observe 13 August as *A Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula*. It marks the Sunday before Liberation Day when Koreans in the North and South celebrate their independence from Japan on 15 August 1945. The joint prayer event, based on Romans 14.19: 'Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual up-building,' was prepared by the Korean Christian Federation from North Korea and the National Council of Churches in Korea from South Korea. Organisers say they prayed: 'May God change hearts, may He change minds, and may He bring about unity in this land to the glory of His name.'

– Christian Newswire

## Salvos Willing To Help Find Loved Ones

The Salvation Army is urging people who are seeking to connect with a missing family member to contact its Family Tracing Service. The Salvation Army Family Tracing Service has a 75% success rate in locating missing persons with about 40 successful cases processed every week. The most frequent requests are from adult 'children' seeking their mother, father or sibling. An estimated 38,000 people are reported missing in Australia every year. That's one person every 15 minutes. While the vast majority are found, there are about 1600 long-term (more than six months) missing persons in Australia. Emma Ewin, caseworker at The Salvation Army's Family Tracing Service says they seek to restore family relationships by tracing relatives and assisting, where possible, with reunion and reconciliation.

– The Salvation Army

### Thredbo Tragedy Remembered

This year marks 20 years since the horrific Thredbo landslide – one of Australia's worst disasters. Just before midnight on 30 July 1997, a landslide at the NSW ski resort swept two lodges more than 100 metres down to the valley floor, killing 18 people. Engineers and plant operators, police, ambulance, fire services, and support agencies, including 70 members of The Salvation Army, worked tirelessly in the aftermath of the landslide. For eight days, Salvation Army volunteers manned coffee urns and barbeque plates, providing around 16,000 meals. Salvation Army chaplains provided support and friendship to the sole survivor, ski instructor Stuart Diver, and offered support to the grieving friends and relatives of the people tragically killed. Major Earle Ivers of The Salvation Army says he will never forget his experience at Thredbo. 'I heard people weep and whisper the Lord's Prayer, and I stood silently as the words of *How Great Thou Art* echoed through the valley. God was there. I have no doubt about it,' he says.

– The Salvation Army

### How To 'Find Help Right Now'

A more accessible Wesley Mission website has been launched allowing people in most need to have faster engagement with the information and community services support they need. The website's user-friendly design is also making it easier to find Wesley Mission's community services on all types of devices. People in need will be able to access

their nearest support through the use of a new server locator, and help will also be accessible for those in crisis, through the introduction of a 'Find Help Right Now' option at the top of every page. The CEO of Wesley Mission, the Rev Dr Keith Garner, says [wesleymission.org.au](http://wesleymission.org.au) will allow individuals facing a crisis situation to have immediate access to help. He says whether someone is looking for a bed for the night or immediately needs to speak with a counsellor, all the information to access these services is now available at the click of a button.

– Wesley Mission

### Ping-Pong-A-Thon – Batting For The Underdog

The 2017 *Ping-Pong-A-Thon* is coming to Australia in October with the aim to raise \$500,000 for human trafficking prevention initiatives. The event will involve 100 communities across the country that will host a ping-pong tournament. Founder of the movement, Adrian Rowse, says that with an estimated 45.8 million people living in modern day slavery, this event is a way to bat for the underdog. 'That's twice the population of Australia who are being used daily like products off a supermarket shelf because their circumstances make them vulnerable to the greed of others,' he says. To be part of the ping-pong-a-thon participants to need to register a team and play a minimum of three hours of table tennis with support and sponsorship from friends and family to raise money.

– Uniting Church

## Learn How To Follow Jesus

**At the Bible Society Australia's *Masterclass* event in Sydney**, about 1,000 senior high school teens were encouraged to continue believing in Jesus, despite hostility, opposition and horrible history. *Masterclasses* are one-day events for Christian senior high school students, held annually around Australia. In Sydney on 8 August, John Dickson, Dan Paterson and Natasha Moore helped year 10 and 11 students to think through atheism, the role Christianity has played in the good and bad moments of history, and the importance of free speech.

**Dan Paterson, a speaker with Ravi Zacharias International Ministries**, encouraged the students to see that 'coming to believe [in Jesus] and continuing to believe are different things.' This led one student to say, 'I took home the message that we have an impact on the way non-Christians view Christianity and should make the most of that.'

**John Dickson, co-founder of the Centre for Public Christianity**, asked whether the world would be better off without Christianity, and was honest about some of the horrific things that Christians have done in the name of Jesus, particularly long ago in the Crusades. But he also pointed to the good things Christians have done, and highlighted when history has wildly exaggerated bad things linked with Christianity. His summary: 'The problem isn't religion or irreligion; it's the human heart unrestrained by compassion.'

**Natasha Moore, research fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity**, helped students see that freedom of speech is both interesting and important, by reflecting on lessons learnt from 19th Century English philosopher John Stuart Mill.

**Masterclasses will be held** in South Australia on 15 August, Victoria on 22 August, and Tasmania on 29 August. To find out more go to: [eternitynews.com.au](http://eternitynews.com.au) - *Eternity News*

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Work And The New Creation

The Marketplace Institute Lecture, Work And The New Creation, will be held at Ridley College, Melbourne, on Monday 4 September 2017 at 5.15 pm for refreshments and 5.45 pm for the lecture. The speaker will be Dr Mark Stephens, Co-ordinator of Integrative Studies at Excelsia College. The lecture is free.

The relationship between our present work and the new creation is one of the most highly debated and contested issues in the area of faith and work. Is it just the saving of souls that has eternal value? Or does our daily labour count beyond this lifetime?

### Call To End Liquor Sales In Supermarkets

New Zealand's Medical Association has added its voice to calls for an end to supermarket liquor sales. Association chair, Kate Baddock, says doctors wanted to blunt

the availability of cut-price alcohol, which blighted so many people's lives.

She says: 'Alcohol causes diseases in ordinary people. Not only does it cause harm in the liver, but it's associated with an increase in breast and bowel cancer as well as cancers of the mouth, throat, stomach and liver.' Dr Baddock says alcohol is the most harmful drug by a country mile – and we put it in our supermarkets. It's more hazardous than tobacco, heroin or methamphetamine, yet we still put our focus on illicit drug reform.' The association wants minimum pricing for alcohol, as well as higher taxes, to stop supermarkets discounting alcohol, and to reduce young people's exposure to it.

– My Christian Daily, New Zealand Herald

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**THE INJUSTICE OF  
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David van Gend

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FROM A CHILD**

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

**For more information go to: [www.ElizabethKendal.com](http://www.ElizabethKendal.com)**



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## PERSECUTION WATCH

### ETHIOPIA: Church Attacked, Told To Close, Member Arrested For 'Inciting Religious Clashes'

A Pentecostal church in Ethiopia has been ordered to stop meeting in a residential area, in the wake of a mob attack on the church, after which a church member was arrested for 'illegal activities' that 'incited religious clashes'. The Full Gospel Church in Tikil Dingaye, 20km from the historic city of Gondar in Amhara State, previously applied for land on which to build a church, but its application was refused, leading the church to purchase a house in which to meet. Although Ethiopia guarantees religious freedom on paper, Pentecostal churches in rural areas often face restrictions in a society dominated by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.



The attack on the church took place early in the morning of Sunday 11 June, when a mob destroyed the church's meeting hall, offices and the accommodation of a church worker. They also stole money from church members and assaulted some of them, including one man whose front teeth had to be removed due to the injuries he sustained. The attackers are thought to have belonged to a student movement called Mahibere Kidusan, seen by its critics as 'fanatical' in the way it operates to protect the traditions and dominance of the EOC in society. The group has been criticised by the Patriarch in the past for 'bringing unfounded charges' when it claimed that the evangelical renewal movement in the Church was infiltrating EOC-administered seminaries. – *World Watch Monitor*

### CHINA: Christian Politician From Hong Kong Allegedly Tortured By Chinese Agents

Howard Lam, a Christian and member of Hong Kong's Democratic Party, says that he was abducted and tortured by men believed to be Chinese Mainland security agents on 10 August. Lam says he was abducted, beaten and rendered unconscious by Mandarin-speaking men after receiving a phone call warning him not to send a signed photo of footballer Lionel Messi to Liu Xia, the widow of Nobel Laureate and activist Liu Xiaobo, who died in Chinese custody on 13 July. During Lam's abduction the perpetrators stapled the skin on his legs in the shape of crosses, telling him it was because he was a Christian. There were 21 staples in total. Liu Xia was last seen at her husband's funeral on 15 July, and her whereabouts are currently unknown.

– *Christian Solidarity Worldwide*

### UZBEKISTAN: Pastor Asks For Prayers After House Church Raid

'On Sunday 30 July we were raided. There were 27 of us, over 30 policemen. From my house we were all put on a bus and taken to police office. We were threatened and demanded to write explanations. The sisters [women] were [strip] searched all to their underwear. They took away three cell phones. For four-and-a-half hours we were kept there on the floor. My wife and I now face charges for possessing one children's Bible, 32 sheets of the worship songs in Russian and Uzbek and one notepad with entries. Please pray for us and please pass on to friends.' – a letter from the pastor of a house church sent to Barnabas Fund on 2 August. Unregistered Christian gatherings are vulnerable to po-

lice raids in Uzbekistan. Believers in Uzbekistan – officially a secular state – can face heavy fines if they are gathered for worship in a private home and/or are found to have Christian literature. Government restrictions require churches to register but make it practically impossible for them to do so, particularly Uzbek-language (ie ethnic Uzbek) congregations, which comprise converts from Islam and their children. Even in registered churches it is forbidden to have worship and teaching in the Uzbek language. – *Barnabas Fund Project Partners*

### INDIA: New 'Freedom Of Religion' Law To Require Converts Obtain Magistrates' Permission

The regional government in the Indian state of Jharkhand has put forward a draft 'freedom of religion bill,' which will require anyone changing religion to obtain prior permission to do so from a magistrate, while also potentially leaving Christians vulnerable to prosecution for sharing their faith. The proposed legislation – ostensibly aimed at preventing coerced or insincere conversions – will make it a criminal offence to use force, allurement, or fraudulent means to make someone change religion. Anti-conversion laws are already in force in five other Indian states (Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat) and Christians, often undertaking genuine evangelism, are frequently attacked and arrested as a result of spurious claims that they are trying to coerce or bribe Hindus to convert. Converts from Hinduism to Christianity already face victimisation and persecution, including being entirely excluded by the community in the village where they live.

– *Barnabas Fund*

## **SAT-7 Academy - Meeting A Desperate Need**

**The urgent and desperate needs of refugees** and internally displaced persons in the Middle East, particularly Syria, has inspired the foundation of *SAT-7 ACADEMY*. This educational channel will launch soon, aiming to decrease the education gap in the Middle East by proposing to simultaneously and holistically address the physical, emotional, relational, and intellectual aspects of children, parents and teachers' lives by promoting among other things, the concepts of tolerance, social cohesion, creativity, lifelong learning, dignity, freedom of expression and speech.



**There are over 13 million children out of school across the region.** Violence and instability jeopardize their futures and leave them vulnerable to the perils of poverty, child marriage, and radicalization. These children, as well as their parents and teachers, can especially benefit from the empowerment of an education. SAT-7 aims to create confident and independent thinkers who will critically assess what is given to them and make informed decisions. Without these values being instilled through education there will continue to be little space in Middle Eastern societies for religious, ethnic, or other marginalized minorities, thus perpetuating a social situation fraught with potential for conflict.

**The way in which the Educational Channel envisions** 'inspiring learning across the Arabic speaking world to transform communities' is through Satellite Television and Internet (including Social and Streaming Media) as media for development to address development issues specific to the region in order to empower individuals to make better choices and adopt new behaviours.

**The chief development goals for this project** are providing education, health and well-being, and human rights to Arabic speakers across the region. Over 1.3 million people are already watching the *My School* program on SAT-7 KIDS channel, which will begin airing on the SAT-7 ACADEMY channel in 2017. It is hoped that this new project will attract new support for SAT-7. For further details go to: [sat7.org/](http://sat7.org/).

### **Christian Witness To Moslems**

Christians in the Arabian Gulf are using poetry as a way to communicate with their own people about Jesus. Through *On Bended Knee*, a new series of short films by Middle East Media, believers from a Muslim background are writing and filming poems to communicate the life-changing power of Jesus in their lives, using a medium that their audience respects and understands. Many Arab Muslims have a perception of Christians, typically associating them with a 'Western' culture and ideology, but by speaking about their newfound faith through poetry, they will show it is possible to be a follower of Jesus without abandoning one's cultural heritage. The series will be made up of 365 short film clips, as well as prose and prayer, in the Gulf Arabic dialect, with a potential to reach millions of people with the message of God's love. – *Inspire Magazine*

### **Finland's Flood Of Conversions**

Finland has seen a flood of conversions to Christianity, with hundreds of asylum seekers from the Middle East turning to the Christian Faith, according to leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Exact figures on the number of recent Muslim con-

verts aren't available since such records aren't kept – but conservative estimates suggest several hundred in recent years from Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq. As many as 20 Afghani men are enrolled in 'pre-confirmation' teaching on the Christian faith at one parish centre in Eastern Finland. After conversion they are seen as 'infidels' in 'exile' by family in their home countries. Many of the converts reportedly cited disillusionment with the Islamic faith, and say they will probably never return to their homeland.

– *Christian Today*

### **North Korea Has Released Canadian Pastor**

North Korea says it has released a Canadian pastor for health reasons who was serving a life sentence since 2015 for anti-state activities. Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said that Hyeon Soo Lim was released on 'sick bail' following a decision by the country's Central Court. Mr Lim was convicted and sentenced in 2015 on charges of trying to use religion to destroy the North Korean system and helping US and South Korean authorities lure and abduct North Korean citizens. Mr Lim's release comes two months after the death of US Christian student Otto Warmbier. – *Press Assoc.*

**The Evangelist Finds A Point Of Contact**

**ACTS 17.16-34**

**The Gospel now comes to Athens**, the centre of intellectual and philosophical speculation in the ancient world. Paul is distressed to find the city full of idols (v 16). The scholarly Luke shows his frustration at the ‘airy fairy’ nature of the Athenians (v 21).

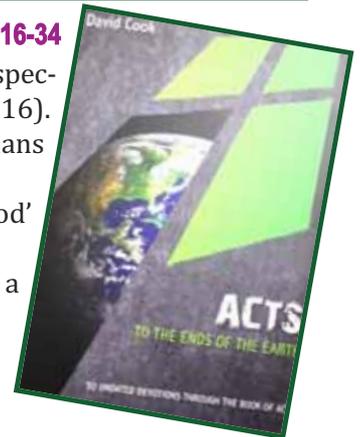
**Paul uses as his point of contact with the people** the altar to ‘An Unknown God’ (v 23) and he reasons with the Athenians:

- You do not create a place for God to live – a temple. Rather, He has created a place for you to live (v 24).
- God is not dependent on us. We are dependent on Him (v 25).
- God is not lost. We are. He has taken the first step toward us (vv 26–28).
- We are God’s offspring. He is not our offspring (v 29).

**At every point the Athenians minimised God** and maximised themselves. Paul preaches true wisdom, wisdom which is harmonising with reality (v 31) – the reality that God has fixed the day of judgment. The proof of this is that He raised the judge from the dead. The resurrection of the judge proves that death was not the end for Him, and it will not be the end for us.

**For there to be true harmony with this reality (v30)**, people must repent. They must end self-rule and recognise the rule of the One, True God. Again, we read of the typical, divided response (vv 32–34) – some sneered, others made further enquiry and, for Dionysius and Damaris and others, it was a never-to-be-forgotten day of repentance and new life in Christ.

**To be a Christian is to lose control of your life to Jesus.** Such was the experience of these repentant Athenians.



**REFLECTION:**

Athens was a place of knowledge and intellectual stimulation. Yet here Paul finds ignorance of the grossest kind.

What do you find especially confronting about Paul’s discovery?

Can you think of contemporary parallels where places of knowledge become citadels of gross ignorance?

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

**Nahum 1.7**  
**Trust Him – Not Others.**

**SEEN ON FACEBOOK:**

**"He that fears God  
loveth his Word, and  
liveth unto the  
same."**



**Hugh Latimer**  
**1487-1555**

**Words Of Wisdom:**

**EVEN** when I began teaching on creation vs. evolution back in 1975, I was already asserting that atheistic evolution and morality were connected and that, over time, immorality would grow as people rejected God’s Word and accepted evolution. I **TAUGHT** that the more people believed that life arose by natural processes, the more they would also believe that life was ultimately meaningless and purposeless, and morality could be whatever a person determined. Or, as Judges 21.25 states, when there was no king (or absolute authority) in the land, ‘everyone did what was right in his own eyes.’

**OVER** the decades, evolutionists have often mocked me for tying evolution to morality. They claim that evolution has to do with ‘science,’ not morality. But notice that as generations have been indoctrinated into believing naturalistic evolution, Christian morality has declined. Armed with so-called ‘science,’ secularists have become bolder in opposing Christian morality. **– Ken Ham**

### KNOWING GOD AND OURSELVES: Reading Calvin's Institutes Devotionally, David B. Calhoun, Edinburgh, Banner Of Truth Trust, 2016.

**This book is written to encourage and assist people** to tackle and benefit from reading John Calvin's *Institutes Of The Christian Religion* (1559), which is a challenging but richly-rewarding Christian classic. David Calhoun was Professor of Church History at Covenant Theological Seminary, St Louis, and is the author of the brilliant two-volume history of Princeton Seminary (also published by Banner).

**Calhoun does not think Calvin infallible**, even Calvin did not think Calvin infallible, but he is always worth reading for he never expresses an opinion without supplying thoughtful reasons from the Bible for what he says. *The Institutes* was required reading when I was at theological college and this reviewer adds his testimony to many others that it was an exhilarating experience, for Calvin's teaching naturally leads to the praise of God and fires devotion to God's service.

**As noted by Calhoun, *The Institutes* are many things**, Biblical, systematic, pastoral, polemical and devotional, and Calhoun's survey is peppered with quotable quotes from Calvin and students of Calvin through the centuries.

**Many people who reject Calvin, reject a false image** of the great reformer, who was no system-builder or logical machine, but rather a careful student of Scripture, who sought to adhere to the exact form of Scriptural teaching, accept the paradoxes of Christian doctrine and explain nothing away. Calvin primarily addresses the heart, not the head, for he always combines teaching with exhortation and encouragement. Calvin's doctrine is at the service of piety, with Calvin believing that true doctrine is necessary for true piety.

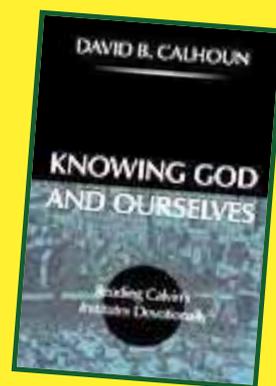
**Calvin was a master of metaphor** and effectively clothed his teaching in illustration and striking images. He called creation 'the mirror of divinity', and likened Scripture to 'spectacles' that help us to see the truth clearly. Providence is God's 'ever-present hand' and His providence is universal. 'He's got the whole world in His hands'. This volume by Calhoun is also liberally punctuated by the prayers of Calvin.

**As Calhoun demonstrates**, Calvin limited himself to revealed truths and refused to speculate (eg about God's hidden essence). While insisting on God's sovereignty, his emphasis was on God's Fatherly love toward us. As he shows, without the truth of the Trinity, God would remain remote from us, unknown and unexperienced.

**For Calvin, the Old Testament was full of grace** and continues to instruct Christians. The central message of both Testaments is Christ and the salvation available through Him. Calvin has a highly developed doctrine of the Holy Spirit, who unites us to Christ and is the channel for all Christ's benefits to us. Repentance for Calvin is continual, such that the whole Christian life is a 'race of repentance'. He urges (and practised) self-denial and a heavenly mindedness that does not despise the present life. Calvin always combines devotion to God and good sense. There is a wonderful balance and proportion in all his teaching.

**Calvin was no mere academic**, though he gave lectures as well as sermons, and his chapter on prayer is a devotional classic and the longest chapter in *The Institutes*. His belief in God's perfection and in divine predestination did not prevent him encouraging believers to pray and to ask God to do things.

**Despite what many people may think and say**, Calvin did not invent the doctrine of election; he found it in Scripture and was following Augustine before him who found it in the same place. He did not encourage Protestant individualism, but spoke of the church as our 'mother' who begets and nourishes us and as a 'school' in which we are pupils all our lives. He also saw the value of civil government and taught that Christians had the responsibility to be loyal citizens. If Calvin is only a name to you, or you only know him by hearsay, this is the ideal book to assist you in discovering why he has so many admirers today.



*'If Calvin is only a name to you, or you only know him by hearsay, this is the ideal book to assist you in discovering why he has so many admirers today.'*

## BOOKS WORTH READING

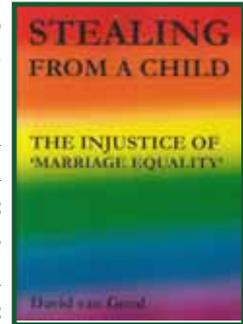
**STEALING FROM A CHILD - The Injustice of 'Marriage Equality', David van Gend, Connor Court Publishing P/L, Queensland. Available at Koorong and New Life Books & Archaeology.**

David van Gend's book is a brilliant overview of evidences in favour of traditional marriage. For anyone who may be upset or diverted from historical and conventional opinions by LGBTIQ activists, *Stealing From A Child* is a must-read. Dr van Gend's eleven chapters thoughtfully and comprehensively demolish any case that might be made for 'marriage equality' in Australia. Quoting the results of unbiased research and anecdotal information gathered in jurisdictions where 'same-sex marriage' has already been made legal, reveals the consequential pitfalls and social disadvantages that would also occur here in Australia.

**Children are deprived of a 'mother' or 'father'.** No-one of the opposite gender can fully compensate. 'Progenitor A & B' are suggested to replace the titles of those previously bonded closely in a nurturing family. It is ironic to observe the extent to which LGBTIQ proponents attempt to use biology-related terminology while ignoring the essential basic and complementary differences of the two natural genders. The issues of 'being born that way' and bullying at school are both considered, as is that of whether children who grow up with traditional parents compared to children who grow up with same-gender parents are better achievers at school and in later life. This book quotes some significant statements made by grown up children raised by same-gender parents. These new adults relate quite pertinent personal experiences.

**Definitely no homophobe,** Dr van Gend is a family physician and accordingly deals with patients and people without favour and with respect. He points out that people can make various lifestyle choices and there's nothing to stop them legally. What many have overlooked in the 'marriage equality' debate is the consequent effects of change on families and children first, and society after that.

– Ron Suter, [www.newlifebooks.info](http://www.newlifebooks.info)



### TURN BACK THE BATTLE: Isaiah Speaks to Christians Today.

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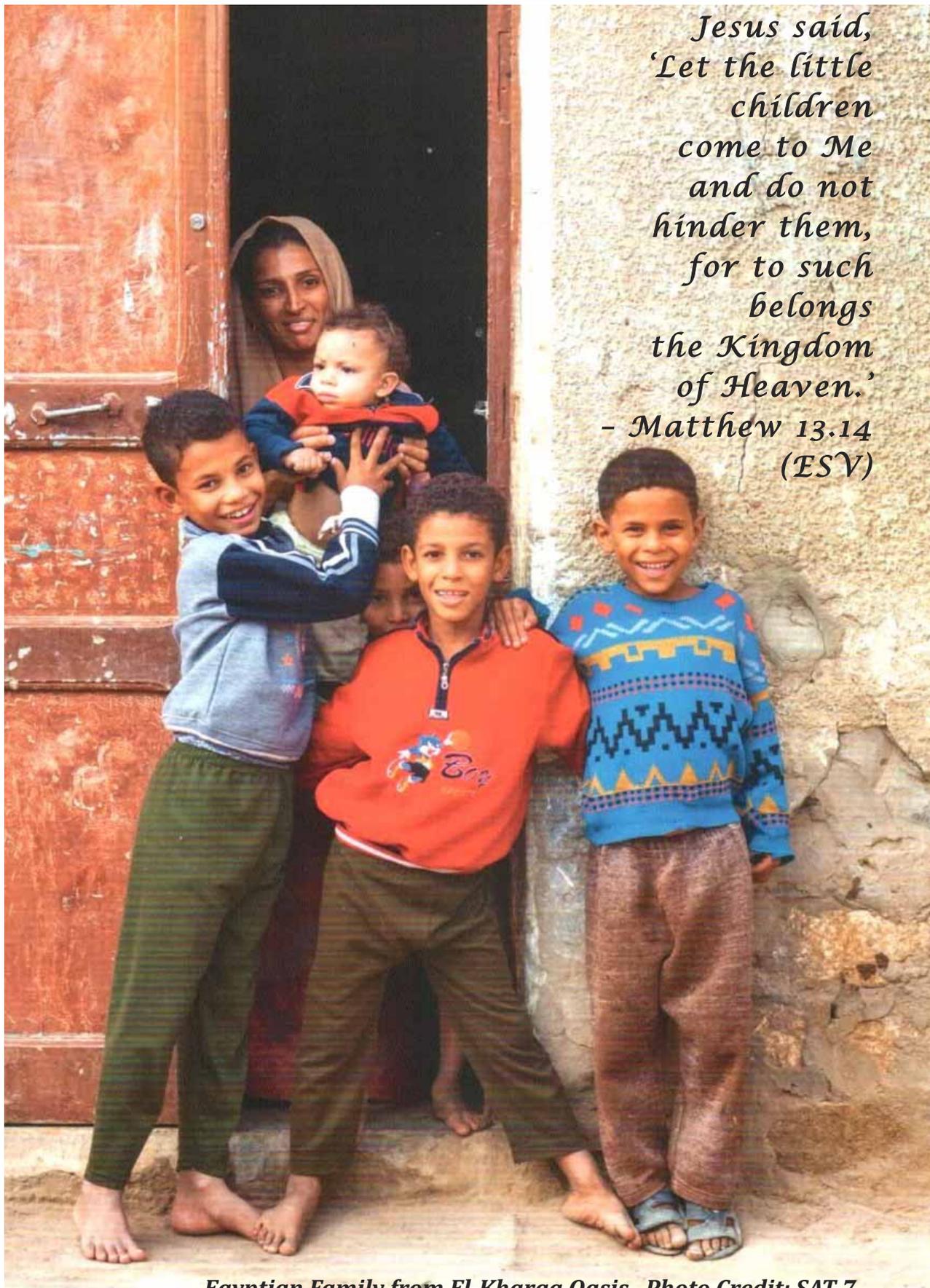
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*Jesus said,  
'Let the little  
children  
come to Me  
and do not  
hinder them,  
for to such  
belongs  
the Kingdom  
of Heaven.'  
- Matthew 13.14  
(ESV)*

*Egyptian Family from El-Kharga Oasis. Photo Credit: SAT-7*