

Ruach Sets Sail For PNG

The good ship *Ruach* was scheduled to depart on Wednesday, 13 September from Queen's Wharf, Newcastle, to sail to Papua New Guinea to deliver vital health care services to remote areas of the country. YWAM Ships Newcastle plans to deliver primary health care, optometry, dentistry, vaccinations, and medical education. Medical equipment specially designed for aid in remote villages will be on board.

Arriving in February of this year, the *Ruach* has been an iconic feature in the harbour with its twin masts, traditional rigging, and 37-metre hull. Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes hosted a civic reception to receive the vessel by thanking the donors on behalf of the city. The *Ruach* was formally invited to be an ambassador for the city by the Lord Mayor's office in July. An official presentation was held on Wednesday 23 August 2017, to present the *Ruach* and YWAM Ships Newcastle with a key to the city.

'When David first came to me and told me about the very kind donation of the *Ruach* and the fact that its home port was going to be in the City of Newcastle,' said Cr Nelmes, 'I was so pleased and so proud to be part of a community that had such welcoming, open arms to help other people.'

David Stephenson, Managing Director for YWAM Ships Newcastle, is thrilled to be serving the people of Papua New Guinea as Newcastle City Ambassadors through the ship's delivery of essential healthcare. 'With such strong medical infrastructure and services here in Australia, we have a great opportunity to collaborate with the government and people of Papua New Guinea in delivering quality healthcare,' Mr Stephenson said. The *Ruach* inspired many in the city through public tours in May and its stunning presence at Queen's Wharf.

Peter Crawford, a local Novocastrian, heard about the *Ruach* through a mutual friend and has been volunteering several days a week since February. He wanted to engage in meaningful work in communities that was more than just tourism and a few photos. Peter has personally volunteered over 500 hours to get the ship ready to sail by assisting with designing and installing an awning over the deck, making mooring line protectors and installing fly screens for the hatches. 'I began helping with watches in February then just started coming in three days a week to help out – sometimes six days a week,' he says.

The vessel will be deployed in Papua New Guinea for the rest of the year to begin initial collaboration with the region. YWAM is looking forward to offering a combination of marine training and medical delivery beginning this year before developing these services more fully into 2018.



Ruach in Newcastle Harbour

VOLUME 80 NUMBER 6

ISSUE DATE:

15 September 2017

FILE NO: NL 2017-09-15

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

OFFICE MANAGER:

Rachael Vrieze

Phone: 0415 612 646

Email: office@nlife.com.au

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.



Addressing The Problem Of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence and abuse can be a sad reality in the church as well as in the wider community. The Rt Rev David Burke, NSW Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, has issued the following statement regarding domestic violence, which we publish here as an example of an approach which could be helpful to ministers and others in the Christian community in seeking to help people involved on both sides of domestic violence.

In 2015, the NSW Presbyterian Church made a statement about domestic violence making it clear that God was opposed to abuse and violence in the family and that He particularly warned husbands to be considerate to their wives and treat them with respect (Ephesians 5.28-30; 1 Peter 3.7). We have a duty to protect, care for and give re-assurance to victims and potential victims of domestic violence. Church should be a place where they feel safe and know that they will be helped.

We have a duty to protect church members from those whom the Bible describes as wolves (Acts 20.29) and who would harm God's people. We have a duty to challenge perpetrators about their behaviour, to call them to confession and repentance and to offer them help to change their ways. Let us teach all that the Bible says about domestic relationships according to God's design. As part of this, let us make it explicit that Scripture gives no excuse or justification for any form of domestic violence or abuse.

We say to victims and potential victims: We have your back. We want you to feel safe and to be safe in church. More than that, we want our churches to be places where you can seek and find help if you feel threatened or are subject to any form of domestic abuse or violence. We apologise if we have failed to do this in the past, and we affirm that any attempt to use the Bible's teaching as a pretext for abuse is a distortion of its message. Anyone in the church facing domestic violence or abuse should seek help from their minister or elders, from a trusted friend at church, or from those officers in the church appointed to help them. We assure you that we are here for you.

We say to perpetrators and potential perpetrators: Hear us clearly: there is zero tolerance for your abusive behaviour. We flatly reject any attempt to use the Bible or Christian teaching as an excuse or justification for domestic violence or abuse. Your abuse is never in our name or that of our God. We urge you to confession and repentance of the sin of abuse and pray that you find gospel grace and the hope of change and renewal through God's Holy Spirit. Please open your Bible and read 1 Corinthians 6.9-11; 1 John 1.5-2.6 to hear God's call to repentance and His offer of grace. We offer you help as you do this, including to link you with an appropriate church. Please talk confidentially with your pastor, or, if appropriate, contact those officers in the church appointed to help you. We are also here for you.

Church should be a place of zero tolerance for domestic violence, in the name of the Lord who protects the vulnerable (Psalm 68.5; James 1.27).

The best way to receive *New Life* is to have every issue forwarded to you through our subscription list on the 1st and 15th of every month from 15 February to 15 December each year. And it's so simple.

Just go to www.nlife.com.au and on the Home Page click on FREE SUBSCRIPTION, fill in the form and send it on to us.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER:

NIGERIA: Muslim Youths 'Beat Drums Of War'

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970), also known as the Biafra War. This was a war in which Nigeria's mostly northern Muslim Hausa-Fulani-dominated military junta crushed a separatist rebellion by the mostly Christian Igbo of Eastern Nigeria. Frustrated and marginalised by the government of President Muhammadu Buhari, pro-secessionist Igbo groups have again been escalating their secessionist rhetoric. In response, a coalition of Northern Muslim youth groups held a press conference in Kaduna on 6 June in which their spokesman, AbdulAziz Suleiman, issued a chilling ultimatum: Igbos would have until 1 October to leave the North, after which time they will be forcibly ejected. As all Nigerians know, this threat has a precedent because in 1966 an ethnic cleansing campaign targeting Igbo in the North left 30,000 Igbo dead, more than 1.3 million Igbo displaced and millions more convinced they had no future in a Hausa-Fulani dominated Nigeria. As the Anglican Archbishop of Jos, the Most Rev Benjamin Kwashi told *Global Christian News* (15 June 2017), 'Nobody, who is watching history, thinks this is a joke.' [For more information see *The Kaduna Declaration: Nigeria In The Shadow Of Biafra* by Elizabeth Kendal, *Religious Liberty Monitoring*, 6 July 2017.]

Since the 6 June Kaduna Declaration, anti-Igbo hate speech has proliferated across Northern Nigeria, spreading like wildfire on social media. Of particular concern is the emergence of hate songs, some of which call for the Igbo to be killed, others of which call for the break-up of Nigeria with the Igbo cut adrift in a reduced, oil-less 'Biafra'. One song which has become extremely popular vilifies the Igbo, blaming them for everything from drugs to terrorism. It includes the following chorus (which is repeated eight times): 'Igbos are a curse to Nigeria, whose existence and birth as a people in Nigeria is useless, that abortion is greater than the birth of the bast**ds.'

Though the federal government vowed to arrest those responsible for the Kaduna Declaration, no arrests have been made, allegedly on the grounds that it could jeopardise Nigeria's fragile security, ie, it could trigger widespread Muslim rioting. Nigerian leaders, including President Buhari, have expressed concern over the growing amount of hate speech, noting that the same phenomenon occurred in Rwanda before the 1994 genocide there. At a press briefing in the capital Abuja on 24 August, the spokesperson for the coalition of northern Muslim youth groups, AbdulAziz Suleiman, 'suspended' the group's 6 June quit notice and affirmed the unity of Nigeria while continuing to vilify the Igbo. On Sunday 3 September Nigeria's top Muslim spiritual leader, Sa'ad Abubakar condemned the Kaduna Declaration, openly declaring his opposition to it.

Yet, despite all efforts to calm the situation, Muslim youths across the North continue to 'beat the drums of war' and insist all Igbo must leave before 1 October. A group of UN experts has expressed 'grave concern' about the possibility of ethnic bloodshed, 'especially considering the previous history of such violence'. Few doubt that a crisis is looming and that efforts to defuse it have been half-hearted at best.

PLEASE PRAY THAT:

- God will intervene in Nigeria to calm the brewing storm; may the whole Nigerian Church unite in prayer – nationwide, across denominational and ethnic lines – to petition the Lord for peace and mercy.
- He will grace Nigeria's political, religious, civic and youth leaders with wisdom to know what to do and the courage to do it. (1 Timothy 2.1-4)
- God will guide and protect His vulnerable Church in the Muslim-dominated North in the face of escalating anti-Igbo hostility. (Isaiah 40.10,11)

*'By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the Earth ...
(See Psalm 65.5-8 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

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

MEGAVOICE – Its Voice Goes Out Into All The World

In 1987 I became aware of and concerned about the 70% of people in our world who cannot read. 1.3 million of this group are illiterate, most blind people are illiterate, others are aged, disabled, deaf. That means a printed Bible is of no use to these people. God put it into my heart to pray and ask the Lord if we could design a Bible for everyone. It needed to be water, sand and vermin proof, have no moving parts to wear out, low cost, rugged, light-weight, where the message is secure, be easy to use by the blind and it needed to be powered without a power point because most people don't have a power point.

The Lord led me to a brilliant American electronic engineer who had set up an electronics company on the shores of the Sea of Galilee in Tiberias, Israel, where Jesus spent so much of His time. The Lord led around us a magnificent, highly gifted team, all committed to the task of letting the whole world hear His voice. God has wonderfully, miraculously answered my prayer in every detail. I now have a Bible with the capacity to hold the equivalent of 20 printed Bibles or any life-enriching message, in any language. That pile would normally be read privately by 20 people and cost A\$500. Our *MegaVoice Bible* in many societies will be listened to by over 500 people in the course of 12 months and cost as low as A\$25. Our almost 2 million *MegaVoice* solar powered Bibles are being listened to in over 160 countries by people in their own language. Many of those are countries dominated by Islam. **Churches, their missions and Bible colleges** who are working in the most restricted, inhospitable and isolated places on the planet, are able to draw down out of the Cloud, our *MegaVoice* audio library and through it access over 20,000 Bibles, New Testaments and other life-giving messages in over 6,400 languages and dialects. The Word of God is the greatest evangelist in the world. You who have been praying and funding this ministry and those of you who will now join this team are literally sending the greatest evangelist in the world, 'to the ends of the Earth.' Right now we have a request for 100,000 *MegaVoice Bibles*, one to go into each of the tents housing 10-12 Syrian refugees in the camp outside Beirut in Lebanon. Isis has eight groups seeking to enlist people into their satanic motivate groups. Christians are wanting to put one *MegaVoice* audio Bible into each tent. Contact Tom Treseder through www.megavoice.com for further information and to help. – *A Worker In The Middle East*



NAMBOUR (Qld) WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH VACANCY For Full-Time PASTOR

The Nambour Wesleyan Methodist Church is seeking expressions of interest from any Pastor who may feel that God is leading them to pastor our church.

The church has been established for 30 years. The present congregation is made up of mostly elderly people who are retired. The total church constituency is about 55, with an average attendance of 41 on Sunday mornings.

Our vision for the church is for the congregation to continue to grow in their love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and for outreach into the local community with the good news of salvation.

The position is available for a full-time Pastor, so the stipend is set at that recommended by the National Board.

Should you be interested and would like further information, please contact: **Rev Rex Rigby** on (07) 3211 0066 or email to: rexrigby@me.com

A more detailed resume of the church is available upon request. Nambour is approximately 1 hrs drive north of Brisbane and is part of the Queensland Sunshine Coast. It is a rapidly growing town with a population of almost 20,000.

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

Coptic Pope Tawadros Speaks Out

Coptic Pope Tawadros II, responding to press questions about Australia's postal plebiscite on homosexual 'marriage', said there is no such thing as gay marriage. He said: 'According to the Holy Bible, in the Old or the New Testaments, there is no same-sex marriage at all. God created man and woman to form a family. Family equals father and mother. Homosexuality is not acceptable. It is sin. Such a union is completely opposed to the Christian faith.' Pope Tawadros made the comments after arriving in Australia for a ten-day visit. 'The constitution for Coptic Christians is the Holy Bible,' and God says that one man and one woman is the only way to have a marriage.' Pope Tawadros encouraged young Copts at the International Convention Centre in Sydney to 'fight for what is right' regarding the national vote on same-sex 'marriage'. Coptic Christians love all people but we follow Jesus Christ,' he said. On Sunday, the Pope, known as the 'Pope of Hope', the leader of 20 million Coptic Orthodox Christians, officially opened the new Coptic Orthodox headquarters at Eporo Tower in Melbourne to serve the city's 20,000 strong Coptic community in Australia.

– *Breaking Christian News*

CBM Wins Prestigious International Award

The 2017 António Champalimaud Vision Awards took place recently in Lisbon, Portugal, with joint winners announced for their outstanding contribution towards the prevention and alleviation of blindness and visual impairment in developing countries. The winners are Sightsavers, an international organisation working in more than 30 countries, and CBM, (formerly Christian Blind Mission) an international Christian disability and development organisation transforming the lives of people with disabilities and communities at risk in the world's poorest places. Both CBM and Sightsavers are recognised as pioneers in the field and were the creators of a model to combat visual impairment based around three pillars: prevention, cure and support. Kirsty Smith, Chief Executive of CBM says they are determined to build a world where nobody is needlessly blind and every person with a disability has the chance to fulfil their God-given potential.

– *Inspire Magazine*

Police Boots Donated To raise Awareness

More than 500 pairs of police boots have been donated as part of a charity drive to support people experiencing homelessness across NSW. NSW Police launched the drive with Mission Australia during Homelessness Week last month to raise awareness of the issues people experiencing homelessness face each day.

A Helping Hand In The Face Of Danger

A woman whose father was killed by current North Korean dictator Kim Jung Un's grandfather, Kim Il-sung, is assisting North Korean refugees as the military and political crisis continues on the Korean Peninsula. Hyon (pronounced Yahn) runs a charity aimed at helping North Korean refugees escape the regime. Hyon Kim says she has never been more scared not only for those of her own family trapped in North Korea, but also for millions of others who live under the country, and for South Korea where anxiety is mounting over a nuclear threat. The 71-year-old grandmother can't stop watching the news from Korea. She says her biggest concern is for an estimated 300,000 North Korean refugees living underground in China, where if they are discovered

by Chinese authorities, they are often returned to North Korea to face certain death. Her charity, Freedom for North Korean Refugees, is working toward the safe and humane resettlement of North Korean refugees. The group's website says an estimated 200,000 North Korean defectors have escaped the poverty and oppression of their government, hoping to reach safety in South Korea.

– *ASSIST News Service*

New Mission Floated In London

The Church of England has launched a pioneering new initiative to bring its message to a sometimes forgotten people – those who dwell not on land, but on the water. The Diocese of London has commissioned the construction of a church-boat that will sail through East London's canal network. The vessel is designed to look like a conventional barge, but will include an expanding, concertina-style roof which will give the 650 square foot barge extra space. The Bishop of Stepney, Adrian Newman says a floating church shows the way the church is seeking to spread its ministry and support communities. He says the church-boat is 'a vision soon to become a reality.'

– *Christian Today*

CALL TO PRAYER:

Praying Together This Sunday

The Archbishop of Sydney, Dr Glenn Davies, has urged churches to set aside this Sunday as a day of *Praying Together For Marriage* saying, 'I have been a strong advocate of the view that the people of Australia should have their say on such a fundamental change to the fabric of our society. I have spoken on a number of occasions with the Prime Minister about this issue and have been impressed by his commitment to let the people's voice be heard before the parliament makes any decision.

'The arguments against same-sex marriage have been thoughtfully and respectfully addressed in the diocesan booklet, *What Has God Joined Together?* which can be accessed at www.sydneyanglicans.net/marriage.

'I make no apology in asking Christians to vote "No" in this postal vote. Indeed, all Christians should vote "No", if they wish to uphold marriage as God has intended and to express that view with courage and commitment if we are to be both salt and light, as Jesus requires: "You are the salt of the Earth. But if the salt loses its savour, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by others. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they set it on a lampstand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before all, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven" (Matthew 5.13-16).'

Dr Davies urged humility, compassion and steadfastness in dealing with the same sex marriage issue and wrote this prayer about the SSM issue: 'Father God, we praise You that we are fearfully and wonderfully made in Your image, male and female, to live for Your glory and the honour of Your Name. We thank You for the gift of marriage, Your plan for the nurture of children and the health of our society. We pray for our nation, as it contemplates overturning Your good design for men and women. Give us courage to serve You without fear as we declare Your truth for the good of all Australians. Give us wisdom and grace as we seek to persuade our friends and family that God's way is best. Grant us humility, compassion and steadfastness when we encounter views to the contrary. May You be pleased to bless our nation so that marriage remains as the union of a husband and wife, in accordance with Your purposes and the benefit of all. We ask this in the name of Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.'

– Russell Power, *Southern Cross*



Aussie Creation Museum
VISIT JURASSIC ARK
JUST 2 HRS FROM BRISBANE AIRPORT NEAR GYMPIE

The ground is cursed.
Genesis 3:17

Great new mural at Aussie Creation Museum. Fossil thorns found by the Creation Guy John Mackay! There were no thorns on planet earth till after Adam sinned. Therefore these supposedly 300 million year old rocks were only laid down since Adam's day!

Details: www.creationresearch.net

Billy Graham's Grandson, Will, To Play The Great Evangelist In New Movie

In the newest instalment of the *Unbroken* movies, evangelist Billy Graham will be portrayed by his grandson, Will. *Unbroken: Path To Redemption* will focus on the faith of Olympian and POW Louis Zamperini and is based on Laura Hillenbrand's book.

'The life of American Olympian, WWII airman, castaway and POW Louie Zamperini is a story so extraordinary, it staggers the imagination,' Hillenbrand said, according to *The Christian Post*. 'It is a life rich in lessons for all of us – lessons in resilience and ingenuity, grace and humanity, forgiveness and the redemptive power of faith. I am so pleased to see his story brought back to the screen, where it will continue to inspire audiences.'

'Like my father and grandfather before me, I'm blessed to have been able to answer a call to evangelism,' Will Graham said. 'But knowing how God used Billy Graham in Louie Zamperini's life, I couldn't pass the opportunity to portray him in this inspiring story.'

The movie is set to be released through Christian production company Pure Flix.

– Will Maule

Claim The Date: Banner Of Truth Conference 2018

The next **Banner Of Truth Australian Conference** for ministers, Christian workers and wives, will be held from 13-16 March 2018 at the Salvation Army's Collaroy Centre, Homestead Ave, Collaroy, Sydney.

Speakers will include Allan Blanch, who has served as Rector of St Barnabas' Broadway, St John's Beecroft, and St Philip's Church Hill — all in Sydney; David Jones, Minister of Ann Street Presbyterian Church, Brisbane; Ed Loane, Lecturer in Theology and Church History at Moore College, Sydney; Iain Murray, Founding Editor and a Trustee of the Banner of Truth Trust, Edinburgh, UK; Michael Prodigalidad, Minister of Stanmore Baptist Church, Stanmore NSW; and Noel Weeks, retired Senior Lecturer in Ancient History, and an Associate of the Department of Classics and Ancient History, University of Sydney.

David Jones will deliver three expositions on *Hosea: The Love That Will Not Let Us Go*. Iain Murray will speak on *The Story Of A Continuing Controversy* and *Reflections*. Ed Loane will speak on *Facing Difficulties In The Ministry*; Allan Blanch on *The Pastoral Wisdom Of John Newton*; Michael Prodigalidad on *Entrusting The Gospel To Faithful Men*; Noel Weeks will speak on *Law And Gospel In The Old Testament*.

Altogether there will be a happy blend of Biblical truth as practised throughout the history of the church and practically applied to the work of ministry today. Each day's sessions will be preceded by a time of united prayer, and warm fellowship will be enjoyed with co-workers 'of like precious faith.' A bookstall will be provided by Reformers Bookshop, Stanmore NSW.

Places are limited and early booking is recommended. Further enquiries and bookings may be addressed to: Mrs Robyn Phillips, PO Box 29, Sylvania Southgate NSW 2224. Email: ajp162@bigpond.net.au

WE SELL LOTS OF PRE-LOVED CHRISTIAN BOOKS. BUT,
SOMETIMES, A NEW BOOK IS WORTH PROMOTING STRONGLY.

VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

STEALING
FROM A CHILD

STEALING
FROM A CHILD

STEALING
FROM A CHILD

THE INJUSTICE OF
'MARRIAGE EQUALITY'

THE INJUSTICE OF
'MARRIAGE EQUALITY'

THE INJUSTICE OF
'MARRIAGE EQUALITY'

David van Gend

David van Gend

David van Gend

SUPPLIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT
NEW LIFE BOOKS AND ARCHAEOLOGY,
44 DUBLIN RD, RINGWOOD EAST. OPEN MON-SAT, 10am-2pm
PHONE: 0428 290 341.

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.

PERSECUTION WATCH

BURMA: Christians Face Persecution Too

As world news focuses on the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, Christians are also persecuted in Myanmar. They are suffering appalling persecution and violence at the hands of the military, but unlike the Rohingya they are largely ignored by the world's press. However, a new threat is now emerging as jihadists head to the region to 'support' Rohingya Muslims.

Several months ago, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom commissioned a report on the persecution of Christians in Myanmar. Entitled *Hidden Plight: Christian Minorities In Burma*, it makes shocking reading. There is large-scale violence and intimidation of Christians by the army. The report states, 'The military routinely occupies churches and summons entire congregations for interrogation. Tatmadaw (Burmese Army) troops have desecrated, damaged, and destroyed churches. The military continues to perpetrate grave human rights violations with near-total impunity, including sexual violence in church compounds and the torture of pastors, church workers, and ordinary civilians. To date, approximately 120,000 people have been forced to flee.' The military use Buddhism as a means of legitimising their oppressive rule, claiming to be defending Buddhism and the Bamar (Burmese) majority against Muslims and Christians, who are predominantly from ethnic minority groups.

– Barnabas Fund



CHINA: Harassment Of House Church Pastor

A house church pastor, ordered by officers in China's central Hubei province to cease her 'illegal' ministry, has vowed to defy government orders, telling authorities, 'I believe in Jesus Christ. I don't believe in you.' China Aid reports that Zion Church pastor Xu Shizhen received a warning from the local religious affairs bureau after preaching in public and handing out fans, teacups, and pamphlets with Christian messages on them in the city square and train station. The officers claimed that because the church was not officially registered with the country and the 'religious activities' took place outside of approved venues, they were illegal. However, Xu Shizhen told China Aid reporter she has no intention of stopping her ministry. She previously served as pastor of an official Three-Self Church in the area, but in April 2012, authorities seized the building and changed the locks to keep church members out.

– Gospel Herald

AFGHANISTAN: Kidnapped Finnish Woman Freed After Four Months

A Finnish aid worker held hostage for nearly four months in Afghanistan was freed on 14 September. She had been kidnapped from an international guesthouse in Kabul run by her employer, Operation Mercy when it was attacked in May; her German female colleague and Afghan guard were killed. The unnamed woman was studying Dari (Afghan version of Persian), preparing for her first assignment. The Swedish-based aid organisation said 'it is with great joy that we confirm the release of our Finnish colleague who was abducted on 20

May. The well-being of our colleague is being assessed at this time. We request privacy for our colleague and our colleague's family'. Finland's foreign ministry confirmed she was "safe" but gave no further details, according to the BBC. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack nor holding her hostage.

The German woman had worked in Afghanistan for 13 years (with Operation Mercy since 2011) and headed a literacy project. 'Both [women] were experienced and had a deep desire to serve the people of Afghanistan,' said the organisation in a statement shortly after the May attack.

The guard, who was beheaded, was employed directly by the residents of the compound, not by the aid agency. Guesthouse neighbours told the German broadcaster ZDF that the perpetrators seemed to have slipped quietly into the guesthouse premises. Operation Mercy said they had broken into the women's residence, and that other staff were not affected and were not aware of the incident as it unfolded.

After the incident, the Finnish foreign ministry together with the Afghanistan National Directorate of Security launched an investigation, urging 'the immediate release of the kidnapped person'.

Operation Mercy has over 300 staff worldwide. According to its website its work in Afghanistan includes projects helping to reduce infant mortality, provide leadership training and helping to empower women.

– <http://www.mercy.se>

via World Watch Monitor

Lausanne Movement Call For Engagement With Media For Christ

Wherever we live in today's world, information and communication technologies increasingly influence our human lives, Christian witness, and Christian ministries. The varieties of local, global, and glocal media messages provide complex contexts for the task of making the case for the truth of Christ in the 21st Century. The missional issues related to media engagement are therefore of real significance to the global church.



There are five central features of contemporary media: digitalization, democratization, fragmentation, globalization, and pluralisation. They illustrate the urgent need to engage more intentionally with media in all their diversity. They are the primary means by which news, ideas, and stories spread. Therefore, if we are to 'bear witness to Jesus Christ and all His teaching in every nation, in every sphere of society, and in the realm of ideas' (*The Cape Town Commitment*), we cannot neglect the media.

The Commitment emphasised three major areas of concern: media awareness (the need for more faithful discipleship when encountering media messages), media presence (the need to enter mainstream media with professionalism and Christian integrity), and media ministries (the need to use every kind of media technology to communicate the Gospel in the context of a holistic Biblical worldview).

Theologically, we should view professional media callings as part of God's cultural mandate and of His mission to our world. Missiologically, we should view media engagement as an essential part of calling the whole church to take the whole Gospel to the whole world. Apologetically, we should view media engagement as a dimension of our witness to Jesus Christ.

The three areas of media awareness, media presence, and media ministries constitute a strategic approach for media engagement.

Equipping individuals, families, youth ministries, and churches to engage with media messages is a largely forgotten dimension of mission. Such equipping includes research, resources, and practical training in worldview analysis of media messages, as well as showing the credibility and relevance of a holistic biblical worldview over against alternative worldview perspectives.

There is a wide variety of legitimate and strategic media roles to explore within the general media world for talented Christians, including journalism and documentary work, and creative and entertainment media. Through their presence in mainstream media, the credibility and plausibility of the Gospel and of a holistic Biblical worldview may be commended to sceptics, seekers, and Christians.

Effective use of every kind of media technology, format, and genre is important for evangelism, discipleship, and faith education. Specialist media ministries still have strategic roles to play, but new media technology potentially changes every mission organization, youth ministry, and local church into media outlets. This creates an increasing need for evangelistic partnerships in the whole area of media. We also need to explore the way that social media creates increasing possibilities for a media ministry for every believer.

There is thus every reason for Christian leaders globally to integrate media engagement into their strategies for mission.

– Go to: communications@lausanne.org to read complete article.

WHO CAN YOU FORWARD NEW LIFE TO?

Logos Hope Escapes Hurricane Irma

As Hurricane Irma threatened the Dominican Republic, the missionary ship *Logos Hope* left Santo Domingo docks and charted a course further out to sea to escape the worst of the weather system. Her captain, Arne Johansen's primary consideration, is the safety of his crew and vessel. **Deciding that it was wisest to leave the port** until after the storm had passed, Captain Arne charted a course 150 nautical miles due south towards Venezuela. Once out in the middle of the Caribbean Sea, *Logos Hope* drifted through the night, escaping the worst of the weather system as the captains kept watch over the developing swells.

The *Logos Hope* has now returned to port, and the Gospel ship will re-open to the public as soon as possible.



– Operation Mobilisation

Getting The Word Out By Teamwork

When it comes to modern missions, it seems teamwork is the name of the game as more and more organizations are partnering to maximize their impact for the Gospel. Bibles For The World is no exception and is partnering with the Luis Palau Association in Africa.

Luis Palau's son Andrew is currently working to reach ten of the major countries of Africa with the Gospel by holding festivals, not only through open-air crusades but with community-wide outreaches. Bibles For The World's President, John Pudaite, says these outreaches will touch schools, prisons, orphanages, and medical camps, and special programs will focus on people who wouldn't be able to attend the rest of the events like civic leaders, businessmen, and politicians.

Bibles For The World has been able to provide 100,000 Gospels of John for every crusade that they've had and 10-15,000 New Testaments for new believers who come to know the Lord through these festivals. A network of up to 800 churches are involved in each of the outreaches.

– Mission Network News

MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE: Gospel Broadcasting Mission organisations working together have built and recently launched a radio station specifically designed for the Yao people of Mozambique and Malawi. *Radio Lilanguka* (Yao for 'rising dawn') is the Mangochi district's first and only station to broadcast in the Yao language. Mission leaders say the hope is that having a radio station created specifically for the Yao will motivate them to tune in. In addition to hearing their own music, news and sports, the Yao (a nearly 100% Muslim people group) will hear regular Gospel messages. Operation Mobilisation will distribute fixed-frequency radios to individuals and groups, so people will have easy access to the radio program. The radio station will cover a 100-kilometre broadcast range.

– Operation Mobilisation

MALTA: Filming Begins On Film About Paul

Filming has begun in Malta on an inspirational drama about *Paul, Apostle Of Christ*, by AFFIRM Films. Paul, who goes from the most infamous persecutor of Christians to Christ's most influential apostle, spends his last days awaiting execution by Emperor Nero in Rome. As Paul's days grow shorter, he feverishly works from prison to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and embolden His followers to stand strong in their faith against Roman persecution. AFFIRM Films Executive Vice President Rich Peluso says next to Jesus, no-one played a more central role in the growth of the Early Church than the Apostle Paul. This unlikely leader of the Church wrote a large part of the New Testament and travelled more than 16,000 kilometres by foot to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Mr Peluso says this gripping film dives deep into the final months before Paul's execution under Nero as he reconciles his faith with his past persecution of the Church. The film is slated for release next year.

– Christian Newswire

YOU CAN ADVERTISE HERE.

Call Rachael

0415 612 646

Email: office@nlife.com.au

EPHESUS: Trials On The Way To Success ACTS 19.1–20.12

This brief report on the ministry at Ephesus follows Paul’s initial contact there in 18.19. It is sandwiched between two accounts of deficiency – those deficient because of ignorance, the disciples of John (19.1–7) and those who were deceitfully deficient, the seven sons of Sceva (19.13–20).

Paul does not tell the former group about the Spirit, but about Jesus (vv 4,5). The latter group wants to ‘use’ the power of the Spirit, apart from relationship with Jesus.

The Devil is not fooled. He is the master of fakery. His superior power stands in contrast to their powerless, superstitious spirituality. The resultant burning of the magic scrolls, out of fear of God, and the contrasting health of the Word of the Lord provide a further, rich distinction (vv 18–20).

Paul’s church planting activities at Ephesus follow a familiar pattern (vv 8–12). He begins at the synagogue, focusing persuasively on the Kingdom of God. Then there arises Jewish opposition. Paul moves elsewhere to teach, proclaiming ‘the Word of the Lord’ and God does extraordinary miracles through him.

The Gentile antagonism at Ephesus is both commercially and theologically driven. Paul’s insistence that ‘man made gods are no gods at all’ (v 26) is bad news for the sellers of silver shrines of Artemis. But, Demetrius is also concerned that the goddess will be robbed of her divine majesty (v 27). The irony is that, of all people, it would be hardest for the silversmiths themselves to believe that they were making gods with their own hands.

The resultant outcry from the crowd gathered in the theatre, thought to hold 24,000 people, leads Luke to record two interesting events. Alexander (v 33) is pushed forward by the Jews, but we will never know what he was going to say because he is drowned out by the crowd. The city clerk calms everyone down by reminding them of the proper legal channels for action against Paul (v 35).



REFLECTION:

The seven sons of Sceva, like Ananias and Sapphira before them (Acts 5), are playing a part.

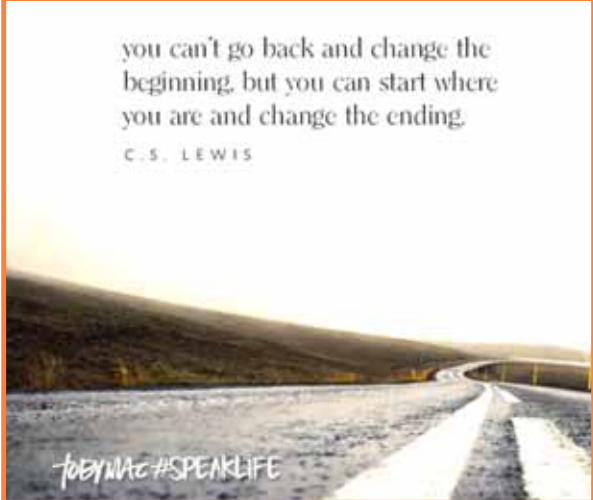
Note how they and the evil spirit refer to Jesus in verses 13 and 15. Compare this with how Luke refers to Jesus in verses 13 and 17.

Who is fooled? How are they exposed? What results follow?

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

**Proverbs 11.30
Win Souls**

SEEN ON FACEBOOK:



Because You Prayed
*Because you prayed,
 God touched our weary bodies with His power,
 and gave us strength for many a trying hour
 in which we might have faltered had not you,
 our intercessors, faithful been – and true.*

Because you prayed
*God touched our eager fingers with His skill,
 enabling us to do His blessed will
 with scalpel, suture, bandage; better still, He healed the sick,
 the wounded, cured the ill.*

Because you prayed
*God touched our lips with coals from altar fire,
 gave Spirit-fullness, and did so inspire
 that when we spoke, sin-blinded souls did see;
 sin-chains were broken; captives were made free!*

Because you prayed
*The dwellers in the dark have found the light;
 the glad, good news has banished heathen night!
 The message of the Cross, so long delayed,
 has brought them life at last –
 because you prayed.*
 (Written by an unknown missionary)

BOOKS WORTH READING

INTERPRETING THE PARABLES (Second Edition), Craig Blomberg; Nottingham: Apollos, 2012.

ISBN 978-1-84474-576-0

In this expanded edition of *Interpreting The Parables* (1990) (30% larger, at 440 pages) Craig Blomberg, Professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary, provides an up-to-date survey and critique of scholarship on Jesus' parables. Blomberg's own thesis is that the parables contain a larger element of allegory than is usually acknowledged.

This approach goes against majority 20th Century study (eg Dodd, Jeremias) that claimed that the parables only made one point, whereas Blomberg argues that they often make three main points (and feature three main characters). He says that the fanciful allegorising sometimes imposed on the parables (eg by Augustine) does not discount this approach, though it did give it a bad name, given the regular use of stock symbols in the parables, which stand for something or someone other than themselves and point to a second (spiritual/moral) level of meaning.

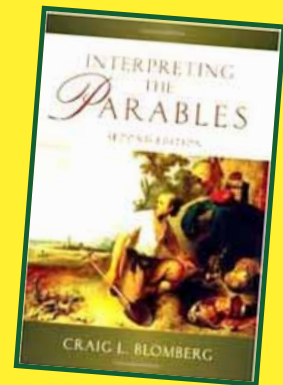
Blomberg established his point by reference to contemporary literary theory and to the use of parables in rabbinic material, so that there is an essential allegorical element in Jesus' parables, and this component goes back to Jesus, not to later church additions or perversions of our Lord's teaching. He subjects the so-called 'laws' of transformation used by form-critics to a thorough examination and establishes the authenticity of the parables. Instead of the free, uncontrolled changes suggested by form-critics, Blomberg argues for a carefully preserved oral (and then written) tradition of Jesus' parabolic teaching.

Next, he shows the strengths and weaknesses of redaction criticism when applied to parables, there being no evidence that any of the Evangelists distorted the teaching of Jesus or imposed their own ideas on His teaching, or that the different Gospels contradict each other. As Blomberg notes, the unusual features of Jesus' parables (eg fathers do not always welcome prodigal sons) points to their allegorical nature (the father in the parable = God). Also, the parts of a parable most open to allegorical interpretation are the three main characters who regularly represent God, His faithful followers and those in rebellion against Him, and Blomberg provides an extensive illustration of this pattern by examining the *Parable Of The Prodigal Son* (Luke 15.11-32).

As Blomberg perceptively notes, scholarly dispute over the meaning of parables is often due to a focus on one of the three main characters and a failure to see that lessons attach to all three characters (not just one). It is the unusual (unrealistic or extravagant) aspects in a parable (eg a father running to meet his son) that reveal the allegorical intentions. Finally, Blomberg turns to parables that have two characters (and two main points) and to those that have one each. In the process, he comments on all the material that can be classified as parabolic in the Synoptic Gospels. I am not clear why he excluded the parabolic material in John's Gospel in his survey.

In terms of synthesising and summing up the theology of Jesus' parables, unsurprisingly Blomberg sees it centred on the Kingdom of God, and in line with his thesis, he subdivides this into teaching of God, about God's people and about those who are not God's people, and in each area, Jesus routinely shocks His hearers by reversing expectations. This reviewer heartily recommends Blomberg's study in assisting pastors and laypersons who want to understand and apply the parables of Jesus in a way that teaches sound theology, assists authentic Christian living and challenges others to follow Jesus.

– Greg Goswell



'This reviewer heartily recommends Blomberg's study in assisting pastors and laypersons who want to understand and apply the parables of Jesus in a way that teaches sound theology, assists authentic Christian living and challenges others to follow Jesus.'

WITH CHRIST ... BETTER BY FAR

MARGARET MILLER, 'a woman who feared the Lord', was called Home on 31 August 2017, aged 98. Margaret was the last surviving member of the Miller family: Graham and Flora, Robert and Margaret, who served the Lord with great devotion and distinction in the Presbyterian Churches of New Zealand, Australia and Vanuatu during the latter half of the 20th Century.

Of strong and warm reformed evangelical faith, they were leaders in the re-establishment of the Presbyterian Church of Australia following church union in 1977 (see Graham Miller's diary, *A Day's March Nearer Home*, edited by Iain Murray, published by Banner Of Truth, and *Robert Strang Miller, A Tribute By His Family*, written by Margaret Miller and privately published).

Margaret exemplified 'The Good Woman' of Proverbs 31 both in home and family life, and in standing by and with Robert in his ministry. Like Dorcas, she was 'full of good works', ministering comfort to the many people who sought her counsel, giving leadership to the Presbyterian Womens' Association and the Presbyterian Womens' Missionary Union, and teaching Sunday School, Bible Class and English As A Second Language.

When Robert was called to be lecturer in Church History at the re-formed Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne in 1978, the Millers joined Canterbury Presbyterian Church, Margaret's membership spanning some 40 active years there. At the service of thanksgiving for the grace and mercy of God towards her and her response in loving service to Him, the Rev Grant Lawry spoke warmly of the contribution she made to the church in Canterbury and beyond, while her children, Frances and Paul, 'rose up to call her blessed.'



Margaret and Robert Miller with children Douglas, Paul, Stephen and Frances.

– Bob Thomas

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



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

And Inspiring Talk

www.96three.com.au

Phone: 03 5241 6550

Email: listen@96three.com.au

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 –

