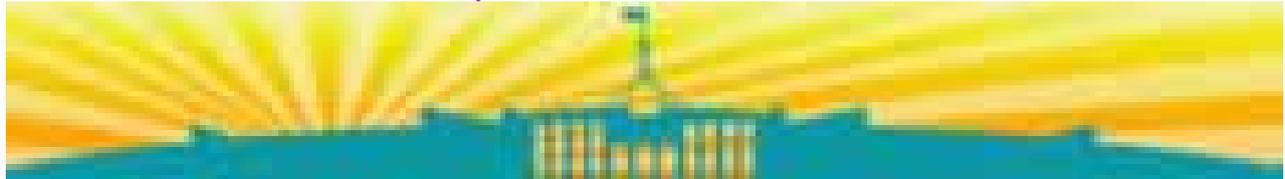


Governor General To Speak At National Prayer Breakfast



This year's National Prayer Breakfast will be held on Monday 14 October at 6.30am for a 7am start, in The Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra. City Bible Forum is organising the event and World Vision is sponsoring it. This will be a unique opportunity to support men and women in national leadership and a most memorable experience to share with others in church and community groups. Those present will be hearing from the Prime Minister, Members and Senators, community leaders, and the special guest speaker, the Governor General, the Honourable David Hurley AC, DSC (Ret'd). The Parliamentary Christian Fellowship has issued a general invitation for attendance, saying: 'We are so blessed. In this country we are free to join with the Prime Minister and other politicians and leaders in Parliament House to pray to the Father for His blessings – how good is that? Cost of the Breakfast is \$65 per person or \$600 for a table of ten.



To register, go to: <https://plus.citybibleforum.org/civcrm/event/register?reset=1&id=2080>

Trump 'Stands With Believers'

US President Donald Trump has announced \$US 25 million in funding to protect religious freedom and religious sites around the world. Speaking at a meeting on religious persecution he convened at the United Nations, he asked the world's governments to join to end religious persecution.

He said he stands with believers in every country, who ask only for the freedom to live according to the faith that is within their own hearts. 'An estimated 11 Christians are killed every day for following the teachings of Christ,' he said.

Vice President Mike Pence says Mr Trump is the first US President to hold a meeting at the UN on religious persecution. The \$25 million is to go toward protecting religious freedom, religious sites and relics. – *Christian Headlines*

Plans Taking Place For 2020

Global Year Of The Bible



Missionary leaders from around the world have convened to launch the *2020 Global Year Of The Bible*.

The movement's goals are to pray, translate, publish, distribute, educate and motivate people to engage with God's Word.

Lloyd Estrada, with the World Evangelical Alliance, says they have envisioned the *Global Year Of The Bible* as a catalyst for a 'second Reformation' centred around the Word of God. Several stadium-sized events are being planned and those promoting the movement include Wycliffe Bible Translators, Youth With A Mission and Call2All.

– *The Christian Post*

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This Is The Way The World Ends ...

This is the way the world ends: NOT with a bang; NOT with a whimper; BUT with the glorious and triumphant Return of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

And the End will not be heralded by a sad-faced, rage-filled, impudent, shamefully exploited 16 year old who is obviously in need of spiritual help.

Nor will the End be heralded by an ageing but earnest television commentator clearly awe-struck by what he thinks is a world, indeed a universe, which just happened as the result of a 'big bang', and in all its wondrous array just came about as a result of an enormous number of stupendous co-incidences which randomly happened over an infinite period of time.

Nor will the End be heralded by a doom-saying scientist in one field of scientific endeavour who dabbles out of his depth in another field of science, namely climate change.

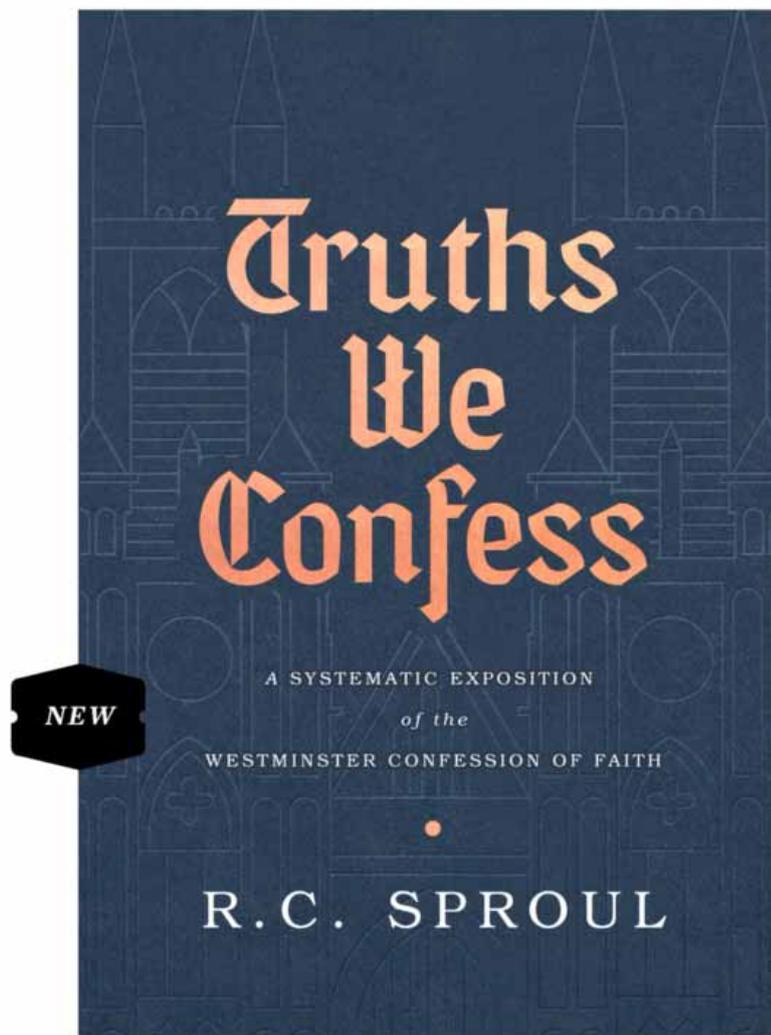
Rather, the end of the world as we know it will be heralded by all the Hosts of Heaven as the Lord returns in a blaze of glory, such as this world has never known nor seen, to transform this present world into a 'New Heaven and New Earth.'

This is the climax of the Gospel we proclaim. It is a glad and glorious Gospel which unfolds from the pages of the inerrant Word of the Sovereign Lord of all Creation. It reveals God in all His mighty power, in His works of Creation, Providence and Redemption and in His Trinitarian Being as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It traces His story, of love, mercy and grace as He interacts with our fallen human race. It delivers the threatenings before which we tremble and gives to us the exceeding great and precious promises that by these we might be partakers of the Divine nature (see 2 Peter 1). It leads us all the way to Glory.

Let the world reject this Gospel if it will, but let us as Christians proclaim this Gospel in all its fullness, and Christ in all His Risen Power, and let us live out our faith every day until that Day when Christ returns.

'Even so, come, Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen. – Bob Thomas

*'Saviour, since of Zion's city,
I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Your Name;
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure,
None but Zion's children know.'
(John Newton)*



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SMBC Appoints New Principal

The Board of Sydney Missionary And Bible College has appointed a new Principal, Derek Brotherson, who will commence on 1 July 2020. Board Chair, Geoff Deane, says: 'Derek is a committed man of God who for nearly ten years has been developing theological education in a cross-cultural context in Asia.'

After completing an honours law degree, Derek worked for a number of years with the Australian government in Canberra. He completed his Master of Divinity at SMBC before leaving Australia for Gospel ministry in Asia. While teaching in Asia, Derek's doctoral studies have allowed him to focus on his deep interests in contextualisation, hermeneutics and application, including the application of Biblical theology to missiological issues.

Derek is unwavering in his commitment to the central place of the Bible in theological and cross-cultural training and development, and in Christian life and community. He has proven skills in motivating and enabling people, balanced with strong academic, missiological and pastoral skills to lead SMBC into its second century of service, continuing the work of SMBC's founder, Rev Benson Barnett and succeeding principals. He is also an outstanding thinker with sound experience in analysis, strategic thinking, and decision making.

His passion to prepare students from all walks of life for local and world-wide sacrificial Gospel and preaching ministries is a great encouragement to the Board. He has clearly demonstrated the value he places in preparing harvest workers – the next generation of missionaries, pastors, church and lay workers – for service both here in the post-Christian western world, and globally amongst the lost, unreached and unengaged.

Derek and his wife Anna, also an SMBC graduate, have three young children and are very much looking forward to joining and pastoring the team at SMBC. The Christian community is encouraged to join in enthusiastic prayer for Derek and Anna as they prepare to serve God in this strategic leadership role. Additionally, ongoing prayer is asked for the work and ministry of SMBC in preparing students to make the love of Christ known throughout the world.

– Geoff Deane



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ETHIOPIA: Church Protests - Watershed Days

On Sunday 15 September millions of members of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church took to the streets in cities across Ethiopia's Amhara region to protest escalating violence against the Church. While marches were banned in Addis Ababa, massive marches went ahead peacefully and without incident in numerous cities including Dessie, Gondar, Debretabor, Meket, Kombolcha, Nefas Mewucha, Mekane Eyesus, Mekane Selam and Belesa. Communal ethno-religious violence has skyrocketed since Prime Minister Abiy Amhed commenced a series of bold reforms aimed at ending decades of repression. While PM Abiy is working hard to promote peace, facilitate reconciliation and draw people together in a prosperous, strong and united Ethiopia, vengeful and ambitious ethno-religious nationalists are dragging the nation in the opposite direction: into conflict and towards disintegration. It is in this context that more than 30 churches have been attacked.

A catalogue of destruction: Between 4-6 August 2018, ten Orthodox churches were burnt and nine Evangelical churches were vandalised or looted while 15 priests were killed in the predominantly Muslim Jijiga zone in Ogaden region. On 9 February 2019 at least ten churches were burnt in the predominantly Muslim Alaba zone of Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region. On 18 July three churches were burnt in SNNPR's predominantly Christian Sidama Zone after Sidama ethno-nationalist youth groups, known as Ejeto, unilaterally declared Sidama a federal state and rioted, targeting non-ethnic Sidama, mostly Amhara, communities. Several church members who tried to protect their churches were killed and a priest was brutally murdered. In July Islamic State militants in neighbouring Somalia released a three-minute video in Amharic, the most common language spoken in Ethiopia, promising to release jihadist materials in Amharic in the near future. Analysts surmise that Islamic State, under pressure in Somalia from al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Shabaab and the Somali government, is reaching out to Ethiopia's Muslim community. Along with seeking recruits, Islamic State is doubtless hoping to tap into the rising ethno-religious nationalist zeal amongst Ethiopia's Muslims to gain a foothold inside Africa's second most populous nation. On 11 September General Berhanu Jula of the Ethiopian Armed Forces confirmed that IS militants had been captured in Ethiopia.

From Chechnya and Kosovo to Mesopotamia and northern Mali, piggy-backing on ethnic-separatist and other political causes has long been a favourite tactic of transnational Islamic jihadist groups. In Ethiopia, the ground has been well prepared through decades of Saudi-funded and facilitated 'radicalisation' (or 'Wahabisation'). The Oromo youth movement that ultimately forced the resignation of PM Hailemariam Desalegn in February 2018, is led by an Oromo Islamist and ethnic-nationalist named Jawar Mohamed (33). Having long led the clandestine movement from his home-in-exile in Minneapolis, USA, principally through his *Oromia Media Network* and social media, he now has an office in Addis Ababa. In the past he has openly called for the creation of an Islamic Omoria and for the beheading of resistant Christians. He recently asserted 'there are two governments in Ethiopia', one is that of the Qeerroo and the other that of PM Abiy Ahmed. It seems the group that paved the way for positive change in Ethiopia might yet prove to be its biggest threat. These are dangerous, watershed days for Ethiopia.

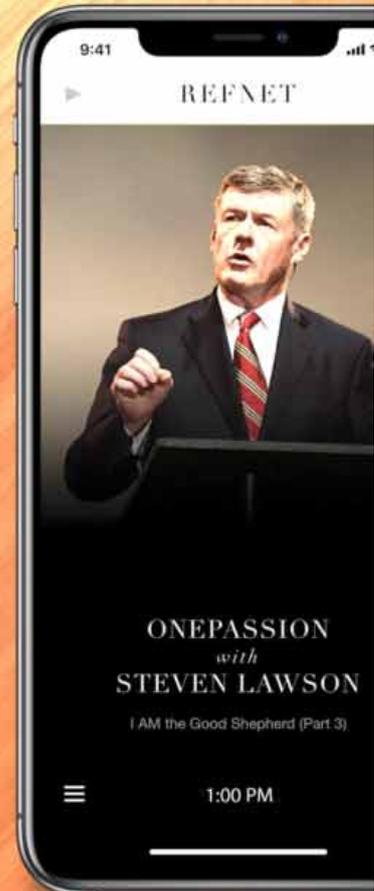
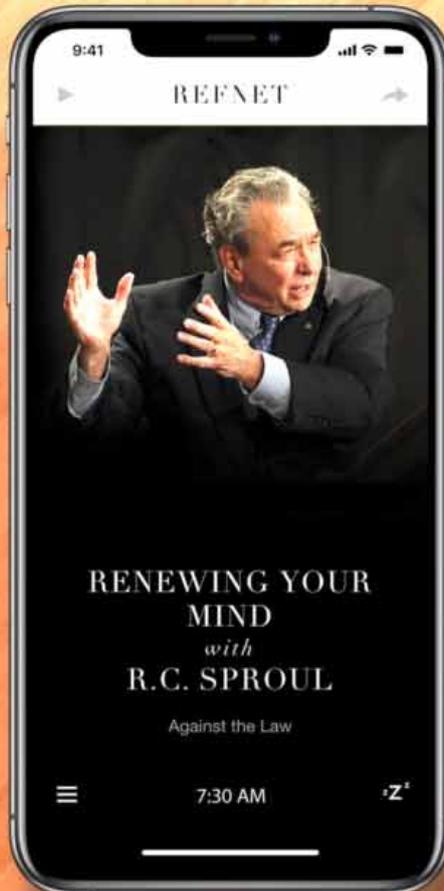
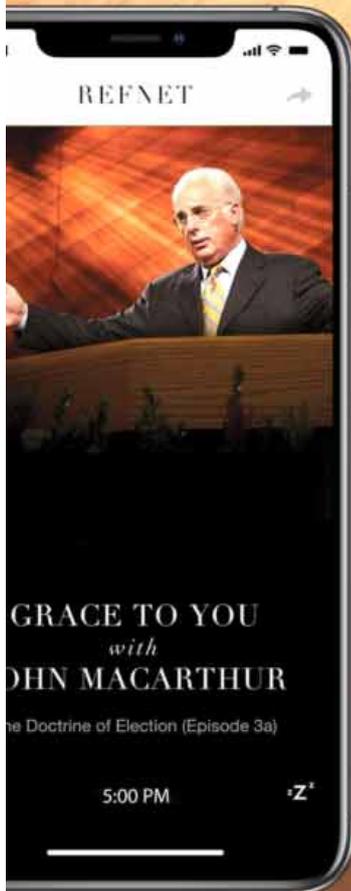
– Elizabeth Kendal

Please Pray That The Lord Will:

- awaken Ethiopian Muslims to the fact that fundamentalist, supremacist, Wahabbi Islam will bring them nothing but endless civil war and repression; may all efforts to recruit Muslims for Islamic terror or ethnic separatism be exposed as self-interested and costly;
- bring revival to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and to all Ethiopia's churches; may they love one another across ethnic and denominational lines; may they co-operate to advance the Gospel even into hostile territories; may they come together in united humble prayer, recognising that a spiritual battle is underway, a battle for Ethiopia's heart and soul;
- complete the good work that He has begun in Ethiopia; may no plan of God's be thwarted. May the Lord bless PM Abiy Ahmed with wisdom and strength and keep him safe, humble, with 'eyes fixed on Jesus' (Hebrews 12.2).

*'For though we walk in the flesh,
we are not waging war according to the flesh.
For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh
but have divine power to destroy strongholds.'
(2 Corinthians 10.4,5 ESV)*

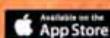
Elizabeth Kendal is the author of *Turn Back The Battle: Isaiah Speaks To Christians Today* (Deror Books, Melbourne, Australia, Dec 2012) which offers a Biblical response to persecution and existential threat; and *After Saturday Comes Sunday: Understanding The Christian Crisis In The Middle East* (Wipf and Stock, Eugene, OR, USA, June 2016). See www.ElizabethKendal.com



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Gospel Opportunities On The Horizon With Operation Cruise Terminal

Mission to Seafarers is being given access to crews on cruise ships, which visit Sydney almost every day between October and April. While there might be 26 crew on a container vessel, there can be up to 1,200 on one cruise ship. Rev Un Hui Tay, or Pastor Tay as he is known to sailors, brings his exuberant faith and 40 years as a church planter to his work as head of the Mission to Seafarers.

With four staff chaplains and a few volunteers, Pastor Tay told Sydneyanglicans.net they need more

willing hands to welcome crew at the Overseas Passenger Terminal. He is looking for people to spend an occasional morning welcoming newly arrived crews to Sydney and being ready to share the Gospel as opportunity arises. Anyone interested in helping should visit missiontoseafarers.org.au

Mission to Seafarers provides facilities such as free internet and wi-fi where seafarers can get connected with family and friends back home and listen to news updates in their own language in their Apple TV lounge, whilst enjoying a free tea or coffee. They can change foreign currencies to local currency and remit their wages to family members back home through their Western Union facility. The shop is stocked with relevant toiletries; groceries; health supplements, some favourite snacks, and sells souvenirs at much discounted prices; mobile phones and accessories, or seafarers can just enjoy relaxing in our their centre on Hickson Road, Millers Point, playing pool and table tennis and reading materials such as novels, booklets, magazines and newspapers, which are available free of charge.

The friendly, competent staff and chaplains are available seven days a week, 363 days a year, providing listening ears to seafarers needing to share private and confidential matters without being judged or criticized. The Mission provides a home away from home for all seafarers, providing pastoral and personal care as well as hospital visitation when needed.



Rev Tay (left) and Mission to Seafarers chaplains.

Women Advocating For Women

Forty Australian Christian women leaders made an historic visit to Canberra to advocate for women and children in Pacific island nations. The delegation included representatives from nine church denominations, the Bible Society, TEAR Australia and World Vision. It is the largest of its kind ever to visit Parliament. The visit was co-ordinated through the efforts of Micah Australia. They met with 45 political representatives, including Federal Government ministers and MPs from both of Australia's major political parties, to advocate for policies supporting and protecting women and children in the Pacific. Data contained in a recent report shows that more than 70% of children living in eight countries in the Pacific experience violence at home. The women also called for an increase in the Australia foreign aid budget, which they say is now at its lowest level in history.

– *Sight Magazine*

Is This A Record?

At the Balgowlah Boys Campus of the Northern Beaches Secondary College, Sydney, only five of the 840 eligible students opt out of the school's Religious Education classes, meaning that 99% of students at the school are studying Scripture. According to the *Sydney Morning Herald* that figure is far higher than many other public high schools in Sydney. The school's Christian Scripture

provider, Anchor RE, says the difference is the calibre of the people running the lessons. For more than 30 years, Christian churches in the area have banded together to hire people with education and theology degrees to work at Balgowlah Boys and its sister school, the Mackellar Girls' Campus of the Northern Beaches Secondary College. They hire a teacher qualified in both education and theology for both schools and pay their full-time salary.

Read: Who Are The Brisbane Christian Fellowship?

by David Holden at

www.defenceofthefait.org

Please Pray For Turkey!

Muslims in Turkey are showing an increased interest in the Bible, according to missionary Andrew Brunson. Mr Brunson, who spent two decades planting churches in Turkey before spending two years in prison on trumped-up terrorism charges, says there is still a high degree of freedom for Christians relative to other Muslim countries in the region. He was released from prison last October and repatriated to the United States.

Mr Brunson told the *Christian Post* that curious Muslims are coming to Christian churches in search of spiritual answers at a greater rate than before. He says they are wanting either a copy of the New Testament or just want to meet a Christian and learn about Jesus.

He also expressed concern that the 'storm clouds' of Christian persecution are forming amidst a massive government crackdown and struggling economy. Mr Brunson was reporting to the Commission On International Religious Freedom. - *The Christian Post*



Interior of Hagia Sophia, Istanbul. Once the greatest church in Christendom, turned into a mosque, now a museum, but with many mosaics depicting Biblical people and events. Pray for its restoration one day as a place of true worship to the glory of Christ, 'the Wisdom of God and the Power of God.'

'Like A Mighty Army ...'

Millions of people joined this year's *March For Jesus* in Sao Paulo, Brazil. More than 4,000 caravans arrived for the event from across the nation. The march climaxed in more than 10 hours of praise and worship, with almost 30 Gospel singers and bands from around Brazil leading it. On a stage set up at the end of the march, musicians took part in a concert marathon. The President of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, joined the millions of Brazilians in Sao Paulo. He told the crowd Brazil was secular but its current leader is Christian, and he hopes to overcome the 'ethical and moral' problems in Brazil with the help of Christians. The annual *March For Jesus* has been celebrated in São Paulo for 27 years. - *Faithwire*

Trans World Radio's Wide Reach

As Russia expands its reach into former Soviet territories, many citizens want to know more about Jesus, according to TransWorld Radio. Steve Shantz, with TWR, says a lot of people are unhappy with the Russian government. He says they have been through 70 years of communism, its downfall, and now a new era for the Soviet Union. TWR programs reach Russian listeners via AM, FM and shortwave radio. Eight staff and 12 volunteers produce a variety of programs in their native tongue, including *Independence*, *The Little Seed*, *Thru The Bible* and *Women Of Hope*. Mr Shantz says that Russians keep asking them about Christianity - not their Orthodox tradition, but the Gospel truth of Scripture. He says people are starting to look into the Bible to find answers for their lives. TWR is reaching a po-

tential audience of over 200 million people across the Soviet Union. - *Mission Network News*

So Much Done; So Much Still To Do

With the world population at over 7 billion, reaching every home with the Gospel will require a great team, plenty of materials, and lots of support. *World Missionary Press* has joined forces with *Every Home For Christ* to reach every home on the planet in 20 years. From now until 2038, *Every Home For Christ* is ramping up outreach to make the organization's name a reality. Named *The OIKOS Initiative*, this effort requires support, volunteers, and on-the-ground action. *World Missionary Press* will supply materials and literature to workers. Efforts are already underway and shipments of materials are being delivered to eager hands.

- *Mission Network News*

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PERSECUTION WATCH

Christian Rohingyas – Unknown, Unwanted, Persecuted And Crying Out!

Nearly 750,000 Rohingya people from Myanmar have already spent two miserable years in refugee camps in neighbouring Bangladesh. Murder, arson, rape and arbitrary arrest is what the Rohingyas have endured at the hands of the Myanmar military, driving more than half the community in Myanmar to flee. This Muslim people group are rightly recognised as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. But there is a minority within the minority, who are persecuted still more – the Christian Rohingyas, despised and rejected.

Estimated at just a few hundred in the camp – possibly up to 2,000 – Rohingyas Christians are mainly converts from Islam. They are isolated from other Christians in Bangladesh. Their existence is unrecognised by other Rohingyas, except as a group to be despised and rejected.

This year has seen a spate of anti-Christian violence in the camps. The worst incident was in May, when a group of 17 Christian families (69 people) came under sustained and systematic violent attack. The families lived close to each other in one of the camps at Cox's Bazaar. Their homes were frail and simple shacks, with walls of mud or bamboo, roofed with corrugated metal or tarpaulin.

For at least three consecutive nights, they were attacked by a Muslim mob of up to several hundred men, armed with knives, swords, iron rods, stones and catapults. Several homes were destroyed, possessions were looted, including the equipment of a Christian barber, and a boy was stabbed in the back and had to be treated in hospital. Meanwhile the barber was forced to go to the mosque to be re-converted to Islam. None of the camp security personnel came to the aid of the Christians when they phoned for help during the attacks. On the last night, the Christians were told they would be killed unless they left the camp. They next day all set off but were soon driven back to the camp by police and security guards, who promised them security. But this month, September, the attacks have started again.

A Rohingya church leader has pleaded with Barnabas Fund to encourage prayer from Christians around the world for the protection of Rohingya believers. It was probably no co-incidence that this year has seen repeated violence against Rohingya Christians, for in December 2018 *Rohingya National News* reported that angry Rohingya Muslims were calling on the Bangladeshi government to expel Rohingya Christians from the camps, falsely accusing the Christians of paying Muslims to convert to Christianity. One appealed to Muslim leaders to 'chase them [the Christians] out of this place'. – *Barnabas Fund*



Muslim extremists destroying a bamboo church and Christian school in March 2019. Afterwards they made the site a mosque.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Last year, more than 5,000 Christians united to pray with our persecuted brothers and sisters as one body and one Church. Christians around the world are invited to sign up for the International Day Of Prayer on 3 November and join a movement of people praying for those following Jesus all over the world, no matter what the cost. Join as an individual or get a group together, and get your free resources today. Go to <https://www.opendoors.org.au> for further information.

Social Media Backlash Reflects New Era Of Hostility In Nepal

Hindu extremist threats have driven a pastor in Nepal into hiding following a leak onto social media of a restricted audience interview he gave on his journey to Christ. Pastor Sukdev Giri of Trinity Fellowship church in Chitwan District has received death threats, he said. He has changed his phone number, but his family and friends are also receiving threatening calls, he told *Morning Star News*. In a sign of how the Himalayan country has become increasingly radicalized, Pastor Giri, 59, has been

unable to return home from ministry travels since a video of his comments hit YouTube in mid-August. 'It is the first time a Christian [in Nepal] has been targeted for sharing [on social and other media] about his past religion and introduction into Christianity,' legal advocacy group Alliance Defending Freedom's allied attorney in Nepal, Ganesh Sreshta, told *Morning Star News*. 'It is turning out to be a high-profile issue, with Hindu fundamentalist groups linked to prominent political leaders taking interest in this video.'

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

For more information go to: www.ElizabethKendal.com



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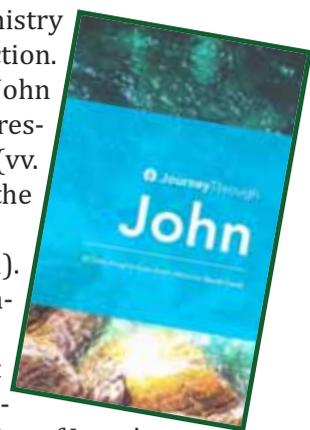
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Come Let Us Sing: 'Jesus Our King, Jesus Our King' Read John 12.1-19

This is the transitional chapter in John, which takes us from Jesus' public ministry (the signs) to Jesus' private time with His disciples before His death and resurrection. **With the raising of Lazarus**, the seventh sign and associated 'I AM' statement (John 11.25) has been given. This sign is a foretaste of the greatest sign of Jesus' own resurrection. In this bridging chapter, the raising of Lazarus is noted three times (vv. 1,9,17). This miracle sets in motion a train of events leading to Jesus' Passion, the last week of His life before His crucifixion.



First, in the presence of Lazarus, Jesus is anointed for burial by Mary (vv.1-11). Judas objects to the cost of the anointing oil. Being a thief he is not really concerned for the poor, but wants the money for himself (vv. 5-6).

Then Jesus enters His city (vv. 12-19). The people wave palms – an act thought to be a sign of nationalistic fervour – and shout 'Hosanna', which means 'give salvation now'. The Lazarus sign may have been understood by many to be a clear sign of Jesus' messiahship. Consequently, He is seen as the One who will release Israel from the bondage of Roman rule.

Jesus' riding on a young donkey fulfils the prophecy of Zechariah 9.9 – the gentle king bringing peace. Jesus will not be swept along by popular expectation of what the Messiah will do. He won't accept Peter's advice regarding His Messiahship (see Mark 8.32,33). The crowd cannot influence Him, for it is the Father's glory alone that He seeks (v. 28).

The ongoing effect of the Lazarus sign intensifies Jewish opposition (vv. 10,11,19). This opposition from the Jews is contrasted to the response of the non-Jews, the Greeks, who seek Jesus (vv. 20,21). Their query is the trigger for Jesus to recognize that His hour has now come. It is the hour of glory (v. 23), of falling as a seed into the ground (v. 24). It is the hour for which He has come (v. 27). The death of Jesus means glory for God's name, salvation for the lost, and the defeat of the prince of this world (vv. 31,32).

In 1 Corinthians 1:21-23, Paul describes the cross as the wisdom of God. It is a multifaceted diamond: for the believer the cross is the power of God; for the unbeliever the cross is a foolish thing; for Satan it is the arena of his own certain defeat (Colossians 2.15); God the Father sees it as the means of His glory whereby people are reconciled to Him; God the Son sees it as the place where He lays down His life to draw people to Him (v. 32).

FOR REFLECTION:

Jesus the King comes on a foal, not a warhorse. What does this say to you about the nature and character of God? How might you share the grace of God with someone else today?

Or, as Isaac Watts saw it:

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*

Reprinted from *Our Daily Bread Journey Through Series® – Journey Through John* by David Cook

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SEEN ON FACEBOOK:

It's never too late, to come back



to the arms of your Father.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

The general religion of mankind is 'Do' but the religion of a true Christian is 'Done'.

C.H. Spurgeon



CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Evangelical Publication Wins 2019 Gutenberg Award Of ARPA

The Premier Award of the Australasian Religious Press Association was awarded to *Press Service International*, headed up by Rev Dr Mark Tronson. PSI is one of the ministries of *Well-Being Australia* with a specialist role and focus on providing articles for the Christian press, particularly *Christian Today Australia* and other online publications. Originally established in 2005, PSI developed following Dr Mark Tronson's appointment as a columnist for CTA in 2008, and with CTA's interest in having a daily sports column focus in 2010, a group of young writers were gathered by Dr Tronson and CTA and a contribution policy developed that now covers other areas, including comment, culture and science.

The agreement between *Christian Today Australia* and *Press Service International* allows articles published in *Christian Today* to be reproduced by any other publication provided acknowledgement is given to *Christian Today*. This provides a wealth of material for a much wider range of publications, as well as providing opportunity and experience for younger writers, as well as senior writers. Under Mark's oversight there is a team of editors and coordinators who bring the articles to publication and co-ordinate all the activities. Over 200 people have contributed articles through PSI, with more than 70 active writers in any year. Their own internal conferences and award events recognising excellence have been a cornerstone of the professional development of the ministry.

PSI articles aim at fostering straight-forward writing with integrity. Young writers have been recruited from a wide range of backgrounds and countries and provide a range of viewpoints about everyday life and the ethical and theological issues of the day, and a helpful voice within the Public Christianity arena in Australia and New Zealand. *Press Service International* is a New Zealand and Australian ministry with its two arms and ministry teams. PSI has enabled the mentoring of young writers as columnists, encouraging their involvement in professional organisations like ARPA, attending conferences and active involvement now in the ARPA executive.



Rev Dr Mark and Delma Tronson with the prestigious award.

– Peter Bentley, President, ARPA

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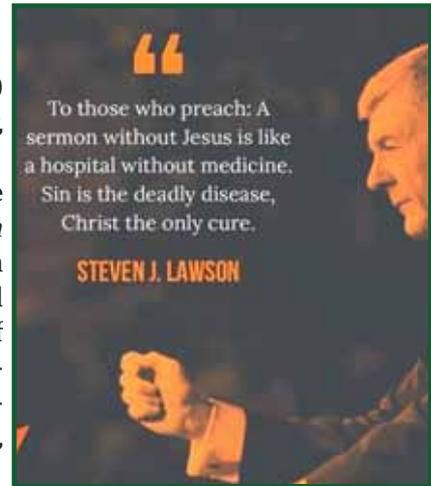
'BUILDING ONE ANOTHER UP'

Steve Lawson To Be Chief Speaker At Banner Of Truth Conference

The 2020 Banner Of Truth Conference will be held from 18–20 February 2020 at the Collaroy Centre, Homestead Avenue, Collaroy, on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

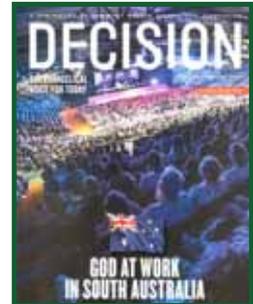
Speakers will be **Dr Steven Lawson**, Professor of Preaching at the Master's Seminary, Los Angeles, author, and founder of *One Passion Ministries*; Rev Dr Peter Barnes, Minister of Revesby Presbyterian Church, Sydney, author, and lecturer at Christ College, Sydney, and Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia; Rev Jeff Kingswood, Minister of Grace Presbyterian Church, Woodstock, Ontario, and trustee of the Banner of Truth Trust; Rev Johnnie Li, Minister of Maroubra Presbyterian Church, Sydney; Rev Graham Nicholson, Minister of Hawthorn Presbyterian Church, Melbourne.

Booking for the conference will be opening soon and must be done through: Mrs Robyn Phillips, PO Box 29, Sylvania Southgate NSW 2224; email: ajp162@bigpond.net.au



DECISION Magazine Now Available In An Australian Edition

Decision Magazine, published for many years by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, is now available in an Australian edition. The usual helpful devotional articles by various members of the Graham family, combined with news of the Lord's work in many parts of the world, now carries Australian news to a larger degree than previously (eight pages in the latest issue) following Franklin Graham's hugely successful *Grand Tour Australia* earlier this year. The subscription cost is \$A40p.a. and may be sent to: BGEA, PO Box 964, Kings Langley NSW 2147; or \$NZ45p.a. to: BGEA, PO Box 870, Shortland St, Auckland, 1140, NZ. Make cheques and money orders payable to: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.



TURN BACK THE BATTLE: Isaiah Speaks To Christians Today.

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NEWS FROM ALL OVER

150 Years Of Evangelical Presence In The Heart Of Barcelona Commemorated

This year marks 150 years since the arrival of the evangelical church located on Terol St, Barcelona, Spain. The current Church of the Brethren congregation is commemorating this anniversary with a series of cultural activities. 'Without falling into the nostalgia of thinking that past times were better, it is necessary to learn from everything history teaches us to move forward stronger than ever. We want to appreciate all the good that has been done and enjoy it,' says Noemí Cortès, a member of the community. The Christian community, founded by British missionary George Lawrence, officially opened its doors in September 1869. The church was one of different mission projects Lawrence established, such as several schools, a printing house and an asylum house for the sick and the poor.



An exhibition shows how the Terol Brethren Assembly was present in key moments of Spanish history. These include the Bourbon Restoration, the fall of the monarchy, the Republic, the Spanish Civil War, the Francisco Franco dictatorship, and the democratic transition. The arts will play an important role in this anniversary. Christian painter Sergi Barnils will hold a workshop, and up to four musical performances have been organised. All these public initiatives aim to reaffirm the identity of the church in the heart of the Gracia neighborhood. 'We are directing our efforts to be a determined church again, that the people of our neighborhood come to know us and know what we are doing,' Cortés explained. 'We want to be a light in the neighbourhood and in our city, be an integral part of its life and actively participate in what happens here. We see the hand of God that helps us in everything we do and we want to rest in it, grateful to know that "the Lord helped us up to here"'

Furthermore, Cortés stresses that the community 'wants our city and our country to see "the light of the world.' Four churches celebrated a united worship service on 29 September, and a service focused on the 150 years of community history will close the anniversary on 20 October. The church of Terol will also host this year's Conference of Catalan Brethren Churches, between 29 November and 1 December.

Christian Faith And Freedom Conference 2019

Truth In Public Policy – Defending Persecuted Christians is the theme of the *Christian Faith And Freedom Conference* to be held on Saturday, 12 October from 8.30am – 5pm at Woden Valley Alliance Church, 81 Namatjira Drive, Waramanga, ACT. Speakers are: Rev Ben Betz (*Welcome And Opening Prayer*); Elizabeth Kendal (*Global Trends In Persecution: Who Needs CFF? and CFF: Speaking Up For Those Who Cannot Speak For Themselves (Proverbs 31:8)*); John Steenhof (*Religious Freedom In A Brave New World: Analysing The Threats To Christianity In Australian Culture*); Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: (*Restoration Of Truth And God's Values In Families*); Angela Shanahan: (*Is A Freedom Of Religion Bill A Good Idea For Australia?*); Jim Wallace AM: (*Security's Dependence On Truth*); Wesal Zayya: (*Flight To Freedom From Persecution In Iraq, God's Guidance Through The 'Valley Of The Shadow Of Death' And His Heart For Those Left Behind*).

Registration is essential. Contact: Christian Faith & Freedom, PO Box 9465, Deakin, ACT 2600; phone: (02) 6285 3116; email: admin@cffreedom.org www.cffreedom.org.

Family Voice Challenge: Keep NSW Parliament Accountable

The passage of the *Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019* by the NSW Parliament is still fundamentally flawed, with significant defects. It is now the responsibility of all Australians in NSW to keep NSW members of parliament accountable for the checks and balances in the bill. The bill, whilst it now has further safeguards and accountabilities for data, informed consent, coercion, babies born alive, and sex selection is a step forward, the fact remains that the unborn is unrecognised as life. Why is it that a single 'Cell' on Mars is considered 'Life' whilst on Earth, in Australia, in NSW, in Sydney, in Parliament House, an unborn child up to the day of birth is not considered as 'life'? (I challenge the NSW Parliament) to make sense of that.

– Greg Bondar, NSW FamilyVoice State Director.

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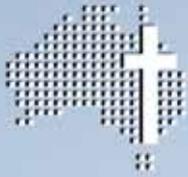


Founder of the Ezra Institute for Contemporary Christianity & founding pastor of Westminster Chapel, Toronto, Canada. He plays leading roles at truthXchange, the Centre for Cultural Leadership & the Alliance Defending Freedom in the USA, & at Christian Concern's Wilberforce Academy in the UK. He is author of Searching for Truth (2003), How Shall We Then Answer? (2008), and The Mission of God: A Manifesto of Hope for Society (2016).

DR MATTHEW TUINGA



Assistant professor of moral theology at the Calvin Theological Seminary, Michigan, & a renowned contributor to public discourse on Christian ethics & cultural and political engagement. He is a preacher, blogger and author of Calvin's Political Theology and the Public Engagement of the Church: Christ's Two Kingdoms (2017).



RELIGION IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

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"Sexuality, the State and what it means to be human."

Rev Dr Joseph Boot, UK-born founder of the Ezra Institute for Contemporary Christianity,
Grimsby, Ontario, Canada



"A theology of hope in a dark world"

Dr Matthew Tuinings, assistant Professor, Calvin Theological Seminary,
Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.

"The ugly truth about pornography and prostitution."

Wendy Francis, director of the Australian Christian Lobby's
Centre for Human Dignity, Australia



"Freedom of religion in Australia: what might the future hold?"

Dr Nicholas Aroney, Professor of Law,
University of Queensland, Australia

"Sharing the good news of Jesus with Muslims."

Dr Bernie Power, lecturer on Islam and Muslim-Christian relations,
Melbourne School of Theology, Australia



"Transgender ideology & the surgical abuse of children."

Dr John Whitehall, Professor of Paediatrics,
Western Sydney University, Australia

"Why liberal values & not conservative values are so easy to
sell in the public square: euthanasia, a test case."

Dr Margaret Somerville, Professor of Bioethics,
University of Notre Dame, Australia



"Denying the historical Adam: What is at stake?"

Rev Peter Hastie, Principal, Presbyterian Theological College,
Melbourne, Australia

WWW.RELIGIONINTHEPUBLICSQUARE.ORG

The Spirit Moves In Albania

Many Albanians responded to the Gospel when Australian evangelist Bill Newman joined Will Graham for the first-ever Billy Graham Evangelistic Association event in that Balkan country.

Fifty years ago the communist party declared Albania to be the world's first atheist nation, but the September *Celebration Of Hope* was prominently held in the capital, Tirana, in the Palace of Congress.

Three million people call Albania home, with almost 60% of the population following Islam. Freedom of worship was restored in Albania in 1990. Located in south-eastern Europe, the homeland of Mother Teresa witnessed the power of the Gospel as people responded to the message and found new life in Christ.

Dr Newman says a spark of spiritual revival ignited in the country as people found peace with God. He believes the *Celebration Of Hope* could be the catalyst for the power of the Gospel to sweep across the nation. 'Please pray for a mighty harvest of precious souls and a powerful move of the Holy Spirit,' Dr Newman says, 'may we see a fire ignited that will sweep across this nation.'



– Bill Newman Ministries Newsletter

Brazilian President Strikes Well-Aimed Blow At United Nations

In a hard-hitting address at the United Nations, Brazil's President slammed ideologies that 'invade the human soul to rip it apart from God.' President Jair Bolsonaro said that over the past few decades in the domains of culture, education, and communications, ideologies had seduced society not to follow the truth.

Quoting the Bible, the Christian leader pointed to the Gospel as a guiding light and said society needed to know the truth that will make it free. *Christian Today* reports Mr Bolsonaro saying ideology has invaded our homes and tried to dismantle the family. 'And false ideology has also tried to destroy the innocence of children in an attempt to corrupt their most basic identity – the biological one,' he said. 'These ideologies have left a trail of death, ignorance, and misery.'

President Bolsonaro's address is part of a growing chorus of opposition to the anti-life agenda allegedly promoted at the UN.

– Christian Today

Towards Understanding Dementia

The Virtual Dementia Tour allows people to experience first-hand what it is like to live with dementia. The Churches of Christ in Queensland is partnering with Leading Ages Services Australia using the tour to improve understanding and quality of care of people with dementia. The ten minute *Virtual Tour* is used in more than 20 countries and has been seen by more than 3 million people. It immerses viewers in a dementia experience which is followed by a 30 minute debrief by a qualified trainer. It is also aimed at assisting to educate aged care staff to be more empathetic and compassionate when delivering care to people with dementia. More than 400,000 Australians suffer with dementia.

– Churches of Christ, Queensland

Take A Bow, Ladies

Women are more likely than men to retain information when using a digital Bible, according to a study in the *Journal Of Religion, Media, And Digital*

Culture, which found that women retain as much with a Bible app as they do with a print Bible, while men retain less information with a Bible app. The study used YouVersion's app. Study author John Dyer told *Christian Headlines* Bible reading today is a multimedia experience, with readers using a combination of print, screen, and audio depending on the form of Bible engagement.

– Christian Headlines

See You At The Pole – A Growing Movement

An estimated one million students across the globe took part in this year's *See You At The Pole* prayer rallies. Students met at school flag poles for the annual event, which is part of the *Global Week Of Student Prayer* held from 22-28 September. Organisers say *See You At The Pole* has grown enormously since it came out of a prayer meeting among teenagers in 1990. Now it's estimated that one million students world-wide take part each September.

– CBN Christian World News

The Gospel And The Global Church

The lists of greetings at the end of Paul's letters ... have you ever learnt one? When was the last time you heard a sermon about one? The lists show something wonderfully important about the Gospel – that it not only unites us with the Lord and our local church; it also connects us to a global church. Paul knows people in cities across the Eastern Mediterranean. He exchanges greetings with them; obviously knows, loves and works with them. The gospel not only unites us with the Lord and our local church, it also connects us to a global church.

These lists are concrete expressions of the creedal statement – 'I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic church'. Local congregations are obviously important. Yet, the Creed confesses not 'churches' but 'one church' – holy in Christ, worldwide in extent and based on the word and witness of the apostles. When we are in Christ, we are part of His worldwide church.

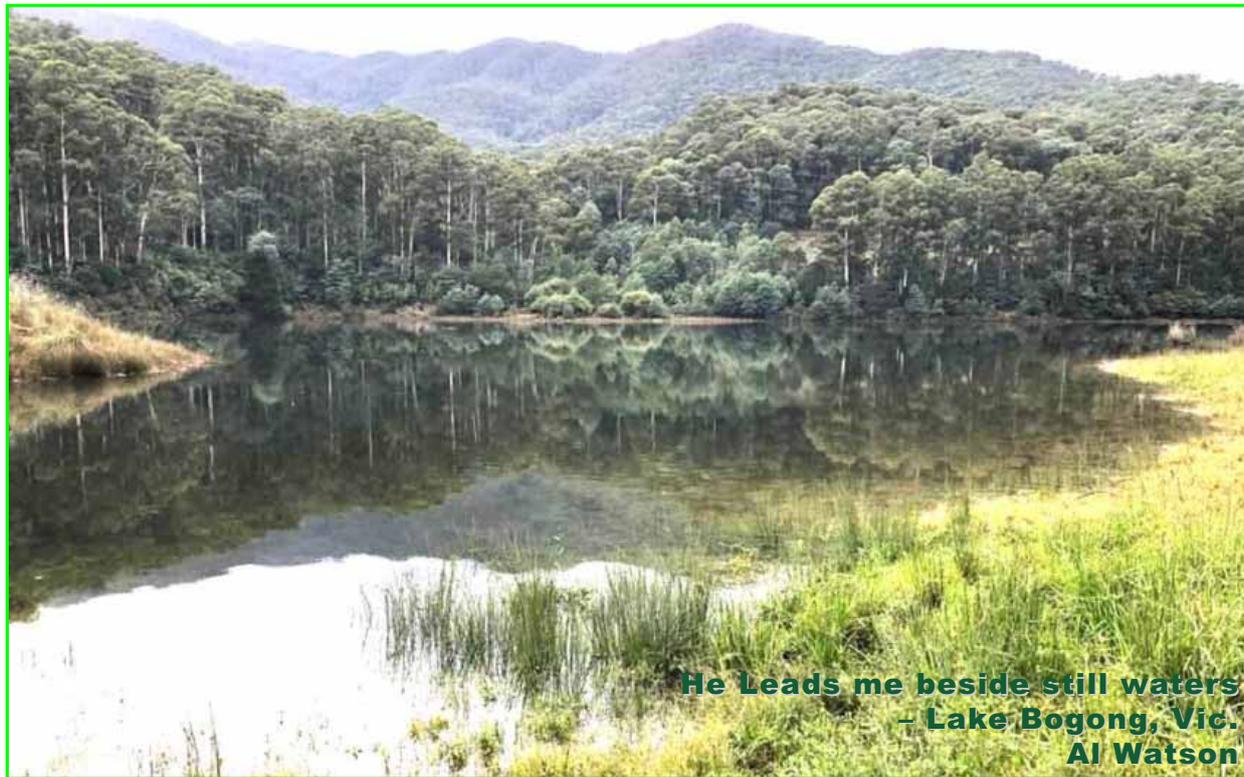
In the millennia since Paul, being 'catholic' has become complicated by a history of growth ... and theological, cultural, political, linguistic and geographic division. Some is the result of the Gospel going to all the nations; some the sad outcome of church decline and revival; some is entwined in scandalous rivalry and factionalism.

But despite the divisions of history, we are now in an age when it is easier than ever to be connected with sisters and brothers around the world. In our era, every church (local or wider) should express its fellowship with the catholic church in some tangible way. Almost every Christian can connect with believers in other parts of the world and other cultures. The sorts of relationships reflected in Paul's lists (Colossians 4.12) and prayers, should be echoed in our churches as we pray for each other, express unity in Christ and seek to further God's work around the world.

With easy communication and travel there are hosts of opportunities to connect with the global church, and to enrich our Gospel fellowship. Every Christian who has travelled can report how getting to know other Christians and worshipping in a different culture – even in a different language – can open a person's eyes to the breadth of Christ's Kingdom. It can help us see our home-culture and church differently, as well.

*– Extracted from an article by Dr John McClean,
Vice Principal of Christ College, Sydney.*

To read the full article go to: no-reply@thegospelcoalition.org.au



**He Leads me beside still waters
– Lake Bogong, Vic.
Al Watson**