

# the advocate

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Photo: Allan Anderson

Mandurah Baptist College Primary School Principal, Rob Gratton, at the site of the storm damage.



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## Winds damage school

Mandurah Baptist College lost the roof from their Primary School administration block during the storms on the evening of 16 July.

"We're very thankful no person was physically harmed," primary school principal, Rob Gratton said.

"The fire brigade arrived first and isolated the power supply to make the place safe. They were brilliant."

As well as the four volunteers from the Southern Districts Bush Fire Brigade, eight members of the Mandurah State Emergency Service (SES) arrived to help.

"We had volunteers there for hours; the principal was there

and parents too," Mandurah SES manager, Chris Stickland said.

As well as housing the primary school's administration team, the building also contains the school's library and staff room.

"The SES team helped set up tarps inside the building," Rob said. "It was too dangerous to be up on the roof trying to tie down tarps."

Winds in the area were recorded at more than 80 kilometres per hour during the storm.

"We sent messages to the Board members asking them to pray for us. I texted staff members and within a short amount of time we had a team of about 20 people – staff and parents, as well as the SES and fire brigade, helping us move the library books and furniture to the protected area of the building," Rob said. "We really are aware of being supported by people's prayers."

A large section of roof appears to have been 'sucked off' rather than 'peeled off'. About 200 square metres of roof landed in the school's car park, missing a light pole and a row of trees.

The Australian Baptist Insurance Scheme had an

adjustor from Cunningham and Lindsey on site early on Wednesday morning assessing the damage and planning how the repairs will be handled.

It could be several weeks before the building is repaired.

"We expect students will start back at school next week as planned," Rob said. "None of the classrooms have been damaged. We should have things cleaned up for them to return."

South Coast Baptist College also suffered damage during the storm. Strong winds from a cold front destroyed a long section of fence and ripped up three large trees on their property.

(Editor: Repairs at MBC were completed in time for the students' return on 23 July.)

“Committed to being honest, transparent and above reproach.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES WESTERN AUSTRALIA







### Dr Brian Harris

Dr Brian Harris is the Principal of Vose Seminary and Senior Pastor of Carey Community Baptist Church.

## Teleological amnesia and all that ...

I bet this column's title grabbed you – teleological amnesia. I came across it in one of the better books I'm currently reading, Jonathan Wilson's, *God's Good World*. For those not up with the play, teleological is about the ultimate goal or purpose of something, and amnesia, well I've forgotten what that means.

When conversation lags at your next dinner party, try this as a discussion regenerator, "Do you think we are suffering from teleological amnesia?" If you are sitting next to me, my eyes will light up and you'll hear me offer a hearty, "definitely!" After that, you'd struggle to silence me.

Wilson cites our changing vocabulary as an example of teleological amnesia. While our ancestors would have spoken of

the need to care for the creation, we speak of the need to care for the environment. So what is wrong with caring for the environment – nothing, except that caring for the environment without an awareness of why it exists is to forget that there is an ultimate purpose behind our immediate surroundings. You don't make that mistake when you speak about creation. After all, talk about creation implies

a creator. If there is a creation, there is a creator, and there is a strong likelihood that the creator created for a purpose. Teleology springs to life as we ask the relevant question, "So what is the meaning and purpose of life?"

Secular societies talk of the environment. They make no reference to the possibility of there being something behind our surroundings. Naturally enough, they soon have to

rally the troops to care for the environment – after all, there is no inherent reason why we should care for an accidental universe. If there is no purposeful reason behind this planet, all behaviours become disturbingly optional. To tell someone they 'should' or they 'ought' to do something makes no sense if our ultimate conviction is that this planet is essentially purposeless, apart from any purpose we impose upon it.

Well there you have it – the peril of teleological amnesia. I guess I know what question you won't ask me at your next dinner party ...



### Stephen McAlpine

Steve McAlpine is a local church planter and writer.

## The Bible's adverts

Have you read the Bible? No, but I've seen the movie. Actually, I haven't seen the movie/mini-series – I'm saving it up like I do all television. Instead of watching episodes interspersed with adverts I, like many others these days, download complete series and mainline them. Once I've had my fix I get on with the rest of life.

*The Bible* was a big hit in the US with thirteen million people tuning in. It has garnered three Emmy nominations. Speaking to the *LA Times*, executive producer, Mark Burnett, sheets home its popularity to its central message.

"There's a big thirst for hope," he said. "This is the source of hope and belief and you get to start again."

Burnett is right; there is a big thirst for hope. That's why I'm not watching it ... yet. *The Bible* is an epic story of hope and salvation – I don't want it interspersed with mini-stories of hope and salvation; use this moisturiser, drink that beer, drive this car, live in that subdivision, invest in these super funds, for that is what adverts are – salvation stories that promise to slake your thirst for hope.

Gingivitis, lack of street-cred, too much body hair, not enough head hair – whatever your hopeless hell is, hopeful heaven is available for a price. Seeing how we watch is as important as what we watch, the television medium is perfectly placed to enervate the Bible's hope message every eight minutes with a counter-message – place your hope in this age, in the visible, in that which will not last. Hey, even

the funeral ads are full of smilers.

What does the actual Bible offer us? Hope for free. Isaiah 55 said:

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

It's an advertising campaign that culminates with Jesus in John 7:

*On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink."*

*The Bible: An epic salvation story in which the ads don't interrupt the message, but are the message itself!*



### Karen Wilson

Karen Wilson is WA President for Baptist Women and Executive Minister Riverview Church.

## I will cheer

Time is short. Pressure is high. Demands are many. Amidst the whirlwind of life, what is one of the greatest gifts you can give someone?

Over and over I read in scripture we are told to encourage one another, to spur each other on – in colloquial terms – to be each other's cheerleaders! There is a need for us to bring strength to the lives of others by coming alongside and speaking well of them; by being found 'gossiping good' about them in the presence of others; by adding what we can to the dreams of another with no thought of gain for ourselves. I am sure it is what

Paul had in mind when he wrote to the church in Thessalonica telling them he had sent Timothy to get them up and about, cheering them on so they wouldn't be discouraged by hard times. [1Thess 3:1-2].

Everyone has a call over their lives and everyone needs encouragement on the journey. This past weekend I had someone from our congregation come bouncing up to me at the end of the service. With a

broad smile across her face she grabbed my arm and said, "I just love it when you speak in church. I feel like you are speaking directly to me and I always feel better!" Now, I am not sure that every word I speak is correct or well framed in a proper sentence – I make blunders often and you could write a book about the faux pas I have made over the years – yet this woman encouraged me. She warmed my heart and made that Sunday post-service moment a little lovelier than usual. She was cheering for me.

Let's take time to get on the same team as someone else and

cheer for them. Potentially it could change their world – it will definitely change yours!

## letters to the editor

### send us your letters

The Advocate welcomes your letters to the editor on topics of concern to you and the community. Send your letters of no more than 100 words to editor@theadvocate.tv by the 10th of each month.



# Community garden connects

Yokine Baptist Church is celebrating a \$5,000 grant from the City of Stirling to help them develop The Mustard Seed Yokine Community Garden. The grant will cover water tanks, irrigation materials and raised garden beds.

In early 2012, the church sent Pastor Craig Eccelston away for two weeks to pray about possible ministries of the church. He returned with a great idea of developing a community garden.

More than 40 percent of homes in the Yokine area are classified as 'lone person household', making loneliness a major issue in the community. The city is encouraging activities that will form hubs to foster a sense of community.

The location of The Mustard Seed Yokine Community Garden on Flinders Street means it is visible to thousands of passers-by each day.

“More than 40 percent of homes in the Yokine area are classified as 'lone person household' ...”

Another section of the garden has been set aside for partners of the church and is already producing vegetables.

"At our Annual Church Family Meeting on July 14, which marked the beginning of our 50th anniversary celebrations, we used fresh produce from the garden to make soup for lunch," Marc Chan, Executive Pastor at Yokine Baptist Church said.

"We believe that by working with the City of Stirling and using our facilities to promote this sense of community, we will be able to meet one of the needs of our local community," Marc said.

"This is a unique opportunity for people to serve," Craig said. "I hear people say, 'What can I do, I'm not a specialist'. We're hoping everyone will volunteer for an hour a month in the garden."

Yokine is a multicultural church with people of 19 different nationalities making up the congregation. This reflects the make-up of their local ethnic community.

A group of Sudanese people, who worship at Yokine Baptist Church as an Arabic Congregation, have been allocated the largest plot of the partner's garden. Many of the group lived in refugee camps for years before they were finally able to come to Australia. Growing potatoes was something they did in the camps.

As well as the gardens, the church people are developing calm spaces in the church grounds to foster conversations among the gardeners and there are plans to refurbish the original church buildings to create 'The Ernie Arcus Community Centre' where community groups can meet.

"We see The Mustard Seed Yokine Community Garden as a wonderful opportunity to build connections with the people in our community and, as we do, to share with them the difference Jesus makes in our lives," Craig said.



Amy Chia and Ken Dick inspect the winter crop of The Mustard Seed Yokine Community Garden, a new venture helping Yokine Baptist Church connect with their local community.

Photo: Jill Birt

## SportsFest 2013 – be there!

The Leschenault Leisure Centre in Australind is home to SportsFest 2013 from Friday 27 to Monday 30 September for ages 16 to 28 years.

SportsFest has a dazzling array of sports and leisure activities, from netball, basketball, soccer and indoor cricket to ultimate frisbee, fishing, connect four and ten pin bowling. Watching the AFL Grand Final has also been

included in the schedule so there shouldn't be any excuses.

Check out [sportsfest.org.au](http://sportsfest.org.au) for a complete schedule of events and download your registration form.

"The whole weekend builds a sense of being a part of a team

no matter where your talents lie. There is truly something for everyone and the atmosphere on a Monday morning during the finals and the tug of war is electric," Jeff Cross, Director of SportsFest 2013 said.

SportsFest facts:

- There were 1,100 participants at SportsFest 2012.
- The most popular event (by number of teams) was UNO!

## The next 50

North Beach Baptist Church is celebrating its 50th anniversary, by honouring the past and boldly looking toward the future.

Everyone who has ever been associated with the church is invited to a celebration including dinner on Saturday 26th October 2013.

For more details, visit [www.nbbc.org.au](http://www.nbbc.org.au) or contact us through 9448 7018 or [admin@nbbc.org.au](mailto:admin@nbbc.org.au)



## Prayer Together

Join us as we come together to pray for one another, our churches, the church in WA and beyond, our government and those who are not yet followers of Jesus.

Saturday 7th September 2013

9am - 10:30am

Como Baptist Church  
111 Robert Street, Como

[www.baptistw.asn.au/view/events](http://www.baptistw.asn.au/view/events)





# Burmese pay tribute



Photo: Jini Birt

Pastor Steven Sunthang holds a copy of the translation of the Burmese Bible made by American missionary Adoniram Judson who arrived in Burma 200 years ago.

Congregations from Burmese churches across Perth met at Woodvale Baptist Church on 13 July to mark the 200th anniversary, to the day, of American missionary Dr Adoniram Judson's arrival in Burma in 1813.

Dr Judson is credited with translating the *Bible* into Burmese. The translation continues to be used to this day by Burmese Christians around the world.

Pastor Steven Sunthang from Shalom Christian Church, master of ceremonies for the event, said having the Scriptures in Burmese was a great blessing for the people.

"As well as the Bible, Judson wrote a grammar of the Burmese language that government officials highly recommend and English to Burmese and Burmese to English dictionaries," Pastor Sunthang said.

Paul Kyaw presented a thorough history of Judson's life and work, highlighting his perseverance and suffering during his time in Burma. Judson's first wife, Ann, died in 1826. Their three children died in infancy. Sarah, Judson's second wife, died on their journey back to America in 1845. Judson was imprisoned as a suspected spy in the infamous Oung-pen-Ia where prisoners' ankles were shackled and the prisoner's body raised by the feet towards the roof leaving their head and shoulders resting on the floor.

Burmese visitor to Perth Daw Tin Tin Nu Yi, from the Burmese Baptist Convention, said Judson's translation was not just the words but the very thought patterns and culture of the Burmese people. She also reported to the group of more

than 350 Burmese Christians in Perth the current state of the Baptist Convention in Burma.

Several churches sang musical items during the afternoon, including the Perth Siyiun Baptist Church, the WA Chin Christian Church and Emmanuel Karen Baptist Church.

The young worship team from Myanmar Baptist Church, led by Cung Lai, held a segment of vibrant music in English and Burmese demonstrating the high value Burmese churches place on the arts.

Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries for Baptist Churches Western Australia, encouraged the group to continue to work together in Western Australia remembering four elements that promote unity: trust, empathy, mission and accommodate one another's differences and faults.

"Judson helps us understand that Baptists have always been a sending and a going people, responding to God's call," Mark said. "I encourage you to never stop praying about putting into practice the great commission as you stand strong with one another."

Pastor Zaw Win from the Myanmar Baptist Church captivated the congregation as he unpacked Judson's good and bad box of life experiences then reminded the people that Jesus also has a box and that it's full of jewels for his people.

Everyone shared some lovely refreshments in Woodvale's hall at the end of the four hour program.

## App makes election easy

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) has launched an app just in time for the upcoming Federal Election.

People can get the latest updates from ACL on their Member of Parliament, state and national issues on their mobile devices. You can look up political party

responses to ACL's election questionnaires highlighting major election issues.

The ACL app helps people research the major issues facing

Australia and make a stand. The app has the facility to email local Members of Parliament and to call politicians' offices. People are invited to use the ACL app to spread the word about ACL campaigns through Facebook, Twitter and email. For more information visit [www.acl.org.au](http://www.acl.org.au).

## digital church

26/06/2013  
**Vicky Beeching**  
[vickybeeching.com](http://vickybeeching.com)

So 'participation' in worship for me is simply being, kneeling, praying and silence.

27/06/2013  
**Brett McCracken**  
[stillsearching.wordpress.com](http://stillsearching.wordpress.com)

"How are Christians set apart or distinct from the unbelieving world? When push comes to shove, would any observer be able to pick today's edgy, authentic, real, raw, not-your-grandmother's Christian out of the proverbial crowd? In what ways are we embodying

the call to be salt and light, a city on a hill"

02/07/2013  
**Andrew Hamilton**  
[backyardmissionary.com](http://backyardmissionary.com)

"Is there a different path that we can take that avoids either affirming or condemning and just simply points people to Christ and allows Him to do whatever work He wants to in their lives? Because He is the one who is best placed to make any judgements and offer direction."

10/07/2013  
**Brain Croft**  
[practicalshepherding.com](http://practicalshepherding.com)

"Pastors must not just realise the biblical reality of giving an account for souls, but the possibility that we could spend our entire lives caring for the souls of our flock, while neglecting the souls for which, I am convinced, we will answer first ... our family."

15/07/2013  
**Steven Furtick**  
[stevenfurtick.com](http://stevenfurtick.com)

"Faith isn't a wish list, it's a work order. When we begin to follow Jesus through our simple obedience, He begins to work in our lives in ways we never could have imagined."

## briefs

### Baptism

After speaking about her journey of faith with God, Gazelle Joy was baptised on 23 June at Kelmescott Baptist Church.

### Battle ends

Pastor Arthur Lear of East Victoria Park Baptist passed away on Thursday 20 June after a long battle with multiple sclerosis. A memorial service was held at the church in early July.

### New patron

Prison Fellowship WA announced on 15 July that West Australian Andrew Forrest is the organisation's patron. As a Christian, philanthropist

and internationally respected businessman, Andrew Forrest shares Prison Fellowship WA's passion to see people supported and reintegrated into society.

"I believe God loves us all in equally abundant measures, so I also feel duty to encourage those in less fortunate circumstances than mine," he said. "It is our duty to equip inmates with the attitude of success, forgiveness and care for others that allows them to become independent and positively contributing members of society." Prison Fellowship WA provides programs which support inmates, their families and victims of crime throughout 12 of the state's 16 correctional centres.



# Preaching at the crossroads



Photo: Jill Birt

Dr Michael O'Neil, Director of Vose Research, is finalising details for the Vose Seminary 50th Anniversary 2013 Conference where Dr Michael Quicke will be the keynote speaker

Vose Seminary continues the seminary's 50th Anniversary celebrations with the 2013 Vose Conference on 26 and 27 August. Michael Quicke, Professor of Preaching and Communication at Northern Seminary in Chicago, is speaking on the engaging topic of 'Preaching at the Crossroads'.

Michael is the author of the award-winning book *360-Degree Preaching: Hearing, Speaking and Living the Word*. His vision is to 'inspire a new generation of preachers who will set our churches on fire'.

The conference will explore the nature, role, dynamics and practices of preaching in the twenty-first century church. Workshop sessions will include: 'Preaching in a World of the Showbiz Sage', 'Getting the Feedback You Need', 'Preaching as an Act of Love', 'Rhetorical Criticism and Expository Preaching' and 'Preaching to Sheila: The Marks of the Church in Postmodern Homiletics'.

Michael O'Neil, Director of Vose Research, says the conference is a wonderful opportunity for pastors, preachers, teaching teams and other to refresh and hone their preaching skills.

A 50th Anniversary Celebration Service at Riverton Baptist Church, 38

Modillion Ave, Shelley, concludes the conference. The celebration is open to the public and starts at 7pm.

The Seminary is hosting two open events around the time of the Vose conference.

“The conference will explore the nature, role, dynamics and practices of preaching in the twenty-first century church.”

Open Night starts at 7pm on Monday 19 August at the campus, 20 Hayman Road, Bentley.

Prospective students can discover study pathways available, check out the facilities, and meet current students and staff. There will be a light supper available. We will also have a panel of graduates at Open Night, including Mark Wilson (Director of Ministries BCWA), Haydn Nelson (Senior Pastor Riverview Church), Wayne Belcher (Associate Pastor Lake Joondalup Baptist Church) and Ed Devine (Youth and Young Adults Pastor Lake Joondalup Baptist Church).

For the first time, the Seminary will host an Open Day. People interested in studying at Vose can spend a whole day on campus on Wednesday 4 September from 9am to 5pm. People can join in with Chapel and our spiritual formation morning, spend time meeting and eating during community lunch and then attend a free lecture in the afternoon so that they have an idea of what it's like to be a student here at Vose.

More information about these events is available by calling Vose on 6313 6200.

## Ethical questions

There was a meeting of minds at Challenger TAFE in Fremantle last month when Gershon Nimbalker, Advocacy Manager with Baptist World Aid, taught a class on some of the ethical considerations of modern supply chain logistics.

The entire workshop was conducted over Skype – that would not have been possible ten years ago.

"Better technology and faster internet has meant that the tyranny of distance is no longer a barrier to people accessing information or making connections," Gershon said. "We had one camera set up facing the students and I sat at my laptop in Sydney. The whole thing was organised by lecturer, Stephen Goodlet (Yangebup Baptist Church). Stephen was very keen to have his students exposed to ethical thinking when considering supply chains."

For two hours the group

discussed some of the big ethical questions surrounding multinationals and the global supply chain. More than \$160 billion is stolen from developing nations each year through corporate tax evasion. This is significantly more than they receive in aid.

The group also talked about the use of exploited labour and slavery in the supply chain and how this can be identified and avoided.

"I think the evening was a great success with the students really engaged with the complexities of a modern supply chain, including the benefits and potential for destructiveness that they bring," Gershon said.



# Struggles strengthen faith

Bruno and Nadine Mollet serve the Curepipe Baptist Church on the island nation of Mauritius. Bruno has been the Pastor for almost five years. His role is part-time as he also works with Campus Crusade for Christ helping coordinate projects in Mauritius.

"My wife Nadine and I are also involved in social works," Bruno said through a translator. "We support the women and children's shelter and the Girl's Probation Home in Curepipe, providing meals for them, visiting, counselling, searching for job opportunities or training and finding sponsors to donate things like vegetables and clothes that the women and girls need."

About 60 people attend the church. It has struggled through very difficult times after the former Pastor left. Bruno's leadership has brought stability to the congregation and he is implementing programs that will take them into the future.

One project offers free academic tuition for children from a low socioeconomic area near the church.

"We look for volunteer teachers who give lessons to the children, then I do a Bible study every Wednesday with the children," Bruno said. "We provide them with a light meal before they go home."

Life is complex for Bruno and Nadine. Their daughter, Megane, was born prematurely five years ago and has a severe disability requiring 24 hour care. Nadine almost died following Megane's birth.

Their family situation does not stop them from being involved in serving people in

their community but it does add significant stress to their lives.

"Sometimes we go through very difficult moments where we wonder where the funds will be coming from to pay for all of Megane's medical needs," Bruno said.

“God is good and has never failed us. That is why we are keen to serve Him without being anxious about our own needs.”

"God is good and has never failed us. That is why we are keen to serve Him without being anxious about our own needs."

Marc Chan, Cross Cultural and Indigenous Ministries Consultant with Baptist Churches Western Australia, met with Bruno and Nadine on a recent visit to Mauritius.

"Bruno is a man of considerable courage and faith with a great sense of trust in Jesus," Marc said. "God has deeply touched his life and he is being faithful to His call in very difficult circumstances."

There are five Baptist churches in Mauritius. Protestant Christians are viewed by many of the Hindu and Muslim majority as 'cultish'. The Pastors and leaders need opportunities for ongoing training and regular encouragement in this challenging environment.



Nadine and Bruno Mollet from Curepipe Baptist Church.

Photo: Marc Chan

## VOSE

BE EXTRAORDINARY

7PM AUGUST 19  
OPEN NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 4  
OPEN DAY



## Book launch celebrations

Global Interaction launches a new book next month at a coffee and dessert evening that celebrates missionary work by Australian Baptists around the world.

The book, *From Five Barley Loaves – Australian Baptists in Global Mission 1864-2010*, details the work and people connected with Global Interaction, formerly known as the Australian Baptist Missionary Society located in India, Papua New Guinea, Africa and Asia.

"Anyone interested in buying a copy of the book can pre-order through our office," Pam Gallagher said. "The cost of \$30 will be considerably lower than if you purchase the book on the night."

Craig Wright, one of Global Interaction's directors, will be at

the supper which will be held at Riverton Baptist Church on Saturday 7 September from 7.30pm. The cost is \$10 per person – phone Pam Gallagher on 08 6313 6300 by 24 August to book.

"We're really excited to be able to honour past workers with Global Interaction and to meet people who are currently part of the team," Rachel Philp, Young Adults Consultant with Global Interaction said.



# Mighty support for rural men

Seventy men from the eastern wheat belt camped overnight on a property east of Latham on the Rabbit Proof Fence, in late June to do some serious spiritual mileage.

Craig Lydon, Director of Mighty Men's Conferences in Western Australia, brought a team of six from Perth to run the event.

"We don't come with an agenda other than trying to keep in step with where God's Spirit is leading and working," Craig said.

Most of the men who attended the Latham Mighty Men's event are farmers. Many of them are facing serious financial crises as a continuing lack of rain threatens the harvest of their winter crops. The stresses of farming in a dry environment are very personal to men.



Photo: Craig Lydon

The team heads north.

“... this is the first time we've run more remote events.”

"Guys don't seem to do too well when it comes to stress and depression," Craig said. "This event was a tangible way to support countrymen during a rough season."

"Women seem to be better at talking through issues and asking for help," he said. "We kept hearing stories about suicides and depression."

The Mighty Men team travels with a fully equipped mobile

kitchen and cool-room as well as stage and sound equipment.

"We have a regular event for men each year on a property near Cuballing, but this is the first time we've run more remote events. We don't want to be a burden to the local guys, so we come prepared."

Craig and the leadership team arrived in Dalwallinu on Friday afternoon and met with a group of local leaders before the guys arrived on Saturday morning.

"All we ask is that the guys bring their swag and an open heart to connect with God and other men," Craig said.

The campers hear life stories

from ordinary blokes who serve an extraordinary God, get to establish friendships, enjoy great music, food and laughter. There is plenty of time to explore God and connect with Him.

"Many farming families are doing it really tough again this year," Craig said. "Our churches can be praying for rain and for the people who are under a lot of pressure financially with massive bills to put in a crop and there is no guarantee that they'll even get a harvest."

The Mighty Men's group heads to Roebourne for their first event in the Pilbara in mid July.

## Islands offer opportunities

The islands of Mauritius and the Indian Ocean offer more to Western Australians than an amazing tourist destination. They hold a vast array of needs that remain opportunities for Christians in Perth.

New partnerships are open for Western Australians to encourage the followers of Jesus in the Mauritian church as they live in their Hindu and Muslim context through church leadership training, church planting, schools, health ministries, addiction recovery programs and more.

Lighthouse Primary School ([www.lighthouseprimaryschool.org](http://www.lighthouseprimaryschool.org)) in Mauritius has 120 students and expects to grow to 280 students in coming years. They're currently in need of more teachers, a principal and a special needs teacher.

The school has plans to start a secondary school and

are currently raising funds to purchase land for the school.

A group of Western Australians have a vision for Perth, Mauritius and the Indian Ocean Islands. People can learn more about the situation in Mauritius on 5 August at Scarborough Church of Christ, 402 Karrinyup Road in Gwelup, from 7.30 to 9.30pm.

Mauritius-born Marc Chan, Cross Cultural and Indigenous Ministries Consultant with Baptist Churches WA, believes Western Australians can play a significant part in the development and strengthening of the church in his homeland.

# VOSE

BE EXTRAORDINARY

Join us at Vose Seminary for a day of discovery and community and possibility.

Open Night

Monday 19 August, 7pm

Open Day

"Day in the Life of Vose"

Wednesday September 4, 9.30am - 5pm

including our Spiritual Formation Morning, Community Lunch, and the opportunity to sit in on lectures in the afternoon.

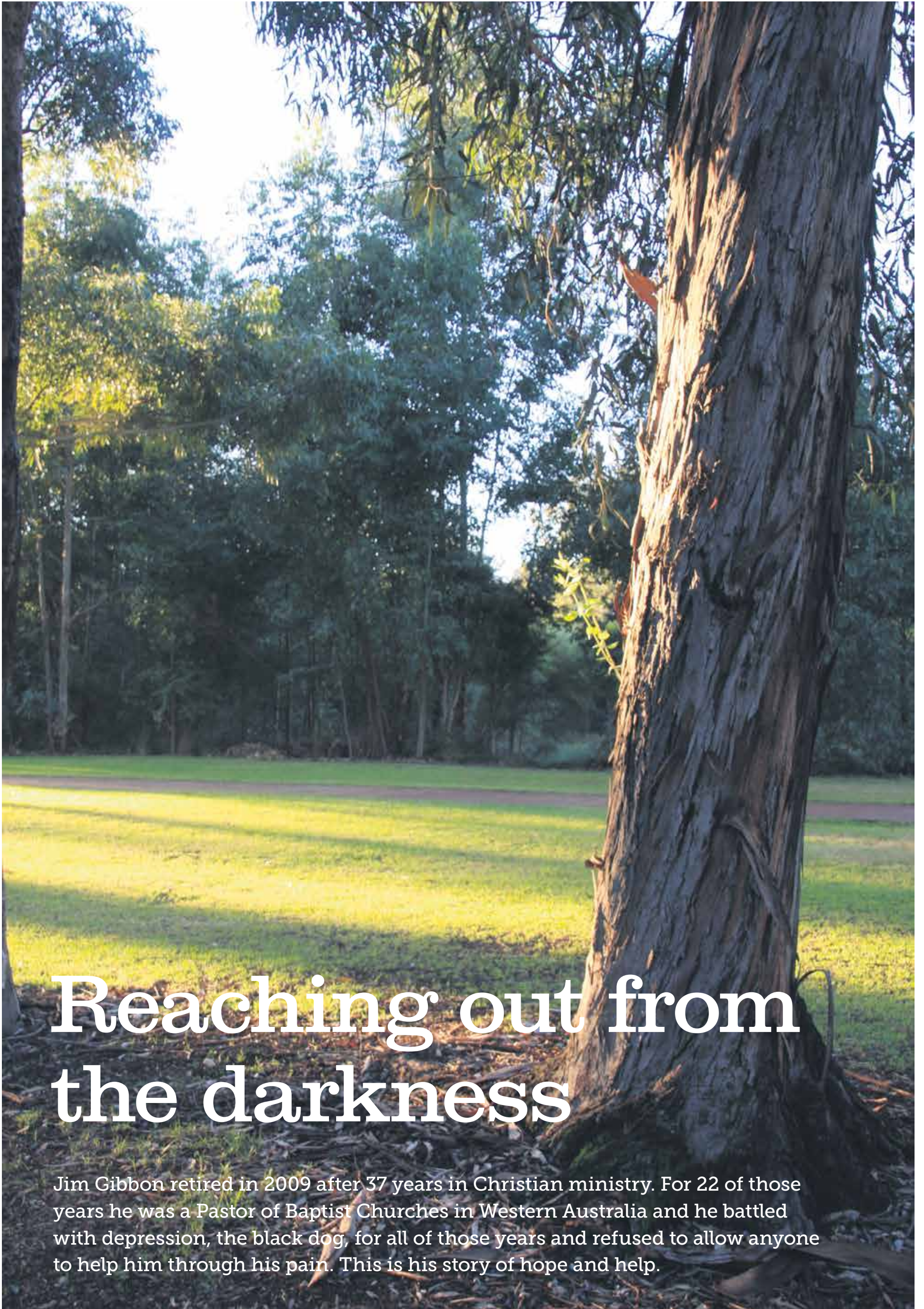


higher education for those seeking to live  
AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE.

Find out more at  
[www.vose.edu.au](http://www.vose.edu.au)

20 Hayman Road, Bentley





# Reaching out from the darkness

Jim Gibbon retired in 2009 after 37 years in Christian ministry. For 22 of those years he was a Pastor of Baptist Churches in Western Australia and he battled with depression, the black dog, for all of those years and refused to allow anyone to help him through his pain. This is his story of hope and help.



By Jim Gibbon

Pride is a terrible thing. It takes many forms and even disguises itself as an 'angel of light'.

However, as Proverbs 16:18 says, it precedes destruction.

I've struggled with depression most of my life, but have always managed to hide it. I was ashamed of admitting it for fear I would be classified as mentally ill and incapable of doing my job. I was too proud to seek help and so I soldiered on pretending to be ok. The problem with this was that I came close to suicide three times during the time I was a Pastor.

The first time I seriously contemplated suicide was in Queensland, when I was Senior Pastor of Bayside Baptist Church. I became so depressed that I took my loaded Ruger semi-automatic rifle and drove from Brisbane to a lonely location near Noosa, where I put the barrel into my mouth, ready to end it all. As I sat there thinking about what I was about to do, thoughts of my wife, my children and my mother filled my mind. I began to think about the many people who would be affected by my actions and the impact my suicide would have on my congregation. I began praying and asking God to forgive me and to help me. As I drove back home that day, feeling ashamed of myself, peace came over me.

"I've struggled with depression most of my life, but have always managed to hide it."

Unfortunately, I didn't seek medical help but acted as though all was well.

The second occasion was many years later in Perth, when I was Senior Pastor of Attadale Baptist Church. Again, I became so depressed that I took a rope to the large garage on the manse property, tied the rope to one of the steel rafters, put the noose around my neck and jack-knifed my legs so that the weight of my body would tighten the noose. Funnily, the knot I had tied loosened and instead of hanging myself I fell to the concrete floor, giving myself a very sore posterior. My reaction, strangely enough, was to laugh. As I sat there on the ground I looked upwards and asked God to help me get through the pressure I was feeling, but again, I was too proud to see someone about it. Oddly, the following year I was

involved in a funeral of a church member who had committed suicide by hanging herself. As I took the service I felt like a hypocrite.

The third and final time I contemplated killing myself was about the time of my eleventh year of ministry at Attadale. Early one morning I went down to the Swan River not far from where I lived, to a spot where a number of trees grow, determined this time to be successful. I took a length of rope with me. When I got there some people were exercising, so I sat down on a bench waiting for them to go.

"I knew then that suicide was not the answer. I returned home promising the Lord I would never attempt to take my life again."

As I waited, an elderly gentleman walked by and stopped behind me then went on his way. About 15 minutes later he returned, stopped again and placed his hand on my shoulder and said, "Excuse me, you look so sad. Can I help you?". I said thanks but told him I was okay. When everyone had eventually gone, the kindness of that man overwhelmed me. I just sat there alone and sobbed. I knew then that suicide was not the answer. I returned home promising the Lord I would never attempt to take my life again. Nevertheless, I was too proud to talk to anyone about my problem.

The only person who knew my struggle was my wife, Aurelia. She pleaded with me to seek help as she had done many times before. However, I refused and instead threatened divorce if she dare reveal it. I was just too proud to admit I was struggling with depression. I thought that if the Baptist Union heard I had tried suicide they would judge me incapable of being a Pastor and recommend I resign from Attadale. I was afraid my own diaconate would fire me if they knew — I just didn't trust anyone for help.

The strange thing is that the four churches I was a Pastor at never knew I was depressed, which wasn't their fault. I was very clever at hiding what was going on within.

Did I believe the Bible? Did I trust God? The answer is a definite 'yes'! I had all the right answers. I knew what I needed to do, but I was too proud to admit

I was fighting the 'black dog' as they say. Did I have a sense of call to be a Pastor? Yes, and even though I was struggling with depression, that sense was strong. It had never left me.

Did I blame God? No. In fact, with God's help and by His grace, I was able to function in my many duties as a Pastor. I regularly visited the members of my congregation. My preaching was not affected. I interacted with others well and I was able to counsel those who came to see me, even those suffering depression, and there were many of those.

Somehow, I managed to disengage the 'struggling me' from the 'pastoral me', but it wasn't easy.

Why am I now writing this? Because I want to plead with those in pastoral ministry and those in secular jobs, who have responsible positions, to let go of pride and seek help if they are hiding depression as I was — it isn't worth it. Some pastors, unfortunately, have suicided and I could have been one of them, but by God's mercy things happened that prevented that.

Now, as a retiree, I have finally seen a doctor and I am taking medication that has evened out my moods. You see, my problem was metabolic. There was an imbalance in my system that only the right medicine could deal with. I am now more relaxed and thoroughly enjoying life. How

I wish I had consulted a doctor earlier. I am free of depression and free to be the 'me' I always wanted to be.

Though this may sound contradictory, for the 37 years of my ministry, although I was perfectly content with my faith in Christ; I was not a happy man. Somehow, I had managed to make a dichotomy between what I believed and how I felt. I would say to myself, "I live by faith not by my feelings," and this would get me through. Instead of dealing with the root issue (depression), I ignored it until it became so unbearable I almost took my life. Surely, this is not a good way to exist. How I now wish I had put my pride in my pocket and sought help.

## Where to go for help:

**Lifeline**  
www.lifelinewa.org.au  
13 11 14

**Centrecare**  
www.centrecare.com.au  
9325 6644

**Relationships Australia**  
www.relationships.org.au  
9489 6313

**Anglicare**  
www.anglicarewa.org.au  
9325 7033



## VOLUNTEERS needed for DUNSBOROUGH LEAVERS 2013

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[www.greenteamwa.org.au](http://www.greenteamwa.org.au)

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- Entrance / Exit Gate
- Greeting Team
- Volunteer Area
- Rides
- Toilets
- Traffic
- Pamper Tent
- Site Office
- First Aid
- Lounge Tent
- Response team
- Central Areas
- Towers / Border Patrols



Run by  



**For more information**  
 Baptist Churches WA: Michelle 6313 6300

[www.leaverswa.com.au](http://www.leaverswa.com.au) | [www.baptistwa.asn.au](http://www.baptistwa.asn.au) | Facebook: Leavers WA – Green Team



# Fresh leaders



Photo: CityLife

Nicole Conner from CityLife Church in Melbourne will be a speaker at Fresh Leadership, an opportunity for women leaders in churches, business and community groups.

## Lucy Morris, Chief Executive Officer of Baptistcare WA, spoke at the Leading Women Supper in early July.

The invitation was to women from around Perth who lead other women in some way. The group totalled 169 on the night.

Lucy Morris was refreshingly candid and confident in her approach to leadership.

"God has gifted her in leadership and she is fully aware of her responsibility to use that gift in a way that reflects her uniqueness," Karen Wilson, WA President for Baptist Women said. "She spoke about the place where the need around you meets your inner desire to lead and that being a place where your soul resonates. Everyone there was challenged and inspired by seeing someone clearly doing what she was created to do."

Another opportunity for training and encouragement for women in leadership in churches, business and the community is Fresh Leadership. This annual event will be held on Friday 13 September at Riverview Church from 9am to 2.30pm. Registrations at [www.freshconference.net](http://www.freshconference.net) are essential and close on 6 September.

Nicole Conner, part of the preaching team at CityLife Church in Melbourne will speak at Fresh Leadership. She works for R2L & Associates, an organisation that partner with charities in the area of communication and marketing.

“God has gifted her in leadership and she is fully aware of her responsibility to use that gift in a way that reflects her uniqueness ...”

A gifted communicator across different ages, cultures and walks of life, Nicole's

warmth and vibrancy help her engage easily with people. She is passionate about issues of justice and is currently completing her Masters in History.

Registrations for Fresh Leadership are limited to 300, but space at the Fresh Conference is unlimited.

The Conference begins with a challenging and inspirational gathering at 7.30pm on Friday night that members of the public can attend.

"We've changed things a bit this year," Karen said. "Nicole will speak at the celebration on Friday night."

Saturday's program will focus on stories of women courageously doing what God asks. Stories of transformation and how to embrace change well in our lives and in the things we do. Jade Lewis, Director of Jade Lewis & Friends Inc. and founder of Second Chance Day and Riverview Church Youth Pastor, Brisita Rojas, will join Karen Wilson and Nicole Conner as speakers for the event.

As in past years, groups of women from across the state are planning to attend Fresh. The event is known as a time to nurture the life of Christ in women, inspiring them to keep following Jesus.

# Unshackled

In May, Scott Higgins, Director of Communications at Baptist World Aid, was invited to speak at the annual 'Unshackled' conference organised by New Hope Baptist Church in Victoria. He spoke on ethical consumption and how Christians can live out their faith through their actions and purchasing choices.

His message resonated with his audience and inspired an advocacy group to form which then pushed the message further with their local politicians.

the effect ethical consumption can have on the lives of some of the poorest people on earth. We also discussed how building sustainable livelihoods through fair trade can end human trafficking – a trade which supplies the illegal sex industry here in Australia. The senators were very receptive to our message and just two weeks ago Senator Croager stood up in parliament and raised some of the issues we had discussed. It was amazing and inspiring to see how wide the ripple effect had been from Scott's original talk. It also goes to show that we should never stop speaking out and praying for those affected by poverty and injustice around the world, as you never know how God will use your efforts!"

“The senators were very receptive to our message and just two weeks ago Senator Croager stood up in parliament and raised some of the issues we had discussed.”

People interested in advocacy issues can visit [baptistworldaid.org.au/get-involved/be-vocal](http://baptistworldaid.org.au/get-involved/be-vocal) for more information.

After a short period of time, Brendon Birch, Church Relationship Coordinator with Baptist World Aid, was privileged to be a part of a group that met privately with Federal Government Senators Michaelia Cash from Western Australia, and Helen Croager from Victoria.

"It was an amazing meeting," Brendon said. "For two hours we shared with these senators about

Past and present members, friends and family of Morley Baptist Church are invited to join the celebrations of our 50th Anniversary

A weekend of activities including a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 25th August

**MORLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
23 - 25 August 2013

50 YEARS: Celebrating Our Jubilee in Christ

REJOICE : SERVE : GIVE

For more information contact the Church Office on 9276 1568 or visit [morleybaptist.org.au](http://morleybaptist.org.au)



# Be Love Sunday engages

On Sunday 18 August, Baptist churches across Australia will join together to pray, talk and act on poverty and the effects it has on children. The annual 'Be Love Sunday' event is a fantastic way to get your church engaged in the fight to end poverty.

Tineke Osten, from Narrabeen Baptist (New South Wales) signed up last year to become a Be Love ambassador for her church.

"Every Christmas, my church commits the offering to Baptist World Aid, but we haven't really been part of what used to be 'SAO Sunday'", she said. "I signed up to be a 'Be Love Sunday' ambassador because I really wanted my church to be encouraged and empowered to make a difference. I approached my Pastor and he was pleased that I was able to take an active role in organising the day. He received a lot of great resource material from Baptist World Aid and I set up a booth at the back of the Church."



Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

The Be Love Sunday gives Western Australian Baptists the opportunity to bring life changing differences to children like these in Africa.

“Almost one third of churches were actively involved ...”

"I was so surprised because when I turned up on the day the Pastor had decorated the church with yellow balloons and had hung up the posters provided. He structured his sermon around the issue of poverty, showed the video and shared real life stories of

how children's lives overseas had changed thanks to committed sponsors."

"After the service, I had so many people come up to thank me for bringing 'Be Love Sunday' to our Church," Tineke says. "They were really inspired to hear how God is moving in the lives of some of the poorest children around the world. I was so encouraged."

Last year, Baptists across Western Australia threw themselves into the spirit of 'Be Love Sunday'. Almost one third of churches were actively involved – a number which Baptist World Aid hopes will increase again this year.

As a result of 'Be Love Sunday', hundreds of signatures were collected, petitioning Australian companies to boycott Uzbekistani cotton (due to the use of forced child labour), and a massive number of children were aligned with new sponsors. The Baptist community of Western Australia also committed to pray for those who are suffering from injustice and the hardships of poverty.

If you would like your church to be involved in 'Be Love Sunday' on 18 August (or a date that suits your church), contact Baptist World Aid on 1300 789 991 or visit the website [www.baptistworldaid.org.au](http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au).

## Refugee tragedy



The loss of many lives in the recent boat tragedies off Christmas Island cast a sombre air over the centres on the island when an Australian couple made their regular weekly visits.

"We sat with the grieving parents of a one year old child who had died in the ocean earlier in the week. You don't need many words at a time like that but being there, listening, hugging, crying and hand holding are what matter," the man said.

"Thankfully the Comforter knows no cultural, religious or language barriers, and hugs and tears are the same in any language," he said.

"You don't just suddenly drop straight off to sleep after a day like that, hearing the vivid word pictures of a child slipping under the waves as frantic parents tried to keep track of three children."

Each week the Australian couple field questions of faith,

engage in conversations of hope, and lead studies of God's Word with tired, broken-hearted people who have risked everything for freedom and a future. They have distributed hundreds of copies of the New Testament and the whole Bible to the refugees who pass through the Christmas Island centres before they are sent to other places to be processed.

The opportunity to live the good news of Jesus is unique. Some days it is full of joy – other days it is emotionally draining.

Christmas Island administrator Jon Stanhope said about 100 refugees are arriving on Christmas Island each day.



'preparing people for effective Christian service'

## INFORMATION NIGHT Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

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# Still inspiring at 76 years



**Inspirational Gwendy Ridden can't see retirement in her future. She's full of energy, courage and future plans at 76 years old.**

#### Where have you worked around the world?

I've worked in Papua New Guinea doing village medical work and Bible teaching, India doing literacy and medical work, Zambia doing medical work, Zimbabwe doing child evangelism, Malawi working with children and training children's workers, and for a brief time at Newman in the Pilbara. I went to Papua New Guinea when I was 25 years old. All of the overseas work has been with Global Interaction.

#### What have you been doing?

Village work is my passion, I love being with people in their homes. I've been able to visit Africa every couple of years for the last decade to help with children's work. Last year a group of us were invited to go back to the area where I worked from 1963 to 1968 – it's now Bangladesh. We were treated like honoured guests.

I work at South Coast Baptist College as an assistant with special needs kids. I volunteer and teach English to a couple of men too.

#### How did you start on this journey?

My Dad was a Pastor at Mt Hawthorn Baptist and we often had missionaries in our home. Dad was the Chairman of the State Mission Board so I got to meet many and wrote letters to some. They'd often stay with us on their way to India. Back then they'd come to Perth from the eastern states by train and then sail from Fremantle.

#### How did you hear Jesus' voice calling you?

I was taught as a child and I met Jesus when I was nine years old at a girls' camp at the old Naval Base campsite. The conviction that God was calling me to tell

people overseas about Jesus grew. When I was 15 years old I went forward at a Christian endeavour rally to confirm the direction my life would take. I started medical training – general nursing at Fremantle, midwifery training in Melbourne, infant welfare training in Adelaide and specialist ENT training in Melbourne before I was accepted to go overseas. Once I was accepted, I had to do two years of Bible College training in Melbourne.

#### You've had to 'start again' several times in your life. How have you managed to do that with such apparent perseverance?

I don't see it as 'starting again' as I've changed locations many times. God didn't give me a contract with a finish date; I've just lived following God's direction. When I left Africa to return to Perth to live, I prayed: "Please don't let me finish before the end."

My Mum is still living. She's now 104 and I'm so glad I have this season to support my sister as we support Mum. I'm so blessed and privileged to serve. I'm alive and free to share with people.

I've seen so many children come to the Lord. I get off the plane when I go back to Africa and I feel like I'm home. In ten years we saw hundreds of children saved. When I go back to visit I see them now as Pastors and Sunday School teachers, husbands and wives influencing their children. I've even had the privilege of leading their kids to Jesus in these later years.

#### What have you been learning about God recently?

He's so interested and concerned about the minute details of life – whether it be wisdom, to know how to relate to a neighbour, or giving me courage to ask for help to fix my gas heater. He cares.

#### What have you been learning about yourself recently?

I still need patience – with myself and with others. I prayed recently, "Lord I need patience and I need it now!"

#### What makes you smile about God?

Everything! He loves me. He gave me Jesus. Living with Him is a great big adventure and the best is yet to be – it can't be better than that. He says to me, you want and need peace. I've experienced it all over the world – God's peace. When I first went to PNG my Dad gave me a word in Greek and it translated as peace but it means 'untroubled'. I've seen trouble – armed robbers in Malawi just through the bathroom door. But even in that, to hold onto God's promise of peace, to be untroubled – God is so good.

#### How do you build deep friendships when you come to a new place?

Learning the language is a huge issue. God has helped me learn enough to be useful. I try to spend time in people's

homes and learn from them as they cook and live their daily life. They enrich our lives as much as we help them. I join in with worship – rich, vibrant joy expressing firm, simple faith and I've always found children so welcoming.

#### What's next on your life adventure?

I'm heading back to Bangladesh in September for 11 weeks. They've already sent me a plan of where they'd like me to teach – the Women's Conference, a two-day Sunday School teacher's conference, four women's meetings, four village visits ... so I'll be busy.

#### What would you say to someone who may think God is speaking to them about becoming involved in cross-cultural ministry?

Pray asking the Lord to show you what and where, then go for it. Obey. I don't know any better way to live your life.

Find out all you can about countries – the language, culture and needs. Get some Bible training to help you consolidate your own faith. Learn what you can – how to change a tyre, how to change a fuse, a tap washer. Gather skills, do some first aid training and gain some language learning skills. I've studied six languages: Sao Kyaka, Boro, Assamese, Lamba, Shona and ChiChewa. It's no good being proud or scared when you're learning a new language. For a lot of years I was working with children. Let me tell you, they will tell you exactly how your language is!

## Building Healthy Churches

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#### SPEAKER - MARK DEVER

Dr Mark Dever is the Senior Pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington DC (USA). He is also President of '9 Marks Ministries' and a co-founder of 'Together for the Gospel'. He is a Pastor-Theologian, who is greatly appreciated for his Biblical preaching and for the way he has implemented theological thinking in church pastoring.

**Register at [pgp.org.au](http://pgp.org.au)**



# Conquering your dreams

If not now, when?



By John Maxwell

Travel is a big part of my work now, and no matter how heavy my schedule is, it's not a hardship because I get to connect with and pour into so many wonderful people. One connection that I especially enjoy is one-on-one, when I set aside time to chat and answer questions before or after my teaching sessions.

There's one topic that is often brought up – writing. Specifically, people come up and confide in me a desire to write. They want to know how I became a writer, and more importantly, how they can become a writer.

The first question I always ask is, "how much writing do you do right now?"

Some answer with a list of articles and other pieces that they're writing or have already written. But I bet you can guess what most people answer –

"Well, I haven't really written anything yet."

"Then you need to start writing," I explain. "You've got to start small and work up to it."

It's the same with any endeavor. Take leadership – you've got to start small and

work up to that. A person who has never led before should start by attempting to influence just one other person. Already have some influence? Then try to build a team. The key is to take the next step, not focus on the step that's a mile ahead.

Your dream may look unreachable. Of course, you could give up in the face of that. Or you could be like a friend of mine who went back to school in her late 40s. "At first I was discouraged," she said. "I'll be 52 years old when I get this degree and start a new career. "But then I thought about it. No matter what I do, I'll be 52 in four years anyway. At least with this

plan, I'll be a 52 year old college graduate."

St Francis of Assisi said, "Start doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." No matter how far away your dream is, you'll only reach it by moving toward it. Everyone starts in the same place:

*Where They Are.*

The small responsibilities before you now, comprise your first great conquest. Want to conquer the world? Start by conquering your backyard.

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[www.johnmaxwell.com](http://www.johnmaxwell.com).

# Winning, losing and how you play the game

By Monica O'Neil

It was Saturday morning at our house. The kids were getting their basketball gear on, excited about heading off to the recreation centre. Their hope? To win a game and then enjoy the spoils of victory (McDonalds) or the consolation pain of a vanquishing (McDonalds).

Some Saturdays they played really well and won. Some Saturdays their team work was amazing and they lost. Other days their team work was abysmal with little emerging stars taking all the play. How bitter sweet those wins were.

Then there were the times they played well, giving it the proverbial 110 percent yet emerged vanquished.

And now for the parents. Some parents were focussed completely on winning. Umpires

were sworn at, threatened and bullied. Other kids were sworn at, threatened and bullied. Other parents were sworn at, threatened and bullied.

Some parents just wanted their child to have a fair go and learn teamwork, get some exercise and some skills. Some wanted every child to win a medal. They didn't get on with the 'win at all costs' parents.

So what really matters in a five year old basketball competition? The end? Winning or losing? Or the means – how the game is played? Can it be both?

The deeply held and enduring beliefs about what really matters are referred to as values. They

affect five year old basketball games, community groups, businesses, churches and our

“Some parents just wanted their child to have a fair go and learn teamwork ...”

individual lives. And those values can be focussed on the end and the means.

Solid leadership calls us to openly consider both. End and means. We hit trouble when we ignore one and prize only the other.

For some of us, the end is primary and almost any means is okay.

For others, it is all about the journey and what characterises it. Can we be noble in both?

Monica is the Director of Vose Leadership and has been involved in local church ministry for 21 years in a broad range of fields. She is passionate about enhancing the brilliance, endurance and power in christian ministers and leaders.



## events calendar

### August

- 3 August Sean George speaks at Ellenbrook Christian College, 9297 2817
- 4 August Sean George speaks at Ellenbrook Community Baptist Church, 9297 2817
- 5 August Information Night Mauritius and Indian Ocean Islands, Scarborough Church of Christ, 9244 1555
- 18 August Annual 'Be Love Sunday' Event, 1300 789 991
- 19 August Vose Seminary Open Night, 6313 6200
- 24 August Sam Childers – the Machine Gun Preacher, Mt Hawthorn Baptist, 9444 1171

25 August

Morley Baptist Church 50th Anniversary, 9276 1568

26-27 August

Vose Conference, 6313 6200

29 August

Movie Premiere: Machine Gun Preacher, The True Story  
Cygnet Cinema

29-30 August

Pastors' Conference with speaker Mark Dever, www.pgp.org.au

### September

4 September

Vose Seminary Open Day, 6313 6200

7 September

Como Baptist Church: Prayer Together, 9450 5328

7 September

Global Interaction Centenary Celebration, Riverton Baptist Community Church, 9457 6135

### October

21 October

Evening with Sheridan Voysey, 'Resurrection Year', Woodvale Baptist Church, 9309 4721

26 October

North Beach Baptist Church 50th Anniversary, 9448 7018

26-27 October

Gnowangerup Baptist Church Centenary Celebration, 9827 1040

### November

2 November

Friends of Global Interaction morning tea, 9457 6135



### AFES Staff-worker Ministry Positions

The Australian fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) in Perth is looking for suitably qualified people who are interested in working with Curtin Christian Union as Staff-workers, and joining the team to minister to Curtin University Students. The following 3 positions are available:

- Staff-worker for Local & International Outreach & Evangelism
- Staff-worker for Women's Ministry & Discipleship
- Staff-worker - General Teaching & Training & Discipleship

CCU is a growing club on Perth's largest University with many existing and untapped ministry opportunities. AFES is seeking Fulltime theologically trained Staff to join our team. If you have a desire to minister to university students, then you may be the person we are looking for.

To request a copy of the position description or to obtain further information, please contact Brad Vigus (AFES Curtin Campus Director) on 0438 172 882 or [brad@ccu.org.au](mailto:brad@ccu.org.au) before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

## contribute views

Do you have news that you would like to share with the rest of the West Australian church family?

Email your name, phone number and brief description to [editor@theadvocate.tv](mailto:editor@theadvocate.tv) by the 5th of each month.



For more information please contact:  
Garry Beeck 9827 1432 ([garrybeeck@westnet.com.au](mailto:garrybeeck@westnet.com.au))  
or Shirley Beeck 9827 1040 ([bnsbeeck@bigpond.com](mailto:bnsbeeck@bigpond.com))

## GNOWANGERUP BAPTIST CHURCH

Members of the present Church would like to compile a booklet comprising of memories and anecdotes from previous years. If you would like to contribute please email or phone Garry. This book will be available after the weekend of the celebration and will also include photos of the weekend.



### CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Please join us for this special time of celebration— mark it in your diary!

To find your local Baptist church visit [www.baptistwa.asn.au](http://www.baptistwa.asn.au)

# the advocate

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**Editorial deadline:** 5th of each month

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The Advocate is published on behalf of Baptist Churches Western Australia by imageseven.

**Tel:** (08) 9221 9777

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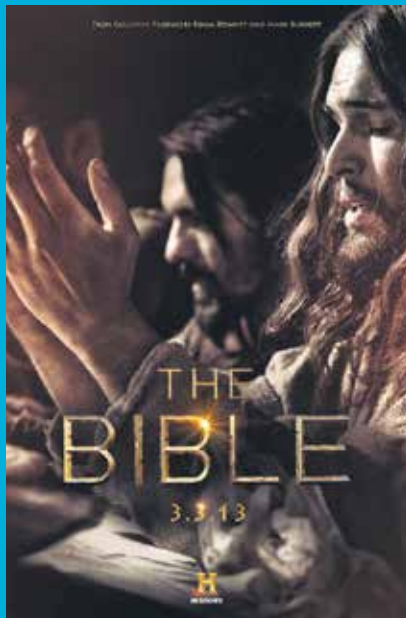
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## browse

### The Bible

www.bibleseries.tv  
With *The Bible* television series having launched in mid July on the Nine Network, the companion website offers plenty of resources for individuals and churches alike. It includes episode guides, resources for leaders, sermon outlines and links to church kits and resources for bible study groups as well as video clips from the series which are also available to download. The YouVersion app is the official Bible of the series and includes videos and reading plans to follow along. With a second series in the works, it will bring the Bible into everyday conversation and accompanied with the resources from www.bibleseries.tv and YouVersion.com you will be well prepared.



## watch & listen



### Home

By Kim Walker-Smith and Skyler Smith

A new venture from Kim Walker-Smith and her husband, Skyler Smith, *Home* features ten original songs that reveal a fresh sound to the Jesus Culture Music label. This new album carries a grass-roots and folksy sound as Kim and Skyler sing together on songs such as, 'My One and Only'. Skyler's voice and song-writing stand out on the track, 'Beauty of Your Presence' among others and Kim's signature powerful voice and anointing are evident on the title track, *Home*.



### Passion City Church: Boy Meets Girl

By Louie Giglio

*Boy Meets Girl* takes an honest and straightforward look at dating relationships and the challenges they bring. Beginning with our Creator, this series approaches guy-girl relationships from His perspective, helping lay the ground work for meaningful relationships now and a marriage that will last. Digging below the surface, *Boy Meets Girl* uncovers potential dangers and offers practical help for anyone seeking a long term relationship that is all God intended it to be.



### Leaving Eden

By Brandon Heath

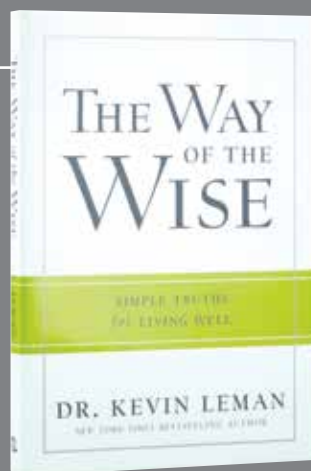
Dove award winner and Male Vocalist of the Year, Brandon Heath, pulls out all the stops as he testifies to God's abundant love in his latest acoustic-driven pop release. Includes, 'Your Love', 'Only Water', 'The Light in Me', 'Now More Than Ever', 'It's No Good to be Alone', 'As Long as I'm Here', 'Might Just Save Your Life' and more.

## win

### The Way of the Wise

by Dr Kevin Leman

Internationally known psychologist and New York Times bestselling author, Dr Kevin Leman, shares the biblical wisdom that has shaped him into the successful, joy-filled person he is today. With his trademark wit and humorous stories from his personal life, Leman shows readers how to jump-start or revitalize their lives both spiritually and practically with words from one of the wisest men of all time (hint: It's not him). Dr Leman offers hope, courage, and a fresh perspective on living a great life.



*The Advocate* in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *The Way of the Wise*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

#### Question:

What is the name of the author of *The Way of the Wise*?

Entries close 14 August and all winners will be announced in the September edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from *Raising Responsible Teens in a Digital World* competition:  
L Green, J Hunt, L Leighton

## competition

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

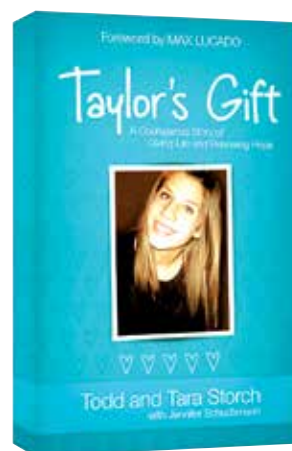
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form with your details and post it to:

The Way of the Wise Competition  
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

## read



### Taylor's Gift

By Todd Storch

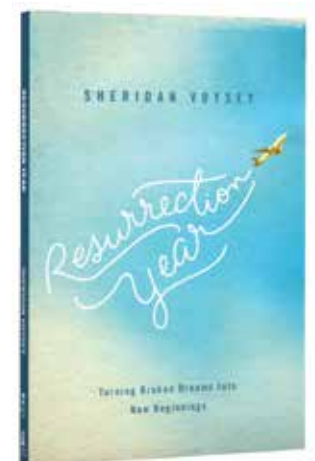
In March 2010, 13 year old Taylor Storch's life was tragically cut short by a skiing accident, and her grieving family made the decision to donate her organs. Over the next two years, Tara and Todd Storch connected with four of the five people who now live because of Taylor's gift. Now Tara and Todd share their inspiring story, shining a light at the end of the tunnel for those enduring the suffering of losing a loved one. Through the stories of the donor recipients, readers will discover hope in the midst of pain.



### Mission of Mercy

By Nancy Alcorn

Do you have trouble understanding where some people are coming from? Do you find yourself wondering why people do what they do? Nancy Alcorn spent eight years working for the state at a correctional facility for juvenile delinquent girls and investigating child abuse cases. Determined to establish a program in which lives would truly be transformed, Nancy started Mercy Ministries of America. Illustrated by the moving, inspiring testimonies of real women, she demonstrates how we can move from a place of judgment to compassion that leads to action.



### Resurrection Year

By Sheridan Voysey

Expectation. Disappointment. After ten years of prayers, tears, repeatedly dashed hopes, and multiple failed rounds of IVF, Sheridan Voysey and his wife come to a painful conclusion – their dream of having a child is over. Empty and downtrodden from a decade of disappointment, they leave their jobs, pack their bags, and begin a journey with the hope of finding restoration. Voysey chronicles their return to life, from the streets of Rome, the Basilicas of Paris, the Alps of Switzerland to their new home in Oxford.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

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# Wildcats sign Lakeside coach

The Perth Wildcats have signed Andy Stewart as their head assistant coach for the next three seasons. The position means Stewart will end his time as coach of Lakeside Lightning, whom he has coached for 14 seasons and currently has sitting three games clear on top of the SBL ladder.

Stewart is a product of West Australian basketball and, in his time, Lakeside has won three championships, four coach of the year awards and has made the league's grand final an impressive six times.

“  
God has allowed me to be involved in more ways than I could ever imagine.”

“My dad was in the air force and I basically played the sport that was dominant where we lived. In Queensland it was rugby league, and when we were stationed in WA at Pearce Airbase in Bullsbrook, I played Aussie Rules and was a mad Swan Districts supporter. In my teen years we moved to Malaysia so no more Aussie Rules although I got into badminton, golf and basketball. Returning to Australia three years later, I had missed out on three seasons of footy so I stayed



Newly signed assistant coach of the Perth Wildcats, Andy Stewart (left).

with basketball, playing and then coaching,” Stewart said.

“I was very comfortable coaching in the church leagues and domestic competitions. I moved into the State Leagues to retain relationships with the young people that were looking for career pathways. God has

allowed me to be involved in more ways than I could ever imagine. Through the basketball platform I have been able to share my faith through the media, and on sports mission trips throughout South East Asia, the South Pacific and rural Australia.”

Stewart's new position at the

Wildcats at this stage of the season is planning and recruiting. Pre season starts in August, with players starting sessions five or six days a week. Alongside the coaching and input into the teams overall plan, Stewart is specifically involved in the planning of road trips and the development of

junior players in the 'Wildcat Athletic' Program.

“Sport is very much focussed on the result and in pro sport that is amplified enormously. I try as much as possible to keep a balance, ensuring that I see the individual player's life on the floor as well as off the floor.”

Photo: Tasha Hutchinson, Perth Wildcats

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