

the advocate

"... up to 90 percent of the estimated 4,500 children in orphanages in Ghana are not orphans."

UNITED NATIONS PAGE 8 >>

In conversation Dr Ted Baehr, Founder and Publisher of MovieGuide® talks on the topic of Culturally Wise Families. **PAGE 12 >>**



Photo: Jill Birt

Australian Nurse of the Year for 2013, Sara Lohmeyer, with the flowers and congratulatory book made for her by the Toddler Jam group at Maida Vale Baptist Church.

Jammers celebrate

Local Child Health Nurse, Sara Lohmeyer, arrived at Maida Vale Baptist Church's (MVBC) Toddler Jam group with a spring in her step. She had been named 2013 Australian Nurse of the Year at a gala event in Melbourne just days before.

"I love visiting this group," Sara said. "I think I know just about all the mums and the kids."

Toddler Jam leader, Kerry Duncan, called Sara to the front of the group and presented her with flowers and a hand-crafted book of congratulatory messages from all the toddler jammers and their families – Sara was delighted.

"This is such a surprise," she said. "Yesterday about 300 people came to a picnic at the local Jacaranda Springs park in High Wycombe and we celebrated with a massive cake. Today it's flowers and this beautiful book."

Robyn Douglas, Children and Families Worker at MVBC, started the Toddler Jam group with an enthusiastic group of volunteers from the church three years ago.

"There was a meeting of local churches and service groups to discuss how we could all support our local community," Robyn said.

"MVBC decided we could add to our playgroup and support our area with a Toddler Jam group."

"There are many FIFO (Fly in Fly Out) families in our area," Sara said. "That means

there are many mums needing support and help with their children. Through the work of our community groups, there is now an event for mums with young children on every day of the week. It's brilliant!"

“... there are many mums needing support and help with their children.”

"Sara is forever referring people to Toddler Jam," Kerry said. "She sees the program as being extremely valuable to families."

Sara said, on average, 25 babies are born to families in the High Wycombe area each month.

"Even very young children, under one year, benefit considerably from being involved in the Toddler Jam program," she said. "I see them at the clinic and they're more relaxed and calm when there's Toddler Jam music around."

More than 30 mums bring their toddlers up to the age of four to Toddler Jam during school terms.

"We also run a playgroup during the week at MVBC," Robyn said. "There's a special family program called, Messy Church, on the fourth Saturday evening of each month."



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10 Fusion turns 40 A gathering celebrated Gods goodness and the faithfulness of hundreds >>

“Living lives that are fully dependent on God in obedience to Christ and the Bible.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Dr Brian Harris

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

Radical grace ...

Perhaps you know that I'm the principal of a theological college – Vose Seminary, to cite the esteemed institution. Given my role, it is common for people to ask my opinion about various theological fads and fashions. I'm always happy to reply, especially when the question is genuine and not simply a request to endorse some dodgy reformulation of an ancient heresy.

I'm often struck by what is not asked. Now, if I were doing the asking, here are two questions (there are 200 more) I would rapid fire ...

First, why are we so quick to assume the status quo reflects a Christian position, and that it should be our default drive? When I read the Gospels, I notice the Pharisees defending what is, and Jesus pushing for the new. Be it in

his attitude towards the Sabbath, tax collectors or prostitutes, Jesus consistently gave a thumbs down to the establishment norms of the first century. Given this, why have we so readily morphed Jesus into a bland supporter of twenty first century versions of Christianity? Be honest, do you think He would enter your church each Sunday and say, 'This is just what I had in mind ...'?

Second, why do we allow grace to be trivialised into legalism? Ask the average punter what it takes to be a Christian, and they will rattle off a list of do's and don'ts. The common theme is that God needs to be encouraged by our keeping a set of rules deemed to be important. Yet the radical message of Christianity is that we are accepted because of who

God is, not because of what we do. It is hard to imagine a greater 'we don't want you' than a crucifixion, but this was our planet's version of a welcome for God's Son. God's retaliation? Love and forgiveness. Why? The question has no logical answer, though the little word grace is a modest start. Why then do we find it so hard to throw ourselves on the mercy of God and gasp, 'I am loved, I am loved, I am loved.'



Mark Edwards

Mark is Senior Pastor at Inglewood Community Church

Engaging the hashtag generation

When you lead a church, or any organisation for that matter, the temptation can be to busy yourself with what has worked in the past. For those of us who care passionately about the world we live in, and reaching people for Christ, our work is important to us.

It can be difficult to change what has worked before, particularly if it involves a learning curve.

When I turned 40, three years ago, I determined that I would try something new every year. I had already decided to keep reinventing myself as a preacher. Our society and culture is increasingly online. Someone said today's young people struggle to believe

something exists if they can't Google it.

How am I, as a communicator and leader, reaching and being relevant to this generation? Will they even believe I exist if they can't find me online?

While our message is sacred and unchanging, our methods must continue to change. Here are some lessons I've learnt about having an online presence.

Online is the new reality

I used to watch one of the deacons at North Beach Baptist Church produce the bulletin with a Mimeograph. If you wanted to hear the preacher, you had to be in the same room!

Now most of my congregation listen to music and watch videos of motivational speakers and even preachers on their smart phones.

Online is in the moment

People are tweeting, Facebooking and posting pictures of you and your church as events are happening – and that is a good thing! They Google stories you tell and facts you use. Your audience has an encyclopedia in their hands as you speak.

Online is a conversation

The online community is all about involvement. You can't put a statement out there and not expect a response. In fact, you want one, it shows people are listening. Don't think of social media as a broadsheet. It's not – it's an engagement tool.



Anina Findling

Anina is the Relationship Manager at Baptist Financial Services.

Pushing through the quitting points

Two months ago, I made a major life decision to move from a full-time career in an intense, performance-driven environment to a part-time job in a not-for-profit organisation. This change has brought about a huge change in life perspective for me, and provided me with an ongoing sense of relief that can hardly be described. It almost feels as if the invisible elephant that had been sitting on my head for 15 years has now gotten up and casually strolled off into the sunset.

Looking back on this decision that still feels so right, I am thankful that I have learned, mostly from my mistakes, to push through the quitting points. There were so many times in those exhausting career years that all my effort and stress only seemed to end

in frustration and being left to feel burnt out. At times, it would have felt exhilarating to be able to tell someone that cared to, 'take this job and ...'. I am really thankful for a Christ-centred marriage in which we can pray over major decisions together and be a sound board for one

another. We are learning to sleep on major purchases and decisions, and not to proceed unless we both feel peace in our spirit and complete unity between us.

Decisions made from a platform of negative emotions may sometimes bring short-

term satisfaction, but often end up with unfavourable long-term consequences. Jesus knew about the tough times we would face when he said, "I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (Jn. 17:33).

So if you are facing a quitting point, push through it and you may find an unexpected blessing on the other side.

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.

Getting to know BCWA

Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) at 21 Rowe Avenue in Rivervale, is a thriving community with each member committed to serving the Baptist Churches of Western Australia.

The newest member of the team is Holly Whitwell, who recently commenced as the receptionist/PA to the Business Manager. If you phone BCWA (08 6313 6300), Holly will probably be the first person you talk with. She'll direct your call to the person you need to talk with.

Priscilla Penn is Personal Assistant to Steve Ingram, Leadership Development Consultant. Steve looks after accreditation processes and manages the complex area of compliance and directs the Safe Church Program. Pastor Jackie Smoker is currently rolling out the program across Western Australian Baptist churches. Warren Hayley helps with Safe Church checks.

Matt Chapman is the Personal Assistant to the Director of Ministries, Mark Wilson.

Phil Bryant, Church Health Consultant, works with churches wanting to develop a deeper understanding of what is actually happening within the culture of their congregation. He also assists new church plants and churches looking for new pastoral staff.

Marc Chan focuses on Cross Cultural and Indigenous ministries. His pastoral and cross-cultural experiences have prepared him well to work with developing congregations. The last decade has brought many new arrivals to Western Australia and Marc currently works with leaders of several Burmese congregations, Sudanese, Chinese, Indonesian and a Swahili speaking church.

Mark, Phil, Marc and Steve all have many years of pastoral experience in local churches.

Youth and Young Adults Consultant, Pastor Craig Palmer, is in the office most Wednesdays and Children's Consultant, Pastor Alison Cross, can also be contacted through the office.

Terry Hicks is the Business Manager. He meets regularly with team members including Ross Daniels, Director of Camping and Accountant, Peter Lu. Terry is the Editor of *The Advocate* newspaper.

Accountant Peter Lu has several staff assisting him including Brigitte Chan, Jo Gosen, Melissa Arnott and Jeyanthi Jeyabalan.

Michelle Smoker helps coordinate events including the Green Team and Sportsfest each year.

Jill Birt is the Insurance Officer, assisting Baptist congregations in Western Australia, as well as more than a dozen schools, with property, liability, travel and workers' compensation insurance and several licences offered through BCWA. Jill is Sub-Editor of *The Advocate* and is always looking for great stories to tell.

BCWA provides Western Australia with a base for Baptist Financial Services (Anina Findling), Global Interaction (Colin Meadows and Pam Gallagher) and Baptist World Aid Australia (Dushan Jeyabalan).

The coffee machine produces great coffee every day of the week. Many members of the staff are very grateful for that treat!



Photo: BCWA

BCWA team from left to right back row Dushan Jeyabalan, Steve Ingram, Jill Birt, Matt Chapman, Ross Daniels Middle row Craig Palmer, Priscilla Penn, Mark Wilson, Anina Findling, Terry Hicks, Phil Bryant Front row Holly Whitwell, Jackie Smoker, Jeyanthi Jeyabalan, Michelle Smoker, Peter Lu, Pam Gallagher.

Chaplains hit the streets

More than 70 street chaplains are now trained for ministry on Perth's streets at night.

Chaplains are rostered to serve once a month in teams of two. They have contributed to a significant change over recent times in the Northbridge culture.

In the last few weeks, the Northbridge Business Lobby Group (The Big N), began a project called, 'Street Ambassadors'. There are two teams of ambassadors on Friday and Saturday nights. The ambassadors and chaplains operate from 9pm to 3am.

“Loving acts by good Christian people is making a difference to our city.”

The ambassadors are trained to give advice to patrons in the late hours on bus, train and taxi availability.

During the first night, the ambassadors rang the chaplains six times calling them into situations where vulnerable women and homeless men and others could be treated with kindness, respect and love. These people are contributing to a changing Northbridge.

“Loving acts by good Christian people is making a difference to our city,” Garth Eichorn, Director of Street Chaplains said “Some of these times lead on to sharing the gospel and giving pastoral care.”

we believe in you

visit belovesunday.org.au

Street Chaplains needed!

There is a real need for more Street Chaplains in Northbridge, Joondalup and Fremantle.

The ministry continues to touch people for Christ in a remarkable way. This is real missionary work to people who have no contact with the gospel.

The next “Fastrak” training course starts on Monday 5th August. See the website for full details.

Ring or SMS Garth Eichhorn if you would like further information on 0447 722 505.

www.streetchaplain.com

Sorry Day 2013

Baptist churches around Western Australia remembered Sorry Day on 26 May.

Judi Turner led the Broome Baptist Church congregation in a reflection and prayer. She started by exploring the meaning of 'sorry' by pointing them to the Collins Dictionary where the meaning is, 'feeling of regret'.

"Given that the word regret is a bit of an old-fashioned word, I also looked up its meaning," Judi said. "There is the verb form (the doing part) and the noun form (the description part). The verb means 'express apology' and the noun 'feeling of sorrow' hits the nail on the head for me."

"We have all heard the reasons (excuses), why saying 'sorry' is so hard – it means admitting we did something wrong. It could cost us either financially or in feeling guilt and we may need to change our future behaviour."

Judi continued by saying that in her teenage years, her parents were missionaries in Papua New Guinea. The language that she spoke with the Indigenous people there was Pidgin English. For Judi, the Pidgin sentence, 'Mipela sori tumas', sums it up beautifully. It means, 'This mob here (Broome Baptist Church) is sorry big time'.

"We are all created equals in God's sight through what Jesus did on the cross for all of us. My prayer is that we bring honour to His name by the way we live

together in harmony here in this town of Broome," Judi said.

At Parkerville Baptist Church, Chris Vigus asked why is Sunday 26 May National Sorry Day? The story begins with the *Bringing them Home Report* for the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission being tabled in our Federal Parliament on 26 May 1997.

The report outlined in graphic detail the appalling life experiences of the many Aboriginal families that were torn apart when their children were forcibly removed and the

ongoing impact of those policies on future generations.

The report included 54 recommendations, but sadly only four of these have been implemented. Up until 2010, only three of the recommendations had been implemented.

Chris led the congregation in prayer and used the prayer written specifically for Sorry Day:

"God tapped me on the shoulder when I first read this prayer about children being taken from parents' arms. God's spirit revealed that I was sharing this prayer with my congregational friends as a father, a father who knew the love of a mother and the love of a father, and because I am now a grandfather. These bonds of love tell me how immense the emotional loss would be if you had a child stolen by law," Chris told the people.

“We are all created equals in God's sight through what Jesus did on the cross for all of us. My prayer is that we bring honour to His name by the way we live together ...”

”



Thoughtful Prayer

God of all creation

We thank you for this beautiful land,

For the First Peoples you entrusted to care for it,

For its wealth and many Second Peoples who have made it their home.

Australia has been good to us.

We ask now for this land that we will all be healed.

For our ancestors made gains at the expense of the Aboriginal custodians.

Lands were taken and families destroyed by removal of children.

We pray for those who were taken, and those parents and grandparents whose arms lost little ones.

We struggle to imagine how this would feel and how it could have happened.

For the pain and loss of identity and culture, we ask healing.

For a callous disregard of human rights we ask forgiveness and healing.

For wilful blindness and ignorance we ask for your light to shine.

For the descendants still affected by trans-generational trauma we ask for ongoing support systems, in the name of justice.

May we all be one.

May we be a nation who cares for 'the least of these'.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

Written for use in churches on National Sorry Day 2013 by Rev. Dr Ian Robinson, Wendy Hendry, Rev. Sealin Garlett.

digital church

31/05/2013

Andrew Hamilton

www.backyardmissionary.com

"It's hard to acknowledge our heresies because, in many ways, they are our blind spots and you simply can't see your own blind spots (that's why they are called that...) or they are our deepest desires and passions that we struggle to admit to – much stronger than our desires for the kingdom."

05/06/2013

Jamie Wright:

www.theveryworstmissionary.com

"If the church is to be the last

bastion of light and hope for the world, we must open our big glass doors – to everyone. If the church is to be a stronghold for the weak, the starved, the sick and dying, we must invite them in and welcome them. If the church is to lead people to the foot of the cross, then we better have a good answer when the world asks, 'Um, excuse me, where is the Sanctuary?'"

09/06/2013

Ron Edmondson

www.ronedmondson.com

"If I am called to serve a mighty God, I should serve Him mightily! Even when I'm

distracted – even when obstacles get in the way.

Even when the work is harder than I think I can do. If I am asked to work for a God who is steadfast in His love for me, then I should work for Him steadfastly!"

10/06/2013

Cara Sexton

biblelude.net

"There are days when I plead for Him to come and come soon. When the weight of the whole broken business of life grabs hold and pulls me straight to the bottom, when I'm sure this can't go on much longer."

briefs

Baptisms

Lakeside Baptist Church's Lucille and Wessel Viljoen were baptised on 24 April, and Jenny Jay and Bernie O'Leary were baptised on 5 May. Austin Cove Community Church celebrated the baptisms of Jamie Serret and Liam Cathro on 12 May and Kim Pritchard on 26 May.

News from North Beach Baptist Church

Youth and Young Adults Pastor, Bruce Polmear and Kylie Jordan, announced their engagement in March and Sarah Crosby married Cam Stowell on Easter Sunday. Gladys Morgan celebrated her 100th birthday on 13 April.

Churches multiply

In Norway, 300 churches have been planted in the last 15 years. This is reported by Oivind Augland, Director of DAWN Norge, a national network for church planting in which many denominations and churches participate. A house church network in Oslo reports that in the last three years, 70 people have been baptised, of which 50 are new Christians. Churches in Norway are actively working together and have a vision beyond their own nation. They want to 'ignite multiplying church planting movements all over Europe'.

New ways to explore the faith

Towards Belief, a new Australian tool to help Christians connect with friends and explore the Christian faith, was launched in Sydney in early June.

Gynea Baptist Church Senior Pastor and CEO of Olive Tree Media, Karl Faase, said that in 2011 Olive Tree Media had commissioned social researchers, McCrindle Research, to look into the religious and spiritual beliefs of modern Australians, and specifically what issues turned them off Christian faith and the church. The research clarified the belief blockers – the reasons many people have lost confidence in the church and its message.

This research formulated the topics of each of the episodes for *Towards Belief*. They include child abuse, religious violence, exclusive faith (Jesus is the only way to God) and suffering. The resulting research, published as the *Australian Communities Report*, is available for purchase from Olive Tree Media's online shop.

Olive Tree Media is an Australian-based media organisation which produces DVD and television series for Christian media and church use.

Karl is a highly regarded interviewer and host, with a friendly yet probing style. He has hosted other programs including, *The Men's Series* and *The Family Series* plus numerous television specials. He will be at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on 27 July.

Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA), in conjunction



Photo: Olive Tree Media

Karl Faase at the launch of *Towards Belief*, a new tool to help people engage with the issues that research shows are 'belief blockers' for many Australians.

with *Crossover Australia*, is bringing English author and equipper, Dennis Pethers to Perth in July to help engage pastors and church leaders with ways of equipping their congregations to share the Good News.

"We really want to help people move beyond inviting their friends to have someone else share the gospel with them, to equipping our people to do it themselves," Phil Bryant, Church

Health Consultant with BCWA said.

A gifted trainer and communicator, Dennis, will conduct a one-day seminar on the topic of 'Turning a community contact into a faith conversation' at Yokine Baptist on 22 July. The training will focus on helping Christians go from merely having contact with people who are not yet followers of Jesus, to actually conversing

with them, exploring the issues that can lead to faith in Jesus.

Dennis, founder of Vis-A-Vis Ministries and International Director of More to Life, is an author and creator of numerous creative resources that are being used by churches to help people discover the truth about Jesus. His recent evangelistic DVD *More to Life* has already sold 100,000 copies in the UK alone.

"It's often difficult to find

material that relates well to Australian society," Phil said. "I think these two men and what they have developed can work here. I'd really encourage pastors and ministry leaders and their teams to come along and learn."

Visit www.baptistwa.asn.au and click on the Events tab for more information.

Charismatic Campolo tours with World Vision



Photo: ©2013 SJCreative

Campolo provoking audiences' thoughts

Senior Pastor of Lakeside Baptist Church, Anthony Palmieri, welcomed acclaimed speaker and author, Tony Campolo, to the church on the night of Friday 31 May, as part of the Unlikely Hero Tour with World Vision.

Prior to Tony's address, singer songwriter Ezereve performed some of her original songs which showcased her passionate stance against poverty and injustice as a World Vision advocate.

His address was classic Campolo, challenging the audience to take Jesus seriously. "Believing in Jesus is not enough", Tony said, "He called us to be disciples and a disciple

does what the master says."

From the commandment to, "love your neighbour as yourself", Tony encouraged everyone to show love which involves concentration, commitment and concern.

As Tony concluded with the challenge to become people who have the same deep, intensive concern for others that Jesus displayed, it was heartening to see the crowd respond with over

30 child sponsorships taken up with World Vision.

Reflecting on Tony's message, Steve Wickham, Pastor of Discipleship and Training at Lakeside, said, "I found it both fascinating and inspiring how Tony Campolo shared, by his own life experiences, how God wants us to love – by concentrating intentionally, committing perseveringly, and actually being concerned enough to do something. His case for sponsoring the most disadvantaged children was compelling as he told of some atrocities he had witnessed."

Perth UnEARTHed a success



Photo: Tim White

Local entertainment was showcased by TEAR WA's Young Adults.

TEAR WA hosted a night of indie entertainment at the Mount Hawthorn Community Hall on Saturday 25 May. Perth UnEARTHed showcased local bands, films and short plays to the theme of earth's sacredness.

Steve Mackinnon, Assistant State Director of TEAR Australia, said "TEAR WA Young Adults wanted to put on an event drawing people into TEAR's orbit, fundraise money, educate, advocate for the poor and the earth, as well as have a good time and empower people to know that their gifts and talents can be used to make a difference."

More than \$700 was raised, enough to provide seed and training for 20 vegetable gardens in destitute areas of Tanzania, such as the Busegwe and Nyama villages. The vegetable gardens not only help boost the family's nutrition, but surplus produce can be sold at local markets for extra income. The local farmer has access to training in

gardening, digging of small wells for water and how to process and preserve vegetables.

A number of local musicians and performers contributed to the night with one lady describing it as, 'the best indie[er] vibe in Perth, we got to hang out, drink chai and knit'. Phil Sparrow brewed his own chai, biting the cardamom pods then throwing them into the brew, "That's how they do it in Afghanistan," Phil said.

TEAR Australia is characterised by taking a stand on issues that are important, but not always popular.

"Climate change affects the poorest of the poor adversely and our affluent lifestyle is

perpetuating and causing this. We need to live more simply so that others may simply live. This is not a social issue, this is a gospel issue," Steve said.

Micah Challenge campaign called, Hope for Creation, was launched on the night. Hope for Creation encourages Christians to write to their MPs about the issue of living more simply. Throughout the evening, people could participate in activities

and earn tokens to buy a coffee, chai, pumpkin soup, recycled Christian books, the *Big Issue* magazine or homemade shopping bags made out of old curtains. To obtain a token, you could make glasses from recycled bottles, plant seedlings from Lockridge Community Garden, sign Micah Challenge petitions and write letters to MPs. Another popular option was to knit a square for a blanket for homeless people.

Surf Chaplains

Christian Surfers has sent chaplains to camp on the island of Gland in south west Java, Indonesia for the past two years and is looking for chaplains to go this year.

"It's one of my favourite places," Tim Hartnett from Christian Surfers in Perth said.

The isolated idyllic coast is buffered from the most densely populated island in the world by the thick tropical jungle of a national park.

"The reserve is still full of wildlife, including the occasional tiger," Tim said.

In the high season (Western Australia's winter months), around 100 people stay in the three camps set up along the coast.

"A surf chaplain actively prays for camp residents and

then seeks opportunities to talk about Jesus," Tim said. "Due to the relaxed nature of the camp, we have chosen to go for this unstructured approach. It has proven both rewarding and challenging to our chaplains as they have needed to really plug into the Holy Spirit to provide meaningful opportunities."

"A passion to surf is good too!" Tim said.

For more information about the three to four week chaplaincy opportunity, please contact Tim on timandcarla.hart@gmail.com.

You are invited to a special workshop

Turning a Community Contact Into a Faith Conversation

Helping Pastors and Church Leaders equip their congregations to share the Good News

Monday 22nd July, 10am - 3pm
Yokine Baptist Church - 50 Frape Avenue, Yokine
\$15 per person (includes lunch)

Register via www.baptistwa.asn.au/view/events

With **Dennis Pethers**

Founder of
Viz-A-Viz Ministries and
International Director
of "More to Life"



Baptist Churches
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CROSSOVER
AUSTRALIA

Radio nurtures and inspires

Based in Davao City on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, MM Quirante works with Health Communication Resources (HCR), a Perth based group using community-centred radio to help transform communities.

In Davao she meets regularly with Sultan Camlon Moner.

"During my first visit, I was amazed how the Sultan was fully involved in discussions with the battalion commander, a former enemy, and Christian workers. He couldn't believe that a community radio project is planned for his community because it was just a dream to him. He can see the radio program playing a key role in educating people about the true meaning of peace," MM said.

On the tourist-favoured island of Palawan, the beauty of the island is astounding, but many of the local people live in poverty. The Luke Society provides quality low-cost medical care, outreach clinics, health worker training, church leader training and a Christian preschool.

Pastor Ben, who helps direct the Luke Society with his wife, Susie, a doctor, believes a community radio station will help the community to address important social issues before they become major social problems.

A community survey revealed the people want a community radio station that will reflect their community and provide education for health and development.

Multi-national mining ventures are destroying mountains and trees, and local politicians acquiring wealth while the local community struggles.

In Zamboanga, a partner's radio station was shut down in

2001 when religious extremists, objecting to Christian radio programming, burst into the studio and shot dead an announcer and a technician while they were broadcasting live. In 2002, MM went to that radio station, living there for months to train a new group of programmers to be sensitive to the community needs.

One trainee, Pastor Emman, is building relationships with an ethnic group. The people are disadvantaged having low levels of literacy and health. For years, the people had not filed official papers to register the birth of their children, which, later in life, excluded them from education and social and health services. Pastor Emman initiated a registration campaign with on and off air activities that resulted in hundreds of youth being registered.

In all of these communities, MM is the important facilitating link to mobilise ongoing training to teach others to use community radio for peace-building, social development and spiritual transformation.

MM and her husband, Efran, inspired supporters with news of the work she is doing in the Philippines on a recent visit to Perth.



Mae Mosette Quirante, from Health Communication Resources, talked with supporters about her work in the Philippines.

Photo: Jill Birt

Australia reaches out

Baptist World Aid Australia is exploring the possibilities of developing partnerships with already well-established Baptist Convention's across Southeast Asia.

"This is a great opportunity for Baptist World Aid Australia," Scott Higgins, Director of

Strategic Engagements with Baptist World Aid Australia said on a recent visit to Perth.

"Baptist World Aid Australia is the largest Baptist Aid organisation in the world so we're confident we can partner with other countries and help them engage with poverty and make a real difference."

The emerging wealthy nations of Southeast Asia have little experience with aid work.

"Here's a great opportunity to be a working coalition, sharing our skill base and experience," Scott said. "We can offer ways to

engage and educate the church so that they can jump on and work to reduce poverty and uphold justice."

This is a new area of ministry for Baptist World Aid Australia.

"We're constantly working to engage with local church leaders across Australia. We're pleased to be stepping it up in coming months as we meet with pastors to talk about how aid and development are changing, and what churches need from us is changing too," he said.



BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA
Be love. End poverty.

A will to end poverty

You can do more than you ever thought possible by leaving a bequest in your will. Call Jules Parker on 1300 789 991 or visit baptistworldaid.org.au/ bequests for more information.


Albany Baptist Church is looking for a SENIOR PASTOR

Are you a man passionate about:

- preaching God's word and seeing lives changed?
- nurturing others to make disciples and share their faith?
- pastoral care and equipping others for that ministry?
- leading a team to carry out God's mission, vision and purpose for His Church?

If this is you, we would love to hear from you by submitting a short (2 page) summary addressing the areas important for this position as well as some of your interests, experiences and qualifications.

Expressions of interest close on July 31, 2013.
Please email to: admin@albanybaptist.com.au
Any enquiries, contact Geoff 0427 413 567



"We exist to spread a joyful passion for the supremacy of God through a biblically shaped community."

Please consider the children

Photo: Jill Birt

Engaging in cross-cultural ministry for Australian churches continues to change and develop. More and more churches across Australia are forging partnerships with groups in areas of the world where there is significant need and poverty in communities.

Tourism is seen by some as almost a 'rite of passage' or an 'annual right' for sections of Australia's population allowing people to experience new cultures and explore foreign lands more easily than 30 years ago.

International travel is cheap and access to remote regions is far easier than in any other time in global history. Communication is easy and inexpensive, allowing friendships and connections to develop more readily.

Scott Higgins, Director of Strategic Engagements with Baptist World Aid Australia says, "We've moved from the Encyclopedia Britannica world to the Wikipedia world where

information is available at the swipe of a finger on a screen."

This immediacy of information may appear to have done away with the need to learn culture through being embedded long-term within a culture, watching and learning from mistakes. However, the arrogance of assuming one source of information is sufficient for discerning insight of a person will not totally equip the Kingdom-hearted aspirant for cross-cultural partnership.

The Advocate researched some issues churches are grappling with as they make decisions about working with children living in poverty.

There's a difference between critical emergency need and long-term support.

When a disaster like an earthquake or cyclone strikes, people need the bare essentials to survive an initial stage of loss – clean water, shelter, food and clothing. It has been proven that the best way to provide for these needs is through people on the ground that know the community and can source materials locally. When lots of outsiders arrive with little understanding of the community and little or no language ability the logistics become horrendous.

Long-term sustainable development helps a community build its own ability to thrive. It's the difference between dependency and building capacity. This requires time and works best with locals being the change agents.

There are hordes of orphans in the world.

The United Nations continues to refute this statement. In their

report, *West Africa, Protecting Children from Orphan Dealers*, they say: 'Of the estimated 1,821 children living in orphanage care in Sierra Leone, UNICEF and child protection agencies have verified just 256 as having lost both parents.'

'One in eight Liberians are classified as a child missing one or both parents. However, many of the estimated 5,800 estimated children in orphanages are reportedly not orphans, according to local child rights activists.'

Sandra Schimmelpennig from Good Intentions Are Not Enough (www.goodintentions.org), writes: "In reality there are relatively few cases where a child is completely without someone who could take care of them if they had the financial means to do so."

Following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami that devastated areas of Aceh, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, it was estimated that there were more than 10,000 orphans in Aceh

alone and thus orphanages were built. Within two months, it was discovered that just 60 children in the Aceh region had been identified as 'unaccompanied minors', meaning they were left without support from any adult they knew before the disaster.

Lindsay Murdoch (Sydney Morning Herald, 7 April 2013) said, "About 72 percent of the 10,000 children living in Cambodia's estimated 600 orphanages have a parent, although most are portrayed as orphans to capitalise on the goodwill of foreign tourists and volunteers, including thousands of Australians, research shows. Up to 300 of these centers are operating illegally and flouting a push by government and United Nations agencies for children to be reunited with their parents."

Lindsay also reported that Australia has a greater involvement in Cambodia's orphanages than any other nation through Australians running them directly, volunteering or donating.



Photo: Jill Birt

CHILDREN ARE NOT TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

THINK before visiting an orphanage.
Visit www.thinkchildsafe.org

Ad: Friends International

“Tourism is seen by some as almost a ‘rite of passage’ or an ‘annual right’ for sections of Australia’s population allowing people to experience new cultures and explore foreign lands more easily than 30 years ago.”

What does the latest research about caring for children say?

Research confirms that children who have lost one or both parents are far better off staying in their community with family members or fostered. In many cultures when children leave their community they lose their rights to land, leaving them destitute when they are older.

When you put a grieving child with foreigners, the child loses a huge amount of social capital, the glue that connects cultural

relationships within a culture. Who understands them and their culture? Even the best professional care can’t substitute for family care and bonding into long-term social relationships. Staff at an institution can’t offer that. Placing children in an institution, no matter how well run, takes them away from a ‘normal’ community with a wide spread of age groups where they intuitively learn important elements of growing up and taking responsibility in a community.

Well meaning enthusiasm can’t displace legal standing.

“Just because an organisation is seeking funds to build an orphanage does not mean they are actually licensed by the state to work with orphans,” Sandra Schimmelpfennig said.

Countries have laws that their citizens and visitors are obliged to follow. Entering a country and engaging with or establishing a work without due consideration of the law of the land has the potential for serious consequences.

The IRIN humanitarian news and analysis a service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports: “A January 2009 study by the Social Welfare Department, responsible for children’s welfare and supervising orphanages, showed that up to 90 percent of the estimated 4,500 children in orphanages in Ghana are not orphans and 140 of the 148 orphanages around the country are un-licensed,” the department’s Assistant Director,

Helena Obeng Asamoah said.

“In Cambodia the number of orphanages has increased 65 percent in the past five years, while the number of orphans has reduced dramatically as Cambodia recovered from genocide, invasion and an AIDS epidemic,” Lindsay Murdoch of the Sydney Morning Herald said.

Orphanage Tourism?

The Cambodian government, in conjunction with UNICEF and other agencies, has resorted to billboards on the country’s city streets to raise awareness of tourists to the rights of children in orphanages.

“Visiting orphanages and volunteering in Cambodia is dangerous for children as they become emotionally attached to foreigners and feel abandoned when they leave,” Friends International Chief, Sebastien Morat said to reporter, Lindsay Murdoch.

Dr Tim Keller of the Redeemer Church in New York comments that in the Bible the word ‘poor’

includes the weak, the elderly, the mentally and physically handicapped, refugees, new immigrants, the working poor, natural disaster victims, the unemployed, single-parent families and orphans. The Bible also says that Christians need to be involved in ministering to these people.

While these activities are right and proper for the people of God to be involved in, there are issues the church needs to explore regarding what is in the best interest of the poor.

For further research:

- www.goodintents.org – resources to help churches examine some of the issues
- www.hlic.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=202971 – Tim Keller: A Case for Compassion
- www.baptistworldaid.org.au

Fusion celebrates its 40th

Over the June long weekend, Fusion celebrated its 40th anniversary with a series of events culminating in a celebration dinner on the Sunday evening.

The celebration included 62 people who had worked with and supported Fusion over the decades. The gathering was a chance to remember the past and to celebrate God's goodness and the faithfulness of hundreds of people.

Many of those at the dinner had not seen each other for over 30 years. There was much backslapping, raucous laughter and some discussion about how much less hair some have today.

Dave Hammond, team leader of Fusion's centre in the western suburbs of Sydney, spoke of the impact of God through Fusion people who loved him as a marginalised young man in Launceston in the 80s and challenged the diners to consider who are the marginalised ones and the unseen ones that God is calling Fusion to work with.

In January 1973, a group of long haired, young, enthusiastic Christians got together because they wanted to take their faith seriously and be part of making a difference in the lives of others.

Those idealists linked up with what was then called, 'Teen Crusaders', who were working in Melbourne, Sydney

“ ... a chance to remember the past and to celebrate God's goodness and the faithfulness ... ”

and Tasmania. In 1980, Teen Crusaders became a national organisation and changed their name to 'Fusion'.

For many young Christians, Fusion provided an opportunity for ministry at the edge of the church. One memorable ministry was the annual Greasy Spoon Easter Outreach to surfers at Yallingup.

At its zenith, the Greasy Spoon had a team of 90 enthusiastic young people. Performers including, Noel Paul Stookey and Barry McGuire, entertained the mob overflowing the old wooden Yallingup Community Hall.



Celebrating in style: Fusion reaches the age of 40.

Some people who are currently at the forefront of Christian Youth Work, cut their ministry teeth at the Greasy Spoon.

The Gumnut People provided a place of welcome relief for Christians and their neighbours and friends from the heat and dust of the Australia Day Art and Craft Festival at Hyde Park.

Providing tea and coffee and a homemade biscuit drew many to the tent while the craft activities, wind tunnel and dunking machine, kept the kids occupied.

"The activities of Fusion may have changed over the years – the Greasy Spoon and a Mental Health Accommodation facility seem poles apart," WA Director, Andrew Braun said. "At the core,

the dream is the same – a place for Christians to take their faith seriously and make a difference in the lives of others as they share in Christian fellowship, Jesus' love and establish Kingdom values."

Fusion is currently recruiting for new staff. Contact Rosemary Braun on 9355 1159 for more information.

Photo: Andrew Braun

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

Incorporation?

The Advocate invited a legal team to comment on the issue of incorporation for churches. Here's their response.

Several churches are considering whether they should become a not-for-profit incorporated association because of the benefits this status gives the church. When a church 'incorporates', it becomes an incorporated association, which is its own legal entity. An incorporated association can own land and personal property, open bank accounts and enter into contracts. Churches who are considering incorporating should take accounting and legal advice to ensure that incorporation is appropriate and will further the objectives of the church.

If a church is considering incorporation then one of the requirements of incorporating is that they develop a set of rules,

or a constitution, to govern the management of the association. There is no requirement for the length of these rules; however, it is essential that the rules are succinct and precise as the rules will bind the association and will guide members.

There may also be legal issues if the rules are not correctly drafted. There is a legal requirement that incorporated association's rules be consistent with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1987. This legislation provides that certain matters must be covered in an association's rules such as the purpose or objects of the association, the qualifications for membership, the process for altering rules of the association and several others. If the rules do not comply with the legislation then a church may not be eligible for incorporation.

If any changes are made to the incorporated association's rules the changes must be lodged with the Commissioner for Consumer Protection within one month of the change being made.

Wiang Pa Pao partnership

Lesmurdie Baptist Church works in partnership with Creator Church, Wiang Pa Pao, high in the hill country of northern Thailand.

The relationship started in 2009 when Monica O'Neil led a cultural exposure team to the area.

Rod and Sue Davidson were on that team and were convinced by the time the group returned to Perth that they were to return to the area to help the Pastor, Supote Ketudom, and his wife Mam.

Rod has now retired from his job and for several months of each year, they live in Wiang Pa Pao.

Wiang Pa Pao is about a 90 minute drive north east of the northern Thai centre of Chiang Mai.

"We've done a lot of building projects," Rod said. "Initially we helped the Assemblies of God Church in Chiang Mai for about two years, as they were building six homes for their Nail Poverty Program. We then focused on the work Supote and Mam are doing."

As well as pastoring a small church, Supote and his wife care for 24 children, almost all of whom are from the tribal groups of northern Thailand.

"Some of the children are orphans, but the majority come from very poor rural villages

where their families struggle to feed and clothe them," Rod said.

"At school holiday time many of the children return to their families," Sue said. "The Wiang Pa Pao Peace Home helps them have access to education and health care as well as being a safe place to live."

"I love looking for sponsors who will make an ongoing commitment to support each of the children," she said.

Rod's building skills and project management expertise has helped when teams from Lesmurdie arrive, often twice a year, to help renovate or build new buildings.

"We've built a three bedroom home for Supote and Mam and a temporary dorm for the boys. There are plans for two more cottages, and long term we're dreaming for a multi-purpose building on the site too," Rod said.

Pastor Karen Siggins regularly Skypes with Supote and Mam, talking through issues and working out the finer points of a dynamic cross-cultural ministry partnership.

The Davidson's returned to Thailand in mid-June after a break in Perth.



Lesmurdie Baptist's Team Leader Pastor Karen Siggins cuts a cake with Pastors Mam and Supote Ketudom celebrating the partnership between Lesmurdie Baptist Church and Creator Church Wiang Pa Pao in northern Thailand.

Photo: Sue Davidson

Young Syrian family forced to flee the country

Four year old Yasmin has been living on a park bench with her mum, dad and three older brothers since they fled fighting in Syria for Lebanon's Bekaa Valley with just the clothes on their backs. They stay by the bench all day and at night they sleep in a local mosque or an open train carriage in the town centre.

Yasmin's mum, Layla, says they had no choice but to leave Syria as fighting intensified in recent months. They fled when their neighbour's home was attacked. They were terrified theirs would be next.

The family are among more than 1.5 million Syrians who have fled to neighbouring countries, including Lebanon and Jordan, since fighting started two years ago. A further 4.25 million have been forced out of their homes by conflict and are now displaced within Syria.

In Lebanon, some refugees have been able to find accommodation with friends, and some have built makeshift shelters on rented land. Yasmin's family

hasn't been able to find shelter anywhere.

"All I want is shelter for my children," Layla said. "I don't care about anything else."

Like all parents fleeing Syria for nearby countries, all this family wants is somewhere safe for their children to live – but they couldn't even afford an empty garage.

World Vision is working in Jordan and Lebanon to provide refugee families, like Yasmin's, with hygiene kits, blankets, stoves and food vouchers. Child-friendly spaces are also being created so refugee children have somewhere safe to play and learn.

World Vision workers asked Christians to pray for the children of Syria.



Syrian families forced to flee homeland.

Photo: fotostory / Shutterstock.com

Ted Baehr is Founder and Publisher of MOVIEGUIDE®: The Family Guide to Movies and Entertainment and Chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission® ministry, as well as a noted critic, educator, lecturer and media pundit. *The Advocate* interviewed him while he was in Perth recently talking with school students, politicians and parents on the topic, 'Culturally Wise Families'.

Why is storytelling so important to you?

Well you know, stories matter deeply, they connect us to our personal history and to the history of all time and culture. Every story has a world view: a way of viewing reality, truth, the universe, the human condition, and the supernatural world. Looking carefully at a story, we can examine the motifs, meanings, values and principles it suggests. For example, a story with a redemptive Christian worldview shows people their need for salvation through a personal faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Conversely, a story with a secular humanist worldview explicitly or implicitly attacks Christianity. By examining a story's worldview, you can identify the cultural ideals the story presents and the emotions it evokes. You can also determine the moral, philosophical, social, psychological, spiritual and aesthetic messages the story conveys.

“
The entertainment media have become the primary teachers of our children.”

How do you see your work helping families?

By the age of 17, a young person has watched more than 60,000 hours of media. Once, a child's script of behaviour was learned from their parents – today it comes from movies. My life purpose is to be used of God to redeem the values of the media while educating audiences on how to use discernment in selecting their entertainment.

Why focus on this? Are you trying to change culture?

You know, 'he who controls the media controls the culture'. I want to teach families to teach children to be culture-wise. We've got a Media Literacy course at tertiary level and we see it as a major force around the world. It's helping people choose the good and reject the bad – advertising is influential. Different people have different susceptibilities and the more intelligent you are, the more susceptible you are to advertising. Seven to 11 percent of people will be influenced by violence; 25 percent will be influenced by drugs and/or alcohol; 60 percent by products and 30 percent will be influenced by sex. There's more information on our website www.movieguide.org.

How can parents combat the celebrity culture we see so much of on social media, TV and in magazines?

The confusing thing is, these celebrities are idols, but they don't sell movies. Star-focused movies don't necessarily do well. Sixty-six percent of young girls feel depressed that they don't look like Hollywood stars. Entertainment is for story and that's what you remember – a great story, good versus evil, a redemptive story. You know, Superman was written in the 30s as a Christ figure saving the world.

How did this become your passion?

I grew up in the industry as both of my parents were stars. We were involved in New Age before New Age began. I was involved with the lawyer's guild at New York University and Chris Dewey said to me, 'you're always against Christians. Would you read the Bible?' Well, God got me and deep conviction and change came about. I sensed God saying I was to be involved with the influence of the media. He's led me along the way, turned my views around on almost everything.



Dr Ted Baehr

Photo: Jill Birt

You're redeeming the values of mass media by influencing the entertainment industry. How are you doing that?

The situation in Hollywood up until the late 1950s was that the primary influence behind the scenes was the church. Today, there are 1,200 advocacy groups in Hollywood. We are the only Christian group. We're there to protect our children and grandchildren with 90 percent of kids in the USA abandoning their parents' faith. Vice President, Jo Biden, openly states that he has changed his perspective and values because of the TV series, *Will & Grace*. You know 75 percent of people learn by heart not by head. It changes your perspective on reality. The entertainment media have become the primary teachers of our children. It is a critical time for people of faith to communicate through the mass media of the entertainment industry.

You talk about educating audiences to use discernment in selecting their entertainment. How are you doing this?

Each year, I spend 180 days visiting schools and colleges around the world, attending career days and talking with students and staff. We're about to launch a six week study course that people can do, and it focuses on culture and helps train people to discern. The studies include understanding the influence of the media, understanding the developmental stages of children, understanding the grammar of the mass media (90 percent of people learn visually) and understanding your own values. Most people don't understand because they've never really looked at that – asking the right questions.

What do you mean by asking the right questions?

When you watch something on the media you need to

ascertain some information and then discern some other matters. So asking the right questions is really important. Who is the hero? What is the problem? How does the hero solve the problem? Ask yourself what you think of that? Then you're prepared to make some decisions – 'is this something I want my family to watch and learn from?'

What are you reading?

I am reading, *Intellectuals*, by the conservative historian, Paul Johnson; *Dante's Inferno*. There are always new movie scripts to work through too. I'm working on writing a new book as well.

What brings you joy?

I've got to say helping people – blessing people and getting through the day knowing God is in charge.

By John Maxwell

Just like there are two sides to every coin, there are two extremes when it comes to taking action. Procrastinators are at one extreme – putting off actions or decisions when they really should be making a move. At the other end of the spectrum is the impatient person – one who rushes to make a decision or to take action, even when it is unwise.

I tend to land somewhere closer to the impatient end of the spectrum, so I have devoted a lot of thought to the importance of good timing.

To evaluate a goal or decision, I like to apply the risk test, in which I ask, is this decision reasonable or reckless?

Reasonable	Reckless
Built on strategy	Built on hope
Has some margin for error	Has no margin for error
Is an extension of what you do well	Has little connection to what you do well
Challenges you	Overwhelms you

Let's take a look at these differences:

Built on strategy vs. hope

Have you spent the necessary amount of time planning and preparing for this decision? Or are you acting on passion or impatience, with only the hope that everything will work out?

Reasonable margin of error

Does everything have to work out perfectly for this decision to succeed? What will happen if (when) you encounter problems? Do you have a strategy in place for handling complications? Is there enough margin for you to survive if everything goes wrong?

Based on what you do well

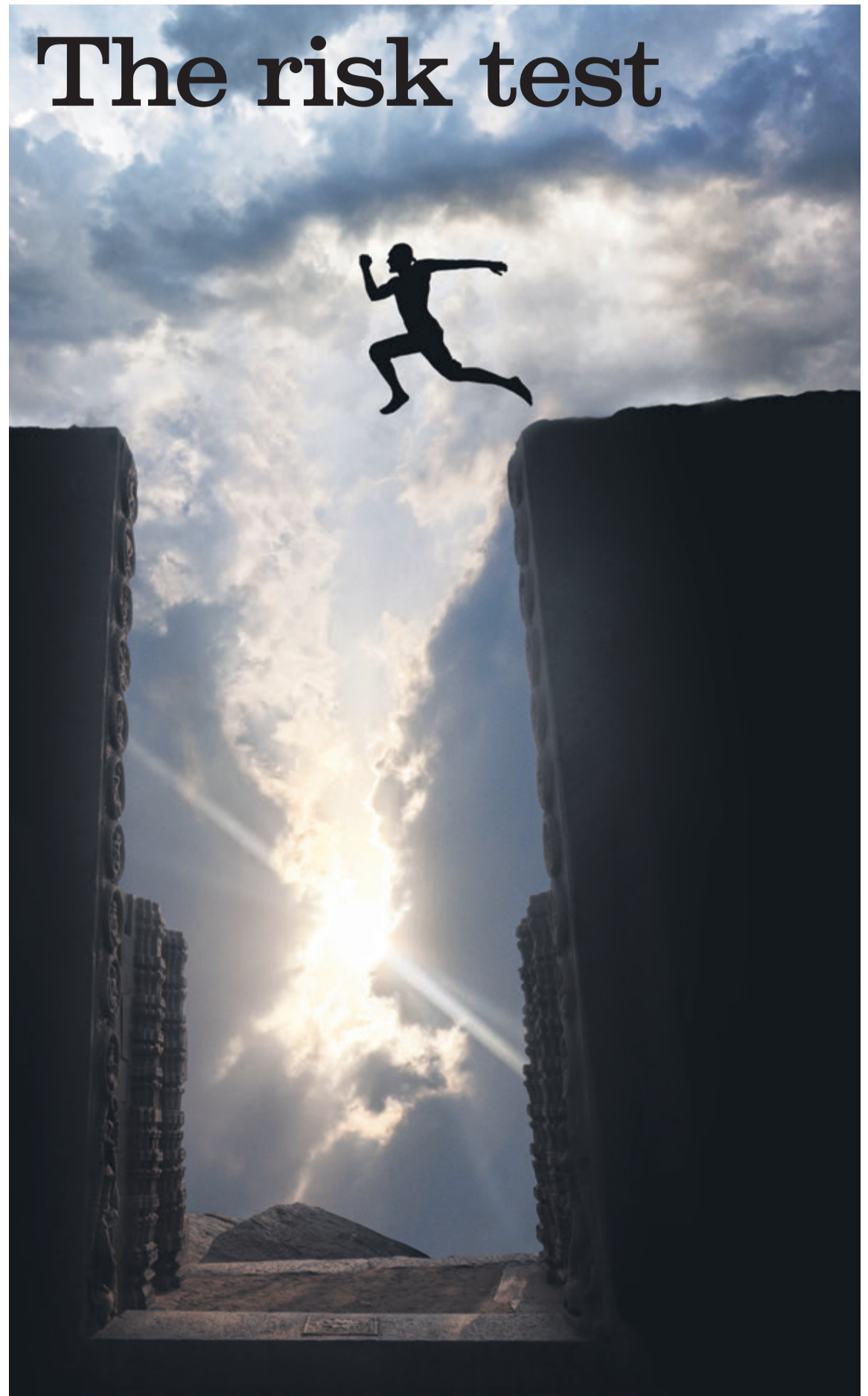
When you take action, will you be working from your strengths? Or does the goal require effort in areas where you are naturally weak?

Challenges rather than overwhelms

All of us want to achieve something bigger than ourselves. So a goal should feel challenging. If it seems overwhelming or even impossible, then at the very least, you should spend more time in the planning stage to break it down into manageable steps – or you need to enlist help. Otherwise you may need to evaluate whether the timing is right.

The Law of Timing (in The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership) teaches that when to move is as important as what to do and where to go. Just like it's possible to wait too long to act, you can also take action too soon. Finding a balance will give you the best chance of success in achieving your goals. But know this – if you're going to lean toward one side over the other, lean toward action.

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The risk test

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 get 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 individual lives. Those values can be focussed on the end and the means.

Solid leadership calls us to openly consider both – end and

“

Some parents just wanted their child to have a fair go and learn teamwork, get some exercise and some skills.

”

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. Could 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

July

- 7 July NAIDOC week event, St George's Cathedral, 9325 5766
- 8-12 July Juniors Serpentine Winter Camp, Serpentine Camping Centre, 6313 6300
- 13 July Judson Bicentennial Celebration, Woodvale Baptist Church, 0411 966 610
- 15-19 July Inters Serpentine Winter Camp, Serpentine Camping Centre, 6313 6300
- 22 July Brian Campbell in conjunction with Christian Schools WA, Perth Convention and Entertainment Centre, WAConference@christianschools.edu.au
- 22 July Turning a community contact into a faith conversation workshop with Dennis Pethers, Yokine Baptist Church, 6313 6300

August

27-28 August Vose Conference, Celebrating 50 Years

September

- 13-14 September Fresh 2013
- 27-30 September SportsFest

October

- 12 October BCWA Annual Assembly
- 25-26 October Global Leadership Summit

contribute news

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 by the 5th of each month.

We would like to know about:

- Baptisms
- Birth
- Deaths
- Events
- Marriages
- News about your church
- Pastoral changes
- Your views (letters to the editor)



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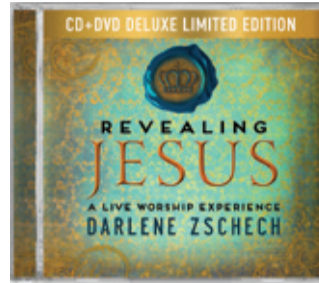


Church Ninja

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A free membership to ChurchNinja.com gives you access to the Ninja Archive – a collection of eBooks, message resources, videos and reviews to help pastors and church leaders. This growing collection is the work of Bob Franquiz and Mark Rodriguez who are pastors at Calvary Fellowship in Miami Florida and focus on developing church leaders. The available resources cover topics such as increasing productivity, preaching resources on baptism and servant hood, as well as preaching tips and sermon resources. eBooks are downloadable and in an easy to read format. Add ChurchNinja.com into your digital toolkit.

watch & listen



Revealing Jesus

By Darlene Zschech

Darlene Zschech has led millions of Christians in worship as she's written and performed such songs as, 'Shout to the Lord' and penned bestsellers 'Extravagant Worship' and 'The Kiss of Heaven'. This latest Deluxe Edition CD/DVD called *Revealing Jesus*, is nothing short of a rich, heart touching album that is collaborated with some of the greatest worship leaders of today. Filmed and recorded live at the Church of the Highlands in Birmingham, this album offers every opportunity for Jesus to be revealed through simply worshipping Him.



Prayer: Remix

By Louie Giglio

Re-mix; re-mix-ed; re-mix-ing; re-mix-es: to recombine existing elements creating a new or modified result. Bless me. Be with me. Watch over and protect me. Forgive me. Listen to the way we pray and you'll hear these four phrases often – familiar words we've probably been saying over and over to God since we first learned about prayer. This teaching by Louie Giglio called *Remix*, embraces these four concepts, while also moving towards a healthier, God-centered prayer language that changes our thoughts and words to the phrases 'Let me bless you,' 'Live through me,' and 'No matter what, use me.'



Still Believe

By Kim Walker Smith

This release is Kim Walker Smith's second solo album on the Jesus Culture Music label. Featuring mainly originals, *Still Believe* was recorded during a night of live worship at the Cascade Theatre in California. Song after song, Kim's voice carries such strong and beautiful anointing with healing lyrics and the harmonious sounds of a strings section. *Still Believe* is a powerful album full of the presence of God and will be powerful addition to any listeners' worship collection.

win

Raising Responsible Teens in a Digital World

By Brian Housman

Brian Housman helps parents become a greater influence in their teenagers' world, revealing which values motivate teenagers and offers practical ideas on how families can engage the world through service and love. *Raising Responsible Teens in a Digital World* takes you beneath the surface and reveals what really motivates your teenager, helping you understand your child and build a solid relationship based on love and mutual trust as they move towards adulthood. This book shows how even when they seem to be doing their best to ignore you, your teenager is always learning from you.

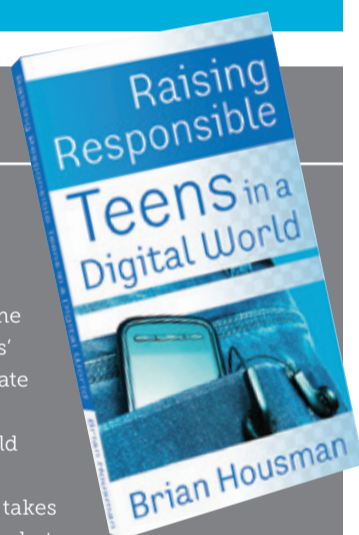
The Advocate in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *Raising Responsible Teens in a Digital World*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

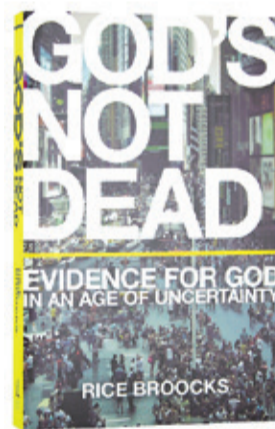
What is the name of the author of *Raising Responsible Teens in a Digital World*?

Entries close 19 July and all winners will be announced in the August edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from *Prayers for Little Hands: God Bless:* P Morris, E Oliver, R Shave



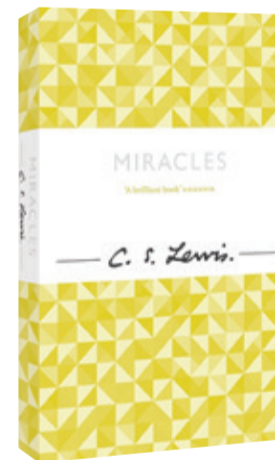
read



Gods Not Dead: Evidence of God in an Age of Uncertainty

By Rice Brooks

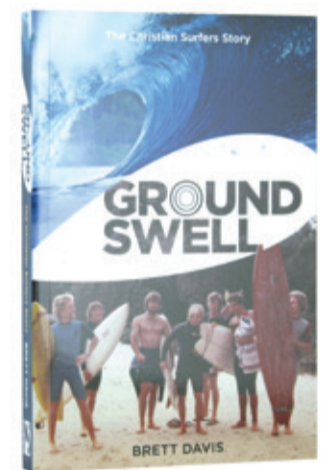
The goal of *God's Not Dead: Evidence for God in an Age of Uncertainty* is straightforward: to help readers develop 'a faith that is real and credible – and strong enough to help others find faith in God'. To that end, Rice Brooks outlines a roadmap that guides seekers to acknowledge the most basic truths of Christianity. Readers will be empowered not only to talk about their own faith with confidence, but to lead others to a relationship with Jesus.



Miracles

By C.S. Lewis

This is the key statement of *Miracles*, in which C.S. Lewis shows that a Christian must not only accept but rejoice in miracles as a testimony of the unique personal involvement of God in his creation. Using his characteristic lucidity and wit to develop his argument, Lewis challenges the rationalists, agnostics and deists on their own grounds and makes out an impressive case for the irrationality of their assumptions.



Groundswell: The Christian Surfers Story

By Brett Davis

Christian Surfers Founder and International Director, Brett Davis, explains why he and a handful of teenagers in Cronulla decided to launch Christian Surfers in 1977. Now with missions in over 30 nations, comprising over 1,000 volunteer leaders spreading the love of God through all levels of surfing, *Groundswell* is a moving story of God using people as unorganised and undesirable as surfers from the 1970s and 1980s to today in the furtherance of His Kingdom.

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Street Swags a welcome relief

Homelessness continues to grow in Western Australia as families are rejected from private rentals due to underemployment or low wages.

The 2011 Census estimated that in WA there were 1,493 children under 12 and a further 932 children between 12 years and 18 years old homeless at the time of the Census. These two groups represent more than 25 percent of the homeless population of WA.

Agencies including UnitingCare West, the Salvos and Vinnies have seen an increase in the number of families and young people seeking support around homelessness. This statistic is getting worse.

"Housing costs are usually the largest and least flexible item in a family budget," Sue Ash, CEO of UnitingCare West said. "On average we see ten families seeking assistance each month from UnitingCare West's homeless services centre in East Perth. In some circumstances, we are only able to provide emergency accommodation – the family will have a place to stay for two nights, but they'll be back on the street again."

Existing homeless facilities in Perth are not adequate enough, leaving many families and individuals sleeping rough.

Street Swags are an option for temporary shelter.

Designed by Queenslander Jean Madden, the award winning Street Swags are sewn by prisoners in Queensland and Northern Territory jails. Stuffed with a foam liner, and packed with some toiletries, a hand knitted beanie and scarf by school children then sent to agencies around Australia for distribution to homeless people.

"The Street Swags are about keeping people alive long enough for the community to take responsibility for their own," Jean Madden said.

Jean won the INDEX Award 2009: People's Choice Award, the largest design award in the world. She also won Queensland Young Australian of the Year in 2010.

So far, more than 25,600 Street Swags have been distributed Australia wide and deliver a convenient, warm, dry and comfortable night's sleep for people sleeping rough in cities and towns.

Made from Australian designed and made canvas, Street Swags are waterproof, low fire-danger and are non-combustible to cigarette burns. The fabric is 35 percent cotton meaning it is breathable and any condensation



A new form of temporary shelter, the Street Swag, are keeping people alive.

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from body moisture doesn't build up in the swag causing it to become wet. Each swag costs about \$60 to make and ship to the distributors.

The comfort, safety and dignity of the people who use Street Swags are the highest priority of Jean Madden's not-for-profit organisation.

One way to support the Winter Appeal of Perth's agencies that work with the homeless people in Western Australia is to pay for Street Swags. Visit www.streetswags.org for more information.