

the advocate

"... there may be slight differences between our beliefs ..." [PAGE 5 >>](#)

In conversation Actress Shari Rigby talks about her role in the faith-based movie *October Baby*. [PAGE 12 >>](#)



Photo: Evermore Photography

Dr Lucy Morris, CEO of Baptistcare, with recipients of Baptistcare's inaugural Recognition Awards during the 1970s themed 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner in early September.

Awarding caring people

Baptistcare's inaugural Recognition Awards were presented to winners during their 1970s themed 40th Anniversary Gala Dinner in early September. The theme of the event reflected the era in which Baptistcare commenced operations in 1972 and guests dressed accordingly.

The Awards recognised staff who display Baptistcare's values of dignity and compassion, integrity and respect, courage and justice, stewardship and accountability as they carry out their roles in our communities.

"Tonight is the opportunity for Baptistcare to say 'thank you' to its employees, to honour the extraordinary women and men who make up this organisation ... which exemplify Baptistcare's values and who continue to make a difference to the lives of thousands in WA through the services we provide," Dr Lucy

Morris, CEO of Baptistcare, said during her speech on the night.

"The awards recognise individuals from every part of Baptistcare's services. It has been extraordinary to see the diversity of nominations and to read and hear the powerful stories of the difference that is being made every day by you and your colleagues. To each of you, thank you."

Dr Morris determined the two CEO category award winners while a panel of three judges, including Stephen Kobelke, CEO of Aged and Community Services WA, Dr Nicky Howe, CEO of Southcare,

and Rob Douglas, Leader of Mission and Service at Baptistcare, decided the winners of the other five categories.

The winners of the Recognition Awards were Kim Collet (Dignity and Compassion Award), Sandra Coulson (Integrity and Respect Award), Wendy Cream (Stewardship Award and CEO's Award for Advocacy), Vicki Leishman (Courage and Justice Award), Kwame Selormey (CEO's Award for Leadership) and Margaret West (Accountability Award). Certificates of appreciation were also awarded to selected staff on the night.

"[This] is the opportunity for each of you to accept the thanks of your colleagues for your hard work, and in particular, to recognise the award finalists, who represent the dreams and aspirations of the nearly 1,500 wonderful individuals who work at Baptistcare," said Dr Morris.

Preparations for the 40th anniversary year and the design of the Recognition Awards began in late 2010. "It is exciting to be here, finally, and to be able to thank you for your hard work and commitment in ensuring that the celebrations for this, our 40th anniversary year, are so successful and in making this evening a truly wonderful celebration," Dr Morris said.

The prestigious awards will be held annually, serving as a yearly reminder to every member of the Baptistcare team that practising our values in our daily work provides the opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of others.



4 Inaugural business conference

Dr Ian Harper is keynote speaker at Beyond the Bottom line [>>](#)



5 MPs face poverty

Anti-poverty campaigners confront politicians at Voices for Justice [>>](#)



11 Gift box shock

Gift boxes raise awareness during the Olympics [>>](#)

"Baptist Churches Western Australia exists to build healthy churches."





Graham Mabury

Graham Mabury is a broadcaster and Pastor at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. You can hear Graham on Radio 6PR (882AM) every weeknight from 8pm to midnight.

Most Australians still Christian

In June, The Wall Street Journal carried an article by Shani Raja entitled 'Australians Are Losing Their Faith'. It examined the results of the 2011 Census. I see a much more positive picture of people of faith in this great southland of the Holy Spirit in those same figures. 'Most Australians Still Christian' would be an equally accurate headline.

Shani notes those ticking the 'No Religion' box increased from 15 percent in 2001 to 22 percent in 2011, including 28 percent of 15 to 34 year olds. One hundred years ago, the figure was 0.3 percent. This prompts the bold opening sentence, 'Australia is turning its back on religion'. I'm not sure an increase of one in five over a century substantiates such a dramatic claim.

Admittedly census figures

are a very inexact and clumsy representation of faith in a culture. They're a snapshot and the number of times I hit delete on my digital camera reminds me how dodgy a frozen moment can be. Census data experts point out the religion question is voluntary; any set of boxes struggles to capture the variety of spiritual expression and any change in labelling boxes can significantly skew responses.

Furthermore, media

relentlessly reports the negative.

With marriage, for instance, the Australian Institute of Family Studies states, 'Current trends suggest that one in three marriages will end in divorce'. Why not say two in three marriages will not. The fact is twice as many marriages last. Most Australians stay married.

Most Australians are Christian. In the 2011 census, six out of ten chose to identify themselves as

such (61.1 percent). People who ignored the denominational boxes but wrote Christian in the 'Other' box increased by 50.4 percent (157,747) on 2006 and almost tripled from 1996. Moreover, to quote one official summary, 'The Charismatic churches such as Baptist (over 35,757) and Pentecostal (over 18,305 which includes Hillsong) continued to record increases (they were well up from 1991 to 2006 so this is a longer term trend)'.

As John Newton's Amazing Grace has it, we have come 'through many dangers toils and snares'. His Saviour, whose grace inspired the hymn, promised, 'I will build my church'. He is.



Dr Brian Harris

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

The new normal

Ever complained about Perth traffic? Don't! I'm writing from Jakarta and really, Perth motorists hurtle through rush hour by comparison. It's interesting being on roads where traffic lanes are simply suggestions – suggestions routinely ignored by the vast majority.

Strangely, those who insist on adhering to them cause the most problems. These roads require intuitive drivers, not rule book fanatics. Not that I am personally driving. I'm here speaking at a conference and travel by taxi. My chauffeurs have earned my gasping admiration. We routinely miss other vehicles by less than six centimetres as we dart from one non-existent lane to another as though the roads were empty,

which they most certainly are not.

But today I fell asleep as I was being driven home from church. A bus alongside had a tyre explode ... I glanced up. No one hurt. Whatever. It barely cost me seven seconds sleep. I've adjusted to chaos as the new normal.

I assumed that being in the most populous Islamic country in the world I would find few signs of Christian faith.

Faulty thinking on my part. I'm genetically disposed to explore every bookstore I pass and most have had some Christian literature for sale. And Christian schools are everywhere. I am speaking at a conference for a few of them ... some impressive work going on here. But it is an Islamic country. You hear the call to prayer over and over and over again. It reminds me of how secular Australia has become.

You can live in Perth for weeks without encountering any God talk. In Jakarta, it is less than ten minutes. How strange migrants to our country must find it. I wonder how long it takes them to adjust to the new normal ...

And in Perth we've got used to refugee boats sinking. Our new normal is to shrug off such reports. But at church this morning I heard that nine people who had previously worshipped in Jakarta were on one of those boats. None of them survived. I wonder if those families will ever adjust to their new normal ...



Keith Jobberns

Keith Jobberns is National Ministries Director for Australian Baptist Ministries.

On starting a new life in Australia

There can be little doubt that one of the most contentious issues in the public policy arena in Australia today is the issue of refugees. The loss of life associated with boating disasters in recent months has again highlighted the desire of many people wanting to start a new life in Australia, and the difficulties of finding an appropriate way to deal justly and compassionately with people seeking refuge on our shores.

The social history of Australia has been one of a series of migrations of people to our continent. Anthropologists suggest that the earliest Aboriginal migrants used a land bridge from South-East Asia. British settlement saw waves of migrants making the dangerous sea voyage to start a new life in Australia. The gold rushes saw another wave. The use of labourers from the Pacific Islands created

links that continue to the present day.

Refugees fleeing the destruction of Europe following World War II caused the fabric of the Australian society to dramatically change again. In more recent years the flow of refugees from Vietnam as well as other south east Asian countries and Lebanon, Egypt and the Balkan states has added to the

multi-ethnic character of modern Australia. The most recent arrivals from trouble spots in Afghanistan, Burma, Sri Lanka and middle eastern countries add to this ever changing scene.

While there is no doubt the arrival of refugees and other new settlers has always given rise to concerns about the cohesiveness of the Australian society, it has also provided a

God given opportunity for us as followers of Jesus to act justly and compassionately to the 'strangers at the gate'. The reaching out in practical ways that are culturally sensitive ought to be a characteristic of our local church communities. Jesus challenged the people of first century Palestine to treat their strangers as neighbours and the challenge is no less true for us today. Whatever the politics of the refugee crisis, the command to act neighbourly is still obligatory for us today.

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.

Fresh leadership delivers joy

Fresh 2012 brought together 750 women from over 119 churches across Western Australia for a two-day celebration of joy at Riverview Church in Burswood.

In its sixth year, Fresh is a Baptist churches initiative, but it seeks to serve the broader church community. This year the event attracted attendees from interstate and across metropolitan and regional WA.

"We had attendees from about eight or nine denominations, with women travelling from the Northern Territory and Queensland. And in WA from as far north as Broome and Karratha, down through Perth, across to Albany and the Great Southern region and out to Kalgoorlie, which is really exciting," President of Western Australian Baptist Women, Karen Wilson said.

The conference theme was 'joy', with day one dedicated to Fresh Leadership – a day devoted to strengthening women and addressing the real issues women face in their leadership journey.

Invited international, interstate and local speakers included Nancy Beach from Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, USA; Sue Peters, State Director of Queensland Baptist Women; Perth-based Pastor Lynette Tobin; Anne Galambosi from Kolbe Catholic College in Rockingham and Karen Wilson.

"Nancy spoke about the things she has learnt from her 30 years of ministry; the challenges she's faced, the attitudes she's had to overcome, and importantly, how to have joy in leadership," Karen said. "Lynette talked about leadership when there's a cost and wove in the story of Abraham and Sarah, and the promise of God. Anne, who is a trained counsellor, spoke on how to deal with difficult people, and gave really practical pointers on how to process difficult people well. Sue focused on the calling of God. She comes out of a difficult background and talked about almost reluctantly being called by God. And I finished off the day talking about joy in leadership and how to find ways to keep that joy factor high," said Karen.

Each speaker brought their own set of experiences and leadership style, but Karen points out there was a common thread that ran through all of the presentations.

"Each presenter spoke of those times when we feel less than capable, less than qualified, less than appreciated, but to follow the call of God through all of that. Even when

we feel we are inadequate as a leader, God still has a calling and a gifting for us. So the theme was to really focus on who God has made you to be and thrive on that, not who you think you should be."

Karen has received much positive feedback following Fresh Leadership, with much of it centring on how people's lives have changed.

"Ultimately, I think everyone connected with one of the speakers in a different way and was able to see themselves in that leader, which is really powerful."



Nancy Beach, from Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, speaking at Fresh Leadership on day one of the two-day Fresh 2012 conference in September.

Photo: Sarah Wickham, SJ Creative

Beachfront busy bee in Busselton

Volunteers worked for a full weekend in early September refurbishing beachfront cottages on Busselton Baptist Camping Centre grounds. Approximately 20 people contributed their time to the refurbishment saving the Centre labour costs.

Ross Daniels, Director of Camp Ministries, said the need was great. "Numbers were lower than anticipated due to the weekend being Father's Day, but those who attended made up for it with their effort and enthusiasm. The general feeling from the volunteers was that it was so much fun and they enquired as to the date of the next busy bee!"

Recently, the Centre has been granted a renewed lease for the next 21 years, enabling affordable accommodation and

opportunities for church and community use to continue.

The Inters Summer Camp 'Sherlock Mysteries' is planned for 2 to 6 January 2013 and the Juniors Summer Camp 'Promises of Adventure Island' from 8 to 12 January 2013.

For more information visit www.baptistwa.asn.au.



Volunteers refurbished beachfront cottages on Busselton Baptist Camping Centre grounds in early September.

Photo: Ross Daniels



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Beyond the bottom line

On 5 and 6 November, Dr Ian Harper will present the keynote speech at Vose College's inaugural business conference, *Beyond the Bottom Line*. Drawing interest from academic and business leaders around Australia, the conference will address what it means to understand the marketplace through a Christian worldview.

Dr Harper will be giving an overview of modern economic science and then offer a critique from a Christian worldview of the ethical foundations of modern economics.

"I hope people will learn something of the strengths and weakness of economic science as a device for explaining what we observe in the market economy," Dr Harper said. "I also hope they will see where a Christian worldview can bring perspective to ethical dimensions of market behaviour which has been lost to the modern discussion of economics."

"We are absolutely delighted to have such an outstanding keynote speaker for our inaugural business conference,"

Dr Brian Harris, Principal of Vose College, said. "Dr Harper is a significant Christian thinker and has been able to integrate his theological insights with his economic perspectives. He is one of those rare academics who is able to communicate effectively with academics, the business community and ordinary people."

"One doesn't need a Christian worldview to 'understand' the marketplace — secular economic science is quite up to explaining how it works," Dr Harper said. "But a Christian worldview casts an ethical light on the marketplace that is obscured or ignored by secular economic science. Economics, like physics, helps us to understand how

the world behaves but, again like physics, economics simply sidesteps questions of morality and ethics — at least in its modern 'neoclassical' form."

In addition to the conference, people have the opportunity to submit papers for a book to be published by Vose Research. "Dr Harper's papers will be in the book, and will enrich it greatly," said Dr Harris.

"Attendees are to be stretched, challenged and invited to think in ways they have perhaps never thought before," said Dr Harris. "They will see the importance of economics in the mission of God. They will network with business leaders. And at every point they will be grappling with what it means



Photo: Deloitte Access Economics

Dr Ian Harper will present the keynote speech at Vose College's inaugural business conference, *Beyond the Bottom Line*, in November.

to think 'Beyond the Bottom Line' and to 'Develop a Christian Vision for the Marketplace'."

Dr Harper is one of Australia's leading economists. He is a partner at Deloitte Access

Economics and Emeritus Professor at the University of Melbourne. His book *Economics for Life* was voted Australian Christian Book of the Year in 2011.

Women answer Freset plea

Generosity has become a thumbprint of the FRESH conference. This year, Kerry Hilton, Founder of Freset, witnessed what can happen when people make a commitment to make a difference and stand together.

Speaking on day two of the FRESH conference, Kerry shared stories about women trapped in poverty in India's sex trade, and the role his organisation, Freset, plays in providing education and assistance programs to help these women find freedom and dignity. He highlighted the need to continue to help

women out of prostitution, but also the importance of stopping trafficking at the source.

"Before the conference I asked Kerry what can we do to help? He looked me in the eye and said, 'We don't need your money, we need people's hearts and we need people. We need people to come and run businesses. If you can have a 'Here I am, send me' moment

at the conference that would help,'" Karen Wilson, President of Western Australian Baptist Women, said.

Conference attendees heard Kerry's plea and responded in their own personal way.

"We challenged women to either sponsor children through Baptist World Aid, or say 'Here I am, send me'. We gave a call at the end of the day and we had about ten women come forward to give their life to Christ. We gave a call for those who suspect God is asking them to do more, and we had 50 to 60, and we connected another 600 people through Facebook who will raise

awareness for Freset. It was electrifying!"

Out of the conference, over 130 children were sponsored through Baptist World Aid and \$23,000 was given as an offering to the vulnerable children fund. In addition, \$3,600 was raised for Jade Lewis and Friends — an organisation giving women prisoners a second chance — and Tree of Hope, which provides Christmas gifts to underprivileged children.



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digital church

21/08/2012
Dave Burchett

www.daveburchett.com

"Of course our faith directs our decision making (or it should). But does that allow us to demonise those who think differently?"

07/09/2012
Perry Noble

www.perrynoble.com

"If you are a church planter/leader then there have been times in your life that you wondered why you do what you do, if you should quit, if you misheard God and/or whether or not the Lord is

going to come through ... it doesn't mean you are a bad person ... it just confirms the fact that you are human."

10/09/2012
Carlos Whittaker

www.ragamuffinsoul.com

"3,000 people around the world die every day because of suicide. God's heart is breaking every 40 seconds. It's time for the church to stop burying mental health with 'pray harder'."

10/09/2012
David Santisteven

www.davidsantisteven.com

"Achievement isn't the goal. God is. You need to waste more time in the presence of God."

11/09/2012
Bill Reichart

www.ministrybestpractices.com

"Too often many of us approach church like we're a consumer or a guest — that our purpose is simply there to have a good experience. We think that church is all about us."

briefs

Engagements

Christopher Metcalf (Albany/Riverton Baptist Church) and Angela Bosel (North Beach Baptist Church) announced their engagement on 11 August. Parkerville Baptist Church couple Rhys Ludemann and Charis Waugh announced their engagement on 6 September. Adam Martin (1Church Lakelands) and Felicity Taylor (Three Crosses Church Murdoch) announced their engagement on 8 September.

Baptisms

Kiara Waller was recently baptised at Lesmurdie Baptist Church.

Pastoral changes

Pastor Alistair Bain is concluding as Senior Pastor at Riverton Baptist Church in January 2013. Pastor Mark Parsons is concluding at North Beach Baptist Church at the end of the year. Pastor Peter Wight concluded as Senior Pastor at Moora Baptist in August. Pastor Aashish Parmar is concluding as Senior Pastor at Kalgoorlie Baptist in December and commences as the new Senior Pastor at Ellenbrook Baptist in February 2013. Pastor Ben Good concluded at Wagin Baptist church in August.

MPs face up to poverty

Hundreds of Christians from across the country joined politicians at Parliament House on Tuesday 18 September as they attached their photos to a giant 2015 puzzle. The puzzle, the highlight of Micah Challenges' Voices for Justice four day event, was a symbol of Australia's commitment to halve global poverty by 2015.

Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Labor Member of Parliament Peter Garrett, Fremantle's Labor Member of Parliament Melissa Parke and WA Greens' Senator Scott Ludlum were among a group of federal MPs and Senators representing most parties who added their faces to the 2015 puzzle in support of ending poverty.

They were joined by a group of anti-poverty campaigners who have been urging politicians to finish what Australia started when the government signed onto the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in 2000. Sophie Stuart, who works for Young Christian Students and attends Redemptorist Monastery in North Perth, was one of the campaigners who attended this year.

“We got a chance to talk to a lot of politicians and MPs about the issues of poverty ...”

“I think it's a really good opportunity for people of all different Christian faiths to come together. I understand there may be slight differences between our beliefs but we all want to work together for a common cause which is helping those less fortunate,” Sophie said. “We got a chance to talk to a lot of politicians and MPs about the issues of poverty which you wouldn't normally get to do.”

The four day event included advocacy training, theological teaching, worship, prayer, lobbying, events at Parliament House, workshops, political forums, MP lobby meetings, youth program and more.

Sophie, who attended all four days of the event, received



Labor Member of Parliament, Peter Garrett speaking at Micah Challenges' Voices for Justice event in front of the 2015 puzzle – a symbol of Australia's commitment to halve global poverty by 2015.

training on how to run an effective campaign. “We were able to attain all these campaign skills and information, and put them to use for a good cause.”

Anti-poverty campaigners held around 100 private meetings with MPs and Senators to encourage all parties to support an increase in Australia's overseas aid.

According to Micah Challenge's National Coordinator John Beckett, significant progress is being made towards the Millennium Development Goals in every country that receives Australian aid, which is why it is crucial to keep global poverty on the political agenda.

“It is great to see our political leaders come out in such strong support of such important goals. Goals which have, in some cases, already been achieved. In other cases many inroads have been made,” John said.

“In the top ten Australian aid recipients, child mortality has fallen from between 30 to 70 percent since 1990. For example, in one of our closest neighbouring countries East Timor, one in every six children was dying but that number is now all the way down to one in every 20,” John said.

Micah Challenge and Make Poverty History launched a new report on Millennium Development Goal progress at the Voices for Justice event, and all MPs and Senators were asked to pledge renewed commitment to the international goals.

For more information visit www.micahchallenge.org.au.

Kalgoorlie business awards

Kalgoorlie Baptist Church members James Buchanan, Helen Kenny and Kristen Fragar won awards at the 2012 Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce and Industry Goldfields Business and Employee Awards in August.

James won Goldfields Business Person of the Year and Business of the Year with 11 to 20 employees. James started his company, Gyro Australia in 2010.

The company has adapted some advanced oil and gas technology for hard rock mining, which suits their specialist market of organisations with mining interests.

“I spent four years working just south of the Arctic circle as a petroleum geologist, then the oil price collapsed,” James said. “People said they were mining for gold in Australia so I came to Perth, then discovered I needed to be in Kalgoorlie. That was 12 years ago.”

Helen and Kristen have worked at Kalgoorlie Baptist



Kalgoorlie Baptist Church members Helen Kenny (left), Kristen Fragar and James Buchanan with their awards.

Church with young people, and in administration. They joined forces in October 2011 and opened Design Sense Graphics & Web in Boulder earlier this year.

“I think we're a brilliant fit,” Helen said. “We've done ministry and mission trips together, now we're in partnership.”

Award judges believe Helen and Kristen's company offers

Goldfields businesses what they need to be sustainable and innovative as the region continues to move into the future.

“We seem to have a niche for doing design work, video editing and web development,” Helen said. “We're aware of God providing work for us.”

Celebration of Pastor Peter Birt

Pastor Peter Birt preached the last of a teaching series on the Dallas Willard book, *The Divine Conspiracy* at morning services at Parkerville Baptist Church on Sunday 9 September. Peter, who was diagnosed with terminal cancer in April 2010, has been pastor at Parkerville Baptist Church since January 2006.

The first morning service, which is usually attended by 60 people, saw 280 people, including a couple from Australind, gather to celebrate Pastor Peter Birt's life.

"From time to time I hear people make derogatory comments about the church," Peter said. "I take delight in telling them about the amazing church community we're part of at Parkerville Baptist Church. They have been so generous and supportive. They're an outstanding community. I feel like I'm the most blessed person on planet earth. Some of that is directly attributed to the way that Parkerville has treated us."

Both Peter and his wife Jill have been involved at Parkerville Baptist Church since January 2006. Jill was Pastor for Children and Missions, resigning in February 2011 to work at Baptist Churches Western Australia. Peter has been teaching from God's Word for over 37 years.

"Pete has been a pastor all the time of his cancer journey," Jill said. "Parkerville has been so generous and supportive to us as a

couple. He worked full-time until April 2010. From then he worked three days a week and then in late 2011 he cut back to one day a week."

Peter graduated from Perth Bible College in 1974. He was part-time pastor at the new Craigie Baptist Church for the first six months of 1975 then he went to work with the Dayak people of West Kalimantan, Indonesia for ten years. In 1986, the Birt family returned to Perth and Peter became Pastor at Scarborough Baptist Church. In 1989 the family headed to Manila, Philippines, to work with Go Ministries, planting churches in Marikina, Metro Manila. In 1992 Peter became Senior Pastor at Mandurah Baptist Church. He spent some years at Lakeside Baptist Church and Como Baptist Church before heading to Parkerville Baptist Church.

These services, which were a physical feat for Peter, were the last sermons he preached. In September his oncologist said there are no more treatment options and his time is limited.



Photo: Jill Birt

Pastor Peter Birt preached his last sermons at Parkerville Baptist Church on Sunday 9 September.

Legends of faith

Baptists across Western Australia are invited to join Baptist Churches Western Australia for the Legends of the Faith celebration service on Friday 19 October at Woodvale Baptist Church. Senior Pastor Dale Stephenson, from Crossway Baptist Church in Melbourne, is the special guest for the evening along with well known Australian musician Steve Grace.

Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries at Baptist Churches Western Australia, invited Dale to Perth especially for the event. "I am excited by the opportunity to speak to the broader Baptist family," Dale said.

"I am definitely seeking to make an impact for the glory of God. I have given my life over to that end. My personal passion is a converted atheist. People come to know Jesus as their Saviour and their Lord. I am very passionate about the local church stepping into all that God desires it to be and I want to be part of the solution

for seeing our great nation of Australia come back to God and all to come to know Jesus."

The service will be a time of worship, prayer and inspiration. Mark will share the vision of the Baptist family of churches. Accreditation candidates within the Baptist churches of Western Australia will also be introduced on the night.

While in Perth, Dale will be also be preaching at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on 21 October.

For more information contact Baptist Churches Western Australia on 6313 6300.



Musician Steve Grace



Senior Pastor Dale Stephenson

Changes to charity laws

The Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS), the peak body for community service organisations, Add-Ministry, a provider of technical advice and information to charities, and Christian churches in WA will be hosting a series of training and information sessions regarding changes to charity and not-for-profit laws. The sessions will be delivered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) during October.

With the commencement of the ACNC, there will be obligations for churches to report to this new external government body. The sessions are designed especially for charities and not-for-profits, and will provide information about the role of the ACNC, what steps charities, churches and not-for-profits will need to take to comply with the new law, and what support is available.

The sessions to be held across Perth, and in Geraldton, Port Hedland and Bunbury, will be presented by Sue Woodward, ACNC Director of Policy and

Education, or Susan Pascoe, ACNC Commissioner-elect, and Francis Lynch, WACOSS President.

The legislation will be debated in Senate in early October. If it is passed, all charities receiving charity tax concessions will need to be registered with the ACNC.

It is anticipated from 1 July 2013, all registered charities will need to lodge an annual information statement containing core, non-financial data.

For more information visit www.wacoss.org.au.

Aussie team visits Living lighter



Photo: Mihai Bojanca

(From left) Australians Darryl Collins, Lynette Collins, Barbara Moulds, Roger Kemp, Heather Chatfield and Graeme Chatfield outside the Haus Edelweiss theological college.

Former West Australian Rev. Dr Graeme Chatfield, Associate Dean at the Australian College of Theology, led a team from Thornleigh Baptist Church (NSW) to serve at Haus Edelweiss, near Vienna, Austria, during September.

Theological students from Eastern Europe travelled to the Haus on the edge of the Vienna Woods for intensive studies during the northern autumn. From 1963 the Haus was a base from which American pastors went into

Eastern Europe to encourage the underground church and provide practical assistance.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Haus became a theological college where students from 38 countries come for two week intensive sessions. Many are working towards postgraduate degrees.

This year, Graeme taught History of Christian Doctrine II (Reformation to late twentieth century) while his wife, Heather, Darryl and Lynette Collins and Barbara Moulds served guests at the Haus by undertaking kitchen and maintenance work.

The Haus is the equivalent of a 50 bed motel and runs a full commercial kitchen producing 120 meals three times a day.

"The greatest joy for me in this ministry is to hear of the faithfulness of God in the lives and ministries of the students who come to Haus Edelweiss," Graeme said. "Often they come from environments hostile to the sharing of the good news of Jesus."

Graeme first taught Church History at the Haus in 2008 while he was on the staff of Morling Theological College in Sydney. He has returned each year since then to continue to support and train church leaders.

The program is run by The Great Commission Initiative through Training Christians for Ministry International Institute.

For more information visit www.tcmi.org.



Photo: Bible Society Australia

Dr Greg Clarke, Chief Executive Officer of Bible Society Australia, recently spoke in Perth as part of the 'Live Light in 25 Words' campaign.

Bible Society Australia, in partnership with the Centre for Public Christianity, hosted a series of public talks around Australia as part of their 'Live Light in 25 Words' campaign during September. Renown Australian Christians, including Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Senior Pastor Nick Scott, were part of the campaign to encourage people to commit to reading the Bible daily, starting with 25 words for 31 days.

Dr Greg Clarke, Chief Executive Officer of Bible Society Australia, author and renown media commentator on religious issues, spoke at the University of Western Australia on Monday 10 September as part of the tour, 'Can we trust the New Testament?' Other speakers included Mike Raiter, Director of Melbourne's Centre for Biblical Preaching, and Dr John Dickson from the Centre for Public Christianity.

"The campaign's aim is to encourage Australian Christians to read the Bible every day for the month of October and turn that a lifetime habit," Chris Melville, Programmes and Campaigns Manager for Bible Society Australia, said.

"We developed the 'Live Light in 25 Words' campaign in response to survey data that revealed that 80 percent of Australian Christians don't have a daily Bible reading habit. One of the excuses people made was that they weren't sure if the Bible, and in particular the New Testament, was reliable. That's why we've asked Dr Clarke to address this issue."

Dr Greg Clarke has written books on topics ranging from The Da Vinci Code to the end of the world, from marriage to the life of Jesus.

Vose celebrates 50 years

To mark their 50th anniversary, Vose Seminary is publishing a book of essays which celebrates the past and looks to the future. The publication will place the 50th anniversary of the seminary in the context of the great shifts in theological education, ministry, church life and society over this period. Personal stories will be featured alongside scholarly reflection. Graduates and others associated with the college over its history are invited to submit an essay proposal to be considered

for inclusion. There are three categories:

- Scholarly essays on changes in theological education, ministry, church life and society over the past fifty years and looking to the future.
- Historical essays about the seminary.
- Personal stories of significant experiences or events at Vose Seminary/ Baptist Churches Western Australia.

For more information, contact Nathan Hobby 6313 6200.

Turmoil in Sudan

Abyei

Some 67,000 displaced people from Abyei remain in Agok/South Sudan. Some 10,000 people have so far returned to Abyei, according to UNISFA.

South Kordofan

An estimated 520,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by the conflict, 350,000 of them in SPLM-N areas, according to the South Kordofan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. Almost 61,000 people from Sudan have been registered by UNHCR in camps in Unity State, South Sudan.

Blue Nile

Some 145,000 people have been displaced or severely affected by the conflict, including some 70,000 in SPLM-N areas, according to the Juba-based Blue Nile Coordination Team. In Ethiopia, 37,000 refugees have been registered by UNHCR. In Upper Nile State, South Sudan, over 107,000 people have been registered by UNHCR.



Baptistcare 40th Anniversary and Commissioning

FREE EVENT
*SUPPER PROVIDED

This year Baptistcare is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

To recognise this milestone **you are invited** to attend a special service of celebration and the commissioning of Baptistcare's leaders.

Date : Thursday 1 November 2012

Time : 5.30pm to 6.30pm (*by coming 5.15pm you will experience the full benefit of this special event*)

Venue : Riverton Baptist Community Church
38 Modillion Avenue, Shelley WA 6148

To assist us with catering we would love to hear if you are planning to attend. Please call **(08) 9282 8600**.



baptistcare
Celebrating 40 years

www.baptistcare.com.au

Since June 2011 bombs have been raining down on the Nuba Mountains of Southern Sudan as President Al-Bashir, an International Criminal Court (ICC) war criminal, wages yet another war against his own people.

Cut off from the rest of the world, many Nuban families have fled from their villages and are living in caves, unable to plant food crops. With no aid groups allowed to operate in the region, famine is looming and the situation is increasingly critical.

The people of Southern Sudan fought a war (1981-2005) with their Khartoum based government as they struggled for a democratic and inclusive government. Hundreds of Sudanese arrived in Australia as refugees during this time. In 2005 a peace agreement was signed which led to the separation of North and South Sudan.

The people of the Nuba Mountains fought on the side of the south for independence, but when the borders were re-drawn, they found themselves living under an increasingly hostile government where they had no representation. Many of the Nuban people are followers of Jesus.

In June 2011 the Sudan government launched a scorched-earth ethnic cleansing campaign including door to door assassinations and ruthless, random air raids using Antanov planes raining shrapnel filled bombs on civilians, and destroying crops. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement – North (SPLM-N) has fought back.

Independent news reports from the area have documented numerous cases of the Sudanese army targeting civilians, burning villages, raping women and engaging in indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas. The United Nations has called the tactics crimes against humanity.

More than 250,000 people are displaced in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile regions with thousands more crossing the border into South Sudan. The Sudanese Government has refused to allow aid groups to work in the region.

A memorandum of understanding between the SPLM-N and the African Union/League of Arab States/ United Nations Tripartite on Humanitarian Assistance to war-affected civilians in Blue Nile and South Kordofan states was signed on 4 August.

The parties agreed to stop hostilities and allow immediate access for relief aid.

Neither of these conditions has been met.

Ryan, a former aid worker who is married to a Nuban woman, has lived in the region for the past decade. On 7 September he commented on the situation in South Kordofan and Blue Nile areas:

“As I look at the current situation with ten years experience in the region and an extensive knowledge of the history of the region, from the last war up until the present, I do believe that the Sudanese Government has a plan to delay and ultimately re-route the aid to use for manipulating populations into displacement camps where they can be controlled. In the last war we have seen the establishment of ‘peace camps’ in South Kordofan.”

“
Yes, we pray for our families and that is good, but this is another way we can help.”

“These camps are where the highest number of rapes, unlawful arrests, torture and killings took place. I know many people who were trapped in these peace camps in the last war in the villages of Mendi, Umdorain and Delami and the story is always the same. People were either captured from their villages by the Sudanese army or drawn into these villages with food and other aid provided by international governments and used by the government of Sudan.”

“Once people reached these camps they were not allowed to leave. Many women were raped and men arrested in these camps.”

“I do believe that this is the plan of the Sudanese Government as history repeats itself. They will try to convince the international community, through the tripartite agreement, to ‘preposition’ food aid in Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) controlled areas in South Kordofan, Blue Nile and North Kordofan with the promise to deliver aid into the regions they control. But there will be obstructions made for international non-government organisations (NGOs) to deliver the aid and there will be no way to control the aid once it is prepositioned far from Khartoum where most NGOs will be stuck.”

“Then the food will be used to draw people out of their villages into the SAF controlled towns where they can be controlled, questioned, exploited, and where they cannot support their family

members in the [Sudan People's] Liberation Army. There are villages in South Kordofan that are pro-government and there are villages that are pro SPLM-N. These villages are known by everyone in the region.”

“I am sure the government will show some families that support the government receiving aid and they will not show the lack of aid and the atrocities taking place in other communities. This is already happening now in Kadugali, Al Abassiya and Delami. We have received several reports of women leaving their villages in SPLA-N controlled areas and crossing over into Delami village and being raped as soon as they entered the town. We are trying to confirm these reports.”

“Some people in the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North controlled areas look at their children deteriorating trying to decide if they should cross the line or not in order to get food for their children. The battle must go on in their minds if crossing the line is worth the risk of being beaten, raped, arrested or even killed.”

“It should be with great care if aid is provided to the region as not to expose venerable populations to more atrocities by their own government.”

Perth Sudanese support

The plight of the Nuba Mountain people in Sudan has been a painful reminder to many Christian Sudanese who came to Australia in the 1990s and in more recent years.

Elezirig has family in the Nuba Mountains and at present cannot return to his homeland. Other men and women are suffering in the same way with their families in Sudan going hungry and living in a very tenuous, insecure situation.

The Sudanese congregation at Yokine Baptist Church includes many people who arrived in Western Australia as refugees and who are now fully connected with Australian society. As they talked with other members of the Sudanese diaspora in Perth, especially the Christians at Eden Hill Church, they realised they could help their families in Sudan.

They purchased a sea container and packed it with food and clothing. The people from Yokine provided most of the food. The Eden Hill Church people collected and packed

the clothing, stationery, blankets and other goods.

Approximately 1,000 kilograms of goods has been packed for transportation to Sudan.

A generous benefactor will transport the container for free on a ship from Fremantle port to Mombasa, Kenya. From there the container will travel by truck.

Currently the sealed container is waiting for space on an Africa bound ship.

“We feel so helpless here,” Elezirig said. “Yes, we pray for our families and that is good, but this is another way we can help.”

Marc Chan, Cross Cultural Ministries worker with Baptist Churches WA, worked with the group on the relief aid project.

“The Sudanese people here in Perth are very resilient,” Marc said. “They have suffered and endured much hardship. This is a wonderful way for them to support their families who are still in Sudan.”

LEAVERS Green Team

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LEAVERS 2012

Leaver's Zone dates 26th-29th of November

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- ★ Rides
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- ★ Entrance / Exit Gate
- ★ Site Office
- ★ Toilets
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- ★ Lounge Tent
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- ★ Accommodation
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LEAVERS

Gift of healing inspires hope

Acclaimed singer/songwriter Gina Williams is using her gift of song and storytelling to connect and inspire others to reconciliation action.

A trained journalist, Gina spent 15 years as an Indigenous affairs reporter telling other people's stories before writing her own deeply personal journey. Her songs and performances weave the story of Gina's childhood, bringing to life events that include twice being made a ward of the state and placed into foster care, the discovery of her indigenous heritage and an adoptive past.

"A few years ago at my local church I was invited to share my testimony — and it was suggested that I should share some of my songs. And the response was incredible; I was really stunned at how people reacted. I'd told so many interesting stories about other people that I'd probably ignored the fact that I had a pretty interesting story of my own," Gina said.

"I love singing and performing, but the thing I'm most passionate about are songs that have something to say. So my songs have evolved with these stories attached to them."

Gina strongly believes in the role music and song has to play in connecting people and advancing reconciliation. Live performances, like her show at Parkerville Baptist Church in July as part of National Reconciliation Week, highlight the deep connection Gina builds with audiences through her songs that deal with love and loss.

"I'm not an orphan in what I've experienced. People identify with that," Gina said. "The beauty about music is that you don't have to agree with my politics to enjoy my music. People will come to my shows, listen to lovely tunes and have a great time. After a show I've

had people want to call their mum after not speaking [with her] for years. Now that's reconciliation at work."

"I feel like I've been given this amazing gift of healing. God has healed my heart. I'm a product of four dysfunctional families. But I'm the mother and wife of one very solid family. And that's a miracle. I'm so grateful and so blessed that I feel there is a responsibility that comes with this and that is to share with people."

Gina has recorded the song 'Wanjoo' (Welcome) in Noongar specifically with children in mind and hopes that it will sit as a permanent reminder of Australia's original inhabitants and inspire others to personal reconciliation action.

"Wouldn't it be great if at primary school assemblies the



Gina Williams is using her gift of song and storytelling to connect and inspire others to reconciliation action.

students all stood together and sang the national anthem, and then right on the back of that they sang a beautiful Noongar song that welcomes them to country."

"We know that there are still a lot of problems to overcome, and

often what happens is that we see a mountain of problems, feel overwhelmed and think, 'what can I do?' My take on this is here's something you can do; you can teach this song to your kids," Gina said.

Riverview Church hosts global summit

Riverview Church in Burswood will be hosting Willow Creek Association's The Global Leadership Summit on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 October. The Summit exists to transform Christian leaders around the world with an injection of vision, skill development and inspiration for the sake of the local church.

"There's no doubt the Summit has experienced a favour from God because it seeks to inform and inspire leadership that is honouring to God and faithful to Christ," Riverview Church Senior Minister Haydn Nelson said.

This year's speakers includes Bill Hybels, Founder and Senior Pastor of Willow

Creek Community Church; Condoleezza Rice, Former USA Secretary of State; Jim Collins, acclaimed business thinker and author; John Ortberg, Senior Pastor of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church and author; Craig Groeschel, Founder of LifeChurch.tv and Senior Pastor; and Patrick Lencioni, Founder and President of The Table Group and author.

The Summit is designed for a church's entire leadership team, staff and volunteers, key influencers and innovators within the community, emerging leaders and students with leadership gifts.

The entire staff of Riverview Church will be attending the Summit to experience the learning together. "We've been actively encouraging everyone

from our church — in whatever industry they find themselves — to consider seriously the Summit as a vehicle to, as Bill Hybels puts it, 'ring their leadership bell'. The Summit brings together some of the best leaders — from across a range of disciplines — and they won't leave disappointed," Senior Minister Haydn Nelson said.

Willow Creek Association believes that leadership is critical to church vitality and that a church's effectiveness in pursuing its God-given mission is largely dependent on the character, devotion and skill of its leadership core.

Throughout the Summit experience, elements are

unpacked by a local facilitator who is trained to help you and your team apply what you have learned to your unique context. With time to reflect, you can turn good intentions into positive action.

"Leadership is important and is to be encouraged — but leadership that is shaped by obedience to Christ is more important still. It is that Christ-centred servant leadership that I would want to mark our Riverview staff and community — indeed, it needs to be mark every part of Christ's church."

For more information visit www.gls.org.au.



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For further information and key selection criteria please contact the church office on 9394 9155 or visit www.carey.asn.au. Email applications to office@carey.asn.au.

Applications close 5:00pm, Monday 12th November 2012.

Gift boxes raise awareness

The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and STOP THE TRAFFIK launched the 'GIFT Box' campaign during the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games to raise awareness of human trafficking. People were lured into two metre tall 'gift boxes' with enticing promises but when inside, discovered the harsh reality of human trafficking.

The 'gift boxes', erected around London, were walk-in pieces of public art that enticed people inside by luring them with appealing promises including 'see the world and earn good money' and 'guaranteed work, no experience required'. Once inside, details and information on trafficking for forced labour, domestic servitude, street crime and begging, and sexual exploitation were revealed.

Volunteers, branded with the campaign's message 'things are not always what they seem', were on hand at all boxes to answer questions about the project and provide visitors with further information on how to become involved in efforts to combat human trafficking. A petition to the United Nations to make human trafficking a priority in its agenda was also on-hand to sign.

"Our team worked at St Paul's Cathedral and it was a wonderful time connecting with people from all over the world and sowing seeds of change," UN.GIFT Box project volunteer John Nielsen from Justice For Youth said.

A local Londoner praised the campaign. "The trafficking of anyone, particularly of women, is wicked. We spent thousands of years getting rid of slavery and in various countries we have seen whole populations enslaved in the past. We think we're better

people but we're not. I am all in favour of the work you're doing."

John flew to London with a team especially for the campaign during the Olympics. "We wanted to work to bring a team to London and put some boots on the ground so to speak, raising awareness at the Olympics, where thousands of trafficked women were brought in for the Olympics," John said.

“ We feel like a 'drop in a bucket'. But remember: enough drops will fill the bucket! ”

"All of us who are working to stop human trafficking feel like our efforts are so feeble, given the scale and gravity of the problem we face globally," John said. "We feel like a 'drop in a bucket'. But remember: enough drops will fill the bucket! Each person's effort can create a ripple but together we can make waves that will move mountains!"

For more information visit www.ungiftbox.org.



One of the 'gift boxes' outside St Paul's Cathedral in London which aimed to raise awareness of human trafficking during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Photo: UN.GIFT

Prayer for justice

From 19 to 21 October, Baptist communities across Australia will pray together for the second annual Just Prayer. Last year, thousands of people gathered across Australia to pray for least-reached people groups and the work of Global Interaction teams among them.

Thousands of people around the world still haven't heard of the message of Jesus due to cultural, political and linguistic barriers. Some of these include the Yawo people of Malawi and Mozambique, Bengali people of South Asia, Khmer people of Cambodia and many more.

Global Interaction are encouraging the community

to take part in Just Prayer with youth groups, small groups, during a church service or with a bunch of friends.

Resources are available online along with prayer ideas to help involve people in praying creatively.

For more information visit www.globalinteraction.org.au.



www.baptistcare.com.au

BAPTISTCARE BOARD

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Baptistcare Inc. is a thriving, Christian organisation offering a significant range of community services to individuals, families and communities. It specialises in providing care for those who are ageing, people living with disabilities and people with mental illness seeking recovery, together with their families. It provides a range of residential, home and community based services throughout rural, regional WA and in the Perth metropolitan area. It is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

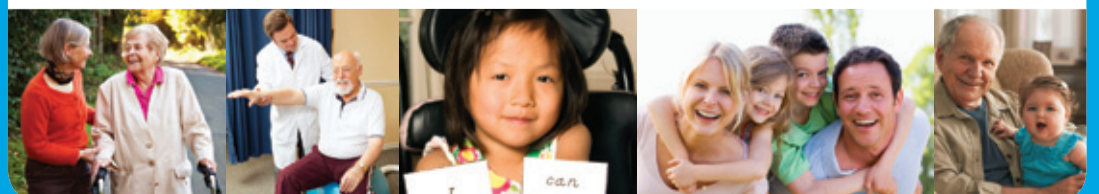
Baptistcare is seeking expressions of interest from members of the Baptist Community to participate as Board Members and work towards achieving Baptistcare's vision 'to transform and enrich lives'. The work of Baptistcare is exciting, complex and challenging.

The Board is appointed by the Baptist Council for a three year period and is responsible for the overall governance and direction of Baptistcare. Areas of expertise or involvement that are being sought include, but are not limited, to:

- Health and community service professional experience
- Clinical and human resource governance
- Leadership of large organisations, preferably Not-for-Profit experience.

Expressions of interest should be addressed to the Board Chairperson, Mr Garry McGrechan and include: details of relevant experience and expertise, a resume and two referees for an initial assessment. Please email details to: chairperson@baptistcare.com.au

Or mail to: The Chairperson
The Baptistcare Board
PO BOX 263
Bentley 6982



Healing and forgiveness

The faith-based movie *October Baby*, inspired by a true story, explores the journey of 19 year old Hannah searching for her natural mother after discovering she is adopted and the survivor of a failed abortion. Actress Shari Rigby played the role of Hannah's natural mother, Cindy Hastings. Journalist Kerryn Bricknell spoke to Shari about how this role took her on a journey of her own forgiveness and healing.

Shari, you've had such amazing television soap opera roles in *The Young and The Restless* and *Bold and the Beautiful*. Tell me about how you became an actress.

I became a teenage mum at the age of 17. I went back to school and really didn't think too much about the acting world or modelling. The next thing I knew my husband (who I have been with for the past 18 years) and I were married. My picture perfect life at that point was that I was going to raise a house full of kids. I was told I was not able to have any more babies after my last child, Levi. During this time my husband and I had started a coffee shop in our church. Three days after I was told that I wasn't going to have any more children I had a man approach me in the coffee shop and said how he'd like me to come and audition for a commercial. I had to go, 'ok God are you kidding me? We are going from babies to commercials'. This was a really big jump. I was scared to death but I stepped out in faith and the Lord really started to work in my life.

***October Baby* is not your Hollywood style of movie. How did you get a role in this movie?**

Well honestly, I'd worked with the film makers Andy and John Erwin on a Casting Crowns music video called *Slow Faith* created for the movie *Fireproof*. That was my first real introduction to these two gentlemen. The *Slow Faith* video ended up winning the Dove Award for the best video of the year so I knew these men were talented. During that time they were telling me, "Shari we're going to do a feature some day. We're definitely going to keep you in mind". So when they called me I knew that this was going to be something good. John said, "Shari we've finally done it. We've got our script for our first feature film. It's called *October Baby*. I'm not going to

tell you a whole lot about the movie but there is a part in it for you that we would love you to play. We would like you to read the story. Get back to us if you like it and if you do the part is yours".

I believe this movie has led you on your own journey of healing and forgiveness.

When I got the script my husband printed it out and there was a beautiful picture of Rachel Hendrix, who plays the main character Hannah, on the cover. My husband said to me, "wow, this girl really looks like you". I sat down and started to read it right away. I got to the part where Jasmine Guy's character, Mary the nurse, starts sharing about Cindy Hastings, the birth mother to Hannah. I realised as I was reading line by line that Mary was really speaking about me. Right down to the career that I'd had and that I'd been a post abortive woman 20 years ago. I was bawling as I read through some of the parts of forgiveness. Then I got to the end part and there is this moment where my character Cindy is sharing with her husband her secret. That happened in my life six or seven years into my marriage. You can imagine, here I am reading something that has happened in my life and you know in that moment that it has been ordained. I couldn't quit crying and I called John right away. I started sharing with him my story and he was just like 'Wow, wow!' As actors we don't walk onto film sets and start telling people 'hey I'm post abortive'. So they knew nothing of my past.

I have to be really honest with you, when you wait for a film role to come like this in our human minds we want bigger and better. I really kept thinking 'ok God ... I have been waiting and working so long. Why is there not more?' As I started to prepare with my acting coach, I came home one night just devastated, asking 'what am I

doing?' I locked myself in the bathroom. I was in the bathtub crying and I started praying over it saying 'God I just want more'. He spoke so loud and clear and said 'you need to seek forgiveness on this'. I was seeking forgiveness. And He said 'this isn't about you. This is about all of these women'. He showed me at this moment in 2010 a sea of women's faces. I had no idea what that meant. All of a sudden I got out of the tub and I realised He had given me so much in that moment.

I walked onto the set for my first scene. I walked into a room and I'm standing face to face with Rachel Hendrix looking at her eyes. I just knew God had given me this moment and said 'I'm going to show you what you're beautiful girl would have looked like'. I was standing there face to face with her. The only thing I could feel in that moment was shame. I was feeling the shame of aborting this child and yet at the same time a level of excitement. Then the next beautiful moment of the movie is when she comes back and leaves me this handwritten note saying 'I forgive you'. I'll never forget that moment of walking into that room and picking up the note. As a believer we know Christ forgives us, He has died for us, but to see it written out by the woman whose eyes I had just looked into I will never forget the moment — it was so powerful. I always tell everybody that wasn't me in that moment of acting. That was the Lord — He was there with me; He sat there; He cradled me; He spoke

to me. He said 'I forgive you. You are forgiven. It is done'. And, I got to wrap up the next part of my life. I got to go into the next scene, sit down and share with another man what I did with my husband and go through the emotions of forgiveness, showing what it looks like for a loving husband to show grace and forgiveness. That is just power.

What do you think is the key message for audiences when they see this movie?

You know I think the key message of *October Baby* is healing and forgiveness, and that every life is beautiful. We need to realise that we have a

Saviour who forgives us and that there is nothing too big for Him. We need to start sharing our secrets so we are not held captive.



October Baby Competition

The Advocate in conjunction with Crossroad Distributors is giving you an opportunity to win a copy of *October Baby*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

What is the name of Shari's character in the movie *October Baby*?

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

October Baby Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

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



Photo: Crossroad Distributors

Clear vision in uncertain times



Americans dream of a political leader with the wherewithal to erase the government's budget deficits, slash its debt and restore its international reputation. As enormous, or even impossible, as the task sounds, Anne Mulcahy performed a similar feat during her ten year tenure at Xerox. As CEO, she took a near bankrupt brand, whose name had at one time been synonymous with copying, and transformed it into a lucrative enterprise admired for its originality. Under her leadership Xerox went from losing \$300 million per year to pulling in \$1 billion in annual profits in the span of five years.

How was Anne able to orchestrate such a dramatic turnaround? I argue that a primary reason for her success was her capacity to communicate vision with imprecision. While she was crystal clear as to where Xerox needed to go, Anne embraced ambiguity and, in doing so, fashioned an agile corporate culture that valued flexibility.

Embracing uncertainty

In leadership literature, clarity has become a fashionable word and for good reason since leaders have responsibility to set the direction of their organisation. However, many leaders mistakenly attempt to define the path forward before convincing their people about the urgent need to reach the destination. Leaders touting specific strategies are in for trouble, because plans constantly must be reworked or even scrapped entirely as unforeseen developments arise.

Mindful of the unpredictability of tomorrow, transformative leaders are evangelists rather than tacticians. They first seek to persuade people to align with the vision before worrying about finding the perfect plan for accomplishing

it. Transformative leaders have faith in their people. They believe that as long as their teammates are convinced why the vision is important, they resourcefully can figure out how to make it happen.

To be clear amid uncertainty, transformative leaders tell stories. Storytelling inspires people to move toward a destination without committing the error of specifying the roads they must travel to reach it. While at Xerox, Anne and the leadership team authored a mock Wall Street Journal article and circulated it to employees. The fictitious story, dated five years into the future, included glowing customer testimonies, praise from business analysts and reports of the corporation's return to profitability. In writing the news piece, Anne's goal was not to outline the exact way forward, but to reinvigorate the emotional connection workers had to Xerox and its mission. The message of the story was that Xerox once again could become a brand of which to be proud.

In giving an interview to Adam Bryant of The New York Times, Anne stressed the growing need to come to terms with uncertainty.

"One of the things that is mind-boggling right now is how much we have to change all the time. For anybody who's into comfort and structure, it gets harder and harder to feel satisfied in the company. It's almost like you have to embrace a lot of ambiguity and be adaptable and not get into the rigidity or expectation-setting that I think there used to be ten years ago, when you could kind of plot it out and define where you were going to go. I think it's a lot more fluid right now. It has to be. The people who really do the best are those who actually sense, [and almost enjoy], lack of definition around their roles."

As a leader, your ability to narrate your vision equips people with the sense of direction needed to face uncertainty with confidence. What story are you telling your people to help them focus on an unchanging mission rather than on ever-shifting plans?

Used with permission from The John Maxwell Company, www.johnmaxwell.com.

Swim with confidence: tips for leading meetings

By Philip Bryant

I was first thrust into a leadership position about 45 years ago and had no idea what to do and no one to mentor me. It was a case of sink or swim and I think that I managed to dog paddle.

In the last year I have taken on the role of chairman of some boards and this has caused me to review how we carry out meetings. I have re-learned some things, others are new. The following are some tips about leading meetings.

- Ensure you and every member of the team are clear about the purpose of each meeting.
- Prepare an agenda, no matter how small the meeting.
- I suggest the agenda is constructed with minutes and business arising (actions) followed by the big ticket items that need to be discussed. Leave the reports until the end of the meeting. This allows for discussion on issues related to the direction of the organisation.
- Ensure all proposals for decisions have papers sent out with the agenda at least four days before the meeting.
- Encourage all board members to read the papers before the meeting by accepting the paperwork as being read prior to the meeting.
- Insert a timeline for each item on the agenda to give guidance to the meeting. Have an end time goal.
- Ensure that each decision is minuted clearly and refers to any supporting documentation.
- From each meeting ensure an action list is prepared that includes who, what and when. Ensure it is distributed to the team members as soon as possible after the meeting.
- When considering the membership of the board, determine the variety of skills and experience that will best assist the organisation to make the decisions to move forward.
- Successful boards need their membership to be based on character, competence and chemistry.
- Don't be afraid to have fun in the meetings, but be prepared to bring people back to the agenda quickly.

I am still learning, but over the years I have found these meeting tips have helped streamline meetings and assisted busy people to use their time and skills profitably. Well run meetings also encourage highly competent people to be involved in their membership. I trust that you can 'swim' with confidence when you are called upon to lead a meeting.

Philip Bryant is Church Health, Planting and Evangelism Consultant with Baptist Churches Western Australia.

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events calendar

October

- 19-21 October Just Prayer, www.globalinteraction.org.au
- 19 October Legends of the Faith, Woodvale Baptist Church, 9309 4044
- 20 October Dr William Dyrness presents 'Christianity, Islam and Buddhism: Understanding, Dialogue, Mission', Vose Seminary, 6313 6200
- 21 October Leeming/Rossmoyn/ Willetton YouthCARE Council Chaplaincy Fundraising Concert, Riverton Baptist Church, 9354 7546
- 26-27 October Global Leadership Summit 2012, Riverview Church, www.willowcreek.org.au
- 28 October Baptist Historical Society of WA Public Meeting/AGM, Perth Church, 9384 5460
- 28 October MountyChurch's 100 year community celebration, Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church, www.mounty.org

November

- 5 - 6 November Business Conference, Vose College, www.vose.edu.au
- 9 November Youth Service, Riverton Baptist Community Church, www.rivbap.org.au
- 26-29 November Leavers Green Team, www.greenteamwa.org.au

December

- 5 December Registrations close for Summer Baptist Camps 2013, 6313 6300

January

- 2-6 January Summer Inters Baptist Camp, Serpentine Camping Centre, 6313 6300
- 8-12 January Juniors Summer Baptist Camp, Serpentine Camping Centre, 6313 6300

job vacancy - writer

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The Advocate aims to foster a sense of community between Evangelical Churches across Western Australia, promoting unity and fellowship to encourage working together to achieve their common goal. At all times it is aligned to, promotes and supports the mission, ministry and vision of the Baptist church and the biblical gospel of Jesus Christ.

the advocate

Correction

In the September edition of *The Advocate*, Jeff Johnson was incorrectly named as the new pastor of Cranbrook Frankland Baptist Church. Jeff Jackson is the new pastor.



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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 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)

the advocate

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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The Jesus Film Project

www.jesusteam.org

You may remember the Jesus film which was released in 1979. Campus Crusade for Christ has kept the project going and it has now had over six billion viewings and as a result more than 200 million people have indicated their decision to accept Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord. That's one every eight seconds! This has been made possible because it has been translated into 1,145 languages with more being added all the time. This has allowed people in over 200 countries to experience the gospel of Luke in a language that they know and understand. You can catch up on the story of the project, watch the film, or even get involved in this amazing ministry at www.jesusteam.org.

watch



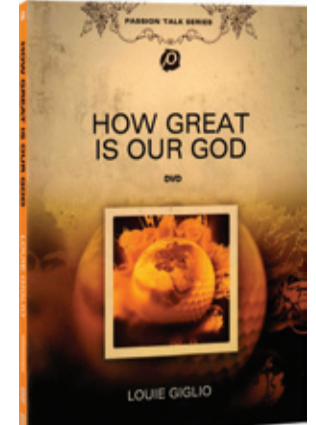
Jerusalem Countdown

With the Middle East in turmoil, Israel's pre-eminent ally is thrust into an impending war – America is now the target as the battle for Jerusalem begins. When nuclear weapons are smuggled into America, Senior FBI Agent, Shane Daughtry is faced with an impossible task – find them before they are detonated. The clock is ticking and the only people who can help are a washed up arms dealer, a converted Israeli Mossad agent and a by-the-book CIA Deputy Director.



Beyond Acceptance

First-time foster parents Aaron and Stacy Border struggle to trust in God's plan after they welcome an emotionally damaged child into their stable home. Abandoned at birth and shuffled through foster homes, ten year old Evans presents a challenge for the Christian couple and their daughter, Jennie. Shaken by their lack of control, crushed by Evans' rejection of their affections and resentful of the chaos he has created, they fight to find the strength to reach the troubled child before his erratic behaviour sends the couple over the edge.



How Great Is Our God

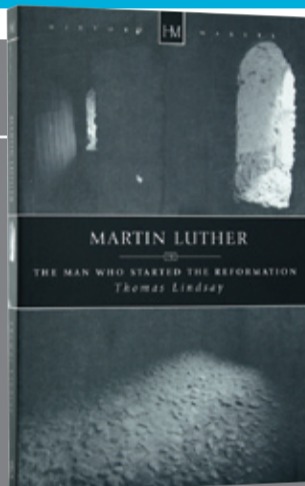
Your life is a miracle, and the Creator of the universe knows you by name. He's big enough to breathe out stars, yet intricate enough to fashion together the trillions of cells that make up every facet of who you are. The God who spoke the universe into existence made you, too, and knows everything about you. That's where we find hope in the midst of the darkest places in life. The cross of Christ reveals God's promise to preserve and restore you no matter what the circumstance.

win

Martin Luther

By Thomas Lindsay

This is the story of a passionate, flawed and courageous man who loved his family and the people around him; a man who went further in challenging the status quo than any other in history, the man who started the German Reformation. The author, Thomas Lindsay was an internationally respected theologian and church historian. His gift for writing meant that he wrote for many historical compilations, such as the Encyclopaedia Britannica. This is one of the most accurate biographies of Martin Luther and the Reformation available.



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

Question:

What Reformation did Martin begin?

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

Winners from *Blessed Be Your Name*:
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competition

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

Martin Luther Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

read



Chasing Daylight: Seize the Power of Every Moment

By Erwin McManus

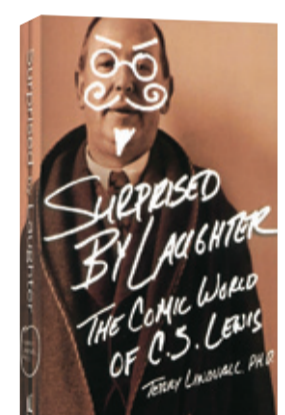
In this inspiring book, Erwin McManus uses the biblical account of Israel's war with the Philistines (1 Samuel 13 and 14) and the characters of Saul and Jonathan to demonstrate the difference between living a life of purpose and adventure, and living one of apathy and missed opportunity. Using powerful examples from his own life and ministry, Erwin asserts that God crafts divine moments specific to each of us – priceless opportunities for us to actively engage in God's plan.



The Fiddler

By Beverly Lewis

Amelia is disillusioned with life and love after the collapse of her long-running romance. She sets out on a road trip through the Pennsylvania mountains. She leaves her cell phone behind so life's demands can't intrude on her solitude. When her car breaks down deep in the mountains, she realises the flaw in her 'no cell phone' plan. She abandons her car, searching for help. Following the sound of music, she finds a rustic log cabin where she meets a young Amish man that will change her life forever.



Surprised by Laughter

By Terry Lindvall

All of his life, C S Lewis possessed a spirit of individuality. An atheist from childhood, he became a Christian as an adult and a respected theologian. He was known worldwide for his works of fiction, especially the Chronicles of Narnia; and for his books on life and faith, including Mere Christianity and Surprised by Joy. But perhaps the most visible difference in his life was his abiding sense of humour. It was through this humour that he often reached his readers and listeners, allowing him to effectively touch so many lives.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

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High scorers and big crowds

The Western Australian Baptist Basketball Association (WABBA) grand finals were held on Saturday 15 September at Lakeside Recreation Centre. Fifteen games, involving 30 teams from churches across Perth, decided the premiers of each division.

The game that drew the biggest crowd in the junior competition was the Under 12 Mixed division game between Dale Christian School and Kelmscott Church of Christ while one of the last games of the day, the Women's D division game between Faith CC and South City, drew the biggest crowd in the senior competition.

"The two biggest movers [in the competition] were Lakeside Tia in the Women's A division, coming from fourth spot to first and South City in the Women's D division coming from third place to first," Ben Jefferies, WABBA Convenor, said.

High goal scorers on the day included Brian Elliot from the Claremont (Gerbaz) team with 34 points of the team's 62 points in the Men's A2 division. Nathan Beisley from the Lakeside (Marshall) team and Luke Petersen from the Bentley team also scored many points for their teams in the Under 16 Boys final with 21 points (of 57) and 26 (of 35) respectively.

At the beginning of the season, the league started a new strategy for referees. "From the start of the season we initially found it hard to find referees from the churches that were able and still willing to referee, however this will be an ongoing strategy," said Ben.



Lakeside Baptist Church Tia and Bentley Baptist Church battle it out in the Women's A grade game in the Western Australian Baptist Basketball Association grand final games in September.

Photo: Erin Tuckey

"The main change that we made with referees this season was the introduction of the referee liaison. This was a role aimed at supporting and getting alongside the referees and ministering to them. This worked well for the most part and it is coming along nicely as different people get used to their roles."

A national Baptist Basketball Carnival is planned for Launceston, Tasmania, in January 2013. There are plans to increase the size of the contingent WA sends to that competition.

"We have a number of people heading to the Carnival in Tasmania. We are aiming to have a minimum of four teams heading across. We would like at least two women's teams and 2 men's teams. This allows for more people of diverse skill levels to go."

Grand final results (15 September):

Under 12 Mixed	Kelmscott Church of Christ 29 defeated Dale Christian College Hawks 22
Under 14 Mixed	Mount Pleasant BC (2) 38 defeated Mount Pleasant BC (1) 31
Under 16 Boys	Lakeside BC (Marshall) 57 defeated Bentley BC (35)
Under 18 Boys	Lakeside BC Ravens 53 defeated Lakeside BC Borders 25
Women's A	Lakeside BC Tia 75 defeated Bentley BC 39
Women's B/C	Bentley BC (B) 26 defeated Riverton BC 17
Women's D	South City 30 defeated Faith Community Church 24
Men's A1	Claremont BC (Jackson) 50 defeated Claremont BC (Genat) 42
Men's A2	Claremont BC (Gerbaz) 62 defeated Mosaic Church 50
Men's B2	Melville City Church 48 defeated Notre Dame University 32
Men's B1	Beckenham Community Church 33 defeated Kelmscott Church of Christ 25
Men's C1	Perth Christian Life Centre Shim 45 defeated Huntingdale Christian Church 35
Men's C2	Joycity Church 38 defeated Claremont BC (Godfrey) 32
Men's D1	Lakeside BC 45 defeated Claremont BC (Young) 18
Men's D2	Riverton BC 34 defeated Metro Church 30

BC – Baptist Church

- AGE 5
MUM PRAYS A PRAYER WITH ME AND I SAY 'YES' TO JESUS.
- AGE 14
I SAY 'YES' ALL OVER AGAIN AT YOUTH CAMP AT SERPENTINE.
- AGE 16
START LEADING AT CAMPS, START LEADING WORSHIP AT CHURCH.
- AGE 26
ONE OF THE PASTORS AT CHURCH SAYS, ALMOST INCIDENTALLY, 'I THINK GOD COULD BE CALLING YOU TO PLANT A CHURCH'.
- AGE 28
I'M WORKING HARD BUT DOWN DEEP, SOMETHING STIRRING. GOD'S WORKING ON MY HEART...
- AGE 31
I ENROL AT VOSE SEMINARY AND BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY OF LEARNING, GROWTH, EQUIPPING AND DISCOVERING JESUS IN COMMUNITY. PRETTY EXCITED...
- AGE 34
OUR FIRST SUNDAY!

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