

the advocate

"... our future matters, our schools matter, communities matter ..." STANLEY JEYARAJ

In conversation

Bethel Music have just released their latest project. [PAGE 12>>](#)

Chaplains reinstated

Of the 287 public schools in Western Australia that have had a Federal Government funded YouthCARE chaplain in the past, 283 have opted to re-apply for funding and to re-appoint these chaplains. According to YouthCARE that equates to 98.6 percent roll over success rate.

YouthCARE is the largest service provider of chaplains in WA public schools.

An additional three public schools, previously serviced by non-YouthCARE chaplains, have elected YouthCARE as their preferred service provider for the new program cycle.

Public as well as independent schools, which previously employed a chaplain through the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP), had the opportunity to either opt out of the scheme or appoint a chaplain or secular worker when the new three year funding cycle of the \$222 million project commenced on 1 January.

YouthCARE CEO, Stanley Jeyaraj said the high take up rate is indicative of WA school communities and the Department of Education's high regard for the positive contributions of YouthCARE chaplains.

"These re-affirming results couldn't have been timelier, as YouthCARE celebrates 30 years of school chaplaincy in WA public schools in 2012," Stanley said.

"For us, the take up rate is a testimony that our chaplains are valued pastoral care partners in public schools across the state, working with various role players including student services teams, to make a meaningful difference to school communities. We exist because our future matters, our schools matter, communities matter and our young people matter."

Kylie Catto, President of the WA Council of State School Organisations Inc (WACSSO) said that the 98.6 percent roll over figure reflects the majority of WA school communities 'are very satisfied' with the services being provided by YouthCARE chaplains.

"We acknowledge the valuable contribution that YouthCARE chaplains make to school communities and the role they play in supporting students," she said.

Wilson Park Primary Principal, Peta Morgan said the Chaplaincy Program is considered by their school community as 'an important component' for the emotional wellbeing of their students.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have the expertise of a highly trained and experienced YouthCARE chaplain working



Photo: YouthCARE

YouthCARE CEO, Stanley Jeyaraj believes school chaplains are valued pastoral care partners in public schools.

with our students. The chaplain's caring and supportive work has assisted students to develop resiliency and coping strategies to effectively deal with daily life challenges."

School Education Minister, Peter Garrett said in a statement in September 2011 that chaplains and student welfare workers are a

great asset to schools.

Of the four schools that did not opt to re-appoint a YouthCARE chaplain, one school closed down and two schools chose the government's option of a student welfare worker. The final school has not yet submitted its application.

New church at Austin Cove

Mandurah Baptist Church started a new congregation on 12 February. The group meets at Austin Cove Baptist College in South Yunderup.

Kyle and Sarah Baggaley are the leaders of the new work. Both are employed at Austin Cove Baptist College and have strong connections in the local community. A group of 10 to 15 people from the other Mandurah Baptist

Church congregations will join the Baggaleys at weekly Sunday morning meetings at Austin Cove.

The Board of Austin Cove Baptist College is providing the use of the facilities rent free for the new congregation.

Mandurah Baptist Church already has two congregations meeting at the original church on

Pinjarra Road and at Lakelands, north of Mandurah, in the auditorium of Mandurah Baptist College.

"This is an exciting time for the church," Senior Pastor Hans Van Asselt said. "This new area is growing rapidly and it's good timing to build connections with local families."



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While working away boosts Western Australia's economy, family-life is suffering >>



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Rebekah D'Sylva is helping brighten the lives of children living in slums in East Java, Indonesia >>

“
We are stronger
when we work
together.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Graham Mabury

Graham Mabury is a broadcaster and Pastor at Mt Pleasant Baptist Church. You can hear Graham on Radio 6PR (882AM) every weeknight from 8:00 pm to midnight.

On air with Graham Mabury

Recent political leadership rumblings prompted calls to Nightline. The Nightline family could have been discussing so many parliaments – Greece, Italy, America, Australia – only the names would change. Callers believed that if ‘none of the above’ was on the ballot paper it would win in a landslide.

This disenchantment with leadership may be related to our widespread reluctance to ‘join’. Forty four percent of those in a recent Essential Research survey were not members of any organisation. Eighty percent had not joined one in the preceding 12 months. Basically, Australians don’t want to become members of anything.

Yet our deep desire for community and connection remains. In ‘The Desires that Drive us to Connect’ at the 2011 Creative Innovation Conference in Melbourne, pioneer social researcher Hugh Mackay reported a double paradox. Digital technology creates the illusion of bringing us together, but actually keeps us apart. Already

knowing everything that’s going on in each other’s worlds, what do super connected Facebook friends talk about over coffee? Meet they will though, because of an abiding deep desire to connect through face to face communication that nurtures.

The pre-eminence of family expresses this desire – as one recent Nightliner said, “Family is everything!” The Federal Government tells those planning to immigrate, “In all parts of Australia, people place a lot of importance on family life. We value family ...” Scripture is clear on both the origin of the desire to connect, and of family. Those of us who are followers of Jesus

‘are members of God’s very own family ... and ... belong in God’s household with every other Christian’ Ephesians 2: 19 (LB). Amid those who long to belong but loathe to join, ‘In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others’ Romans 12: 5. Much to prayerfully contemplate here!



Dr Brian Harris

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

On proving your innocence ...

I had a bizarre experience in January. After an amazing New Zealand holiday, with snow on the Remarkables and an earthquake measuring five on the Richter scale in Christchurch, the break finished in Western Australia’s own jewel, Dunsborough.

On night one, my wife and I set off in search of dinner in Busselton. While driving along Caves Road I realised I had annoyed the driver behind.

Annoyed is a little mild. The driver was flashing their lights, hooting, rushing to within inches of our rear bumper, pulling back, and rushing up again. As the night was dark and the road unfamiliar I was travelling below

the speed limit and I wondered if this had triggered the rage. Though not our culinary ideal, a Red Rooster provided a safe haven from the aggression and we drove into its welcoming parking lot.

The driver, perhaps also peckish, followed. Their shouting then began, the sanitised version being, “I saw what you did. You out-of-towners. Throwing your

cigarette butts out the window. Do you think bushfires are funny?” Knowing our innocence, and interpreting this as an obvious misunderstanding, I calmly pointed out that neither Rosemary nor I smoke, and therefore had no cigarette butts to dispose of. Indeed, we didn’t even have any matches in the car and were as committed to the environment as she was.

There was no convincing her. Rosemary, more perceptive than I, spotted the reason. The driver’s abnormally wild eyes and slurred screaming speech provided evidence that she was smoking something other than cigarettes.

Presumably her fix of choice had triggered some phantom illusion.

I was so indignant afterwards. Fancy someone thinking I would throw cigarette butts out of car windows. I replayed my, “Madam, I do not smoke” line a hundred times, wondering why it had failed to convince her. It is so infuriating to be innocent, but not believed.

In the end it was a big nothing. She roared off screeching abuse, we continued our smoke free journey. It has given me a new feel for the Easter story. Jesus the innocent, crucified for us the guilty, and saying not a word to defend himself ...

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.

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Murdoch Christians UNITED
MCU

Music brings youth together



Photo: Jill Birt

Worship team members (left to right) Ashley Ruck, Jared Beaney, Lawson Smith, Hannah Price, Jess Ruck, Mark Barnard and Cameron Mitchell prepare for the combined youth event.

Young people from Baptist youth ministries across Perth will meet at Lesmurdie Baptist Church on Friday 16 March for a combined youth event with activities and a worship service.

Baptist Churches Western Australia Youth and Young Adult Consultant, Chris Green, who is the speaker at the event, said it was a great opportunity for young people from across the city to meet.

"We're expecting at least 200 people," Chris said. "Already youth ministries from Mount Pleasant, Riverton, Inglewood, Parkerville, Mount Hawthorn, Kelmscott and Lesmurdie churches have confirmed they're coming. And we expect there will be more."

The music team at Lesmurdie Baptist Church started rehearsals for the event in February.

Lesmurdie's Youth Pastor, Chub Sykes said all the youth at

Lesmurdie are looking forward to hosting the event.

"We don't get together often enough," Chub said. "It's great to have another opportunity for kids to meet other kids who are following Jesus."

"The night will probably be loud and fast so it will be totally appropriate for today's youth."

Chris believes there is something wonderfully powerful about like-minded people getting together to share and work towards a common vision of celebrating and enjoying God.

"That reminds us we're not alone in this marathon of Christianity," Chris said. "We need that."

"If you take a coal out of a fire it either goes cold or starts a new fire," he said. "I am hoping that this gathering will re-ignite old flames and encourage hundreds of young people who may feel like they are the only Christian in their year group, university, work place or group of friends."

“We’re expecting at least 200 people.”

The Friday youth group and 18+ group from Riverton Baptist Church are attending.

"We really value these kinds of gatherings that give young people a sense of belonging to something bigger that transcends their

own experience of church at Riverton," Youth Pastor Craig Palmer said. "Links are made that strengthen other future collective projects and events such as Leavers, Baptist camps and Sportsfest."

Dan McGrechan, Youth and Children's Pastor at Parkerville Baptist Church, says the meeting will be great for the young people who are part of Parkerville's Friday night youth group, many of whom have no other contact with any church.

"This could be the first time for these kids to experience live worship and hear a talk about following Jesus," Dan said. "I'm very excited about that."

As well as being an inspiration to those attending, Chris believes having plain, simple good fun through organised chaos in one room is under-rated and very valuable.

For more information call Chris Green on 0403 772 346.

Passion play

The Government House grounds is the venue for 'The Passion of Christ 2012', a free ticketed event featuring the story of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection on Saturday 31 March at 3pm.

Endorsed by the Heads of Churches in WA, the event is sponsored by local churches and businesses as well as the City of Perth.

Director Anthony Howes said it would be the first time in many years the Easter story would be presented as a play in the heart of the city.

Guests need to bring hats, bottled water and cushions to sit on.

For more information or tickets call 9325 5766.



Was your New Years resolution to give back to the community?

Baptistcare makes it easy for you to keep your promise.

Baptistcare's Community Visitors Scheme is a Government funded initiative that aims to enhance the lives of people living in residential aged care facilities.

A Volunteer visitor provides friendship and support to residents of aged care facilities who may be lonely and would welcome a friendly visitor.

The time you are able to contribute is up to you; though all it takes is an hour a fortnight to improve a person's outlook by visiting on a regular basis.

Sometimes the best gift you can give another is your time.

For more information or to register your interest in becoming a Volunteer visitor please call **Suzanne Maxwell (Metro area) on 0449 902 674** or **Kerry Kenny (Mandurah) on 0439 822 093**.

Keeping your New Years resolution is only a phone call away.

www.baptistcare.com.au



Founded in 1972, Baptistcare is a community benefit organisation that provides a range of Aged Care, Disability, Mental Health, Counselling and community services across metropolitan and regional Western Australia. With over 1400 staff, we provide person centred support services to over 1500 Western Australians in need.

Holiday in Broome!

Broome Baptist Church are leasing a one bedroom, self contained Holiday unit situated adjacent to the Baptist Church manse. \$500 per week or \$100 per night.

For further information please phone 08 9193 6135 or email themckerlies@bigpond.com



Focus on relationships

Party to mark end



Photo: BUNSW

Ken and Judy Clendinning are the keynote speakers at this year's Pastoral Retreat for Baptist pastors, ministry leaders and their spouses.

More than 150 leaders and their spouses from Baptist churches and ministries in Western Australia are expected to attend the Baptist Pastoral Retreat at Mandurah Baptist Church from 16 to 18 April.

Dr Ken Clendinning and his wife Judy are keynote speakers for the retreat.

Ken is the Director of Ministry Support and Development (MSD) with the Baptist Churches of NSW and ACT while Judy is in private practice as a counsellor specialising in relationship and family counselling, primarily working with couples in ministry.

From their own experience, they both see huge benefits for ministry couples to take time out from their busy schedules for personal refreshment and reflection.

"Retreats have always been an essential part of our spiritual, marital and ministry life as it has provided space away from the many demands that come our way to ensure that our relationship with God, with each other and in the ministry roles we are engaged in remain focused and strong," Ken said.

"We have always had a heart for coming alongside pastors and spouses to support them in their ministry together. While this may look different from person to person we believe in couples being empowered to serve God in a way that enhances both

them and the communities where they serve.

"In working with ministry couples we have identified that our personal relationship with Christ and our relationships with each other are integral to how we best partner each other in ministry.

"Firstly we'll explore how our partnership with God, that is the intimacy of each of our relationships in Christ, informs and impacts the intimacy of our marriage relationships. It's only as our marriages are strong that we are able to thrive in partnership with each other in ministry.

"All ministry is seasonal as there are times when things are delightful and fulfilling while other seasons can be dry and challenging. Our relationships need to be in a place that is resilient and strong through all seasons.

"Life and ministry can otherwise be so busy that we neglect to invest in that which will enrich and sustain us in ministry. Every year we both put aside days for spiritual retreats, marriage enrichment and opportunities to interact with fellow pastors for encouragement, support and to speak into each other's lives."

Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Ministries, Mark Wilson is keen for pastoral teams from all the Baptist churches and ministries in Western Australia to attend the conference.

"We've got a great program and engaging speakers," Mark said. "It's going to be great."

"We're really grateful to Baptistcare, Baptist Financial Services, Baptist World Aid Australia and Christian Funerals for their generous sponsorship this year," he said.

After seven years, the Mosaic Church 'experiment' wrapped up with a party at the end of January.

The experiment was started by James Bryant in 2006 to reach people who are least likely to walk into a church — single adults 18 to 30 years old.

"A highlight for me was getting to know individuals who say they have found a place to belong and explore spirituality without judgement or pressure," James said. "We saw quite a number of people become followers of Jesus."

Rosie Bryant, James's sister, led the group for the last few months after he had to stop leading because of health issues.

"It's been an amazing, and often at times, difficult journey," Rosie said. "We have all learnt a lot and God has moved and changed many lives."

"I learnt lots," James said. "My job is to amplify people's awareness. It's arrogant of me to think that God has to speak through me, or that before I arrived, God was absent from a person's life or situation."

"Mosaic had lots of people who were new Christians or people not following Jesus. This meant that five percent of the people carried 98 percent of the work load," James said. "It was exhausting."

"We believe Mosaic has served its purpose here in Perth and has unleashed many people to go on and serve in the way God has made them to serve," Rosie said.

"Our lives have seasons and if the church is a living organism it too will go through seasons," James said. "Don't fight the seasons. You will have better luck wrestling the wind!"

digital church

8/2/2012

Bill Reichartwww.ministrybestpractices.com

Half of the Americans who do not attend church also do not wonder if there is an ultimate purpose for their lives or the possibility that God has a plan for them, according to a recent survey.

8/2/2012

David Santistevanwww.davidsantistevan.com

I don't think it's healthy to live in the past. Rather than walking through life burdened by regret, choose to turn your 'today' around for good. But our

past mistakes aren't an accident. Everything can be used to teach and bless others.

8/2/2012

Phil Cookewww.philcooke.com

Sometimes you might be all it takes to inspire a movement. It may be risky and dangerous, but when others see a hero, courage becomes contagious.

10/2/2012

Tim Schraederwww.timschraeder.com

First impressions matter. Often times in the programming and planning of church services

we can quickly neglect an important aspect of our worship gatherings: how we welcome first-time visitors.

10/02/2012

Ron Edmondsonwww.ronedmondson.com

Worry is like a plague of our body. It attacks our mind, then our heart, and over time, it can consume our overall health. Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life". How good are you at obeying that verse?

briefs

Baptisms

Mim Bakker was baptised at Albany Baptist Church on 29 January.

Death

Phillip White, long-term resident of Mount Barker and faithful member of Mount Barker Baptist Church, died on 31 January. A memorial service was held at the church. Former Pastor and General Superintendent of the Baptist Union of Western Australia Gordon Freeman died on 1 February. A private funeral was held.

Pastoral changes

David Smith concluded ministry at Collie Baptist Church at the end of 2011. Paul Quicke commenced as Senior Pastor at Geraldton Baptist Church in January. Grant Hendry concludes ministry at Busselton Baptist Church on 25 February and commences as Senior Pastor at North Beach Baptist Church in May. Tim Clarke-Wood commenced ministry as Church Family Pastor at Lesmurdie Baptist Church on 27 February.

Detainees learn the Bible



Photo: Broome Baptist Church

Broome Pastor Darrell McKerlie visits asylum seekers in Curtin Immigration Detention Centre each week where men are hungry to learn about Jesus.

Pastor of Broome Baptist Church, Darrell McKerlie, drives 200 kilometres to the all-male Curtin Immigration Detention Centre each week to run Bible studies with the detainees.

Darrell and others from Broome Baptist Church have visited the Centre regularly at the invitation of immigration officials to encourage detainees who are waiting to hear the outcome

of their request for asylum in Australia.

"Initially we just went to talk to the men and play pool with them fortnightly," Darrell said. "Gradually that changed as

they started asking questions, then they discovered we were Christians."

In 2009, the majority of men in Curtin were Pashtuns from the largest tribal group in Afghanistan.

"Language is always a problem," Darrell said. "But usually there is someone among them who can speak enough English to translate for us so we can have a reasonable conversation."

Many detainees have horrendous stories of personal suffering and persecution in their homelands and journeys of desperate escape in the hope of finding safety and a future in Australia. Almost all have close family members waiting to hear news of their progress.

The protracted visa application process means many detainees remain in the isolated detention centre for months. The constant uncertainty of

their status contributes to depression and hopelessness in many of the men.

The Centre is well equipped to support the detainees. There are sporting facilities, gardens to tend, language classes and medical and mental health professionals available for consultation.

Around Christmas 2010 the Centre started providing copies of the Persian Bible as well as the Koran in the library for detainees to use.

An increasing number of Iranian men started arriving at the Curtin Immigration Detention Centre.

"Many of the men I have met from Iran have come to Australia because they want to convert to Christianity," Darrell said. "The law in Iran does not allow a person to change from the Muslim religion."

The Centre has a Christian prayer room as well as Sunni and Shiite Muslim mosques and a Hindu temple.

Derby Baptist Church sends a team of six volunteers to visit the centre each fortnight. A Catholic priest conducts mass weekly and two retired nuns now live in Derby and also visit the detainees.

Four groups of Christians are rostered to run services for the detainees on Sunday mornings.

The Religious and Cultural Liaison team from the Centre coordinates all visits.

Growth at Vose Seminary

Recent growth at Vose Seminary is the catalyst for an expansion program in facilities and courses. A fundraising campaign, 'Invest in the Future', aims to generate approximately \$2.5 – \$3 million to develop the Seminary's buildings to accommodate students and staff.

In addition to offering traditional theological degree and postgraduate programs, Vose has widened its training options to include non-theological courses such as a Diploma in Management. Vose also delivers practical training and professional development for Christian leaders engaged in everyday Christian service, carried out by Vose Leadership.

Facilities at the seminary are currently stretched with lack of classroom space and infrastructure. Student numbers for the 2012 academic year

mean there is significant classroom overcrowding. Some scheduling of units has been compromised.

“It's all hugely exciting.”

As more courses are offered, even more pressure is being placed on their resources.

"It's all hugely exciting," Vose Seminary Principal Dr Brian

Harris said. "We need to raise funds for a significant building at Vose so that we can meet the space requirements of a growing student body."

In the next five years, the Seminary plans to expand their range of higher education options. Vose will provide both theological and non-theological higher education courses, informed by a Christian worldview and the Vose ethos, leading to being part of a fully fledged Christian university within the next 20 years.

Baptist pastors heard about the expansion plans at a morning tea held at the Seminary on 21 February.

Information about the 'Invest in the Future' campaign will be delivered to churches in coming weeks.

Townsville churches' reward

The combined churches of Townsville have been saluted as an inspiration to Christians around the country after being publicly recognised for their work in community outreach.

The 'Neighbour to Neighbour' program, which is the combined churches of Townsville National Day of Thanksgiving community outreach activity, was presented a Spirit of Townsville award at a local Australia Day awards ceremony in January.

Mayor Les Tyrell presented the award citing, the amazing contribution by the churches of Townsville to the life of the city through the help provided to the disadvantaged via the 'Neighbour to Neighbour' program.

The program involved helping people in need with basic home repairs, maintenance and domestic duties. More than

420 volunteers went to 265 homes helping with everything from cleaning fans to pulling weeds.

The National Day of Thanksgiving organiser, Brian Pickering, congratulated the churches for being recognised. "Well done for using the National Day of Thanksgiving as the vehicle and for inspiring us all as to what we can do in unity to share the love of Jesus with our neighbours in amazingly simple yet practical ways."

The National Day of Thanksgiving 2012 is on Saturday 26 May and is an opportunity for Christians to connect with people in their local communities who don't normally go to church.

Pastor returns after 12 years

Pastor David Dean and his wife Shirley returned to Tom Price in January as interim Pastor of Tom Price Baptist Church after 12 years working in East Asia.

"Not a lot has changed in town," David said, "although almost everyone we knew has moved on."

Church life revolves around shift work. The town's population is constantly changing, as is the church's congregation.

Currently there are about 50 people in the church from a wide church background. People come from an array of cultural backgrounds, bringing vibrancy to the group and opportunities for personal and community growth.

More than 30 people attended the year's first church event, a barbeque at Ludovico's home on Friday 3 February.

"Ministry needs to have a strong emphasis on pastoral care here because of the isolation, lack of extended families and

the unique pressures of a small outback mining town," Shirley said.

"It's likely that Tom Price Baptist will be without a pastor for much of 2012," David said. "The February leaders' meeting is usually taken up with drafting proposals for the church program for the year based on the available people."

"There are lots of opportunities for people to exercise spiritual gifts that are sometimes left unrealised in bigger churches."

"We're looking forward to the three months we'll spend in Tom Price," David said. "We'll be building on the plans left by Steve Smith before Christmas and guiding the church to a fruitful and confident year."



Tom Price visitor Jackie, Uniting Church Pastor Judy Knowling, Tom Price Baptist Church secretary Marie Venables and Shirley Dean at the barbeque to welcome the Dean's back to town.

Photo: David Dean

Joondalup locals support their community

For the Christians at Joondalup Baptist Church, making a difference in the local community is something they take very seriously.

Around Christmas time each year, the church works to help local people suffering mental health diseases who are not always able to access existing services.

Pastor Wayne Belcher heads up the LJ Care Christmas Appeal and has a very practical approach to what he and his team do. "It's

not always about putting Bibles into hands. This is really about putting food on tables," he said.

"We do this by working alongside the Joondalup and Clarkson Community Mental Health Service to reach out to people in real need at a time of the year when loneliness and isolation can be at its worst."

"I describe what we're doing as being a local church with legs — doing what it can to support

the local community."

The 2011, appeal was a success and the program is growing stronger each year. Word of the LJ Care Christmas Appeal is spreading with offers of donations and support coming from many places outside of the church community. One such partner is the local Supa IGA supermarket. "Sisters Supa IGA didn't only support LJ Care with financial gifts. They also gave us food parcel goods and supplies at cost price for delivery to the local mental health service for the 2011 appeal," Wayne said.

The LJ Care Christmas

Appeal is helping people in need of mental health services from Ocean Reef Road in the south to Yanchepp in the north. "The coverage of services for adolescents is patchy at best," he explained.

"We see mental illness pretty much the same as any other illness whether it be diabetes or a bad knee."

"There is a real burden on families in a range of social and economic areas — from education to housing and from employment to health and wellbeing."

Wayne said 50 food parcels were given to families last

Christmas. "Also, through the generous help of Sisters Supa IGA, people from Lake Joondalup Baptist Church and Lake Joondalup Baptist College staff, for the first time in 2011, each child from an additional 25 families of the mental health service were given age appropriate Christmas gifts."

The 2011 appeal marked the highest level of support since the LJ Care Fund started about six years ago. With one eye on the future, Wayne sees both a winter and Christmas appeal developing over the next five years.

briefs

Goodbye Erik

Erik Olsen resigned as Events Coordinator for the Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) in early February after almost five years in the role. BCWA Business Manager Terry Hicks said Erik had made a significant contribution to camps, Sportsfest and the Green Team that worked alongside other community groups during Leavers activities at Dunsborough. "His hard work during these events is legendary," Terry said.

Principal leads

Rev. Dr Ross Clifford AM, Principal of Morling Theological

College and a Vice-President of the Baptist World Alliance, is the new President of the NSW Council of Churches. Noted for his astute political skills, he wasted no time in declaring that the NSW Council of Churches would continue to be an important player in NSW public life. "The Council has an important role to play in NSW public life and the prophetic voice of the churches is needed more than ever before," said Dr Clifford. His first action as president was to reiterate the Council's position on a number of social and moral issues including the 'sanctity of marriage'.

Convert murdered

Islamic extremists from the rebel al Shabaab militia in Somalia beheaded a Christian on the outskirts of Mogadishu in early January. The militants fighting the transitional government in Mogadishu murdered Zakaria Hussein Omar, 26, in Cee-carfiid village, about 15 kilometres outside of the Somali capital. Omar worked for a Christian humanitarian organisation that al Shabaab banned last year. He converted to Christianity seven years ago while in Ethiopia. He returned to Somalia in 2008 and completed his university education in 2009 with a degree in accounting.

Pastor of Discipleship and Training (F/T)

A full time position is available for an enthusiastic and experienced person to oversee discipleship, small groups and training within Lakeside Baptist Church.

Situated in the southern suburbs of Perth WA, Lakeside is a unique church serving the community through a Recreation Centre. It's a vibrant church that is passionate about saying "yes" to Jesus.

To fulfil this position, you will require creativity, demonstrated skills in establishing and implementing discipleship pathways, as well as excellent preaching and communication abilities.

For more information or a copy of the selection criteria, contact Robyn Jamieson on (08) 9310 7111. Please send written application addressing the selection criteria to church@lakeside.asn.au

Applications close
Friday 16th March 2012.



Mentor starts at Murdoch

More women than men study at Murdoch University so the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) recently appointed Celeste Hedley as a Field Worker on campus to support and encourage Christian students.

With no office on campus, Celeste and fellow Field Worker Steve McKerney visit the campus as guests of the Christian Union group, one of the guild clubs at the University.

Celeste studied a Bachelor of Arts and Honours in English at Murdoch from 2003 to 2006. She completed her Master of Divinity at Trinity Theological College in 2011, preparing her well to engage with the academic world.

"We get to run Bible study groups with students, talk with them and encourage them to engage with others on campus," Celeste said.

"Many young people come to university needing to work out for themselves what they really believe," she said. "Murdoch has a large international student population and there is a strong push to accept everyone's religion.

"Christians find their faith is strongly challenged by some academics who can be boisterously confident of their position of disbelieving Jesus."

"At 17 or 18, it's not really an option for students to say to someone, 'I've had twenty years of experience living with Jesus and I've proved his power and truth in my life'. We get to be around students, to talk and support them, helping them work through what they believe and how to talk about that."

As well as one-to-one conversations over coffee, Celeste will help train students in campus evangelism and leadership.

AFES administers the Field Worker program at universities across Australia. In Perth there are field workers at Curtin University (CU) and the University of Western Australia (UWA).

Christian Union groups meet at CU, Edith Cowan University, Notre Dame University and UWA.

Field workers raise their own financial support. Currently Celeste has about 50 percent of what she needs.

"Most of my support is coming from family and friends so far. People see the incredible opportunity I have of working with university students. Some would love to do this, but their work precludes that, so they're supporting me financially and praying for me."



Photo: Jill Birt

Celeste Hedley is working with students at Murdoch University at the invitation of the Christian Union group on campus.

Celeste has been part of two cultural exchange visits to Indonesia. The experience taught her that not everyone thinks the same way, and you need to work hard at communicating rather

than assuming all people are the same.

"Students will never have more spare time than they'll have during their university years, so make the most of it. Get

grounded in God's Word, make solid friendships for life and learn things that will help you serve the church in the future," Celeste said.

Breaking the poverty cycle

World renowned theologian, Bishop NT Wright, and Micah Challenge International Director, Rev. Dr Joel Edwards, have joined Australia's Rev. Dr John Dickson and Rev. Tim Costello to inspire Christians in Australia to tackle global poverty.

These and other high profile social reformers, theologians and practitioners are united by the belief that every follower of Jesus has the capacity to put their faith into action to make a genuine difference in the world.

"God is on the move, doing stuff, transforming the world, healing the world and we get to be part of it," Bishop Wright, Professor of New Testament at University of St Andrews (Scotland) said.

The consistent message throughout *The Faith Effect*, a new church resource created by World Vision Australia, is that the church is best positioned to break the cycle of poverty, with the capacity to see every person

as made in the image of God, no matter their class, race or colour.

Tim Costello, CEO of World Vision Australia, said *The Faith Effect* would help Australian Christians understand God's perspective on global poverty and the importance of centring lives on Jesus to see an impact of faith on society.

"When I visit places like India, Sudan and Cambodia I see poverty and pain. And I think that if God hasn't given up on this earth, then as a Christian I can't give up."

Rev. Dr John Dickson, Director Centre of Public Christianity, admitted he had been wrong to once preach that every dollar given to the poor



Photo: World Vision

World Vision believes that churches are in the best position to break the cycle of poverty.

is a dollar less for evangelism. Through his own journey of exploring the biblical basis for social engagement, he has come to recognise that, "Jesus was

insistent on the humble service of the world".

The Faith Effect explores how Christians have been tackling global poverty throughout

history and encourages participants to put their faith into action locally and globally.

The study material is available from Koorong stores.



Family pressures of working away

Fly in fly out (FIFO) and drive in drive out (DIDO) workers support some of the strongest industries in Western Australia's economy.

The Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum reports the value of the mineral and petroleum industry for 2010-11 to be \$101.2 billion. In that year these industries contributed 95 percent of the State's total merchandise exports.

In 2010-11 the resources sector employed 92,564 people across WA and contributed \$4.9 billion in royalties paid into the Western Australian Government

Consolidated Revenue Fund. The sector has been growing by an average of 17 percent each year for the past decade.

FIFO/DIDO plays an integral part in this big business, but there are issues for communities and families.

The phenomena of FIFO/DIDO where workers live on location for a number of days then return to their family home for their days off is not new. Australia has had

workers who relocate to their employment for generations.

Truck businesses, the aviation and rail industry, corporate companies and the Defence Forces all have employees who work away from home for differing periods of time — from a day or two to three months at a time for Navy submariners.

Rosters vary with companies keen to accommodate good workers and develop stable teams. Time away from home can be anywhere from a few days to a month then some time at home.

Perth based parenting and childhood group Ngala is conducting on-going research into the needs of FIFO/DIDO

families. They offer a two-hour seminar called Parents Working Away, which gives practical ideas to help families make the most of time together and remain connected during times apart.

“Men want to be involved in nurturing their children ...”

Stephen Gallagher, Pilbara Project Officer with Ngala, runs the seminars for workers

with Chevron and Woodside, helping FIFO workers understand the issues of parenting away from home.

“Many of the people in FIFO work are there not just for the lifestyle and money,” Stephen said. “They are resource career professionals in construction, engineering, surveying and project management.”

“FIFO allows them to be involved in stimulating professional work. They're at the cutting edge of their professional careers.”

“Not all FIFO families have problems,” Stephen said. “Mostly they are well resourced, resilient and motivated.”

“The old model of parenting where dads just bring home the money and have little engagement with their growing children is changing,” Stephen said. “Men want to be involved in nurturing their children.”

Nicole Ashby lives in Perth and has been a FIFO wife learning to function as a ‘sometimes’ single parent since 2008. Her husband Joe works four weeks on and four weeks off in the offshore oil industry. Joe takes two days ‘down time’ when he returns to the city before transitioning back into full family life.

After talking with other FIFO families Nicole saw the need for a community support network so she started FIFO Families. Currently the group facilitates 12 area support groups around Perth. FIFO families gather at a local park where their children

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can play while the FIFO parent, often the Mum, has time to talk with other adults and find support and ideas about how to live the FIFO lifestyle successfully.

“**Work camps are tough places. You work 12 hour shifts in physically demanding conditions, have a meal and then what?**”

Nicole’s vision is to link families who live in close proximity to each other so they can help one another with school runs, after school care, and ‘swapping time’ so a FIFO Family parent could go and get the groceries or do other errands without having to take the kids.

Today there are 12 FIFO families groups in WA, four in Queensland, two in South

Australia, one planned for New Zealand and one due to start in the Northern Territory.

Mark Hayes is a trainer with Rio Tinto and based in Tom Price.

“We want to help our workers stay connected with their families and not become isolated in the work place,” Mark said.

“Work camps are tough places. You work 12 hour shifts in physically demanding conditions, have a meal and then what? Isolation is a recognised contributing factor to depression.”

Anecdotal evidence reports some work places have issues with excessive alcohol consumption, pornography and drug use.

The Australian Federal Government, universities and businesses continue to conduct research into the effects of FIFO/DIDO work on families and communities.

Little research has been done on the effects of FIFO/DIDO on churches.

Local churches, both country and city, have unique opportunities to support FIFO/DIDO families.

Families benefit when workers stay connected to their faith communities while they are away from home and when they return. Communications like email, blogs, social networks, phone, Skype and online resources have

added dynamic options for long distance communication. A snail mail letter still rates too.

Accountability partnerships with other men, for workers while they are away, are a discipline that can help men.

Volunteerism is impacted by the demands of FIFO/DIDO. Flexibility in rostering people less frequently because of their work roster may be more cumbersome for church administrators, but the benefit to a worker helping him or her stay connected and contributing is huge. Partnering to pray for workers and their families can provide hope and resilience during tough times.

Ngala offers their Parents Working Away seminar to churches and other community groups. Hosting a support group for FIFO/DIDO families may be a valuable contribution to the church family and the local community.

FIFO/DIDO will continue to influence Western Australian communities for years to come.

Communication, isolation and engagement with family and friends are serious issues for workers. Churches are uniquely placed to support workers and their families through the ebbs and flows of coming and going from family and church life.

Resources and Research

Ngala
www.ngala.com.au

FIFO families
www.fifofamilies.com.au

Government inquiry submissions
www.apf.gov.au

THE FAITH EFFECT

God’s love in the world

World Vision

“*This is earth, in its poverty, in its pain. If God hasn’t given up on this place, then as a Christian I can’t give up.*”

– REV TIM COSTELLO

GOD’S AGENTS FOR CHANGE

The Faith Effect will take your church on a journey of discovery that will tackle global poverty and change the world.

A five-part interactive Bible study series, with powerful insights shared by:

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- » Rev Dr John Dickson
- » Rev Tim Costello
- » Rev Dr Joel Edwards

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Falconers ready for Africa



Photo: Jill Birt

Scott and Rebekah Falconer with their son Levi are waiting for the arrival of their second child in late March before they can leave Perth to join the Global Interaction team in Mozambique.

Scott and Rebekah (Bek) Falconer are awaiting two issues before they can fly to Mozambique to work with the Global Interaction (GI) team and the Yawo people. Their second child will be born in late March and their financial support is only 75 percent complete.

"We're excited about the birth of our new baby," Bek said. "I'm pretty sure this will mean we're going to have some adjusting to do with two children. We'd like people to pray for us."

“We’ve been so fortunate to be warmly welcomed into several Baptist churches ...”

While they study Portuguese and visit churches in preparation for departure to Mozambique mid-year, the Falconers are living with Bek's parents. Seventeen-

month old Levi is thriving in the four-generation household.

"We've been so fortunate to be warmly welcomed into several Baptist churches, including Lakeside, Woodvale and Yokine, even though we're part of Churchlands Christian Fellowship," Scott said.

Both Scott and Bek have experienced life in Mozambique. Bek spent two years with the GI team and Scott visited for three months to help build a house.

"I didn't become a Christian until I was 25," Scott said. "I'd lived with a deep sense of hopelessness. When I talked with men in Mozambique, I sensed the same hopelessness. Jesus changed that for me and I believe He can for Yawo men too."

Scott plans to raise \$1,500 to buy a tool kit for their work in Africa.

Baptistcare appoints chair



Photo: Jill Birt

Garry McGrechan, the new chairperson of Baptistcare, continues to serve in his local church.

Baptistcare Inc. appointed Garry McGrechan as the new chairperson of the organisation at its Annual General Meeting in October 2011.

Garry takes over the role of chairperson from Cynthia Clive at a time of great change within the community sector.

Baptistcare delivers services in aged care, disability services, mental health and counselling. The group employs almost 1,400 people around Western Australia

offering residential, home-based and community services in Perth and across rural and regional WA.

"Garry McGrechan has taken over the chairperson role at Baptistcare at a time when the Federal and State Governments of Australia are under pressure to change the way community services are being delivered," CEO Dr Lucy Morris said.

"The aged care sector is in need of a significant overhaul to enable service providers to meet the demands of local communities and families, and quite appropriately too. At a state level, disability and mental health services are undergoing their own radical shifts in services."

Garry has owned and managed a professional engineering company for 15 years. For the last four years he has been a board member of a publicly listed company. He continues to serve as the chairman of Parkerville Baptist Church.

"These leadership opportunities have provided me great insight into the governance needs of well run organisations," Garry said.

"Achieving Baptistcare's vision of 'transforming and enriching lives' is what our seven board directors are working towards."

"I am excited about the role Baptistcare has in providing a quality service for those in our society who need care," he said. "In particular, we have the exciting challenge over the next few years of growing to meet the rapidly increasing needs of our society in these areas."

"Baptistcare celebrates its 40th anniversary this year," Dr Morris said. "We expect Baptistcare to continue to be a strong Christian leader in its services and for all the clients, residents and their families, and for our employees and volunteers."

Quicke move for Geraldton

Paul Quicke commenced ministry as the Senior Pastor of Geraldton Baptist Church in late January. He is the first full-time pastor at the church in 13 years.

Eighty people filled the church to welcome Paul and his wife Ali at the induction service. Church Liaison Consultant Steve Ingram represented the Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) at the service.

“They’re just right for Geraldton Baptist Church.”

"Paul and Ali fit right in," Church Administrator Anita Kirkbright said. "They're just right for Geraldton Baptist Church."

During the service pastoral elders Simon Phillips and Nigel Sercombe were recognised for their valuable contribution to the congregation during the

years without a pastor.

After growing up on a sheep and wheat farm in Wagin, Paul has 21 years of pastoral experience in Baptist churches in Western Australia.

He had a break from pastoral work during 2010 to 2011, joining the Australian Defence Force as an army chaplain and then obtaining his heavy vehicle licence and driving trucks.

The church is ready to take advantage of Geraldton's growing position as a strategic regional centre.

"I was surprised at how strategic the city is — a rapidly-growing 37,000 population base, booming industry described as 'the next Pilbara' with a port servicing this vast mid-west area," Paul said.

Paul said the church has a particular message for all people.

"Every person has intrinsic value, we are all broken, life gets messy, but lastly, that there is always hope."

Loving God, loving people



Photo: Mikaela Barton

Rebekah D'Sylva helps a child with his homework in a slum in East Java, Indonesia.

Former Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) receptionist Rebekah D'Sylva is currently living in a city in East Java, Indonesia, working with a not-for-profit group visiting families in slum areas.

"We visit a shelter five times a week," Rebekah said. "Actually it's just a hired floor space where we play games with the kids, do short skits based on stories from the Bible, sing songs, do crafts and activities with them, and

help with their homework."

The living conditions are confronting with rats and other creatures sharing the living spaces.

"We notice certain kids don't show up because they are

constantly sick with fevers and stomach aches that come from unhygienic conditions."

The team also visits families in their shanty homes, getting to know the people, praying with some and helping with basic first aid.

Begging is illegal so police regularly remove children from the streets taking them to a holding cell.

“We're here, loving God and our neighbours so I'm happy.”

"Our host has invested a lot of time and energy with these kids over the last few years, being their advocate and collecting them from jail," Rebekah said.

Often the children's parents are taken away too, leaving many children vulnerable without a guardian.

"I know our work is useful when I see them absorbing the truth that they are special and we love them unconditionally," Rebekah said. "We're here, loving God and our neighbours so I'm happy."

Cambodia visit challenges

A team of young people from Mandurah Baptist Church spent 13 days in Cambodia, learning about themselves as well as seeing God at work during January.

Youth Pastor Anthony Harrison said the trip had challenged the group's thinking about suffering and poverty, and gave some unique opportunities for them to see God answer prayer. For some this was their first journey outside Australia.

Early in the journey, they visited the Tuolsleng Museum in Phnom Penh and saw the results of genocide the Khmer Rouge inflicted to eradicate learning and the arts from Cambodia's culture from 1975 to 1979, the ten young people's senses and thinking were challenged.

"After we visited the museum, we all just sat outside, silent," Anthony said. "It was so confronting to see so much suffering."

"The next day we visited a rubbish tip school," Anthony said. "The children and their families live on the tip, searching through the refuse for things they can sell."

The team bought a guitar and a drum when they arrived in Cambodia and they'd learnt some face painting skills before the journey. Armed with music and beauty, they brought simple joy to the school children.

At the Teen Challenge Cambodia property the group spent a day painting the front fence of the property.

Leader Rob Williams has worked with Destiny Rescue, a not-for-profit group that helps young girls leave the sex industry by offering secure accommodation and job training.

The team enjoyed a meal at the Destiny Cafe in Kampong Cham where rescued girls are learning new work skills for sustainable living.

Near a beach resort the team gave bags of rice to a group of Christians living on the edge of the road. Their village land was

taken by a government building project.

At Kampot village they gave packs of stationery to each school child and rice to families. Many of the children had skin diseases caused by the village's filthy water supply. From the team's funds they gave \$350 to help the village dig a well to provide clean water.

“After we visited the museum, we all just sat outside, silent ... It was so confronting to see so much suffering.”

"Several of the group were so engaged by the experience, they want to return to Cambodia," Anthony said.

Booksale is big for Vose

Teams of volunteers are sorting books for the annual Vose Booksale on Saturday 14 April from 9am to 4pm at Vose Seminary.

There are thousands of children's books, cookbooks, fiction, gardening and travel books. The sale is reported to be the largest sale of second-

hand Christian books in Western Australia.

Devonshire teas and sausage sizzle are available on the day. Organiser Sue Clarke encourages shoppers to bring their trailer and take home a load of books as there are so many to sell.

All funds raised go to support Vose Seminary.

Expressions of interest sought for the full time position of
DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT
(2012-2014)

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The Director of Training and Development will be responsible for providing technical assistance to the Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea in the design and implementation of sustainable systems to meet the needs within its Institutional Strengthening Strategy.

Specific responsibilities will include:

- the support and implementation of a planned capacity building strategy
- participation in monitoring and evaluation activities
- providing assistance in governance, management systems, human resources and financial management within its various departments.

For a copy of the selection criteria and an application form, please contact Ray Bartell at raybarts@gmail.com or phone (08) 9343 8536.



Baptist Union PNG
Believing God and Serving Holistically

Connecting to music

Photo: Crossroads Distributors



Jeremy Riddle and Steffany Frizzell from Bethel Music.

USA worship team, Bethel Music have just released their latest CD/DVD project *The Loft Sessions*, recorded in a renovated rustic loft. The CD/DVD features fresh, intimate and passionate worship songs by Brian and Jenn Johnson, Jeremy Riddle, and several rising Bethel worship artists. Journalist Kerryn Bricknell spoke to Brian Johnson about this new project.

Brian what was the catalyst for the concept of *The Loft Sessions*?

I think there were a few things — firstly, there is so much of the big live worship sound out there. Every church is putting out a live worship CD and it is very similar in the sound, which isn't a bad thing at all. It's probably that we wanted to do something a little bit different in response to that. Another reason was to change things up a bit. I sat down with the guys when we were preparing for it trying to explain to them what I wanted to do. They'd play one

of the songs and I'd go, "no let's not play that ever again. Let's use different instruments. Let's use no electric guitars. I like that line you played on the guitar, but let's have a vocal do it," just changing things up a bit. Finally the main reason was for the DVD. When you are watching it there is a lot of excitement; like a fun, laid back element to it, which shows who we are. I really wanted that to come across on this CD more than anything. I feel like people aren't just connecting to songs and music these days they are connecting to culture more; connecting to community.

When you put the songs together, there are a number of different songwriters on the album. How did you go about defining what songs would go on this album and were they specifically tailored for this album?

No they weren't. It was not like we said, "let's write some songs for the album." We put a fleece out and listened to all the songs that we had from different artists and different worship leaders in the church. We whittled it down to that list. Then the production is what has made those songs feel like they fit more on the CD. For example, we did 'One Thing Remains' again and changed it up quite a bit. Then Jeremy Riddle had done his 'Walk in the Promise' song which sounded totally different so we changed that one up a bit as well — just the style of it to fit *The Loft* approach.

Did you record this album in the studio or was it live?

I think it was promoted as a live thing which it kind of was.

We played the songs live up in that loft. Like any live recording we did overdubs and then we played the tracks. It was a little backwards, but it ended up being a really good thing. We didn't have a total like 'this is how we are going to do it'; we kind of fell into it. The night we were up there we were like 'okay, now I know how we can do this' and we did the recording in two nights.

Tell me about this amazing loft? How did you find it?

We found it downtown (Redding, California) — one of the older buildings and it was renovated and kind of empty. And the guy hadn't completely turned it into an office yet. So we saw it, and talked to the guy and told him what we wanted to do and he held off the construction a couple days so we could just use it. It literally was a week before.

It was absolutely stunning and seemed to create such an atmosphere and ambiance.

We had a guy who did the design and decorations. He had a week long gathering with some of the worship leaders and they sat down and worked out all sorts of stuff then set it up and made it what it was for the recording and filming.

This recording features some new names for your listeners — Steffany Frizzell, Hunter Thompson — so where did you discover these amazing new members of your team and what do they bring to the Bethel worship table?

Steffany featured with Jeremy Riddle on the last *Bethel Live*. She sang a song with him but she did her own song on this one. She is one of our worship leaders at Bethel Church. She brought this song to us and there is just something in it. What is interesting is that these songs showcase these worship leaders. You can feel Steffany's heart when you hear it and she is a very, very passionate person; very intense, but in a good way. I would say a lot like a Jenn Johnson or Kim Walker. And then

there is Hunter who is one of our guys. They all come from the school of ministry or the worship school. Hunter is 19 years old, one of the youngest and he has just started co-leading on the worship team and he had this song. He has such a different voice and we really wanted to start using him to lead worship.

You have recorded the new *Bethel Live* album, is this going to be a different feel to *The Loft Sessions* and how?

Well just in nature — we recorded it live on the stage at church. However, we did cut down six oak trees for the filming of the DVD for the album and propped them on the stage. We had all this stuff on the stage so it was quite an ordeal. It is going to be different because there is going to be a lot of electric guitars. It is much like the other big worship sound but the production will be a step up. There will be a bit more acoustic driven stuff in the mix. It will be a mixture between the two.

Now, you have been to Australia twice in the past. Can you give me your impressions of how you actually connected to the worship here in Australia?

Obviously we have been listening to the Hillsong stuff for years; back to when 'Shout to the Lord' kind of blew up. Obviously, like most people, it was always at a distance. It has only been in the last couple of years we met and connected with a lot of those key people like Darlene Zschech. I would say we have gleaned a lot from them for sure and in a lot of ways, not just in the song writing style — the idea of how they write songs and co-writing. Obviously Bethel is going to be a bit different because we are a different church. I don't know where we are at right now and where they are at right at the moment, however, I would say we have learned a lot more from them — I tell you that.

The Loft Sessions Competition

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

Question:
Name one of the artists who feature on *The Loft Sessions*.

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

The Loft Sessions Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

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

Leadership breakthroughs



breakouts involve women and children ..."

In 1989, due to mounting political pressures, the East German Government finally lifted its border controls. Over the following days, elated Germans from both East and West Berlin descended on the once imposing wall with chisels and sledgehammers. In celebration, they chipped away at the Berlin Wall until they had broken through to one another. The historic breakthrough brought freedom of movement to people throughout Eastern Europe and, in doing so, reshaped global politics.

Leadership breakthroughs

All leaders go through significant life events during the leadership journey, and these events can initiate breakthroughs that mold and move us. Like the fall of the Berlin Wall, breakthroughs reshape the way we approach life. Our world is never the same after they happen. Here are a few of the breakthroughs that have moved me toward my vision.

1) Groundbreaker – This breakthrough encouraged me to start.

In 1974, I sat down with my friend Kurt at a Holiday Inn, and he asked me if I had a personal growth plan. I didn't. In fact, I didn't even know I was supposed to have one. After reflecting on my conversation with Kurt, I came to the realisation that I could only add value to others if I had something of value to add. I decided that if I was going to really grow as a leader, I was going to have to grow on purpose – it couldn't be a hit-and-miss deal. Consequently, each day I began to read books and articles on leadership and to file away the

significant stories or principles I encountered. Thanks to decades of diligent reading and research, I have collected a wealth of content which I now can use to teach and train other leaders.

2) Windbreaker – This breakthrough encouraged me to stand.

After college, I accepted a job as a church pastor in rural Indiana. It was my first leadership position and I had a grand vision to build a thriving, influential church. However, my salary was only eighty dollars per week and the church recommended I look for additional employment to make ends meet. My wife, Margaret, stepped in and made certain the church board understood I was going to be a full-time pastor even if I only received part-time pay. Then, to allow me to devote my full energies to the church, she took on three jobs: teaching kindergarten, cleaning houses and working part-time at a jewellery store. Her support and encouragement inspired me to stand firm in my vision. I never could have achieved my dream without her.

3) Chartbreaker – This breakthrough encouraged me to soar.

At the age of 40, I conducted a self-evaluation of my leadership. I had a lot on my plate and I felt myself beginning to plateau. I was pastoring a 3,500 person congregation, serving as president of a leadership and development organisation, writing a book every 18 months, speaking at 400 events annually and, most importantly, leading my family. After reviewing my schedule, I came to two conclusions. First, I could not

possibly hope to accomplish more by working harder. Second, any increase in my production would have to come from improving my ability to work through other people. These two realities led me to the Law of Significance: one is too small a number to achieve greatness. I discovered that by training others to extend my leadership, my influence had the potential to compound exponentially. As I adjusted my schedule to invest more in the leaders around me, my productivity skyrocketed.

4) Heartbreaker – This breakthrough encouraged me to stop.

At the age of 51, I suffered a heart attack. I had been moving at an unsustainable pace and had adopted a fairly unhealthy diet too. The medical emergency motivated me to adjust my schedule and my eating habits. The ordeal served as a powerful reminder that leaders cannot help anyone if they do not take care of themselves.

Conclusion

Whether a conversation with a friend, the compelling example of my wife, or a crisis of health, my leadership journey has been marked by significant moments. I would not be the same person without having experienced the breakthroughs they set in motion. What formative experiences have shaped you as a leader? How did they impact your development?

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

By John Maxwell

In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s the Berlin Wall served as a tangible reminder of the 'iron curtain' separating Western democracies from Europe's Soviet-led Eastern bloc.

The East German government had erected the wall in an attempt to halt the country's 'brain drain', in which ever-increasing numbers of prominent citizens were fleeing westward. The barricade stood 12 feet high and four feet thick, stretched nearly 100 miles, and was

made of reinforced concrete. Soldiers patrolled the wall from watchtowers and had official orders to shoot on sight anyone attempting to scale it. Official documents instructed security personnel as follows: "Do not hesitate with the use of a firearm, including when the border

Pulling up socks

By Monica O'Neil

"No mummy! I do it 'self!"

My son's big blue eyes looked up at me with fierce determination. He was growing up, and fast. He reached down the short distance to his feet and pulled up the first sock. Sure the toes and heel parts were a bit higgledy piggledy, but the sock was definitely up. Emboldened and determined to claim this ground, he reached out and grabbed the second sock. On it went. This one was a tiny bit inside-out but, once positioned, showed more promise in its

placement than its partner. The fact that it was inside out didn't matter a bit to the very proud young man in front of me. "Well done!" I cried. He beamed and we took off to show his dad what he had accomplished that morning.

Pulling on your own socks is a big show of independence.

It was only a matter of time before he tackled tying his own shoelaces, riding a bike and driving a car.

Our son had seen us put on socks. We had put socks on him. To my shame, I even put the occasional sandal over his socks. We almost always managed to get his socks the right way out and they were aligned nicely. Toes in

the toe bits and heels in the heel bits. We modelled excellent sock putting on.

We gave commentary to what we were doing. "Now mummy is turning the sock the right way out." "Now daddy is scrunching it up to pull it over your foot, see?" "Oops, your cheeky toes are trying to stop in the heel part, let's sort that out!" (Never underestimate the power of giving commentary when teaching new skills.)

So, there rapidly came a day when he wanted to have a go at this very grown up practice of putting on his own socks. Rather than being ignored, he was given a chance. It was slower for his parents when he was first having

a go. That could be frustrating if we were in a hurry. Sometimes the results were rather mixed. An encouraging voice was there for him when he was getting frustrated. "Here, try it like this. Now you do it."

Sure, he would soon pull them up without them being all skewiff, but at the start there were some rather imperfect results. Sometimes we said nothing and he proudly wore his somewhat scrunched up or inside socks out into the public arena. He had some early wins as friends would notice the inside out 'skewiffiness' and become effusive in their praise. He was right to be proud of his attempts. If we thought the public

would be cruel, we would correct the attempt before going out.

It is so healthy to want to have a go at something. Little people (and even big people) have an insatiable urge to master skills, particularly ones that hold promise of a sense of maturity and achievement. Leaders in the workplace and the home space model the skills, give commentary while they do so, coach great attempts, celebrate moderate results and clearly praise marvellous achievements.

Confidence to 'have a go' starts with great leadership.

Monica O'Neil is the Director of Vose Leadership.

events calendar

March

3 March Toddler Jam Conference, 9370 1135

6 March Boards clusters begin (held each Tuesday night), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200

8 March International Women's Day

13 March Leadership Development clusters begin (held each Tuesday night), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200

15 March Leadership Development clusters begin (held each Thursday morning), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200

16 March Combined Baptist Youth Service, Lesmurdie Baptist Church, 0403 772 346

20 March Chairs clusters begin (held each Tuesday night), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200

22 March Close the Gap Seminar, Kalamunda Performing Arts Centre, 0412 671 583

23-25 March Mighty Mens Conference WA, mightymensconference.org.au

24 March Jazz at the Wood, Inglewood Community Church, 0406 073 690

24 March Perth Children's Ministry Convention, North Beach Baptist Church, 9341 1560

25 March Moora Baptist Church 20 Year Celebration, Moora Baptist Church, 9653 1414

31 March The Passion of Christ 2012, Government House, 9325 5766

April

5-9 April Easter Camp (ages 16+), BCWA, 6313 6300

14 April Booksale, Vose Seminary, 6313 6200

16-18 April All Together Baptist Pastoral Retreat, BCWA, 6313 6300

22 April 20 Year Celebration, Moora Baptist Church, moorabaps@gmail.com

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church is Seeking Applications for the Position of Executive Pastor

The purpose of this position is to provide the management expertise and organisational skills to support the ongoing work and calling of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. This is a key leadership role which carries significant spiritual authority. The position is full time.

The successful applicant will:

- Report to the Senior Pastor and provide key leadership support
- Oversee pastoral and administrative staff of church and college
- Be responsible for the financial management of all operations
- Oversee, train and develop staff members in their specific roles.

For more information see link at mounties.org.au or contact the MPBC Board Chairman at mark.thrift@ozemail.com.au.

Applications close on 31 March 2012.



Baptist World Aid Australia Board Membership

Baptist World Aid Australia is an international Christian aid and development organisation, committed to a world where poverty has ended and all people enjoy the fullness of life God intends. Our Board meets quarterly to set and review organisational direction, strategies and policies whilst performing the necessary governance functions of a non-government organisation. We currently have a six-year Board appointment available at an exciting time in the growth and future of our organisation.

As a Board Member you will have input into the organisational direction, annual plans and budgets. You will help monitor and guide the ethical standards, vision, mission, core values and mandate for the organisation.

We are looking for a person with demonstrated governance experience and expertise in overseas development, who is passionate about justice for those living in poverty, has a firm grasp of the relating biblical principles, and is involved in local church life.

To apply or for more information visit www.baptistworldaid.org.au/WorkOpportunities or contact Peter Leau on 02 9451 1199 or Peter.Leau@baptistworldaid.org.au. Applications close 13 April 2012.



Share an opportunity today!



Expressions of interest sought for the full time position of **PRINCIPAL - HIGH SCHOOL (2012-2014) KUMBARETA BAPTIST HIGH SCHOOL**

The Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea has recently established Kumbareta Baptist High school, situated in the beautiful Baiyer Valley in the heart of the Western Highlands, 50 kms north of Mt Hagen town.

The Baptist Union has come to more fully realize the role that appropriately qualified and trained administrators can take in local capacity development and in supporting the educational, spiritual and social needs of the students and communities.

This very exciting and challenging role will provide opportunities for staff and students to work towards establishing a learning community built upon a strong Christian foundation.

For a copy of the selection criteria and an application form, please contact Ray Bartell at raybarts@gmail.com or phone (08) 9343 8536.



Baptist Union PNG
Believing God and Serving Holistically

the advocate

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Word Watch List

www.worldwatchlist.us

The World Watch List ranks 50 countries according to the intensity of persecution Christians face for their faith. Persecution situations are often a confusing mix of political, economic, social, ethnic or religious factors, however, it is clear that as restrictions on religious freedom increase, the more vulnerable Christians are. This is especially true when persecution is originating from both the government and hostile social groups. World Watch List encourages people to take the five minute challenge and pray for one of the countries on the list each week, and provides background information on the country so that you can pray well informed. Go ahead take the five minute challenge this year.

win

That Amazing Place. A Biblical-Lands Trivia Challenge.

John Hudson Tiner

Set out like the hit TV program *The Amazing Race* this brand new trivia challenge features the various locales of the Bible and what happened in them. Through 30 different quizzes you will certainly be put to the test on your knowledge of Bible places, times and people. Let's take a look at what sort of journey you will be embarking on ... "Early in His ministry, Jesus, His mother, and the disciples were invited to a wedding feast in the town about 16 miles from Capernaum and a short distance from Nazareth ... Travel to the town where Jesus did His first miracle... it was a sign of His great power."

That Amazing Place offers quite a challenge for players of all ages and knowledge levels. The more you know, the better you will place on each stage of the journey ... what an adventurous way to learn more about the Bible!

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

Question:
Who is the author of the book *That Amazing Place*?

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

Titanic competition winners:
I Orchard, D Perrett and L Wyatt

competition

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

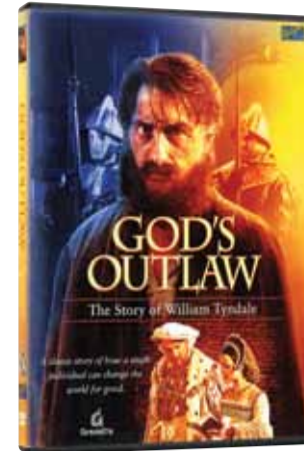
That Amazing Place Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

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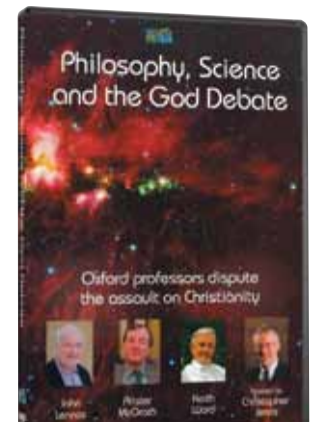
The Sword

In 730 AD, Garron, the son of a nobleman, is forced to protect his home and family while his father rides off to war. Relying on his faith and his sword, a family heirloom, he fights to defend his mother and sister. The sword itself is the typical weapon of a prison guard, but it becomes a symbol of unshakable faith. When his mother's health fails and his sister is abducted, Garron must depend on God's strength and the sword to overcome staggering odds or risk losing all that he loves.



God's Outlaw: The story of William Tyndale

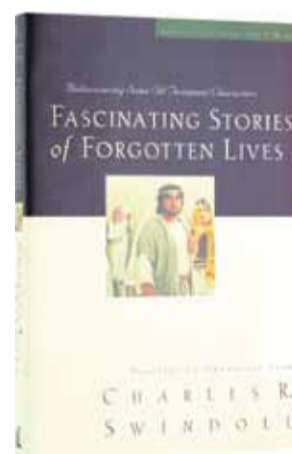
This is the true story of William Tyndale. Set in the 16th century amid international politics, church intrigue, betrayal, injustice, victorious faith and spiritual triumph; William became one of the most wanted men in England and Europe. Obsessed with translating the Bible into English, William was pursued by King Henry VIII, Lord Chancellor Sir Thomas More and the Pope's personal legate Cardinal Wolsey. Today he is renowned as 'the father of the English Bible' and recognised as a leader in the English Reformation.



Philosophy, Science and the God Debate

Thanks to high profile scientists such as Professor Richard Dawkins and Professor Stephen Hawking, many people unquestioningly believe 'Science disproves the existence of God'. But many scientists and other high calibre academics are challenging this 'assault on faith'. Among them are three top Oxford professors, Professors Alister McGrath, John Lennox and Keith Ward. In this series of discussions hosted by Chris Jervis, these eminent professors discuss a range of relevant subjects in eight 20 minute programs including: *Evidence, Faith & Knowledge, The Relationship between Science & Religion*. Compelling viewing!

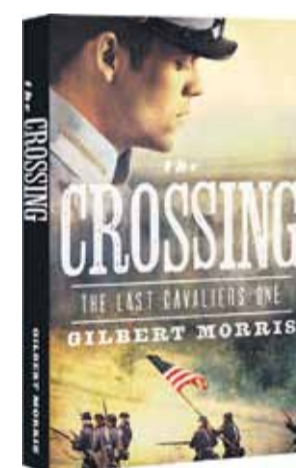
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Great Lives: Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives

Charles Swindoll

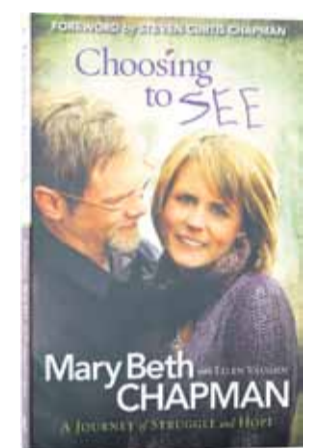
In this newest edition of the best-selling *Great Lives* series, Charles Swindoll gives us portraits of 13 Bible characters from the Old Testament. Within these stories you will find lessons of leadership, trials and tribulations, those who experienced God's anointing and also those who felt His displeasure, but most of all you will find stories of His infinite patience with those He created.



The Last Cavaliers #01: The Crossing

Gilbert Morris

Beloved author Gilbert Morris releases the first book in a trilogy. Set in the mid 1800s, during the Civil War, we meet our main character, Yancey who has been brought up by his Amish father. With the outbreak of the war, Yancey takes up as a lieutenant under General Jackson and sets out for an adventure of a lifetime. This exciting story delivers the richness of life, loss, love, tragedy and keeping faith through it all.



Choosing to SEE

Mary Beth Chapman with Ellen Vaughn

From the start, Mary Beth Chapman's life was not how she planned. She wanted a calm, peaceful life of stability and control. Instead, God gave her an award-winning singer/songwriter husband, crazy schedules and a houseful of rambunctious children! The most difficult part was the tragedy and loss she could have never imagined. Mary Beth unveils her struggle to allow God to write the story of her life and shows that even in the hard times, there is hope if you choose to see.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

Locations: Morley - 4 Wellington Road, phone 08 9375 3722
Victoria Park - 359 Albany Highway, phone 08 9361 7899



Football — with a round ball

If you were to take a leisurely Sunday drive through any Perth suburb during the winter months, you will likely spot people of varying sizes and ages kicking a chequered football around a pitch.

To some of us it may be soccer, but to the people who play the game it is a passion called football. For more than a decade now many Christians and a growing number of non-church-going participants have been playing their favourite sport on Saturday mornings.

Western Australia Christian Football Association (WACFA) President, Roger Edland explains the organisation was created in 2000 for a group of Christian parents who were passionate about soccer. "It was decided a Saturday competition would be created so families could go to church together on Sundays."

"Since those early days, WACFA has grown into a thriving competition played at three venues around the Perth metropolitan area including Ashfield Reserve in Bassendean, Chichester Park and Maida Vale," Roger said.

What began as a solo effort all those years ago has now become a formal part of the Western Australian football landscape. "Last year we became affiliated with Football West which means greater recognition within the wider football community," Roger explained.

"It will give our competition access to Football Federation of Australia (FFA) — accredited referees, administration support and future opportunities for our young men and women to develop in the sport."

"We are really grateful for the professionalism, support and training Football West brings to our organisation and competition."

WACFA is a Christian led organisation, but that doesn't mean it is only for participants with a church affiliation. The association and member clubs are managed by a leadership group aligned spiritually for serving in a Christian sporting association, however player registrations are open to anyone who wants to play soccer on a Saturday.

"It's a convenient hub-based competition which enables families to play in one or two places rather than having to travel to many different locations."

WACFA runs a mixed boys and girls junior competition for ages under six, eight and ten. The teams play a modified format of the game based on the FFA Small Sided Football while the youth competition, for ages under 12 to 18, is playing full international football rules. "We continue to see steady growth in player numbers with the introduction of new clubs, competitions and groups."

"Initially the competition only involved juniors, but in 2008 WACFA decided to introduce a men's competition which has grown from four teams to ten teams in 2011."

"This season we plan to have six teams in the women's competition and there's a masters competition for over 35s."

Every year, the WACFA season begins with an opening ceremony at Ashfield Reserve in Bassendean.

"It gives all the clubs and teams a chance to get together at one location, give thanks for a new season and enjoy the game of football together."

The 2012 opening ceremony will be held on Saturday 28 April with a total of 1,300 registered players representing 11 clubs in attendance.

For more information visit www.wacfa.com.au.



Valley United and Strikers players competing in the Western Australian Christian Football Association league on a Saturday morning allowing them to attend church on a Sunday.

Photo: Tim Van Zuylen

Share Your Will Power

Thinking about your Will?

Call **1300 789 991** or visit baptistworldaid.org.au/ bequests for a copy of Baptist World Aid Australia's 'Guide to Wills and Bequests'



Share an opportunity today!



hope

Commencement and Conferral Service 2012

Vose Seminary would like to invite you to celebrate the graduation of the class of 2011 and to welcome the new students of 2012

Monday 12th March

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Carey Baptist Community Church

Speaker: Pastor Phil Bryant

For more information:

Visit our new website www.vose.edu.au

Call us on 63136200