

# the advocate



"Success comes as the result of growing to our potential."  
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## The real impact of human trafficking

Southern River Member of the Legislative Assembly and devoted follower of Jesus, Peter Abetz will speak about the impact of human trafficking and its connection to prostitution and organised crime at a public event at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on Monday 11 August.

During a recent visit to Korea, Peter discovered that many Korean women were being trafficked to Australia on student and tourist visas. Police confirmed the women were being trapped into prostitution in Sydney and Melbourne.

Since prostitution was legalised in Victoria in 1984 the business has grown by up to 40 times its original size.

In 1984 there were approximately 50 brothels in Victoria. Today, there are 100 legal brothels and a further 400 illegal businesses; not including

escort agency prostitutes who are operating alone.

"Nations around the world are increasingly facing the reality that legalising prostitution is a failed social experiment," Peter said.

"I see this as my responsibility to influence our community with good legislation." When prostitution was legalised in Germany in 2002 (known internationally as the 'Bordello of Europe'), police confirmed that a single trafficked woman with 20 to 30 clients a day can earn her pimp

€100,000 to 200,000 (A\$145,000 to \$290,000) profit a year.

Peter Abetz is calling for Western Australia to adopt a Nordic approach to addressing the problem of prostitution. Prostitution is currently illegal in Western Australia.

The Nordic model, which is law in Sweden, makes it illegal to buy or attempt to buy sexual services.

The culture of Sweden has changed. Before the Nordic model was adopted in 1998, 70 percent of men said it was okay to visit a brothel. This year that number has dropped to 30 percent.

The Canadian parliament and France are also seriously considering adopting the Nordic model.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Senior Pastor Nick Scott said that Peter's research reveals that there is a clear link between prostitution, human trafficking and organised crime.

"In supporting Peter, we can be a positive influence in the kind of law reformation here in Western Australia that has proven to be effective in other parts of the world," Nick said.

"Having heard Peter speak on this subject I believe he has an important message."

"I'd like to see this not so much as a local Mount Pleasant Baptist Church event, but a city-wide opportunity," he said.

Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise and is an estimated \$32 billion a year global industry.

"Law reform is one way that we can make a difference in WA," Nick said.

"We can be at the forefront of social change in our nation and join the growing number of nations implementing the Nordic model. The only approach in the world that has massively reduced human trafficking and prostitution," he said.

“ Building healthy churches. ”

BAPTIST CHURCHES  
 WESTERN AUSTRALIA





### Monica O'Neil

Monica O'Neil is the Director of Vose Leadership and Equip.

## The good life

My darling mum left us to join the party in heaven not so long ago.

Over 300 people gathered to remember her. She was '90 something' and had been reclusive due to pain and disability for a year or two. The large gathering pointed towards the depth of goodness that characterised her life.

What did we remember as good? That is easy to tell you, her generosity, her capacity to make anyone feel loved and welcomed, her guileless humour and her capacity to consider the needs of others as equal to or greater than her own. My Mum was still

worrying about others the day before she died and possibly even on the day she left us.

We can be seduced into pursuing a good life that revolves around the accumulation of things, of power, or even of relationships. Most of us know that this isn't really what makes a good life. I am bold enough to say this stuff doesn't make a good life. What does then I hear you ask? Goodness makes a good life. Goodness received and goodness given. A goodness

that comes from a way of being that cannot be prevented from acting.

The central message of Jesus was enfolding love and liberating justice. He calls us to the family dinner table where the food, laughter, struggle and companionship are liberally shared. This goodness, this kindness compels us to offer the same to others. We, like Him, enfold others with love and kindness. We, like Him, engage in liberating others with acts of hospitality, generosity and unqualified grace.

In one life, we can subvert the individualised sense of justice and rights which

pervade Australian society. Beyond desiring things only for ourselves, beyond utilitarian friendships, and beyond the warm sentimental fuzziness which inundates Australian screens, we can live a life that is warm, hospitable and liberating of others.

Loving, liberating kindness is the good life.



### Dr Brian Harris

Dr Brian Harris is the Principal of Vose Seminary and pastor at large for the Carey Movement.

## On directions ...

I was speaking at a conference in Melbourne recently, where I met with other presenters at the airport to share a hire car to the hotel.

The car came with a GPS, and a technologically astute group member (clearly not me) logged in our destination and off we set on what our Global Positioning System (GPS) promised would be a 43-minute journey.

It started smoothly, the miracle of modern science alerting us to speed cameras (totally unnecessarily), and approaching bridges. In spite of its regular prattle, what it never mentioned was when we were

supposed to turn off the freeway. So what does any intelligent person do? Assume you're not yet supposed to turn off. After 67 minutes we started to question that wisdom. Just as well. When we eventually located a good old fashioned map book, it became clear that we should have exited after 41 minutes, our actual venue being just two minutes from the turn off.

Needless to say the car hire company had an excuse for our

misfortune – something about us not activating the chosen route (four were suggested). I was unimpressed – and exhausted! So how are you supposed to know if your GPS is working properly or not? Apparently it helps if you know where you are going so you can spot if anything goes wrong. I kid you not! If we knew where we were going, why would we have needed a GPS?

Ah, the changing way to get directions in the world. Soon no one will be able to navigate their way around a map book. Old timers will nostalgically reminisce, "Remember the good

old days when you plotted your route across pages 17, 84, and 117 of the street directory?"

I suppose the change is not too bad so long as we remember that real direction comes from another book. As the Psalmist says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Can't remember the reference to that. Better quickly check it out on my iPhone!



### Seeta Gurung

Seeta Gurung is the Country Director of International Nepal Fellowship.

## The plight of migrant women

Australia hosts 25,000 Nepalese migrant workers. Many of the Nepali diaspora are supporting their families in Nepal.

In my role as Director of International Nepal Fellowship I visited the Nepali diaspora in Malaysia recently. I was again reminded of the ongoing plight of women migrant workers and the challenges they encounter.

I went to a fellowship in Klang, a three-hour bus journey from Kuala Lumpur, where there were 13 young Nepali folk including their young pastor. By the time we started our fellowship it was already 8.30pm. We met at a

Chinese Christian's home who kindly hosts this group every week on the condition that the Nepali people leave by 10pm. After ten we sat outside of this home's gate and talked a while.

Out of 13, four were girls, one as young as 17. Interestingly, half of them became Christian in Malaysia. I remembered God's Word and how He loves and cares for foreigners.

The girls lived nearby so they invited my colleague and I to

their place of residence. There were eight girls living in a three-bedroom house. Each girl had her own story to tell us. Out of eight, five were married women. The 17 year old's father is sick so she had to go to Malaysia with her big sister to support their family back home. Those married all have children back in Nepal, who they left with their grandparents or other extended family. They speak to family members and try to speak with their children over the phone, but sometimes their children do not want to speak with them. You know how children are when they miss their loved ones – they do not like to talk.

Listening to the stories of these women gives you a lump in your throat and brings tears to your eyes.

How comfortable our lives are compared to these women! We need to be thankful to God for our relatively easy lives and the comfort of having our family members around us. When something does not take place or your family does not function as you think it should, remember these women and thank God for what He has given you, and pray for these women who normally end up being lonely, even among other women, as they are so far away from their home.

Lord, be merciful as You are always!

## 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.

# Developing the conversation

For many, connecting with people comes easy. Taking the next steps to engage in conversations about spirituality doesn't come as easily to many Australians. On a recent visit to Perth, former Western Australian pastor Wayne Field ran two training events in Perth churches.

"I spent a couple of hours with people at Como Baptist and Parkerville Baptist while I was in town," Wayne said.

"We looked at some evangelism essentials to help people think strategically about how to take the next step with their family and friends."

Teams from Toddler Jam groups at Inglewood Community Church, Thornlie Church of Christ, Maida Vale and Parkerville Baptist Churches attended the event in the hills. At Como some of the church's ministry teams to children and families benefited from the training.

"Working with Operation Mobilisation I often get to talk about these things with people from around the world," Wayne said.

"It's great to help people think strategically about how to take the next step."

"For the most part, people do well at building relationships but we get stuck on how to take the next step."

Wayne suggested taking a team approach is key. Understanding the styles and heart of people in a ministry team is important to help the team engage on a deeper level.

"Some are good at inviting people to share their lives, some are strong in being hospitable, some tell their own story of meeting and living with Jesus powerfully, and others have the capacity to give a clear

theological answer to someone's questions," Wayne said.

"If you understand these things about the people in your team, I believe you'll be more successful."

Wayne communicated that opportunities show themselves when people start to equip themselves for evangelism.

"I believe God loves people too much to bring them to someone who is not prepared."

"Get it on the radar. Pray strategically for people. Understand where their thinking is up to."

"Have the conversations that will help you all to take another step on the spiritual journey," Wayne said.

Karen Entwistle, team leader of Parkerville's Toddler Jam crew was thankful for the training.

"The training session provided our Toddler Jam teams with important insights into our personal evangelistic styles, and how we can harness that knowledge to be more effective when communicating the extravagant love of Jesus to families," Karen said.

Inglewood Community Church Pastor Mark Edwards was also grateful for the training event.

"It's just really good to spend some time focusing on this," Mark said.

"There are always so many things clamouring for our attention."

"This training was really valuable."



Wayne Field gives some evangelism essentials at an event held at Parkerville Baptist Church.

Photo: Darren Entwistle

## Your church's domain?

The domain name .church will enable churches around the world to continue to be progressive in the way they leverage technology to connect and help people, leaders of lifechurch.tv said recently.

The church – which has 15 campuses, including Florida, New York, Tennessee and Texas – is also the developer of the highly popular Bible app YouVersion.

Through the domain name extension, LifeChurch.tv aims to help churches in two ways. Firstly, the .church extension will

help churches label who they are without awkward web addresses that are difficult to type or remember.

Secondly, the new extension will help those searching about faith online to easily see which sites are ministry related. With the .church label, churches and ministries will be able to

stand apart from government entities, corporations and other organisations and allow individuals searching to clearly find what they need.

For more information, phone Matt Chapman at Baptist Churches Western Australia on 08 6313 6300.



08 6313 6200  
www.vose.edu.au



### Aid and Development Intensive

Jesus came bringing good news to the poor! Learn about injustice in the world today, biblical perspectives on wealth, and models for development.

Join us on Monday 29 September through to Friday 3 October at Vose with lecturer Scott Higgins, Baptist World Aid Consultant and author of the End of Greed.

Note: This unit can be enrolled in as part of a course or in audit mode - which means that for a fee of \$350, you attend classes without doing assessments.



EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE

# Newman celebrates NAIDOC

The Martu Christian Fellowship in Newman hosted a community event at The Farm to initiate the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) week of events in early July.

The focus of the Open Day was planting more than 100 trees in the securely fenced Farm on the outskirts of town. Community members attended the event and joined in planting the trees.

"This event is about bringing everyone together, doing life together," Newman Baptist Church Pastor John Wilmot said.

"In this space we can discover each other."

"We can be a united community together."

"We can get to know each other a bit better and break down some of the junk that people think without knowing it."

The Open Day included a flag raising ceremony where the Australian flag, the Aboriginal flag and the Thursday Island flag were raised. There was singing from a women's choir, lots of food and plenty of fun activities, including a bouncy castle for children.

Newman is a 'people hub' in the East Pilbara. As well as being home to the Martu people, the town is one of the most isolated in Australia. The population is also home to a highly paid and very mobile multinational workforce employed by the mining industry.

Columbian, Moire, Tongan, Zimbabwean, European-background Australians and Martu people combine to create a unique cultural blend in the community and the church.

Community Worker Tilly Wirihana and Greening Australia workers have been working with Martu people preparing soil and vegetable plots on The Farm.

As well as the Open Day, The Farm hosted information and training events during the week, including some fun activities for young people.

On two mornings during NAIDOC week they ran workshops on Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). Babies born with this health issue carry the disorder into childhood, and become adolescents and adults living with the limitations and challenges it brings to learning, capacity for coping with life and emotional stability.

"FASD is a major health issue," John said.

“  
This event is  
about bringing  
everyone  
together,  
doing life  
together.”

"We really want to bring this to the attention of people so they can understand it and learn about how to support people with the condition."

A team from Esperance visiting Newman set up a climbing wall for school children to learn some rockclimbing skills.

Plans have commenced to decide how the Martu community in Newman will celebrate NAIDOC week next year.



The Newman community gathered together to plant trees in recognition of NAIDOC week.

Photo: Shannon McInnes

## A big heartfelt thank you

Don and Miriam Kelso from Mt Barker have requested that their thanks be communicated to readers of *The Advocate*.

"It is with heartfelt thanks and praise to God that Don and Miriam Kelso would like to express their appreciation to the Baptist family of churches in Western Australia (and beyond), for their support in raising money for our much needed vehicle.

Along with the community of Mt Barker, over \$55,000 was raised. Our Volkswagen Multivan, with its modifications for wheelchair

access, has meant Don has been able to get out more readily.

We are aware many individuals and churches made contributions to the vehicle fund and we would like to say thank you to all of you.

Most are unknown to us, as the collecting and banking of donations was handled by Elaine and Tom Herrington of Denmark and the Denmark Baptist Church. Our thanks and appreciation to them.

Our thanks to Jill Birt of *The Advocate* for her help. We also want to thank Andy MacDonald of Southside Volkswagen, who over nearly a year saw to the ordering and delivery of the Multivan.

Thanks to Geoff and Howard of Wesbar Vanquip for supervising and carrying out the hoist modifications, and we express our gratitude to the Independent

Living Centre WA for the grant towards the wheelchair hoist.

We would especially like to thank Sandy and Ross at Mt Barker Post Office for their help. On their own initiative and without any soliciting on our part, Sandy and Ross brought the attention of the community to our need and provided a channel for collecting donations.

We would like to express our appreciation and give thanks to God for the overwhelming support of the Plantagenet community and the Baptist family of churches.

We have been overwhelmed and can only express our praise to God for His unfailing faithfulness."

**Don and Miriam Kelso  
Mt Barker, Western Australia**

## digital church

03/07/2014  
**Phil Cooke**  
philcooke.com

"I can tell you this: In the past, the church has been criticised (and sometimes rightly so) for being harsh, judgmental, and self-righteous. But trust me, nothing comes close to being as harsh, judgmental, and self-righteous as a purely secular state."

10/07/2014

bestministrypractices.com  
"... even though it is necessary to address those areas in our life that serve as counterfeit gods, their impact isn't merely

personal and private – it affects the people around us. It affects those in our family. It affects those within our churches. It affects those who we lead or work with."

11/07/2014  
**Greg Atkinson**  
gregatkinson.com

"... my love for ministry needed to die so that my love for God could take front and centre."

14/07/2014  
**Eugene Cho**  
twitter.com/EugeneCho  
"Don't underestimate what

God can do through you. God has a long history of using foolish and broken people for His purposes. I can attest."

14/07/2014  
**Jon Bloom**  
desiringgod.org

"The true, big God is after our biggest, deepest, widest, longest lasting joy."

14/07/2014  
**Ron Edmondson**  
ronedmonson.com

"... the interaction we have with people is a key role we play in growing and leading the church."

14/07/2014  
**Steven Furtick**  
stevenfurtick.com

"... the Christian life was not designed to be easy, it was designed to be effective and purposeful."

14/07/2014  
**Max Lucado**  
twitter.com/MaxLucado

"Don't ask God to do what you want. Ask God to do what is right."

14/07/2014  
**CS Tang**  
thegospelcoalition.org  
"Despite a high degree of theological unity, various

expressions of evangelical Christianity across Australia remain largely disconnected and functionally divided, complicated by significant cultural differences between the various states, territories and between people in the inner city, suburbs, working class suburbs, the country and the outback."

14/07/2014  
**Rick Warren**  
twitter.com/RickWarren  
"God is more interested in the direction of your heart than in your sins."

# Brigade adapts with the times

**The International Conference of Girls' Brigade was held in Perth from 4 to 11 July with 320 leaders and chaplains from around the world meeting at Swanleigh, near Midland.**

Outgoing International President Ruth Chikasa from Zambia praised the 121 year old movement for the way it has adapted to culture and changed over the generations.

"I started Girls' Brigade as a child when my Mum took me to the meetings," Ruth said

"I loved the opportunity to play with my friends, but Girls' Brigade offers so much more."

"We have the opportunity to influence girls' lives, to help them live life to the full and then to influence the lives of others," she said.

Leadership training, discipleship to help girls become devoted followers of Jesus and training in a wide range of life and practical skills, from photography to cooking and survival camping to music, are valued elements of the program as well as the value of long-term rich friendships.

"We have adapted," Ruth said.

"We're not stuck in tradition."

"We have key things that unite us globally, but we do it locally, with a local flavour."

Fifty years ago there was a focus on drill and regimentation. Today, Girls' Brigade companies have significant freedom to focus on elements of the program that fit with their local needs and culture.

Tamara Pilgrim, Captain of the Girls' Brigade Company at the Powerhouse Church in Kwinana has carefully adapted the Girls' Brigade program to meet the needs of the local community.

"We don't do any drill work but start each week's meeting with a game that helps us all connect," Tamara said.

"Community is very important so we focus there. We know there isn't money in our community for costly uniforms so we've adapted that too."

Fees for weekly meetings can be a strain on family budgets but Tamara said families with a Health Care Card can access government funds of \$200 for each child per year for membership of sporting or recreation groups.

The International Conference is held every four years to bring focus and challenge to individuals, leaders and the movement as a whole.

"We've been talking about change and how we need to be aware and adapt," Ruth said.

"The young leaders say the older ones are just crawling and the older ones say the young leaders are running."

"We need to be aware and adjust."

"Those crawling do need to speed up, but we must remember that the new leaders are standing on the shoulders of those who have been here before."



Photo: Jill Birt

Outgoing Girls' Brigade International President, Ruth Chikasa, reflects on changes within the organisation.

## Latham flourishes



Photo: Jill Birt

Country women gathered in Latham for a special event - Flourish.

Twenty-three women from the north eastern wheat belt region met at Latham to learn from one another in late June. Women travelled from as far as Carnarvon and Moora to attend the overnight event.

The women's event, Flourish – Country Women Together was held at the Latham Community Centre. Running concurrently, a Mighty Men's Regional Gathering was held at a farming property 25 minutes from town.

The Flourish program included some simple uncluttered worship, three teaching sessions and a session where two local women talked about their faith journey. There was plenty of time to chat and pray together.

Most of the women drove home to Wubin and Dalwallinu after the afternoon session with ten women camping overnight in the Latham Community Centre.

Early on Sunday morning the group celebrated communion together at the Centre looking out on dew-encrusted gum trees, reflecting on God's goodness and faithfulness before preparing the Community Centre for a combined worship service with

the 50 men who attended the Mighty Men's event.

Mukinbuddin farmer and country musician, Hayden Sprigg led the morning session and Parkerville Baptist Church Pastor Craig Lydon spoke about leaving a legacy in life. Hayden performed a song he wrote about the legacy his grandfather, one of the first farmers in the Mukinbuddin area.

## South Coast childcare win State award

South Coast Baptist College School of Early Learning Childcare recently won the Western Australian Early Childhood Service of the Year.

The Australian Family Early Education and Care Awards celebrate outstanding contributions in child care. They aim to encourage Australians working in all sectors of early childhood education and care to aspire to excellence.

The Awards also provide a great way for families to say "thanks" to the special child care educators and carers in their life.

"We would like to thank all our parents, friends, staff and community for nominating us in the first place to gain such an achievement," Director Catherine Jones said.

"We are truly blessed to have a supporting family. This award is dedicated to you all!"

Judges considered written submissions outlining achievements and commitments to improving the wellbeing of the children; improving the children's program; improving the early childhood service; ongoing professional learning and development; and improving inclusive interactions and partnerships with families.

Director Catherine Jones will travel to Sydney with Finance Manager Jasna Trimble to take part in the National Awards in late June.

"The Awards also provide a great way for families to say "thanks" to the special child care educators and carers in their life."

The winners were previously nominated four years in a row for both Early Childhood Service of the Year and Director of the Year. For two of those years they were registered under their previous name Maranatha Childcare.

# Match for far reaching vision

Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB Global Australia) board and staff are excited about the appointment of Frank Woods as their new Operations and Development Manager for their broadcasting site in Kununurra, Western Australia.

Reach Beyond is a Christian ministry broadcasting daily to the Asia Pacific region in 27 languages using shortwave radio.

Frank's appointment is an ideal match of his experience and skills, and the vision Reach Beyond has for the future of their broadcasting ministry and their relationship with the people of the region.

"We were looking for someone to expand on the work of previous managers who had established the broadcasting site and constructed the facilities – and Frank was a great fit," CEO Dale Stagg said.

Frank relates easily to people from all cultural backgrounds. His leadership and management abilities, plus a strong sense of social justice and the gift of

evangelism, enable him to see any work as an opportunity to serve God. He has many years of experience in Australia and overseas establishing and operating private villages and towns for the mining and construction industry.

Frank initially felt called to ministry in 2003 when he went to Cambodia to combat human trafficking, create employment opportunities for the rescued and to work with those in severe poverty. He has also worked with the Aboriginal Economic Development Council of WA, liaising with the WA Premier to give independent advice on assisting remote Aboriginal communities with businesses, health and educational services.

Frank sees his first task as becoming familiar with

the farm and broadcast operations at Kununurra. He will make recommendations regarding future development opportunities for the property, and once these are approved will oversee their implementation.

Frank's desire is to help and encourage people, not only Reach Beyond's staff and volunteers, but local church pastors and others as he reaches out to the local community.

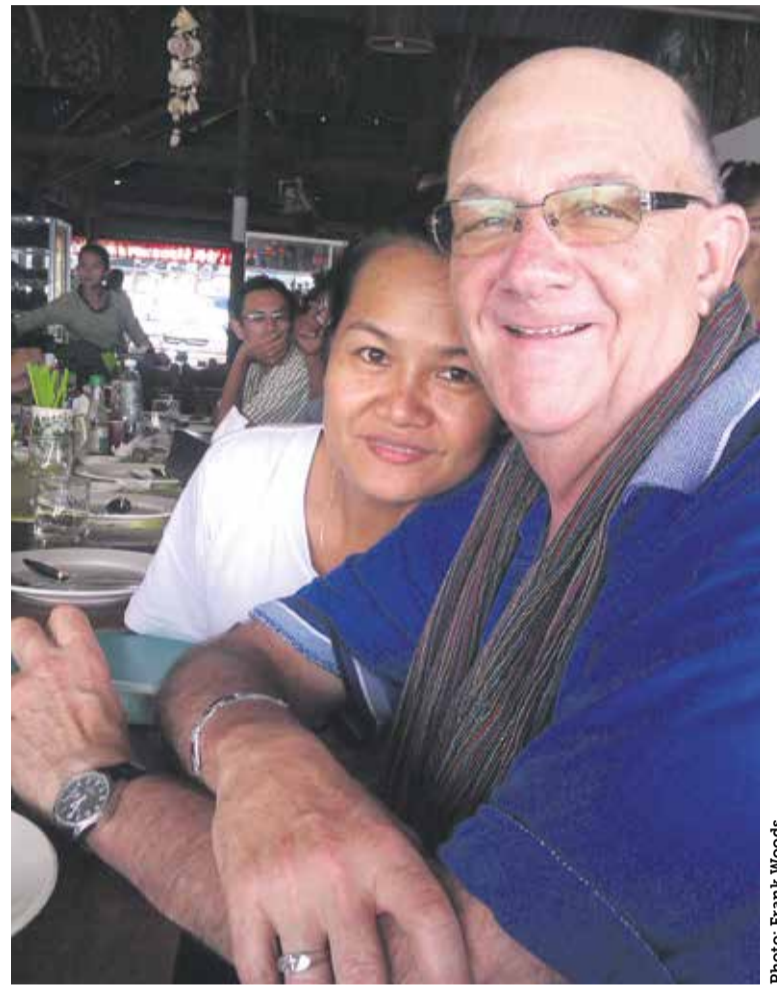
Frank said that when he saw the Reach Beyond advertisement he read it with interest and thought, "That's me!"

Frank returned to Western Australia March 2014 with his wife, Aly, to take up his new role.

"God has just opened the doors right through the process", Frank said.

Reach Beyond's head office and studios are in Kilsyth, Victoria and their broadcast facility is in Kununurra. They are uniquely placed to bring a message of hope to the people of the Asia Pacific region.

For more information, phone Reach Beyond on 1300 653 853.



Frank Wood's new role with Reach Beyond brings him, and his wife Aly, back to Western Australia.

Photo: Frank Woods

## Wilf speaks our language



Photo: Jill Birt

Nyungar Elder Myrtle Yarran and Wongi Elder Laurel Cooper chat with author Rob Douglas at the launch of *He Speaks Our Language*.

More than 100 people attended the launch of *He Speaks Our Language*, the story of Wilf Douglas who never reached his dream of being a missionary to China, but spent 60 years as a missionary and linguist in Western Australia.

The book is based on Wilf's memoirs and was written by his son, Rob Douglas, Lead Pastor at Maida Vale Baptist Church. It traces his life from Belfast where he was born in 1917 through the

journey to Western Australia as a child migrant living at Fairbridge, near Pinjarra, and how he established a family and lifelong work as a missionary and linguist.

A highlight of the launch event was an interview by Rob Douglas with two Aboriginal Elders, Myrtle Yarran, a Nyungar Elder from Quairading, and Laurel Cooper, a Wongi Elder from Kalgoorlie. Both women related stories of Wilf engaging with Aboriginal languages and his respect and love for Aboriginal people.

Wilf was instrumental in preserving a number of Australian languages including the Bardi, Ngaanyatjarra, Nyungar and Watjarri languages, and inspiring and training academics and translators through his lectures in linguistics and anthropology

at The University of Western Australia.

With his wife Beth and sons John and Rob, Wilf lived at Warburton, and then Kalgoorlie for more than 35 years.

Pastor Keith Truscott from Mt Zion Aussie Indigenous Baptist Church spoke of Wilf's passion and fascination with Indigenous languages. This inspired him to engage with his own people again after many years.

Ken Wyatt, Federal Member for Hasluck, launched the book acknowledging Wilf's compassion and consideration for people, and the major contribution he had in teaching and researching Aboriginal languages.

*He Speaks Our Language* is available from Koorong bookstores.

## briefs

### Baptism

Danelle Watterson was baptised at Cranbrook-Frankland Baptist Church's family camp at Camp Kennedy, Torbay in February.

### MH 17

Rev. Dr Ross Clifford, Principal of Morling College, Sydney, reported that Victor Oreshkin, a Certificate of Theology student at Morling was a passenger on Malaysian Airlines flight MH 17 that was shot down over the Ukraine on 17 July. Victor, believed to be in his 30s, was returning home after a five week trip to Europe. He is believed to be of Russian background. According to his church's pastor, Victor was a religious man who was involved in church ministry. "He was really loved by everyone so it was a big shock for all of us," Slavic Evangelical Pentecostal Church Pastor Alex Minchenko, from Victor's church, told Australian Associated Press. "He was a really big part of the church so we really feel for his parents as well as for Victor."

### This I Believe

Hillsong Worship's new song 'This I Believe' is based on the Apostles' Creed. It was written by Matt Crocker and Ben Fielding after an Australian Anglican minister sent a request to

Hillsong Church via Twitter to use the Apostles' Creed, one of the oldest and most widely used statements of faith across the church at large. "In an age where there is so much division, it's powerful to declare something we all believe is true, emphasising our core beliefs," co-writer and Hillsong worship leader Ben Fielding said. "I love anything that has the power to unify the church. This creed has done that for close to 1700 years."

### Kenya trouble

Release International reports more than 30 Christians have died in early July in a spate of brutal attacks in predominantly Christian areas in eastern Kenya. Suspected Islamic extremists raided Hindi, a village in Lamu County, and Gamba, a village in neighbouring Tana River County. Assailants armed with guns and knives killed at least 13 people in Hindi in a four hour attack during which homes and a church were set alight. One survivor described how her husband was tied to his bed and their house set alight. Eyewitnesses said attackers had told non-Muslims to leave the area or convert to Islam.

# Holiday fun for kids

School holiday activities during July gave children a variety of opportunities for fun and learning.

Treasure Island came to life at East Fremantle Baptist Church with 105 children attending the tenth Construction Zone program. At Maida Vale Baptist Church they ran their seventh consecutive Fun Factory with 150 children from their local community attending each day. Basketball was the focus at Lakeside Baptist Church, and Serpentine Camping Centre hosted Winter Games camp for Juniors and Intermediate aged children over the two weeks of the holidays.

None of the school holiday events could be held without the valuable contribution made by volunteers. Each of the activities mentioned requires a team of more than 50 to run the event. The preparation and training start months before the first day of the program.

East Fremantle's Construction Zone (CZ) began when an American summer missions student spent time at the then small church. It was designed as an outreach opportunity to connect with the community.

"It is exciting to see how God has grown this ministry and the ongoing relationships we have with families in our local area," East Fremantle Baptist Church Senior Pastor Phil Beeck said.

"CZ runs for six mornings in the school holidays for primary school aged children. We run Monday to Friday with the whole family invited to a special CZ church service on the Sunday!"

This year the theme was Treasure Island. Amazing sets were designed to create the sense of arriving on a new island each day, with games, chants, music, antics



Volunteers get in the spirit of Maida Vale Baptist Church's Fun Factory.

from Captain Phil (Beeck) and first mate Mim (Hosking), and daily dramas from Sailor Sam.

"Despite some 'sea sickness' we had an amazing week!" East Fremantle Baptist Church Children's Coordinator Mim Hosking said.

"We aim to always clearly present the gospel and promote the church as a fun and welcoming place for children and their families, which was definitely achieved."

School holiday events are an important place for churches to train leaders, inspire teens to serve and build friendships in their local community.

"Many of our teenage assistant leaders have grown up with CZ and are keen to provide a memorable and potentially life changing experience for younger children," Mim said.

Maida Vale Baptist Church held its seventh Fun Factory with around 150 children each day for

the five days of the first week of the holidays, under the leadership of Robyn Douglas, Children and Families' Worker.

"With nearly 300 children registered in total there was little time for our team to rest," Maida Vale Baptist Church Team Leader Rob Douglas said.

Special guests included a magician, balloon sculptor, Old Macdonald's Farm, the Suitcase Circus, and Fit 2 Cheer.

"Dressed appropriately and in keeping with the circus theme, the volunteers pulled together to work with the children, run the kitchen and manage the administration and registration," Rob said.

Many families spoke highly of the holiday programs. One parent from East Fremantle Baptist Church said it had been 'the best week' for their family with the opportunity to learn plenty, and to get to know others and feel connected in the church community.

## Be Love Sunday



Pray for your 'neighbours' on Be Love Sunday.

Be Love Sunday will be held on 10 August. The event, coordinated through Baptist World Aid Australia, gives churches across Australia the opportunity to join together to show their support in helping the world's poor.

By participating in Be Love Sunday, Perth churches with Baptists across Australia will be actively showing love for those in our broken world who need it the most.

Organisers expect people's faith will be encouraged as followers of Jesus join together as a church on 10 August.

Baptist World Aid Australia staff suggest people be prayerful for their 'neighbours' in the developing world for whom every day is a constant struggle. Ongoing generosity is needed to support projects.

It is a day we as a church can pray for children and their families living in poverty and pray for Australia's Government as they make decisions about how to allocate Australia's reduced aid budget. It is also a day when we can individually act out Jesus' commandment to 'love our neighbours' by committing to sponsor a child in need.

Churches can choose another day to celebrate Be Love Sunday if the planned August date is not suitable for their calendar.

"Jesus was clear when He stressed that the greatest command, after 'Loving God with all our hearts', is to 'love our neighbours as ourselves,'" Baptist World Aid Australia CEO John Hickey said.

"Our 'neighbours' living in developing countries need our financial assistance now more than ever – especially in light of foreign aid cuts."

To register for access to resources for use on Be Love Sunday visit [baptistworldaid.org.au](http://baptistworldaid.org.au)

### Mt Hawthorn Baptist Church Executive Pastor

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To find your local Baptist church visit

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# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR URBAN MISSION MEETS

Today 50 percent of the global population lives in cities. By 2050 this figure will reach 80 percent. Currently 60 percent of Malaysia's population lives in cities. Their experience made them insightful hosts for the 2014 International Society for Urban Mission (ISUM) Summit held 28 June to 1 July.

Kuala Lumpur hosted 220 practitioners, theologians, researchers and innovators to consider the theme 'Signs of Hope in the City' through presentations and workshops during the four day event.

Keynote speaker, leader, author and American Civil Rights Pioneer and Activist Dr John Perkins and Dr Jayakumar Christian, Director of World Vision India inspired the group with their biblically based and very practical understanding of the causes and challenges of poverty along with issues of ministry in urban settings and the role of the church in engaging with poverty.

Other speakers included Seeta Gurung, Country Director of International Nepal Fellowship which serves Nepali people in Nepal and around the globe, and Wong Young Soon, Executive Director of Malaysia Care with more than 20 years of experience in community development working alongside the poor.

Participants followed a number of streams of learning during the conference including Local Churches' Role in Urban Transformation with Victorian Baptist Pastor Darren Cronshaw facilitating the group, alongside Margaret Loy, Director of Community Excel Services, a non-profit community service and development organisation in Malaysia, and Ai Lin Low Executive Pastor of Charis Christian Centre.

Other groups looked at Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrant Workers; Urban Poverty and Disabilities; Christian Spirituality and Theology for New Urban; Children in the Urban Context; Action, Advocacy and Public Engagement; Urban Issues of Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Imprisonment; Indigenous Peoples in Urban Place and more.

As well as discussions the groups had immersion experiences in Kuala Lumpur, visiting their focus people and learning firsthand the issues they face daily in a mega city.

The Summit was held at the Methodist College Kuala Lumpur with plenty of opportunity for networking and conversations over meal and break times. Many of the participants stayed in hotel and backpacker accommodation close to the College in the Indian section of Kuala Lumpur giving them more opportunity to experience street life in the city.

"Summit events are designed for participants to risk hearing the Spirit's voice with others, moving beyond our own familiarities, perspectives and limited experience," ISUM Summit Convenor and International Director, Dr Ash Barker said.

"It's an interactive, participatory summit including hands-on immersion opportunities."

Dr Jayakumar addressed issues of poverty and power. He said liberation theology sees power belonging to the people.

"We are about establishing the Kingdom of God among the poor. The Kingdom of God is the end destination and power belongs to God," Dr Jayakumar said.

"Where will the poor see transformational life if not among the Kingdom workers?"

Dr Jayakumar said poverty is the result of broken relationships and society has developed systems to keep the poor in poverty.

"Poverty is about people bleeding, not statistics," he said.

"We can't use broken things to heal the poor. We must use the best we have to serve them."

Dr Perkins inspired the Summit with his life story of standing against oppression. His personal example of radical love and call to recognise the sinfulness of sin, and the need for deep forgiveness to be received and extended to others, challenged many people.

"The consciousness of sin in our lives is so important," Dr Perkins said.

"In reconciliation we miss the deep damage of sin. We must address this ... With radical love we need to be extreme, not relevant."

"We don't want the powerful to dictate to us."

"I have experienced this radical love. We can't be healed without each other."

Malaysia has 120,000 documented refugees living in Kuala Lumpur with a further two million refugees in the city. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates a further three million undocumented migrants are in Malaysia. These people have no legal rights to employment, education or health care. As undocumented workers, recruited from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Vietnam, they are incredibly at risk, often exploited and live in severely overcrowded areas.

However, urban poverty does not just affect new arrivals to cities. Globally cities have increasing numbers of vulnerable people living in poverty – the elderly; single female-headed households; unskilled workers; and migrant workers.

Daniel Lo who works with the Malaysian government said statistics show that with every increase of 10 cents in the cost of petrol in Malaysia causes another one million people to move from middle to lower class across the nation.

Poverty continues to change opportunities in society and life for millions of people. It also challenges churches convinced that Jesus' Kingdom is being expressed here and now and their God-given mandate to care for the poor, widows and foreigners.

To pursue justice for all continues to shape and change their ministries.



Photo: Jili Birt



Photo: Jili Birt





# FOR S IN MALAYSIA



Left: ISUM Summit Convenor and International Director, Dr Ash Barker.

Below left: Dr Jayakumar Christian and Dr John Perkins take questions from the floor at the public meeting of the International Society for Urban Mission Summit in Malaysia.

Below: Room 102, Dream Centre – a church for migrant workers

Bottom of page: ISUM Summit delegates deep in conversation over lunch.



Photo: Jill Birt



Photo: Jill Birt

## Signs of hope in the city

People who attended the International Society for Urban Mission (ISUM) Summit in Kuala Lumpur in late June were given unprecedented opportunities to be immersed in Christian ministries across the city.

One group of summit participants learnt about migrant workers, refugees and asylum seekers in the Malaysian context. As well as learning, teams were looking for signs of hope in the city, the major theme of the Summit.

The group spent an afternoon with students from the Ruth Education Centre, a community based residential school for 26 Burmese teenagers from seven different people groups.

During the Saturday afternoon visit, the visitors sat on the tiled floor of the main teaching room on the second floor of a shop/house in Kuala Lumpur's southern suburbs talking with small groups of students.

The students generously shared their stories with the group – stories of rapid change from their rhythmic village life in Myanmar to the manic intensity of life in Kuala Lumpur – a life where fear destroys peace, where opportunities are limited, where uncertainty pervades.

However, evidence of hope kept breaking through the conversations.

Sixteen year old Bosco who has been in Kuala Lumpur for three years talked about the music program at REC. He said he was learning to write songs, something he had never dreamt of doing.

"I gently asked if he would sing his song for us," Australian visitor Jill Birt from Perth said.

"And he did. He sang from his heart, confidently looking into our faces. He sang his song called 'Life'. I asked why he wrote this song."

"I wrote this song to encourage my people to live," Bosco said.

### An amazing sign of hope in the city.

The next day the group spent a couple of hours in the main market of Kuala Lumpur, Pasar Seni, observing, engaging in conversation, tasting local treats, looking for God at work and more signs of hope in the city.

More than an estimated three million migrant workers support local business and industry. Many have no documents and are targets for abuse from employers. Wages are often minimal; dismissal can be at the whim of the employer; hours are often long and conditions trying.

The group's guide pointed out that many of the people serving customers were migrant workers from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

With almost no rights in the community, the workers are caught in a perilous situation.

As the team walked to the monorail station, they noticed a sign on the locked roller door of a shop front building on the edge of the market area. A Christian based local not-for-profit group, Kuala Lumpur Urban Fellowship runs a drop-in centre in the building each week, providing food and care for homeless people and migrant workers.

### Another sign of hope in the city.

Later that night at the public meeting of the Summit held at Dream Centre (church) a member of the church spoke about serving Nepalese migrant workers in their community by providing transport for members of the Nepali fellowship that meets at the church each week. Due to their long working hours, the group meets on Saturday evening from 8pm to 11.30pm.

"Sometimes it is very tiring to be out so late at night to drive the Nepalese people home, but we believe that is very important to serve them," the Chinese church volunteer said.

### More hope in the city.



Novice songwriter Bosco, front right, with fellow students at the Ruth Education Centre.

Photo: Jill Birt

# Bringing hope through music

**Robert Gin, a Burmese refugee in Malaysia, has learnt the fine art of recording and mixing music, capturing the creative flair of gifted artists for many of his countrymen to enjoy.**

Two years ago he arrived at Blessed Arts Studio to work and learn the intricacies of recording and mixing music and running a recording studio. The studio was a new business venture giving Burmese refugees the opportunity to record and share their music.

Cramped into the third floor of a shop/house property in suburban Kuala Lumpur, the studio comprises of two soundproof booths and a larger room with a mixing desk. This room is also Robert's bedroom, kitchen and living area.

More than 90,000 Burmese people are stuck in Malaysia, having escaped persecution and trouble in Myanmar. They have travelled to Kuala Lumpur to seek a future. Now many thousands are stuck. The majority have no

documentation to give them any rights in Malaysia, so they live as a hidden community under the surface of life in the mega city of Kuala Lumpur.

They cannot legally work, face constant trouble from police and immigration workers, have no access to medical care and they are vulnerable to gangs who control the cramped buildings where they live in overcrowded rooms.

The minority are registered with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and have the much desired UNHCR identification card which gives them permission to stay and work while they wait for their number to come up on another nation's refugee visa list.

A Perth Christian man started the Blessed Arts Studio in 2011, identifying a niche

market and a unique opportunity to harness and promote the strong creative gifts of many Burmese people, while offering meaningful work to refugees waiting for visas that will take them into another phase of their 'new life'.

The initial trainee, Khual received his visa earlier this year and is now living in the USA. At this time Robert Gin took over the reins at the Blessed Arts Studio.

"I record our singers singing their own songs, then mix the music with the words," Robert said.

The network of Burmese Christian groups across the city provide opportunities for marketing the music CDs that Robert produces. Orders are delivered in plastic shopping bags and payment filters back to Robert when the CDs are sold.

As well as providing a vibrant opportunity for Burmese musicians to explore and develop their music, and bring hope to their people, most months Robert is making enough income to pay his rent and purchase food.



Robert Gin has learnt new skills while he waits for a refugee visa in Kuala Lumpur.

Photo: Jill Birt

## briefs

### Malaysian Bibles dispute

The Bible Society of Malaysia (BSM) hit out at the Selangor Islamic authorities for suggesting that Bibles seized earlier in 2014 be disposed of as the row over the holy books escalated. BSM President, Bishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing said in a statement it was "absolutely unacceptable" for the Islamic authorities to speak in such a manner given the fact that Bibles are not subversive documents. In an earlier report, the Selangor Islamic Religious Council (Mais) and the Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) stated they do not want to return the Malay and Iban language Bibles despite the Malaysian Attorney-General announcing Jais had erred when they raided BSM six months ago.

### Workers in Iraq kidnapped

Leaders of Catholic churches in Iraq have travelled to Europe to report on the Iraqi crisis and to try to find solutions for the country's rapidly declining number of Christians. Their visit came amid reports that two nuns in Mosul, accompanied by two women and a boy, have been unaccounted for since 28 June. They are believed to have been kidnapped by militants of the radical jihadist Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). More recently, the group has taken to calling itself the Islamic State (IS).

### Engaging Chicago

Chicago has one of the highest crime rates in the United States. Yet amidst the wanton gang-related violence of Chicago's inner city, Christian ministries are making a difference. "Fourteen people were killed and 80 wounded over the 4th of July weekend," Campus Crusade for Christ's CRU Inner City National Representative Rob Baker said. After a recent visit to Chicago, he found several ministries fighting back with the power of Christ. "Our ministry is touching most parts of the inner city," Rob said. At the Agape Community Center on the south side of the city, an area which is 97 percent African American, young men are being mentored and shown an alternative to the gang lifestyle.

### Family affirmed

The United Nations (UN) recently re-affirmed that the natural family is the fundamental unit of society. The United Nations Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on 'Protection of the Family' with a traditional definition of the family. It recognises the importance of the family for society and individuals, and that countries must strengthen and protect the family. The resolution not only echoes language from the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights about the family as the 'natural and fundamental unit of society', it also states that the family is the 'natural environment' for the education and development of children.

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Baptist Churches  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Inspiration on two wheels

A group of 14 Australians raised an amazing \$66,000 for Baptist World Aid Australia programs working with some of the poorest people in the world.

After fundraising for several months, the team visited Cambodia in July to see for themselves the work Baptist World Aid Australia is involved in.

In ten days the team rode their bicycles 300 kilometres and trekked 40 kilometres, visiting Baptist World Aid Australia partners and learning about Cambodian culture and the needs of the community.

"As Christians, God has placed in all of us a real desire to 'do good' and make a difference," Caitlin Ramrakha, group leader from Baptist World Aid Australia said before the team left Australia.

“... it empowers communities to really consider what they need together as a village ...”

"We see pictures of people overseas living in terrible poverty and we want to jump on a plane and go help. However, this isn't good for anyone in the long term."

"What people in developing nations need is the opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty – and the best way we can give them this is through funding good community development."

Some inspiring Christian people, ranging in age from 15 to 70, came together from across

Australia for the trip, including one from the Northern Territory.

"One of the things I'm most looking forward to is spending time each day as a group in prayer and studying God's Word, listening and learning what He has to teach us from the people we meet and the places we visit," Caitlin said.

"There's so much sadness and recent tragedy in this war-torn country that I believe all of us will come away very, deeply changed."

Seven days into the trek the team posted on Facebook that highlights of their adventure included many opportunities to meet and learn from Cambodians from all walks of life, experience the beautiful countryside and taste plenty of traditional Khmer food. Of all these experiences visiting projects with Baptist World Aid Australia partner, Food for the Hungry (FH) Cambodia was a highlight of the trip.

Country Director of FH Cambodia, Mark Fender taught the group about Cambodia's religious structure, worldviews that impact development and FH's development model before the group climbed on the back of a truck and headed out into the field.

FH Cambodia is committed to 'walking' with communities rather than doing things for communities.

"Sometimes the development process is time consuming and arduous but it empowers communities to really consider what they need together as a village, and pushes them to work together in a sustainable way to get there," Caitlin said.



The Australian team trekking across Cambodia to see how their fundraising efforts will be used.

Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

## Leaders gather in Turkey

More than 300 Baptist leaders, pastors, theologians, seminary presidents, professors and interested Baptists from around the world travelled to Turkey for worship, fellowship, study and decision meetings in July.

The annual gathering took place in Izmir, known biblically as Smyrna, from 6 to 12 July and included meetings of the General Council and Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) Director of Ministries Mark Wilson attended the conference with his wife Karen to represent Western Australian Baptist churches.

Ngwedla Paul Msiza from South Africa was elected

president of the Baptist World Alliance, along with 12 vice presidents, who will serve the BWA from 2015 to 2020.

The 2014 Denton and Janice Lotz Human Rights Award was presented to Ilie Coada from Moldova for his work in fighting human trafficking and sex slavery in his country.

In addition to a broad range of committee meetings, ministry groups hosted presentations on a wide array of subjects in theology, mission and evangelism such as theological

education, church planting, Baptist identity and Baptist preaching.

Justice issues related to human rights, religious freedom, social oppression, poverty, gender, the environment and other areas of concern were also explored.

Participants toured the ruins of Ephesus, an important city in early Christianity. Ephesus and other biblical cities such as Laodicea and Colossae are in modern western Turkey, usually referred to in the New Testament as Asia or Asia Minor.

## Are you passionate about touching lives through Chaplaincy?

Baptistcare is a community benefit organisation that works to provide care and support services across the aged care, disability and mental health sectors. We believe in providing emotional and spiritual support as part of a holistic approach to a person's wellbeing. One of the ways such support is provided is through chaplaincy.

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To find out more about this vacancy and to apply, please visit [baptistcare.mercury.com.au](http://baptistcare.mercury.com.au)



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# Jumping into the harvest

Dave Lawton, the founder of a missionary movement known as Praxeis, recently talked with Steve Addison from Movements.net. The following is part of their conversation.

## Dave, tell us how things are with Praxeis.

We've been on quite a journey with ups and downs and struggles but it's the most thrilling thing that we can be on because obviously the Spirit of God is breathing in areas where we've been leading the team and we've been hearing His voice.

## Where are you at now?

As we started to 'jump into the harvest', people with a like-minded passion started to join us and started to work with us, predominantly young adults. They are flexible, passionate, willing to give their lives to Jesus to make a difference. Our job was to start to 'plant the DNA' of following Jesus, how Jesus did mission, what the book of Acts has to do with us today, and following those examples, learning from movements that are happening in third world countries, applying the principles and just seeing these young adults 'practition'.

## Tell us the story of one of those young adults.

Andrew Pyman was a youth pastor at Crossway Baptist Church and was studying at university. We started catching up for coffee to dream a dream together what it could look like. He'd started to 'practition' the principles: passionate prayer, abundant gospel sowing, making disciples of 'hungry' and open people. At that stage Andrew was on the university campus starting early morning prayer meetings and groups with non-Christians, just gathering people together. The key thing we learnt from David Watson [Christian author] was discovery bible study. It gave us a very clear tool to start a discipleship process with non-believers.

## How does Andrew connect?

Primarily it's relational, talking to people and being transparent with his faith. It's no magic pill. It's just being available. Being incredibly intentional and focused. As he is out there doing this, the passion for making movements grows in his heart. Soon he becomes one of our leaders and then we go to Western Sydney, one of the neediest areas

of Australia with two million people, Indian Hindus, Afghan Muslims, Chinese Buddhists and Aussie battlers. He starts praying for an apostolic leader of Western Sydney ... and God taps him on the shoulder. Andrew marries Mindy and they're in the harvest together, just fabulous workers.

## What does it mean 'they're in the harvest'?

It means that probably every day they're sitting with groups of Muslims or other people from the nations, doing discovery bible study, eating food, connecting. They're with people, eating and drinking coffee, sharing the gospel. Then Andrew goes around New South Wales prayer walking. He calls it the Jericho Trip. Since that time we've seen the initiation of many small groups in regional areas in places like Orange, Kangaroo Valley and northern New South Wales. It's like God opened a field.

## It sounds like prayer walking is central to how Praxeis opens up a new community.

The Lord spoke to us. It's a continuing journey to take the nation. We tried to get into every state of this nation praying, "Lord give us this land." Not arrogantly 'us' but the Kingdom. We want to tread in every community.

## Every community in Australia?

We want to tread in every community. We're coming close. I've just returned from Western Queensland where we're standing in some incredibly remote communities and praying and connecting. Mostly we have no contacts. We just walk into a community, find somewhere to stay, a motel or somewhere and we start to pray, to cry out to God for that area and say, "God, open up the harvest." We'll prayer walk the streets looking for people of peace, and if there is nothing there, we move on with the intention of going back at some point. What we're trying to do is to establish regional leaders over areas who will then go back and 'do' that region, finding people of peace and making disciples. It's our initiation strategy. We pray until we find open people and make disciples.

## Praxeis is very intentional to blanket areas in prayer, but you're actively looking for an 'open door', for people who are open to do discovery bible studies to learn about Jesus.

We believe in prayer, but prayer in isolation without mission is often the missing element. It's prayer, coupled with mission, or apostolic endeavour; just jumping out into the community, sharing the gospel, finding people.

## You've made mission very 'concrete'. For some people it's a 'fog'.

A lot of talk about mission is very abstract. This very much mirrors the ministry of Jesus. One of our primary celebrations is when we hear of someone sitting with a non-believer, opening the scriptures and sharing Jesus or, teaching them a path of discipleship that will lead to knowing Jesus and baptism. That's the pinnacle to us. That's what we aim for. Many times we feel we are 'hitting our heads against a brick wall'. We feel we are just learners with L-plates on. We're not experts in this. Our focus is to do it. To be practitioners.

And that story is multiplied. In Queensland, Western Australia and now we even have some connections in the Northern Territory. We're now focusing on South Australia and Tasmania where we have prayer walked but there is nothing there yet. Now we're going to go back in and do it again. And do it again until God opens the grand 'doors'.

## You talk of building a missionary movement. So how many would you say are connected with Praxeis?

One hundred and fifty to two hundred people across Australia are meeting in groups, and there are new groups forming. We're moving into second and third generation workers now. If that's God's vision to reach every community; we're such a small group of people, how are we going to do that? We have to multiply workers. One shift we've made is to actually engage more believers, to call them into this task. Before, we were just letting it happen



Photo: Praxeis

organically now we're engaging. We've put out a 'trumpet call' to see who will engage and get involved with this. We're looking at the harvest and praying for workers for the harvest.

## What about beyond Australia?

Jesus has a way of always expanding us. When we feel like we've reached the limit, he says, "Act". The Great Commission is like this – Jerusalem. When we feel stretched, He says we must not stop there because the Great Commission does not finish with the borders of our nation. So we have targeted areas like Japan – we have started with prayer by sending prayer teams over there, and there are numbers of Japanese people here in Australia we've been discipling. Some of our workers are doing discipleship by Skype. We're also in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia amongst gypsies and in Spain as well. We're sending our first outreach team to Germany later this year.

## What would you say to someone who's interested in this?

Get started. Get one or two others together and start praying for an area of people asking for the Lord to give you His vision for the area. Let Him show you. It will usually be bigger than what you think. Then start being obedient. Start going to those places. Go to the edges, the dark places, don't stay in the security of the churches praying. Go into the community. Waste time sitting in cafés. Often it feels unproductive, but it's the only way you'll be able to jump into a community and connect with people. Learn how to share your story. Learn how to use spiritual hooks to engage people. Invite people into a group. Start a conversation with me at [connect@praxeis.org.au](mailto:connect@praxeis.org.au).

For more information, visit [praxeis.org.au](http://praxeis.org.au)



MAKING DISCIPLES  
THAT MULTIPLY



# What I believe about success

## - Part 2

By John Maxwell

Last month we learnt about knowing your purpose in life, the first part of John Maxwell's definition of success that he now embraces after 50 years of knowing successful people and studying the subject.

This month John Maxwell will discuss how to pursue the final two aspects of his definition, growing to reach your maximum potential and sowing seeds that benefit others.

### Growing to your potential

Novelist HG Wells said that wealth, notoriety, place, and power are no measures of success whatsoever. The only true measure of success is the ratio between what we might

have been and what we have become. In other words, success comes as the result of growing to our potential. It's been said that our potential is God's gift to us, and what we do with it is our gift to Him.

We have nearly limitless potential, yet few ever try to reach it. Why? The answer lies in this: We can do anything, but we can't do everything. Many people let everyone around them decide what their agenda is in life. As a result, they never

really dedicate themselves to their purpose in life. They become a jack of all trades, master of none – rather than a jack of few trades, focused on one.

Reaching your potential requires focus. That's why it's so important for you to discover your purpose. Commitment to continual improvement is also key. Each day you can become a little bit better than you were yesterday.

Forget the past and focus on the future. That's where your potential lies, ahead of you – no matter whether you're eight, eighteen, forty-eight, or eighty. You still have room to improve yourself. You can become better tomorrow than you are today. As the Spanish proverb says, 'He who does not look ahead remains behind.'

### Sowing seeds that benefit others

When you know your purpose in life and are growing to reach your maximum potential, you're well on your way to being a success. But there's one more important part to the success journey: helping others. Without that aspect, the journey can be a lonely and shallow experience.

Helping others is something you can do right here, right now, whether it's spending more time with your family, developing an employee who shows potential, helping people in the community, or simply putting your own desires on hold for the sake of your team at work. The key is to link your purpose with your desire to help others.

Entertainer Danny Thomas said, "All of us are born for a reason, but all of us don't discover

why. Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others."

The success journey will not look the same for everyone, because the picture of success is different for every person. What doesn't change are the principles used to take the journey. They can be applied at home, in school, at the office, on the ball field, and in church. It doesn't matter where you are now. You can learn and apply these ideas. You can be successful today.

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# Leadership lessons from Iron Man

By Rob Furlong

I like Iron Man. As Tony Stark, his alter ego, he possesses wealth, power and the ability to create really cool weapon technology. However, that isn't why I like Iron Man.

I like Iron Man because he carries within himself a secret and knowing this enables you to understand how it profoundly affects everything he does. Before sharing his secret, what does this have to do with leadership?

Let me provide some context. Mature leaders understand that with leadership there comes a certain amount of power. This is not intrinsically

wrong or bad – if a leader is to lead then he or she must exercise an appropriate level of authority and power. But sadly, we are all too familiar with the leader who abuses power!

The pastor who uses the pulpit to take aim at a difficult individual or group under the guise of 'preaching God's Word'. (In my immature years I confess, regrettably, that I have been guilty of this).

The church leader who stands up at a meeting and attacks other leaders on the basis of 'keeping them accountable', but with a marked lack of grace and Godliness.

On a larger scale, leaders like Robert Mugabe who have used their power to condemn people to a lifetime of poverty and fear. I remember well the feeling of anger that welled up inside me when I saw firsthand the results of this abuse of power when visiting Zimbabwe six years ago.

Abuse of power is both tragic and real – and the most dangerous person is the leader who is unaware of the power they have over people.

This is where Iron Man's secret comes in. The source of his power comes from a device

implanted in his chest that also keeps his failing heart beating. Iron Man's greatest strength is also his greatest weakness – take it away and he is literally just a man in an empty shell.

By embracing this secret our leadership of God's church will be radically transformed. I have been learning this lesson, painfully at times, over the last decade of my life, but it has brought many positive results both personally and for God's people.

Paul also knew the secret, describing it as "God's power working best in his weakness" [2 Corinthians 12:9, slightly paraphrased].

As leaders, let's learn the secret of Iron Man and lead from a place of humility and weakness.



Rob Furlong is a Pastoral Consultant for Baptist Churches Western Australia.

Photo: Jill Birt

browse

Sermon Cloud

www.sermoncloud.com

Sermon Cloud is all about connecting people to sermons from across the globe. With over 230,000 sermons available, users can locate sermons on just about any topic, and find sermons that have been recommended by other Sermon Cloud users. Churches can also use Sermon Cloud to publish and syndicate their sermons, as well as podcast and place on their own websites. There are free and paid plans available. Sermon Cloud offers a solution to churches that wish to get their sermon audio published as it allows users to find sermons from a wide variety of churches.



win

Mercy Triumphs: Lessons from James

Beth Moore

*Mercy Triumphs: Lessons from James* is a booklet that contains daily inspirations taken from Beth Moore's original full-length study on James. It is perfect as an introduction to God's Word, with chapter topics such as Joy Whenever, Just Ask, A Wildflower in the Meadow, Baited by Our Desires, and Father of Lights. This is a lovely little book to inspire your study and understanding of the book of James.

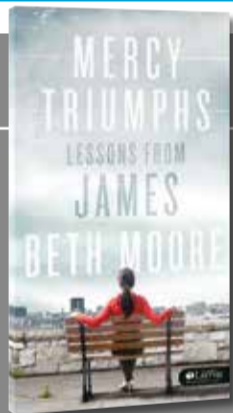
The Advocate is giving you an opportunity to win *Mercy Triumphs: Lessons from James*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

Who is the author of *Mercy Triumphs: Lessons from James*?

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

The winners from the *Teach Me to Pray* competition: J Hunt, E Oliver and N Perrett.



competition

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

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

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

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

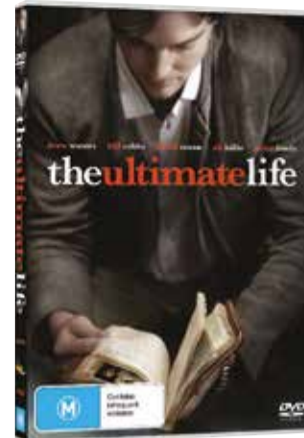
Mercy Triumphs: Lessons from James Competition  
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

watch



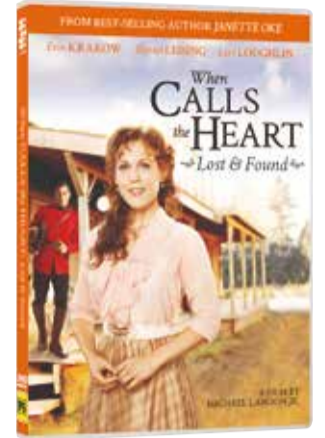
Beautiful Africa: A New Generation

*Beautiful Africa* features vibrant, original music, dance routines, stories of transformation, exciting audiovisual effects and music videos. All has been produced to celebrate the beauty of Africa and the transformational power of the love of Jesus. Watoto Children's Choir presents concerts of hope as a voice for the cry of the African child, many who have suffered some of the worst atrocities known to man. But whose lives have been restored by the love of Jesus.



The Ultimate Life

With life pressures on every side – running a foundation established by his late Grandfather; being sued by his devious extended family; and saying goodbye to Alexia – Jason Stevens' world is quickly coming unstuck. Unexpectedly Jason uncovers a lifelong journal written by his Grandfather, which he started writing during the years of the depression. Jason soon finds himself front row in an incredible ride from rags to riches – and what really matters in this life soon becomes evident to Jason.



When Calls the Heart: Lost and Found

*When Calls the Heart* tells the captivating story of Elizabeth Thatcher, a young teacher accustomed to her high society life, who receives her first classroom assignment in a simple coal mining town. Quickly finding herself deep in the midst of a tragedy, Elizabeth reaches out to the women in town who have lost their husbands in a coal mine explosion. This is a touching film which exposes the beauty in simplicity and the importance of loving one another.

read



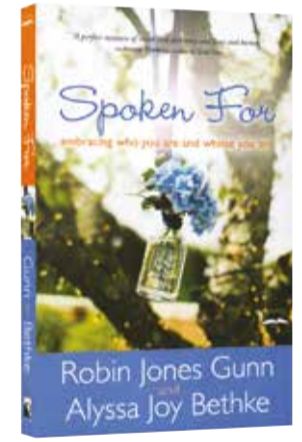
All Things Hidden

Tracie Peterson  
Gwyn Hillerman enjoys being a nurse at her Father's clinic in Alaska, but with her Mother leaving them and taking Gwyn's younger sister with her, life becomes tough. In Chicago, Dr Jeremiah Vaughan's medical licence is taken away so he leaves Chicago and heads to Alaska in hope of a better future. Gwyn and Jeremiah's paths cross and everything starts to change, but will the truth of Jeremiah's past ruin everything?



The Waiting

Cathy LaGrow with Cindy Coloma  
An unforgettable true story that will touch your heart and make you believe in love and the power of prayer. In 1928, 16 year old Minka was on a picnic in the woods when she was assaulted and became pregnant. Her baby was born in secret and given up for adoption. For decades Minka wrote letters trying to obtain news of her daughter and kept loving and praying for her, hoping they would one day meet.



Spoken For

Robin Jones Gunn and Alyssa Joy Bethke  
In *Spoken For*, Robin Gunn and Alyssa Bethke speak to your heart about what it means for you to belong to Jesus and who you are because of His great love, and how it effects the way you live your life. Drawing on biblical promises and their personal experiences, these two friends share what it is like to live out God's unfolding love story. You are not up for grabs. You are spoken for. You are precious in His sight.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

Address: Victoria Park - 359 Albany Highway, phone 08 9361 7899



Each month a school highlights news from their campus through the writing and photography of students on the School Scoop page.

## Ruth Education Centre

Ruth Education Centre is a small community school in Kuala Lumpur helping to educate teenagers from Myanmar.

### A better life



Photo: Jill Birt

Michael Moey, founder of REC, speaking at the ISUM Summit, Malaysia.

By Michael Moey, Ruth Education Centre Founder

Currently there are 26 refugee youths at the Ruth Education Centre, which aims to help educate young refugees from Myanmar.

Refugees come to Malaysia hoping for a better life upon resettlement via the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), but life is not any easier in Malaysia due to their illegal status. They come from extremely difficult backgrounds, economic and personal, and from situations of religious and political persecution.

In Malaysia, refugees have no legal rights of employment and education. Refugee youths attend community schools that provide education until 15 years of age. Upon reaching 15, most refugee youths are asked to leave their school to work and they end up in low-end jobs in restaurants, coffee shops and construction sites.

The community schools do not have the resources to provide for higher education. I was approached by some refugee community leaders to develop a centre that will help contribute to the academic development of their youth. This centre will also help the students adjust to high school life in a third country such as the USA or Australia.

On 1 July 2011, the Ruth Education Centre commenced with three objectives:

1. Academic development of refugee students through the learning of various subjects.
2. Holistic education that would include extracurricular activities, music, art, dance, drama and others.
3. Spiritual formation through devotion, prayer, service, worship, study and reflection

of scriptures, and training other less fortunate ones like themselves.

There are four core values of Ruth Education Centre:

- Faithfulness to God.
- Orderliness in thought and life.
- Diligence in studies and duties.
- Love for God, and love for neighbours.

### Serving at ISUM



Photo: Jill Birt

REC students dancing at the opening of the ISUM Summit where they served as volunteers.

By Mung Pi, REC student

During the International Society for Urban Mission (ISUM) Summit the students from Ruth Education Centre (REC) had many opportunities to serve the people who gathered from many different countries to work and share together.

"It encouraged me deeply that they [Summit attendees] care for one another and we should not leave behind those who are poor – we are the same in Christ," Lian Sian Mung (19), a REC student leader said.

REC students acted as volunteers for the Summit, helping with registrations,

serving meals and drinks, as well as sharing their music and dance during the opening session of the Summit. They also performed at the Summit celebration dinner.

"I truly admire the ISUM people's commitment for the poor," Lian Sian said.

"I enjoyed serving the people at this ISUM Summit. May the

Lord our God pour out His blessing upon the ISUM leaders. May the Lord continue to direct this ministry."

"From this Summit I realised that God is so wonderful that He gathered people from many countries to work and share together," he said.

### A lifesaving journey

By Lisa Iang Len Sung, REC student

I am 14 years old with six siblings. In 2008, soldiers came to our house and told my father to build their camp and also dig holes.

My father couldn't continue to help due to exhaustion and insufficient rest. He ran away from our village. The soldiers sent a letter to the village leader and asked that he be brought back to the camp immediately. My father fled to Malaysia to save his life.

Later, the soldiers came to our house to harass my mother. We worried for our safety and also fled to Malaysia. Along the way, we faced many difficulties. We travelled by car, bus, taxi, truck and on foot. The hardest part was travelling by car and truck. There were 39

people in the car and the agent just stepped on us one by one. In the truck we almost died of suffocation.

Sometimes we walked night and day. The agent did not allow us to wear shoes. Thorns pricked our feet and we bled. We stayed in the jungle for two days and a night. We ate once a day and drank lots of water to avoid hunger. We arrived in Malaysia on 29 October 2009.

Since 2010, I studied in my community school for three years. After three years, there was no higher level of study. A relative introduced me to the Ruth Education Centre (REC). It was the best opportunity for



Photo: Jill Birt

Lisa Iang Len Sung (centre front row) with fellow students from REC.

me to continue my study. I have improved my spoken English, and learnt subjects such as accounting, Bible recitation, critical thinking, serving God, and learning to share the Bible.

In REC the most important thing I have been learning is knowing who Jesus is, serving

Him by helping others, and to be closer to Him. Through this I now appreciate more of my parents' love.

I am thankful to be in REC because all our instructors and supporters spend time with us sharing their knowledge.

# Shining in Brazil

Perth Youth Pastor and Physiotherapist Brett Stanford, a member of the How Ridiculous trick-shot team, impacted a global audience in the lead up to the World Cup in Brazil when he pulled off some amazing kicking skills with a soccer ball. The feats became part of a McDonald's advertising campaign leading up to the World Cup tournament and went viral on the internet.

Selected as one of only five people from around the world to showcase their football skills, Brett flew at short notice to Brazil to film the advertisement in

March after receiving an email from the production team. Brett was not the only Christian to influence the global Cup fever.

Costa Rican goalkeeper Keylor Navas is also a Christian and spoke about his faith.

"God for me comes first. Before every game I kneel, I open my arms and pray."

"My favourite passage of the Bible is Galatians 1:10 which says, 'If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.' – so I do not lose my composure."

"God gave me health and a wonderful job. So I do not stand still and wait for things to happen. I work constantly and do my best to improve myself."

Tim Howard, goalkeeper for the USA is a strong evangelical Christian who has appeared in various evangelistic films and resources. Another USA teammate Brad Guzan regularly proclaims his Christian faith.

Another footballing superstar, Brazilian defender David Luiz is open about his faith in Christ, publically praying for team mates on the pitch. His team captain, fellow Brazilian defender Thiago Silva is also a strong Christian. He credits God for his recovery from tuberculosis.

"I almost died from TB in Russia several years ago. God saved me," he told French channel Canal+.

Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder – a star of the last World Cup – was baptised a Catholic after being influenced by his devoutly religious wife and Catholic teammate Javier Zanetti.

Republic of Korea striker Park Chu-Young told *The Guardian (UK)* that the first and main reason he plays is to evangelise people.

"It would make me happy if just one person became interested in Christianity because of me," he said.

England attacking midfielder Raheem Sterling is on a spiritual journey too, acknowledging the influence of his Mum as he explores Christianity – he prays and reads the Bible. Fellow countryman and Liverpool striker Daniel Sturridge is very open about his Christian faith on social media.

Nigerian striker Shola Ameobi and his brother Sammy are clearly identified in the Premier League as Christians. Shola told *The Guardian* newspaper of his struggles to live out his faith in the secular world.

"It's hard for any Christian in a secular world not to conform to the pressures to do things other people are doing," he said.

"That's one of the things I've been dealing with, or trying to deal with, most of my career."

Perhaps this is a challenge for all of us, superstar or not!



Photo: Stanford

Brett Stanford performs stunts for the World Cup in Brazil.

the  
advocate

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Baptist Churches  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Geraldton Baptist Church Celebrating 50 Years

Geraldton Baptist Church would like to invite all past and present members, along with any people who have been associated with the church in any way over the years, to join us in celebrating 50 years of service in Geraldton.

The celebration weekend will occur on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2014. We welcome any stories and photos that people may like to share.

Please contact Sharon at the church office to find out more information or express interest in attending and being involved. Phone: 9921 3356

Email: [admin@geraldtonbaptist.org.au](mailto:admin@geraldtonbaptist.org.au)

## Dalwallinu Baptist Church 50th Anniversary

Dalwallinu Baptist Church  
3 McNeil Street, Dalwallinu

21st September 2014  
commencing at 10:00am  
Service followed by lunch

All are welcome

Please RSVP by the 7th September 2014

For further details and to RSVP please contact:

Colin Cail

Phone: 9664 3012

[crcail@bigpond.com](mailto:crcail@bigpond.com)

Ian Hyde

Phone: 9661 1578

[iwhyde@bigpond.com](mailto:iwhyde@bigpond.com)

## Cross Cultural & Indigenous Consultant Vacancy

Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) are committed to encouraging, supporting and planting Cross Cultural and Indigenous churches in Western Australia.

The position is responsible for assisting in the establishment of new congregations among these people groups and supporting the pastors, leadership and congregations that already exist.

#### Essential Criteria:

- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to cross cultures
- Accredited Baptist Pastor who is Theologically trained
- Experience in training pastors and leaders at a minimum VET level
- A minimum 5 years pastoral experience in Australia
- Good standard of English
- Commitment to the vision, mission and values of BCWA

#### Desirable Criteria:

- Functional understanding of Baptist church governance in Australia.
- Preaching and teaching skills
- Good management skills with special attention to details

This is a full time position for the person.

Interested candidates should send their resume and Covering letter addressing the above criteria to Philip Bryant at Baptist Churches Western Australia by August 23 2014

Ps Philip Bryant  
Baptist Churches Western Australia  
PO Box 57, Burswood WA 6100  
[admin@baptistwa.asn.au](mailto:admin@baptistwa.asn.au)