

the advocate

"Some can't return to their homeland because of their faith." MARC CHAN [PAGE 5](#)

In conversation

Heather Coleman talks about her role as the General Director of Global Interaction. [PAGE 12>>](#)



Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

Children relish as the world target on safe drinking water is reached.

Water target reached

The world has achieved the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on safe drinking water.

A report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that in 2010, 6.1 billion people or 89 percent of the world's population had sustainable access to safe drinking water, exceeding the 88 percent MDG target.

The report also estimated that 92 percent of the global population will have access to improved drinking water in 2015.

"It's great news because it's the first MDG to be achieved, and it's three years ahead of schedule too!" Gershon Nimbalker from Baptist World Aid Australia said. "But, there are still 783 million people without access to clean water."

"The Micah Challenge report, WASHing Away Poverty, says about two million children die each year, about 25 percent of child deaths are

due to lack of access to clean water and adequate sanitation," Gershon said.

The United Nations (UN) also reported that the target in improving sanitation globally may not be achieved before the 2015 deadline.

Sanitation investment is still severely neglected, making it the most off-track of the MDGs. Currently 2.5 billion people or 37 percent of the world's population have no access to sanitation.

Since 1990 more than two billion people have received access to drinking water. The majority of these people are in China and India, while sub-Saharan Africa remains vulnerable and below the target goal.

Ross Hughes, from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and Chief Financial Officer of Western Australia's Water Corporation, said,

"Water Corporation has world class technical expertise when it comes to water management. We were wanting to be involved with some community work so in 2006 I went to the CEO at Water Corporation with a suggestion that we look for ways to help people in Ethiopia improve their access to sustainable water supplies."

Since then Water Corporation has sent three teams of volunteers to Ethiopia to work on a sustainable irrigation system for a group of families and to investigate opportunities to drill bores to provide safe drinking water.

"When we first talked about the possibilities with the staff, 33 people volunteered. We've narrowed the field to civil engineers, hydrologists, agriculturalists, constructors, etc, who use some of their annual leave to help."

Water Corporation pays air fares and vaccinations for the teams, and sends communication equipment with each group.

"We use a satellite telephone system so the staff have voice and email contact with their families and other water experts around the world while they're in Ethiopia."

"In the scheme of things it is just a small contribution, but we're very happy because we can see we're making a difference. The irrigation scheme has so far supplied two crops of various produce since early 2011, farmed by 73 individual families, and has completely changed their food security," Ross said.

As safe drinking water sources are established in communities around the world, sanitation is a vital next step to improve health.

The UN reports 949 million people living in rural areas continue to practise open defecation. Without improved sanitation, ground water sources can be easily contaminated.

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan said the gains already made would then be in vain.



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“Generous hearts committed to building the kingdom of God.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Graham Mabury

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

On air with Graham Mabury

When the Kony 2012 video went viral, it had 70 million views in five days; 100 million in a week. Susan Boyle singing 'I Dreamed a Dream' for Britain's Got Talent has had over 480 million views. Through such mind boggling figures the power and presence of the digital age slaps us in the face. And the power and presence of Jesus in this age ... ?

His Kingdom remains radically different. His teaching consistently stripped the gears of His listeners, including His disciples. Fathers of His day did not run – least of all to embrace a returning prodigal. The hero of His story about neighbours is a despised Samaritan. Living what He taught, He went out of His way

to meet an even more despised, much married Samaritan woman one to one. Timothy Keller reminds us that today, "the licentious and liberated or the broken and marginal avoid church."

Millennia of church practice have dulled His gospel's cutting edge. Imagine a church meeting

to appoint a new leader. Someone nominates a person who is, 'content with who they are, rate themselves as insignificant, and feel as though they're at the end of their rope'. Just how excited would the members be? According to *The Message* translation of the Beatitudes [Matthew 5], Jesus would be jumping out of His seat. This person is 'blessed'.

Of course His power and presence flood our age. His words are unequivocal, 'I will build My church', 'all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe' still 'get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies ... because of His death, His blood

that poured down from the cross' [Colossians 1: 18 *The Message*]. Paul's address at Mars Hill shows how the Holy Spirit directed him as he 'walked around and looked carefully' at Athens [Acts 17]. As disciples in a digital age, where technology super connects but pushes apart people who need to 'belong' but are loathe to 'join', may He do the same for us.



Dr Brian Harris

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

On dust and breath ...

Don't you love the Bible's account of the way people are made? Lest your memory needs refreshing, God makes people from the dust of the earth and then breathes life into them. When I look in the mirror (very wisely I do that as rarely as possible), I remind myself that I am dust and breath. The first keeps me humble, the second, hopeful.

Are we made from the dust of the earth? The furious altercation I witnessed at the supermarket reminded me that we are. True, it didn't really involve me so I could wash my hands of the incident, but actually the heat wave that was the probable cause of those frayed tempers impacted me

as well. I might not have been yelling at people, but I was a long way short of being open and receptive to them. Someone said that the slightest pain in our little finger makes us indifferent to the plight of others, and it is true. No matter how noble we would like to be, when something

goes wrong at home base, all our attention shifts to our own tiny world. We are dust ...

But that is not the full story. Into the dust of the earth, God breathes life, and humans spring into being.

God once asked Ezekiel a curious question. For those who would like to check, the passage is Ezekiel 37, where the prophet finds himself confronted with a valley of dry bones. God then asks His extraordinary question, "Son of man, can these bones live?" It's a no brainer. They are more than past their use by date, the passage informing us that the bones were exceptionally dry. For all that,

Ezekiel answers evasively, "O Sovereign Lord, you alone know the answer to that".

Why not a dogmatic, "Silly question. Obviously not. Dead bones don't live!"?

Ezekiel is a wise man. He knows that with God, nothing is impossible. Hopeless situations are always just one God breath away from being transformed. And so those bones danced into life.

Dust and breath – welcome to the mystery of being human

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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Seminary celebrates



Photo: Sarah Wickham

Graduating students receive their awards at the Commencement and Conferral Service of Vose Seminary.

More than 300 people filled the Carey Baptist College auditorium on Monday 12 March for the Commencement and Conferral Service of Vose Seminary.

New and current students, staff and graduands, along with family and friends, celebrated God's goodness and faithfulness during the service.

Dr Brian Harris, Vose Seminary Principal, welcomed people before students and staff came forward to introduce various parts of the program.

The academic year has already commenced so senior student 2012 Aaron Chidzey welcomed the new students and introduced Vose Intern Mark Barnard and new student Kane

Fulwood to the audience.

Twenty-one of the graduating students were present to receive their awards.

Vose Seminary Awards were presented to the first graduating class of the Vose Equip program by Dr Michael O'Neil, Director Vose Research, and Pastor Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries, Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA). Several students received a Certificate IV in Ministry including Matthew Cunningham, Jadon Henderson, Shelby Ingram,

John Pim and Jacqui Wilmot. Stephanie Havock received the Advanced Diploma of Ministry.

Dr Harris and Pastor Allan Thomas, BCWA Council Chairman, conferred the awards from the Australian College of Theology on the graduating students.

Chris Ellery received the Associate Degree of Theology. Bachelor degrees were conferred on Emma Thame and Jaylene Tweedie (Christian Studies); Gavin Douglas, Rowan du Boulay, Alex Galambosi, May Giffiths and Gareth Magowan (Ministry); Gabriel Correia, Dan McGrechan and Cal Van Asselt (Theology); and the Bachelor of Theology (Honours) was conferred on Carmel Wright.

Master of Divinity was conferred on Rachel Hall,

Gregory Hamilton and Geoffrey Law and Master of Arts (Theology) was conferred on Jamie Houghton.

“It is the risen Christ and His work on the cross that is the only hope for the world.”

Several students could not attend the ceremony, including Michael Lochore, Craig Palmer, Brett Peacock, Quinton Taylor, Lyn Varty and Mili Zeng.

Rowan du Boulay, Christopher Field, Albert Hansma, Tuong Huong, Kaija Leo, Dan McGrechan, Ben O'Rielly and Lachlan Patterson received prizes for a variety of subjects. Felicity Brown, Allen Browne and Tiberiu Diaconu received awards in absentia.

Phil Bryant, Church Health Consultant with BCWA was the speaker on the night and used the opportunity to talk about 'hope'.

Phil Bryant concluded his graduation message with a powerful exhortation to all who attended.

“I challenge you to take Jesus, who indwells you in the person of the Holy Spirit, with you into whatever walk of life you find yourself. It is the risen Christ and His work on the cross that is the only hope for the world.”

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Sales help reduce poverty

West Australian dealership DVG Automotive Group recently committed to support Baptist World Aid Australia's efforts to eradicate global poverty.

DVG will donate \$200 for every new car and \$500 for every used car sold to a member or supporter of a Baptist Church in Western Australia. Buyers must contact DVG's Rick Morcom before any sale is organised to qualify for the Baptist World Aid Australia gift.

Sales Representative Terry Greenhill from Toodyay Baptist Church and a long-term advocate to reduce poverty in the world has worked with DVG for more than 20 years.

"I've been supporting Baptist World Aid Australia for many years, advocating for the poor and raising funds to help eliminate global poverty. I really want to make a difference in the world, so I asked DVG if there was any way the company could help Baptist World Aid Australia," Terry said.

Baptist World Aid Australia, a not-for-profit Christian organisation, is committed to empowering the world's poor to lift themselves out of poverty.

DVG already supports The

Salvation Army in WA as part of their commitment to engaging with local community needs.

"I knew their heart was open to helping, so I went and talked with my bosses," Terry said. "I'm really happy that we've found a way for DVG to help eradicate global poverty."

People interested in contributing funds to Baptist World Aid Australia must contact Rick Morcom before starting negotiations to purchase a vehicle. Rick will then direct the buyer to one of DVG's 28 dealerships across WA.

The aid sponsorship will be paid once the vehicle is paid in full.

Robin Carter, Baptist World Aid Australia's Church Relationship Coordinator in WA, South Australia and the Northern Territory was in Perth in early March and met with DVG CEO, David Di Virgilio, and Rick Morcom to sign the sponsorship agreement.



David Di Virgilio, DVG Automotive Group CEO, seals the deal with Baptist World Aid Australia's WA consultant Robin Carter to help eradicate world poverty.

Photo: Andre van der Merwe

"We're really pleased that DVG Auto are happy to support the poor in this way," Robin Carter said. "It can make a real difference for people in poverty."

DVG's outlets sell up to 70 new and 100 used cars each month.

"The important thing is for

people to contact me first," Rick Morcom said. "We look forward to making a success of this venture with Baptist World Aid Australia."

Baptist World Aid Australia have been serving poor communities both in Australia and overseas through SAO

Child Sponsorship, community development projects and through relief and support in emergency situations for 50 years.

For more information, contact Rick Morcom on 0417 928 829.

Pastor moves from UK to Perth

Lesmurdie Baptist Church welcomed Tim Clarke-Wood as their new Church Family Pastor in late February.

After lengthy consultations conducted with Lesmurdie Baptist Church through the Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA), Tim and his wife Claire along with their baby

daughter Esmay arrived in time to experience the full blast of a Western Australia summer in Perth's hills.

Tim trained at Spurgeon's College in the UK.

"It was a wonderful time in my life that combined studying for an honours degree in Divinity with a church placement at a wonderful multi-cultural Baptist church in London."

In the final year of training, he started to look for work as a

pastor and contacted BCWA.

"I was drawn to Lesmurdie Baptist Church for three reasons," Tim said. "It's a large regional church deeply woven into the fabric of the local community; it's a growing, vibrant community of worshipping Christ-followers; and thirdly, it has diverse congregations, ministries and community activities."

"The detail of the vision of the church was magnetic to my soul. I sincerely hope to glorify

God within this role, whilst serving this incredible church family."

Leaving their families to move 'down under' with a new baby has caused a certain amount of emotional stress and heartache, but Tim and Claire both firmly believe that God's hand is in this adventure and they are responding to His call on their lives.

"Ultimately, this makes the journey to follow Jesus in all that we do, even halfway around

the world, one that we can cope with and in reality look forward to with excitement and confidence," Tim said. "It helps that we are being shown an incredibly, almost embarrassing, amount of love and support from the church family at Lesmurdie Baptist Church."

digital church

26/02/2012
Rick Warren
twitter.com/RickWarren

Sometimes a leader stands in front. Sometimes you stand beside your people. Sometimes you stand behind them, encouraging their initiative.

05/03/2012
Craig Groeschel
twitter.com/craiggroeschel

Samson gave his life once. Real men give their lives daily!

06/03/2012
Basie van Rooyen
vanrooyenb.blogspot.com.au

If God then, communicated to us by means of different genres, shouldn't we take the trouble to understand His communication accordingly? If the inspired authors of the Bible used narratives to communicate God's message, then we should take that serious and interpret it as such. Otherwise, we might end up with a totally wrong understanding of what God wants to communicate to us.

07/03/2012
Andre Van Oudtshoorn
www.smallchurchbigimpact.com

To be in ministry means to be willing to look to God to provide for our finances.

12/03/2012
Chris Johnson
twitter.com/Ez37

When the thoughts of man are the thoughts of Christ, reality is re-written, and the world is changed.

briefs

Baptisms

Sarah Brown, Stewart Dufty, Millcent Graham, Katherine Handasyde and Daniel Wood from Mount Barker Baptist Church were baptised by their fathers and other leaders at the church's family camp held at Camp Kennedy on 5 February at Perkins Beach near Albany. At Woodvale Baptist Church in Perth's northern suburbs Michelle Corbett, Tristan De Boer, Katelyn Le Coultre, John Matthews, Luke Muller, Matt Muller and Kieran Turner were baptised by Pastor Kevin Vigus on 19 February.

Vose Booksale

Saturday 14 April is the grand opening of the Vose Booksale, from 9am to 4pm. A huge quantity of books, CDs, DVDs and magazines have been sorted and priced ready for discerning buyers wanting to add to their collections. Devonshire tea and a sausage sizzle are available on the day. Also for sale will be a collection of potted plants. The sale continues Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm at Vose Seminary until 4 May. Proceeds support the work of the Seminary.

Easter in the city



Photo: Andrew Braun

Children from last year's Awakening Easter March and Celebrations.

they take seriously the call to be ambassadors for Christ," organiser Andrew Braun from Fusion said. "We're taking the message of reconciliation to the streets."

This year's theme will focus around reconciliation and getting our relationships right; right with each other, right with our church and right with God.

This year the celebration will make use of the new stage in Forrest Place, allowing more people to view the celebrations from Forrest Chase and the Murray Street Mall.

“... there is a resurgence as a new generation of Christians seek out ways to make a stand for their faith in a public setting ...”

Performers include an African gospel group, Eliot Vlatko and the worship team from Inglewood Community Church, Justina Truscott and a group of Indigenous dancers, and other multicultural performers. Tania Watson, the Executive Minister of the Churches of Christ in WA, is guest speaker at the event.

Sonshine FM will broadcast the songs that the marchers will be singing along to as they proceed through the streets and malls of central Perth.

Organisers suggest people travel by train to the city to minimise parking problems.

For more information, phone 9355 1159.

Nurturing leaders

Marc Chan, the Cross Cultural & Indigenous Ministries worker with Baptist Churches Western Australia, migrated to Perth from Mauritius in 1984. He now works closely with up to 20 ethnic Baptist church groups.

The churches range from well established groups, including the Slavic, Romanian, Cantonese, Spanish, Ukranian and Congolese congregations, to fledgling groups of new arrivals to Western Australia, including Sudanese and several Burmese groups.

Many of the groups are based in Perth's suburbs, but an increasing number of new groups are being established in country towns such as Katanning and Albany where work is available.

"My main role with the newer groups is to help nurture the leaders," Marc said.

"Many of the new groups are refugees and have had a rough road reaching Australia. Some are here because of their faith in Jesus. Some can't return to their homeland because of their faith."

Marc spends each Tuesday afternoon with Elezirig Koko from the Sudanese congregation at Yokine Baptist Church and Eh Htee Kaw, Pastor of the Karen Baptist Church in Bentley, helping the men understand the finer points of theology, church government and insurance issues.

Pastor Eh Htee Kaw studied theology in Burma before he was forced to flee his homeland and live in the Karen border region for several years. He spent two years in a United

Nations refugee camp on the Thai border before coming to Australia.

Elezirig Koko studied theology in his homeland of central Sudan before spending years in a refugee camp in Egypt.

"We talk through issues of parenting, marriage relationships and budgeting," Marc said. "I've even helped some leaders with their tax returns, something they have never had to do before."

For newcomers who are learning to communicate in English as their second, third or fourth language, many of these conversations are complex. Learning about Australian culture is challenging for some too.

Marc plans to visit each of the congregations he nurtures each year, as well as working in his home church, Yokine Baptist Church.

"I'm so fortunate to get to visit these wonderful people. My wife and I visited the Karen Baptist Church at Katanning in mid-March for the town's Harmony Week celebrations. At one stage there were 20 kids on stage from the high school. They were from 20 different ethnic groups. Our country towns are changing."

There are many opportunities for established churches to support and love the people of these new ethnic congregations.

"Isolation doesn't help new arrivals to adjust to Australian culture so I'm hoping there are more churches that would like to share the journey of these new arrivals. I'm very happy to talk with churches about how they can partner with new ethnic congregations."

On Easter Sunday, Christians from across Western Australia will gather in the heart of Perth to remind people that the message of Easter is all about reconciliation.

Forrest Chase will be the venue for the 21st annual Awakening Easter March and Celebrations from 2pm to 4pm on Easter Sunday.

"We sense there is a resurgence as a new generation of Christians seek out ways to make a stand for their faith in a public setting and as

Easter Camp provokes discussion around the altar

This year's Easter Camp for 16 to 25 year olds at Serpentine Camping Centre will be the platform for discussion into the topic 'Why the altar?'

Waratah Community Church Youth Pastor, Peter Randell, is speaking at the camp and facilitating the conversation.

"You hear people talk about God being love and how much He loves people, but there are some dirty smelly bits of the

Bible where stuff is getting sacrificed and burnt in the presence of this God — like something out of an Indiana Jones movie," Peter said. "What is with that? Well, we'll look at some of that stuff at camp."

“... there are some dirty smelly bits of the Bible where stuff is getting sacrificed and burnt ...”

Director of Camping Ministries for Baptist Churches Western Australia, Ross Daniels, said registrations are coming

in and the camp organisers are working hard.

"There's a team of highly motivated and vibrant leaders preparing to make this a significant event," Ross Daniels said.

"It's going to be a great camp."

Fees for the camp were raised for the first time in four years

to help meet the camp's budget. The four day adventure will cost \$280.

About 70 people attended the camp in 2011. Many people said the sunrise service in the hills above the campsite on Easter Sunday was a highlight of the camp.

"Details of the camp program are still being organised but I expect this year's event will not only be a time for significant spiritual growth, but there'll be friendships formed and renewed too," Ross said.

The camp runs over the Easter weekend.



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Integrating cultures in Church



Photo: Bec Clark

(Left to right) Santie Reyes, Joseph and Rowena Bayao, Kate Blockley, Denis and Janice Burdinat, Albert Eulogio, Cesar Gadores. Pastor Craig Siggins standing behind Kate. Kate's son Barnaby is in front of Albert.

Yangebup Baptist Church welcomed eight new members in February. Five of the group are Filipinos.

"Our Filipino families have become an integral and vibrant part of our congregation," Pastor Craig Siggins said. "They meet together in a Filipino small group which is not so small anymore."

There are about 20 Filipinos at the Yangebup church. Many have come to Australia on 457 visas to work as welders, boilermakers, fitters and turners, and mechanics. Some of the men still have their families in the Philippines and work away to provide a better future for them.

Several of the Filipinos are part of Yangebup's vibrant worship team.

"We've used various means to reach out to Filipino people,"

Craig said. "We ran Salo Salo feasts with traditional Filipino food and guest speakers including Pastor Don Byrne, Val Byrne and Eric Martin, who have spent time in the Philippines."

"We also ran a church basketball team and most of the players were Filipino."

The church sometimes reads the scriptures in the Tagalog language during church services and when they ran the 40 Days of Purpose program, they purchased the Tagalog version as well as English.

"We see the Filipino people as an integral part of our congregation and we love them and the way they enhance the multicultural nature of our church," Craig said.

Refugee sends message home

Since 2003 Mr Shaeq has been writing and recording Christian radio programs that are transmitted from Europe to his homeland Afghanistan.

From his suburban office he also broadcasts a live program on Mahabad TV each week broadcasting into the Middle East and Afghanistan, explaining the scriptures in the Farsi language, pointing people to Jesus, fielding phone questions and comments.

"People are very much hungry to know about Jesus," Mr Shaeq said. "They're weeping on the phone to me 'send us Bibles'

but we can't. It's too dangerous."

The father of four — two born in India and two born in Perth — arrived in Australia in June 1998 after waiting several years in India for a visa.

"I remember walking out of the airport in Perth. The air was so clean and the sky so clear. Everything was so ordered. I lined up my family and said, 'Breathe deeply. This is freedom,'" Mr Shaeq said.

Each program includes preaching, scripture reading, testimonies from Arabs, Afghans and Tajiks that have met Jesus and are walking with Him, and often Christian music.

The programs are part of the global 24/7 broadcast to the Muslim world.

"Every week we receive many encouraging reports from our radio call centre," Mr Shaeq said. "People call us, leave messages and want to chat with us after listening to our radio programs. Around 90 percent of these contacts come from people inside Afghanistan. Some just call to ask us to pray for them."

Recently the Shaeqs joined the international group Operation

Mobilisation (OM). One area of need is to gather a team of people who will pray for and financially support the Shaeqs.

"We are so grateful to be with OM now," Mr Shaeq said. "There is strong technical support for our work and it's encouraging for me being part of a larger group that is working towards helping people in the least reached regions meet Jesus."

Lloyd Porter, OM State Director, said the Shaeqs brought an amazing life experience to OM that allows them to make a unique contribution to the team.

"We are just so pleased and honoured to be working with them," Lloyd said.

Mr Shaeq limps when he

walks and he suffers significant deafness. Both issues are the result of wounds inflicted in his homeland, but his passion for his countrymen remains strong.

His office confirms his heart — a large detailed map of Afghanistan on one wall, copies of the Bible in Farsi, Arabic and English on the work table and quality recording tools permanently set up.

"I would very much like to be able to talk with our Baptist churches to understand more of how to befriend and share the good news with their Muslim neighbours and friends. The new detention centre coming to Northam brings us an opportunity on our doorstep."

briefs

Pastoral changes

North Beach Baptist Church farewellled Pastor Matt Malcolm on 29 January. Florin Lancu concluded as the Senior Pastor at Maida Vale Baptist Church in late March. There were several changes at Gosnells Baptist Church: Pastor Craig Willis-Jones concluded ministry in late February, Pastoral Assistant Ian Hewson concludes his ministry at the end of April and Pastor Grant Moore commenced as Associate Pastor for Youth & Young Adults.

Baptist History

The Baptist Historical Society meets on 22 April at 2.30pm at

South Perth Baptist Church. Paul Campbell will conduct a workshop on 'Updating the Dictionary of Baptists in WA - What it is and what it will become'. This dictionary was part of the Baptist Churches Western Australia centenary publication in 1996, All WA is my parish. For more information, call Philip Friend on 9458 1684.

Moora celebrates

Moora Baptist Church celebrates 20 years as a Baptist church on Sunday 22 April with a thanksgiving service at 9am followed by lunch. Everyone who has shared with the church since their foundation is invited

to join the celebrations. For more information, visit www.moorabaptist.com.au.

Lakeside vision

Lakeside Baptist Church Senior Pastor, Anthony Palmieri, launched a new Vision and Strategic Plan for the church on 26 February — the 20th anniversary of the church's first service at Lakeside Recreation Centre in 1992. A group of 19 people met on 26 February 1986 as the first step in establishing a Baptist church in the Leeming area. The new vision, 'to be a Regional Christian Community Centre with an igniting passion for God and His Kingdom

throughout our community and beyond by reflecting the life-changing message of Christ in all that we do' complements the mission to 'Encourage, equip and empower people to say "yes" to Jesus'.

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



Gap year mission to Europe



Photo: Jill Birt

Kirsty Currin is heading to Europe for six months with Operation Mobilisation's Transit Challenge team.

Kirsty Currin (18) leaves Perth in July to spend six months with Operation Mobilisation's Transit Challenge supporting Operation Mobilisation's (OM) work in Europe as part of her gap year before starting university studies.

Recently returned from OM's Pre-Field Training in Melbourne — a pre-requisite for joining the team — the Waikiki teen is looking for a job to help fund her time in Europe.

"I'm very excited about being part of the Transit Team," Kirsty said. "It's going to be a great opportunity to see God at work in different cultures and learn [from] God in situations where I know I'll be out of my depth."

Operation Mobilisation focuses on the least reached nations of the world. Statistics show less than two percent of Europe's population as evangelical Christians.

"It's not that Europeans know nothing of God, but many lack intimacy with God," Kirsty said. "They see Him as far away, as distant. That's not my experience."

The team of up to seven will travel in a transit van as they visit several countries in Europe, including Italy, France, Portugal, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The plan is to support already established ministry teams by being 'extra hands'. From sports events to spiritual mentoring, serving in a soup kitchen, doing drama at youth events and building maintenance — including painting and cleaning — all could be on the Transit Team's agenda.

"I expect I'll be learning lots as we travel, but I know there is something intangible in how we live that communicates love and care ..."

"I'll be serving as an extra pair of hands," Kirsty said. "I'm asking God to use me to make Jesus known to the people we work with."

"Language could be a bit of an issue. I expect I'll be learning lots as we travel, but I know there is something intangible in how we live that communicates love and care without all the proper language. I'm praying that God will use me like that when I run out of words."

"My sister went on a mission trip during her gap year and Mum and Dad saw how much that helped her mature as a person, so they're very supportive of my plans to go to Europe."

OM State Director, Lloyd Porter said OM strongly believes that teams need to be sent and supported — financially, spiritually and emotionally — by their local church.

Steve Galambosi, Senior Pastor of Rockingham Baptist Church where Kirsty attends church, applauds her plans to join the OM team.

"We're very confident to recommend Kirsty to the ministry of OM. She will be eager, obligated and unashamed in declaring the gospel of Jesus Christ. Go Kirsty!"

The six month learning experience costs \$7,500 plus air fares.

"The trip starts on 16 July in Rome, and I don't even have my airfare yet, so I'm praying and I really need a job," Kirsty said.

Footy negotiates

More than 12 years ago, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Auskick Centre was set up in an effort to solve the problem of footy for kids only being available on Sundays.

Centre Coordinator and inaugural Fremantle Dockers team member, Leigh Wardell-Johnson says the Saturday Auskick program is a huge success and the organisation has now taken the next step in negotiating non-Sunday fixtures, allowing older kids to continue playing their favourite sport.

"It means we'll be able to keep players who would not have been able to play on a Sunday and all of our games will be held on a Friday night at Karoonda Oval," Leigh said.

"I think it's the first time we've seen this kind of model in Perth and we really thank God for this opportunity."

The Mounties will train

"This is just awesome and we are so excited by what this means for our Mounties Auskick."

"We've taken a step further by negotiating for our grade four team to be given the opportunity to stay involved in the game with 'other than Sunday' fixtures," Leigh explained.

The Junior Competitions Council of the East Fremantle Football District have given the official go-ahead for the Booragoon Mounties under 9s team to join the 2012 competition season.

"This is just awesome and we are so excited by what this means for our Mounties Auskick."

with the two other under 9s teams at the Booragoon Club under dedicated Auskick Centre coaches, with Mounties games scheduled separately.

After the 2012 trial season, plans are to continue on with under 9s, under 10s and under 11s Booragoon Mounties teams to cover the three gap years until normal East Fremantle District fixtures revert to Saturdays for under 12s.

Catalyst for change

Representatives from several Baptist churches in Western Australia met at Riverton Baptist Church on Sunday 26 February to launch the Baptist World Aid Australia's Catalyst program for 2012.

Baptist World Aid Australia representatives Gershon Nimbalker and Robin Carter flew in from the eastern states to speak at the event and at other Perth churches.

Catalyst groups are small groups that meet monthly to learn about, pray about and take action on global justice issues.

Baptist World Aid Australia is currently running several Australia-wide campaigns to help reduce global poverty.

The campaign *More Aid, Better Aid* calls on the Australian Government to lift the Australian aid budget to 0.7 percent of national income by 2015 and to ensure Australian aid helps poorer countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Stop the Traffik is a campaign aiming to end the present day slave trade. Up to 27 million

people are trapped in slavery across the world today.

Dying for a Dunny calls on Australia to do its fair share to change the lack of water, sanitation and hygiene situation which causes two million children to die every year.

Behind the Barcode seeks to influence Australian companies and consumers to ensure the products they import are not keeping producers in the third world in poverty and slavery.

"There are several Catalyst groups in WA," Robin Carter said. "Twenty-five people recently signed up at Morley Baptist Church to make a difference to global poverty."

For more information, call Robin Carter on 0423 596 513.

So what is an evangelical and should we care?

Photo: Vladis Chern

By Dr Brian Harris

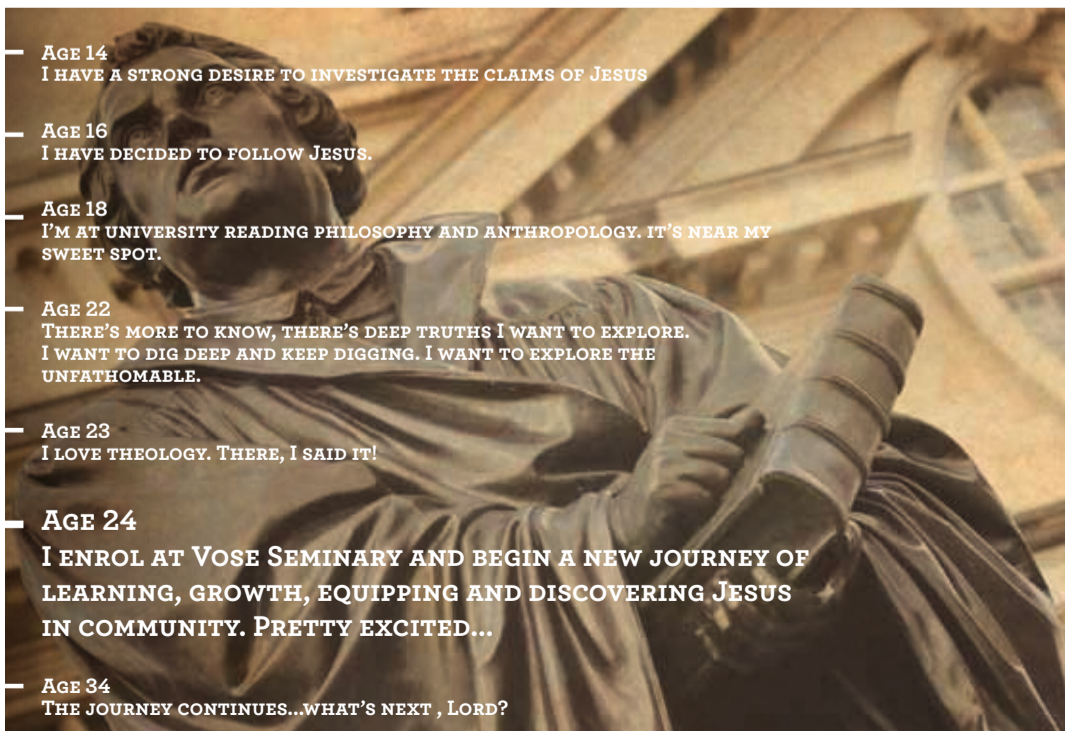
With around two billion people claiming allegiance to Christianity, it is not surprising to discover that it comes in a wide range of flavours. Those in the know point to the Great Schism of 1054 when the church divided into the Eastern Orthodox and the Roman Catholic Church. The latter divided again after the Protestant Reformation of 1517, which in time birthed more denominations than we can confidently count. A new turn was taken with the Azusa Street revival of 1906 which saw the advent of the Pentecostal movement.

Over the last century the branch of Christianity which operates under the broad title of evangelicalism has been the one to grow the most rapidly, David Barrett claiming that there are now over 600 million Christians (roughly 30 percent) who are best described by this label.

So what is an evangelical? In 1989 David Bebbington outlined what he considered to be the four distinguishing marks of the evangelical movement,

writing "There are four qualities that have been the special marks of Evangelical religion: conversionism, the belief that lives need to be changed; activism, the expression of the gospel in effort; biblicism, a particular regard for the Bible; and what may be termed 'crucicentrism', a stress on the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Together they form a quadrilateral of priorities that is the basis of Evangelicalism". As this description of the movement gained traction, it was common to hear people speak confidently of the 'Bebbington Quadrilateral' as they tried to decide if someone was a worthy bearer of the name evangelical.

But change is afoot. Evangelicalism is in danger of becoming a hyphenated movement. Increasingly its adherents find it necessary to qualify what kind of evangelical they are. Some are conservative evangelicals, others postconservative evangelicals, yet others are post-evangelicals while some prefer to think of themselves as the younger evangelicals. The divides often stem from different understandings of Bebbington's four marks, and while some may



— AGE 14
I HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO INVESTIGATE THE CLAIMS OF JESUS

— AGE 16
I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS.

— AGE 18
I'M AT UNIVERSITY READING PHILOSOPHY AND ANTHROPOLOGY. IT'S NEAR MY SWEET SPOT.

— AGE 22
THERE'S MORE TO KNOW, THERE'S DEEP TRUTHS I WANT TO EXPLORE. I WANT TO DIG DEEP AND KEEP DIGGING. I WANT TO EXPLORE THE UNFATHOMABLE.

— AGE 23
I LOVE THEOLOGY. THERE, I SAID IT!

— AGE 24
I ENROL AT VOSE SEMINARY AND BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY OF LEARNING, GROWTH, EQUIPPING AND DISCOVERING JESUS IN COMMUNITY. PRETTY EXCITED...

— AGE 34
THE JOURNEY CONTINUES...WHAT'S NEXT, LORD?

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stressed conversion as a crisis event in which the individual accepted Jesus as personal Saviour and Lord, an experience through which they were instantly justified, albeit that the journey of sanctification remained for the rest of their earthly pilgrimage. The stakes of conversion are staggeringly high, with one's eternal destination hanging in the balance.

“... it is as foolish to drift into new understandings of the faith without examining them thoughtfully.”

So strong has the emphasis on conversion been in Evangelicalism that Donald Dayton suggests that it is a movement characterised by 'convertive piety'. What matters is that individuals are saved from their sin. Some are having second thoughts about this.

In 2004 Brian McLaren wrote of his growing unease with the limitations of this paradigm of conversion:

"I used to think that Jesus' primary focus was on saving me as an individual and on saving other 'mes' as individuals. For this reason I often spoke of Jesus as my 'personal saviour', and I urged others to believe in Jesus in the same way. I still believe that Jesus is vitally interested in saving me and you by individually judging us, by forgiving us our wrongs, and teaching us to live in a better way. But I fear that for

too many Christians, 'personal salvation' has become another personal consumer product ... and Christianity has become its marketing program. If so, salvation is 'all about me', ... I think we need another song."

Dimensions of the new song include a holistic understanding of salvation. Instead of salvation from the world, we are also saved for the world, including the poor, the oppressed and the environment.

Witness or activism

Bebbington argues that the assurance of salvation that flowed from Evangelicalism's stress on conversion, led to the active sharing of faith in the attempt to get others to experience a similar assurance of salvation. Evangelical churches were busy places, and being a church member occupied most of the time not spent at work.

Things have changed in recent years. Instead of lay people leading most church ministries, leadership by a pastor specialising in fields such as youth, children's ministry, even administration, has now become common. Volunteers are more difficult to source in an environment where two incomes are needed to service the mortgage. Rather than get church members to work harder, it is not uncommon to encourage church members to give more so that additional staff can be employed. The professionalisation of ministry rather than the priesthood of all believers is now a common emphasis.

The Bible

While Bebbington is undoubtedly correct to suggest that evangelicals have historically placed a priority on the Bible and have viewed it as the authoritative source for theological affirmations, a marked shift in the attitude of evangelicals towards the Bible is underway. While much of this

plays out in disputes between professional theologians, at the grass roots significant changes are easily spotted by those who have been around for more than a decade.

At a popular level, most evangelicals appear to be content with an emotional rather than a substantial commitment to scripture. Ben Witherington has accurately observed that three of the most successful and lauded evangelical communications, *The Passion of the Christ*, the *Left Behind* book series and Rick Warren's *The Purpose-Driven Life* are all deeply flawed from a Biblical perspective – but that little has been said of this. Small groups in most evangelical churches used to focus on Bible study but it is now more common to have accountability and share groups. Where material is studied, it

“So how are people speaking differently about conversion, witness, the Bible, and the cross?”

is more commonly the text of a popular evangelical author than a book of the Bible. David Wells has noted that in spite of highly emotional debates about Biblical inerrancy within Evangelicalism, "while the nature of the Bible was being debated, the Bible itself was quietly falling into disuse in the church".

The cross

Increasingly evangelicals are asking if they need to broaden

their understanding of the cross. Some have suggested that while Cowper's *There is a fountain filled with blood* might catch the imagination of *Braveheart* enthusiasts, it seems poorly suited to the sensibilities of the 21st century. There is slowly a shift away from a focus on the cross as a substitutionary act of atonement to appease an offended deity (or the cross as retributive justice), to an exploration of the cross as a vehicle of restorative justice. Rather than ask if the cross represents a victory over sin, death or the devil, growing numbers of evangelicals respond 'all of the above, and more beside ...'

Okay, you sigh, so we now think about conversion and witnessing and the Bible and the cross a little differently, but does any of it really matter?

It probably does! While it would be foolish to perpetually lock ourselves into an understanding of Christianity that characterised a now past era, it is as foolish to drift into new understandings of the faith without examining them thoughtfully. Bebbington was right. There are four niggling questions that Christians, especially those of the evangelical variety, need to keep coming back to. So what do we mean by conversion, and witness and activity, and the Bible and the cross? I suspect that they are not just the concerns of yesterday ...

Dr Brian Harris is the Principal of Vose Seminary and Senior Pastor of Carey Community Baptist Church. This is a summarised version of a much longer article he published on this topic. For more information, email brian.harris@vose.wa.edu.au.

sigh at the emphasis on what divides us, it's as well to know what the debate is about. So how are people speaking differently about conversion, witness, the Bible, and the cross?

Conversion

The nature of conversion has provoked much thought and controversy. The classical evangelical view of conversion



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MAY 1ST & 2ND

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Christians suffer in Syria

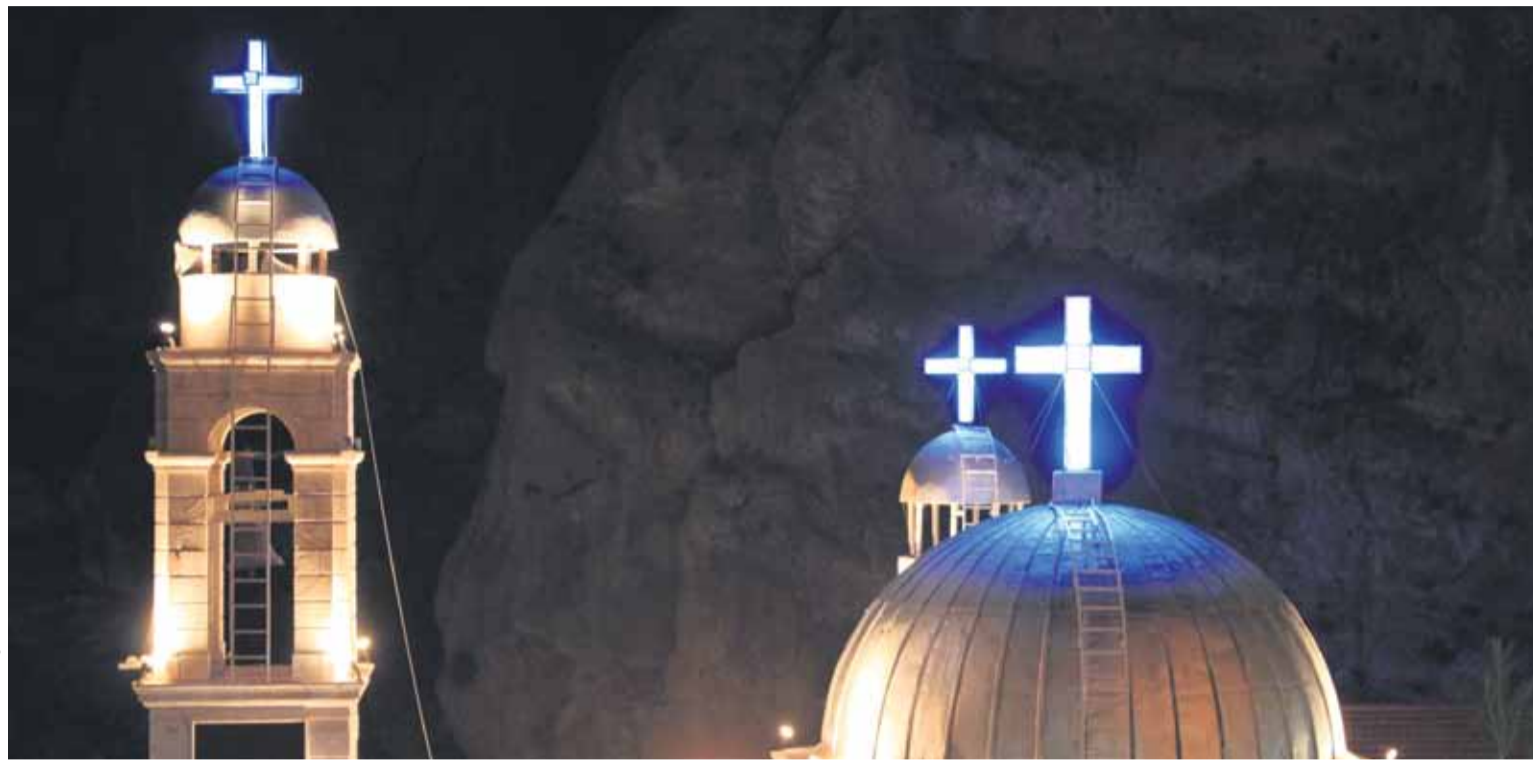


Photo: Valery Shantin

coming into Syria and aligning themselves with anti-government forces, then killing Christians.

“The security situation is alarming very much and mostly Christians fear what the present and near future is holding for them.”

The Church World Service (CWS) is partnering with the International Orthodox Christian Charities to provide food packages, relief kits, household supplies and training for community health care workers in Syria.

In the city of Homs, Christian families are trapped, while others have managed to flee to the surrounding villages.

Within the city families are in desperate need of food and basics. Prices for food and other goods have rocketed and supplies are running low. It is often too dangerous for people to leave their homes to search for food.

More than 200 Christians have been killed and kidnappings are frequent.

Two bombs were discovered in a church yard, but they did not explode.

CWS reported in early March that Christians were blocked from leaving Homs by anti-government forces who were keeping them there as ‘human shields’ in a bid to protect the

areas they were controlling. After negotiations, some women and children were allowed to leave; however, others remain trapped in the city.

Elsewhere in Syria Christian families are leaving the country to seek refuge in neighbouring Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon. Currently 1,600 families are sharing limited resources with local residents in northern Lebanon.

Christian Aid reports that there are more than 17,000 Bedouin refugees in Jordan and more than 10,000 in northern Lebanon. Another 100,000 more refugees are expected in Jordan.

A spokesperson for one of CWS’s partners said, “The

security situation is alarming very much and mostly Christians fear what the present and near future is holding for them.

Already people who have left their homes are not sure if they can go back to it. Our Christian people say, ‘we know of what happened in Iraq and so we had better leave before we are killed.’”

Following the fall of Saddam Hussein after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, the Christian community was targeted by extremists, with kidnappings and killings becoming frequent. Thousands of Christians were forced to flee and many of them went to Syria.

Barnabas Fund reports al-Qaeda militants are believed to be

Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, International Director of Barnabas Fund said he feared the crisis in Syria is only going to intensify. He suggested foreign military intervention could lead to a long and protracted war in which Christians, as perceived supporters of President Assad, would be particularly vulnerable.

“They are already suffering abuse and violence at the hands of the Free Syrian Army,” Dr Sookhdeo said. “With the withdrawal of anti-government forces from Baba Amr we have a window of opportunity to alleviate the distress of the Christian families who have been trapped in Homs.”

He asked Christians to pray for the situation in Syria.

Clothes swap helps Somali families

Sharon Barney has supported TEAR Australia for more than a decade, particularly focusing on their work with the poor of Somalia. The savage drought that devastated the crops and animals of thousands of Somali families in late 2011 set Sharon thinking about ways to raise funds to help meet needs.

One idea was to run clothing exchanges, and so far it has been a great success.

“I’ve run a couple of Clothing Exchanges as fundraisers for TEAR. So far I’ve sent off almost \$1,000 to help those trapped in poverty and suffering deeply because of the drought.”

Michelle Terranova from Parkerville Baptist Church heard about her plight to raise funds for Somalia and suggested she ran a clothing exchange at the church at the end of February.

The idea of the exchange is for people to bring up to six items of clothing or accessories to a venue and pay a price to

enter. They collect some buttons as their trading ‘finance’, then choose the items they want to take home.

“At Parkerville we had participants from age ten right through to 85,” Sharon said. “We had afternoon tea set up for people to enjoy as they arrived and I displayed their articles. After about an hour, everyone was ready to head home with their new treasures. I counted off the number of articles they had and collected their buttons as they headed out the door.”

“In the future, I’d really like to run a clothing exchange for children’s clothing,” Sharon said.



Sharon Barney raises funds for TEAR Australia through clothing exchanges.

Photo: Peter Barney

Going for gold in London



Photo: Sven Hoppe

The London Olympics and Paralympics are just weeks away.

The Olympics run from 27 July to 12 August followed by the Paralympics from 29 August to 9 September.

Rev. Dr David Tyndall, Sports Chaplaincy Australia National Chaplain, is encouraging churches to capitalise on the opportunity to engage with their local community in the lead up and during both global sporting events.

"There's just so much that churches can do," David said. "For starters why not plan a church service with sport themes. Don't forget to include prayer and a sports-based sermon. Create a sports themed environment celebrating the principles of faith."

Other options to engage local sport-hungry Australian communities could include large screen events.

"Hire a movie theatre or use large screens in your church buildings or at an oval to gather people together to watch Olympic events."

Cultural events with food, dress and opportunities to explore the culture of competing

countries helps people connect and brings opportunities for conversations.

The idea of a large screen event can be developed into a day-long festival with the telecast of sports to bring people together. Include opportunities during the telecast for food, quizzes, face painting, games and colouring competitions. Use the breaks in competition to hear testimonies of well-known sports people who follow Jesus.

“There's just so much that churches can do.”

Festival activities before the broadcast could include face painting, wind tunnels, balloon sculpting, feet washing, juggling balls, clowning, stilts, long skis, kids carpentry, craft, giant jigsaws, water dunking machines, free food and drink, afternoon teas, giant earth

ball, animal farms, giant slides, entertainment from the big stage (including choirs, bands, dancers), badge making, gum boot throwing, Karaoke, bush dance and novelty races such as three-legged, tug of war, and egg and spoon.

Run a 'free' prayer tent and make sure there's a church information location where you can hand out quality resources.

"Australians love sport, so why not run a sports clinic, or seniors or kids games," David said. "Then there is a whole range of sports competitions you could run for men or women, singles or teens."

"Don't forget to contact your local media outlet with news of your planned events."

Churches across the United Kingdom are already gearing up for outreach events, hospitality to athletes' families, community celebrations, opportunities to serve and pray during the London Olympics and Paralympics.

"You might like to check out the great activities planned on the UK website www.morethangold.org.uk," David said.

The Bible Society has a range of publications that churches and children's ministries can use. For more information, visit www.biblesociety.org.au.

Dying for a cause

Sisters Jackie and Sharleen Aitchison from Narrogin Baptist Church were inspired to get involved in this year's World's Greatest Shave after seeing a television advertisement promoting the event.

The only problem was the actual shaving part.

Instead of shaving, the popular alternative of hair dye was chosen.

Unfortunately, Jackie and Sharleen couldn't dye their own hair because of work and school commitments so they did the next best thing.

They convinced their dad, Narrogin Baptist Church Associate Pastor, Peter Aitchison, and Jackie's boyfriend, Daniel Evans, to 'take one for the team' as they say.

With an initial target to raise \$500, Pastor Pete, who drives a local school bus, found support from his regular passengers and raised over \$100. "We also raised money from a sausage sizzle on the day of the hair dying, 11 March," Jackie said.

Daniel was first, having his hair dyed purple. Pastor Pete's wise theory was that any mistakes could be made on the younger man.

Pete's hair dying plan being a little more complicated. "We coloured his beard purple and his hair green and blue with a strip of the bleach still showing," Jackie explained.

“We really want to thank everyone ...”

Jackie and Sharleen say their motivation was to help people like their cousin, who has been fighting leukaemia.

"We really want to thank everyone who donated money to the event and helped us pass our original target to raise a total of \$800."

Unseen Footprints — a spiritual journey

In a world that is becoming increasingly interested — even openly searching for spiritual awareness — Sheridan Voysey is doing what he has been doing for many years; getting people to think about the realities of a spiritual walk with God.

Sheridan is an Australian writer, speaker and broadcaster — currently based in the UK — whose study of society, culture, scripture and religious movements have led to two core convictions: that human beings innately long for God and that God walks beside us incognito.

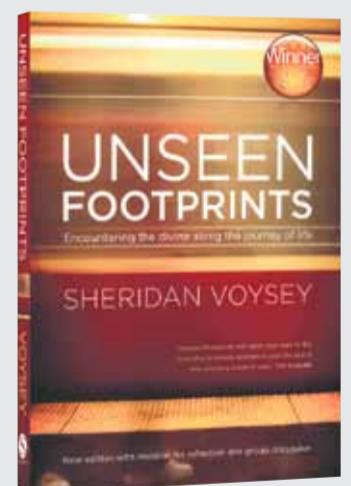
Sheridan's wisdom gained from more than 2,000 radio interviews and his research into contemporary spirituality have been put into an updated release of his award-winning book *Unseen Footprints: Encountering the Divine Along the Journey of Life*.

"You know, people often say that pain is the reason why they can't believe in God, but it's often the very thing that launches their quest for something more," Sheridan said.

He explains the book goes on to explore the ways in which God 'whispers' to us once we have become aware that our spiritual journey has begun. "Largely, it's about becoming aware of the signs that God is trying to get our attention."

“You know, people often say that pain is the reason why they can't believe in God, but it's often the very thing that launches their quest for something more.”

"It might be through things like natural beauty, the things that give us pleasure, the dreams we have or even God speaking directly to us," he said.



"Unseen Footprints is an encouragement for us all to continue our own spiritual walk with a God who wants us to share His dream of creating a new world."

Reaching the unreached



Photo: Global Interaction

New General Director of Global Interaction, Heather Coleman.

Heather Coleman commenced as the new General Director of Global Interaction in February as Keith Jobberns concluded after eight years in the role. Heather previously served on the Global Interaction Board and Human Resources Committee. Heather and her husband Ron were part of the Global Interaction cross-cultural team in Cambodia from 2010 to 2012, where Heather was the Team Leader. Naomi Gilbert interviewed Heather for *The Advocate* as she takes on this new role.

What led you to apply for this role?

Mission and Global Interaction have been a passion of mine and my husband, Ron, for many years. However, I had not ever thought about undertaking this role. Indeed, I rebutted the suggestion by the first few people who spoke with me about nominating for this position. With time and after further discussions, I was excited by the opportunity to combine

my faith, love for mission and leadership skills.

How has God prepared you for this task?

It's amazing to reflect back on my journey and see how and where God has prepared me for this role. Growing up in a large family taught me to have a flexible and strategic approach; my education, various work roles and affiliations have built my technical and management

skills; even in the dry seasons we were strengthened to remain faithful and patient.

How did you know you were 'called' to be involved in global mission?

God placed a fascination for other cultures in my heart. Once I became involved with the Global Interaction Board in the 90s and heard about the plight of least-reached people groups, I became captured by

the combination of the Great Commission and evangelism using a contextualised approach.

So many board, committee and government meetings — what's your tip for staying awake?

Interesting meetings or, failing any control in that, strong coffee and a good doodle pad! Being a part of Global Interaction's various committees over the years has given me an insight into the overall operations, strengths and challenges of the organisation. These times exposed me to the overriding passion that individuals have in reaching the least-reached for Christ, the importance of a contextualised approach, as well as the continual pursuit of supporting people in their areas of ministry.

Adelaide to Phnom Penh to Melbourne — which is the most liveable city?

If you're looking for clean air and easy traffic, the answer is Adelaide. If you like sport, definitely Melbourne. But if you prefer warm weather and potential excitement every time you go on the road, you can't go past Phnom Penh.

What will you miss most about Cambodia?

Definitely the food and different sights and sounds, but mostly I'll miss the Khmer people and their close sense of community and family. Our time in Cambodia was one of learning. The highlights have been how the local people embraced and helped us as we learned about their culture and language; seeing projects holistically serve the Khmer in both word and deed; and becoming part of a small but vibrant Christian Khmer community.

Do you have any regrets about leaving Cambodia?

There are no doubts there is still much to do. After developing language skills and forming relationships, we are

sad to leave after a relatively short time. However, we strongly believe that God has called us to this new role and so we need to be obedient to that calling.

What does 'empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus' mean for you?

A good essay question! I believe it involves developing an understanding of the people, their language and culture; knowing the Word; developing relationships and talking with people about Jesus. And then allowing all of these to come together so that the people can determine how they can meaningfully express their faith.

What are Global Interaction's main challenges ahead?

From my perspective, Global Interaction's biggest challenges are to remain focused on our mission; sustainability in terms of people, finances and resources; and that we are effective in ensuring our team members are functioning well.

A new day: first female and non-ordained General Director.

I believe that my skill mix will complement those held by the other Global Interaction Directors. We are excited by the prospective opportunities that this change will bring in us working together. I also plan to complete my theological degree when I settle in Australia.

Following in the footsteps of Marie Gilbert and other brave and godly women who served with Global Interaction, are you inspired or intimidated?

I am inspired by godly people and appreciate the fact that God has blessed us all with different gifts and personalities. There have been many women in the history of Global Interaction who were trailblazers at a time when they often struggled for a voice and place. For me it is great to have others in our organisation today, especially women, who are exemplar in their humility and the way they look to Christ for their direction.

Any final words?

Ron and I are delighted that the change in role means we can still work in the area we are passionate about. As General Director, I will bring new and different skills to a mature leadership team. Moreover, the new role will expand my focus on global mission from Cambodia to include all of Global Interaction's work. We thank our supporters for their friendship and hope that they will continue to partner with us in our journey ahead. We ask for prayer as we move into our new role; that we look to God for wisdom and that we encourage each other to remember God's commission.



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"LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN." MATTHEW 5:16



Share an opportunity today!

How I learned to connect with people



By John Maxwell

If it is true that almost everything we become and accomplish in life is with and through other people, then the ability to create rapport with them is the most important skill we can learn. Looking back at the early and middle stages of my career, I identified six practices that helped me to connect with others. I trust that they will be beneficial to you in honing your skills as a connector.

1. I understood the value of connecting with others.

As a young leader, I quickly bumped up against my personal limitations. I realised that what I could accomplish on my own paled in comparison to what I could get done by linking up with others. I became aware that my influence depended

upon my ability to connect with those around me, and I switched my mindset from being a solo producer to being a people developer.

2. I studied and imitated connectors that I admired.

As a young leader, I had an insatiable appetite to learn

from the leaders who seemed effortlessly to connect with others. First, I looked at how the person connected. That is, what strategies did they employ to get through to the audience? Second, I observed how long the person connected. It's far easier to catch someone's attention than it is to hold their attention for an extended period

of time. As I studied the great connectors, I attempted to incorporate their methods into my own communication.

3. I determined to be myself and build on my strengths.

Though I relied on the example of expert communicators, I also resolved to connect authentically by drawing upon my own unique talents. Gradually, my question morphed from, "What do they have that I want?" to "What do I have that they want?" As I tapped into my natural abilities, I began to develop a distinctive style around my strengths.

My style of connection:

- 1) Humor: I enjoy my audience, subject, and myself.
- 2) Authenticity: I do not teach anything that I do not live or believe.
- 3) Confidence: I naturally feel good about others and myself.
- 4) Hope: I love to uplift people and encourage them.
- 5) Simplicity: I am not an intellectual, and I enjoy making my lessons easily understandable.

4. I did my homework.

If you are a gifted at forming relationships and do nothing to improve, you'll still be in the top 50 percent of connectors. Do something in the way of personal growth from time to time, and you'll be in the top 10 percent of connectors. However, to make the top 1 percent, you'll need to do homework every day on how to get through to others.

5. I asked for feedback.

As Stephen Covey says, "It takes humility to seek feedback. It takes wisdom to understand it, analyze it and appropriately act on it". When soliciting feedback, ask those who possess the capacity to connect. Only seasoned connectors can offer you reliable feedback; others can

only speculate about what you did right or wrong.

6. I practised.

The art of connection takes time to master. I started off as a terrible communicator; I was long-winded and uninteresting. Thankfully, I was determined to improve. After gaining experience, I began to think more about the context of connection than its content. That is, I learned to focus on my audience rather than myself. I began to rehearse my messages in front of one person, and then in the presence of a small group, before delivering them to large audiences. The extra practice on the front end tremendously aided my ability to connect during actual speaking engagements.

Application

In preparing to connect with another individual or group this week, practice the follow three steps:

1) Research and develop your message

With whom are you trying to connect? What motivates them? How have others successfully connected with them? What resources could prepare you for your conversation with them?

2) Refine your message

After you've developed your message, seek counsel from others. What do they like or dislike about it? What recommendations do they have for making the message better?

3) Rehearse your message

Give your message a trial run in front of another person. Did you feel confident communicating it? How could your delivery improve?

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Leading on the steep

By Monica O'Neil

Some of us have weird, compelling and severe phobias that grip us from time to time ... spiders, snakes, heights and flying. Do you have one?

I used to have an enormous fear of heights. The kind that would paralyse me as a child. Mundaring Weir wall and looking out windows in tall buildings had my heart racing and skin clammy.

One day, I'm not sure when, but soon after become a follower

of Jesus, that all changed for me. Now I take a rather cheeky delight on precipices and have an as yet unsatisfied desire to paraglide or skydive.

So climbing Frenchman's Peak near Esperance about a year ago was something I was genuinely looking forward to. The physical exertion, the promise of a stunning vista of the region, the great company of good friends all held great appeal. So off we set. Water bottles in place, hats on, good shoes firmly laced, Aerogard on the skin and we were away.

The slope started very moderately. We were enjoying the view every now and again, and sticking together quite nicely. It was a nice stretch. Hill trekking felt good. The breeze was fresh

and cooling and I admit to some level of perspiration. It was a genuine pleasure.

Then the gradient of the slope started to increase. Perhaps 'started to increase' is too mild a term. It felt like suddenly, right when my legs were a little tired, that we were now needing to climb. There was no walking route! I know, because I earnestly looked for one. At first the challenge was exhilarating and then I felt it. I noticed it when I looked up to enjoy the view. I felt uneasy, even queasy. My heart started to race. I wanted to slide onto the ground and feel safe. The wind had picked up, and because I was now standing up rather than leaning into the rock, I felt unsteady and precarious. The

power of the wind was knocking me around. I looked around for my friends. We were scattered. We had become so busy climbing, placing hand and foot and lifting ourselves upwards that we had lost proximity and awareness of each other.

In that moment I had a choice. Retreat or keep climbing. Retreat, with all the sense of failure I knew I would feel looked like a real and sensible thing to choose. I thought back to a conversation with a friend of mine about facing fears to stretch our sense of courage as leaders and I chose to keep going.

The face of the rock stayed steep for some time. I altered my pace. I didn't stand up and I looked out for my friends and

we tried to climb closer to each other and give breathy words of encouragement which sounded more like staccato syllables than poetry.

We made it to the top. It was worth it. My heart settled and breathing slowed. We drank in a most stunning view for a long time. And courage did grow for leadership. That experience of pressing past a point of fear for something a bit wild and worthwhile has sown courage into my heart on more than one occasion lately.

Have you done something a bit stretching lately? I hope so.

Monica O'Neil is the Director of Vose Leadership.

events calendar

April

- 5-9 April Easter Camp (ages 16+), BCWA, www.baptistwa.asn.au
- 14 April Booksale, Vose Seminary, 6313 6200
- 14 April Safe Church Workshop, Morley Baptist Church, 6313 6300
- 16-18 April All Together Baptist Pastoral Retreat, BCWA, 6313 6300
- 21 April Safe Church Workshop, Bunbury Baptist Church, 6313 6300
- 22 April 20 Year Celebration, Moora Baptist Church, moorabaps@gmail.com
- 22 April Baptist Historical Society, South Perth Baptist Church, Philip Friend 9458 1684
- 28 April Safe Church Workshop, Riverton Baptist Church, 6313 6300
- 28 April WACFA Season Opening Ceremony, Ashfield Reserve, Bassendean, www.wacfa.com.au

May

- 5 May Safe Church Workshop, Lesmurdie Baptist Church, 6313 6300

- 6 May Compassion Sunday, Compassion Australia, www.compassion.com.au

- 19 May Safe Church Workshop, North Beach Baptist Church, 6313 6300

- 26 May National Day of Thanksgiving, www.thanksgiving.org.au

- 27 May Cancer Council morning tea, South Perth Baptist Church, 9368 1479

June

- 5 & 12 June Safe Church Workshop, Lakeside Baptist Church, 6313 6300

- 10 June Safe Church Workshop, Karratha Baptist Church, 6313 6300

- 11 June Quiz night, South Perth Baptist Church, 9368 1479

July

- 9-13 July Juniors Camp, BCWA, www.baptistwa.asn.au

- 14-19 July Inters Camp, BCWA, www.baptistwa.asn.au

Vose Booksale

14 April—4 May 2012

Grand Opening Day

Saturday 14th April 9am-4pm

Devonshire tea & sausage sizzle

Continuing Monday - Friday,
8am-5pm until 4 May

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- Birth
- Deaths
- Events
- Marriages
- News about your church
- Pastoral changes

To find your local Baptist church visit www.baptistwa.asn.au



the advocate

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Bethinking.org aims to bring together the best possible resources for thinking about and communicating the Christian faith. Its goal is to help you provide an answer to those who deny the truth of Christianity. Whether that's answering the attacks of Richard Dawkins, discussing your faith with a Muslim colleague or chatting about a movie with a neighbour, bethinking.org aims to provide you with talks and articles that stimulate you to think about your faith and its relation to the world and culture around us, and then to show how Christianity is not only true, but provides the answers to life's biggest questions. Whether you are a student, at home or at work, bethinking.org helps you to talk about your faith in a way that is relevant, attractive, true and culturally aware.

win

Jesus: A Novel

By Walter Wangerin

Walter Wangerin's much acclaimed retelling of the Bible as a novel, *The Book of God*, has sold over 1.5 million copies in 20 languages worldwide. The award-winning author now turns his attention to the controversial and charismatic person of Jesus.

The story is told by two of Jesus' closest confidantes – His mother Mary and his beloved disciple. Together, they provide a compelling account of Jesus' revolutionary ministry, as His loyal following and the opposition against Him increases daily. At the height of His popularity, through the blind ambition and tragic misunderstanding of one of His closest friends, He is handed over to His enemies. Yet this act of cowardice will enable Jesus to fulfill His ultimate mission ...

Faithful to the gospel accounts and expertly retold, this is an engrossing read for all intrigued by the person of Jesus – Christians and non-Christians alike.

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

Question:

Name one of the two people who tell Jesus' story in *Jesus: A Novel*.

Entries close 13 April and all winners will be announced in the May edition of *The Advocate*.

That Amazing Place competition winners:

J Cridge, M Kowald, E Strong



competition

Answer: _____

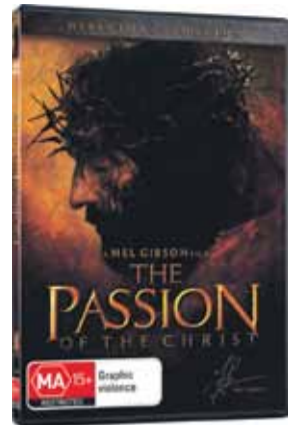
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Jesus: A Novel Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

watch



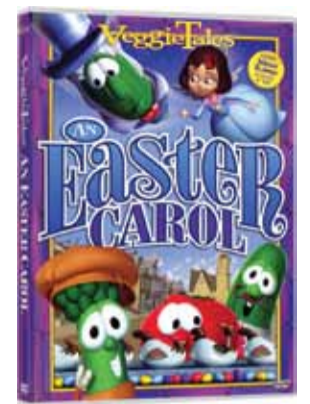
The Passion of the Christ: Director's Edition

The Passion of the Christ depicts the last 12 hours of the life of Jesus of Nazareth and is based on the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. You will be left in awe as you see the price Jesus paid for your salvation. *The Passion of the Christ* uses flashbacks to substantiate pertinent moments in Jesus' life and teachings, such as the Sermon on the Mount and the Last Supper. It also highlights Christ's humanity in his relationships with His mother and His disciples. Funded, co-written and directed by Mel Gibson.



Resurrection

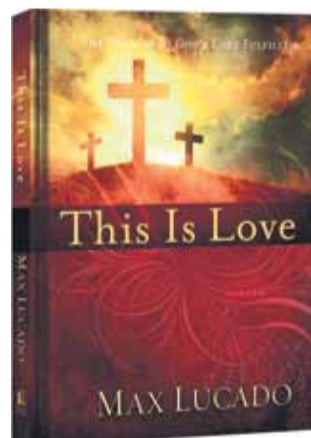
Max Lucado's renowned short story is brought to life in this dramatic production about Claudius, a Roman guard who finds himself in the middle of a cover-up of the tumultuous events following Christ's execution. As he digs for the truth, Claudius discovers the religious leaders, the Roman government, and even his closest friends are attempting to hide something from him and the world. In the end, his relentless pursuit of the answers to his growing questions threatens his reputation and even his life, but it also leads to his renewal.



An Easter Carol

Inspired by Dickens' Christmas classic, this very special VeggieTales film explains why millions of Christians around the world celebrate Easter past, present and future. Filling London with plastic Easter eggs, Ebenezer Nezzzer's on a rampage to make this Easter holiday 'bigger than ever!' Cavis and Millward (Bob and Larry), and a music box angel named Hope (voiced by Rebecca St James), must convince Nezzzer that Easter is about much more than candy and eggs. DVD bonus features include: Easter egg hunt game, trivia challenge, family fun activity and much more.

read



This Is Love

By Max Lucado

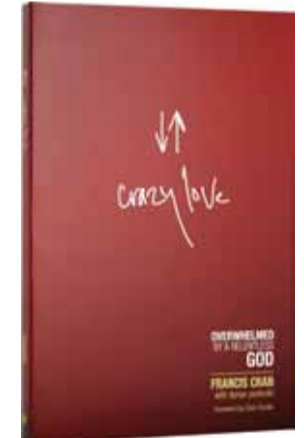
Jesus was divine and human, common yet extraordinary: a one-of-a-kind God-man who befriended sinners and outwitted death. But the truly amazing thing about Him is His love. His love never falters, never withholds. His love never gives up, never stops short. His love goes the distance. With stunning photographs and rich, classic design, *This Is Love* will steer you on a life-changing voyage through the poignant story of the death, resurrection, and unsurpassed legacy of Christ.



King's Cross

By Timothy Keller

At a time when interest in Jesus has never been higher, respected pastor and bestselling author Tim Keller takes an extended look at the life of Christ. Basing his study on the gospel according to Mark, he explains how Jesus' identity as King and his purpose in dying on the cross have meaning and significance on both a cosmic and an individual scale. Written in Keller's trademark authoritative yet inviting style, this book will unlock new insights for believers and unbelievers alike.



Crazy Love

By Francis Chan

Francis Chan author of *Forgotten God* and Pastor of Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, California, delivers a profound message about the love of God. 'Does something deep inside your heart long to break free from the status quo? God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. Because the answer to religious complacency isn't working harder or a list of dos and don'ts – it's falling in love with God and once you encounter His love ... you will never be the same again.'

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

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Basketball bounces back

The Western Australian Baptist Basketball Association started a new season on Saturday 24 March at Lakeside Recreation Centre with more than 100 teams registered from churches across Perth. More than 60 teams are from Baptist churches.

Ben Jefferies, the new Convenor of Baptist Basketball, plans to meet with schools and youth pastors from other Baptist churches to encourage more groups to join.

"The whole competition focuses strongly on the strength of relationships," Ben said. "We're looking to strengthen the missional aspect of the whole competition."

"I visited Victorian Baptist Basketball recently for a training course and came back inspired to help our competition grow to be more influential in the spiritual journey of the players."

"Baptist Basketball has run for about 50 years in WA. There's a long history of people's lives being changed through their involvement in the competition. We want to refine and improve what we're doing."

One change for 2012 is a new strategy for referees. Until now Lakeside Recreation Centre has provided the majority of the referees, but this year referees from church teams will join the group. Richard McGlachlan is leading that side of the competition in 2012.

"If there is ever any negative stuff during games, the referees are the ones that cop the brunt of it and they have to deal with it," Ben said. "We're being proactive to help them deal with that and to



Teams play basketball at Lakeside Recreation Centre in North Lake.

maintain the highest standard of good sports values. Richard will be helping bring spiritual values to the pool of referees we have."

The competition fills the entire day at Lakeside Recreation Centre in North Lake with games for juniors starting at 8am and the last games starting at 6pm.

There are more than 100 teams ranging from Under 12 Mixed to Mens A1. Under 12 Mixed and Under 14 Mixed teams have boys and girls playing together. The Under 16 and Under

18 teams are all boys teams.

The women's competition runs with 21 teams in grades A to D. More than 50 men's teams play in eight grades.

"We also have about 15 mixed adult teams playing in a social competition each week," Ben said. "At least one team is made up of members of an extended family group. They have a lot of fun each week."

"If there are people who are interested in the competition I'd encourage them to come and talk

with us. It can take a couple of weeks to make sure everyone is playing in the right grade so it's not too late."

Volunteers are the backbone of the operation with coaches, administrators and church representatives giving generously of their time to make the competition a success.

"And there is the spiritual side of things too," Ben said. "We hear stories of conversations, at training or after games, of people making significant progress on

their spiritual journeys during the months of the competition."

The competition runs through to late September with a bye on the Easter weekend.

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

Photo: Sarah Wickham

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