

the advocate

In conversation

Passing the Batton conference keynote speaker discusses children's ministry. [PAGE 12>>](#)

"I need you to speak louder than you are God" **EMMA KELLY**



Left for dead in Argentina

Photo: Jill Birt

Emma Kelly (centre) is grateful to be home with her parents Lee and Jemy after being bashed and left for dead in Argentina on Boxing day.

Emma Kelly made news headlines around Australia in December after she was attacked and left for dead in the Argentinian wilderness on Boxing Day. After four days lost, severely dehydrated, exhausted, and covered in cuts and bruises, Emma was found and flown to hospital for treatment in El Bolson.

The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church member was holidaying with friends Jane and Bruno Meister in El Bolson, a small village surrounded by mountains in the foothills of the Andes Mountains in far west Argentina. "Jane and I were going hiking on Boxing Day, but in the end Jane didn't come and after we couldn't find anyone else to come with me, I decided to hike in the scenic Cajon del Azul canyon on my own."

About an hour into the four hour outward journey, a man

appeared and walked a short distance behind Emma. As they walked towards the second login hut on the trail, she ducked down to avoid an over-hanging branch and the man grabbed her from behind. Panic stricken, she lashed out and kicked at the man. Finally she managed to get free and turned to face her attacker.

"It was like he panicked then. I was screaming, hoping someone would hear and come and help me. He hit me on the head with a rock, grabbed one of my shoes and ran away."

After she began to think clearly again and with adrenalin racing through her body, Emma ran through the forest, away from the direction the man had gone.

"I was desperate. I just knew I had to get away from him. So I ran. It was very rough. Pretty soon I knew I was lost so I looked for the river to go down the valley."

"I decided to swim across, so I took off my shirt and put it in my backpack to keep it dry. The water was freezing cold. I got swept away by the current and then I got caught in the middle of the river behind a big rock. My feet were stuck and I kept bobbing up and down trying to breathe and free myself."

Emma made it to the riverbank, but she'd lost her back pack, her remaining shoe and her contact lenses.

Climbing up steep rocks was the only way out. Unable to see clearly, Emma slipped about six metres from the water and fell, getting caught in the only tree growing out of the rocky wall.

“I was screaming, hoping someone would hear and come and help me ...”

As night closed in she scooped out soil under a fallen log and protected herself a little from the wind, and tried to sleep.

Back in Perth, Emma's family, including her twin brother, Steve, and her boyfriend, Brodie Lewis, mobilised friends through facebook to pray for Emma at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

"There wasn't anything else we could do," Brodie said. "We had

30 to 50 people praying."

For Emma, day two and three lost in the wilderness were a series of failed expeditions in different directions. As day four dawned, she knew she had to find water.

"I thought, 'My gosh, what am I going to do?' I'd been quite calm since the tree saved me from falling, but now I was back in a panic. I remember getting down on my knees and talking with God. 'I need you to speak louder than you are, God.'"

The panic subsided and she felt calmer.

"The idea came that I should get up as high as I could rather than going down into the valley. As I did, the trees thinned out and I could see more. I was thinking of changing direction, but I sensed God saying to keep going up, so I did."

Ten minutes later, Emma found the walking track.

Battered, bruised and filthy dirty, with a sprained ankle and deep scratches all over her body, Emma began to walk up the mountain path.

She met an Argentine man walking down the path just 30 minutes later.

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“Committed to being honest, transparent and above reproach.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Graham Mabury

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

On air with Graham Mabury

Our Christmas holidays were, in a word ... amazing. Don't panic, I don't have photos — no self-indulgent reminiscing here. I sincerely hope your Christmas was better than mine. Whatever your experience, however, may these words in some way remind you that God loves you profoundly. You are not alone — that is the Christmas reality.

We were in Denver Colorado with our extended family, including our twin sons and their wives, and five grandchildren under five. It's 'amazing' to be together when your family lives 18,000 km away. So is the 15 hour flight from Sydney to Dallas Fort Worth. You can pretty much finish the book *War and Peace*.

Two days before Christmas an overnight storm dumped 30 cm of fresh snow. We awoke to a scene from a Christmas card. Under a blue sky we made the first footprints in a white blanket of serenity, silence and breathtaking beauty. We discovered His thumb print in His creation. You were

right, Father, it is 'very good' — 'amazing' in fact!

"It's lovely weather for a sleigh ride together," used to be just words in a yuletide classic. Not any more, thanks to 'Doc' and 'Wyatt', two fine, powerful black German horses named for Doc Holliday and Wyatt Earp. In pulling about 15 of us, they also provided a lesson on the power of working together as you obey the master in the service of others.

Nevertheless one of our grandchildren was underwhelmed. He expected our sleigh to fly. It was Christmas after all. He'd been singing, "We're going to see Mercury."

It reminded me how often my expectations set me up for disappointment. Trying to be God prevents me seeing God. I miss the many gifts of love each day contains, the simple, whole, uncomplicated glimpses of His Presence.

He promised never to leave us, and He keeps His promises.

“ ... the power of working together ... ”



Dr Brian Harris

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

A good or God start?

Sometimes my brain races ahead of my typing. Recently I wished a friend a God start to the new year, instead of a more conventional good start. Computer spelling checks prove deficient with such errors. I'm not remorseful. The mistaken script was more profound than the trivial platitude I intended to pen.

God starts don't always seem to be good starts. Think of Samuel's launch as one of Israel's most important prophets. It begins with the demise of Eli and his family. More notably 30,000 Israelites were killed by the Philistines who also captured the Ark of the Covenant. 1 Samuel 3:1 tells us

that prior to this, 'the word of the Lord was rare and prophetic visions were not widespread'. You can understand that some Israelites would have longed for the good old days.

God starts often see foundations knocked around. It's silly to build on dodgy practices,

but letting them go requires more than a quickly mouthed new year's resolution. The motivation to change flows from deep dissatisfaction with the current status quo. Mild irritants don't get knocked into place. Put differently, people are more likely to stop smoking after the cancer diagnosis, than as a result of the plain packaging of their favourite cigarette. The latter just isn't annoying enough.

But do we really need to be so resistant to helpful change? Sometimes it feels as though it is out of our control. In Romans 7:10 we read, 'For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which

I would not, that I do', as the King James rather hauntingly expresses it. Significantly, the sentiment is expressed by none other than the Apostle Paul — a scarily disciplined man if there ever was one! So if self help change was beyond him, what hope for us lesser mortals?

Actually, that's why it needs to be a God start. Without God, the good never really takes off. Which is why the not too distant Good Friday is really God Friday. It was God at work, and against the odds it turned out to be more than merely good.

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.

Dear Editor

In response to Harry Kloppenburg's letter in the December edition of *The Advocate* I would say that a Christian should be concerned about both evangelism and issues of social justice. Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats is clear on our need to care for the immediate, earthly needs of people throughout this world. God has placed a burden for the poor and oppressed on the hearts of Tim Costello and Tim Hanna and we should be encouraging them, not judging them. See also Acts 6:1-4

Stephen Jenkins
Kalamunda

disclaimer

The Advocate reserves the right to edit or withhold from publication any letter for any reason whatsoever. Once received, all letters become the possession of *The Advocate*. The views written in 'letters to the editor' do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Advocate* or Baptist Churches Western Australia, nor does *The Advocate* take any responsibility of the views stated by those who write to the editor.

calling volunteers!

Serpentine
Camping Centre

Serpentine hosts respite camps for DCP families
Male & Female leaders needed in May & Oct ph: 9525 5135

Waratah Church grows



Photo: Jill Birt

Youth Pastor Peter Randell is excited about the ways Waratah Community Church will be able to work with more local young people when the new youth hall is built.

Waratah Community Church is part of the burgeoning community on the coastal strip south of Mandurah. The area's population continues to climb bringing unique opportunities for the church to engage with people.

To meet the growing needs of their community and the church, they started planning a building project three years ago.

"Currently the closest place youth can go to just hang out and talk to someone is the Billy Dower Youth Centre more than ten

kilometres away," Youth Pastor Peter Randell said.

The building project, will expand the main auditorium to a capacity of 240 (currently 170), add a dedicated youth hall, a large commercial kitchen, offices, a new kid's ministry room and overhaul all the audio and IT capabilities of the church.

To help fund the project the church applied for two grants from the Government's Royalties for Regions and Lotterywest. Both grants were approved covering approximately 50 percent of the cost of building. The church is providing the balance, meaning the project is debt free.

"I felt a real sense of God's bright purposes for his church at Waratah when the news came through that the church had indeed qualified for the final stages of two grants," Peter said.

"We want to use this building as our gift to our local community, fulfilling numerous needs that have become apparent in our local area," he said. "As we do this we'll get to share the love of Jesus."

As Senior Pastor, Gavin Woolhead, and his team completed the grant application process they saw God opening doors for numerous ministry opportunities.

"We can see the complex being used by many ministries and groups: soup kitchen, clothing library, equipment library, local playgroups, Lions club, kids dance classes, kids cooking classes and hopefully one day possibly counselling services," Peter said. "We have community groups waiting to book the church facility. We're very keen to see the local soup kitchen get to use the new facilities regularly."

"I can't stress enough the enormity of effort that has gone into this project so far by Gavin,

the eldership and a few key members of Waratah church," Peter said.

Alongside community-focused services such as youth groups, skate park BBQs, carols by candlelight, family holiday programs, school lunch-time games, friendship and craft groups, the church exudes a deep sense of caring about people's spiritual growth.

Building is planned to start in early March and the church hopes the entire project will be complete by Christmas.

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"I freaked out because he was yelling, 'I know you! I know you!' He wanted to hug me, but I was terrified he might hurt me like the other man. Finally I worked out there were photos of me up and down the trail and people were looking for me."

"The man lent me his shirt and his shoes, then we walked together down the mountain. I realised I was very tired and very thirsty."

A rescue helicopter later flew Emma to hospital in El Bolson where they treated her severe dehydration, cuts and bruises.

Emma's parents arrived and helped her through all the interviews with police. A man was arrested over the incident, but he wasn't the one who attacked Emma.

Although shaken and visibly still coming to terms with her Argentine experience, Emma is confident that God is good and life will go on.

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Photo: Jill Birt

Essie Laugharne heads to the Gold Coast to study at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music this month.

Music industry newcomer

Former Perth College student Essie Laugharne (17) didn't have to sweat waiting for her results following her final Year 12 exams. By late November 2011 she knew she would be a student in the prestigious Bachelor of Popular Music course at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 2012.

"I have always had a love of music and have been song writing from an early age," Essie said. "I have a passion for my music and have received positive feedback from people over the years. It was in about Year 10 when I started thinking seriously about my future. I decided I would pursue my music if that was God's will."

"I attended an audition in late September 2011, where I performed

three of my original songs and presented a portfolio that included CDs of my original songs, a DVD of me performing at my school concerto night, and various awards such as AMEB (Australian Music Examinations Board) examinations, academic awards from school and a copy of my Year 12 school report," she said.

The university selection team was impressed by Essie's willingness to travel to

Queensland for the audition rather than submitting a DVD.

"The trip also gave me the opportunity to see the six state of the art, multi-million dollar recording studios at the university firsthand, so it was definitely worthwhile."

"Music is my passion, but it is also a great way to worship and also to reach people and that's where I hope my music will take me."

Essie admires U2 and the way they express the power of Jesus through their music, yet remain within the mainstream music scene.

"They are so well received by both believers and non believers of all walks of life, and to be like them and have such a presence of God without my music becoming

Lotterywest grant for Serpentine

Serpentine Camping Centre is expanding their involvement with community activities thanks to a grant from Lotterywest to help them purchase equipment and a new vehicle.

The grant of nearly \$111,000, the first government grant for the Centre, buys a huge outdoor movie screen, projector and sound system, 12 two-person canoes with all the accessories needed for safe water adventure, a custom built trailer to carry the canoes, a large range of camping equipment and a twin cab 4WD Hilux vehicle.

"We're planning a 'Movies Under The Stars' outdoor cinema experience as a community service for the local and surrounding shire families during summer on the Serpentine campsite oval," Activities Coordinator, Wendy Dyer said. "This compact mobile movie road show will also be available for community group special events."

Through this regular safe youth and family friendly event the aim is to reduce antisocial behaviour that comes about because of youth boredom and a lack of leisure opportunities within the local Shire.

"We hope to see a reduction in under-aged drinking by offering a regular drug and alcohol free activity," Wendy said.

The canoes, trailer and camping equipment will enhance the extension of our WYLD (Wilderness Youth Leadership Development) Adventure Camps program and the Department of Child Protection (DCP) Respite camps.

"Owning our own equipment will reduce the cost of hiring and assist us in providing an affordable service, strengthening our connection with local community and DCP agencies," Wendy said.

The 4WD will be used to transport campers, canoes and equipment on camps and special events.

"We've previously needed to borrow 4WDs for our camping adventures because the sites are quite remote. This will be a fantastic asset to our programs."

exclusive to Christians would be a dream come true," she said.

"I've dedicated my life to following Jesus, and not only believing in Him, but learning to live as He did. I feel that being accepted is a real reassurance that He still wants me to pursue my music."

This degree could be a unique way into the music industry with more talent scouts and record companies on the east coast.

The course gives Essie 24/7

access to recording studios, opportunities to collaborate with other musicians and learning some sound engineering skills.

Essie regularly plays guitar and sings on one of the worship teams at Parkerville Baptist Church.

"I love being part of the group, learning from each other and worshipping together," she said. "I think the things I will miss most while I'm away are my family and friends, especially those from Church."

digital church

17/01/2012
Mandy Thompson
www.bibledeude.net

"Church is as much about being with people as it is about being with God, and maybe even more ... we need to see others walking in with their limps and faith-failings. We need to know that they don't have it together and we need them to know we don't have it together either."

17/01/2012
Mark Beeson
www.markbeeson.com

"I've watched myself get all pumped-up and excited about walking with God, but too often

I don't get into gear and take the next step toward Christ."

03/01/2012
Gary Mo
www.garymo.com

Now more than ever, I believe that God's primary working in our lives is to get us to let everything fall into His hands, and then for Him to redeem and restore the pieces.

12/01/2012
Bobby Jamieson
www.9marks.org

Programs should be means, not ends in themselves. That is, they should be means to the end of

equipping the saints for the work of ministry.

16/01/2012
David Santistevan
www.davidsantistevan.com

"I don't want to rehearse my good intentions, make excuses, or live an easy life. I want to do hard things."

17/01/2012
Luke Miller
www.echohub.com

"You have probably determined already to get out of debt, eat better, and go to the gym more, but have you made resolutions for your ministry? What will your church try in 2012?"

briefs

Baptisms

Melba den Boer, Shirley Mahony and Tammy Littler from Port Kennedy Baptist Church and Jan Stirling from Parkerville Baptist Church were baptised on 18 December 2011. Danielle Seah, Amy Ellet and Maddison Ashton were baptised at Tom Price Baptist Church on 17 December 2011 (read their story on page 7).

Engagement

Josh Mikolajczyk and Lauren Niman from North Beach Baptist Church announced their engagement on 17 December 2011.

Marriage

Joe Da Costa and Caitlin Hugo were married by Pastor Matt Malcolm at North Beach Baptist Church on 7 January.

Death

Former WA Baptist Pastor Wayne Mordue died on 18 January after suffering a heart attack.

Pastoral changes

North Beach Baptist Church welcomed Associate Pastors Henry Harding and Bruce Polmear, and Children's Worker Christa Smith to their leadership team in January. Wayne Field concluded ministry at Australind Baptist Church in late January.

GIA resource engages churches



Photo: Luke Foster

Perth children's worker Mim Hosking teaching children in Cambodia about Jesus.

Global Interaction recently launched their new resource *Moved*. The three-session multimedia package highlights the centrality of mission to the Christian faith, develops awareness of global mission issues and encourages a personal and community response.

In the making for a year, *Moved* has been a collaborative project of Baptist leaders from around the country.

Michael Frost from Morling College in Sydney is the presenter

for the session of the DVD that's called 'Moved by the Need'.

"We begin talking about the massive spread of Christianity around the world, then highlight the stark reality that one third of

the world is least-reached, still yet to hear about Jesus," Michael said. "We reflect on the injustice of the provision of Christian workers and resources among the reached and least-reached."

Michael said filming on location in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, created a challenging situation for him to deliver lines while riding on the back of a motorbike and negotiating narrow crowded streets, walking across rickety bridges in a slum, and sitting among monks and tourists at a Buddhist temple.

Perth children's worker, Mim Hosking, wrote the lessons for children in *Moved*.

"I guess I'm passionate about lots of things — but at the top of my list would have to be 'kids' and 'telling people about Jesus,'" Mim said, "So what a privilege to combine these two things and participate in the *Moved* resource pack for churches."

"I hope that churches can adapt the material to suit their context and help kids to understand God's heart for mission, know more about Global Interaction and the cross cultural workers who are out there in the world telling others about Jesus."

"I want kids as well as adults to be moved to pray, give and serve in mission," she said.

Global Interaction's Partnership Development worker in New South Wales/ACT, Nathan Reid, was part of the team from the first planning session of *Moved*.

"Our churches are ready for *Moved*. The team in our office regularly take calls from pastors asking, 'What's next? What have you got that we can use'. Pastors are hungry for high-quality, Australian-made resources that will help them encourage and engage their church communities," Nathan said.

"*Moved* can involve the whole church community for services, small groups, children's and youth activities. There is

great potential for change and transformation in the life of the church as a whole."

"I want kids as well as adults to be moved to pray, give and serve in mission."

Keith Jobberns, outgoing Global Interaction General Director says *Moved* is unlike anything Global Interaction has produced before.

"We are serious about our commitment to resource the Australian Baptist church in mission," Keith said.

"We're proud to produce *Moved*. It's not made to promote cross-cultural team members. It's not made to raise funds. It's not made to recruit workers. Yet it is made to educate, equip, inform and inspire our community of church to have a more mission-focused faith."

Financial support from Baptist Financial Services and Crossovers Australia helped the production of *Moved*.

For more information, contact Global Interaction on 6313 6300.

New staff member at BCWA



Photo: Jill Birt

Dushan Jeyabalan joined the BCWA staff in late 2011.

God has prepared Dushan Jeyabalan uniquely for a new role with Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA).

He spent five years working in Australia's corporate and institutional banking world before becoming the College Manager at Perth Bible College followed by several years working with Opportunity

International, focusing on micro-finance.

Based at BCWA, Dushan is working closely with the Vose Seminary team helping with finances and fundraising for capital projects.

Born and educated in Sri Lanka, Dushan's family migrated to Canada in 1984 after racial unrest against the Tamil people.

"I probably should be dead, but God worked in a powerful way and we made it out safely to Toronto with just a suitcase each," Dushan said.

"I studied at Guelph University

(Ontario) for a Bachelor of Science in biological sciences then later moved to Sydney in mid-1996 with a couple of bags and some cash in my pocket. Within weeks I had a job in a bank."

"I have a strong sense of God calling me into the ministry with churches, helping to build God's Kingdom and encouraging his people," Dushan said. "I love the BCWA's vision of 'empowering churches to help people say yes to Jesus.'"

Dushan, his wife Jeyanthi and their children are part of Woodvale Baptist Church.

Children's ministry a priority

Baptist Children's Ministry Consultant Alison Cross (Morley Baptist Church) knows people in children's ministry need encouragement and fresh ideas. She is encouraging churches to send their teams to this month's Passing the Baton conference on 11 February at Churchlands Christian Fellowship in Balcatta.

"Passing the Baton is one of the best children's ministry conferences that I have attended. The guest speakers are excellent and the electives (there are 12 to choose from this year) are fantastic," Alison said. "Those attending will also have a wonderful opportunity to network with others who are passionate about children's ministry, as well as see a huge

range of resources in the 'expo' area, such as books and toys, magic tricks, puppetry, children's music, ministry groups and training courses currently available."

Organiser Rod Adams (Lakeside Baptist Church) expects 400 to 450 people will attend the annual event.

"I get excited about the fact that a bunch of like-minded Christians (from all different denominations and walks of life) who are involved in kid's ministry, can get together and be encouraged, equipped, resourced and be able to network with others doing the same ministry," Rob said. "People need encouragement in ministry, so we want to help provide that. We want people to go back to their local ministry or church and to keep doing the ministry, and to do it with more enthusiasm, ideas and resources."

Keynote speaker Joel Chelliah spoke with The Advocate about some foundational elements of children's ministry (read the interview on page 12).

Hands and feet in action

Young adults from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church's 'Hands and Feet' ministry recently saved a man from being evicted from his home in Coolbellup.

Organiser Sam Peletie said they heard about the man through someone who delivered bread to him.

Severe diabetes has caused the loss of several finger joints, and other medical issues mean the man is unable to do any gardening. With no one to help him, the issue escalated until he was given an ultimatum from the owner of the property he rents: 'Clean up the front yard or you will be evicted next week'.

While Sam and his girlfriend Ash Scott organised with the man what work needed to be done, Ely Achemedei created a Facebook page to mobilise the Hands and Feet crew.

"It was amazing!" Sam said. "On the day we had a team of 15 to 20 people, mostly young adults ready to work."

The man's front yard was transformed in about four hours.

"One guy's dad lent us a truck and we took three loads of stuff that had accumulated over the years from the carport at the front of the house to the tip as well as the garden waste."

Hands and Feet pruned shrubs, weeded garden beds, and rejuvenated and trimmed the grass to bring control and form back to the front yard.

The tenant was dumbfounded by the group's generosity and hard work. He is still living in his home.

"This is not the first person we've been able to help," Sam said. "A couple of us spend time each Sunday afternoon doing some gardening for a lady who can't do a lot on her own anymore."

The group become hands and feet for people in their local area who can't do things for themselves.

"We've done a few things now: cut down a tree; delivered furniture and we've only been going for about three months," Sam said.

"Our aim is to work with people we already know and build relationships with them. We want to share the life of Jesus with people, and this is a very practical way to do it."

Contacts come through Mount Pleasant's Bread Run. Seven times a week, teams from the church collect bread donated by a local bakery at the close of trade and distribute it to people in need.

Senior Pastor Nick Scott is full of praise for the young people.

"They are doing a great job helping people with practical things they really need help with," Nick said. "And it sounds like they're having a lot of fun doing it."



Photo: Sam Peletier

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church's 'Hands and Feet' ministry recently helped a Coolbellup man tidy up his front yard to prevent him from being evicted.

Students paint mural for elderly



Photo: Paige Somerville

Residents of Graceford Residential Aged Care Facility, Iris and Ray Greaves, with their granddaughters, Allannah and Paige Fawcett, student artists from Serpentine Jarrahdale Grammar School.

Students from Serpentine Jarrahdale Grammar School recently completed a mural of an Australian outback bush scene for the residents at Baptistcare's Graceford Residential Aged Care facility in Byford.

Graceford also received a bus, purchased from Serpentine Jarrahdale Grammar School, with funds generously given by Bendigo Bank.

The Serpentine Jarrahdale students were invited to morning

tea at Graceford on Wednesday 7 December 2011 to celebrate the unveiling of the mural with the residents. They were joined by Principal Lorraine Scott, volunteer artist Rebecca Shelton, Kim Petersen from the Bendigo Bank in Byford and Linda Branley who donated paint for the project.

Manager Residential Care, Zofia Graham said how meaningful the project was for Graceford residents as they welcomed the students into their home.

"The relationship between Graceford Hostel and Serpentine Jarrahdale Grammar School has brought together an intergenerational bond between residents and students."

"This bond has provided

the opportunity for residents to follow the growth of the students and remember their own school years."

The mural is in a corridor leading to Beenypup, the dementia section of the Graceford facility.

Thanks to the spirit of community at Serpentine Jarrahdale, the residents will now enjoy a spectacular bush scene in the comfort of their own home.

The Graceford residents can also look forward to many comfortable rides in their newly acquired bus when they go on their regular outings.

briefs

Malawi bound

Global Interaction (GIA) workers Arthur and Debbie Broughton's visa for Malawi was issued in mid-January. With their prayer and financial support team complete, they left for Malawi on 31 January. The Broughtons expect to do language and culture study for the first year they are part of the GIA team in Mangochi working with the Yawo people.

South Sudan

Wycliffe Associates is assisting Bible translators in newly independent South Sudan with logistical, financial and personnel support. South Sudan

gained independence from Sudan in July 2011, which has opened new doors for religious freedom. "There are more people without the Bible in the Sudan region than in any other area of Africa," Bruce Smith, President and CEO of Wycliffe said. Twenty-nine languages in South Sudan have no Scripture – approximately 20 percent of the population – and six projects are currently underway. He added that translation needs in all of Sudan are great, with 21 million Sudanese waiting for the Bible in a language they can understand; Wycliffe is making this one of its top priorities for the coming years.

January 'brides'

Every January, poor Indian parents give several thousand of their daughters in mass marriages to the Hindu goddess Yellamma along the Maharashtra-Karnataka state borders. These children, called devadasis, are forced to begin a life of prostitution at age 11 and are never allowed to marry. Although the practice is officially outlawed, it is still widespread. Few girls ever hear the name of Jesus, but some organisations are working to reach out to them. David Dass, Executive Director of the India Gospel League, said a devadasi who discovers a relationship with Christ becomes a powerful witness in her community.



Volunteers Needed

Various Christian ministry opportunities available

Please Contact Shelby Ingram

Phone: (08) 9228 2706

Email: wa.office@prisonfellowship.org.au

Beecks to Mozambique

The Beeck family is facing plenty of change as they make final preparations to move to Mozambique in the next few months.

Cameron (Cam) Beeck left his job as research scientist at the University of Western Australia just prior to Christmas. He and wife Kath, and their children Jack, Tilly and Sydney, rented out their family home in early January and moved in with family close to Perth city, prior to flying to Melbourne for a week for their final training sessions with Global Interaction.

"We're not able to set a departure date for Mozambique yet," Kath said. "It's pretty close though."

So far the family has been promised 86 percent of the financial support they need to live in Mozambique. They can set a departure date once their team hits 90 percent.

"We've been amazed at how God has brought together our support team," Cam said. "People we hardly know, work colleagues, even some from overseas. I'm regularly surprised at people's generosity and we're very grateful."

The people at Riverton Baptist Church, the Beeck's home church, are demonstrating their support for the family in very practical ways.



The Beeck family packing up their house ready to move to Mozambique.

Photo: Jill Birt

"We had a garage sale before we left our home," Cam said. "Our youth pastor was there writing advertising signs; friends were helping us sell goods, look after the kids and providing food for us. And then there were people from church who came to buy!"

"We've been encouraged by the depth of relationship we have with people at Riverton. It feels like our planned move to Mozambique has been a catalyst

for deepening relationships with people," Cam said.

"It's been a growing time for all of us," Kath said. "I've been learning quite a bit about being willing to ask for help when I've needed it, and to receive help."

"I normally like to have a clear routine," she said. "I'm organised and structured, but we don't have much of that at the moment. I've been learning how to spend time with God in the chaos."

After leaving paid employment, Cam has discovered there are things for him to learn about his identity and value.

"I've seen how much of self is wrapped up in what you do and how others view you," he said. "There is still more to learn."

When the Beecks reach Mozambique they'll join the Global Interaction team working with the Yawo people.

"Jono and Heather Crane are the team leaders," Cam said. "We'll be spending the first few months doing serious language study — six hours a day, five days a week."

"There's a great opportunity for someone to come from Australia for a few months to help us with the kids while we're both doing language study," Kath said.

For more information, visit www.beeckbrief.wordpress.com.

Friends baptised in Tom Price

Towns like Tom Price, the 'Emerald of the Pilbara' 1,600 km north of Perth, face constant change as mine workers come and go. Not many people stay for decades.

It's the same for Tom Price Baptist Church. The congregation changes often, with comings and goings often dictated by employment contracts.

Just before Christmas, Pastor Steve Smith baptised three young girls whose families were preparing to move.

The girls are close friends. Danielle (Dani) Seah has lived in town all her life. Amy Ellet came from Victoria just a few years ago. Maddison (Maddi) Ashton arrived three and a half years ago.

"The girls' journey to baptism has been a special experience," Steve said. "They have gradually, but decisively reached the point where they believed this was



Photo: Anthony Ashton

Close friends Dani Seah, Maddi Ashton and Amy Ellet were baptised in Tom Price just before Christmas.

the step of 'faith in action' they needed to take."

On 17 December 2011, in a backyard pool watched by school friends and family the girls publicly declared their intent to follow Jesus and be part of the Church, wherever they happen to live. They also committed themselves to stay in touch with each other, their youth leader Melissa Howe and Pastor Steve Smith.

"The modern church is very mobile and those new in the faith can very easily 'fall between the cracks'," Steve said. "So I stressed the need to be intentional about continuing fellowship in this transition time."

By the end of January the girls were ready to start high school: Dani in Perth, Amy back in Victoria and Maddi in Geraldton. Such is life in a mining town.

South Perth set to care for kids

Statistics say South Perth is in the midst of a baby boom and there is nowhere near enough child care available in the area.

South Perth Baptist Church's new Pastor, Steve Izett, has 17 years experience at Carey Baptist Church and College where he developed a very successful child care program.

"That's part of what the church has called me to do, start a child care program," Steve said. "The other part is to help the church grow."

"Currently there are only 20 to 25 people meeting on Sundays. We're praying that will increase quickly."

South Perth Baptist has a 110 year history in their local community, but they know change needs to come to be more effective locally.

"The community continues to change too. There's a real mix — students, young families, older people, great wealth and others not so financially secure," Steve said.

A vibrant ESL (English as a Second Language) group of 20 to 30 people meet regularly at the church.

"It's such a great way to build friendships with our community," Steve said.

Carey Baptist Church will support Steve Izett until mid-year.

"When I moved from Mt Pleasant and started Carey, Mt Pleasant generously supported us, and now Carey is helping with the work at South Perth. We are truly blessed!"

"As well as getting to know the congregation and the community, I'm working on planning approval for the changes we'll make to buildings, ready for the child care program. We'll be looking for a centre manager pretty soon too."

Persecution until Jesus returns

Followers of Jesus have been persecuted for as long as the church has existed. Opposition to the message of Jesus and the life of His followers is not new. Even Jesus himself (Matthew 24) said persecution can be expected.

But this does not negate the suffering and deprivation some of His followers continue to endure around the world.

Persecution in the form of ill-treatment, imprisonment, deprivation, attack, unjust laws and personal pain, and loss continues, confirming the Bible truth that these things will endure until Jesus returns.

The Chinese believer, Brother Yun, who visited Perth in November 2011, echoed this truth. Now living in Germany for his personal security, Brother Yun suffered brutal physical and mental torture by Chinese authorities, but he found joy and peace in the situation. He refused to denounce Jesus.

Brother Yun does not have a monopoly on such experiences.

“Some persecution comes from a dominant religion, such as militant Hindus or Muslims suppressing followers of Jesus.”

Australia regularly accepts refugees from places around the globe where faith in Jesus has marginalised people in their own

community to the point where the suffering is so great their only hope for life without such constraints is in another country.

Some persecution comes from a dominant religion, such as militant Hindus or Muslims suppressing followers of Jesus.

Much of the persecution of followers of Jesus through the north of Africa and the Middle East is rooted in Sharia Law and the rules of Dhimmitude, how non-Muslims are treated as subservient people. The Islamic worldview sees no separation of religion and government, and Muslims following Sharia Law see no injustice in penalising followers of other religions by demanding taxes and limiting their freedom.

In other places, people's devotion to Jesus challenges humanist leaders resulting in oppression and confining the lives of Jesus' followers.

“These suffering brothers and sisters need our prayers and encouragement,” Dr Marc Chan, Cross Cultural and Indigenous Ministries Consultant with Baptist Churches Western Australia said.

“... people's devotion to Jesus challenges humanist leaders resulting in oppression and confining the lives of Jesus' followers.”

Resources for further study:

- *Operation World* by Jason Mandryk and Patrick Johnstone
- *The Third Choice* by Mark Durie
- Forum 18 News Service www.forum18.org
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide www.csw.org.uk
- ASSIST News Service www.assistnews.net
- Barnabas Fund www.barnabasfund.org

Praying for persecuted people:

- Courage – that they will be empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Faith – to be strengthened.
- Perseverance – to endure in their suffering.
- Fear – to be destroyed.
- Healing – emotional and physical.
- For their families – courage, perseverance, for their needs to be met.
- Pray that those being persecuted will experience the reality of Jesus' presence and voice in their circumstances.
- Pray they will treasure Jesus above everything else even in the midst of great deprivation and suffering.

North Korea

Since the unexpected death of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il on 17 December 2011 and the succession to power of his third son, Kim Jong-un, the underground Christian church has faced increased persecution. The new regime, apparently fearing the kind of uprising that swept the Middle East, has searched out and discovered seven underground churches.

Azerbaijan

Church leaders are regularly detained for questioning and threatened with criminal prosecution. Authorities declare church buildings 'closed' and confiscate all books. Authorities say "We don't ban, we just demand documents." Exercising the right to freedom of religion or belief without state permission is illegal in Azerbaijan, in defiance of international human rights standards.

AGE 11
I SAY 'YES' TO JESUS FOR THE FIRST TIME...SUNDAY SCHOOL, 22 AUGUST

AGE 13
I SAY 'YES' ALL OVER AGAIN AT AN INTERS CAMP AT SERPENTINE.

AGE 15
CHALLENGED TO SERVE GOD IN MINISTRY...FOREVER DON'T KNOW HOW THAT LOOKS, BUT I'D LOVE TO KNOW!

AGE 16
THINKING...THINKING... I THINK THERE'S A BIG INTERSECTION BETWEEN WORK AND MINISTRY AND I WANT TO EXPLORE IT.

AGE 17
I ENROL AS AN INTERN AT VOSE EQUIP IN MY GAP YEAR BEFORE STARTING UNI AND BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY OF LEARNING, GROWTH, EQUIPPING AND DISCOVERING JESUS IN COMMUNITY. BRING IT ON!


AGE 19
WHAT'S NEXT, LORD?

At Vose Seminary, no two stories are the same.

People join us to learn more about Jesus and His Word for all kinds of reasons. Some are young, some older. Each one seeking to follow Jesus in a deeply biblical, highly practical learning environment.

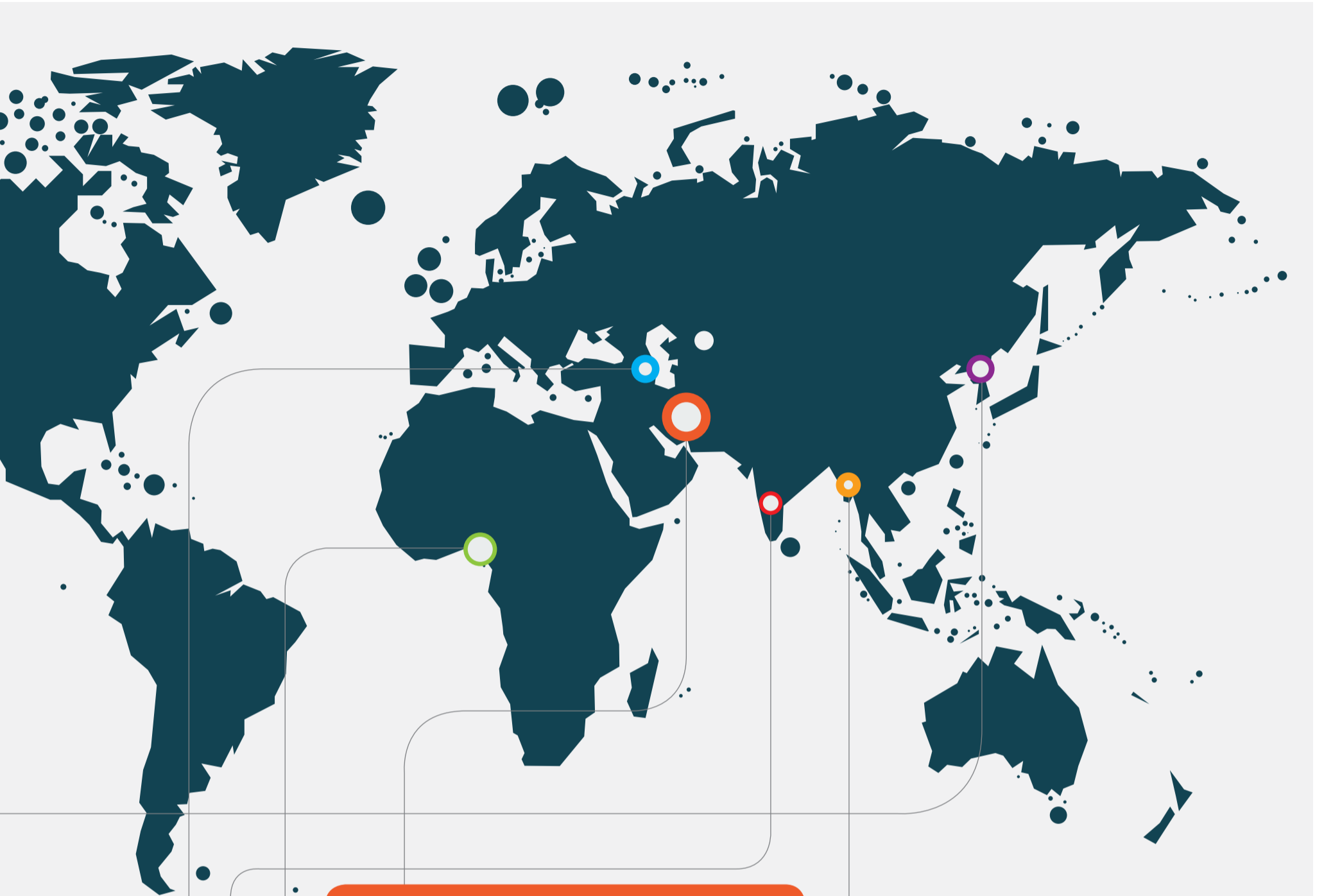
A unique opportunity now exists to take one year as an intern with Vose Equip. It's a year to explore what God's calling and to equip yourself for serving in your church. To prepare for what's next and allow the seeds of potential to be nurtured.

Whatever your story, come, grow with Vose Equip. Continue your journey at vose.edu.au



**vose
equip**

come, grow



Iran

Christians face persecution in Iran. The government systematically denies the Iranian people's right to freedom of religion or belief. British MP Stewart Jackson highlighted in parliament the troubles faced by Christians in Iran, including the worrying uncertainty surrounding the pastors who have been imprisoned and detained. "Torture is used to pressure individuals to make confessions and to provide information on others. Exorbitant bail postings secure the release of individuals, along with illegal documents that religious detainees are forced to sign. Such documents demand an end to participation in Christian activities, the renunciation of faith and compliance with further questioning when summoned. Laptops and mobile phones are often confiscated during raids on private Christian homes and are used to obtain information on the activities and identities of other Christians."

Nigeria

Nigeria has over 80 million Christians. Many from tribes indigenous to Yobe State are increasingly being forced to consider relocating from their ancestral home as a result of the activities of the Boko Haram Islamist militia group. In early January Boko Haram launched attacks in three northern states, hours after the expiry of its deadline for Christians to leave the north.

While some Christians from southern tribes are returning to their original areas, the majority of Christians in Yobe, as in other northern and central states, are from indigenous tribes and have no other home. Christian Solidarity Worldwide was told, "We have our farmlands, houses and everything here. Our great, great, great grandparents were born here. It is our forefather's land, yet we are being left with the choice of relocating to a safer area until things improve, or staying here to die".

Burma

In mid-January the Burmese government signed a cease fire agreement with the minority Karen people. Over the past 40 years the Karen people, the majority of whom are followers of Jesus, have been systematically persecuted by the government. Currently more than 180,000 Karen are living in authorised refugee camps on the Thai border.

The Chin and Kachin people of Burma are also being persecuted. Churches and Buddhist monasteries in a mining area of Burma's northern Kachin state have taken in nearly 1,000 refugees, many of them Christians, since New Year's Day after the Burmese military reportedly attacked a Baptist church and killed several people.

India

The Evangelical Fellowship of India announced in January that Karnataka state had the highest incidence of persecution against Christians in 2011. Forty-nine cases of violence and hostility were reported. Hindu extremists also attacked Christians in the state of Orissa.

Zimbabwe health initiative from Perth

Perth based Christian not-for-profit group, Cosmos HealthCare, runs a Mobile Health Service in villages near the city of Bulawayo in Zimbabwe.

The regime of President Robert Mugabe has caused a serious 'brain drain' on the nation with many thousands of professional people, particularly in the fields of health and education, emigrating over the past 10 to 15 years. This continuing exodus is causing serious disruption to health care in the nation.

"We're partnering with local churches and working with Zimbabwean health workers in four villages just out of Bulawayo," Jason James, Executive Director of Cosmos HealthCare said. "Our goal is a self-sustaining medical program in local communities."

"As well as the Zimbabwean nurses working in these villages from week to week, we send teams a couple of times a year to run free health clinics and to support and train local medical workers."

Their next team of volunteers leaves Australia in April.

"We're still looking for two GPs and a physiotherapist to

come with us in April," Jason said.

Nurse Cathy Weaver works in Cosmos HealthCare's Perth office doing the administration for the visits. She also helps run the pre-trip training sessions.

"We have refined our processes quite a bit over the years, so we prepare the teams in five or six training events. It's not just the technical skills they need to understand, but for some of the team they'll be seeing and treating diseases they have little or no contact with in Western Australia."

"The other important element of the training is building a team that can work well together and trust each other."

Dr Clif Parry and his wife Gloria are members at Mandurah Baptist Church. They were part of the Cosmos HealthCare team that visited Zimbabwe in September 2011.

"It's been exciting to be part of a group that is building relationships with individuals and organisations in Zimbabwe that are seeking to improve health outcomes," Clif said. "At a personal level there is much joy in seeing suffering people helped and grateful for the little an individual gives."

As well as medical personnel, each Cosmos team has a couple of helpers. Gloria Parry filled that role last year.



Dr Clif Parry with patients in Zimbabwe during Cosmos HealthCare's visit last September.

"She is an amazing woman," Jason said. "Her contribution to the team is huge."

"As a Medical Scientist, what I lacked in medical expertise I am told I made up for with encouragement, enthusiasm, tireless energy and a willingness to do just anything to increase

the productivity of the rest of the team," Gloria said. "I loved being able to pray constantly during the day. Loved the excitement of who will the Lord bring to us today? Loved seeing God answer prayers."

Self-funded team members are well supported by Jason

and Cathy. Each practitioner is registered with the Zimbabwe government.

For more information, visit www.cosmoshealth.org.

Photo: Cosmos HealthCare

Men being men

Beaumaris Baptist Church Pastor Craig Lydon is the key organiser of the Mighty Men's Conference planned for 'The Paddock' in Cuballing, just north of Narrogin, from 23 to 25 March.

"It's not an attractive model for a conference – sleeping out in a swag or a tent," Craig said. "But it is so valuable. We heard so many stories of men connecting with God last year and we're praying this will happen again."

"It's a time to de-clutter and de-stress. There's no hype about it. It's just men learning and worshipping together. Real

low-key, but very purposeful."

"There are guys coming not only from Western Australia, but also Tasmania, South Australia and Queensland. We expect there'll be about 250 men."

Several Baptist Churches in WA are involved, including Moora Baptist and Inglewood Community Church.

"West Coast Eagles Chaplain Paul Morrison, from Riverview

Church, and Eliot Vlatko and Quentin Gribble from Inglewood will be organising the worship," Craig said.

Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries for Baptist Churches Western Australia is one of the speakers.

"We know the weekend won't be everyone's cup of tea, but we know there are many men in our churches who will benefit from strong masculine worship, clear teaching and lives they can relate to."

For more information, visit www.mightymensconference.org.au.

Faith Booster
Youth and Young Adults Service

Friday 16th March
7:30pm - 9pm

Lesmurdie Baptist Church
1 Varley Road, Lesmurdie

For more details ask your Youth or Young Adults Pastor, or call the Ministry Centre: 6313 6300

 Baptist Churches
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Servant role for survivor



Photo: Mercy Ships

Teenager Tina Conteh volunteered on Africa Mercy in her birth land of Sierra Leone after finishing high school in Perth. She hopes to work on the ship after she graduates as a nurse.

Girrawheen teenager Tina Conteh returned from six weeks on board the Mercy Ships charity hospital ship Africa Mercy in January.

Tina spent her time serving as a dining room steward while the ship was docked in her country of birth, Sierra Leone.

Africa Mercy has six operating theatres, an 80 bed hospital, state-of-the-art equipment and a crew of more than 400 volunteers from around the world.

"Put simply, it is thanks to Mercy Ships that my mother and I are alive today, and that alone makes me want to give something back," Tina said.

In the early 1990s, Sierra Leone was at the start of a decade-long civil war; Catherine and Augustine Conteh were awaiting the birth of their first child. Catherine experienced labour pains several weeks before the baby was due. After visits to two midwives, Catherine, still in labour, was admitted to a maternity hospital. Labour continued for another four days, but they could not afford the equivalent of \$100 needed for a Caesarean section. Catherine expected she and her baby would die.

Catherine trusted in God, but she did not know that God had touched the heart of a doctor onboard a hospital ship operated by Mercy Ships and docked a few kilometres away. Dr Keith Thomson was touring the hospital and saw Catherine. Staff told him the family could not afford the operation. The cost was the equivalent of six months wages.

Keith paid the money and a healthy baby, Tina Regina Conteh, was born.

The Conteh family's troubles continued in war-troubled Sierra Leone, and with the help of the doctor who by now had become known as Uncle Keith, they fled to neighbouring Guinea as refugees. Augustine found work, Catherine started a small business selling home-made ice blocks and Tina started school.

In 2000, Guinea became involved in the problems of Sierra Leone and Liberia, and all refugees were given 72 hours to leave the country.

“Put simply, it is thanks to Mercy Ships that my mother and I are alive today, and that alone makes me want to give something back.”

After time in Ghana, the family arrived in Australia in 2005 and settled in Woolongong.

The Conteh family now lives in Perth where Tina finished high school in 2011.

"I believe God saved my life for a purpose. After serving my time as a volunteer on the Africa Mercy I see that purpose is to serve others," Tina said.

"Being on the ship ... I have come to learn to appreciate things a lot more than I used to. Among the best things about my decision to go to Sierra Leone was the opportunity to visit my country of birth and to see members of my family there, especially my grandmothers."

"I now know definitely that I want to go back to work on the ship after I qualify as a registered nurse," Tina said.

Mindanao starts to rebuild

Indigenous missionaries are rushing aid to help rebuild broken lives, homes and churches in Mindanao, Philippines, after Typhoon Washi killed more than 1,200 during the Christmas holidays. The death toll is still climbing.

On 5 January, 25 more died in a mudslide and many are still missing. Over 300,000 were left homeless.

"Three of the indigenous missions we help have already sent relief teams," Stephen Van Valkenburg, the Southeast Asian Director at Christian Aid said. "We are sending financial aid to them, yet so much more

is needed. Local missionaries have organised feeding and evacuation centers to help the survivors whose homes, churches and mission centers were destroyed in the flash flooding."

The rebuilding efforts will take months and more financial aid is needed to help rebuild thousands of homes and structures.

Indigenous missionary leaders say that the most urgently needed supplies can be purchased in the Philippines including food, blankets, kitchen utensils, medicine, mosquito nets, temporary shelters and water.

"The situation is overwhelming ... so many deaths and thousands still missing. Some are from our own church," a missionary pastor said. "We have buried most of the dead and are moving on to do what we can do to help survivors. Temporary shelters are needed and much help in rebuilding."

Baptism for Island refugees

Five refugees were baptised at the Christian fellowship on Christmas Island in mid-January by retired Baptist Minister Peter Faulkner and a Christian refugee leader.

The fellowship meets in a community hall on the Island, and uses a small boat filled with water for baptisms.

"Out of the five that were baptised, were a married couple and two men who had been Christians in their country and

had waited for this day for a whole year," Peter said.

"As people move on from the detention centre here to other facilities, we're thankful for those who work in other centres taking Bible studies and services that our people can attend," Peter said.

Peter and his wife Val continue to have contact with refugees at least five times a week.

"We are so privileged to see what God is doing here on Christmas Island," Peter said.

Joel Chelliah is the keynote speaker at Passing the Baton children's workers conference on 11 February. Joel and his wife Sharon are Senior Pastors at Centrepoint Church in Cockburn. Previously he was Kids and Youth Pastor at Perth Christian Life Centre and State Leader of Kids R Us (WA) for ten years. Joel has spoken at children's conferences around Australia and Asia. He spoke with *The Advocate's* Jill Birt about some foundational elements of children's ministry.

You've been involved with children's ministry for more than 20 years. What's been a highlight?

Many of the kids I started off leading in children's church are now in youth ministry or leadership positions within the church worship team and pastoral team. They are the success stories that keep you faithful to the call. We also used to do a divorce recovery program in the kids church to help children cope with the trauma of a family split. It is so exciting to see how some kids still look back on the teaching given in that dark period of their lives (20 years ago) and recall how it helped heal their hearts and bring them to the place of wholeness they are in now.

What part does creative play have in helping children engage with spiritual truth?

If church is not fun then I don't want to be a part of it. I think Jesus would have us be so creative that we teach each life lesson with great simplicity and creativity that it causes our kids to feel safe enough to invite others to enjoy what they have found.

There is always the possibility with children that they grasp a form of spiritual life without engaging the transforming power of a personal relationship with Jesus. What can children's workers do to minimise that possibility?

I think children's workers should celebrate the fruit of transformation in children's lives rather than the knowledge of what they have learnt. So often we celebrate when children can recall a bible story that was shared or a memory verse that they had learnt. This is all good, but the real



Children really matter

fruit that needs to be celebrated is how these truths have transformed their everyday lives.

What would you say is the goal of ministry to children?

I think the goal is leading kids to a passionate, relationship with Jesus Christ.

What part do you see memorising Scripture has in children's ministry?

Children have an amazing capacity to learn the Word when they are younger and this should be strongly encouraged right from the toddlers. The Word of God is an unshakeable foundation in which all of us should build our lives on. It is the only foundation that will stand strong in the storms of life. I used to train my teachers that the messages they bring every Sunday must be crammed pack with the Word of God and only sprinkled with their opinion and personal story. In the end we want our kids learning about the Word.

How does children's ministry worship differ from an older gathering of the Body of Christ?

I think kids worship needs to activate the body, mind and spirit. To be honest it is the same with adult worship. In order to have an encounter with God our bodies need to be awake, our minds focused heavenward and spirits open to God's Holy Spirit. I try to pick songs that wake the body; that set the mind on Christ (and

not the chaotic car trip from home to church) and allow God to do the rest.

The presence of Jesus with His people is a fundamental difference between a community group and the gathered Body of Christ. What are some things children's ministry teams can do to highlight the difference and embrace spiritual community?

Children's ministers need to realise that they are doing a spiritual thing when they teach another person the Word of God. Spiritual things require spiritual strategies. So often we focus on the preparation and creativity. These are all crucial for children's ministry but to truly make a lasting difference in our kids we must be people of prayer. Only God can transform a heart. Only God can settle fears. Only God can heal the broken. Our prayer releases the power of heaven to manifest God in our services.

How do you see children's ministry as an opportunity to explore spiritual life more among children?

Our children are both our future and our present. I don't believe we have to wait for them to be older to find their place in the body. The church needs to make room for children to be a part of their services now. They need to be invested into in a financial way, prayed for, given opportunity to serve and even partnered with to outwork community initiatives.

With many and varied demands on children — education, sport, extra-curricular learning opportunities, blended family commitments — how can churches help children grow up loving and obeying Jesus?

I think the best thing a church can do is welcome a child as Christ commanded us to. If a child feels loved and welcomed in a church by the pastors and adults they will love coming home every week. Church is meant to be home for every generation.

Some people in churches wrestle with the idea of having a separate children's church that isolates the kids from the adult congregation. Your thoughts?

We have tried both; a complete separate children's ministry and a partial separation with kids being in for some of the adult service. I think you go with what works best for your church.

What would you say to a family that is battling to get to church each Sunday?

I would teach them what the scripture says about being planted in the House of God. So often parents don't hold a conviction about the importance of what the church does for their child's growth and wellbeing. It's only when the child has walked away from the Lord and is now rebellious that the parents come to the church for

help. By teaching parents the importance of growing kids in a godly community we raise the profile and importance of church in their very busy lives and make it more of a priority. On this conviction they build their families.

How do you see new technology being embraced and used effectively in children's ministry?

The gospel is a powerful message that is totally unchangeable, but the way we proclaim it must change if we are to do it effectively to reach the next generation. To help me stay on the cutting edge of ministry I always incorporate younger members on the team who live and breathe the technology of this new age. Learn to love change.

What are some characteristics of an effective children's worker?

Leaders who are committed for the long-term — so many kids have people come in and out of their lives, but not many stay the long haul.

Leaders who are organised — the best leaders are those that know when they are on roster, come on time and have organised everything they have been asked to do. They're worth their weight in gold.

Leaders who are prayerful — leaders who understand that in the end, only God can change a heart.

Passion: The fuel of persistence



By John Maxwell

While reading a magazine at a dentist's office in Paris, Philippe Petit became engrossed in an article about the Twin Towers in New York. As an 18 year old street performer, Petit was constantly on the lookout for venues for his high wire balancing acts. Studying an artist's rendition of the World Trade Center, Petit came up with a vision of walking a tightrope between the two towers.

Over the next six years, Petit focused exclusively on his seemingly preposterous dream. He collected any information he could find on the architecture of the Twin Towers, practiced

his high wire act endlessly, and saved money for a flight to America. Upon arrival to the United States, he wasted no time in scouting the World Trade Center. Under a variety

of guises, Petit and friends surveyed the towers.

On a Tuesday night, Petit and company ascended the towers with equipment in tow. Using a bow and arrow, they

fired a line from the north to south tower, and spent the remainder of the evening feverishly rigging a one-inch steel cable between the towers. Early Wednesday morning, with the bustle of Wall Street having just begun, Petit mounted the high wire to perform. As amazed onlookers marveled at the sight, local authorities gathered to apprehend the illegal tightrope walker. As a consummate showman, Petit focused on his act, refusing to be swayed by policemen shouting at him to stop. After eight trips back and forth between the tower, Petit finally turned himself in.

Petit could have let distractions dissuade him from his dream. Raising money for the scheme, eluding security to scout the towers, and stretching a cable between the skyscrapers all seemed like impossible tasks. However, the magnitude of Petit's passion to accomplish his vision dwarfed the obstacles to his plan.

Key points about passion

A person's inner fire propels him or her to excel. Put simply, desire determines destiny. As a rule, leaders attain influence proportionate to the size of the blaze burning within them.

Passion supplies leaders with an extra edge over the competition. After a championship contest, sports commentators occasionally observe how the winning side 'wanted it more'. All else being equal, the more passionate team typically prevails.

Passion makes the impossible possible. People are wired so

that when their souls ignite, they no longer shrink before the barriers in front of them. That's what makes a passionate leader particularly effective. He or she conceives of possibilities and opportunities for progress whereas dispassionate persons only see roadblocks and reasons why a vision can't be achieved.

“
A person's inner fire propels him or her to excel.
”

Application: Take your temperature

Consult three people (such as a spouse, mentor or trusted co-worker) to give you an honest assessment about the level of passion they see you exhibit toward your job. Inquire about the ways in which your passion manifests itself most evidently. If they consider your passion to be low, then do some soul-searching to recapture enthusiasm for your work. Why did you enter your present profession? What once excited you about work that no longer may be a source of inspiration? In light of your answers to these questions, ponder ways to ratchet up your passion.

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Abbeys and münsters

By Monica O'Neil

My husband Michael and I had the privilege of spending a month in Europe and the UK recently. We visited our fair share of cathedrals, abbeys and münsters. Some readers will be well aware that a münster is a German cathedral. I, however, am newly enlightened to this noun!

Europe has made us think differently about what constitutes 'old'. For two home spun Aussies for whom an old building is something built in the early 1900s, Europe was very, very old.

With the 'oldness' we noticed some things we don't really see around our locale.

In Basel we entered the town's cathedral. In it, and by chance, we found the burial place of Erasmus. You can look up his story if you

are curious. Among the leaders buried in the Basel Münster were many elders and bishops of the church. The Christian church appointed its first bishop to Basel, Justinianus, around 343-346AD. The church in Basel had changed its label, from no label, but Christian to Catholic, to Reformed and back to Catholic over time, but the line of leadership was there for us to see. Elders and bishops took their turn to lead the people of

God. Some are not remembered, some have inscriptions, but no more than a name, others, contribution can be found in historic records.

It made us rethink something else. Each of us takes our place, whether notable or not, in a chain of shepherds, leaders and change agents that is telling the story of God and His people.

Later, in the UK, we spent a day at Whitby, enjoying the beauty of the area where Captain James Cook grew up and completed his apprenticeship. On the hill at Whitby stand the very beautiful ruins of Whitby Abbey — stunning stonework now connected by deep grassy floors and ventilated with open sky.

In the seventh century, Hild founded and developed a thriving community of monks and nuns on the site. The church was

founded as a thanks offering for a victory, which had safeguarded Christianity in the region. Hild's community flourished from 657AD, its foundation, until into the ninth century.

"Men and women, often of noble birth, entered ministry voluntarily, usually giving up their wealth and possessions for a life of 'regular discipline', ruled by the abbess. Sharing the menial tasks of the house, in the kitchen, the garden or working the land, they worshipped together in daily services, but much emphasis was also placed on private prayer and devotion" (from the English Heritage Guidebook Whitby Abbey).

What a remarkable leader she and the fellow abbots and abbesses of her time were.

In the midst of the grandeur, rubble and tombstones, and

even the stained glass, we have been struck by the ordinary, yet extraordinary importance of leading well. What we build will impact the generations which follow, whether it is noted or not. Names may be emblazoned on parapets and carved in stone for some. For most however, our contribution will be in our continuance of the long story of God and his people.

People have lived, laboured and even died for many things. It made us think. Let us live, let us labour, let us lead, and if needed, let us die for things which bear eternal weight.

Monica O'Neil is the Director of Vose Leadership.

events calendar

February

- 8 February Networking mornings begin (Wednesday mornings), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200
- 9 February Pick of the Week (held each Thursday), Central Park Conference Centre, www.citybibleforum.org
- 11 February Passing the Baton, Churchlands Christian Fellowship, 6313 6200
- 18 February Jazz at the Wood, Inglewood Community Church, 0406 073 690
- 18 February Safe Church Workshop, Claremont Baptist Church, 6313 6300
- 19 February National Day of Prayer and Fasting, www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au
- 23 February Is there a God? Panel Discussion, Wesley Uniting Church, www.citybibleforum.org
- 23-26 February Church Planting Summit, Advent Park Campground Maida Vale, 9398 7222
- 25 February Safe Church Workshop, Kalgoorlie Baptist Church, 6313 6300

March

- 2 March World Day of Prayer, Wesley Uniting Church, 9384 4480
- 3 March Toddler Jam Conference, 9370 1135
- 6 March Boards clusters begin (held each Tuesday night), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200
- 8 March International Women's Day
- 13 March Leadership Development clusters begin (held each Tuesday night), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200
- 15 March Leadership Development clusters begin (held each Thursday morning), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200
- 16 March Combined Baptist Youth Service, Lesmurdie Baptist Church, 0403 772 346
- 20 March Chairs clusters begin (held each Tuesday night), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200
- 23-25 March Mighty Mens Conference WA, www.mightymensconference.org.au

24 March

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

24 March

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

25 March

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

April

5-9 April

Easter Camp (ages 16+), BCWA, 6313 6300

14 April

Book sale, Vose Seminary, 6313 6200

22 April

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

28 April

Safe Church Workshop, Riverton Baptist Church, 6313 6300

May

26 May

National Day of Thanksgiving, www.thanksgiving.org.au

Early Childhood Service Coordinator

SOUTH PERTH \$65K - \$80K

The South Perth Baptist Church is launching a Family Centre that provides high quality licensed long day care for up to 50 children.

We are looking for a qualified professional who holds our values to lead the new centre in South Perth. This is a permanent position working Monday to Friday, 38 hours per week.

The successful candidate will be a dynamic and experienced childcare professional committed to early year's education. This person will join our team and support the Pastoral Team Leader. You must have experience in managing early childhood services, and be innovative and creative with a passion for and a sound track record in implementing high quality programs.

Key aims and responsibilities of the position:

- To provide strategic and operational direction to the Team Leader of the Centre regarding the long day care and OSHC as well as any other services as deemed to be included in the Early Childhood Service.
- To lead a professional team for the provision of various children's services to the South Perth community and surrounding areas.
- To work in partnership with families and external organisations in providing children's services that are accessible, affordable, and developmentally and culturally appropriate.
- To be responsible for Health and Safety of employees, children and families attending the service.
- To design and plan service programs for children and families, and prepare funding submissions and reports.

Selection criteria:

- Degree or diploma in early childhood care or education from an Australian tertiary institution. A two year certificate in childcare studies or mothercraft nursing qualification will be considered as well as a degree or diploma in education, social and behavioural sciences.
- Senior first aid certificate.
- WA working with children check.
- Current medical certificate.
- Current police clearance.

Please email your resume to stevezett@me.com
For further information contact Pastor Steve Izett on 0403 194 505



Share Your Will Power

Thinking about your Will?

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



Share an opportunity today!

contribute

Do you have news that you would like to share with the rest of the West Australian church family?

Email your name, phone number and brief description to editor@theadvocate.tv by the 5th of each month.

We would like to know about:

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

the advocate

- | | |
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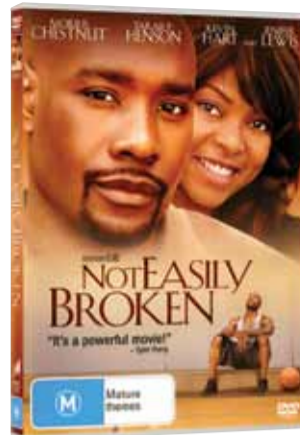


Pluggedin

www.pluggedin.com

Another quantity offering from the people over at Focus on the Family is pluggedin.com, which offers insightful reviews of current media including movies, videos, TV shows, music and games. Each review is presented objectively, simply noting content which may be of concern under the headings of positive elements, spiritual content, sexual content, violent content, crude or profane language, drug and alcohol content and any other negative content. The reviewer then offers a short conclusion. This format is very helpful to parents and carers who need to have more information than the simple ratings system offers. Check out pluggedin.com before you next head to the movies.

watch



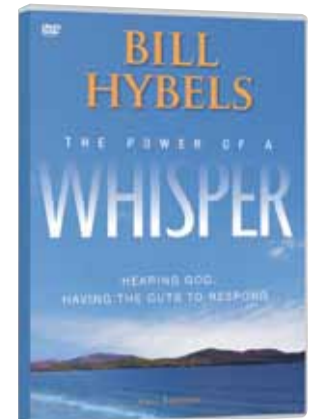
Not Easily Broken

This real life drama depicts your average couple, Dave and Clarice Johnson, and the day-to-day challenges faced by them. After many years of marriage, their affection for each other is severely tried. Following a car accident that temporarily sidelines Clarice, the couple must come to grips with physical temptations, financial pressures and emotional challenges that threaten to undermine their love for each other. Ultimately, they must determine whether or not their vows are easily broken in this soul-stirring film based on the inspirational best-selling novel by T.D. Jakes.



Our People

Horrified by the poverty and suffering most people took for granted in industrial England, and despite resistance from the church and government, lack of financial support and vicious mob attacks, William and his wife did not stop ministering to the social outcasts of the day. Today, General William Booth's Salvation Army operates thousands of evangelistic and social service centres all around the world, changing countless lives with the love of God and the courage of their convictions. This DVD features historian and storytellers, voice artists, period music, over 500 images, rare archival footage and recordings of two of the Booth grandchildren.



The Power of a Whisper

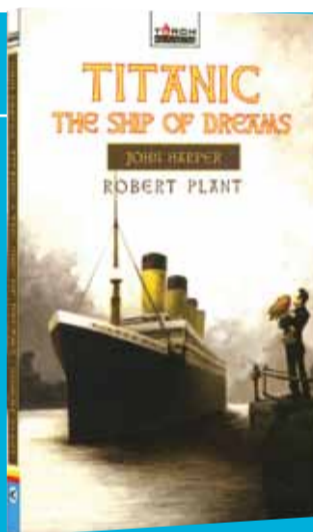
Join bestselling author and Pastor Bill Hybels as he casts the vision for what life could look like when one discerns the voice of God from the other voices that vie for our attention. In this four-session video-based study, your group will learn to navigate life through whispers from God ... whispers that arbitrate key decisions, whispers that rescue you from a dark night of the soul, whispers that spur on growth, whispers that come by way of another person, whispers that open your eyes to the terrible plight people face in this world.

win

Titanic; The Ship Of Dreams

Plant Robert

The ship that would never ever be sunk, a ship of dreams, actually becomes a ship of nightmares as it is swallowed beneath the freezing Atlantic Ocean. Crashing into a massive iceberg caused the tragedy of the Titanic on 14 April 1912. Of the 1,517 people that perished that night, there was at least one man who was focused on saving souls amidst the horror. As the icy waters brought the life of John Harper to a close he still had the energy to call one final person to come to Christ. This is a story of tragedy but it is also a story of faith and courage and eternal hope. A Christ-centered fictitious story about what could have taken place, on board, that fateful night, 100 years ago.



The Advocate, in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win a copy of Titanic; The Ship Of Dreams. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:
What date did the Titanic sink?

Entries close 17 February and all winners will be announced in the March edition of The Advocate.

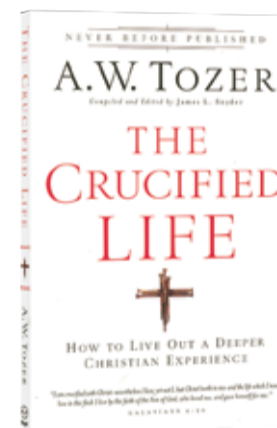
Unsinkable competition winners:
M Barrientos, A Simpson, E Strong

read



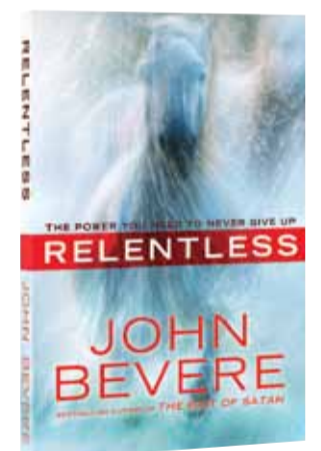
Raising a Soul Surfer

Cheri and Rick Hamilton Raising a Soul Surfer invites readers to journey with the Hamilton's to the lush islands of Hawaii, to experience a worldwide news event, Bethany's shark attack. Told from her parents' point-of-view, witness the many small steps of faith and how God stepped in and gave them a higher purpose. The Hamilton family's adventures started long before Bethany lost her arm and became a pro surfer. A profoundly encouraging true story that has been an inspiration to many.



The Crucified Life

A.W. Tozer The apostle Paul declared in his letter to the Galatians that he had been crucified with Christ; but what does this mean? Is this a claim every believer can and should make? The Crucified Life is a comprehensive exploration of these questions, answered with the deep, biblical thinking for which Tozer was revered. At the heart of the book is a call to believers to follow Christ to the cross and be raised to new life and a call to live and thrive in the crucified life.



Relentless

John Bevere What if disappointments, failures, heartaches and all the inevitable hardships of life are seen for what they truly are: opportunities to overcome circumstances through relentless faith in God's goodness and power? Drawing on his trademark fresh and revealing study of scripture, John Bevere convincingly shows how great men and women in Bible times and today can embrace the 'hard places' in life and, as a result, develop a strong, relentless spirit.

competition

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

Titanic Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.
Website: www.word.com.au
Locations: Morley - 4 Wellington Road, phone 08 9375 3722
Victoria Park - 359 Albany Highway, phone 08 9361 7899



Paddling for men's health

Five West Australian men left Perth in early January to paddle in sea kayaks across Bass Strait from Port Welshpool in Victoria to Tomahawk in Tasmania to raise awareness of men's health issues. The journey took them ten days.

Team leader Matt Coutts, a talented and successful sea kayaking competitor, came up with the idea of the crossing.

Fire fighter Jason Bresanello had connections with Houses of Healing Foundation in Mandurah where the team is working with men with addiction and mental health issues.

The idea of kayaking Bass Strait to raise awareness and funds to help men find freedom from these life controlling issues was a natural connection.

Diesel mechanic Tim Johnson, school teacher Ben Dallin and Scripture Union camping and training worker, Ross Lambert, complete the team. They became friends through Scripture Union camps.

Driving the Nullabor towing a trailer loaded with three sea kayaks was a great conversation starter with people they met en route.

Fully packed, the boats, two double Eco Niizh and a single Mirage 580 loaned to the team by Canoeing Down Under, weigh around 100 kg.

After a delayed start because of bad weather, the men left Port Welshpool on Victoria's south coast on Thursday 12 January and paddled to Refuge Cove.

The treacherous Bass Strait lived up to its reputation. They



The Kayak Bass Strait team at East Cove on Erith Island at the end of the fourth day of their journey from Victoria to Tasmania. Back kayak (L-R), Jason Bresanello and Tim Johnson. Middle kayak Matt Coutts. Front kayak (L-R), Ross Lambert and Ben Dallin.

tackled lumpy seas and 15 to 25 knot southerly winds on the 52 kilometre journey to Hogan Island on Sunday 14 January.

With EPERBs on all of the kayaks, VHF radio and GPS plus maps and compass, electric pumps and solar panels the men were well prepared. Reports confirmed water and weather conditions would remain good, so they decided to push ahead the next day with the 40 kilometre open water stage to Erith Island. They made it in five hours.

Bass Strait is a busy shipping lane with currents up to 5 knots. The thought of a huge container ship emerging unexpectedly from the fog is a good reason for kayakers to keep in radio contact with local shipping.

They met up with a group of five kayakers from Queensland doing a similar trip and spent time with them swapping stories and ideas. About 30 people make the crossing each year.

“It's just so raw out here. You see who you really are.”

The third big crossing took ten hours to paddle 65 kilometres to Roydon Island, just off the west coast of Flinders Island. In 10 to 15 knot side winds they managed to use the

tide to their advantage, drifting 10 km off course to north east, before catching the incoming tides running at four kilometres an hour, all the way back to Roydon Island.

The next night the guys enjoyed the luxury of a shower and a pub meal at Whitemark (population 200) on Flinders Island. After paddling more than 200 km so far, they spent the following day, Wednesday 18 January, resting their tired and blistered bodies.

“It's been an amazing trip so far,” Matt said in phone conversation from Whitemark. “We've been reflecting on the Bible each morning and spending time praying together. There are plenty of opportunities to learn about ourselves.”

“It's just so raw out here. You see who you really are. No pretences. You can't hide. Your life priorities get challenged. Then you get to marvel at God's creation too. It's just amazing — crystal water, coral and beaches.”

The men reached Tasmania on Friday 20 January after an arduous 30 km sea crossing from Clarke Island to Foster Inlet. The following day they paddled the final 20 km up the coast to Tomahawk where they were met by family and friends, completing the journey across Bass Strait in ten days and raising more than \$2,500 for Houses of Healing.

Photo: Kayak Bass Strait

Want something different in 2012?

Get into medical outreach in Africa



We are urgently seeking Doctors, Nurses & Physios to be part of our two volunteer medical teams travelling to Zimbabwe in 2012.

Travel dates: April 17th - May 7th or August 28th - September 17th. Cost: approx \$3,600 all inclusive

If you want to help rural people in struggling communities & enjoy a challenge, then give this a try... For more info contact:

Jason James: 0407996463 or jason.james@cosmoshealth.org

Cosmos HealthCare is a Perth-based Christian international health and development organisation. We send regular short-term medical teams to support our long-term projects in Zimbabwe.



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