

# the advocate

"No human law could ever change God's divine laws," REV. MARGARET COURT [PAGE 6](#)

**In conversation**

Musician and social justice advocate Colin Battersby shares his heart and soul. [PAGE 12>>](#)

When news about the Margaret River bushfires broke at the end of November 2011, most of us were shocked by the radio news reports and the images on television.

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority of WA (FESA) estimated the fires burnt through 3,650 hectares of land, destroyed 32 homes, nine chalets, four sheds and the historic Wallcliffe House.

Margaret River Baptist Church Pastor, Michael Lochore, says he and the people of his church soon found themselves in the 'thick of things'.

"We were planning to take the kids to the beach after school, but in the late morning we saw a heavy cloud of smoke to the north-west."

"We hadn't heard any alerts or alarms, so we didn't know any settlements were in danger, but then my wife Miriam heard on the radio that an evacuation centre had been set up."

“From a foundation of prayer, members of the Margaret River Baptist Church began to mobilise ...”

"The kids were very alarmed when they came home from school – reporting that a teacher, who is a volunteer fire fighter, had left mid-morning and other children's parents had collected them early saying they did not know if their houses were burnt down or not," Michael explained.

It was then that the real work began for Michael as he adopted the roles of both pastor and volunteer coordinator for the church's work in assisting the evacuation centre.



Photo: Dorothy Nicholls

## Bushfire devastation at Margaret River

Isaac's Ridge holiday cottages were burnt to the ground in the Margaret River bushfires in November 2011.

"When I first arrived at the evacuation centre, there were people out the front whose homes had just burnt down and I heard that Isaac's Ridge Cottages, which is managed by Dorothy from our church, was burnt to the ground."

From a foundation of prayer, members of the Margaret River Baptist Church began to mobilise – assisting the community in whatever way they could. Many people were already involved in volunteer groups within the

community and were ready to lend a hand at a moment's notice.

"We were called in to help with the evacuation of Baptistcare Mirambeena, which then turned into doorknocking the associated Silver Vines retirement village to ensure people were prepared to evacuate if necessary and to see if they would need assistance."

"There were many anxious people so we listened to their stories and reassured them."

"I also coordinated various Country Women's Associations and church groups to run the catering of a one-stop shop from the Saturday until it scaled down on the Wednesday," Michael said.

For the Christians at Margaret River Baptist Church, pitching in to provide emergency help is part of who they are.

"We simply are a part of the local community – all about growing in knowing God, sharing Christ and caring for people."

## Chalets destroyed

**On 23 November 2011 Isaac's Ridge holiday cottages were burnt to the ground in the Margaret River bushfires.**

Peter and Dorothy Nicholls from Margaret River Baptist Church are part-owners of the holiday cottages, and are unsure if they will ever be back in business.

"Our children rang to ask what they should do about the flames they could see on the ridge behind our house – so I went home to see what was happening and the road back to Isaac's Ridge was closed behind me." Dorothy explained.

"We were escorted out through a corridor of burning trees by police and fire fighters just before 10pm that night. We returned four days later to see if we still had a house."

The Nicholls' are counting

their blessings – their home did survive.

"God has always been much better to us than we have deserved," Dorothy said.

"That our house survived was a miracle right there."

"We are a bit like the woman in the parable who found the coin that she thought was lost."

"Jesus blesses us every day with new mercies and new opportunities to give and receive from others."



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“We value all people inside and outside the family of God.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES WESTERN AUSTRALIA





**Dr Marc Chan**

Dr Marc Chan looks after Cross Cultural and Indigenous Ministries for Baptist Churches Western Australia.

## Hope in the midst of hopelessness

For many of us, Christmas is all about meals with family and friends, about gifts to one another and about holidays. It is a time when we forget about diet, moderation and finance. When we wake up on Boxing Day, we suddenly realise that our cholesterol level is in serious danger of going over the safe limit and our credit card balance is definitely over the limit.

For many others, Christmas is a time of loneliness and not much to eat – let alone indulge. I am talking about those migrants and refugees who have come to this country recently to try and rebuild their lives here. Reality has set in as the dream of an “easier” life in the lucky country dissipates.

High hopes are giving way to desperation as it becomes clear that jobs are not easy to come by, and life here is not as easy as many think it is while living overseas.

In the midst of this shattered dream, hope is brought back by a community – the church

community. For many people groups coming to settle here, the only support structure that surrounds them is the church community – hope in the midst of hopelessness.

In many of these churches, the leadership teams have made the community a place where the new migrants and refugees are taken care of right from the time they step out of the airport. They are surrounded by the love of a community that transmits to them the love of Christ – not the shallow one the world generally gives, but the deep and generous love we see right through the life of Jesus.

I have seen love gifts

being presented to families, accommodation being offered and the warmest of welcomes to those who have recently arrived from refugee camps – all of these during a church service. Is this not what Christmas is all about – a community gathering around those in need of help and support?

This is a powerful expression of the message of Christmas and it does not happen only for a specific day – it happens right through the year. This is the hope that church communities can bring to change the hopelessness that is prevailing around us.

Have a most blessed Christmas ... all year.



**Dr Brian Harris**

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

## And in the chaos, God ...

Did you get your fair share of nativity plays this Christmas season? I certainly enjoyed watching a host of little ankle biters wend their way through improbable presentations of pregnant Marys, dazzling angels, lofty wise men and the rest of the Christmas crew.

It was the unscripted moments that produced the greatest mirth – the accusatory cry of a four year old, “That’s not Jesus. That’s Megan’s doll.” Or the sheep who would have preferred to be an angel and kept flapping imaginary wings rather than utter a simple ‘baa’.

I rather like nativity plays that don’t stick to plan. After all,

nothing in the original run was as would have been imagined. I wonder what Mary thought after being told she would be the mother of God. It would have been understandable if she started to contemplate a future of luxury and delight.

The reality was very different. You know the story. A heavily pregnant Mary makes the lengthy

journey to Bethlehem as a result of a government census. Blissfully unaware that his bureaucratic muscle flexing was really the result of another’s prompting, Caesar Augustus ensures the Christ child is born in the place predicted by the prophets. I wonder what Mary thought of the journey. I imagine she reflected that this wasn’t exactly what she had in mind after the angel departed.

Worse was to follow. An inhospitable Bethlehem closes its doors to Mary and Joseph. The Messiah is born in a stable – his first cradle is a feeding trough for cattle. Who would have thought

to locate the Messiah here? A yet nastier turn follows. The despotic Herod, panicking at the prospect of the birth of an alternate leader, orders the execution of all babies in the vicinity of Bethlehem. The couple plus child narrowly escape to Egypt. So not what Mary would have had in mind.

That first Christmas – nothing ran to script. But with the wisdom of hindsight, we look back and say, ‘and in the chaos, God’. Some things don’t change. Somewhere, even in your chaos, God is at work.

## letters to the editor

Dear Editor

In *The Advocate* December 2011 ‘letters to the editor’ page, Harry Kloppenburg questions why some Christian leaders express deep concern for children living in poverty or trapped in slavery, yet do not make similar statements about people’s eternal destinies. Given the leaders he refers to are heads of Christian aid agencies it’s not surprising that the issues they speak to publicly are poverty and oppression, just as I would expect the head of Evangelism Explosion to speak to evangelistic concerns. As followers of Jesus we are called to the pursuit of justice, acts of service and proclamation of the gospel and it is not necessary to play one off against the other.

Scott Higgins  
Director of Community Engagement  
Baptist World Aid Australia

Dear Editor

I was *fascinated* reading Mr Kloppenburg’s letter in *The Advocate* December 2011. Mr Kloppenburg raised the concern that Tim Hanna and Tim Costello have claimed to lose sleep over humanitarian issues rather than people’s “souls going to hell”. As Christians, we need to shed ‘real’ tears over the fate of the lost multitudes because evangelism that is not driven by compassion is politics, not spirituality.

Ellen Bedells

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## 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](mailto:editor@theadvocate.tv) by the 10th of each month.



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# Christmas at the Fair



Photo: Emily Hepton

The tug of war competition at Maida Vale Baptist Churches Christmas at the Fair between Maida Vale Scout Group and the Kalamunda SES.

Thousands of people attended Maida Vale Baptist Church's fourth annual Christmas at the Fair at Range View Park in High Wycombe in December.

At the event people not only had the opportunity to participate in family activities such as the tug of war, but were inspired by the team of young cheerleaders who showed off their skills ahead of competing in the USA. There was something for everyone including the delightful sounds of

Christmas carols from the Silver Threads brass band.

With community rivalry aplenty, the tug of war challenge commenced with the boys from the Maida Vale Scout Group challenging the Kalamunda SES team. As the competition heated up, the local Member of Parliament joined in when a men's team challenged a women's team for supremacy of the rope.

Event coordinator, Karen Smith says Christmas at the Fair is an opportunity for the church to discover where Jesus is at work in the community and join Him in what He is doing.

"We see this as our gift to the community."

About 30 community groups participated in the event providing food stalls, displays, rides and presentations.

"We encourage the whole family to participate in a range of different activities at a minimal cost," Mrs Smith said.

Christmas at the Fair is put on by the church with financial contributions from the Shire of Kalamunda and a number of community organisations and businesses.

"One of the key themes for Christmas at the Fair is participation, and every opportunity is provided for people to become involved, rather than just being entertained."

Activities included woodwork, mural painting, circus skills, crafts, and giant board games. The local Scout group operated a slingshot and the Armadale Police and Community Youth Centre set up their eight metre high climbing wall.

This really was a community event with the Australian Breastfeeding Association offering support to mums, and various school parents and citizens' associations and community groups including Lions and Soropromists providing refreshments.

Organisers say the camel rides have been a popular part of the Fair since it started, while in

## \$1.2m for Africa

The famine crisis in the Horn of Africa has affected over 13 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

The effects of the drought have been exacerbated by conflict and insecurity, which looks likely to continue for many months to come.

In response to the call for help, Baptist World Aid Australia, launched the East Africa Famine Appeal, which ran until the end of November last year. The appeal raised over \$990,000 in donations from individuals and Baptist churches across Australia. When combined with the money received from an Australian Government grant, over \$1.2 million will go towards projects to help suffering families and to build refugee accommodations.

Baptist World Aid Australia is working with Catholic Relief Services and Ukamba Christian Community Services to help those suffering in the drought and famine-ravaged areas.

recent years the donkey cart rides and train rides have captured the imagination of smaller children.

"During the course of the event the Church's Toddler Jam group got mums and toddlers involved in music and dance, and a group from the church organised games for the children."

Christmas at the Fair happens on the first Sunday of December each year. This year more than 50 volunteers from Maida Vale Baptist Church were involved in the planning and organisation of the event – a sign of their ongoing commitment to building a sense of community in the place where they live.

## MIGHTY MENS CONFERENCE WA



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# ESL help from WA teachers

English language teachers at the Global Education Centers (GEC) in Bengkulu city, Sumatra, Indonesia, have very limited options for professional development to hone their teaching skills. Kath Moore (Perth Baptist Church) and Dawn Lindsay (Parkerville Baptist Church) travelled to the provincial city in early December to help.

GEC Bengkulu has 90 students and is looking to open two more centres, one in the inland mountain town of Curup, the cultural centre of the Rejang people, and a second centre in Bengkulu city.

Currently the staff include four American and nine Indonesian teachers. All have some form of international English as a Second Language (ESL) qualification, but no opportunities to develop their teaching skills.

Team leader Joshua Keggs contacted Jill Birt, the Rejang Advocate based in Perth, to ask for help.

A network of churches across Australia, including several Baptist churches in Western Australia, continue to pray for the Rejang people.

A casual conversation with Dawn sparked the idea of sending experienced trainers from Perth.

Dawn educates teachers in Western Australia, fine-tuning their presentation skills and ensuring teachers relate well to their students as well as having the knowledge they need to teach. She currently works with Edith Cowan University.

With practical experience training teachers in Bangladesh,

Nepal and Indonesia as well as 42 years as a teacher, Dawn is well prepared for the task in Sumatra.

Kath has extensive experience teaching ESL in Perth. She was a primary school teacher for about 40 years and spent several years heading the ESL team at a regional office of the WA Department of Education.

"We're very excited about going," Kath said. "I've been collecting teaching materials for weeks and thinking how we can best help."

Both women are convinced they need to watch the teachers in action for the first couple of days before focusing the training on some issues that will make the biggest impact to the teachers and their students.

"We won't be able to bring major changes," Dawn said. "But we should be able to help them fine tune some things that will make a difference."

"They will already have a handbag of skills they use in teaching. It would be wonderful



Photo: Jill Birt

Kath Moore (left) and Dawn Lindsay left Perth in early December to train ESL teachers for eight days in Bengkulu Province, Indonesia.

if that had become a basket full of skills by the time we leave."

The women funded their travel costs themselves. Parkerville Baptist Church supplied \$2,500 for other expenses including teaching materials.

Dawn and Kath carried about nine kilos of books for the ESL teachers and a further eight kilos of children's books for a new community library at Curup. The library is part of the Cinta Baca (Love Reading) project the Bengkulu team is involved with.

## Mount Barker Community Resource Centre opens



Photo: Ross Daniels

Plantagenet Shire President, Ken Clements, officially opened the Mount Barker Community Resource Centre with Rob Graham (Chairman MBCRC board).

The opening of the Mount Barker Community Resource Centre (MBCRC) by Plantagenet Shire President, Ken Clements on 18 November was a community celebration after more than five years of hard work.

Rob Graham, member of Mount Barker Baptist Church and Chairman of the MBCRC Board welcomed the invited guests and people from the community to the official opening ceremony. He described how the idea of the MBCRC developed from an 'ideas fest' at a Mount Barker Baptist Church meeting in 2002.

Today the Mount Barker Baptist Church meets at the MBCRC, having sold their

church building and invested the proceeds in the development project.

The entire project has cost more than \$2 million. It was funded through several government and not-for-profit grants with strong support of the project from Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA).

Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries at BCWA, praised the collaborative relationship

between the Church and the Plantagenet Shire, saying it was a great model for future collaborations in other areas. He highlighted the work of the Board and the strong leadership given by BCWA's Ross Daniels, the Project Manager.

Celia Loot, Manager, Regional Co-ordination and Development, from the Community Resource Centre Network division of the Government Department of Rural Development Lands, said the MBCRC could be a 'flagship' of the network of more than 100 community resource centres in the state.

### digital church

23/11/2011  
Kerry Bural

[www.resonateordie.com](http://www.resonateordie.com)

"... be thankful for the endless blessings God has given us: family, homes, jobs. As Christ followers, we have so much more to be thankful for than material possessions."

01/12/11  
Rodney Olsen

[www.rodneynelsen.net](http://www.rodneynelsen.net)

"If we're still celebrating the life of someone born around 2,000 years ago, we've got to assume that they lived a remarkable life."

01/12/11  
Perry Noble

[www.perrynoble.com](http://www.perrynoble.com)

"I believe ... that the local church is the hope of the world! Jesus established her, died for her and spent a lot of time in the Bible speaking to her! If Jesus says the church is important ... then it's important!"

04/12/11  
Jeff Munroe

[www.thinkchristian.net](http://www.thinkchristian.net)

"... While feelings come and go, a commitment to love patiently endures, which is countercultural in our society."

05/12/11  
Michael Hyatt

[www.michaelhyatt.com](http://www.michaelhyatt.com)

"... When we say we are trying we don't really have to do anything. It also provides us with an excuse for why we didn't accomplish the outcome we say we want ... you either do something or you don't do it. Trying is really the same as not doing it. It just makes it easier for us to let ourselves off the hook when we fail."

### briefs

#### Baptism

Jeffery O'Leary was baptised on 27 November 2011 at Rockingham Baptist Church.

#### Marriage

Daniel McGrechan and Erika Outred were married at Parkerville Baptist Church on 3 December 2011.

#### Service medal

Congratulations to Mrs Barbara Prangnell (Woodvale Baptist Church and Girls Brigade Captain at North Beach Baptist Church) who was awarded the West Australian volunteer service medal in early December 2011 for services to Girls Brigade WA.

#### Pastoral changes

David Kelly has been appointed as the new interim Pastor at Ellenbrook Baptist Church. Ross Norling has been appointed as the new Pastor at Hedland Baptist Church. Wayne Field concludes ministry at Australind Baptist Church at the end of January. Douglas Kuhl has concluded his ministry at Tom Price Baptist Church. Steve Smith has concluded his interim role as Pastor at South Perth Baptist Church and has commenced as interim Pastor at Tom Price Baptist Church. Michael Fischer concluded at Melville Baptist Church on 25 December 2011.

# Free jazz at Inglewood



Photo: Leigh Sutcliffe

Sixth Ave Jazz, one of the bands in the line-up for Jazz at the Wood 2011.

About three years ago the pastoral team from Inglewood Community Church (ICC) were sitting around an outside table at Oriental Secrets – the Cafe at the Inglewood Civic Centre complex at the corner of Beaufort Street and Tenth Avenue.

One of the team casually shared that he could picture the same surroundings on a balmy spring or summer evening, with a jazz band playing and people seating on the grassed area, relaxing and enjoying the ambiance.

That was the birth of Jazz at the Wood.

It was agreed, the vision was inspired, and the team started planning the event and booking

a band to play. Eventually it was agreed there was enough talent within the ICC's own groups of musicians, vocalists and live sound crew to put on a professional show. Jazz at the Wood is now in its third season.

Event Manager, Michael D'Andrea says Jazz at the Wood is all about creating a family-friendly free music event for the local community.

"People can stroll down to the Inglewood Civic Centre for a pleasant evening, have some great food and enjoy listening to some awesome musicians play," Mr D'Andrea explained.

"There's nothing particularly religious about it and it's quite a comfortable atmosphere for Christians to share with non church-going friends," he said.

Jazz at the Wood is put on by the Inglewood Community Church with a little financial support towards event costs from the City of Stirling.

Sixth Ave Jazz guitarist and backing vocalist, Eliot Vlatko says the musicians and vocalists from a variety of backgrounds.

"We're a six-piece band

which expands to seven with the inclusion of Josiah who joins us on keyboards from the other band on the bill, Tripad."

"Some of us have played in local pub rock and blues bands for a long time, performing professionally and semi-professionally, while others have come from the 'pure pedigree' of Church singing for many years before stepping out to front Sixth Ave Jazz," Eliot explained.

The result is a tight rhythm section and four-part vocal harmony approach to jazz standards, pop numbers with jazz treatments and originals with a jazz flavour.

A real surprise at Jazz at the Wood 2011 is the discovery of

Tripad – three brothers: Josiah (17), Ezekiel (15) and Ezra (11).

"Don't worry about their age – these guys have definitely got it! They sound like they've been playing jazz for decades," Eliot pointed out.

"There are no musical stutters, glitches or hiccups from this terrifically talented trio – just a stream of smooth, grooving jazz numbers, rolling out effortlessly from their fingertips."

There are two more Jazz at the Wood shows this season, Saturday 18 February and Saturday 24 March at the Inglewood Civic Centre from 7pm.

## New ABM director

**The Australian Baptist Ministries (ABM) National Council has appointed Rev. Keith Jobberns as its new Director.**

Keith steps down from his position as General Director of Global Interaction to take up his new post, replacing outgoing ABM Director Brian Winslade.

Baptist Ministries National Chair, Rev. Dr John Beasy says the new Director was appointed following a long period of prayer and discernment.

"The National Council task group actively engaged in a candidate search process, and was unanimous in their recommendation of Keith to the Council."

"His new role comprises 0.6 Crossover ministry and 0.4 ABM general functions," John said.

Former ABM Director Rev.

Brian Winslade stepped down from the role at the end of March 2011 and Keith begins his initial three year tenure in April.

John said Keith will bring a wealth of ministry experience both at a national and international level.

"Keith has a sound grasp of working collaboratively with state unions and the range of associated state and national agencies and ministries."

"Importantly, he has a passion for sharing the good news of Jesus at local, national and international levels, which is at the heart of the Crossover ministry."

Keith is widely recognised for his experience in understanding the missional challenges that he will likely face, and brings valuable experience from his work at Global Interaction with him to the job.

## Street chaplains at the ready

**When the telephone rang asking for help, three of Perth's volunteer street chaplains who were on duty that night weren't quite sure what they would be getting into.**

They were ready for anything, and made the trip to Royal Perth Hospital's emergency department, as requested.

The police sergeant who'd made the call explained that a teenage girl had tried to end her life. She had jumped off the Sky Bridge at King's Park and survived the fall.

The street chaplains were asked if they would speak with the mother and boyfriend of the injured girl.

"Without hesitation the chaplains acted in a thoroughly professional manner and were of great assistance to myself and

the family," the police sergeant explained.

"They showed understanding, care and compassion, allowing me the time I needed to continue with my investigation into what had happened."

“... the chaplains acted in a thoroughly professional manner and were of great assistance ...”

The sergeant noted at one stage one of the chaplains was interrupted by a very rude triage nurse.

"She was very direct and abrupt in her conversation with the chaplain, but I was very impressed by how the chaplain handled the situation, remaining calm and not getting flustered in any way."

Director of Street Chaplains, Garth Eichhorn is encouraged the police and other agencies such as the Department of Child Protection, Nyoongar Patrol and Drug Arm value the work of the chaplains.

"The street chaplains have witness to such a variety of people including the police, homeless, young adults, ethnic people and people of other faiths. This is really front edge ministry," Mr Eichhorn said.

# No to same sex marriage

As the national debate over same sex marriage continues to polarise people on both sides of the argument, Christians are being called to stand firm against moves to legalise such unions.

Late last year the homosexual Civil Union Bill passed the Queensland Parliament. One who was not happy with that outcome was the sister of former Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd.

Lorée Rudd vowed to keep on fighting for Christian principals by making her feelings known at the Australian Labor Party (ALP) National Conference last December.

"Homosexual civil unions and marriage were commonplace in Rome, the centre of the powerful Roman Empire that dominated the homeland of Jesus and His early church."

"Jewish law, however, forbade homosexual acts," Ms Rudd pointed out.

Ms Rudd says she cares deeply about the future of the ALP, the church and society.

"In the past I have highlighted the force of intimidation aimed at those who spoke out against homosexual marriage."

"Well we are speaking out because God's laws of love demand it – for Labor and all political parties, for our nation and its people," she said.

Ms Rudd warns any political party that dismantles the laws of God will receive correction.

Serious words, but no less powerful here in Western Australia where tennis legend Rev. Margaret Court has also been vocal against the push to legalise same sex marriage.

Ms Court believes this is a fight to protect families.

"No human law could ever change God's divine laws."

"Politically correct education has masterfully escorted homosexuality out from behind closed doors, into the

community openly and now is aggressively demanding marriage rights that are not theirs to take," she said.

Ms Court believes society is best served by strong family units including a mum, dad and children; however, she acknowledges it is not a perfect world.

"Families are often dysfunctional and despite the fact the role models may be distorted and even severely flawed, there is no reason to put forward alternative, unhealthy, unnatural unions as some form of substitute."

"No amount of legislation or political point-scoring can ever take out of the human heart the knowledge that in the beginning God created them male and female, and provided each with a unique sexual function to bring forth new life," she said.

As those who continue to speak out against same sex marriage get louder, the silent fight is also moving ahead.

The Australian Marriage Forum also attended the ALP National Conference in December – to deliver a petition containing over 100,000 signatures from people supporting the current definition of marriage.



Jim Wallace from the Australian Christian Lobby addresses ALP Conference delegates who support marriage being between a man and woman whilst Tim Cannon, spokesman for the Australian Marriage Forum holds the petition.

Photo: Australian Marriage Forum

## Partnership blooms for Vose



Neil Anderson (far right back) and others of the group he travelled with to Myanmar with leaders of the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology.

Neil Anderson, Director of Vose Mission, visited Myanmar with Stuart Brooking, Executive Director, Overseas Council Australia (OCA) in November 2011 looking for opportunities for Vose Seminary to partner with Burmese Christians.

The OCA brokers partnerships for theological training in countries around the world.

The Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST) is one of the leading evangelical colleges in Myanmar with students from many denominations. Its focus is to provide graduate programs for church leaders in Myanmar so they don't have to leave the country to get good training.

"OCA is pleased to help Vose Seminary explore whether there may be some value adding to both colleges by developing a relationship," Stuart said.

"We had some very positive meetings," Neil said. "There could be options for staff from Vose to teach in Myanmar and staff from MEGST to come to Vose."

Students from Vose may have the opportunity to study selected course material in Myanmar.

Doctoral students from MEGST would be invited to come to Vose to prepare their research subjects.

Staff from Myanmar would have the opportunity to spend their sabbatical time continuing study or research at Vose.

For Vose students the opportunity to explore Burmese culture while attending MEGST would have significant benefits for their own theological study.

"It's exciting to see there are so many ways we can work," Neil said. "Partnerships don't just refer to bank transfers. There are so many ways we can support theological training in Myanmar."

## briefs

### Homeless at risk

The Rutherford Institute in the USA has come to the defence of several churches in Waynesboro, Virginia whose efforts to provide temporary thermal shelters for the homeless are being hindered by local government officials. The Institute says Waynesboro Zoning Board is erroneously interpreting its ordinances to require churches to apply for permits to provide temporary shelter to the homeless, and is even excluding some churches from applying for permits at all. Rutherford Institute president, John Whitehead says attorneys have warned city officials their actions are unconstitutional. "Churches

have a biblical mandate to care for the needy and downtrodden, and should be supported – not hindered – in their efforts to do so," he said.

### New book

Dr John Olley, Vose Seminary Research fellow, recently published a new book, *The Message of Kings*, is an exposition of the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Kings. It is part of the popular *The Bible Speaks Today Old Testament* series. Dr Olley expects the book will be useful for many people who want to learn more about how the narrative in *Kings* fits into the history that has shaped, and will continue

to shape, the faith and life of Christian believers.

### Arrest in Kashmir

A Christian bishop in India is denying claims that a pastor 'lured' Muslims to Christianity in Jammu and Kashmir by offering money. Bishop Pradeep Kumar Samantaroy of the Church of North India has called for the release of Rev. Chander Mani Khanna, Pastor of All Saints Church in Srinagar who was arrested late last year. The church leader said the time had come for the church to speak up against the discriminatory action by authorities in India's Kashmir Valley.

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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.



quality ♦ compassion ♦ empowerment

# Crisis for East Africa

World Vision Ambassadors Hugh Jackman and Deborra-Lee Furness are thanking Australians for their generosity after throwing their weight behind the Federal Government's dollar-matching donation scheme in 2011.

The appeal, which ended at the end of November 2011, meant anyone who donated would be able to help twice as many drought-stricken families in East Africa.

World Vision ran the two-month long appeal in response to the emergency which developed throughout 2011. Staff on the ground in East Africa hoped to assist 2.2 million people by the end of 2011.

Hugh and Deborra-Lee initially appealed for help from Australians from New York at the opening of their new social business, Laughing Man, selling coffees, teas and chocolates. The couple have pledged all of the proceeds from Laughing Man to charity and one of the major recipients will be World Vision.

"There are so many children in the world that will literally die from malnutrition if they don't get help urgently," Deborra-Lee said.

"Aussies are generous and it's fantastic they felt encouraged to donate, knowing that their \$20, or \$50, or \$100 would be matched by the government."

Close to \$1.8 million was raised after the Government's 'dollar-for-dollar' announcement was made in October. World Vision raised almost \$5.4 million for the organisation's East Africa Appeal launched in June 2011.

The overwhelming response has meant the delivery of food, nutrition and healthcare, water and sanitation development programs and training on livelihoods and agriculture to affected people.

World Vision has been responding to this crisis for almost a year and has so far assisted 1.4 million people requiring urgent assistance in the drought-stricken areas of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. The United Nations places the total number of people in need of help at 13.3 million.

Hugh and Deborra-Lee saw the plight of people in Ethiopia first hand during a visit there two years ago. That trip gave them the inspiration for the new social business.

"Laughing Man actually began from the trip we took to Ethiopia," Hugh explained.

"We had a chance to live and work on a coffee farm there with a man named Dukale and that laid the seed for what we have today — a coffee, tea and chocolate business where all the proceeds go to charity."

"I'm proud to say that one of the main recipients is World Vision, who is aiming to help more than 2.5 million people in the three most affected countries of East Africa," he said.



Photo: World Vision Australia

Millions of East Africans have benefited from the Federal Government's dollar-matching donation scheme.

## SoundBytes Bible launched



Scripture Union's SoundBytes Bible pack.

Scripture Union Australia (SU) has taken another step further along the hi-tech highway with the launch of its new SoundBytes Bible reading guide, designed to help young people engage with God.

SU describes SoundBytes as a ground-breaking electronic Bible reading guide that delivers the Bible in bite-sized pieces combining audio with an ebook and accompanying booklet.

According to SoundBytes

Project Manager, Leanne Hald, the new product helps teach young people about God and the Bible in a way that's fun.

"We have recognised the need for something new and fresh to appeal to children using digital

technologies and SoundBytes is the result."

"It is designed to meet them where they are at and bring the Bible to them in a way that is relevant and exciting," Ms Hald said.

SoundByte seems to be striking a chord with users so far and parents are happy their children are starting to engage with the Word of God more frequently.

SoundBytes comes in the form of a pack which contains 'DJ' — a USB flash drive designed a little like an animation character — loaded with audio Bible material. The user can load it into their computer, mobile phone, iPod or MP3 player.

"We've also bundled an ebook with the audio so users can read along or print out the daily material if they want to," Ms Hald explained.

For more information about SoundBytes, visit [www.soundbytes.org.au](http://www.soundbytes.org.au).

## Baptists beaten in home

A gang of men have attacked the leaders of a Baptist house church network near Hanoi, leaving one pastor unconscious and seriously injuring several others, including women and teenage children.

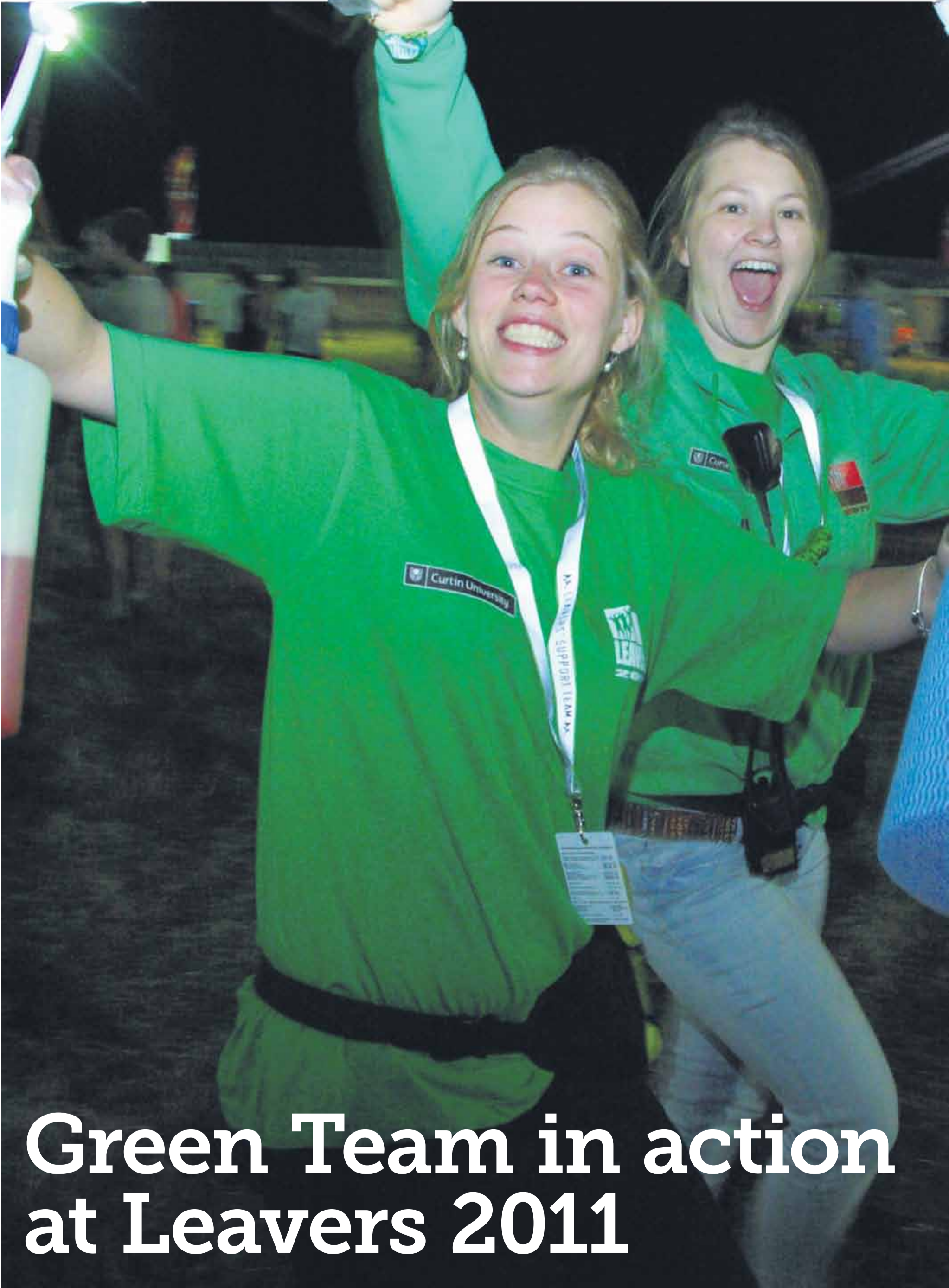
Leaders of the Agape Baptist Church were participating in a spiritual renewal meeting at the home of Pastor Nguyen Danh Chau in the My Duc district of Vietnam, when the gang broke in bashing those present.

More than a dozen participants were seriously injured and the gang warned Nguyen Danh Chau they would kill him if he continued gathering Christians. The seriously injured included five male pastors, four female pastors, other church leaders, and several of the leaders' teenage children.

The worst wounded was left unconscious for hours and suffered severe chest, stomach and head pain. One pastor's wife was left unable to walk and function normally following the attack in which she was kicked in the stomach and groin. Others reported feeling weak from loss of blood.

"All they could do was weep and I also could not prevent my tears from flowing," the denomination's top leader, Nguyen Cong Thanh, said after visiting the victims.

"Why do they gratuitously beat servants of the Lord like this — what crime have they committed?"



# Green Team in action at Leavers 2011





In November 2004, the holiday resort town of Dunsborough was bombarded by school leaving teenagers who ran amok. There were riots causing major damage to people and property, numerous assaults and arrests.

We have come to know this event as 'Leavers' – a rite of passage for young people finishing their final year of high school. More and more students completing Year 12 are attending Leavers events and that's where the Leavers' Green Team step in.

Coordinated and run by Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) with support from various community groups and many individuals. These groups work together each year in providing a safer environment for Leavers to celebrate.

"The volunteers are aged 18 or over and work closely with Leavers WA, WA police, local shires, health and other non-government organisations like Drug ARM, Red Frog, Royal Life Saving, WA AIDS and Australian Red Cross – Save.A.Mate," Leavers Zone Manager, Erik Olsen explained.

A significant amount of calm has returned to Dunsborough since the introduction of a 'Management by Event' program in 2005. The program was established to combat the negative effects of the Leavers gathering from the year before and was an immediate success.

"Despite increased numbers of Leavers participating, the program has resulted in an over 90 percent drop in the number of arrests, reduced hospital admissions and major reductions in clean up costs," Mr Olsen said.

Most local people used to dread the end of the school year, when the inevitable onslaught of celebrating high school graduates would converge on their town. In the years since 'The Leavers Entertainment Zone' has been in operation, there has been a marked change in the perception of local

residents. Many say they no longer notice a negative impact from the presence of the Leavers visiting Dunsborough.

The initial programs success was immediate – a model for operating a similar one at Rottnest Island.

So what is it the volunteers actually do at Leavers? They manage an area that has become known as 'The Zone' which, for Dunsborough, is set up in a paddock out of town.

It's a place set up for Leavers to gather and catch up with mates. People who have had too much to drink can also be taken care of.

Volunteer Coordinator for the Green Team, Michelle Smoker says there were more volunteers on hand this year than previous years and they worked very hard to serve the Leavers who came to The Zone.

"We had a live band and DJ every night, silent disco, a range of rides, pamper tent, play station, photo booth and a chill-out lounge area with acoustic music."

"It was a fun and safe place for Leavers to party with their friends," Michelle said.

Most of Michelle's work involves administration and training of Green Team volunteers long before the Leavers arrive.

"There are applications to process; I help with recruitment, briefing and debriefing of team leaders who look after The Zone areas."

"During the week of leavers, I oversee the volunteers and support them with anything they need, dealing with the issues and so on," Michelle explained.

"I am so thankful to all the Green Team volunteers. They did an amazing job and had such a

**Life inside The Zone**

She was drunk, dancing in the sauna tent (the one which plays doof-doof music) and it wasn't long before she fell over. I went to help her up. "I'm fine," she slurred. I felt she might need to tie down. I ushered her out of the tent into the fresh air where I asked if she needed to lay down, and she gratefully admitted it might make her feel better.

A male friend had followed us out of the tent and I asked him if he would take his friend over to the pamper tent where there were beanbags and she could really her friend, but a guy who might not have had the best intentions for a girl who couldn't exercise proper judgement. So, I said I would take her there myself, which turned out to be the right choice. The young fellow walked off briskly without saying a word to his supposed friend.

While walking her over to where she could rest, I told her to not worry, she'd be feeling better soon, and that I'd seen a lot worse. She asked me to tell her the worst I'd seen, which lightened her up a bit to know she was in pretty good shape compared to the antics of other Leavers. Once I got her to the pamper tent, one of their Green Team members came over, asked her name and made her comfortable.

It was a great feeling to know that girl was in safe hands, and the people looking after her truly cared for her wellbeing.

This is a typical five minutes in The Zone at Leavers 2011.

Green Team Volunteer

**Leavers reflections**

I have recently come home from a very memorable Leavers 2011.

I really want to thank all the Green Team volunteers at The Zone for their hard work and organisation in getting the place up and running for this year's Leavers.

I was a Leaver this year and now I feel as though I would like to help future Leavers experience the kind of celebrations I did. I would love to join the Green Team volunteers next year.

I am only 17, but will complete my working with children check soon, so I can continue to coach and mentor the touch rugby squad at my previous school.

I definitely want to be a Green Team member in 2012.

Thanks.

2011 Leaver

servant heart, happy to help in whatever area was needed."

"It's also great to see so many people from different support services and government agencies working so well together in pulling off such a huge event like Leavers Week."

As many as 7,000 Leavers a night turned up at The Zone so help is always welcomed.

For more information visit [www.greenteamwa.org.au](http://www.greenteamwa.org.au).

— AGE 16  
I SAY 'YES' TO JESUS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

— AGE 18  
I TAKE A SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP TO ZIMBABWE.  
IT CHANGES EVERYTHING.

— AGE 21  
FINISH MY TEACHING DEGREE.

— AGE 25  
I THINK GOD MIGHT BE CALLING ME BACK TO AFRICA...  
FOR A LONG TIME.

— AGE 27  
I ENROL AT VOSE SEMINARY AND BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY  
OF LEARNING, GROWTH, EQUIPPING AND DISCOVERING  
JESUS IN COMMUNITY. PRETTY EXCITED...


— AGE 30  
WHAT'S NEXT, LORD?

## At Vose Seminary, no two stories are the same.

People join us to learn more about Jesus and The 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.

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**come, grow**

# Summit inspires hundreds



Photo: Karen Wilson

Global Leadership delegates at the Myanmar Summit in Chicago, USA.

The Global Leadership Summit (GLS) is a leadership training event held in Chicago, USA each August and then presented via DVD and live satellite worship to over 220 cities around the world.

The training is translated into 35 languages and then rolled out in more than 74 countries between September and December each year.

GLS Executive Director Asia, Karen Wilson, said this year's summit in Myanmar was arranged following a request from a couple who have been working in the country for 14 years.

When she arrived in Myanmar for the event she was shocked by what she saw.

"On one particular day of the summit there were people lined up at 8am to get into the hotel conference room and we had to open the doors early to let everyone in," Karen said.

"Hundreds were waiting and more seats had to be put out to add to the already 880 set up the day before."

"At the morning break there were a thousand people wall-to-wall, not counting the volunteers, and we had to turn away about 200 more people because there just wasn't room for them," she said.

Conference organisers have revealed it wasn't possible to take breaks or stop for lunch because the owners of the hotel were concerned the government would come and shut the event down. A 26 year veteran pastor said in all the time he'd worked in Myanmar, he had never seen such a large Christian gathering for a conference.

"The team were a little apprehensive about generating

too much attention," Karen admitted.

Instead of taking breaks away from the conference facility, delegates were served food and refreshments in their seats throughout the day.

A lunchtime Gospel Magic show entertained the crowd and there was a special surprise for some who attended.

“

Myanmar is the poorest nation in Asia, but the people are hungry and desperate for the teaching ...

”

"During the show, they honoured the widows in the audience and gave them their registration fee back," Karen exclaimed.

"Just a few dollars but what an amazing act of Christian charity."

There's excitement about the impact the GLS is having on Myanmar and the steering committee is already looking to next year — and the possibility of hiring a stadium for the Summit.

"Myanmar is the poorest nation in Asia, but the people are hungry and desperate for the teaching, they are engaged and drinking in every word," Karen said.

## A time to give thanks



Photo: National Day of Thanksgiving

Presentation of thank you certificates at the National Day of Thanksgiving ceremony 2010.

"Churches in some 1,600 communities across the nation celebrate the day, many making it the central focus of their outreach ministry to their community," Mr Pickering said.

This year's National Day of Thanksgiving will focus on thanking and honouring people in local government, from elected councillors, office management and personnel, as well as outdoor staff and those contracted by councils to do things such as rubbish collection and road maintenance.

"A second category will be the many chaplains that serve our communities in such places as schools, hospitals, the business world and throughout sporting or community organisations," Mr Pickering explained.

"Around a quarter of a million Australians engage with the National Day of Thanksgiving in some form or other, and the people who use the day creatively are discovering that saying thank you opens some very unique doors to them."

The official website features resources to help groups plan for this year's National Day of Thanksgiving.

For more information visit [www.thanksgiving.org.au](http://www.thanksgiving.org.au).

May and is an opportunity for churches and Christian groups across Australia to connect with people in their local communities who don't normally go to church.

The event's National Coordinator, Brian Pickering, believes saying thank you opens doors that nothing else can.

"Now is the time to put the date in your church or organisation's calendar and begin planning how your group is going to impact your local community."

Church groups and organisations are being asked to think ahead this year in preparation for the National Day of Thanksgiving.

The event seems to get bigger and more focused each year and this year will be no different.

This year's National Day of Thanksgiving is Saturday 26

## Would you like to train to be a Street Chaplain?

This popular course will again be offered from the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

It is a "no obligation", six week course involving Christians in establishing community networks, working in the city and learning how to work in a team.

**Bookings essential:**  
[Garth.Eichhorn@bigpond.com](mailto:Garth.Eichhorn@bigpond.com)  
**Venue:** Perth Bible College  
**Cost:** \$150



STREET CHAPLAIN

By Simon Smart

I'm getting ready to duck, but don't shoot the messenger. The results are in: religious people are nicer. Or so says Robert Putnam, professor of public policy at Harvard.

Described by London's *Sunday Times* as the most influential academic in the world today, Putnam is not a religious believer. Best known for *Bowling Alone*, the book that made 'social capital' a key indicator of a healthy society, Putnam, with his co-author David Campbell (a Mormon), has waded into the debate about religion in the public square with his latest offering, *American Grace: How Religion Unites and Divides Us*. The book emerges out of two massive and comprehensive surveys into religion and public life in America.

Their most conspicuously controversial finding is that religious people make better citizens and neighbours. Putnam and Campbell write, 'for the most part, the evidence we review suggests that religiously observant Americans are more



# God's truth, believers are nicer

civic, and in some respects simply nicer'.

On every measurable scale, religious Americans are more generous, more altruistic and more involved in civic life than their secular counterparts.

“ ... religious people make better citizens and neighbours. ”

They are more likely to give blood, money to a homeless person, financial aid to family or friends, a seat to a stranger and spend time with someone who is 'a bit down'.

Putnam and his team interviewed 3,000 people twice over two years, asking a range of questions about people's religious lives as well as their civic involvement, social relationships, political beliefs, economic situation and demographic profile.

The religious landscape is very different in Australia, but what information we do have suggests similar results here. A 2004 report by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Research and Philanthropy in Australia, found that people who said they were religious were more likely to volunteer, and for more hours, than others. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data suggests the same. Nonetheless, a study here as in-depth and wide-ranging as Putnam's would be fascinating.

Putnam says religious people don't like everything about his book, but they do like this material.

Yet, despite what I'm writing here, I'm not really claiming that people of faith are better people than non-believers.

Many of my friends have no faith and would outdo me on measures used in these surveys.

In the church, just like any area of life, it's a mixed bag of the good, the not so good and the, well, nutty.

But this research is in stark contrast to claims by prominent authors such as Richard Dawkins and Sam Harris. After reading their works, you'd swear that religion makes you immediately abandon rationality to become an inward-looking extremist. What Putnam's book does at the very least is to bring a bit of balance into the conversation.

“ A sobering note for believers is that this study reveals the content of a person's belief isn't what matters so much as their level of involvement in a religious community. ”

A sobering note for believers is that this study reveals the content of a person's belief isn't what matters so much as their level of involvement in a religious community.

An atheist who comes to church to support her partner will rate as well as any believer on these scores.

What can't be denied, according to Putnam and Campbell, is there is something unique about a religious community, that has an impact on people for good.

So next time a removalist truck delivers a bunch of God-botherers into your neighbourhood, don't despair. It might be reason to celebrate.

Used with permission from the Centre for Public Christianity. Simon Smart is a Director of the Centre for Public Christianity.

# Two jobs — one calling



Colin Battersby is a man with heart and soul. He has been a musician, singer and songwriter for years, and these days, also wears a different hat as the West Australian State Manager for World Vision Australia.

Despite the seeming change in career, Colin explains that his two worlds have not really collided, but in fact, merged together.

The veteran musician and social justice advocate spoke with Allan Schintu about how creativity and a mission to help others in need go hand in hand.

#### How did it all start for you?

There was always singing and playing. My parents both played instruments and there was often a fight on to see who could get onto the piano. We actually had two — one dodgy old one in the back room and one nice one.

#### What was it like for you in the early years as a performer?

Often the music I performed was something I had to do because that's what people wanted and eventually it got to a point where music wasn't necessarily something I needed to do financially. I found myself

wanting to pursue what was really in my heart in terms of music that would help encourage and inspire other people. Often that involved working with younger people. We did workshops, battle of the bands, festivals, things like that.

#### What is it about music that makes it such a great form of communication?

Music is such a universal language and that is what I love about it — you can be anywhere, speaking to any culture, any age group and people's faces just light up when you begin to play — when you begin to sing. And, I think for me, that's the greatest joy.

#### What inspires you to write music, songs?

Getting out into creation really inspires me. Growing up on a farm and being surrounded by fields and looking up at the stars at night has been a great

performed in front of thousands of young people — teenagers screaming and shouting — and often we would be performing with other professional musicians who had come from the USA or other places. Being in this environment where you had this massive mosh pit at the front and people jumping up and down, you have so much fun seeing how the audience was responding and also with the band.

#### Have you found creating music and performing the best way to talk about things you might not just speak to people about?

Yeah. I think we are called to be story tellers. The story changes as we go through life and because of that, the songs are going to change. The style of music may stay the same or it may change also with your life. For me, I have seen both. My style of music has changed as I have gotten older — probably a bit more conservative in my musical style. I'm a bit more reflective now and also the lyrics and the meanings behind the songs have changed. I think I realise now that the songs I want to write and want people to hear are songs about real issues — about deep things of the heart.

#### Have you ever found yourself questioning why you do what you do?

Sure. I think there are times when you do question why you're playing music and whether you're doing the best with what you have. I have experienced a number of moments in my life where I have been reminded that it is worth continuing to pursue music. Sometimes I have thought I could look for another career or I could find a job which would pay the bills a lot easier. But one thing is sure: It has been wonderful to take the journey I have.

#### Why music?

I believe I am 'wired' for music. I am 'wired' to be able to use the gift that God has given me. Music is like the window into a person's soul. There are certain songs that every one of us remembers. We hear a song and remember where we were when we first kissed our girlfriend or boyfriend. We remember the song we were listening to the time when 'September 11' happened and we remember the sort of music that was being played around that time. Music actually goes deep into soul and it's not just something we think about — it's something that moves us and actually returns to us in the form of memories deep within us.

“ Music is such a universal language and that is what I love about it ... ”

#### Clearly there are many sides to Colin Battersby. What led you to pick up the reigns as WA State Manager for World Vision Australia?

I have always had a passion for social justice and for seeing other people helped. As a musician coming into the job, I've been able to see how creativity can bring direction, inspiration and can actually help to advocate on behalf of people less fortunate than ourselves. I've also had the privilege to be involved with some of our World Vision artists who partner with us, using their gifts, their platforms to speak on behalf of those who don't have a voice.

way for me to be able to think about songs and creativity, and to realise we are surrounded by so much life. To allow that life to impact my writing and to impact the music that I perform is inspiring.

#### You mentioned working with young people, exciting times?

I worked with a group called Youth Alive which would do a lot of high school trips. We

## Slot Car Track

Expressions of interest being sought for the sale of this portable 6 lane Slot Car Track





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# The pain of change



At the hospital, doctors informed me I had suffered a heart attack. They attended to me and tried several treatments, none of which seemed to be helping. Around 3am, Cardiologist Dr Jeff Marshall arrived on the scene, and he performed an emergency operation to remove a small blood clot from my heart. His skillful care saved my life.

Later, Dr Marshall explained that the operation I had undergone was a new development in the medical profession. Had I suffered the heart attack a year earlier, he would not have known how to save me.

#### Pick your pain

Pain accompanies change. One way or another it's going to hurt to make adjustments in our lives. That's the bad news. The good news is we can choose the

pain we endure. We have two options: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret.

Of course, the wise choice is to select the pain of discipline. I love eating rich foods, from

steaks to chocolate cakes, and there's an emotional distress in bypassing the unhealthy dishes I enjoy the most. I also do not particularly enjoy trips to the gym. Especially after a draining day of work, I have little desire to go through the soreness and physical fatigue associated with working out. Yet, had I endured the mild discomforts of eating healthy and exercising, I could have avoided the excruciating pain of a medical emergency. I regret that it took a near-death situation for me finally to get serious about making changes to my health.

#### Pay now to pay less

The longer you wait to make changes, the costlier they are to make. In 1998, I nearly paid the ultimate price for ignoring my physical fitness. Had I simply made a few tweaks to my weekly regimen as a young leader, and maintained them over time, I never would have found myself in that situation. Thankfully, I received a second chance. However, even after the scare of the heart attack, I have tremendous difficulty prioritising my health. Ingrained habits aren't easily overcome.

#### Pay every day

If you want to change your life, then you need to change something you do daily. In my case, I have learned that physical fitness doesn't happen overnight. It takes a succession of healthy decisions, made each day, to see progress.

#### Closing thoughts

We tend to stay the same until it hurts so bad we have to

do something differently. In my case, the pain was sudden, severe, and impossible to ignore. Yet, the warning signs were there all along, and how I wish that I had heeded them! I knew that I had gained weight, and friends had cautioned me about my fitness. However, since I felt relatively healthy, I avoided disciplining myself to eat better and to be more active.

“The longer you wait to make changes, the costlier they are to make.”

In which areas of life do you see warning signs? Perhaps like me, your health needs attention. Possibly, there are relationships in your life that, unless they change course, are headed for disaster. Or, maybe a defect in your character threatens to derail you. Wherever you see warning signs, don't delay in making a change. It's far easier to prevent damage now than to repair it later.

Used with permission from The John Maxwell Company, [www.johnmaxwell.com](http://www.johnmaxwell.com)

## Allowing unexpected change

By Steve Ingram

In their book *Switch*, Chip and Dan Heath tell a remarkable story about unexpected change.

Pierre Omidyar is best known as the guy who invented eBay. What most people don't know about him is that a number of years after he wrote the software to drive eBay he wrote another program with arguably even bigger consequences. It was a program called re-mission. It was designed to help teenagers with cancer.

Pierre's wife, Pam, was an immunologist who understood the plight of teenagers with

cancer. After the teens finished their intensive chemotherapy treatments they were normally sent home with a less arduous, but equally important health regime to follow. Part of that regime normally required taking antibiotics and low dosage chemotherapy pills for two years. Many of the teens simply failed to comply. This was completely understandable as the side effects were not particularly pleasant. The devastating corollary was that research had shown that even a small reduction in regular treatment had hugely negative effects for survival.

Knowing this dilemma, Pam asked Pierre to write a computer game program for the teens to play. In the game the teenagers took on the persona of Roxxi, a nanobot which

travels through the bloodstream killing tumour cells with special chemo-rays. There were 20 levels of play and at the end of each level a different robot would explain to the teenagers additional information about chemotherapy and how they could maximise their chances of recovery. The plan was that if a teenager played all 20 levels they would have all the information they needed to motivate them to continue with their treatment.

Compliance with the chemo drugs went up significantly but with an unexpected outcome. The rate of improvement went up with teens that only finished two levels to the same degree as those who finished all twenty levels. Hard to understand why it was working?

Cole, one of the researchers involved in the case put it this

way: "It boils down to an identity thing. After going through intensive chemo the kids feel like their life is being stolen by the cancer and the treatment. They want to go back to being normal kids. They don't want to be the sick kid anymore.

The game works, not because of the educational material imbedded in it, but because it helps the kids see themselves differently. They are no longer the sick kid – they are the nanobot who can kill the cancer by taking the chemo to refuel the nanobot's guns. They are now saying to themselves I can do this – I'm back in charge"

The point the authors make is that much of our decision making is based on our identity; our understanding of who we are. As Christian leaders we

are constantly calling people to make changes and allow God to transform them. We call individuals and groups to make changes in the way we practise church and go about ministry. We push, we cajole, we motivate, we call, we exhort, but do we ever stop to think about helping them to understand their identity.

People who view themselves as loved, secure children of God with a generous heavenly father who has a bright eternal future for them will make different decisions to people who sometimes attend church, are not sure that Christianity really works and are worried about what their future holds.

Steve Ingram is Church Liaison Consultant for Baptist Churches Western Australia.

## events calendar

### January

2 to 7 January Inters Camp, BCWA, 6313 6300

8 to 12 January Juniors Camp, BCWA, 6313 6300

14 to 15 January More Than Sunday Music Festival, Old Broadwater Farm Busselton, [www.morethansunday.org](http://www.morethansunday.org)

23 to 25 January Influencers Conference, Burswood Theatre, [www.influencersconference.com](http://www.influencersconference.com)

27 to 29 January Wyld Adventure Camp for 10 to 15 year olds, 9525 5135

### February

8 February Networking mornings begin (Wednesday mornings), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200

11 February Passing the Baton, Vose Leadership, 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](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au)

### 25 February

Safe Church Workshop, Kalgoorlie Baptist Church, 6313 6300

### March

#### 2 March

World Day of Prayer, Wesley Uniting Church, 9384 4480

#### 6 March

Boards clusters begin (Tuesday nights), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200

#### 8 March

International Women's Day

#### 13 March

Leadership Development clusters begin (Tuesday nights), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200

#### 15 March

Leadership Development clusters begin (Thursday mornings), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200

#### 20 March

Chairs clusters begin (Tuesday nights), Vose Leadership, 6313 6200

### 23 to 25 March

Mighty Mens Conference WA, [www.mightymensconference.org.au](http://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

#### 14 April

Booksale, Vose Seminary, 6313 6200

#### 28 April

Safe Church Workshop, Riverton Baptist Church, 6313 6300

### May

#### 26 May

National Day of Thanksgiving, [www.thanksgiving.org.au](http://www.thanksgiving.org.au)

AGE 5  
MUM PRAYS A PRAYER WITH ME AND I SAY 'YES' TO JESUS.

AGE 14  
I SAY 'YES' ALL OVER AGAIN AT YOUTH CAMP AT SERPENTINE.

AGE 16  
START LEADING AT CAMPS, START LEADING WORSHIP AT CHURCH.

AGE 26  
ONE OF THE PASTORS AT CHURCH SAYS, ALMOST INCIDENTALLY, 'I THINK GOD COULD BE CALLING YOU TO PLANT A CHURCH'.

AGE 28  
I'M WORKING HARD BUT DOWN DEEP, SOMETHING STIRRING. GOD'S WORKING ON MY HEART...

AGE 31  
I ENROL AT VOSE SEMINARY AND BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY OF LEARNING, GROWTH, EQUIPPING AND DISCOVERING JESUS IN COMMUNITY. PRETTY EXCITED...

AGE 34  
OUR FIRST SUNDAY!

### At Vose Seminary, no two stories are the same.

People join us to learn more about Jesus and The 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. Some come to fuel and equip a ministry journey they're already on, or are exploring. Others because they're wanting to add knowledge to cultivate a robust faith. Others come because they know that this is simply the next step on a long journey. Whatever your story, come, grow at Vose Seminary. Continue your journey at [www.vose.edu.au](http://www.vose.edu.au)

come, grow

## 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](mailto: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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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Unsinkable

Abby Sunderland

*Unsinkable* is the remarkable true story of sixteen-year-old Abby Sunderland's attempt to become the youngest person ever to sail solo around the world. It is a challenge so immense that many have died trying, and all have been pushed beyond every physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual limit. This biography delivers a gripping and evocative first-hand account that starts prior to her departure, travels through her daring (and sometimes near-death) encounters on the open sea, to her dramatic rescue in the remotest corner of the Indian Ocean, and the media explosion that happened upon her safe return to dry land. Abby's ambition and tenacity is a real-life parable of what can happen when we choose to exceed our own limits, embrace faith, and strive after what all the naysayers say is impossible.

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

**Question: How old was Abby when she attempted to become the youngest person to ever sail solo around the world?**

Entries close 18 January and all winners will be announced in the February edition of *The Advocate*.

**The Purpose Driven Life competition winners:**

J Evons, E Hewitt, J Perrett

**Courageous competition winners:**

K Birch, C Julius, L Potts

competition

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

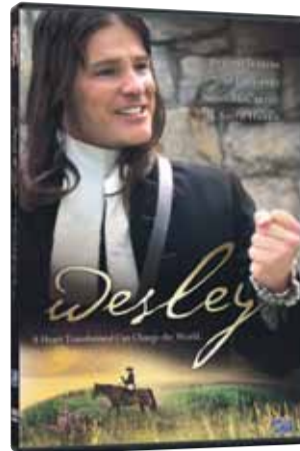
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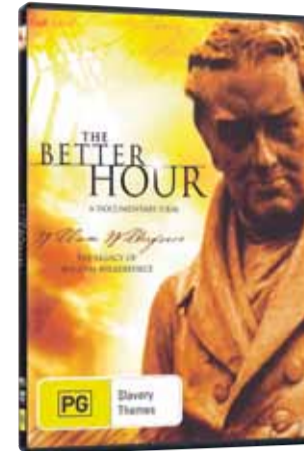
Unsinkable Competition  
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

watch



Wesley

Step into eighteen-century England and experience the transformation of one man whose heart-wrenching search for peace haunts him even as he pours himself into a life of service and evangelism. Young John Wesley works hard to earn his own salvation, but cannot seem to find a lasting peace. His headstrong ways and self-righteous attitude bring conflict and rejection wherever he goes. Follow Wesley's fascinating spiritual struggle to find a genuine faith — and the discovery of God's grace. This award-winning feature film is based on John's own private journals.



The Better Hour

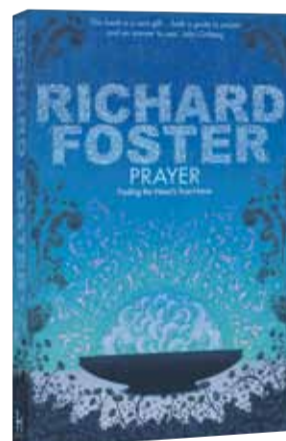
This documentary examines William Wilberforce's efforts to lead the abolition of the British slave trade, a business that was key to the empire's economic strength. This documentary highlights William's drive and love for humanity (despite his own physical frailty) and reveals how he and his colleagues took up the cause of abolition of the slave trade. Character and community join together to bring into the world what the English poet William Cowper described as the better hour. This film features interviews with leading authors, historians and public figures.



Giving Your Dreams a New Beginning

Sometimes all we need is a fresh start ... a second chance for a new beginning. Often the hardest thing is to accept and receive God's mercy. To move forward, we have to learn to let the past be the past and believe his promise of forgiveness and restoration. In this powerful four-message series Joel Osteen offers valuable and practical advice for reviving your dreams, renewing your strength, and recapturing your vision. These include: 'Giving Your Dreams a New Beginning'; 'Believing for Restoration'; 'Being a Loyal Person'; and 'Developing a Habit of Happiness'.

read



Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home

Richard Foster

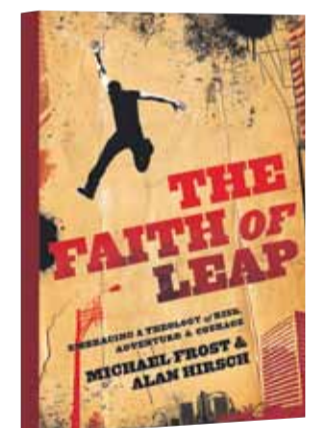
A comprehensive and easy to understand book which opens the way for all to develop their practice of prayer. Richard Foster explores the riches of the historical classics of prayer as well as his own personal experience and roots his teaching in scripture. No one who reads *Prayer* will remain unmoved; all will find encouragement within its pages. What a great way to begin a new year, with refreshing your prayer life and drawing closer to the Lord through prayer.



Enjoying Where You Are On The Way To Where You Are Going

Joyce Meyer

Are you enjoying every day of your life? Or do you tell yourself and others you will find happiness once you have reached a specific goal or position in life? Jesus came so that we might have and enjoy life [John 10:10]. Joy is a fruit of the spirit. If you have not been enjoying your life to the fullest, it is time to begin! In this book, Joyce Meyer combines biblical principles with personal experiences for a powerful teaching on how to enjoy every day on your journey through life.



The Faith of Leap

Alan Hirsch and Michael Frost

To Michael Frost and Alan Hirsch, the way we have learned to experience and understand 'faith' has been detached from the overarching adventure inherent in our God and in our calling. This book is a corrective to the dull, adventure-less, risk-free phenomenon that describes so much of contemporary Christianity. It explores the nature of adventure, risk and courage, and the implications for church, discipleship, spirituality and leadership. Begin 2012 with fresh outlook on faith as an adventure!

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

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# Wildcats star is back on track

For a sports person at the top of their game, the split second it takes for a career-ending injury to occur is a very real concern.

Perth Wildcat, Shawn Redhage was faced with that reality last year. A dislocated hip in early 2011 put the future playing career of the basketball star in serious doubt.

"They never said I couldn't play again, just that it was highly unlikely that I ever would be able to play again," Shawn explained.

It was all going to depend on how things pulled up over time. Happily, there were some good signs along the way.

“

... his recovery was unexpected and points to his faith in God for getting him through the uncertainty of his situation.

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"I was on crutches for 12 weeks and the first day I got off them, I was able to walk. The medics thought that would take two to three weeks."

At that stage Shawn was given a timetable of 12 or 13 months — if he ever played again at all.

"To be back playing already at seven months is an encouraging sign," Shawn said.

"I've come through this, my leg is even stronger than it was before and now it's all about

getting in game shape and getting that game sharpness going."

Shawn says the speed of his recovery was unexpected and points to his faith in God for getting him through the uncertainty of his situation.

"I definitely didn't think that I would be back on day one of pre-season training and playing in the first pre-season game."

"Faith has been very important to me from an early age, growing up in a Christian family and accepting Jesus Christ as my saviour at the age of ten," Shawn said.

Shawn is focused on getting back up to the level he knows he can play basketball at and with memories of the 2008 Beijing Olympics still strong in his mind, he has one eye on the London Games.

"Walking out at the opening ceremony in front of 90,000 fans was a pretty amazing experience and I haven't been involved with the Boomers since Beijing, but if I got asked to be a part of it again I would definitely have a go."

Shawn has a clear idea of what lies ahead for him — at least in the short term.

"My goal last year was first to get back to playing."

"There have been some frustrations along the way, but I believe that later in the season I will be back to playing the way I know I can," he said.



Wildcats star, Shawn Redhage, has made a remarkable recovery after dislocating his hip in early 2011.

Photo: Wildcats

## Share Your Will Power

Thinking about your Will?

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



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