

the advocate

"We want to help set up leaders for the long haul." JULIAN DUNHAM PAGE 7

In conversation

Audrey Assad has just released her new album *Heart*. PAGE 12 >>



Photo: Simone Jubb

Channel 7's *Greenfingers* presenter Tod Johnston with Carey Baptist College students playing in the garden of their new outdoor learning centre.

Carey grows future

Students at Carey Baptist College have a new outdoor learning centre after the team from Channel 7's *Greenfingers* program built a sustainability classroom at the College in Harrisdale.

Over five days an area of 1,100 square metres of bare sand was transformed into a vibrant garden with 13 vegetable and herb garden beds, an outdoor kitchen, rainwater tank, chicken coop, aquaponics systems and several fruit trees in an urban orchard. Benches and tables completed the area, allowing the garden to be truly used as an outdoor classroom.

"We have been truly blessed to have been given this great garden," said Primary School Principal Jennifer Argue. "It was amazing that in only one week a patch of grass and sand could

be transformed into a fantastic garden where our students will be able to get hands-on growing and harvesting their own fruit, vegetables, fish and eggs."

During the construction of the garden students from across the Primary School took part in filming sessions with *Greenfingers* presenters Tod Johnston and Renae Wauhop, getting their hands dirty helping to plant seedlings and fruit trees.

Building a garden that could be a valuable teaching resource has been a long-term dream for the College which is already involved in the Waterwise and Waste Wise sustainability programs. When the opportunity

for the *Greenfingers* team to build a sustainability classroom came up, the College was only too happy to be involved.

"We've already got a strong sense of care for the environment that we've really tried to instil in the children over time," Jennifer said. "We are committed to seeing it become generational so that these children will grow up aware of the need to look after the planet and be sustainable in their practises."

"We have been truly blessed to have been given this great garden."

Staff were given a special tour of the garden by *Greenfingers*

executive producer Trevor Cochrane to highlight the features of the garden and learn how to care for it.

Trevor devised the sustainability classroom concept. The set-up mimics a mini-ecosystem. It offers a wide variety of teaching opportunities for students from numeracy to strategic planning.

The construction of the sustainability classroom featured in the new series of *Greenfingers* on Channel 7 and in *The West Australian's* 'Habitat' liftout in early April.

It is expected the garden will also act as a further point of connection to the surrounding community. The College will soon be launching a 'Friends of the Carey Garden' group to assist with the upkeep and long-term development of the garden.

For more information visit www.carey.wa.edu.au.



3 YouthCARE praise

West Australian Premier Colin Barnett praised YouthCARE recently >>



5 Beat helps youth

Young adults participate in a group lesson during the *Unearthed* gathering >>



7 Passion in Perth

Perth enjoyed the UK-based production of *The Passion of Christ 2012* on the Easter weekend >>

"Baptist Churches Western Australia exists to build healthy churches."

BAPTIST CHURCHES WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Mark Wilson

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

Humility – just another virtue

Most of us think of humility as just another virtue – much like patience, goodness, or kindness. It's nice and we appreciate it when we see it, but we rarely discuss it and almost never pursue it. Yet, the Bible seems to indicate that humility may be the bedrock of discipleship.

Jesus humbled himself by becoming a man and submitting even to death. [Philippians 2: 5-8] He called His disciples to "deny yourself ... take up your cross ... be last of all ... be slave of all" [Mark 8-10].

James reminds us that "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" [James 4: 6].

It's an old biblical theme

that generates little attention, especially in a culture devoted to achievement, recognition, status and significance. But if pride is the root of our fallenness [1 John 2: 16] then humility paves the way to our restoration.

Marriages fail not when love grows cold, but when pride trumps humility. Churches experience conflict not when unity is

forgotten but when humility is lost. We grow least content not when circumstances are tough but when entitlement buries humility.

“Marriages fail not when love grows cold, but when pride trumps humility.”

Of course, our definition of humility makes all the difference.

It's not about self-loathing or dejected defeat. Rather, true humility comes when before God we see ourselves as nothing, have put aside self and let God be all. Let God be all. Sounds simple enough, but the striving and fruitlessness of our lives suggest that we find it easier to let God be some.

The challenge of our day is not to rise to the top but to live faithfully among the least, because of who He is. It will change everything; our homes, our families, our churches and our workplaces.



Dr Brian Harris

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

On deadlines ...

Oops! Even as I am writing this column I have already missed the deadline – so I'm writing in a hurry. Blame it on the Easter weekend. I've no idea how we're supposed to have days off without the schedule collapsing in a heap. Sigh ...

Now when students at Vose miss their assignment deadlines by two days, they lose 10 percent. Presuming you rate this as a 100 percent column (as I do!), you are entitled to grade this edition down to a 90 percent. But are deadlines worth five percent a day?

Some don't matter at all. I committed to tidy my desk before Christmas 2009. Hasn't happened

yet, and the universe has not ground to a halt. Then there is the question of my ideal weight. I was supposed to be 10 kilograms lighter before Easter 2010. Given the ridiculously generous haul of chocolate I scored this Easter, it could be January 2372 before that happens. But then there is 25 August 1984 when I set off for work forgetting to wish my wife a happy birthday. Now technically

the world didn't end that day, though at the time I wished it had!

Is it true that we should never put off until tomorrow what we can put off until the day after tomorrow? Depends what the decision is ...

Time with the kids ... don't delay that. Time to forgive others ... why postpone that? Time to pray ... Paul's instruction to pray without ceasing suggests that we should never have stopped in the first place.

Better get this off. If it only appears in the June edition, you'll know the reason why. But if you're reading this in the May

edition, remember that grace is alive and well and sometimes applies even to missed deadlines. Perhaps God can help you to find it for some of your more notable omissions ...



Sue Ash

Sue Ash is the Chief Executive Officer of UnitingCare West.

Thought about the poor recently?

Do you ever get a sense of coming full circle? I remember sitting in the Maida Vale Baptist Church as a 14 year old troubled by verses in the Bible referring to Christ's teaching on our response to the poor. More than 40 years later I am still confronted by this challenge. Who are the poor?

If you are single, unemployed and eligible for government assistance in Australia, you receive a payment of \$34 per day as long as you have almost exhausted any savings or liquid assets. What is it like to try live on \$34 per day?

Our organisation was established by the Uniting Church to support, serve and

empower people who are seen to be the most in need within our community. We work with people who are unemployed in many of our programs. They tell us that the consequences of becoming unemployed are short and sharp.

Rent? Can't afford it ... start living with friends, sleeping on other people's couches or in their

garage. Possessions? Can't keep moving them ... sell them, leave them with friends, or just leave things behind. Relationships? ... Stressed. Living? ... Can't afford to buy sufficient food ... eat at least one meal a day from a soup kitchen. Health? When very sick, find a street doctor; never see a dentist. And all the while trying to ensure you can front up for a job interview ready and able to convince an employer to take you on.

While single people have been the biggest group in the unemployed population, housing prices and job insecurity are contributing to an increasing

number of families with children facing the same challenges.

How should we as Christ followers respond? Complex problems require multiple strategy responses. Individuals need support and encouragement; charitable organisations need donations of time and resources to ensure food and other services are available; the policy of non-indexation of Newstart Allowance needs to be changed and single unemployed people need an immediate increase on their \$34 per day.

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.

Apology

In the April edition of *The Advocate* the incorrect version of an advertisement for Trinity Theological College was run.

The Advocate apologises for this error.

Praise for YouthCARE

West Australian Premier, Colin Barnett, said 30 years of YouthCARE school chaplaincy was an "extraordinary achievement and enormous credit to YouthCARE" when he addressed the group's celebration dinner in March.

More than 500 chaplains, district council volunteers, church leaders and YouthCARE supporters attended the event at Swanleigh in the Swan Valley.

Stanley Jeyaraj, CEO of YouthCARE, presented Glenys McKinnon from Lakeside Baptist Church with flowers in honour of her recent retirement after 24 years service as a chaplain in local schools.

There are currently more than 500 chaplains in West Australian schools. More than 80 YouthCARE District Councils are the driving force in local communities to support and encourage chaplaincy in local schools.

During the last decade there has been exponential growth through State and Federal funding for school chaplaincy.

YouthCARE continues to engage with WA's changing community, appointing the first two fly-in fly-out chaplains for remote community schools in the Pilbara and Kimberly regions.

In the past two years, YouthCARE has trained a team of 80 people as Pastoral Critical Incident Response Chaplains able to be sent at short notice to communities overwhelmed by events such as major bushfires.

YouthCARE recently appointed a Sudanese pastor as a support chaplain to a number of high-need schools in Perth's northern suburbs.



West Australian Premier Colin Barnett addresses guests at the YouthCARE's celebration dinner in March.

Photo: YouthCARE

Teachers build community

An initiative from Quinns Baptist College new Principal, Tel Williams, has seen parents receive more phone calls than usual from teaching staff this year.

Mr Williams is encouraging all of his teaching staff to phone up to three pupils' parents a week with good news about the students.

"We're nowhere near reaching the goal yet, but the response has been astounding," Mr Williams said. "It seems parents don't get too many phone calls affirming their children's attitudes and work at school."

Mr Williams has received a number of emails and return phone calls from parents applauding the school's initiative.

For some of the teachers this was a new type of phone conversation. Most teachers only get to talk with parents when a student is in some sort of trouble or at a parent-teacher conference.

"I just think we need to build strong bridges with our student's families, and one way to do that is to talk together. It's also good for students to know that their teachers notice their hard work and consistent behaviour. Affirmation is a powerful thing. It can change an entire community," Mr Williams explains.

"Another thing I've noticed personally is that it's easier to phone a parent when there is a problem if you already have a relationship with them."

Broadcaster seeks help

Social historian and ABC Radio National broadcaster Bill Bunbury, interviewed Marc Chan, Baptist Churches Western Australia Cross Cultural and Indigenous Ministries Consultant recently.

Bill interviewed Marc as part of a program he produced about the development of the multi-cultural community of the WA south-west town of Katanning.

Bill Bunbury said Marc's insights were crucial to understanding how immigrant, ethnic groups like the Karen people had been able to fully engage with the local

Katanning community and make a unique contribution to the area.

The program aired on 21 April. A podcast is available on the ABC radio website.

For more information visit www.abc.net.au/radio.



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Retreat renews workers faith

More than 150 pastoral workers from Baptist ministries across Western Australia met in Mandurah recently for the annual Pastoral Retreat.

Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries with Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA), said he was deeply encouraged to see so many Baptist workers and their spouses at the Retreat.

"This is a great opportunity for us to build into the lives of our front line workers," Mark said.

Pastors from Broome, Port Hedland, Karratha, Newman, Kalgoorlie, Esperance and many churches in the south-west and suburban Perth attended along with chaplains and staff from Vose Seminary.

An absurd looking pink rope creation helped break the ice for several people who were first time attendees at the Retreat.

Gareth Magowan is the most recently appointed Pastor to a BCWA congregation having started as part-time Pastor at Chidlow Baptist Church in mid-March.

Dan McGrechan, Children and Youth Pastor at Parkerville Baptist Church, led several vibrant worship times helping the group engage deeply with God's Word and heart.

Mark Wilson encouraged the group as he outlined the rich diversity of ministries among the Baptist churches in WA, from work among asylum seekers in the Kimberley region to new church plants in local communities and among ethnic groups.

He highlighted the sacrificial work of the team at the Baptist Ministry Centre that supports the BCWA churches and the strategic contribution of Vose Seminary in preparing people for ministry.

Ken Clendinning, Director of Ministry Support Development for NSW Baptist Churches and his wife Judy, a family counsellor

in private practice, were the speakers at the retreat. Their deep passion to see pastors and their spouses in strong healthy relationships shaped their message to the group.

Their open candour as they unpacked their relationship engendered them to the audience and modelled the depth of vulnerability needed for a strong lasting partnership for couples in ministry.

“The stories of different churches' journeys are inspirational.”

"Partnership is about learning together, adjusting, shaping and being shaped," Judy said. "The learning and growing doesn't stop and we need to be aware of that and committed to it."

A highlight for many people at the retreat was the opportunity for conversations with friends and new acquaintances that also happen to be in ministry. Extended time over meals meant people could share more of their journey than a quick, 'hi, good to see you again'.

"We see this annual event as a significant opportunity for people in pastoral ministry," Mark Wilson said. "I'm really glad so many of our churches support their pastors by sending them. The stories of different churches' journeys are inspirational."



Steve Ingram (right) with Gareth Magowan wearing the bright pink 'turban of truth' which people wore while being interviewed during the recent Pastoral Retreat in Mandurah.

Photo: Jill Birt

Perth city awakens to Easter

Christians from churches all around the metropolitan area converged in the city at Easter with a very special message for the people of Perth.

In a most simple but powerful way, more than 1,500 people marched through the CBD, handing out balloons declaring the message that 'Jesus is risen'. It was all part of this year's Awakening event, now in its 21st year, held at Forrest Place on Easter Sunday.

Awakening WA Coordinator, Andrew Braun says the celebration, put on in partnership with the Baptist Churches Western Australia,

Churches of Christ and the Anglican Diocese of Perth, was an example of the power of God at work. "I was impressed by the amazing spirit of joy and celebration amongst the participants and the warmth of responses from passersby."

"I think this Easter we saw a resurgence in Christian things," he said.

"We were assisted by Whitehouse Community Church, Aflame Community Church,

Victory Life Centre, Inglewood Community Church, Pastor Tim Edwards from Eagle Rock Community Church and the Christian Dance Fellowship of WA."

On the stage at Forrest Place the celebrations began with the very colourful African sounds of the Gospel Echo Singers. As the afternoon of celebration and worship continued, the sights and sound attracted many people to the Forrest Place precinct. "We sensed the Spirit's presence and it was wonderful to share the celebration of Easter in this very public way," Mr Braun explained.

digital church

05/04/2012
Todd Rhoades

www.toddrhoades.com

Jesus did preach in the NT, but we also see Jesus doing many other things that seemed, at least to him, to be really (really) important ... Jesus was a storyteller. To say that he would only tell his stories today through spoken word is a stretch, I think.

09/04/2012
Steven Furtick

www.stevenfurtick.com

How often in your Christian life do you lose your sense of gratitude because you take on a sense of entitlement?

11/04/2012
Steve Fogg

www.churchmarketingsucks.com

I may be living in a post-Christian age, but I still believe I can help my church make an impact in our corner of Melbourne for Jesus. What we do matters. The way the story is told, the typeface, the paper, the word choice – it all matters. Especially when we're at our lowest point.

11/04/2012
David Santistevan

www.davidsantistevan.com

Too many of us are content with observing. We watch what others do and we critique it. Rather than

diving headfirst into worship, we critique the room.

11/04/2012
Mike Friesen

www.mikefriesen05.wordpress.com

After all, to love my neighbour is to love myself. In this kind of love, we remember who we are as the beloved. We are choosing to not only give the gift of God's presence to them, but we choose it for ourselves.

briefs

Marriage

Jason Watterson, son of Ron and Sandra Watterson of Cranbrook, married Anika Fitch, daughter of Doug and Janet Fitch of Mindarie at Caves House, Yallingup on Saturday 18 February.

History meeting

The Baptist Historical Society meets on Sunday 24 June at 2.30pm at Perth Baptist Church. Rev. Bob Clark is speaking about the progress of the Baptist Churches Western Australia while he was Superintendent from 1981 to 2000. All are welcome. For more information contact Philip Friend on 9458 1684.

Basketball service

On Sunday 25 March the Lakeside Lightning Men's and Women's State Basketball League teams were presented to the church during the worship service, filling the stage with more than 40 players and officials. For some, this was the first time they had been to church. It was encouraging afterwards to receive positive feedback from the players. Many people were challenged and encouraged when Claire Johnson, one of the Women's SBL team, shared her powerful testimony, the story of the alignment of her basketball career aspirations and her faith.

Beat helps youth learn

Sweating and hand-sore, more than 40 young adults enjoyed a group lesson playing jembe drums during the young adults' Uneathed gathering at Riverton Baptist Church in March.

Paul Osei Kofi and Colin Depeiza from Akwaaba, a Perth-based African drum company, ran the workshop.

"This workshop really helps people connect," Paul said. "You have to work together to do the rhythms and patterns we teach. It really helps to break down barriers and build a sense of team."

West Australia Young Adults Consultant with Global Interaction Australia (GIA), Rachel Philp, organised the entire Uneathed event around an Africa theme.

"West Australian Baptist churches have close connections with GIA's work in Malawi and Mozambique, so this was a great opportunity to give more young adults a taste of Africa," Rachel said.

The evening started with the 45 minute drum workshop followed by an authentic African meal.

Later Cameron Beeck, one of GIA's newest cross-cultural workers in Mozambique, spoke about his journey in preparing to leave Perth for Lichinga, Mozambique, with his wife Kath and their three young children. Cameron talked of how his identity is being redefined as he's learning to see himself first and foremost as a child of God.

Meagan Taylor, Darren Kidd and Anna Nash talked about their experience and life lessons on the recent Riverton Global Exposure team.



Colin Depeiza and Paul Osei Kofi led a drumming workshop during the Uneathed gathering at Riverton Baptist Church in March.

People from East Fremantle, Lakeside, Riverton, Parkerville, Eaton, Bunbury and Carey Baptist Churches, Paradox Church and Kalamunda Church of Christ attended the event.

Several of those present have already visited Africa as part of a GIA Global Exposure short term team, visiting GIA staff working with the Yawo people in Mozambique and Malawi.

Drum teacher Paul migrated to Perth more than 20 years ago from Ghana.

"I like to watch people during the workshop," he said. "Those

who walk in and are not mixing well usually find themselves fully engaged."

“This workshop really helps people connect.”

The hollow pounding of the rhythm became almost hypnotic as more and more of

the group found the sweet spot on their own drum as flat hands connected with the drum skin.

Laughter and engagement rippled around the big circle of seated drummers as their skills increased.

Exhilarated and exhausted the apprentices mimicked the drum masters right to the end of the workshop.

Long time GIA worker in Africa, Pam Gallagher, helped several volunteers prepare the meal of insima (maize meal porridge), vegetable relish and as a treat, a meat stew.

The dishes were presented on mats on the floor so the people could sit in small groups to eat.

Pam explained some of the finer points of food etiquette in Africa and demonstrated how to eat insima using her hand.

"It was a brilliant night," Rachel Philp said. "There was so much energy and we got to learn a lot."

Mighty Men's Conference encourages reflection

More than 400 men converged on a farming property in Cuballing for the Mighty Men's Conference in late March.

Organiser Craig Lydon, Senior Pastor at Beaumaris Baptist Church said the response confirmed the need for men to have the opportunity to get away from the busyness of life and reflect.

There was no key speaker at the conference. The teaching

load was shared by several men including Paul Morrison, Chaplain to the West Coast Eagles Australian Football League team; Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries for Baptist Churches Western Australia; and Craig Lydon.

The conference also heard powerful testimonies of faith, courage and integrity from ordinary men involved in ordinary work lives.

"A lot of men don't really know what it means to be a Christian man, and they want to know," Craig said. "They don't have role models, so this is a great opportunity."

"We've tried to shape this conference to help men find

where they fit and how their faith can help. There are so many men craving nurturing relationships but not sure how to find and sustain them."

Men flew into Perth from Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria for the event. Others arrived from Karratha, Port Hedland and Kalgoorlie as well as country regions of southern Western Australia, including Pingelly and Narrogin.

Men camped at the site in tents and caravans while others slept in swags in the open.

Sixty volunteers ran the event. The camp kitchen fed more than 400 at each meal time.

Stephen Dunjey, an emergency physician who gave up his weekend to peel potatoes and wash dishes in the kitchen, said it was exhausting but inspiring.

During the Saturday evening meeting, after an extended time of singing and listening to testimonies, it started to rain. The speaker for the evening was Mark Wilson.

"It didn't matter that it was raining," Mark said. "The guys just sat there and listened. I couldn't even read my notes, but I think God met us."

Early on Sunday morning the men walked almost two kilometres to the top of a nearby hill and celebrated communion together.

"The journey was an important part of the morning as men got to talk with each other as they walked," Craig said. "Communion was a simple celebration, yet memorable. There wasn't a lot of talking then, but we had teams of people ready to pray with those who wanted help."

Mighty Men's Conferences started in WA in 2008 with input from Angus Buchan from South Africa. This year's conference was the second year the event was totally organised by the West Australian team.

Youth event a success

There was barely standing room at Lesmurdie Baptist Church when youth groups from many city Baptist churches met together one Friday night in March.

The building buzzed as 400 young people caught up with old friends and met new people.

Lesmurdie's Youth Band provided dynamic music as the group sang worship songs together.

"As a Youth Pastor, I couldn't be prouder of the way Lesmurdie Baptist Church youth embraced this event," Lesmurdie Youth Pastor Chub Sykes said.

"It takes time and effort to build a good team, but once it's in place you can really dream big," Chub said. "Everyone went the extra mile to make this a great night."

Chris Green, out-going Baptist Churches Western Australia Youth Consultant coordinated the event, working closely with youth pastors and leaders across the city.

"Its several years since we ran an event like this," Chris said. "I'd really like to see it continue each school term."

A dance troupe from Esther House performed at the event and received loud support from the crowd. Esther House, in South Perth, provides intensive support

for young women to overcome life controlling struggles and issues in a safe, structured and supportive environment.

Parkerville Youth Pastor Dan McGrechan and some of the Parkerville youth contributed to the on-stage creative flair as they made the announcements on the night.

Lesmurdie Baptist Church funded the free sausage sizzle provided for everyone. A team of adult volunteers cooked more than 400 sausages for the crowd.

Chris Green was the main speaker for the event.

"Chris was entertaining and engaging. The young people loved his presentation," Chub said. "There was plenty of laughter and fun, yet there was a challenge within that definitely hit the mark."

Scott Ingram, youth group leader at Parkerville Baptist Church said the gathering was a great experience for young people from his group, some of whom had never been to a big gathering of Christians who worshipped together then got to hear someone speak based on God's truth.



Lesmurdie's Youth Band performs for the event at Lesmurdie Baptist Church.

"As leaders we need to take advantage of every opportunity to give our youth these experiences," Craig Palmer, Youth

Pastor at Riverton Baptist Church said. "Being part of a group of hundreds of young people praising God together is great."

The next combined service will be held at Lake Joondalup Baptist Church on Friday 8 June.

Photo: Natalie Ruck

Messy church unites



Photo: Rob Douglas

Hamish McGillivray with his grandfather, Alan Booker, enjoy some time together at Messy Church.

Maida Vale Baptist Church has launched Messy Church to help people who don't normally attend church to become a part of the Christian community.

It is a different approach to church that has proved valuable in building on existing community contacts in the High Wycombe area.

Held on a Saturday evening once a month, Messy Church brings together whole families for a time of creativity, worship and a meal.

Maida Vale Baptist Church Children and Family Worker, Robyn Douglas said their first Messy Church attracted more than 50 people, including families who had been contacted over the years through children's holiday programs, Toddler Jam and SUPA Club at the local primary school, as well as regular church attendees.

“Life can be messy ...”

"It was good to see children and grandparents, mums, dads and teenagers playing together, worshipping together and eating together," Robyn said.

"Life can be messy and church needs to acknowledge that and help people find their way through the difficulties," she added.

Messy Church was started by Lucy Moore of the Bible Reading Fellowship in England in 2004 and has since grown to at least 12 countries around the world.

For more information visit www.mvbc.org.au.

Harmony through food

For Baptistcare Support Services staff, A Taste of Harmony week held in late March turned out to be a world tour of taste.

A Taste of Harmony was created by the Australian Multicultural Foundation with the idea of encouraging the celebration of cultural diversity through food.

Baptistcare's newly formed Catalyst group saw the event as an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity within the organisation and decided to participate.

Starting at home, the group started with emu and kangaroo from Australia. Then it was off to Indonesia for some urap salad, to Malaysia for some beef rendang and to Ghana for some local bean stew.

The meal ended with a visit to the UK for some North Lancashire quaker oat biscuits and Scottish shortbread, finishing off in New Zealand for Pavlova.

Baptistcare's A Taste of Harmony experience organiser,

Kwame Selormey invited staff to create foods that would potentially be 'a party in your mouth'.

"One person can create a meal; two people who share that meal can travel to each other's worlds."

"The simple action of sharing a meal can begin to weave people and communities together and the home-cooked dishes brought to light the wide range of cultures which make up our organisation," Mr Selormey said.

"Taste of Harmony gave us all a wonderful opportunity to share stories of heritage."

For more information visit www.tasteofharmony.org.au.

Play makes impact in Perth



Photo: Craig Chiswell Photography

Actor James Burke-Dunsmore flew to Perth to play Jesus in the UK-based production of *The Passion of Christ 2012*.

It has been many years since Perth has seen a *Passion* play on the scale of the one performed at Government House gardens in Perth this Easter.

The Passion of Christ 2012 was written by UK-based Peter Hutley, who stages the play in Trafalgar Square and is usually performed there on Good Friday. It was the

first time the production has been staged outside of London.

Award winning director Anthony Howes assembled a cast of more than a hundred from the

Perth community to perform the *Passion*. "Professional actor James Burke-Dunsmore, who plays Jesus in the London production flew to Perth to play the role here in ours."

Planning for the Perth production began more than a year ago. "It has been an extraordinary experience and we had a lot of support from the UK as well," James Burke-Dunsmore said.

"When I arrived and met the cast there was a real understanding of the potential of this play. It was very uplifting to see that everyone was focused on the spiritual potential of placing the scripture in the city centre."

It was the first time in many years the Easter story was presented as a play in the heart of the city.

Director, Tony Howes says the event allowed a wonderful preparation in the lead up to Easter for performer and audience alike. "It was tremendous opportunity to join together as an audience to proclaim the Christian faith and show by sheer numbers assembled that the Easter story really matters to the whole community."

Arrow leader visits Perth

Julian Dunham, Program Director of Arrow Leadership Australia, visited Perth in early April to speak at a number of churches as well as Kalgoorlie Baptist Church's family camp in Rockingham over the Easter weekend.

Arrow is an interdenominational leadership development program for emerging leaders.

"We have two intakes each year," Julian said. "There are 30 people in each intake. We usually take up to six from Western Australia."

Currently students from WA Baptist churches include Mark Parsons from North Beach and Anthony Palmieri from Lakeside. Aashish Parmar from Kalgoorlie Baptist Church graduated in 2011.

"We're unashamedly strengths

focused," Julian said. "We work with men and women usually aged 25 to 40 who have the gifts and passion to lead but have also known suffering and pain."

"We want to help set up leaders for the long haul."

Almost all the participants in the Arrow course have graduated from some form of theological training.

Over a two year period participants study 18 modules of training including strategic planning, administration and human resources.

"We're not seeking to compete with Bible colleges and seminaries," Julian said. "We want to value add to what's already happened in leaders' lives. We see a huge need to help leaders in team ministries."

The course includes four one-week residential sessions in Melbourne over the two years.

"One of the great things about Arrow training is that it puts emerging leaders in contact with other emerging leaders. They really get each other — leader to leader.

The synergy and camaraderie is inspiring."

Deep friendships are formed through the peer clusters of five or six leaders that meet together throughout their training.

"I know of groups that still meet together from across Australia ten years after graduating," Julian said. "The bubble of enthusiasm inspires."

"Research shows us the prime age for men as leaders is around 30. Arrow training deals with real stuff — behaviours and disciplines. Men often have destructive ego stuff to deal with and we see many men exit ministry in their late 40s. Sometimes it's because these issues haven't been dealt with."

"More than half of the people who come to Arrow are in a different job by the time they complete the course as they take time to think through the work they do and their passion for it. We think this refining is a good thing. That's what we want to help people with — preparing them for the long haul of leadership in God's Kingdom."

The End of Greed

The consumer culture in which we are immersed urges us to acquire as many things and experiences as our incomes will allow. From updating to the latest technology, to planning regular overseas holidays to upgrading to larger homes, our culture tells us that we want more and that getting it will make us happy.

Scott Higgins and Baptist World Aid Australia have released a book and preaching/Bible study series called *The End of Greed*.

These resources explore how consumerism is damaging to our relationships with God, saps our capacity to be generous, exploits people in poorer countries and wreaks havoc on creation. *The End of Greed* also helps identify simple, practical steps towards a Christ-shaped consumer that embodies love for God, people, the planet and our fellow creatures.

"Scott reminds us that we have vastly more than our

grandparent's generation and yet we find ourselves still wanting more," says Rev. Dr Mike Frost, Vice Principal of Morling Theological College.

"This is a brilliant resource that nicely smacks you around the ears with the harsh realities of God's universal reign on earth. Then, having confronted us with our own greed, Scott offers us realistic ways forward. If *The End of Greed* does contain a prophetic challenge, and I believe it does, then like all prophetic texts we ignore it at our peril."

For more information visit www.endofgreed.com.

All the rage about Tebow

Even though I couldn't know less about American football, it's practically impossible to not have been sucked into the vortex of Tebowmania currently stirring up equal amounts of ire and adoration in the United States.



At the eye of that particular storm is Tim Tebow, the star quarterback of the Denver Broncos, whose frequent and enthusiastic proclamations of faith in Jesus Christ have won him as many

detractors as admirers and made him the most divisive figure in the National Football League today.

Tebow's critics make up a broad church. Some are content talking amongst themselves about his zero-talent — attested to, they

say, by his bizarre (not that I can really tell) throwing technique and his at-times erratic game. Others are just put off by the fuss made over him.

But a great chunk of his detractors mostly just can't

stand the way that he is so over the top about his faith and the way he, like your average Grammy Award winner, thanks Jesus and God in compulsory prelude to any speech made in front of a live audience.

Such a practice could be overlooked as a devout, if slightly kooky, idiosyncrasy except for the fact that Tebow has an uncanny knack for pulling off unlikely last-minute wins for his team. And that kind of triumph can't be shunted off into the shadows, even if it's linked to a man many wish would just shut up about Jesus.

Those eleventh hour victories, combined with Tebow's tendency to pray publicly before games and after touchdowns (which has sparked an internet craze called 'tebowing' — Google it) have attracted the cynical suggestion that Tebow's wins are the result of a long string of prayers petitioning for victory on the field.

Now given some Christians' enthusiasm for the 'prosperity gospel' — or the belief that God blesses those who follow Him with riches, good health and success — it's easy to come to such a conclusion. According to this way of thinking, there's no reason why sporting victory couldn't qualify as God's favour to those who love Him.

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

AGE 16
I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS.

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

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

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

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

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

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Whatever your story, come, grow at Vose Seminary. Continue your journey at www.vose.edu.au


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 come, grow



The suggestion that the almighty is pushing His omnipotent buttons to guarantee Tebow victory obscures that central tension of Christianity between victory and defeat. Fudging that paradox leaves us with the impression that God prefers rubbing shoulders with winners.

“
... detractors mostly just can't stand the way that he is so over the top about his faith and the way he, like your average Grammy Award winner, thanks Jesus and God in compulsory prelude to any speech ...”

Nothing could be further from the truth. And Tebow, who many might think would have most reason to believe that, doesn't buy it for a second.

You can tell because Tebow makes a habit of inviting the sick and suffering to Broncos games. But we're not talking a go-through-the-motions public relations-exercise or a casual meet-and-greet affair, but something more along the lines of a lavish welcome.

Here's what he did for 16 year old Bailey Knaub when he hosted her and her family at that infamous game against the Steelers: arranged flights to the game, car rental, accommodation, dinner, gave them front seat tickets, visited her before kickoff and after the game. Then he sent them home with a basket of gifts.

When faced with such a list, Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) reporter Rick Reilly was floored. "Who among us is this selfless?" he asks. Especially on the eve of a make-or-break game where a star quarterback might be forgiven for taking some time out for themselves. Of course, there are plenty of people doing more selfless acts — and without the public acclaim — but Tebow is doing what he can.

Tebow, however, seems to wear his official duties lightly. While he's passionate about football and works really hard at it, he knows it's not the only game in

town. Conservative commentator Daniel Flynn puts it this way, "Tim Tebow doesn't know his place ... touchdown celebrations give glory to oneself not to one's God."

In other words, Tebow remains strangely untouched by all that we've come to expect of our sports stars. Nowadays, we're used to sporting legends with numerous dents in their shining armour — ranging from drug use and wild partying to animal abuse and sexual assault charges.

Tebow challenges all that. And while one day he might prove to be a flawed human being (at best) or a colossal jerk (at worst), in the meantime he's just getting on with what he knows how to do: play football, visit the sick (or bring them to him) and thank his God at every opportunity.

Perhaps this helps explain why he irks some: he's just too good to be true. And we find that, frankly, annoying. Dan Barry of *The New York Times* observes astutely:

"Decent people who are proud of their faith, do good things and succeed in life tend to irritate some of us; they remind us of our private failures, so, naturally, we hope they stumble. Spectacularly. Face-first into the mud."

While Tebow hasn't (yet) had a private failing splashed across the headlines, professionally he face-planted the earth when the New England Patriots recently smashed the Broncos 45-10 and with it, any hope of the Broncos winning the Super Bowl. In that game, there was no improbable last-minute win.

Further, Tebow played pretty poorly. His haters might have felt they'd been dealt a boon from the gods. You can imagine round after round of mock-tebewing going on in the grandstands and in living rooms around the country. It won't be for the last time, and it certainly wasn't the first.

After a Broncos game with the Detroit Lions last November, *Fox Sports* writer Jen Floyd Engel commented on the way that some Lions players set up Tebow by tebewing after tackling him or scoring a touchdown.

Those players may not have been mean-spirited and Tebow's skin is probably thick enough to take it, but you have to wonder whether the jeering gets a bit old after a while.

In any case, Engel said that she found it telling that in the face of such mockery and all the criticism otherwise heaped on

Tebow that he "rarely lectures and does not fight back". It strikes a curious chord with Jesus, another guy who many wanted to see fall, and who just took the hits.

Engel, then, appreciates the way that Tebow loses gracefully. If she's right about him, and I suspect she is, then his character is worth celebrating. For not only will such a gracious attitude long outlive the quarterback's sporting career, but its strange mix of victory and defeat aptly honours the God Tebow worships.

Used with permission from the Centre for Public Christianity. Dr Justine Toh is a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity and an Honorary Associate of the Department of Media, Music, and Cultural Studies at Macquarie University.

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For more information about these positions, call Darren Smith at (08) 6313 6200. CVs may be emailed to darren.smith@vose.edu.au. Applications close 11 May 2012.

Vose College is registered with TEQSA as a higher education provider.



Engaging Muslim religion



Photo: Jill Birt

Tillman Klein was guest speaker at a one-day seminar on Islam as part of Perth Bible College's series on World Religions.

Originally from Germany, Tillman has spent the past decade working with Operation Mobilization in the Sydney suburb of Lakemba, engaging with the local multi-ethnic community. Almost 14 percent of Lakemba's population of 147,000 follow the Muslim religion.

"That group is made up of people from Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia and other Arab nations," Tillman said.

Tillman and his family try to connect with Muslims wherever they are.

"We try to mobilise Christians to engage with Muslims and we spend time supporting churches in suburbs where many Muslims live. Many of these churches are in decline and no longer have ministers or youth work."

"We get to share our lives with the people around us, building

as many natural connections as we can, visiting their homes and having them in our home."

Tillman suggested people interested in engaging Muslim people can do so by joining sports, poetry and culture clubs to be part of their circle.

"We set up a Book Table in a prominent community location each Friday and often have the opportunity to talk with people. One of the things we use is the Magdalene DVD. It's a modified version of the Jesus DVD with Mary Magdalene telling her story of deliverance. Women in particular engage with it."

"It's in my heart to enhance ministry to Muslims. I can help mobilize and train others"

Tillman explained that door knocking is a difficult method to engage people, but Muslim

people's hospitable culture means the visitor will often be invited in.

Storying, the art of telling a series of Bible stories that encompass the gospel, is an effective way of engaging with people, from children to older adults.

"On Sunday afternoons in Lakemba you'll find hundreds of families having picnics in local parks," Tillman said.

"We'll take the opportunity to ask people if they'd like us to tell them a story. That's often the beginning of good conversations."

Partnering with Arabic Christians during local street festivals is another option for people wanting to engage with Muslim people.

"We set up an Arabic Coffee Tent with carpets and cushions, and of course very good coffee and people come to share the ambiance and the culture, men and women. That's a great way to connect."

"It's in my heart to enhance ministry to Muslims. I can help mobilize and train others," Tillman said. "There's an enormous growth in awareness of Christians about Islam and Muslim people. We just need to keep riding the wave."

Help is on the way for GIA workers

Sally Pim resigned from her administration work at Curtin University recently to move to Mozambique to care for the children of Global Interaction Australia (GIA) workers while they study Portuguese.

While Sally was part of a team visiting Mozambique and Malawi in January this year, she heard of the desperate need of someone to care for Elijah and Rachel

Houston, who are already in Mozambique, and the Beeck children.

Cam and Kath Beeck and their children Jack, Matilda and Sydney

left Perth on 15 April to join the GIA team in Lichinga.

"... this is what God is asking ..."

Sally expects to arrive in Mozambique in early May. She

will care for the two families' children for up to seven hours a day from Monday to Friday while Cam and Kath Beeck, and Tobias and Heather Houston learn Portuguese.

"I just love kids and I really believe this is what God is asking me to do," Sally said. "I was surprised how comfortable I felt while I was in Africa earlier this year. This is just the next step for me."

Sally has been Crèche Coordinator for the last two years and a Sunday School Teacher at Riverton Baptist Church.

Funding the entire trip from her savings, Sally has an open return air ticket and expects to be in Africa at least until late August.

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Kony goes viral



Photo: Jon Warren/World Vision

Children at World Vision's Gulu Child Soldier Rehabilitation Centre where social activity is a key in rehabilitation after escaping the Lord's Resistance Army.

Online social networking continues to grow in scope and some would say, in influence.

In six days more than 100 million people around the globe viewed a video clip denouncing the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leader, Joseph Kony.

Created by Jason Russell, founder of Invisible Children, Inc. the documentary aimed to promote the charity's 'stop Kony' movement to make the Ugandan war criminal and International Criminal Court fugitive globally known in order to have him arrested by December 2012.

Invisible Children enlisted the support of celebrities to bring the plight of children abducted by the LRA and forced into military service and acting as sex slaves.

The 30 minute documentary went viral as YouTube, Vimeo and Facebook users posted and re-posted the clip.

Critics of the documentary say the video is simplistic in its understanding of the situation, encourages easy-come activism and the possibility of Kony becoming a celebrity.

The Ugandan government responded to Invisible Children's criticism of its attempts to capture Kony by posting its own video on YouTube.

The LRA has existed for more than two decades, creating fear and despair among the northern

regions of Uganda, across the border into Sudan and the Congo.

World Vision has been working with child soldier survivors in the Gulu and Pader districts of Uganda for more than 20 years.

Megan McGrath is World Vision Australia's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Coordinator in the group's

“It was so encouraging to see the change that could take place in a child who had been through such horrific circumstances ...”

Humanitarian and Emergency Response Team.

“My first encounter with Kony's Lord's Resistance Army was in 2005 when I was visiting my sponsor child in north eastern Uganda,” Megan said. “After enjoying a few hours getting to know Veronica and her family, I was told (not asked) to get in the World Vision Land Rover and we quickly took off down the road.”

The LRA had been sighted

in the area and Megan was in danger of being attacked.

“I was very concerned for Veronica and her family. I could leave because I had the means to do so. Thankfully they were safe that day.”

“In 2009 I returned and spent six months working with World Vision in the Gulu Children of War Rehabilitation Centre where children who had escaped from the LRA or had been rescued received much needed medical attention.”

“They were also fed and clothed and brought back to full health. They received psychological support in the form of art therapy, counselling, livelihood training, educational opportunities, family tracing and family counselling.”

“World Vision worked to reintegrate these children back into the community and focused its attention on reducing the stigma attached to former child soldiers that existed within the community.”

“It was so encouraging to see the change that could take place in a child who had been through such horrific circumstances,” Megan said.

Children who had once been forced to kill are now acting as peace advocates within their own communities.

The long-haul work of groups like World Vision working with troubled children taken by Kony is making a real difference.

Ethiopia in need

We have seen many powerful images of hunger and starvation in Ethiopia, but never has the international call for action to support people facing death from starvation been louder.

Ethiopian Kale Heywot Church, supported by TEAR Australia, has been providing food relief to nearly 16,000 people in the Gelana district of southern Ethiopia where long-term drought has put people in a desperate position.

“We have not had enough food for more than a year ...”

The church, which has thousands of congregations around the country, wants the world to understand that relief is much more than dropping off bags of food – it is engagement of local communities. One church member says relief doesn't end when the rains come. “We have not had enough food for more than a year but we do all we can to feed our children.”

“We have sold our jewellery to feed our families. Now that we have this maize and beans our children will get good food.”

The people in the Gelana district rely on their land for food and income. Some communities graze cattle and other livestock while others produce food or coffee from their land. Severe drought has affected both these livelihoods. Rain did finally arrive in late 2011 but there was too much of it and what was to be a good harvest was mostly destroyed.

TEAR Australia says getting food supplies into wet areas has been difficult. Organisations such as TEAR Australia are awaiting the outcome of a government assessment into the current situation. Based on the outcome, the organisation will decide how it can continue to partner with Ethiopian Kale Heywot Church to provide food relief or to move to a rehabilitation phase.

For more information visit www.tear.org.au.

Rehabilitation project changes lives

The people of Bangladesh have always stood out as resourceful and committed to seeing a difference in their circumstances.

Baptist World Aid Australia has been a driver for change within the country, partnering with local people who have been working to help themselves. One such partnership is in Northern Bangladesh where the Protibondhi Community Centre is working to strengthen the rights of disabled people and their families.

The Centre is helping people with disabilities who have limited formal education and virtually no skills. The training that is being conducted via the Community Based Rehabilitation for Disabled

People (CBRDP) program goes beyond education and skill training – it is leading to sustainable incomes for people in need.

Furniture shop worker Ajar Ali lost his leg after a workplace accident. “I am a member of a self help group and with my own savings and a small loan I was able to establish a grocery store.”

“Now, with my wife's help, I am earning an income and we have a very good life,” Mr Ali said.

Baptist World Aid Australia says in addition to conducting classes in tailoring and functional education, the development of kitchen gardens and livestock rearing projects have not only provided food but also income from selling off excess produce.

For more information visit www.baptistworldaid.org.au.

With love comes heart

With the release of her second album *Heart*, singer songwriter Audrey Assad views her song writing style as a hybrid of the 70s and today's music. She recently spoke with journalist Kerry Brinknell about what inspired her when writing her latest album.

So Audrey you released your debut album *The House You're Building* in 2010 which was well received — can you share with me the journey from that album to this new album *Heart*?

After the release in 2010 I went on the road for what felt like two years but it was probably just for a year. Then I found myself getting that phone call from the label saying "hey it is about time you start getting ready to record your next album". Which is really good news because I'm like "oh they want me to do another album". For me it became about focusing in on what I really wanted to say to the world through the music and the lyrics. Once I had found a trajectory I had to run with that. I asked myself "what have I been experiencing in the last eighteen months that is worth writing music about and putting out there for people to hear". To me it became pretty obvious that I had been learning so much about love and what love requires of you. I decided that would be what I would base the record around. The songs circle around the love of God, love of man and human love. I was writing all these songs on the road in between tour dates. I love the songs. I think that out of that hectic experience something was born that I hope is really beautiful. It was such a great experience writing it.

What do you want listeners to take away with this concept of love?

Well I think two things. Number one is that I realised being a Christian, exploring faith and the heart and what I believe about God has led me to realise that being human is something worth exploring. Because God came through us and became a human person in Jesus it is like being human is my greatest gift. It is something God was prepared to become and so I need to learn what it means to be fully human. I think in that, I am going to learn how to give God glory in my life. That is one thing and the other thing is love. I've started using this phrase 'Love is free. You can't buy it. You can't earn it. But once you accept love it requires everything you have'. That is sort of a paradox and a mystery about love both human and especially with the love of God that I am learning to explore as

well. So I feel like those two things are very present on this album.

So when you are developing these songs are your quiet times with God where you start to hear the heartbeat for the album?

Actually no. I think for me my times like that have become quieter and quieter and quieter in the sense that I don't tend to become immediately inspired during those times to write. Sometimes I don't hear anything. But I've started seeking more and more in my prayer time when I am just still in the presence of God and have that be my focus and goal. I think that is the most heavenly place on earth. What has happened for me with song writing is not only that but my perspective of the Christian person has informed my world view in such a way that it is in the practical parts of my life that I am finding material. It is the things about being human that has informed my perspective as a believer. I am also finding much inspiration in the everyday and writing about those things from the perspective of what my worldview is. So I tend to have more of those ideas on the airplane when I'm travelling or when I am in the middle of honest confrontations. I think to myself "do I need to say this?" because my heart is saying "I'm finding something out about myself and I need to refresh it."

You have collaborated with a number of well known Christian artists — Matt Maher, Ben Glover, Mia Fieldes — how does this sort of collaboration take place — do they come to you or do you seek their input?

With the second record the people I co-wrote with are people I already have a very close relationship with whereas for the first record, I was meeting all those people for the first time with the exception of Matt Maher who I had already been friends with for a while. I developed those relationships for two to three years at the start of my career. Now I have discovered a writing team that works for me. I call them up and say "hey, can we please write. I need some songs." I've written songs on my own but I also write with these friends.



Photo: Crossroad Distributors

Your first radio single has been the beautiful song 'Sparrow' which is a rearrangement of the classic hymn 'Eye is On the Sparrow' — what was your inspiration to choose this hymn and then put your interpretation on it?

Well I heard it as a kid in the movie *Sister Act Two* with Whoopi Goldberg and the dancing nuns. It was gorgeous and I just really liked it. Then I got older and realised 'man these lyrics are great'. There are lyrics in the song that say 'Why should I be lonely, long for heaven and home' which are very simple statements. They are simpler than I usually like to write. I like to be a little more morose and sober. I thought 'oh man I need to believe these things; I am going to write these songs because I need to believe this stuff.' So I did. A friend of mine, Kyle and myself just reapproached it. I really didn't do much rewriting in lyrical terms; I kind of shuffled the lyrics around a bit and wrote a melody. I wrote it in a way that fits my voice.

How would you describe your style or genre of music?

I am very much influenced by the 1970s and the singer songwriters of that era like James

Taylor, Paul Simon and Carol King but I also love the pop music of now. I feel like now I am definitely influenced by that style of song writing but honestly I am seeing it become a hybrid of the 70s and today. It is kind of fun. I love that kind of blend.

So Audrey when will you head out to Australia? Is there a chance of you and Matt Maher doing a tour?

Oh I want to! I am seriously going to talk to my manager

Kat to find a time to make that happen. I would absolutely love to come out. My husband has been and absolutely loved it and would love to go back. Hopefully we can make that happen in the next year or two.

Heart Competition

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

Question:
In what year did Audrey Assad release her first album *The House You're Building*?

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

Heart Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

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

Thinking your way to the top



Photo: Chung King

By John Maxwell

No one wants to feel invisible as they pass through life, yet we often get the impression that others see us as little more than a statistic. Our resume ends up in a pile, our performance reviews go into a file, and like everyone else we get a raise every once in a while. We're referred to as applicants, employees, or human resources and we sense our individuality being somewhat buried.

Jack Welch called this feeling of anonymity 'being in the pile' and he recommended thinking as the means of escape. Most people go with the flow, doing what's asked of them but not much more. In Welch's estimation, the key to

elevating yourself in business is to go above and beyond expectations whenever you're asked a question or given an assignment. As he writes ...

"If you understand that the question is only the beginning,

you will get out of the pile fast, because 99.9 percent of all employees are in the pile because they don't think. If you understand this principle, you will always be given more critical questions to answer. And in time, you will be the one giving out the questions to others!"

In this lesson, I'd like to offer five practical steps to help you think your way to the top.

1. Find a place to think your thoughts.

Today's work environments are incredibly fast-paced and fraught with pressing demands. Unless you're intentional about getting away from the rattle and hum of day-to-day operations, you'll be sucked into a vortex of

thoughtless hyperactivity. The first step to getting out of the pile is giving yourself permission to disconnect. You have to get away from the daily barrage of information by retreating to a space free of interruptions. Initially, scheduling time to think will feel incredibly unproductive. However, you'll quickly gain perspective which enables you to work smarter and more strategically.

2. Find a place to shape your thoughts.

In their infancy most ideas are fuzzy, flabby and fanciful. Firstly, our thoughts initially are unclear. As a leader, challenge yourself to translate your gut intuitions or inklings into distinct ideas which you can plainly articulate to your team. Secondly, new ideas never come fully formed. They need a workout to tighten them up and to get them into shape. As a leader, your job is to submit ideas to a fitness test by asking a battery of questions. Does the idea proceed from reliable assumptions? Does the idea align with the values and vision of the organisation? Does the idea make sense given the structure and strengths of the organisation? Thirdly, thoughts spring into existence in the realm of possibility. However, to be useful they must undergo tests of practicality. For instance, how would the idea actually take shape in your organisation? What would it cost to pursue? How long would it take to implement?

3. Find a place to stretch your thoughts.

Throughout my career, some of my best thinking has been done by others. Often my ideas start out small until my team gets a hold of them and finds ways to stretch them to their maximum potential. Isolated leaders never obtain as much influence as those who surround themselves with an inner circle of creative, intelligent advisors.

4. Find a place to land your thoughts.

Before an idea can make an impact, it must make the descent from your head to your hands. In other words, the thought must come out of thin air and take on a concrete existence. The number one question to ask when landing or implementing an idea is: Who will own it? That is, who will champion the idea and push it forward? In addition to the logistics of landing the idea, a leader relationally must prepare the way for the idea to touch down safely. Practically, this means winning the support of key decision-makers and communicating clearly with those most likely to be affected by the idea's implementation.

5. Find a place to fly your thoughts.

If you wanted to fly an airplane, you would begin by taking lessons from a pilot. Likewise, to fly an idea, you first need to learn from a pilot or trial run. Testing your idea on a small scale exposes its weaknesses before a major launch. Sometimes the flaws are fixable, and the idea can be reworked. On rare occasions, you may even have an idea that tests out brilliantly on the first attempt. However, other ideas, though theoretically solid, are not feasible in real life and ought to be scrapped. A trial run confirms that an idea which sounds impressive can actually withstand the challenges of real-world application.

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Leaning – the pressures of life

By Monica O'Neil

The super-six fence at home has developed a bit of a lean. The ground on our side is higher than the ground on the other side so that now it has this look of something about to topple. The pressure is getting to it and if something is not done, eventually it will take a tumble. If things look a little unsightly now, then surely it will be plain ugly when it all tumbles down.

When I first saw the big

strong wall that Marcus Aurelius built in Regensburg in 179AD, I was awestruck by the hugeness of the stones and the tight tessellation that had kept those blocks locked together almost two millennia. It was majestic and inspiring. Leaning on it gave me a sense of place and privilege in history. Its sheer size and strength gave a gift of strength to me. I have been fascinated by archaeology since childhood, but I wasn't prepared for the real thing. I thought it would be interesting. I did not expect it to give me a sense of strength and connection.

Although I would like to be a Marcus Aurelius original, I am more like my super-six fence. I wonder if you are the same. We are simple leaders who live with the pressures and weights that are part of leading. Sometimes we are strong and noble, like the giant stone wall, yet at other times the pressure mounts and we start to develop a tottering demeanour. Our toppling super-six fence version of a leader is much less noble looking than Marcus Aurelius' wall in Regensburg.

But leaders are supposed to be strong, aren't they? And for good reason. Those we lead have need

of shelter, of hope, of destiny and legacy. Those who are teetering and bruised are more vulnerable. The forces that seek out the weak are prowling about, seeking where they can devour. We, who are called to offer strength, also need protection.

So what hope is there for the leader who finds themselves tottering? David, in Psalm 62 refers to the swaying leader as a tottering fence ... and points us to the deepest source of strength.

In the teetering places, he sought the quietness of being with God to renew his soul. When he was tottering, he ran to the rock,

to the strong tower of our God. We leaders don't need to be a Marcus Aurelius stone wall in our own capacity. We do need to be joined into the strength of God. Hope and strength renew like a spring when we are connected with our rock, our fortress and our high tower.

Monica O'Neil is the Director of Vose Leadership.

events calendar

May

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

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

19 May Open Day, Trinity Theological College, 9228 9067

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

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

27 May Cancer Council Morning Tea, South Perth Baptist Church, 9368 1479

June

5 and 12 June Safe Church Workshop, Lakeside Baptist Church, 6313 6300

8 June Faith Booster Youth and Young Adults Service, Lake Joondalup Baptist Church, 6313 6300

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

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

24 June Public Meeting, Perth Baptist Church, 9458 1684

July

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

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

August

14 August South Perth Baptist Church dinner and birthday party, Bocilli Restaurant, 9368 1479

September

29 Sep - 1 Oct Sportsfest, BCWA, www.sportsfest.org.au

Position Vacant Senior Pastor



Busselton Baptist Community Church is seeking applications for the position of Senior Pastor.

For information about our church, and to download an application package, please visit

www.busseltonbaptist.org.au

Applications close by close of business Friday 1st June 2012.

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



Holiday in Broome!

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

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



contribute news

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)

Faith Booster Youth and Young Adults Service

Friday 8th June
7:30pm - 9pm

Lake Joondalup Baptist Church
8 Kennedy Drive, Joondalup

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

the advocate

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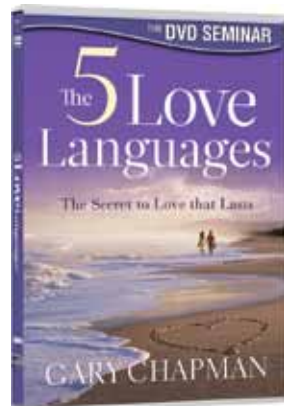
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The Christian Network

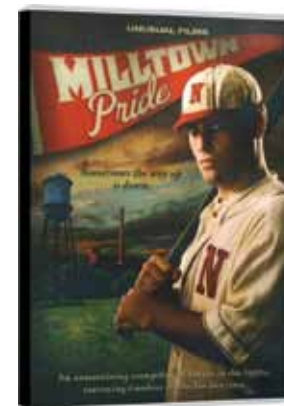
TheChristianNetwork.com (TCN) is a new site which aggregates Christian news and views as well as providing original content from a range of popular writers. With a distinctly Australian flavour, one of TCN's goals is to provide international, national as well as local content and information. TCN publishes weekly sermons and stories from prominent Western Australian Christian leaders, allowing local Christians to feel a part and a sense of belonging to a larger online community they can connect with. The site offers popular daily devotionals, testimonies and links to local churches.

watch



The 5 Love Languages

Discover the secrets to love that lasts! Dr Gary Chapman uses over 30 years of counselling experience to guide couples on how to love by understanding and utilizing 'The 5 Love Languages' concept. Whether you are in a new relationship or looking to revive a failing marriage, *The 5 Love Languages* effectively teaches how to meet your partner's deep emotional need to feel loved so you can truly feel loved in return. The five fundamental ways to express love emotionally are explained clearly and concisely.



Milltown Pride

Will dreams of playing big league baseball and he'd sacrifice anything to make it happen. But in South Carolina in the 1920s, the only path to professional baseball is through the local textile mill team. Against his wealthy father's wishes, Will leaves his family and privileged life to work in the harsh conditions at Newton Mill. While natural talent on field makes him the rising star in the team. How much will he risk for his chance at the big leagues? And, when he hits rock bottom, is there a way up?



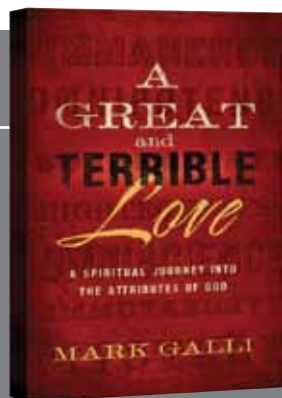
Standing Firm

Dave is working himself to death. Late nights and running on fumes is the norm. Bills are piling up by the week and foreclosure looms on the horizon. Blaming God for his wife's death, he ends his relationship with the church. His son, Steven, has been watching with great concern. Despite his grieving, Dave begins to move in the right direction seeking an answer to the question that has been haunting him since his wife's death ... why? *Standing Firm* is a story of personal suffering and finding God's purpose in it.

win

A Great and Terrible Love

Mark Galli



Written in the form of a study, *A Great and Terrible Love* is a glimpse into the person of God. What is He like? How can we relate to Him? Through understanding His attributes, we soon understand how He thinks and the ways in which He moves. Careful examination of God's attributes reveals a God full of mystery, eternity, righteousness and mercy. *A Great and Terrible Love* delivers unexpected glimpses into 15 classic attributes of God, exposing cheap substitutes and delivering a fresh vision of God. "In the end of course, when it comes to God's love, little separates everlasting and eternal. If divine love is experienced with an intensity that transcends time, making every moment an eternal present, then it is also true that we will experience this love in an unending stretch of time in the new heaven and earth: I am the resurrection and the life," says Jesus. "Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die ..." *The Advocate* in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *A Great and Terrible Love*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

How many classic attributes of God are noted in the novel *A Great and Terrible Love*?

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

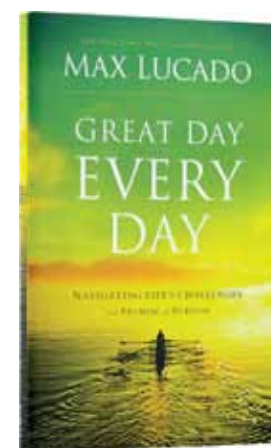
Jesus: A Novel competition winners:
H Hartland, R Read, J Prangnell

read



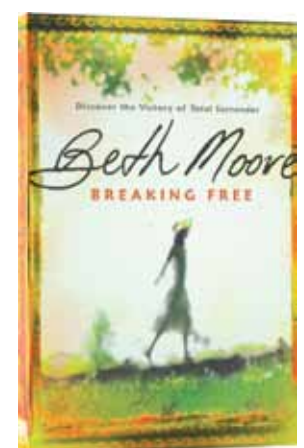
The Prayer That Changes Everything

Stormie Omartian expresses how significant our praise is to the Lord. "One of the ways we can learn to completely trust that God is a good God is to praise Him for His goodness. Every time we do, it opens up the channels through which that particular aspect of His nature is poured into our hearts. The more you praise Him for His goodness, the more you will see it manifested in your life.



Great Day Every Day

Max Lucado
New release *Great Day Every Day* by Max Lucado is an inspiring read helping navigate us through life's challenges. Max encourages us to come back to the basics. "Saturate your day in Jesus' grace. Entrust your day to His oversight. Accept His direction. It's the only prescription to fill your day with God-given purpose." With a 30 day journey, a discussion section and a daily compass, this book is practical also.



Breaking Free

Beth Moore
Breaking Free is the breakthrough book on how to overcome strongholds and discover a better life. Deeply exposing what strongholds are, where they start and what to do about them, Moore shares personal experiences as well as circumstances that may attribute to strongholds in all of our lives. "How thankful I am for the freedom God has increasingly given me in Christ. I'm in the throes of middle age. Time is a great healer but a lousy beautician."

competition

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

A Great and Terrible Love 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



Lisch at home with Wildcats

Kevin Lisch is not just the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the Australian National Basketball League (NBL) and a key member of the Perth Wildcats team, he's also a man of faith.

From his early childhood, Kevin has an enduring memory of his family attending Mass on Sunday mornings. His faith in Jesus Christ brings steadiness and calm to the world of elite sport that he now calls home.

As a high performance athlete in a national competition, games are often scheduled on the weekend so Kevin goes to church on Saturday evening if he's playing basketball on Sunday.

As a 188 centimetre guard on the Wildcats team, Kevin's deft touch, explosive acceleration and fine balance enable him to make two and three point shots that keep the scorers busy and often get his team out of trouble.



Photo: Perth Wildcats

Kevin Lisch, a key member of the Perth Wildcats team and also a man of faith.

“It was a leap of faith. In saying that, I was totally committed.”

Born in Belleville, Illinois, 26 years ago, Kevin left his family – father Rusty, mother Cathy, two sisters and a brother – and the broad farmlands of his youth to study at Saint Louis University on a basketball scholarship when he finished high school.

There's strong sporting stock in Kevin's family. Dad Rusty was quarterback for National Football League Saint Louis Cardinals, just about the pinnacle of American sport. He retired at 27 when his first daughter was born.

Australian Chris Harriman, Assistant Coach at Saint Louis, was on the lookout for new talent suitable for the Australian scene. He talked with his friend Rob Beveridge, Coach of the Perth Wildcats and Kevin headed to Perth at the end of his university time to play for

the Wildcats in the 2009-2010 Season.

“I was pretty naive. I got out the globe and thought, ‘man, Perth is pretty much the furthest spot you can go’. It was a leap of faith. In saying that, I was totally committed. I never once thought about going home if I felt things weren't working out. Fortunately the whole organisation was great to me,” Kevin said.

Wildcats Assistant Coach Andy Stewart spent some intense weeks with Kevin as he found form and settled into life more

than 18,000 kilometres from home.

The fit has been very good for the Wildcats and Kevin. He won Most Valuable Player in the 2009-2010 Grand Final series; was named co-winner of the Wildcats MVP in 2010-2011 and recently won the NBL MVP to become only the second Wildcat to win the award.

Kevin met West Coast Waves basketball player Rachel Watman two years ago. They plan to marry in July, forging stronger ties to Australia.

Kevin has already applied for permanent residency in Australia and plans to apply for Australian citizenship. He dreams of one day playing for Australia at the Olympic Games.

But before those dreams and celebrations, Kevin Lisch faces the pressure and intensity of the NBL final series as we go to print.

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