

# the advocate

"How do we know if what we're doing really makes a difference?"  
**JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>**

**In Conversation** Shane Clifton, Dean of Theology, speaks about his work on the psychosocial wellbeing of people with disabilities after a pushbike accident left him a quadriplegic in 2010 **PAGE 12>>**



Photo: Hadyn Siggins

Lesmurdie Baptist Church Pastor Karen Siggins campaigns for the safe release of 276 abducted Nigerian girls.

## Lesmurdie campaigns for Nigerian girls

Lesmurdie Baptist Church joined people around the world by participating in the Bring Back Our Girls campaign to highlight the plight of 276 girls who were abducted from school in Nigeria.

The girls were taken from the Government Girls Secondary School in Chibok in north-eastern Nigeria by the Islamist armed group Boko Haram in April.

Senior Pastor Karen Siggins collected photos of people from the church holding a sign #bringbackourgirls as part of an Amnesty International Australia initiative to gather 300 photos of people showing their support for the abducted girls and their families. The images will be presented to Ayo Olukanni, the Nigerian High Commissioner in

Australia, to help secure the safe release of the girls.

Lesmurdie Baptist Church [LBC] collected more than 60 photos for Amnesty International by Wednesday 14 May to mark one month since the girls' abduction.

Boko Haram released a video of about 100 of the girls seated on the ground wearing Islamic garb on 12 May. The group states there is no place for girls to be educated.

International news outlets are reporting that the girls, mostly aged between 16 and 18, are being

sold into sexual slavery or forced 'marriage' and forced to convert to Islam.

Amnesty International Australia said Nigerian authorities need to know that the world stands with the girls' families in demanding their immediate release and the rights to education and protection against violence for all Nigerian children must be safeguarded.

The mothers of the abducted girls and their supporters have been marching on the nation's capital Abuja demanding action.

"On Mother's Day we prayed for the mums of the girls and the heartache they're experiencing," Karen said.

"Getting involved with the photo initiative was a good next step for us as a church."

The church has been grappling with how to respond to

the needs of marginalised people in Australia, including asylum seekers, since February.

"We've had a group thinking, praying and planning for a couple of months about how Lesmurdie needs to respond to these needs," Karen said.

"I know the Nigerian girls are not asylum seekers but LBC radar to the needs of people in other places outside our current mission commitments has been fuelled by the asylum seeker conversation."

"We passionately believe that God's Kingdom has come and the future we hope for meets us in the present albeit imperfectly, and so we can and should strive to make a kingdom difference now!" Karen said.



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“Living lives that are fully dependent on God in obedience to Christ and the Bible.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES  
 WESTERN AUSTRALIA







### Dan McGrechan

Dan McGrechan is the Associate Pastor at South Perth Baptist Church.

## All in the name of squash

I really enjoy playing squash, that chaotic game played between opponents with rackets in a concrete box. I'm a member of a squash club and play three or four times a week.

I often watch high profile matches to hone my game awareness and improve my strategy. You might say I'm a little obsessed with the sport.

Recently, I asked a team mate if he did any other physical exercise during the week. "Rarely," he replied. "Sometimes I go for a run or a ride, but only to improve my fitness for squash. At the end of the day it's all for squash. If I eat well, it's for squash. If I exercise, it's

for squash." As he spoke I was reminded of the words of Paul, "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all for squash."... Right?

Given the obsession with sport in our culture, we are well aware of the level of sacrifice required of top athletes to succeed in their discipline. Athletes adopt a new way of life in order to become the best they can be. They radically overhaul their diet, social life, sleep

patterns, exercise regimes and more, in order to excel. At the end of the day, it's all for squash.

However, Paul didn't instruct us to give everything for sporting success ... or family, career, wealth, pleasure, or significance. Paul teaches us to live with the focus and discipline of an athlete, but to 'do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus' [Colossians 3:17]. 'Train yourself to be godly', he says to the young Timothy. 'For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come' [1 Timothy 4:7-8]. This 'training to be godly' is what

we call discipleship. We spend time with Jesus, to learn from Him how to be like Him. We love God by following Jesus with all of our heart and soul, mind and strength.

Everyone, at the end of the day, 'does it all' for something. Followers of Jesus, do it all for Jesus; this is what sets us apart from the world. We speak, act, work and play in the name of Jesus, and in the way of Jesus. And the way of Jesus is the way of love.



### Dr Brian Harris

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

## On flying ...

Everyone prays on flights. Before you board you pray for an empty seat next to you, or if that request is declined, at least that the person alongside won't be too large or too garrulous.

Then there is the take-off prayer, prayers during bumpy patches, a petition before landing, and finally that most desperate of prayers – that your luggage has arrived safely.

I am writing on a flight to Melbourne ... I don't have an empty seat next to me, but otherwise, so far, so good. Most people's eyes are glued to the small TV screen in front of them. Long gone are the days

when we all endured or enjoyed the same movie. The greatest benefit of these individual TV screens is the demise of the endless queue for the toilet the moment the film is finished. Bathroom demand is now evenly spread throughout the course of the flight.

From the chortling behind me, I'm confident that the passenger has found a comedy to his liking, whilst the gasp and

paling skin of the teenager in front suggests that her choice of horror movie was unwise. The woman alongside me is steadily beaver away on her laptop, indicating that row 26 attracts the hard working and conscientious – alternatively, the seriously dull.

It is a full flight. I look around and try to guess the life story of those passengers in sight. There is no way of knowing of course. Some faces look hard and unrelenting, others bored ... In spite of 26 movie channels, supplemented by endless TV options, nothing is to their liking. What will they do when

they get to Melbourne? I have meetings to attend, but many will be returning to family. Are some facing a family crisis? A woman two rows ahead looks strained and stressed. Is she returning to bid farewell to an ailing relative?

So many stories ... Unknown to me, but each one known to God. And so Lord, for these strangers, greatly loved by You, I pray. May your grace and kindness reach each one. And I thank you that the lunch trolley is in sight.



### Robert Nicholls

Robert Nicholls is Church Engagement Coordinator with Christian Blind Mission Australia.

## Surprised by community

Every now and then I find myself in the midst of a church community, usually over a meal, when I suddenly feel like I'm getting a glimpse of the Kingdom.

It has happened in Canberra, Melbourne, Newcastle, Brisbane and Perth to name some places and it has always involved the presence of people considered 'outsiders' by our society. More than that, they have not been recipients of the charity of others but rather, participants and contributors to their community who are making a difference. I don't count how many and I'm usually not aware

until it suddenly dawns on me that it is happening.

My imagination is sparked into something beyond the here and now and I can feel Paul's words about the body in the air: 'If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.' [1 Corinthians 12:26, *The Message*]

In those times I think of the many people I have known and still know who live with brokenness and rejection. I sense the hope that this is what they could experience – the truth about God's love, not just the words. I imagine the kind of justice that Jesus announces of 'pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to set the burdened and battered free' [Luke 4:18, *The Message*] and see those people enjoying the healing experience of this kind of dangerous and subversive community. A community of people turning the worldly order of preference

and importance on its head!

Walter Brueggemann describes Jesus's actions as 'imaginative performances of an alternative way in the world' [*Disruptive Grace*, p. 298] and that's exactly what it feels like to be included in that community. And when I am there, I am included because there are not outsiders in such a gathering. We all belong and we are all equal recipients and contributors.

Every time this happens I am grateful for the opportunities I am able to talk about, experience and advocate for the church to be a shining light to the world of God's true justice in action.

## 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.



# Pastors' retreat finds gold

Dr Derek and Rev Dianne Tidball travelled from the United Kingdom to be guest speakers at the annual All Together Pastoral Retreat held in Mandurah in late April.

More than 180 pastoral staff and their spouses gathered to hear the UK Baptist pastors.

Through their teaching sessions, the Tidballs encouraged WA Baptist pastoral workers to keep the gospel clearly in focus, to not shy away from some of the suffering that comes because of your choice to follow Jesus.

"It was good solid gospel teaching," Church consultant Steve Ingram said.

"Not a lot of bells and whistles but foundational stuff calling us back to take up our cross daily and live for Jesus. We were well fed!"

With a PhD in nonconformist history, Derek was the principal and taught Sociology of Religion and Pastoral Theology at the London School of Theology. Among his many national roles he served as President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain in 1990 to 1991 and as Chair of the Evangelical Alliance (UK) Council 1993 to 1997. A frequent conference speaker, Derek has written over thirty books and edits the Bible Speaks Today Series for InterVarsity Press.

Dianne is Regional Minister for the East Midlands Baptist Association, England. In 2008 she was appointed to the Regional Team in the East Midlands and became its leader a year later. In this role she oversees 150 churches in four English counties. Dianne is also an author, having recently co-written *The Message of Women* with Derek and written a number of other books on Esther and the letters of Peter, John and Jude.

Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Ministries, Mark Wilson, said the retreat was a significant time for the pastoral teams of Baptist ministries across the state. Workers from Kununurra to Esperance attended.

A team of talented and gifted young adults led vibrant and sensitive worship times to engage minds and hearts each day.

"What an experience to guide such a committed group of people to worship Jesus," musician and pastor at South Perth Baptist Church Dan McGrechan said.

"We hardly prompted them at all. They were so ready to respond to God."

The organising committee developed a program that allowed time to process the teaching received as well as opportunities for conversations and some recreation.

The gospel teaching was not the only treasure unearthed at the Retreat. While playing volleyball on one of Mandurah's beaches Pastor Nicholas Van Oudtshoorn lost his wedding ring in the sand prompting a two hour search. The treasure was finally recovered after a metal detector was hired.

Organising committee member Pastor Mark Edwards from Inglewood Community Church said the event confirmed for him the richness of the community among pastoral workers in WA and the value of Director of Ministries Mark Wilson's leadership.



Pastors search for gold at the All Together Pastoral Retreat for Baptist pastoral staff in Mandurah.

Photo: David Juniper

## Kelsos are on the road

A Mt Barker couple took delivery of a new wheelchair accessible vehicle in late May following a call for donations in the December 2013 edition of *The Advocate*.

Generous gifts to the Kelso Vehicle Fund have enabled Don and Miriam Kelso from Mount Barker Baptist Church to purchase a Volkswagen Multivan which has been modified to accommodate Don's wheelchair.

Following cancer treatment in 2005 Don suffered a Cytomegalovirus attack which left him wheel chair bound. His wife, Miriam, has been his

primary carer for several years and recently had two shoulder replacement operations to repair damage from the physical strain of lifting and supporting Don.

Tom Herrington from Denmark Baptist Church who has managed the Fund since it was launched in 2013, reports that a \$10,000 government grant towards the \$12,500 modification and Southside Volkswagen's generous discount

of more than \$5,000 to the cost of the vehicle (\$52,438) significantly helped the Kelsos.

Don and Miriam were overwhelmed by the support provided to them after their need was communicated in *The Advocate*, and wish God's richest blessings on all who have been so generous to help them. The new vehicle will allow the couple to be mobile and protect Miriam's newly reconstructed shoulders.

The remaining Fund balance of approximately \$1,000 will be given to the Kelsos to help cover registration, insurance and running costs.



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# Federal budget impacts

Responses to the Federal Budget announced in May have been varied with the majority of reported responses voicing disappointment and even anger at the government's hardline stance.

Leaders of State not-for-profit groups state the budget is changing the very fibre of Australian society with low income families and seniors suffering most.

Baptistcare CEO and Chair of Baptist Care Australia, Rev. Dr Lucy Morris, said that our social contract has been broken and the most vulnerable are increasingly unable to access services in a country that is busy turning itself into a business corporation.

"We see vulnerable people being targeted as the tired belief that 'those who are 'without' only have themselves to blame' emerges again into full view. We see those whom our politicians

want to scapegoat such as the asylum seekers, homeless, young, elderly, families and unemployed being made to jump through ever higher hoops in order to justify why they are 'worthy' to access some of our country's wealth," she said.

Low income earners are set to lose ten percent of their income through Government cuts. Seniors will receive approximately \$1,500 a year less in the next year due to cancelled concessions and cuts.

The Government's decision to cut Australia's foreign aid spending by \$7.6 billion in the five years to 2017 to 2018 also caused concern for Baptist leaders and aid agencies.

Aid organisations, World Vision, Baptist World Aid Australia and Micah Challenge, expressed strong disappointment with the foreign aid cuts.

"It's critical for our nation to embrace our global responsibilities," World Vision Australia CEO Tim Costello said.

"It is disheartening to see that the poorest people in the world will foot the bill for Australia's fiscal repairs."

"We can and should be doing more, not less, as a nation for the marginalised and vulnerable across the world," Director of National Ministries for Australian Baptist Ministries Rev. Keith Jobbens said.

"It should be one of our core values. I know that this view resonates strongly among members of the Baptist movement in Australia."

There was one element of the budget that many people were pleased with.



Photo: commons.wikimedia.org

The Federal Government kept its commitment to school chaplaincy, announcing funding of \$245 million over four years for the National School Chaplaincy Program.

This will ensure young people in schools and their school communities can continue to enjoy the support and vital benefits of the Chaplaincy Program.

"School chaplaincy deserves strong community and government support," Rev. Keith Jobbens said.

"We are incredibly pleased that funding for the chaplaincy program will continue to support vulnerable people in school communities throughout Western Australian beyond 2014," YouthCARE CEO Stanley Jeyaraj said.

## Cross cultural worker moves

Two prominent Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) workers will relocate to Melbourne this month after more than a decade working with cross-cultural and indigenous congregations.

Marc and Brigitte Chan have each worked tirelessly for the organisation. Marc has worked with the Cross Cultural and Indigenous Ministries with emerging congregations for more than 11 years. While Brigitte's expertise and gracious manner will be missed in the accounts department of BCWA where she has worked as assistant to Accountant Peter Lu since 2000. Leaving BCWA marks the start of her retirement.

The couple will travel to Melbourne where Marc has been appointed as Multicultural Inclusion Worker with the Baptist Union of Victoria. He will be focused on helping cross-cultural congregations integrate more deeply into the Baptist Union group.

During his time at BCWA, Marc guided the formation and sustainable leadership of more than 20 new congregations. He

has become highly respected by Burmese Karen, Chin and Matu congregations and Sudanese, Indonesian and Indian leaders.

He has worked tirelessly to support and encourage emerging leaders and help them navigate the complexities of church constitutions, insurance, workers' compensation, copyright and adjusting to Australian culture.

After almost 30 years in Perth, the couple look forward to this next chapter in their lives. Marc will support cross-cultural congregations as they develop a sustainable place in the denomination and help other congregations and leaders enjoy their rich cultural and faith heritage.



Photo: Jill Birt

Marc and Brigitte Chan are moving to Melbourne to work with the Baptist Union of Victoria after more than a decade with BCWA.

## digital church

22/04/2014

**Mark Howell**

[markhowelllive.com](http://markhowelllive.com)

"Jesus made disciples in a group. Paul made disciples in a group. Life on life, in the midst of life. There does not seem to have been a study guide. The experience seems to have been customised for each individual follower."

25/04/2014

**David Santistevan**

[davidstevan.com](http://davidstevan.com)

"Worship is all about God, and God is love. Worship is about having a healthy loving relationship with God and others."

04/05/2014

**Rob Douglas**

[robdouglasblog.wordpress.com](http://robdouglasblog.wordpress.com)

"I suspect that our fascination with the battle between good and evil is because there is a reality about it that we bump into at various levels."

05/05/2014

**Andrew Hamilton**

[backyardmissionary.com](http://backyardmissionary.com)

"Perhaps rather than telling our kids to study hard, work hard, do the right thing... etc we should teach them to listen to God, teach them the heart of Jesus and encourage them to seek what He wants first."

05/05/2014

**Jonathan Parnell**

[desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org)

"But when we speak the gospel message, it's never merely a message. It's not flat content. It is actually the declaration of a Person – a real Person who has done real work in real space-time history to reconcile real people to a real God."

05/05/2014

**Todd Rhoades**

[toddrhoades.com](http://toddrhoades.com)

"People aren't going to bed on Saturday night or waking up on Sunday morning keenly aware and interested in their spiritual lives."

06/05/2014

**Greg Atkinson**

[gregatkinson.com](http://gregatkinson.com)

"Life isn't all rainbows, cotton candy and cool Instagram pictures with the perfect filter on it. Life has ups and downs, peaks and valleys, highs and lows. I also find that I grow closer to God during the low times and am more desperate for Him."

07/05/2014

**Tim Challies**

[challies.com](http://challies.com)

"The Bible is one of God's great gifts. Without it I would be hopelessly and utterly lost."

I would not know who I am, who God is, or what He desires from me. That Bible is living and active, it is the very words of God recorded and preserved for me. Reading the Bible saved my soul and transformed my life."



# Youth Alpha arrives in Oz

Alpha's Youth Film Series is swooping across Canada and spreading throughout the world, influencing young people and changing lives in an unprecedented way. This is Alpha for a new generation.

The series is made up of 12 quirky videos filmed around the globe including London, New York, Vancouver and Jerusalem. This eight to ten week program engages high school students in some of life's biggest questions. The films were designed to be accessible to a broad audience and enable an open and ongoing discussion about faith.

Since the Canadian program was launched in September 2013, more than 20,900 teens and leaders have experienced the 12 part Alpha Youth Film Series in Canada alone. More than 5,240 guests began or restored a relationship with God during the 1,942 courses run last year.

Jason Ballard and Ben Woodman, both youth workers from Vancouver, developed the program in conjunction with the Alpha movement based in the United Kingdom.

"We wanted to create a tool that anyone could use to help spark a conversation about

faith, even if they're not an experienced public speaker," Jason said.

"Also, video allowed us more space to be creative – to travel the world, to use interviews, animations and a variety of locations."

Ben said that one of the main features of the program is that questions have been embedded within the films for discussion. This has been done to help make it even easier to facilitate conversation.

"Every episode includes three breaks for discussion: we pose a question, interview people on the street, from all over the world, and then the question reappears for you to pause it and talk it over in your group," Ben said.

The program focuses on young people aged 13 to 18 years. Each meeting is developed around food and conversation.

Once a group registers with Alpha Youth, all of the resources,

including the 12 videos, are available at no cost to the group.

"For Christian young people, the Youth Film Series helps them open an ongoing discussion about faith with their friends," Ben said.

"For young people who wouldn't call themselves Christians, it helps create a safe place where they will feel respected and comfortable enough to speak their minds and have conversations that they might not have anywhere else."

Canadian Youth Pastor Erik McRitchies said the Alpha Youth Film Series has been a catalyst for their ministry.

"Not only are we seeing our committed kids owning their faith in new and profound ways, we are seeing many kids making first time decisions to follow Christ through this series."

"A teen guest said he 'learned that God loves you for who you are, and He really does care about you'," Pastor McRitchies said.

The program is currently running in six continents around the world. Two training events for leaders were conducted in Melbourne and Sydney in early May.

**For more information, visit [www.alpha.org.au/youthfilmseries](http://www.alpha.org.au/youthfilmseries)**



Jason Ballard and Ben Woodman dressed in costume to host the videos for the new Youth Alpha programs.

Photo: Youth Alpha

## Book prompts visit

British theologian Derek Tidball and his wife Dianne were prompted to visit Western Australia recently after reading Vose Seminary Principal Brian Harris's book, *The Tortoise Usually Wins*. They were impressed by what they had read about the growth and vibrancy of the Baptist Church in Western Australia.

While in Perth, Derek presented an intensive study entitled 'The History of Evangelical Christianity' at Vose Seminary in early May. Thirty students completed the unit with Derek and another five people attended as review students.

"This was a must have unit for those interested in evangelicalism specifically, or church history generally," Vose Seminary Academic Dean, Nathan Hobby said.

Dianne is a leader in the Baptist Union of Great Britain and was interested in learning more about how the Baptist Churches Western Australia operate. The Tidballs also taught at the All Together Pastoral Retreat and at Carey Baptist College.

The couple visited South Perth Baptist Church the Sunday before they returned to the UK.

"We have had such an amazing time," Dianne said.

"We just love Western Australia. It's so fresh and vibrant. I've been inspired and challenged by the number of young adults I keep seeing in your churches. I'm trying to work out what your secret is."

"The quality and commitment of your young

leaders is part of the secret," Derek said.

"I'm very impressed with the depth of relationship I've seen among church leaders here. The young ones are respected and valued. And there is so much creativity around. We'd love to come back and see you all again."



Dan McGrechan welcomed Derek and Dianne Tidball to South Perth Baptist Church on Mother's Day.

Photo: Ruth Chapman

## Breakfast for pastors

Global Interaction invited Baptist pastors to breakfast during May Mission Month in an effort to inform them of the group's work around the globe and how churches can be involved in their work among the least reached people in the world.

To accommodate church leaders Global Interaction hosted two early morning events, rather than one central event.

Twenty-four pastors enjoyed a free breakfast at Woodvale Baptist Church and 20 other pastors enjoyed Global Interaction's hospitality at Riverton Baptist Church.

Team Leader of the Global Interaction work in Mozambique among the Yawo people, Jonno Crane, was the guest speaker at both events.

Jonno spoke of some of the leadership challenges he has had to embrace in Mozambique and the joys of working in a close knit team where people demonstrate on a daily basis their commitment to working with the people and the opportunities God sends them.

Pam Gallagher, Dan McGrechan and Colin Meadows who work with Global Interaction's Perth office hosted the events.

During each breakfast the pastors were introduced to the resource pack Global Interaction had prepared for May Mission Month.

Global Interaction representatives spoke in 20 different Baptist churches during May.



Jonno Crane speaking at the Woodvale breakfast.

Photo: Dushan Jeyabalan



# Naga nine in action

Nine self-funded keen missionaries from North Beach Baptist Church and East Fremantle Baptist Church spent 11 days during April ministering in Nagaland, North-East India, with many responding to the gospel.

Two years ago North Beach Baptist Church helped establish the Emmanuel Centre in Nagaland, as a safe haven for teaching, training and baptising recent converts to Christianity from neighbouring states and countries that are especially hostile to Christianity.

The Emmanuel Centre is also being used for discipling local Nagas, many of whom are regular church goers.

During a visit to commission the Centre in 2013, North Beach Baptist Church Senior Pastor Grant Hendry was asked to return to conduct a youth leadership camp for one of the local Baptist churches. The resulting team, which became known at North Beach Baptist as the Naga Nine, had the wonderful opportunity of ministering to 50 young Naga university students and recent graduates during a four day camp.

Nagaland has 24 indigenous languages, but English is used for education, so the team from North Beach could communicate reasonably well with the Naga youth.

Grant led morning seminars on how we are to honour God in the work place. He also spoke on the topic of love, sex and marriage and at three evening evangelistic rallies.

North Beach Baptist Church Youth and Young Adults Pastor, Bruce Polmear, led Bible studies from 1 Corinthians each day.

"This was an extreme cultural and missiological experience for us all," Grant said.

"Language barriers, limited electricity, no running water, and eating the unthinkable without knives and forks, were the easy

bits – by far the most challenging thing for us was responding to the realisation that none of the youth had any concept of sin or of a personal relationship with Jesus."

The North Beach team also visited some of the centres of Asia Evangelistic Fellowship in Nagaland and neighbouring Assam.

“This was an extreme cultural and missiological experience for us all ...”

In Assam the group met a 106 year old Naga lady who had become a follower of Jesus when she was only 15 years old.

"As we were about to leave, a team member asked if they could pray for her," Grant said.

"She quickly responded through a translator, 'no – I want to pray for you'."

Several in the team were reduced to tears as she prayed with deep joy and love for them.

A day spent exploring Kolkata was distressing for the group as they saw extreme poverty.

"As hard as it was, our experience of Kolkata helped us understand how privileged we are in Australia and how important it is that we rise to the opportunities we have to help others," Grant said.

Plans have commenced for another visit in 2015, potentially involving 200 youth from regional parts of Nagaland.



North Beach Baptist Church and East Fremantle Baptist Church members minister to youth and many others in Nagaland, North-East India, with local worker Wassim and son, Julian Janssen.

Photo: Ben Naga

## Electronics report out now

Following the success of the highly acclaimed *The Australian Fashion Report*, launched last August, Baptist World Aid Australia has expanded their ethical consumer research into the electronics industry.

On 21 May the *Australian Electronics Industry Trends Electronics Report* was launched which assesses the ethical practices of 39 consumer electronics brands and aims to empower consumers with the knowledge needed to purchase electronics ethically. The research investigates globally listed companies including Apple, Microsoft, Nintendo, Panasonic and Samsung, and provides a detailed grading of the systems these electronics brands have in place to protect workers in their

supply chain from exploitation, forced labour and child labour.

Alarming, the research found that only ten percent of companies have taken steps to use responsible purchasing practices which allow suppliers to pay a living wage to factory workers. Nokia alone has implemented a policy to ensure workers received a living wage – that is, a wage sufficient to cover a family's basic costs of living.

The Report has been condensed into a pocket-sized *Ethical Electronics Guide* which consumers can take with them



while they shop. With easy to read information about brands, this guide empowers consumers to purchase from companies that treat their workers ethically.

Copies of the pocket-sized *Ethical Electronics Guide* can be digitally downloaded from Baptist World Aid's website or print copies can be ordered. The full version of the *Australian Electronics Industry Trends Report* is also available for download.

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

## briefs

### Baptisms

Kerryn Perry was baptised at Kalgoorlie Baptist Church on 30 March. Andrew Barker, Tegan Barker, Jess Drage and Paul Kenny were baptised at Kalgoorlie Baptist Church on 27 April. Manjimup Baptist Church celebrated the baptism of Xavier Eon at Big Brook Dam near Pemberton on 6 April. Akshay Kumar and Nikita Kumar were baptised at Ellenbrook Baptist Church on 20 April.

### Woodvale mega market

Woodvale Baptist Church is holding a Kids Megamarket on Saturday 19 July from 9am to 1pm. For more information, visit [www.wbcinc.org.au](http://www.wbcinc.org.au)

### Australian office

The International Justice Mission (IJM) recently launched their work in Australia at an event hosted by Northside Baptist Church in Sydney on 11 May. The IJM Chief Executive for Australia Amber Hawkes said Australia is located in a region where 75 percent of the world's poorest people live and our neighbours do not share the same protection enjoyed by Australians but live in fear of violence on a daily basis. IJM rescue victims from slavery and human trafficking, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems across the developing world.

### Green Team

Baptist Churches Western Australia launched the Green Team 2014 on 1 June offering volunteers the opportunity to engage with 7,000 Leavers at Dunsborough between 24 to 27 November this year. Green Team Coordinator Michelle Smoker said 200 volunteers are needed to help this year's school leavers have a safe and fun experience at the Zone entertainment area run by the Green Team. People over the age of 18 can apply. Volunteers need a Working with Children Check card and need to complete some training. For more information, phone Michelle on 6313 6300.

### New babies

Rachel and Andrew Philp welcomed their son Joshua James on 5 April. Rachel is on maternity leave from her work as the Young Adults Consultant with Global Interaction in Western Australia. Liesl and Andy Larmour welcomed their first child, Lilly Rose, four weeks early on 15 May. Liesl worked as receptionist at the Baptist Churches Western Australia office until 9 May. The Larmour family attend Como Baptist Church.

### Martu garden

A new community garden was opened recently in Newman in the Pilbara. Members of

the Martu Baptist Fellowship and Newman Baptist Church celebrated the event in mid-May. The garden, known as Martu Farm, is a community driven project. It will give the Martu people and many others a unique opportunity to grow and nurture fruit and vegetables, and other plant varieties. Pastor John Wilmot who works with both congregations said the garden would allow the two congregations to build relationships with each other and enjoy watching their efforts grow into something beautiful and productive.



# 'Biker' raises big dollars

When local Perth woman, Sam Ferguson, saw an article about Baptist World Aid's upcoming cycle exposure trip to Cambodia she knew she had to get involved.

"I already sponsor a child but I wanted to make more of a difference. This trip is more than just an adventure holiday for me. It is a chance to meet people involved in Baptist World Aid programs and to see firsthand the amazing difference that good development programs can make for people living in extreme poverty."

The Get Behind the End of Poverty – Cambodia Challenge 2014 will empower Baptist World Aid to build stronger Baptist World Aid to build stronger futures for children and communities in Cambodia.

The team will be embedded in local communities in the remote Oddar Meanchey province as they trek and cycle through small villages, meeting dedicated staff who manage local projects in the communities.

As part of the experience, Sam has been raising funds to support Baptist World Aid.

"It has been quite exciting," she said.

"I had a clothes swapping event which raised \$1,400 and my friend is planning to host a high tea for me. These events are also a great way to tell people about the incredible work going on in these communities. Baptist World Aid programs don't offer hand outs and pity for 'poor, needy people'. They restore dignity by offering people access to training and services so families can lift themselves out of poverty. It's a really great model."

"I've been hearing stories about communities like the one we are planning to visit in Cambodia. People have got very little but they are prepared to work incredibly hard to change their lives. They are so grateful for these training programs and take every opportunity on offer to transform their lives. I'm looking forward to seeing this in action on the trip!"

"Overall, this whole experience has been so rewarding. I feel a great level of personal support and it has been heartening to see how generous people are when it comes to caring for the world's poor," Sam said.

Baptist World Aid reports that donations to the overseas aid Matching Grant Appeal received before 30 June are matched with Australian Government aid funds, meaning donations go further in investing in communities overseas.

To donate phone 1300 789 991.



A clothes swapping event was one way Sam Ferguson raised funds for Cambodia Challenge 2014.

Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

## Refugees' dedicated



Dr Marc Chan dedicates refugee Sudanese children at Yokine Baptist Church.

Photo: E Koto

The Arabic Speaking Congregation of Yokine Baptist Church celebrated the dedication of 20 Sudanese children during their afternoon worship service on 11 May.

The children are from seven families, all of whom are refugees from the Nuba Mountains region of Sudan. Eleven of the children were born in Australia. Nine were born in Sudan or refugee camps in Egypt.

Ministry Team Leader of the congregation Elezirig Koko and his wife Youstra presented their five children to be dedicated to God. Three of their children were born in Sudan and two were born in Perth following their arrival in 2005.

"The families are really happy," Elezirig said.

"They know their responsibility for their children to bring them to God."

Baptist Churches Western Australia Cross Cultural and Indigenous Ministries worker Dr Marc Chan dedicated the children and friends from around Perth joined the congregation for the ceremony.

The government of Sudan continues to bomb the Nuba Mountains region of the northern African nation where there is a significant Christian community.

"We could not keep living there," Elezirig said.

"Last week the government bombed the only hospital in the area. Our families are suffering," he said.

With no chance of mail deliveries, very limited telephone coverage in the mountainous region and many of the people living in caves during the day to survive, news of the child dedications will travel a roundabout route through Khartoum to reach the Australians' extended families.

"We just get to talk for a short time on the phone sometimes when someone has climbed to the top of the mountain as the satellite goes over," Elezirig said.

Global media outlets have been slow to tell the story of the Nuba Mountains people.



Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

Sam Ferguson busy raising funds for Cambodia.

### Dalkeith Baptist Church Full Time Pastor Required

Dalkeith Baptist Church is a small multi-cultural evangelical church in the western suburbs of Perth, WA.

We are seeking a qualified and experienced full time pastor (minimum five years ministry experience):

- committed to biblical preaching and the authority of Scripture in church and personal life,
- meeting the requirements as set out in the pastoral epistles,
- able and willing to lead and engage the congregation as a team, delegating and harnessing their individual talents and wisdom to fulfil the ministry goals of the church

Major goals of the church include:

- discipleship training
- expanded pastoral care
- gospel outreach particularly to the local community and overseas
- students

Benefits:

- Manse provided

For more details please email cpyao@yahoo.com.au



# LIVE BELOW THE

## AN OAKTREE CAMPAIGN



Teri-Ann Ramsamy, Talisha Stent, Kathryn Stevens and David Seery from Great Life Church tackled the Live Below the Line challenge as a team.

Photo: Kathryn Stevens

Thousands of Australians participated in Live Below the Line from 5 to 9 May, spending just \$2 a day for food, the equivalent of the extreme poverty line, replicating the life experience of more than a billion people around the world.

### The challenge

Oaktree, the volunteer organisation behind the Live Below the Line movement, works to raise awareness of extreme poverty and to influence policy change, ensuring Australia's leaders work to end poverty. For the past four years the organisation has trained young leaders, under 26, to independently run the entire operation of Live Below the Line.

Shayne Thaw, Oaktree's representative in Perth, worked with teams and individuals from churches across the state for this year's Live Below the Line (LBL) challenge.

"There were lots of people involved in the event in Western Australia," Shane said.

"So far we've raised \$1.5 million this year."

As we go to print Oaktree has raised almost \$7.4 million over the past four years.

As well as adhering strictly to their budget of \$2 per day for food, participants gathered sponsorship from family, friends and work colleagues. The funds will be channelled toward three international partners Oaktree is working with.

The money will provide scholarships, renovate schools and train teachers to provide quality education for thousands of young people in Cambodia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea.

*The Advocate* followed the experiences of five young Perth adults during the challenging week.

Kendall Stanford from Lifestreams Christian Church in Como faced the challenge on her own. While four young adults from Great Life Church in Yangebup worked together to complete the challenge.

Kathryn Stevens led the group of 'early 20s'. She completed the challenge for the first time last year. This was the first experience of LBL for the other members of the team, Teri-Ann Ramsamy, David Seery and Talisha Stent.

"We're passionate about showing the love of Christ in all that we do," Kathryn said.

"This includes taking an active interest in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves."

### Preparations

Great Life Church supported the team in some very practical ways. The week before the challenge started a representative from Oaktree spoke at their Sunday service on the topic of extreme poverty and what is being done to alleviate it.

Following the service the team shared a meal of rice and dhal, something on their LBL challenge menu, with the rest of the congregation.

"We charged people \$4 per meal and all the money (\$309) went towards our goal of raising \$3,000," Kathryn said.

"It helped to increase awareness and get the whole church on board with our Live Below the Line journey as well as increase donations."

"Next year we hope to do the lunch earlier, so we can encourage more people to sign up to join us for the Live Below the Line challenge," she said.

The team met together and planned their menu for the week of the challenge, pooled their budget money and then went shopping together for supplies.

"We cooked up the main dishes straight away and divided and refrigerated the amounts for each of us," Kathryn said.

"It seemed quite easy to work with the \$40 budget we had for the whole group."

Kendall found her \$10 budget quite challenging. She could only afford parts of a packet of some items like tea bags. The sense of isolation and limitations started early for her.

"I said to my husband that he'd have to look after himself with food for the week," Kendall said.

"It wasn't a problem for him."

"During the week I had two social gatherings including a family birthday at a restaurant. It was really hard just sitting there not being able to be fully involved."

“Kendall found her \$10 budget quite challenging. She could only afford parts of a packet of some items like tea bags.”



# LINE

## Sharing the pain

Social media proved a dynamic way to engage with people and several of the participants highlighted the need for sponsors in their family and friend's news feeds on Facebook.

Kathryn and Kendall wrote several blogs on the LBL website during the week and updated their Facebook pages daily, sometimes several times a day. Tracking their comments and the increase in sponsors following their posts demonstrated the value of engaging with social media.

Kendall had a strong motivation for doing the challenge:

"I wanted to get involved because I needed a shake-up back to a simpler life. I'd actually just been through a really hard part of my life as I had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and I was quite impacted by that and changed a lot. I felt like I had slipped back into the same selfish way of living before cancer and I wanted to do this to help me realise how good I have it here compared to others and maybe I shouldn't take this life for granted," she said.

Kendall reported how confronting it is to have no choice when it comes to food. She felt the isolation of limited social activity too. Social events often revolve around food and drinks. Kendall struggled with no coffee for the five days.



## Entries from Kathryn's Facebook page tell her story:

**Day 2:** I felt like today was a bit easier than yesterday ... perhaps due to my slightly more appetising and filling lunch! I realised today that the struggles we are going through are the point of LBL week. We are meant to be finding this hard, to experience in a small way what one in seven people in the world go through every day.

**Day 4:** Things are getting tough. Sleeping hungry isn't fun. Pasta and rice with limited flavour isn't so appealing anymore. The inability to snack whenever you want to is quite frustrating.

**Day 5:** Last meal of LBL week! Pumpkin and zucchini pasta. Have to say my appetite has decreased over the week but looking forward to tasty food again.

"My 2014 LBL experience reminded me of my amazing trip earlier this year to Shikunga [remote Kenya]. There I was able to get a better grasp of what it was to like to live in extreme poverty. Besides having little variety in food there was barely any electricity in the village, there was no running water and going to school meant walking five kilometres. What was most worrying, though, was that the quality of education was so far behind that there was little hope for them to break the poverty cycle," she wrote.

Talisha Stent posted on the blog at the end of the first day, regaling her readers with her experience of temptation and emotional pain when a student brought cupcakes to her classroom and she couldn't eat one!

## The results

Kendall raised \$995 – more than double her goal figure. The Great Life Church team raised \$3,300, ten percent more than their goal.

Oaktree ran a combined event for community leaders and any LBL participants who chose to attend mid-week during the challenge. The group enjoyed a dinner together, prepared with the Live Below the Line budget in mind.

"We had a windup event called Party Out Poverty which was also a fundraiser on the Friday night, the last night of the event," Perth's Oaktree representative, Shayne Thaw said.

"We sit just under \$1.5million, however we still have until 30 June, when fundraising closes."

For more information, visit [www.livebelowtheline.com.au](http://www.livebelowtheline.com.au)

“What was most worrying, though, was that the quality of education was so far behind that there was little hope for them to break the poverty cycle.”



Photo: Kendall Stanford

Kendall Stanford stretched \$10 for her meals during the challenge.



Photo: Live Below the Line

One of the schools with education projects supported by Live Below the Line through Ba Futuru in Timor-Leste.



# Suffering with God

***Suffering with God* took Pastor Chris Price from Calvary Baptist Church in Vancouver three years to write.**

"I'd just become the Senior Pastor at Calvary and I was being bombarded with really hard things," Chris said.

"People were dying, suffering horrible illnesses, marriages were destructing, a young guy suicided ... and I was in the middle of it all with the people of the church."

Looking for answers to help equip the church to understand and live through the horror, he revisited a book he wrote when he was a youth pastor, then started to work on *Suffering with God*.

"I wanted to write something that would help people understand more about suffering and also be a tool they could share with friends and family

who were struggling with these big questions," Chris said.

"Personally I've shared it with family members and even my Muslim neighbour."

The practical and engaging book deals with some big questions – why do people suffer, forgiveness, heaven, evil and tragedy and God's place and involvement. It is a thoughtful response on finding hope beyond bandaids solutions.

Chris uses personal experiences and stories from around the world to describe the processes of living in a fallen world but journeying with God through rough times.

At times analytical and theological, the book also includes stories and insightful quotes that can be conversation triggers.

"In one of the chapters I tell the story of the night I sat with a family from our church whose 14 year old son had just taken his own life. The pain and trauma I felt as I sat with them in their lounge room that night was

overpowering. I'll never forget their anguish, their broken hearts and their shock," Chris said.

Chris skilfully describes the evening and how the family came to terms with their son's death, the memorial service and the father's eulogy that Chris read.

After *Suffering with God* was published, the boy's father bought ten copies to give to family and friends, grateful to have a tool he could share to help others understand their journey.

The book is published under the banner of Apologetics Canada, an organisation developing resources to help Christians engage with their community. Chris's book was available at their Canadian conference in 2013 where 1,300 people met at two large Vancouver churches.

*Suffering with God* is available online at [sufferingwithgod.com](http://sufferingwithgod.com)

**The Advocate has a copy of *Suffering with God* as the prize for this month's competition on page 14.**



Photo: Rachel Barkman

Chris Price's practical book has already helped many.

## JUNIORS

**Years 4 - 7**  
Monday 7th - Friday 11th

Early Bird <b>\$265</b> <small>before 1st June</small>	Full Price <b>\$285</b> <small>before 20th June</small>
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## INTERS

**Years 7 - 10**  
Sunday 13th - Thursday 17th

Early Bird <b>\$275</b> <small>before 1st June</small>	Full Price <b>\$295</b> <small>before 20th June</small>
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all registrations due by 20th June  
year 7 students can choose to register for either camp

# WINTER GAMES

[www.facebook.com/BCWAYouth](http://www.facebook.com/BCWAYouth)
register online: [www.baptistwa.asn.au/view/camps/upcoming-camps](http://www.baptistwa.asn.au/view/camps/upcoming-camps)

## briefs

### Film honoured

The story of persecuted Christians in Egypt has been honoured with an award by the UK Christian Film Festival. *Amazing Grace*, which documents a wave of attacks against Christians by members of the Muslim Brotherhood, was produced by Release International, an organisation which serves persecuted Christians worldwide. The film won Best Informational Video at the Festival. The award was presented by Hollywood actor Stephen Baldwin at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park, Esher. "A very powerful story, powerfully told,"

Festival Director Ray Horowitz said. *Amazing Grace* was selected from among 200 entries for the award. It was filmed undercover on a tourist camera.

### Sudan ruling

Christian Solidarity Worldwide reports there is new hope for Meriam Ibrahim, a pregnant mother sentenced to death in Sudan for being a Christian. In the face of growing international outrage, the Sudanese government has begun to back-pedal, saying Sudan is committed to freedom of religion and the woman can appeal. The news comes one week after 26 year old Ibrahim was convicted of

apostasy and given four days to repent and escape death. The court also ordered that Ibrahim be given 100 lashes for committing 'zena' – Arabic for illegitimate sex – for having sexual relations with her husband, Daniel Wani, a Christian from southern Sudan who has US citizenship.

### New government

There are fears that the landslide victory for India's right wing Bharatiya Janata Party could herald an escalation of attacks against religious minorities, including India's Christian community. There have been a growing number of attacks against Christians by extreme

nationalists, pursuing the Hindutva ideology that to be Indian is to be Hindu. The huge electoral success of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has been described as a victory for 'muscular nationalism'. Its leader, Narendra Modi, stands accused of failing to prevent the 2002 religious riots in his home state Gujarat, which killed more than 1,000 people, mainly Muslims. India's Christian minority has also come under repeated attack from Hindu extremists.

### Peace gesture

A profound gesture of peace between Israel and Iran was

made at a recent conference in Jerusalem aimed at strengthening reconciliation between the sons of Abraham. Arab Christian delegates from across the Middle East were invited to At the Crossroads held in Christ Church, in the Old City, to share fellowship with Jewish followers of Jesus. A conference organiser reminded the audience that Iran and Israel were once allies. He prayed a blessing over Iran, asking God to re-open the gates between them to be friends again. An Iranian pastor based in the UK returned the favour by praying a blessing over Israel.



# Iranian refugees encouraged

Pastor Faheem Moini from the Calvary Persian Church in Vancouver, Canada spent more than three weeks in Turkey late last year encouraging Iranian refugees who fled their homeland as a result of their faith.

Pastor Moini visited ten cities during his 24 day visit. It was a hectic time as he conducted a three day conference in Izmir, taught a theology course in Ankara – ‘The Theology of the New Testament’, presented teaching seminars, preached in several other cities and baptised nine followers of Jesus.

As well as public meetings he visited many people in their homes. He was unable to accept all the invitations that came for him to speak and meet with people.

“I had the privilege of hearing hundreds of testimonies and seeing miracles,” Faheem said.

“People who had been oppressed by spirits received healing and freedom.”

“There are thousands of refugees who are desperate to speak to a spiritual leader face to face,” he said.

“These are people who were persecuted for their faith in Iran, and had to flee from their homes. They’ve lost everything they possessed.”

Even after arriving in Turkey the refugees’ situation doesn’t improve very much. The UNHCR is often limited and hindered in its ability to help because Turkey is an Islamic country.

“Middle Eastern hospitality falls short when it comes to Muslim background believers,” Faheem said.

“We need to pray and raise more spiritual leaders who can address the needs of these persecuted Christians.”

The Calvary Persian Church aims to support and equip

persecuted Christians in Turkey, encouraging them to grow in their faith and raise awareness of their plight. While in Turkey, Faheem met with a senior UNHCR officer and discussed some of the issues persecuted Christians are facing when applying for religious asylum.

“I hope that our follow-up with the UNHCR will strengthen our partnership as we both work towards supporting refugees,” Faheem said.

Back in Vancouver, Faheem continues to work with the Persian community, including newly arrived refugees.

Technology allows live-streaming of the weekly Sunday service at Calvary Baptist Church and a live online Bible Study each week with approximately 60 people participating.

“We also adapted the E100 Bible reading program into a discipleship tool for the Persian ministry and created a baptism course based on the Alpha course. The people I baptised in Turkey had completed that course,” Faheem said.

In April 2014 the group started a global prayer gathering for the persecuted Church, focusing on Persians in Iran and Turkey.

“We know that God has a heart for his persecuted church and we would like to invite your readers to partner with us – the next meeting is planned for July,” Faheem said.

**For more information, visit [www.calvarybaptist.ca/](http://www.calvarybaptist.ca/) CalvaryPersianChurch**



Pastor Faheem (left) prepares to baptise an Iranian follower of Jesus in Turkey last year.

Photo: Calvary Persian Church

## New medical ship for PNG

**YWAM Medical Ships – Australia (YWAM MSA) signed a lease to buy agreement in early May for the MV Ammari for \$1 million to provide medical care to thousands of villagers scattered along Papua New Guinea’s rugged coastline.**

The goal is to raise the balance of \$5.5 million for the MV Ammari, which will operate as YWAM MSA’s new training and medical ship for Papua New Guinea.

The vessel will replace YWAM MSA’s 34 year old vessel which is due to retire at the end of this year after operating in PNG for the last five years, achieving 167,839 health, training and community development outputs to date.

The purchase of the vessel has the support of the PNG Department of Health, the

Provincial Governments of the Southern Region and the PNG Department of Planning and Monitoring, who contributed \$1.5 million toward a new vessel in October last year.

“We have a wonderful opportunity to strengthen Australia and Papua New Guinea’s enduring friendship,” YWAM MSA Managing Director Ken Mulligan said.

“The MV Ammari will enable us to expand our capacity in helping to reach the poor and

the isolated through overcoming inhospitable terrain, significant infrastructure challenges and the extreme remoteness of many PNG communities that are only accessible by water.”

“The vessel will enable YWAM MSA to increase its annual engagement with individuals significantly, due to its capacity to operate all year round.”

**To donate towards the new YWAM training and medical ship, email [info@ywamships.org](mailto:info@ywamships.org)**



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# Liberated by a chair

Dr Shane Clifton is Dean of Theology at Alphacrucis College in Sydney. In 2010 a pushbike accident left him a quadriplegic (C5 incomplete). Shane now focuses his scholarly work on exploring the psychosocial wellbeing of people with disabilities.

## After your accident did your relationship with God, your church or your faith change?

This is an important, but difficult question to answer. My experience of faith has gone up and down like a wave. I remember times in ICU and acute-care when I felt an amazing and comforting presence of God, and other times I felt utterly alone and abandoned. There have been periods where I've struggled to cope with my loss and live with this broken and disabled body. I've experienced a lot of doubt – even wondering sometimes whether God exists at all. I think people are surprised to hear this (maybe disappointed). I'm really not the super spiritual inspiration that people seem to think I am when they see me teaching or read my blog. I wish I was, but that's not me.

Yet I also know that God has been with me, and is not too bothered by my struggles. Faith, hope and love are really important when times get tough. They enable you to persevere and believe better things will come.

## How can members of the church community get involved with helping those with disabilities?

Christian Bling Mission and their Luke 14 program have the best resources for helping churches establish inclusive Christian communities – check out their website [www.cbm.org.au](http://www.cbm.org.au). They also have a conference coming up, which I am speaking at called Honest Conversations: Disability and Authentic Christian Communities, it's taking place in Melbourne from 10 to 11 July.

Obviously, churches need to get the little things right. You'd be surprised how difficult (impossible) it is to get into and around some church properties. But ultimately the goal is not simply to accommodate people with disabilities, but to recognise the vital contribution they can make to the life and community of the church.

## What are your vital support mechanisms?

It's impossible to overstate the support I have received since the accident. My wife Elly has been amazing and fortunately, we do get carer support which really helps. My teenage boys have also assisted in the caring role, putting me to bed at night, a somewhat surreal role reversal.

When the accident first happened, my Mum and Dad moved up from the South Coast [NSW] to Sydney to look after

the kids, putting their life on hold for the seven months I spent in hospital. Elly's parents also invested their energy into providing support. My colleagues at Alphacrucis College gave incalculable encouragement (and continue to do so). And the doctors, nurses, physios, and occupational therapists literally saved and transformed my life.

What was really amazing was the prayer that I received from around the world. I once had a pile of 30 letters written by school kids dumped on my bed. My favourite was from a six year old called Lucy (who I've never met); "I love you because I pray for you every day." People also generously gave my family money. We so often hear about the terrible state of the world, but times like this help you to see how kind and big-hearted people can be.

## Does your work with positive psychology help you to stay optimistic?

When I eventually came out of hospital, I thought that getting back home would make everything okay. In fact, it was only when I got home that I realised the impact quadriplegia has on the pleasures of sport, sexuality, and family life. I was desperately unhappy, and then I came across a TED [a platform for sharing ideas from a broad spectrum – from science to business to global issues] video by Martin Seligman on 'authentic happiness', after which I devoured books on positive psychology. It describes at least three levels of happiness; pleasure, gratification, and meaning, and together with virtue ethics, helped me to look beyond the loss of bodily pleasures to the possibility of enjoying living a meaningful life. I'm still often unhappy, but as time goes on, I'm getting more hopeful about the future.

## What inspired your paper on Spinal Cord Injury and the Joy of Work?

My first academic writing after my accident was all about the relationship between virtue and happiness. Later, I met John Trefry, a quadriplegic for 50 years, who told me that he had led a great life, and a big part of that was that he'd flourished at work. For obvious reasons, unemployment rates are really high among quadriplegics and paraplegics, so I wrote *Spinal Cord Injury and the Joy of Work* as an exploration of the virtues needed for people with disabilities to flourish at work.

## What projects are you working on at the moment?

I've spent the last year writing about disability, suffering, and theology. My paper *The Dark Side of Healing: Toward a Theology of Well-Being* has just been accepted for publication. It takes a critical look at Pentecostal/Charismatic theology and the practice of healing; describing the ways in which it can alienate people with permanent disabilities and long-term illnesses – we are the elephants in the room at prayer meetings. I've also just finished a paper entitled *Why Me, God? Acquired Disability and the Problem of Pain*. After the accident, a lot of the seven months in hospital was spent struggling with the question: How could a good, loving, and sovereign God allow me to become a quadriplegic? Three years down the track, I thought it was about time to write something on the topic.

I'm also very excited to be working with the Department of Family and Disability Studies at Sydney University on a study called *Living the Good Life with Quadriplegia*. We plan to interview people that have been living with a spinal cord injury, to hear the story of their life before and after their injury. We hope to learn how people are able to regain a level of independence, control, and happiness while living with quadriplegia.

I've also been writing a memoir, *Husbands Shall Not Break*. I'm not sure it'll ever see the light of day, though!

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

Mostly, I read and write – thank God for the Kindle, touchscreen technology, and voice recognition software! I enjoy going to the movies, and watching live sport. Most of all, I enjoy eating, drinking, and laughing with friends. I'm in heaven when drinking expensive single malt scotch and discussing the meaning of life.

## Are there any sports that you can get involved with?

I was fit and sporty prior to my injury, a surfer, golfer, runner and swimmer, and I really struggled to know what disabled sport might suit me, since most require at least one or two limbs that work better than mine. I tried sailing (with Sailability), but I live too far from water. So



Photo: Used with permission


it was really exciting recently to discover a golf cart designed for people with my injury. It's hard to explain the buzz I felt traipsing the golf course again.

## In your experience, what are the most common misconceptions people have about disability?

There are so many different disabilities, and I can't really speak for others. In terms of

spinal cord injury, I think many people assume that people with quadriplegia 'would be better off dead'. It's really hard to live with such a disabling injury, but in one way or another life is hard for everyone. Most of the quads that I know live a pretty full life.

The most common misconception is that I am 'trapped in my chair' when, in fact, the chair is my liberation.



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# Connecting the clock and the compass

By John Maxwell

'Time waits for no man.' You've probably heard that saying. And it's true; time marches on, and it's up to us to keep up with it. We need to be conscious of the clock, or we'll never make any progress toward our goals. But I believe there's more to success than reaching goals. True success comes from significance: doing things that matter ... things that last after we're gone.

How do we know if what we're doing really makes a difference? We can't just look at the clock. We need to be conscious of our compass.

For many people, the first half of life is consumed by the clock. As young adults, we're very conscious of time. We're impatient, eager to 'get started' with life. Later, as we start achieving goals, we're still watching the clock: We want to measure how much we're accomplishing.

But for most of us, usually sometime in our forties, we become aware of the compass. We begin to wonder why we're doing what we're doing. We question the value of what we've achieved. We examine whether we're fulfilled. And then we worry that we're not making a difference in this world. (A great book for dealing with that struggle is Bob Buford's *Halftime*.)

Ideally, as we get older, we start trying to achieve balance between the clock and the compass. We try to be conscious of both, which makes us more

strategic. We ask, "What can I do that will make the most difference in the time that I have?" We start talking about leaving a legacy.

Ultimately, I believe that no matter what age we are, we all need to seek a balance – between the clock and the compass. In other words, we need to integrate a daily focus with a long-term sense of direction. This gives us a better perspective. Here are some thoughts on the clock and the compass:

#### The Clock:

The clock is always ticking in this life. Time passes, and we either take advantage of opportunities, or we miss them. So it's important to keep the clock in mind. But it's not the only thing, if you want to live a life of significance.

#### The Compass:

The compass is what we steer life by. It remains constant, and we're wise when we align ourselves with the direction we know we should be going. But

just lining up with the compass doesn't get us anywhere if we don't start moving.

The clock equals daily things: what we are doing. The compass equals destiny things: where we are going. The clock deals with appointments and activities. The compass points toward vision, values, and mission. Together the clock and the compass provide us with both motivation and direction. Finding a balance between them means that we're able to compound our efforts and add the most value that we can to our world.

So the next time you plan your day, week, or year, be conscious of both the clock and the compass, and see how far it takes you.

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## Be involved

By Greg Holland

There have been many key moments in my management and leadership journey but when I think back, one moment stands out clearly in my memory and learnings.

I had commenced work for a mining services company as a young Accountant, reporting to the Financial Controller. This was an amazingly fast paced and dynamic work environment, every day presented new challenges and required regular decision making.

My boss was a very busy man (most of us can relate to this), often travelling, with significant responsibilities both

in Australia and internationally, and yet, he took time right from the beginning of my employment to spend time with me. He involved me in key business and contract meetings, even when I couldn't make a contribution, and spent time debriefing with me after. We developed a close working and personal relationship.

I learnt so much from this man. He modelled 'mentoring'

back when this wasn't a management buzz word. He 'walked the talk'. He then started delegating increasing levels of responsibility to me and letting me make the decisions. As we all know, this is not always easy nor does it come naturally to some of us.

'Mentoring' is a process that always involves communication and is relationship based. True mentoring is more than just answering occasional questions or providing ad hoc help. It is about an ongoing relationship of learning, dialogue and challenge.

All mentoring relationships are encouraged. Research indicates that employees who experience mentoring are retained, learn more quickly,

and assimilate into the company culture more effectively.

A mentoring relationship frequently occurs between an employee and their immediate supervisor; in fact, this was the normal mentoring relationship in the past. These mentoring relationships are still encouraged, but it is recommended that employees and organisations pursue additional mentoring relationships.

If this doesn't sound like you, don't despair, mentoring is a skill and an art that can be developed over time. Take the time to invest in people and you will not regret it.

This part of my leadership journey stays with me to this very day – thanks Reg!



Greg Holland is the Business Manager at Baptist Churches Western Australia.

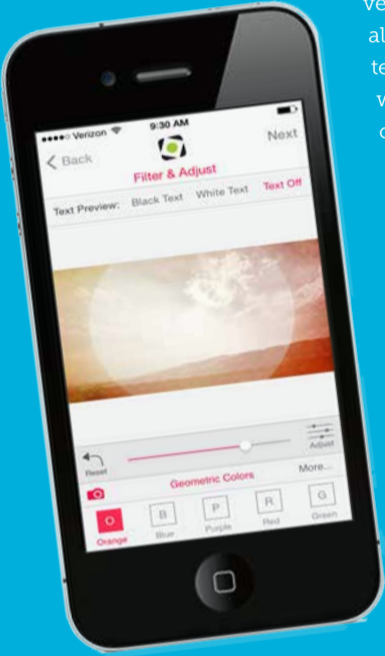
Photo: Jill Birt



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Shift Media Creator  
shiftworship.com/creator

Shift Media Creator for iPhone helps you to create your own presentation and worship media. Simply take a photo or use one from your photo library, then apply a wide range of filters made especially for backgrounds. Fine adjustments are available to ensure that your background looks just right. There are even motion overlays with flare, shine, particles and movement to give your home-made background a very professional look. The app also includes black and white text to ensure that your words are very readable. Once completed you can save to the Camera Roll or to your Shift Worship online archive for easy download. Shift Media Creator is available on iOS for \$7.49 in the App Store.



listen



**Brave**  
Shawn McDonald  
Pop-singer/songwriter Shawn McDonald, long regarded as one of Christian music's most respected and soulful troubadours, recently released his highly anticipated brand new studio album Brave. Three years after releasing the critically acclaimed Closer, McDonald rewards patient and loyal fans with what is possibly the best album of his career.



**If We're Honest**  
Francesca Battistelli  
Take a close listen to *If We're Honest* – the stunning, soulful and openhearted third album by Christian music superstar Francesca Battistelli, a Grammy Award nominee and six time Dove Award winner – and you will hear that her latest song cycle is a deeply honest and powerful piece of work vividly reflecting the 28 year old singer-songwriter's own journey.



**Children of Promise**  
Andrew Ehrenzeller  
Andrew's latest release, *Children of Promise* has an edgy, modern vibe with a pop and a poetical lyrical depth. A collaborative effort with acclaimed producer Jeremy Edwardson, *Children of Promise* is thoughtfully and carefully arranged, yet worshipful in nature; leading us right to the heart of God. From the feel good rhythms and smoky vocals of 'Band of Sons', to the weathered prodigal son ballad 'Meet You There', each song carries the message of promise in its own unique way.

win

Suffering with God  
Chris Price

Band-aids don't mend broken bones. Logic doesn't lessen the sting of loss. Answers don't always sooth personal anguish. This book is not a bandaid. This book is not a healer. The author hopes that this book is a revealer of the God who, in His time, is with us in suffering and He will do the healing.



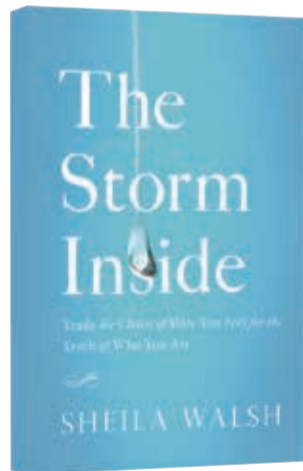
The Advocate is giving you an opportunity to win *Suffering with God*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

**Question:**  
**Who is the author of the book *Suffering with God*?**

Entries close on Thursday 19 June and all winners will be announced in the July edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from *Five Simple Ways to Grow a Great Family* competition:  
L Hoffmann, J Lee and L Thamrin.

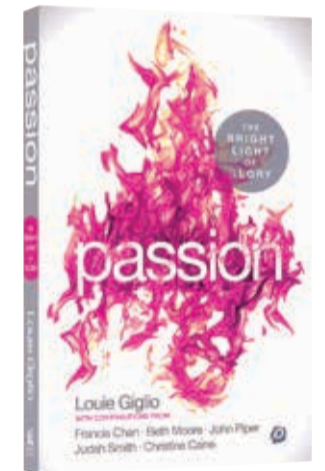
read



**The Storm Inside**  
Sheila Walsh  
How do we endure the storms of life? These turbulent times, bring us an opportunity to grow; disclosing what's really going on in the inside and reveal what we actually believe. These times make us stronger. Walsh has put together honest accounts of women facing failures, shame and unfortunate circumstances and then writes about how God can redefine a failure and make it into a vibrant new beginning, instead of an unfortunate end.



**Bridge To Haven**  
Francine Rivers  
*Bridge To Haven* is the highly anticipated and latest release from bestselling author Francine Rivers. Set in the 1950s this fluid fiction novel tells the story of a young woman called Abra. Found as a child, unwanted and abandoned and growing up with Hollywood and fame in her sights, Abra delves into a world far from home and discovers celebrity comes at a devastating price. With all her bridges burned; Abra realises, all she really wants, is a way back home.



**Passion**  
Louie Giglio  
What exactly is it that instils passion in a person's soul? What brings the fire to make a difference, the desire for significance, the power to live a life that matters? In this remarkable book, some of today's most gifted communicators highlight the dedicated generation that is rising up to show us how to lean toward the centrality of Jesus Christ and His bright light of glory that brings purpose to our own lives and glory to God the Father.

competition

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form with your details and post it to:  
*Suffering with God* Competition  
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.  
Website: www.word.com.au  
Address: Victoria Park - 359 Albany Highway, phone 08 9361 7899





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



Carey Baptist College – **Harrisdale**

Kindergarten to Year 12

www.carey.wa.edu.au

Established in 1998, Carey Baptist College is a co-educational college catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Now in 2014, the College educates over 1,300 students at its Harrisdale campus and is launching a second campus in Forrestdale in 2016 to meet the growing educational needs of the region.

## And the answer is ... Yes, a new campus!



Carey Community Baptist Church gathering on the site of the new Carey Baptist College campus.

On 11 March Carey Baptist College received the amazing news that an appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal for planning approval to start a new campus in Forrestdale was successful.

This success means Carey Baptist College Forrestdale is confirmed for a 2016 opening.

While the new campus plans were approved by the City of Armadale, in June 2013 the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) refused

the application.

"We were shattered when we got the news of the WAPC decision," College Director of Business Paul Oates said.

"But then God gave us even greater joy when the appeal decision was handed down."

The appeal ran over four days, a significant hearing for the State Administrative Tribunal.

David Kilpatrick, Carey Community Baptist Church Senior Pastor, and former solicitor, managed the College's case. Martin Flint, partner of Flint Moharich planning and environment lawyers and Mt Pleasant Baptist Church member conducted the case on behalf of the College.

"This was a challenging undertaking for the College," David said.

"But God provided in many ways. My commencement as Pastor happened to be just in time to help with the hearing and Martin who is a specialist town planning lawyer was a huge blessing to us."

The new campus is planned to be very similar to the existing College, with a vision to serve and support the many families moving into the rapidly growing south-east corridor of Perth.

**For more information about the new College, visit [carey.wa.edu.au](http://carey.wa.edu.au)**

## Kids who give are awarded



Carey students collect loose change in drink bottles to raise money for Sidhi Astu Orphanage in Bali.

The Carey Baptist College Year 4 class were awarded the highest honour at the Kids Who Give WA Awards in October last year.

The entire class attended the award presentation at Government House on 24 October as finalists for their Small Change for Big Change project.

The project saw the Year 4 students collecting loose change in drink bottles. A full bottle allowed for a child from

the Sidhi Astu Orphanage in Tuka, Bali, to attend school for one year. The children also organised and hosted a bookstall which raised a very impressive \$1,107 for the orphanage.

For their hard work and effort, the class received the highest award, the 'Supreme Award'. This prize is given to the top six schools or individuals and is judged by the Governor and the Kids Who Give WA team.

The College Chaplain, Cheree Harris accompanied the students to receive their award.

"It was great to witness our children being acknowledged for their generosity. I felt particularly blessed to have been a part of it and look forward to seeing what projects the children will continue with in the future," Cheree said.

"It was so much fun," student Ryan Oakes said.

"We got to have lunch at Government House and the whole day was something I won't ever forget."

Gabriella Charpentier couldn't wait to share the news with her class.

"We are so glad that we have been able to donate so much money to the orphanage this year."

The prize money received from the Governor will go towards putting running water in an orphanage in Java.

## School Captain in the Capital

Abigail Gifford, Carey Baptist College's School Captain for 2014, was recently given the amazing opportunity to visit and experience Canberra and Parliament House, in a way most people will never have the chance to.

Abigail was one of 15 students from Western Australia at the Constitutional Centre's National Convention.

Earlier, the Constitutional Centre held two State (WA) Conventions, inviting 40 schools to take part. Participants were given the opportunity to share their thoughts on topics provided by the Constitutional Centre.

Students were encouraged to apply for the National Convention in Canberra by writing a brief essay on what

they could bring to the WA team. Abigail was selected to sit on the WA team.

The team travelled to Canberra for a four day trip that included access to areas in Parliament House usually out of bounds to the general public. Abigail was able to experience a debate in the House of Representatives and met Madam Speaker Bronwyn Bishop, who presented the students with a letter of welcome from Prime Minister Tony Abbott. She had dinner at the High Court and was involved in many 'soap box'

sessions, where she was able to discuss issues that she feels passionately about with other students.

Abigail was incredibly inspired following the trip. "Everyone there was hardworking, smart, confident and friendly," Abigail said.

"The entire convention was truly an eye opener. It was full of laughs, deep conversations and debates. No matter how much we disagreed over policies, we all enjoyed learning from each other."



Photo: Mark Wagenaar Photography

**Abigail Gifford was one of 15 Western Australian students selected to go to the Constitutional Centre's National Convention in Canberra.**



# Martu Easter celebrations

The Martu Easter Convention was held at Coobina for the first time in almost a decade this past Easter weekend. Coobina is a significant location for the Martu people and is located 80 kilometres from Newman on the way to Jigalong.

A team of eight drove the 16 hour journey from Perth to Newman on the Thursday before Easter, staying overnight in the Newman Baptist Church property before starting Easter celebrations with Martu believers.

Yangebup Baptist Church Pastor Craig Siggins worked among the Martu for ten years. The Siggins family returned to Perth in 2003. Craig led the team alongside Bronwyn Kreigler from Mt Pleasant Baptist Church. Dawn Brodie, Trevor Campbell Young, Taylah Clancy and April Scorer (Mt Pleasant Baptist Church) and Joel Furneaux and Monica Hearn (New Peninsular Baptist Church in Victoria) also made the trip. Only Craig and Bronwyn had visited previously.

For Craig the highlights included meeting up with some of the faithful older Martu again and seeing some of the next generation becoming involved.

The conference was loosely structured around several gatherings which involved singing and teaching. Some of the team from Perth ran programs with the children while others met with the adults.

"It was good seeing our team interact positively with the Martu, especially the Martu children," Craig said.

The team attended a Good Friday service with the Newman Baptist Church at Radio Hill with

Martu Elder, Peter 'Pijia' Tinker before travelling to Coobina to continue their celebrations.

"We got there just on dusk and pitched camp in the middle of the mostly dry creek under the shade of some big old white river gums," Craig said.

The team enjoyed gathering under the shade of a big tree on Saturday to sing Christian songs in their own language, Martu Wangka or English. This was followed by teaching from John Wilmot, Pastor at Newman Baptist Church.

Hunting and tasting goanna was a new experience for the group. They enjoyed their journey into the bush with experienced tracker, Valerie, who successfully tracked a goanna, which Pijia caught then cooked for all to share.

"The greatest highlight for me was reuniting with some of the elderly Martu ladies and building on our relationships," Bronwyn said.

"Their hearts to pass on the baton of faith to their grandchildren and extended family, often through very trying times, is a wonderful witness."

Craig said the team came away feeling positive about the whole experience and with great respect for the Martu people.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church has an ongoing relationship with the Martu people and expects to send more teams in the future.



Members of the team that helped at the Martu Easter Convention with Elder Pijia Tinker (centre) and the goanna they caught.

Photo: Craig Siggins

the  
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