

the advocate

Check out the special SportsFest pull out spread.

PAGES 7 to 10 >>



In conversation Juan DeVevo from Casting Crowns takes about giving back to his local church. PAGE 12 >>

Community vigil for Jill

It was the worst end imaginable when police announced they had arrested and charged a man for the rape and murder of ABC employee Jill Meagher, seven days after her disappearance on Saturday 22 September. Following the events, Brunswick Baptist Church unexpectedly became the centre of a community's grief.

On Friday 28 September, a candlelit vigil was held outside the Church, not far from where Jill lived and was last seen. The gathering was spontaneously organised by members of the public and members of the church. Jill wasn't a member of the church but they felt it was important for people to have some reflective time and this was a quiet and solemn place to do so if they wanted that opportunity.

Jill's death resonated with the greater community. Complete strangers to Jill gathered to mourn, together shedding tears, laying flowers, lighting candles and praying.

The bulging makeshift shrines on the footpath outside Duchess Boutique along Sydney Road were moved to Brunswick Baptist Church. Authorities began dismantling the shrines on Monday 1 October after the footpath became completely blocked. "Due to the overwhelming number of floral tributes placed in memory of Jill on Sydney Road, Brunswick it has been necessary to move them to avoid them obstructing the local area," Victoria Police said in a statement.

"Police have consulted with the family and moved them to a location of their choice. They have not been destroyed and all the cards have been collected and provided to Jill's family."

People wanting to leave tributes for Jill were asked to

leave them at the nearby Church which would then pass on the tributes to Jill's family.

A statement from Brunswick Baptist Church read, "We have been privileged to offer space and support to the community of Brunswick and beyond following the shock and grief shared by all at the tragic death of Jill Meagher on 22 September. Jill's family have asked us to pass on their thanks to Melbourne for all the love and support."

Marchers of many faiths walked the three kilometre stretch of Sydney Road as though marking Stations of the Cross. A sombre mood swept the streets of Brunswick as up to ten thousand people marched to remember Jill Meagher.

They paused at the corner of Hope Street, at the Duchess Bridal Boutique, at Brunswick Baptist Church and at Bar Etiquette — some of the last places Jill was seen alive.

In Jill's home town Drogheda, Ireland, approximately 200 mourners gathered at St Peter's Church where Jill was baptised. Jill's aunt, uncles and cousins wept as six homing pigeons were released. Father Oliver Devine, the priest who married Jill and her husband Tom, delivered the homily.



Photo: AAP Image/David Crosling

Melbourne Police moved the memorial site for murdered women Jill Meagher from the footpath on Sydney Road to the steps of the Brunswick Baptist Church after so many flowers were left by members of the public that they blocked the footpath.



4 Stuart opens up
UK Christian song writer Stuart Townsend recently performed in Perth >>



6 Mission in Africa
Two Baptist colleges went on a 15-day mission trip to Africa in September >>



10 SportsFest Service
Senior Pastor Aashish Parmar was the guest speaker at SportsFest's Sunday service >>

“
We are stronger
when we work
together.
”



Graham Mabury

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

Surprised by joy

While enjoying the company of workmates at 6PR, someone mentioned Easter. "I don't get Mass," one immediately responded. "I'm a practising atheist. I've worked out my idea of a 'Supreme Being', and no one's convinced me of anything more." Amidst some good natured teasing from others about "passing the plate", and joyless pastors, I suggested that he was "a theist" rather than an "atheist". He happily settled on "agnostic" to describe his position.

Next afternoon Howard Sattler and Tony Mac discussed on air whether Peter Slipper, (former Speaker of the House of Representatives) should be welcome to return to his church as a priest. "Forgiveness is the core of Christianity," said one. "People who've done far worse will be in pulpits next Sunday." "That's outrageous," replied the other. "He could come back on hands and

knees begging forgiveness, but to go into the pulpit to tell others how they should live — give me a break!"

At a mosaic and glass art exhibition I had been privileged to open, one of the featured artists told me she used to be a Baptist. "I'm away at present but I'll probably be back" she said. At a wedding reception, during a long, fascinating chat with a delightful

bloke, he told me about asking whether he could "use Jesus as one of my guides" during his Buddhist studies. I continue to discover great interest in the great questions, and a great readiness to talk about them.

So often, however, people have dismissed Christianity. They see churches as fussing and feuding with one another, and "priests" as joyless, judgemental and "always

after something" — especially your money. "It's free to get in, but costs you to get out" summarises their view.

Therefore Christians living in unity powerfully impacts them, as does genuinely selfless "no strings" giving. They don't care what we know until they know that we care. As it has ever been since Jesus first spoke them, when they hear His words of love, grace, redemption, forgiveness, freedom, hope and inclusion, they're surprised — to borrow from C S Lewis, "surprised by joy".



Dr Brian Harris

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

No longer sinners ...

Whilst driving to work I was alarmed to realise that the due date for my column in The Advocate had dawned. In no time I was lost in thought about how to use my 350 words. Note to self — don't do that again! I almost missed my turn off ... embarrassing to be sure — but there it was.

Sadly the realisation that I needed to turn saw my move into the right turning lane (traffic stopped by a red arrow) prove only partially successful. A tiny portion of my car was still in the drive straight ahead lane, which was favoured with a green light. It meant that the ten cars behind me had to slow ever so slightly to get past. Shock, gasp, horror! Clearly I am the latest road menace.

Four of the drivers made their

displeasure clear. One might still be blowing his horn, as he didn't stop hooting any time whilst within earshot. The three others were almost as unpleasant. I felt a little unloved.

So what do I think of those self righteous pratts who deafened all and sundry in their neurotically indulgent display of anger? Like they never make any mistakes! They probably don't have a brain and are therefore

never lost in thought. Clearly they should ponder Jesus' instruction, 'Let those who are without sin, cast the first stone'. Or what about that great question of his, 'Why do you try to remove the speck in your neighbour's eye whilst ignoring the log in your own?' No doubt you can think of other cutting insights that could be added to this list.

Someone once said that the slightest pain in our little

finger makes us forget about the suffering and pain of the billion hungry people in the world. I guess that is part of our sinfulness — though we try to pretend that we've outgrown sin. Yeah right, ... like tantrums over trivia don't still happen. Whose tantrum? Well the four tooting drivers of course. No way that I could be to blame ...



Pastor Steve Smith

Pastor Steve Smith is current Interim Pastor of Shepparton Baptist Church in Victoria.

Amazing people doing amazing things

Recently I attended the Asian-Pacific Baptist Congress in Kuala Lumpur. I met some amazing people who have done, and are still doing, things worth writing about.

Leena, a teacher from India, was travelling on a bus in her home city sitting next to a woman she had not met before. Discovering that the woman was a prostitute, she challenged her to leave her profession and become a follower of Jesus. The woman challenged back, "Who then would feed my family?" Leena's response changed her own life and the life of the women. She gave up breakfast for three months so she was able to buy a sewing

machine for the woman and teach her to sew. She also started schooling the woman's children who didn't attend school. These life changing decisions led to an amazing ministry life over 25 years producing ministries for the poor and needy, especially children and 50 new churches.

Michio from Japan, has been heading up a Baptist church in response to the nuclear reactors' meltdowns which resulted from the earthquake and tsunami.

Imagine ministering where 360,000 children are exposed to radiation levels above what the Japanese law allows people to be exposed to. Apart from normal relief for radiation exposure, the church is providing two week camps for under five year olds because in two weeks children that age can discharge half the radiation in their bodies.

Sabina is 27 and a widow. In Nepal a widow is called a 'husband eater'. Many husbands

have died in the 12 year civil war in Nepal. The widows are social outcasts and deeply needy. Sabina came to faith in Jesus Christ and was delivered from that stigma. Her life was filled with joy. Now her life is dedicated to helping some of the 100,000 widows and their children in her country through her non-government organisation Rise & Shine Nepal.

It was great to be there in KL. I hope more of you can go to Jakarta in 2017 for the next Congress.

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.

Ram sold for chaplaincy

YouthCARE supporters have shown very creative ways to fundraise, continuing to support the important work of chaplains in local schools. Peter Wilkinson from Moora Baptist Church recently showed his support for YouthCARE school chaplaincy by donating a Challara Merino stud ram for auction. The ram was sold for \$1,500, giving a welcome boost to the Moora YouthCARE chaplaincy fund.

The Badgingarra farmer and co-stud principal said it was his high regard for the work of school chaplains in public schools that initially motivated him to get involved. "As a person who has been through the school system with a YouthCARE school chaplain, I personally understand the importance of their pastoral care and supportive roles in schools and the wider community," Peter said.

It is community fundraisers such as these that enable YouthCARE school chaplain Jodie Smith to continue providing the additional days of school chaplaincy which are not funded by the Federal Government.

Jodie presently works one and a half days a week at Moora Primary School, and three and a half days a week at Central Midlands Senior High School. The Federal Government's National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP) contributes \$20,000 toward the provision of a maximum of two days of chaplaincy service.

"I love being part of the school community, providing pastoral care to students, staff and parents," Jodie said.

Another fundraising initiative was a concert and afternoon tea hosted by Riverton Baptist Church on Sunday 21 October, raising just over \$2,000 to support seven YouthCARE school chaplains in the Willetton, Rossmoyne,

“ I love being part of the school community, providing pastoral care to students, staff and parents. ”

Leeming Senior High Schools and Primary schools. Over 130 guests were treated to afternoon tea and entertainment by the ladies choir, Rossmoyne Community Singers, Strike a Chord, a small ensemble from within the Rossmoyne Community singers, and the Rejoyce Choir.

Federal Funding for many school chaplaincy positions since 2007 has alleviated much of the fundraising burden YouthCARE Councils used to bear, but current funding does not fully cover the minimum two-days a week service School chaplains provide in schools, so the need for fundraising continues as an important function of YouthCARE Councils.

YouthCARE, WA's largest provider of school chaplaincy services, celebrates 30 years of school chaplaincy in 2012.



Photo: Farm Weekly

Moora Baptist Church member Peter Wilkinson (left) donated a ram to the YouthCARE school chaplaincy fund in Moora. Pictured with Peter are YouthCARE School Chaplain Jodie Smith, Don Morcombe who purchased the ram, and Year 11 student Alex Longford from Central Midlands District High School.

Retreat in Esperance

On the last weekend of September, 19 women from Esperance Baptist Church met for the Church's first retreat.

Using the resource Loving Well Retreat in a Box by Beth Moore, designed to help women embrace the biblical mandate to love and to develop skills for loving others, the women had four in-depth sessions and group discussions.

"Our ladies have been asking for a retreat and time away at their own camp for several years," President of the Esperance Baptist Church Ladies' Group and Pastor's wife, Rosemary Boland said.

Rosemary first mentioned the idea of a retreat to her sister, Joy Prangnell (who attends Toodyay Baptist Church). "She showed me the Loving Well Retreat in a Box and, when I put the question to my ladies, they were all for it."

During the weekend, a love offering [gift] was made. "We decided to make a special gift to missionaries from our church

family, Harvey and Nahtaw Jones. This will be presented to them when they are visiting at the end of this month."

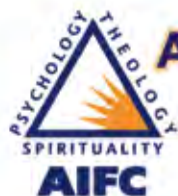
The women proclaimed the weekend a great success and have asked to make it an annual event.

"Ladies were blessed by the teaching and the time spent together. Discussion groups proved beneficial and many new and/or deeper friendships were formed."

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Nation's biggest 'Christ' gig



Photo: Stuart Townend

UK Christian songwriter and lyricist Stuart Townend performed at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in October as part of the In Christ Alone Australia Tour.

World-renowned Christian songwriter and lyricist Stuart Townend from the UK was in Perth on Thursday 18 October performing at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church as part of the In Christ Alone Australian Tour. The Perth concert, organised by Exalt, was attended by 800 people – the largest turnout of Stuart's Australian concerts.

Stuart and his band led the congregation together in gospel and gave insight into his most popular songs. Mark Edwards (piano/accordion) and Julian Ferraretto (violin) from the UK toured with Stuart, supported by Australians Trent Prees (bass), Andrew Massey (drums) and Sarah Bailey (vocals).

Stuart is known and respected around the world as one of the leading Christian songwriters of his generation. The depth of lyrical and theological content in songs such as 'In Christ alone', 'How deep the Father's love', 'The power of the cross' and 'Beautiful Saviour' have caused some to draw comparisons with the greats of previous generations such as Watts and Wesley; while the marriage of great lyrics with wonderfully accessible melodies (largely through his successful writing partnership with Keith Getty) means his songs bridge different musical and cultural genres and reach into every corner of the globe.

"It is so important that our lives are built not on our feelings or circumstances, but on the word of God, and songs can really help us to meditate on and retain truth," Stuart said. "I know from the correspondence I regularly receive that if you can express in songs the profound truth of the gospel in a poetic yet accessible way, they really can have an impact in people's lives."

Matt Harding, Chair of the Exalt Committee, said Stuart spent time between many of his

songs giving insight into why he wrote the song or the theological concept behind them. "It was so encouraging to see a songwriter who was humble and Godly with the ability to craft lyrics that were biblical, poetic and fresh," Matt said.

"The laid back Irish feel to the music (what Stuart described to us as 'bushdance' music for Australians) was really enjoyable and somewhat unique with many of the well known songs being done with different arrangements which made them feel fresh and uplifting all over again. My personal highlight was singing 'In Christ Alone' to finish the night with 800 voices."

The two and a half hour concert also included a 30 minute set by Emu Music, led by Philip Percival, which was part of the launch of their new album *Advent*.

Stuart continues to write with long-time collaborator Keith Getty, but has also worked with other talented writers including Gary Sadler, Mark Edwards, Phil Baggaley and Matt Redman. An accomplished keyboard player and guitarist, he is also an established recording artist, with eight solo albums to his name to date, as well as featuring on numerous live event albums.

Men's breakfast at Lakeside

Lakeside Baptist Church hosted Professor Bruce Robinson, Director of The Fathering Project, during a men's breakfast at Lakeside Recreation Centre on Saturday 22 September. Following breakfast, 68 men – fathers, grandfathers and fathers-to-be – listened to Professor Robinson present on 'What Kids Need from their Dad'.

The breakfast was part of the Lakeside Baptist Church's Real Men's ministry in support of their strategic goal to support and strengthen families in both the Church congregation and the local community.

Senior Pastor Anthony Palmieri attended the event. "What was great is we had around 30 men from Lakeside Baptist Church attend and 30 from our Recreation Centre and surrounding

community too," Anthony said.

"It was a great middle ground event – connecting men in the church with men in the community," Anthony said.

"Professor Robinson's speech was very well received. He had narrowed down years of research and stats into three easy practical points to remember. Most guys walked away thinking 'this is important' and 'I can do that'".

The Fathering Project is a

non-profit project based at The University of Western Australia which aims to help fathers and father figures realise how important they are in a child's life, and to give them advice on how to encourage their children.

The Fathering Project is running a follow up event at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on Saturday 3 November.

For more information visit www.thefatheringproject.org.

digital church

16/09/2012

Andrew Hamilton

www.backyardmissionary.com

"It is a beautiful spring day in Perth and church numbers were a little down today. Some sick, some busy, some probably just doing something else ... the beach ... a picnic ... whatever ..."

19/09/2012

Dave Burchett

www.daveburchett.com

"Sometimes this faith journey goes pretty smoothly and it is easy to express your trust and dependence on God. At other times it feels lonely, frightening and sad."

15/10/2012

Tim Challies

www.challies.com

"The Internet has allowed us to expand our understanding of community so that we can have significant and ongoing interaction with people regardless of their location."

04/10/2012

Cara Sexton

www.bibledude.net

"Jesus gives us a life of freedom, a freedom we Christians so often use to hold others captive. Jesus gives us infinite grace, a gift we maim and distort into judgment and condemnation."

07/10/2012

Ron Edmondson

www.ronedmonson.com

"I get frustrated when people have to have things 'their way'. It destroys any hope of a healthy team when people are only thinking of their personal wishes. (Doesn't sound very Biblical to me either.)"

briefs

Baptisms

Atwell Community Church joined with Gosnells Baptist Church for the baptisms of Mark Sharifi and Helen Sadeghian on 19 August.

Celebration of life

The members and friends of Cranbrook/Frankland Baptist Church celebrated the life of Letty Preston on 12 September. Letty was part of the church family for over 60 years and will be fondly remembered for her enthusiasm, kindness and willingness to serve God in so many ways including Sunday School teaching and playing the piano for services.

Engagement

Comet Bay Baptist Church Pastor, Nicholas Van Oudtshoorn and Taryn Tibbits became engaged on 24 September.

2013 National Day of Prayer and Fasting

The National Day of Prayer and Fasting will be held on Sunday 10 February 2013 and a prayer service will take place in Parliament House, Canberra. The theme for 2013 is 'Life'. The National Day of Prayer and Fasting is followed by 40 days of prayer and fasting over the period of Lent from 13 February to 24 March. For more information visit www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au.

Legendary faith at Woodvale

Over 500 Baptists gathered together at Woodvale Baptist Church on Friday 19 October for the Legends of the Faith celebration service hosted by Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA). The congregation enjoyed an evening of impartation and teaching from visiting Pastor Dale Stephenson, from Crossway Baptist Church in Melbourne.

"It is imperative that we return to the biblical practise of being led by the Holy Spirit," Dale said. "The bible says that those who are sons and daughters of God will be led by the Holy Spirit. We need to look afresh to the demonstration of this in Acts and reframe what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit."

Dale challenged the gathering to surrender afresh to God so that we can steward the Good News of Jesus in our community. "We honour the past by building the future. Jesus never changes but our way of doing church may change. The church tends to look to the west to do missions even though the church in the west is in decline in many places. Why don't we look to the east where the church is growing, in China and India!"

Dale shared how his home church Crossway in Melbourne intends to lead by example, expecting to baptise 180 to 200 people this year as well as welcoming over 700 people into membership.

Australian music legend Steve Grace performed songs from his Heritage Acoustic tour.

A highlight of the set was the tribute to his parents who had served on the mission fields in Papua New Guinea with Wycliffe Bible Translators. He closed out the set with a song dedicated to Billy Graham and his evangelism ministry.

Three Western Australian pastors were fully accredited during the evening; Mark Parsons from North Beach, Michael Lochore from Margaret River and Craig Palmer from Riverton. Peter Christofides from Riverton and James Tin Kung from WA Chin Christian Church were also recognised as having their accreditation as Pastors transferred to BCWA. Steve Jarlett from Karratha also had his accreditation transferred, though he couldn't be present at the service.

Mark Wilson, BCWA Director of Ministries, shared highlights from the past year and wound these into the vision of BCWA. "An empowering movement helping pastors, ministries, churches and their communities say 'Yes' to Jesus".



BCWA Director of Ministries, Mark Wilson (left) with Karen Wilson, President of Western Australian Baptist Women, guest speaker Pastor Dale Stephenson and his wife Edi at the Legends of the Faith celebration service October.

Photo: Matt Chapman

Camp accredited

On 9 October, Serpentine Camping Centre became the first not-for-profit camping centre in Western Australia to be nationally accredited with National Accommodation, Recreation and Tourism Accreditation (NARTA).

NARTA provides a process for checking and providing recognition of compliance with relevant legal operational requirements. It is an ongoing process that requires regular compliance regime reviews in line with changing community attitudes and legislative changes.

"This will ensure we are being measured for compliance independently and will meet the requirements of external organisations that choose to limit their participation to 'accredited' operations, which is becoming mandatory in most states," Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Camp Ministries, Ross Daniels said.

Accreditation is accomplished

through self-assessment with both desk and workplace audits. "This was all achieved by the staff at Serpentine Camping Centre putting a great deal of time and effort into documentation and process for the site and this is why we passed first time round," Ross said.

Serpentine Camping Centre has two upcoming camps in January 2013. The Inters Summer Camp 'Sherlock Mysteries' for young people in Years 8 to 10 is from 2 to 6 January 2013 and the Juniors Summer Camp 'Promises of Adventure Island' for children in Years 4 to 7 is from 8 to 12 January 2013.

For more information visit www.baptistwa.asn.au.

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Mission trip to Africa

On 25 September, nine students from Somerville Baptist College and Winthrop Baptist College, together with four adults, went on a 15-day mission trip to Kenya, Africa. The trip was part of a Scholarship Program through Sonlife Africa – an organisation founded by Somerville Baptist College Teacher, Josh Bond early last year.

Sonlife Africa is a WA-based non-profit organisation which believes sustainability and education are the most powerful tools in breaking the cycle of poverty. It exists to provide education, clean water, sustainability and health to those living in poverty.

Josh and his wife Felicity, together with Winthrop Baptist College Deputy Principal, Andrew Dunn and Rosie Bryant from Somerville Baptist College, supervised students on the trip.

"It is designed to be an exposure trip for students who want to make a difference and for them to experience effective Christian mission – sustainable and locally driven," Josh said.

The group visited a number of projects through partner Cornerstone Faith Assembly Church Of Kenya. Students spent time at Cornerstone Academy in Dagoretti Corner teaching primary students and painting classrooms. They also went on 'health visits' to nearby slums with Sonlife Africa's health clinic based out of Cornerstone.



Students from Somerville Baptist College and Winthrop Baptist College help Ndeiya locals complete construction of a library during a mission trip to Africa.

"We also spent time at Cornerstone Grace Academy in Ndeiya in the Rift Valley – teaching, painting, constructing a goats shed and toilets, going on home visits and completing construction of a library."

In addition, students were part of distribution ceremonies of bicycles to people in both Ndeiya and Mwea with Sonlife Africa partner Wheels4Life which saw 50 bicycles distributed to locals.

The Sonlife Africa Scholarship Program exists to provide students from high schools in Western Australia, who are identified as future leaders, with the opportunity to experience Christian development work firsthand in a developing world country.

“It is designed to be an exposure trip for students who want to make a difference ...”

Two scholarships are awarded each year by Sonlife Africa to students from Somerville Baptist College and Winthrop Baptist College.

For more information visit www.sonlifeafrica.com.au.

Council vs Church

Scarborough Baptist Church received notification from the City of Stirling in September requiring the Church cease all activities not defined by the City as "religious activities". The penalty for not complying is a possible fine of \$1,000,000 plus \$125,000 per day that the Church fails to comply.

Many of these activities are central to the Church's pastoral role within the community and have been operating in the church for years. The craft group has been holding weekly craft meetings for 35 years, and the evening service and community meal has now been running for nearly a decade.

It is the opinion of Scarborough Baptist Church that the City of Stirling has failed to provide any evidence that the church has contravened any local by-laws.

According to the City's correspondence, religious activities exclude, among others: craft classes, band practice, quiz nights, fetes and fairs, and the provision of meals and services to the community.

It is the position of Scarborough Baptist Church, in accordance with the separation of Church and state, that local government officials not take it upon themselves to define what a religious activity is, be it in the context of a church, mosque, temple, synagogue, or other place of worship.

The Western Australia Heads of Churches (WAHOC) and Baptist Churches Western Australia have

identified there is the possibility for wider implications to churches as they may find that the activities or services they provide may be deemed to be outside of "normal" religious activities by their local Council or Shire.



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Bentley wins SportsFest 2012



Photo: Terry Hicks

Bentley Baptist Church won the overall competition at SportsFest 2012.

Over 1,100 competitors from 31 churches participated in Baptist Churches Western Australia's SportsFest over the September long weekend. SportsFest, for those aged 16 to 28 years, continues to be a highlight of many churches' annual youth programs.

Bentley Baptist Church won the overall competition with wins in badminton (female), softcrosse (mixed), tennis (mixed), indoor soccer (male), dodgeball, lawn bowls, ultimate frisbee 1 and tug-of-war (male), 69 points ahead of last year's winners Riverton Baptist Community Church. They also finished second in basketball A (male), frisbee (mixed), volleyball B (mixed), water polo (male), netball A (mixed) and ultimate frisbee 2. Morley Baptist Church won the 'small church' competition. The number of team members determines if a church is in the 'small church' category.

Each year, teams design banners and t-shirts that reflect the theme of their group. This year's winners of the t-shirt category were Ellenbrook Baptist Church with their James Bond theme - 00Heaven; Stirred not Shaken.

"We won a nice little trophy proclaiming us SportsFest 2012 shirt design winners," Ben Sobey from Ellenbrook Baptist Church said. "I thought the weekend was fantastic. I got involved with SportsFest because I think sport is such a great idea for outreach in the community. I've found that playing in a sporting team with someone is a great way of getting to know them. People who you didn't even know at the start of the weekend leave as your friends."

The banner category was won by Woodvale Baptist Church with their theme 'Woodvale Sailors' taking inspiration from Hebrews 6:19a, 'We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure'. "Even in the

“ I got involved with SportsFest because I think sport is such a great idea for outreach in the community. ”

storms and trials of life we know God is our anchor through those tough times," Rose Daniels from Woodvale Baptist Church said. "Unfortunately, the reference was written wrong on the banner, which we didn't realise until the last minute."

"I thought SportsFest 2012 was amazing. I really look forward to SportsFest every year, and once again it was great. It's always really exhausting, but I love catching up with people I know from camps and things, and there's nothing like being outdoors playing sport all day and then just sitting on the grass in the afternoon, hanging out with your friends, tired and sore but content," Rose said.

Baptist Churches Western Australia Events Ministry Assistant, Michelle Smoker worked with 150 volunteers and

support people to ensure the program ran smoothly. "The organising of the event went extremely well and was very smooth sailing. So grateful for every volunteer involved - thank you for doing an amazing job during the weekend. SportsFest cannot run without them!"

"The SportsFest organising team, volunteers and church co-ordinators all did an amazing job in bringing it all together," Jeff Cross, Director of SportsFest said.

For more SportsFest news see pages 8, 9 and 10.

Final scores for SportsFest 2012

Bentley	543	Morley	141
Riverton	474	Rockingham	137
Christian Reformed	384	Girrawheen	131
Claremont	362	St Matts Anglican	122
Albany	356	East Vic Park	121
Woodvale	343	Yokine	121
Lakeside	326	Mount Barker	113
Lake Joondalup	305	Quinns	106
Carey	277	Scarborough	100
Mount Pleasant	274	East Fremantle	83
Gosnells	210	Impact Youth	77
Parkerville	207	Como	66
Mandurah	199	City Network-Dalkeith	50
North Beach	195	Inglewood	50
Ellenbrook	163	Mount Hawthorn	37
Upper Great Southern	149		



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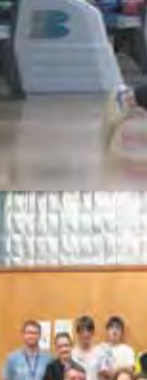
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STUDENT



SPORTS



Aashish at SportsFest

Senior Pastor Aashish Parmar, from Kalgoorlie Baptist Church, was invited to be the guest speaker at SportsFest's Sunday evening service on the last weekend of September.

"He challenged everybody to remove the destructive baggage we carry around," said Jeff Cross, SportsFest Director. "It was fantastic to see the Holy Spirit working in so many lives on this night."

"It was a pleasure to be a part of a service celebrating Christ as the foundation of the weekend," said Aashish. "The message was on Christ, our Healer and Saviour and His ability to handle our 'baggage'. We spoke about how Christ died for our sins, how He handles our pain and torment, and how even our good deeds aren't

good enough to save ourselves. Jesus died for you and me and He invites us into an eternal relationship with Him through the cross."

Although Aashish didn't take part in any of the sports, he was impressed with the work that went into such a well-organised event.

"The SportsFest team and volunteers deserve every praise sent their way. I believe SportsFest is a great connection point for churches to bring their young people together to relax, have fun and start conversations about Jesus."



Kalgoorlie Baptist Church's Senior Pastor Aashish Parmar was the guest speaker during SportsFest's Sunday evening service.

Photo: Terry Hicks

My journey to Christ – SportsFest testimony

This year's SportsFest testimony was given by Ayla Prospero, a teacher from Kingston Primary School in Bunbury, during the Sunday service. Ayla retold the moment in her life when she decided to follow Christ and the journey leading up to her devotion after attending SportsFest 2008.

"My journey started when I was 19 and my sister joined a cult. Well it was what Christians called 'church'. It felt like the same thing though. She came home with all these weird ideas that were definitely nothing like the ideas and values that we had grown up with – what was happening to her? I felt like I was losing her. Then it started – a few years of arguments, tears, frustration – two people who used to understand each other perfectly, no longer agreeing on anything about the big issues in life. A little sister who no longer follows her big sister, but instead tells her she's wrong? What?

Just before I turned 21 in 2008, my sister invited me to SportsFest. It sounded fun, but I was highly suspicious. I knew what Christians were like – there was always a 'catch'. "Okay," I agreed with hesitation. "But only if you promise that no one is going to try and convert me". She agreed to this condition. And so it began – I had to wear a shirt that

proudly proclaimed Jesus (a little embarrassing) and I took great pride whenever anyone asked me what church I went to I would say "I don't go to church".

But something was different about these people – even I had to admit that. They seemed happy – peaceful even. They were nice to each other – for no reason – so weird! They welcomed me, despite my arrogance and bad attitude. Okay, maybe these Christian people aren't as bad as I initially thought. Really they're almost normal. But there was still something different – what did they have, that I didn't?

On Sunday night, exactly four years ago, I was sitting at a SportFest rally just like this one.

And I found out what that thing was – Jesus. I watched all the young people around me, singing songs of praise to a 'Father' I didn't know. I felt the joy and unity in the air. I want to be a part of this, I thought – I want what these people have. And if it's Jesus, maybe I want Him. With fear in my heart and feeling a bit silly, I ticked the "I want to know more about Jesus" box in the response form.

A few weeks went by and I kind of forgot about it and then a lady from Eaton Baptist Church rang me. Oh gosh, what have I gotten myself into? Reluctantly I met up with her. Together we read the gospel of John, a book from the Bible, and I found out that I

have the love of a Heavenly Father – He will love me, no matter what I do, no matter how many times I sin. He loved me so much that even though I'm a sinner (and I don't know if anyone has told you, but you are too) that he sent his son to die for us meaning that we could have eternal life with Him in Heaven. I made the choice at the end of October 2008 to follow Christ, to take Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.

It would be a lie to say that when you become a Christian, your life is easy, wonderful and always great. Life is hard – you are continually swimming against the river that is the world around you. You begin to think and act differently to the majority of

people around you. Friends and family may no longer understand you. But it is so worth it and I cannot say that loudly enough. It is so worth it".

In January 2013, Ayla is moving to Mozambique, Africa for 18 months to assist the Global Interaction team by homeschooling and caring for some of the team's children, allowing their parents to learn the local language and culture. The team will be working with the Yawo people – the least reach people who have never heard of Jesus or the gospel.

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Following a dream

Registered Nurse Lynne White, from Ferntree Gully, Victoria, has recently returned from a two-month mission where she volunteered with Mercy Ships in Guinea, West Africa, on the world's largest private hospital ship, the Africa Mercy.

"I always had a dream of serving in a medical capacity through mission work in Africa, and heard about Mercy Ships through a nurse who had served some years previously," Lynne said.

That planted the seed for Lynne to save holiday leave and money for the two months of service in Guinea. "I believed the hospital ship Africa Mercy, operated by Mercy Ships, would provide an opportunity to use my nursing skills to serve the poor of Africa in a controlled and well equipped environment. So I made the decision to move forward, follow my dream and go," Lynne said.

Lynne has worked as a registered nurse with a varied experience in many areas over the last 30 years, most recently in emergency nursing, chemotherapy and education. She was among more than 400 volunteer crew members onboard the ship until the end of October in Guinea, one of the world's poorest nations. Medical teams provide free surgeries to correct deformity, disability and blindness, while other volunteers are involved in a wide range of health and development programs.

Lynne describes the poverty in Guinea as something like a pit that is difficult to dig yourself out of. "Along with extreme poverty comes despair. Life expectancy is short. People with life threatening illnesses have no options for treatment, and death is just around the corner. It is confronting to see so many with serious illness that is successfully

and freely treated in the developed world. It is a challenge for many in West Africa to eke out a living and have fresh food, water and shelter."

“People with life threatening illnesses have no options for treatment, and death is just around the corner.”

"One experience will remain with me. I was involved in a massive screening day at the commencement of the assignment in Guinea, when more than 4,000 people turned up seeking treatment for so many medical conditions. It was a real highlight to serve beside some really gifted surgeons who have not only served on the Africa Mercy once, but many times. They were great opportunities, rubbing shoulders with such people to grow professionally and spiritually."

"This was my first foray into mission work, and I will definitely consider future service, perhaps for a longer term. This short term service has given me confidence for future adventures," Lynne said.



Photo: Mercy Ships

Registered Nurse Lynne White served on a two-month mission on-board the Africa Mercy in Guinea, West Africa.

- AGE 5
MUM PRAYS A PRAYER WITH ME AND I SAY 'YES' TO JESUS.
- AGE 14
I SAY 'YES' ALL OVER AGAIN AT YOUTH CAMP AT SERPENTINE.
- AGE 16
START LEADING AT CAMPS, START LEADING WORSHIP AT CHURCH.
- AGE 26
ONE OF THE PASTORS AT CHURCH SAYS, ALMOST INCIDENTALLY, 'I THINK GOD COULD BE CALLING YOU TO PLANT A CHURCH'.
- AGE 28
I'M WORKING HARD BUT DOWN DEEP, SOMETHING STIRRING. GOD'S WORKING ON MY HEART...
- AGE 31
I ENROL AT VOSE SEMINARY AND BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY OF LEARNING, GROWTH, EQUIPPING AND DISCOVERING JESUS IN COMMUNITY. PRETTY EXCITED...
- AGE 34
OUR FIRST SUNDAY!

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Casting Crowns: From youth group to Christian band



Mark Hall, Juan DeVevo, Melodee DeVevo, Hector Cervantes, Megan Garrett, Chris Huffman, and Brian Scoggin are the seven unique musicians who make up Casting Crowns.

Photo: Crossroad Distributors

Known around the world as one of America's most original and fertile contemporary Christian bands, Casting Crowns came into being in 1999 as part of a youth group. After recording their self-titled debut album in 2003, the group quickly became one of the fastest selling debut artists in Christian music history. *Lifesong* followed in 2005, debuting at number nine on the Billboard 200 albums chart. Both albums have since sold more than a million copies. 'The Altar And The Door' debuted at number two on its release in August 2007. 'Until The Whole World Hears' was released two years later. It debuted at number four and sold more than 160,000 copies in its first week, setting a new record for a Christian music debut. A year ago, the group's latest album, *Come To the Well* peaked at number with sales of 99,000 copies in its first week, blocked only by Adele's album 21. Guitarist Juan DeVevo recently spoke to Wes Jay.

When did music and ministry begin playing a role in your life?

When I was a junior in college, I started playing guitar as a hobby and soon realized I could play for the youth group and lead worship. So between that, meeting Mark Hall (a youth pastor, and now lead

singer of Casting Crowns) and making our first CD, we made the move to Atlanta.

Today, Casting Crown is a major Christian music act, but it's almost impossible to pigeon-hole you musically. What have been your influences?

When I play guitar, I'm into country and bluegrass. My wife, Melodee, is a classically trained violinist. Hector Cervantes, our other guitarist, grew up listening to Rage Against the Machine — some pretty hard core stuff. That's just an idea of the broad range of influences the seven of us have. Apparently God knew what he was doing when he threw us all together.

Despite your music coming from diverse influences, it stands on its own really well. Is it just about music for you?

We're not trying to be innovators with our music. Our 'big deal' is the message — communicating with audiences, telling them the truth and giving them songs that will build them up.

So how does this impact the band's decision making processes?

When we make major decisions, we all come together and pray. And it's not just the band

who's praying, but everybody who knows us. We have a team here in the states who pray for us continually. We get a lot of offers for things, but we know the most important thing is that we have to stay plugged into our church.

How often are you guys away from your local church?

For us, it's a rarity to miss being at our local church. We have a big youth service on Wednesday nights. If we do a normal tour, we'll maybe miss two weeks, but for the most part, we're touring Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Then we get on the bus and head back home ready to worship and hang out with teenagers on the Sunday. That's our normal week.

Does routine help you stay real and create such great songs?

Well I wouldn't attribute it directly to that but we stay in church and we're around people who keep us grounded and are praying for us, and the fact that we're pouring into other people is where we are continually getting things to talk about.

How do you stay 'spiritually connected' on the road?

We pray with each other. We have a daily devotional when we are on the road to make sure we're reading through the Bible

and everybody is connected with Jesus because you can't be in a ministry and just totally dry out and not be connected at all to God so we make sure that's happening.

I understand that you and your wife help with the student band ministry at church. Is that correct?

We have three bands comprising 40 teenagers. My deal with them is if I let you up on stage, I've got to know you're living the life of the songs you sing. You can't get up there and sing 'Jesus you're my everything' when you don't have this stuff happening in your life. Mark is the youth pastor. Students come to him asking for all kinds of advice and he meets with them most afternoons.

Are you saying that being active in your local church is the 'key gig'? That working with young people is their 'main event' and everything else — including writing songs — is the 'overflow'?

I think our songs come out of the ministry we have at the local church. What we find out is most of the things teenagers struggle with are the same as other people are struggling with. Mark will write a song and absolutely everybody identifies with it. One of our [early] songs 'East To West'

was about struggling with trying to figure out God's forgiveness. It doesn't matter how deep or far we go, we can't run from his grasp. He is everywhere. When I forgive somebody I still think about what they've done to me and there's still that residue of resentment and hurt there, but God forgives completely. It's something we can't figure out, but we can take encouragement from that and it is what everybody in Casting Crowns is called to. Each one of us has a different calling and everybody has a different spiritual gift, so we write out of that gift. Some people write out of encouragement. I'm not trying to tell everybody and every band this is how it is, but I do encourage everybody to be plugged into a church and have a home base that you're sharing your talent with. But as far as working with teenagers, that's something I know I've been called to do.

Effective ways of growing

As David Krajewski said, "One of the most significant contributions to business failure is the inability to get things done through people." Leaders accomplish their visions through personal growth and personnel growth. Focusing on individual development is fine, but doing something truly significant also involves empowering others to grow to their potential. One is too small of a number to achieve greatness.

For a leader, growing people isn't just a theoretical, pie-in-the-sky notion; it's a pressing demand with real-world implications. An organisation that's not investing in its people exhibits all sorts of unhealthy symptoms.

1. Trouble on the bottom line.
2. High turnover.
3. Backstabbing and infighting for turf.
4. Complaining that has little focus on real issues.
5. Low motivation.
6. Unaccounted for absences from the office.
7. Poor communications among workers.
8. Long work days but low productivity.

On the other hand, when leaders grow their people, they reap the rewards of high morale and synergies of teamwork.

The most effective way to grow an organisation is to grow the people in it. Here are some growth practices that you can apply to grow your team.

1) Develop a game plan to grow others

The highest function of a leader is not just to lead others; the highest function of a leader is to produce leaders who can lead others. There's no outsourcing the responsibility to develop the leadership capacities of your people. You have to take initiative to mentor others within your organisation.

Mentors must possess a specific know-how. Without this confidence and knowledge

they are not ready to transfer what they've learned to others. At the same time, the object of mentoring is not perfection but improvement. Don't feel as if you have to be flawless before you can begin to impart your wisdom and skills to others. Also, realise that the underlying purpose of mentoring is not for people to act differently but rather to become different. Such a change certainly doesn't happen overnight; the process is evolutionary, not revolutionary.

2) Connect with them

Connection doesn't happen unless you put in the time to learn about someone's unique personality, perspective and motivations. Ask questions about the people on your team to uncover their interests, and observe them in action to find

out their capacity and strengths. Finally, demonstrate your commitment to their success by consistently adding value to them, providing constant encouragement and making yourself available for questions.

3) Challenge them

Giving others a project that causes them to stretch helps to build their emotional and creative capacity. Conferences and training seminars have their place, but most learning takes place on the job. People grow through actual assignments in which they encounter real-life problems that have immediate relevance to the company.

4) Empower them

Empowerment begins by painting the big-picture for those you lead. Disney doesn't give

its street sweepers four days of training because street sweeping is complex; Disney wants sweepers who are able to answer guest's questions about the park.

Empowerment also is all about trust. As Captain D Michael Abrashoff said, "If all you give are orders, then all you'll get are order-takers." Leaders give power to those they lead and then hold them accountable for using that power appropriately.

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Age: Grades 4 – 7
Camp Fee: \$280



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If you would like to be in the same cabin as another camper please list their name. (We will do our best to make this happen.)

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Please select your Camp: Juniors \$280 Inters \$295

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Registration and medical forms to be posted to **Baptist Camps Registration**
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Medical forms are available at www.baptistwa.asn.au (click on camps/upcoming camps) or phone 08 6313 6300.

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Uncover the Mysteries of God, all while solving team challenges on a journey of clues and hidden secrets.

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Camp Fee: \$295



events calendar

November

- 5 - 6 November Business Conference, Vose College, www.vose.edu.au
- 9 November Youth Service, Riverton Baptist Community Church, www.rivbap.org.au
- 26-29 November Leavers Green Team, www.greenteamwa.org.au

December

- 5 December Registrations close for Summer Baptist Camps 2013, 6313 6300

January

- 2-6 January Summer Inters Baptist Camp, Serpentine Camping Centre, 6313 6300
- 8-12 January Juniors Summer Baptist Camp, Serpentine Camping Centre, 6313 6300

contribute news

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

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Members of the present Church would like to compile a booklet comprising of memories and anecdotes from previous years. If you would like to contribute please email or phone Garry. This book will be available after the weekend of the celebration and will also include photos of the weekend.



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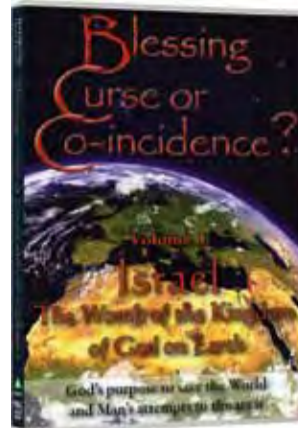


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Blessing, Curse or Coincidence?

Volume 1 of this trilogy of documentaries examines the major covenants in scripture in the context of their Hebraic roots, from the Abrahamic Covenant to the New Covenant. In Genesis 12:3 God says, 'I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you'. This DVD examines all the Lord God included in this promise to His covenant people – protection, the land of Israel as an everlasting possession and the vehicle through whom God would fulfill His purposes for mankind.



October Baby

As the curtain rises, Hannah steps on stage ... only to collapse moments later. She's rushed to the hospital, where medical tests reveal the underlying cause – trauma suffered at birth. Soon afterward, she discovers another shocking fact: she was adopted after a failed abortion attempt. Bewildered and angry, Hannah goes in search of her birth mother with Jason, her oldest friend. Will the truth set her free?



Love's Christmas Journey

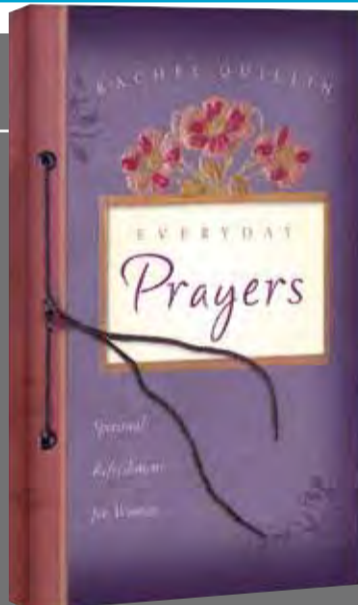
While still mourning the loss of her husband and daughter, recently widowed Ellie visits her brother Aaron and his children for Christmas. Ellie does her best to enjoy the holidays, even making new friends with a local shop keeper and handsome admirer. Settling in nicely with her brother's family, Ellie also meets a young man abandoned by his outlaw father. When Aaron travels out of town, Ellie agrees to watch his children, but the season's festivities are threatened when Aaron goes missing.

win

Everyday Prayers

By Rachel Quillin

Everyday Prayers covers all this and more. This nifty little book created just for women offers 200 topically arranged contemporary prayers that are brief – for today's busy woman – but bold enough to have life-changing impact. With *Everyday Prayers*, women will find true refreshment for their spirit and a renewed sense of God's loving presence in everyday life. Each prayer is paired with attractive art throughout.



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

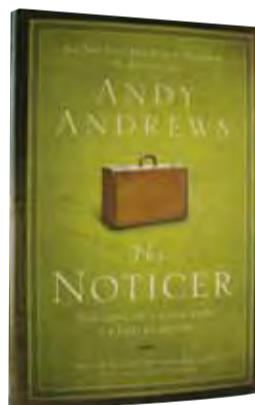
Question:

How many prayers are offered in *Everyday Prayers*?

Entries close 16 November and all winners will be announced in the December edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from *Martin Luther*:
I Chan, R Maddrew, L Trigg

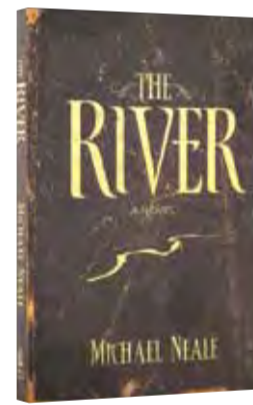
read



The Noticer

By Andy Andrews

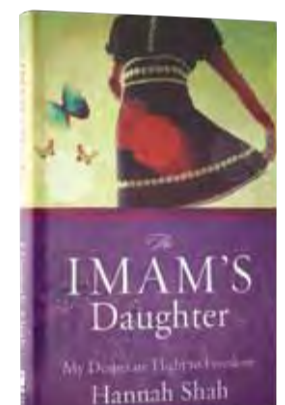
Orange Beach, Alabama is a simple town filled with simple people, however, Orange Beach has their share of problems – divorce, adults giving up on life, financial bankruptcy ... the list could go on. Fortunately, when things look their darkest, a mysterious man named Jones has a miraculous way of showing up. Jones speaks to that part in everyone that is yearning to understand why things happen and what we can do about it. *The Noticer* is a unique narrative blend of fiction, allegory and inspiration.



The River

By Michael Neale

Gabriel is drawn to the river, a place of frothy white water carving its way through canyons high in the Colorado Rockies. The waters beckon him to experience freedom and adventure. However something holds him back – the memory he witnessed on the river when he was five years old. He remains trapped, afraid to take hold of the life awaiting him, however, when he finally returns to the river after years away, his heart knows he is finally home and his destiny is in reach.



The Imam's Daughter

By Hannah Shah

Hannah is an Imam's daughter. She lived the life of a devout Muslim in a family of Pakistani Muslims in England, but behind the front door, she was a caged butterfly. For many years, her father abused her in the cellar of their home. At 16, she discovered a plan to send her to Pakistan for an arranged marriage. She gathered the courage to run away, moving from house to house to escape her father and brothers. Over time, she converted to Christianity and was able to live and marry as she wished.

competition

Answer: _____

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Jesus ute draws attention

The new-look Jesus Racing team ute (utility vehicle) made an impact at the Deni Ute Muster in Deniliquin, NSW at the end of September attended by 10,000 utes and 25,000 people. The ute arrived with a five-poster bulbar, ultra-high frequency radio aerials, spotlights, mudflaps and a large light-up chrome cross in the tray.

Andrew 'Fishtail' Fisher was delighted with the response to the giant cross. "We knew the chrome cross was going to create a buzz, but it was more dramatic than I expected. People were bowing down; some were confronted and even offended. Giving the cross prominence is something we haven't done before so it was amazing to see the difference it made to the overall response," Fishtail said.

The team passed through the muster entrance point the night before the gates officially opened, lighting up the cross as they drove through town, passing thousands of utes waiting to enter.

As the team found out, it's illegal to have an illuminated cross on the back of your car. Fortunately the local Police were sympathetic and Fishtail's offsider, Pastor Steve Peach of Tipton Christian Church, was let off with a warning.

The most important part of the trip to Deniliquin was the opportunity to mix with locals and other attendees at the Muster.

"Their understanding of the person of Jesus and his



The Jesus Racing team ute, complete with light-up cross, made an impact at the Deni Ute Muster in Deniliquin, NSW at the end of September.

relevance to them is dramatically shaken by having the Jesus Racing team in their territory," Fishtail said. "There are a lot of people at Deni who have little or no connection with the church or Jesus. It's great to be able to enter this world. The Deni Ute Muster is evidence the Jesus Racing team continues to succeed in bringing the name of Jesus to different communities, with maximum impact!"

Across the weekend, Fishtail took part in many demonstrations, putting the ute through its paces. With Fishtail behind the wheel, the Jesus Ute made a big entrance into the

finals of the circle work, driving backwards into the arena and performing a high-speed j-turn leading straight into a wide broadside, which filled the arena with dust and cheers from the crowd.

A couple weeks after the Deni Ute Muster, the team was in Sydney for Round 5 of the Auto One V8 Ute Racing Series at Mount Panorama, Bathurst.

A large crowd was drawn to the 50th anniversary of the running of the Bathurst 1000. Fishtail placed fifth overall for the weekend, only three points off the podium. While in Bathurst, the team spoke to students at a local

High School and also inmates at Bathurst Jail as part of the Jesus Racing Team's Life Choices program.

Going into Round 6 of the championship, Fishtail was in fourth position out of 56 drivers. "If we are to win this year's championship we need to take a few more wins in the process!"

Round 6 of the championship series took the team to the Gold Coast to race during the Armor All Gold Coast 600. While in Queensland, the team continued the Life Choices program, speaking at several High Schools, the Scripture Union Chaplains In-Service Day as well as visiting

a range of sponsors including several Gloria Jean's Coffees stores.

The team left the Gold Coast still sitting in fourth position for the Auto One V8 Ute Championship. With just a few weeks turn-around, Fishtail and the Jesus Racing Team will be focusing on collecting championship points when they next hit the racetrack at Winton Raceway, in the Northern part of Victoria on 16 and 17 November. This will be the penultimate round of the Auto 1 V8 Ute Championship for 2012 before racing in Sydney, during the Sydney Telstra 500 in December.

Photo: Dave Oliver

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