

the advocate



Find your local church's Christmas carol celebrations [PAGES 6 >>](#)

In conversation Christian singer/songwriter Robin Mark on worship songs from a 'pure heart'. [PAGE 12 >>](#)

The royal exponent

When the Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton wore a chiffon off-white dress and matching headscarf to visit the Assyakirin Mosque in Kuala Lumpur recently, she sparked the usual stampede by women to copy her look. The garment was designed by ethical fashion label Beulah London, supporters of Freetset and victims of sex trafficking and slavery in India.

In 2009, Lady Natasha Rufus Isaacs, Beulah London founder and Kate's friend, and her childhood friend Lavinia Brennan made the life-changing decision to teach needlework and English to victims of sex trafficking in India.

"I had been talking to a friend about human trafficking and I was determined to do something to help," Natasha said. "I met women who had been abused and a girl who was trafficked from the school where I was teaching. She fell in love with a man who promised her a new life and whisked her away, and she didn't return. It was heartbreaking, but it helped me to understand slavery and how traffickers work."

Natasha, who has a history of art degree from Oxford Brookes University, spent two months at

a workshop teaching vulnerable girls who had been rescued from brothels and slums.

It was there that Beulah London was conceived. Natasha and Lavinia's idea was to create an ethical fashion label that would pay a living wage to rescued women and save them from the economic necessity of returning to the streets.

"It was a real motivator to start up a business which could be profitable and provide women with an alternative, sustainable livelihood," Natasha said.

Each Beulah London garment comes with a Freetset canvas bag produced by victims of trafficking in India through a Kolkata-based project.

Some items in the collection are made through a project



Photo: AP Photo/Lai Seng Sin

The Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, wears ethical fashion label Beulah London during a visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

in Delhi called Open Hand, by women who have escaped trafficking and the sex trade, including some who are HIV-positive and widowed.

Beulah London's mission, as well as providing a secure future for Indian girls saved from the sex industry, is to raise awareness of the problem.

"Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime in the world," Natasha said. "Drugs can only be sold once, but people can be sold again and again. The sex trade is relatively obvious, but domestic slavery is very hard to find out about because people could just be locked in a basement for years."



4 Good news
Ben and Sam are leaving Australia for Mozambique in May 2013 [>>](#)



10 100 million gifts
Worldwide 100 million gifts have been donated to Operation Christmas Child [>>](#)



16 Tent city
East Fremantle Primary School held their first Fathering Camp [>>](#)

“**Baptist Churches** Building healthy churches.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Baptists welcome Royal Commission

Australian Baptist Ministries (ABM) welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Julia Gillard of a Royal Commission into child abuse and institutional response in November.

"Abuse of any kind is incompatible with Christian mission and Christian community. Where abuse

is alleged to have occurred, information should be treated seriously and addressed through established protocols," ABM

National Ministries Director, Rev. Keith Jobberns, said.

"We intend to participate fully with the Royal Commission to uncover the truth and develop a stronger culture of transparency and accountability for all. Australian Baptist Ministries has in place a national response to known offenders, and Baptist associations in each state have established protocols

to deal with allegations of child abuse."

"The wellbeing of children must always be a first priority for families, churches and other institutions. We pray for those who have been hurt and betrayed by those entrusted to their care, and commit ourselves to work to ensure a safer and more just society for all," Keith said.

**Marc Chan**

Marc Chan is Consultant, Cross Cultural and Indigenous Ministries with Baptist Churches Western Australia.

Leadership: Right or privilege?

Over the past few years, I have been working with refugees. There has been a lot in the media about them – mostly very negative. Yet, I have learnt enormously from them what true leadership is about.

We tend to make heroes of those who are popular leaders – we flock to hear them speak and give them a hero's welcome. We are prepared to spend a lot to have them as guest speakers. We dare not say anything even though they turn out to be less than what we expected. They are heroes and have a right to this.

Even in a church situation, some believe they have the right to lead as a result of their position. They can use the resources in

whatever way they want to and they will fight to keep that right.

Yet, we forget that what we have available to us comes from resources that a pensioner has put in the offering or funds which a refugee could have used to get the most basic necessities of life. We run the most powerful cars we can cope with or the latest in technology without even thinking about where the funds come from. We think we have a right to do so.

Quite often, as leaders, all we

have in mind is success from a human point of view – even if this means hurting others along the way or at the expense of others. We want to build up an empire so that we become famous – a hero whom everyone wants to hear, speak or be seen with.

But, I have learnt more about leadership from refugees than from all the conferences and seminars I have attended.

They have taught me about generosity of heart, perseverance

and what it means to have needs met. Refugees do so much to ascertain that the next generation will not suffer as much. They are prepared to do anything for this to happen and work hard to see that children lack nothing even when they have to go without. Is this not what leaders are called to do – to make heroes of others even at our own expense?

I have the privilege to serve them, to guide them and to give them the ability to serve in return. They have taught me that leadership is a gift that they give to me and not a right that I deserve. Leadership is a privilege not a right.

**Dr Brian Harris**

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

Fa, la, la, la, la – It's Christmas

With temperatures rising by the day, Christmas must be near. While some dream of a snow filled white Christmas, Australian images are of sunshine, barbecues and beaches. Though I have lived in three countries, they have all been in the Southern Hemisphere, so this meets with my approval. I've never heard 'sleigh bells ringing', but if I did, I wouldn't link it to Christ's advent.

So where do my thoughts go this Christmas season? I remain intrigued by the characters of Christmas.

Have you ever wondered what the wise men reported back after their Bethlehem journey? Perhaps it was, 'That's correct. We travelled too many kilometres to count and eventually discovered a peasant family with a baby.

We stocked them up with gold, frankincense and myrrh, and after a disturbing dream, hurried back home.' Would the comment on the listener's lips be, 'Big deal. So what was that all about?' I don't know how they answered the sceptics, but am quietly confident they never regretted their journey. No doubt the star they saw made a difference, but I wonder what

remained in their memory 20 years after their return from Bethlehem.

And then there were shepherds. They had an angelic vision to talk about, but the actual scene that greeted them on their arrival at Bethlehem's stable would have seemed a little pedestrian. Like Mary and Joseph, they were peasants. Whilst my city

dweller heart might delight at peering into a stable, you wouldn't imagine that shepherds would get overly excited. Mangers and cattle are pretty ordinary for the farming community. Did they still remember the angels' chorus 10, 20 or 30 years later? Were any of them in the crowd of 5,000 whom Jesus fed with five loaves and two small fish? It's impossible to know.

And then there is Mary. What did she make of the strangers who came to gawk at her new born? We are told that she pondered all the events in her heart long after they were over. The pondering heart of Mary ... that questioning wonder still remains ...

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.

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We are seeking an Executive Manager for our Corporate Services office to lead a team that provides efficient and effective corporate services for Finance, Payroll, Asset & Property Management, Contract Management, Information Technology and Communication (ITC) to support Baptist Care's operations. The role also contributes to the strategic direction of the organisation as part of the Executive Leadership Team. In addition, the Executive Manager Corporate Services will contribute to the faith based ethos of the organisation

Contact Marie Davis, Executive Manager Human Resources: 08 8273 7141 or mdavis@baptistcaresa.org.au for a Position Description/more information.

Applications, including a covering letter and CV, should be submitted **by close of business 31st December 2012** to recruitment@baptistcaresa.org.au.

MounthyChurch turns 100

On Sunday 28 October, Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church (MounthyChurch) celebrated their 100th birthday by inviting the local community to a free street party. Over 2,000 attendees were treated to food, activities, historical and missions displays, live music and other entertainment to celebrate the Church's history.

Guest speakers included Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Ministries, Pastor Mark Wilson and the MounthyChurch's Senior Pastor Dave Meldrum, who has ministered at the Church for over 18 years.

"We honour the past and all the wonderful things that have gone before and the best way to honour the past is to build the future," Mark said. "We honour the past as we build the future, Jesus never changes but the way we do church may change. [For] Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church I am sure the best years are ahead as together we build a preferred future."

Dave said the celebration exceeded all his expectations. "The crowd, the weather, the numbers of volunteers – everything worked together to create a very special day."

A brief thunderstorm on the day didn't dampen the spirits of those attending the biggest event the Church had organised in its 100 year history. The temperature soared to 36 degrees celsius before the thunderstorm hit and cooled partygoers down.

"The idea of the celebration



From left: Sara, Esteban, Lyn (behind), Lucas and Allison operate the popcorn stand at Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church's free street party celebrating their 100th birthday.

was to have an event through which we could celebrate the Church's presence in the community, with the community," Dave said. "We also wanted to put the love and generosity of God on display which we did through making everything free of cost."

Activities on the day included face painting, horizontal bungee (for teenagers), giant games, balloon animals, bouncy castle, balloon room, clowns and street theatre, animal farm, treasure hunt, youth tent, two live bands,

dunking tank, sausage sizzle, drinks, fairy floss, Mr Whippy, popcorn, donuts, coffee by a barista and homemade cakes.

Children waded through 3,000 balloons to have their photo taken in the balloon room. Past members reminisced in the history room. People lingered around one of the displays of 470 pencils – each representing the number of students each week in Cambodia who are now able to go to school because a teacher has been paid for by MounthyChurch.

"Inside the church we had

a fabulous pictorial record of our 100 year history which was very popular with past members and many interested from the community," Dave said. "We also had a display for our Christmas Appeal that raised \$92,000 last Christmas – all going to Project 3rd World."

Volunteers received many bewildered looks when told no payment was necessary. "It was a chance for the church to celebrate God's love in the community by providing everything for free," Dave said.

"It was surprising how some people from the wider community found not having to pay for things a difficult concept to grasp. We wanted the party to be loud, bright, fun-filled with something for everyone to enjoy."

"We live in a world where people are suffering due to spiritual poverty and physical poverty; a world full of brokenness and pain. As a church we want to be a community through which people experience the love, acceptance and hope that is found in Jesus Christ."

Photo: David Lee – Pixals Photography

Baptists call for gambling reform

Australian Baptist Ministries has welcomed the introduction of a long-awaited gambling reform legislation in federal parliament, saying it was a small step forward but much more needs to be done to provide consumer protection for gamblers.

The National Gambling Reform Bill 2012 calls for all Australian poker machines to be fitted with voluntary pre-commitment technology by 2016, an ATM cash withdrawal limit of \$250 to be operating by February 2015 and the

establishment of a federally funded National Gambling Research Commission.

"It is encouraging to see progress being made on federal gambling reform, but Australian Baptist Ministries continues to support the objectives

of the Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce which include adoption of a national mandatory pre-commitment scheme, \$1 maximum bets on all electronic gaming machines, and enforcement of restrictions on online gambling," Director of National Ministries for Australian Baptist Ministries, Rev. Keith Jobberns, said.

"Australian Baptists have a long tradition of advocacy for gambling reform and there is widespread public support for mandatory pre-commitment measures to limit the impact of problem gambling on individuals, families and communities," Keith said.

Former President of Australian Baptist Ministries and Chair of the Australian Churches Gambling Taskforce, Rev. Tim Costello, said the measures included in the new bill countered one of the gambling industry's key arguments against reform: that modifying poker machines to enable players to set their loss limits would be expensive and send the industry broke.

Reverend Costello said further reform was essential and voluntary pre-commitment was about as safe as voluntary speed limits on the road.

SOUTH COAST BAPTIST COLLEGE

IT Operations Manager

Full Time Position
Start date - Negotiable

South Coast Baptist College
is looking for an IT Professional who has extensive network experience and the ability to work across both PC and Mac platforms. They will also be responsible for the management of a small team. The role is varied providing core infrastructure support.

Applicants must be committed Christians, regularly attending church.

For more information on how to apply, please visit the Recruitment section of our website.

Or contact:
Jenny Currin
HR Manager
currini@sbc.wa.edu.au

www.sbc.wa.edu.au
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Sharing the Good news

Ben and Samantha (Sam) Good are preparing to head out to Mozambique in May 2013 with Global Interaction.

As part of preparation for Mozambique, the Goods were interim pastors at Wagin for six months earlier this year. "It was such a great experience, we learned so much," Ben said. The couple and their daughter Elizabeth, 22 months, returned to Perth in time for the arrival of Anna Sophia in September. "We love being a family of four. Elizabeth just loves Anna to bits!"

From May 2007 to May 2009, Ben was in Mozambique for a mission program. "It was a life changing experience, all the more because I met Sam there. Sam came to Mozambique with a group from Gosnells Baptist Church for a three week mission trip. We locked eyes on each other and that was that!" Ben returned to Australia and four weeks later he proposed to Sam and they were married four months later.

"Sam and I both have a passion for sharing the gospel cross culturally," Ben said. The Goods will be living amongst the people of the Yawo tribe. The Yawo people were slave traders 200 years ago, rounding up people from surrounding tribes and selling them to Arab slave merchants. As a result of this interaction with the Arabs, they adopted Islam as their primary religion. The Goods will be empowering faith communities to develop their own distinctive way of following Jesus.

The daily challenge for the team in Mozambique will be how to share Jesus and His love with a people living in poverty. "We need to take seriously the physical and spiritual poverty that affects the Yawo," Ben said.

By visiting West Australian



Ben and Samantha Good with daughters Elizabeth and Anna are planning on moving to Mozambique in May 2013 with Global Interaction.

Baptist churches and small groups the Goods are building their partnership team who are prayerfully and financially supporting the trip. The Goods now have 62.5 percent of their trip supported. Global Interaction requires their workers to be fully supported (100 percent) before they leave. "We are constantly blown away by God's provision and the generosity of His people."

"If the Yawo people can become Islamic over a period of 150 years, surely through the power of the Holy Spirit and the birth of a local church the Yawo can become followers of Jesus in 150 years. That excites me," Ben said. The next five months will see them continue to build the partnership team, receive immunisations, packing and saying good bye to family and friends.

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

Repurposing Halloween

While children around the world donned costumes and went 'trick or treating' for Halloween on 31 October, children and adults from Austin Cove Community Church collected non-perishable food items from households in the South Yunderup area for the needy.

Instead of greeting households with 'trick or treat', they were greeted with 'a new hello' — a warm friendly greeting introducing themselves and their cause. Instead of asking for treats, they asked for non-perishable food items, and then gave them a treat to thank them for their generosity. The children dressed up as angels, and both adults and children wore badges which said 'Angel in Training'.

Lead Pastor Sarah Baggaley obtained the idea from a youth group in the USA. "Our hope was to add some light to what is sometimes seen as a dark event," Sarah said.

"The community was very generous and donated a substantial amount of food to be given to families in need during this Christmas time."

Food parcels will be arranged with the food collected. These will then be distributed to people around the

South Yunderup area.

"This year we started with just two streets. But the event was so successful and well received by the community that we hope to expand our collection area next year," Sarah said.

digital church

05/11/2012

Stephen Altrogge

www.theblazingcenter.com

"Every Christian should be a connector. We should find everyone interesting and be enthused about people, and see everyone as unique and created in God's image."

07/11/2012

Mike Friesen

www.twitter.com/mike_friesen

"While despair is never ideal, as Christians we must believe that this feeling of nothingness can lead to a gift. God creates out of nothing."

07/11/2012

Brad Powell

www.bradpowellonline.com

"... as believers ... our lives are supposed to rise above the natural. We're supposed to reflect, reveal, and represent Christ ... even when we're disappointed ..."

09/11/2012

Josh Larsen

www.thinkchristian.net

"The concept of the Resurrection is unpalatable to modern minds largely because it defies science and reason. But postmodernism also instinctively rejects the idea

because, at least in our pop-culture narratives, we expect resurrections to serve purposes other than that which Christ's did."

10/11/2012

Prodigal Christian

www.twitter.com/prodigal_xian

"The pendulum swinging between the distant God and the everywhere God is attached to the same pivot point: Christendom."

briefs

Celebration of marriage

Glenn and Tracie Jennings renewed their vows at Karratha Baptist Church on 27 October.

Baptisms

Ron Everest and daughter Candi Rumpel were baptised by Pastor Henry Harding at North Beach Baptist Church on 14 October. Barney Muthiah was baptised by Pastor Bruce Polmear on 28 October at North Beach Baptist Church.

Pastoral changes

Pastor Eugene Ashe is concluding at Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church. Pastor Andrew Duncan

is concluding at East Fremantle Baptist Church at the beginning of December and will be moving over East. Pastor Mark and Tracey Parsons concluded their ministry at North Beach Baptist Church on 25 November. Pastor John Crosby has been appointed the new Senior Pastor at Morley Baptist Church commencing in May 2013.

Deaths

Pastor Peter Birt passed away on Friday 23 November after a long battle with cancer. Peter made a significant contribution at Craigie, Scarborough, Mandurah, Lakeside, Como and Parkerville Baptist Churches as well as in Indonesia and the Philippines.

40 years of partnership

Baptistcare celebrated their 40th anniversary on 1 November with the commissioning of their Leadership Team and Board at Riverton Baptist Church in Shelley. The evening honoured the commitment and the transformation that has occurred over the years in the lives of thousands of people and their families who have benefitted from Baptistcare's services.

"The people who were in Baptist Union of WA [now known as Baptist Churches Western Australia] 40 years ago displayed great wisdom and foresight as they planned and created an organisation that was designed initially to provide residential aged care for the people of WA," Baptistcare CEO, Dr Lucy Morris, said. "We have also seen the growth of services for elderly Australians in the community



Baptistcare Leader of Mission and Service, Rob Douglas address the audience at the 40th anniversary as a live painting is created by Meryl Custers.

Photo: Baptistcare

and more recently, Baptistcare has been providing services for people struggling with mental health illnesses and people living with disabilities and their families."

"The last 40 years are a reflection of the warm relationship that we hold with Baptist Churches Western Australia which gave birth to this organisation and a reflection of

the commitment that we have to the partnership that is held with honour by Baptistcare and we wanted to give thanks for that relationship. We look forward to working with Baptist Churches

Western Australia into the future." The evening ended with an address from Baptistcare Leader of Mission and Service, Rob Douglas and a live painting by Meryl Custers.

Somerville Baptist College's final goodbye

Somerville Baptist College celebrated their final Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday 24 October with students, parents, current and former staff, graduates, contributors and members of the local community.

The event was a two-part celebration with the Service in the auditorium before a 'Celebrate Somerville' party on

the College's grounds.

The Service included awards for top students in every subject, special prizes (Parents and Friends

Association Citizenship; Caltex Best All Rounder Award; Defence Force Long Tan Leadership Awards) and speeches from student leaders, the board, parents and Principal, Tracy Holmes.

For the Celebrate Somerville party, the grounds were decorated with fairy lights and the parent group provided funds for giant outdoor screens. Food included a celebratory cake, cupcakes bearing the Somerville Baptist College

crest, sausage sizzle, popcorn, fairy floss, drinks and more. A five metre picture timeline was available to sign while youth workers from South City Youth Trust ran games, activities and entertainment.

"Thank you everyone for a wonderful final Thanksgiving Service," Tracy said. "It was a lovely finish for the Somerville community with many past staff, families and graduates visiting. Congratulations to the student

leaders, staff, contributors, community and students who all worked well together in typical Somerville style to celebrate 14 wonderful years."

In 2013, Somerville Baptist College and Winthrop Baptist College will be together as Kennedy Baptist College.

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Australian Baptist World Aid Inc. ABN 63 430 709 718 ARBN 092 125 203
(incorporated in NSW with limited liability of its members)



Carol services

Sunday 2 December

Karratha Baptist Church
Carols by Glowlight, 6pm
Under the palms, Dampier

Maida Vale Baptist Church
Christmas at the Fair, 4pm
Range View Park

Sunday 9 December

Carey Baptist Church
Carols @ Carey, 5:30pm
51 Wright Road, Harrisdale

North Beach Baptist Church
Carols by Candlelight, 6:30pm
North Beach Primary School Oval

Riverton Baptist Church
Carols by Sunset/Sausage
Sizzle, 6pm
Shelley foreshore

Woodvale Baptist Church
Kingsley Community Carols
Festival, 6:45pm
Creany Oval, Kingsley

Saturday 15 December

Mount Barker Baptist Church
Carol Service, 6pm
In front of Shire offices

Sunday 16 December

1Church
Christmas Carols with
Sean W Smith, TBA
Mandurah Baptist College

Katanning Baptist Church
Carols by Candlelight, TBA
Shire Library lawn, Austral
Terrace, Katanning

Kelmscott Baptist Church
Carol Service, TBA

Manjimup Baptist Church
(Manjimup Combined Churches)
Afternoon in the Park, TBA

Monday 17 December

Eaton Baptist Church
Carols by Candlelight, 7:30pm
Eaton Primary School
Amphitheatre

Sunday 23 December

Albany Baptist Church
Carol Service, 6:30pm
Bethel Way, Albany

Bunbury Baptist Church
Carol Service and Sausage
Sizzle, 10:30am
175 Spencer Street, Bunbury

Comet Bay Baptist Church
Christmas Carol Service, 6pm
Coastal Community Centre,
Golden Bay

Gosnells Baptist Church
Carol Service, 7pm
2378 Albany Highway, Gosnells

Morley Baptist Church
Carols on the Grass, 6.30pm
55 Vera St Morley

Wattle Grove Baptist Church
Carols in the Car Park, 5:30pm
506 Welshpool Road, Wattle Grove

God's business

Over the weekend of 5 and 6 November, Vose College hosted their inaugural business conference, 'Beyond the Bottom Line'. Forty delegates from Perth, Kalgoorlie and interstate attended the conference. Representatives were present from Murdoch University, The University of Western Australia, and Edith Cowan University business schools, and the Christian Heritage College Business School, Brisbane, and Avondale College, Sydney.

A wide range of people from the education, small business and public utilities sectors were also represented. "It was a wonderful turnout from believers in these significant posts, to have them participating in the conference and conversations that occurred there," Director of Vose Research, Michael O'Neil said.

Christ in all the world, including the business world," Dr Harper said.

He challenged participants to quietly let it be known that they are Christian believers, to live a Christian life in their business contexts, and to be prepared to testify verbally to our faith when others ask it of us. He emphasised the need for Christians to maintain consistent Christian character and virtue, including a steadfast refusal to participate knowingly in anything that is wrong. Finally he warned us to remember that our work and business life is not the whole of life, and it must not take the place of God in our lives.

"Though we work diligently and passionately, we reserve true devotion of our lives, not for our work, but for Christ and His Kingdom," Dr Harper said.

In addition to Dr Harper's addresses, eight conference papers were presented on a diverse range of topics from creativity in the boardroom, strategic planning for not-for-profit organisations, and maintaining Christian identity in a hostile work environment. The papers will be considered for a book to be published by Vose Research.

“
Though
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lives, not for our
work, but for
Christ and His
Kingdom ...”

Keynote speeches were presented by Dr Ian Harper, partner with Deloitte Access Economics and Emeritus Professor at The University of Melbourne.

Dr Harper encouraged Christians to actively participate in all levels of business activity and the business community, not only to use our gifts to provide goods and services for the common good, but also because the Great Commission of Christianity demands it. "Believers are to bear witness to

Church plants that won't fail

Forty-five people from around metropolitan Perth attended the 2012 Catalyst Conference — The church plant that won't fail.

Greg Lee from Hunter Bible Church in Newcastle, NSW spoke from 1 Thessalonians, a letter written to Paul about a recent church plant. "Successful church planting is

built on evangelism, requiring conviction of the truth and goodness of the gospel, as well as competence, connections and understanding of culture," Greg said.

Peter Kaldor from City Bible Forum in Sydney also emphasised evangelism. "New, purposeful forums for evangelism must be created, outside structures of local church if necessary," Peter said.

Both speakers debated the wisdom of churches putting money into property. Greg argues the advantages of churches owning facilities,

while Peter argues the advantages in flexibility instead of pouring money into church properties.

The church planting master class put a real live church plant, Redeemer Community Church, under the microscope. Speakers analysed where the ministry currently is at, helping determine how the church plant can take the next step forward.

"It was a great chance

to meet people planting churches across Perth," Ben Underwood, chair of the organising committee for the Catalyst Conference, said. "An opportunity to hear thoughtful, experienced ministers' debate strategy and tactics."

Street chaplaincy in Busselton

In less than a year, Sharon Gervasi from Busselton Baptist Church has established Busselton Chaplains, a team of 14 volunteer street chaplains, with the help of Garth Eickhorn, founder of Perth Street Chaplains.

After Sharon heard about Perth Street Chaplains earlier this year, she instantly knew it was what God had been trying to show her the last seven years since becoming a Christian. She thought of many things Busselton Baptist Church could do as a church and tried to encourage other people to take them on but nothing eventuated.

"When I saw the street chaplain information, I again tried to encourage someone else to take the challenge and establish it in Busselton, but it soon became very clear that if this is what God had shown me, then I had to do it — despite feeling like I was the least likely person for the role," Sharon said.

Sharon contacted Garth Eickhorn from Urban Mission WA who coordinates Perth Street Chaplains. Together they established street chaplaincy would be viable in Busselton.

Next Sharon gathered a team of people to work together to gain the information needed and present the idea to the local churches. This resulted in 14 volunteers from various church backgrounds attending street chaplain training run by Garth.

"I cannot express enough how amazing Garth and his team have been through this journey. He brought an 'army' of chaplains from Perth to Busselton over two Saturdays to assist us with



Sharon Gervasi and Garth Eickhorn with street chaplains from Perth and Busselton on a training day.

Photo: Street Chaplains

the training — all at their own expense. They have set us up with everything we needed to start — we couldn't have done it without him," Sharon said.

The first big challenge for the team was at the Busselton Show at the beginning of November. "We had six street chaplains patrol at the Busselton Show. They had an amazing night. The Police were incredibly supportive. The show was quiet for the chaplains but they assisted with a search for a four year old child. After leaving the show they patrolled the streets."

"Everyone they spoke to was exceptionally positive about street chaplaincy. The owner of the main bar in town introduced himself and offered the chaplains a room to use at night to rest, get cool drinks and have available clean toilets! We've also had huge community support from local businesses."

Sharon feels very strongly that God has called her to do this. "When I walk around town and read in the paper everything going on, it breaks my heart. There are so many people out there living such painful lives in our own back yard because they do not know Jesus ... I want to do as Jesus told us and get out there on the streets, roll up our sleeves and physically show people the love of Jesus by being there for them regardless," Sharon said.

"Christians are well known for being at church on Sundays professing Jesus with their lips and then going out into the community and denying him by their lifestyle. Street chaplaincy is a way of changing this perception and changing their hearts towards Christians. If you remove the anger barrier then you have opened the door. I believe Street Chaplaincy to be the most powerful mission that we

here in Australia can do," Sharon explained.

From the commencement of the school holidays, the street chaplains will patrol town each Friday night visiting pubs and bars, caring for the drunk, disorderly and needy, and other events around town.

In the future Sharon would like to approach other regional churches and encourage them to

have street chaplains as well.

"In fact there is no reason why we can't have street chaplains in all of our towns — now there's a challenge to all the churches," Sharon said.

Global prayer focus

Global Interaction, the cross-cultural mission arm of Australian Baptist Churches, invited people to take part in a global prayer focus in October. Over the weekend of 19 to 21 October, Baptist communities across Australia joined together to pray for people groups that are yet to hear clearly the message of Jesus.

With 196 nations in the world, consisting of approximately 16,000 distinct ethnic groups, roughly one third of these groups are still 'least reached'. They have little or no access to the gospel in ways that make sense to them. Global Interaction works among nine of these least reached people groups, scattered in Africa and in parts of Asia, empowering communities to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus.

Many Baptist communities around Western Australia responded to the challenge of 'Just Prayer' and met in various ways and in different places.

Riverton Baptist Church met on Saturday morning,

bringing each of the people groups before God in prayer. Using a different coloured bead for each of the groups, they made a colourful bracelet to help remind them of the amazing diversity of the people they were praying for.

Bethwyn Cheng shared of her pending trip to Mozambique where she will spend three months assisting in caring for children of Global Interaction staff there. Participants then broadened their prayer focus when they heard news of a recent ministry trip to Papua New Guinea. They also prayed for the small cluster of Baptist churches in Syria at this time of great upheaval.

Baptists celebrate 400 years

Celebrations have taken part in London to mark 400 years since the founding of the first Baptist church in Britain. In tribute to this historic year, London hosted the 2012 General Assembly. The new Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) President, Chris Duffett was sworn in during the opening session.

His address called Baptists to show how 'big-hearted' God is through their lives. "It's great to celebrate 400 years but what of the next 400 years?" Chris said churches in Britain needed to be more vibrant. "Many Baptist churches I visit are similar to sex shops and bookies — you can't really look in with the frosted glass and high windows. People need to be able to see and

experience us out and about." A message from the Queen was read to the audience congratulating Baptists on this 'auspicious occasion'.

In Perth the Baptist Historical Society Western Australia (BHSWA) held a public meeting at Perth Church on Sunday 28 October. Dr Richard Moore, BHSWA Archivist, presented

a paper on Thomas Helwys. Thomas and a small group of fellow believers escaped religious persecution in England by going to The Netherlands and established the first Baptist church in an Amsterdam bakery in 1609. Four years later Thomas returned to England and established the first church in the Spitalfields area in 1612.



From Deo volente to digital video: The flight to secularism

By Brian Harris

We recently celebrated my mother-in-law's 95th birthday. She is a wonderful human being who has almost adjusted to life in the 21st century whilst clearly remaining a product of the 20th. You see it in the letters she writes – no emails or text messages from her! Liberally scattered around her correspondence is the DV abbreviation qualifying all statements of intent. So she writes, 'shoulder still worrying me. I will visit the doctor tomorrow (DV) and then have afternoon tea with Adie (DV)'.

The news is long out of date when we receive it, but phone calls usually confirm that the DV proviso has been met. For those mystified by the abbreviation, DV is the abbreviation for the Latin words, Deo volente. Lest you remain unenlightened, Deo is from the Latin root deus, meaning God, and volente from the Latin root volens, meaning willing. Put them together and DV stands for God willing.

Adding the letters DV alongside all stated plans was a popular expression of piety in the first half of the 20th century. Biblical scholars cite the text from which it arose, James 4: 13-15 to be precise, 'Now listen, you who say, "today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend

a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." If it is the Lord's will – DV – Deo volente.

In our third millennium world, the DV habit has all but disappeared. Indeed, my Google search of 'DV abbreviation' (to check my Latin spelling) suggested that 'digital video' was the meaning of the mystery letters. Likewise my computer spell check insists that I am violating spelling conventions each time I type DV, and my iPad rather unhelpfully

autocorrects all DV insertions to DVD. Suggestive images these. When did DV stop meaning 'God willing' and start to stand for 'digital video' or a misspelt 'DVD'? Is the shift descriptive of our third millennium journey, a move away from an awareness of God and the provisional character of life?

There is no doubt that Australia is becoming an increasingly secular country.

The latest census, whilst not a disaster for the church, reflects a continued slow but steady decrease in the number of people willing to claim some allegiance to the Christian faith, or any faith for that matter. Does our flight to secularism matter?

Given that we are in definition mode, perhaps it is as well to clarify what we mean by secularism. The free online dictionary (which my

mother-in-law would never cite), suggests that it means religious scepticism or indifference and that it reflects the view that religious considerations should be excluded from civil affairs, ethics and public education. If a secularist writes DV, you can be sure they don't mean Deo volente.

There are however differing degrees of secularism. If we study the influence of the church

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in the broader society over the 2,000 years of its existence, we quickly note periods when the church has been persecuted (a present reality in some parts of the world), whilst at the other end of the spectrum are times when the church has been hugely influential in society, sometimes even the power holder or power broker. Between these opposite poles, the church has often operated on the fringes of

society. In Western society it has coexisted with a soft secularism, though more recently we have seen a move towards a hard secularism.

Where soft secularism reigns, the church operates freely in the public space. The church cannot assume that its views will be upheld, but it is free to operate as a valid player, and its long-term contribution to Western democracy is readily

acknowledged and ensures that its views are taken seriously. Where soft secularism reigns, Christmas is not restricted to songs about Rudolph's red reindeer nose, nor are we obliged to delete references to Christmas and to speak instead of the 'festive season'. To the contrary, we can freely acknowledge that the festivities are sparked by the impact of the incarnation of Jesus the Christ. We also

don't have to pretend that the 2012th year that we use in our date is unrelated to the birth of Jesus. Indeed, we don't have to reinterpret history, but can allow the impact of Jesus' life to be acknowledged in the public arena.

Australia has largely operated within a framework of a soft secularism but there are signs that we are now drifting towards a hard secularism.

Hard secularism has an unacknowledged ideological bent. It is not willing to outlaw religion, but does its best to confine it to religious institutions. So long as those institutions operate as ghettos, and don't participate in the public arena, hard secularists are content. If hard secularists have their way, all religious schools would be banned. They certainly would never receive tax payers' money – even though the parents supporting such schools have contributed to the public purse. Ethical concerns that stem from religious convictions would be overlooked and restricted to the realm of private morality. Where hard secularism holds sway, religious convictions (unless they are of the atheist variety) can in no way shape public morality. Chaplains are replaced by social or youth workers. God is banned from all public spaces ... DV might stand for digital video, but Deo volente – that would be seen as reverting to a primitive and superstitious past.

Hard secularism requires us to abandon our history and heritage. It is intellectually shallow and historically dishonest. It is immature and silly, but like it or not, it is the road we are currently travelling.

So how should the church respond at such a time? Two quick suggestions ...

Rather than lament a past era (when a sympathetic, soft secularism prevailed) we should encourage a mature secularism. A mature secularism does not

expect the church to be granted special favours, but nor does it allow the distortion of Christian faith to pass unchallenged. Mature secularism acknowledges that change is inevitable, but knows that a society that fails to draw from its roots will quickly vanish. A mature secularism welcomes a range of voices to the table of ideas. It looks for credible Christian voices to participate in the discussion of those things that most shape us as people.

Whilst encouraging a mature secularism, the church should commit itself to 'faithful presence' in society. A hard secularism seeks to push all religious talk to the ghetto. Christians who are faithfully present in society will refuse to buy this ideological line. They will live for Jesus, model the values He taught, and faithfully follow Him in the marketplace. When appropriate, they will clearly speak for Him. They will quietly commit themselves to being salt and light in a changing landscape.

Back to the DV as digital video or Deo volente image. After speaking about it in a recent sermon, an older member of the congregation came bounding up to me. "Ah yes," he said. "The good old DV expression. When I was secretary of the cricket club I used it all the time." And then he chanted his oft used line. "The game next week will take place DV and WP." Seeing my look of confusion he expanded. "In cricket, that is always important. The game next week will take place God willing and weather permitting." In many parts of the world we have moved to indoor stadiums. Does that mean we will need neither the DV or WP qualification?

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

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100 million gifts



Photo: Operation Christmas Child

Roger and Sheila Rankcom help pack and distribute gift-filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child in Sydney.

This year, Samaritan's Purse celebrated the 100 millionth gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoe box contributed from donors worldwide.

The concept of Operation Christmas Child began on 10 October 1990, when Dave and Jill Cooke of Wales, UK were watching a broadcast on Romanian orphanages.

They asked the question: 'How can we help the real victims, the children, who live in these situations day after day?' They knew they could not stop the wars, but they could offer something – the gift of love.

Together, they filled a convoy of nine trucks with medical supplies, food, clothing and Christmas gifts for children, and headed into Romania, which had recently been devastated by war. This was the beginning of the world's largest children's Christmas program.

In 1993, Franklin Graham, International President of Samaritan's Purse, adopted Operation Christmas Child and the project has now spread worldwide.

Amazingly, Samaritan's Purse Australia/New Zealand celebrates

the distribution of its three millionth shoe box in November. Roger and Sheila Rankcom were special guests at the Samaritan's Purse Sydney base in October.

Originally from the UK, the Rankcom's church was one of the first to get on board to support the Romanian orphans.

In November 1991 Roger and Sheila, who worshipped at an Royal Air Force base church in Oxfordshire, met the wife of a serving officer in Germany who had just returned from a mission trip to Romania. Like the Cookes, she had been overwhelmed by the dreadful conditions in the Romanian orphanages and 'poured her heart out' to Sheila and Roger.

"We asked what can we do?" Sheila said, "and in January 1992 our small group of volunteers sent our first truckload of clothing and food overland to Romania."

Before migrating to Melbourne the Rankcoms, with their small team of volunteers, helped pack and ship thousands

of Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes to Romania between 1994 and 2000.

"In the nine years that we were sending aid to Romania, including thousands of Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, it was a privilege to sort and handle the generous gifts received from so many people from all over Oxfordshire, especially the school children," Roger said.

"To now be involved with the same program eighteen years later here in Australia at Kilsyth South Baptist Church, and to be here at the Samaritan's Purse Sydney base and see the three millionth shoe box being sent from Australia/New Zealand, is amazing," Roger said.

Operation Christmas Child follows Jesus' teachings, bringing relief and hope to children in need. Shoe boxes and all other aid and relief provided by Samaritan's Purse are given without regard to race, creed, gender, religion or ethnicity of the beneficiaries.

Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes from Australia/New Zealand are delivered to children in need in countries across South-East Asia/Pacific.

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

Holiday club fun

By Ray Bartell

'There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siegeworks against it. Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom ... but the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded' (Ecclesiastes 9: 14-16).

For those of us working in the area of cross-cultural ministry and development, I find this narrative raises some important and challenging questions: 'What does this look like in the context of development?' Is the 'poor man's' wisdom despised or accepted in our approaches to community development and missional service? Do agents in development give voice to the poor man or are his words unheeded?

“ ... we need to accept responsibility ... ”

There is no question that there have been, and continue to be, organisations that make significant contributions in developing communities. However, it is held by secular theorists and anthropologists that the story of development has generally privileged western ways of knowing and constituted an obstacle or threat to meeting the pressing needs of the developing world.

Development approaches are now becoming increasingly informed by views that see communities as webs of assets that can be drawn upon and appropriated. These asset-based approaches to community development are opening up possibilities for seeing real change at a local level that benefit people for the long term as they focus on community strengths rather than deficiencies as a starting point for change. Leona English refers to it as 'using our appreciative eye' and 'looking for life giving forces' which bring out the best in others, and honours our creativity and capacity for hope.

Holistic in orientation, asset-based approaches to community development extend beyond an emphasis on the economic to a valuing of the richness of many layers of community experience. It embraces the social, political, cultural, environmental and spiritual aspects of a community experience. It recognises that people and communities have access to a range of existing resources or 'capitals' which can

be appropriated in ways to reduce poverty and build resilience.

The 'unlocking' of these capitals within communities is viewed as a means of empowering remote communities to mobilise their own resources towards the building of stronger and healthier sustainable communities. 'Valuing the poor man's wisdom' in my view means being more informed about their lives and respecting local knowledge. By listening to each other, we give communities a chance to be heard and recover their identity and gifts which can be used towards a fruitful vocation.

As agents for change, we need to accept responsibility for ensuring that community members are given the opportunity to become active participants in their own learning and development. The common person must be given a voice and the 'poor man's' wisdom heeded. If we fail to consider our methods we will fail in our responsibility to secure the rights of others and continue to impose inadequate and ill conceived measures that could infringe the very human rights that we seek to champion.

Ray Bartell is currently a PhD Candidate with the University of Canberra and the Director of Aeikon, a ministry which seeks to strengthen organisations and communities in their efforts to achieve purposeful and sustainable change.

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Blankets sent to Ethiopia

Karratha Baptist Church Craft and Connect group recently sent 20 knitted and crocheted blankets to the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. Ruth Hamilton, leader of the Craft and Connect group, organised ten women with dedication and skills to knit and crochet blankets.

It was a year long project inspired by Jessie Wakelin. "I was mopping floors at home and God clearly said 'Send blankets from me', an image of an African woman with a knitted blanket wrapped around her shoulders came into my head," Jessie said. A month later at Karratha Baptist Church, Pastor Steve Jarlett preached about obeying God and doing what is asked of us.

"After the service I spoke to Steve telling him how I heard God say to send blankets," Jessie said.

"Where do I send them Lord?" Jessie prayed in the car on her way home from church. God said to her to 'send the blankets to Ethiopia'.

Jessie Googled 'blankets' and 'Ethiopia' and came upon the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital. The hospital cares for women who suffer from incontinence, physical impairment, shame and marginalisation as a result of obstetric fistula.

Obstetric fistula is a serious problem in the world's poorest countries. Most mothers give birth without any medical help. If a woman's labour becomes obstructed, she will endure days of painful, prolonged labour. Her baby is unlikely to survive.



Ruth Hamilton, Coordinator of the Create and Connect Craft Group, with other women from Karratha Baptist Church making blankets to send to Ethiopia.

If the woman survives, her body is literally broken by childbirth, uncontrollably leaking bodily waste.

Patients at the hospital undergo surgical repair. "Women stay for three weeks, or several months for more severe injuries. They have a bed to sleep in and

receive the miracle surgery they have so desperately been waiting and praying for. Once healed, women are given a new dress and a blanket to take home with them — prized possessions for these women."

"I asked God what message He wanted to send with the blankets,

he said 'With God's love.'" Without knowing the final number of blankets, Jessie ordered 20 sew-on badges with this message on them.

"When Ruth presented me with the finished blankets there were exactly 20, I was blown away," Jessie said.

A few weeks ago the blankets were posted and she hopes to hear soon of their arrival. "I imagine these women being wrapped in the warmth of a blanket like being wrapped up in God's love. Jesus embraced and healed outcasts; He is still doing it now from heaven."

Photo: Karratha Baptist Church



The team from Karratha Baptist Church with children from Panneerkulam Children's Home in India.

Photo: Karratha Baptist Church

From Karratha to India

A team of 12 people from Karratha Baptist Church spent 12 days in October ministering at the Panneerkulam Children's Home in India. The team spent months fundraising, from car washes to a dinner and auction, raising \$15,000 for the orphanage.

The money bought material for several projects and purchased a bus to help transport some of the 85 children.

"We achieved so much more than what we planned to do. Meeting the children and helping improve the way they

lived gave us so much joy," said Hayley Billings, from Karratha Baptist Church, who was inspired to take a team and go.

The major projects included building a safety wall around a 16 metre deep well and plumbing four 5,000 litre water

tanks before the rains came. A new games room was painted and decorated then stocked with games, toys and books.

After work the team were able to spend time playing with the children, including their own sponsor children. "After spending ten days with these kids we can see what a difference it makes in their lives to know that someone loves and is caring for them," Hayley said. "I can't wait to go back next time!"

Excellence begins in your heart



Photo: Woodlands Media

Robin Mark, Christian singer, songwriter and worship leader from Northern Ireland, has recorded 15 albums, including *Revival In Belfast*. This milestone project went gold (selling more than 35,000 copies) in Australia in 2006, becoming one of this country's best selling Christian album — ever. Talking with Wes Jay, from Woodlands Media, Mark said great worship songs come from a 'pure heart' rather than creating musical perfection ...

These past couple of years I've gone back to particular passages of scripture — the passage about the talents where the master gave out the talents and then the guys putting them to work; the story of the widow's mite where she comes into the temple with the most meagre of coins, but because it was everything she had, Jesus pointed her out and said it was an example of a proper offering; even the story of Cain and Abel where they both brought their offering and Abel's offering was deemed acceptable but Cain's wasn't, and all the theology that's grown up around that about making an offering.

I've been living in that again and I keep coming back to a base line that says it's got to do with the heart first of all, and the talents and the skills follow that.

Going back to the parable of the talents, in that story Jesus says that the master gave out the talents to each of them according to his own ability. That's brilliant, because God knows the level of our skills and He gives us talents complementary to them.

Then when it comes to these days and the modern world, we're always after the success factor — how it will work; what's your business plan?

You might know that for a long while I've been a businessman as well as a worship leader. In business, you are looking at what can make your business more successful and I think you can carry the same practices over into your song writing, starting to look at how you can do this or that better and how you can achieve more.

But the funny thing about the parable of the talents is that when the master comes back to reward the servants he rewards them for their faithfulness. When the first one with the five talents comes back and says he has made five more the master says, 'Well done good and faithful servant. You've been faithful in small things.'

So I've begun to think, that the excellence begins in your heart. Whatever talents or skills God has given you or whatever position or role He's given you, the first thing He's looking for is whether your heart is right and then out of that heart, I think you'll express excellence.

The difficulty then is we want what we do to be good and to stand well with the rest of music across the genres and all the cultures. We want Christian music to stand well with that, in fact stand head and shoulders above because it should be the most excellent.

But I do think if our balance is slightly off, if we're focused on pursuing technical excellence and don't have the excellence of heart, if you know what I mean, then it's never going to go.

It's almost like writing the most technically brilliant song, but if it hasn't come from a heart of worship, then it lacks that loving heart of the worshipper which is

the very key and core of worship music. It is a big tension.

People in my position submit songs for consideration and sometimes you get some very unpleasant responses from the record companies and the song compilers about the quality and usefulness of a song. So you are generally drawn into doing something better and better. The danger is that you can start to think that what's going on in my heart doesn't matter; if I get the right formula, making it very good, fitting it into the genre and meeting people's expectations then it will be successful and therefore a great worship song.

I honestly think it's a great worship song if it expresses something of the heart of the worshipper towards Jesus. It's a big tension and one that I struggle with because I write some awful songs from time to time. I'll have discussions with people and they'll say it's not a very good song. But at the same time it sort of expresses what I wanted to say and does that not make it acceptable? It's a difficult area.

But God lives in the heart. There's the verse that says out of the mouths of babies and sucklings you have ordained perfect praise. So there's that sense of God reminding us from time to time that out of the purity

of children's hearts singing simple love songs to their Father, you just might reach perfection.

On that point, it's been said that people trained in music, have little regard for what's happening musically in the new worship movement. Rather than finding 'perfection' as you put it, they often suggest there's been little musical development in the genre from the time of Watts and Wesley. What's your take on it?

Yes, it's an issue for some people. I've read Isaac Watts' life story and some people may misinterpret this, but according to his biography, written by one of his approved biographers, he was called a 'versifier' which was a derogatory term.

He lived in the late 1700s at the time of so many of the great poets and when poetry was a big deal. Watts got abuse from commentators and critics. It's fascinating to look at because you can say there's nothing new under the sun. This guy wrote songs and they called him a versifier because the general opinion was that he wasn't a good enough poet. However, he was writing things that would rhyme easily and be understood by the people that sang them because the primary purpose was to give God glory and to make it possible for others to give God glory.

I remember reading a quote from Charles Wesley. He more or less said that he wanted to write songs that the ordinary man could understand and he would forfeit or sacrifice excellence of poetry for the sake of something that was clear and made sense to the ordinary man. As somebody who's written songs like 'Days of Elijah', I look at that and appreciate it, but I think maybe there's a place for writing things that don't immediately make logical or intellectual sense too.

Some Psalms don't immediately make sense either. In fact, some of them don't make sense at all in the context in which David and his cohorts wrote them, for example when he's writing about the Messiah. The Lord said to my Lord, come and sit at my right hand doesn't make logical sense in the context he's in. But it does make logical sense, perfect sense, when we look back a couple of thousand years later and think of Christ returning to heaven after winning the victory at the cross.

There is that whole tension of writing from your heart, writing in a form that's poetic and writing something that people can sing and relate to or that they can understand.

Having said all that, the reality again is that God gives people talents according to their ability, and I think He raises up different individuals with different styles and different concepts to express something different that maybe nobody else has done before.

Burning bridges



By John Maxwell

The Golden Gate Bridge, one of America's most iconic engineering feats, turned 75 years old in June. The Bridge originally took more than four years to build, and at the time of its construction, it was the longest suspension bridge in the world. More than two billion vehicles have driven across the Golden Gate Bridge since it opened in 1937.

The main purpose of any bridge, of course, is to span a gap in order to connect two places. Bridges provide passage between locations which otherwise would not be joined together. They make one area accessible to another.

Our bridges to the past

As leaders, we all have bridges to our pasts. We have connections that reach across time, linking

us to our previous experiences. These bridges can benefit us by providing access to a storehouse of pleasant memories and helpful lessons. However, these bridges can also harm us by keeping us in contact with traumatic events in our personal history. 'The hardest thing to learn in life,' writes David Sanders, 'is to know which bridge to cross and which bridge to burn'. In this lesson, I suggest four bridges to the past that a leader would be wise to set ablaze.

Bridges to burn

Bridge #1: Wrongs done to us

Bridges to the past hold us captive when they induce us to remember and relive the pain others have caused us. Elbert Hubbard wrote: 'A retentive memory may be a good thing, but the ability to forget is the true token of greatness. Successful people forget. They know the past is irrevocable. They're running a race. They can't afford

to look behind. Their eye is on the finish line. Magnanimous people forget. They're too big to let little things disturb them. They forget easily. If anyone does them wrong, they consider the source and keep cool. It's only the small people who cherish revenge. Be a good forgetter. Business dictates it, and success demands it.' Forgiveness allows you to be free from the nightmares of the past and to reclaim your dreams for the future.

We burn bridges to past injuries by taking the high road. Revenge may feel like the preferable path, but ultimately it keeps us bound to our hurt. If there are people who have wronged you, do yourself a favour and give them something they don't deserve but desperately need: the gift of forgiveness. It's a gift that, once given, offers something in return. Your spirit gets rest.

Bridge #2: The unfairness of life

Life's circumstances aren't equal for everyone. At times, we encounter bad luck; our lives are beset by hardships that our friends have the good fortune to avoid. In these moments, we can be tempted to act as victims, maintaining a bridge to the past by insisting on the unfairness of our plight.

Having a mature perspective allows us to burn bridges to the seeming injustice of past circumstances. Rather than permitting misfortunes to drag us down, we ought to develop an attitude which takes them in stride as an inevitable part of life. In this way, we empower ourselves to rise above life's difficulties instead of being passive victims of them.

Bridge #3: Growth inhibitors

Bad habits serve as bridges to the past. We persist in them because they're familiar and

because it's painful to part with them. However, they prevent us from growing to our potential.

Breaking unhealthy patterns of behaviour requires making hard decisions. We have to be willing to exchange short-term comfort for long-term gain. In addition, we may need to cut ties to an organisation when its culture has a negative influence on us. Growth thrives in conducive surroundings, and sometimes burning a bridge to a toxic environment is the only way to improve our lives.

Bridge #4: Our own stupidity

I've done a lot of stupid things in my life. Early in my marriage I would win arguments with my wife, Margaret, but at the cost of badly injuring her feelings. I have made business moves resulting in financial losses. I've also made leadership decisions that have led to failures for my organisations. I've even gotten myself arrested for absent-mindedly attempting to board a plane with a gun in my carry-on! (I'd received the gun as a gift and had completely forgotten to remove it from my bag when getting ready for the flight). Needless to say, the experience of being handcuffed, detained, and fingerprinted was more than just a little embarrassing!

Some people cannot seem to let go of failure. Instead of learning from setbacks, they allow mistakes to define them. By forgiving ourselves, we burning the bridge to our past failures and free ourselves to move forward.

We usually are warned not to burn bridges in life. This certainly is good advice when applied to our relationships. However, burning bridges to aspects of our past can be a tremendously healthy exercise.

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

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

— AGE 21
FINISH MY TEACHING DEGREE.

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

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

— AGE 30
WHAT'S NEXT, LORD?

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Expiry ____/____/____ Signature _____

Registration and medical forms to be posted to Baptist Camps Registration PO Box 57, Burswood WA 6100.

Medical forms are available at www.baptistwa.asn.au (click on camps/upcoming camps) or phone 08 6313 6300.

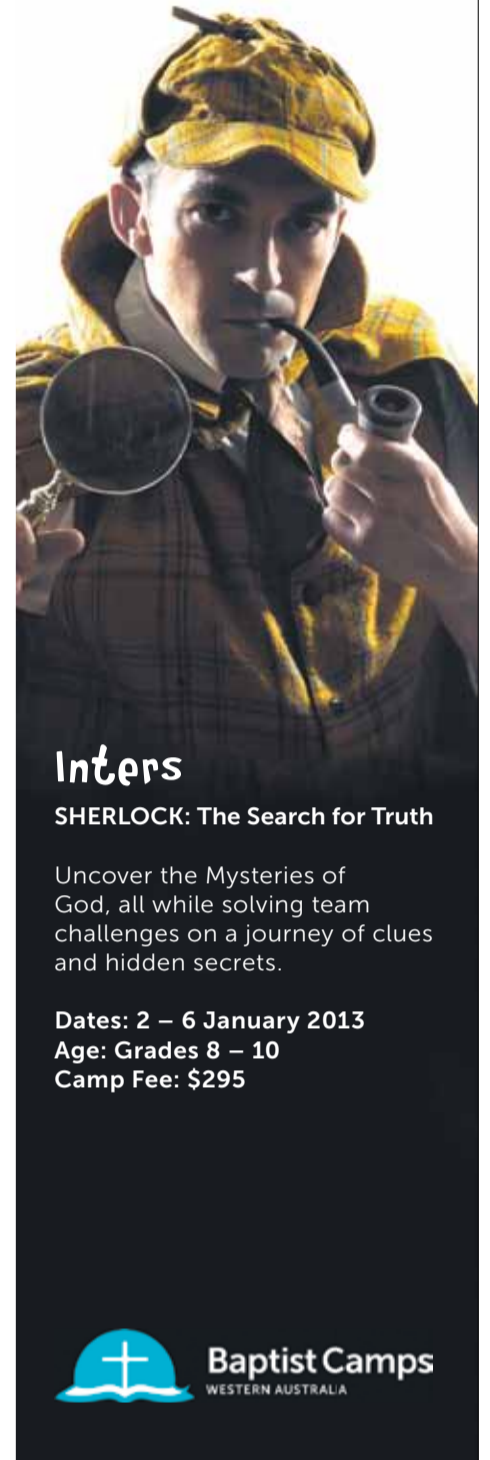
Family discounts are available upon request if you have more than two family members attending either of the summer camps.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call or email us.

Baptist Churches WA 08 6313 6300 reception@baptistwa.asn.au

Registrations close on 5 December 2012.

Privacy Act: the information on this form is used for Baptist Camps WA, and will be used to send you future information about camps. If you do not wish to receive further information please tick the box.



Inters

SHERLOCK: The Search for Truth

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

Dates: 2 – 6 January 2013
Age: Grades 8 – 10
Camp Fee: \$295



events calendar

December

- 5 December Registrations close for Summer Baptist Camps 2013, 6313 6300
- 24 December Christmas Eve
- 25 December Christmas Day
- 26 December Boxing Day

January

- 1 January New Year's Day
- 2-6 January Inters Summer Baptist Camp, Serpentine Camping Centre, 6313 6300
- 8-12 January Juniors Summer Baptist Camp, Serpentine Camping Centre, 6313 6300

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



the advocate

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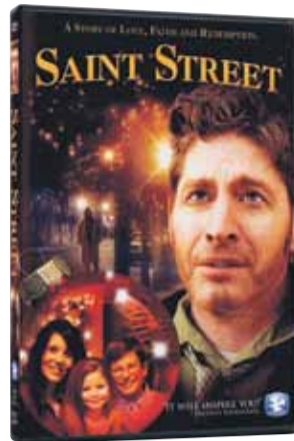
Internet Evangelism Day

www.web-evangelism.com

With nearly 2.5 billion people able to access the internet, including increasing numbers in the non-western world, and over three billion mobile phone owners, the potential for digital evangelism is enormous. Internet Evangelism Day seeks to be an evangelism ideas resource centre for individuals, churches and organisations to demonstrate the many ways that the web can be used to share the good news.

Visitors will be able to equip themselves with ideas and strategies as well as enable them to demonstrate the potential to others in their church or organisation. Internet Evangelism Day has free downloads such as slide shows, video clips, handouts, posters and music, and two popular blogs on digital evangelism.

watch



Saint Street

Saint Street follows the life of Percy, a good man who becomes focused on making money rather than spending time with his family. On Christmas Eve, he breaks yet another promise to his wife and children. After repeated warnings to change his ways, Percy suffers a serious car accident that causes him to lose his family, job and the use of his legs. Percy is humbled into living with misfits in the gritty world of Saint Street.



DVD Classic: David Phelps

Classic features this award-winning tenor at his very finest, taking listeners on a musical journey of David's life and his influences. Through live concert footage and interviews with David Phelps and Bill Gaither, this world-class musician brings his one-of-a-kind interpretation to a variety of classical selections, beloved hymns and inspirational favourites.



For the sake of the World CD and DVD – Bethel Live: Brian and Jenn Johnson

Newly released CD and DVD. Praise and worship songs include: 'To Our God'; 'Our Father'; 'Everything to You'; 'This is Amazing Grace'; 'You Have Won Me'; 'I Really Love You'; 'Who You Are'; 'Forgiven'; 'In Your Light'; 'Freedom'; 'Closer'; 'This is What You Do'; and 'For the Sake of the World'.

win

Montana Marriage Trilogy

By Mary Connealy

This collection of three books in one will take you to a place of the full 'wild west adventure' where three women will be challenged by the elements, the outlaws and the men who lay claim to their hearts. In the first of the three, *Montana Rose*, you will find the impact that choices make on the future of Cassie Griffin, or as others call her, the 'China Doll'. And then there is *The Husband Tree*. Here you will meet the thrice widowed, Belle Tanner who only wants a man to help her move her and her daughter's cattle, and for nothing else. Lastly there is *Wildflower Bride* where trust is an issue that faces a lady called Glowing Sun. But when tragedy is imminent will she be able to stay alive long enough to fall in love?



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

Question:

Name one of the three books in the *Montana Marriage Trilogy*.

Entries close 7 December and all winners will be announced in the January edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from *Everyday Prayers*:
A Bozanich, D Cowperthwaite and J Evans

competition

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

Montana Marriage Trilogy Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

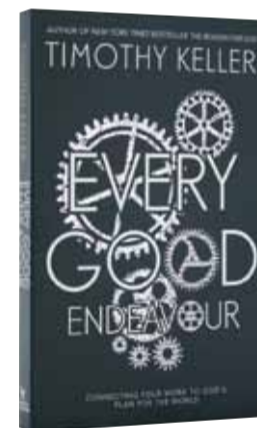
read



October Baby

By Eric Wilson

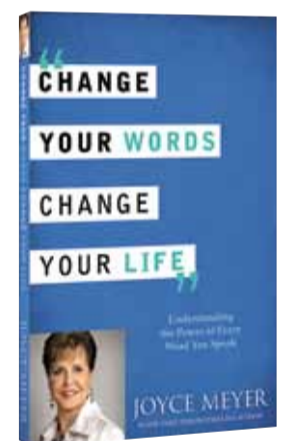
A novelisation of the acclaimed film that broke the box office top ten even in limited release, *October Baby* tells the inspiring story of college student Hannah whose increasing anxiety and sudden collapse point to the surprising circumstances of her birth. Hannah soon learns from her parents she was adopted and is the survivor of a failed abortion attempt. Bewildered, angry, and confused, Hannah turns for support to her oldest friend, Jason. Encouraged by his adventurous spirit, she joins his friends on a road trip, embarking on a journey to discover her hidden past and find hope for the unknown future.



Every Good Endeavour

By Timothy Keller

In Timothy's latest release the subject of 'work' and the trials and victories associated with it are explored and tested. With today's increasingly competitive and fluctuating economic environment, we often question the purpose for work: 'Why am I doing this?' and 'Why is it so hard?' Timothy argues that God's plan is radically more ambitious: 'He created us to work'. We are to work together to make the world a better place, to help each other and so to find purpose for our lives therefore our faith should enhance our work, and our work should develop our faith.



Change Your Word, Change Your Life

By Joyce Meyer

Building on the premises of *Power Thoughts and Living Beyond Your Emotions*, Joyce examines in depth the tremendous power of words. Words are the vehicles that convey our thoughts and emotions, and provide guidelines for making sure that our speech is constructive, healthy, healing and used to bring forth good results. In a *Dictionary of God's Word* at the end of the book, Joyce provides dozens of scripture verses, arranged by topic, that she recommends reading and saying out loud as one way of using and claiming healing words and God's truth.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

Locations: Morley - 4 Wellington Road, phone 08 9375 3722
Victoria Park - 359 Albany Highway, phone 08 9361 7899



Oval made into tent city

On 9 and 10 November, the oval of East Fremantle Primary School was transformed into tent city when 75 fathers and 145 children attended the school's first Fathering Camp, organised by YouthCARE school chaplain Susan Hislop.

The Camp aims to grow relationships between dads and kids by providing a fun experience for them to share, and to grow community between the school's dads by creating opportunities for them to support one another.

"The original concept for the Camp came from Phil Beeck, Youth Pastor at East Fremantle Baptist Church," Susan said. "He has been amazing in his support to me in getting the Camp happening."

Two hundred and twenty campers arrived with their tents, utensils and bedding on Friday afternoon for an evening of fun (and not enough sleep!). They prepared dinner on camp stoves, mingled with other families and participated in a range of activities which included after-dark stealth games, scavenger hunts and quizzes.

On Saturday morning, following a hot breakfast prepared by volunteers and teachers, the children wrote letters to their dads while the fathers attended a talk on the importance of their unique roles in the family. The talk was presented by The Fathering Project which aims to help fathers realise how important they are in their child's life and to give them advice on how to encourage their children.



Phil Beeck, Youth Pastor at East Fremantle Baptist Church, shares the rules of the scavenger hunt with students from East Fremantle Primary School at the recent Fathering Camp.

Susan said contributions towards the Camp from local businesses were amazing. "We received incredible generosity in food donations toward the camp breakfast from Dom Serafino

at Busselton Free Range Eggs, Charlie and Helen Ricardo at Portcare Fremantle, Eddie Murphy from D'Orsogna, and Shirley and Douglas at Fremantle's Aussie Farmer's Direct."

"I hope the Fathering Camp will become an annual event on the school's calendar," East Fremantle Primary School Principal, Jennifer Chittick said. The Camp was sponsored by

East Fremantle Primary School's Parents and Citizens Association, East Fremantle Baptist Church, YouthCARE and The Fathering Project.

Photo: YouthCARE


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