

# the advocate

**"My parents helped the children stay low to breathe the fresh air."** **BONNIE WALKER**

**In conversation** Alan McCrechan talks about learning life-shaping lessons on technology, culture and spirituality **PAGE 12 >>**



Photo: Tim Holmes/AP

In this photo provided by the Holmes family, Tammy Holmes, second from left, and her grandchildren, Charlotte, left, Esther, third from left, Liam, Matilda, second from right, and Caleb, right, take refuge under a jetty as a wildfire rages nearby.

## Fire strengthens faith

Following the devastating bush fires that destroyed much of the town of Dunalley, Tasmania, on Friday 4 January, David and Bonnie Walker and their five children have some new experiences of answered prayer and God's protection that will stay with them for their entire lives.

For two hours during the peak of the fire, the Walker's children, Matilda (11), Liam (9), Caleb (6), Esther (4) and Charlotte (2) sheltered under a jetty in the chilly waters of Blackman Bay with their grandparents Tim and Tammy Holmes.

The children were with their grandparents at the Holmes' property, Potters Croft, east of Dunalley.

Their father, David, the Chaplain at Dunalley Primary

School, was walking trails on the south coast with a group of friends. He was due home in four days.

Their mother, Bonnie, had left early in the day to attend a funeral in Hobart. With all roads blocked, Bonnie stayed with friends and was in contact with her parents via mobile phone.

The ferocious blaze roared towards the Holmes' and Walker's adjoining properties on two fronts, destroyed several

buildings and everything the families owned. There was barely time for the grandparents and children to grab their shoes and run to the jetty. That was their fire plan – get to the safety of the water.

The family dog, Polly, followed them and sheltered on the jetty.

As trees exploded in fire on the shore, showering the jetty with flaming embers, Tim and Tammy supported the children in the water. Three of the children cannot swim. As spot fires tried to take hold on the timber jetty, they put them out, scooping water with a hat.

At the height of the fire Bonnie and her friends prayed specifically for clean air for the group to breathe.

"We heard later that there was only 200 millimetres of clean air

above the water during the worst time of thick smoke," Bonnie said. "My parents helped the children stay low to breathe the fresh air."

Polly instinctively lay flat with her nose over the edge of the jetty.

"The photos (sent by mobile phone) from my dad were a great comfort to me," Bonnie said. "It was reassuring to see the children safe. They were all very calm and peaceful throughout the experience."

Tim salvaged a dingy from the shore and towed the family to safety further around the bay once the ferocity of the fire had abated. They were rescued from there and spent Friday night at the Dunalley Hotel with many other now homeless people.

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







### 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.

## On air with Graham Mabury

It's almost thirty-two years, and well over one hundred thousand phone calls, since I first said, 'Good evening and welcome to *Nightline*'. I've counted it a privilege to hear the hearts of talkback callers, their fears, frustrations, hopes and dreams. Sitting, listening, I've become convinced that this is a very opportune time for our family of churches; our DNA resonates with the world view and values of many who are spiritually hungry. To encourage you as you seek to be a channel of His love this year – let me explain.

We believe that when someone can read the Bible, and experience the Lord speaking to them directly, we insist on liberty of conscience. This is appealing to postmoderns with their love of individual responses. Like the apostle Paul, our determined purpose is to progressively become more

deeply and intimately acquainted with Jesus. We claim a real, living relationship with Him. Thus, the reality of His resurrection is a matter of our own personal experience. I love the way this embraces the postmodern emphasis on individual subjective response while focusing unambiguously on a

fact of history that prevents us wallowing in a sea of relativity.

'Three Baptists, five opinions' – if that old quip means bitter factional fighting, it's tragic. Back in the late 1600s, Bishop Burnett said such people, "must needs astonish every impartial beholder, and raise great prejudices against such

persons' religion." That's still true today. On the other hand, when 'five opinions' means we are celebrating the amazing diversity that exists within the boundaries of Biblical truth, the quip becomes a promise. In my early days at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, our team leader Fred Stone summarised this beautifully, "We respect the Holy Spirit in one another."

This applies to all our fellow believers – it takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people. I delight in how the church expresses the infinite variety and innumerable aspects of what Paul called, 'the manifold wisdom of God'.



### Dr Brian Harris

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

## Triskaidekaphobia and all that ...

If you suffer from triskaidekaphobia, you are in for a rough year. As all fans of Trivial Pursuit and Greek students at Vose know, triskaidekaphobia is an irrational fear of the number 13. Now if our calendar was designed like hotel floors (no 13th floor), we could pretend that we had jumped from 2012 directly to 2014. Or perhaps we could say we are about to enter 2012(b), just to avoid the dreaded 13 number. Do you think there is any chance we could ask our friends "so how is 2012 (b) going for you?"

What is the origin of triskaidekaphobia? The jury is out, but one common answer is that it stems from Jesus' Passover meal when the 12 disciples plus Jesus meant that the number at that dinner party was the doomed 13. Within 24 hours the host was dead.

Others modify that slightly and say that 13 is the number of Judas Iscariot. Given that his name appeared in the deceased column a few days later, it is as ominous.

Now my birthday falls on the 13th (13 July if you're a generous gift giver), so I have had to think

this one through. The number is considered unlucky because there were 13 at the last supper of Jesus. And it was unlucky because one (actually two) died shortly afterwards. But hold on ... the death of Jesus leads to spiritual rebirth for all who trust Him to forgive their sins. And

the resurrection of Jesus is an account of the defeat of death. We are even willing to call the day of His death Good Friday because of the unanticipated benefits that flowed from that world transforming death.

So why then is Friday the 13th considered the unluckiest of all days? Sheer nonsense, isn't it! For those who trust Jesus, this is the best of all days. Of course not everyone puts their faith in Jesus. There was another death that flowed from that day. Poor Judas – he never did manage to commit to Jesus. You can understand why he suffered from triskaidekaphobia.



Tammy Holmes and her grandchildren cling onto each other under the jetty with the family dog, Polly, as the wildfire rages around them.

## Fire strengthens faith

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The telltale line of salt across the chests of many people's clothes showed the Walker children and grandparents that they were not the only ones saved by going into the water.

Family friends collected the children and their grandparents from Dunalley on Saturday and took them by boat to meet Bonnie.

That night, hundreds of kilometres away in a bush camp, David had a dream of a black helicopter.

"I had the impression that I was going to be picked up," David said. "When I heard the helicopter at about 6.30am,

I knew the helicopter was for me."

The ABC helicopter landed on the beach to take David to his family.

"I can say I didn't even feel shocked," David said. "God had been preparing me for that moment."

The Walkers are staying in Dunalley, an hour from Dunalley.

"The children are amazing, very resilient and strong," Bonnie said. "They see the positives in this – God heard their prayers and saved them."

"I felt early on that God has presented me and my family with an opportunity that enables us to empathise with

many people who have lost so much," David said.

David plans to continue as Chaplain in Dunalley and Dodes Ferry primary schools.

Readers wanting to help the community recover can send money to Scripture Union Tasmania ([www.sutas.org.au](http://www.sutas.org.au)) requesting the funds support Dunalley Chaplaincy.

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



# Tenants arrive



Photo: Jill Birt

Jean, Agnes and their family celebrate joining the First Home Project with Jarrod McKenna and his wife Teresa Lee.

## Two African refugee families joined Jarrod McKenna and his wife Teresa Lee at the First Home Project in Midland just before Christmas.

The Project funded the purchase of the three unit property in September 2012 through gifts and loans from supporters after the commercial banking community declined Jarrod and Teresa's application for a loan.

"We want to help refugee families integrate into West Australian culture and community," Jarrod said. "We've seen the narrowness of the welcome many refugees receive. They're kept at arm's length."

"It's a real learning curve for us," Teresa said. "We're learning so much through living with these beautiful people as we help them connect with Australian culture. It's going from isolation to inclusive collectiveness — doing life together."

"We're working through all sorts of things like private space and personal time, even down to who is supervising the children sometimes," Jarrod said. "Until

you're faced with a clear situation where you discover there is some difference in how things are being done, I don't think we understand how much of our own culture is absorbed and not actually taught."

"The hospitality we've been shown has been phenomenal," Teresa said. "We've already had great meals together and conversations that just amaze me."

Jean and Agnes, seven of their children and Jean's mother live in another unit of the Midland property.

Their eldest son, Eli, is a university student in Brisbane. He is acting as translator for his parents while visiting his family over the summer.

"We left Congo in 1996 because it was not safe for us," Agnes said.

Members of their extended family had been murdered because of the family's ethnicity.

"We stayed in a refugee camp for 16 years in Rwanda. It was such a long time. So hard," Jean said. "We had so little, but we would hold worship services and dance and sing about God's goodness. People said they thought we were crazy or what we said must be true."

Jean is a pastor and already has strong connections with a church in Perth. One of the members of the church visits the family about three times a week to help them.

Jean and Agnes have been in Perth since April 2012, living in temporary accommodation in Edgewater until they moved to Midland.

"It was very hard work finding this house," 20 year old son Henry said. "But it is very good, with a very kind landlord."

English speakers Nathan, Janet and their family live in the third accommodation unit in the building.

The property was initially built for a church but was later known in the local community as a 'meth lab' before Jarrod and Teresa purchased and refurbished it.

# New crisis chat



Photo: Lifeline WA

Lifeline WA have launched Online Crisis Chat — a new online service to help more Australians get the crisis support they need.

Lifeline WA, supported by iiNet, launched Online Crisis Chat in the lead up to Christmas and New Year. Online Crisis Chat is a new online information and support service to help more Australians receive the crisis support they need.

Available between 5pm to 9pm, seven days a week, the service provides short-term support for people who are overwhelmed and having difficulty coping or staying safe. The service is real time using 'chat' technology confidentially one-to-one with a Lifeline Online Crisis Supporter.

"This time of year brings about a number of the leading causes of stress in our society including relationship issues, financial pressures and loneliness," Lifeline WA CEO Fiona Kalaf said.

"It can be an extremely emotional time which we at Lifeline WA know is very difficult for a large number of us to get through without help from our 24 hour crisis support telephone line, and now thanks to our partnership with iiNet, people in need will be able to access another form of support service via the Online Crisis Chat."

Fiona said the Online Crisis Chat came about due to many

reasons, but the recognition of the need for anonymity and distance by people using the telephone service was a key indicator of the need for this service.

"The Online Crisis Chat service is operated by a pool of trained and committed staff, not volunteers. It is important Lifeline WA move with the times and technology to better support people in emotional crisis and the changing needs of the community."

"Research has shown a large portion of people under the age of 25 are not comfortable calling the crisis support line but feel far less intimidated to make contact via the Online Crisis Chat," Fiona said.

iiNet was the first telecommunications provider in Australia to make access to telephone crisis support services free of charge for their customers.

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



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# Happy Baptist campers

Mystery and adventure surrounded the Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) Inters and Juniors Summer Camps at the beginning of January. Almost 200 children, young people, leaders and helpers from all over WA gathered together at Serpentine Camping Centre for the five day camps.

Campers at the Inters Sherlock Mysteries themed camp considered the mysteries of God's Word during discussion times. Activities included detective finding using teamwork and scavenger hunts. An ongoing mystery flowed through each day resulting in the uncovering of who was responsible for Sherlock's death at the Murder Mystery dress up dinner concluding the camp.

“We felt so privileged to have Sean join our camp; it will be one of those special Baptist camps we'll talk about for years to come.”

Children at the Juniors camp, themed Promises on Adventure Island, looked at a new promise of God with a Bible verse to remember each day.

“Our themed worship music was new to campers,” Serpentine Camping Centre Program Coordinator, Wendy Dyer said. “Songs about God's promises learnt during camp were given to the campers on CD to take home and continue to impact beyond camp.”

Special guest Christian children singer songwriter

Sean W Smith was a highlight for many at the camp.

“Sean brought energy, music and messages about the promises of God. The kids and leaders alike loved him. We felt so privileged to have Sean join our camp; it will be one of those special Baptist camps we'll talk about for years to come,” Wendy said.

Sean gave six messages which included his own music and video clips, stories of his life and Bible verses.

“On the final night we celebrated with a Sean W Smith concert, a real highlight for everyone. Sean joined in activities and spent time with some dorm groups during their discussion times.”

‘Camp Mum’ Janine Daniels, who was there to chat with and hug those who might be missing home, has been involved in camps at Serpentine since she was a little girl.

“Being ‘camp mum’ has been the busiest and most rewarding two weeks,” Janine said. “I loved being with two amazing teams of leaders who love God and serving Him in this special way. I loved getting to know the kids who came, and encouraging and supporting kids where they are at.”

“Thank you to all the parents who entrusted their kids to us. Thank you leaders for the privilege of serving alongside you ... and being a part of you doing your ‘stuff’,” Janine said.

“Baptist Camps are a great training ground for young leaders in our churches,” Wendy said.



Photo: Serpentine Camping Centre

Leaders and helpers with special guest Christian children singer songwriter Sean W Smith at the Juniors Summer Camp in January.

## Lloyd joins Vose Mission

Lloyd Porter will commence as the new Director of Vose Mission from February after Neil Anderson announced his resignation from the role at the beginning of the year.

Neil will remain on campus at Vose, being informally associated with Vose Seminary, as he commences a new enterprise in the role of Founder and Director of Worldview Intercultural Training.

“Worldview Intercultural is a business training enterprise – amongst the mining and business sector of WA,” Neil said. “It specialises in training business and

corporate/mining personnel to work effectively across cultural boundaries, both in Australia and overseas. It also trains workers in overseas countries on how to work effectively with western/foreign staff.”

Lloyd has served in cross-cultural mission work for over 20 years, including 15 years as a resident and field leader for Operation Mobilisation (OM) in Russia.

Currently, along with his wife Katherine, he serves as WA State director for OM and is involved in mobilising churches for world mission.

Lloyd will be lecturing on Vose Mission's unit ‘Spiritual Formation for Cross-Cultural Missions’ with Christa Smith (Pioneers) in Semester 1 – the only unit of its type in WA. This unit promises to give enormous value to those who are training for overseas cross-cultural missions whether it be short-term or long-term.

For more information visit [www.vose.edu.au](http://www.vose.edu.au).

## digital church

19/12/12

**Steve Fogg**

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

“For the average person in the pew the church obviously isn't a product or service, but they will share what they like or dislike about the decisions church leaders make with those they trust.”

20/12/2012

**Tim Challie**

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

“I don't know that even the greatest theologian could ever plumb the depths of all it means that humanity was created in the image of God.”

21/12/2012

**Steven Furtick**

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

“Don't worry about being cute or clever. Just boldly present the gospel and clearly invite people to respond to Jesus. People who are lost aren't going to tweet about a cool or corny line they hear about Jesus. But they will tweet about it when they meet Him. Pray every second you can. Have faith that He is going to move in ways you can't even imagine. Be ready for when He does.”

## briefs

### Pastoral changes

After 18 months without a full-time pastor, Ellenbrook Baptist Church will welcome Aashish Parmer his wife Louise and son Micah at the start of February 2013. North Beach Baptist Church welcomes Bruce Polmear as Pastor for Youth and Young Adults and Alan Raven as Pastor Executive and Home Groups to their staff.

### Marriages

Jason Kingston and Anita Olsen married on 15 December 2012 at North Beach Baptist Church. Adam Martin and Felicity Taylor were married at Riverton Baptist Church on 12 January 2013.

### Baptisms

1Church had 15 baptisms on 9 December 2012: Steven Armstrong at Mandurah Baptist Church, Steven Efigures and Ethan Pritchard at Austin Cove Baptist Church; and Cecilia de Swardt, Zane Plenderleith, Alex Vernon and Travis Vernon at Lakelands Community Church. The following people were baptised at Golden Bay Beach: Caine Hayes, Lana Hayes, Darby Higginson, Crystal Moonsamy, Sebastian Moonsamy, Elsin Pillay, Abigail Thomas and Jacome Willemse. Sarah Michael and Christopher Pridham were baptised on 20 January at Albany Baptist Church.

### Prayer and fasting

The National Day of Prayer and Fasting will be held on Sunday 10 February. The theme for this year will be Life. This 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](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au).



# Worldview in focus



Photo: Jill Birt

Miriam and Rod Vardy from Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies visited their home church Como Baptist during their summer holidays.

Rod Vardy and his wife Miriam (Como Baptist Church) returned to Perth recently to catch up with family and friends during the Christmas/New Year break. Rod is the Director of Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies in St Leonards, Tasmania, one of just a handful of residential training colleges preparing people for cross cultural Christian ministry.

"There are some unique opportunities for learning at a residential college," Rod said.

"Worldview's courses are fully accredited, but it is no ordinary theological college."

In 2012, Worldview's student body of mostly young adults included students from Korea,

Egypt, Eritrea, China, the USA and Australia. Staff at the college came from Germany, the UK, USA and Australia.

WEC International, Worldview's parent body, celebrates its centennial in 2013 after starting work in the Congo in 1913. As a movement it includes 1,800 people from 50 countries of the world, working in more than 100 teams in places around the globe where

people have little opportunity to hear about Jesus.

"Worldview training is ideal preparation for that type of ministry," Rod said. "We're hoping for around 50 to 55 students from eight to ten nationalities for 2013. We expect most of the student body will be in their late 20s."

Rod's work as Team Leader of the Leadership Team of the college includes significant amounts of administration as well as some teaching and many opportunities to mentor people.

"There are opportunities for differences and misunderstandings to surface when a group of people from different cultures live close together," Rod said. "We're all human beings and I get to have lots of life conversations with people. It's all excellent training for not just cross cultural work, but life wherever you might live."

"2013 will be Worldview's 57th year of training," Rod said. "Miriam and I have been on staff since mid-2007. We try to return to Perth each year to see our family and to catch up with people who pray for us."

Miriam works in the front office of Worldview and coordinates hospitality needs for the many guests who visit Worldview each year.

"A highlight for us has been the last two graduations," Rod said. "We heard testimonies from students that demonstrated how their lives had been transformed. These are not just kids starting out in life. Most of our students have already worked successfully in a career. These are quality people and we get to see how God works to continue to change their lives, their marriages, their families. It's great preparation for what they will face in the future reaching people, planting churches."

## Honouring police and youth



Photo: National Day of Thanksgiving

The National Day of Thanksgiving will honour people working in the judicial system and young people.

The focus for the National Day of Thanksgiving 2013 been announced.

This year churches and individuals are encouraged to give thanks for people working in the judicial system including solicitors, barristers, judges, court officials, police and administrative staff. The Day of Thanksgiving will also honour and give thanks to young people (under 30 years of age) who are leading their generation by example, through acts of community service.

A number of events are being planned for the National Day of Thanksgiving on 25 May, to thank people who are making a difference in local communities.

"No society can operate effectively unless we adhere to the laws by which we are governed," National Day of Thanksgiving 2013 National Coordinator, Brian Pickering said.

"Those who administer justice are often the recipients of public criticism due to the nature of the jobs they do. We want to ensure that they know their efforts are appreciated by the vast majority of the community by making them the focus of thanks during the National Day

of Thanksgiving 2013."

"In addition, we want to encourage the leaders of tomorrow by recognising, honouring and thanking those young people who are already giving leadership and setting examples for their peers to follow in our communities and community organisations across the nation."

"We trust thousands of Australians across the nation will join us to do likewise in their own community on Saturday 25 May, our National Day of Thanksgiving," Brian said.

Church leaders are encouraged to start planning their events now.

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



# Fly in fly out Bible college

Like many newly graduated high school students, Mitch Hamilton from Karratha Baptist Church was unsure where he wanted life to take him after completing Year 12. For Mitch, Year 13 at Youthworks College in NSW was the perfect intermission between high school and university, also allowing him to participate in a mission trip – something he had always wanted to do.

Youthworks Year 13 Gap Year is all about getting to know Jesus better in order to radically prepare for life's journey ahead. It is a year of growth; of building Christian character; of developing skills and starting lifelong relationships.

Students have the option to study two days and nights on campus each week (continuous mode) or nine weeks residential (intensive mode). "I studied as 'intensive' where there are four, two to three blocks in Sydney," Mitch said. "Other intensive students and I were essentially doing fly-in fly-out Bible college."

While at the College, Mitch took subjects that taught him of God's mission throughout the Bible and in life as well as learning and understanding the different worldviews that other groups of people live by.

While he obtained great insight from these subjects, he also learnt a lot from his peers.

"They taught me how to love people for who they are, and see them how Jesus would see them." He also joked about learning lessons in patience as he lined up



Mitch Hamilton from Karratha completed Year 13 at Youthworks College in NSW which enabled him to participate in two mission trips.

with almost 100 other students for lunch and dinner each day!

Attending Youthworks gave Mitch the opportunity to visit Fiji and India on mission trips, which he said was a truly eye-opening experience and added another dimension to his view of believing in God.

Mitch would thoroughly recommend Year 13 at Youthworks to young people who are unsure of their plans after high school or those who want to get to know Jesus better.

"I look at it as being a flexible taste of studying the Bible and getting to know the Creator.

There are a lot of Christians who take part in Year 13, but you don't necessarily have to be a Christian, you may be questioning or unsure of God and simply want to find out more."

Mitch is back home in Karratha working two jobs while

he goes through the application process and interviews for the Australian Defence Force where he plans to train as a General Service Officer in the Army.

"I am excited for the adventure, the things I will learn and the ability to be a role model in the future," Mitch said.

## Barbara awarded OAM for service to youth

Barbara Prangnell from Woodvale Baptist Church was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day for service to youth, particularly through the Girls' Brigade. Barbara has been involved in the Girls' Brigade since she was a child in the United Kingdom when it was known as the Girls' Life Brigade (GLB).

Her GLB involvement in Western Australia began in the 1950s when she was asked to start a GLB company in Subiaco. The amalgamation of the GLB with

similar organisations in Ireland and Scotland in the 1960s resulted in the international organisation now known as the Girls' Brigade.

Barbara was Founding Captain of the 1st Subiaco Company at Subiaco Church of Christ (1958-1972), the 39th Perth Company at North Beach Baptist Church (1973-1985) and the 10th Perth Company at Woodvale Baptist Church (1986-1993 and 2007-2008). She was Founder/Secretary of the Friends of the Brigade for retired officers and members (1994-2007) and Treasurer (2008-2010). She has had various honorary roles at battalion, division, state and national levels, including as State Secretary, State Training

Officer and State Commissioner (1970-1978).

More recently, Barbara and her husband co-founded the Seniors Group at Woodvale Baptist Church where she has been the Secretary since 2001.

The Governor-General, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC CVO, Chancellor of the Order of Australia, approved the Australia Day 2013 Honours List.

"I want to give my strong support to the awards made through the Australian Honours System," Ms Bryce said. "They

elevate the concept of giving to others. They heighten our respect for one another, and they encourage Australians to think about the responsibilities of citizenship in our democracy."

"Awards in the Australian Honours System represent the highest level of recognition accorded by our nation for outstanding achievement and service. The Honours announced today recognise community values and celebrate what is important and unifying in Australian life," Ms Bryce said.



# Baptistcare counted

Baptistcare won the Barry MacKinnon Award for Employment at the Disability Services Commission's annual Count Me In Awards. The event recognises individuals and organisations contributing to better accessibility and inclusion in Western Australian communities.

Disability Services Minister, Helen Morton said the awards were the highlight of Disability Awareness Week, which ran from 2 to 8 December 2012.

"The awards demonstrate to the whole community what can be achieved when an individual or organisation makes a commitment to provide services and facilities that are welcoming to all," Helen said.

"I congratulate everyone who entered this year's awards. The work undertaken makes a huge difference in the lives of so many and therefore enriches the entire community."

In early 2012, Baptistcare and Options Employment signed a Memorandum of Understanding that agreed to connect people with disability with Baptistcare to create mutually beneficial employment outcomes for people in regional and metropolitan WA.

Baptistcare has pledged to provide 11 jobs, 11 traineeships, 15 mentoring and 15 work experience placements to people with disability by 2014.

Another 13 organisations have been inspired by Baptistcare — they have signed Memorandums of

Understanding with Options Employment and have committed to establishing 124 meaningful jobs for people with a disability during the next four years.

"Baptistcare is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities find long-term, meaningful work and this agreement is the first step in making sure this occurs," Baptistcare CEO, Dr Lucy Morris said. "It is a great agreement with Good Samaritan Industries and Options Employment and we look forward to working with them on this initiative. It is a wonderful award for Baptistcare, but we hold it in trust for those people with disabilities looking for work. It's up to us to make it work."

Helen said the Count Me In Awards recognised the remarkable achievements of the disability sector.

"By increasing recognition for the sector, it encourages the development of inspirational role models who overcome the barriers and challenges that disability can present," she said.



Baptistcare General Manager Individualised Services, Kwame Selormey and Director Life Services, Anita Ghose with the Barry MacKinnon Award for Employment.

Photo: Baptistcare

## Bec awarded

Rebecca Baseley graduated from Kent Street Senior High School in 2012 with three Vocational Education and Training (VET) awards.

She received VET Dux Top Academic Achievement for her results, VET Flexible Learning Year 12 Top Student prize for her continued hard work and for helping other students in her class, and VET School Based Trainee of the Year prize for completing her six month traineeship with Baptistcare and Certificate II in Business.

"I chose to do a six month traineeship to get a start in my career before I finish school and for the experience," Rebecca said.

Baptistcare gave Rebecca something to look forward to as she didn't like school but enjoyed working at Baptistcare.

She now works full-time at Baptistcare as an administration assistant for the Organisation and Quality Development Team, completing another traineeship, Certificate III in Business.

"If you're not doing TEE, complete a school-based traineeship/pre-apprenticeship. It gives you a nationally recognised qualification, experience, less days at school for those not keen on school and money," Rebecca said.

VET engages students in work related learning built on strategic partnerships between schools, training organisations, business, industry and the wider community.

## Awakening for Easter in Forrest Place

Each year hundreds of Christians from across Perth gather together under the banner of Awakening WA to celebrate the meaning of Easter and to remind the city what the celebrations are all about. This year the theme is simple: Jesus the centre of it all.

Christians from all over the state are invited to join the celebrations and help remind the city about the real meaning of Easter.

People will gather in Forrest Place in the heart of the city at 2pm on Easter Sunday, 31

March. The celebration begins with music and entertainment by performers from a number of Perth churches, and then at 3pm the group heads out to march around the malls before returning to Forrest Place for a time of worship led

by the team from Inglewood Community Church.

Supported by the WA Heads of Churches and many Perth churches, the Awakening WA Easter March provides a unique opportunity for the churches of Perth to gather together in visible unity in the heart of our city.

Fusion Australia WA State Director, Andrew Braun, said about 2,000 people from Perth churches attended the 2012 rally.

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

# Miracles on the border: Syrians encounter Jesus

By Erich Bridges

The deepening crisis created by the civil war in Syria poses a major threat not only to the continued existence of that nation but to the stability of an already chaotic Middle East. These stories cover the growing Christian ministry to thousands of Syrian refugees fleeing into neighbouring countries.

Photo: Southern Baptist Convention



A Syrian refugee in Lebanon, hands clasped as if in prayer, hopes for better days.

The Christian relief team in Beirut heard about the needy Syrian widow living outside a Lebanese Muslim village near the Syrian border. So they took food to her.

Apparently, Jesus had been there first.

A refugee from the civil war in Syria, the Muslim widow, along with her three children, had sought shelter in Lebanon — like more than 100,000 other Syrians. She was observing a traditional 40 day period of solitude to mourn her dead husband, so she had received nothing from the local Islamic aid society.

When the Christians knocked at her door, the widow appeared fully covered in black, including an opaque veil over her face. She explained her period of self-isolation. They offered to leave the

food outside, but she unexpectedly invited them in. They sat with her and her children on the floor of the temporary dwelling.

"Who are you?" she asked anxiously.

"You don't know us, but we have great love in our hearts toward you," the team leader answered, explaining their reasons for helping Syrian refugees. "That love comes from God, who has worked in our lives."

To their amazement, she responded by removing her veil — unheard of in her conservative Muslim culture. Then the words came flooding out.

"I want to tell you what happened to me yesterday," she said, her voice trembling with emotion. "As I was sleeping during the night, someone knocked on my door. I was so scared, but I opened the window to see who

it was. No one was there. After a while, I heard the same knocking. My heart was beating so fast, so I went and sat beside the door, and I fell asleep there."

“You don't know us, but we have great love in our hearts toward you.”

"As I was sleeping, someone put their hand on my shoulder. He said, 'You don't know me. You have passed through a great pain. I experienced a great pain, also. But I will not leave you alone. Tomorrow

I will send you someone who will tell you about Me. Listen to him."

When she finished the story, she began to weep. She turned to the team leader and said, "Tell me about this person that I saw in my dream."

Through his own tears, the leader told her about Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the friend of widows, orphans and outcasts. "This book that I'm going to give you will explain to you about God's love," he promised, giving her a Bible along with additional aid to help her and her children survive the mourning period.

The widow later returned to Syria. No one knows for sure what has become of her. But God knows. Dead or alive?

Sami\*, the Lebanese Christian pastor who told the widow about Jesus, has had similar experiences with other Muslims. He and several

Christian partners have been reaching out to Muslim villages in Lebanon with the simple gospel message. They expanded their outreach to Syrian Muslims when refugees started streaming across the border last year.

"When we started to serve among those villages and communities, I had a doubt in my heart," Sami admits. "Will it work? Are we going to experience what we hear from different parts of the Middle East and the world about Muslims coming to know Jesus as Savior and Lord? It was a challenge, a discovery process for me personally and for many with us in the ministry. But as we have shared the gospel faithfully, the Lord is showing us signs of people who are opening up, asking questions and opening the door for us to reach a wider community."

"We started a couple of house





groups in different areas with Lebanese and Syrian Muslims, and we are discipling those people. Some of them have come to know Christ. Others are discovering who Jesus is. They are showing signs of changing in their lives."

A Muslim community leader the Christians befriended last year helped them gain entrance to the homes of many Muslims – Lebanese and Syrian. During those visits, he heard the gospel message of God's offer of salvation through Jesus Christ perhaps 100 times.

At the beginning of one such visit, the Muslim leader walked up to a refugee family, pointed at them and said, "Are you dead or alive?"

The family was taken aback; so were the Christians. He repeated his question: "Are you dead or alive?" Then he pointed at the Christians and declared, "These people have a book, and it's going

to tell you how to find life. You need to read it!"

“  
Who do you  
want to follow  
— Jesus or the  
prophets?  
”

"This is a Muslim guy who probably has never read the New Testament himself," marvels Christian worker David\*, who participated in the visit. "But he's opening doors for us now because he saw something different in us as he heard the things that we were sharing."

In another village, the relief team made a repeat visit to the home of an influential Syrian

Muslim. He knows many other needy families, so they brought a large supply of food for distribution.

"We don't need your boxes of food," the Syrian leader said. "What we need is somebody to come and teach us how to walk in the way of Jesus and how we can forgive one another. We don't know how to live with each other." The Christians were happy to oblige.

I want to follow Jesus  
Perhaps the boldest new evangelist in Lebanon, however, is an older Syrian woman whose home has become a centre for teaching truth.

Sami met Noora\* at the end of a long, exhausting day of aid deliveries to refugees. He was ready to go home, but his guide insisted on one more stop to a particularly needy group of families. Reluctantly, he agreed.

They distributed food portions and New Testaments along with a simple gospel presentation.

Noora, one of the Syrian Muslim women in the home, started asking questions about baptism. As it turned out, she already was reading the New Testament. She had plenty of other questions about Jesus: How do you address Him? How does He differ from the other prophets?

"We read Matthew, the first chapters, about Jesus' incarnation and that He is Immanuel," Sami said.

"Immanuel means 'God with us.'" "I don't understand," Noora said.

Sami explained the concept of a king visiting his people disguised in plain clothing and humility, yet remaining in every aspect a king. He told her about Jesus' sinless life compared to the other prophets, all of whom had failed God in various ways, despite their greatness.

"Who do you want to follow – Jesus or the prophets?" Sami asked.

"I want to follow Jesus," Noora replied.

During another visit Noora suddenly declared, "The message that you shared with me changed my life. I'm a new person."

The changes in her life proved her words.

"Once we visited her and she was reading the Old Testament," Sami said. "After another week, she was in the New Testament. She told us, 'This is my third time of reading the whole Bible.' After that we continued visiting her, encouraging her and discipling her. She said, 'Everything you tell me, I go and I share it with others. I tell the traditional Christians that worshipping saints is not good; you have to worship God. I'm sharing with the Syrians [Muslims] about how God changed my life.'"

Recently Noora returned to Syria for a visit with family, despite the dangers. When Sami called her to make sure she was okay, she said, "I have a group of women gathered in my house from Muslim and Christian backgrounds and I'm teaching them."

"It's hard, but God is helping me," Noora said.

**Erich Bridges is a global correspondent for the International Mission Board. Used with permission from Baptist News [www.bpnews.net](http://www.bpnews.net). \*Names changed.**

## Nurse Manager: Residential Aged Care

### Looking for a change?

The Halls Creek Peoples Church is looking for an experienced Nurse Manager to oversee the resident care in their 30 bed residential aged care facility in the remote Kimberley region of Western Australia.

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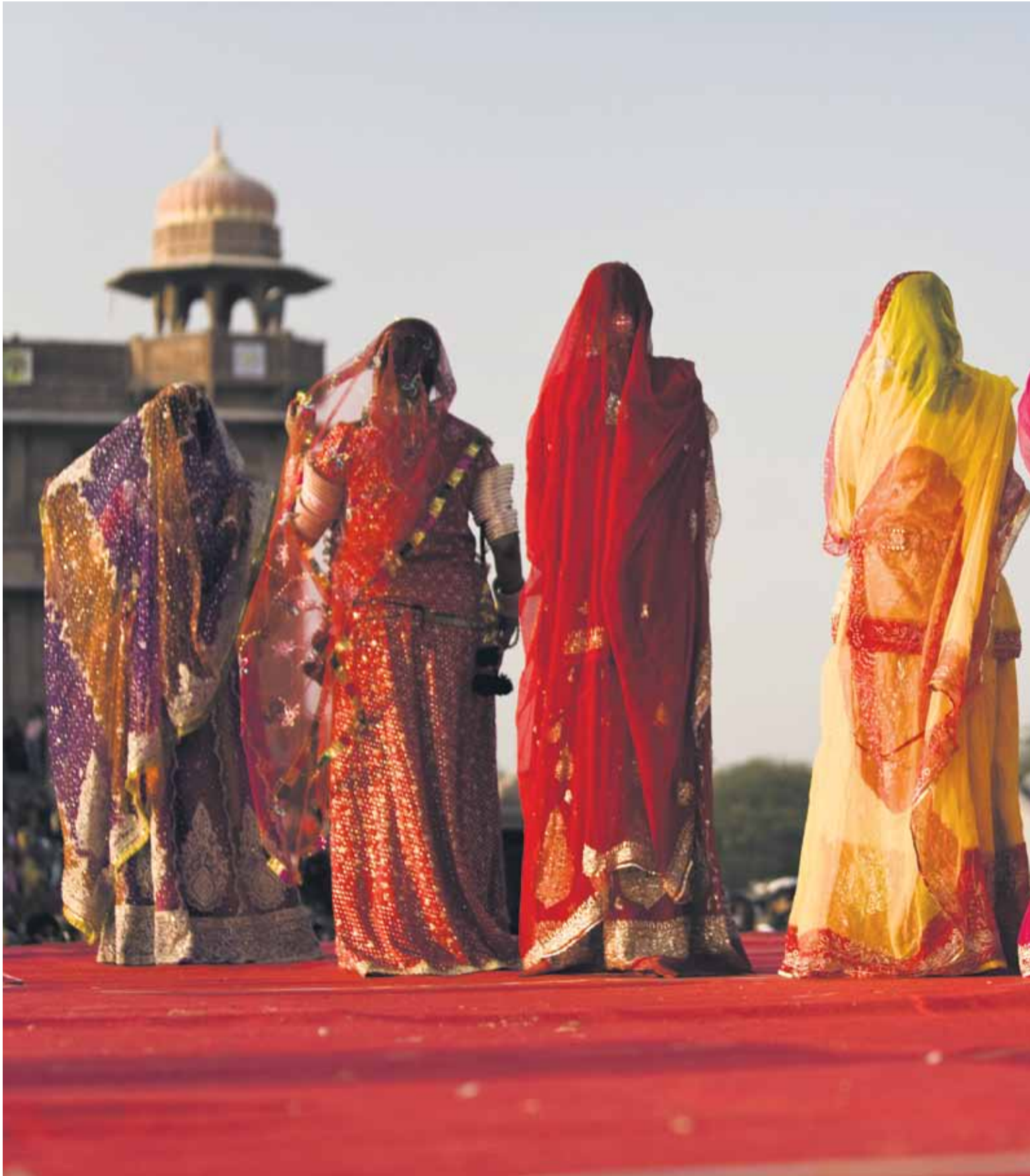
#### *Requirements*

- Aged Care Management experience
- Strong understanding of ACFI and Accreditation, continuous improvement, OHS and risk management
- Demonstrated staff management skills and experience
- Be a committed member of a Christian worshipping community; Equal Opportunity Act 1984 Part 6 Section 72 (As at 29 Nov 2012 Version 06-c0-00)
- Australian Work Rights ~ Valid visa – Permanent Resident/Australian Citizenship
- RN registration with AHPRA is essential
- Passion and commitment to the provision of quality aged care
- Understanding of and empathy for issues affecting Aboriginal people
- Ability to communicate effectively with Aboriginal people
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- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Computer literacy
- Good team work skills
- Current 'A' class drivers license

For an information package, please contact-  
**Graham Thompson** Phone: 0418907524 Email: [thomo.7@bigpond.com](mailto:thomo.7@bigpond.com)  
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# Indian women issues



**The violent gang rape and subsequent death of a 23 year old university student in Delhi has caused uproar in India and across the world with people asking why women are treated this way across the nation and how it can be changed.**

Anupama Baker, the director of Vanitashray, an Indian foundation caring for orphaned and neglected girls and widows in Pune city and associated with YWAM (Youth With a Mission), said a recent poll ranked India as the world's fourth most dangerous country for a woman.

About half a million female foetuses are aborted every year because of the preference for boys. With a growing imbalance between the number of men and women in India, the situation for women is becoming more tenuous and dangerous, especially in some northern states.

Nearly half of India's girls are married off before the age of 18. Domestic violence is common. Women are forced into prostitution, often purchased as slaves because of family debt.

Dowry disputes cause an estimated 50,000 mystery disappearances of women each year. Many missing women are not reported to police.

K P Yohannan, President of Gospel for Asia (GFA) said his group has many Indian women missionaries working predominantly in rural areas where they witness unlawful abuse of women regularly and where there

is no retribution. GFA also works in urban prostitution centres.

"Conditions are worst among the women 'untouchables', or Dalits, who are the lowest castes and considered subhuman," Yohannan said. "Of India's 1.2 billion people, one quarter are 'untouchables'."

Yohannan calls the conditions for women in India "a horrendous evil that is worsening."

"I am grateful for how the Prime Minister and Sonia Gandhi, along with government agencies, are responding to this outcry," Yohannan said. "Positive steps are being taken."

"Education for women in the name of Jesus is bringing hope. Indian women, who are often the last allowed to eat and the first to be kept illiterate, are learning to read and write and being educated on their human rights."

Annie Hilton and her husband Kerry have run Freeset, a community training and employment business in the red light region of Kolkata for more than 11 years, rescuing hundreds of women from living as sex slaves.

Education, health care and meaningful work in an accepting and 'hope founded in Jesus' environment are demonstrating how women's lives can be changed.

Debate continues across India about how the nation can retain its traditions yet improve the situation for women.

## HOPE

At the end of last year HOPE, a coalition of groups and individuals who oppose the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide, launched the Declaration of HOPE – a clear statement to all parliamentarians across Australia that they do not accept or want euthanasia and assisted suicide enabling laws.

"The campaign is building really well with hundreds signing up before the Christmas period when everything seems to shut down," Director of HOPE, Paul Russell said. "As the resumption of parliament approaches, we expect the endorsements to increase rapidly with a number of parliaments likely to debate euthanasia."

"There's a bill in the federal senate attempting to overturn the ban on the Australian territories legislating for euthanasia. There are likely to be three bills in the South Australian Parliament and another flagged for Tasmania."

"The Declaration of HOPE is a very clear statement that will be delivered to all Australian parliamentarians," Paul said. "More than that, the Declaration of HOPE argues that we should do more to honour our elders. It also argues that we should be doing more to ensure that the interned and those who are in need have their needs met as they deserve."

For more information visit [www.no euthanasia.org.au](http://www.no euthanasia.org.au).



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# Workers rally against Nike

Following the shocking revelations in mid-January that a Nike contractor has been paying military personnel to intimidate poor Indonesian workers to accept lower wages, Baptist World Aid are calling on Nike to answer these allegations and to ensure their workers receive a fair and legal wage.

"We want to know whether Nike told their Indonesian factory managers that it was okay for them to seek exemptions from the minimum wage," Baptist World Aid Advocacy Manager, Gershon Nimbalker said.

"We'd also like to know who authorised the use of heavy handed military intimidation tactics to strong-arm already impoverished workers into accepting sub-standard wages."

Workers at the Nike factory in the west Java city of Sukabumi say military personnel interrogated terrified workers into signing a petition supporting the factory's claim to be exempt from paying legal wages.

Baptist World Aid have started an advocacy campaign to rally Australian consumers

“  
To pay its workers a living wage, Nike would only need to add \$1 to production costs...”

to support these exploited Indonesian factory workers.

Activists report that the poverty wages the workers were coerced into accepting are only enough to cover one meal a day. Australian aid and development organisations are therefore calling on Nike to guarantee their workers a sufficient 'living wage' to provide the basics of food, shelter, energy, clothing, medical expenses and some savings.

"To pay its workers a living wage, Nike would only need to add \$1 to production costs of each pair of shoes sold. Given the \$2.2 billion profit Nike declared last year, it's incredibly hard to understand why this has not been done," Gershon said.

This most recent story of exploited workers in Nike's supply chain comes after millions of Indonesian workers went on strike last year, protesting that wages were so low they could not cover their cost of living. The government responded by lifting wages.

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



Photo: TonyV3112 / Shutterstock.com

Baptist World Aid are calling on Nike to ensure their workers receive a fair and legal wage.

## Vote for Australian Christians in the Upper House

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**Roger Mansell**  
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**Justin Moseley**  
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**Dwight Randall**  
East Metropolitan Region

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# Life learning in Mozambique



Photo: Global Interaction

Alan McGrechan uses his iPhone to record language lessons with his language helper, Januario in Lichinga, Mozambique.

**Alan McGrechan from Parkerville Baptist Church has been living in Mozambique for the past 17 months, working with the Global Interaction team living among the Yawo people. He's been learning some life-shaping lessons about technology, culture and spirituality.**

**You wrote a blog post last year (stephenmcalpine.com) where you explored how technology, in particular losing your iPhone, was influencing your life and work in Mozambique. Tell us what happened?**

Since arriving here in August 2011 I have thought a lot more about how I use my iPhone and how I connect with people back home. When I lost my iPhone last year it made me realise how engrained it was into my daily life, and how I would compulsively reach to check something even though my phone was gone. It made me take a step back and ask a few questions about where I was spending my time and if it was really necessary to spend every spare minute doing something productive on the iPhone.

**You wrote about the 'other world', friends and family back in Australia, encroaching on your present world, life in Mozambique. How do you see that happening? What effects does it have on your relationships in Mozambique and your work?**

I guess it has been a continuous struggle for most of the time I have been here, to find a balance between the

two. It is important to be in contact with family, friends and churches, but to spend too much time connected with a place where I don't live cannot be healthy. It is hard to be fully present in two places at once and so I found that interactions here in Mozambique were suffering. For example, if I was waiting in line at the bank or visiting my language helper's house, if I was connecting with people in Australia then I would be missing life right in front of me. Who knows what opportunities could be missed when I wasn't fully present in the here and now.

**I believe you have a new iPhone. How are you managing your use of it?**

I decided if I was going to get another smartphone then I would make a list of guidelines for myself to utilise the phone's technologies and limit the amount of time I wasted. For example, I have left applications like Facebook and Words with Friends off the iPhone and limited the frequency that emails are updated to the inbox. This has allowed me to keep the iPhone and use it as a recording device for language, check our team calendar, and take photos

while out and about, without having it beep every 15, 20, 30 minutes, distracting me from the life around me.

**You talk of being robbed of the joy of interactions, experiences and conversations because of how you were using your phone. What have you done to prevent further robberies?**

Not keeping my phone next to my bed has had a big impact on how I start my day. Instead of reading emails or checking Facebook from the second I wake up, I can begin the day with my own thoughts and not worry about being distracted from when I first step out of bed. Also, with not as many distractions/applications on the iPhone I am able to experience the joy of being fully present with the world around me.

**What benefits are you seeing for your relationships with your fellow workers and other people in Mozambique because you've made a decision to 'live in the moment'?**

I know that with less time being distracted and with my mind focused on the present there are more opportunities for relationships to deepen and to meet new people.

**How do you see the issues your 'loss of phone' raised in your life apply to other people? Could location in the world or type of work influence how much people need to use technology?**

I think smartphones like the iPhone are still a very useful tool for many different reasons.

But I do think a healthy balance needs to be found where it does not take up every spare waking minute of life. Living in Africa has made me aware of how that distraction can take me away from the people I am here to serve, but, I also think it can be a trap for us whether we are home or overseas away from family. If it is robbing us from the joy of life around us a balance needs to be found.

**People speak of having an almost physical reaction if they don't check email, Facebook, Twitter several times a day. Was this anything like your experience when you lost your phone?**

I would say to some extent, yes. For the first week or so I had to train myself not to reach for my phone whenever I had a spare moment. There was a compulsion there to check email, Facebook, and stay connected with the wider world. Without my phone I felt like I was missing out.

**I've heard there are unique opportunities to build solid relationships through letters. Have you experimented with 'snail mail' communication with friends and family back in Australia?**

Just recently I wrote my first hand written letter whilst being here in Mozambique. Up until now I had not tried it, but I have also heard how it can build a deeper relationship than what communication through email or Facebook can. I am looking forward to writing a whole lot more letters.

**What have you learnt about yourself through this technology testing time?**

I think to keep my focus on life in Africa I need to intentionally put guidelines in place on how I use technology. I am sometimes not strong enough to do this so some of the restrictions have really helped.

**Where was God in all of this learning?**

[My understanding of] God has grown and [He has] shown me a lot over the time I have been here in Mozambique. There are many good things in life that can become idols and can take time away from our relationship with the Father. Technology, the iPhone, Facebook and Twitter aren't bad in themselves but if they take too much time away from the more important things, like the relationship with God, that can be a problem. I am much more aware of where God wants me to spend my time in this area and it is something I am still working on.

**Could you see yourself not using an iPhone while you're in Mozambique?**

I have considered not having an iPhone but there are still many benefits, like recording language and taking photos. I think if good guidelines can be kept for how I use my time on the iPhone it will suit me well. If there is too much time being consumed with the iPhone and immediate life around me is suffering then I may need to reconsider this again.



# Communicating vision



people invariably are attracted to the flame.

#### 4) Prioritise influencers

Leaders treat everyone with respect, but they certainly shouldn't spend equal time casting vision to each person. To make sure your vision catches on in your organisation, prioritise sharing it with key decision-makers. Set up one-on-one meetings. Field questions and respond to concerns. Don't rush this step. If you convince key personnel to buy into your vision, often they will sell it for you to the rest of the organisation. On the contrary, if you cannot gain their support, implementing your vision will be an uphill struggle.

#### 5) Honour the process

Speechmaking has merit, but vision casting happens daily, not just on one occasion. It's a process rather than an event. To communicate vision effectively requires continual reminders to keep it in the forefront of people's minds.

Once the vision begins to take shape, every victory is an opportunity to celebrate and reinforce the vision. Also, each defeat must be evaluated and put into perspective lest the setback disheartens people. Unless a leader actively and continually champions a vision, with time it will evaporate.

#### 6) Call to action

Leaders don't impart vision to make people feel good, but rather to change something. Communicating vision should motivate people to take action by enlisting them in a focused strategy. The goal isn't simply to get people to agree with a vision, but also to take responsibility for translating it into reality.

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

By John Maxwell

Nothing motivates an organisation like a clear and compelling vision. But it can be tricky to paint a picture of what's in your mind so that others can see exactly what you're seeing. As a leader, how do you enable others to glimpse your vision and how do you inspire them to adopt it?

#### 1) Connect relationally

Leaders err when they believe the content of their vision will sweep others up by itself. Don't focus on the

mechanics of your message to the point where you disregard connecting with your team. People buy into the leader before they buy into the leader's vision.

Touch a person's heart before you appeal to their head and ask for a hand.

#### 2) Simplify the message

Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address has a place amongst the great speeches of American history, yet it was barely three minutes in length. As leader, we can learn a lot from Lincoln. When communicating vision, what you say is important, but how you say it determines whether or not the message sticks. Slice and dice your vision until it can be shared in a single sentence. The

more concise you make your vision, the more memorable it will be.

#### 3) Embody the vision

People need to see a vision to connect with it, which is why the great communicators harness imagery to amplify the power of their message. Storytelling gets much more mileage than fact-spewing. However, the best representation of a vision occurs when a leader embodies it. People sooner follow what they see than what they hear. When a leader is ablaze with passion,

## Imposter syndrome: have you got it?

By Steve Ingram

Recently I came across the concept of 'imposter syndrome'.

This syndrome describes competent leaders who develop a belief that they are a fake or an imposter. They start to believe that they cannot actually lead as competently as others expect them to and are just waiting

until someone exposes them as a fraud. It is claimed that this syndrome is most prevalent among high performers and those who are driven to succeed. They often end up self destructing their own leadership.

It is normal for leaders to go through periods of self-doubt. It is not uncommon for a leader to experience the divergence between the applause and admiration of others and their own self assessment of their performance. It is common for leaders to walk away from

a much lauded achievement thinking thoughts like, 'If only they knew how little preparation I put into that' or 'I can't believe they didn't know I was fudging' or 'They have no idea how much better someone else could do that'.

Three straight forward cures for feeling like a fake are:

1. Learn to accept that other people's perception form part of your reality. If people enjoyed, benefited or appreciated your contribution you should not

take that away from them or dismiss it as irrelevant.

2. Develop an accurate ability to assess your competence. This is normally achieved by developing your sense of awareness by comparing your achievements against accurate standards. People who give honest feedback are an important part of this process. This may also involve dealing with negative thoughts and beliefs that were developed earlier in life.

3. Live and lead humbly. Knowing that people often only state the positive and are inclined towards flattery helps us to keep a clear sense of our own achievement.

**Steve Ingram is Leadership Development Consultant at Baptist Church Western Australia.**



## events calendar

### February

10 February National Day of Prayer and Fasting, [www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.com.au)

22 Feb-1 April 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting, [www.40daysofprayer.com.au](http://www.40daysofprayer.com.au)

### March

11 March Vose Commencement and Conferral Service, Vose Seminary, 6313 6200

28 Mar-1 April Easter Camp

29 March Good Friday

31 March Easter

### April

1 April Easter Monday

25 April ANZAC Day

29 April-1 May All Together Pastoral Retreat, Mandurah

### Canning Bridge Early Learning Centre: Centre Director

The Canning Bridge Early Learning Centre will be a 47 place centre, located just a short stroll from Canning Bridge at Como Baptist Church.

We are seeking a **Centre Director** who can help us develop and manage a family centre that would become known as a centre for excellence, in not only childcare and education, but also in pastoral and family care.

The Centre Director will be a committed Christian and work closely with the Church in order to provide extended community and children's services.

This is an opportunity to be involved from the very beginning, helping shape the Centre for an exciting future.

To be successful, you will need to hold a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education or a Degree/Diploma in Early Childhood Care or Education; prior experience in childcare; First Aid certification; and a

knowledge of the National Quality Framework.

A competitive salary package will be offered to the successful applicant.

Enquiries can be via email [jackie.smoker@comobaptist.org.au](mailto:jackie.smoker@comobaptist.org.au)

or by calling:

**Ps Jackie Smoker 9450 5328**

*The Canning Bridge Early Learning Centre is a ministry of:*

**Como Baptist Church**  
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[www.comobaptist.org.au](http://www.comobaptist.org.au)

### Employment opportunity: FACILITY MANAGER



Situated just 35 minutes south of Perth, positioned in the natural forest on the scarp in Jarrahdale, Serpentine Camping Centre provides a unique and high level of service to its guests. Creating excellent camping experiences that help build changing relationships and memories, through short term community.

The Baptist Churches WA are seeking a suitably qualified person or couple to manage the administration of the facility, services and grounds. The successful applicant(s) will have Christian values and beliefs and a passion to be a part of the ministry, willing to provide the best possible environment for our guests. Accommodation will be on-site and the position is for an initial three- year term.

For a position description and further details contact Director of Camp Ministries [reception@baptistwa.asn.au](mailto:reception@baptistwa.asn.au) or (08) 6313 6300

**Experience, Community, Memories**

*A ministry of the Baptist Churches Western Australia*

## Correction

In the January edition *The Advocate* incorrectly placed Philip Bryant's leadership article (intended for page 13) in Brian Harris' monthly column (page 2). *The Advocate* apologises for this error.

## contribute news

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

Email your name, phone number and brief description to [theadvocate.tv](mailto:theadvocate.tv) by the 5th of each month.

We would like to know about:

- Baptisms
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- Marriages
- News about your church
- Pastoral changes
- Your views (letters to the editor)

To find your local Baptist church visit [www.baptistwa.asn.au](http://www.baptistwa.asn.au)



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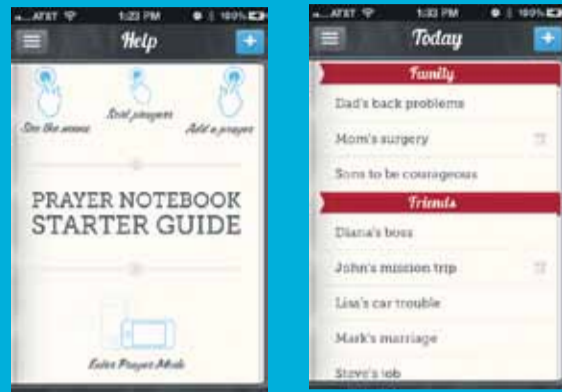
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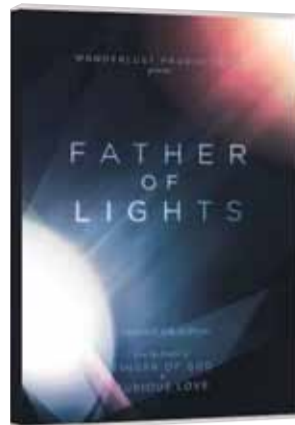


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Have you ever told someone you would pray for them and forgot? Prayer Notebook for iOS (iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch) is designed to be your personal prayer assistant and help you to organise your prayer life and remind you to pray. Prayer Notebook comes with all the tools you will need to have an organised and fruitful prayer life, including schedules and alerts to remind you to pray as well as being able to text or email people when you have prayed for them and mark prayers as answered. Never forget a prayer request again, simplify and organise your prayers with Prayer Notebook today. Available in the iTunes AppStore for \$0.99.

watch & listen



Father of Lights

By Wanderlust Productions  
*Father of Lights* is the final film in the *Finger of God/Furious Love* trilogy. It is big, epic and above everything, challenging. In a nutshell *Father of Lights* is about God's heart. *Father of Lights* is a quest to find out who God really is: His character, His personality and who He truly is. The truth, as you will see vibrantly in this film, is that He is the most loving, compassionate and wonderful Father you can imagine.



Burning Lights

By Chris Tomlin  
One of the most storied worship leaders of our time, Chris returns with his latest album, *Burning Lights*. As the songwriter behind the worship favourites 'How Great Is Our God,' 'Jesus Messiah,' 'Holy Is The Lord,' and 'Forever', Chris continues to write songs that connect people to the heart of Jesus and lead them to a greater worship of Him. This new album *Burning Lights* is filled with new songs to encourage and equip you to draw deeper into worship.



Heaven is Waiting

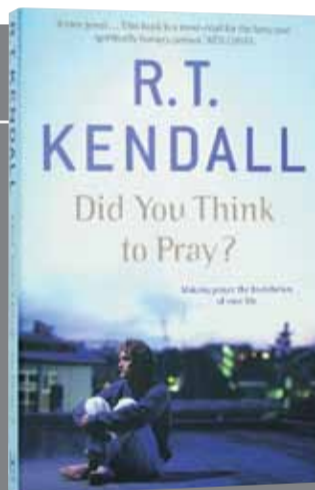
By Ned Stevens  
Though it's been years since his wife died, Ned still cringes at the thought of dating. However, when his daughter Liz brings home a surprise guest from college, Ned is thrown for a loop. Can Ned accept that his little girl has fallen in love with David, a practically perfect know-it-all who drives Ned crazy? Will Liz succeed in diverting her Dad's attention from sabotaging her relationship to succumbing to the charms of Carol, the single woman Ned sees jogging every morning?

win

Did You Think to Pray?

By R T Kendall

Prayer is one of the key practices of Christianity and yet how often do we stop and actually talk with God? In this practical, uplifting book about committing to a life of prayer, R T Kendall points out that God actually likes our company and we can only benefit from His company. Life gets busy, the year progresses and choices are made and quite often we look back and wonder if things could have gone differently. Well, *Did You Think to Pray?* will encourage you to make prayer the foundation of your life, challenge you to start or continue with your prayer life and position you for a closer relationship with God.



The Advocate in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *Did You Think to Pray?* To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

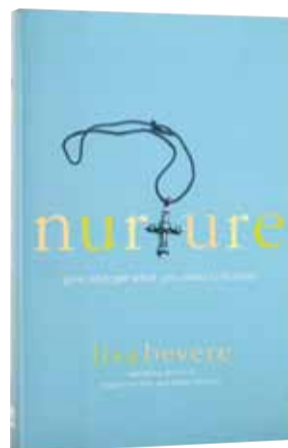
Question:

Name the author of *Did You Think to Pray?*

Entries close 15 February and all winners will be announced in the March edition of *The Advocate*.

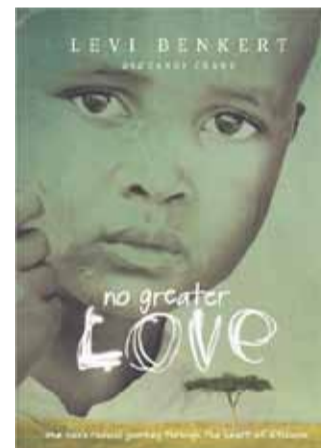
Winners from *Look Unto Me*:  
L De Vos, P Hills, Sarah Perrett

read



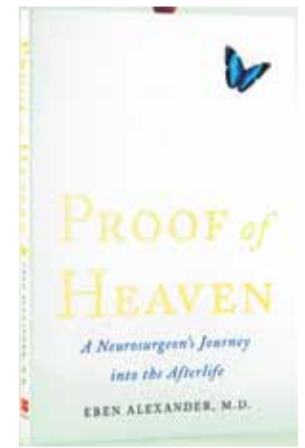
Nurture

By Lisa Bevere  
Nurture (verb): 1. To give tender care and protection. 2. To encourage to grow, develop, thrive, and be successful. This wonderfully describes what God's daughters desperately need. In this heartfelt work, Lisa explains how women of all ages must restore their capacity to give and receive nurture. Are we too guarded, wounded and afraid to open our lives to the nurture of others? We need each other's comfort and assurance as we define ourselves, find our voice, and begin to fulfill God's purpose on Earth.



No Greater Love

By Levi Benkert  
Levi was playing with his children in the park when he received a phone call from a friend asking him to drop everything and fly to Ethiopia to help organise a rescue orphanage for children destined to be murdered as part of a tribal superstition known as 'mingi killings'. Moved by his friend's story, Levi packed his bags and left for a short two week trip. Upon meeting the children, Levi along with his wife made the decision to sell their home and relocate to Ethiopia indefinitely.



Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey

By Dr Eben Alexander  
Thousands of people have had near-death experiences, but scientists have argued that they are impossible. Dr Alexander was one of those scientists. Dr Alexander thought that near-death experiences were simply fantasies. Then, Dr Alexander's own brain was attacked by a rare illness. For seven days he lay in a coma. As his doctors considered stopping treatment, His eyes opened. Dr Alexander's recovery is a medical miracle. But the real miracle of his story is the journey.

competition

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Did You Think to Pray?* Competition  
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

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





# Ugandan runner visits Perth

Ugandan Olympic runner, Julius Achon, visited Perth in early December to run with the BT Run Club and thank sponsors who have been supporting sustainability projects in his home village in Northern Uganda.

Running has been life-changing for Julius.

"When I was 12 years old the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) raided my village and captured 15 of us boys," Julius said. "They forced us to kill people or they would have killed us."

A Ugandan military plane attacked the LRA camp three months after Julius and his friends were abducted. They ran for safety but nine of the boys were killed by gunfire from the plane.

"They probably thought we were LRA soldiers, but we were running for our lives."

Julius started running competitively during his last year of primary school and became the Ugandan 1,500 metre champion. A talent scout saw barefoot Julius run at the national championships and recognised raw talent. That was his ticket to the USA and a running scholarship.

"I ran in the 1992 Olympics and carried the Ugandan flag at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and had no idea what a privilege that was," Julius said. "I was just 19 and so pleased to have running shoes. That's what was important."

Julius pulled out of the Sydney Olympics, crippled with grief after hearing news that his mother had been shot by the LRA. Because



Simon Elliott interviews Ugandan Olympic runner Julius Achon during his recent visit to Perth.

there is no medical support in the surrounding area and very little transport, Julius's mother died three days later. Julius was distraught but after some time was able to forgive the LRA.

"I cannot hold bitterness in my heart, it would be like a poison to me," Julius said. "It is better that I forgive Kony; it's the only way forward. If I stay bitter I am useless to my community and to those who have suffered."

In 2003, he returned to Uganda and on a dawn training run in the town of Lira, Julius

discovered a group of 11 children, orphaned and destitute, sleeping under a bus. He took them to his father in his home village and pleaded with him to care for them while he returned to the USA.

"I sacrificed so much from my money for these children. \$100 each month. It was a heavy burden, but God had given me the privilege to get a scholarship and I knew He would help me."

By 2008 Julius and his wife Grace and some close friends, including Australian Olympic runner Eloise Wellings, had

established the Love Mercy Foundation and started building a medical clinic in his home village.

Eloise introduced him to friends across Australia including Simon Elliott, organiser of the BT Run Club in South Perth.

The Big Table, a house church Simon leads, and the BT Run Club regularly send funds to the Love Mercy Foundation.

"We planned for Julius to visit earlier in the year, but visa issues stopped that," Simon said. "It was inspiring for our team to run with

him early on Saturday morning on the foreshore. He's such a humble man. What an inspiration. He's done life really tough at times, yet he's still so committed to helping his people."

The Kristina Medical Clinic, named after Julius's mother, is staffed by Ugandan medical personnel and sees about 40 patients a day. Some walk 80 kilometres to be treated. Julius also has plans to build a school in his village and the foundation is working on food security projects in the area.

Photo: Fiona Elliott

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

— AGE 16  
I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

People join us to learn more about Jesus and The Word for all kinds of reasons. Some are young, some older. Each one seeking to follow Jesus in a deeply biblical, highly practical learning environment. Some come to fuel and equip a ministry journey they're already on, or are exploring. Others because they're wanting to add knowledge to cultivate a robust faith. Others come because they know that this is simply the next step on a long journey.

Whatever your story, come, grow at Vose Seminary. Continue your journey at [www.vose.edu.au](http://www.vose.edu.au)



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