

the advocate



"Our goal is to provide opportunities for excellence in all the subjects." MARK ASHBY

In conversation Benny Perez opens up about when he and his wife watched their baby die during a routine sonogram [PAGE 12 >>](#)

Kennedy Baptist College started the school year on 1 February with orientation day for their 320 new Year 7 and 8 students.

Mark Ashby was appointed Principal of the College a year ago.

"We've been planning and working toward this new start for a long time," Mark said on the first day.

"We've introduced some new sports this year but we're not a 'sports high school', just like we're not a 'maths or science or arts school'. We'll be able to fulfil the National Curriculum requirements."

"Our goal is to provide opportunities for excellence in all the subjects," Mark said. "We want to find the passion and strength of students and help them in all areas."

"Our motto says it all, 'Strive today, conquer tomorrow'. There's a lot of connection here with Romans 8."

"Our mission has a duality: to be a Christian outreach to our community and academic excellence. Those things are not opposed. Without the academic excellence we won't be in a position to influence our community. Eighty per cent of our students come from not-yet Christian families."

From the original two schools on the site, Somerville Baptist College and Winthrop Baptist College, a new campus has been formed.

"We may be at a site that has served two schools previously, but this is a new school," Mark said.

A new administration centre is due to be completed by the middle of Term 1 and the new Research and Study Centre should be open to students by mid-second term. In addition, many classrooms are being refurbished.

Changes to the curriculum include the formation of the new Technology and Enterprise Learning Area.

"The formation of the new Kennedy Baptist College from the already existing Winthrop and



Photo: Jill Birt

Mark Ashby is the Principal of the new Kennedy Baptist College catering for students from Year 7 to 12.

Somerville Baptist Colleges was as a result of the boards considering the impact of two imminent changes (in 2010) in education in WA," Chairman of the board at the time, Philip Bryant said. "Firstly the government's decision to include Year 7 in secondary school and secondly the introduction of the National Curriculum which would require all schools to offer a wider range of subjects to students."

Due to the constraints of land and the inability to expand either campus, the government's decisions would have left both Somerville and Winthrop Baptist Colleges with a competitive disadvantage when compared to the other schools in the district.

Total enrolment at the College is currently 1,250 students. The College employs 101 teachers and 34 support staff.

Getting together

Pastoral teams from Baptist churches across the state will gather in Mandurah for the All Together Baptist Pastoral Retreat from 29 April to 1 May.

Dale Stephenson, Senior Pastor of Crossway Baptist Church in Melbourne, is the guest speaker at the retreat.

Dale's gifting in evangelism, leadership, preaching and teaching equip him well to lead the multi-ethnic and multi-generational people of faith at Crossway.

"We're very pleased that Dale can be with us at the Retreat this year," Director of Ministries

for Baptist Churches Western Australia, Mark Wilson said. "I want to encourage all our churches to ensure your pastoral team attends."

This ministry event is for chaplains, ministry leaders, pastors and their spouses.

For more information contact Matt Chapman on 6313 6300.



4 Flood damage
Floods devastated huge areas of Queensland from mid-January [>>](#)



8 State Election nears
By mid-March West Australians will have voted in the State Election [>>](#)



16 Uluru calling
Young people and leaders from Perth will embark on a 'Pilgrimage to Uluru' [>>](#)

“
Inside and outside the family of God, every generation and culture.”





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

Stories of elder abuse and bitter disputes over wills are increasing on Nightline. It's a concern. Some families are being torn apart, with significant pain and in extreme cases, self-harm. The problem extends beyond our shores. I discovered an article by Letty Jacinto-Lopez, a columnist and author from the Philippines, 'When Parents Give Their Money Too Early'.

On their 54th anniversary, friends of Letty chose to distribute their estate among their living heirs. Their rationale was, 'Para walang gulo' [to avoid trouble]. In fact their children eventually reduced them to penury. What stunned me was the fact that Jacinto-Lopez is from the Philippines, a culture where the strength, loyalty and love of family is a cornerstone.

One official website states, 'Pinoy family ties and

relationships are strong ... [the] extended family is really a clan ... this is a most notable feature of a typical family in the Philippines. We love to stay close together all the days of our lives ... one clan overlapping another clan related to it by marriage – that lives together in the same dwelling or compound'.

In stark contrast, Lopez writes, 'Don't believe your children's promise to care

for you when you grow old. Priorities change. If you move in with your children, your rank or degree of importance is reduced to that of a bed spacer who has no place of honour, or worse, like crumbling furniture merely displayed with no added value ... Gratitude is tainted by greed and decency gone. This is compounded by in-laws who can tilt or convince their respective spouses to throw out

good sense and filial affection like soiled rugs'.

This is only one theme in a wideranging article on ways to 'make growing old a fun-filled, pleasant experience for you and your brood'. I have no way of accurately knowing how widespread this problem is there or here. Nevertheless I invite you to join me in taking this situation in one hand, and the scriptures in the other, prayerfully discerning how God would have us respond. Sensitivity, wisdom, common sense is vital, but to our Father, each family – each person – is supremely important.



Dr Brian Harris

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

On almost stepping on a snake ...

One of my holiday excursions was a visit to the Cape Naturaliste Lighthouse. It justified my delight that I live in this century, and exploded the myth that lighthouse keepers lived idyllic and romantic lives. They do, however, have wonderful views! I spent a fair amount of time on the outer platform drinking in the stunning splendour of Geographe Bay and captured a few photographs with my nifty iPhone camera – a treat those lighthouse keepers did not enjoy.

On returning to the base, I decided it would be wise to empty my filling bladder before making the return journey to the resort where Rosemary and I were housed. Whilst gazing at the magnificent vista (in other words, not watching where I was going) I set off for the toilet block, and was about to step onto its concrete entrance when

I looked down. I was rather glad that I did, for sunning itself on that slab was a lengthy and rather menacing snake – a dugite for those who like specifics. Mercifully, our dislike of each other was mutual and the snake slithered into the nearby bushes as rapidly as I leapt backwards in the opposite direction.

How suddenly your priorities

in life can change! Until then, making it to the toilet had seemed really important. Post the close encounter with the dugite, I firmly resolved that my bladder could wait. No way was I going to enter that bathroom. For all I knew, the dugite might have had a mate who also felt a need to use the urinal. I wasn't taking any chances!

That priority shift was relatively painless. Some are more agonising. Like when the marriage breaks and too late we realise that it was more important than another promotion. Or when we really want to release our temper in a majestic explosion – but can't undo the harm done. Or when we get to the end of our life and realise that God remains a stranger. Some things do matter more than others ...



Bevan Jones

Bevan Jones is General Manager at 98five Sonshine FM.

Wow, the Bible actually works!

I know this statement may sound immature and obvious to many of you, but for me a relative theological 'runt' compared to people like Brian Harris and Graham Mabury, it's a constant revelation. Maybe I'm revealing my 'goldfish memory span' but in the 30 years I have known Jesus it seems that every time I am confronted with a challenge, the Bible actually has practical guidance and answers! It's like a cheat sheet for life (and you won't get in trouble for using it).

The usual pattern of God directing me has been: 1) Talk to my wife first (after all, she's a lot brighter than me), 2) give me a 'feeling' of what might be in my future, and 3) He always confirms His will for me through the scriptures.

I never would have imagined I would be responsible for running and directing a Christian radio

station. But God had it planned. It seems most of my life and career experiences all led up to the last 22 months. Right place, God's timing. And how did He tell me this was for me? Scripture of course, oh and waking me up every night for a week at 1.30am. Message received Lord!

Zechariah 4:6 – 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel:

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit', says the Lord Almighty.' (When I thought it was too great a challenge for me.)

Ephesians 4 – The whole chapter is awesome, but the verses that leapt out at me at 1.30am in the morning were verse 3 'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace', and verses

11 and 12, 'So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.'

And don't get me started on Acts! But for now, if you're like me and need to hear God really clearly, try the Bible ... it actually works!

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.

New pastors arrive



Photo: Jill Birt

Shannon and John Matthews, Christine and Neil Brandon with their son Luke, and Glenn and Judi Smith at the Brandon's welcome service at Melville Baptist Church.

Several Baptist churches across Western Australia welcomed new pastors during February.

After not having a pastor for the past year, more than 100 people gathered at the freshly painted Melville Baptist Church on 3 February to welcome Neil Brandon as their pastor.

The church welcomed Neil, his wife Christine and son Luke, at the induction service followed by a luncheon honouring the Brandon family.

Neil previously pastored the Bruce Rock Church of Christ for seven years.

Ray Arthur, Church Missionary Society General Secretary,

preached a foundational, challenging sermon based on 2 Timothy 4:1-8, encouraging Neil to 'walk with God' and love the people. He also implored the church to support, encourage and pray for Neil and his family.

On the same morning Mark Parsons commenced at Beaumaris Baptist Church. Steve Ingram, Leadership Development Consultant with Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA), preached at the service.

On 10 February, Aashish Parmar was inducted as Pastor

at Ellenbrook Baptist Church. More than 180 people attended as Director of Ministries for BCWA, Mark Wilson, inducted Aash into the ministry.

"Louise [my wife] and I have a strong sense of God calling us to Ellenbrook," Aash said. "Ellenbrook is a developing community with a huge family demographic but there are only a handful of churches here. We're a young family too with a five month old son."

"We're excited because this is a great opportunity to celebrate a new beginning with the church."

The church has spent about 18 months without a pastor.

"The church has really worked hard," Aash said. "It's been a wonderful time for the church. I sense my coming means they're

just welcoming a new team member."

“The church has really worked hard.”

"We're very thankful to Parkerville Baptist Church and other churches for their support and help while Ellenbrook Baptist Church did not have a pastor. That time has helped the church experience what it means to be part of the Baptist community. The support from churches and the BCWA team has been a wonderful

New director

South Perth Baptist Church recently appointed Rose Byron as Director of their proposed Mosaic Early Learning Centre at the Church's property.

"We're hoping to open in July," Pastor Steve Izett said. "Building development should commence in March."

"It's part of how we are 'replanting' South Perth Baptist Church, giving us a new way of reaching into the community," Steve said.

"We'll be creating a nurturing and holistic environment where children and families can start a journey that will build a strong foundation for the future."

example of the Baptist community at work."

"As a church we want to be courageously obedient to God's call which we're seeking to identify."

Aash moved to Perth after 11 years at Kalgoorlie Baptist Church. He studied youth ministry at Vose Seminary, completed his theological studies at the Australian College of Ministries and has completed the Arrow Leadership course.

Jonno Wesley started at Mount Barker Baptist Church and Bruce Millar began part-time at Maylands Baptist Church during February. Craig Lydon commenced a short interim pastorate at Parkerville Baptist Church and John Randall began an interim at Kalgoorlie Baptist Church in February.



Eaton Baptist Church

is seeking a full-time

Associate Pastor

with responsibilities for youth & evangelism

Eaton Baptist is a medium sized church in the northern suburban area of Bunbury. We are seeking God's person to lead our youth & young adults and to provide support for our developing outreach into the local community.

For more details contact Pastor Gary Le Cras on 9725 1793 or email gary@eatonbaptistchurch.com.au

Christians together: Worshipping—Serving—Following—Telling



**WEC Centennial Event
Life Streams Church
Murray Street, Como
April 6 BBQ 5.30 (BYO meat)
Meeting 7.00pm with supper**

WEC 100 Not Out!

The WEC story began in 1913 with CT Studd, a test cricketer from England. At 53 yrs of age, he set sail for Congo to give the gospel of Christ to the unreached.

Now, with 2000 full-time workers in 80 countries we want to celebrate the past, but also move into the future.

Come and enjoy a game of cricket followed by a BBQ and meeting with Trevor Kallmier (former WEC Int. Director) as the key note speaker. Folk who are coming and going from mission service will be also be sharing.

RSVP DENISE RHODES 0429505141, 94702725
JIM DAWSON 0439476375
WWW.WEC.COM.AU

Queensland floods devastate

Floods devastated huge areas of Queensland from mid-January, leaving thousands homeless, businesses destroyed and entire communities facing messy clean-ups.

Several Baptist churches were affected by the turbulent flood waters including Rockhampton, Mundubbera, Bundaberg, Bundaberg West, Coral Coast, Gladstone, Gympie and Laidley. Insurance claims have been minimal for church properties. Most of that damage was due to strong winds rather than flooding.

Some churches are looking to send self-sufficient teams to the affected areas for a weekend to assist with clean-up or recovery efforts.

The impact on communities has been complex.

At Mundubbera, 420 kilometres north-west of Brisbane, the Baptist church community started sending relief teams into their local community on 9 February to assist their neighbours with the clean-up jobs.

The inland town of 1,200 people, known as the 'Citrus Capital' of Queensland, nestles in a picturesque region just below the confluence of three rivers, the Burnett, Auburn and Boyne Rivers. Crops, fences and buildings were destroyed.

Pastor Paul Dare updated the congregation through Facebook, posting details of how relief work was progressing and how people could pray.

Issues including mosquitoes in plague proportions and an outbreak of gastro in town as the flood waters receded didn't



Damage caused by floods in North Bundaberg, Queensland.

make the national news but did cause plenty of discomfort and extra stress to the Mundubbera community.

Two weeks after the flood, the grass was tinged with green, signposting the hope of good things to come, but the town is tired and worn.

“There are some positives coming through”

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service continue to help but the Australian Army and Australian Red Cross personnel have left the area.

Few people offered to help with clean-up tasks when ABC radio called for volunteers.

“There are some positives coming through,” Paul wrote. “Some orchardists are starting to pick fruit again, so that is good.”

The support group BlazeAid expects to have a base camp in Mundubbera by late February.

BlazeAid is a volunteer based organisation that works with farmers and families in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. Working alongside the rural families and farmers, their volunteers help to rebuild fences that have been damaged or destroyed.

Volunteers are often in disaster affected areas for several months working with rural property owners and farmers to help them and their communities to become productive again. Their presence lifts the spirits of farming families who are often facing their second or third flood in recent years.

Queensland Baptist leaders request prayer for pastors in affected areas as they face the demands and challenges of helping people from their districts that have been seriously affected. Many needs will not be resolved in the short term.

New direction for Camp Kennedy

Bert and Liz Winnings have recently been appointed Managers of Camp Kennedy Baptist Youth Camp located at Perkins Beach.

“Since arriving at Camp Kennedy in mid-December we have really appreciated the Albany hospitality,” Bert said. “After 23 years in Pinjarra, we were looking for some new adventures.”

Before embarking on the new position in Albany, Bert worked as a YouthCARE Area Chaplain and Liz was a part-time medical receptionist.

Bert and Liz have a lot of experience with youth camps, having also worked at Fairbridge Farm in Pinjarra.

“Our first big challenge

here at Camp Kennedy was the first catered group of 80 young people – I looked at the massive food order and thought ‘this is so much food!’ Then when they arrived I wondered if it would be enough! It was enough food.”

“We have 41 camps booked at Camp Kennedy for the coming year but really want to encourage people to look at winter and spring breaks in Albany. It is really so beautiful and of course we have heating! Camp Kennedy is a wonderful centre for retreats.”

digital church

07/02/2013

Clint Letterman

www.pastpresentblog.com

Christians must hold God's Word as the ultimate authority, not human teachers.

11/02/2013

Don Chapman

www.worshipideas.com

We have no interest in offering generic worship to a generic deity who only goes by the names 'You', 'Him', and 'He'.

12/02/2013

Stephen Proctor

www.worshipvj.com

Space. Silence. Beauty. Mystery. These are a few of the many missing pieces I long to see recovered and reintegrated into our culture of worship.

13/02/2013

Tim Challies

www.challies.com

And in much the same way meditating on God's Word is not only a result of delighting in Him, but also a cause of that delight.

briefs

Baptisms

In response to God's work in their lives a number of people have been baptised recently. Gnowangerup Baptist Church is celebrating Eric Anderson and Erin O'Halloran baptism at the church on 23 December 2012. Harrison Beeck and Lincoln Patterson, also from Gnowangerup Baptist Church were baptised on 27 January at the Glenorchy farm dam. Several people from Newman Baptist Church were baptised along with a group of Martu believers at the dam in Newman on 3 February.

Pastoral changes

Lakeside Baptist Church is pleased to announce that following a

lengthy search, Pastor Steve Wickham has been appointed as Pastor of Discipleship and Training.

Public meeting

The first public meeting of the Baptist Historical Society of WA, in association with the Burmese Church, is on Sunday 21 April. A paper on '200 Years of Baptist Missionary Work in Burma – Adoniram Judson of USA first went there in 1814' will be presented by Dr Richard Moore. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Rhoda Walker on 9384 5460.



Are you buying or selling a property? Then contact Margaret for an obligation free discussion regarding your Settlement needs.

Tel: 9418 2424
Mob: 0434 547 471
Fax: 9418 1560
Email:
mmenties@inet.net.au

The Kriol Bible



Photo: Alec Madill

Jovi Billy from Beswick was amazed to discover the stories of Jesus on the new Luk DVD in the Kriol language.

The Kriol Bible was dedicated in 2007, the first Australian Aboriginal language to have the whole Bible.

Rachel Borneman has spent the past three years working with the Australian Society for Indigenous Languages, an affiliate of Wycliffe Bible Translators, based in Katherine in the Northern Territory.

There are about 30,000 Kriol-speaking people across the Top End, but Rachel works mainly with those living up to half way along the Central Arnhem Highway, on the road from Katherine to Nhulunbuy, encouraging people to use the Kriol Bible and to engage with God's Word.

People from the communities often visit Katherine for shopping. There is no petrol out in the communities due to some cases of petrol sniffing, so people also travel to town for fuel.

"We are often meeting up with them on their day trip to town," Rachel said.

"As a woman, I usually work with indigenous women, and together we have been making Kriol Scripture material and

using it in youth camps and kids' programs. I've run a Kriol discipleship course called Sabi Mowa bla Godwei," Rachel said. "I've also been involved in a Sunday night Kriol service in Katherine."

Rachel has various methods for using the Kriol language to encourage people to read and hear their own heart language.

"A highlight was recording the Voices of the Luk [Luke] DVD," Rachel said. "Seeing people engage with the story in their heart language is exciting."

"We've made posters of bible verses in Kriol. People love hanging these in their homes."

"It's been great receiving requests from a Kriol-speaking lady who had asked me to send her text messages with scripture. You can get the Kriol Bible on most mobile phones!"

"I have been running kids' programs together with the youth leaders in the community and short-term mission teams."

Activities include learning memory verses and singing in the Kriol language.

"We often do a memory verse where kids put the words of the verse in order and read it through."

At the Weemol Youth Camp, an indigenous lady, Joan, taught the children a memory verse as a rap. She had written the rap at a song writing workshop earlier. The children did actions to the rap which helped them remember it.

"We have used the Kriol Bible to make drama scripts, using the Bible as it is, just working out who says what," Rachel said.

One indigenous lady has been writing puppet scripts using stories that are found in the Kriol Bible.

Rachel has also been recording video footage of songs sung during the kids' programs and including the Kriol words as subtitles. This encourages their Kriol reading after the event.

Current projects include a puzzle book based on the Gospel of Mark and a kids' Bible.

Through a variety of creative means, adult, youth and children Kriol-speakers now use more tools to engage with God's Word in their heart language.

25 years of 98five

98five Sonshine FM began broadcasting in Perth on Australia Day in 1988 and has been a positive listening alternative for parents and families ever since.

On Australia Day 2013, 98five Sonshine FM was the event supporter of the ninth annual Town of Bassendean Australia Day Celebrations held at Ashfield Reserve in Bassendean. They provided a special live broadcast of the evening's entertainment and simulcast of the exclusive fireworks soundtrack.

"A highlight for me personally is my file with hundreds of letters and emails from listeners ..."

The fireworks event attracted around 20,000 people.

A family won the opportunity to set off the fireworks onstage at 8pm as well

as a family pass to Adventure World.

Popular radio presenters Rodney Olsen from Morning Café and Taylor Cowper from LiveOutLoud hosted the event.

General Manager Bevan Jones is proud of how 98five Sonshine FM has impacted people over the years.

"A highlight for me personally is my file with hundreds of letters and emails from listeners who tell us that through 98five Sonshine FM they found hope of a better life, and a relationship with God and His community."

98five Sonshine FM Perth's number one family station is continuing to develop partnerships with the churches and community service organisations of WA and take the opportunity to broadcast and reach people in the darkest and loneliest places.

Mark Webb honoured

Horticulturist Mark Webb was awarded the Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority in this year's Australia Day Honours List.

The Chief Executive Officer of Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, who manages Kings Park and Bold Park, said that Mark has a particular interest in the selection and breeding of Australian native plants and is keen to promote their increased use in public landscapes and home gardens.

Mark was born in WA and studied at the University of Western Australia and Cambridge University in the UK. He is a member of the International Society for Horticultural Science and sits on a number of local, national and international committees and boards.

Mark attended Scarborough Baptist Church until his marriage to Phillipa Wansbrough in 1979. He now attends Northreach Community Church in Joondalup.

Mark and Phillipa have four sons and five grandchildren. He enjoys trying to play golf, gardening and spending time at his family's farm in Pemberton in the tall timber

forests of southern Western Australia.

Mark became Chief Executive Officer of the Authority in 2004. Significant projects completed during Mark's time as CEO include Aspects of Kings Park, Biodiversity Conservation Centre, Kings Park Ceremonial Walk, Place of Reflection, Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park and Kings Park Education Centre.

Mark also leads the international activities of the Authority with horticultural and restoration projects in several countries.

The Rio Tinto Naturescape Kings Park opened in 2011 and was developed to allow children to touch, feel and learn through adventure, and is a project very close to Mark's heart. He is interested in connecting children with nature which is essential if we are to create a new generation of Western Australians who will care for our natural environment in the future.

Siblings meet in Mozambique

One member of the Global Interaction Australia (GIA) team in Mozambique was more excited than the rest when a group from Parkerville Baptist Church arrived in Lichinga in late January.

Alan McGrechan's brother, Dan, and sister, Bethany, were part of the group. He hadn't seen them since he left Perth in August 2011.

"It was nice for Dan and Bethany to finally see where I live," Alan said. "It makes it a bit more familiar."

"It was really great to introduce everyone to my language helper, Januario's family. The family really loved showing the team their village and how to farm maize."

"It was so good to see Alan," Dan, Youth Pastor at Parkerville Baptist Church and group leader said. "[It was] just great to hang out with him again."

A highlight for team member Jane Ross was taking 'baby bundles', some baby clothes wrapped in a new baby blanket, to the Lichinga hospital for women with new babies and small gifts for other female patients.

It was challenging for her and others on the team to see the



Left to right: Kristie Gibson, Jane Ross, Heather Crane, Bethany McGrechan and Robyn Outred visit Lichinga hospital for women in Mozambique in January.

care offered to maternity patients in the crowded hospital.

"We gave out 20 to 30 gifts. It changes every week the GIA women visit," Jane said. "It was significant as often mothers who had lost babies and those who had healthy babies were in beds together or next to each other. It really hit me how tough that would be, but they just didn't have enough beds."

GIA's Kath Beeck, part of the Mozambique team, said the

Parkerville Baptist Church group had fitted in and contributed well.

"One of the nice memories of the team for me was driving from Mozambique to Malawi," Alan said. "It was really green when we were there."

Seeing the countryside wasn't the only experience the team had as they moved from Mozambique to Malawi. During a guided boat tour on the Shire River in a Malawi game park, the group had an unplanned encounter with a

submerged hippopotamus.

"It was a bit of a shock as we bumped into the hippo," Dan said. "We'll tell that story for a few years to come."

The Africa trip was a valuable learning experience for the Parkerville Baptist Church team.

"We had six people in a space where they're expecting to meet God and see where He's working in a different culture," Dan said. "You get to engage with prayer and culture in new ways."

"I was meeting God in a different environment and having that speak into my life here [in Parkerville]. It assured me you can't box God in. He's so much bigger and greater than what I experience living in Perth's hills."

The team of six spent time with the GIA group in Mozambique, before visiting GIA's Malawi team at Mangochi where Parkerville Baptist Church has sent previous teams.

Catalyst urges action

Members of Baptist World Aid Australia's (BWAA) advocacy program, Catalyst, met at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on 17 February to learn more about BWAA's plans for 2013. Ten churches were represented.

Since Catalyst started five years ago, BWAA has been calling on the government to do its fair share to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and halve poverty by 2015.

In that time we have seen aid levels double and hundreds of thousands of lives transformed. But political commitment to the poor is starting to wane.

The final federal election before the 2015 target date will be on 14 September this year.

"Now more than ever it is important that we raise our voices for the poor and demand the government doesn't leave the job of halving poverty unfinished," Baptist World Aid Advocacy Manager, Gershon Nimbalker said.

addresses the pernicious problem of multinational tax evasion. Gershon commented that hundreds of billions of dollars are being illegally spirited out of developing countries by multinationals seeking to avoid tax.

"This is money these countries could be spending on roads, schools and hospitals. Shockingly, the sums involved dwarf those that these countries receive in aid."

"As a church, we have a long history of agitating for change that has transformed the world. From its earliest days, Christians have followed Jesus' example by showing compassion and bringing justice to the most vulnerable. Christian action ended the killing of people for sport in the Roman arenas, brought an end to the transatlantic slave trade and spearheaded the Civil Rights movement in the USA."

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

Churches were also asked to make sure the government

“This is money these countries could be spending on roads, schools and hospitals.”

Passing the Baton

The 2013 Passing the Baton Conference was held on Saturday 9 February at Churchlands Christian Fellowship.

Three hundred and thirty delegates from all areas of WA attended the one day event aimed at equipping and encouraging children's workers as they pass the baton of faith onto the next generations.

Keynote speaker for the day, Simon with Waffle his puppet, presented a talk on Stretching your Creativity and explored how new methods were needed in our work with children.

"The message of the gospel never changes but our methods need to change constantly," Simon said. "We need to try and risk new ideas with courage to reach the children of our state."

Delegates had a choice of 14 electives and there was a large expo of children's ministry resources. Electives included topics such as Faith Development in Children,

'Oh No! I'm on Storytelling', Introduction to Counselling Children, Bringing Puppets to Life and Experiential Learning Games.

Other guest speakers included David Goodwin from Kidsreach, Sue Richards from Child Evangelism Fellowship, Andrew McDonough from Lost Sheep Resources and Sarah Parks from Lakeside Baptist Church spoke on the topic of Keeping our Kids Safe, covering many safe church principles.

"It is an awesome training opportunity, a wonderful place to be encouraged by hundreds of others working in children's ministry and a great place to find out about exciting resources available to those ministering to kids and their families," Morley Baptist Church Children's Pastor, Alison Cross said.

Prayer initiative spreads

Wendy Yapp (Mount Pleasant Baptist Church) visited Sri Lanka in January to encourage the church there as they mobilise to pray for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) planned for 15 to 17 November in the capital city, Colombo.

The Commonwealth Prayer Initiative started a global movement of prayer for the 54 Commonwealth nations when the 2011 CHOGM was held in Perth. Wendy was the convenor of that movement and has been working with Sri Lankan church leaders as they engage, recruit and give a global focus to the church.

CHOGM brings together leaders representing around a quarter of the world's nations and one third of the world's population.

Churches and ministries of every denomination are taking part in the Commonwealth Prayer Initiative. They will run Project 54 in which groups adopt a Commonwealth nation to pray for in the lead up to CHOGM.

"The campaign is being warmly received," Wendy said. "The Sri Lankans have not been slow to pray for their nation, given the pressures of war and the devastating tsunami but some confessed they had been a bit slower to pray for other nations and they are excited to play a significant role in this during the CHOGM lead up."

Gatherings that focus on civil society, young people and business community run parallel to the meetings of the heads of government. The youth

forum of CHOGM will be held in Hambantota, the region where the tsunami in 2004 hit hardest.

The Commonwealth Prayer Initiative in Sri Lanka will be different to the events held in Perth during the 2011 CHOGM. Christianity is not the majority religion in Sri Lanka.

Reports continue to surface of pastors who had been consistently harassed, some beaten, those whose churches have been burnt down or broken into and Bibles destroyed.

The Sri Lankans have been inspired by the experience in Perth and they recognise their cultural constraints means they need to do things very differently. Their main aim is to pray for the nations and for their own nation in the lead up to CHOGM.

"Shirani Wikiramanata who is experienced in coordinating national prayer events will coordinate the prayer movement," Wendy said. "I will continue to engage churches from other nations to take part, though as I said, so many have continued to pray since 2011."

"We estimated around half a million took part in the last prayer thrust for the nations and aim to at least double that figure for CHOGM 2013," Wendy said.



Wendy Yapp, pictured with Pastor Nick Scott at the opening of 'Shine' during the CHOGM meetings in Perth (2011) has been supporting the growing prayer movement in Sri Lanka leading up to the 2013 CHOGM in Colombo.

Photo: Jill Birt

Run AMUC

AMUC (Among the Urban Community) recently held a mission exposure trip for twenty participants and eight leaders in Northbridge.

"Participants were exposed to and learnt from people who were doing it tough whether homeless, getting off drugs, in prostitution, pregnancy problems, mental illness and those supporting those doing it tough in Perth," AMUC Director Steve McKinnon said.

"We didn't really do 'work' but rather listened and learnt; this was therapeutic for both parties we hope. We slept on the floor at the Perth Church of Christ, learning that faith without works is dead, that the

holistic gospel needs to be shown in a holistic manner – love with strings attached. Real love costs but the benefits are beyond this world."

AMUC realises that experiencing Jesus in the poor, the marginalised, the mentally ill and the homeless is a far more powerful way to learn than sitting in a pew. It is only once we change our position in society can we begin to read the Bible more in line with the posture of Jesus. We recognise that once we sit with and listen to those who are hurting most can we begin to see the world the way it really is. To 'weep with those that weep and mourn with those that mourn' is a profoundly gospel thing to do.

For more information visit www.amuc.wordpress.com.

Record numbers at Vose this year



Neil Anderson talks with new student Sally Pim at Vose Seminary's Orientation Day at the Bentley campus.

A record 56 new students are enrolled to study at Vose Seminary during first semester.

Eight students are in the Vose Interns cohort for 18 to 25 year olds who want to take a year from other studies or work to deepen their faith and service.

A sense of anticipation and excitement, tinged with a few

nerves filled the Seminary on Wednesday, 13 February as new and returning students gathered on campus for Orientation Day.

Among the new students, some are new to Christian faith while others are taking a gap year.

Several students are studying in preparation for future ministries including cross-cultural mission, chaplaincy and pastoral work. Other students come from the business world and education. Two students are enrolled in doctoral studies.

"A number of people have also enrolled to attend classes so that they can experience the unique growth environment at Vose without participating in assessments," Director of Vose Leadership Monica O'Neil said.

The Seminary Commencement Night is planned for 11 March at Riverton Baptist Church, commencing at 7pm.

This year the Seminary is celebrating 50 years of theological training.

"Everyone is welcome to come and join the celebration," Monica said.

Graduating students will receive their awards during the service.

State Election looms as WA get



By mid-March Western Australia will have voted at a State Election.

Photo: Jill Birt

Rhys Vallance from ACL with Pastor Eion van Biljon of the Noranda Church of Christ.

As a service to the West Australian Christian community, the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) has hosted more than a dozen community 'Meet Your Candidate Forums' in local churches and schools. Most of these forums were held in marginal seats.

At several of the events, all of the candidates attended to talk about their policies and to answer questions from voters.

Woodvale Baptist Church was the venue for a forum with the candidates of the Kingsley electorate on 12 February.

Riverton Baptist Church, in the electorate of Riverton, was the venue for an event on 19 February.

Lake Joondalup Baptist College was the venue for a forum on 21 February. Candidates from the Joondalup electorate attended.

On 14 February a Meet Your Candidate Forum was held at the Noranda Church of Christ with three of the four candidates in the marginal seat of Morley attending.

“There is more engagement with churches at this election.”

Rhys Vallance, ACL representative in Perth, organised the event, liaising with Pastor Eion van Biljon.

“This is not the first time we've held this type of meeting,” Rhys said. “There is more engagement with churches at this election.”

People want to know where candidates stand on issues.”

At the Noranda event, sitting member Ian Britza MLA was joined by Labor candidate Reece Whitby and Family First candidate Greg Halls. The Greens candidate was unable to attend.

Although numbers were low with about 20 people at the forum, the candidates were positive about having another opportunity to engage with people in the electorate.

Ian Britza said the forum was a good opportunity to meet more people from the electorate and hear their concerns.

Currently, the Liberals aren't using social media, however Labor candidate, Reece Whitby, is using Twitter and Facebook to engage with voters.

“Social media is engaging younger people,” Reece said.

“There is the periodical policy question, but it's more general, keeping people up to date with what I'm doing. It's another way of keeping in touch.”

“Social media is engaging younger people, There is the periodical policy question, but it's more general, keeping people up to date with what I'm doing. It's another way of keeping in touch.”

One of the last events the ACL will host in Perth before the election is the Leader's Forum at Mount Pleasant Baptist Community College on Tuesday 26 March where Premier Colin

Barnett and the Opposition Leader Mark McGowan will address the Christian constituency and answer questions put to them by church leaders.

Videos of the event are available on the Australian Christian Lobby website at www.acl.org.au.

...s ready to vote



Photo: Jill Birt

Ian Britza, Greg Halls and Reece Whitby at the Noranda Church of Christ ACL event on 14 February.

The Australian Christian Lobby has collected answers from the major political parties to a series of questions covering issues that many Christians are concerned about. Visit www.wavotes.org.au/policies to see the results.

Donations wanted: Wandoo Reintegration Facility Library

Full Series of Rob Bell's, 'Nooma'
(DVD)

Books by Philip Yancey and
Timothy Keller

How to Read the Bible for all Its
worth, G. Fee & D. Stuart

How to Read the Bible Book by
Book, G. Fee & D. Stuart

Contact Chaplain Gavin Douglas:
gavin.douglas@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au

\$22 A MONTH: BELOVE.ORG.AU

A new opportunity

CHILD SPONSORSHIP FOR STUDENTS

Here at Baptist World Aid we know young people can make a real difference in the fight against poverty, but \$44 a month to sponsor a child can be a real stretch. So full-time students can now sponsor a child for \$22 a month.

FIND OUT MORE AT BELOVE.ORG.AU OR PHONE 1300 789 991

BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA
Be love. End poverty.

Martu celebrate at Newman



Photo: Angela Wilmot

A large group of people were baptised at the Newman dam on 3 February.

Martu people from Jigalong, Roebourne and Newman met in Newman for a series of faith-building meetings over the first weekend in February.

With teaching by Aboriginal leader Josie from Roebourne and Global Interaction's worker, John Wilmot, the group celebrated their unity in Jesus Christ.

Friday night's gathering included a meal prepared and served by the young people, vibrant worship led by a Martu band followed by teaching.

“I realised again how fortunate people are if they have a strong, vibrant, cohesive faith community around them in their early days of following Jesus.”

“Our prayer and vision for the weekend was that people would just have the chance to be with one another around our relationship with Christ,” Newman Baptist Church Pastor John Wilmot said.

John and his wife, Angela, are focusing on establishing a Martu specific faith movement among the communities in the East Pilbara region.

“The Martu people really pushed hard for this weekend,” John said. “They were keen to hold it on the last weekend of the school holidays so the kids’ education wasn’t interrupted.”

Saturday night the convention moved to Parnpajinya, about five minutes from the Newman town site. The balmy evening added to the rich fellowship the people enjoyed.

“It was an amazing night,” Angela said. “There was a great bunch of people and heaps of them came down for prayer and a lot wanted to be baptised.”

Among the people to respond was a young woman who spoke of the ups and downs of her personal faith journey. A Martu man phoned from prison and asked for prayer as he is soon to return to the area.

Some shared stories of hurt, pain, disappointment and fear, highlighting how they needed prayer. Others had stories of hope and determination, of learning through the community of faith.

“I realised again how fortunate people are if they have a strong, vibrant, cohesive faith community around them in their early days of following Jesus,” Angela said. “Things like education, transport, a safe place to sleep, hope and a future in a physical sense.”

On the Sunday morning, the Martu people met with the congregation of Newman Baptist Church (NBC). NBC is a multicultural congregation

with people from Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Africa, Tonga, the USA and Zimbabwe as well as some Australians.

“This is not the first time the Martu people and the Newman church have met together.”

The cultural diversity requires a concerted effort from everyone to be able to worship and learn together.

“There was a great bunch of people and heaps of them came down for prayer and a lot wanted to be baptised.”

On Sunday afternoon a large group of people went to the dam outside of Newman and people from the Newman church and Martu people were baptised.

“Some people had been waiting for months for this,” John said. “I believe about 45 people were baptised.”

By Monday night John had made a return trip to Jigalong and arrived home in time to join a farewell meal for a lady from NBC who was returning to Malaysia to live.

Connecting with city workers

City Bible Forum is planning a ‘The Week that Changed the World’ campaign in the central business district (CBD) of Perth in the lead up to Easter. The campaign focuses on the Bible’s account of Jesus’ last days in Jerusalem.

“Easter is still one of the times in our culture where our Christian heritage is remembered,” City Bible Forum Director, Paul Whitfield said. “Jesus might have to compete with the Easter bunny, but at least it’s not as hectic a time as Christmas.”

In cooperation with the Bible Society, City Bible Forum has developed an Easter reading guide for Christian workers to read with their interested colleagues.

“Most city workers are sceptical about Jesus, but it’s a scepticism they’ve inherited. In the majority of cases, people have never read the Easter story for themselves,” Paul said. “This campaign aims to change that. We are asking every Christian in our network to pray for and invite one colleague to read about Jesus firsthand.”

Bible Society CEO, Greg Clark explains, “Easter deals with the most spine-tingling topic possible – death, judgement and the possibility of surviving them both.”

The campaign will culminate with a week of

activities in the CBD from 18 to 22 March. On Thursday 21 March, Al Stewart will speak about the difference Jesus makes to the life of individuals and invite city workers to respond.

City Bible Forum aims to make the Bible clear and accessible to city workers. The group is praying that many workers will come to know Jesus for themselves this Easter.

In January, 50 Christians who work in the CBD met to hear City Bible Forum’s plans for 2013 and to pray for people who work in the city.

A seven week series titled ‘Crisis of Leadership’ looking at what Jesus teaches about leadership is planned for later in the year.

The series, in this double election year, will have a focus on political leadership and will include a panel with industry leaders discussing leadership and an evening event with former Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson.

For more information visit www.citybibleforum.org.

Christmas Island experience

Ernie and Marilyn Gunders will speak at Dalkeith Baptist Church on 3 March about their experiences over the last five months visiting people at the immigration detention facilities on Christmas Island.

They attended the Christmas Island Christian Fellowship while on the island and spent several days each week visiting young men and families at several detention locations.

"There is such openness among many of these people," Marilyn said. "Their stories of suffering are heartbreaking. It's helped me understand why families would send their young sons on such a dangerous journey from Indonesia."

The Gunders visit the people at the Phosphate Hill centre each Monday.

"We always pray before we enter a camp for the Lord to lead us to those He wants us to share with," Marilyn said.

One day in early February as they walked towards the dining room, they saw a man and his daughter sitting at a table as if they were waiting for someone. The man asked them to sit with him.

He told them that he did not believe in the religion that was forced upon people in his home country.

"I want to know about Christianity," he said. "I've been waiting for someone to come and tell me about it."

"We shared with him and his 14 year old daughter and gave them a New Testament in their own language. On Wednesday, when we saw him again he had read up to Chapter 10 of Matthew. He was very excited to discover that Jesus was called 'Immanuel – God with us,'" Marilyn said.

“It's helped me understand why families would send their young sons on such a dangerous journey from Indonesia.”

No-one else in the room seemed to notice Ernie and Marilyn talking with the man that Monday, however when they returned on Wednesday, a large group of young men gathered



Photo: AAP Image/Andrea Hayward

On 3 March, Ernie and Marilyn Gunders from Dalkeith Baptist Church will talk about spending five months at the Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre.

around to listen and were very keen to read, How you can find God in their own language. Two asked for copies of the New Testament. These are all single men who will soon be moved to another area of the camp.

The man and his wife and their two daughters will probably not be on Christmas Island for long.

Boat people often reach Christmas Island as their first landfall in Australia so the initial processing of refugees takes place at Christmas Island before they are moved to offshore locations including Manus Island in Papua New Guinea and Nauru or to the mainland.

"We met with the new Serco Activities Manager and the

Community and Religious Liaison Officer recently," Marilyn said. "They recognise that hope and love are the greatest stabilising forces that we can know in the face of suffering and uncertainty. That is why it is so important that the Christian witness continues here and in every immigration detention centre across the country."

Hope for children

Baptist World Aid Australia's (BWAA) West Australian representative, Dushan Jeyebalan, returned to Sri Lanka in January – 22 years after his family fled to Canada for refuge.

He met with BWAA's Sri Lanka partner, a group working with children from two rural communities. One community has been affected by the long running civil conflict that ended in 2009 and the other was affected by the 2004 Asian Tsunami.

"So much has changed since I left," Dushan said. "It's inspiring to hear of the new work our partner is doing through sponsoring children."

Children's clubs are being formed, providing places for children to have fun as well as learn about health and nutrition. These groups are an important part of the program, as they allow children to participate in the program, contributing their ideas, implementing activities and reporting back on the impact of the program.

The children themselves lead the groups and decide on the topics they want to cover, with support from project staff and the various adults' groups.

Children are saying that one of the biggest problems in their communities is alcoholism, particularly in men. As well as having an effect on household finances, these children say that their homes aren't peaceful and abuse is common.

The children want to go to school, but many need to work to add to the family income. The community estimates that 75 percent of children drop out of school because families need the income that their children can earn.

Through this new program BWAA hope to make a difference in the lives of children and their communities.



Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

Children in Sri Lanka enjoy an activity at their after school club.

Discovering the God of more



Photo: Crossroad Distributors

Benny Perez is the pastor of one of the fastest growing churches in South Las Vegas with a congregation of over 3,000. His world turned upside down in 2010 when he and his wife watched their baby die during a routine sonogram. Pastor Benny shared his story with presenter Leigh Hatcher on the national radio program *Open House*.

Easter 2010 came along, initially it was a very happy time for you and your wife?

Yes it was – my wife was four months pregnant. We were getting ready to have nine worship services to reach 9,000 people, believing God that 1,000 people were going to give their hearts to Christ. Then it was a simple ultrasound with the pregnancy of my wife. I wasn't even going to go however I ended up going. Little did I know we'd begin to see devastation that would last the next two years of our lives.

Tell us what happened.

Well, we went into the ultrasound with the doctor. We'd previously had a miscarriage and my wife was a little bit concerned, but she was doing great after four months. There on the screen – the heart beat was great. We saw the baby in the womb – 170 beats a minute and everything was great, but the baby wasn't moving. They wanted to measure the baby. They had my wife walk around. The baby still wasn't moving. They put her back on the ultrasound – the sonogram and now the heart beat was down to 150, then the heart beat went down to 130 and then heart beat went down to 100. The technician went out and got the

doctor. The doctor came in and said, "There seems like there might be some challenges here". Then it went down to 70. I'm saying, "Something is not right here". The doctor was concerned and literally before our eyes, it was devastating, it went from 50 to 30 to 20 and then it flatlined on us.

The doctor said, "In 30 years I have never seen a baby flatline on the screen". Now people say, 'Oh well it was just a miscarriage, you never held the baby', but we held the baby in our hearts and it was devastating.

I didn't sleep that night. We went back the next morning as I wanted another ultrasound. I'm thinking it's resurrection Sunday and maybe God is going to do a miracle. They did it first thing in the morning. No blood flow verified that the baby was dead. So they had to schedule an emergency surgery. This was Good Friday morning and my wife went into surgery. It goes longer than what's usual. I finally say "What's going on?" My wife had complications on the table. The doctor actually used the blood work from a year before instead of the recent blood work which means that they didn't do the right job with regards to her being anaesthetised. Obviously they

corrected that in the operating room and she comes out. They release her and I get her home. That's when I literally almost lost my wife.

She collapsed in my garage. I called an emergency number and my wife's bleeding, right there in my garage. The operator said, "Keep her awake, you can't let her go unconscious". So here I'm praying, waiting for the ambulance to come, and it was the longest three minutes of my life. They came and I told them what happened. Her blood pressure was so low they couldn't get anything in her. They couldn't get an IV ... they had to rush her to the hospital and by the grace of God there was the right person in emergency who was able to do a procedure on my wife that actually stabilised her and saved her life. I thank God for His grace. I thank God that He is watching over us and even when we don't have faith sometimes, God still has His hand on us.

She was admitted to hospital. I didn't want to go and preach and my wife said, "You know what Benny, you need to go preach".

I couldn't imagine what it was like – facing up to that!

It was devastating, it was like – I don't want to leave my wife in the hospital but my wife said, "No Benny you need to go preach. Don't let this stop us. Don't let this stop what God wants you to do".

What did you say to them after all this?

That Good Friday I, as a Pastor, preached the message differently – on Good Friday the Father lost his son and on that Good Friday I lost my daughter. I felt the heart of a father losing a child and I

realised the great price that Jesus and the Father paid for you and for me. I think I preached the gospel message more clearly and from the heart of a father than I ever had in my life. As a result of that over ten worship services we had over 1,000 people respond to trust Jesus with their life on that Easter weekend.

You keep crying out to God 'why? why? why?' Had you had any idea of what the answer to that might be?

No, no – in my theological training I know you're never supposed to ask 'why?' I understand the sovereignty of God but in my humanity I think everybody down deep in the depths of our hearts at times cries out 'why?'

At the end of the day, it wasn't so much about the why. God said, 'You know son it's not about the

why, but it's about the who'. God was directing me to the 'who' and that who was Jesus.

So, an unexpected answer, but still satisfying and comforting?

Absolutely, absolutely and why did we lose that baby? Why did we suffer all the things? That was just the first of a multiplicity of challenges and storms. Yet every time, just like the disciples in the boat in the middle of the storm, why is this storm happening? We don't know why this storm happens but the 'who' showed up and His name was Jesus.

So, on the back of all of this you've written powerfully, yet interestingly, hopeful of the whole experience and the lessons you and your wife learnt in the book *More: Discovering the God of More, When Life Gives you Less*. How and when did you start to discover that, perhaps surprisingly, [in the] reality of your life that more can come out of less?

Yes and that's an oxymoron isn't it? Yes, yes. How can more come out of less – during our times of trial and tribulation, and storms from the miscarriage to my father-in-law passing away, going on to be with Jesus to fighting a bank and fighting the recession. We can go on and on and on, and me crying out, and I'm realising that it is true that God is more, that God is the strength of our life when we are weak. Paul says it this way, 'When you are weak, when you are at your least, God is more'. So more for us was – He was giving us more strength, more comfort, more grace and in that I realised that God is the one that was bringing us through and my faith was not empowered by me, but it was being powered by Him.

The full interview was aired on *Open House* with Leigh Hatcher on 10 February. Listen online www.openhousecommunity.com.au.

More Competition

The Advocate, in conjunction with Crossroad Distributors is giving you an opportunity to win a copy of *More: Discovering the God of more when life gives you less*.

To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:
What national radio program did the interview with Benny Perez air?

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

More Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

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

events calendar

March

- 11 March Vose Commencement and Conferral Service, Vose Seminary, 6313 6200
- 28 March-1 April Easter Camp
- 29 March Good Friday
- 31 March Easter
- 28 March-1 April The Easter Trilogy, Serpentine Camping Centre, www.baptistwa.asn.au

April

- 1 April Easter Monday
- 20 April Friends of Global Interaction, 6313 6300
- 21 April Baptist Historical Society of WA Public Meeting, 9384 5460
- 29 April-1 May All Together Pastoral Retreat, Mandurah

May

- 4 May Vose Annual Book Sale, 6313 6200

contribute news

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

Email your name, phone number and brief description

to editor@theadvocate.tv by the 5th of each month.

We would like to know about:

- Baptisms
- Birth
- Deaths

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



KALGOORLIE BAPTIST CHURCH

Kalgoorlie Baptist Church is looking for a new SENIOR PASTOR

As a large and growing regional church, we are looking for someone who is energetic and a 'practical visionary', with a heart for sharing the gospel with people of all ages and cultures. The ability to empower teams, build connections and preach for effective life change is essential.

We are a contemporary and dynamic congregation with a passion for mission and a commitment to the local and global communities through the Goldfields Baptist College, vibrant kids and youth ministries, brigades, personal outreach and mission support. Kalgoorlie-Boulder is located 600km to the east of Perth and is a regional city of 33 000 people with a comprehensive range of facilities and opportunities; it is a great place for families, building relationships and being part of extending God's kingdom!

For a role description and church profile, please contact admin@kalgoorliebaptistchurch.com.au www.kalgoorliebaptistchurch.com.au

Our Vision: To become a Biblically centered, welcoming church family which positively impacts Kalgoorlie-Boulder and beyond.



2013
26th & 27th
October

GNOWANGERUP BAPTIST CHURCH

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



CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Please join us for this special time of celebration— mark it in your diary!

For more information please contact:
Garry Beeck 9827 1432
(garrybeeck@westnet.com.au)
or Shirley Beeck 9827 1040
(bnsbeeck@bigpond.com)

To find your local Baptistchurch visit
www.baptistwa.asn.au



the advocate

Editor: Terry Hicks
Managing Editor: Nicole Grego
Sub Editor: Jill Birt
Writer: Alison Amos
Production: Nicole Grego
Graphic Design: Peter Ion
 Catherine Bartlett
Advertising: Rosie Bryant
Distribution: Rosie Bryant
Editorial deadline: 5th of each month

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING:
Email: editor@theadvocate.tv
 advertising@theadvocate.tv
Mail: Baptist Churches
 Western Australia
 PO Box 57, Burswood WA 6100
Tel: (08) 6313 6300
Fax: (08) 9470 1713

The Advocate is published on behalf of Baptist Churches Western Australia by imageseven.

Tel: (08) 9221 9777

Email: info@imageseven.com.au

imageseven.



Baptist Churches
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Publishers General Disclaimer

All the articles, comments, advice and other material contained in this publication are by way of general comment or advice only and are not intended, nor do they purport to be the correct advice on any particular matter of subject referred to. No reader or any other person who obtains this publication should act on the basis of any matter, comment or advice contained in this publication without first considering and if necessary taking appropriate professional advice upon the applicability of any matter, advice or comment herein to their own particular circumstances. Accordingly, no responsibility is accepted or taken by the authors, editors or publishers of this publication for any loss or damage suffered by any party acting in reliance on any matter, comment or advice contained herein.

browse



Day One

www.dayoneapp.com

Journaling is an important spiritual discipline for some. People take time to reflect on life and learning, note how they have seen and heard God today, and remember small yet significant life events. In the busy times in which we live, finding the quiet time to journal can be challenging. Day One for iOS and Mac is a journaling application which helps you to remember, record and track your life in an easily accessible way. The app features a clean simple interface with a pass lock which can incorporate photos, current location and weather. It also synchronises between devices. Day One will assist you to become a regular journaler, wherever you are. Available for \$5.49 in the iOS app store.

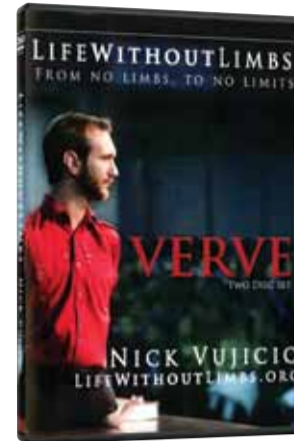
watch & listen



Release The Sound

By Roma Waterman

For over five years, Roma has been transitioning from a hard touring pop artist to an author of works on divinely inspired artistic creativity and a writer of new songs of worship. Her new album, *Release The Sound* can be best described as worship music with a prophetic edge. Her new songs, both congregational and intimate, have been produced by Australian legend Henry Seeley to reflect a fresh, new sound.



Verve

By Nick Vujicic

Verve is a compelling and inspiring look at how Nick lives his life – a life that many have said would have no hope or purpose. Understand the driving factors behind Nick's passion and what that can mean for your life. Included is a special bonus disc featuring some of the most powerful segments of Nick's outreach to Columbia in 2008 a part of the 'Life Without Limbs Outreach Tour.'



Heaven: One Minute After You Die

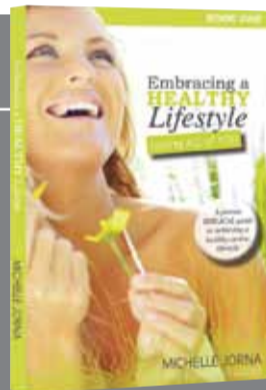
What will heaven be like is a question most will ask at some point in our lives, but how can we be sure it does exist and what does the Bible show us about what it will be truly like? Join Day of Discovery and special guests Joni Eareckson Tada, Dr Erwin Lutzer and Randy Alcorn as *Heaven: One Minute After You Die* gives you a taste of what a wonderful place heaven will be.

win

Embracing a Healthy Lifestyle, Loving All of You

By Michelle Jorna

Life can be better! If your journey through life falls short of your aspirations, then *Embracing a Healthy Lifestyle, Loving All of You: a faith based guide to achieving a healthy active lifestyle*, offers you an opportunity to change and transform your life. This book was developed for adult women of any age who are seeking to unlock their physical and spiritual potential. Designed by a nurse and a personal trainer *Embracing a Healthy Lifestyle, Loving All of You* is designed to empower and strengthen women physically, mentally and spiritually. Learn how to start and also maintain an active lifestyle incorporating strength training, stress management and personal growth with your relationship with God. Transform your lifestyle – get active and have fun while you do it!



The Advocate in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *Embracing a Healthy Lifestyle, Loving All of You*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

Name the author of *Embracing a Healthy Lifestyle, Loving All of You*.

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

Winners from *Did You Think to Pray?*
R Read, A Simpson, J Sullivan

competition

Answer: _____

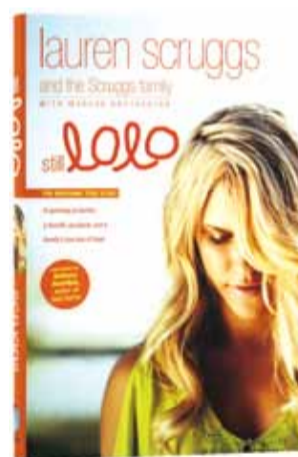
Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

Embracing a Healthy Lifestyle, Loving All of You Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

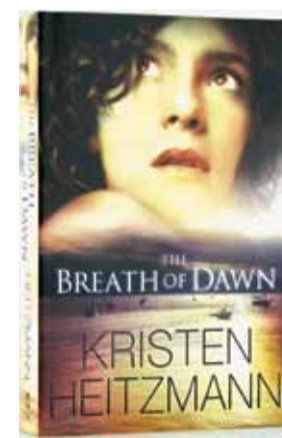
read



Still LoLo

By Lauren Scruggs

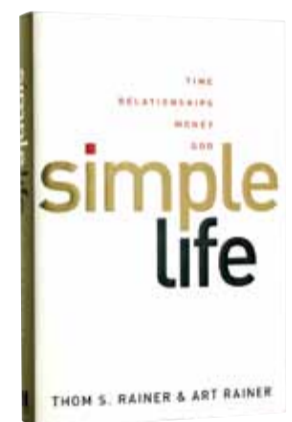
In December 2011, Lauren (Lolo) Scruggs suffered a sudden injury that made headlines around the world. She had been on a short flight and upon exiting the small plane, was hit by the moving propeller blade. A frantic 911 call, several major surgeries and thousands of prayers later, Lauren lived, but lost her left hand and left eye. In *Still LoLo*, Lauren speaks out about what really happened that night, what her life is like today and what got her through her journey toward healing.



The Breath of Dawn

By Kristen Heitzmann

Morgan has had just about all he can take of life. Following the tragic death of his wife, Jill, he retreats to his brother's Rocky Mountain ranch to heal and focus on the care of his infant daughter, Olivia. Two years later, Morgan begins to make plans to return to his home in Santa Barbara to pick up the pieces of his life and career. Fixing problems is what Morgan does best however what he is facing could change the direction of his entire life. Is he willing to take the risk?



Simple Life

By Thom Rainer and Art Rainer

Breaking life down into four key sections (Time, Relationships, God, Money), the authors show how four key goals (Clarity, Movement, Alignment, Focus) can begin to foster a life that is more spiritual and less busy, a life rich in experiences with family and friends rather than double-booked to do lists and late nights at the office. The book even lays out an easy to follow action plan that will move readers assuredly toward the simple life in just thirty days.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

Address: Victoria Park - 359 Albany Highway, phone 08 9361 7899



Uluru calling people of Perth

Each Easter for more than a decade, a bus load of young people and leaders has left Perth on a 'Pilgrimage to Uluru'. The 40 seater bus leaving in April still has some empty seats.

Rosemary Braun, Team Leader with Fusion in Perth, said the Pilgrimage to Uluru brings together young people from across the state and offers a unique opportunity to learn about culture, and the need for understanding and tolerance with members of Aboriginal communities they visit.

"This journey is part of a national program through Schools in Harmony," Rosemary said. "Groups from each state will meet at Uluru and learn from the local Aboriginal people."

An important part of the pilgrimage for the WA group is travelling more than 2,000 kilometres to Uluru.

"We head east to Kalgoorlie then through Laverton and the communities of Mount Margaret and Warburton before crossing the desert to Docker River," Rosemary said. "The daily routine on the coach includes reflection, discussion, creative activity and preparation for activities in the communities we visit on the way."

The group from Perth includes indigenous and non-indigenous youth who are connected with Fusion's youth programs in the state as well as others who want the opportunity to develop their leadership skills or learn to build trust and community.

"The idea is to set up an environment and culture where we can help the kids to build trust



Photo: Fusion Australia

Young people and leaders from Perth during a previous Pilgrimage to Uluru.

while they're on the pilgrimage and then provide helpful, supportive ongoing relationships," Rosemary said.

At the schools and communities on the way to Uluru, the team has the opportunity to play sports like football, softball and basketball with school children, and to participate in cultural exchange sessions, learning about local culture and community life.

"We'll meet up with the rest of the groups at Uluru on the

Thursday night and start to learn more about being a community," Rosemary said.

When Fusion first started the pilgrimage they worked with people from the Mutitjulu tribe, who are often referred to as 'the Anangu: the people'. They speak the Pitantjatjara language.

"We still have a strong relationship with them – mostly women and kids in recent years," Rosemary said. "They come and visit our base camp regularly when we are there and they took

us out hunting for honey ants last year."

Each year Bob Randall does an official welcome to the 'Pilgrims' and tells them about the concept of Kanyini, the harmony found in community, communicating with respect and profoundness to the young people.

"There'll be time to explore the Rock and The Olgas, and everyone gets involved in the Saturday night concert that involves indigenous people, local schools and the pilgrimage participants."

Local schools including the Mutitjulu School, Yulara Primary School, which caters for residents of Yulara, and the Nyangatjatjara Secondary College all contribute to the Saturday night concert.

The Pilgrimage to Uluru runs during the school term from 7 to 18 April. Participants need to raise \$1,100 each to join the Pilgrimage. People can sponsor a young person on this journey of learning and exploration.

For more information contact Rosemary Braun on 9355 1159.

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.

Vose Seminary offers certificates, diplomas, degrees, masters and doctoral studies.

www.vose.edu.au



come, grow



BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA
Be love. End poverty.

A will to end poverty

You can do more than you ever thought possible by leaving a bequest in your will. Call Jules Parker on 1300 789 991 or visit baptistworldaid.org.au/ bequests for more information.