

# the advocate

"Older Australians should be feeling short-changed ... " **DR MORRIS**

**In conversation** Dale Stephenson from Crossway Baptist Church talks about discipleship and church. **PAGE 12 >>**

## Baptistcare questions

Baptistcare WA CEO and Chairperson of Baptist Care Australia Dr Lucy Morris, is questioning just who is the real winner in the Federal Government's pay rise announcement in early March.

"Federal Government and the unions are the probable winners, not employees or the older Australians seeking aged support service," Dr Morris said.

"The Minister's announcement on the Workforce Supplement does not have the support of not-for-profit community providers who will have to find all the extra money to top up this poorly designed increase."

“The Federal Government's reforms are negatively impacting the industry and, more importantly, negatively impacting the lives of older Australians.”

"Older Australians should be feeling short-changed as the apparent increase in wages comes out of money originally intended for direct care. It was deducted at the start of the 2012-2013 financial year and the care arrangements will feel the impact for years to come."

The \$1.2 billion increase announced by Minister Mark Butler is possible because the Federal Government withdrew money earmarked for direct care and quality services in 2012 and is now re-directing it towards wages instead.

The Federal Government's Workforce Supplement has significant strings attached, including the requirement to sign enterprise agreements with unions through a 'Workforce Compact' in order to access any of the 'additional' funding.

The aged care sector, and in particular Aged and Community Services WA (ACSWA) and its national peak body Aged and Community Services Australia, state that not-for-profit providers in rural and regional communities will not be able to access the Workforce Compact as it does not provide sufficient additional resources for aged care providers in these communities.

"Over the past 12 months, Baptistcare in WA has been approached by a number of providers to acquire their aged care facilities as they are choosing to exit the industry," Dr Morris said. "The Federal Government's reforms are negatively impacting the industry and, more importantly, negatively impacting the lives of older Australians."

Dr Morris believes that the Federal Government continues to treat the sector with contempt and older Australians with a breathtaking lack of understanding.



Photo: Baptistcare

Dr Lucy Morris takes a stand against the Federal Government.

"Staff and older Australians will continue to feel the brunt of this poor decision-making," Dr Morris said.

"Our experience here in WA of the Federal Government's response to the demands for reform of the age care sector has been a refusal to listen, understand or adjust to

support the Western Australian conditions. As a consequence, the reforms are empty, rhetoric and based predominantly on the redistribution of existing funds through clever government claw backs and cut backs to generate supposedly new funds which do not bring transformation into a dying sector," Dr Morris said.



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“We value building trust between Baptist churches”

BAPTIST CHURCHES  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





### 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

Australia's fastest growing household demographic is 'people living alone'. Between 1961 and 2011, Australian households with one resident increased from 11 percent to 24 percent (one in four). Now one in ten Australians (1.9 million) live alone. Western Europe averages around 30 percent, with Sweden at 46 percent.

Our ageing population means more widows and widowers. However, this growth has been most evident among 25 to 55 year olds and it's set to increase. Fewer form committed relationships, or re-form them after divorce or separation. The declining birth rate means more 'lone persons' rather than 'sole parents'.

In 2011, Professor David de Vaus (University of Queensland) surveyed 4,000 Australians who live alone. Eric Kleinenberg's book,

*Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone*, appeared in February 2012.

Both show that while some are lonely and unhappy, many are deeply engaged in social and civic life, and score very well on national happiness ratings.

An article in *Marie Claire* on the biggest social revolution since the baby boomer generation, featured 36 year old marketing consultant Victoria Judge, a committed solo dweller for the past 15 years, who

finds it empowering and healthy providing space to decompress and unwind.

Being perceived as miserable loners and seldom featuring in advertising, makes people living alone feel marginalised. Supermarket discounts for bulk buying, and the political mantra of working families suggest they don't matter. The Happily Healthy Project by Nestlé concludes that 'in a culture that is overwhelmingly civil and accepting of differences,

it is interesting that so many sizeable minorities can still feel on the outer'.

Do they feel marginalised in congregations too? Jesus was single. His bride is His church. Everyone brings their own unique story, part of the dazzling diversity that makes known the manifold wisdom of God. Do they long to hear themselves reflected in the constant references to 'family'? Are they herded into a huge silo labelled 'singles'?

God grant us wisdom, creativity and sensitivity to celebrate the value of each story, each thread in the tapestry of homecoming redemption the Master is weaving.



### Dr Brian Harris

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

## On doing what you can ...

Perhaps this Easter you will read the Mark 14 account of the woman who pours perfume over Jesus. Lest that doesn't sound like an especially exciting story line, grab hold of this ... she used the entire bottle which had cost more than a year's salary! I'm not certain how many dollars that was around AD33, but even if she was only on Australia's minimum wage, it now translates to over \$30,000. Gulp!

A tad extravagant, don't you think? After all, I agonise when I spend \$30 on flowers for my wife and instead wonder if a pot plant wouldn't be a more enduring investment. But how long does the aroma of perfume linger – a few hours? I can understand why Judas (the Iscariot version) and the others

objected. After all, \$30,000 for a bit of aromatherapy is quite the budget blow out!

Of course Jesus doesn't see it in this light. As the onlookers objected to the woman's generosity, He rushed to her defence, suggesting that she alone has sensed the significance of the moment, for

this would be the only anointing He would have for His death. In verse 8 he speaks five haunting words, 'she did what she could'.

Both the woman and Jesus knew there were so many things she could not do. She could not persuade Jesus to slip away into the countryside, far from the Passover crowds in Jerusalem.

He would have been much safer there. She can't persuade the religious leaders to stop their murderous vendetta against Jesus. No doubt she would have liked to, but she couldn't. She couldn't stop his imminent crucifixion – how that haunted her. What she was doing was her second choice, and it fell far short of her greatest longing – to rescue him. Often in life there is so much that we can't do, but it is no reason to not do what we can. She did what she could.

And Jesus did what He could. Consider Calvary ... He died our death, forgave our sins, and gave us a future and a hope.



### Mark Wilson

Mark Wilson is Director of Ministries at Baptist Churches Western Australia.

## Anger – how are we to deal with it?

I don't mean the anger that flares up when someone cuts you off on the freeway. I mean the anger that surfaces with a Bali bombing, an Indian girl getting raped or girls sold into sexual slavery. The anger that burns at senseless violence, attacks on innocents and the destruction of the innocent. How are we to deal with it?

I have sensed again the frustration of exiled Israel under the Babylonians. In Psalms 137.9, the poet writes, 'How blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones (children) against the rock'. It's a cry of anger. It's a cry of frustration. It's born out of fear and vulnerability. It is a call for vengeance.

Yes, that was the Old Testament. Those who live by

the sword die by the sword. Vengeance is mine, says the Lord. Love your enemies. Pray for those who persecute you.

I need permission to be furious at evil. I need freedom to rail against sin and the unrepentant sinner. I need to believe that there will be justice as well as grace in this world. This is the time when I need my pastor and my mentor and my

Christian brothers and sisters to validate that wickedness is not okay.

Please don't demand that I be forgiving. There is no forgiveness without repentance. Please don't ask me to 'leave it all in God's hands'. What are we, if not the hands and feet of God in the world? Please don't pacify me with words of kindness or condescension.

I really don't want to dash little children against rocks. God save me from ever wanting to afflict the enemy in the same way that they afflict us. Justice is a different prospect. I don't know what I want to do (or see done) to the perpetrators of such heinous crimes, but I despise what they have done and so does the Lord.

So, how are we to deal with this anger that so many of us find burning within? Talk about it, pray about it, set boundaries for it, but permit it – don't quash it. When our grief and anger is allowed to become calloused and passive, we will cease to be light and salt in the world. May that never happen.

## 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.

# Connection helps belonging

Newly appointed to the pastoral team at Riverton Baptist Church, Singapore born Alvin Lee, assists Asian people who have recently arrived in Western Australia to integrate into the church community.

"I work with Singaporeans, Burmese, Chinese, Indians, Indonesians, Koreans and Malays," Alvin said.

"Riverton is slap bang in the middle of Willetton Senior High School, Rossmoyne Senior High School and Curtin University. These high schools are two of the best in the state and many Asian people live in the area so their kids can go to these schools."

Alvin studied in Perth 20 years ago and attended North Beach Baptist Church before returning to Singapore to work in the business world. He left the world of commerce to pastor a church in Singapore for seven years.

"I'll spend several months in Perth this year, working at Riverton," Alvin said. "The rest of the time I'll be working at the church in Singapore."

Alvin has been involved with families from Riverton for the past four years before his role was formalised this year.

"These people have all made the big decision to move to Australia. They really want to integrate, but there's a lot to learn about language and culture."

Alvin conducts Bible study groups during the week, one at the restaurant of a Korean family on Tuesday afternoons where the food is always 'brilliant' and another on Saturday afternoon, usually at someone's home.



Riverton Baptist international friends.

"We also have English language classes, but I think the most important thing is being available to help people when they need it," Alvin said.

"Food is so important to Asian people so there's always lots of it when we get together. It's a really important part of every culture, so it helps people learn from one another too."

"I do really practical things such as help with understanding government forms and offices, answering questions and sharing your life with people."

"People can take little steps by joining a worship team or helping

in the kitchen at church. There are lots of ways to serve and that always helps people feel like they belong. Short term mission trips are another great way to help people integrate."

Riverton Pastor Colin Meadows is excited to have Alvin on the team. "We have a lot of people from Asia in the church and Alvin is doing a great job at helping them integrate," Colin said.

A passionate bicycle rider with seemingly unlimited energy, Alvin also connects with people through his website, [www.lovethefold.blogspot.com](http://www.lovethefold.blogspot.com).

## May book sale



People browsing a section of last year's book sale at Vose Seminary.

A team of volunteers from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church have been sorting books for months in preparation for the annual Vose Seminary book sale commencing on Saturday 4 May.

Not only will there be thousands of books for sale, there will also be food, gifts and plants available for purchase.

The sale runs from 9am to 3pm on Saturday, then during office hours for the next three weeks.

Books are set out with entire rooms devoted to some categories: Theology, Christian Living, Children's books, Cooking, Gardening and

Travel. Thousands of CDs and DVDs and a collection of coffee table books will be for sale.

Vose Librarian, Nathan Hobby, said last year's sale raised \$17,840 for the Seminary's library.

"We also added 700 books to the library catalogue from books donated to the sale," Nathan said.

For more information phone Vose Seminary, 6313 6200.

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.



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

### CENTENARY CELEBRATION

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

# Mental health and disabilities

Rob Nicholls from Christian Blind Mission (CBM) spent a day with 45 people at North Beach Baptist Church (NBBC) in March focusing on how churches can include people suffering with mental health issues or who have disabilities more fully in their church communities.

"CBM has helped people with disabilities to be included in countries around the world for decades," Rob said. "That's what we do."

"Then one of our people went to a church in his home city and discovered a huge issue in Australian churches. So often people with disabilities or mental health issues are not welcomed but left on the outside."

“ Church is the place to experience grace and hope, but all too often we see it suiting a very narrow band of people ... ”

CBM established Luke 14, an initiative to encourage and enable churches to welcome and include people with a disability.

"We produced several training workshops that are being used in churches across Australia to help raise awareness of the need for inclusion and look at ways churches can demonstrate grace to people."

CBM has designed five workshops for Australian communities: Making Disciples of All, Inclusion Toolbox for Kids and

Teens, and Inclusive Outreach, as well as the two Rob Nicholls led at North Beach, Disability 101 and Mental Health Unwrapped.

"Twenty per cent of Australia's population live with a disability," Rob said. "That means there will likely be people in your congregation with a disability."

As well as practical things such as easy access to buildings and hospitality that fits with people's needs, an overall attitude of valuing people as God's creation is imperative.

The strong emphasis within Australia's culture is on ability, physical prowess, physical beauty, getting ahead, and doing better and better.

"Church is the place to experience grace and hope, but all too often we see it suiting a very narrow band of people from the general community," Rob said. "I strongly believe that needs to change, and it can."

The workshops include powerful personal stories of Christians who have disabilities or are suffering mental health issues.

"These workshops are ideal for churches to get together and explore God's heart for hurting people and how their community of faith can be more inclusive," Rob said.

The workshops have only been running for a year, so CBM is willing to train facilitators in Perth or to bring leaders to Perth for future events.

For more information visit [Luke14.org.au](http://Luke14.org.au).



Photo: Jill Birt

Helen Ellery organised the Disability and Mental Health workshops with Rob Nicholls at North Beach Baptist Church.

## Global Interaction friends

Heather Coleman, Director of Global Interaction, is coming to Perth for the Friends of Global Interaction morning tea on Saturday 20 April.

"We held the first of these events last year," Pam Gallagher, Global Interaction Executive Assistant for Perth said. "It was amazing."

"Anyone who supports Global Interaction's work and our teams in Africa, Asia and Australia is welcome to come and hear the

latest news. Heather Coleman is our speaker on the day."

The event is planned around a sumptuous Devonshire tea with freshly baked scones at Riverton Baptist Community Church, from 10.00am until midday.

Global Interaction plans to hold a similar event later in the year.

## digital church

05/03/2013  
**Tony Morgan**  
[tonymorganlive.com](http://tonymorganlive.com)

"Unfortunately, leadership development doesn't just happen. People do not randomly advance up the leadership pipeline, it requires intentionality."

07/03/2013  
**Rodney Olsen**  
[rodneyolsen.net](http://rodneyolsen.net)

"I'm amazed at the work that is being done to bring hope and healing to young women who have been rescued from human trafficking."

08/03/2013  
**Mark Beeson**  
[www.markbeeson.com](http://www.markbeeson.com)

"Never forget; we can't live Godly lives without God."

11/03/2013  
**Jonathan Malm**  
[www.echohub.com](http://www.echohub.com)

"Yep, there are countless antiheroes in the Bible. Abraham. Moses. David. In fact, the vast majority of our heroes in the Bible were scoundrels. Only Jesus and Joseph come to mind as truly good."

11/03/2013  
**Drew Dixon**  
[www.thinkchristian.net](http://www.thinkchristian.net)

"Changing the world isn't easy - it takes time, patience and collaboration. Making strides to preserve the world God has given us can be incredibly frustrating. However, we must not let the sins of others make us apathetic."

## briefs

### Marriage

Angela Bosel (North Beach Baptist Church) married Chris Metcalf (Albany and Riverton Baptist Churches) at Gosnells Baptist Church on 2 March followed by a reception at Araluen Golf Resort.

### Pastoral changes

Pastor Rob Douglas will be inducted into the pastorate of the Maida Vale Baptist Church on 7 April. The following pastors commenced during December to March: Walter Bocos as Associate Pastor at 1Church Mandurah; Craig Lydon as Interim Pastor at Parkerville Baptist Church; Victor Owuo as Pastor at Girrawheen Baptist Church; Arthur Payne

as the Interim Pastor at Morley Baptist Church; and John Randell as the Interim Pastor at Kalgoorlie Baptist Church. Brett Mabury has concluded as a Pastor at Mt Pleasant Baptist Church.

### 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.

# Second chance success



Photo: Jade Lewis

Second Chance Day: Yellow Ribbon Project event founder, Jade Lewis shares her own powerful story of receiving a second chance at life.

The Second Chance Day: Yellow Ribbon Project breakfast at the WACA is being held on Tuesday 14 May. This year's speakers include Mrs Lyn Barnett, Mr Ian Johnson, Commissioner of Corrective Service, and Mr Chris Lee, Assistant Superintendent Banksia Hill Detention Centre. There will also be an inspirational story from a former prisoner.

The Yellow Ribbon Project exists to give women prisoners a second chance at life and engage the community in accepting women ex-prisoners and their families.

"The Yellow Ribbon Project is also about giving women ex-prisoners a chance to say 'I am sorry, will you give me a second chance?'," event founder, Jade Lewis said.

The Second Chance Day: Yellow Ribbon Project Australia is a campaign led by Jade Lewis and Friends Inc. Jade is an author, speaker and drug prevention activist and has overcome her own lifestyle of addiction, crime and violence.

Jade now conducts personal development and wellbeing programs within Western

Australia's women prisons. She has motivated thousands of school students around Australia, educated parents, inspired business groups and successful leaders with her incredible story and positive attitude.

The yellow ribbon has been chosen to represent this project with the hope that those who wear the yellow ribbon will be part of building the bridge between community and prisoners. The prisoners who choose to participate in the Project will be asking for forgiveness for what they have done.

“  
The Yellow Ribbon Project is also about giving women ex-prisoners a chance to say 'I am sorry ...  
”

The Second Chance Day: Yellow Ribbon Project is inspired by the song, 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree', which is said to be based on the story of an ex-prisoner's journey to forgiveness. The prisoner had written a message asking that a sign of forgiveness would be shown by tying a yellow ribbon around the only oak tree in their city square. The song goes on to say that on the release from prison to home, there were more than a hundred yellow ribbons that hung on the tree.

For more information and tickets visit [www.secondchanceday.org.au](http://www.secondchanceday.org.au).

## Easter iphone app alive

Perth Pastor, Geoff Westlake has created an app for iPhones that helps people experience the events of Easter week in real time.

"A few years ago, we used SMS texting where I sent group texts to our people during Easter, at each of the key moments of Jesus Passion and resurrection," Geoff said. "Everyone said how profound it was."

Geoff thought there must be an app for this, but couldn't find one, so he resolved to make his own.

All you need to do to install the free app is search iTunes for Easter Passion and download it.

"It's a simple concept to be reminded in real time as the events unfold, but yet it is surprisingly profound to experience," Geoff said. "Spread the word and be ready for Maundy Thursday."

Virtual text messages as if an eyewitness from 2000 years ago is messaging you, are received as the Easter events unfold in real time.

About 60 messages will be sent from noon on Maundy Thursday through to 8pm Easter Sunday. The system automatically adjusts to your iPhone time zone setting.

"It only went live to download at the end of February, and I have no real advertising budget, but I have been promoting it on Facebook. So far 1,500 people 'like' the page and hundreds have downloaded the app," Geoff said.

An Android version is planned for Easter 2014.



North Beach Baptist Church is a large church based in the northern suburbs of Perth. We are seeking to add to our vibrant ministry team, a man called by God to develop evangelism strategy throughout the church and to have a lead role with our Sunday evening congregation.

**Applications close June 30.**

**PD & Application form on website.**

**Visit us at [nbbc.org.au](http://nbbc.org.au)**

# Vose celebrates



Photo: SJ Creative

Graduating student Aaron Chidgzey receives his prizes from BCWA Director of Ministries, Mark Wilson, at the Vose Seminary Commencement and Conferral Service.

The Vose Commencement and Conferral Service at Riverton Baptist Church on 11 March was a night of celebration marking 50 years of theological training at the college; the largest ever group of new students (57) and the conferral of Vose Seminary and Australian College of Theology awards on graduating students.

Twelve academic prizes were presented by Pastor Mark Wilson, Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) Director of Ministries to nine students. Aaron Chidgzey from Carey Baptist Church received The WB Crofts Prize for Christian Thought, The Seminary Award for All-round Progress and Performance in Studies and Contribution to College Life and the award for Dux 2013. Aaron was also awarded the Bachelor of Theology.

Seminary Principal, Dr Brian Harris, announced the Conferral of Awards and Mr Bruce Watkins, BCWA Council Chairman Baptist Churches WA presented the awards.

The Vose Seminary Vocational Graduate Diploma of Ministry was awarded to Jeanie Muzari.

Several Australian College of Theology awards were conferred: Diploma of Ministry – Janet Askwith; Diploma of Theology – Carol Rysdyk; Associate Degree of Theology – Richard Jordaan; Bachelor

of Christian Studies – Janine Daniels and Joshua Hoffman; Bachelor of Theology – Aaron Chidgzey; Graduate Diploma of Divinity – Mark Beadle, Jessica Gorman, Soong-Peng Ho and Karen Siggins; and Master of Arts (Ministry) – Paul Quicke.

“Vose is like a hot house of intense growth. We need new buildings to put people in places while they are hungry to grow.”

Monica O’Neil, Director Vose Leadership, spoke of the importance of partnership for theological training.

“We can’t do this alone. Students need to partner with their families and churches,” Monica said. “Vose is like a hot house of intense growth. We need new buildings to put people in places while they are hungry to grow.”

A team of students performed a new song, *Adoration*, written by Vose students Jess Louwen, Graeme Magowan and Ben O’Reilly, while the offering was collected.

Dr Haydn Nelson, a graduate of Vose Seminary and Senior Pastor of Riverview Church spoke to the graduands from Mark 10, focusing on dreams, goals, desires and ambitions.

“These can be healthy, holy and good,” Dr Nelson said. “They can also have a darker side, and we see this in literature, sport and politics. It can be in the church: self-obsessed and self-absorbed leaders.”

Dr Nelson implored the graduating group to make it their ambition as leaders to please Jesus.

Principal Dr Brian Harris is excited about what is happening at Vose.

“There is a sense that God is constantly at work at Vose,” Dr Harris said. “It is amazing to watch and be part of.”

More than 250 people from churches across Perth attended the event.

## Girls go fishing



Photo: Lori Munn

Left to right: Woodvale Girls Brigade members Rose Daniels (Seniors Leader), Morgan Munn, Irene Daniels (Captain), Donna (BCF Manager) and Sonya Jeyabalan receiving their donated fishing rods.

Woodvale Girls Brigade was recently donated six fishing rod and reel combos from the BCF Joondalup store.

In April, the Seniors group will be camping in Mandurah, putting their new fishing rods and training into practice. The camp will cement the girls’ relationships with each other, increase self-confidence as they learn new skills, and foster their spiritual growth through the notion of being ‘fishers of men’ and truly understanding patience – a requirement of fishing.

Girls Brigade Captain, Irene Daniels was thrilled to be told they were going to be donated the equipment.

“My Dad was an avid fisherman, and he ensured my sisters and I all experienced the joys and frustrations of fishing,” Irene said. “My daughter Rose is Seniors Leader and she grew up fishing with her Dad. Fishing is an activity not all girls have had a chance to try. Rose chose to do fishing as it gives the girls the opportunity to try something different and challenging in a supportive atmosphere.”

The donated rods will ensure future groups of Seniors can also learn the joys of fishing, without any burden of personal expense.

## A Phresh night

Baptist Youth of Western Australia is having a combined youth event on Friday 7 June, at Lake Joondalup Baptist Church.

The free event is billed as a night of ‘Phresh Worship and Sweet Hangs’ for high school aged youth and young adults. Guest speaker Phil Beeck, East Fremantle Baptist Church Pastor, will be speaking on Luke 14 about ‘Counting the Cost’ of following Jesus.

“Ultimately a life of faith

in Jesus Christ will cost us everything but what we get in return – peace with God, is a bargain for what it costs,” Phil said.

The vision for Counting the Cost is for young people and their leaders in Baptist churches to feel part of a bigger story.

# Jamming grows in the west

Leaders from ten Toddler Jam groups met during their annual conference at Yokine Baptist Church in March.

Toddler Jam was started by Sandy and Eliot Vlatko at Inglewood Community Church 13 years ago. Since then it has expanded to 22 churches from a variety of denominations including Baptist, Anglican, Church of Christ, Uniting and some Pentecostal churches from Karratha to Collie.

Ann Galambosi (Rockingham Baptist Church) was the keynote speaker, helping teams focus on team unity and the importance of valuing yourself and other people.

"God is never disappointed with you," she told the group of 40 leaders. "That unconditional love makes me want to love and worship God."

Break out groups focused on administration, IT skills, music and team leadership.

The complexities of copyright were unravelled by Janine Gribbles who said the Toddler Jam group is consulting with children's music producers Hi5, The Wiggles and the ABC for group permission to use their songs in PowerPoint presentations.

News from several groups included exciting stories of God answering prayers and meeting needs. One group, Parkerville Baptist, told how two of their key musicians, Peter Birt and Peter Weir, had died in November 2012, bringing deep grief to the Toddler Jam team and the many families that attend.

"It was a very sad time for us, but it brought us even closer together," Parkerville team leader Karen Entwistle said.



Narelle Higson, Helen Pepper and Eliot Vlatko work on music skills while sound man Chris Ovenden checks the sound quality at the Toddler Jam conference in early March.

Leader of the new Toddler Jam group at Collie Church of Christ, Emma O'Brien told the story of how she became a follower of Jesus through the Warnbro Church of Christ Toddler Jam group. Her family was transferred to Collie where there was nothing like Toddler Jam, so with support from Sandy

Vlatko and the team at Jam Central, Toddler Jam's organising group, Emma started Toddler Jam in February 2013.

Song writer and musician, Eliot Vlatko, conducted a 30 minute workshop for musicians and leaders. By the end of the workshop, keyboard player, Helen Pepper from the new Toddler Jam

group at Bentley Baptist Church and two novice ukulele players were almost confident playing a song they could use for their next Toddler Jam session.

"We've been working with our newer up-front leaders, helping them learn to play the ukulele," Eliot said. "It's relatively simple to play and not a heavy instrument

to carry, so it works really well when you're jiggling around on stage."

Karen Furlong, the leader of Thornlie Church of Christ Toddler Jam spoke about their group's progress in pastorally caring for their Toddler Jam community.

## BFS man retires

Michael Carter has worked with Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) since August 1998. Along with representing the Baptist Financial Services (BFS) in WA, Michael has assisted churches with property and long service leave matters.

Over the past 18 months, working three days a week, Michael has helped churches in WA apply for more than five million dollars worth of loans from BFS.

"Mike's contribution has been really significant and we want to thank him," Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries BCWA said.

"He's a great team player and totally dependable. We're going to miss him."

Michael worked with Westpac Banking Corporation for 33 years before joining the team at BCWA.

After he retires on 29 May, Michael expects to continue

with his volunteer roles in hospitality and pastoral care at North Beach Baptist Church where he and his wife Pam are members.

"I'm planning to volunteer a day a week at the Perth Zoo and another day a week I expect to be driving patients to medical appointments," Michael said.

An ardent football fan, there may be time around his volunteering commitments to see more of his beloved West Coast Eagles and West Australian Football League, East Perth teams play.



Michael Carter has worked as the Administrator at the Baptist Ministry Centre for more than 14 years.

Photo: Jill Birt

Photo: Jill Birt



# John Dickson on Q&A – conversation observed

Dr John Dickson, Author and Director of the Sydney based Centre for Public Christianity (CPX), an independent research and media company promoting informed discussion about social, ethical and religious issues in modern life, was a panellist on the ABC television program, Q&A on 18 February.





Regular host Tony Jones, moderated the discussion between his guests: Lawrence Krauss, renowned cosmologist, scientific educator and Director of the Origins Project at Arizona State University; Greg Hunt, Shadow Minister for Climate Action, Environment and Heritage; Tanya Plibersek, Federal Member for Sydney, and a Minister since Labor came to power in 2007, she was elevated to Cabinet in the health portfolio in 2011; author, medical practitioner and commentator, Dr Cindy Pan and John Dickson.

Several questions from the audience on science and the origin of ethics were directed to Professor Krauss. A question about creationism being taught in primary schools ignited the entire panel. At other times the debate appeared to be solely between Lawrence Krauss and John Dickson.

“After the last atheist/Christian showdowns (Jensen versus Deveny ... Pell versus Dawkins), it was refreshing to see a more civil approach from [Prof.] Krauss on the ‘God’ questions, with Dickson responding calmly, yet strong.”

Responses on Twitter applauded the debate and the behaviour of Prof. Krauss and Dr Dickson.

“After the last atheist/Christian showdowns (Jensen versus Deveny ... Pell versus Dawkins), it was refreshing to see a more civil approach from [Prof.] Krauss on the ‘God’ questions, with Dickson responding calmly, yet strong,” Matt Berry@Matthew\_J\_Berry tweeted.

“A scientist and a theologian jousting respectfully, discussing ideas, even laughing. Well played Mr Krauss and [Dr Dickson],” julia baird@bairdjulia commented.

John Dickson was non-combative, exuded grace and held confidently to his position. He did not allow himself to be

moved by verbal persuasion to debate on someone else’s terms. He confidently assumed that the people he was talking with live in a world where Jesus is alive and real.

There were lessons from the debate for all who want to grow in their ability to engage with thinking people on matters of faith.

*Eternity* newspaper noted, ‘Indeed, when speaking on Christianity and science, Dickson presented a view of Australian Christianity not often acknowledged in the public space: rationality.’

Local church planter and writer, Steve McAlpine commenting on the debate said, “John Dickson was the epitome of 1 Peter 3:15. While Prof. Krauss was engaging, with some great points, and whilst he is clearly an intellectual and a fantastic populariser, in truth the acid test in our [post-modern] perspectival culture is the perception that someone holds their beliefs humbly – something that Dickson managed admirably and which Krauss felt no need to display (given he is on the ‘winning’ side!). Oh, and the move from the abstract and philosophical ‘Is there a God?’ to the specific and historical ‘Yes, and we meet him in Jesus’, was brilliantly done by Dickson.”

John Dickson reflected on his experience on Q&A in an online response in *Eternity* newspaper.

He wrote: ‘I am glad to offer just a few brief reflections about my ABC Q&A experience.

First, I now have even more respect for the other Christian leaders who have been previous guests on the panel, Peter Jensen, George Pell, Jim Wallace and Stephen O’Doherty. It is very difficult. The preparation required to think through the complex issues that can be discussed on any given night

is daunting. I have to thank my colleagues at the Centre for Public Christianity, especially Justine Toh and Simon Smart, for the hours of reading, thinking and talking that we shared over the last week.

“John Dickson was the epitome of 1 Peter 3:15. While Prof. Krauss was engaging, with some great points...”

Secondly, I have regrets. I always do. I regret not chiming in once or twice more – especially, for example, when Professor Lawrence Krauss suggested that science was responsible for the end of slavery. I also regret not being more gentle and measured at two points. I don’t think I should have used the term [of Prof. Krauss] ‘new atheists’. This is a badge that now has tainted connotations, mainly due to the bad behaviour of people like Richard Dawkins. I shouldn’t have used it. Secondly, I regret not being a little more gracious to my 6-Day Creationist brothers and sisters. Only afterwards, outside the pressured environment, did I think that I probably hurt people I care for and will spend eternity with in God’s Kingdom. I do think Genesis 1 is better read in a non-concrete way and I do believe the science is overwhelmingly in favour of an old earth, but there are better ways of airing my disagreement than the way I did.

Thirdly, I am more and more impressed with the ABC’s commitment to fair content. Some people have told me they felt Tony Jones gave preference to the atheist case. I think Tony was merely acknowledging the fact that Professor Krauss was an international guest with a huge following and reputation – in scientific and atheist circles. It was appropriate that he held the floor a little more than most. But it is more important for me to point out that the sincere goal of the ABC producers was to offer up a more nuanced and sophisticated conversation about ‘religion’ than sometimes appears on Australian television.

I can’t tell you how impressed I was with the producers’ kindness to me personally and with their hope that the night would represent a fresh and friendly approach to the usually combative discussion about God and atheism. The Centre for Public Christianity has been saying it for years: while the media does not always get Christians, they are not always out to get them! This was brought home to me very strongly last night. I am praying that many of us will have opportunities to show an open and friendly approach to both the public broadcaster and the commercial stations!

While the majority of Christians in Australia would never have the opportunity to be part of such a public forum to debate issues, church leaders are pointing to John Dickson as a valuable model for apologists, debaters and thinking followers of Jesus.

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# Cool enterprise in Cambodia



Photo: International Needs Australia/The Snacker

Visitors to Cambodia indulge in homemade ice cream from The Snacker which provides safe employment for vulnerable women, widows and university students.

International Needs Australia is supporting a refreshing development in Cambodia. 'The Snacker' ice cream stalls in Phnom Penh are the vision of Kong Sopheak, a young Cambodian entrepreneur. His ice cream stalls are doing more than providing delicious homemade ice cream from locally sourced coconut milk and tropical fruits – they are providing safe employment for vulnerable women, widows and university students in a city with a high cost of living and limited job opportunities.

A job at The Snacker stall means a stable income for these families, putting food on the table and allowing children to benefit from an uninterrupted education. Sopheak's ultimate goal is to hand ownership of the stalls to the employees, creating new small businesses owned and controlled by local people.

Sopheak's vision goes beyond the very successful flagship stall at the busy Russian Market. He hopes to have ten stalls operating in the next year.

This entirely homegrown enterprise caters to customer demand for traditional recipes, fresh local ingredients and safe food without chemicals or preservatives.

Guaranteed success is dependant only on Sopheak's ability to source and fund the training he needs to learn the

“ A job at The Snacker stall means a stable income for these families, putting food on the table and allowing children to benefit ... ”

necessary skills to expand his enterprise, and with the Entrepreneur Support Project, this last hurdle is being successfully overcome.

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

## Community capitals

In the December 2012 edition of *The Advocate*, I expressed that community development approaches are increasingly being informed by views that see communities as webs of assets that can be drawn upon and can benefit people for the long term. Asset based approaches recognise that people and communities have a range of existing resources or 'capitals' which can be mobilised as a means for building healthy and sustainable communities.

The naming of capitals has emerged from field work in the United States and Latin America resulting in a capitals framework encapsulated across several capitals; human, natural, financial, social, physical, political and cultural capital. Other dimensions reflecting the rich layers of an integrated community experience have more recently appeared in a range of disciplines together adding intellectual, reputational and spiritual capital to the mix.

Ideas relating to this framework of capitals are ever present in English speaking literature, have been informed by western perspectives and attracted genuine 'grass roots' interest. However, how these capitals have been directly informed and developed beyond the scope of

'professionals' is inadequate and very little, if anything, is known about capitals as named by indigenous people.

More recently descriptions of sustainable community development highlight the need for listening to and being informed by local perspectives. Therefore, in response to this gap, I engaged in a new research effort which captures and reveals local perspectives of change in three school communities in the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG), surfacing a new suite of community capitals that broaden and deepen existing understandings of asset based approaches to community development. From within this unfolding story comes a new understanding of community capitals, serving as a suitable complement to the limited repertoire of existing capitals.

These new and diverse capitals constitute rich, powerful and meaningful concepts that provide a framework for engaging PNG communities concerning improvements in local governance, and having implications for capacity development and leadership, which remain as continuing challenges for many developing nations today.

For more information visit [www.aeikon.com](http://www.aeikon.com).

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

# Nestlé: Guilt free chocolate

Nestlé recently announced that its entire chocolate range is now UTZ certified in Australia and New Zealand. UTZ certified products are independently verified as respecting basic worker rights standards such as banning child labour. It also includes standards for sustainable agricultural practices to better support farmers and the environment.

Nestlé's announcement is greeted with much anticipation and celebration from Baptist World Aid, a member of the STOP THE TRAFFIK coalition. The chocolate industry has been under scrutiny for poor wages and working conditions from the coalition and Nestlé has received over 100,000 postcards from consumers demanding their chocolate be produced ethically.

"It's amazing to think that Nestlé, the largest food company in the world, has responded to the calls of everyday Australians, standing up for a cause they believe in. I am proud to know that Baptist churches and Catalyst advocacy groups have been a big part of seeing this change happen. It turns out our actions can change the world and we can be love to the poor," Baptist World Aid Advocacy Manager, Gershon Nimbalker said.

Since 2009 Baptist World Aid's Catalyst advocacy groups have participated in STOP THE TRAFFIK's campaign on major chocolate companies to



Nestlé is now UTZ certified in Australia and New Zealand.

adopt ethical certification for their cocoa.

The chocolate industry has been a focus of many national and international advocacy and anti-trafficking groups over the last decade with

progress steadily improving as customer pressure has led to certification announcements from companies such as Mars and Cadbury.

Nestlé's commitment will now see more than 3,000 tonnes

of UTZ certified cocoa used to produce iconic favourites such as Kit Kat, Smarties and Club chocolate.

"This is fantastic news yet we remain eager to hear from Nestlé regarding their plans

for the rest of their global operations", Gershon said.

Ethical consumers can now look forward to eating the Nestlé chocolate range with a clear conscience, just in time for Easter celebrations.

## Singaporean leads OM

Operation Mobilisation (OM), one of the world's leading mission agencies, appointed Singaporean Lawrence Tong as their new International Director at an OM gathering in Bangkok, Thailand, in early March.

Lawrence is only the third International Director in OM's nearly 56-year history.

The celebration was marked with song and dance from an African choir, greetings from other global mission organisations, and an expectation of God's future blessing on the ministry which began in 1957.

In addition to prayers in Chinese, Hindi, Korean and Portuguese by OM and other mission leaders, George Verwer, OM's founder and first International Director, prayed for Lawrence Tong.

Lawrence takes over the OM leadership from Peter Maiden, UK, who has served and led in that role

since 2003. Lawrence, who has served as Director of OM's ship Logos II, and pioneered the work of OM in China, will commence on 1 September 2013.

"I will be delighted to hand over the reins to Lawrence Tong. I think this is the right time for an individual who has the necessary gifts and is from the global south to take the helm of the movement," Peter said.

"Lawrence is highly respected throughout Operation Mobilisation and has a long and varied history with us, and I have every confidence in him and Susan [his wife] as they take on this role."



Photo: OM International

The new Operation Mobilisation International Director, Lawrence Tong with his wife Susan.

# Connecting with Australia



Photo: Crossway Baptist Church

Dale Stephenson, Senior Pastor of Crossway Baptist Church is coming to Perth as the keynote speaker at the All Together Baptist Pastoral Retreat at the end of April.

He spoke with *The Advocate* about discipleship and church.

#### How well do you see the church is connecting with contemporary Australia?

It's a mixed bag. Generally speaking churches are more isolated than they think they are. Classically they make points of contact through programs but it's only when those contacts move to connections, which means relationships, then things really happen. When people go into someone's private domain, their home or their coffee shop and where there is empathy and trust, it's that point that contact becomes connection. I see churches where there are lots of points of contact and people are concerned and wonder why they are not seeing people come to Jesus. Contact needs to move to connection – that's relationship. Contact, connect, communicate.

#### What does the church need to do to become more relevant?

What we're seeing at Crossway is interesting. We've

studied for multiple years what's happening with growing churches in China and India. It's massive. It's gone viral!

People need to learn to be led by the Spirit. They need to live with an upfront spirituality – to be clear about their allegiance to Jesus – and they need to look for people who are open. For the last few weeks we've been teaching at a series we're calling Disciple 1 at Crossway. We're empowering people to make disciples in their network. We're asking them to say, 'I'm looking for someone to read the bible with – would you be interested?' It's a simple invitation and there is substantial interest in Australia to read the Bible with a Christian. It's surprised us all. As we've prayed we've found people asking 'would you read the Bible with me?'

Some months ago we mobilised the church to prayer walk our entire area. We've even got a huge map up on the wall with areas marked off. We've been ploughing up the ground. The next step is to engage with

the scriptures with someone who is open. There's been enormous interest. I'm doing it with a guy in my street. When I asked him if he would be interested, he said he would love that.

#### Are we (the church) being obedient to the Spirit?

As a general statement there are indications across Australia that we are more stalled. In some environments, yes, people are humbling themselves, they're listening. In other domains I'd say people are not listening. People are hardening their hearts. If people are not prepared to listen to what God is saying, He will move. He will go with those who are listening. The Kingdom cause is bigger than tradition. Jesus is always as contemporary as tomorrow.

#### What encourages you about people in your church and how they are taking steps in evangelism?

We are actually moving to the language of discipling people rather than evangelism.

When Jesus worked with his disciples he was working in a pre-Christian world. And what did He do? He disciplined people. We're talking about working with people who are not yet followers of Jesus and helping people become loving and obedient followers of Jesus.

Disciple-making is our core business. It's investing yourself into a person in such a way that you empower them to do 'like' activity with another. It must be simple yet profound: the simplicity of opening the scriptures together and the profundity of God speaking and moving in that situation. If it's not simple it won't spread. If it's not profound it won't make the change.

“The Kingdom cause is bigger than tradition. Jesus is always as contemporary as tomorrow ...”

#### What part do you see for prayer in spiritual transformation? How do spiritual disciplines fit in?

Prayer and spiritual disciplines are foundational. It all begins with prayer. God has ordained it that way. It's born out of prayer. I would even dare say, God has sovereignly ordained to be constrained Himself to where people will not act in dependence on Him.

#### Your church has a wide range of cultural backgrounds, how does that work?

Crossway's English speaking congregation is 40 percent from Asia, 10 percent from the Middle-East and Africa and 50 percent from other nations. In addition, we have five Asian congregations that are non-English speaking. We don't push that barrow hard. But we do strongly acknowledge that every person born is made in the image of God and of immense value. We represent our community – multicultural. There are at least 15 Asian staff members. That means there is still under-representation but we're committed to go with who God is leading us to.

#### Do people have to give up their own culture to embrace the local church culture?

No. The local church culture is formed not adopted. The

most substantial influence on a local church culture is the long-term influence of the long-term leader. They are the long-term shaper. If that changes repeatedly, that changes the culture influencers and it can default to long-term lay leaders. I'd say long-term is a minimum of seven years. Culture is shaped in the context of a decade.

#### How are you using technology? Social media?

As it's designed to be used! There's a Crossway app for phones. We have a presence on Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo and Instagram. We've been deliberate and intentional. The number of sermon views online has repeatedly jumped by 100 percent. Calendar, sermons and our blog: we work with those simple three things. We've had more than 4,500 download the free Crossway app and 137,000 views.

#### What do you do to maintain your personal spiritual vibrancy?

Intimacy with Jesus. That relationship is nurtured with transparency with Him, the Word of God and prayer. I take time sitting in His presence, dialoguing with Him about all sorts of things. Everything is from there. It's hushing the demanding voice of life. Life is busy. I'm married with four children. I need to find quiet and calm. You have to still yourself and have dedicated space. I have ignored those things to my peril.

“We don't push that barrow hard. But we do strongly acknowledge that every person born is made in the image of God and of immense value. We represent our community – multicultural.”

#### What book are you currently reading? Digital or paper?

I'm reading Steve Addison's latest, *What Jesus Started*. And there's Mike Breen's book *Building a Discipling Culture*. I prefer digital books. I read them on my iPad. Sometimes I'll read a paper book.

# Passing on a positive legacy



more predictive of your legacy than the quality of people surrounding you.

#### 4) Commit to a positive learning attitude that guarantees growth.

Personal growth is linked to a teachable disposition. My friend and mentor John Wooden liked to say, 'It's what you learn after you know it all that counts'. I credit my growth as a leader to a set of learning attitudes that I developed early in life.

##### My learning attitudes

- a. Every day I will learn something.
- b. Everyone will be my teacher.
- c. Every experience will be a learning lab.
- d. Every opportunity I will ask questions.
- e. Every time I will apply what I've learned.

#### 5) Continually experience inner renewal.

Since the cares of life easily crowd out space for reflection, it's essential to schedule time to think. By itself, experience doesn't teach us anything; it has to be evaluated. Learning to pause allows growth to catch up with you. My motto is that 'you cannot travel without until you've travelled within.' In other words, you won't have transformative influence on the world until you've been transformed yourself.

##### Final thoughts

Each of us has received thousands of blessings that we did nothing to earn. Being a legacy-minded leader is an intentional way to give back out of gratitude for what we've been given.

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By John Maxwell

'There is a choice you make in everything you do. So keep in mind that in the end, the choice you make, makes you.' John Wooden

A legacy isn't something over which we have no control, like the shadow that follows us down the sidewalk. Rather, we can choose the way in which our influence will remain once we're gone. Here are a few suggestions for how you can

purposefully pass on a positive legacy.

#### 1) Integrate a daily focus with a long-term perspective.

Leaders who have an enduring influence keep one eye on the compass and the other eye

on the clock. That is, they look ahead without losing sight of what needs to happen each day. They give their best to activities and appointments, or the daily doings of life, while not forgetting their orienting vision and values.

#### 2) Establish a direction that is clearly observable.

When your time on this earth draws to a close, people will describe your life in a single sentence – pick it now. Be intentional about the sort of influence you want to have on the world around you. I live each

day with my legacy statement at the forefront of my mind: 'John Maxwell added value to leaders who multiplied value to others.' Being aware of how I want to be remembered gives me perspective on what's truly important.

#### 3) Develop a network of meaningful relationships.

Leadership is influence, and relationships are the foundation of leadership. Throughout life, I've heeded the 'Law of the Inner Circle', 'Those closest to me determine the level of my success.' Perhaps nothing is

# We have two ears and one mouth for a reason

By Marc Chan

As it is at the moment, we are all a bit overwhelmed by what is happening in politics. At a very regular interval, we are getting news about change in leadership – someone who has been the leader of a party suddenly resigns or others want to replace the current leader with another one. One question that can be asked is: has there been any trend in the reasons why it is happening?

Well, from what can be gathered in the news floating around is that many of those leaders have lost touch with the people who voted for them and/or are no longer on the same wavelength as many of their colleagues. Is it possible that these leaders are simply not

listening to others? They tried to convince everyone else that they know better and therefore, they should be listened to as the leader and not the other way around.

How many times have leaders been heard to say that this particular change is good

for the welfare of their voters while their voters are saying something else? This gives us a good indication that in order to lead others, there is a need to listen more before going ahead and doing things our way.

The Greek philosopher, Epictetus (55–135 CE) came up

with this well-known saying, 'We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak'. This is a very wise saying and advisable for all leaders to listen to. We have the tendency to tell those following us that we know how they feel, we know what is the best for them and the decisions we make are in their best interest ... even though at times we do not really know what that is.

Have we not all been in meetings where everyone is so keen to put forward their point of view and no one is really listening to anyone else? We come out of these meetings feeling frustrated or annoyed

by 'the others'. Why is that? Is it not because we have not been able to say what we want to and feel this way? We want others to listen to what we have to say but we hardly listen to others.

I always say that I have learnt more about leadership from refugees than all the conferences I have attended. I have learnt to listen to their stories, to hear about the hardships they have and to realise what their needs are. This has helped me enormously to understand and know what it is that they need.

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

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

## events calendar

### April

- 1 April Easter Monday
- 20 April Friends of Global Interaction, 6313 6300
- 21 April Baptist Historical Society of WA Public Meeting, 9384 5460
- 25 April ANZAC Day
- 29 April-1 May All Together Baptist 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](mailto: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)



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## BOOKSALE: 4 May 2013, 9am-3pm



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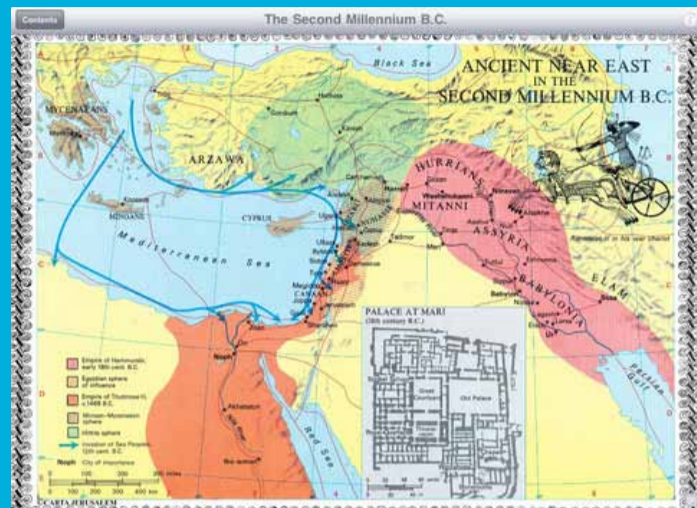
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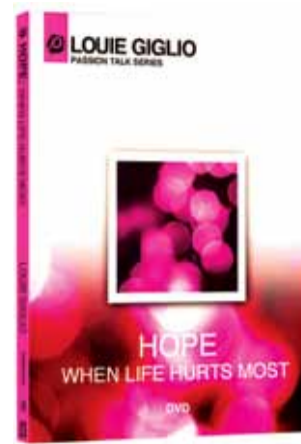
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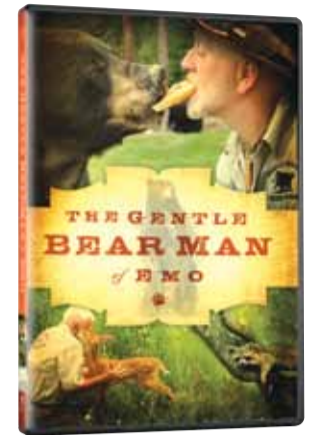
What On Earth Am I Here For?

By Rick Warren  
The *What On Earth Am I Here For?* DVD is a six week, video-based Bible study of *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren – the book, *Publishers Weekly* declared the 'bestselling nonfiction hardback in history'. This spiritual journey will transform your answer to life's most important question. Simplify your life, increase your motivation, discover God's amazing plan for you both now and for eternity.



Hope: When Life Hurts Most

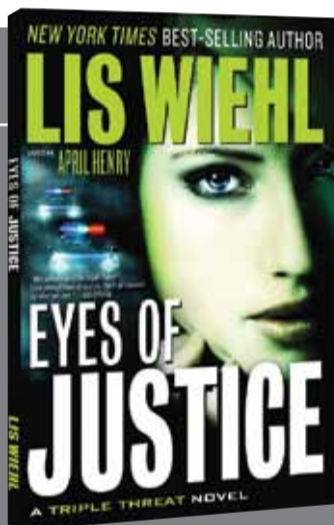
By Louie Giglio  
Life isn't easy. We experience problems and setbacks each day; but when the bottom seems to fall out, where do we turn for peace? Although God doesn't always offer easy solutions, He does in fact offer something more and something that is better – He offers Himself and His cross and hope as an anchor for our souls. When life hurts most, the world listens most intently to our message, allowing us to broadcast through our pain the goodness of He who loves us the most ...



The Gentle Bear Man of Emo

In north-western Ontario lies a town called Emo, where Michael Scheibler and his wife Betty, own 320 acres of land. With plenty of animals crossing this land consistently, the Scheiblers were not surprised to find bears spending time on their land. Over time, Michael built up a mutual trust with these bears to a place where he was able to feed them by hand. This rare film carries a heart warming story of how wild animals taught one broken man to be human again.

win



Eyes of Justice

By Lis Wiehl  
After being rescued from the battle of Trafalgar, William Sutton arrives back home in England and tells his grandfather of the amazing encounter with a man who looked just like him. Meanwhile, his long-lost brother, now a spy for France, returns to the English family he has never known. This exciting historical thriller continues the saga of an English family dynasty that is threatened from within and without.

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

Question:

Name the author of *Eyes of Justice*.

Entries close 12 April and all winners will be announced in the May edition of *The Advocate*.

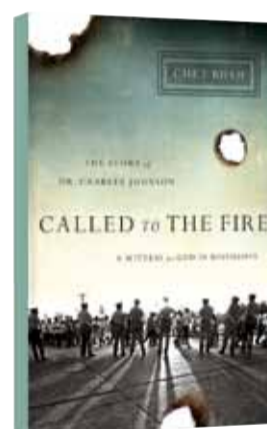
Winners from *Embracing a Healthy Lifestyle*:  
J Harrison, R Read, B Shortland

read



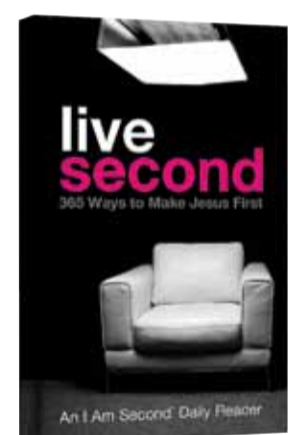
For This I Was Born

By Brian Houston  
At some point in life we all face the question, "What am I doing with my life?" In Brian Houston's book, *For This I Was Born*, we are offered fresh perspective and encouragement that God does have a plan and purpose for us individually and as a church. *For This I Was Born* presents the life-changing cause of Christ, His vision for you, for this world that was created – Jesus lived, died and rose again – for this you were born.



Called To The Fire

By Chet Bush  
This is the true story of Dr Charles Johnson, an African American preacher who went to Mississippi in 1961 during the summer of the Freedom Rides. Fresh out of Bible school, Johnson hesitantly followed his call to pastor in Mississippi, a hotbed for race relations during the early 1960s. Unwittingly thrust into the heart of a national tragedy, the murder of three Civil Rights activists, he overcame fear and adversity to become a leader in the Civil Rights Movement.



Live Second

By Doug Bender  
*Live Second* is a daily guide to help you make Jesus first priority in your life. With 365 readings, prayers and actions steps, you will have a sure path established to put Jesus first every day. The Christian life is not meant to be easy, just worth it. *Live Second* is just what you need as you become the inspired, God-honouring person He made you to be.

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# Capturing nurturing bonds

World-renown landscape photographer Ken Duncan lives his commitment to help the poor of the world.

Almost 20 years ago, he created his first book with World Vision Australia, titled *Vision of Hope: Children of the World* (1994). After he promised to help the people he'd met through his work with World Vision in Bangladesh, Lebanon, Malawi, Romania, Thailand and Zimbabwe.

In 2010, Ken reunited with World Vision and joined CEO Tim Costello on a trip to India where he saw the opportunity to tell the joys and challenges of mothers and their children and raise essential funds for World Vision's development work. In 2012, he revisited Bangladesh and travelled to Mongolia for the first time.

*Vision of Hope: Mother & Child* (2013) is a moving collection of photos and short stories showing the bond between mothers and their children living in developing countries around the world. The book is available through World Vision.

"It would be nice to be able to do more," Ken said. "Poverty is so much bigger than a country in trouble. What World Vision is doing is very good. They can deal with the politics; they've got the stable connections inside countries."

"I see God using my skills as a photographer to show the beauty of God's creation," Ken said. "I get to show the hope in people's lives."

"I've never seen so much fear in people," Ken said. "People are so afraid of global issues. It's crippling people."



Photo: Ken Duncan

A photo from *Vision of Hope: Mother & Child* by Ken Duncan – a collection of photos and short stories showing the bond between mothers and their children living in developing countries around the world.

"We need to live with the attitude of faith and hope. Australia has an incredible future. We can't bring change by being held by fears. Our hope is in God. Things can change through prayer."

"I think we sometimes have our priorities wrong. I remember being in India during the Commonwealth Games. The slogan was 'Going for Gold'."

Fun-loving gregarious Ken was in for a shock.

"I'd been visiting children in India who were working as slave labourers. There are two million child slaves in India. These kids were working so long and hard that their little hands were bleeding. I kept thinking, 'this shouldn't be happening'."

*Vision of Hope: Mother & Child* will help bring

change. From Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ecuador, India, Mongolia, Senegal to the Pilbara in Australia, this book showcases World Vision's work empowering communities and families to break the cycle of poverty.

The collection of images was taken by Ken Duncan and fellow photographers Steve Fraser, Meg Hansen and Luke Peterson.

"While the message behind the book is sobering there's also hope – the images are beautiful and uplifting," World Vision CEO Tim Costello said. "They remind you that despite the many differences in circumstances there is a common bond between mothers and children the world over."

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



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