

# the advocate

**"It's been like a sword hanging over our heads."**

**SENIOR PASTOR ANDRE VAN OUDTSHOORN**

**In conversation** Senior Pastor April Yamasaki talks about her new book, *Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal*. **PAGE 12 >>**



Photo: Crossroads WA

UnitingCare Crossroads WA and the wider community are celebrating the opening of The Warehouse Café, an inclusive space for people living with a disability to learn skills which will help them to live independently. Celebrity Chef Poh Ling Yeow, from ABC's *Poh's Kitchen*, dropped into the Shenton Park Café to show her support and to congratulate staff on its recent opening.

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## Mediation helps church

Following five months of mediation at the State Administrative Tribunal, Scarborough Baptist Church has announced that action initiated by the City of Stirling against the Church has now been set aside.

The action related to a directive from the City of Stirling requiring the Church to seek council permission prior to being able to commence or run many church-related activities such as Sunday evening meals and services, band practices, craft groups, fetes, fairs, and quiz nights.

In a public statement on social media the church announced:

"We are very grateful to the Lord, and wish to thank the City of Stirling that we are able to continue with our services in the community. The Church has always endeavoured to make a positive impact on the

community. We remain under an obligation, to not only care for, and reach out to the wealthy, but also to our neighbours, as well as the broken and needy around us. Our church represents people from many different nations and social backgrounds whose lives have been affected positively by the message of God's unmerited love for all. It is our prayer that Scarborough Baptist Church will continue to be a witness to God's care and concern for everyone."

During the mediation, the Church received numerous messages of support from churches and individual

Christians in Australia and from across the world.

The council told Scarborough Baptist Church in September 2012 that serving dinner at Sunday evening services and holding craft classes, band practice and preschool dance classes were not allowed. It said under its planning scheme, the Church could only be for worship and child daycare.

"The 65 year old church has provided meals to between 30 and 60 churchgoers, homeless people and backpackers for nine years as 'part and parcel' of its Sunday night services at the Church," Senior Pastor Andre van Oudtshoorn said.

He was relieved common sense had prevailed.

"Everyone is ecstatic with the outcome," Andre said. "It's been like a sword hanging over our heads."

"We're just grateful that in the end, we were able to resolve the matter amicably."

City of Stirling Manager of Health and Compliance, Peter Morrison, said the church was monitored and the council decided the meal service and classes formed part of church activities and did not require further approval.

The council became aware of the church's activities after complaints from residents about noise, illegal parking and antisocial behaviour. It had to respond to complaints and administer its planning laws.

"Please pray for us as a church that we will be able to continue acting with understanding, love and kindness to our immediate neighbours and that they will come to find us a blessing rather than a problem," Andre said.

“BCWA is churches working together to do what would be difficult as individual congregations.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





### Mark Wilson

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

## Assigning each other with labels ...

Labels are helpful on food products and goods but generally harmful on us. Yet, long before calories and ingredients showed up on our grocery items, we assigned labels to each other.

Many labels stick like glue throughout our lives. Even if they're not constantly re-spoken by others we regularly replay them within our own hearts.

The dictionary separates the word 'label' from the word 'libel' with many other words, but the two words are often spoken or thought side-by-side. Which of us has not been wounded by a label? Some labels puff us up; most beat us down. War and racism rely on labels to dehumanise people and

make it easier to vilify, hate or even kill them. Labels produce a 'convenient distance'. So, we live in the world at arm's length.

Labels create an exclusion zone around us that allows us to disregard or even hurt others. Labels detract from the reality and humanity of those around us. But the gospel won't let us live in such isolation. It demands that we treat others as people, not products. To perpetuate destructive labels is to deny and defy the gospel,

the good news, that Christ breaks down all the barriers and restores us again to the Father, and to each other. Indeed, the labels are often the lies that keep us from entering the doors of freedom and intimacy with Christ.

When the apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesian Christians, he spelled out a number of wounding and distancing labels. '... Gentiles ... uncircumcised ... separate ... excluded ... strangers ... no hope ... without God ... far

off ...' [Ephesians 2:11-13]. Then he highlighted that the work of Christ brings us all near, into one body, into fellow-citizenship and into a single family (God's household). Have a read of the rest of Ephesians 2.

Today, may we find the conviction and courage to discard the painful labels that we speak to ourselves and to others.



### Dr Brian Harris

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

## On being potted ...

Now I am on dangerous territory in this article, because I plan to use some gardening imagery. Before a hundred irritated readers correct the agricultural errors, let me throw in my disclaimer – whatever! The main point remains valid.

I was at my local nursery (a rare occurrence) and asked why our pot plant was failing to thrive. I explained that we were told (rightly or wrongly) this species (name forgotten) grows well in pots and I then showed the attendant a photo of our miserable specimen. After 'tut tutting' sympathetically, she explained that it was probably potted. Noting my blank expression, she elaborated and

told me if you put a plant in too small a container, its growth is restricted and it becomes over rooted, and undernourished ... or something like that. The solution? A larger and significantly more expensive pot, which I duly purchased.

I've been thinking about that lately. How often do people fail to thrive because they are in an undersized container? Sometimes people forget to

dream. Sometimes the death of an earlier dream makes hopefulness a fearful option. We think small, risk small, become small. In no time we are potted.

We transferred our plant and the results were good (not that I am one to brag!) – but recently I have noticed that it is no longer growing. I presented the problem to a visiting expert (anyone who knows more than me) and was asked – 'so

why have you got it in a pot? It fares best when planted in the open.' Hmm. Apparently this unnamed species is not supposed to be potted.

I wonder if this is the stuff of parables. I remember Jesus' call to His disciples, 'Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' Having been hopeless fishermen in their earlier life (they never caught a fish unless Jesus performed a miracle), they now fish on a different canvas – and they change the world! It started when they responded to a simple invitation, 'follow me'. It is still the invitation that sets us free ...



### Keith Jobberns

Keith Jobberns is National Ministries Director of Australian Baptist Ministries (Baptist Union of Australia).

## An anxiety antidote

David Malouf's interesting article on 'Contentment' in *The Age* (12 March) brings a perspective on the world's current pandemic of anxiety and depression. He maintains that with space exploration in the 1970s, human beings who previously felt connected to a small village or suburban community now had an image from space of living on a small and fragile planet.

"The experience made us too, feel small," David said.

The awareness of 'smallness' in people tends to extrapolate into vulnerability and fear and with good cause. Most of us experience negative emotional responses to the plethora of human and environmental abuse that floods our media, and whether it gears us into angry social action or immobilises us with powerless depression, we

are impacted. Many people are just plain sad at the demise of a sense of future. The family, cultural, financial and military bulwarks we once counted on to keep us safe and content are under threat of change and extinction. Where then is the hope we need to keep on?

During the recent Easter the Christian world celebrated the life of Jesus who understood the human need for hope.

Every time He healed a disabled or dying person, He restored hope. His life of wisdom and goodness gave a glimpse to the watching crowds, that life could be different if there was an alignment with His values.

Jesus Christ's life and self-sacrificing death as a ransom for fallen humanity allowed mankind to have renewed relationship with God. Then when He conquered death in the

resurrection He gave amazing hope to those who witnessed and heard about it. There was hope for a new meaningful way of living, hope for a connection with a loving God and hope for an amazing life beyond the horror of the grave.

Are human beings being infected by anxiety, fear and depression? Yes indeed! But there is an antidote and it comes in the form of knowing and believing that Jesus stepped into this small planet to transform our lives because of His profound love for all of us.

## 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.



# Cambodia possibilities



Photo: Robin Carter

Stephen Wilkinson, Andre van der Merwe and Stephen Nosworthy with a blind grandmother who is supported through Baptist World Aid Australia's activities in Cambodia.

**Robin Carter, Baptist World Aid Australia's Church Relationship Coordinator SA/WA/NT, led a team to Cambodia in March to give supporters an opportunity to see the work they are supporting.**

Stephen Nosworthy, Senior Pastor at Lake Joondalup Baptist Church, Andre van der Merwe, an Elder at Lake Joondalup Baptist Church, and Vaughan Wilkinson from Fremantle were the Western Australians on the team.

Baptist World Aid Australia's focus is to work through community development initiatives to tackle the root causes of poverty rather than simply relieving the symptoms. They help families and communities access the skills and resources they need to improve their situation.

To gain some perspective, the team visited Pol Pots' killing fields memorial to the two million people executed and one million starved, the high school turned into S21 prison/torture chambers and Angkor Wat temples as well as three Baptist World Aid Australia initiatives.

The FH Project in Northern Cambodia near the Thailand

border is a new Child Centred Community Development project that is funded by child sponsorship. In a very short time the community has established a rapidly growing school, helped families in the community and addressed multiple aspects of child welfare.

National Centre for Disability Cambodia is conducted through a large partner organisation that has many community centred disability support programs across Cambodia. They minister to many people disabled as a result of Pol Pot's despotic rule as well as many other physical and emotional handicaps people develop.

"Conflict is a huge problem in Cambodian society," Robin said. "Violence is a common method for dealing with problems."

Peace Bridges, an initiative of Global Interaction staff and funded by Baptist World Aid, partners with organisations,

including churches, to build effective conflict management services within and beyond their organisation. It is transforming churches, marriages and communities and challenging gang cultures that see violence as the only way to deal with conflict.

Peace builders are trained and mobilised to develop conciliation, mediation and violence

prevention education outcomes among their circles of influence.

"Lake Joondalup Baptist Church has been partnering in recent years with Baptist World Aid in their Beyond Disability program," Senior Pastor Stephen Nosworthy said.

"Both Andre and I were taken by the strong work of Peace Bridges in Cambodia and believe this is something the

local church can get behind," Stephen said. "Peace Bridges is making a real difference. Villages and communities are being transformed; government departments are being touched; universities, schools and community NGOs are sending their leaders for training as Peace Bridges presents a powerful and practical way of changing culture and relationships."

## New pastor at Maida Vale

**Rob Douglas commenced as Pastor at Maida Vale Baptist Church in early April after 12 years working with Baptistcare.**

"It's a new challenge," Rob said. "I've been assisting the church for the past 12 months and providing leadership. Becoming their pastor just seemed to be where God was leading all of us at the same time."

The Douglas family already has a strong connection with

Maida Vale Baptist Church. Robyn, Rob's wife, has been the Children and Families Worker for five years and has had her call extended for another five years.

"There's a real sense of anticipation for what God is going to do in the future at Maida Vale," Rob said. "People

recognise there is the need for change. There's a readiness for looking at how we can be more effective."

"In my time with Baptistcare I've learnt a huge amount about leadership that I didn't know when I was pastoring previously," Rob said.

Dr Noel Vose prayed for Rob as he commences this new ministry. Thirty years ago he preached at the service when Rob became a pastor at Narrogin Baptist Church.



# Believers gather at City Farm

A new congregation, The Chapel, started meeting in Perth's inner-city recently.

A group of people under the leadership of Monica O'Neil met for several months, putting their heart for God's Kingdom and their willingness to try something different to the test, exploring how God might use them in the inner city areas.

"As we began to explore this call we have found that this is a rapid population growth area," Monica said. "We think God is up to something in the inner city and we are joining in the fun!"

On 17 March the second phase of the new church began when the group transitioned to weekly Sunday afternoon meetings at Perth City Farm in East Perth.

"The location may seem different, and I guess it is," Steve Ingram, one of the leading team said. "But it's great. We're right in the middle of city life at a venue that is doing very innovative things in very creative ways with a wide variety of people."

The Chapel group view themselves as very ordinary

people. Hard working, fun loving, God loving, not spectacular.

They're just very ordinary people with a dream and faith.

"We're building a community of believers who want to live lives of faith. All day. Everyday. Every context," Monica said. "We think it might be contagious and we will be giving voice to the hope that is in us. We long to lead our friends, family, neighbours and workmates home to the family of God."

"Our Sunday gatherings are for believers," Monica said. "We are concerned with profound engagement with the spirit of God, the scripture and with one another."

Anyone who wants to live a life of faith and has a heart for people connecting with the great news that Jesus has reconciled us to God is welcome to meet with the group.

The group already has some ideas about how to engage people in the city. They expect there will be a growing and developing sense of vision among those God gathers to the group. Equipping and encouraging these people will be crucial.

"Our model is to join God," Monica said. "So we see our role as responders rather than master strategists. I guess we strategise as we sense what God is doing."



Monica O'Neil leads the new congregation, The Chapel, which meets at Perth City Farm in East Perth.

Photo: Jill Birt

## Ethnic congregations celebrate Easter

More than 150 people celebrated Easter at a combined Easter gathering of the ethnic congregations of the Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) at the Myanmar Baptist Church in Noranda on Good Friday evening.

"This was the first time the ethnic churches had combined for a church service," BCWA Cross Cultural and Indigenous

Ministries Consultant, Marc Chan said.

People from the Sudanese, Spanish, Swahili, Karen

(Burmese) and two Chin (Burmese) congregations met with the Myanmar Baptist Church group.

The youth band from the Myanmar Baptist Church led the gathering in worship using contemporary songs in English.

Pastors from six of the congregations shared the preaching on the evening.

A highlight of the event was the Sudanese group singing a special musical item in Arabic.

Following the meeting

everyone enjoyed supper together.

"Sharing food together is an important way to express hospitality and unity in so many cultures," Marc said.

Planning has already commenced for a combined Christmas gathering.

"It's going to be great!" Marc said.

### digital church

05/04/2013  
**Barnabas Piper**

[www.ministrybestpractices.com](http://www.ministrybestpractices.com)  
"Of course, every church has its faults – the result of what happens when a group of sinners tries to come together to do ... well ... most anything."

08/04/2013  
**Michelle Croftwell Kirtley**

[www.thinkchristian.net](http://www.thinkchristian.net)  
"... although we have unique responsibilities as citizens of our own political community, Jesus made it clear that the command to love our neighbour does not stop at our border."

08/04/2013  
**Carey Nieuwhof**

[www.careynieuwhof.com](http://www.careynieuwhof.com)  
"Almost every church I know says they want to reach unchurched people. But few are actually doing it."

09/04/2013  
**Brian Croft**

[www.practicalshepherding.com](http://www.practicalshepherding.com)  
"Sometimes God takes us through ups and downs and there is so much more to evaluate on a church's health than whether your numbers are 'higher' this year than last."

### briefs

#### Baptisms

Baptisms often signify the powerful work of God's Spirit drawing people to announce their allegiance to the Lord Jesus. Eilidh Lucas and Paula Sayer from Busselton Baptist Community Church were baptised in the ocean on Sunday 24 March. Luke Gillam was baptised on the same day at Lakeside Baptist Church. Gnowangerup Baptist Church celebrated the baptisms of Cheryl Macaulay on 31 March (Easter Sunday) and Amber Wise and Christopher Wise on the 7 April.

#### Album launch party

Joel Smoker will be launching his fifth album *The Human*

*Condition* on Saturday 11 May at Kulcha, 13 South Terrace, Fremantle with band members Dave Clarke, Brendan Leggo, John McNair and Ian Simpson who recorded the album. This album is all about reflection with Joel taking the role of a jester and holding a mirror up to our lives with songs that reflect who we are. Pre-sale tickets are \$15 while tickets at the door will be \$20. For more information, call Kulcha on 9336 4544.

#### Pastoral changes

Brett Peacock has been appointed as the Executive and Mission Pastor at Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church.

#### The Unlikely Hero Tour

World Vision is presenting The Unlikely Hero Tour, featuring acclaimed USA speaker and author Tony Campolo, in Perth from 31 May to 2 June. Lakeside Baptist Church will be hosting Tony on Friday 31 May at Lakeside Recreation Centre. Tony will also be at Riverview Church on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 June. All events on the Tour are free. For more information, contact Lakeside Baptist Church on 9310 7111 or Riverview Church on 9416 0000.



# Setting people free from porn



Photo: Guilty Pleasure

Neuroscientist Dr William Struthers spoke at Riverview church on the effects of pornography on the brain.

**USA author and acclaimed Neuroscientist Dr William Struthers spoke to an audience of 1,400 people at Riverview Church recently. Dr Struthers was in Australia with Guilty Pleasure, an organisation that educates people on the reasons why people become addicted to pornography, and connects addicts and couples to professional help.**

"Our reproduction organs are often given too much attention in the discussion of sexuality," Dr Struthers said. "It is the brain, however, where we feel the sexual longing, the arousal, the focus and the ecstasy that comes from sexual intimacy. Pornography takes human sexuality out of its natural context, intimacy between two

human beings, and makes it a product to be bought and sold."

According to researchers at The University of Sydney, excessive users of porn tend to have severe social and relationship problems due to their addiction.

Data released by Nielsen shows 35 percent of internet users in Australia have viewed

pornography or visited a sex-oriented matchmaker site, equating to around 4.3 million Australians.

"The pornography-built pathway has only a few off-ramps, leading to sexual encounters that have only a fleeting impact and hasten the need for more," Dr Struthers said. "They become the automatic route through which interactions with real humans are routed and imprisons the viewer's ability to see these humans as anything else but potential porn stars."

In a recent survey conducted by psychiatrists in Australia, it was found that the starting age of viewing pornography was between 11 to 13 years. When subjects were asked about their porn viewing history, they said it always started with something very small, but then escalated to viewing material more frequently and more explicit.

"We can find healthy ways to train the brain to understand and act on its sexual nature. By appreciating this and acknowledging porn's unhealthy impact on our brain, we have a better path forward," Dr Struthers said.

After Dr Struthers presentation, Jason Huxley from Guilty Pleasure spoke to several people struggling with a porn addiction journey.

"One lady drove 350 kilometres to attend the service," Jason said. "Porn was destroying her family through her husbands' addiction and was also affecting her town. She wanted to learn as much as she could and start being proactive. It's great to see a church like Riverview taking a stand and tackling the big and difficult issues. They gave us room to speak about a very important and timely message."

For more information, visit [www.guiltypleasure.tv](http://www.guiltypleasure.tv).

## Indian leader

Sulen Bosumatari, general secretary for more than 20 years of the Boro Baptist Church Association, died on 28 March in Assam state, India. He was 82 years old. During his ministry years he served as a pastor, secretary of the advisory body of Boro Churches throughout Northeast India, secretary of the Boro Bible Translation Committee and secretary of the Boro Baptist Church Association. He played a significant role in the transition to local leadership of the work amongst the Boro people.

## Egyptian suffering

Four Coptic Christians in Egypt were killed during an outburst of violence in Khosous district north of Cairo on 6 April. Police were present but failed to contain the violence between Coptic and Muslim youth. The Baptist church was torched as well as homes and businesses of Coptic Christians. A Coptic orphanage was also damaged. By some estimates, tens of thousands of Christians have left Egypt post-revolution (February 2011). Many have left due to concerns over rising Muslim conservatism and a general instability they say is emboldening attacks against them.

## Connecting with 98.5

**98.5 Sonshine FM recently appointed their broadcaster Rodney Olsen to build partnerships with local churches and find ways for the radio station to serve them better.**

"Whether it be the presence of the highly visual 98five painted van at your community event or

something else, there are things we can do to serve you," Rodney said.

"We've been a part of the journey for so many people in Perth. People have found us, heard things that made sense then looked for a church. We're completely ineffective if we're not working alongside the churches in Perth."

"I'm keen to hear your thoughts on how we can become more effective," Rodney said. "I'm also very keen on finding out about the ministries happening within churches and communities."

"I think there are so many opportunities for 98five to serve churches and to join with local fellowships as we partner in the task of engaging the people of WA in the positive message of hope in Jesus Christ."

Churches interested in having Rodney visit or talk with him about partnership possibilities can contact him at [Rodney.Olsen@98five.com](mailto:Rodney.Olsen@98five.com) or 9313 0806.



# Youth inform politicians

Ninety young ambassadors from Western Australia travelled to Sydney and Canberra in March to raise the profile of the Movement to End Poverty.

World Vision worker Jarrod McKenna was a facilitator for the WA contingent.

"It was an amazing experience to be with so many young people who are so passionate and want to make a difference," Jarrod said. "Many young people are seeking justice for the world's poor, but my question is, 'is the church there with them?'"

On 14 March, 1,000 young people showed their support by gathering on the lawns of Parliament House to launch the Movement to End Poverty – a joint action of the Make Poverty History and Micah Challenge coalitions.

For Cally Dupe from Kununurra a highlight of the trip was an impromptu 9pm meeting with two Western Australian politicians who missed out on meeting the group of ambassadors at Parliament House. The politicians travelled to Exhibition Park in Canberra where the ambassadors were staying to talk with the young people about why they were in the capital.

Broome high-schooler Melanie Bester went on the road trip to gain some perspective on her life. "I always knew I had a privileged life," Melanie said. "But I didn't have a sense of how to approach helping others not as lucky."

"The trip gave me the



National ambassadors in electorate groups (yellow signs) on the lawn of Parliament House, Canberra launch the Movement to End Poverty.

opportunity to campaign, meet senators and help enforce change."

Oaktree Foundation Chief Executive Viv Benjamin said the aim of the trip was to urge politicians to keep their promise of increasing foreign aid.

"We know that ending extreme poverty is achievable in our lifetime," she said.

Australia gives 0.35 percent of its gross national income

to foreign aid and the group is asking the Government to raise it to 70 cents (0.7 percent) in every \$100 of Australia's national income by 2020.

Since 1990, two billion people have been lifted out of absolute poverty and the proportion living below the absolute poverty line has halved.

"It's important that we join with other Australians and send

a message to our nation's leaders that ending extreme poverty in our lifetime is achievable."

One way people can get involved is to sign the Movement to End Poverty petition requesting Australia's leaders to do their fair share to help end poverty.

With the federal election set

for September, now is the time for Australians to join together to show our political leaders that the community wants Australia to do its part to end extreme poverty. But we can only do this together.

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

## Pastor arrives

The Romanian Baptist Church in Bayswater welcomed the Rev. Ioan Busan as their new pastor in early March 2013.

Recently arrived from Romania, Pastor Ioan Busan and his wife Doina were welcomed by the congregation at their church with fellow Romanian believers from the Romanian Pentecostal Church, Perth, joining the celebrations.

Busuic Belciu, Pastor of the first Romanian Baptist Church Melbourne, flew to Perth for the induction service.

Former Romanian Baptist Church Pastor Gavril Crisan and Pastor Ion Bara from the

Romanian Pentecostal Church prayed for the new pastor. Michael Carter represented Baptist Churches Western Australia at the service.

Ioan was ordained as a pastor in 1991 in Romania. Prior to becoming a pastor he had worked as a mechanical engineer.

The theme of the charge to Ioan was to be overflowing with God's love and to share it with others as a torrent of water rather than a dripping tap.

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# Planters gather in Sydney



Photo: Jill Birt

Marc Chan (left) and Phil Bryant were part of the team representing BCWA at the national church planters' conference in Sydney.

**Baptist church planters from around Australia gathered in Sydney recently to share their progress in engaging Australia's population with the person of Jesus Christ at the two day Crossover Australia Church Planters conference.**

Phil Bryant, Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) Church Health Consultant, Marc Chan, BCWA Cultural Advisor and Monica O'Neil from Vose Leadership and the leader of the team planting The Chapel, a new congregation in East Perth, represented WA at the meetings.

Phil gave the opening address, highlighting current and future issues for church planters.

"I think we're the only state with a multi-campus model in operation – One Church with campuses at Lakelands, Mandurah and Austin Cove," Phil said.

WA has ethnic congregations among Sudanese, Burmese (Karen and Chin people groups), Indonesian, Romanian, Russian, Cambodian, Chinese, Spanish (South American), Indian sub-

continent and Swahili speaking people.

"Marc is a very strategic thinker and prepared to put the time into supporting and training leaders in the cross-cultural churches," Phil said. "I think he is part of the reason WA is doing so well with planting new churches among refugee and migrant communities."

"I expect some of these churches may be for a season, while people find their feet, learn culture and adjust to life in Australia," Marc said. "There are huge pressures on people when they arrive in Australia and there is something very comforting to worship in your heart language with familiar music and style of worship."

"These vibrant ethnic congregations should never be an excuse for Australian

congregations not to engage with new comers to Australia," Marc said. "The church can play a strategic and significant part in helping refugees and migrants adjust to life in Australia and this part of God's Kingdom."

"State unions in general have finally woken up to this area of church planting and are putting in resources to get it going," Marc said. "I had a lengthy discussion with the state representative from Tasmania and they have finally decided to nominate someone to head the cross-cultural ministry. For the first time they'll be sending someone to the Multicultural Task Team meeting this May in Melbourne."

Statistics announcing the decline of the church in Australia have not discouraged church planters.

"The variety of models of church planting indicates a freedom to experiment," Phil said. "It was amazing how people were so accepting of different styles and learning from each other."

## Leaders' request

**North Korean church leaders are asking Christians worldwide to pray for their country amid increased war threats and combat preparation by North Korean military officials.**

Prayer for beleaguered believers in North Korea is more important than ever, says Open Doors, an organisation that supports persecuted Christians in 60 countries.

According to underground Christians, there is a war-like atmosphere in the country, "We are to meet the decisive battle with a gun in one hand and a hammer in the other," a Christian leader said about the message the North Korean people recently received from the 'high command'.

"The military are already in combat mode. Urgent meetings are being held everywhere, regardless if it is day or night."

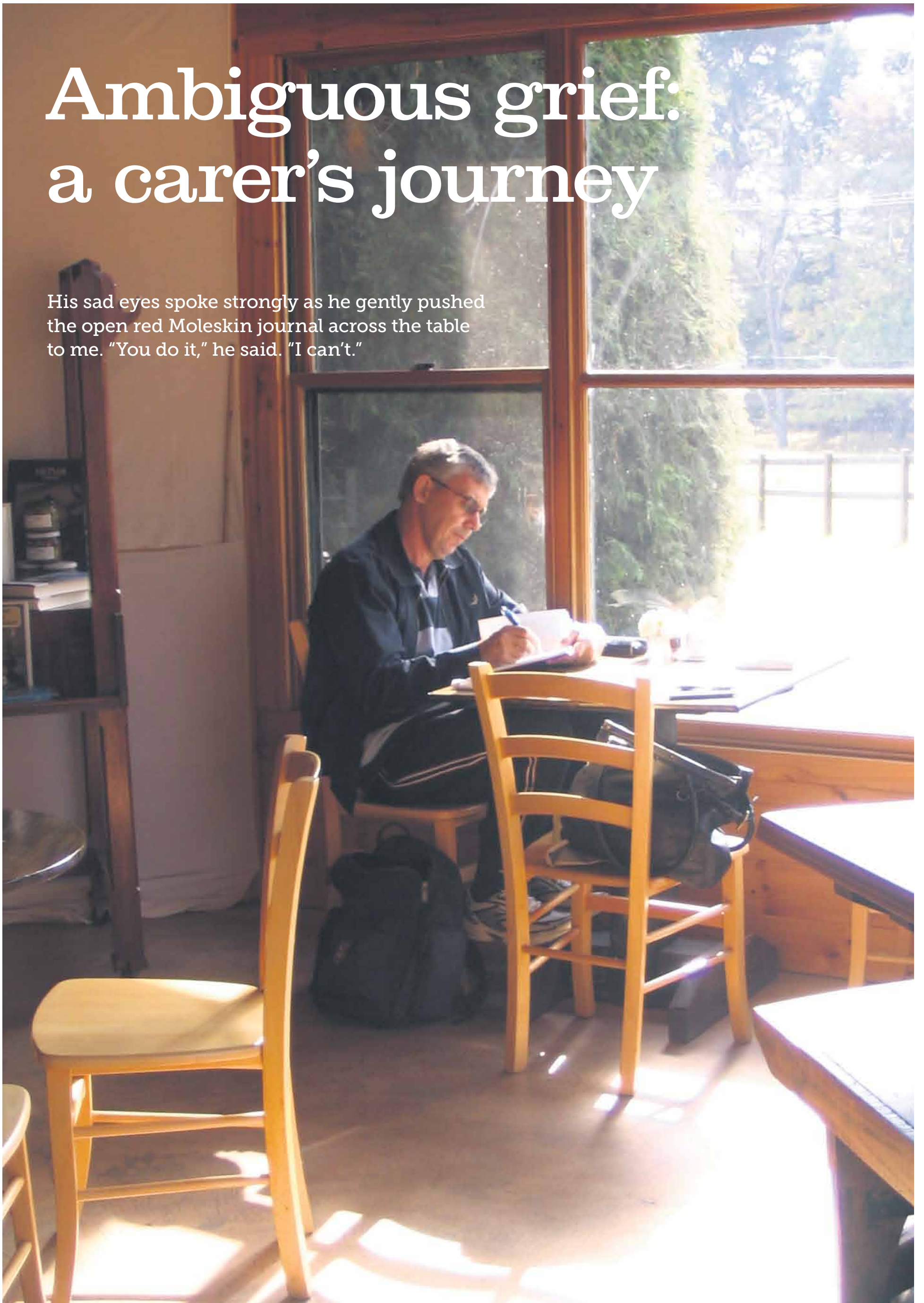
"Many people are in a hurry to purchase emergency food supplies. The prices of goods, including food, are skyrocketing," one believer in North Korea said.

"I would like to thank the many brothers and sisters around the world for their continuous love and support. We know that our journey will not be an easy one, but we are sure that our faith, desperate hope and passionate desire will someday bear much fruit," the believer said. "Please pray for us."



# Ambiguous grief: a carer's journey

His sad eyes spoke strongly as he gently pushed the open red Moleskin journal across the table to me. "You do it," he said. "I can't."





Peter had tried for several minutes to write the words of Joshua 1:9 in his journal. He'd written "Be strong and courageous. Do not be..." but he couldn't get the signals clear in his brain to send the message to his hand to write the next word.

My tears silently pooled on the table top. My beloved Peter would write no more.

There would be no more journal entries. No more songs of worship, no more sermons imploring people to 'keep saying Yes to Jesus', no more poems, no more love letters, no more written insights on life ... and death.

He was still here, but he wasn't.

Ambiguous grief is a painful on-going development for the carer of a terminally ill person. The ambiguity is the physical presence of the one being cared. There are on-going needs the carer yearns to meet yet concurrently the losses continue to close in and contract lives – the patient and the carer.

The losses rarely announce themselves. They sneak up to prematurely and permanently snatch away a piece of life.

Peter didn't realize immediately following the seizure in June 2012 that he would not drive his little Toyota Starlet ever again.

We'd managed six months of Peter not driving following his initial seizure in a hotel bathroom while he was travelling on his own to Benkgulu, Indonesia to speak at a retreat. This seizure meant he could not drive for two years.

At least we were now living in inner-suburbia and Peter could walk to his favourite café while I was at work. Working full-time created some anguish for me. I missed being with him each day but I needed to work to keep our household solvent.

Some days it was painful continuing to remain fully engaged emotionally with Peter on the long journey. As the reality of the coming permanent loss increased, there was a strong temptation to separate emotionally from him to protect my emotional core. The last 18 months of Peter's journey regularly truncated our lives as new limitations silently but clinically imposed new boundaries.

Time after time I felt my heart was breaking as Peter's cancer progressed. I made the calculated decision to stay fully engaged with Peter no matter how difficult it became. Others may choose differently but this was part of my commitment to love and cherish him.

The two and a half years following Pete's 2007 surgery, chemotherapy, radiation treatment and adjustment

to his colostomy bag were amazing. We continued to work together on the Pastoral team at Parkerville Baptist Church.

Peter took his oncologist's advice to heart and ran four or five days a week, even attempting a marathon through the Swan Valley. He was disappointed when his legs would carry him no further and his colostomy bag violently malfunctioned at the 32km mark.

Then the cancer moved to his lungs in early 2010. More chemotherapy and more answered prayer as it stopped growing. The nerves in his toes were damaged by the treatment and running became more difficult, so he walked. The pain in his fingers made it difficult to play guitar. But he was still writing songs for Toddler Jam and family and friends and Jesus.

Next came a brain tumor (May 2011) and the possibility of personality changes and no speech following surgery. We sat side by side on his hospital bed as the winter sun emerged that day, legs dangling over the edge, toes not touching the floor and Peter recorded messages to our two sons on my digital recorder just in case he couldn't talk when he emerged from the anesthetic.

I practiced living in Jesus' presence while the surgeon worked. Would we ever have another conversation together? The implications were like a giant weight pressing into my chest.

Following the successful surgery Peter endured some Whole of Brain Radiation Therapy. Tiredness and nausea crippled him for months until he recovered. His ability to write songs as he used to disappeared. The vibrantly active Peter was slowing down, but fighting hard. We joked that I could almost keep up with him now!

One level of our life contracted further as social activity in the evenings stopped.

We made one last visit to Canada where our little granddaughter was intrigued that Grandpa had no hair except for some soft grey fluff she loved to 'foofle' gently with her pre-school fingers. We all laughed. But the pain in Pete's hips and ribs alerted us something else was happening.

We'd never make that planned trip to Europe together, nor take that road trip down the length of the Mississippi River. The 'together' dreams were vaporizing rapidly now as the cancer moved to Pete's bones.

Sadness overwhelmed me at times. Deep, deep sadness for the things that we planned to do together, the lost opportunities – travel, cross-cultural work, ministering together into our old age, nurturing our family, seeing our grandchildren grow to adulthood.

Physically Peter pushed hard to maintain and celebrate his independence. His last walk to the coffee shop near our home was just three weeks before he died. Some medical people said I should not have let him go alone. But that was his rhythm of life.

The pain of watching the contraction of a life once influential and strategic, falling into a vague netherworld of confusion, pain and isolation was tangible for me.

We took confidence from each other to keep trusting Jesus in these unpredictable times. He walked with us. He understood and could cope with all my fears about the future, the pain of separation and aloneness, the questions about my identity.

But there were many moments of joy too: a magpie eating from Pete's hand in Kings Park; grandchildren putting a white lamb fridge magnet on Pete's bed to keep him company; coffee with friends; laughter; and visits from family living far from Perth.

The ambiguous loss was different for our two sons and other family members. They

came with their families to talk and eat and make music together and pray.

I remember Pete's brother commenting in 2010: "He can still kick a footy better than me. He can't be dying."

We lived some days when denying the reality seemed the natural thing to do so we planned a trip to Sumatra or went out for coffee with the abandon of long term livers!

One day early last summer I heard Pete call out 'shot' as he watched Australia's Captain Michael Clark stroke a cricket ball to the boundary. I smiled at his joy then cried because the day was coming quickly when I would hear his passionate voice no more.

As the tumour grew, Pete's body paid the price. His right leg and arm wouldn't work properly. In the space of three weeks he went from walking alone to using a walking frame, transitioning to a wheelchair and finally being bed ridden... confined, restricted. And he didn't like that.

His speech became confused and the rich conversations we had almost daily for 35 years faded then

disappeared. We honed other communication skills: a smile, a gentle touch. One afternoon a look of fear flashed across his face. He felt like he was out of control and falling over a precipice.

We often prayed together affirming our love for Jesus and asking Him to shape us through this apprehensive adventure.

Through the entire 5.5 years, I was blessed to meet regularly with a friend who graciously listened to me re-playing the last trauma or treatment over and over or asking similar questions month after month, as we drank tea at a cafe in some stunningly beautiful location she has discovered. I owe her and many others much.

Its five months since Peter died. The grief has been gut wrenching and consuming. I believe I've been prepared by my journey through ambiguous grief.

**The Advocate writer Jill Birt writes from personal experience about ambiguous grief and loss, reflecting on caring for her husband, Peter, during his cancer journey that ended in November 2012.**

**COUNTING THE COST**

**JUNE 7**  
**7:00 PM**  
**9:30 PM**

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# Two years on



Photo: EPA/KIMIMASA MAYAMA

On the second anniversary of the Japan triple disaster, a woman and her daughter offer prayers in front of a memorial for her children and local residents killed by the tsunami following the magnitude 9.0 earthquake in 2011.

Monday 11 March marked the second anniversary of the triple disaster that struck Japan. The magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck at 2.46pm in the north-east. The accompanying tsunami waves towered up to 30 metres, making landfall and laying waste. The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant reactors melted down after its cooling systems were disabled by the tsunami.

On the anniversary, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, alongside Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, attended a memorial service at National Theatre of Japan in Tokyo. Prayers were offered up all around Japan in remembrance of the 19,000 people killed – the bodies of more than 2,600 people have never been recovered.

Two years later, almost 300,000 displaced people are still living in temporary housing. There is growing dissatisfaction with the slow pace of recovery.

"Buildings, houses, fish processing plants and greenhouses are being rebuilt, but much of the restoration is being blocked by radiation," Makoto

Kanamaru from the Sendai Kita Church said. "People are living in temporary housing, in condemnation and anxious about the future."

The Japanese Baptist Union (JBU) is involved in many projects in the worst affected prefectures.

Children and family members from Fukushima who are now displaced due to radiation contamination were taken on a picnic in the Shirakami Mountain by the JBU.

JBU started a kids program called the Play Room, which provides children a place where they can safely play. In one activity children have a fun time shredding newspaper, which also

acts as a stress reliever. However, they are prohibited from playing outside because of radiation contamination.

JBU is also meeting the needs of those in temporary housing by providing residents with freshly roasted fish and shaved ice cones in the hot summer months and regular morning teas.

"Two years have passed but many people have no memory of the early aftermath," JBU volunteer staff member, Hiroshi Sato said. "When I invite them to write haiku or senry (short poems) some say they cannot because they have lost their words. I invite them to do origami with me and people who were capable of making paper cranes no longer can. Going through long strenuous times their hearts and minds have been stiffened."

"They are still living in temporary housing, not real homes. Please pray for the people here with holes in their hearts left by lost loved ones and friends that cannot be filled. Pray that their lives will become as close as possible to what they once were," Hiroshi said.

# Prevention saves lives



Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

Esther from Machakos, Kenya gained knowledge from a farmer training program operated and funded through Baptist World Aid Australia's 'Disaster Plus' campaign.

Baptist World Aid Australia is on a mission to raise \$600,000 to fund disaster management over the next 12 months. Disaster Plus, a new campaign to raise the much needed funds was launched at the end of March.

Developing countries suffer the hardest when disaster strikes so Baptist World Aid Australia have committed to make disaster management a higher priority and allocated more funds to prepare communities for the impact of disasters before they happen. They will also continue to support partners during and after disasters. "Preventative disaster management is moving to the centre of our work at Baptist World Aid Australia," said Lana Hanley, Program Coordinator at Baptist World Aid Australia. "By investing \$1 in preparation before disaster strikes we estimate \$7 is saved in emergency response and recovery costs."

"During the 2011 famine in Kenya, we were giving them emergency food relief," Lana said. "In 2013, the drought affected people of Machakos in Kenya are becoming self-reliant and drought resistant thanks to our program which works with farmers to teach new agricultural techniques and ensure stable water supplies."

Esther\*, who lives in Machakos, was one of the first to participate in the new farmer

training program. After spending time on the demonstration plot she learnt how traditional farming methods no longer work in the new hotter, dryer climate of Kenya.

She was taught about drought resistant crops which give higher yield and need less water.

"I used to waste money on chemical fertilisers but now I compost and make my own fertiliser," Esther said. "I grow more than I need so I sell the extra crops and use the money to buy chickens."

"Investing before disaster strikes is helping to end poverty for many of the most at risk communities around the world," Lana said. "It is not easy work or without cost. However, with Disaster Plus management programs we can show love, encourage resilience and self-sufficiency, and help bring the fullness of life that God intends for every person."

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

\*surname withheld



# Chef Poh congratulates café

UnitingCare Crossroads WA and the wider community are celebrating as The Warehouse Café opens for business.

Situated on Onslow Road, Shenton Park, the Café provides an inclusive space for people living with a disability to learn skills which will help them to live independently.

The Café opened in early March and has already attracted the attention of high profile guest, celebrity chef Poh Ling Yeow, from ABC's *Poh's Kitchen*. Poh dropped into the Café to show her support and to congratulate staff on its recent opening.

Passionate about positive community development, Poh prepared an Asian dressing that will now be a staple on the Café's menu.

UnitingCare Crossroads WA Director, Christine Nicholas, said she was humbled yet greatly encouraged that such a well known and busy chef as Poh would lend her support to the Café.

"The Warehouse Café is such an innovative way to support people with a disability. Through the Café they can build and maintain independent living skills in a community setting," Christine said.

"It also gives volunteers the opportunity to build and nurture a caring community. Inclusion gives all of us good health, wellbeing, dignity and respect."

Crossroaders involved in the Café program will spend five hours in the warehouse section, with about three of those spent on the floor supported by a volunteer mentor and plenty of debriefing time.

While not all of Crossroads' 261 clients are ready for this challenge, Christine explains the agency uses a 'wellness' approach, which means each client sets goals for themselves



Celebrity chef Poh Ling Yeow, from ABC's *Poh's Kitchen*, dropped by The Warehouse Café to show her support and congratulate staff on its recent opening.

and is supported to reach them. Many of them are excited about the opportunity the Café offers — including the opportunity to serve others.

"They'll be encouraged to get to know people by their first

name, so our Café will be a bit different and we'll know them by name," Christine said.

The Café has already had a significant impact on those involved with a real sense of camaraderie developing between

the volunteers and those with disabilities.

An official opening of The Warehouse Café was held recently and the Café is now serving great food and coffee from 7.30am to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Crossroads WA is a Federal Government funded program.

**From an original story in Revive April 2013. Used with permission.**

Photo: Crossroads WA

## Book of Psalms found in Ireland

Academics say a significant find of modern times is a psalter, a volume containing the Book of Psalms, from around the year 800 preserved in its original binding. The book was found in a bog at Faddan More in Ireland in 2006 by a mechanical digger operator.

The psalter was a fundamental part of the worship of the Irish church, who divided

the whole corpus of 150 psalms into the 'Three Fifties', recited constantly. The mystery of the

Faddan More psalter deepened in 2010, when archaeologists reported finding eighth century Egyptian papyrus in its cover.

"The cover could have had several lives before it ended up basically as a folder for the manuscript in the bog," Philip Jenkins, Professor of History at Baylor University said. "It could have travelled from a library somewhere in Egypt to the Holy Land or to Constantinople or

Rome and then to Ireland."

"The Ireland/Egypt connection is not necessarily a surprise. We have long known that the Irish church maintained strong links with the Mediterranean, and especially with those eastern regions in which monasticism began. Just as Egyptian monks went off into the 'desert', so Irish and Welsh solitaries resorted to remote corners still remembered today

through such place names as Dysart or Dyserth."

"Globalisation is by no means a new feature of Christian life," Professor Jenkins said.



# Sacred Pauses brings fresh connection



April Yamasaki has been the Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada for the past 20 years. April is a third generation Canadian of Chinese descent. Her husband, Gary teaches Biblical Studies at Columbia Bible College. *The Advocate* spoke with April following the launch of her new book, *Sacred Pauses: Spiritual Practices for Personal Renewal*.

#### Why write this book? Did you see a need in the church?

I've journalled all my adult life. And I've read a lot — people like Richard Foster, so I've had a strong emphasis in my life on personal spiritual disciplines. But I went through a time of intense grief and found myself longing for renewal. I was flying home from a holiday and noticed some titles in an airport bookstore: *28 Days to a New You*; *The 30 day Total Health Makeover*. I found myself asking: 'What would it take to feel renewed every day?' Why wait for a vacation to smooth out the tensions of life, or even the end of the week. What if we could do it daily? Refreshed by God everyday! That's where it came from.

#### So how does the book work?

There are 18 chapters. Each one is on a different spiritual

practice. There are chapters on reading scripture and prayer then there are more creative ways, like paying attention, making music, having fun, creating space, ending well. All the way through there are real-life stories and ideas for how people can do this in their everyday lives. But with all of these, the benefit to readers is the opportunity to explore them as sacred pauses — with engaging examples and practical exercises to try for themselves.

#### Life is hectic for most of us. How can we add something more to our already busy lives?

Yes, there are so many distractions. So much busyness — at home, at work, at school. That beep of another text message. Henry Nouwen said 'half of living is reflecting on life'.

Slowing down and becoming quiet allows me to engage in that kind of reflection. The 14th century *Cloud of Unknowing* says, 'You only need a tiny scrap of time to move toward God'. *Sacred Pauses* is about using those tiny scraps of time.

#### How is it working out in your own life?

At this point in my life, slowing down and becoming quiet are two of the most significant spiritual practices for me. Slowing down, because the pace of life today seems so fast, and becoming quiet, because life today can be very noisy.

#### Who do you think the book will appeal to?

It's a simple guide to spiritual practice — an uncomplicated introduction for those who may

or may not think of themselves as spiritual; who may or may not be particularly disciplined. At the same time, for those more experienced, the discussion of scripture offers more depth, and the breadth of spiritual practices is unique with both classic disciplines like scripture and prayer, and some perhaps more surprising ones like making music and having fun.

#### Making music as a sacred pause?

Any music starts with vibration in the air and then it is perceived by the ear. Whether you play an instrument well or not so well, whether you sing beautifully or not, making music is an opportunity for a 'sacred pause', the chance to connect with God is the present. You can do it individually or in a group. Take the opportunity to listen to different types of music than those you normally listen to. Play or sing for your audience of one.

#### Some people say they never experience God's presence when they pray. What would you say to them?

It can be tough to persevere in prayer when you don't feel

God's presence, but that was actually the experience of Mother Teresa. She spent years faithfully serving God and caring for the poorest of the poor. She was widely admired for her spiritual life, yet her private letters disclose that she struggled with her faith and felt an emptiness in prayer. So whenever we can't feel God's presence when we pray, we're in good company with Mother Teresa — for her, that emptiness lasted for years; for any of us, it may also be for a long time, or perhaps here and there. But even when we don't feel God's presence, God is with us. As the psalmist says, 'I come to the end — I am still with you.' [Psalm 139:18]. As Jesus Himself assures us, 'I am with you always, to the end of the age.' [Matthew 28:20]. I may not feel that way, but I can rest on these promises and allow them to carry me when the way is hard.

#### What has the response been to the book so far?

The book was released at the beginning of February, so it's early yet. But there's been a lot of interest in the book so far and I'm delighted by some of the responses I'm getting from readers. Some have started sending me pictures of the everyday icon that they've chosen, which is one of the first practices I talk about in the book. One reader took a copy of the book with her while travelling through India. Another says she is 'savouring it in small chunks.' Someone took it with her on holidays to Sydney and is exploring *Sacred Pauses* there.

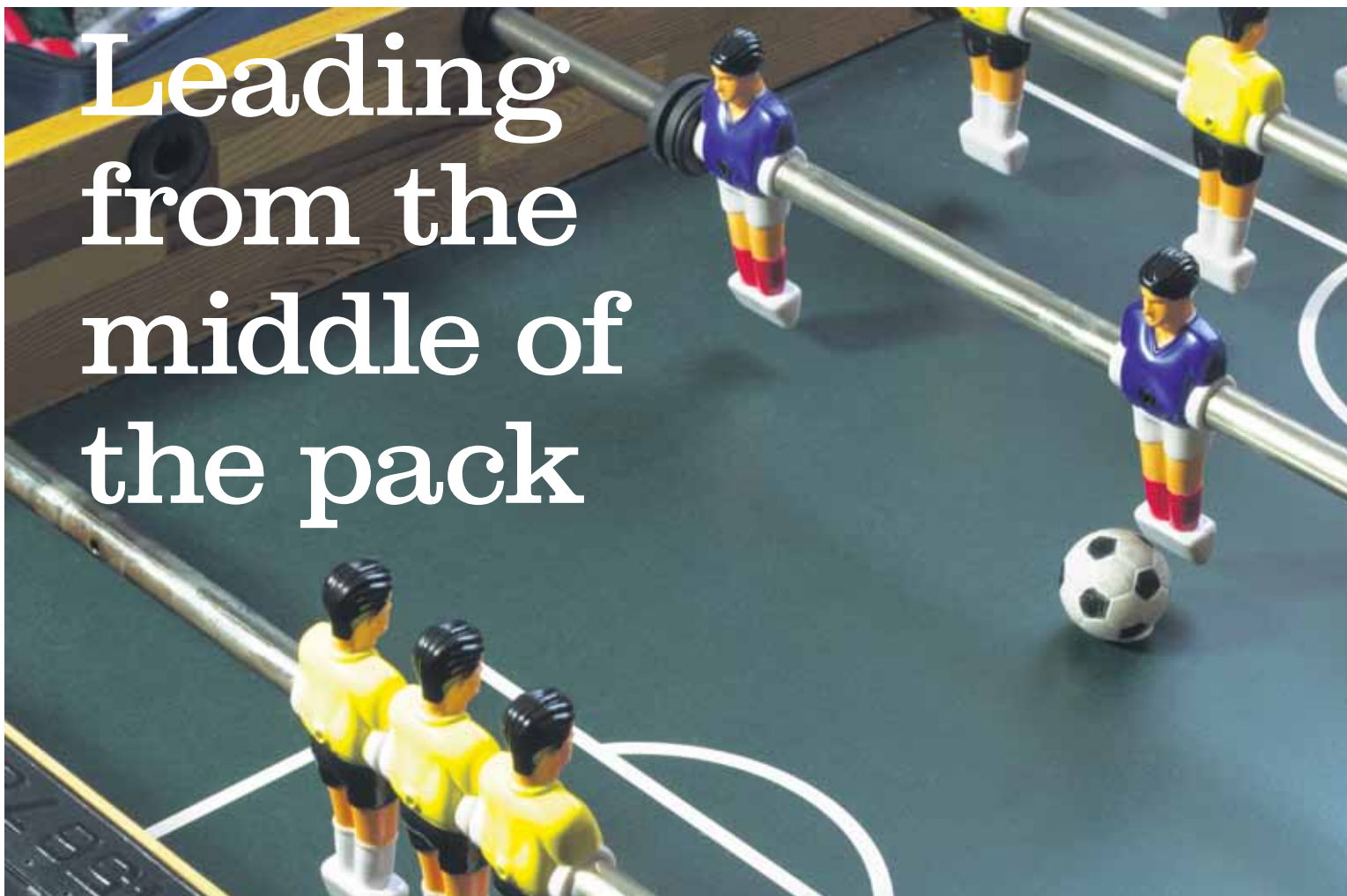
#### How else are people using the book?

A teacher wrote to me that she is using it with her class of four and five year olds. She's using a singing ball, you know the ones that ring a certain pitch, and she's helping them learn to be still and quiet. That's amazing. Very exciting. How wonderful for young children to learn such an important lesson so early in life.

I spoke with someone recently about using ideas from the book for a spiritual retreat. You could use different chapters at different times to develop an arc of experiences to help people experiment personally and as a group.

I'm getting feedback from people who are using it as a study guide. People are sending me pictures of the item they have chosen as their icon [Chapter 1] to help them recognise that God is always with us and there is room in our ordinary lives to be with God. It's exciting to see what happens. People take it. It has a life of its own. I'm thrilled.





# Leading from the middle of the pack

By John Maxwell

Leadership is a choice you make rather than a place you sit. In other words, leadership comes from influence and not from your position. For this reason, even when you're not in front, you're still leading those around you. In fact, you are even influencing those ahead of you. In this lesson, I'd like to look at four models of how followers influence those above them in the chain of command.

## 1) The backseat driver

Have you ever had the misfortune of transporting a backseat driver in your car? Talk about annoying! Backseat drivers specialise in providing unwanted input. They ceaselessly provide directions, acting like a human GPS – only without a “mute” button. They gladly point out shortcuts that the driver missed or parking spots that she failed to notice.

The problem with backseat drivers isn't that they provide misinformation, but that they

do not have driver's permission to give guidance. Unsolicited advice is almost always received as criticism. As such, backseat drivers anger and annoy the very person they're trying to assist. They end up being more distracting than helpful.

## 2) Dead weight

Railroad transportation companies want to load each and every train car with cargo in order to make money. An empty railroad car not only fails to add to profits; it is costly to move

and maintain. The locomotive must work harder, expending extra fuel, to haul unfilled train cars. Accordingly, freight trains would be better off without having to transport unused cars.

Teammates are dead weight when the energy that they exact from a leader outweighs their contribution to the team. Such persons increase a leader's workload rather than lightening it. Consequently, the influence of dead weight isn't neutral; it's negative.

## 3) Brown-noser

Initially, flattery may boost a leader's ego, but brown-nosers actually have the negative effect of preventing a leader from correcting poor decisions and from growing in self-awareness. In addition, brown-nosers eventually expect preferential treatment in exchange for their compliance. In this respect, they're like parasites, sucking the lifeblood out of leaders without providing anything of real value in return.

## 4) Wingman

Positioned behind and to the side of the lead airplane, the wingman serves as a visual lookout for the lead aircraft. The wingman is also on-call to play a supporting role in aerial combat. Importantly, the wingman answers to the commands of the lead pilot. He must be disciplined in

his support, coordinating his manoeuvres with those of the leader. Even though they aren't in charge, wingmen have tremendous influence on the outcome of an aerial engagement and, as such, their leaders hold them in the highest esteem.

## What can you do to become a better wingman?

- 1) **Invest in relational chemistry.** Get to know what makes your leaders tick, their style of decision-making, their values, etc. You want to earn their trust and to be able to anticipate their actions.
- 2) **Be prepared every time you take your leader's time.** Making the most of your leader's time not only communicates respect but also showcases your commitment to the team.
- 3) **Know when to push and when to back off.** Given your unique vantage point in the organisation, you inevitably will have some knowledge your leader lacks. The key is to know when giving your input will aid your leader in reaching a decision and when it will merely complicate matters.
- 4) **Be better tomorrow than you are today.** Nothing impresses a leader like a self-motivated performer. As you demonstrate growing capacity for responsibility, more will be given to you.

## Wrap-up

Remember: In the long run, you cannot succeed if your leader fails. Whether you're conscious of it or not, you have influence with your boss. Learning to cultivate that influence can spell the difference between career advancement and professional stagnation.

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

# Want to be great? Become servant of all

By Simon Elliott

Perhaps it's the way leaders are wired, or a desire fuelled by our own feelings of inadequacy, but many leaders seem to be driven by the next 'big thing'. The killer application, the latest book, the organisational chart that brings greater function or the conference that gives you and your team the edge it so desperately craves.

It's not that these things are without point or purpose, but when they hijack our calling as followers of Jesus, they deliver dysfunction.

It turns out the next 'big thing' is the same old thing. Serve. Walk humbly. In the orientation and operation of our leadership though, servanthood and humility are often relegated to the back seat.

Jesus was in no doubt, 'if you want to be great, become servant of all'. Yet the direct connection between servanthood and humility with greatness in leadership sometimes seems tenuous at best. Intoxicated by authority and obliterated by an over-enthusiasm for secular role models, we can miss our greatest distinctive as followers of Jesus: we're not here

to dominate, we're here to make disciples. You. Me. Us. The Church.

Leadership that is exercised outside of that context may build a slick team. It may even build a bigger church, but faithfulness to our Great Commission might just be neglected.

We are smart enough to know that arrogance is not the currency of the Kingdom, but can fall short

of allowing it to transform our spirit ... and our leadership. After all, it's sometimes easier to lead with hard-headed drive than with a heart of humility, grace and love.

The people we lead are on journeys too. They have rough edges – just like us. The greater call is not to lead, but to love.

We don't need to know it all, we need to follow Him. As we're equipped to equip others, we discover that Jesus' heart all along is to love: to love Him and to love others. Not a timid, placating, listless love, but a robust and intentional love. The sort of love that took Jesus to the cross and caused Him to shake His head as two of His followers jockeyed for supremacy in the Kingdom come.

Humility and authenticity become real as we follow Jesus. Identifying with Christ becomes the greater purpose as we discover a story bigger than ours – a story characterised by humility.

Jesus is seeking followers more than He is seeking leaders. Followers who lead others towards Him. That's our mission. Such work is sufficient for a lifetime of following.

Simon Elliott is married to Fiona. Together they have two children, Molly and Clover, and pastor The Big Table church in South Perth.



## events calendar

### May

- 4 May Vose Annual Book Sale, 6313 6200
- 11 May Joel Smoker's album *The Human Condition* launch party, Kulcha, Fremantle, 9336 4544
- 18 May Trinity Theological College Open Day, 9228 9067
- 31 May - 2 June The Unlikely Hero Tour with Tony Campolo, Lakeside Baptist Church, 9310 7111

### June

- 7 June Counting the Cost, Combined Baptist Youth of Western Australia gathering, Lake Joondalup Baptist Church, reception@baptistwa.asn.au

### August

- 27-28 August Vose Conference, Celebrating 50 Years

### September

- 13-14 September Fresh 2013
- 27-30 September SportsFest

### October

- 12 October BCWA Annual Assembly
- 25-26 October Global Leadership Summit



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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)

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## browse

### Day One

app.jesustfilmmedia.org

The Jesus Film Project has been running for many years and still brings life changing experiences to people across the globe. Jesus Film Media is the renewing of the project for the digital age with the vision of reaching everyone, everywhere by equipping people with tools and resources. Their latest tool is the Jesus Film Media app which features the full length films Jesus, Magdalena, Story of Jesus for Children and a catalogue of other short films. The integrated search feature allows you to find local resources by country, theme and film title. It also supports access to the films in over 1,100 languages.

The app is available for both iOS in the Apple iTunes App Store and Android in the Google Play store.



## watch & listen



### The Fire

**By Samuel Lane**  
*The Fire*, written and sung by Samuel Lane and produced by Vineyard Records UK, propels you to experience and take part in worship in a deeper way. The majority of the album is comprised of fresh worship songs that carry a sound of newness and modernity, however each lyric embodies an opportunity to seek our Lord who is the same, yesterday, today and forever. The bold and fresh new sound by Samuel will bring you into the powerful presence of God.



### Jesus Freaks

On 9 December 2007 a gunman opened fire into a youth dorm in Colorado, killing two people and injuring two others. *Jesus Freaks* is a documentary based on young, visionary leader, John and his school of boarders as he guides them through a spiritual transformation in the wake of tragedy. With little in common but God and snowboarding, these boarders struggle with authority, substance abuse, religion, dysfunctional relationships, death and more. Guided by leadership, deep faith and the longing of fresh snow, the journey will change them forever.



### Without Words

**By Bethel Live**  
*Without Words* began as an instrumental experiment by the Bethel Music community who set out to push the creative boundaries of worship. Each song offers a distinct listening experience and carries its own story. Songs from previous Bethel Music albums have been deconstructed and rearranged into versions that hint at original melodies through unique instrumentation and modern sounds. Each track creates a dynamic, ambient, and cinematic atmosphere – free from lyric and discourse.

## win

### What's New In Praise & Worship 2013

Released each new year *What's New in Praise & Worship 2013* contains 16 of the latest and most popular praise and worship songs that have captured the attention and worshipping hearts of churches across Australia. With each song written and sung by different individuals at a variety of churches, it contains a lovely assortment to draw out and enrich your personal praise and worship time. With freshness and diversity this CD is a fantastic resource for an individual, worship leader or to give as a gift to inspire someone in their walk with God.

*The Advocate* in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *What's New In Praise & Worship 2013*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

#### Question:

**How many songs are featured on the CD *What's New In Praise & Worship 2013*.**

Entries close 17 May and all winners will be announced in the June edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from *Eyes of Justice*  
L Morris, B Orlowsky, B Owlowsky



## read



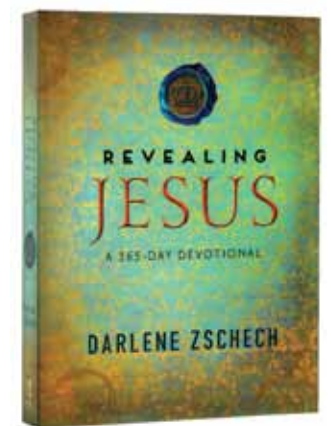
### Blue Like Jazz

**By Donald Miller**  
In print for a decade and recently made into a movie, *Blue Like Jazz* seeks to express the relevancy of Christian faith – in a modern world. Laced with humour, raw insights and direct summaries, *Blue Like Jazz* exposes and examines the inward desire for a real relationship with God. "I never liked jazz music because jazz music doesn't resolve. But sometimes you have to watch somebody love something before you can love it yourself ... I used to not like God because God didn't resolve. But that was before any of this happened," Donald said.



### Jesus Is

**By Judah Smith**  
How would you finish the sentence, "Jesus is ... ?" Identifying the way you see Jesus may in fact shed light on the path to becoming who you were made to be. Judah Smith shows us that Jesus is life. Jesus is grace. Jesus is your friend. The message of Jesus is a message for modern men and women, new believers and the curious. This latest book and timely message by Judah Smith will encourage and open you to see Jesus in a new way. "Jesus is a new and better way to be human," Judah said.



### Revealing Jesus

**By Darlene Zschech**  
Darlene has led millions of Christians in worship as she has written and performed such songs as 'Shout to the Lord' and penned bestsellers *Extravagant Worship* and *The Kiss of Heaven*. This collection of all new thought-provoking devotions has been designed to accompany her live album, produced by four-time Grammy award winner Israel Houghton and includes guest performances by Kari Jobe and Michael W Smith. Each devotion reflects on grace given to the reader through Christ's life, death and resurrection.

## competition

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

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

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

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

*What's New In Praise & Worship 2013* Competition  
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: [www.word.com.au](http://www.word.com.au)

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

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# Mercy for African mothers

Desperation and a fragile hope that she could find healing and restoration compelled a poor woman in West Africa to travel more than 1,000 kilometres in six months to visit a Mercy Ship.

Binta lives in south-east Guinea. Six months ago, a man in her village told her about news he had heard on the radio – a hospital ship was coming to the nation's capital, Conakry.

"The ship has doctors that can help you," the man said.

Now in her late 30s, Binta has suffered from vesicovaginal fistula (VVF), a devastating childbirth injury, since she was a teenager.

“The ship has doctors that can help you.”

During several days of prolonged, obstructed labour, Binta's baby was stillborn during a traumatic delivery. The injury to her birth canal made Binta incontinent and she has been continuously leaking urine for decades. Her condition made her an outcast within her own remote village. But now there was news that she could be 'fixed' ... and she dared to hope.

With the little money she had, Binta set out on her six month journey, arriving on the dock with only the clothes on her back.

"It was something inside of me that told me, 'Do it!'" Binta said. The Africa Mercy is the first

ship she has ever seen.

Mercy Ships Volunteer Surgeon, Dr Steve Arrowsmith repaired Binta's fistula.

Today she is dry. She no longer leaks urine. She no longer smells. Her courage has been rewarded, her hope has been reborn, and her life has been restored!

“It was something inside of me that told me, 'Do it!'”

Binta plans to return home to her sister's children, triplets, who she has cared for since her sister passed away in 2011. With help from Mercy Ships her journey home will be much simpler and quicker.

Following their successful surgeries, the VVF ladies share their stories and celebrate with song, and dance at a special celebration with Africa Mercy's medical staff and other crew members. Each woman receives a new dress, headdress and local jewellery to symbolise their new start in life.

In 2013, Mercy Ships is partnering with the African nations of Guinea and the Republic of the Congo to provide free health care to the nations' people.

Female life expectancy in Guinea is 55 years while in Congo it is 51 years. Life expectancy for women in Australia is 84 years.

Mercy Ships is helping people host special events around Mothers' Day to raise funds to support improving women's health.

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



Fistula patient Fatoumata with Mercy Ships volunteer nurse Andrea Valk.

Photo: Mercy Ships



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