

the advocate

"Fixing our attention on what's truly valuable noticeably improves our capacity to function."
JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>

In conversation Niro Abraham talks about prayer walking through WA **PAGE 12>>**



Photo: Reuters

Aid organisations from around the world are providing support to people like this boy from Tacloban City in the Philippines who was left with nothing following the devastation caused by typhoon Haiyan.

Baptist aid in action

Baptist World Aid Australia has been working with local partner, CPBC Missions, in the Philippines for several years. One of their workers, Ferez Legita lived through typhoon Haiyan in Tacloban City, one of the worst hit areas.

The 'super-storm' slammed into the Philippines on 8 November, leaving in its wake a trail of death and destruction across the island nation.

Along with many other reputable aid organisations, Baptist World Aid has launched an emergency appeal to help the people of the Philippines.

As a member of Integral, an international alliance of Christian aid agencies, Baptist World Aid have access to a network of first response emergency services which means the money donors give is able to immediately reach those in greatest need throughout the tornado-affected region.

"Yesterday we were able to reach some upland villages where about 95 percent of houses were either totally destroyed or heavily damaged," Ferez said.

"We distributed loaves of bread and bottled water to the people who expressed their need for roofing material to protect them from the sun and the rain."

"Here, there was no evacuation centre as the school and church buildings were all destroyed."

"The Government is conducting massive relief operations in Tacloban City."

"But some areas cannot be

reached because bridges have been destroyed and there is high water and debris."

"There are huge numbers of people affected and there is a big need for relief aid especially food, drinking water, blankets and mats."

"Other villages we cannot reach yet because of high water. We also cannot get much data on our church members and communities because all electrical and communications lines have been destroyed."

"However, in one region we have heard there are confirmed deaths, among them members of our Baptist churches."

Recent United Nations reports state that 13.2 million people have been affected, with 4.4 million people displaced from their homes and more than one million homes have been destroyed or severely damaged.

Every day fears grow for the vast numbers of people missing and presumed dead.

Hastily organised evacuation centres across the region are struggling to meet the ever growing demand for food, shelter and clean water. Survivors are in desperate need.

"Please pray for us," Ferez said. "Pray for access and safe travel so relief workers can get in much more easily."

"We thank you so much for your prayers and the good news of your aid to help victims of super tornado Haiyan."

Australia has deployed military personnel to provide emergency medical support and local civil operations. Medical support includes a 60 bed mobile hospital with Australia's emergency response team.

Great Britain and the United States have naval vessels with emergency teams working in the region.

To give to this appeal and read prayer updates, visit www.baptistworldaid.org.au.



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“Generous hearts committed to building the Kingdom of God.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Steve Ingram

Steve Ingram is Leadership Development Consultant with Baptist Churches Western Australia.

God turns power upside down

During a recent trip to Vietnam I spent considerable time walking the streets of Ho Chi Minh City. At first the thought of crossing a road was almost unthinkable. There are nearly as many motorbikes in the city as people.

The streets are often mayhem with 30 or 40 vehicles across. At points vehicles will randomly mount footpaths if their immediate trajectory is blocked. There seems to be no rhyme or reason to the road rules.

After sitting at a corner café for an hour or so, watching the traffic I had an epiphany. It was as though someone had handed me special spectacles that suddenly made sense of the chaos. There was one simple rule that governed all the

traffic. Those with more power and weight gave way to those with less power and weight.

Buses gave way to cars, cars gave way to motorbikes, motorbikes gave way to pushbikes and pushbikes gave way to pedestrians – the vast majority complied.

It struck me that this is a biblical principal regarding 'power' in relationship. Those who have more power, influence and resource are tasked with the care of

those without such things. It does not take long to find scripture with this Kingdom theme.

The beatitudes remind us that blessing is the realm of those who have less: Paul reminds us that God chooses the weak to confront the strong; Jesus implores His disciples to allow the children to come to Him; the early church allocated servants to care for the widows and those in need.

It is an upside-down kingdom where those 'without' are served

by those who 'have'. If you are unconvinced read Matthew 18 to 25, noting this theme.

In the story of David's possession of Bathsheba, the prophet Nathan confronts him with a story about stealing, not about sexual morality. The essence of David's offence, according to Nathan's story, is that he took that which did not belong to him from someone who had less power, influence and resource.

In all of our relationships we need to be thoughtful when we are dealing with those with less than us, reminding ourselves of the biblical mandate: those with more are called to serve those with less.



Dr Brian Harris

Dr Brian Harris is the Principal of Vose Seminary and Senior Pastor for the Carey Movement.

Call Him ...

I was recently part of a group finalising a Christmas preaching series. We decided on the theme 'Call Him ...'.

We plan to look at a range of names given to Jesus, you know the ones I mean? He shall be called wonderful, counsellor, mighty God, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, and so on. Great names, they rightly inspire and motivate us. I've ended up with the Prince of Peace title.

Of course, the new atheists would snigger, "Jesus. Prince of Peace – well hardly. Do you know how many wars there have been in the name of Jesus?" An

essentially accurate lecture on the Crusades would follow.

So what are we to make of Isaiah's prophetic insight that an appropriate title for the coming Messiah would be 'Prince of Peace'? It's a tough question, because at many levels it appears not to be valid.

Religious warfare shows no sign of abating, and lest we dismiss such battles as being political warfare in a religious disguise (which they often are),

we should spend time in some of our more fractious churches.

Are they peaceable havens? True, they leave no corpses in their wake, but many hearts are genuinely broken.

Did Isaiah get it wrong? After all, he wrote about 700 years before the event. Complete accuracy is unrealistic at that distance.

And let's be generous – although we are still a fair way off world peace, we are generally less bloodthirsty than 2,000 years ago. Crucifixions are no longer acceptable, and we would genuinely frown upon feeding dissidents to the lions. So perhaps

we are living in a gentler, more kindly era.

Prince of Peace might be excessive, but let's acknowledge that we've moderated our more barbaric impulses. The Christian ethic can claim some credit for this.

The above assumes that, at best, Isaiah's prophetic ability qualifies for a 52 percent pass grade. Why not change the thesis? What if Isaiah got it right? 100 percent right. What if Jesus really is the Prince of Peace?

And if Isaiah was right, could it be that this Jesus is still waiting for followers ...



Rodney Olsen

Rodney Olsen is a Relationship Manager with Compassion Australia.

Under construction

If you take a drive through our state's capital you'll see Perth is looking a little messy at the moment with detours and construction activities everywhere.

It reminds me of when I was very young and I saw huge cranes constructing Perth's enormous buildings.

I used to think how untidy they made the city look and I looked forward to the day when the city would be 'finished' and the cranes would be gone.

I wanted my beautiful city to look neat and complete.

As I grew older I realised that there would always be cranes – old buildings pass their usefulness and are replaced by new buildings,

the population grows and new facilities are needed – it's all a necessary part of progress.

I think a lot of us feel the same way about the struggles in our lives.

We look ahead to the time when all the 'cranes' will be gone, when the construction will be finished and we can enjoy a neat existence.

Newsflash, it's not going to happen this side of eternity.

In every area of our lives we need to realise that the struggles

and disappointments will always be there.

They're part of our progress. If we put our lives on hold until the struggles are sorted, we'll never learn to live.

Living is all about what we do with those setbacks, how we cope with them, and more importantly, who we turn to during those times.

Of course there is coming a time when the 'cranes' will be taken away and the construction will be over.

For those of us who follow Jesus and take his promises seriously, a time is coming when the building will be all done and we'll have an eternity to enjoy paradise.

I'm looking forward to resting from all the building.

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.

Baptisms en masse

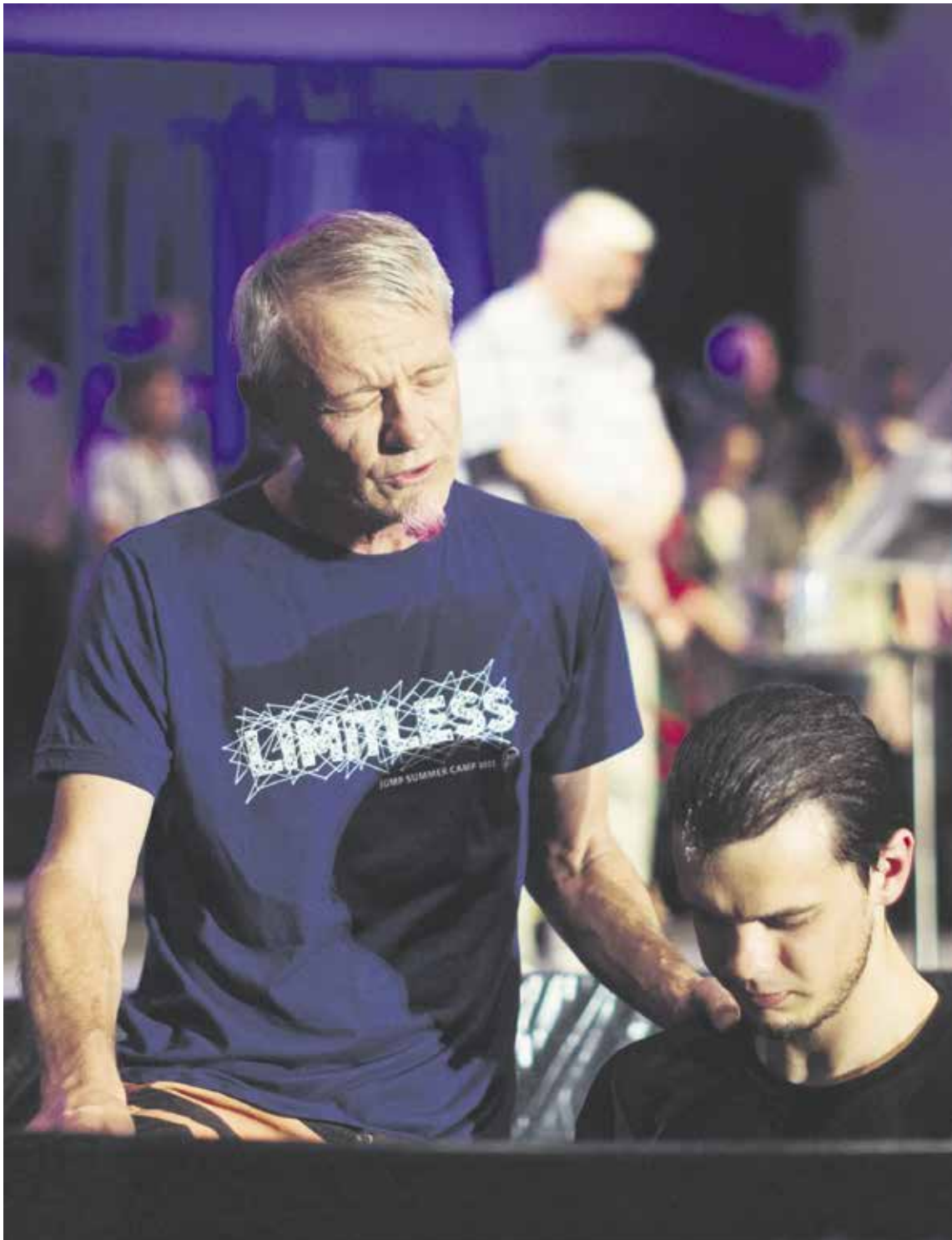


Photo: Elena Ahmad

Youth Pastor Jeff Christie prays for Jacob Baijal before baptising him during an evening service at Mt Pleasant Baptist Church in late October.

Twenty-six were baptised at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church recently in response to a three-week preaching series, 'Be Baptised'.

Senior Pastor Nick Scott said 24 people were baptised during the three regular Sunday services on 26 October, and two more people were baptised on 10 November.

"We made a decision to preach the series on baptism, indicating to the church family that in a sense we are all doing a baptism class together, then planning for a celebratory baptismal service on the last Sunday in October," he said.

"I strongly encouraged all ministry areas of the church to pray and to encourage people to be considering this important step of faith."

"One of our goals was to simplify the process for people to be baptised."

"At the same time we wanted to ensure the people have a sound understanding of the meaning of baptism in the scriptures."

A diverse group of people were baptised, from a seven year old child to a woman in her 80s, a married couple and young singles.

Nick said this reflected the church family demographics.

"With the younger candidates we made sure to contact them personally so that they were well prepared for such an important decision," Nick said.

The baptisms were conducted by 12 people including seven from the pastoral team at Mt Pleasant. Each person who was baptised nominated who they would like to baptise them.

The candidates were given the opportunity to tell some of the story of their journey of faith before they were baptised.

Nick said people in the congregation were inspired and amazed at how God had been at

work calling people to Himself, interrupting people's lives and bringing clarity and meaning to their lives.

The services were a unique opportunity for the church family to celebrate God's work in their midst and in their community.

At the Sunday evening service on 10 November, George Sweeting-Moore was baptised by his father who then prayed a poignant blessing on his son asking God to continue to reveal himself to George all the days of George's life.

"This en masse of baptisms does something for us as a church family," Nick said.

"It's an encouragement and inspiration."

"We're very excited about what the Lord is doing among us here at Mt Pleasant."

"It's been a powerful time in the life of the church," Pastor Mike Miles said. "Maybe even a watershed."

The church is planning another baptism day in February 2014.

New team man



Photo: Jill Birt

Mark Wilson and Terry Hicks with Greg Holland who is replacing Terry as Business Manager for Baptist Churches Western Australia.

After 14 years of service as Business Manager to Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA), Terry Hicks has passed the baton to Greg Holland.

BCWA Director of Ministries Mark Wilson said he was excited to have Greg join the team.

"He brings a huge amount of experience to the role after years of working in the corporate world," Mark said.

Greg relinquished his post as CEO of Busselton aged care provider Capercare in November, returning to Perth with his family to start the new role.

"I'm looking forward to working in this team, serving our churches and ministries," Greg said.

Greg is based at BCWA in Rivervale and Terry Hicks will continue working on special projects part-time as Project Consultant for BCWA.

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Girls gather at Muntadgin

Women from the eastern wheatbelt met for 24 hours of fellowship in the rural town of Muntadgin, 45 minutes south-east of Merredin, in late October.

Held at the local recreation centre, the event was run in tandem with the Mighty Men's Conference (MMC) at the nearby local golf course.

Western Australian MMC Coordinator Craig Lydon said 28 women attended the time of teaching and sharing of 'real life'.

"We've been having requests for women for a women's gathering for months," Craig said.

"They travelled from a range of outlying country towns, including Southern Cross, Newdegate, Narembeen, Merredin, Bruce Rock, Mukinbudin and Kondinin."

Dawn Lindsay from Parkerville Baptist Church spoke at the first session focusing on the Biblical characters, the widow of Zarapheth, Naomi, Lydia and Priscilla, as she helped the group explore character traits that God uses and develops in women.

During the second formal session three women told inspiring stories of courage and demonstrating perseverance in the

face of suffering and abuse.

Wendy Whyte shared how God continued to free her from stigma and pain following abuse by a family friend when she was young.

Tania Higgins talked about experiencing God in a more intimate way over a couple of years as she struggled with a medical condition which was exacerbated by stress.

"I started journaling," Tania said.

"It's been amazing to look back over the things I've written and see how God has been answering my prayers."

"He's real and He really cares about me," she said.

Narembeen resident Natalie Barrett-Lennard's story included long-term endurance as she grappled with a medical condition that threatened to limit where her family could live and work.

"It's been a hard time But I've learnt so much about myself and God," Natalie said.

Before Saturday night's

forward in faith and life."

"Even the most passionate youth worker needs time to rest, be inspired and recharged, and that what NYMC is all about," he said.



Natalie Barrett-Lennard, Tania Higgins and Wendy Whyte shared with women at Muntadgin how God has been working in their lives through tough times.

meal, women broke out in to small groups to talk about their experiences and concerns and pray together.

Editor Jill Birt spoke at the evening conference session and shared her insights about God in times of suffering and grief.

"After Peter, my husband

died last November, there were days when life was so black and hopeless that I feared I had no future," Jill said.

"But hope keeps breaking through. You can trust God right in the midst of hard times."

"That's just what many women in country regions are

experiencing, hard times."

"This weekend has been a great opportunity for these women who live mostly isolated lives to meet others who live similar lives and share their stories."

"We've seen hope break through a number of times this weekend."

Photo: Jill Birt

Youth Workers recharge on the Gold Coast

Hundreds of youth workers, chaplains, pastors, teachers and volunteers from around Australia gathered together for four days of professional development, learning and connecting with others working with young people at the National Youth Ministry Convention (NYMC) on the Gold Coast in October.

NYMC Director Brenton Killen said it was a privilege to serve young people in ministry.

"All the blood sweat and tears become worth it when we see just one young person grow

forward in faith and life."

"Even the most passionate youth worker needs time to rest, be inspired and recharged, and that what NYMC is all about," he said.

The Tweed Heads convention attracted some of the world's most inspirational, challenging and practical speakers including former Willow Creek Community Church Youth Pastor Bo Boshers from

the United States, Salvation Army Officer Danielle Strickland from Canada, Evangelist and Pastor Phil Cann from the United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates, and The Message Trust founder Andy Hawthorne OBE from the United Kingdom.

The professional development seminars and electives covered a diverse range of topics including school ministry, social media, ministering to indigenous youth, engaging 'tweens', nurturing faith

in teens, depression, grief and suicide, and avoiding burnout and self care in youth ministry.

Baptist Churches Western Australia Youth and Young Adult Consultant Craig Palmer said the greater connectivity between Western Australian delegates across many denominations was a real highlight.

"We all have a passion to serve youth throughout our region, often with limited resources but always with great faith in God," Craig said.

digital church

24/10/2013
Michael Kruger
michaelkruger.com

"So, how do we break into the lives of people who are immersed in this postmodern reality? How do we reach them for the gospel? Do we find ways to show them how the gospel is existentially satisfying? Do we offer therapeutic entertainment to draw them in? Nope. Instead, we do the unthinkable in our modern age. We preach."

04/11/2013
Steven Furtick
stevenfurtick.com

"The Christian life is really great

when things are going well... But what about the other times? When it feels like our prayers are going unheard and our efforts aren't making a difference. It's in these times when our faith can take the biggest hit. We begin questioning God's purpose for our lives and doubt gains a foothold in our hearts."

05/11/2013
Chuck Lawless
thomrainer.com

"More than 1.7 billion people have little or no access to the gospel. Thousands die without Christ every day. Jesus is still the only answer for sin. Spreading the

gospel to the nations remains God's only plan. Understanding this urgency makes the temporary pleasure of sin pale. Live as if today really is all God gives you."

06/11/2013
Tim Challies
challies.com

"Every sin is an act of rebellion against God. Any sin, no matter whether it is an angry thought or outright murder, is a declaration of independence from God, a means of saying, 'I am going to do this my way instead of your way. I choose my will rather than your will.'"

briefs

Baptisms

Brock Keymer was baptised at Albany Baptist Church on 13 October. A group of 26 people were baptised at Mt Pleasant Baptist Church over the past several weeks (see story page 3).

20 year anniversary

The Mt Zion Aussie Indigenous Church celebrated their 20th anniversary with a weekend camp in Maida Vale early last month. Pastor Keith Truscott reported the camp was a great time to think about God's goodness to the group and the number of Indigenous people the church has nurtured over the decades. Pastor Arthur Napoleon

from Calvary Temple Assemblies of God in Bangalore, South India was the speaker at the camp.

Children's ministry

Perth Children's Ministry Convention is a training event for adults involved in children's ministry planned for 22 March 2014. The convention will be hosted by North Beach Baptist Church with the theme of 'One Bible, Sixty-Six Books: So many stories: how do they all fit?'. Guest speakers will include Kidswise author Sandy Galea. For more information or to register, visit www.cowa.org/pcmc-2014.

Morley welcomes the Crosbys



Photo: Jill Birt

Mark Wilson exhorts John and Robbie Crosby (far left) to stay true to the Bible as staff and deacons support them during John's induction as Senior Pastor of Morley Baptist Church.

After several years as a chaplain with the Australian Defence Force based in Queensland, John Crosby, together with his wife Robbie and family, returned to Perth recently to start in a new role as Senior Pastor at Morley Baptist Church.

Perth is not a new experience for the Crosby family. John studied at Perth Bible College, including a year of cross-cultural ministry in Manila, Philippines and he was Senior Pastor at Warnbro Church of Christ during the 1990s.

Morley Baptist Church was crowded with more than 150 people last October when Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) Director of Ministries Mark Wilson inducted John into his new role.

Geoff Dunjey led worship, focusing on God's goodness and faithfulness, and possibilities for the future.

Mark Wilson asked church staff and deacons to affirm their loyalty to Jesus Christ and their willingness to follow John's leadership by standing with him, John and Robbie Crosby on stage, then by laying hands on the Crosbys and praying for God to empower and use them during this new season of ministry at Morley.

The congregation stood to acknowledge their partnership with John by their presence, support, prayer and practical

help as they share in the work of ministry of the gospel of Christ.

Mark referred to the three symbols that demonstrate the pastor's role: the Shepherd's crook, symbolising the pastor/leader; a bowl and towel, signifying the servant nature of leadership; and the Bible, the foundation for teaching and life.

"You as a church are in your 50th year," Mark said.

"I sense that what is coming is a new season of engaging with your local community in new and fruitful ways."

Mark exhorted the church to "put God first in all you do".

He focused his comments around the word 'first', highlighting elements of life where God needs to be first; finances, interests, relationships, schedule and trouble.

Morley Baptist Church Board Chairman Terry Hicks said anticipation had been growing as they had been waiting quite a while for John to arrive in Perth.

Many people stayed after the service for morning tea and a celebratory lunch to welcome the Crosby family.

Queen's Award for Bronwyn



Photo: Susan Booth, SD Photos

Bronwyn Woodworth accepts the honour of a Queen's Award from Mrs Tonya McCusker.

Bronwyn Woodworth was among four Western Australian recipients to receive the Queen's Award from Mrs Tonya McCusker at the Girls' Brigade State Presentation held on Sunday 27 October at the Woodvale Baptist Church.

Bronwyn, 18, from North Beach Girls' Brigade Company and North Beach Baptist Church took two years to

complete the Queen's Award program, including six months voluntary community service at the Red Cross Shop in Duncraig.

"I enjoyed volunteering so much I extended my time by a year," Bronwyn said.

"I learned how to use EFTPOS, organised promotional posters and sorted donations, which is all good fun and experience."

Bronwyn completed two initiative tasks where she catered for a Friends of Brigade lunch for 20 people and collected 150 pairs of spectacles to send overseas in conjunction with Rotary.

In a design task, she created a poppy design felt handbag and rounded it out with a two hour exam on Girl's Brigade knowledge and current issues.

"The Queen's Award was a challenge to learn new skills and extend old ones," she said.

"Community service was the highlight for me. Without Girls' Brigade I would never have thought to be involved in such an important part of the community."

Bronwyn is currently studying a Bachelor of Science at The University of Western Australia and plans to continue her involvement in the local community.

Gnowangerup celebrates 100 years of blessings

For 100 years a Baptist church in the Great Southern town of Gnowangerup has held services for a group of followers of Jesus.

Locals and visitors from earlier eras of the church's life met to reminisce and celebrate God's goodness over a weekend in late October.

Church planter and pastor William Kennedy laid the foundation stone of the church in 1913 and the gathering unveiled the recently repaired original foundation plaque during the commemorative Sunday service at the current church.

People from all over Western Australia and some from New South Wales and Queensland arrived on the Saturday of the centenary to join the celebrations.

Many drove to the ruins of Eugeny Homestead a short distance from town where a plaque marking the place where the first Baptist services were

held in 1906 was unveiled.

After a sausage sizzle dinner everyone enjoyed the Saturday evening program of items and video greetings from people who couldn't travel to Gnowangerup for the celebrations.

Many people spoke about the influence and blessing the church has been in their lives.

Doug and Margaret Garnett had the honour of cutting the centenary cake.

A team from East Fremantle Baptist Church ran a children's program for up to 60 children during the meetings over the weekend and assisted in the kitchen during meal times.

Aiding their own



Photo: Jill Birt

Miriam and Don Kelso need help to purchase a modified van that can accommodate Don's wheelchair.

Church communities across the Great Southern are helping a local pastor purchase a modified van suitable to transport his wheelchair.

A Baptist pastor for 30 years, Don Kelso has spent most of that time serving in churches in Western Australia's Great Southern region.

He continues to preach in churches in the area around his home in Mt Barker and Mt Barker Baptist Church Pastor Jono Wesley regularly meets with Don.

"He's been such an amazing support to me since I arrived in town a year ago," Jono said.

"I really appreciate his wisdom and get so much out of the times we meet to talk and pray together."

Following major surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy for recurrent bowel cancer in 2005, Don suffered a Cytomegalovirus attack which left him paralysed from his chest to his feet and requiring a wheelchair to move around.

Don's wife of 44 years Miriam has been his primary carer for several years and the physical strain of lifting and supporting Don has taken a heavy toll – she recently had her second shoulder replacement operation.

Until recently Don had been able to drive a modified vehicle but his left arm has grown weaker and he is now more limited physically.

To enable the Kelsos to get out of their home and continue

to visit churches where Don is invited to preach, the community has thrown its support behind the couple to purchase a modified van that Miriam can drive.

The vehicle would need to be fitted with a hydraulic lift at the rear to help load Don's wheelchair and further modification would be required for Don's wheelchair to be anchored in the passenger position at the front of vehicle.

Faced with the dilemma of finding \$60,000 required for such a freedom-bringing vehicle, friends from Denmark Baptist Church, Tom and Elaine Herrington, recognised their plight and began advocating for them.

"We talked with the people at Denmark Baptist and they decided at our recent AGM to set up a special fund to collect funds to purchase a van for Don and Mim," Tom said.

"Anyone is welcome to give to the fund."

Tom plans to visit Mt Barker Baptist Church and Albany Baptist Church where the Kelsos are also well-known and ask for their help.

"This is such a life-changing opportunity for the Kelsos," he said.

"They continue to be such faithful Christians who are

contributing to local churches in such a rich way.

"Now it's our turn to help them."

Don preaches at Kojonup Baptist as well as the Mt Barker and Denmark churches.

"If *The Advocate's* readers would like to help, please transfer funds to our account: Denmark Baptist Church Kelso Vehicle Fund, BSB 704 922, Account 100014363," Tom said.

Hostel residents seeking options

The City of South Perth has committed to helping Collier Park Hostel residents and their families manage the transition to alternative accommodation as the closure of the existing facility draws near.

Community concern over the City's plan to close the hostel flared up when the issue was aired on Perth talkback radio in November. The airwaves calmed when the City accepted an invitation from Baptistcare to work with its residents and families in the lead up to the closure.

“... Baptistcare will be working to support everyone over the next few months ...”

Baptistcare CEO Dr Lucy Morris voiced her pledge to seek the best options for residents, taking into account their care needs and giving priority to their wishes to remain in the area.

"We are very aware that these planned changes are having an impact on residents, their families and the Collier Park staff, so Baptistcare will be working to support everyone over the next few months to provide a smooth transition into a range of care and living solutions," she said.

Baptistcare has been serving the elderly in the Western Australian community for over

40 years and has an excellent reputation for quality care.

City of South Perth CEO Cliff Frewing said the City was keen to minimise impacts on residents during the transition period over the next six months.

"We look forward to working collaboratively with Baptistcare and its staff as it steps in to help manage the transition for our residents and families," Mr Frewing said.

"It is good to be able to work with a local community service provider with a strong reputation for excellence in this sector."

Baptistcare has a strong record in providing services to clients and families with dignity and compassion.

"Our commitment is to make sure the residents and families are happy and satisfied with their choices, especially during this difficult time as we manage the changes in their lives," Dr Morris said.

"We are pleased to be working with the City of South Perth over the next six months to help Collier Park Hostel residents transition into alternative care arrangements."

"Baptistcare is committed to finding solutions that are meaningful and desirable for both residents and their families, and also for the City."

Drug ARM gives way to new hope

Drug ARM, a Western Australian institution which has provided drug, alcohol and youth services for more than 100 years, enters its next century with a new name, Hope Community Services.

The rebranding and announcement of the new direction for some of the organisation's services were revealed at a celebration in the city in late October.

One of the changes includes a move towards a Therapeutic Community (TC) approach to service delivery, which has seen high success rates in Australia and overseas.

The TC model is believed to provide a holistic approach to recovery based on a family-like environment, education and vocational training.

Rowdy Yates MBE, President of the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities and researcher with more than four decades of experience in drug treatment, spoke to the gathering about the effectiveness of TC in helping people with drug and alcohol issues.

"The beauty of the therapeutic community is that it systematically uses people's instinctive desire to care for others and to be cared for as a force to change people's behaviour and their view of themselves and their world," he said.

"Recovery from drugs is simply a part of this change of view."

Guests at the celebration heard the touching story of a young woman, Lisa, who recounted her struggle with addiction and the new opportunities and life she is now enjoying.

Community Services Minister Tony Simpson presented a State Government grant of \$55,000 towards a new agricultural, social enterprise model of Therapeutic Community to be developed in Geraldton.

The funding will augment support delivered at Rosella House, Hope Community Services' current residential facility in Geraldton.

Historic Ashes bat on show

One hundred years ago, Charles Thomas (CT) Studd, English cricketer and veteran of the initial two Ashes Test series, turned his back on international fame to become a missionary.

Working in Africa and later China, CT Studd founded the Christian organisation which today is known as WEC International.

As part of WEC International's centenary celebrations in Australia, the cricket bat CT Studd used in those first two Ashes series was recently flown to Perth to be displayed during the current Ashes tour.

The bat will be on display at the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) museum at the WACA grounds during the Ashes Test in early December.

WEC Perth representative Jim Dawson said it was a privilege to have this piece of history in Perth.

"CT Studd produced some okay numbers with this bat on the cricket pitch, but what God did through him is amazing," he said.

"We are in discussions with the curator of the cricket museum at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) also."

"It would be fantastic to also have it on display at the MCG for the Boxing Day Test."

WEC International works

in over 80 countries around the world with 2,000 full-time workers and many short-term and volunteer workers involved in a range of ministries and activities.

Activities are focused on helping the world's most needy through churches, leadership training, Bible colleges, hospitals, agriculture, vocational training colleges, schools, literacy work, drug rehabilitation (Betel), children in crisis (Rainbows of Hope).

Born in England in 1860, CT first gained fame as a cricketer representing England, Cambridge University and Middlesex.

By the time he was 16 he had started to excel at cricket and at 19 was captain of his team at Eton College. After school he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was also recognised as an outstanding cricketer.

The son of a wealthy retired planter, Edward Studd, who made a fortune in India, CT was working as a missionary in China when his father died. CT gave away his £29,000 inheritance, including £5,000 for George Muller's orphans and £5,000 to Commissioner Tucker for The Salvation Army in India.

In 1913 at age 53, CT sailed to the Belgian Congo and established four mission stations.

The WEC-related church CECCA has since grown to 400,000 affiliated Christians which includes churches, schools and hospitals.



Jim Dawson gets to grips with CT Studd's cricket bat in Perth.

Photo: Jill Birt

North Beach's 50th raises funds for Cambodia

More than 400 people gathered at North Beach Baptist Church in October and raised around \$2,500 for Baptist World Aid's Peace Bridges program in Cambodia during celebrations of the church's first 50 years.

It was a special time to celebrate God's goodness over the past half century of ministry and to look forward to the next 50 years of opportunity.

The Peace Bridges program funds were raised from event catering, made possible through the hard work of a team of volunteers led by Marlene Dawes-Smith.

Many have connected with North Beach over the decades and a large group of former and present church pastors attended the celebration including Bob Clark, the church's first pastor.

A highlight of the evening

was a DVD prepared by Phil Munns, depicting the church's history from the opening of the first building in 1964 through to the present era from an assortment of original sources including super 8mm films, black-and-white and coloured photos, slides and videos.

North Beach planted Craigie Baptist Church and Woodvale Baptist church in the past 38 years, and Jamie Crosby organised young people from the church to present a drama about North Beach's potential evangelistic influence in the next 50 years.

A special program for children concurrent with the Saturday evening event was arranged by Linda Millar to enable more couples to attend.

“It was a special time to celebrate God's goodness ...”

Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Ministries Mark Wilson encouraged the church to keep influencing their community and working cross-culturally.

Current pastor Grant Hendry concluded the evening by highlighting some challenges and casting a vision for the future.



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Philanthropy makes a difference



Photo: Baptist World Aid

Philanthropy among Baptists in Western Australia is making a difference in the lives of Filipino children through the ongoing work of Baptist World Aid Australia.

Typhoon Haiyan's fury may have turned areas of the Philippines into centres of desolation and suffering, but it ignited a surge of generosity among Australian Baptists that raised \$200,000 for the cause in just four days.

The rapid response enabled Baptist World Aid Australia to immediately send funds for emergency relief to their partners who were already fully engaged with development work in the nation.

This generosity is not a new phenomenon. A recent national survey conducted by McCrindle Research on behalf of Baptist World Aid Australia found the pulse of Australia's philanthropic heart at the grass roots level. Their findings confirm that

people of faith were motivated to give because of their conviction that love can change the world.

Motivation

The research showed that 80 percent of Christians surveyed believed that love was connected to ending poverty, with 30 percent believing it was 'very or extremely connected'. Compared with non-Christians surveyed, only 39 percent believed love was not at all connected to ending poverty and only 12 percent

thought it was 'very or extremely connected'.

Among the Baptists surveyed, 99 percent of those who supported the international work of Baptist World Aid Australia said that love and ending poverty was connected, with 79 percent stating it was 'very or extremely connected'.

The results from non-Christians were that 39 percent of participants who identify as 'non-Christian' did not believe that love was connected with international aid work at all. Forty-three percent also believed it was 'not at all important' to give to the poor overseas at Christmas time.

Followers of Jesus live with a hope that is founded on God's powerful love that works in the world. They are actively working to share this love with those who

suffer injustice and poverty and are convinced that working with God, can bring transformation to cultures and communities.

Givers

McCrindle research revealed that age and gender were contributing factors to philanthropic generosity. Donors over the age of 65 gave over twice as much money as donors aged 35 to 44 and three times as much as those who were aged 18 to 24.

More women gave, but men gave more often. Women were more likely to volunteer and for longer periods of time than men.

Connection

The research stated people who gave to Baptist World Aid Australia had been slower on the uptake for engaging with online giving and gathering

information, but that may be changing.

The Baptist World Aid Australia website could not cope with the number of people wanting to give via their website following the Philippine crisis in November. Social media, including Facebook, proved a valuable source of information as the Philippine story developed and they updated their page regularly. Supporters 'shared' the updates and consequently Baptist World Aid Australia's sphere of communication spread more widely.

Corporates

The way in which Australian individuals and businesses gave, as well as the amounts given, has evolved, particularly in the past five years.

According to the report, "from 1979 to 2008 there has been a



Photo: Richard Whitcombe / Shutterstock.com

World Aid Australia." [McCrindle Research 2013, *Baptist World Aid Australia: Research Report*]

Planned or spontaneous?

Analysis of giving trends showed there was a difference in the size of donations when they were planned as opposed to when they were given spontaneously. According to the Giving Australia report commissioned by the former Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services, the average planned gift was \$238 while the average spontaneous gift was significantly less at \$59. [ATO 2012, *Taxation Statistics 2009-10: Charities and Deductible Gifts*, Australian Government, Canberra.]

Baptist World Aid Australia's commitment to long term engagement with communities has provided an opportunity for planned giving by individuals, families and churches. The trustworthiness of the Baptist World Aid Australia organisation and their proven connection with local partners engaging with people within their own culture was a strong motivator for people who gave on a planned pattern.

"We know it goes where they say it will go," one Perth lady giver said. "The sort of change we're looking for takes a lot of time, so I'm with them for the long haul."

New opportunities

The McCrindle Research highlighted two groups in the community that were also giving. High net worth individuals

(HNWIs) have investable finance, not including primary residence, in excess of \$1 million. There are 192,000 HNWIs in Australia and their population is increasing. In 2010 only 62 percent of Australian HNWIs made a donation but the participation rate is not increasing despite their growing wealth. Rapid financial growth in Western Australia meant there was HNWI giving potential.

The report states, "HNWIs in Australia are motivated most strongly through peer relationships, but because Australian HNWIs operate by a 'code of quiet giving' the development of an Australian culture of philanthropy is lagging. HNWIs want to invest in a cause and their question is why they should give, not how much." [McCrindle Research 2013, *Baptist World Aid Australia: Research Report*]

The other group was Private Ancillary Funds (PAFs), which included Family Trusts. PAFs have built strength as part of the Australian philanthropic landscape with PAF distribution climbing to \$197 million in 2009/10, \$23 million of which was distributed to international affairs. The McCrindle report said that JBWere predicted PAFs were going to become more and more significant over time in Australia. Welfare organisations were the highest recipient of PAFs followed by cultural organisations and research.

The trend in corporate giving has been away from one-off

donations and towards strategic giving; the opportunity for non-profit organisations was therefore to partner with corporations and help provide strategy and structure to harness and maximise the partnership's potential. Australian companies gave an average of 0.63 percent of pre-tax profit.

Engagement with these groups required facts and figures; projected outcomes and goals as well as the stories of individuals and communities that an organisation was engaging with.

Conclusion

In mid-November the worship leader at a Baptist church in Perth's inner suburbs spoke compassionately about the crisis in the Philippines and then invited the congregation of 30 adults to pray for the nation and her suffering people. With fervour and conviction, the congregation prayed. The conviction that their prayers mattered and would be instrumental in change was palpable.

The raw research data about giving showed insights about who and why, when and how, but there was no escaping the on-the-ground and face-to-face observation: philanthropy was vibrant among Christians when their basic foundational response to the poor was the conviction that God cared and they could make a difference.

Reference: McCrindle Research 2013, *Baptist World Aid Australia: Research Report*.

steady incline in the amount of tax deductible giving per capita in Australia. However, this incline peaked in 2008-2009 and since then Australia has experienced a drop in both the number of individuals donating and the average size of those donations." [McLeod, J 2012, *Australian Giving Trends – Signs of recovery from the gloom*, JBWere Pty Ltd, Melbourne.]

The McCrindle Research stated "this decline was from 4.65 million individuals donating to 4.40 million. Individual donations per person, per year, went from \$392 to \$373 – excluding Private Ancillary Funds (PAFs). While Australia's individual giving is still significantly higher than it was a decade ago, the current giving landscape in Australia clearly poses some very real challenges for non-profit organisations like Baptist



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Oates family reach out to India

Perth couple, Paul and Rebecca Oates and their family are planning to move to India by mid-2014 to develop sustainable businesses to help stop women being trafficked to Kolkata.

Paul and Rebecca will be working with Kerry and Annie Hilton from Freetset helping women find dignity and freedom through sustainable employment. Through research among the women they have contact with in Kolkata, the Hiltons discovered that many of the 10,000 women who are sex workers there were actually trafficked through the north-eastern region of India, four hours drive from the city and close to the Bangladesh border.

To help address this problem, Freetset has started working with communities around Mishidabad, looking for ways to promote employment opportunities for families trapped in poverty in the area, in the hope that this will reduce the need for women to be trafficked to the sex trade in Kolkata. One such business is a weaving centre, working with people in the area they are very familiar with.

The Oates' will work as General Managers for the Freetset Business Incubator in Mishidabad in north-eastern India.

Paul has worked as the Business Manager at Carey Baptist College for 11 years, while Rebecca has used her entrepreneurial

talent to set up and run hairdressing salons in Subiaco and Bicton. She was also a finalist in the 2013 Telstra WA Business Woman of the Year awards.

"We've been talking and praying about this move for more than two years," Paul said.

"Working together as the managers of the new Freetset Business Incubator will be a new thing for us."

"We both have clearly identifiable skill sets and 19 years of married life has honed our communication skills."

"We realise there are lots of changes coming for us – new language, new culture, new people to work with," Rebecca said.

"But this is what we believe God is calling us to do – to use our skills and talent to help make a difference in the lives of women."

Paul and Rebecca and their children Lawson (13), Aubrey (11), Brennan (9) and Belice (6) go with the blessing and support of their local church, Carey Community Baptist Church.

"We'd like to share our vision with other groups too," Paul said.

"We're very aware we can't



Rebecca and Paul Oates with their children, Lawson, Aubrey, Brennan and Belice are preparing to move to India in 2014.

Photo: Oates

do this on our own. If people are interested they can contact us."

A Freetset Exposure Trip to visit India is planned for July 2014 to help supporters understand more of the culture of the people and the complexities of the work.

For more information, email paul.oates@freetsetincubator.com.

Hope in Resurrection Year

Australian author and broadcaster Sheridan Voysey was back in Perth recently to promote his latest book, *Resurrection Year*.

The dynamic message of *Resurrection Year* is one of fresh beginnings after disappointment and broken dreams.

Sheridan said this notion connected strongly with Perth people.

"I was a little surprised, but very happy to see people's response," he said.

"Merryn, my wife and I battled for ten years to have a child."

"Finally that dream was over and we moved from Sydney to Oxford, in the United Kingdom, for a fresh beginning.

"The book is about the first year of that fresh beginning."

Sheridan spoke at meetings at Woodvale Baptist Church, Riverview Church and Armadale Kelmscott Congregational Church, plus the Koorong

bookstore hosted a book signing event while he was in Perth.

More than 400 copies of his book were sold during the Voysey's visit to Australia and people ordered many more copies.

Sheridan spoke compellingly at Woodvale Baptist Church about some of the ways God works during times of anguish and pain.

"It's in that place between what you hoped for and the reality of life, that God continues to work," he said.

"God continues to meet people in the midst of their pain."

"If we hold on to the 'Disney dream' of everything ending up happily ever after, we are stuck."

"In the space after you've realised the loss is permanent and your dream isn't going to happen, that's a place or revelation, where God can reveal new things to you

about His character and work – it's a place of provision, where God meets needs."

Sheridan said God met his family's needs for work, amazing friends and family support.

In his experience, the 'resurrection time' was a place of discovery too.

"In the wilderness, all your titles of competency are gone. I kept thinking, 'who am I now?'"

"It's here that the God our Father carries you – you are His child."

"Can success, failure, death, suffering, mistakes change this? No."

"You are a child of God and that can't change."

Sheridan's final comments focused on this season as a place of transition as a new beginning comes.

"In the Christian life, new life follows death," he said.

"New beginnings come. Sometimes they take time to form and develop. It will be different, but they come."



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Wayne ventures further afield

Former Australind Baptist Church pastor Wayne Field has broadened his horizons, combining a recent relocation to Europe with leadership training activities in South Africa and Tanzania.

Wayne moved to the United Kingdom several months ago to take up a position as a Training Facilitator with Operation Mobilisation (OM), and recently spent three weeks working on a training program with African leaders.

"It was indeed a privilege to be in South Africa, to meet some of the OM team there, to visit and learn about the Missions Training Centre and, of course, to see some African wildlife!" Wayne said.

This was Wayne's first opportunity to meet with the OM Area Training Facilitators in person, report on their activities and conduct some strategic planning.

"A highlight for me was the enthusiasm the team had for our virtual learning platform JabinOnline," he said.



Wayne Field with pastors at a training event in Tanzania.

"This has been underutilised in the past but I believe these meetings have set us on a trajectory to become more efficient and effective in the delivery of online training globally."

Wayne spent four days with the OM Zambia team in Kabwe

training workers preparing for missionary work on the African continent before a three-day training conference in Arusha, Tanzania.

Some of these delegates had to travel up to 800 kilometres by bus at great personal cost and in

horrendous conditions which is testament to the significance of their commitment to attend.

"These leaders were eager students," Wayne said.

"Study topics included Leading Yourself, Leading Your People and Leading Your Ministry even

though they have only completed basic schooling and very limited Bible training. It was an honour and a joy to serve them."

"It was novel for them to experience participatory learning. Sadly they are used to being lectured by westerners."

Ellenbrook challenges more



Amy Fields travelled from Nashville, Tennessee to speak with women in Ellenbrook.

Women were issued a challenge to fear God and keep His commandments at the inaugural Meant for More Women's Conference in Ellenbrook recently.

Guest speaker Amy Fields who hails from Nashville, Tennessee spoke the timely message based on Psalm 40 where we are reminded that God has great plans for us.

Amy emphasised her message through Ecclesiastes to above all fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man [Ecclesiastes 12:13b].

Amy also spoke of God's graciousness to allow us to praise Him and call Him by name anytime, and how He spoke us and the universe into being.

Ellenbrook Baptist Church hosted the conference as a step of faith for their growing church community and was attended by 61 women.

Conference coordinator Anne Atkinson said this women's conference was the first of its kind for Ellenbrook Baptist Church.

"We were delighted so many women from Ellenbrook as well as other local churches joined us."

"A number of ladies gave their lives to Jesus and others recommitted their lives and felt led into new areas of ministry."

"Jessica Louwen from Inglewood Community Church led us in a moving time of worship on the day," she said.

Anne shared how one attendee had been living in a 'parched place' for so long, she couldn't wait to get home, open her Bible and start praying again. She believed her move to Ellenbrook was just for this day.

"It was a very encouraging event, we are already planning our next conference earlier in 2014," Anne said.

Pop-up shop offers support

When a three month lease recently appeared, Jules and John Parker were able to extend the ability to purchase their unique products through a Fair Trade Pop-Up Shop in Manly, NSW.

Jules and her husband John founded EPHAS – Every Product Has a Story – to sell products made by women who have seen hard times.

They import handmade products from Indi, Peru and Africa, selling retail direct to the public and wholesale through their website.

Jules' background in aid and development work gives her a deep understanding of the complexities of supporting women who are trapped in poverty.

"I've travelled extensively in developing countries and have seen the extreme circumstances under which so many people in the world live," she said.

"We aren't rich, but we're committed to help. We're already giving through Baptist World Aid but this business helps us do more."

EPHAS supports local businesses in developing

countries by sourcing products from businesses that are supporting women such as Freetset in Kolkata, India.

"In early November we heard that the project has employed 15 more women thanks to increased sales," Jules said.

"They used to be part of the sex trade, now they have dignity and a hope for a future."

"We sell lots of bags and t-shirts and journals and cards, but I think my favourite products are the 'shamwari', the knitted animals from Zimbabwe," Jules said.

"They're adorable."

As well as home parties and weekend markets, EPHAS takes orders for custom made products for conferences and groups.

"Every sale helps secure a future for women and our souls grow richer too," Jules said.

For more information, visit www.ephass.com.au

Prayer walking through WA

Niro Abraham moved to Perth 15 months ago with a strong sense that God was calling her to the West.

Tell us a bit about your background.

I was born to Sri Lankan parents in the Philippines. My parents were missionaries in the city of Lipa, near Batangas. They had left Sri Lanka after the 1983 riots. Some of our extended family settled in Melbourne but my parents went to the Philippines. Dad is an evangelist and Mum worked as a counsellor. I was born in 1988. We moved to Manila and I did my schooling at Faith Academy.

We would spend our furloughs in the USA.

How did you come to Australia?

We left Manila in July 2006. Mum and Dad went to Melbourne and I came to Perth and stayed with family friends for three months. It was a personal retreat for me as I asked the Lord to show me what He wanted me to do in life.

Did things clarify?

Yes, I went to Melbourne in October 2006. Mum and Dad were already well connected at Crossway Baptist Church and I joined them there. I started study at Melbourne School of Theology and graduated with a Bachelor of Theology four years later.

You're part of Praxeis. Tell us about the group.

It's a concoction of things – similar to a mission organisation because it sends out workers, but it's one church with congregations around the world. We're very big on strong relationships. We're committed to being 'disciples on mission together', that's the church.

How did you start at Crossway?

When we came to Australia in 2006 Crossway became home for Mum and Dad and me. In 2009 I started as an intern then I became one of the pastors to a group of about 80 young adults.

When did Western Australia become an interest for you?

We were praying and fasting in the beginning of 2011. There were eight to ten of us in the room. We had several maps of Australia and the world spread out on the floor. I kept being

drawn to WA and sensed we needed to go and pray over WA. We've seen this happen before. As we go [short-term] to start [praying] somewhere, God calls long-term workers to the area.

How would you describe prayer walking through a city or town?

We go in pairs and walk the streets, praying with our eyes open, looking for signs of the urgency of the harvest. What are the needs of the area? Who do we see? How do they respond to us? Sometimes we get to talk with people, exploring their story and listening for entry points in the conversation to engage them with Jesus' life.

You took a team of young adults to Sydney on a church planting intensive in 2011. Tell us about that experience.

There were 12 young adults and we went to Sydney for three months. The guys stayed in a house in Mt Druitt and we girls lived in St Marys. There were 15 brothels in a street just around the corner from where we lived. Every day we'd gather for worship in the morning, read the Word and pray together for an extended time. After lunch we'd spend the afternoon prayer walking through our areas in pairs. This often led to conversations with people and opportunities to share the gospel with people and pray for people. It would get a bit messy sometimes. But that is life, isn't it? It's messy at times. We'd visit people's homes and share their lives.

What did you learn from that experience?

Over those three months we shared the gospel with 1,000 people. Two hundred of those people became regular contacts – you know, we'd walk down the street and would recognise these people and know them by name. Ten people from that group began discipleship training through Discovery Bible Studies. To me this just shows how much you need to sow the seed of the gospel. You need to be prolific, generous, excessive with sowing the good news about Jesus.



Photo: Jill Birt

Explain the things that are the marks of a church planting movement.

The first thing is 'Passionate Persevering Prayer'. Part of the meaning of the word passionate, is to suffer. This type of prayer costs us something. Revival won't just fall from the sky. Pray for the lost. Pray for the regions. Pray for God to intervene and act. Don't give up. This persevering prayer needs to continue.

The second thing is 'Abundant Gospel Sowing'. Just like we saw in Sydney, the more you sow the more results you see. I sense that we've been sowing the wrong thing. We've often separated Jesus from the felt needs of people and presented Him simply as a historical figure not engaged with the needs of people's lives. So we engage with the needs of people. We pray for healing. We pray for felt needs – relationships, the things of daily life – physical needs, fears, doubts. And we bring these people to Jesus who is alive and active. You know the gospel is the Kingdom of God.

Thirdly, we make disciples. I can explain it around A – B – C. Ask: what's good/bad in your week? Bible: read, re-read, tell, then discuss the issues that arise. We don't 'teach' but let the Bible

correct faulty thinking. The answers are there. We want them to discover. Commit to obey: We all make an action point: 'I will ...' in response to what we discover. We check back the next week to see how people got on with their obedience commitment.

Fourthly, we gather disciples to help them be regionally connected and we worship, study the Bible, have deep fellowship together and pray together.

Is that the process?

There's one more thing. We multiply this over and over. That's all we do. There is nothing else.

You arrived in Perth in September 2012. What have you been doing since then?

I visited with a group from Crossway and we travelled through some south-west towns. Every time we'd get out of the car to prayer walk, I'd find myself in tears. God was confirming in my heart, "Yes, what you feel is right". So I moved to Perth in September last year. I've been prayer walking through Fremantle, Mirrabooka, Midland and through many country towns, sometimes just on my own, sometimes with friends. I'm currently doing Discovery Bible Studies with two women

in Mirrabooka and a woman in Fremantle. We're sharing life together and seeing God at work.

How has it been for you?

It's been lonely at times. But inspiring and challenging too. Over the past couple of years we've prayer walked through 200 towns in WA and kept records of our prayers and answers and contacts and invitations.

You visited Pingelly recently.

What an amazing week I had with David and Carol [Adams] and the Baptist Church down there! I got to talk with every group that met as part of the church's weekly program. We prayer walked in Pingelly and some surrounding towns. We got to pray for people who we could see God was working in and through. I love that I get to fan into flame country town people's faith and gifting.

What's next?

I'm travelling up the west coast in a couple of weeks with a group of people and we'll be prayer walking through towns up to Broome. We'll look for people of peace, people who are happy to engage with us. We're going with expectation because we sense God is at work.

We train our brain by the things we do. For example, experienced taxicab drivers have an abnormally large hippocampus, the portion of the brain responsible for navigation. Veteran violinists or keyboardists have an expanded motor cortex, the area of the brain associated with fine motor skills. Our brain is literally shaped by what we repeatedly do.

The website *Lumosity.com* claims to be able to harness the power of neuroplasticity—the notion that the brain is malleable and changes in response to repeated activities—to improve its members' cognitive skills. However, the internet may drain the brain as well as train it. Scientists have hypothesised that the habit of surfing the web, hopping from page to page without alighting on anything for more than a moment, actually impairs our neurological ability to concentrate. A similar worry is that we're shrinking our attention span by constantly monitoring the texts, Tweets, and emails incessantly streaming into our smartphones, tablets, or computers.

The lessons of neuroscience hold for leadership. Fixing our attention on what's truly valuable noticeably improves our capacity to function—leading to ever-increasing influence. Meanwhile, the inability to focus causes our talent and ability to atrophy.

Lack of concentration causes a leader to:

1) Waste time

The average person has between 35-40 hours of discretionary time per week. That is, time when they're not working, sleeping, eating, cleaning, or running errands. That equates to almost 2,000 hours per year. Whether we

spend that time fruitfully or frivolously has tremendous bearing on our success.

2) Misuse resources

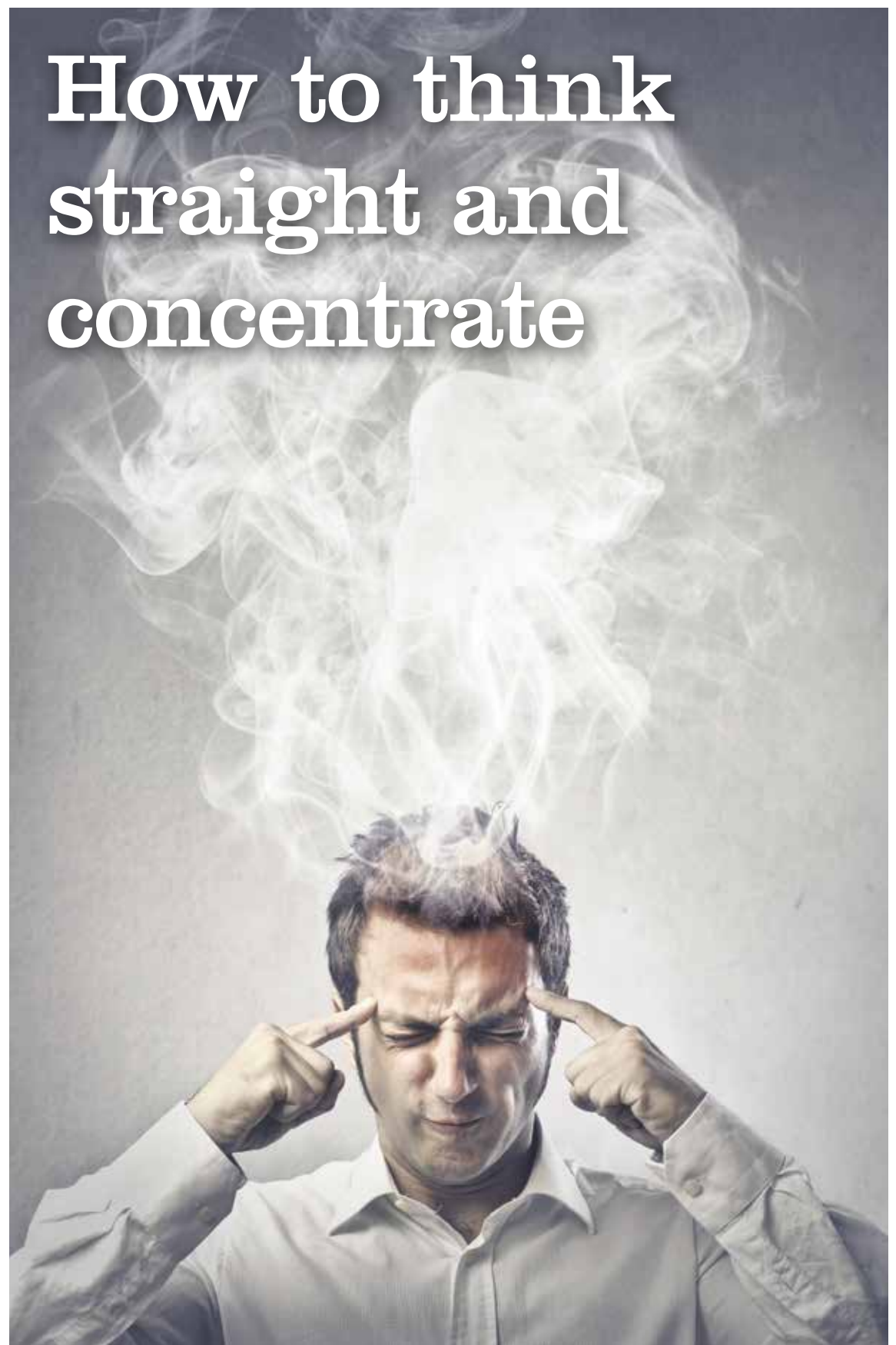
When we're unfocused, we allocate our resources poorly. We invest what we have into pursuits that offer little return. Worst of all, we misspend our energy, squandering our strength and vitality on unproductive and/or insignificant ventures.

The remedy for lack of focus comes from asking three questions over and over again.

- What are my interests?
- What are my gifts?
- Where are my opportunities?

The trick is to discover activities you enjoy doing and at which you naturally excel. These are your strengths. Then, you can search for the people to help you develop your strengths and for places in which to contribute your strengths in a meaningful way. Our interests evolve over time, we become more fully aware of our gifts with experience, and the opportunities around us are ever-changing. For these reasons, we constantly need to refocus. Asking the questions above is a simple exercise to assist you in fastening your attention on what matters most.

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How to think straight and concentrate

Moral injury, repair and the priestly function

Serving as an Army Chaplain with the Royal Australian Engineers Corp for the past five years, I have had the privilege of providing pastoral care to hundreds of mainly young men and women returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The pastoral functions of a chaplain are varied, including notifications of those killed or seriously injured in action; ramp and funeral services; hospital and psychiatric visitations. The physical, psychological and spiritual trauma experienced by these people has been extensive and many soldiers will need support for years to come as they 'battle their demons'.

In providing care, I heard the endless stories of combat trauma and all it entails, and especially the debilitating emotions of

anger, guilt and shame that accompany war fighting. The residual effect impacts the partners and families as everyone struggles to seek some form of normality, to make it like the way it used to be before the war.

The US Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) and Joint Health Command of psychologists identified that up to 12 percent of US soldiers have experienced Post Trauma Stress Disorder (PTSD) and this statistic would probably reflect across our combat serving Aussie Diggers.

PTSD is a chronic disorder and is primarily a fear-based reaction to a life threat. When an improvised explosive device (IED) triggers under your Bushmaster and propels you into the roof, possibly smashing ankles, kneecaps or spine with the force of the sound blast – that is a life threat. PTSD clinical symptoms are flashbacks, nightmares, hyper-vigilance and disassociation as a result of the event. These reactions are commonly understood and coping strategies are well known to help members.

However, I noticed that many soldiers I cared for who were diagnosed with PTSD and heavily medicated for severe depression had not experienced a fear-based reaction. This caused me to research further into mental health and to appreciate fully the unique role of the chaplain/

priest. The awakening moment occurred when Tim Dyer from John Mark Ministries facilitated a discussion in 2011 on moral injury (MI) with Australian Defence Force Chaplains.

An emerging discussion around pastoral theology and 'moral injury' and 'moral repair' has commenced as a result. Defence Force Chaplains began to bring to the table of command, biblical solutions and approaches to complex mental health matters.

I soon learned that PTSD and MI are very different. Moral injury is an inner conflict based on moral self assessment of having inflicted, or failed to prevent significant harm. The symptoms are excessive guilt, loss of meaning, anger and shame.

There is presently an opening in the mental health

sector for pastors to address this type of condition from a spiritual mandate.

John Crosby, Senior Pastor, Morley Baptist Church. Until recently he was a Royal Australian Engineers Corp Army Chaplain.

Further insights from John Crosby's work will be published in the January edition of *The Advocate*.

Reference: Brett Litz et. al. 2009, 'Moral Injury and Moral Repair in War Veterans: A Preliminary Model and Intervention Strategy', *Clinical Psychological Review*, December.

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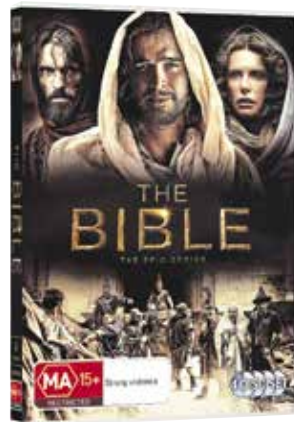
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The site offers easy navigation and search tools to help you find appropriate media to support your message or event, and with Christmas approaching they have a wide range of Christmas media available for immediate download, for free.

watch



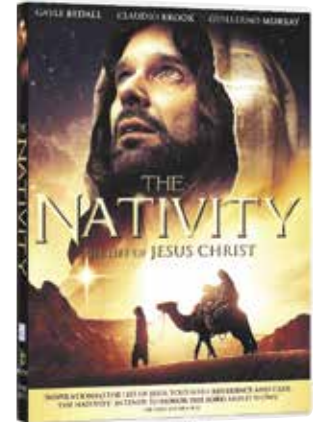
The Bible

Magnificent in scope and scale, this latest feature *The Bible* is a powerful, dynamic creation of the stories of faith and courage from Genesis to Revelation. With major themes including hope, love, courage and sacrifice, this powerful series authentically captures pivotal events of the past. Produced by husband and wife team, Roma Downey and Mark Burnett, and recently broadcast on Australian television, this impacting four-disc ten-hour visualisation will inspire families around the globe.



Christmas Orange

Share a slice of Christmas sweetened with friendship in this classic story based on the book by Linda Bethers and Ben Sowards. When an epidemic forces the closing of Greenwoods Orphanage, a young girl named Rose is abruptly shipped from the only home she's ever known to a place where Mr Crampton (the strict headmaster) threatens to take away her only special treat on Christmas morning – an orange.



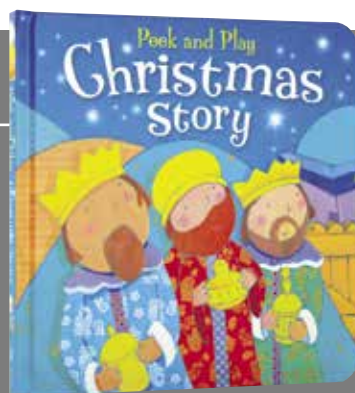
The Nativity: The Life of Jesus Christ

An inspirational adaptation of the greatest story ever told, *The Nativity* follows the life of Jesus Christ from His birth in Bethlehem through His childhood and into manhood, where His special message of love and forgiveness changes the world. Jesus' ultimate sacrifice followed by His resurrection from the dead and His ascension from earth reveal Him to the world as the one true Son of God.

win

Peek and Play Christmas Story

Christina Goodings



This festive board book tells the nativity story in five double pages, each of which has a gatefold page with a cut-out hole to peek through and unfold to reveal the next scene. Toddlers are kept engaged when each new scene is revealed, and Siobhan Harrison's appealing characters keep everyone smiling all the way through.

The Advocate in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *Peek and Play Christmas Story*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

What does each page in *Peek and Play Christmas Story* have?

Entries close 6 December and all winners will be announced in the January edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from the *Pocket Inspirations: Faith* competition: M Barrientos, K Clarke and B Leighton.

competition

Answer: _____

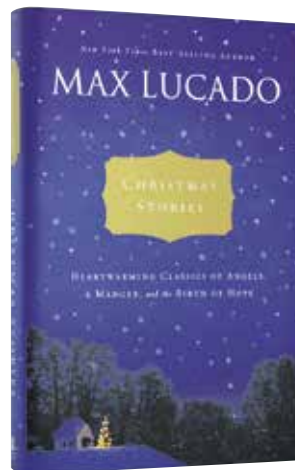
Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

Peek and Play Christmas Story Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

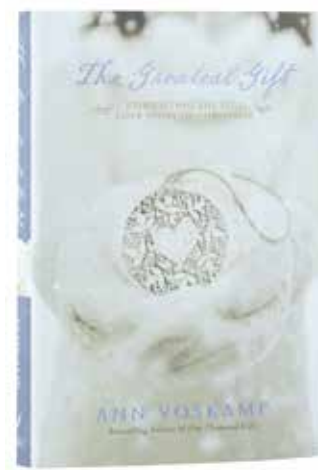
read



Christmas Stories

Max Lucado

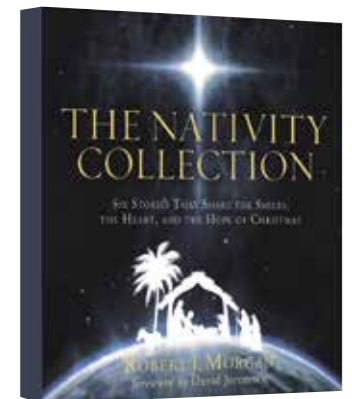
"In the mystery of Christmas we find its majesty. The mystery of how God became flesh, why he chose to come, and how much He must love His people. Such mysteries can never be solved, just as love can never be diagrammed. Christmas is best pondered, not with logic, but imagination." Beautifully written, this unique collection of Christmas stories free us to see how Christ's coming has changed history forever.



The Greatest Gift

Ann Voskamp

This Christmas, Ann Voskamp unveils the lineage and majesty of God's greatest gift – Jesus Christ, in her latest book *The Greatest Gift*. Beginning with the father of David, Jesse, *The Greatest Gift* goes through the pageantry of humankind from Adam to the Messiah. With each day's reading pointing to the coming promise of Christ, *The Greatest Gift* is the perfect gift for the holidays and a timeless reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.



The Nativity Collection

Robert J Morgan

Even though he has two million copies of books in print, Robert J Morgan writes only one short story each year – an original work to share with his church on Christmas Eve. These Christmas stories are now available in one beautiful volume for your own enjoyment. So this year, and the years to follow, gather your family and experience the true spirit of love at Christmas through this timeless gift of story.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

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





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The Advocate launches the new School Scoop in this edition where each month, a school will highlight news from their campus through the writing and photography of students.

Congratulations to the students from South Coast Baptist College's cadet group (Years 8 to 12) for some great stories telling of a unique area of learning they have been involved in throughout 2013. Class teacher Corey May guided them through the writing process.

Patrolling beaches



Photo: Laura Cooper

John Estimoff, David Hammond, Logan Robinson, Nicholas Walsh and Andrew Jane transporting a 'patient'.

The South Coast Baptist College Surf Life Saving team patrolled the beach at Rockingham foreshore over a weekend in November.

We arrived excited for our first patrol. At the beach we were given our patrol uniforms by some Secret Harbour Surf Rescue leaders, making us official Surf Rescue patrol members. We have been training all year for our Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC), Senior and Remote First Aid Certificates, continuing on to a Bronze Certificate.

It was a sunny clear day with nice calm surf – perfect for a good patrol. We were split into three groups which rotated through different tasks.

Our first task was learning how

to perform 'spinals' with support, to ensure patient safety. Another task was perfecting our board skills, techniques and fitness by competing in rescue board races.

In our last rotation we advanced our first aid by setting scenarios which tested our knowledge and teamwork. We learned a lot about each other as well as working in a group.

It was a great way to volunteer our services by making sure the beaches are safe and giving back to the community.

Thomas Cahill (Year 10)

Kayaking for award

On Friday 15 November we started a kayaking journey where we paddled ten kilometres from Shoalwater Beach with a stopover at Penguin Island and finished at Point Peron.

We were led by students who were working toward completing their Duke of Edinburgh award. These students had spent the previous night preparing for the journey, and were responsible for briefing students before and during the trip.

Penguin Island was a nice stopover as we were able to observe penguins and enjoy a snorkel in the sheltered bays. This was also our lunch break and a chance to refresh our sun protection.

From Penguin Island, we made our way past Seal Island and observed the seals playing in the shallows. One of the seals even came up and investigated the kayaks.

After floating around Seal Island, we continued our paddle to check out Bird Island and Point Peron where we exited at the public boat ramp. Everyone was pleased to have finished the expedition successfully and to



Photo: Rainer Winkler

Nicholas Walsh and Hannah Rose paddling ten kilometres from Shoalwater Beach to Point Peron.

stretch their legs on solid ground again.

The leaders did a great job in preparing us. While the expedition only lasted a day we had been working on our skills for a period of time.

Prior to the trip we checked all of the equipment needed for the activity, including Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) and communication devices. It was the leaders' responsibility to develop checklists and make sure everything was packed and in good working order.

Each student was required to complete personal preparation for the trip including packing a dry bag with all the equipment they needed for the day. This included adequate food and water as well as sun protection. This was vital as the temperature was set to top at

35 degrees and we would be in the sun all day.

The leaders made sure we kept to the 'slip slop slap' message throughout the day and encouraged us to re-apply sunscreen and keep a hat on while covering as much skin as possible with long sleeve shirts and leggings.

Leaders developed their leadership skills through developing a schedule, risk assessment and management plan, and emergency response plan to ensure everyone's safety for the journey.

It was a great opportunity for everyone to increase physical and leadership skills and enjoy God's creation.

Jemma Brennan and Thomas Da Prato (Year 10)

Surfing cadets graduate

Throughout the year we participated in surfing as surf cadets in an outdoor education class.

The training was in stages, and with progression we would be able to learn to stand up on the board.

The first stage was learning to stay on top of the surf board without falling into the water. Then, we learnt to kneel, and eventually stand.

We learnt how to move down the waves and steer the board. The more advanced surfers developed their skill each week.

The students were told to look out for one another and stay in pairs. Everyone had a 'surf buddy'. This was part of the safety routine

to ensure if a student needed help they had a partner to rely on.

Eventually each student had found their own skill level and was enjoying the experience.

Surfing is a great way to enjoy God's creation and has allowed us bond as a group and learn new skills. We are blessed to live in a community where we can enjoy the beautiful natural environment.

Connor Bassett (Year 11) and Kyle Odlin (Year 10)



Photo: Shelley Pearson

Thomas Da Prato, Cooper Holmes, Kaylee Cochrane, Corey May, Peter Rowe, Zoe Bruechert, Harrison Smith, Amber Stevenson and Connor Bassett after practising their new surf skills.

Southern churches offer help

Churches along the Great Southern Highway helped raised \$40,000 by giving generous hospitality to the Morning Café Ride for Hope team as they cycled from Albany to Perth in late October.

The team of 21 cyclists, eight support crew and four young children, travelled just over 500 kilometres in six days raising funds for Cancer Council Western Australia and SIMaid's Girls off the Streets projects in India and Bangladesh. The funds raised will be divided between the two groups.

Trip organiser and 98five Broadcaster Rodney Olsen produced daily segments of the station's Morning Café program from towns along the route.

"A ride like this touches so many lives, from those taking part to sponsors, local churches, communities, other road users and many others, including those who will benefit from the funds forwarded to Cancer Council WA and SIMaid's Girls off the Streets," Rodney said.

"I visited the project in India and know that we're going to make a difference in the lives of young girls."

On the first night after the challenges of the hill country north of Albany, the team stayed at Cranbrook Baptist Church.

The team slept in the church hall and had access to the facilities of the local caravan park. Members of the church provided breakfast for the team before they continued north, through Tambellup and Broomehill to Katanning.

Katanning Baptist Church hosted the group at Kobeelya, a



Morning Café Ride for Hope team members just north of Wagin, on their way to raising funds for Cancer Council WA.

stately 110-year-old property they run as a function centre in town.

The following day the group endured stamina-breaking temperatures up to 43 degrees as they pushed further north to Wagin.

Wagin Baptist Church hosted the group with a sumptuous evening meal together at the church before taking team members to their homes for a comfortable night's sleep.

The next night, Pingelly

Baptist Church joined other local churches and hosted the team in a similar manner.

On their final night on the road, the group stayed at the Girl Guides' property in York.

"The segments we played

on-air during the ride gave our listeners a snapshot of country life," Rodney said.

"It's a great reminder of the essential work that farmers and others in rural communities carry out."

Photo: Matt Fricker Photography



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