

the advocate

"The challenge is to overcome the resistance instead of being overwhelmed by it."

JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>



In Conversation Natalie Page talks about coming out of the war zone PAGE 12>>



Photo: Sarah Howell

Colin and Jill Howell's Mt Helena property during the January fires in the Perth Hills.

Parkerville under fire

"There was no question that we'd stay and fight," Sarah Howell said. "It's just what you have to do sometimes. I don't know how you'd tell your parents you're not going to defend."

Colin and Jill Howell breed Dexter cattle and run sheep on their 10.5 hectare property in Mt Helena. They were on holiday in Dongara, a four hour drive from where the catastrophic fires on 12 January ripped through the Perth Hills.

Radio announcements alerted them that their home would be under threat. But they were totally helpless.

Their daughter Kerrie (18) was at home, making sure the stock had feed and water. She raised the alarm by phone and an amazing group of people emerged from the smoke-filled streets to help.

Ferocious flames raged through bushland to the south west of the Howell's property, devouring everything in its way.

Adrenalin pumping, Sarah (22), Kerrie and their boyfriends, some extended family members and friends from their church, Parkerville Baptist Church, tackled the inferno as tree tops exploded into flames shooting the blaze

ahead of the ground fire.

"I think there were about nine of us by the time the fire front passed," Sarah said.

"When we heard the fire had crossed Traylen Road we knew we were in big trouble."

Colin Howell had rehearsed the family's fire plan for several years.

The girls knew the drill. Defend the perimeter of the house yard and control any spot fires within that area.

Choking smoke almost blinded them. The heat was excruciating.

Fickle wind changes ripped the fire in one direction then drove it back towards those guarding the house, literally zigzagging the fire across the paddocks.

They struggled to force the fire front around the Howell's home.

Sheds, haystacks, wood pile and machinery were destroyed. Fences and grazing paddocks razed. But the house was saved.

Once the front had passed the team started mopping up the area,

making sure there was a 50 metre buffer zone around the house that was completely fire free.

Colin arrived home during the evening.

The firefighters were gone by 10.30pm leaving the Howell family to keep watch over night.

They guarded their home in shifts, promptly dealing with the spot fires that burst into life during the night.

Two of Colin's Dexter stud cattle and his 25 sheep perished on a neighbouring property. The rest of the stud cattle were on a friend's property out of the fire zone.

"We're absolutely grateful. I still can't find the words to express how grateful we are," Jill Howell said.

"When you're so far away and can't do anything but others come so willingly and put their lives on the line to protect your home. It's overwhelming."

The community effort to save properties was immense.

Residents, their friends and family fought the fires alongside volunteer firefighters and career firefighters.

Some people saved their own property then moved on to fight to save someone else's home.

Fifty-six homes and almost 400 hectares of land were destroyed in the multi-million dollar blaze.

This generation of hills people will never forget what could have been a quiet summer Sunday afternoon.

Relief Fund open

The devastation caused by the bushfire in the Parkerville, Stoneville and Mt Helena region on 12 January was catastrophic for those affected.

The Baptist Relief Fund Fire Appeal has been established to support the communities impacted by the fires.

To give a gift, visit the BCWA website at www.baptistwa.asn.au. Gifts over \$2 are tax deductible.

For more information about the Baptist Relief Fund, phone 08 6313 6300.



5 GyMEA Baptist to end violence

GyMEA Catalyst advocacy group call on Premier Barry O'Farrell >>



7 Crisis in Syria deepens

After 1,000 days of war, refugees are facing the realities of a harsh winter >>



15 School Scoop

Quinns Baptist College students write for *The Advocate* >>

“We are stronger when we work together.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Mark Wilson

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

Appropriate authority

A leader without authority is no leader at all. If nothing provokes the respect and response of others, we're not leaders.

So, the age-old question needs to be asked again ... "By what authority are you doing these things and who gave you this authority?" [Matthew 21:23]

Some leaders claim authority based on their experience. This often accompanies an attitude of 'entitlement'. People should listen and respond to them because 'they've been Christian leaders for years'.

Others claim authority based on their performance – they know

something others want to know or can do something others want to do. They speak at conferences and write books because they are the experts in an area.

Still others claim authority because of a divine call. They operate from the premise that 'me plus God is greater than the rest of you'.

Others claim authority based on their title, education, or position. They're the 'pastor' or 'elder' – 'that's why'.

Some grab authority by coercion and manipulation. They prey on fear and vulnerability to seize positions of power.

The question of authority is an important one, since we can't lead without it. But authority in the Kingdom is not static. Of course, experience, performance, education and divine call are all valuable, but the foundation must lie elsewhere.

The Apostle Paul's source for authority was never his pedigree or IQ. It was the gospel. Only as he remained faithful to that gospel did he or any other apostle possess authority and deserve recognition. He did not flaunt his

status, education or abilities as the basis for his authority. Yes, he was commissioned by Christ. But the test of his authority in the church was not the Damascus road voice but his lifestyle of love, service and sacrifice.

What a different place the Church would be if leaders embraced this reality!

What is the basis for our authority and recognition? The sooner we let go of our résumé, cease feeling 'entitled', quit saying "God told me" (as a way of taking control over others), and stop pointing to our achievements, the better. The sooner we press harder into living the gospel, the better.



Dr Brian Harris

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

Why bother?

After 'shooting' my somewhat dusty motor vehicle through the car wash, I proudly parked the now sparkling gem in a pleasantly shady spot, and retreated to my workplace.

Returning a few hours later I discovered I had parked under the one tree where every bird suffered from chronic diarrhoea. It was not a pretty sight! "So why did I bother to clean it?" I asked myself as I drove off in my spotty automobile.

"Why bother?" I have heard Rosemary say it after she has spent hours in the kitchen producing a stunning meal, only to have it devoured in minutes, leaving a trail of dirty crockery

and cutlery in its wake. Not that I really identify with that problem. When I make the meal, it remains undevoured for days, and is diplomatically dispensed with by the end of the week.

It isn't really gratifying to produce food for purely decorative purposes, or to be told when you try to tempt people to eat it that it reminds them of the appearance of your car, and might taste much the same. My 'why bother'

is a lot more emphatic than my beloved's.

"Why bother?" He asked it to justify the cessation of his church attendance. "I already know all the songs, mastered the parables when I was a child, and find the company not to my liking. The last time I had a real spiritual high was in the late '80s. That's a lot of Sundays ago."

So we live in a world where there is often no obvious payoff for the efforts we make. Tidied

homes are soon untidy again; the weeds return to the garden, the dog promptly rolls in the dirt after being bathed. And yet I have been in homes that are never tidied and seen gardens that are never weeded. Actually, you do spot the difference.

And yes, I have heard the parable of the Good Samaritan a fair few times. And actually, I hope you can spot the difference ...



Stephen Vose

Stephen Vose is a magistrate in the Children's Court of Western Australia.

Hope and young criminals

Five months ago, my wife died. I was devastated to lose her after 36 years of marriage. Throughout her struggle with cancer, we were incredibly blessed by the Lord and supported by many.

When I returned to my work as a magistrate in the Children's Court, I then realised my situation was intensely sad, but not tragic.

Tragic is when sadness also has absence of hope. Many young people that come before the court are not only sad because of their awful lives, but they have no hope that it will improve. Hence the attraction of drugs, alcohol, or uncontrolled anger that often results in violence. This is tragic.

Imagine how hostile the world must feel to a young person whose parents or carers are not there or don't care. Imagine having no home because your Mum and her partner (who is not your Dad) are always drunk, violent and suffer from mental illness. Imagine not being able to behave properly because Mum drank heavily while pregnant. And you are addicted to cannabis because your father gave you some as an eight year old.

You're regularly the victim of violence. Now imagine that your grandmother, the only person in the world you believe really cared for you, dies. You are 14 years old, depressed and engaging in high risk behaviour.

Many young people in our city have lives this bleak and hopeless. My job is to deal with those who commit crime in a way that encourages them to change.

But our community has to change too. It is unacceptable to

demand heavier penalties and tougher jails and remain silent about the lack of rehabilitation resources for young people.

Young people who do bad things can change. But they need ongoing support, encouragement and expertise, as well as a desire to change. Jesus went out to those who were suffering and gave them real healing and something to live for. He didn't get them to come to Him. We have good news that gives hope to those who suffer. Let us lead our community with the idea that changing people, starts with giving hope, not reinforcing hopelessness.

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.

Parkerville ready for action



Photo: Faye McGrechan

Keith Ford, Mundaring Church of Christ Minister (left) meets with Ken Wadley, Pastor Craig Lydon, Jenelle Taylor, Noelle Penn, Gwen Brennan, Terry Penn and Dawn Lindsay, the team from Parkerville Baptist Church to coordinate plans for the church's response to the devastating fires in the Perth hills in mid-January.

Parkerville Baptist Church is already engaging with people in their community who have suffered the loss of their properties after the devastating fires on Sunday 12 January.

Pastor Craig Lydon said the church family was finalising details of ways they would be supporting their local community during the recovery period following the fires.

"Terry Penn will be coordinating the church's response," Craig said.

"We're going to be focusing on the mid to long term issues and doing things we're good at doing."

"Our initial response will be to the people of the church and our wider ministries of Toddler Jam and Craft, friends and neighbours in need, and then to the broader community as opportunities arise."

"There was organised play for children, giving mums and dads some space and time to talk. Some of our pastoral care people were available to talk with people at the events."

Other plans include delivering drinks and snacks to firefighters at local fire stations as a way of blessing the many local people who have risked their lives to save homes and property.

The church will work closely with local community groups to augment the pool of volunteers for practical jobs that need to be done.

"We've been in touch with Mundaring Church of Christ

“The Church of Christ is offering three free counselling sessions to individuals ...”

About 30 families from the church were either evacuated from their homes or were directly impacted by the fire.

None of their homes were destroyed, but one family lost sheds, stock and fencing on their farm (see page 1 story).

The church is taking a special offering to help fire victims, encouraging people to give cash or \$50 Coles and Myer or Woolworths gift cards.

Two free Family Fire Support Morning Teas were held in late January at the church.

"We wanted to provide a place for people to come and talk and have a break," Terry said.

and we've got a shared heart to support each other as we're able," Craig said.

The Church of Christ is offering three free counselling sessions to individuals through their Connections Counselling service.

As needs become clearer, teams from the church can help people clean up their yards and remove debris, and help replace farm fencing, if required.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the people of Parkerville Baptist to show real love and support to our neighbours and the broader community," Terry said.

Baptisms in Katanning



Photo: Kyaw Tha

The group of young people baptised at Katanning Karen Baptist Church with their supporters.

Those baptised were Derrick Aye, Mudah Chitsein, Poster Chitsein, Bae Htoo, Ella Khu, Teek Mwee Ku, Napoleon Kwa, Yeh Mi Mah, Gaybu Paw, Paw Hta Shu and Ka Tha Ya.

The baptism service was held on the Saturday as many of the people from the Karen community in Katanning left during the next week to drive to Tasmania to attend the national Karen people's gathering.

Karen people from across Australia met in Tasmania for several days to celebrate God's faithfulness to them.

Another two young people, Sam Patterson and Hayden Patterson, were baptised by Pastor Malcolm Good at Katanning Baptist Church on 15 December.

Two Baptist churches in the town of Katanning baptised 13 young people over the weekend of 14 and 15 December.

Eleven young people were baptised at Katanning Karen Baptist Church on

14 December by Pastor Eh Tee Kaw from Perth Karen Baptist Church in Bentley.



ABN 32 982 937 680

CONTACT GARETH TODAY AND FIND OUT HOW WE CAN ENHANCE YOUR CHURCH SERVICES

0422 068 788

staffordg@westnet.com.au

- PROFESSIONALLY RECORDED VOICE ANNOUNCEMENTS
- SCRIPTURE READINGS
- SERMON EDITING
- PROFESSIONAL TELEPHONE MESSAGES

WHY CHOOSE US?

- COMPETITIVE PRICING
- LOCAL PERTH BASED HOME STUDIO
- WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES
- UNIVERSITY GRADUATE
- FORMER BROADCASTER
- FAST TURNAROUND TIME
- DIGITAL DELIVERY

Tom Price Baptist Church

A Caring Pilbara Church Sharing Gods' love

FULL TIME PASTOR

Are you a self-starter, willing to build a church & not just maintain it?
Strong Leader & Good Communicator?

Is God Prompting you to look for an opportunity in a mining town?

For more information please contact the Pastoral Search Committee

tppbaptistchurchpastorsearch@gmail.com

Tel: 08 9189 3454

Vose ready for new semester

Vose Seminary is in top gear as the new academic year starts later this month. So far more than 20 new students have enrolled in courses to study at the Seminary and enrolments are continuing.

There are at least 13 new students enrolled in degree courses examined through the Australian College of Theology.

There is also a group of at least six students who have enrolled in Vose Equip.

Vose Equip is a centre of excellence within Vose Seminary delivering Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses.

As a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), Vose offers awards in the VET sector from the Certificate IV in Ministry to the Diploma of Ministry. All of the programs are available on a full-time or part-time basis.

Matt Fricker recently commenced at Vose as Interns Coordinator. With a strong background in youth ministry and chaplaincy and experience as a lecturer at Vose, Matt is well prepared for working alongside the Vose interns studying through Vose Equip.

As well as coordinating the ministry programs of the interns Matt expects to be visiting churches and meeting with pastors to share the vision and opportunities for training through Vose Equip.

"We'll really benefit having Matt on our team," Principal Dr Brian Harris said. "It's a great opportunity to provide another facet of training and nurture for our students."

Vose Equip has been a valuable starting place for several students as they began exploring how to be equipped for ministry in their local churches.

Kate Maynard and Jake Gosling have completed their intern program and will transition to degree programs this semester.

Both students have recognised their capacity to study at a higher level during their year as interns.

Lectures for the first semester of 2014 will be well

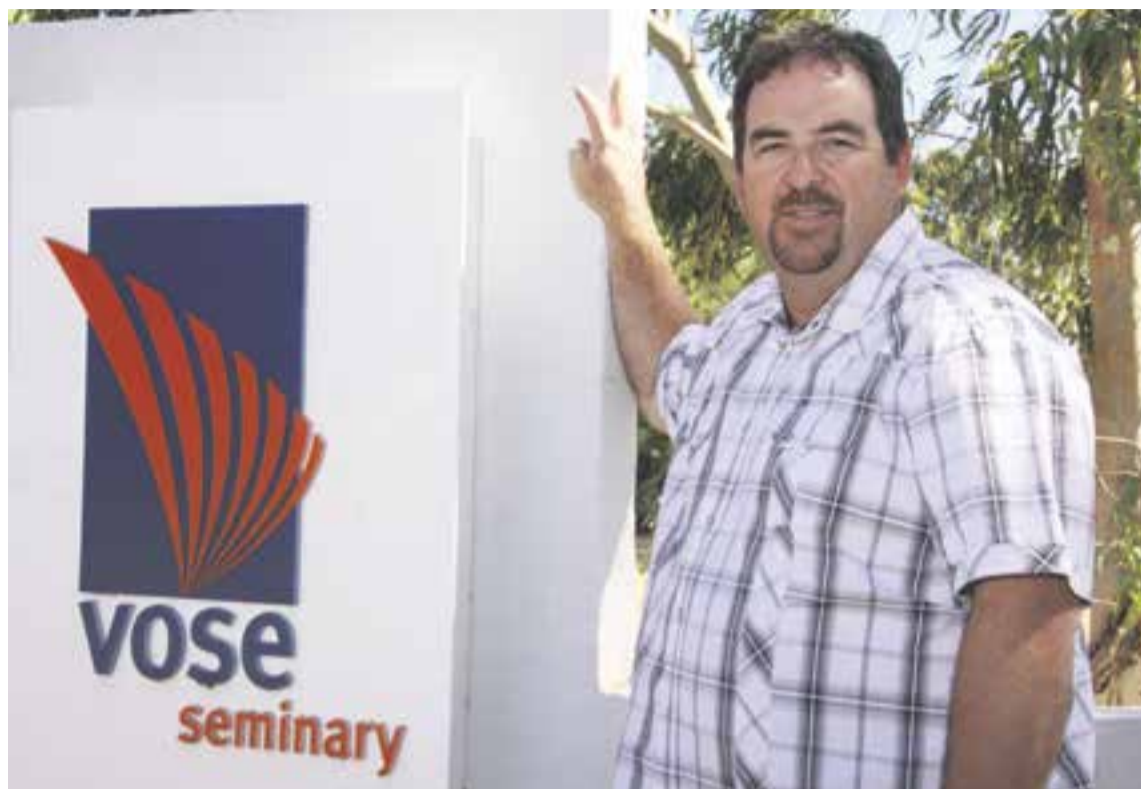


Photo: Jill Birt

Matt Fricker recently joined the team at Vose Seminary to work with interns who are studying there.

underway when the annual Commencement and Conferral Ceremony is held.

The Ceremony is planned for Monday 17 March 2014 at Riverton Baptist Community Church, 38 Modillion Ave, Shelley. The program commences at 7.30pm.

Another highlight planned

during the first semester is the visit of Dr Derek Tidball, a British theologian, sociologist of religion and Baptist minister.

From 1995 to 2007 he was the principal of London Bible College which later took the name London School of Theology. Currently he is Visiting Scholar at

Spurgeon's College, London.

Dr Tidball will speak at the Vose Church History seminar from 22 to 24 April and 1 and 2 May on the topic of The History of Evangelical Christianity.

For more information regarding the seminar, visit www.vose.wa.edu.au.

Perth couple opens door for refugees

A retired Western Australian pastor and his wife have opened their home to refugees who have been released from detention centres.

In Perth's western suburbs they share their home with three people they met in the Curtin Detention Centre some years ago.

The wife said they share most things and the young people

contribute by paying board.

"Conversation is lively, interesting and sometimes hilarious as our cultures are shared and misunderstood," she said.

"Their English is improving quite well as we encourage them to speak in our presence."

"We assist them in any way that they ask us to, and being old we can't resist giving advice!"

"The cultural differences are not obvious at first, but they are there and require some adjustment on both sides to engender understanding and appreciation of the differences."

"Christmas has been a new concept which they have embraced with great enthusiasm."

"We encourage Christians to make their homes available for this outreach."

"We are dealing with new babes in the Christian faith. They need our mentoring and encouragement."

The refugees have been wounded by the experiences they have had as they have fled

for their lives from their own homelands.

Their journeys to reach Perth have been distressing and very uncertain.

They miss their families terribly and are constantly concerned for their families' welfare.

The men would not give permission for their names to be published for fear of retribution to their families in their homelands.

digital church

10/01/2014
Steven Furtick
stevenfurtick.com

"... childlike faith ... It sets you free to risk, to say well, what if. Even to the point of coming off as cocky in your faith ... You're taking bold steps because His power and love have already been proven."

11/01/2014
Mark Driscoll
theresurgence.com

"God does not prefer big churches over small churches any more than godly parents prefer tall children over short ones."

13/01/2014
Tim Challies
challies.com

"The enemy of marriage that deserves to be at the very top of the list is this one: neglecting the foundation – neglecting the biblical foundation."

13/01/2014
Ryan Kearns
theresurgence.com

"God's preached Word is powerful, and the pulpit remains the most effective way to bring common vision, direction, and learning to the whole church. Community groups complement this by unifying

our people throughout the week in learning the same things and having the same conversations."

17/01/2014
Ron Edmondson
ronedmondson.com

"Life experience, good and bad, has a way of smoothing out the rough edges of a person's life and over time gives a person wisdom. Be willing to learn from people that have failed greatly. Be assured that their wisdom today can protect you from making some of their same mistakes."

briefs

Society meetings

The Baptist Historical Society of Western Australia is planning three public meetings during 2014: 25 May at Perth Baptist Church with the topic 'Development and growth of seven Baptist Colleges in Western Australia' (Part A); 14 September at South Perth Church on the topic 'USA Triennial Convention (Judson) commended 1814'; and 23 November's meeting topic will be a continuation of the 'Development and growth of seven Baptist Colleges in Western Australia'.

Israel trip

Rev. Nigel Merrick is leading a tour to Israel from 26 April to 15

May 2014. An optional tour, 'In the Steps of Paul', through the Greek Islands follows the Israel visit. For more information, phone 0400 636 630.

Pastoral changes

New pastors have commenced ministries at several Baptist churches over the summer season: Michael Bullard at Riverton, Paul Collier at Busselton, and David Wager at Collie. Others pastors will begin new ministries over the next few weeks: David Bond at Albany, Graeme Ritchie at Denmark, and Eliot Vlatko at Kalgoorlie.

Gymea Baptist to end violence



Photo: Jane Faase

Barbara Higgins organised postcards requesting action against violence to be sent to Premier Barry O'Farrell.

The members of Gymea Baptist Church, in Sydney's southern fringe, are calling on Premier Barry O'Farrell to take a more active approach to the issue of drunken violence on Sydney streets.

The convenor of the Catalyst advocacy group in the church, Barbara Higgins, organised for 600 postcards to be printed and signed by church members, then mailed to Premier O'Farrell

The group took action after hearing the message from Senior Pastor Karl Faase on the first Sunday morning in January.

Each January the church has a series called 'Jesus and The Sydney Morning Herald'. The series looks at current issues and the churches' response.

Pastor Karl Faase spoke about the number of violent attacks leaving people in hospital or on life support.

Karl used Sydney youth, 18 year old Daniel Christie as example. Daniel was knocked to the ground by a cowardly single punch on New Year's Eve and died in hospital on 11 January.

The message 'Blood on the Streets' reviewed the causes of this problem and recognised it was much wider than just binge drinking.

Karl reviewed various influences alongside of binge drinking. These included the under fathered nature of many young men, the gym and steroid culture, and the lack of social skills, including anger management.

While commenting on the fact that this is a complex issue, Karl

highlighted the City of Newcastle's solution which has resulted in an outstanding 37 percent reported reduction in alcohol fuelled street violence as a direct response of the measures taken.

Key to the Newcastle solution is a reduction in trading hours and alcohol available.

Gymea Baptist Church's Catalyst advocacy group felt this was an opportunity to call on the government to actively respond to drunken street violence.

Alongside many others in the community, the group is specifically asking for a trial of the Newcastle solution.

In Western Australia, this growing and worrying phenomenon has been drawn to the attention of the State Government by World Champion Danny Green with his 'One Punch' campaign.

The campaign was originally presented to the Government in September 2012 and Danny is hoping approval will be given soon, at either a State or Federal Government level, to develop it to its full potential and go to air nationally.

Editor: In a move to be applauded, on 21 January Premier O'Farrell instituted controls on the sale of alcohol in city areas.

Burglaries don't stop camps

More than 150 children attended camps at Serpentine Camping Centre in Jarrahdale during January, despite burglaries in the week before Christmas.

Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Camp Ministries, Ross Daniels, and the staff at Serpentine faced some challenges while making final preparations to the campsite for the camps.

The campsite was burgled twice with a significant amount of property stolen, including many tools and the trailer set up as a mobile movie theatre.

Some of the stolen property has subsequently been recovered and in police 'custody' until the court case is held.

Fortunately, through the prompt action of the insurance assessors the Serpentine team was able to purchase replacement tools and have the campsite ready when the first campers arrived.

Camps Director for Baptist Churches Western Australia and Team Leader for Inters camp, Kevin Black, said the camps provided a unique opportunity for Juniors (Years 4-7) and Inters (Years 8-10) to engage with the

message of Jesus Christ.

Both camps followed the theme of The Incredible Race.

"We were very aware of God working in the lives of the campers, and also a real sense of protection, peace and fun over the camp," Kevin said.

"As a leadership team we had some broad aims: to make camp safe and fun, to foster positive relationships (peer to peer, and camper to leader), and create a camp where campers could grow in their faith, or even come to know Jesus for the first time."

"Leaders grew in sensitivity to what God was doing around camp and in people's lives."

"It was very evident that God was at work in the lives of the campers (and leaders) and also exciting that He would choose to work through us and use us."

"We saw a number of the campers step up and make decisions to align their lives with God."

Alistair Cochrane from Carey Community Baptist Church was

the speaker at the Inters camp held in the first week of January. He fully engaged the campers with his creative talks.

The following week East Fremantle Baptist Church Children's Ministry Coordinator, Mim Hosking, engaged the children at Juniors camp as they explored people who have run 'the incredible race' of faith.

More than 50 volunteer leaders made the camps a reality for the young campers.

"We had leaders give up their personal holiday time to come and be leaders at Juniors," Mim said.

"That shows the level of commitment we had. It's great!"

"So it was a great time, great fun, amazing activities and events, lots of laughing and building memories, but also a real sense of God working, calling people and changing lives."

"Our prayer was to see God working and it was amazing to see that prayer answered."

"Thanks to an amazing group of leaders - they are talented, servant hearted, and have a real passion to share their faith and lives with the campers. I feel really blessed to have had the opportunity to work with them."

A spark launched

Retired Baptist Pastor Fred Stone launches his autobiographical book titled *A Spark of Madness* on 15 March.

Fred's life experience has given him the content of the book. He has been a psychiatric nurse and was a senior pastor at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church for more than 15 years. He also established the Baptist Counselling Service and managed Lifeline counselling service for two years.

A Spark of Madness is due to be launched at Mt Pleasant Uniting Church on the corner of Reynolds and Coomoora Roads in Mt Pleasant at 3.00pm on Saturday 14 March.

The date is the 60th anniversary of the day Fred became a Christian and the day he met Pauline his wife. They have now been married for 54 years.

Pauline and Fred's journey has

seen them grow into a spirituality that is both demanding and liberating, focusing on God's love for them which frees them to love people.

The offbeat humour of his book blends easily with his deep passion to see people grow in freedom and confidence.

He believes that submitting to Jesus does not lead to 'worm' theology but to 'trapeze' theology.

Fred believes that following Jesus calls people to launch into the unknown knowing that Jesus is on the other trapeze holding out His strong hands towards the one launching out.

Anyone interested in attending the launch can contact Fred by emailing fstone@iinet.net.au.

Music inspires creativity



Photo: Colin Mills

Music students from the University of Kuala Lumpur have opportunities to hone their technical skills working with Colin Mills.

Perth musician and businessman, Colin Mills, has a strong passion to encourage and inspire developing artists across South-East Asia.

Colin moved to Malaysia in 2012 to continue to develop his business. He built a recording studio and currently has interns from a local university working with him as well as mentoring local musicians.

"The question I come back to again and again is, 'How can

I empower Christian and non-Christian people to tap into their creativity and encourage them to develop work that is an expression of their creativity,'" Colin said.

"There's no funding for the arts from the Malaysian Government."

In February 2013 Colin attended the International Society for Urban Mission conference in Thailand.

"I wasn't sure what I would find or learn, but those meetings opened some amazing doors for me," he said.

Over the next few months Colin visited contacts from the conference in Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia.

He used his expertise in music and business to enhance

the work and lives of people from rubbish tip slum areas of Jakarta to remote villages in north-eastern Thailand.

"I can bring some skills to people, but the most important thing is relationships," Colin said.

"It's pretty lonely for some people who are heavily involved in living for Jesus in complex situations."

"Having a trusted friend to talk with and pray with, to share ideas and a meal, I believe makes a significant difference."

"I looked for ways I can use the arts, my knowledge in business and my skills to piggyback onto what organisations are already doing."

"Presence is super important. Getting connected to a local person is really important. Not just touch and go, but building a relationship with a person or community. Just about anyone can do this."

"Tourists could plan to visit an area every couple of years and be intentional about building relationships and encouraging people."

In Thailand Colin has been helping a young couple develop a ministry among university students.

In the Philippines there has been a focus on music.

In Cambodia there are opportunities to support and encourage people who are already engaged in living 'the Jesus life'.

In Indonesia Colin met the principal of a Bible college who has started a ministry to the people trapped in poverty who live in a slum at a rubbish tip. He plans regular visits throughout the year to encourage and support the principal.

"I'm helping Bible college students fine tune their song-writing skills and I've made a couple of visits to the slum area to help the kids learn some music skills," he said.

"I plan to go back again this year."

Later this month Colin heads back to Malaysia where there are young musicians needing encouragement as they explore their creativity and use it in their local and faith communities.

Volunteers transform church

South Perth Baptist Church returned to their buildings in Lawler Street, South Perth just in time for Christmas 2013, after more than eight months. During this time builders have been busy transforming the facility to cater for the new Mosaic Early Learning Centre.

With the building far from complete, the small congregation celebrated Christmas in the shell of their new auditorium with building materials stacked around the perimeter of the room.

The congregation rallied to paint a huge section of the Early Learning Centre between Christmas and New Year.

During the following weeks, volunteers from Mount

Pleasant Baptist Church and Carey Baptist Church helped South Perth Pastor Steve Izett and some local volunteers to lay more than 200 square metres of paving surrounding the building.

Builders continued to complete new floors, plumbing and electrical work before government officials inspected the Early Learning Centre in mid-January.

Centre Manager Rose Byron said the Centre planned to open at the end of January 2014.

More than 20 families have already enrolled their children at the Centre.

Pastor Steve Izett said they are engaging the local community in a new way.

"This church has a 114 year history and we're continuing to change to meet the needs of local people. There are lots of opportunities here," he said.

There are still places available at Mosaic Early Learning Centre.

For more information, phone 9368 1479.



Photo: Jill Birt

Pastor Steve Izett leads communion in the partially renovated auditorium at South Perth Baptist Church.

Sudanese pastor ordained

Benjamin Angalo was ordained as a minister of the Sudanese Church of Christ at Stafford Heights Baptist Church in Brisbane, Queensland late last year.

The occasion was celebrated with vibrant singing and dancing by more than a hundred Sudanese followers of Jesus.

Many of the Christian Sudanese community in Perth know Benjamin and respect his leadership.

Benjamin's journey to ordination has been quite an arduous one.

Born in Lado, in the Moro area of the Nuba Mountains, South Kordofan, Sudan in 1972, Benjamin has endured hardship, suffering, joy and fulfilment during his lifetime.

As a young boy, his father took him out of school after just one year to care for the family's cattle, sheep and goats.

At 15 years of age, he left village life and went to Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, without the full blessing of his parents.

He wanted an education. He worked as an apprentice electrician by day and studied at night school,

completing secondary school in 1996.

Benjamin then became an English teacher and did a Bible translation course, going on to translate the Book of Ruth into the Moro language.

Benjamin married Aziza in 1993 and was leading the youth ministry in a large Sudanese Church of Christ (SCOC) at the time. He was a SCOC Youth Leader for six years and also started a daughter church.

In 1999 Benjamin fled to Egypt, travelling without a visa, perched on the roof of a train carriage when the Sudanese government tried to recruit him into the army to fight the people in the Nuba Mountains.

A year later Aziza and their children joined him in Cairo.

Benjamin planted a Sudanese church in the city which has its own theological training program.

After four years of waiting, the family received visas from the Australian government and they arrived in Brisbane in July 2004.

With the help of others Benjamin planted a SCOC in the local primary school during 2005.

Currently the congregation meets at Stafford Heights Baptist Church.

Benjamin has continued to study, completing a Diploma in Theology in 2007 and a Bachelor of Counselling in 2013.

During his second visit to his



Benjamin Angalo with his wife, Aziza, at his ordination as Sudanese Church of Christ Minister at Stafford Heights in Brisbane late 2013.

Photo: Ken Conwell

homeland in 2010, to train and encourage the church leaders, they decided Benjamin should be ordained because of the faithfulness and fruitfulness of his ministry and the gifts of the Spirit demonstrated through his life.

The ordination could not take place before Benjamin returned to Australia, so the church leadership requested help from two retired workers with Sudan United Mission (SUM) who were elected

Patriarchs of the Church in 1994, Rev. Roy Conwell and Rev. Keith Black, to perform the ordination in Australia.

Pastor Ken Conwell, Roy Conwell's son from Queensland Baptists, preached at the service.

Crisis in Syria deepens



Syrian children outside their makeshift home, battling the cold in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

The war in Syria has now been raging for more than 1,000 days, and as refugees try to make new lives for themselves - however temporary - in neighbouring countries, they are facing the realities of a harsh winter.

Snow, rain and below freezing temperatures have hit Lebanon, where more than 840,000 Syrian refugees live.

World Vision staff are making sure 25,000 families have blankets and vouchers for stoves and fuel, while in Jordan work is underway to prevent flooding in Za'atari refugee camp.

In Syria itself, World Vision is providing 2,000 winter kits filled with blankets, tarpaulins, rubber boots, socks and winter hats to people affected by fighting.

Since fighting started in Syria more than 126,000 people have lost their lives, including at least 11,000 children.

Inside Syria, 6.5 million

people have been displaced by fighting, and 9.3 million are in need.

More than 2.3 million people have fled to neighbouring countries as a result of the terrible conditions in Syria.

Lebanon and Jordan are carrying the brunt of the refugee burden, and the numbers are straining the already limited resources of both countries.

Refugees bring with them horrifying stories of what they witnessed before leaving their home country, including reports of violence, rape and chemical weapon attacks.

From the comfortable homes they enjoyed in Syria before the conflict started, refugees are often finding themselves living in refugee camps, or impoverished host communities.

It is difficult for Syrian children to get access to school places, and their parents struggle to find work.

It is a challenge for families to find everyday basics: food, water, blankets and healthcare.

But thanks to people like you, World Vision is able to offer help and support to those in need.

Plans to cut overseas aid

The Coalition Government's plans to cut \$625 million from this year's overseas aid budget represents a devastating blow to the global poor and breach of trust with the Australian public.

The Government recently confirmed how it plans to reduce aid by \$625 million below the amount already budgeted for this year.

While funding is being cut across all regions and programs, the areas to receive the deepest cuts are Sub-Saharan Africa, global environmental programs and emergency and humanitarian relief.

"We're extremely disappointed that the Government has decided to proceed with cuts to this year's overseas aid budget," Micah Challenge Australia Political Engagement Coordinator Ben Thurley said.

"Over the past few months, thousands of Micah Challenge supporters have raised their voices and urged the Government to reverse

this decision because of the devastating impact it has on poor people and communities for whom this funding had been committed by the Australian Government," Ben said.

The Coalition has ignored these calls and needs of the poorest people in our world.

The aid cuts will make Australia's aid program \$107 million smaller than it was in 2012-13.

"This is the first time Australian aid has gone backwards since the year 2000, which is an uncomfortable reality in light of Prime Minister Tony Abbott's statement in September that the Coalition was 'not cutting foreign aid, just simply reducing the rate of growth'," Ben said.

Photo: Ralph Baydoun, World Vision

The increasing need for foster carers



Photo: J Hill

The need for foster carers in Western Australia is significant.

Government statistics show there are more than 4,000 children (0 to 18 years old) needing foster care in the state. Foster care is all about safe places and safe relationships where children can thrive. More than 45 percent of these children are from Aboriginal families.

The Department for Child Protection and Family Support has the responsibility for foster care within the state. There are several non-government and not-for-profit agencies that conduct specific types of foster care.

There are a number of reasons foster care is needed. More and more families are isolated within their communities, lacking strong connections. Wanslea Family Services Operations Manager, Charlotte Cain, said this is a particular issue with refugee and migrant families where long term friendships have not yet developed within a community.

Sometimes placements come about through stresses within a family, including emergency hospitalisation of a parent. Other significant contributing factors including the rising cost of living, drug and alcohol dependence, domestic violence and parents who are not able to support and nurture their children.

In Western Australia there are more than 1,335 approved relative foster carer households, where a child is placed in the household of an extended family member. There are almost 1,200 approved

general foster carer households, of which almost 400 are agency carers. These numbers are augmented by more than 155 respite carer households.

The Department has the legal responsibility for children needing foster care. They train potential foster carers for all agencies. Agencies support the foster carers through regular contact, ongoing training and support for the caring family.

Some agencies run programs for a specific group of children or for a specific type of care.

UnitingCare West's Futures program is essentially long term foster care for children with complex physical needs. Futures has been running for more than 20 years. Futures provide support to carers who have children from pre-school through to adulthood. They also give support to carers as they transition those in their care into independent shared accommodation once they turn 18 years old. Often the relationship with the foster carer will continue in some form while the young adult is living independently.

Currently more than 20 children are in the program. Most of these children have come to Futures through referrals from the Department. Futures hold information evenings to recruit new foster carers. Carers and children are carefully matched to find the best fit possible for the needs of individual children.


MercyCare focuses on short-term, medium to long-term care and respite foster care.

Wanslea Family Services has been managing foster care for more than 20 years. They

offer foster care to a broad spectrum of needs ranging from overnight crisis care to long term and specialist placements where carers need more specialised skills.

In September 2013 Wanslea launched a new program called Foster Friends which aims to build a network of friends around a foster family to support and encourage them. The aim is to

enable longevity of foster families by supporting them in their locality. The close relationships and networks of foster families provide immeasurable encouragement not only through friendship.



VOSE
seminary

Come, grow your faith in 2014

Enrolments for Semester 1 now open!

Trusted faculty and vibrant students make Vose a premium place to grow in knowledge and practice of your faith.

Come, join us this semester at Vose and dive into faith like never before. Semester 1 begins February 25th 2014. You can attend for credit, or simply to expand your knowledge. Classes are held during the day, in the evening or as intensives. You can join a class or study by distance.

Call the office or visit the website to obtain an enrolment form and information about our faculty, student life and courses on offer.

ENQUIRIES OR MORE INFORMATION:
PHONE: 8333 6666 FAX: 8333 6666
EMAIL: office@vose.edu.au
WEBSITE: www.vose.edu.au

come, grow

BACK TO CRAIGIE BAPTIST CELEBRATION WEEKEND

**Saturday 15 & Sunday
16 March 2014**

We will be celebrating Craigie Baptist Church which started from meetings in a kindergarten to what it is today.

Saturday: 1 – 4 pm – Afternoon Tea, craft, cakes, jams for sale

Sunday Service: 10am

Followed by Fellowship Lunch

www.craigiebaptist.org.au



Foster Care Association of Western Australia (Inc)

www.fcawa.com.au

Department for Child Protection and Family Support

www.dcp.wa.gov.au

MercyCare

www.mercycare.com.au

UnitingCare West – Futures program

www.unitingcarewest.org.au/services/people-with-disabilities/futures

Wanslea Family Services

www.wanslea.asn.au

TV inspires foster carer

East Fremantle Baptist Church Children's Worker Mim Hosking welcomes a seven year old boy into her home every second weekend from his permanent foster family.

"I've been foster caring for a few years now," Mim said.

"I've cared for four children so far and I just love it. These children have become part of my family."

Mim is one of MercyCare's respite foster carers.

The agency offers training and ongoing support to their carers and the children being cared for.

"I really like MercyCare's program," she said.

"They give me the opportunity to love and support these special children on a part-time basis."

Mim's interest in fostering developed through several influences.

"My aunty was a foster carer so it's been modelled for me."

"I've always wanted to be a mum and I see fostering as a way of living out my faith. The scriptures speak of loving and caring for widows, orphans and the poor."

"And you'll laugh at this, but I remember a character in the TV soap *Home and Away* who was a foster carer. That influenced me too."

Mim did her initial training (one night a week for four weeks) through the Department for Child Protection and Family Support in mid-2011 after an interview process with MercyCare.

"The training was great because I developed a bit of a

network with the people I was training with – retired people, young couples, a gay couple and some single people like me," she said.

“It takes time, patience and unconditional love.”

"You don't need any special qualifications to be a foster carer. You need a safe spare room in your home and space in your life and heart to love kids."

The young boy Mim cares for has some learning difficulties. He is growing in resilience, is more affectionate and engages with people more readily after more than two years of regular visits to Mim's home, where he is an integral part of Mim's extended family and nurtured by her group of friends.

"It's not always easy. You deal with behavioural issues and some children find it very difficult to trust and to engage with you."

"It takes time, patience and unconditional love."

"You're providing a safe place for these children to grow and thrive. That is not always a smooth road, but it's so worth it!" Mim said.

Foster Friends can assist a foster family with emergency meals, child minding, gardening, house maintenance or shopping, allowing the carer to focus on the needs of the children in their care.

Wanslea see the deep friendships that develop among families in churches and schools as an ideal community to support a Foster Friends network.

"We have so many wonderful

foster families," Wanslea's Charlotte Cain said. "We see that Foster Friends will help them stay caring for children for longer."

The need for foster carers continues to grow each year.

CARER OPPORTUNITY

A suitable mature Christian lady is sought to enable 3 day in-home weekend respite on 7 occasions through a year, for parents of an adult son and daughter who are intellectually disabled.

The dependants are totally gluten intolerant so the carer must have a high level of knowledge of Coeliac disease.

Should you be interested in such a caring role please contact the parents on
Tel: 08 9454 5519.

To find your local Baptist church visit
www.baptistwa.asn.au



MULTI-SITE CAMPUS PASTOR

CrossLife – a baptist church

Are you ready for a challenge? CrossLife is an expanding multi-site baptist church serving the northern Gold Coast. We're looking for a Campus Pastor for our Southport campus to lead the campus alongside our Lead Pastor as part of the CrossLife multi-site church structure as it builds its presence and influence within Southport, the Gold Coast's CBD. Will you consider joining us on our exciting, Christ-led journey to make a real impact on our local communities?

Our ideal candidate will have a heart for reaching a local community, a willingness to work within a rare multi-site church structure, experience leading teams in a local church setting, have completed, or has nearly completed theological training, and, able to be registered as a pastor with Queensland Baptists.

We are hoping to make an appointment by June 2014 for this 4 day a week position, with planning for a fifth day in 2015.

Please email matt.hunt@crosslife.org.au to receive an information pack. Closing date for applications is 7th March 2014

Peacemakers equip teachers

West Australian Steve Smith attended a peace conference at the Peace Studies Center in Yangon, Myanmar in January. Steve is a member of the Asian Pacific Baptist Federation Aid Committee.

Myanmar was chosen as the location for the conference because of the recent changes in the country allowing more access to outside countries.

Although the Myanmar Baptists are one of the largest Baptist groups in Asia, they have been very isolated from the rest of the Asian Baptist groups for many years.

The conference titled, The God of Peace and the Peace of God – Equipping Our People to Become Peacemakers, brought together 130 theological teachers and peace practitioners from India and Korea to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea to listen to and learn from one another.

As well as discussions on potential topics for inclusion in theological curricula for training the next generation of Christian leaders throughout the region, there was a unique opportunity for delegates to hear from the churches of Myanmar.

Speakers at the conference included Allan Marr, the current Chair of the Asian Pacific Baptist Federation Aid Committee.

Maung Maung Yin, Peace Studies Center Director in Myanmar, spoke about his work developing curricula based on his experience living in Myanmar.

He also shared information about the teaching and trauma workshops he conducts to help people deal with the effects of the 60 year civil war that has consumed so much of Myanmar's life as a nation.

Victor Rembath from Indonesia spoke about his work in Muslim-Christian relations in the context of relief work in Indonesia.

Two delegates from each of the 16 state groups in Myanmar reported to the conference on at an all day round table session.

Steve led the entire conference group in devotions on that morning.

The day finished with students from the host college, Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT), where the Peace Studies Center has been established, presenting a cultural concert for the conference delegates.



Photo: Anthony Field

Steve Smith with delegates, which sums up the combined aims of the Conference: a Japanese lady who ministers to the poor people who live around the Fukushima Nuclear plant who are now beginning to suffer cancers, Principal of the College of Christian Theology Bangladesh and an Indian pastor.

Steve also visited Myanmar in July to talk with the local organising committee.

"It was a good opportunity to talk face-to-face about the details of the conference," Steve said.

"With organisers in a number of countries and having busy professional lives the information network had a few cracks. Technology still doesn't quite replace face-to-face conversations."

There was a strong emphasis on building relationships among those attending the conference, with the goal of supporting and learning from one another long after the final session of the conference.

Vose student's Siberian adventure



Photo: Kellan Morag

OM workers Jenya and Julia with their son Archium opened their home and hearts to Kane and Tracy Fulwood during their visit to Siberia.

Vose Seminary student Kane Fulwood and his wife Tracy spent almost two weeks of their annual leave in Novosibirsk, Russia, supporting members of the Operation Mobilisation (OM) team working in the city.

Director of Vose Mission Lloyd Porter arranged for the Fulwoods to visit the OM team in the Siberian city, the third

largest city in Russia (population 1.5 million), known for the cold and its isolation.

Kane and Tracy stayed with

the OM team who live in two large share-house buildings.

Students who are working through an intensive seven

month discipleship program also live in the houses, so the Fulwoods had many opportunities to meet and talk with local people.

Tracy, a school teacher, helped teach three homeschooled missionary children.

Kane worked with a translator and taught five lessons in the Discipleship Centre based on his studies of 1 and 2 Samuel earlier in the year at Vose. He also presented some teaching to the OM team based on his Vose studies. One Sunday he was invited to preach at a small Baptist church.

"We also got to see the final stages of the new building project for the Central Asian church plant, which seeks to evangelise the many Central Asian migrants who are coming to Novosibirsk," Kane said.

"The new building will be their new place of worship, but will also house church workers and produce income in a bid to be a self-sustaining ministry."

"We found how challenging it can be to communicate

through a language barrier."

"I was teaching the Russian students through a translator, which stretched my ability to talk simply and concisely to get my points across to both the class and translator."

The Fulwoods joined one of the Russian street ministers, Sascha, as she visited at risk children in Novosibirsk to provide food and care for them.

"This was an eye-opening afternoon, visiting two families who were struggling to get by," Tracy said.

They were confronted by the harsh cramped conditions where the families lived in the frigid Siberian winter.

Hunger, illness and lack of care marked the lives of the children they met.

The friendships with people and generous hospitality they received are lasting memories of the Fulwood's Russian experience.

Kane returns to Vose Seminary to complete his theological studies in 2014.

Knitters support Fijian jail

West Australian Loris Price lives in Fiji and regularly visits the Suva Women's Prison to help inmates learn to knit.

Loris visits the prison most Friday mornings with a Christian non-governmental organisation (NGO) called Operation Foundation which runs a course called Step Out Step Free.

The course helps prisoners examine who they are in Christ, explore reasons for committing crimes and the results of a fallen world.

The prison system is embracing the course as it has proven to be successful in rehabilitating prisoners.

Many indigenous Fijians are religious Christians and most ethnic Indo-Fijians are Hindu.

There have been many women who have become followers of Jesus through the course which has resulted in remarkable changes in these women's lives.

On one visit Loris noticed a group of women knitting and started talking with them about the craft.

"They asked me if I knew how to knit and I told them I learned to knit when I was four years old," she said.

"There was huge excitement in the room as they had been



Women in Suva Women's Prison are learning to knit, selling the finished products to support the prison.

praying for someone who knew how to knit to come and help them."

Some knew the rudiments of knitting and one woman was quite competent.

None of the women could read patterns.

There are between five

and twelve women in the knitting group.

"Over time I've taught them to read knitting patterns and I've taught many other women how to knit," Loris said.

"I've even managed to teach one woman to knit left-handed, which was great fun for both of us!"

The group is now progressing to more complex patterns and projects.

"My role in the knitting group is to chat with the women," Loris said.

"Sometimes they choose to talk about their walk with God and ask for advice or want encouragement.

It is a very privileged role to be in and I see the women growing in their faith."

"Some of the women who are not Christians just listen to the rest of us discussing our relationship with God while they knit."

The women have knitted toys, socks, mittens, Christmas decorations, flowers and tea cosies.

All items are sold to help support the prison.

"If any readers want to encourage the knitters with ribbons, decorative buttons and beads, knitting needles or pattern books, I have space in my luggage to take items when we return to Fiji in mid-February," Loris said.

For more information or to offer help, email Loris at robloris@gmail.com.

Photo: Loris Price

Bibles confiscated

Malaysian authorities seized hundreds of Bibles from the Bible Society in Malaysia and detained staff members on 2 January.

This is another step in the country's tensions over the use of the word Allah, Arabic for God.

Jais, a Malaysian Islamic authority, confiscated 321 Bibles and arrested the Bible Society's Chairman Lee Min Choon and Office Manager Sinclair Wong.

They were taken to the Damansara Utama police station where they were later released on bail.

The Christian minority in Malaysia expressed deep concern late last year after a court decision in October banned the word Allah from use in a Catholic newspaper. However, it appeared that the ruling would not apply to use of the word Allah in the Bible.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak assured Christians they would not be threatened by the verdict.

Lee Min Choon told a Malaysian television reporter outside the police station that as far as the Bible Society knows, the authorities are aware of the activities of the Bible Society, or the existence of the Bibles which contain the word Allah.

"...We expect the authorities to work with each other and sort this situation out, so that Malay speaking Christians in this country can continue to read their scriptures, have access to their holy book and also find a solution where the harmony and spirit of tolerance, which has existed among Malaysians for so many decades, can be preserved," he said.

Monks attack Sri Lankans

The BBC reported on 14 January that police have identified and intend to arrest 24 people, including eight Buddhist monks, allegedly involved in attacks on two churches in the southern Sri Lankan town of Hikkaduwa on Sunday 12 January.

Police spokesman Ajith Rohana, who had admitted to what he called police 'inaction' because of insufficient numbers, said that legal action would be taken against all people identified as attackers.

One pastor said he received death threats.

Video footage showed monks at a building used by an independent church shouting insults in Sinhala, smashing up signs, setting goods alight and hurling stones and what appeared to be a brick.

In a phone conversation to a friend in Perth, a Sri Lankan pastor said the police

managed to get the people out safely on the Sunday but then allowed the mob in to ransack the building.

Windows, doors and musical instruments were smashed.

Some of the monks allege that the Calvary Free Church and the Assemblies of God are operating illegally.

The pastors say they have, indeed, had orders from the government to close.

But they say they are registered under an Act of Parliament and are operating legally.



Claremont Baptist Church is looking for a **Creche Co-ordinator** to help out in Creche every Wednesdays from 9.30am-12pm during school term. Working With Children Check and First Aid is essential. Contact our office on 9385 2607 or email info@claremontbaptistchurch.com if you're interested or would like more info about the position.

Out of the war zone

Perth woman Natalie Page has worked in some of the most volatile regions of the world, supporting health programs and local staff.

You're back in Perth for a short time. How is it going?

You know it's strange. People say they're excited for me to be home, but I don't really feel that Perth is home. I do have family here, but I don't really know where home is these days.

You're a trained midwife. What other training have you done?

I've studied Child Health, Women's Health, Tropical Medicine and some Bible.

After the breakdown of your marriage in 2007 you went to Yemen. Tell us about that.

I'd been living in Port Hedland and working in remote communities with Aboriginal people and I decided I wanted to study Arabic, so I found a place to study language in Yemen. I met some people who were doing medical work in Yemen and I ended up working with them at a hospital for about nine months before some of the team were kidnapped in June 2009 and we had to leave the area.

How did you cope with that trauma?

It was very confronting when people you've been working with are snatched away so quickly. Three of the group were killed shortly after the kidnapping, two of the group were released almost a year later and there has been no news of the other four. The group I was working with did some debriefing with the team, but looking back I think it could have been better.

You then joined a Swiss group called Medair.

I had to wait in Switzerland for three months during 2010 until my visa was issued to work in Darfur. That turned out to be a good thing as I got to know the people in Medair really well and to understand how and where the company works. They're working in Afghanistan, Syria, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Somalia/Somaliland doing amazing work. We bring relief to neglected communities affected by natural disaster, conflict, and other crises.

What did you do in Darfur?

Mostly my work was behind the scenes, supporting health care workers with training

and supervision, making sure medicine and supplies that were desperately needed reached us, and working to have local clinics upgraded. It meant living in pretty basic accommodation, a bit like really roughing it when going camping in Australia. There were no frills. It was really basic. There were thousands and thousands of people living in refugee camps.

The situation started with a drought in the 1980s then internal fighting started with militia backed by Libya trying to take control of a very desolate region. More than two million people have been displaced from their homelands because of the conflict. Most of these people just want to go home and start their lives again. At the time I was there, Darfur was pretty wild and I ended up being evacuated after just eight weeks because of kidnapping threats.

After being evacuated from Darfur, where did you go?

Medair was working in the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan, Sudan. This was before the referendum to create South Sudan in May 2011. The people are poor and there were needs, but I was really happy working with local medical teams, supporting them as they helped the local Nuba people. Medair had a base at Kadugli. That's where I was living. We had a compound with good communications and great relationships with the people.

It was such an exciting time to see the people vote in the referendum and be there as the South Sudan nation came into being. South Kordofan remained part of Sudan and the people weren't happy about that. They wanted the border to change and the Nuba Mountains region to be included in South Sudan. The central government in Khartoum didn't like that.

So what happened?

In early June the Khartoum government started bombing and killing the people of the Nuba Mountains region, especially around our town of Kadugli. The local South Sudan People's Liberation Movement were fighting the government forces. The Sudanese government has said they will squash this 'rebellion'.



Photo: Medair

I was about to go for a run when it all started. You know, long sleeves and long pants, hat, mobile phone in one hand, [two-way] radio in the other. I called out to my work mate to see if he was okay with us eating pasta for dinner when I got back and was about to leave the [Medair] compound when planes appeared and started dropping bombs! Chaos erupted.

There were bullets flying through the air. The noise was incredible. You could almost feel it. We were relatively safe with a secure 'bunker' in the compound but our friends and work colleagues were desperate. Many just ran for their lives with whatever they could grab. Then tanks roared into town and firing wildly as the battle continued. We tried to stay calm as we contacted our team for help.

After more than two days, the United Nations [UN] said they had brokered a ceasefire so that we could get to the UN compound about 20 kilometres away. But we had to get there!

I ended up driving the four-wheel drive. We tied my Medair scarf to the radio antenna and used gaffer tape to write 'Medair' down both sides of the car. We just prayed and asked the Lord to give us the strength to get out. I really didn't think I could do it.

I inched out of the compound and there were tanks and army trucks streaming down the road. As I pulled out the tanks popped their lids and they directed us to drive out. The shooting stopped as the soldiers put up their rifles. It was incredible!

I will never forget the scene: women in their brightly coloured clothes desperately clutching at children and belongings filling the street as they streamed out of town and coming headlong towards us, pouring into town was truck after truck filled with army men standing like packed bowling pins, all in dark clothes carrying guns, sinister anger oozing from their bodies.

It's good to know you got out safely.

Yes, the UN got us out, but I continue to remember my friends and workmates who were not in my privileged position of having white skin and working for a company that could coordinate our rescue. They are still there. I hear from some when they have phone reception. Many are living in mountain caves during the day.

The Sudanese government is still bombing the region and people are still dying. The people are hungry and need medical help but it's like the rest

of the world doesn't care and won't help.

What has God been showing you lately?

I've called out to Him sometimes saying there is only so much I can cope with. Recently I read that verse that says God won't break a bruised reed. I think I've experienced that. God has protected my faith, not through anything I did myself. There have been times when there was very little opportunity for spiritual nurture, like belonging to a small group. Yes, you can pray and read the Bible. But I've seen God sustain me and encourage my faith.

You've just spent three weeks with Medair's Emergency Response Team in Tacloban, Philippines, following the devastating typhoon that hit the area late last year. Do you have any idea what's coming next for Nat Page?

I've just been accepted to study at The University of Melbourne to do a Masters in Global Health. I'm very excited as this is a great course, taught by wonderful people and I know I'm going to learn so much.

For more information about Medair and their work, visit relief.medair.org.

Parents of toddlers and teenagers understand a simple truth about being a leader: sooner or later you encounter fierce resistance. Leadership feels a lot like peddling uphill, swimming upstream, or running into a stiff headwind. The challenge is to overcome the resistance instead of being overwhelmed by it.

1) Be aware that motion creates friction

Galileo discovered that moving objects create friction whenever they interact with a rigid surface. His observation about the physical world has a parallel in the realm of human relationships. Leaders launch forward motion, but people stubbornly resist change because they dislike uncertainty. Most people would rather have familiar problems than unfamiliar solutions. For this reason, you can anticipate having a tough time bringing about substantial transformations in your organisation.

2) Remember the 20-50-30 principle

As a rule of thumb, 20 percent of your people will support your efforts to initiate change, 50 percent will be undecided, and the remaining 30 percent will resist you. As baseball manager Casey Stengel once remarked, "The secret of managing is to keep the guys who hate your guts away from



Overcoming resistance instead of being overwhelmed by it

the guys who haven't made up their minds yet." Don't try to soothe the 30 percent who are disgruntled; you'll only reinforce their problematic behavior. Instead, seek to woo the 50 percent sitting on the fence and to encourage the 20 percent who are most likely to aid your efforts to drive change.

3) Provide a clear target

People endure long hikes and steep climbs because they enjoy scenic mountain vistas and majestic waterfalls. Without a reward at the end of the journey, they would not be as likely to exert themselves physically in

the first place. As a leader, it's your duty to remind people of the benefits that lie just around the bend. Without a sense of purpose, people quickly tire and lose heart.

4) Promise problems

Remind people of the rewards of change, but don't gloss over the difficulties. The nature of change is that things get worse before they get better. In this way, going through change is like trying to fix a defective golf swing. Altering your stance, grip, and backswing feels incredibly awkward at first. Given the discomfort, it's easy to revert to your previous bad habits

– especially when improvements aren't immediately noticeable. However, if you persevere the new swing eventually feels natural, and your shots fly straight instead of slicing into the trees.

5) Involve your people in the process of change

When undergoing change, people feel out of control. Giving them partial ownership of the process of change mitigates their feelings of helplessness or vulnerability. Having responsibility makes people feel important and allows them to contribute their ideas and skills.

Adjusting the pace of change to include everyone on your team makes the transition go more slowly. However, it inevitably allows change to happen more smoothly.

6) Pause to celebrate successes

Regardless of the way you lead, change is fatiguing. It taxes the energy and patience of everyone involved. For that reason, it's extremely important to celebrate small successes along the way.

Used with permission from The John Maxwell Company, www.johnmaxwell.com.

Exerting self control, replenishing energy



By Steve Ingram

Research has conclusively shown that voluntary effort (cognitive, emotional or physical) draw in part from a common pool. This means that when we exert ourselves in one area, for example, intensive focused thought at work, we have less energy left to draw on as a result, such as sticking to our diet at lunch time. This suggests that exerting self-control, as it requires significant effort, is a limited commodity for most of us.

Understanding this important dynamic helps us to manage our leadership life more effectively. When we feel 'flat' after a busy weekend of ministry it is not imagined. Our self-control, emotional energy and even our physical energy can be at a lower point than normal.

It is not uncommon for leaders to 'act out' (misbehave) after a period of extended depletion.

Leaders who are aware of this phenomenon make plans to set aside time for recuperation and replenishment in advance. Part of living in Christian community should be a desire to protect our pastors, leaders and ministry workers by making sure their ministry schedules allow time for rebuilding energy.

Have you ever wondered why Psalm 23 marries together

'quiet pastures' and 'dark valleys'? It is part of God's rhythm. Quiet pastures build our ability to endure dark valleys. Jesus modelled this to us by withdrawing for solitude and prayer in the midst of a punishing schedule of ministry. The scripture also promises us that the fruit of having the Holy Spirit indwell us is self-control. As we plan time for replenishment

the Spirit in us builds deeply into our capacity to maintain integrity and ensures that our ministry is sustainable.

Maturity in sustainable ministry is normally characterised by an individual's understanding of what draws energy from them and also how to replenish that pool of energy. For each of us the process of replenishment varies. Knowing what works for you is an important leadership awareness to develop. For those who are struggling to find a solution for themselves my suggestion would be to start with solitude, prayer and reading scripture. These seem to be universal elements that form part of everybody's solution.

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

browse



NRT Weekly

The NRT Weekly app for iOS from NewReleaseTuesday.com is an interactive way to stay up to date on the latest in Christian music each week. Christian music fans can explore new releases, watch music videos, connect with artists as well as read interviews and other content.

NRT Weekly also gives users mobile access to NewReleaseTuesday.com's release schedule promoting what will be released in future weeks. Users can also connect to NRT Radio, a 24/7 Christian music radio station that plays over eight hours of new music with zero repeats.

NRT Weekly updates every Tuesday morning and users can access the past five weeks at any time through the archives.

You can also save your favourite features for future reference at any time.

win

A Lifetime of Promises: Guidance

Ben Alex

Guidance comes from a series of 12 little books with captivating photos and quotes from the Bible – a rich source of truth and inspiration to encourage you. The series covers our entire life span from womb to tomb, and beyond. Be blessed by the words that are full of God's life and light; words that will help guide you into a glorious destiny.

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

Question:

How many books are in the *A Lifetime of Promises* series?

Entries close 14 February and all winners will be announced in the March edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from the *Wisdom for Today's Woman?* competition: C Morrell, K O'Dea and J Raymond.

The winner from *The Advocate* online readership survey: J Taylor

competition

Answer: _____

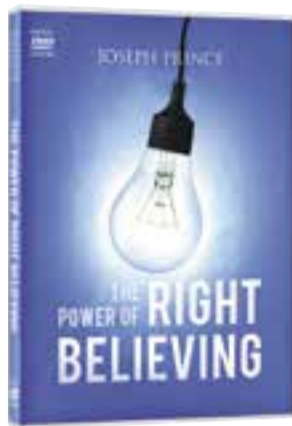
Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

A Lifetime of Promises: Guidance Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

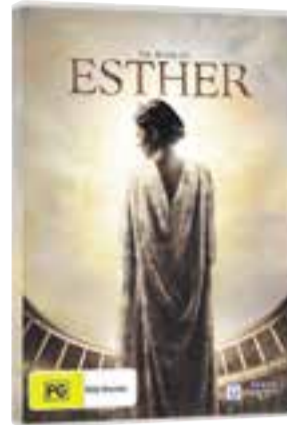
watch



The Power of Right Believing

Joseph Prince

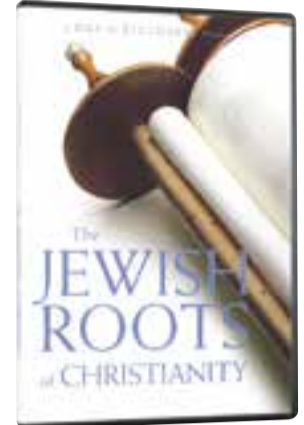
Realising the battlefield is in our minds *The Power of Right Believing* by Joseph Prince exposes how wrong believing is at the root of our struggles with fears, condemnation and addictions, and how right believing demolishes these bondages. The revelatory truths shared will liberate and inspire us and unleash God's best as we encounter His lavish grace and experience the power of right believing!



The Book of Esther

Pure Flix Entertainment

The Book of Esther is a timeless Biblical story of one woman's heroic stand for justice. The wicked Haman plots to control the young Persian King Xerxes, with the ultimate aim of wiping out Xerxes' Jewish subjects. It's up to Xerxes' Jewish wife Esther to expose Haman's treachery and save her people. Based on the book of Esther in the Bible, this beautiful retelling emphasises the enduring value of courage, faith and obedience.



The Jewish Roots of Christianity

A Day of Discovery Production

The Jewish Roots of Christianity takes you to Jerusalem for eye-opening insights into the link between Judaism and Christianity. Mart De Haan interviews three men who are Jewish by birth but Christians by choice. Stand with them beneath the south wall of Jerusalem's ancient temple, overlooking the pools where 3,000 Jewish believers were baptised on the day of Pentecost, and gain historical and spiritual perspectives that will enrich your understanding of the scriptures.

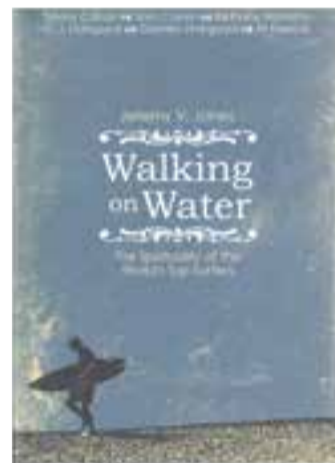
read



Soul Surfer

Bethany Hamilton

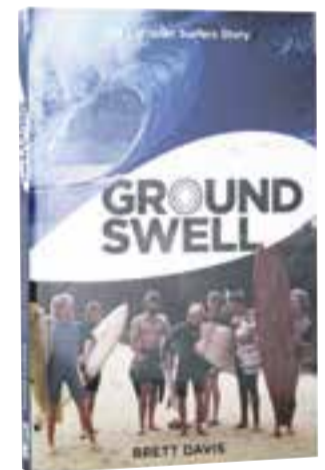
Soul Surfer is a moving testimony of Bethany Hamilton's life as a young surfer, the way she underwent the recovery of a shark attack and the adjustment she needed to make to her unique surfing style, allowing her to become one of the world renowned pro surfers. This is a story of girl's power and spiritual grit, and what courage in the face of adversity looks like ... the radiant truth that nothing is impossible with God.



Walking on Water

Jeremy Jones

Surfing is spiritual. Ask most wave riders and they'll describe some sense of deeper connection with the water, the waves or the power around them. Surfing to them is a spiritual experience. In a subculture that's traditionally known for its rebellion, here you'll find a deep undercurrent of faith amongst these top wave riders who share an understanding that the Creator of the waves also desires to know and relate with them.



Ground Swell

Brett Davis

"We felt marginalised by the surfing community because we were Christians and marginalised from the Church community because we were surfers." And so Christian Surfers Founder and International Director Brett Davis wrote explaining why he and a handful of teenagers in Cronulla, Sydney, Australia decided to launch Christian Surfers in 1977. Now with missions in over 30 nations, comprising over 1,000 volunteer leaders spreading the love of God through all levels of surfing, it's a great story.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

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





Quinns Baptist College – Quinns Rocks
Kindergarten to Year 12 www.qbcol.com.au

Students from Quinns Baptist College in Perth's northern suburbs are learning some life changing lessons through the opportunities they have to engage with their community.

Their stories reflect a strong desire to serve people and grow as people as they do that.

Each month a school highlights news from their campus through the writing and photography of students on the School Scoop page.

Community and compassion



Photo: Kaylee Werner

Quinns Baptist College students visit children at a Bali orphanage.

By Megan Quick (Year 11)

A team of Quinns Baptist College students and teachers visited an orphanage in Bali last October and I was privileged to be a part of the team. Students and Quinns Baptist Church donated \$7,000 to support our trip to the orphanage.

I never thought I would call an orphanage 'a little patch of heaven'. It was not the tropical vegetation or lush green mountains kissed by clumsy clouds. Nor the lush gardens, towering trees with sweet mangos or the fiery red of glowing chillies that made it so. Rather, it was the orphans, little barefooted angels with smiles stretching from

ear to ear, who created a place that touched all our hearts.

The children wake early, work hard and have many daily chores. They never complained about washing, cleaning and keeping living areas spotless. A concept sadly lost in my generation.

Before each meal they sing and give thanks. The food is traditional, very basic and the spiciness of their diet takes a little 'getting used to'. The showers are open-aired and cold (however in the climate, very refreshing). To our relief, the toilets were western; it will take a few more visits before we can perfect the 'squat'.

At homework study (my favourite part of the day), we sat together and learned about one

another and laughed at each other's attempts to converse and, in all honesty, not much study occurred. After 'study' time, we gathered together in the chapel to worship and share Bible verses.

In Bali, much of the population live on less than a dollar a day and education and opportunities are limited. In these conditions, the amazingly caring staff do all they can to educate each child and give them the skills to have a promising future. They foster in them respect, politeness and cleanliness.

The experience was humbling and life changing. Although, I take comfort in the hope of visiting these amazing people again I found leaving one of the hardest things I've ever done.

Saving lives



Photo: Tracey Quick

Quinns Baptist College students Megan Quick and Bianca Evans register to give blood at the Perth Blood Bank.

By Megan Quick (Year 11)

Quinns Baptist College staff and students have potentially saved 69 lives as a result of blood they have donated this year.

I was really moved and inspired to help out and coordinate this project as both of my grandparents needed blood. My Grandma needed it in her last moments of life but wasn't able to receive any due to insufficient supplies. This compelled me to donate, to overcome my fear of needles, and to give blood.

By rolling up your sleeves only four times a year you are helping save 12 lives; and who knows, that blood could very well be saving another grandpa or grandma somewhere who need it in their last moments or help a loved one recover from cancer operations.

We began a drive to donate

blood as something we could do to help in the community and build a greater sense of community within the College.

Many students and staff have had family members or friends who have needed blood for various reasons. And as we witness the many instances of devastation in the world, such as earthquakes, floods and cyclones, we realise how vital it is to help others.

Our 23 blood donations this year, averaged approximately 420 millilitres, which equates to more than 10 litres of life giving blood.

We hope to get even more people involved next year as part of our school outreach. Our goal is to double our donations next year.

We also hope that the continued growth of this outreach will change lives of patients and the lives of our students and staff.



Photo: Tracey Quick

Artsfest performance at Quinns Baptist College.

Artsfest – Celebrating talent

By Trisha Prinsloo (Year 12)

Over the course of being at Quinns Baptist College (QBC) I have learnt many things. Much of this was due to the teachers, and the experience of being at Quinns as a whole. By far, however, there was one event that impacted me the most and that I looked forward to each year, Artsfest.

Artsfest is an annual event that allows students to participate and show off their talents. Often, I found that students, who weren't so academic or athletic, would be some of the ones who liked to

'wow' a crowd with their hidden talents. I felt like I was one of them.

I still remember my first year in high school; the thought of performing was terrifying. Even getting on that stage, no matter how it looked to others, to me was an accomplishment. It made me realise where I could belong.

My love of the stage and performing arts grew from that moment on. Each year I auditioned, and I felt encouraged to do more. I started off with singing which led to a love of acting and I even produced my own documentary.

Artsfest is not only for the students, but families as well. All ages can come and watch students,

and sometimes teachers, showcase their talents.

Over the years the event has grown, so not only Arts students perform, but students with all different types of abilities are encouraged to be involved. We've had metal bands, rock bands, funk bands, different types of dance, drama, media and even Indian drums.

Artsfest is evidence of how important it is to encourage students to reach for their goals and to provide an avenue to allow them to do this. Take my word for it; it has changed my life for the better. Simply said, Artsfest is fun, with the opportunity to grow as a person.

Basketball carnival success

Perth basketball player Joshua Throns was voted Most Valuable Player for the Australian Baptist Basketball Carnival held in Melbourne from 5 to 11 January. He also won the Best Dunk and Top Scorer for the competition.

Western Australia's teams included several other individual winners, including Brad Jackson who won the three point competition.

Emily Fielding was runner-up Most Valuable Player in the women's competition and the Top Scorer.

Storm Zitman was runner-up Most Valuable Player for the men's B grade competition.

Joshua, Brad, Emily and Jessica van Schie were all selected for the Carnival's All Stars teams.

Presentations were made at a dinner on the last night of the competition at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The Men's A and Women's A teams played in the grand finals for their groups but unfortunately both teams lost.

The women went down to South Australia 36 – 34 points and the men lost to a Victorian team 69 – 63.

Gary Tucker, the coach of the Men's A and Women's A teams said the Carnival was an outstanding success considering how young both teams are.

"For both teams to make it to the grand finals and just come up short is a great affirmation for Baptist basketball in WA," Gary said.

"Hopefully we can better that result next year when the competition is held in Perth."

"It's a great result from a most successful week."

WA Team Manager Jessica van Schie coordinated the trip to Melbourne for the five Western Australian teams.

Members were selected from the WA Baptist Basketball



20 year old shooting guard Josh Throns came back from the Australian Baptist Carnival in Melbourne with a bag of trophies, including one for the Best Dunk.

competition teams.

Player Lisa Bryant doubled as the team's bus driver for the entire week, spending many hours negotiating Melbourne's traffic as she ferried the teams to the various venues where teams trained and competed.

Lakeside Baptist Church Pastor

Steve Wickham was Chaplain for the WA contingent.

"Being my first carnival I appreciated getting to know several individuals and rooming with a small group of guys," he said.

"Everyone seemed to really enjoy the experience, and there

was a blend of experienced players, youth and parents."

"There were plenty of laughs and team cohesiveness was really noticeable."

"It was a highlight to see the Men's and Women's A players urging on the B teams, and I think we had the best cheer squad!"

Part of the WA contingent, James Bryant engaged players on spiritual matters during three of the Team Time sessions held for the whole group of players and support staff.

The next Australian Baptist Basketball Carnival is planned for Perth in early 2015.

Photo: Alistair Chegwidden

Publishers General Disclaimer

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