



# the advocate



"Can changing your thinking really change your life?" **JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>**

**In Conversation** Belonging and sacrifice in Tim Winton's *Eyrie* **PAGE 12>>**



Photo: Louise Power

Clown Taryn van Oudtshoorn helped entertain the crowds at Scarborough Baptist Church's Carnival for the Crisis in Syria.



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## Carnival to help Syria

More than 200 people visited Scarborough Baptist Church's Carnival for the Crisis in late November, raising \$3,013 for the World Vision Syrian Emergency Appeal.

Syria has been devastated by civil war for almost three years and aid groups are desperate for funds to assist them.

Scarborough Baptist Church felt led to respond to this major international need by coordinating the Carnival fundraiser.

The Carnival transformed the church's property into a hive of excitement and activity with an extensive list of attractions including an electronic dunk tank, mechanical surfboard, a two-person human gyroscope, pony rides, bouncy castle and sumo wrestling.

There were also handball,

basketball and golf competitions. For people looking for less strenuous fun there were gentler pursuits: an animal petting zoo, cupcake decorating and a magic show.

Individuals and families paid an entry fee to the area and all the activities were free.

"Throughout the day we had the opportunity to share with people about the work that World Vision is doing in Syria," Scarborough Baptist Church Pastor Chad Power said.

More than 110,000 people have lost their lives during the civil war in Syria, including at least 11,000 children.

World Vision reports that inside Syria, 6.5 million people have been displaced by fighting, and 9.3 million are in need.

More than 2.2 million people have fled the destruction and danger to neighbouring countries as refugees. The majority of people are living in refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan.

More than 1.1 million refugees are children with 75 percent of them being under the age of 12.

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 obtain access to school places, and their parents struggle to find work.

Families find it challenging to obtain everyday basics due to scarce resources: food, water, blankets and healthcare.

World Vision offers help and support to those who need it most.

"The \$3,013 we raised through the Carnival made the clean-up effort worth it!" Chad said.

"All of this money will go directly to World Vision's emergency appeal."

"We would love to say a massive thank you to all those involved – volunteers, local businesses and families that attended."

"Through such a generous and open community we experienced something of God's heart for us and those less fortunate, and we hope others did too."

“Committed to being honest, transparent and above reproach.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA







### Graham Mabury

Graham Mabury is a broadcaster and Pastor at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. You can hear Graham on Radio 6PR (882AM) every weeknight from 8pm to midnight.

## On air with Graham Mabury

Resolutions are fragile. On New Year's Day, Mark Twain observed: "Make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual."

In the popular comic strip the precocious six year old Calvin tells his stuffed tiger Hobbes: "I'm fine just the way I am! If the New Year requires change it's up to everyone else not me. What about you?"

"Well, I had resolved to be less offended by human nature," sighs Hobbes. "But I think I blew it already."

Predictions are perilous. The New Year's Day 1962 Beatles audition was rejected by

Decca Records because "guitar music is on the way out." In 1929, just days before the great stock market crash, Yale Professor Irving Fisher wrote, "stocks have reached what looks like a permanently high plateau".

According to noted economist John Kenneth Galbraith, "the only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable".

God, however, is entirely different. He's omniscient,

[all-knowing] and omnipotent, [all-powerful]. He does not 'have' love, 'God is love'. His promises are utterly reliable. What's more, they're quite literally, life changing.

'He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature.' [2 Peter 1:4]

Merle and I have come to a new understanding of this recently as we faced situations

over which we had no control, but which would directly influence our future. Amidst my feelings of frustration, impatience and powerlessness, my gratitude for the transforming power of God's promises has deepened. David often referred to God as his 'strong fortress'. I understand a little more of what he meant.

Whatever your situation, I pray you'll experience the granite solid security of God's faithfulness.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' [Romans 15:13]



### Dr Brian Harris

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

## Changelessly changing one ...

Unless you have picked up an old copy of this worthy publication, you are probably savouring my column towards the start of 2014. So let me ask you a New Year kind of question: Does the transition drive you towards nostalgia (what a lovely year it was – so sorry it is over), or do you switch promptly into a 'the future beckons' mode?

Contemplate these two motifs from scripture. There's the ever so reassuring 'Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever', but there is also the more challenging, 'Behold, I make all things new ...' To repeat the question, which do you more naturally gravitate towards? It is worth exploring the tension.

I remember a sermon I heard a few years back. "Take

a walk on the wild side' was its intriguing refrain. The preacher skilfully painted a portrait of Jesus constantly challenging the status quo. This Jesus called the religious leaders of his day a brood of vipers, overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the temple, and befriended tax collectors and prostitutes. To follow Him, the preacher told us, "was to take a walk on the wild side".

Some of the congregation loved it. For those who had defined adventure as two tea bags in a single cuppa, this spoke of a seriously exciting world. Others saw it differently. 'Irresponsible rabble rousing', was one summary, followed by, 'we all know God calls us to a quiet and orderly life'.

So which Jesus do you follow? The one who makes all things new or the one who makes sure

everything stays the same. 'Silly question', you say, 'We all know there is only one Jesus.' True. And that Jesus is indeed the same yesterday, today and forever. So if He challenged the status quo of yesterday, I guess He will still be challenging it in 2014. Or to put it differently, could the changelessly changing one invite me to look at my life in 2014 and whisper, "time to make all things new ..."



### Steve Ingram

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

## The subtlety of power relationships

Most leaders consider that they have good interpersonal skills. In fact, it would be fair to say that many leaders believe they have superior or outstanding people skills. When surveyed, a large proportion of leaders trust their own instincts even when the facts support an alternative answer. It raises the question of how objective we are about our own abilities and our capacity to make good decisions.

In a recent *Harvard Business Review* article it is stated:

'Being in a position of power decreases peoples' understanding of other's point of view. When we have power over others, our ability to see them as individuals diminishes. So leaders need to consciously and consistently make an effort to imagine walking in the shoes of the

people they are leading.' [Cuddy, A, Kohut, M, & Neffinger, J 2013, 'Connect, then lead', *Harvard Business Review*, July-August.]

This is not only true of leaders but of anyone who finds themselves in an unequal power relationship.

In a previous church setting I inadvertently started the 'biscuit wars' by suggesting that

we change from home-made goods to store bought biscuits for our after service morning tea. I received a lot of push back from those who enjoyed baking and serving their culinary delights to the rest of the church.

Why did I bother? A widow on the pension had confessed to me in tears that she had to give

up her place on the morning tea roster because she could no longer afford the cost of baking that had become the 'new standard'. Those with greater financial resources had not even stopped to consider those who did not have the same level of funds.

As leaders, or people with power in relationships, we need to make sure we do not lose the ability to understand the point of view of others. It is easy for us to stride forward and ask people to follow in our footsteps; it takes greater character to discipline ourselves to walk in another's shoes and understand their world.

## 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.



# All the fun of the fair



Photo: Rob Douglas

Maida Vale community members enjoyed the sixth Christmas at the Fair at Range View Park in early December.

## Thousands of people attended the Christmas at the Fair organised by Maida Vale Baptist Church in Range View Park, High Wycombe early December.

Pastor and Maida Vale Baptist Church Team Leader, Rob Douglas said the event is their 'gift to the community'.

"It is focussed on providing opportunity for members of the community to participate in a wide range of activities and for it to be as inexpensive as possible for families," he said.

Most of the church is involved in the running of the

fair in some way with about 70 registered volunteers of all ages.

This is the sixth year the church has run the event.

A committee operates for most of the year planning the event.

Fair Coordinator, Karen Smith's administrative skills ensure the event is planned meticulously and runs smoothly.

Four hundred show bags are handed out at the Fair which a small group puts together beforehand.

Other volunteers are involved in setting up marquees, marking out sites and directing stallholders to their locations.

During the event, volunteers help the public to participate in activities, and encourage people to engage with each other.

About 40 community groups are involved in the fair, providing food and drink stalls, running displays to promote their activities, or offering activities to the public.

Participating groups range from local schools and churches

to scouts and guides, community service organisations, mission groups, aid agencies, and youth and children's organisations.

"Christmas at the Fair has developed into the major event of the year for High Wycombe," Rob said.

"It is a privilege to see the church playing such a significant role in contributing to community values and helping to build a strong neighbourhood."

"Maida Vale Baptist Church sees this event as our Christmas gift to the community and we are thrilled to be able to make such a valuable contribution."

Major sponsorship is provided by the Shire of

Kalamunda, Department for Communities, Forrestfield and High Wycombe Community Bank, Lotterywest and St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals.

Corporate donations were also received from All We Need is Right Here, BGC Australia, Nathan Morton MLA, High Wycombe Hardware and High Wycombe Pharmacy.

The President of the Shire of Kalamunda, Sue Bilchich, and Forrestfield MLA, Nathan Morton expressed their appreciation for the way in which strong community connections were being established through the Fair.

## Baptist Relief Fund

The Baptist Relief Fund was established by Western Australian Baptists for state wide emergency needs, including fire and flood.

Everyone is welcome to contribute to the fund.

Contributions are tax deductible and can be made at any time.

"This is a great opportunity for people to help us, as a denomination, be prepared for any future catastrophic event," Baptist Churches Western Australia Projects Consultant Terry Hicks said.

"It would be really good to have a reserve of funds in place so that we can act quickly to support people and communities in need."

People can transfer their gift to the Baptist Relief Fund: BSB 704 922, Account 100012612.

"If people need a tax deduction receipt, all they need to do is contact the Baptist Churches office with details of their gift," Terry said.

## Tom Price Baptist Church

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# Luke14 enables



Photo: Roger Smith

Keiko Gray shares her family's experience of church life with a disabled child.

Rob Nicholls from Luke14, an initiative of Christian Blind Mission (CBM) Australia to encourage and enable churches to welcome and include people with a disability, recently facilitated two workshops with people from Lesmurdie Baptist Church.

Children and teenagers with disabilities, and their families, look to churches for acceptance and belonging.

At the same time, leaders in these ministry areas are seeking help to ensure their activities and programs cater for all.

The workshop, Inclusion Toolbox for Kids and Teens, practically assists churches to grow as places of acceptance, reflecting God's inclusive love.

As churches respond to this call, they find the outcome of richer community life benefits everyone.

Lesmurdie Baptist Church has worked hard to be an inclusive community of faith.

Pastor Karen Siggins spoke honestly about the attitudinal barriers she had to deal with in herself and the recognition that genuine inclusion requires some deep thinking and definite

actions. She told of a nine year journey with the family who instigated this area of ministry for Lesmurdie Baptist Church, Mark and Keiko Gray.

Karen's openness set a theme of honesty for the day and Keiko reflected that in her story of a family with a son, Ken, who has Down Syndrome. She spoke of the ups and downs of that journey and the importance of being part of a supportive Christian community.

Sharon, a woman from the church, told her story of pain and bullying because of her physical disability and of the joy she found at Lesmurdie Baptist Church as an accepting community and one that welcomed her gifts.

The response to Sharon was very strong as many people spoke of the gift she is to them.

"As we have developed relationships particularly with

children and teenagers with different abilities and their families we've realised that being inclusive is about much more than a friendly smile and a helping hand," Karen said.

"We've also realised that even with the best intentions being truly inclusive won't just happen!"

A church mother who has a child with Down Syndrome advised the church about the work of Luke14. They soon realised that there was an opportunity for them to be educated and equipped in what it really means to include people of all abilities in the worshipping, serving, family of Jesus followers.

"The response to the workshops from the people of Lesmurdie Baptist Church was impressive," Rob said.

"Simply giving up their Saturday already showed considerable commitment but it was very clear that there was a commitment to further action. Karen forecast that the small groups would be going through the Luke14 Bible studies, Church Bar None, in 2014 and clearly this community is enthusiastically embracing Jesus' call to welcome and embrace all parts of the body."

# Tony Abbott's Goat



Photo: Doug Sewell

Seaforth Baptist Church members deliver TEAR gifts to Prime Minister Tony Abbott to help fight poverty.

Members of Seaforth Baptist Church in the NSW Warringah electorate delivered more than 75 handwritten Christmas cards to Prime Minister Tony Abbott, along with a gift of goats, chickens, seeds and education supplies bought on his behalf to fight poverty overseas.

The constituents' season's greetings contained messages of hope, compassion and an expressed desire for Mr Abbott to stand for a generous and effective contribution to ending extreme poverty in the year to come.

The cards were delivered to Mr Abbott's Manly office in a giant envelope, together with a representation of the gifts they have bought on his behalf from Australian charity, TEAR Australia.

The gifts will make a difference in the lives of those facing poverty and marginalisation in developing countries.

The Coalition Government recently announced it will cut

\$4.5 billion from the foreign aid budget over the next four years, including \$656 million over this year's budget cycle.

Members of Seaforth Baptist, along with aid advocates throughout the country, are continuing to express their concern over the aid cuts and are urging Mr Abbott to take a stand for generosity and justice.

"At this special time of year we're conscious of those around the world who are suffering the effects of extreme poverty and we want to ask our local MP and Prime Minister to ensure that Australia is doing its fair share to make a difference in their lives," Seaforth Baptist Church Social Justice Pastor Vikki Howorth said.

## digital church

24/11/2013  
**Jonathan Parnell**  
desiringgod.org

"There are always more things we should be concerned about, and give attention to, and make room for ... Before long, it's a life full of clutter. It's a whirlwind of good intentions, but bad directions ... And it stays this way until God's arm intervenes, mighty to sweep, and clears the table."

25/11/2013  
**David Santistevan**  
davidsantistevan.com

"We need to be fully impressed with God. That is the goal. Your embarrassing moment doesn't

ruin anything, because it's not about you."

26/11/2013  
**Chuck Lawless**  
thomrainer.com

"The body of Christ is genuinely family, even if we do not share a physical lineage. All of us hurt when one of us hurts; all rejoice when one rejoices. God somehow takes people who previously worshipped mute idols and makes them part of His body."

27/11/2013  
**Ryan Wiulliams**  
theresurgence.com

"The living God is grieved when

our attacks and slander bring disunity to the body of Christ. There is a better way to spend our time than arguing with other Christians over the internet."

10/12/2013  
**Tony Reinke**  
desiringgod.org

"Today, kings are mostly marginalised to meaningless pageantry. But there remains in kingship an enduring significance that is inescapable, something deeply burned into our souls, something telling us the world will only prosper when it's ruled by the true King."

## briefs

### Engagement

Aaron Chidgze and Amy Harris announced their engagement on 1 December 2013.

### Brunei changes

From April 2014, a new sharia penal code in Brunei will be introduced that punishes 'hudud' crimes – those that Muslims believe have penalties laid down by Allah himself. Under the new penal code, theft will be punishable by amputation of limbs, and adultery will carry a penalty of stoning. Those who leave Islam will be liable to the death penalty for apostasy. The new laws are said to apply only to Muslims, but the legislation greatly endangers converts from

Islam and any non-Muslims who help them to convert. Any non-Muslim found to have aided a Muslim in committing a crime is also liable to punishment under sharia. About ten percent of the nation's population is Christian.

### Sudan concern

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is concerned about the continuing deterioration in freedom of religion and belief in Sudan, following reports that Nahmia Ibrahim Omer Shaloka, a Sudanese lawyer and religious freedom advocate and has fled the country after enduring months of pressure and harassment from the authorities.



# Maranatha training award

Maranatha School of Early Learning Childcare recently won the Outstanding Employer of School-Based Apprentices and Trainees at the inaugural Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Apprenticeship Solutions Employer Excellence Awards.

This is the centre's third award for the year. They were finalists nationwide for both 'Childhood Service of the Year' and 'Director of the Year 2013' through the Australian Family and Early Education and Care Awards.

Centre Director, Catherine Jones has led the team at the centre which is part of South Coast Baptist College, a ministry of Rockingham Baptist Church, since it began seven years ago.

"We're licensed for 182 children," Catherine said.

"That's 122 for long day care and 60 children for out of school care, where we care for children before and after school. We're the largest combined centre in WA and the fifth largest long day care centre in WA."

On any day the centre has between 140 and 182 children being cared for by 30 staff.

The centre employs 65 staff members.

New and existing educators are encouraged and supported through their courses of study under the traineeship pathway: Certificate III, Certificate IV and Diploma in Children's Services.

"Through our traineeship program we are able to deliver high quality childcare which benefits the children and their families, staff and the wider community," Catherine said.

"I believe that we have raised the bar in the childcare industry by encouraging staff to be researchers, educators, mentors and protectors of children."

Some renowned Western Australian companies were competing for the Award, including Austal, an Australian company that specialises in the design and construction



Nathan Bentley, General Manager CCI Workforce Solutions, with Marianne Brown, Denise Nurse and Catherine Jones proudly displaying their awards for childcare.

Photo: CCI Apprenticeship Solutions

of aluminium vessels such as passenger and freight ferries, luxury yachts and military vessels; Dampier Salt Ltd, the world's largest exporter of salt; Fortescue Metals Group Ltd, the fourth largest iron ore producer in the world; and JSW Australia, industry leaders through

innovation who specialise in drilling for all forms of minerals and water bores and wells based in Western Australia.

"In the seven years that we have operated, the centre has offered 55 on the job traineeships and another 55 work placements in partnership with other registered training organisations and colleges," Catherine said.

"Through our traineeship program, we are able to deliver

high quality childcare which benefits the children and their families, staff and the wider community."

"I believe we make a difference because all our staff has a passion to work with children. We all have the same goal and belief in Jesus Christ."

"We aim to provide an excellent service that supports families and children in a proactive and professional educational environment."

## Business open at Vose



Photo: Jill Birt

Matthew Gherardi (promotions), Dean of the Business and Education, Mathilda Joubert and Mickey Sukiman (promotions) are looking forward to new students joining the one year Diploma in Business course in 2014.

The inaugural group of students who enrolled in the Vose College Diploma of Business have just completed their first units of study.

The Diploma of Business is the first step toward a much bigger vision of an evangelical university in Perth, with Vose applying to offer a three year Bachelor of Business.

Presently, Edith Cowan University and Curtin University grants credit to graduates toward a Bachelor of Commerce.

Cross-cultural mission workers requiring a foundation in business

subjects; Christian business people who wish to improve their understanding about conducting business with a Christian worldview; and employees of faith-based organisations and not-for-profit groups are among the range of people who will benefit from the course.

Vose College operates at Vose Seminary, so business students rub shoulders with theology and ministry students.

Lecturers are Christians experienced in the management of commercial and not-for-profit organisations.

"It offers an opportunity to begin tertiary studies in a supportive environment, where your lecturers will know your name," Academic Dean Nathan Hobby said.

Mathilda Joubert, Dean of Business and Education, is the key person involved in course development. She previously was employed with Swan Christian Education Association (SCEA). SCEA's partnership with Vose has been invaluable, with two other Vose College lecturers also coming from SCEA.

"We hope to offer education and counselling in the next few years," Nathan said.

"Our society needs to see a thoughtful Christianity developed and modelled, a Christianity which can 'take captive every thought for Christ' across the disciplines. We believe that Christian higher education is a critical part of this."

Enrolments are open for study in 2014. For more information, visit [www.vose.wa.edu.au](http://www.vose.wa.edu.au)

## Churches welcome moves

The end of the school year often brings pastoral changes to churches and 2013 is no exception with new pastors at various Baptist churches.

Pastor Mike Fischer started work as part-time Associate Pastor at East Fremantle Baptist Church on 28 October. Mike and his family have been part of the church community at East Fremantle for two years.

Phil Beeck took up the role of Senior Pastor mid-year and realised quickly the church needed an associate pastor to share the load of ministry.

"I am very much of the thinking that a church should identify, train, equip and give ministry opportunities to people in their congregation," Phil said.

"Mike was already in our congregation, trained, experienced and had the character, gifting and desire to take the role on."

Mike will be responsible for community groups (small groups), one to one ministry and evangelism as well as preach once a month.

"Mim Hosking [Children's Pastor] and I, and the church, are

enjoying having Mike on the team and serving with us," Phil said.

In other churches, Pastor Paul Colyer commenced as Senior Pastor at Busselton Baptist Community Church on 1 December.

Director of Ministries for Baptist Churches Western Australia, Mark Wilson, took part in Paul's induction service.

Pastor David Kelly commenced as Pastor at Chidlow Community Church in November.

Collie Baptist Church recently appointed Pastor David Wager as their pastor for a 12 month period.

Kalgoorlie Baptist Church is also experiencing change. Pastor John Randell concludes as interim Senior Pastor in December 2013. Pastor Elliot Vlatko commences as Senior Pastor in February 2014.

Pastor Tim Clarke-Wood is concluding at Lesmurdie Baptist Church and returning to the United Kingdom.



# Rivers cottons on



Photo: Sanne Aabjerg Kristiansen

Rivers have a change of heart about using Uzbekistan children for labour.

**Rivers Australia Director, Phillip Goodman, announced his fashion label would sign The Cotton Pledge and take action to end child labour abuses in their supply chain.**

Baptist World Aid Australia welcomed the 17 November announcement which came after three years of intense negotiations and a massive public advocacy campaign in partnership with Stop the Traffik.

Thousands of Australians added their voices to the protest against Rivers' use of child and forced labour by sending over 15,000 protest postcards.

"It's fantastic to see Rivers join other Australian brands in demanding a change for the children of Uzbekistan," Baptist World Aid Australia Advocacy Manager Gershon Nimbalker said.

"The campaign to Rivers has really shown the change that can happen when we come together and demand that the clothes we wear don't make others fashion victims."

Rivers has become the 140th fashion label to sign The Cotton Pledge and joins other Australian labels and retailers such as the Just Group (Jacqui E, Jay Jays, Just Jeans, Peter Alexander, Portmans and Smiggle), ANZ Bank, Cotton On, Kathmandu, Kmart, Myer, Pacific Brands and Target. All have taken steps to exclude Uzbekistan cotton from their supply chains until the government of Uzbekistan ends the use of forced child labour in the harvesting of cotton.

"Uzbekistan is one of the world's largest exporters of raw cotton with reports that the regime makes at least \$1 billion a year in cotton production," Gershon said.

"However, the success of the industry has been dependent upon the use of forced labour.

Those who protest are subject to intimidation, harassment and even imprisonment. Students who refuse to pick cotton have been expelled from school, even if they have a medical condition which prevents them from joining the harvest."

"There have also been reports of at least five deaths in this year's harvest including a six year old boy who was suffocated under a load of cotton."

By signing The Cotton Pledge, Rivers adds strength to the international pressure being brought upon the regime to cease the use of forced labour in Uzbekistani cotton production.

Baptist World Aid Australia recently released *The Australian Fashion Report* and accompanying *Ethical Fashion Guide* which grades companies on their use of Uzbekistan cotton and knowledge of their supply chains.

The Report and Guide helps people think ethically when they shop. To download your free copy, visit [www.behindthebarcode.org.au](http://www.behindthebarcode.org.au)

## Cloud solutions



Photo: Jill Birt

Tony Miller is working on a cloud solution to help churches with record keeping.

The Federal Government released their National Cloud Computing Strategy in May 2013.

Their report states that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is a major driver of innovation in all facets of society, including the not-for-profit sector, but can be costly and require specialists to establish, maintain and update.

Their solution to overcoming this problem is public cloud services.

While big business and some government departments are utilising public cloud services, Australian small business and not-for-profit organisations, including churches, lag behind.

'Cloud computing' generally refers to the service where your computer applications are hosted at a remote location, and accessed over the internet.

Tony Miller's company myNFP has a cloud solution suitable for churches.

"There are lots of benefits for our churches using this system," Tony said.

"You won't lose documents as you have a central storage repository and it's a low cost

solution because you pay per organisation, not per user."

Cloud computing gives you ease of scheduling meetings, disseminating information, and recording and storing minutes of meetings.

"It offers more effective communication with board members, congregations, volunteers, fundraisers and suppliers," he said.

"This could be a good option for churches," Baptist Churches Western Australia Project Consultant Terry Hicks said.

"It provides a safe place to keep and update data required by regulatory bodies such as the new Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and the Australian Taxation Office."

It also allows new team members easy access to required information when personnel change and transition to new roles.

To obtain a free full free trial version visit [www.mynfp.com.au](http://www.mynfp.com.au), click Free Trial and use the discount code 'BAPTIST'.

## Jules raises a swag full of money and scores national title

**Jules Birt, from Paradox Church in Armadale, slept outside in his backyard for 22 consecutive nights during Swagtember to raise funds for Street Swags who provide basic waterproof shelters to people experiencing homelessness.**

Jules raised \$3,200 which earned him the national title of Highest Swagman Fundraiser.

Nationally, Swagtember 2013 raised over \$36,000, enough for

603 waterproofed Street Swags.

Jules was provided with a Street Swag by UnitingCare West to sleep in.

"Mosquitoes and noise were

real challenges for me. I put in earplugs but if you were homeless and had earplugs in someone might steal your stuff," he said.

"I think if you were homeless you could kiss a deep sleep goodnight."

"A home provides a sense of security, and security leads to rest."

On his last night of sleeping out, Jules took to the streets of Armadale for a true experience of being homeless.

"My friend Dave Visser came with me and we searched for a place to sleep ending up near the Pioneer Village."

"It was very unnerving and we felt vulnerable. It really taught us what people have to go through to survive without a home."

According to Census 2011, over 100,000 people are homeless on any given night in Australia.

Street Swags are designed for discreet appearance and offers

comfort and safety for those who need to be 'invisible' while they sleep.

Street Swags are made by Australian prisoners who gain TAFE qualifications and skills, and the swags are rolled and packed by school children who learn about contributing to the community.

"It was a learning adventure, I love that Street Swags bring innovation and compassion together for the good of those doing it tough," Jules said.



# Green Team helps Leavers' fun



Photo: Mell Anderson

The Green Team volunteers give Leavers a safe option to celebrate the end of their high school years in Dunsborough.

More than 25,000 school leavers enjoyed the fun of The Zone in Dunsborough over four nights from 25 to 28 November.

The Green Team, coordinated by Michelle Smoker from Baptist Churches Western Australia, works with several volunteer groups to run The Zone as a safe place for Leavers to have fun after their final Year 12 exams. There

were 141 Green Team volunteers this year.

The Zone is an entertainment precinct that materialises in a paddock eight kilometres from the town of Dunsborough for a few days then reverts back to

a rural property. Overflowing with music, rides, and games it is a drug, smoke and alcohol free venue.

Leavers pay \$110 for a wristband that gives them entry to The Zone for four nights, bus transports to and from The Zone, and entry to a daytime beach party at Meelup Beach run by the Western Australia Police.

The Green Team worked with a group from Red Frogs, another team of volunteers

trained to work with high school and university students, led by Josh Fernandes.

The Red Frogs provided the live band and DJ in the main tent at The Zone on opening night. They also helped at the main tent where live bands played each night and mingled with Leavers, focusing on chatting with young people as they waited in line for events such as the Silent Disco.

"Leavers were well behaved, the most polite group I have seen," Michelle said.

The police presence outside The Zone was strong and clear. Police dogs sniffed out any trace of drugs and the mounted section managed crowd control with subtle grace.

Thirty security personnel monitored the fenced perimeter of The Zone during the opening hours of 7pm to 1am.

Director of Ministries for Baptist Churches Western

Australia, Mark Wilson, spent two nights at The Zone, welcoming Leavers.

"What an amazing event run by an incredible team," Mark said.

"I'm so proud of the Green Team. They've done a great job again this year. I must have 'hi-fived' about a thousand Leavers on the first night. They just love The Zone."

As well as the Silent Disco where Leavers don earphones and dance to their preferred music style, there is a sweaty music tent called The Sauna, a lounge area with mellow music, video games, sideshow alley attractions and a triage medical area for Leavers who need some care.

The volunteers also have a tent for some down time during their nightly shift with the mass of adolescents who are intent on celebrating the end of their high school years.

## The Zone's man in blue



Photo: Mell Anderson

Sergeant Craig Anderson receives recognition for his many years of assisting with Leavers at Dunsborough.

For the past five years Sergeant Craig Anderson from Dunsborough Police Station has been a significant supporter and contributor to the Green Team's work at The Zone while school leavers are in town.

'Ando', as he is commonly known, is highly respected among the volunteers of the Green Team and the Red Frogs. He goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety and

effectiveness of the volunteers working at The Zone.

"Ando has the whole strategy at heart and wants to make sure that the Leavers have a safe and fun experience," Green Team's Director Michelle Smoker said.

"It has been an honour to work alongside him. I've learned so much from him."

"Without a doubt Ando is the most influential police officer we work with. He's got passion and concern for the kids that goes beyond his job description."

"Ando's wife, Mell, has been a great support to us too."

Sergeant Anderson is leaving Dunsborough in the near future, so 2013 was the last Leavers event in town that he will be involved with.

Following the last night of The Zone, the support services, which included the Red Frogs and the Green Team, presented Sergeant Anderson with a canvas collage of pictures highlighting the last five years of The Zone.

Along with speeches of appreciation and affirmation there were some tears of sadness as the volunteers farewelled and thanked a highly significant contributor to the success of Leavers in Dunsborough.

## Lesmurdie Baptist Church has a position available for a full time Pastor having a focus on youth.

Lesmurdie is located in the hills, 30 minutes from the Perth CBD, Western Australia. Lesmurdie Church is a contemporary, multigenerational church with a strong community presence.

Facilities are currently used 6 days a week as we provide services for families with young children, youth, and seniors. The Church also owns and manages the Clarege Retirement Village.

For all enquiries and expressions of interest please contact Karen Siggins (Lead Pastor) on 9291 9866 or email karen.lbc@inet.net.au by 10th January 2014.







Photo: Janelle Luggie/Shutterstock

# Community amidst carnage

By Stephen Liggins

Shoots of green are emerging from the scorched earth. The smoke has cleared and the sirens have stopped. Emergency vehicles are gone from the road. The helicopters no longer swarm in the sky. It is a few weeks now since the October fires first ripped through our section of the Blue Mountains west of Sydney.

Two hundred houses were lost on that first Thursday, thirteen inhabited by members of the church at which I work. I saw the dark clouds of smoke filling the sky to the north early that afternoon as I attempted to pick my son up from school. But the road was shut, the cars gridlocked. Worried parents emerged from stationary vehicles. People of all ages hurried down the street. Police and fire engines were rushing in, and before long, helicopters were overhead. Radios

were on. Websites and apps were consulted. People stood in groups in various states of emotion gathering information.

The immediate shock of the fire and its devastation cut deep. Thankfully, and incredibly, no lives in the Mountains were lost. But the impact on the community since that day has been deep and wide ranging. The fire transformed the area. Much could be said of the grief, the loss, the troubling and intense nature

of events, the great work of the Rural Fire Service and other organisations. However, amidst the anguish and ashes, there is still one thing that now, a few weeks later, peppers people's conversations, in one form or another the appealing but alien nature of 'community' that the devastation drew out.

Before the fire there were strong networks of relationships amongst many here in the Mountains, but these bonds have been strengthened and

new linkages formed. The area is functioning more as a mutually supportive community. That Thursday, neighbours helped each other both fight and flee from the fire. Within hours community groups, sports clubs and churches, including ours, morphed into relief organisations collecting and distributing money, food and other items. Shops were giving away free stuff. And as the fires continued to burn with the ongoing threat to life and property, neighbours more readily spoke to each other. It is a case of community amidst catastrophe ... fellowship amidst the flames. It was certainly appealing.

But it was also noteworthy because it was largely alien. This is not the way we normally function. In the urban West

we live in city units and suburban houses, but we do not necessarily inhabit 'communities'. We live behind fences, locks, and security doors that are actual as well as metaphorical. Loneliness can be a problem. We often find healthy and vibrant community existing in sports clubs and schools or among like-minded groups uniting over a common cause, but there is also a strong sense that our highly individual lives have led to a paucity of the sort of community that we need and for which we yearn. A 2005 study put out by The Australia Institute found that at a time when, thanks to technological developments, it has never been easier to reach out and contact someone, many Australians feel lonely and isolated. They have no one to confide in or assist them,





Photo: Jekina/Shutterstock

communal a case of: 'You are, therefore I am'.

My postgraduate studies have also highlighted to me the presence of mutually supportive Christian communities within the church in its first few centuries. Jesus taught His followers that "everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" [John 13:35], and many appeared to have taken this teaching to heart. The writer the book of Acts describes the first century church in Jerusalem: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with

glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people." [Acts 2:44-47a]

Noted American sociologist Rodney Stark has argued that the rise of Christianity in the first few centuries leading up to Constantine was, to a significant extent, the effect of what might be referred to as the appealing nature of its mutually supportive community life. In the third century, the Christian writer and apologist Tertullian noted words allegedly said of Christians at the time: "See how they love one another." [Apol. 39.7] The fourth century Roman emperor Julian, no friend of Christianity, lamented the mutually supportive nature of Christians: "The impious Galileans support not only their

own poor, but ours as well."

The appeal of 'community' is obvious. It was certainly powerfully on display in the early Christian church. It is found in many African cultures today. It is also currently a strength in the broader Blue Mountains community. I hope it will remain so, long after the fires are gone.

**Dr Stephen Liggins is a former lawyer with a PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Sydney. He is an Honorary Associate of the Centre for Public Christianity.**

**This article was originally published at On Line Opinion. For more articles, videos and podcasts, visit [www.publicchristianity.org](http://www.publicchristianity.org)**

and they lack the friendships and social connections they desire.

This is not the case everywhere. Over the last ten years I have regularly had the chance to lecture in eastern and southern Africa. By and large, things function differently there. Their society is more communal. An African proverb states: 'A person is a person through persons'. That is, a person understands who they are with reference to their relationships with others. A few years back I asked an Anglican Bishop in Uganda, a Ugandan who also had a PhD from an American university, about his difference between life in the West and life in Africa. He said that the West is very individualistic it is a case of: 'I think, therefore I am'. In Africa, the thinking is more

**AGE 5**  
MUM PRAYS A PRAYER WITH ME AND I SAY 'YES' TO JESUS.

**AGE 14**  
I SAY 'YES' ALL OVER AGAIN AT YOUTH CAMP AT SERPENTINE.


**AGE 16**  
START LEADING AT CAMPS, START LEADING WORSHIP AT CHURCH.

**AGE 26**  
ONE OF THE PASTORS AT CHURCH SAYS, ALMOST INCIDENTALLY, 'I THINK GOD COULD BE CALLING YOU TO PLANT A CHURCH'.

**AGE 28**  
I'M WORKING HARD BUT DOWN DEEP, SOMETHING STIRRING. GOD'S WORKING ON MY HEART...

**AGE 31**  
I ENROL AT VOSE SEMINARY AND BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY OF LEARNING, GROWTH, EQUIPPING AND DISCOVERING JESUS IN COMMUNITY. PRETTY EXCITED...

**AGE 34**  
OUR FIRST SUNDAY!

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# On air from a suitcase

Before Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November, there were 15 radio stations on air in Tacloban City. Following the typhoon, they were all silent.

In response an emergency radio station operating from a suitcase was arranged, broadcasting the critical information that people desperately needed.

This is First Response Radio (FRR) Philippines, coordinated by the FEBC (Far East Broadcasting Corporation) Philippines working together with disaster management officials, and the whole international aid community.

The FRR team arrived in Tacloban on 13 November, within 72 hours of the storming making landfall. Broadcasting went live 9am on 14 November, on 98.7MHz FM, with a signal that could be heard within a ten kilometre radius

of the location.

The focus of FRR is on disseminating lifesaving information such as where evacuation centres and safe drinking water points are, where to obtain aid, and the names of agencies and type of aid they are providing.

They also broadcast information about how families can connect. A timely flow of information helps to stem panic and makes aid distribution much more manageable.

Initially, the team broadcast from under a leaking tarpaulin, but City officials moved them to the third floor of the damaged City Hall.

Many solar powered and wind-up radios tuned to the FRR signal were distributed to the community and within days the broadcast was heard through speakers mounted on roving vehicles.

"There's no communication lines, no power lines as well, so bring solar powered radios," FRR team leader Magnolia Yrasuegui said.

"The recipients do not need to worry about charging this with electricity. They just put it outside and it's good to go once again."

"Despite the devastation in the city, hope is starting to bubble up."

"Giving the microphone to the people, telling their own stories to their own people, that in itself is hope overflowing. Hope is as precious as food, water, or fuel here in Tacloban."

A second FRR team has relieved the initial group of five workers that set up the emergency radio station.



Photo: Far East Broadcasting Company

**First Response Radio Philippines went to air from a suitcase to provide emergency information following Typhoon Haiyan.**

Health Communication Resources (HCR), a Perth based group using community-centred radio to help transform communities, is a partner of First

Response Radio through support and training. HCR is training up teams in neighbouring countries in preparation for when the next disaster strikes.

## Backyard High Tea in Lesmurdie



Photo: Roger Smith

**Women in Lesmurdie were motivated and spoilt by Lesmurdie Baptist Church volunteers in transformed backyard.**

**A family's backyard in Lesmurdie was transformed to host a fashionable High Tea for more than 100 women on a spring afternoon in November.**

Pastor Karen Siggins and a team of 30 volunteers from her church, Lesmurdie Baptist Church, planned and organised the event in the beautiful surrounds.

"We wanted them to be spoiled a little and be inspired and that most definitely happened!" Karen said.

Speakers on the day were Amanda, Kelley and Penny from Kinwomen, a network of women of all ages, cultures, education, abilities and passions who want

to do life well and be able to claim honestly, 'no regrets'.

"They were brilliant – engaging, humorous, real and spot-on as they spoke about the strengths of women in terms of each person's uniqueness, 'brilliance' they called it; the capacity of women to be kind and to be generous," Karen said.

When guests arrived, their cars were valet parked. The women were escorted by volunteers to the marquee where wind instrument trio Zephyr was playing, setting a

festive yet relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

One lady chose to celebrate her birthday with the High Tea and others said they would be back with friends next year. Old relationships were celebrated and new ones formed.

"The growth in friendship amongst the large volunteer force was amazing," Karen said.

"As often happens when we serve together we meet people we haven't met before and go deeper in relationships with others. This was as valuable as the event itself it seems to me."

Each guest received a gladiolus in a pot and a gift bag.

There are plans to run a similar event next year after the success of this year.

## BFS highlights special provisions

**Baptist Financial Services (BFS) Chairman David Slinn and Chief Executive Officer Graeme Mitchell recently visited Perth to meet church and ministry leaders.**

BFS Western Australia Relationship Manager Anina Findling hosted an afternoon tea to introduce the BFS leaders to local pastors, BFS clients and other ministry leaders who had benefitted from BFS loans.

"Working together we can achieve so much more than alone," David Slinn said.

"Every deposit with BFS helps resource churches and ministries."

Anina said they were continuing to see growth in deposits from Baptist Churches.

"Currently almost 80 percent of Baptist Churches in Western Australia have accounts with BFS," she said.

Total deposits from churches, ministries and individuals with BFS currently stand at \$270 million, with Western Australians

contributing about 11 percent of the total funds.

Graeme Mitchell highlighted two products the group had developed specifically for pastors and churches.

"iGive is an online secure giving option for people using their personal banking resources or from credit cards," he said.

"We have this set up so that there is no cost whatsoever to the giver."

"The other product is the pre-paid Visa card for pastors."

"We have a ruling from the Taxation Department that allows churches to load this card for individual pastors with the fringe

benefit component of their wages. Then the pastor manages the expenses."

"It's reducing work for church treasurers and simplifying record keeping for pastors."

"We like to be known as helpful."

"We're helping churches take steps in ministry."

The delegates also said BFS was seeking a suitably qualified person from WA to join the BFS Board.

Any enquiries can be directed to Anina Findling, at the Baptist Ministry Centre Monday to Thursday on 08 6313 6300.

### DALE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

is seeking a piano tutor to join our instrumental programme which runs on a weekly basis here at the school. Applicants must be Christian and have flexibility to work within an already existing team of tutors. This position would be for one full day with the possibility of two, depending on student enrolments at the beginning of 2014.

Interested applicants please contact the school on 9497 1444 or email your resume through to [cturton@dalcsc.wa.edu.au](mailto:cturton@dalcsc.wa.edu.au)



# Star awarded to Fishtail

Jesus Racing Team driver Andrew 'Fishtail' Fisher, who competes in the Auto One V8 Ute Series, was recently honoured with a Confederation of Australian Motor Sport (CAMS) Service Star award. He received the award in recognition of the immense amount of work he does on and off the race track each year.

Fishtail received the prestigious award at the annual CAMS presentation night at Bathurst in front of competitors and officials from all codes of motor sport.

Graeme Everton, one of the CAMS Directors, explained that the award is given to those who have given exemplary service to CAMS and to motor sport, usually over many years and often in a variety of roles and activities.

"Fishtail was awarded the Service Star for 'Outstanding commitment to motor sport, the community and youth,'" he said.

Fishtail donates more than 200 days of his time every year to engage, motivate and inspire high school students, young inmates of correctional centres, business people and members of the public to live a full life.

Fishtail delivers the Jesus Racing 'Life Choices' program to around 30,000 students across Australia every year. He has reached 250,000 students since the program began five years ago.

The program focuses on effective decision making around areas such as drugs, binge drinking, teenage sex, smoking, cyberspace, road safety and faith.

"I don't pull any punches," Fishtail said.

"I'm not there to tell them what to do or not do, that is a waste of

time. But I am there to challenge them to think for themselves and not get caught up in the moment and just following the crowd."

"I really enjoy my motor racing but speaking to all of these young people is a real privilege."

"I thought they had made a mistake [in announcing the winner] and got me mixed up with Andrew Fisher who works at the CAMS head office."

Much to the amusement of the crowd at the function, Fishtail admitted that he had on occasions used his namesake to his advantage when needing to get in touch with someone that was difficult to contact at the head office.

He went on to say that no one does what they do for recognition and it was a remarkable feeling to be honoured in such a way. He also thanked his wife for her support and dedication to the cause.

Fishtail began his racing career in a Daewoo and has since raced in the Mini Series, Lotuses and BMW's at the Bathurst 12 Hour. He has also competed in the Development Series and raced in the V8 Supercar endurance races at Phillip Island and the Bathurst 1000. After starting in the V8 Ute Series in 2007, where he won Rookie of the Year, he has continually challenged for the Championship title.



Photo: Annie Fisher

Jesus Racing's Andrew 'Fishtail' Fisher with his CAMS Service Star award and CAMS Service Star.

## Island communion

A group of Christians are planning to celebrate communion together in a detention centre on Christmas Island.

For some of them it will be their first ever opportunity to remember Jesus' death and resurrection in this way.

Christian workers who visit the detention centres are sometimes uncertain about how life-changing some new arrivals' desire to 'change religion' is. This point is often clarified through asking questions with the help of a translator.

Changed lives are illustrated by comments like, "Jesus gives me peace", or "my life has changed".

Even in countries where following Jesus is forbidden, God has been able to reach people

through dreams and miracles to draw people to Himself.

One man said his whole life and behaviour changed instantly when he found Christ. As he told this story, his young wife, who had also experienced dreams of Jesus in her home country, wept.

The tears were not of sadness but of relief as she realised they were talking with someone who was listening to their story and affirming their faith.

For two years there had been no one in their lives who could teach them or offer pastoral support. Having fellowship with other followers of Jesus was a new and powerfully rich experience.

## Mandurah farewells teacher

Year 8 students at Mandurah Baptist College recently farewelled their former teacher, Adam Martin, with gifts and promises of ongoing support as he heads to Indonesia to work with impoverished students.

The Mandurah students have donated books and toys, and engaged in fundraising activities to help their Indonesian counterparts. Adam will travel there in February 2014 with his wife, Felicity, to continue the good work.

Adam said he taught many of these students in primary school.

"It was a joy to see the depth of their character and I was humbled by their thankfulness, gratefulness and compassion."

"Much of the media attention given to teenagers paints them in a negative light."

"These teenagers give me hope for the future. They reveal the other side of the coin!"

"... I was humbled by their thankfulness, gratefulness and compassion."

As well as gifts for the Indonesian students, the Mandurah students presented some personal gifts to Adam:

a journal with messages of encouragement; a fluffy toy dog named Derek and flowers for Felicity.

"Derek the fluffy dog will definitely be coming to Indonesia with us," he said.

"Stay tuned for his adventures!"

Adam and Felicity will initially be studying language and culture in East Java before supporting and training educators.



# Belonging and sacrifice in Eyríe

You never get an easy ride with Tim Winton. Those who have journeyed with his stories for over 30 years know that, despite whatever buzz may accompany the prospect of a new novel, you need to steel yourself for what awaits. Take a deep breath and hold on.

Winton has a way of plunging you deep into the lives of his flawed and sometimes exasperating characters to the point where you care about them more than you should.

His latest novel, *Eyríe*, comes five years after the wonderfully disturbing *Breath*, and yet again this is a highly accomplished work. The wait was worthwhile. But don't expect to make it through this book without some scars. In his quest to create believable characters, Winton writes with such honesty and authenticity that a certain amount of heartbreak and loss is part of the experience. There is no cheap grace here, nor easy moral confidence. The wonder, complexity, humour and tragedy of fallible, ordinary lives are encapsulated in *Eyríe* in what is for Winton an uncharacteristically suspenseful, almost thriller-like, story.

Tom Keely is a jaded and washed up spokesman for the environmental movement. Following a spectacular and very public fall from grace, he is unemployed and broke with a failed marriage under his belt. He has retreated into a grimy one-bedroom flat in a high rise in the wrong part of town. Isolated and hiding out, Keely is slowly willing himself towards death.

Then, despite his best efforts to keep the world at bay, he meets Kai – an intriguingly odd six year old boy who has seen too much and projects an innocent vulnerability that Keely can't ignore. He's captivated. Keely might have hit rock bottom but any hope he has of climbing out of the pit is wrapped up in the fortunes of this opaque little boy.

Winton excoriates elements of contemporary Australian culture. The blinkered, shallow and impatient rush towards wealth is one target. Those like Keely who would speak up for the environment might win the odd skirmish but they are ultimately impotent in the face of the might of the vaunted market and the grasping corruption

of developers and politicians. In interviews about the book, Winton suggests that anyone with a prophetic calling to speak up on behalf of the poor, the mentally ill or weak, today find themselves swimming upstream in a society that is looking elsewhere having sold its soul to the machinery of economic progress.

Winton is also clearly perplexed at our tendency to live such atomised lives without true community or connection with our neighbours. The close confines but utterly disconnected existence of the inhabitants of the 'Mirador' high-rise into which Keely has ensconced himself forms a fitting symbol of this modern phenomena. John Donne may have claimed that 'No man is an island' but Keely seems determined to prove the poet wrong. His struggle to be unencumbered with the messiness of relationships is emblematic of a modern trend that Winton explores.

*Eyríe* opens with a quote from the prophet Isaiah that promises that those who wait on the Lord, "shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint". Keely could do with that kind of inspired strength born of faith, as his is clearly failing. He finds it in the boy and the irrepressible urge to protect the innocence of childhood. Keely has never been a father himself, but a paternal urge comes to him in a manner that is as surprising as it is unsettling.

One of the joys of a true childhood involves delaying the knowledge of the world as dangerous and potentially cruel. It's the sense of feeling safe, in the arms of a parent, within the tranquil warmth of the familiar, being wrapped in the cosiness and steady reliability of family ritual and routine.

Kai's reality is anything but that. His mother is in gaol; his father a violent drug addict. His grandmother, Gemma, still

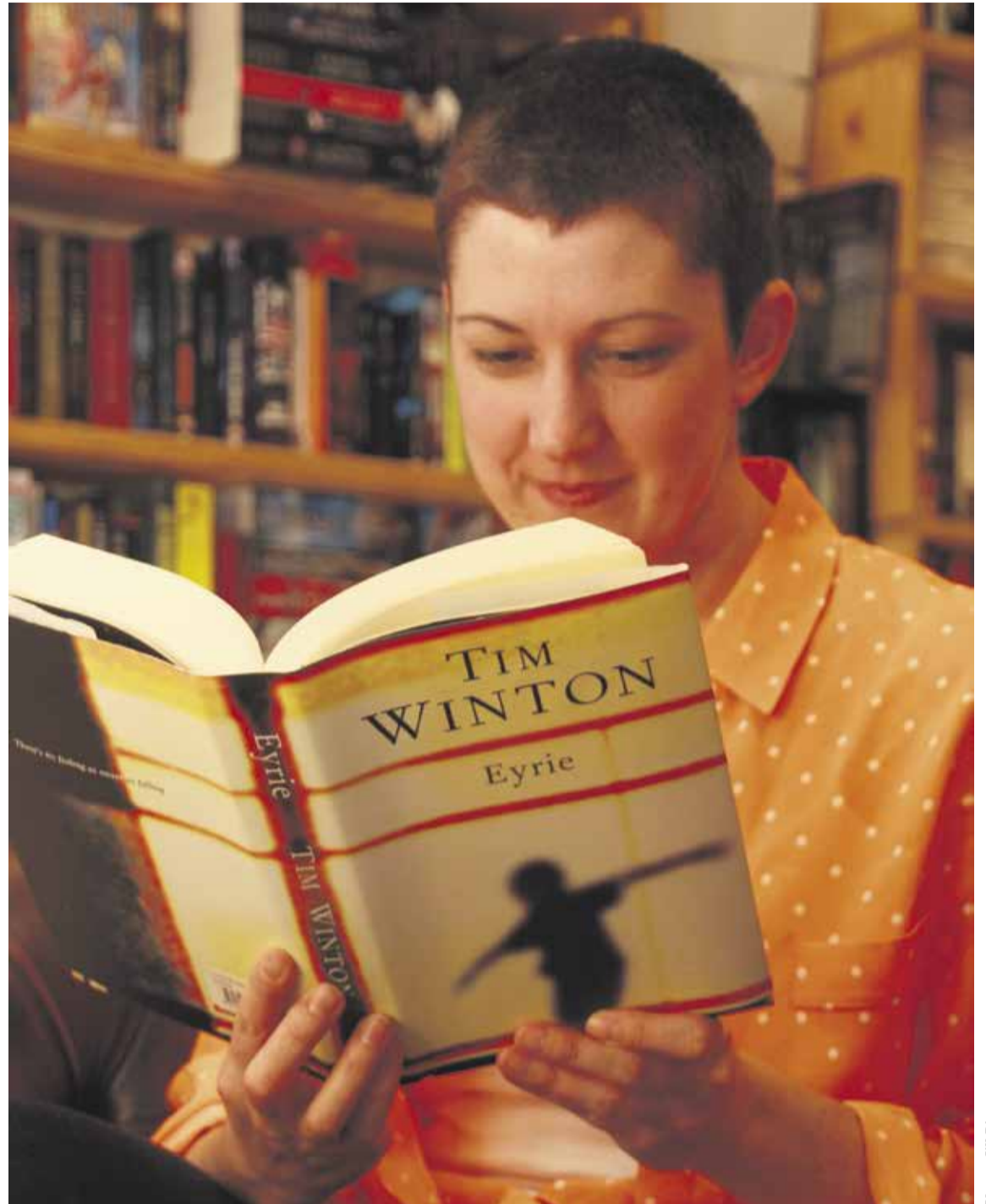


Photo: Jill Birt

only in her mid-forties does her best but is a damaged character full of unmet needs and life's scars. Increasingly, she and Kai are at risk of great harm. Keely is desperate to build a wall of protection around the already troubled mind of the small boy down the hallway.

"We're okay," he whispers to Kai late at night. "You're safe," Keely says prayerfully, and Winton adds that Keely was "needing it to be true, wanting to believe".

It turns out that, for Keely, the pathway back towards life, paradoxically involves putting himself in danger. It's a return to the ethic of sacrifice that was so prominent in his upbringing, and to which he had become so cynical. Always trying to live up to his long-dead Father, Nev, Keely had for a time, given up trying. Nev had been a large and rough tradesman turned Christian evangelist – 'Billy Graham meets Billy Jack' – who preached the Word and handed out tough love to brawling neighbours and abusive husbands and fathers. Gemma had grown up in the same street as the Keelys and had frequently found refuge in their home when violence raged in her own. Nev Keely's rescue missions had taken on super hero proportions in Gemma's memory. She hopes for something of the same from Tom, but he's an unlikely candidate –

struggling to stay sober and to be out of bed by lunchtime.

A lauded virtue in previous generations, the notion of sacrifice is virtually incomprehensible to a society increasingly built upon radical individualism and shallow utilitarianism. Tom Keely has almost given up trying to live up to the faith of his father; a faith that believed personal sacrifice for the sake of others meant something and had resonances into eternity. Only Kai stands between Keely and the edge of a cliff. Confronted with the action

required to ensure the little boy's safety and future, Keely is forced to consider the costly messiness of being drawn into the orbit of love, relationship and true community. A high price it may be, but in this book's estimations, the window into life itself.

**Simon Smart is a Director of the Centre for Public Christianity.**

**This article originally appeared on *The Drum*.**

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By John Maxwell

Can changing your thinking really change your life?

Consider this: I've studied successful people for over 40 years, and though the diversity you find among them is astounding, I believe they are all alike in one way: how they think! That is the one thing that separates the successful from the unsuccessful.

The good news is that it's possible to learn how to think like a successful person. But before we can learn from a good thinker, we need to know what they look like. You often hear someone say that a colleague or friend is a 'good thinker', but that phrase means something different to everyone. To one person it may mean having a high IQ; to another it could mean knowing a bunch of trivia or being able to figure out 'whodunit' when reading a mystery novel.

I believe that good thinking isn't just one thing: it consists of several specific thinking skills. Becoming a good thinker means developing those skills to the best of your ability. In *Built to Last*, Jim Collins and Jerry Porras describe what it means to be a visionary company, the kind of company that epitomises the pinnacle of American business. They describe it this way:

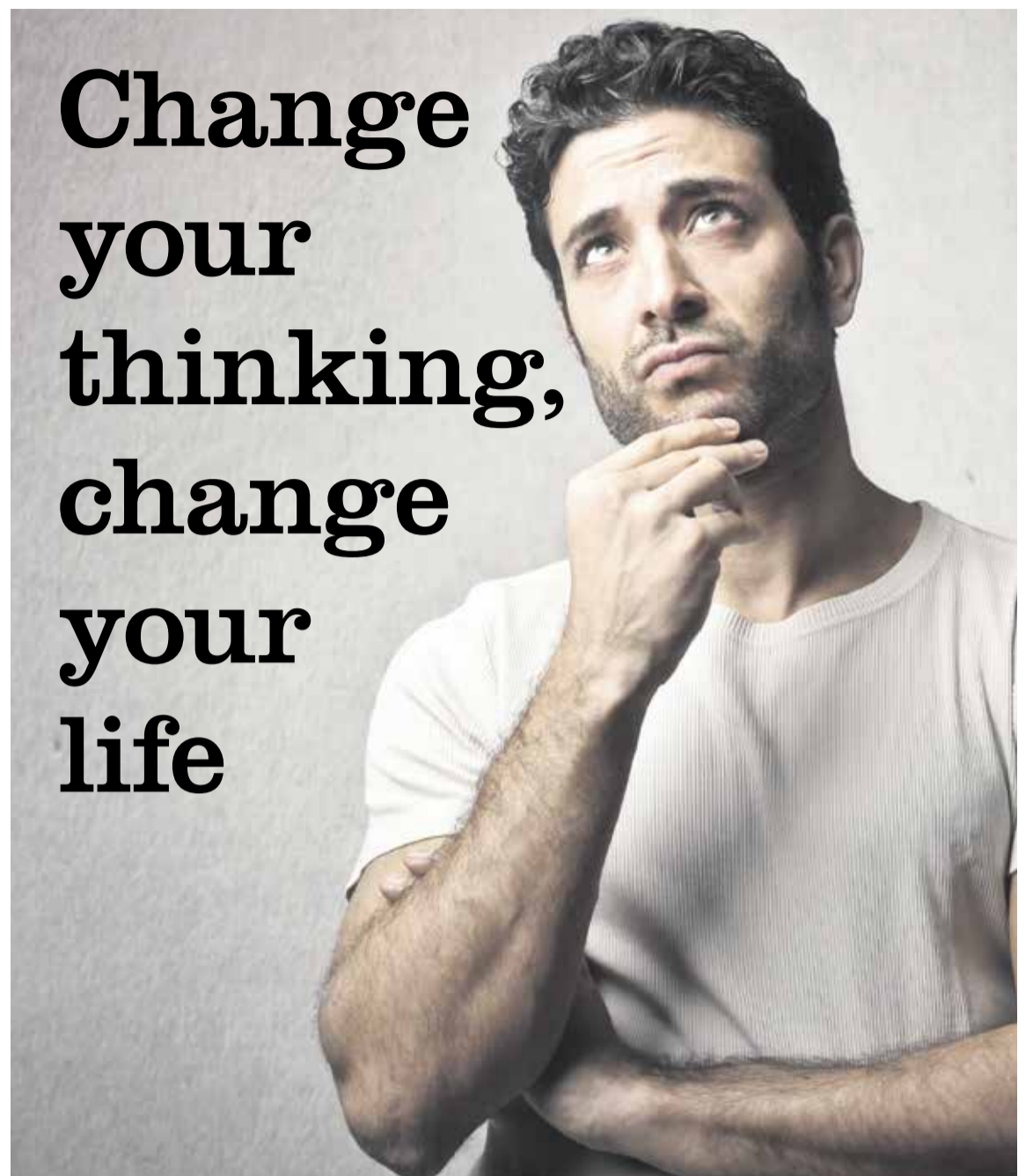
'A visionary company is like a great work of art. Think of Michelangelo's scenes from Genesis on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel or his statue of David. Think of a great and enduring novel like *Huckleberry Finn* or *Crime and Punishment*. Think of Beethoven's 'Ninth Symphony' or Shakespeare's *Henry V*. Think of a beautifully designed building, like the masterpieces of Frank Lloyd

Wright or Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. You can't point to any one single item that makes the whole thing work; it's the entire work – all the pieces working together to create an overall effect – that leads to enduring greatness.'

Good thinking is similar. You need all the thinking 'pieces' to become the kind of person who can achieve great things. I believe that those pieces include 11 skills, which I've listed below.

After each skill is a question you can ask yourself to measure your own thinking.

1. **Cultivate big picture thinking.** Am I thinking beyond myself and my world so that I process ideas with a holistic perspective?
2. **Engage in focused thinking.** Am I dedicated to removing distractions and mental clutter so that I can concentrate with clarity on the real issue?
3. **Harness creative thinking.** Am I working to break out of my 'box', exploring ideas and options, so I can experience creative breakthrough?
4. **Employ realistic thinking.** Am I building a solid foundation on facts so that I can think with certainty?
5. **Utilise strategic thinking.** Am I implementing strategic plans that give me direction for today and increase my potential for tomorrow?
6. **Explore possibility thinking.** Am I unleashing the enthusiasm of possibility thinking to find solutions for even seemingly impossible problems?
7. **Learn from reflective thinking.** Am I regularly revisiting the past to gain a true perspective and think with understanding?
8. **Question popular thinking.** Am I consciously



rejecting the limitations of common thinking in order to accomplish uncommon results?

9. **Benefit from shared thinking.** Am I consistently searching the minds of others to think 'over my head' and achieve compounding results?
10. **Practice unselfish thinking.** Am I continually considering others and their journey in

order to think with maximum collaboration?

11. **Rely on bottom line thinking.** Do I stay focused on the bottom line so that I can gain the maximum return and reap the full potential of my thinking?

Based on your answers to the questions, where are you strongest? In what kind of

thinking do you need to grow? Develop in any of those areas, and you'll become a better thinker. Master all that you can – especially the process of shared thinking, which helps you compensate for your weaker areas – and your life will change.

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## Moral injury, moral repair and the priestly function – Part 2

By John Crosby

The emotions of anger, guilt and shame that accompany war fighting are the familiar indicators that plague soldiers. The excessiveness of medication or even psychological coping mechanisms for dealing with combat stressors appear not to be adequate in helping to heal the wounds of a torn spirit and a violated soul.

The Bible identifies in Proverbs 15:13, 17:22, 18:14; and Psalm 51:17, 69:16-20, 147:3 that being in a state of utter brokenness with a crushed spirit and a broken heart, are indeed wounds. These wounds need spiritual treatment, and for this

reason moral wounds are moral injuries that need moral repair from a spiritual orientation rather than psychological.

The inner conflict of a moral injury (MI) is often triggered by the transgression of deeply held beliefs; a shattering of one's meaning making system which is based on culture, rites, rules, beliefs, values, and fairness. When a person experiences a spiritual injury it impacts on their identity, which becomes compromised and even collapses.

As an Army Chaplain dealing with combat veterans, Command immediately developed an awareness 'Recovery Pastoral Care Plan', which commenced by explaining the differences between Post Trauma Stress

Disorder (PTSD) and moral injury. The results were overwhelming as numerous soldiers identified the moral collapse of their inner soul whilst at war. The inner recesses of the heart had been dishonoured and little was known or was being done to address this spiritual trauma.

Evidence is now building that links MI to suicide and more so than PTSD. This is a significant development and this piece of information is critical for Christian leaders in the helping professions. MI in the mental health space is now being documented and is profoundly a 'spiritual matter', and in addition, clinical and mental health providers are seeing this correlation.

The role of chaplains, pastors and priests who minister across various professions is increasingly validated as society grapples with moral wounds, because when one experiences personal devastation where can they go for moral repair?

These benevolent moral identities can exercise rituals of healing for the soul, rituals for repentance and genuine self forgiveness. Those in emotional pain are seeking, not cheap forgiveness, but a possible pardon for inflicting trauma, or failing to prevent an incident, that has left them riddled with remorse and guilt, and even survivor guilt.

Chaplains, pastors and priests can offer liturgies of lamentations, reparation and forgiveness; absolution and

fostering reconnection; hear the complaints against God; and move the person towards transformation through Christ. Medications and exposure therapy, the standards treatment for PTSD, do not work by themselves for shame and guilt; these treatments need rituals of healing for completeness and wellbeing.

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

For further information, visit: [www.conscienceinwar.org](http://www.conscienceinwar.org) [www.britesoulrepair.org](http://www.britesoulrepair.org) [www.ivaw.org/operation-recovery](http://www.ivaw.org/operation-recovery)



browse

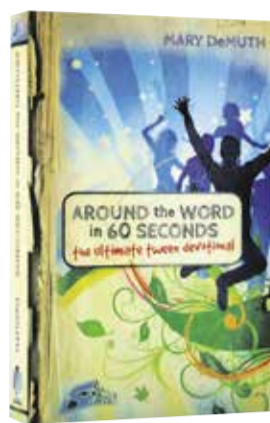


The Bible App for Kids

www.bible.com/kids

YouVersion have partnered with OneHope to produce *The Bible App for Kids*. It is the newest member of the YouVersion family of apps and is available for iOS and Android devices. *The Bible App for Kids* is a free app that offers interactive adventures and animations to help children and their parents explore significant stories from the Bible. It features easy navigation, colourful, touch-activated animations and content which bring the Bible to life. It also includes special challenges that let children earn rewards and the fun facts designed to assist children to remember what they have learned. *The Bible App for Kids* provides a significant digital resource for children as they grow up in the Word.

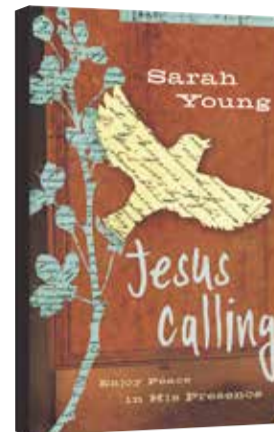
read



Around the Word in 60 Seconds

Mary DeMuth

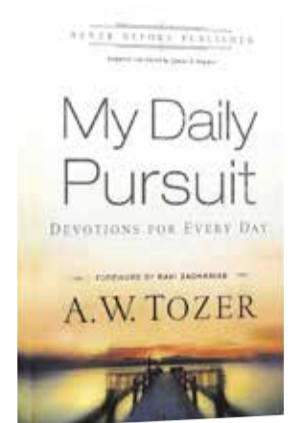
*Around the Word in 60 Seconds* is the perfect road map for the challenging and unpredictable adventures of teenage life. This devotional encourages readers to walk closely with God and learn how to handle tough situations with spiritual strength. Through short, daily interactions with God, readers will learn what it means to truly follow Jesus with changed hearts and lives.



Jesus Calling: Teen Edition

Sarah Young

After many years of writing in her prayer journal, missionary Sarah Young decided to listen to God with pen in hand, writing down whatever she believed He was saying to her. Gradually, her journaling changed from monologue to dialogue. Journaling helped her grow closer to God, and from that experience *Jesus Calling* came to be. Grow personal faith reading a message that everyone needs to hear and embrace deep within their soul.



My Daily Pursuit

AW Tozer

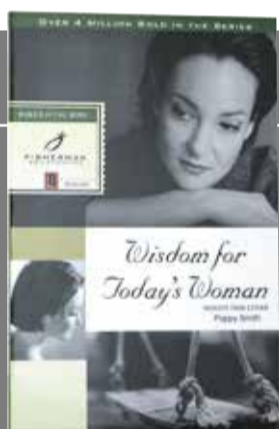
One of the 20th century's most prolific and inspiring communicators has become one of the 21st century's most popular and prophetic writers. Thanks to the careful curation of James L Snyder, a pastor in Tozer's church denomination who had exclusive access to a treasure trove of unpublished Tozer content, we now have Tozer's teachings on a vast number of topics. And now, for the very first time, there is a daily devotional featuring previously unpublished content.

win

Wisdom for Today's Woman

Poppy Smith

When women in today's world face an onslaught of ever-changing challenges and circumstances, it's often hard to know how to respond. But centuries ago, one humble, extraordinary woman stepped into the limelight where she encountered great trials of her own and became an example of godly living for all women to follow. Through studying the dramatic life of Queen Esther you'll discover the vital, foundational truths upon which a wise woman establishes her life and faith.



The Advocate in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *Wisdom for Today's Woman*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

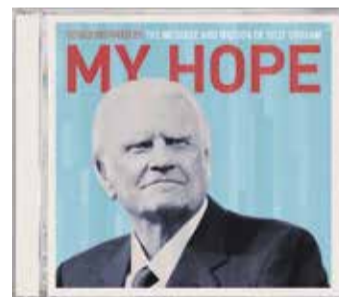
Question:

Who is the author of *Wisdom for Today's Woman*?

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

Winners from the Peek and Play Christmas Story competition: S Costin and R Shave.

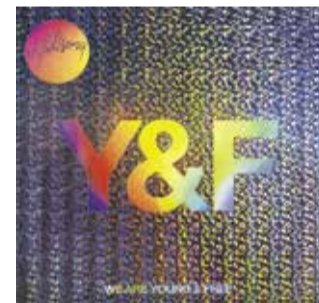
listen



My Hope: Songs Inspired by the Message and Mission of Billy Graham

Capitol

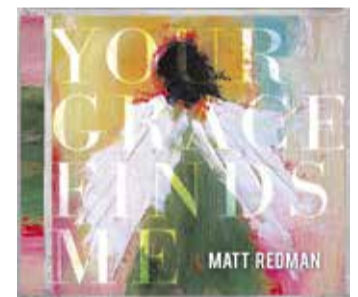
*My Hope* honours Billy Graham and the message he has faithfully carried to the world and continues to share today. Each of the artists (Kari Jobe, Michael W Smith, Darlene Zschech - to name a few) have a special connection to Billy Graham and every song is a sincere tribute to the inspiring message and mission that is so close to the heart of Billy Graham.



We Are Young and Free

Hillsong

A new generation of worship music arises as Hillsong introduces *We are Young and Free*. While Hillsong's recent Australian conference was the launch platform for the new Hillsong Live album, *Glorious Ruins*, it was also the coming of age for the sound of a new generation. The latest expression of worship from the youth of Hillsong Church, *We are Young and Free* introduced its new single, 'Alive', and the response was immediate with the song hitting the Australian ARIA singles chart.



Your Grace Finds Me

Matt Redman

Following the bestselling album of his career, Matt Redman's newest project *Your Grace Finds Me* featuring new worship songs was recorded at LIFT - A Worship Leader Collective in Atlanta in front of 1,500 worship leaders. As the writer of many of the most popular worship songs like 'Blessed Be Your Name', 'The Heart of Worship', and 'Better Is One Day', Matt Redman's songs are sung by millions of people every Sunday.

competition

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

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

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

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

Wisdom for Today's Woman Competition  
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

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







**Kennedy  
Baptist College**

**Kennedy Baptist College – Murdoch**  
Years 7 to 12    www.kennedy.wa.edu.au

Students from Kennedy Baptist College in Murdoch have been developing their writing skills through blogs and poetry.

Student James Lilly addresses the issue of capital punishment in his blog post while Paige Roberts explores family connections in her poem 'Siblings Alone' (below). Both students have just graduated from Year 10.

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



Photo: Jill Birt

Paige Roberts considers family through poetry.

## Siblings alone

By Paige Roberts

A lady sits alone every night,  
Only for a few minutes,  
Reading a book in a giant house,  
Her husband works the late shift,  
Her children sleep until one  
wakes with a nightmare,  
The house echoes,  
A pedigree puppy sits by the  
fireplace,  
She is thirty four year old,  
Drives a sleek Lamborghini,  
Invites her family over,  
Once a week, on a Sunday,  
Spends the rest of the week  
rushing.

Her sister sits alone every night,  
Always for a couple hours,  
Watching TV in a small  
apartment,  
Her finance has left her,  
A cat purrs in her lap,

The apartment is crowded,  
She is thirty years old,  
Drives a second hand Volvo,  
Goes to Applecross every Sunday,  
Travels to Fremantle every  
Tuesday,  
Spends the rest of the week  
writing stories.

Her brother sits alone every night,  
Sometimes for an entire evening,  
Plays computer games in a rented  
unit,  
Brings girls home from  
nightclubs,  
Beer bottles litter the floor,  
Lives out of cardboard boxes,  
He is twenty six years old,  
Rides a broken down bicycle,  
Cycles to Applecross every  
Sunday,  
His second sister visits every  
Tuesday,  
To bring clothes and food,  
Spends the rest of the week  
drunk.

## Capital punishment issues

By James Lilly

### Capital punishment - what is it?

260 people are killed in Australia each year as a result of murder. Innocent lives taken, which makes you ask: Is our legal system fair to both parties in a murder or multi-murder case?

Capital punishment is a punishment where someone is killed as a result of a crime or wrong action. It is important to remember an execution is the action of killing someone but capital punishment is when you kill someone as a result of that person's actions.

### Why it is wrong

Capital punishment has been practiced in different ways over centuries by many different cultures. But we live in a modern world and how can we say that it is morally right to murder someone as a result of their actions?

Capital punishment ceased in Australia in 1967 and due to

innocent people being punished as a result of someone else's crimes and sometimes as a result of sexism, capital punishment has not been reintroduced.

In the past, criminals have been trodden on by elephants, stripped of their flesh or even had limbs cut off, all whilst being fed drugs to ensure they remained conscious during this process.. To have this punishment today in our society would be nothing but illogical.

The most extreme capital punishment, the death penalty, is irreversible. You wouldn't want to get it wrong! Interestingly the death penalty doesn't necessarily deter criminals and live executions can send the wrong message. No joy should be taken from the process of ending a life. Very few countries have the death penalty for all these reasons.

### Why it is right

Australia does not have capital punishment. However what is mentioned above applies more to torture. With 260 people

murdered each year in Australia all of these convicted criminals are sent to prison where they are given free accommodation.

If a crime is as extreme as murder then it is only fair that the criminal responsible should no longer have the right to live. Earlier forms of punishment were truly horrific. These methods are not used anymore. In the United States, where capital punishment is enforced, the main form of punishment is through lethal injection. The patient is administered a drug that kills them quickly.

I am not cold hearted but when it comes to the most serious and horrible of crimes it is only fair that in return the criminal deserves the most serious and horrible consequence. Although the homicide rate is fairly low in Australia it is still 260 people a year which suggests that capital punishment would be a plausible response to these deserving criminals who think they have the right to take a good person's life. I think it would be a good rule to have in Australia!



Photo: Jill Birt

James Lilly has views on capital punishment.



# Just keep walking for Oxfam

The Oxfam Walk Against Want in October brought together 370 teams of walkers across Australia who tackled the journey to raise awareness of world poverty and funds for Oxfam's projects to reduce world poverty.

Parkerville Baptist Church had several people involved in teams that completed the walk and raised \$9,000 for the charity.

Lorelei Campbell walked with a team of three friends.

"My friends Carol, Deb and Jane and I trained really hard, then Deb had to pull out a month before the event because of an injury," Lorelei said.

"Another friend, Pip, joined us for the walk."

The women are in their 30s and early 40s. Their passion for the cause was a strong motivator. They trained for months doing 20 kilometre walks most weekends, testing their equipment and learning to manage blisters. They did weights and muscle strengthening classes for several months.

"We had two marathon runners and a yoga teacher," Lorelei said.

"I'm convinced I was the 'weak link' in our team, especially as I injured my knee a month before the walk and had to rest for three weeks."

"When I first signed up, I thought, 'you can always just keep walking, can't you?' ... but it was more physically demanding than I had anticipated."

"It's not that easy to 'just keep walking', especially when you are carrying an injury and have multiple blisters and minus a few toenails by the end of the event."

The women had friends and family praying for them and acting as their support team. They held fundraising events and interested people followed their progress on Facebook.



Team members Carol Peglar, Lorelei Campbell, Pip Windsor and Jane Bushby endured a 100 kilometre walk to raise awareness of global poverty.

Rhys Ludemann, Marc Waugh with their friend Tim Belton formed a team of three. All in their early 20s and fit, the boys were ready for a challenge.

"We didn't really prepare," Rhys said.

"We had a training walk of 20 kilometres about a month out from the event and that was it. I enjoyed a bowl of Coco Pops for breakfast on the day. That might count as preparation."

The event started at 7am on Friday, 18 October from the Maida Vale Recreation Reserve

with teams winding through bush tracks in the Darling Ranges towards their destination at Chidlow.

Both groups discovered they had endurance levels they didn't know they had.

"Determination is a powerful force," Rhys said.

"And when used for good is capable of much healing positivity."

"I was surprised how hard walking is. We do it every day but over such a distance it's hard. So many muscles begin to ache."

"We ran out of things to talk about quicker than expected too!"

Lessons for all included a deeper awareness of their own good fortune – living in Australia with opportunities readily available.

Rhys and Lorelei both reported their strong awareness of God's involvement in their lives and how vital verbal encouragement is.

"I was aware of praying most of the way, asking God for help," Lorelei said.

"I guess it showed me in a unique way that I can do lots of

things, even walk 100 kilometres, but I still can't save myself from my sin. No matter how good or determined I am, I always need Jesus," Rhys said.

The guys finished in 22 hours, coming 37th overall but Tim had to pull out at the 90 kilometre mark. They raised \$1,000 for Oxfam.

The women finished around 8.30pm on Saturday after 37 hours of walking and some rest on Friday night. All of the team completed the event. They raised \$8,000 for Oxfam.

Photo: Keith Campbell

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