

the advocate



"...we deprive ourselves of the many benefits that come from saying thanks."

JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>

In Conversation Michael Koeniger speaks about working with refugee children in Indonesia **PAGE 12>>**



Photo: Jill Birt

Friends and supporters celebrating the first anniversary of the First Home Project in Midland.

First Home celebrates

The First Home Project, an adventurous initiative by Jarrod McKenna and his wife Teresa Lee to share their home with newly arrived refugee families in Perth, has just celebrated its first anniversary.

More than 100 supporters and friends gathered at the family's Midland home to celebrate the occasion and to meet the newest family to live with Jarrod, Teresa and their son, Tyson. Many of the supporters gave sacrificially to help Jarrod and Teresa finance the house after commercial banks refused their application for a loan.

Other guests included teachers who are helping the new arrivals learn English, friends of the households and local politician, Greens Senator, Scott Ludlam.

Children's laughter and chatter filled the late afternoon

as they splashed down a plastic water slide. Friends of the First Home Project barbecued in family groups. A rap artist entertained the crowd and renegade helium balloons caused the usual broken hearts as they headed to the stratosphere.

A year ago two families from Africa joined Jarrod and Teresa in their 'three units under one roof' home. John and Agnes, from Congo, and their nine children are still living in their unit and expect to stay another six months. Seven of their children are still with them.

The other family from West Africa moved out recently. With

a documented rental history they have been able to rent a property and have qualified for the Keystart program - a program designed to help people own their own home. Keystart provide home loans to West Australians finding it difficult to obtain home loans from other lending institutions. Nathaniel and Janet's goal is to start building their own home this year.

Soon after they left a family from Afghanistan joined the household. The newest tenants fled from their homeland more than two years ago, seeking a safe place to live. With five children aged 12 to 21 their

journey crisscrossed Asia before landing in Indonesia, intent on travelling by boat to Australia.

Arrested by Indonesian authorities while sailing to Christmas Island the family was flown to Bali where they were in detention for more than six months. From there they were flown to Medan, in north-east Sumatra, and finally received visas for Australia.

"We are so happy here," the daughter told *The Advocate*. "Teresa and Jarrod are so kind to us. They help us to understand."

Initially the family lived in a house in Edgewater, isolated from the wider community by language.

"No-one to see people all day. No-one to ask questions. When people come home from work they shut their door. We are not happy. But here is different," she said.



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

BAPTIST CHURCHES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Aashish Parmar

Aashish Parmar is the Pastor of Ellenbrook Baptist Church.

His Kingdom come

Coca-Cola's latest TV advert was launched at this year's NFL Superbowl game on Sunday 2 February. The ad simply shows a series of images of American society at work and play with the song 'America the Beautiful' sung over the images. The internet buzzed as controversy exploded. What stirred the debate?

To portray America as beautiful Coca-Cola showcased its diversity using seven languages singing the same patriotic song. The backlash came from a wave of people crying out, "If you're American, you speak English." A football game was interrupted by a 60-second crisis of national identity – a battle Australia knows only too well.

In a world where national identity is important and yet becoming increasingly confused,

what does it mean to be an Aussie/South African/[insert nationality]? Can I be an Aussie if I speak another language or if I don't speak English at all? What if I was born across the oceans or wear different clothes? Am I a true blue 'full Aussie' or 'half an Aussie'? The identity of an Aussie is up for grabs.

Our world is changing. The melting pot is spilling over. How do we define who belongs here? How do we treat each other? How

do we define those who would seek to call this home and to what end do we grant true equality status as a fellow mate?

Where politicians and advertisers may struggle, Christians have an immense advantage. For centuries we prayed just as Jesus taught us. We asked that His Kingdom would come and that His will would be done here on earth as it's done in heaven. And we know heaven is "a great multitude that no one

could number, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne." [Revelation 7:9] We know that a day is coming where there'll be no Aussies or Americans or Zimbabweans, just children of God worshipping their Creator.

Our prayers are answered. His will is being done on earth as it is in heaven. As Christians our challenge is to find the balance between being thankful for our cultural heritage and our knowledge that 'my land' and 'your land' is giving away to 'God's land'. Ownership is His. Our focus becomes welcoming people who are on His land ... into His Kingdom.



Dr Brian Harris

Dr Brian Harris is the Principal of Vose Seminary and pastor at large for the Carey group.

Unforgettable ...

After a recent meeting of our academic board, a staff member asked me what I thought about a point someone had made during the meeting. "What point was that?", I queried. As he went on to explain, my blank expression gave away that I had completely forgotten the discussion – even though I had apparently been an active participant. Well there you go ... some conversations are totally forgettable.

By contrast, some are unforgettable. I clearly remember the "it's a boy" cry from the midwife on the birth of our firstborn. More painfully, I can still hear the "he's gone" news on the death of my father.

Unforgettable.

Blind Bartimaeus, who briefly crosses the pages of scripture in Mark 10:46-52, heard words that he would forever remember.

The prelude was Jesus' visit to Jericho. Bartimaeus begged on the outskirts of that city – an uninspiring occupation, but in the ancient world the best a blind person could hope for. Though blind, there was nothing wrong with his hearing. Everyone was talking of the miracles of Jesus, and then the cry went out that Jesus was leaving town and passing within shouting distance

of Bartimaeus' begging spot. And shout Bartimaeus did. It was a cry from deep within, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

The crowd, fearing an awkward scene, scolded him for his boldness, and tried to shame him into silence. But there are times in life when you know that the advice of the masses must be ignored. Bartimaeus called all the more loudly.

And then Jesus spoke two words that changed everything – "Call him." To Bartimaeus they were relayed as three words – "He's calling you."

"He's calling you" – the words that change everything. To be called is to be noticed, to be invited, to be chosen. They mean that something is about to happen. For Bartimaeus it was the unforgettable reception of sight.

Life's most unforgettable moment is when the deepest cry of our heart hears the echoing, "He's calling you." And those three words are still heard by those who call on Jesus for help. It's a conversation we shouldn't forget to have.



Fred Chaney

Fred Chaney AO is Senior Australian of the Year 2014

Facing life with grace

Being awarded the title of Senior Australian of the Year has been a strange experience. There is an immense sense of privilege. Hundreds of thousands of senior Australians are doing wonderful work. To be singled out in this way is very special. It's also sobering. The illnesses and deaths of contemporaries are a constant reminder of mortality, but senior? It does place me squarely in God's waiting room.

How should we behave as seniors? Fade gracefully into the sunset? Leave the field to the young? Compose a list of the things we need to see before we die?

I know seniors who, after busy and productive lives of duty and service, make these choices. We can think about what we have learned, try to find the meaning of our lives. It can be right to get out of the way of the young who have

responsibility for tomorrow. Their approach is untrammelled by past failures. And we only get one go at life. If there are things that really matter to you, or perhaps to a spouse or partner who has patiently postponed personal enjoyments in the interest of you pursuing your passions, it might be time to enjoy life.

Those choices don't make total sense to me. This award,

along with the illnesses and deaths of people close to me, has really made me think about what it means to be getting old. As you age things that were really important in your life start to disappear from it. Parents are gone, as are some friends older and younger, occupations that filled your life, disappear. To me old age is not a number of years but the loss of things

that mattered to me and which perhaps defined who I am. Being officially labelled senior, my predominant feeling is that I should not give up any more than I have to, family, friends, engagements, places, passions, activities, enjoyments, sorrows, all the things which make up my life.

This award gives me another platform from which to pursue an important part of my life, pursuit of a reconciled Australia. With the vast number of Australians who are joining in that project, I won't be giving up on that.

I am grateful to every co-worker I have had over the last 50 years and those with whom I share this year. Together we must make it a productive year.

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.

Mozambique challenges

After three terms totalling 11 years working with Global Interaction in Mozambique, Jonno and Heather Crane and their children are back in Perth to catch up with supporters and friends before they return to Africa in June.

"We're a little weary," Jonno said. "It's been quite a challenging time for our team, especially the issues with the Department of Immigration in our province in Mozambique."

The Global Interaction team in Mozambique is working with people from the Yawo people group in Niassa Province. The Yawo people group extends over the border to the west with Malawi and to the north into Tanzania.

The Cranes lead the Mozambique team which includes several Western Australian families, including Cam and Kath Beeck and their three children, Scott and Bec Falconer and their three children and Ben and Sam Good and their two children.

Visa renewals have been a constant issue for almost two years. Jonno's time and energy has been absorbed with negotiations and attending offices in the local province and at the national capital, Maputo, 1,500 kilometres south of Lichinga where the Australian team is based.

The drive to the capital is nothing like a return trip to Esperance. Travellers now need a military escort through a section of the route where civil unrest has broken out again after 20 years of peace. The road is more challenging than the Perth to Esperance road too.

"Our team took turns to fast and pray every day from September to the end of December 2013, asking God for

justice and to open the way for us to meet with senior country officials," Jonno said.

"We were notified about 30 December that we had an appointment and we are praying that these discussions will finally resolve our visa issues."

"The team is such an amazing group of people."

"Our lives are open to each other. It's intense at times but the team is a safe place to live revealed lives."

The stresses are enormous at times as the team must learn two languages and the intricacies of Yawo culture so that they can connect well with people and share their lives and faith with them.

"We get to walk with people, helping them discover ways to walk with Jesus," Heather said.

While the Cranes are in WA, they expect to speak at churches and Bible Study groups, telling the story of how they have been kept in Mozambique by the grace and power of God.

"We're looking forward to meeting up with many of our supporters and friends," Heather said.

"Our Sundays are all booked, but there are still plenty of opportunities mid-week."

Pam Gallagher at Global Interaction's Perth office is managing speaking engagements for the Crane family.

For more information, phone 6313 6300.



The Crane family relaxes in South Perth after their third term in Mozambique.

Photo: Jill Birt

Update for Relief Fund

Over the past month gifts to the Baptist Churches Western Australia Emergency Relief Fund totalling \$35,800 have been received to support people who suffered loss as a result of the bush fires in Parkerville and Stoneville in mid-January.

A team from Parkerville Baptist Church is working closely with its local community helping to meet the mid to long term needs of families and individuals.

In late January, the church hosted two morning teas for

community members, offering a safe place and extended time for people to tell their stories and enjoy refreshments.

"We're absolutely grateful to all the people who have given so generously to the Emergency

Relief Fund," Baptist Churches Western Australia Business Manager, Greg Holland said.

"We'll be working closely with the Parkerville Baptist Church to distribute the money for mid to long term needs."

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Beach chaplains calm waves

Lifesavers and security teams are not the only ones serving the community at Scarborough Beach nowadays, beach chaplains also work on this iconic stretch of West Australian coastline, providing guidance to those in need and mediating sticky situations.

Pastor Derek Gerrard from C3 Church that meets in the beachside suburb was instrumental in starting this unique ministry.

"We were looking for a tangible way we could provide a positive impact in our community," Derek said.

"There had been some recent bouts of violence in Scarborough and the City of Stirling was looking for ideas of how the community could contribute to making Scarborough a family friendly environment."

Each Saturday and Sunday from 10.30am to 2.30pm chaplains in their distinctive white shirts work alongside police, surf lifesavers and rangers from the southern point of Brighton Beach to the northern part of Scarborough Beach Reserve. They also attend some of the larger evening events at the beach.

"We work in partnership with Urban Mission who conduct the Street Chaplains program in Northbridge," Derek said.

A team of 25 volunteer men and women aged from 20 to 60 years old trained with the Street Chaplains group who patrol Perth's inner city streets on weekends. As well as training with Urban Mission, the chaplains also have their Senior First Aid certificate.

The team of volunteers talk to lonely or vulnerable people, provide basic first aid or mediate if they come across any heated situations. The beach chaplains work closely with the local police and community

safety teams and are often called upon to intervene in certain circumstances.

The beach chaplains are based in a shared command centre with the police and community security. They generally walk the beach for a large portion of their time but will also spend some time in cafés to build relationships with the local businesses.

“We were looking for a tangible way we could provide a positive impact in our community.”

Currently most of the chaplains are from the local church, Be The Church, but as the ministry has expanded those wishing to become involved are warmly welcomed.

A team of intercessors regularly pray for the beach chaplains as they walk along the waterfront, meeting with people from a wide variety of backgrounds including homeless people.

"This is a vital part of the whole work," Derek said.

The City of Stirling acknowledges the significant contribution the team makes to beach life.

For more information, visit www.bethechurch.org.au



City of Stirling Councillor Bill Stewart (second from left) supports the chaplaincy work conducted at Scarborough Beach by Derek Gerrard, Byron McGarry and Milky Spooner.

Photo: Michael Gill

Celebrating sport

Sport chaplains across Western Australia are organising a Celebration of Sport service at St George's Cathedral in Perth on Sunday 6 April at 4pm.

Representatives from sporting groups across the state are invited to attend the gathering.

"It's planned to be an opportunity to thank God for sport and what it means to so many people," Wildcats Chaplain, Pastor Phil Bryant said. "Anyone

with connections to sport is invited."

West Coast Eagles Chaplain, Paul (Morro) Morrison will interview Eagles ruckman Nic Naitanui during the service.

The varied program will include a worship band and the choir from Hale School as well as testimonies and a guest speaker.

"We're still pulling things together at this stage," Phil said. "But we want to tell people about the service so that they can plan to come."

Sport is a big focus of many people in WA. The sport chaplains believe this is a unique opportunity for sports people to gather and celebrate their

passion and achievements while reflecting on and acknowledging their spiritual life.

"Compartmentalised lives don't help us live authentic, transparent lives," Phil said.

"Here's an opportunity for sports people to openly acknowledge God's goodness and grace as they meet together."

Following the service the congregation from the Cathedral has generously offered to host a barbecue for all those who attend.

"We're hoping this will be the first of several services in a variety of churches each year," Rev. Alison Gilchrist, Evangelism Enabler with the Anglican Diocese of Perth said.

digital church

03/02/2014
Jason Adam Miller
jasonadamiller.com

"Freedom is one of the things Jesus promises us. Freedom from sin, and freedom from shame and religious obligation. But community is part of the package, too."

06/02/2014
Jon Bloom
desiringgod.org

"Because the New Testament teaches us that whether or not our treasure is really in heaven is most clearly seen when it costs us our earthly treasures in order to obtain it."

06/02/2014
Adam Ramsey
theresurgence.com

"In all our ministry to young people, the gospel should never be assumed, but declared boldly and repeatedly."

07/02/2014
Mark Broadbent
markbroadbent.org

"It's interesting to note that none of the New Testament churches are alive today. God seems far more interested in the mission of the gospel than He does in the preservation of individual churches."

07/02/2014
Christina Fox
desiringgod.org

"No doubt, technology provides many benefits to our lives. But we can't be naïve to the consequences, including primarily its impact on our in-person relationships."

07/02/2014
Mack Stiles
thegospelcoalition.org

"They, too, long for their churches to be loving communities committed to sharing the gospel as part of an ongoing way of life, not the occasional evangelistic raid."

10/02/2014
Greg Atkinson
gregatkinson.com

"God uses broken people. God will break you eventually. It seems that 'brokenness' is an ongoing thing."

10/02/2014
Eugene Cho
twitter.com/EugeneCho

"It's okay to ask questions. In fact, it's healthy to ask questions. A faith that has no room for questions will eventually lead to atrophy."

10/02/2014
Mark Waltz
becausepeoplematter.com

"David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Moses,

Paul and others encourage us to remember to look over our shoulder, not to be defined by what's back there, but to never forget where we've been. To look at the past, not getting caught up in regret, but celebrating God's faithfulness."

10/02/2014
Douglas Wilson
twitter.com/douglaswils

"God comes to us in three books – nature, law, and gospel. Read plainly, we read God above us, God against us, and God with us."

CAP help families with debt

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is helping Western Australian families in financial trouble to find hope by providing debt solutions.

CAP recently opened their first debt centre in WA, based out of the Red Door Community Church in Cockburn Central Centre. They're working face-to-face with people who are struggling under the burden of debt.

"We've only got a few clients so far," Emma Wright from CAP's Perth office said.

"I got involved with CAP because there is so much need for help with personal debt."

Financial trouble has many causes. Poor health, lost jobs and errors of judgement can make people vulnerable to debt – especially when utility, housing and medical costs snowball.

Finding money to pay the bills isn't the only problem. Parents can be wracked by guilt because they can't pay for their children to go on school excursions or outings with friends. Some sense there is stigma when they have to buy second-hand clothes. Some families have to liquidate assets like their car to pay bills, but that brings further stress as they have to find an alternate method of transport, that often takes more time.

Making a decision between paying a bill or providing food for the family adds more stress. Persistent phone calls from creditors demanding payment and threatening letters from bankers add to the tension.

"CAP is an award-winning charity, operating through a growing network of local centres that are opened in partnership with local churches," Emma said.

"We are well-recognised within the finance industry



Clients Andrew and Kaye are getting help with their debt by working with a personal Debt Coach.

and dedicated to seeing people released from debt by offering top quality debt management services and education – completely free of charge."

CAP's service is available to all members of society regardless of belief, race and sexual orientation.

"When a client calls CAP for help, we arrange a home visit with a Debt Coach and Support Coach," Emma said.

"After gathering financial information, a realistic budget is worked out at CAP's National Operations Centre in Newcastle by prioritising the client's essential bills, negotiating affordable payments with each creditor and endeavouring to stop unfair interest and charges where possible."

The local Debt Coach then visits the client again to explain

their budget and the payments they need to make. If the client agrees to the budget, a CAP trust account is set up for them to make regular payments into. CAP then distributes these funds on the client's behalf to pay priority debts and create savings if possible.

CAP has been operating in Australia since 2000, helping over 5,000 people every year, from more than 36 centres on the East Coast. They currently handle over \$23 million of debt on behalf of their clients.

A free CAP Money budgeting course is planned for 6 and 13 March at Red Door for anyone who is interested. To register, visit www.threddoor.cc.

CAP also operates in Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Compass orients

Vose Seminary student, Dan McGrechan, attended the annual Compass Summer Conference at the University of Queensland in Brisbane in January.

Compass Foundation works with university students and young professionals to guide young adults into the workplace.

The Compass Summer Conference is a place to explore the richness of the gospel that impacts all of life – work, study, relationships, imagining, lamenting, creating, all in a thoughtful and open forum.

"What an amazing week exploring and learning with people of such a high calibre," Dan said.

"There were 70 of us from all over Australia. It was inspiring and practical preparation for getting into the workforce."

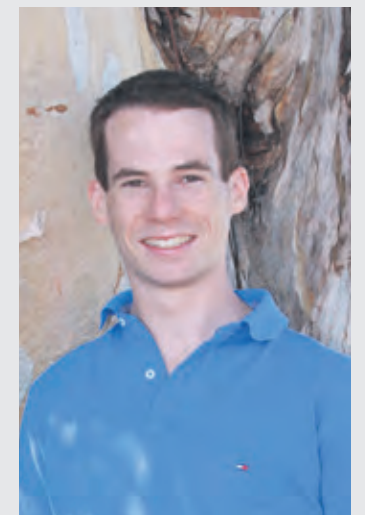
Compass builds from the Biblical story, the Church's experience through history, and our current cultural context in order to actively pursue what it means to 'Know the Gospel; Know Culture; Translate'.

"We got to consider some of the big questions life throws up: questions of identity, suffering, beauty, joy, vocation, relationship and meaning. It considers if Christianity has

any answers to these questions and whether they are good answers," Dan said.

Following the annual conference, Compass works through ongoing training and support to develop young adults' capacity to participate with God in the creative work of bringing Life to this world.

"I'm looking forward to learning more when the team visits Perth during this year," Dan said.



Dan McGrechan reflects on the annual Compass Summer Conference he recently attended.

Toodyay Baptist youth leader awarded

A Toodyay Baptist Church youth group leader has been named joint winner of the 2014 Premier's Australia Day Active Citizen Award.

Cameron Wallis received the award with joint winner, Mrs Desrae Clarke, at a public ceremony at Duidgee Park in Toodyay on Sunday 26 January. Around 200 people attended the ceremony and enjoyed a free community breakfast.

The award recognises Cameron's long-term commitment to the young people of Toodyay through his role as

youth group leader, providing physical, emotional and spiritual help to young people in the community in need of support.

"The youth group started nine years ago with three young people and now has a regular attendance of 65 to 70 kids each week," Cameron said.

"It is very humbling to receive the award but the greatest reward for me is seeing

young people move away from drugs and self harm."

"It's a privilege seeing the positive change in these young people as they come to be loved and respected and have a great time in the process."

Toodyay Shire Chief Executive Officer, Stan Scott, said the award focused on community contribution and participation rather than personal achievement.

Rebecca confronted by India

Rebecca Oates traded working in her hairdressing salon for ten days to experience life in Kolkata and Murshidabad, India during February.

Rebecca was a member of the team of Perth women led by Riverview Church Executive Minister Karen Wilson who visited the work of Freeset.

For over a decade the not-for-profit group and fair trade business has been offering employment and training to women trapped in Kolkata's sex trade. They make quality jute bags and organic t-shirts.

The team spent a day visiting the Freeset compound and meeting the women who are finding freedom through work with dignity. The group then headed north on a five hour train journey to Murshidabad.

Speaking from Murshidabad on the Ganges Delta in north-east India, Rebecca said she was confronted by the desperate poverty and inspired by the beautiful friendly people.

"I met a woman whose husband died three days ago because she couldn't afford an operation that would have cost 50,000 rupees (A\$1,000)," Rebecca said.

"She works as a prostitute at a truck stop on the side of the road so she can support her daughter and give her a better life. Her daughter lives in Bangladesh."

"I also got to enjoy a cup of chai with the madam of a brothel in the red light area where the rooms are locked from the outside."

"I feel as though I have only just realised that God grieves," Rebecca said. "I can't imagine the enormity of God's grief seeing this."

Rebecca and her husband Paul, together with their four



One of the many scenes Rebecca Oates saw while viewing the work of Freeset Business Incubator in India.

Photo: Rebecca Oates

children, are planning to move to India believing they can make a difference in the lives of many women trapped in poverty and injustice.

Paul and Rebecca will become the General Managers of the Freeset Business Incubator – a business incubator that provides entrepreneurs with the resources needed to start a sustainable freedom business.

"I'm very aware of Bec and how she may be feeling as we head to what will be her home for the next five years," Karen said.

"It's a privilege to be here and walk this part of the journey with her."

"The visit has brought new understanding to Bec of the plight of fellow human beings who are trapped in the most unbelievable circumstances," Paul Oates said. "But there is something we can do to make a difference."

For more information about the Oates family, visit www.oatesmob.com

Army Chaplain honoured

An Army Reserve Staff Chaplain in Western Australia has been presented with Australia Day honours that were announced by the Governor General of Australia, Quentin Bryce.

Morley Baptist Church Senior Pastor, John Crosby, was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM) for meritorious devotion to duty as Chaplain of the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment at a presentation on Sunday 26 January.

As an Army Chaplain, John was based in Brisbane at the 7th

Brigade, Enoggera Barracks for two years during 2012 to 2013.

The citation speaks of his 'professionalism, dedication and genuine care for soldiers, improving the resilience and mental health of members of his unit. He achieved outcomes that positively changed the lives of countless soldiers and their families.'

"I was honoured by the award, it shows how much chaplaincy and pastoral care is valued by the Army," John said.

"My wife Robbie and I were emotional when reading the citation; especially thinking about all those incredible young engineers and the deep suffering so many have endured during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq."

"I was able to come along side them when they returned home

from combat, many with very serious injuries displayed by emotional and physical wounds."

"And for those killed in action, I also counselled the distraught partners, children and grandparents who couldn't make head nor tail of the situation and needed so much care."

“
... it shows how much chaplaincy and pastoral care is valued by the Army.”

"I thank God I was available to minister to them in that time and space," he said.

briefs

Baptisms

Jessica Stafford, Tamara Paratore and Tim Wilson were baptised at Yangebup Baptist Church on 8 December 2013.

Global Interaction

The Friends of Global Interaction Devonshire Morning Tea is planned for 29 March, 10am at Riverton Baptist Community Church. Jonno and Heather Crane will be guest speakers and Gwendy Ridden will speak about her recent trip to Assam. Young Adult Consultant Dan McGrechan will also attend.

Vose book sale

The annual Vose Book Sale will be held at Vose Seminary, 30 Hayman Road, Bentley from 9am to 4pm on Saturday 12 April.

Vose commencement

Vose Seminary celebrates with the 2014 Commencement and Conferral Service at Riverton Baptist Church, 38 Modillion Avenue, Shelley on Monday 17 March at 7.30pm.

Kelso vehicle

Tom Herrington from Denmark Baptist Church reports that the Kelso Vehicle Fund has received gifts totalling \$29,000

following the publication of the story about Pastor Don Kelso in the December edition of The Advocate. That is almost half of the \$60,000 goal. The vehicle should be delivered in late March. The Independent Living Centre has approved a grant for modifications to the vehicle. People wishing to contribute to support Don and Miriam Kelso who have ministered in churches throughout the south of WA for many years can transfer funds to BSB 704-922 Account 100 014 363 or make cheques to DBC Kelso Vehicle Fund and mail to PO Box 702, Denmark WA 6333.

98five Sonshine FM

Perth's Christian radio station announced changes to their line-up in February. Sara 'Polly' Polanski joins Morro in breakfast for *Breakfast with Polly and Morro* (6am to 9am, weekdays). Polly has worked in radio and television around Australia and is thrilled to join the 98five family. Listener favourite Christine Layton has moved to *Drive* (3pm to 6pm, weekdays) and Tim Long has jumped into the *Mornings* chair (9am to noon, weekdays) and is looking forward to bringing familiar and new interview guests to the show. JD (John Donoghue) is producing

and presenting Sunday Live as well as weeknights.

Breakfast meetings

Global Interaction has planned two breakfast meetings for pastor and church mission leaders in May. The first is scheduled for Friday 2 May from 7.30am to 9.30am at Riverton Baptist Community Church. The second is planned for Tuesday 6 May, 7.30am to 9.30am at Woodvale Baptist Church. For more information, phone Pam Gallagher on 6313 6300.

On the ground again

The first plane to visit Rumginae in Papua New Guinea's Western Province for 17 months, landed safely on Thursday 6 February. The unsealed strip was closed in late 2012 because subsidence stopped water draining properly, making it unsafe to land.

Manjimup Baptist Church member Chris Mattinson volunteered as project manager for the final stage of repairs to the airstrip used by Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). The strip is mainly used for medical flights to bring patients to the Rumginae Hospital. It serves about 60,000 people living in 20 to 30 villages that have airstrips in the Upper Fly River area, eliminating long and painful road journeys for emergency patients.

Chris had followed the progress of repairs to the airstrip for months through posts on Dr Addie Sither's Facebook page. Dr Sither is one of two doctors based in Rumginae. Chris offered his help when funding for the project dried up.

"My wife Anne and I worked over the border in West Papua as missionaries for 14 years in the 70s and 80s, so I have a soft spot for Papuans," Chris said.

Hundreds of volunteers were involved in the repair work – women from local church groups weeded the entire airstrip in a week; youth groups cleaned deep drains both sides of the strip in the first week and then shovelled tons of gravel the following week. Community and church leaders all supported the project.

"I simply had to go around and around in circles keeping

everyone motivated and keep pestering the trucking company to keep bringing gravel from the river everyday till the job was done," Chris said.

Once the structural modifications to the strip were complete, the men and boys spread about 60 tons of gravel a day using shovels in temperatures close to 40 degrees and energy sapping humidity. Sixteen truck loads of gravel over four days was a massive effort.

Dr Addie wrote about the first flight to land on the repaired airstrip:

'Many of our staff "dropped tears" as the very familiar Rumginae sound (of an MAF plane) was heard again! I didn't actually capture the first landing on my camera due to the emotion of the moment. It was all as it should be ... except for the inevitable dog that strayed onto the airstrip as they made their first approach – not to mention it was quickly shooed away. Thank you God. Thank you to all the links in the chain that made this possible.'

No longer will a mother in labour have to survive the 45 minute drive to go to Rumginae Hospital. Emergency patients with burns, snake bites or injuries from accidents will be treated more quickly.



Photo: Chris Mattinson

Men and young people spread river gravel to repair the airstrip at Rumginae in Papua New Guinea to allow MAF planes to land with emergency medical patients.

Steve moves to Deep Well

After four years at Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) working as a church leadership development consultant and responsible for compliance for BCWA, Pastor Steve Ingram resigned in late January.

"Steve has made a huge and very valuable contribution to the Baptist churches," Director of Ministries Mark Wilson said.

"We are going to miss him in the office and throughout our churches. He's handled some tough issues over the years and had a significant part in the training and ongoing development of many of our pastors."

"We're going to miss his humour too – things are never dull when Steve is around!"

Steve has ventured out on his own, starting a business called Deep Well Leadership as an organisational development professional specialising in leadership development and organisational health.

"I'll be working with churches

and not-for-profit groups and small businesses to enhance staff morale, up-skill leaders and help to structure systems and processes for them," Steve said.

"Another thing I'll be doing is completing a Master of Organisational Leadership from Monash University."

With 25 years of pastoral experience, Steve brings strategic insights through one-on-one contact, group facilitation or large group presentations for training, consulting and mentoring.

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

Students get a kickstart

Almost 160 students heading to university for the first time this year had the opportunity to meet some Christians from their campus at Kickstart, a camp run by Christian student groups from Perth universities in early February.

Kickstart, which has been running for about 15 years, is held before the start of the first university semester to help new students develop friendships before arriving on campus. It is also a unique opportunity for the new students to learn about life at university.

"We hope that new students can connect with other Christians at their uni who can support them in their faith," Kickstart Co-ordinator Celeste Boska said.

"Uni is an important time in your Christian life, when you are often trying to work out what you stand for."

"Meeting with other Christians can help you think through what it means to have Jesus as your Lord – your boss."

As well as getting to know the university system, relaxing and chatting, the campers focused on the book of 1 Thessalonians through some teaching and small group times.

Christian Unions, student-run Christian clubs on campus, meet during semester to encourage and support students, pray, study the Bible and train to proclaim Christ on campus.

For more information, visit www.afeswa.org.au



Are You at Uni?

then join your campus
CU Group

**Christian Unions are there, helping
Students thrive on Perth Universities**

Reaching out, Uniting Christians, &
Encouraging a Christian mind at Uni.

For More Information: brad@ccu.org.au or
www.afeswa.info



Curtin Christians
Curtin Christian Union
www.ccu.org.au

A silent menace is decimating our community. Suicide is stealing the next generation. It is the leading cause of death in Australia for men under 44 and women under 34 years of age (Lifeline Australia, 2010).

SILENT SCOURGE

Around the world a suicide is attempted every three seconds. There are about 1,000,000 suicides each year.

The Western Australian media rarely reports suicide, contributing to society's silence on the subject.

Licy-Be, a young Perth musician and spoken word artist who attends a city church, knows personally the depth of pain and isolation that many young people contemplating ending their lives face.

"When I was a teenager I struggled with deep depression and desired to take my life around the age of 17," Licy-Be said.

"I struggled with many things including my relationships, identity and other circumstantial things that a teenage girl just didn't know how to deal with, some of which I still consider to be quite private."

In a bold move in December 2013, Licy-Be wrote and recorded a video clip she posted on YouTube addressing teenage suicide. More than 5,000 people have viewed the clip, *Youth Suicide - Spoken Word*.

"As a musician and spoken word artist, most of what I produce is quite personal and comes from my own experience and emotion," Licy-Be said.

"Earlier in 2013 I was talking with a close friend who lost his brother to suicide only months earlier. The idea of the video came to me and I felt responsible to deliver this message."

Her own journey contributed to the video's powerful message. When she was 17, a teenager stopped to talk with Licy-Be at the shops.

"He told me he used to be depressed but his faith in God filled a massive gap in his life. I had a massive gap inside and didn't know how to live without it being filled. He invited me to church. A woman came up to me and said 'God has something to say to you. He knows who you are, where you've been, that you have been hurt

in the past and He wants to heal that hurt.' It was life changing."

"I believe each young person is extremely precious and completely unique," Licy-Be said. "As I say in the video, if you've got air in your lungs today, you're not a mistake."

Known risks associated with suicide include genetic and biological, social and demographic, childhood adversity, personality, life stresses, mental health, cultural alienation, socio-economic disadvantage and identification as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

Research shows issues of identity, lack of a sense of belonging and lack of purpose surface as key factors impacting young people with suicidal thoughts.

"Not knowing who you are makes it difficult to 'be yourself'," Licy-Be said. "If you're not comfortable in your own skin, then you can often feel uncomfortable in the world."

"Everyone seeks a place to belong. We're born into a family, we live in a community but that doesn't mean we feel a sense of belonging and acceptance."

Mike Fitzpatrick is a trainer with Youth Focus, a not-for-profit organisation that works with young people and families in WA.

"We're currently working with about 100 young people and 49 percent of them are boys aged 14 to 16 years," Mike said.

Families, schools and community groups all face the implications of youth depression and suicide. As well as professional help and advice for young people, Youth Focus offers courses and training for schools, workplaces and the general community.

"We don't want to see anyone's potential not reached," Mike said. "We want to help people be aware and get confident to support young people."

A Perth couple, parents of a 16 year old boy said they feared for their son when he nosedived into depression.

"We worked hard to keep the communication doors open and to make sure our son was physically safe, but it was some young people and uni students in our circle of friends who were a huge help. I think he saw hope for the future," the boy's mother said.

Pastor Dan McGrechan has worked with young people for several years.

"You need to think about and be committed to long-term connections to support and encourage," Dan said.

"There's no quick fix as kids work through issues. From my experience consistency and connection are important."

Jules Birt is a Chaplain at Carey Baptist College and has had some encounters with kids contemplating suicide.

"We respond quickly, helping the kids get connected to good professional support. Our team includes psychologists, so I get to support kids, but mostly they're working with the psychologist," Jules said.

"You can't just take a pill and expect the pain to go away," Licy-Be said.

"One of the ways I have seen help come to youth over and over throughout the years is through something as simple as everyday relationships and connections. God used everyday people to reach out to others. A stranger in a shop took time out of his day to be honest and open about his life, his struggles and the hope he found in God. His act of love changed my life forever."



Licy-Be



Depression in teens

Signs to look for:

- Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Lack of personal care and appearance
- Reduced enjoyment of their usual activities
- Reduced time spent with peers
- Sleeping problems
- Talk of suicide and death

What to do

In an emergency dial 000 for an ambulance for immediate assistance in the event of an attempted suicide.

If a person is highly distressed and feeling unsafe or thinks they are a risk to themselves – go to a public emergency department where there are doctors, nurses and social workers 24 hours a day.

Perth emergency departments are located at:

Armadale Health Service

9391 2175

Joondalup Health Campus

9400 9400

Princess Margaret Hospital

(16 years or younger)

9340 8222

Royal Perth Hospital

9224 2244

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

9431 3333

Rockingham General Hospital

9592 0600

Swan District Hospital

9347 5244

If a person is highly distressed and feeling unsafe or thinks they are a risk to themselves but refuses to go to a public emergency department, call:

Mental Health Emergency Response Line

Free call on 1300 555 788 (Perth metropolitan) or 1800 676 822 (regional).

This service consists of professionals who can come to a person's home for emergency assessment.

In country areas please contact:

RuralLink

1800 552 002

Support and help

Kids Helpline

www.kidshelp.com.au

Lifeline

www.lifeline.org.au

ReachOut.com

www.ReachOut.com

Youth Focus

www.youthfocus.com.au

Training

Youth Focus conducts a Youth Mental Health First Aid training course and other education options to increase mental health literacy in schools, workplaces, service groups and the community.

For more information, phone Mike Fitzpatrick on (08) 6266 4333 to find out how your church can work with this not-for-profit group.

Radio reaches beyond

HCJB Global Australia has changed its name to Reach Beyond Australia. Reach Beyond Australia broadcasts radio programs from studios in Kununurra and Melbourne to the Asia Pacific region, allowing isolated communities to experience Christianity.

"The new name is much more than a brand change," Reach Beyond Australia CEO Dale Stagg said.

"Our new name will better reflect our mission. It is a little change but one that profoundly, yet simply, captures the heart of all we do."

Founded in 1931 in Quito, Ecuador, Reach Beyond, formerly HCJB Global, is now a global, partnership driven ministry.

Since 2003 Reach Beyond has been transmitting from Australia to the Asia Pacific region through short wave radio and today broadcasts programs for more than 11 hours a day in 27 languages.

"There remain countless places in the world where the name of Jesus has still not been heard," Dale said.

"Because of this, we are working harder than ever to reach those that have never heard, and to support believers where access to the gospel is very restricted."

New partnerships continue to develop providing opportunities for Reach Beyond to expand.

In March last year members of the Chin (Burmese) community in Melbourne approached Reach Beyond with the idea of broadcasting to the isolated mountainous regions of Myanmar (Burma) where the Chin live.

An estimated 100,000 Chin people live in countries surrounding Burma – in Bangladesh, the Mizoram state of India and as refugees in Malaysia.

Reach Beyond's short wave transmission from Kununurra reaches all of these groups.

Local Chin church leaders in Melbourne trained with staff from Reach Beyond and are now producing and recording a program called Duhdim Nun, which means Abundant Life in the Chin Hakha language. The programs are being broadcast from Kununurra. Early responses to the programs from within Myanmar are very encouraging.

Christian programs in Indian languages are also transmitted from Kununurra. Isolated Indian villagers with no local church gather family and friends to listen regularly. Responses to programs in the 16 Indian language programs include phone requests for prayer and mail requests for Bibles and encouragement.

Other partnerships are developing to establish local FM radio stations through community leaders in remote areas of Indonesia.

"New partnerships are the catalyst for Reach Beyond to reach out like never before to make the name of Jesus known among all the nations and peoples," Dale said.

"God is waiting for us to do our job."

For more information, phone Reach Beyond (Australia) on 1300 653 853.



Dale Stagg broadcasts with recently named organisation, Reach Beyond Australia.

Photo: Peter Pentford

Missionary released

During a short mission trip to the Philippines, American Pastor, Tom Randall, was imprisoned for 22 days in January on charges of human trafficking.

He was in the country to help with typhoon relief and to visit an orphanage he and his wife had set up several years ago.

Tom was taken into custody by the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation in Bulacan Province.

He battled poor and deteriorating health while in prison but boldly continued to engage his fellow prisoners with the news of Jesus and run Bible Studies in the cramped community cell with up to 40 prisoners.

All charges were dropped on 4 February and Tom and his wife Karen returned to the USA.

Orphanage workers Perfecto and Jake Luchavez were also arrested and remain in prison in Manila.

A Facebook page called Free Tom Randall started on 14 January and quickly gathered supporters from more than 50 nations around the world.

Thousands of people began praying for the men's release.

The Randalls worked as missionaries in the Philippines for 17 years before returning to the USA, where Tom is now a pastor and sport chaplain.

Tom visited Australia with World Harvest Ministries basketball teams during the 1990s. The team played Lakeside Lightning at the Lakeside Recreation Centre.

World Harvest teams also visited the Philippines, supporting church planting and community development teams in Metro Manila and rural Philippines.

briefs

Engage Sochi

Christians from around the world were part of the crowds at Sochi, Russia, for the Winter Olympics during February. Among them was a group of Southern Baptist Church volunteers called Engage Sochi whose purpose was to make a difference for Christ before, during and after the 2014 Winter Olympics. The group prayed for opportunities for meaningful conversations with those living and working in Sochi or those attending the Games. Social media networks supported the team by prayer through their Facebook page Engage Sochi and the hash tag #pray4sochi.

As people responded and asked questions, steps were taken to ensure that once they return home, they are connected with a local community of believers, regardless of where they live throughout the world.

Domestic violence

Dr Ree Boddé, Project Manager for the Prevention of Violence Against Women initiative of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne/Anglican Communion News Service reports that one in three Australian women will be the subject of violence in her life time. Those at greatest risk are women aged 15 to 45; they are more at risk from

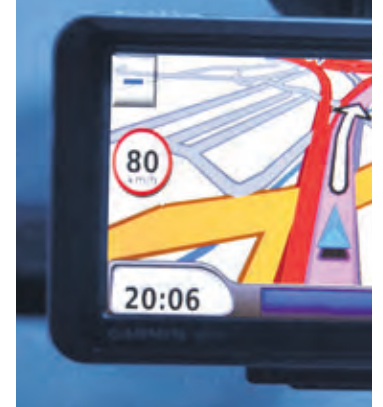
domestic violence than they are from smoking and obesity. Violence prevention has become a central focus of community and government efforts to address men's violence against women. The Anglican Peer Mentor Program includes six conversation topics to support local churches in preventing violence against women. Engaging and mobilising faith communities has become an important aspect of violence prevention work. The focus of churches on spiritual wellbeing and pastoral care creates a natural link to the goals of health promotion and primary prevention.

Nigerian murder

World Watch Monitor reports a pastor has been killed and a church set on fire in Nigeria after the body of a six year old girl was discovered near the pastor's home. Dike Ocha (50), pastor of the Assemblies of God Church in Kankia, a town in the northern State of Katsina, was killed on the morning of 4 February by an angry mob. Ocha had alerted police after finding the body of Fatima Yusuf, but a mob stormed into his house and attacked him. Ocha's home was set on fire, as well as a local church, Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA). A number of Christian properties were looted or ransacked.

To find your local Baptist church visit

www.baptistwa.asn.au



English for Central Asia

Lucy Twining returned to teach English in Central Asia in mid-February after seven months in Australia.

Employed by Edubiz, Lucy has taught English to university students in Central Asia for more than a decade. It is four years since Lucy last came to Australia.

"I have a motto – expect the unexpected," Lucy said. "And do you know what, I'm never disappointed. Every day."

"Coming to Australia this time I've seen a huge change in the core values of people towards liberal thinking," Lucy said.

"Yet there's also an increase in interest in the cultures of Asia and a far increased knowledge and acceptance of the contribution of Central Asia to the global economy."

She has also noticed an excitement about God at work in Central Asia and a strong desire by people to support her in the work she is involved in.

The group Joseph's Coat has sent a monthly parcel to her for the past 14 years. Lucy has already received parcel number 158, and the group has the next six parcels ready to send.

"These parcels are such a treat for me," she said. "They send teaching materials and personal items, including a bottle of perfume and little knick-knacks and treasures like tiny kangaroo and koala toys."

The Aussie themed toys are ideal gifts for Lucy to share with people she meets on public transport or on campus.

The months back in Australia were filled with 70 formal meetings and 25 informal gatherings with 67 different groups of people in Western Australia, Australian

Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

"There's a sense of being public property in the best possible way when you return to Australia."

"I have a deep sense of belonging to God's family, of being part of His kingdom which is so much bigger than a single congregation or denomination."

"There's a couple in Alice Springs I've never met and they've been supporting me for the past 12 years!" Lucy said.

Lucy is excited about the oral English classes she will be taking with first year undergraduate students.

"My home has an open door to the students. There are lots of opportunities to feed them and talk with them."

"I'm looking forward to visiting past students and learning more about their lives and work."

"God is at work. I'm really looking forward to reconnecting with people in His family."



A scene from the area where Lucy is living in Central Asia.

Photo: Name cannot be published for security reasons.

2014 Commencement & Conferral Service

Celebrate with us - Monday 17 March, 7.30pm
Riverton Baptist Church
38 Modillion Ave (north) Shelley

RSVP by Friday 7 March
office@vose.edu.au or 6313 6200



thankful

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever" 1 Chronicles 16:34



Sri Lanka celebrates grace

Evangelist Will Graham, grandson of Billy Graham, shared the grace and hope of Jesus Christ with 33,100 people in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, in February.

The three day Celebration of Grace with Will Graham was held in early February at the Moratumulla Methodist Church grounds.

Local organisers referred to the Celebration as the largest evangelistic outreach ever held in the largely Buddhist nation. In the days leading up to the event, local Christians handed out approximately 25,000 invitations

to neighbours, co-workers and commuters at the train station.

Will told the gathered crowd that money cannot change the human heart. Only God can change your heart, his voice carrying across loud speakers that had been set up in a one kilometre radius around the venue.

"Maybe you are dealing with death, and you're not sure where you're going to spend eternity.

Tonight you can be assured. Salvation is waiting for you," Will said.

In response to Graham's invitation, a total of 6,819 people crowded in front of the stage and made a commitment to Christ.

The Celebration of Grace with Will Graham marked the first time that the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association hosted a multi-day event in the country. Previously, the churches in Sri Lanka had participated in Billy Graham's Mission World outreach, watching the evangelist live via satellite from San Juan, Puerto Rico, in March 1995.



A huge crowd gathered to hear Evangelist Will Graham at the Moratumulla Methodist Church grounds in Sri Lanka during a three day evangelistic outreach in February.

Photo: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

An alternative to detention

ReliefWeb interview with Suryono Michael Koeniger, the CWS (Church World Service) representative in Indonesia.

ReliefWeb is a specialised digital service of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) that provides reliable and timely humanitarian information on global crises and disasters.

JAKARTA, Indonesia, January 27 (The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR) – In recent times, the number of refugees and asylum seekers turning up at UNHCR's office in Indonesia has leapt from 385 five years ago to 7,218 last year.

They arrive from all over in search of safety and security or simply looking for a better life. The bulk of these people come from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Iran, but the countries of origin are many.

Some have the legal right to visit, while others make their way into Indonesia by irregular routes – they are liable to detention if caught.

As the number of those coming to UNHCR's office has grown, so has the number being held in Indonesian immigration detention facilities. They include children with their parents, and unaccompanied minors.

UNHCR figures show that in October last year, about 6 per cent of the almost 11,100 registered refugees and asylum seekers were unaccompanied minors from several countries, and more than 100 of them were being held in 13 detention centres across Indonesia. On release, they are referred by immigration officials to UNHCR.

The refugee agency's implementing partner, CWS (Church World Service), provides the youngsters with vital shelter, food and care while their asylum claims are being processed. It's a vital job. Michael Koeniger, the CWS representative in Indonesia, talked with UNHCR Public Information Officer Mitra Salima about his organization's work in Indonesia. Excerpts from the interview:

Tell us a bit about the work you do with UNHCR.

CWS is a relief, development and refugee assistance agency based in New York. We have been working in Indonesia for over 40 years and we have been one of UNHCR's implementing partners since 2008, working on urban refugee programs in and around Jakarta. These programs provide assistance to recognised refugees and, in

exceptional cases, vulnerable asylum seekers referred to CWS by the UN refugee agency. The assistance includes a monthly subsistence allowance; access to health services and education, particularly for children; psycho-social support; various training courses in our refugee centre or through third party providers; and sport and recreational activities, particularly for unaccompanied minors living in two shelters operated by us.

How many unaccompanied children do you care for?

As of today [in late November], we are hosting 55 minors in two shelters and all of them are boys. Although each ... has their own story and experience; they tend to have a similar reason for being without their parents. For example, the families of the boys who came from Afghanistan and Pakistan – the [ethnic] Hazara minors – normally send them away to a safer place because they are the ones most at risk of persecution [in a country where conflict exists]. What's more, families are more likely to send boys – rather than girls – to travel alone because the journey can be long and challenging.

Do you have children here who were previously held in a detention centre?

Yes, there are quite a few. Some of them have spent several months in immigration detention centres. That includes the Kalideres detention centre in Jakarta as well as other parts of Indonesia, like Surabaya. We work very closely with UNHCR and staff from Indonesia's immigration office to ensure a smooth transfer [of the children] to us. CWS picks up the children from the detention centre and takes them to the shelter with an immigration staff member as escort.



Do any of the children arriving in your shelter face mental health issues?

Everyone has a different personality and level of resilience; one person might be able to handle tough experiences better than others. Although we can't really generalise ... it is true that [being in detention] can create a negative impact psychologically. Not all adults can handle the pressure of living inside the immigration detention centres, let alone children that are missing their parents or close relatives. Being detained for a long period of time and often held together with adults is not a good situation from a child protection perspective.

How do you feel about the use of detention for children?

Looking at the psychosocial impact, our preference is of course not to have minors held in detention. And under the new Indonesian law on immigration, unaccompanied minors should be released – but there needs to be an alternative to detention. Today, we are one of the very few organisations that, with support from UNHCR, provide [rooms

in] shelters as an alternative to detention. The government would release more minors from detention centres if only there were more shelters available. For the time being the biggest constraint is budget. With our current budget, we can only operate two shelters in Jakarta.

How do the children cope with being refugees?

They are young people; the main concern for many is being away from home and separated from their families. Most of them worry about their future. In Indonesia, most want to be resettled in Australia and they can't wait to resume their studies or find work there. That's why having to wait in Indonesia while their claim is being assessed or their case is being submitted for resettlement, feels like a waste of time for them.

What are your main concerns when dealing with unaccompanied minors?

Child protection is the most important aspect that we need to think about. That's why minors in detention should be released.

As minors, they need to grow but they need a safe place to grow. The shelters that we provide offer them security and an opportunity to develop. There are different kinds of informal education programs and activities, such as language courses and sports, aimed at helping them prepare for their future. We also provide access to health care and psycho-social support, as well as counselling specialists.

How important is the support of UNHCR to your work?

The support from UNHCR is absolutely vital and, as implementing partner, we rely on their support. At the operational level, together with UNHCR among others, we provide counselling to the people we assist. In addition, we work together in capacity building initiatives, so that we continue to improve our services to refugees and asylum seekers in and around Jakarta.

Reprinted with permission from the The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Getting rid of gratitude's gobstoppers

According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the largest ever gobstopper, or jawbreaker, weighed nearly 12.7 kilograms (27.8 pounds) and measured more than 0.9 metres (three feet) in diameter. It was manufactured in Scarborough, Ontario, at the headquarters of Oak Leaf Confections Company. The gigantic gobstopper took 476 hours – or almost 20 days – to reach completion!

'Gob' is a colloquial English term for the mouth; it forms the root of the word 'gobble'. Thus, the gobstopper got its name because the hard, spherical candy cannot be enjoyed while talking. Consuming a gobstopper – especially a large one – requires a person to keep his mouth closed and stay silent.

I'd like to briefly identify four 'gobstoppers' that prevent people from voicing their appreciation. We rely on these excuses to justify our ingratitude. In doing so, we deprive ourselves of the many benefits that come from saying thanks.

Gobstopper #1: I'll send a thank you card later; I just don't feel like it now.

Express gratitude as a discipline, regardless of your feelings. Whiners want to feel good before they do the right thing whereas winners do the right thing, and then enjoy the good feelings that come as a result. True gratitude involves the heart as well as the lips. But sometimes when our hearts are cold, our words can be sparks that kindle our emotions.

Gobstopper #2: That was nice, but I really don't think it's worth mentioning.

Express gratitude for the small and ordinary things. What you appreciate, appreciates!

That is, the things for which you give thanks tend to grow in value. Oppositely, the more you complain, the less you obtain. In the words of Max Lucado, "The devil doesn't have to steal anything from you (to make you miserable), all he has to do is make you take it for granted."

Gobstopper #3: My life is a mess; I really don't have much to be thankful for at the moment.

In the midst of adversity, be even more intentional about expressing gratitude. Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1863 – when the battle-scarred United States was in the midst of the American Civil War. When we are grateful, discouragement dissipates and faith appears.

Gobstopper #4: I'm a very grateful person; I'm just not good at articulating it.

William Arthur Ward said that, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." Gratitude ceases to exist until it's tangibly expressed. Thankfulness comes alive through action, not intention.

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The nudge

By Dan McGrechan

I fought to muffle my laughter in the crowded airplane, quietly bouncing in my seat as I enjoyed the exploits of Phil Dunphy and his *Modern Family*. Then came the interruption; a nudge. My wife had stirred from her sleep and was attracting my attention. Blissfully unaware, I assumed she was jealous that I was watching the new episode without her. That assumption was mistake number two.

Mistake number one, as it turned out, was failing to ensure my earphones were plugged in correctly. For some time I had been blasting the audio through my laptop's speakers, hearing despite my earphones not because of them. The glares from other passengers told me that they did not share my love of Phil's classic one-liners.

In leadership environments I have often found myself head down and hard at work on a project, only to have someone

interrupt with a nudge. The nudge sometimes revealed an oversight in best practice: Have you considered doing this differently? On other occasions it exposed a blind spot in my character: Was your treatment of him perhaps a little harsh? And still at other times, the nudge uncovered the need for greater balance in my life: When was the last time you had a day for rest?

In the moment, every nudge felt like a painful and unnecessary interruption. I've ignored many

nudges and made many excuses. The consequence has often been poor leadership and disgruntled fellow travellers. When I have listened carefully to the nudge, however, my leadership and those around me have always benefited.

In light of these reflections, perhaps you might consider the following in your own leadership context:

1. Surround yourself with people who will nudge you.

We all have blind spots, and we

all need courageous and sensitive people in our lives to make us aware of them. To clarify, these are not negative, cynical people with an undermining agenda. Rather, these are people who respect and care for you enough to help you grow as a person and a leader. Consider intentionally giving key people in your life permission to nudge you.

2. Respect the nudge.

When someone offers a reflection on your life and leadership, they are taking a risk. How will you respond? When you graciously accept their reflections, you help to build trust and generously open the door to further conversations.

3. Ground your sense of worth in God's love.

When your value is entwined with your leadership, every nudge

will seem personal: an attack on who you are and the contribution you are making. Alternatively, when your identity is grounded in God's love for you, you will be free to accept and evaluate nudges graciously.

4. Cultivate an attitude of curiosity.

Learn to ask fruitful questions. Why did this person feel the need to nudge me? Is there a blind spot in my life and leadership that I need to address? Who might be able to help me evaluate my current situation clearly?

May your leadership flourish on the back of well-received nudges. And if the need ever arises, you have my permission to nudge me.

Dan is a Pastor at South Perth Baptist Church.

browse



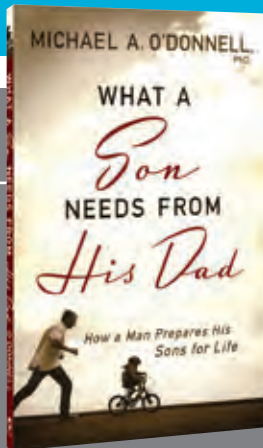
Relevant Magazine
www.relevantmagazine.com

Relevantmagazine.com is the online counterpart of the popular Relevant Magazine which engages 20 to 30 year old Christians in a deeper conversation about faith, challenging worldviews and causing people to see God outside the box. Updated daily, it provides articles about culture and real-life issues that others may shy away from. The site features categories of God, life and culture as well as podcasts, videos and music. The companion magazine is available by subscription in print, online and an iPad edition. Relevantmagazine.com will help guide you on your journey through faith, culture and intentional living.

win

What a Son Needs From His Dad

Michael O' Donnell



Providing practical and helpful advice for fathers; What a Son Needs From His Dad is an encouraging guide for fathers to prepare their sons for life. Covering topics from work, marriage, sexuality, friendships and their relationship with God, fathers have a great guide and resource at their fingertips. Author Michael O'Donnell has served on the National Council of Family Relations and has won international awards for his groundbreaking research on adolescents.

The Advocate in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *What a Son Needs From His Dad*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

Who is the author of *What a Son Needs From His Dad*?

Entries close 21 March and all winners will be announced in the April edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from the *A Lifetime of Promises: Guidance* competition: M Barrientos, A Simpson and C Zeller.

competition

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

What a Son Needs From His Dad Competition
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From The Start

Jesus Culture
From The Start chronicles the journey Jesus Culture, an amazing group of young people with a heart to worship God from their very first song, *Awakening*, to the worship songs on their latest release, *Live From New York*. Each single showcases their passion to inspire a generation to find God. Newly released and mastered, experience worship afresh and be inspired to join their praises to our living God.



Thrive

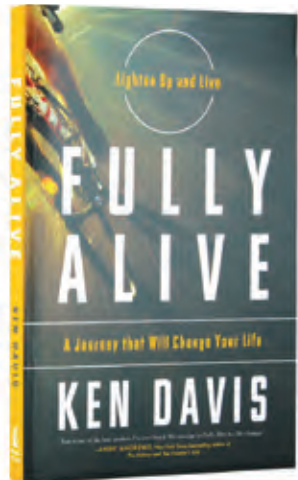
Casting Crowns
So many of us today are simply surviving, but we were made to thrive! Like a tree planted by the water [Jeremiah 17:7-8] we should be digging into God's Word to know Him and know who He has made us to be. *Thrive*, the brand new studio record from Christian music's flagship artist Casting Crowns, is packed with the band's signature style of songs about real life that redefine our identity in Christ.



Zion Acoustic Sessions

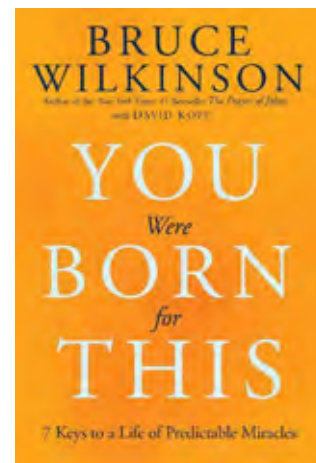
Hillsong
Hillsong have released another beautiful album that they have remastered and stripped back to an acoustic style with all the rawness and organics of a live worship session. Recorded in a café in Sydney, *Zion Acoustic Sessions* is a beautiful worship album which features new release songs 'Oceans', 'A Million Suns' and 'King of Heaven'. Enjoy a fresh new worship experience with new songs recorded in an exceptional way.

read



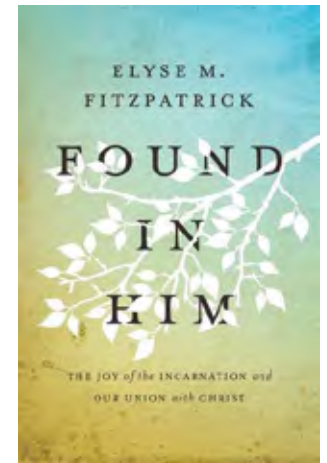
Fully Alive

Ken Davis
When feelings of sadness, depression and apathy often characterise your life – you find each day is a day of 'survival' rather than being fully alive, in abundant life! Bestselling author, Ken Davis, uncovers some key strategies that lead to physical, mental, social and spiritual empowerment in Christ. Tap into the power of God, which will protect and equip you to live victorious whether in the valley or on the mountaintop.



You Were Born for This

Bruce Wilkinson
What would happen if millions of ordinary people walked out each morning expecting God to deliver a miracle through them to a person in need? *You Were Born for This* starts with the dramatic premise that everyone at all times is in need of a miracle, and that God is ready to meet those needs supernaturally. Revolutionise how you see your world and your expectancy in God.



Found in Him

Elyse Fitzpatrick
Found in Him reflects on the position in Christ and two doctrines that are foundational for understanding and rejoicing in salvation. With all experiencing those times of isolation and alienation but when we come to Jesus, we see that God did the unthinkable and became the man Christ; so that we might be united in Him. *Found in Him* unwraps the beauty of the mission of Christ and how He sees us.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

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



**AUSTIN COVE
BAPTIST COLLEGE**
— Run with Endurance —

Austin Cove Baptist College – South Yunderup

Kindergarten to Year 11 www.acbc.wa.edu.au

Austin Cove Baptist College, situated south of Mandurah, started in 2011. Today they have approximately 655 students studying in classes from Kindergarten to Year 11. The College is a place 'Where Quality is not achieved by chance'.

The betrayal



Photo: Kelly Doye

Rumpelstiltskin characters taking a break from a busy performance schedule.

By Bethany Cobb (Year 9)

Last year ended with the all singing, all dancing performance of *Rumpelstiltskin: The Betrayal*.

The show was a huge hit and it was very rewarding to see our vision come to life in front of live audiences. Our hard work paid off over the busy week of four

performances plus rehearsals.

Cast and crew members put in many hours of rehearsals and costume-fittings during lunchtimes, recess and after school in the lead-up to the production. I was very excited to be cast as Sleeping Beauty.

I enjoyed being part of a team and it was really nice to be surrounded with people who were all in the same situation as myself. We had all made it through the auditions, numerous rehearsals and then faced the reality of performing in front of a

live audience.

This was an incredibly daunting experience and having the support of my friends and fellow actors was very important to me.

Despite the hard work involved, we all really enjoyed making the show come to life and felt proud that people enjoyed coming to watch it.

Being a part of *Rumpelstiltskin: The Betrayal* and performing with such an amazing and talented cast was a great honour.

World Vision ball



Photo: Tracey Lamont

Minet Coetzee and Chloe Lamont raise funds for World Vision with style.

By Chloe Lamont (Year 9)

A goal to raise \$1,425 for World Vision prompted me to hold a birthday celebration like no other.

On Saturday 16 November 2013 I held a ball for my 15th birthday, asking my guests to donate money toward World Vision rather than bringing a gift.

With \$1,425 I would be able to purchase a well in Kenya from World Vision gifts.

I had the idea to do something special in the middle of June last year when I watched Ten Times Ten's movie *Girl Rising*. The movie showed me that no matter how little or big, any donation can change a life.

I asked the guests not to bring me presents but they could give a donation, if they wished. I also asked guests to dress in second-hand clothes, which, for some, meant 'op-shopping' for the first time!

I was so happy and amazed at my guests' true kindness and willingness to give, with some donating between \$40 to \$100. They also looked stunning!

Some people didn't understand why I would do what I did but I wouldn't change it. I know helping people and changing lives is in my heart and it's truly God given.

One day I hope that I can visit those countries and do more to make things better for them – this is the work that I believe God has called me to do.

Behind the scenes of Rumpelstiltskin

By Harrison Mitchell (Year 11)

In 2013, Austin Cove Baptist College's end-of-year production was *Rumpelstiltskin: The Betrayal*.

Directed by the Head of the Arts Department, Mr Capener, *Rumpelstiltskin* was filled with wonder and featured fairytale characters. The production included acting, singing, dancing, aerial skills and acrobatics.

I signed up for Backstage and Production as one of my electives for Year 10, and I am very glad I did.

Backstage and Production was one of the highlights of my entire high school experience. It was great to have been given

the opportunity to be a part of a production of this scale.

During the first week, we had nothing but the word 'Rumpelstiltskin' written on a whiteboard. After weeks of

“ ... one of the highlights of my entire high school experience. ”

planning, building, designing, rehearsing, and performing, Austin Cove managed to produce this enormous show for the community.

It's hard to believe that all of this, after all our hard work and dedication, began with just one word on the whiteboard.

The chance to help out behind the scenes, on a show this big, and making magic happen on the stage was amazing. Seeing this play come to life right before my eyes was truly an experience I'll never forget.



Photo: Orlando dos Santos

Rumpelstiltskin: The Betrayal crew member, Harrison Mitchell.

Music man in Perth

Adelaide-based musician, Sean W Smith, was in Perth recording his new album of children's songs in January. The album titled *Groove*, boasts 13 new songs that aim to help listeners 'make Jesus your number one'.

With limited funds for the new album Sean joined Kickstarter to pre-sell albums and seek community funding for production costs. His goal was \$10,000. By mid-February he had raised more than \$4,000.

"I'm amazed by people's generosity and encouragement," Sean said.

"It's humbling and pretty special. Usually people hear a new album at a concert and then go out and buy it, but this is so encouraging to have people buy it before it's even been launched."

Sean returned to Perth to record with his friend Duane Orriss who had mastered Sean's first album in 2009 as well as his following three albums. A friend from Planetshakers in Adelaide flew in to play keyboard for the album and another friend from Busselton played lead guitar.

"There are some great songs on the album, funky tunes that adults will enjoy as well as the children," Sean said.

Sean and his wife Rina left the security of a teaching job in Busselton and the nurturing environment of their close family and church community in September 2012 to establish a base in Adelaide for their Australia-wide ministry. They

currently live in a caravan and their son, Tyson, celebrated his first birthday in February.

"It was a big move to step into this itinerant ministry and live by faith. Adelaide is good as a base, we're so much closer to the east coast," Sean said.

"Our ministry is taking us all over Australia and New Zealand. We're visiting cities in the USA too."

"This year we're focusing on the Northern Territory and WA's north-west, visiting churches and schools. It's a privilege to share Jesus with children and families at Christian schools and churches. I take a values based program into public schools," he said.

After starting the year in Atlanta, Georgia in the USA, Sean's booking list is growing. He expects to be back in WA in April and May.

"If people are interested in having me visit their church or school they can visit our website and contact us there," Sean said.

Sean's heart to influence children and inspire families to make Jesus their number one permeates his family's life and ministry.

For more information, visit www.seanwsmith.com



Photo: Sean W Smith



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51 Wright Rd Harrisdale, WA 6122
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Editor: Terry Hicks
Managing Editor: Brad Entwistle
Subeditor: Jill Birt
Production: Vanessa Klomp
Graphic Design: Peter Ion
Advertising: Liesl Larmour
Distribution: Liesl Larmour
Editorial deadline: 5th of each month

EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING:
Email: editor@theadvocate.tv
advertising@theadvocate.tv
Mail: Baptist Churches
Western Australia
PO Box 57, Burswood WA 6100
(08) 6313 6300
Tel: (08) 6313 6300
Fax: (08) 9470 1713

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