

the advocate



"Nourishing a vision – generates the passion that can propel us to overcome fear." **JOHN MAXWELL** PAGE 13>>

In Conversation CEO of Fairbridge Mark Anderson speaks about his work with young people; how it began and the challenges involved. PAGE 12>>



Photo: Cameron Worts

Professor John Lennox talks with Professor Carmen Lawrence at the Perth Concert Hall event 'Do Science and God Mix?'

Science and God?

Thousands of West Australians recently had the chance to hear from acclaimed Oxford Professor John Lennox as he spoke on the challenging topic of 'Do Science and God Mix?'

The Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University and bestselling author spoke at two public events, the first of which took place at the Perth Concert Hall. Former Western Australian Premier, Professor Carmen Lawrence, who described herself as a non-believer, moderated the sold out event.

ABC Mornings radio presenter Geoff Hutchison also interviewed Professor Lennox on the topic while he was in Perth.

"There is misunderstanding around new atheists, including Richard Dawkins forcing a choice between God and science," Professor Lennox said.

Professor Lennox challenges that the science developed in

the 15th and 16th centuries was the work of God-believers, including Galileo and spoke about the confusion that exists today around the nature of God.

Professor Lennox quoted C. S. Lewis in his presentations: "Men became scientific because they expected law in nature and they expected law in nature because they believed in a law giver."

"I am not remotely embarrassed to be a scientist and a believer in God," Professor Lennox said.

The second public event was held at Riverview Church in Burswood, where one thousand people, including youth groups and young adults from across the city, listened intently to the

articulate Irish Professor with a lilting cadence as he spoke about 'Why I am a Christian'.

Church Planter and author Steve McAlpine summarised the event:

"Uncle John was Jesus focussed, soft-hearted and formidably academic. It was an encouraging night. His conversational approach offered entry points for Christians to discuss the intellectual reasonableness and emotional satisfaction of their faith with their friends."

City Bible Forum (the group that sponsored the visit of Professor Lennox during National Science Week) director Paul Whitfield, reported Christians were encouraged in their own faith and strengthened in their apologetics through engaging with Professor Lennox.

"That it is not just a one-off event. We're praying that Christians will continue to

be intentional in their follow up as they continue to build relationships and have faith conversations," Paul said.

Dan McGrechan attended the Riverview Church event with a group of young adults, some of whom are still exploring how they will respond to Jesus.

"He articulately explored the question of the meaning in life: 'We know a lot about what we are made of, but what are we made for?' That's the bigger question he argued. He brilliantly weaved scientific, philosophical and ethical thought into a coherent plea for the Christian faith. Yet far from being an intolerant and insensitive plea, he was sensitive and warm toward those who have adopted a different worldview," Dan said.

Prof John Lennox spoke to over 20,000 people across Australia during his visit. Videos of the Perth Concert Hall event are available from City Bible Forum (<http://bit.ly/johnlennox>).



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“ We are stronger when we work together. ”

BAPTIST CHURCHES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Mark Edwards

Mark Edwards is the Senior Pastor of Inglewood Community Church.

A time to laugh

I watched with dismay the trailer for the new show on Channel Ten hosted by Grant Denyer reviving *'Family Feud'*. Not because it is a terrible show or hosted badly, something I will leave the discerning viewer to decide, but because of the top answer given to the question asked of Australians 'where is the worst place to laugh out loud?'. The number one answer was 'Church'.

It is quite distressing to think that the average Australian thinks a church is a terrible place to laugh out loud. Obviously their experience or perception has led them to this conclusion. I wonder if our contemporary culture is looking for authenticity, and sadly they have not associated that with their church experience. What message have we sent to Australians about ourselves,

about our services, about how seriously we take ourselves?

Many of us from within churches could share stories of services and meetings where there was tension, overt formality and hushed silence. There can also be a theological framework, which ignores the earthy humour we see in the scriptures. If humour is a natural part of who we are, surely that should be on display in our

churches? I personally value a good laugh while fellowshiping with my friends and expressive joyful worship. Indeed the Psalmist commands us to come before God with joy.

Does this mean the preacher should see him/herself as the next Seinfeld and provoke humour at every opportunity? Certainly not. Some of us have terrible comedic timing. It should not be something forced

“ ... where is the worst place to laugh out loud? ”

or trite, but if humour is a natural part of who we are, then an authentic church service will reflect that. It will reflect our Saviour Jesus who often used humour, particularly to provoke and challenge. A church where laughter is heard may attract a generation desperate for authenticity and community.



Dr Brian Harris

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

On winners and losers ...

Don't you love it when a sports team comes from behind, grabs a goal in the game's dying seconds, and wins? It's the stuff of euphoria, and sparks outbursts of joy and delight ... for the team that came from behind, that is. Very different if yours is the team suddenly relegated from hero to zero.

Take the David and Goliath story for example. The Philistines were really enjoying their battle with the Israelites until David stepped on the stage. Actually, they still enjoyed it for several minutes after that. What luck that as inconsequential an opponent as David had been chosen to face their favourite giant, Goliath. Indeed, it was marvellous to be a Philistine until two seconds after

David used his sling and the unimaginable happened.

You can guess the way each camp told the story afterwards. The Israelites no doubt congratulated themselves at length for their novel, bold and decisive strategy. The Philistines would have been muttering about a fluke outcome and a non representative result ... well, those of them still able to mutter. Losing a battle in the ancient world had

some fairly serious outcomes, the likely loss of your life being one of them.

So whose victory stories are you listening to at present? Which losers are you empathising with? Sometimes the line between the two is very slender. Some people instinctively support whoever wins - as though victory removes the requirement for ethical reflection and evaluation. Others reserve their sympathy for those

who don't quite make it. Sometimes the backing is equally uncritical.

At times it gets really difficult. In Romans 12:15 Paul tells us to rejoice with those who rejoice, and to weep with those who weep. Fair enough, but what happens when that rejoicing and weeping is within the same congregation and over the same event? Church battles have been around for far too long and also have winners and losers.

No, not really. Everyone loses when we fight each other ... and the world no longer believes we are Christians, because they really can't see the love.



Anina Findling

Anina Findling is the Relationship Manager WA for Baptist Financial Services.

Become a 'connector'

Most of us at some point have either played with Lego or had our kids enjoy hours of creative fun with the brightly coloured blocks, which makes us some of the 400 million people around the world that have played with Lego in their lifetime!

Have you ever noticed that each Lego piece needs a "connector" in order to make amazing structures? It starts with a compatible base but from there the construction cannot go upwards without pieces connecting to each other. Now think about it in relation to your church community.

When I emigrated from Canada to Australia 13 years ago with my husband and two young children, we started attending Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church

and have been involved there ever since. In the early years, I struggled with living in a new country and making friends. I often felt lonely at church while waiting for people to initiate contact with me. I cringed when the pastor announced, "it's time to 'meet and greet'".

How often do we hear about people sitting at the back of the church so they can make a quick dash out the door after the service so they don't have to

awkwardly make conversation with someone? Or others never coming back to church because no one spoke to them?

I often think of a simple saying my mother taught me in my primary school years: "If you want to have a friend you need to be a friend". In Latin, Lego actually means, "I put together".

God helped me shift my focus off myself and onto others, and since then I continually challenge myself to look for people that look

even more 'socially uncomfortable' than I do to connect with them. My husband and I now often have so many meaningful conversations with people that our teenagers groan as they wait for us in the car while we talk to people after church.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 says "... may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people."

Consider the challenge of becoming a "connector": perhaps catch up with church friends midweek or have a meal together. You can make an eternal difference by starting a simple conversation.

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.

Fresh strength for women

Seven hundred generous hearted women have donated in excess of \$118,000 to help rebuild a Philippine village devastated by a typhoon last November. The women gave the offering at the recent Fresh Conference held in Perth in September.

The conference gifts will be administered by Baptist World Aid Australia through their partners on the ground in the Philippines to rebuild the village of Plantico that was destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan.

"Fresh is not a pamper conference with fluff and luxury," State Director for Baptist Women's Ministry in Western Australia Karen Wilson said.

"It's about strengthening women for battle in life and ministry."

Guest speakers flew in from Manila, the Philippines, Darwin and Sydney to teach and inspire the women.

A group of 23 women, including more than a dozen Martu women made an 18 hour bus trip from Newman to attend the conference. Eight drove from Kalgoorlie after work the night before the conference, while others came from the south west. Many represented metropolitan churches.

Chief Executive Officer of Alliance of Philippine Partners in Enterprise Development (APPEND) Virginia (Jeng) Juan flew in for her first visit to Australia. She brought a freshness that crossed cultures well. Her humility and tremendous capacity for life and ministry were very evident. Jeng shared her heart for people in poverty and explained how APPEND is working to help communities move out of poverty through micro-finance, education and mentoring. APPEND has 7000 workers and two million clients.

Many women appreciated Jeng's stories of Filipinos who are challenging poverty.

"I've never seen life like that but Jeng made it so real," Salters Point resident Jo Mutton said.

"It's been so helpful for me to understand more about poverty."

When Karen called for response from the Saturday crowd at the end of the day, almost 200 women walked to the front of Riverview's auditorium, signalling their desire to no longer be controlled by fear when considering obeying Jesus but to go where 'our feet haven't gone before'.

Three hundred women attended Fresh Leadership on the Friday of the conference. The day was intense with six speakers talking about aspects of their spiritual and leadership journeys.

Karen spoke at a public meeting on Friday evening where the music was loud and the community spirit strong. Almost 800 people attended the event and also spontaneously gave over \$7000 to purchase school uniforms and a railway carriage to be a mobile school classroom for children living in poverty alongside railway tracks in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

“
I've never seen
life like that
but Jeng made
it so real ...
”



Photo: Jili Birt

Martu women travelled 18 hours by bus to join with more than 700 women at the Fresh conference in Perth in early September.



Employment Opportunities:

Canning Bridge Early Learning Centre are calling for applications for a number of positions within our Long Day Care Centre opening in January 2015. We are an equal opportunity employer that is looking for a number of suitably qualified applicants for the following roles within our centre:

2 FTE x Room Leaders/ Diploma trained or higher – one of which will have a Mother Crafting qualification or has experience working with babies from 6 weeks to 18 months of age.

4 FTE x Diploma trained Early Childhood Educators

4 FTE x Certificate III Early Childhood Educators

We are looking for staff who are able to work flexible hours within the hours of 7am to 6:30pm, Monday to Friday. For more information or an application package please call (08) 6161 5154 or 0411 522 905 or visit our website www.canningbridgeelc.org.au.





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Grandma heading to prison



Photo: Jill Birt

Carol Goodwill has a heart for Thailand and is once again headed there on a short-term mission trip.

Carol Goodwill is heading to Thailand again but she won't be spending time at any of the popular tourist beaches. She will be heading to prison.

For more than a decade the 70 year old Mandurah resident has been teaching English in prisons as part of the outreach of the Korat Christian Church in the Thai city of Korat.

Carol a member of 1Church-Mandurah Baptist Church has spent many months over the past 15 years visiting Thailand and teaching English in prisons alongside Korat Christian Church Pastor Prasarn and his wife Ampawan.

The majority of Carol's trips to Thailand were with her late husband Kerry.

Kerry was 77 years old when he last visited Thailand in 2010, before passing away due to mesothelioma in February 2011.

During Kerry's final visit to Thailand, Pastor Prasarn gathered

a small team to go to Pitsanulok maximum security prison for half a day. Carol asked the prison director Mr Piak, whom the Goodwills knew well, whether he wanted them to teach English, or do a Christian program.

"I want you to give them hope," Mr Piak said.

One hundred men in prison for 15 to 50 years sat on the concrete floor waiting for the team.

Carol remembers the prisoners were listless and a little morose.

The Christians sang worship songs and different people preached the good news of Jesus. Kerry then shared how he had felt when he received the news that he had mesothelioma. The prisoners were confronted by his story. Carol preached on faith, hope and love and concluded by

asking the prisoners if God had ever shown them love and how that had happened. One prisoner called out, "He sent you to us!" Carol was speechless.

The opportunity to partner with the Korat Christian Church continues, but Carol who is still travelling and serving on her own knows that she can't do this alone.

"There must be others with a heart for the Thai people and a willingness to teach English and share their heart with prisoners," Carol said.

"If you are in reasonable health, you can serve the Lord anywhere and at any age. We have seen many lives change dramatically as people have met Jesus. Some are now out of prison and continue to follow Jesus."

The availability of cheap air travel and the strong partnership with Korat Christian Church makes this a real ministry opportunity for Western Australians.

For more information, email Carol at carolgoodwill@westnet.com.au

New facility helps to serve

For one hundred and fourteen years there has been a Baptist Church in South Perth. The church community celebrated the milestone in August when they officially opened their newly renovated buildings in Lawler Street, South Perth.

The building now includes a modern early childhood learning facility, Mosaic Early

Learning Centre, which began operating in February this year. The Centre is a ministry of South Perth Baptist Church.

"It's been a big project and a huge change for the church," Senior Pastor Steve Izett said.

"We're working hard on connecting with our local community, hence the early learning centre."

The last few years have seen the church congregation dwindle as the local community has changed considerably, but the new venture is beginning to attract people who are interested in bringing change through being embedded in the local community.

More than 80 people attended the celebration service on 24 August, including former pastors of the church, Geoff Westlake and Noal Atkinson and the Mayor of the City of South Perth, Sue Doherty.

Following the service guests enjoyed a lunch served in the newly landscaped covered area, which doubles as a play area during the week for the children who attend the centre.

The church plans to re-commence its English Language Learning group in October and there are plans to engage international students and workers in the coming months.



Photo: Ruth Chapman

Guests at the 114 church anniversary enjoy the newly renovated alfresco area at South Perth Baptist Church.

digital church

21/09/2014
Alvin Reid

twitter.com/alvinreid

"If you're breathing and you know Jesus, you're a missionary."

16/09/2014
Todd Adkins

twitter.com/ToddAdkins

"Have confidence that Christ is enough to fulfil all He is calling you to do."

15/09/2014
Craig Groeschel

twitter.com/craiggroeschel

"God didn't shout his love from heaven but He showed his love on earth."

15/09/2014
Eugene Cho

twitter.com/EugeneCho

"How do we wrap our minds around so much pain in the world? Begin with our hearts. May the things that break God's heart...break our hearts."

15/09/2014
Rick Warren

twitter.com/RickWarren

"God didn't put you on earth to judge you but to enjoy you."

13/09/2014
Carlos Whittaker

twitter.com/loswhit

"Jesus didn't leave us hoping that we

would always agree. He did however leave us hoping that we would stand together for His name sake."

13/09/2014
Paul Maxwell

desiringgod.org

"Apathy does not trump the Redeemer. God engages apathy in a few surprising ways."

12/09/2014
Ron Edmondson

ronedmondson.com

"... there are also leaders who are great because they serve. They serve others by leading them places they wouldn't or couldn't go on their own."

11/09/2014
Bill Hybels

twitter.com/BillHybels

"This week God illuminated a text that took my breath away. Teachers know what a moment like that feels like. Only God!"

07/09/2014
Rob Douglas

robdouglasblog.wordpress.com

"Relationships are the key building blocks and it's good to look back and see how you have contributed to the life of someone else, and perhaps helped to establish new relationships."

07/09/2014
Brian Croft

practicalshepherding.com

"Serve your church well while they have you, but pastor your flock in such a way that they will remain steadfast once you are gone."

01/09/2014
Garry Mo

www.garrymo.com

"If God had one thing to say to us, what would it be? And what would it sound like if we really believed it?...I think it's this: YOU ARE LOVED."

Rocking the Asylum boat

A stormy Sunday afternoon did not deter 50 people from attending a forum titled 'Rocking the Boats' at Lake Joondalup Baptist Church in September.

As he opened the forum, Senior Pastor Stephen Nosworthy explained how the church wanted to engage with the issues of refugees and asylum seekers.

Keynote speaker at the forum and Public Theologian and Ethicist with the Tinsley Institute at Morling College in New South Wales, Rod Benson flew to Perth for the forum.

Rod said the current methods used by the Australian Government to handle and process asylum seekers and refugees is diminishing Australia's global reputation. He described the government's treatment of asylum seekers as cruel, highlighting the detention of

children and the length of time the government takes to process applications as deterrents to future asylum seekers.

"The government's actions polarise society and feeds xenophobia," Rod said.

Lecturer from Harvest West Bible College in Perth Jon Bergmann spoke of theological issues of community, explaining Trinitarian community, the relationship within the Trinity as the model for the church.

"What I see is lacking in the debate are answers to these questions: Who is God and how does he act?" Jon said.

"The Trinity gives us a picture of what authentic, human relationships can look like. Inclusion is the driving dynamic of Trinitarian love...society is marked by individualism."

Several people from the audience asked questions of the speakers during a vibrant Q & A session that ran for 45 minutes.

The final section of the forum was a workshop where participants discussed some of the issues raised and how the



Rod Benson, Wayne Belcher and Jon Bergmann spoke at a forum addressing the issues of Asylum Seekers and Refugees at Lake Joondalup Baptist Church recently.

Photo: Jill Birt

church might respond to asylum seekers. There was consensus among the group that Asylum Seekers should at least be met with compassion. Another resolution suggested there should be a cap

on the number of days spent in detention. The workshop groups also concluded that the church needs to develop ways it can work to minister to asylum seekers in their own community.

"It's good that we have started this journey together as a church," said Lake Joondalup Baptist Church Associate Pastor, Wayne Belcher.

Stamps fund cross-cultural work

Individuals and businesses across Australia are doing their part to fund mission work by sending used stamps to volunteer teams around the country. The stamps are trimmed and sorted then sold to local stamp dealers and stamp collectors. Trimmed and sorted stamps can sell for up to \$40 a kilogram, providing \$65,000 a year for the cross-cultural work of Global Interaction.

"The generous hard work of all our volunteers means that our operating costs are virtually nil and we can therefore pass

on such a huge profit to Global Interaction," Chair of the Global Interaction Stamp Committee Bryan Laurens said.

"We sell more than 150 kilograms of stamps like this every year. There's about 5,000 stamps in each kilogram."

As well as selling used stamps, the group buy old, unused stamps at auctions for less than the face value. They then on-sell these stamps to churches and other organisations for them to use for their postage.

"We can even pre-stamp envelopes for people," Bryan said.

"This raises a considerable amount of money for Global Interaction each year."

The rise of email may have reduced the number of personal letters and cards being mailed, but businesses continue to receive many letters, particularly from people paying accounts by cheque, so there has been no reduction in the number of stamps being donated to Global Interaction.

Individuals and churches can send their used stamps or unwanted stamp collections to Global Interaction at the Baptist Ministry Centre in Rivervale. For more information, contact Pam Gallagher on (08) 6313 6300.



BCWA's Natalie Coulson with used stamps from Western Australian churches.

Photo: Jill Birt



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Albany Baptist Church

Welcomes anyone visiting for the Anzac Commemorative Events
Oct 27- Nov 2, 2014 marking 100 years since Australian and New Zealand troops set sail from Albany to the First World War, to join us for a special service

Sunday, November 2 at 9.30am

Albany Baptist Church
Bethel Way off North Rd

and afterwards for morning tea and a sausage sizzle and salad

Enquiries to: Church Office 9841 8699

A coffee for conversion

Vose Leadership sponsored an event exploring evangelism in the local church at Vose Seminary in September. Leaders from Bunbury, Mandurah and suburban Perth attended the event hosted by Vose Leadership Director Monica O'Neil.

"It's good to give time to focus on this topic," Monica said.

"So many other things take precedence but evangelism needs constant focus."

Director of Deep Well Leadership Steve Ingram (deepwellleadership.com.au) was guest speaker at the event. His talk explored a way of engaging whole congregations in the process of evangelism, a process he developed during his years as Senior Pastor at Parkerville Baptist Church around the turn of the century.

Steve has published his work and continues to update the resources that are available to individuals and churches across Australia and internationally, to train and use the elements of connecting and engaging with friends, family and communities.

Senior Pastor at South Perth Baptist Church Steve Izett brought two volunteers from the church and their Mosaic Early Learning Centre, a ministry of the church, to help the church learn more about being intentional as they build relationships with the local community.

"This is a great opportunity for us to re-plant the church after it's dwindled down to about 30 over the past decade and Mosaic Early Learning Centre is in its first year," Steve said.

"Evangelism is more concerned about 'how you live' than 'what you do'. It's about adopting a lifestyle not learning a new process," Steve said.

"We are called to be, not to do," he continued.

"Being a witness means you tell what you have seen and experienced. It's your real life experience of living with Jesus, not a list of rules or verses."

The five gears that drive evangelism that were shared at the event included: building bridges of authentic relationships; loving extravagantly like God has loved you; waiting patiently until you're asked to give an account of the life and hope you have; sharing your story about how God has changed your life; asking gently for a response, are like markers or stages for building connections and friendships that can grow deep.

The take home message from the talk was that relationships are a key to fruitful evangelism.

The second speaker at the event Jill Birt shared her journey since the death of her husband, Peter, almost two years ago. She spoke of how God is opening doors for her in her local community of East Victoria Park. She is meeting regularly with a group on Nepalese migrant workers using the Discovery Bible Study method and sees potential for other groups through friendship networks along the coffee strip.

"Changes in life bring opportunities for ministry changes too," Jill said.

"It's a delightful adventure crossing cultures in my own neighbourhood."

Steve is available for one or two day seminars to present The Five Gears that drive Evangelism at churches.



James Douglas, Snr Pastor Bunbury Church of Christ, Ben Bandiera and Karen Siggins, two members of the Pastoral team at Lesmurdie Baptist Church and Janet Carey from Mosaic Early Learning Centre in South Perth discuss an issue during the event.

Photo: Jill Birt

Expatriate life connections

Perth man Ellis Taylor's life took a new direction when he moved to Singapore in October 2012 to start a job as a journalist in the aviation industry working for *Flightglobal*.

The recent loss of two Malaysian Airways flights – MH370 lost without trace over the Indian Ocean in March and MH17 shot down over Ukraine in July – has placed the aviation industry and its operators under significant scrutiny.

"These events have certainly put the airline industry in the spotlight," Ellis said on a recent visit to Perth.

"There has been pressure to speculate about causes and implications. There are people

looking at the gaps in the industry, like how we record where a plane is located at any time."

Ellis will continue to report on these developments as well as the people and technology that make up the aviation industry.

Ellis and his wife Sabrina were part of Carey Community Baptist Church and Paradox Church in Armadale before leaving for Singapore.

"We're part of Changi Baptist Church in Singapore," Ellis said.

"It's taken us a good 12 months to feel at home there. We made an early decision that we were not going to live in the 'expat bubble'."

Singapore has a large expatriate population providing differing cultural groups with support, but the Taylors decided they wanted to live and socialise and worship with Singaporeans. Sabrina works for an International School where the majority of pupils and staff are expatriates. Ellis's office includes Malay, Singaporeans, Chinese and Canadians.

"For me expressing my faith in my work place means living a life of love, grace and peace," Ellis said.

briefs

Baptisms

Micah Randall and Jane Har were baptised at Dalkeith Baptist Church on Sunday 17 August by (former) Pastor Nathan Randall.

New pastor

Toodyay Baptist Church welcomes their new pastor, Keith Hall, on Sunday 2 November. The church has not had a pastor for more than ten years. The Baptist community in Toodyay is eagerly anticipating Keith's arrival. Visitors are welcome to attend the induction service on 2 November or the Church Open Day on Saturday 8 November, when the church is open to the public.

City Alpha

Trinity Church (72 St Georges Terrace, Perth) is hosting Alpha in the City on Tuesdays at lunch time starting on 21 October from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. It is an opportunity to explore the questions of life and the basics of the Christian faith in a non-threatening environment. Lunch will be provided.

This is a joint ministry supported by several denominations and ministry groups focused on city workers. For more details email alpha@ucic.org.au or phone 0455 506 338.

Green Team

The Green Team, which runs The Zone, a safe, fun environment for school leavers to celebrate the end of exams and their high school careers, still needs more than 100 volunteers to join their team. Volunteers need to be over 18 years of age and have a Working With Children Card. Seven thousand school leavers visit The Zone, a specially built entertainment precinct just out of Dunsborough, each night of leaver's week. The Green Team works with WA Police, Red Frogs and other not-for-profit groups to provide a safe place for the leavers to celebrate. For more information, contact Michelle Smoker on 6313 6300.

Life work

Global Interaction reports the death of Norma Schubert who served with Australian Baptists alongside her husband Walter among the Muslim people in Bangladesh between 1946 to 1966 and 1983 to 1986. Her funeral was held on Thursday 4 September in Bunbury. Stories from the Schubert's years serving in Bangladesh are included in Global Interaction's history book: *From Five Barley Loaves*.

Science conference

Rachel Forman of Como Baptist Church has been selected to attend the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra in January 2015. Four hundred young

people will attend the event to be held at The Australian National University (ANU) next year.

Assembly Meetings

The Annual Baptist Assembly meeting will be held at Riverton Baptist Community Church on Saturday 18 October from 9am to 12noon. Three pastors who have completed the accreditation process will be presented to the Assembly. Pastor Rob Furlong will be the speaker on the day.

Baptist support launched



Photo: Medair, Stella Chetham used with permission

Thousands of children are some of the most vulnerable people who have been displaced and left destitute due to fighting in Iraq and Syria. Winter is coming to the regions of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan where refugees are camped.

Over one and a half million Iraqi people have been displaced since January as a result of Islamic insurgency. While up to six and a half million Syrians have been internally displaced as a result of crimes against humanity being perpetrated by both the Syrian Government forces and the Islamic State.

As a result, Baptist World Aid Australia (BWAA) has launched a campaign to support people displaced and traumatised by the Islamic State insurgent group's domination over areas in Iraq and Syria.

The United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights condemned the appalling widespread and systematic deprivation of human rights in Iraq by the Islamic State. Violations include targeted killings, forced conversions, abductions, trafficking, slavery, sexual abuse, destruction of places of religious and cultural significance and the besieging of

entire communities because of ethnic, religious or sectarian affiliation.

People directly targeted have been Christian, Yezidi, Shabaks, Turkomen, Kaka'e and Sabaeans.

"Our integral alliance partners and agencies in the area are reporting that thousands of families and children are sleeping wherever they can out in the open without their basic needs of food, or any form of sanitation being met," Baptist World Aid Program Director Anthony Sell said.

"Our greatest concern right now is shelter and there is a huge amount of work required to ensure that families have protection from the cold."

Of the internally displaced people, 112,000 are currently living in camps, 225,000 are living in schools and mosques and 121,400 are squatting in abandoned buildings. There are 200,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq.

The crisis in Syria is being described as one of the worst humanitarian crises facing the world.

The Syrian crisis began in Spring 2011 when a widespread popular protest arose against the regime of President Bashar Al Assad. The Assad Government responded through a series of violent crack downs which saw the protests devolve into a civil war. This instability allowed the entry of a number of rebel groups into Syria. Most concerning has been the presence of the Islamic State which has captured one third of Syria and the majority of the nation's oil and gas fields.

It is estimated that 10.8 million people, almost half the population of Australia, are in need of emergency assistance. There are 2.9 million Syrian refugees outside of their homeland. The plight of children is critical with 325,000 children currently under siege where no aid can reach them.

Through a group of partners in surrounding countries Baptist World Aid is sending financial and practical help to meet the needs of displaced people.

"Our partner teams, including Medair are living out the love of Jesus in very challenging circumstances," Western Australian BWAA representative Dushan Jeyabalan said.

"This is crucial work for people who are suffering deeply."

To give to the Middle East Crises Appeal, visit baptistworldaid.org.au or call 1300 789 991.

Ping Pong combats trafficking

The humble game of Table Tennis has become the feature of a national fundraiser aimed at freeing some of the world's most vulnerable from sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

During October and November, twenty-five venues across Australia will host the 2014 Ping Pong-A-Thon, (www.pingpongathon.com). Three venues in Western Australia will be hosting events during October, including Mount Pleasant Uniting Church and venues at Canning Vale and Bunbury.

Churches, schools, sporting clubs, public spaces and even a pub are hosting events and will engage 1,000 Aussie men as advocates and fundraisers on behalf of trafficked or exploited young people through a 24-hour table tennis event.

Founder of the Ping Pong-A-Thon Adrian Rowse sees the event as a fun way for men to show they care.

"So often we get caught up in our own lives and forget that there are others in our world who are facing circumstances that are much more challenging," Adrian said.

Started in 2011 as an experiment to try to engage men on issues of trafficking and exploitation, fifteen Melbourne men raised awareness and \$10,000 to help children and teenagers in South East Asia who are among the most exploited in the world.

The event aims to raise more than \$100,000 to support the work of nine partner organisations in South East Asia, who are combating issues of human trafficking and exploitation of

young people from a range of different angles. The newest partner, International Justice Mission, recently opened an office in Sydney.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES GOLDFIELDS BAPTIST COLLEGE

An excellent education in a Christian context

Goldfields Baptist College is committed to providing an inspiring teaching and learning environment. We believe in a holistic education where learning is balanced with the pursuit of emotional, spiritual and physical wellbeing. Located in Kalgoorlie, the College caters for approximately 320 students from Kindergarten through to Year 10.

The College seeks applications from suitably qualified, experienced and dynamic Secondary and Primary teachers who can make a positive contribution to our College, specifically in our Science and Maths Departments, starting January 2015. All GBC staff are expected to uphold and support the College's ethos, be a practicing Christian, and be able to provide a letter from their Church pastor or minister.

Please visit our website on <http://www.gbc.wa.edu.au/gbc/employment-opportunities/> for the selection criteria and to see if our ministry might be part of your next step.

Please email your application to: principal@gbc.wa.edu.au - Applications close at 4.00pm on 23 October 2014.



Losses and subsequent grief: We thought we'd had enough grief in our life to this point between singleness, divorce, blending a new family, difficulty conceiving and bullying at work amongst others. So when I finally gave birth to Ethan, and Steve started his dream job, we were finally in a good place – even though they coincided with moving house.

GRIEF VISITS US AGAIN

By Sarah and Steve Wickham

However, loss is no stranger to life and we soon found grief calling to visit our home again, but this was no typical loss. We are experiencing a grief we've never known before – the expected loss of our unborn child – and we live in a surreal world of enjoying our baby only until he/she is born.

On the first day of July this year life took an unexpected turn at the regular 19-week scan. We will never forget the doctor telling us with watery eyes, "You will need to be strong for each other. This is a long journey." You forget that these scans are not about coming away with a pretty picture and finding out the gender, if that's your inclination, but about finding foetal abnormalities, and significant abnormalities were found in our baby. Our baby has a congenital diaphragmatic hernia, which means most of the abdominal organs are situated in the chest, pushing the heart to the right, so there is no room for the lungs to develop.

Steve wrote beautifully of the moment when we found out, and it was how many people initially learned of our sad news.

On an innocent enough Tuesday morn,
When the strangest experience makes its dawn,
"Abnormal internal structures" in our dear little life,
We learn that she or he is in the state of real strife.
As the doctor stared into our eyes that day,
The moment surreal, emotions not kept at bay,
To hear "there are issues" and to let that sink in,
To our faith in that moment was all we could cling.
Sitting there silently as he broke the news,
Shattered and shaken, no thought of a ruse,
We walked out into the world, forever it'd changed,
Somehow our lives were indelibly rearranged.

We will never forget being ushered out of the Ultrasound room by the doctor feeling unworthy for simply being there amongst so much life when we felt we were carriers of death. We drove home in tears; 15-month-old Ethan in the back seat confused and worried.

It was an afternoon of disbelief. How could the Lord allow this child, whom we felt was a gift from God to us, to be taken away from us? At times such as these we search for God as he searches for us; "God is good – he is, despite it all." Upon hearing the initial diagnosis, Steve recalls, the still, small voice of God, "Steve, thank me for your faith; your faith will get you both through this."

The next few days and weeks were a roller coaster of emotion because of the different assumptions we

had to make. On 4 July I had an amniocentesis and on 18 July at 4.30pm we learned our little one has Pallister-Killian Syndrome (PKS) – a rare chromosomal disorder. We were devastated. We had already been told that our case was both serious and very complex. We now learnt that our growing baby lay on the very extreme end of worst case scenarios. On 5 August we were told quite emphatically that our baby deserved "comfort and respect." Steve wrote this little lament that very day:

Tiny little fingers and wiggly little toes,
Why this tiny life will die
Only God really knows,
His body is so active,
In his mother's womb,
He has no idea at this time,
Of his impending doom.
We cannot tell you why our child,
We don't know what to say,
But our love for you will always remain,
Through our every night and day.
If you were to live,
We'd love you so much,
And you'd love us too,
We'd treasure every touch.
With each day that passes,
Knowing now this very news,
To have to say goodbye,
We'll all know what it's like to lose.
So surreal to know you move right now,
As if the promise of life were real,
But we must ready ourselves,
For the loss and grief we'll feel.
I think it helps to write this ode,
It helps to ponder the grief,
To touch the very emotions,
That one day might bring us relief.

How we would pray changed as the news rolled in, initially moments of grief, followed by calm and a hope that perhaps baby could be saved, but then despair – no hope given to us by the doctors, so saving this baby was entirely in God's hands. Some said to us that they were still praying for a miracle, while we questioned if that's really what God wanted? Isn't praying about bending our will towards his? About us finding his will? So we wrote to our church and friends to convey our news to those that didn't know and let everyone know how we wanted them to pray. Steve published it on his blog and it was read over three thousand times in a few days.

The response to the letter was overwhelming – there was so much love for baby and for us. So many people lifting us up, and with that came a sense of peace that cannot be explained in our understanding. So much of that love has come from the congregation at Lakeside Baptist Church who have supported us with messages, cards, flowers, meals, and so many offers of practical support. We are also ever so grateful to our families who have dropped everything to provide assistance as we need it.

“
Isn't praying about
bending our will
towards his? About
us finding his will?
”

It seems so long until we meet this little one, and we want it to take forever to come because right now is all the time this baby has to know me and for me to feel him/her alive and kicking me. Yet, the physical limitations I have with being so big far too early are weighing me down and have me wanting the day to come quickly. So instead, we wait on God for His perfect timing – a time that we can't plan.

This space, this time, this waiting leaves us out of control, in a mix of emotions and having to trust entirely in our God. All we can do is take it one day at a time, one appointment at a time, and sometimes one minute at a time. We plan what we can plan around the birth, spend time with baby, plan a funeral, and wait and wonder what God's hand will bring.



Sarah and Steve Wickham

Freeset weaves new hope

Freeset Fabrics, the first freedom business under a new business incubator program, is being launched in the Indian village of Valkundi in West Bengal, an area where women are trafficked to the sex trade in Kolkata.

The New Zealand Baptist community implemented the business incubator program to address the issues that cause women to be trafficked to Kolkata and to bring freedom and choice to them.

Kundulla is one such woman from Valkundi. From a poor family, she was married at 13 to an older man. Several months later she was sold by her mother-in-law to a group of young men who gang-raped her one afternoon. Shamed and afraid, Kundulla fled to the safety of her uncle's home. Some weeks later her uncle promised to find her work in Kolkata. Instead he sold her into a brothel.

Despising her life in the city, Kundulla sent money home to her family in the village for many

years. One day another sex-worker told her about a meeting where some foreigners were talking about opening a sewing business in the area. She went, listened and bravely decided to join the freedom business where she learned to sew jute bags for a living instead.

Twelve years later, Kundulla is a woman of faith, a woman of vision and has a burning desire to see women set free from the sex-trade. She no longer sits at a sewing machine, but now spends most of her day at the drop-in-centre in the main lane of Sonagacchi, Kolkata's largest red-light area. She is at the frontline, visiting brothels, using her own life story and sharing her faith to encourage other girls and women to 'leave the line'.

Following the death of her parents Kundulla inherited a small plot of land with an old building on it. Two years ago she proudly took her friends (the same foreigners that she has been working alongside for the past 12 years) to her family home in Valkundi. She offered her land and the old building to them, and is now the site of the new Freedom Fabrics centre where looms are currently being built.

The new centre provides choice and freedom to women through meaningful work, but more importantly a fulfilling alternative to the sex trade in Kolkata.

"Her generosity and her dream have inspired the birth of Freeset Fabrics," Freeset founder Annie Hilton said.



Kundalla is committed to seeing women freed from the sex trade.

Image: Freeset

"We'll be offering a choice to girls from her village and the surrounding area for a better life. What a remarkable woman of faith, hope and love Kundulla is."

Liminal Apparel (liminal.org.au), a not-for-profit group with offices in Christchurch,

New Zealand and Melbourne, is marketing Freeset products. Jeff Ward (sales@liminal.org.au) is based in Melbourne and is keen to talk with people interested in supporting the business and changing the lives of women in India.

briefs

Nigerian nightmare

World Watch Monitor reports Christians are on the run in northern Nigeria. Nigerian cleric Rev Samuel Dali says what ISIS has done in Iraq, Boko Haram (the Muslim based militia group) is doing in Nigeria. Recent territorial gains made by Boko Haram in the northeast have left churches destroyed, pastors scattered and members killed or fleeing the area. Fleeing Christians are heading towards Cameroon for safety, adding to the numbers of displaced people.

Albania openings

An unlikely mission field has emerged in the former atheist nation of Albania. For nearly 25 years, from 1967 to 1990, all religious observations throughout the nation were prohibited and all churches and mosques were closed. But today, *The Tide* (www.thetide.org) global radio ministry is expanding its programs into Albania to reach people with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. People are meeting Jesus and lives are being changed.

Canadians arrested

Christian Broadcasting Network reports Chinese authorities are accusing a Canadian missionary couple of spying. Kevin and Julie Garratt own a coffee shop in Dandong, a Chinese city near the North Korean border, which they opened in 2008. Peter's Coffee House, named after their son, made a name for itself in the city for its menu and as a

place where locals could practice their English. Originally from Vancouver, the Garratts worked as teachers in southern China since 1984 before moving to Dandong and opening the popular coffee shop. The couple had been hosting church services in their home and taking food and aid across the border into North Korea with government permission. In August Chinese authorities accused them of espionage and stealing state secrets.

Indian persecution

Among a wave of attacks against non-Hindus since the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party took power in India in May, a Christian couple in Bihar State required hospital treatment after Hindu extremists beat and publicly resolved to kill them. A group of men forcefully entered the home of Shri Lal Khatiyani in Balwanazir, Kaliyanganj calling him and his wife pagans as they beat them. According to the Evangelical Fellowship of India, when Khatiyani's wife, Asha Devi, tried to intervene they called her a slut and hit her on the head with the handle of a sickle.

Himalaya floods

International Baptist relief agencies are working with Nepal Baptist Church Council and Arunachal Baptist Churches Council following flash floods and landslides in early September. Hundreds of villages in Nepal, Kashmir and northern India have been flooded and more than a million people displaced.

Preparing & delivering an evangelistic message

A workshop with Dennis Pethers



Dennis Pethers is based in England with a background where church did not feature at all. He didn't know that he didn't know Jesus! He came to follow Jesus after his boss gave him the book "Mere Christianity". He discovered a staggering truth that God doesn't just exist; He loved him enough to die for him. Dennis wanted everyone to hear this amazing news. This passion grew and he left his work and trained at Spurgeon's College in London.

Event Details

Leader: **Dennis Pethers**

Date: **Thursday October 30, 2014**

Time: **9.30am - 3.00pm**

Venue: **Yokine Baptist Church**

50 Frape Avenue, Yokine WA 6060

Cost: **\$40**

Morning Tea will be provided. Lunch is not provided however you can bring your own lunch or dine in one of the nearby eating establishments.

Registrations: To register your attendance go to www.baptistwa.asn.au

Registrations close **Friday 24th October 2014**

"I was a student pastor when my Senior Pastor said he wanted me to preach one evening and challenge people to respond to the gospel. I struggled with this over 4 sleepless weeks. I knew I had been called to "do the work of an evangelist", but how do I preach the gospel and challenge people to respond?" Philip Bryant



Sponsored by: **Crossover Australia** and **Baptist Churches WA**
For further information contact Philip Bryant or Katarina Miller at the Baptist Churches WA office on 6313 6300.



Cooking school saved

In the pre-dawn darkness of an August morning, a group of buildings in the Khlong Toey slum in Bangkok, Thailand erupted into flames. One of the properties destroyed was Khun Poo's Helping Hands Cooking School, more commonly known as Cooking with Poo.

More than 100,000 people call the two square kilometres of the Khong Toey slum home.

The Urban Neighbours of Hope (UNOH) team has been living and working in Khlong Toey for more than 13 years. Currently they have two teams in the slum. Lifestreams Church (South Perth) member Alisha Faulkner leads the team in the Lok 3 neighbourhood, where Poo's cooking school operates.

"I met Poo about seven years ago when I came to Bangkok on a short term mission trip to run a holiday club for the kids in the slum," Alisha said.

"She was just starting out and I was one of her test customers to see if it would work."

The fire destroyed the entire cooking school building, Poo's home, her parents' home and several neighbours' homes. No-one was seriously hurt in the fire but Poo had to cancel classes and look for temporary accommodation for the school and her family. The estimate to rebuild is AUD\$30,000.

However by the end of August the school was again running smoothly, in a rented building in the slum. Each day Poo hosts 10 guests who come to learn her fine art of Thai cooking. Many tourists to Thailand have learnt from Poo over the years and classes are booked out weeks in advance.

Poo employs several of her neighbours at the cooking school. This has helped improve not only her own family's life

“
Each day
Poo hosts
10 guests
who come to
learn her fine
art of Thai
cooking
”

but also many other people in the neighbourhood.

"Poo has an incredibly generous heart and is one of the most beautiful people I know," Alisha said.

"I feel challenged by her generosity and love for others every day and I'm so thankful to God for the joy of life here with neighbours like Poo."

In her spare time she cooks for the lonely and elderly in her neighbourhood. Even after a long day working, Poo invites kids over to play so they have something to do. Poo has helped other neighbours to start their own small businesses, often buying equipment for them and sitting with them to work out budgets and costs.

The cooking school provides a legitimate way for Westerners to experience the slum while giving something back to the local community and economy.



A fire fighter extinguishes the smouldering ashes of what was the Helping Hands Cooking School in Bangkok, Thailand.

Photo: Alisha Faulkner



Photo: Sergey Uryadnikov / Shutterstock.com

Ebola cripples Sierra Leone

The Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone is having a devastating impact on the country's health systems, economy, education and community life.

The Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has sent US\$20,000 to provide food, educational materials for the prevention of the spread of the Ebola virus, as well as materials and equipment to provide adequate sanitation for people who have been affected by the crisis.

The outbreak began in March 2014 during the height of the farming season. It has had a detrimental effect on the agriculture sector, which accounts for roughly 58 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Rice, cocoa and coffee crops are the main agricultural

industries for the country and have all been majorly impacted.

Coordinator of social ministries for the Baptist Convention of Sierra Leone Samuel Conteh, reports that most of the Ebola deaths are occurring in people aged between 15 and 45. These deaths are of key agricultural workers and heads of families. As a result, there is a large population of children and the aged without carers or resources. There are in turn food shortages and prices have subsequently skyrocketed.

Church activities have also been drastically reduced because

of the highly contagious virus. "Church attendance is dwindling. Baptist activities are being slowed down," Samuel said.

"The traditional embrace and handshake among members after church services have also disappeared."

Approximately 50 medical personnel have died, including three prominent doctors. People are not visiting health facilities for fear of being labelled as Ebola patients, resulting in many people not receiving the medical care they need.

The virus continues to spread across West Africa.

Join us as we Celebrate
21 years of
Parkerville Baptist Church
Saturday **25** October 6:30pm
@ SWAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE GYM
381 Great Northern Hwy
Middle Swan

Please bring a plate of finger food to share at supper

R Contact: Kura Hill M: 0488 042 291
S Church Office: 9295 6789
V E: admin@parkerville.net.au
P W: www.parky.ch/21

Attendance must be registered

Leading is a calling

In an interview Chief Executive Officer of Fairbridge Australia Inc. Mark Anderson discusses how to be a good a leader, what about his work is the most fulfilling and challenging, and how faith enriches his life.

You're the CEO of Fairbridge. Tell us how you came to this job.

I worked for five years in Halls Creek and Kununurra managing youth and community organisations before returning to Perth in 1996. A development officer role came up at Fairbridge Western Australia Inc.. The role was to help the organisation restructure then develop and launch a redevelopment program. I could see the potential of Fairbridge in providing a holistic wrap around service and using the whole town site as a live community engagement process for young people. Employment for me is not about having a job, it's about a calling and I felt that Fairbridge was the place that I was being called to.

The Fairbridge organisation has not always had a good reputation following their care of child migrants coming from the United Kingdom in the early 20th century. How has that history impacted the current day Fairbridge?

Fairbridge Western Australia Inc. (Fairbridge) came into existence in 1983 and had nothing to do with child migration or the early history of the site. We own and operate a heritage listed village that has a broad and deep history in Western Australia. From the early Aboriginal history of the site, to the Fairbridge Village developed from the vision of Rhodesian born Kingsley Fairbridge. During the Second World War, it was a base for Guildford Grammar school. It was the first legal drag strip in WA, housing the big sister and big brother movement of the 50's through to the 70's, as well as the single parent program. The Fairbridge of today has brought the founders vision of wanting to provide opportunities for young people to reach their full potential into the 21st century.

When you arrived at Fairbridge in 1996 it was running at a loss and the buildings were falling down. What did you do to turn things around?

We brought people together from Government, corporate and community groups across Western Australia to see if Fairbridge could become economically sustainable in its own right and support its focus on young people with an environmental focus and acknowledgement of its

significant heritage. Ultimately, we needed to be economically self-sustaining while still partnering with Government and the corporate sector. Fairbridge today runs the whole of the village as a live social enterprise through corporate training, day trippers, coach tours, weddings, church camps, festivals, events, retreats, training and contracting, which generates a surplus to fund our work with young people. Fairbridge is a Registered Training Organisation under the Australian Quality Training Framework. On any given night the village can accommodate over 350 people, and for major festivals and events we can accommodate over 6,500 people in our accommodation and camping areas.

How has Fairbridge engaged and partnered with community groups?

Fairbridge is not the be all and end all of youth and community organisations, but we own and operate a whole heritage listed town site, therefore for Fairbridge, partnerships are a core part of the philosophy we operate within. We are a values driven organisation and are very particular about who we are willing to partner with. We look for organisations that have the skill set that we don't and are committed to our vision of enabling young people to reach their full potential and to bring about positive long term sustainable change. We're committed to structurally changing the state of Western Australia to ensure that we no longer have the highest rate of imprisonment of Aboriginal young people in Australia, the highest rate of youth suicide, the highest rate of drug overdose in Australia and a growing number of homeless young people.

What leadership skills and lessons have you learned as you've led major change at Fairbridge?

You need to live your life and lead by example. I'm a great believer in creating a vision that is right out there that people can see and visualise and work towards. Bringing people together who have the same values, passion and commitment to the cause with a skill set that you don't necessarily have is absolutely critical to the success of what it is you're trying to achieve. Keep your heart connected to

what you are striving to achieve. When you disconnect your heart from the work you are doing, you can easily stray as a leader and those working with you can lose their focus. If people sense and feel that your job is just a job they are less engaged. Steven Covey talks about "the law of the harvest", which is that you have to understand when to prepare the ground in the right season, plant, water, harvest and if you try and rush that process both in bringing about organisational change and move people, it doesn't work.

What is most fulfilling for you about the work at Fairbridge?

To see the courage of young people who come from such destitution and trauma but are able to bring about such dramatic change in their life through someone being willing to meet them where they are at and give them a hand up. I am also inspired every day by the generosity of others who give so much of their time and resources because they want to make a real difference in someone else's life who is not as fortunate.

What is most challenging about the work?

I struggle with the destitution and trauma that I see each day, the impact of drugs and alcohol and a sense of despair in young people. I'm embarrassed as a West Australian to know that we have the highest imprisonment rate of Aboriginals in Australia and in the western world for indigenous people. That is why I am passionately committed to not just be involved in running programs, but to structurally shift the state of Western Australia and if not Australia so that we have a community in which we live so each person feels included, valued and able to positively contribute back.



Photo: Fairbridge

Mark Anderson is the CEO of Fairbridge Western Australia Inc. situated just north of Pinjarra on the South West Highway.

How has your personal faith enriched your life?

My great grand pa, my grand pa and my dad were ministers and most people thought I would be a minister but it was not my calling. I walk daily with God and find Him to be my grounding, my inspiration and my guide to everything that I do. I view my life already as being eternal and don't see any difference on life on earth and life after. It's part of the journey. I'm a great believer that your faith is not about being religious, but it's about a relationship with God where you live your life by actions not by words.

You're part of 1Church-Mandurah Baptist Church. With such a heavy workload, how are you and your family involved in your local church?

I used to be an elder at the church, but due to work commitments have stepped down and play an advisory role for the Board, and when required chair the members meetings. I have also been involved in an advisory capacity around some of the project work of the church. I play a mentoring role to some of the church leaders when and as required.

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? JOIN THE TEAM!

LEAVERS Green Team

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for DUNSBOROUGH LEAVERS 2014

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The king of the forest can still be a cowardly lion

In the classic film, the Wizard of Oz, the Cowardly Lion famously lacks courage. He's scared of his own tail, and skittish at the slightest sign of danger. His companions constantly have to encourage him to keep going on their journey.

In one scene, the Cowardly Lion imagines how much better his life would be as king of the forest.

Dorothy: If you were king, you wouldn't be afraid of anything?

Cowardly Lion: Not nobody! Not nohow!

Tin Man: Not even a rhinoceros?

Cowardly Lion: Imposeroous!

Dorothy: How about a hippopotamus?

Cowardly Lion: Why, I'd thrash him from top to bottomus!

Dorothy: Supposing you met an elephant?

Cowardly Lion: I'd wrap him up in cellophane!

Scarecrow: What if it were a brontosaurus?

Cowardly Lion: I'd show him who was king of the forest!

If only he were a king, the Cowardly Lion believes, he would be fearless in the face of danger.

Of course, the Cowardly Lion is misguided; courage comes from our personal character and not from our position. As William Brown said, "People don't follow titles, they follow courage."

Courage and fear are not mutually exclusive. In fact, the most courageous acts take place despite fear. No one has ever figured out how to get rid of fear; it's an emotion that we feel instinctually whenever we encounter danger. However, you can learn to resist fear—to feel it but to move forward anyway.

How to Fight Fear:

1. Discover the foundation of fear.

Fear usually resides in feelings rather than facts. Drill down into your emotions to figure out the basis of your fears.

2. Focus on what you can control.

I can't foresee every financial crisis, but I can build a savings fund in case of emergency. I can't control the actions of others, but I can control my attitude. Remember: it's not what happens to you, but what happens in you that matters most.

3. Accept fear as the price of progress.

If you want to grow, then you will battle fear the rest of your life. The good news: each victory over fear adds to your confidence and helps you to overcome fear again in the future.

4. Stoke Your Passion.

We have both fear and courage within ourselves: we cannot purge either one. We can weaken the emotion of fear by starving it, refusing to grant it entrance into our thoughts or to influence our decision-making. However, in addition to starving fear, we also have to feed hope.

An inspiring vision consumes us with the possibility of what could be and should be. It fills us with powerful emotions of hope and excitement that can dwarf the emotion of fear. Nourishing a vision—thinking about it, talking about it, and taking small steps toward it—generates the passion that can propel us to overcome fear.

Thought to Ponder

Thomas Edison delivered his final public speech during the depths of the Great Depression. In it, he encouraged his audience with the following words:

"My message to you is: Be courageous! I have lived a long time. I have seen history repeat itself again and again. I have seen many depressions in business. Always America has come out stronger and more prosperous. Be as brave as your fathers before you. Have faith! Go forward!"

We often gain courage to move forward by looking back to the example of others. Whose heroic example of courage has inspired you to be brave?

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



Care before self-interest

By Steve Ingram

In 1978 Ford recalled its Pinto car model. It turns out that Ford recalled the vehicle, after months of controversy, due to a design fault which meant it was susceptible to catching fire in the event of rear end collision. Ford became the focus of media scrutiny when Mother Jones magazine published an article accusing Ford of knowing about the problem but deciding that it was cheaper to payout potential burn victims than recalling the car.

Whether the article was correct or incorrect, it probably captures some of the public's sentiment about organisations. There seems to be a perception that organisations are inclined to protect themselves, including their bottom line, more readily than caring for their customers, clients or adherents. It is sad that churches are not exempt from this perception.

Leaders in organisations have the power to heal or further damage individuals when they respond inappropriately to people's concerns. In church we exert a lot of effort creating pastoral care systems. These systems have the potential to be undermined through inadequate leadership responses to mistakes and damage that our organisation may have caused. I have been searching my memory, without success so far, for a recent example of a church that apologised when they got something wrong.

In research published in *Economics Letters* journal, based on commercial relationships it was found that customer responses were twice as positive when an

apology was offered compared to financial compensation. The general principal here transcends governments, business and even the concept of an apology. An appropriate response from leaders can herald significant healing and forward movement for the individual and the group.

Significant responses which should be considered include:

- An apology
- Expression of care and concern
- A commitment for restitution
- A commitment towards change (fixing a past mistake)
- A willingness to note the situation in writing (letter, records and minutes could be used)
- Disciplinary action towards an individual who has acted inappropriately
- A commitment to report to authorities or oversight bodies
- An explanation of actions taken
- An explanation of circumstances (that

normally have not been disclosed)

- Admission of inadequate previous response

In contrast, a non-response encourages individuals that have been hurt to project their own version of reality into the vacuum. This in turn damages our reputation but more importantly negates our mission of sharing God's love. Even in the face of financial or legal implications shouldn't we be brave enough to value honesty and care above self-interest?



Director of Deep Well Leadership Steve Ingram.

app review

Bible!

Logos Bible Software
<https://www.logos.com/iphone>

The free Logos Bible! app puts a suite of resources onto your phone or tablet giving you a powerful Bible study tool. Featuring the ability to highlight text, access Scripture's original Greek and Hebrew words and view side-by-side resources allowing parallel reading, the Bible! app offers iOS and Android users a wealth of opportunities. The app comes with over 70 Bibles and books. Whilst others can be purchased from Logos giving users access to an extensive digital library, where users can search, share verses, and bookmark favourite passages. The app also synchronises across all platforms, so you can access everything on any device. Search for Bible! in the Apple App store or Google Play store.



listen



Eyes be Open

Alabaster Box
 Much loved Aussie band Alabaster Box has returned with its fifth studio album *Eyes be Opened*. This is surely the best to date with 11 new compelling songs; fresh edgy sound and powerful anthems such as 'Give me the rain' and 'Candle'. Moving amongst the well crafted moments and guitar hooks, the album finishes with a cry from the heart through the new song 'Never gave up on me' proclaiming there is hope for all of us.



You Amaze Us

Selah
You Amaze Us is the new release from contemporary pop group Selah showcasing their special blend of rich tones and sweet harmonies. Each song captures a deep sense of heartfelt worship. This album features classic hymns such as 'Just As I Am,' 'I'd Rather Have Jesus' and 'The Old Rugged Cross' along with some new songs. A beautiful new soundtrack from a sweet, honest group who cherish the moments found in that place of worship.



Overcome

Heather Clark
Overcome is a new album from Heather Clark and is the first album she has created whilst working with Jesus Culture. Heather Clark travels internationally singing and leading worship, speaking and calling people into a great place of wholeness, healing and freedom in their lives and in their relationship with Jesus. Heather Clark will be travelling to Australia to take part in conferences and worship meetings across the city to close out 2014.

win

This is Vineyard Worship

Vineyard Music

This new album comes with 10 tracks from Vineyard USA and UK to introduce the new generation of songwriters and worship leaders. There are also two bonus tracks of Vineyard Music classics 'Sweetly Broken' and 'One Thing Remains'. A fresh season of worship and a new sound is brought together in this beautiful and diverse compilation of songs released by Vineyard Music.



The Advocate in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *This is Vineyard Worship*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

How many tracks are on Vineyard Music's new album, *This is Vineyard Music*?

Entries close on Thursday 16 October and all winners will be announced in the November edition of *The Advocate*.

The winners from the *A Time to Plant* competition: E Mileon, M Barrientos and Z Stephens.

competition

Answer: _____

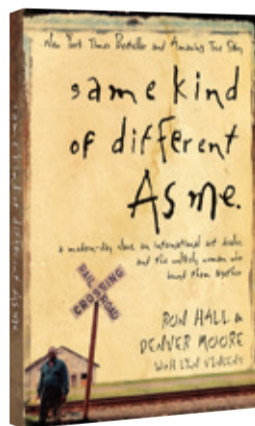
Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

This is Vineyard Worship Competition
 11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

read



Same Kind of Different As Me

Ron Hall and Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent

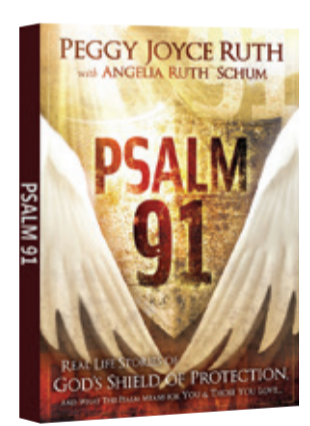
When lives are brought together through the most extraordinary circumstances; a homeless drifter who grew up in slavery finds a friend in the most unlikely of people – an upscale art dealer who is accustomed to the world of Armani and Chanel. This true story shines with the life-changing love of a God who makes all things new. A *New York Times* bestseller.



For Love's Sake

Jessica J Davis

Jessica leaves middle-class America the day after high school graduation to travel throughout Africa ministering to the poor. She discovers how the vibrant land and amazing people reveal the upside-down nature of God's Kingdom. Mary was called to bridge Heaven and earth by bringing life to a new movement of God into the world around her. They both experience great joy and profound sorrow.



Psalm 91

Peggy Joyce Ruth

There is a place in God - a secret place - for those who want to seek refuge. In *Psalm 91*, Peggy Joyce Ruth, a veteran Bible teacher, guides you through a personal study of this psalm, explaining verse by verse the protection that God promised us. Reading through you will find hope and encouraging stories of people from all walks of life who have personally found refuge in these covenant promises of God.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

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



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



Esperance Anglican Community School provides a holistic, Christian education to give our young people:

- Qualifications to give choice in life
- Interests to sustain them
- A character of value

ESPERANCE ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

International ties



Photo: Jen Biscoe

Jumping for Joy at Lucky Bay.

By Max Bosworth

Sixteen Japanese students and two teachers from Osaka came to Esperance Anglican Community School (EACS) in August on a well-planned student exchange program.

After initial conversations between host families and their student, parents soon realised that Google Translate was going to be their best friend for the next 11 days.

The weekend was full of enjoyable experiences such as the Teen Fashion Awards and the Japanese students' first ever Australian 'Barbie', as well as bonding between the exchange and host students.

Many of the Japanese students were anxious starting school on Monday surrounded by so many people who could not speak their language, but their worries were soon put to rest upon experiencing one of EACS's warmest welcomes and many strong friendships began.

Throughout the week, Japanese students attended English classes and other lessons with their hosts. EACS students were delighted that the Japanese students were able to share their culture during their Japanese classes.

On Wednesday the Japanese students went on an excursion with one of the Year 9 classes to Esperance's most famous beach,

Lucky Bay, where they patted and feed the iconic kangaroos.

There was a lot of excitement at Saturday's bonfire on a local farm. Students shared sticks for marshmallow toasting and enjoyed the stars that so many Japanese students had not seen before.

Sadly it was time for the students to return to Japan, but many of the friendships are continuing long-distance via the internet. A trip by EACS students to Japan is being planned for 2016.

Country week success

By Chelsea Rushton (Year 12)

Country Week is a week run by School Sports WA that allows the remote and isolated high schools of Western Australia to come together and compete against each other in a wide variety of sports at some of Perth's best venues.

For the first time, Esperance Anglican Community School (EACS) sent a netball team and two basketball teams (one boys and one girls team) to participate in the highly regarded event. In total EACS sent 21 students and five teachers to Perth to the event.

The girls' netball team, coached by Mrs Lisa Marquis, consisted of 10 players. Jordan Bradley (Year 11) captained the team. Emma Curnow was named best player on the team. Maciee Taylor was the leading goal scorer and scored EACS's first netball goal in Country Week. Over all



Photo: Fleta Walsh

Netball girls demonstrate the teamwork which was hallmark of Country Week.

the girls had an enjoyable week playing and supporting their fellow Esperance teams.

Miss Laura Salomone coached the boys and girls basketball teams, which had some great wins against older and stronger opposition.

It was a fabulous week for all those who went. The food and nightly activities were the major highlights, after the sport. Ice skating, tenpin bowling and

a river cruise were among the students favourite activities.

The students wish to thank their parents and guardians who helped them to attend the event through fundraising ventures, School Sports WA, the teachers and coaches who accompanied the students, Mr Liam Newton, Miss Laura Salamone, Mrs Beth Stewart, Mrs Lisa Marquis, and Miss Fleta Walsh who made the whole trip possible.

EACS's first major production

By Lucy Gardiner (Year 10)

Esperance Anglican Community School students recently presented their inaugural school production, *Lockie Leonard, Human Torpedo*.

The play, written by Paige Gibbs, but adapted from the novel by Tim Winton is a quirky look at teenage life.

The 28-member cast and crew comprised of students from Years 8 to 12, managed to prepare a whole stage production in just eight short weeks.

Auditions were held, the cast was selected and then

we got to work. Under the careful direction of our talented drama teacher Ms Lyndel Taylor our production blossomed. Among other things we had to learn how to stuntfight, surf, slow dance, mime woodwork, waterski and kiss on stage! Rehearsals were relentless, but filled with fun and laughter. Some amazing talent was uncovered on and off the stage.

Opening night loomed quickly and we all worried we wouldn't pull it off, but through hard work and dedication our opening night was an amazing, sellout success.

On the stage of Australia's oldest functioning theatre, Esperance's Bijou Theatre, *Lockie Leonard* came alive.

The cast and crew not only developed their acting, teamwork and organisational skills, but we also created a strong bond, lasting memories and a sound platform for future school productions.



Photo: Lyndel Taylor

Esperance Anglican Community School Year 10 student Lucy Gardiner enjoys a laugh at Lockie's expense in her role as Vicki Streeton in the EACS production of *Lockie Leonard*.

Bentley Royals rule the court

The Bentley Royals' debut season in the WA Baptist Basketball League has been a big success and taken them all the way to a grand final victory. The team, who play in men's D grade, was invited to join the competition after playing the summer basketball season at Lakeside Recreation Centre.

The team is made up completely of prisoners from the Wandoo Reintegration Facility. Wandoo provides a facility for minimum security prisoners aged 18 to 26 who have been identified as low risk prisoners, preparing for reintegration into the community.

Chaplain at Wandoo, Gavin Douglas approached Bentley Baptist Church Youth Pastor Brad Lewis about the possibility of the Wandoo men being connected with the church. Bentley now supplies uniforms to the team and has sent a group of their own basketball players into Wandoo to train with the men, which is set to become a regular event pending prison approval.

Wandoo recreation officer Chris Sharrant is passionate about his job and basketball. He coaches the team at their twice weekly training sessions and has even filled in for the team when short on players.

Players and staff from the Perth Wildcats also supported the team during their season with visits to Wandoo to help with skills training as well as attending games at Lakeside to encourage the team.

Bentley couple Gary and Carole Bezzant are the link between the Baptist competition and their local church. The couple coordinate the 22 teams from Bentley Baptist Church, which involves spending about

six hours at Lakeside most Saturdays, supporting the teams through the season and troubleshooting issues, such as fixturing and uniforms.

"We have teams right across the competition from the young boys and girls to the A grade groups," Carole said.

"There's also a mixed team that's more of a social team than the higher grade men or women's teams."

Wearing the distinctive black and gold uniform of the Bentley teams, the Wandoo men walk less than one kilometre from Wandoo to Lakeside each week and take to the court with the nervous energy of passionate sportsmen. There has not been one technical foul called against the team all year. These men know the referee's whistle rules on the court.

Serco's employee at the Wandoo facility James Ng sees the significant influence basketball is having on the young men in the team.

"I see their self-confidence growing, their willingness to work together is developing and there's hope. This team has made such a difference," James said.

Carole Bezzant said the Bentley Royals were invited to join the rest of the Bentley teams at their end of season celebrations.



Wandoo Recreation Officer Chris Sharrant on court at Lakeside Recreation Centre with members of the Bentley Royals basketball team.

Photo: Jill Birt

Advocate wins ARPA gold

The Advocate newspaper won the gold award for 'Best Designed Newspaper' at the 40th Anniversary conference of the Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) held in Canberra last month.

Sub-editor and primary writer of the newspaper Jill Birt won the bronze award for the 'Best News Story' for her article reporting on the Tasmanian bushfires in February 2013. She won a similar award at the 2013 Conference.

Entries for the awards and attendance at the conference came from more than 60 Christian publications across

Australia, New Zealand and parts of the Pacific Ocean region.

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the
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Baptist Churches
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Geraldton Baptist Church Celebrating 50 Years

Geraldton Baptist Church would like to invite all past and present members, along with any people who have been associated with the church in any way over the years, to join us in celebrating 50 years of service in Geraldton.

The celebration weekend will occur on the 1st & 2nd November, 2014. We welcome any stories and photos that people may like to share.

Please contact Sharon at the church office to find out more information or express interest in attending and being involved. Phone: 9921 3356

Email: admin@geraldtonbaptist.org.au

BELLEVUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Celebrating 110 years of God's faithfulness and provision

Sunday 26th October 2014

9.30am

Morning Tea followed by BYO picnic lunch from 12 noon at Whiteman Park – Shelter VW
More info: <http://bbc.asn.au>