

# the advocate

"Thank you doesn't seem to convey all that we are feeling." **JARROD MCKENNA**

## In conversation

Australian singer/songwriter Ida Maree talks to Wes Jay about her debut album *Saving Grace*. **PAGE 12>>**



Jarrold McKenna (centre), Teresa Lee and their son Tyson raised \$600,000 from the 'First Home Project' campaign for their first home which they will share with two refugee families.

## Making love practical

It took an outpour of community support and countless hours campaigning but Teresa Lee and her husband Jarrod McKenna from Westcity Church in Wembley raised \$600,000 in two weeks to secure their first home. They will share the home with their 15 year old son Tyson and two refugee families.

Teresa and Jarrod were ecstatic when their offer for their first home, with enough bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens for three families, was accepted. But when the bank rejected their loan application because of confusion around the type of property they were buying, they were unsure how they could possibly come up with funds to buy the house.

After talking with their friends, one of them came forward and offered \$5,000 saying 'we can't do what you're doing but we can give'. Another friend offered an interest free loan of \$40,000 and another extended a \$55,000 loan.

The generosity of their friends inspired the couple and on Monday 30 July they launched the 'First Home Project' – a social media campaign that invited the wider public to 'be the bank' and lend them the rest of the money.

With the campaign's message 'help make love practical', the community pledged the full \$600,000 in loans and donations, the last of the money coming in just minutes before their 12 August, 5pm deadline.

"Literally at 4:59pm the money came in! Will share more soon, but we just want to say thank you," Jarrod posted on the 'First Home Project' Facebook page.

"My close friend Josh Kelsey had a word for us several days before the deadline about 'God's

glory shines the brightest in the eleventh hour,'" Jarrod said. "When the remaining \$22,000 came in with one minute to go I texted Josh and said 'make that eleventh hour and 59th minute!' We are deeply humbled at people's trust and support of our ministry. In all honesty, I just cried."

The foundation of the campaign was a heartfelt video that featured glowing character references from World Vision CEO Tim Costello AO and prominent Catholic priest, Bob Maguire AM.

"They are an extraordinary young couple. I'm a great admirer of what they do," Tim said.

"There is nothing more practical than what Jarrod and Teresa are doing. Let us give them a hand to help others in need," Tim said.

Bob said what Teresa and Jarrod are doing is an incredible act of self-sacrifice.

"Thank you doesn't seem to convey all that we are feeling," Jarrod said. "It's not just that people have shown such amazing support of our witness in providing a

community mortgage. We are also deeply moved that people have shown powerfully they are sick of the fear and hatred when it comes to refugees and want to respond with a compassionate alternative that clearly says, 'Welcome to Australia.'"

For years Teresa, Jarrod and Tyson, have offered short to medium-term accommodation to people – the homeless, refugees, asylum seekers awaiting visas, indigenous Australians – who are struggling to access affordable housing accommodation in Perth.

Until this year, the family have rented. Teresa, a social worker, and Jarrod, who works at World Vision, thought it would be more effective if they owned their own property.

They found a run-down building that had been a former church, an Aboriginal community centre and childcare centre, in Midland, ten minutes from their current home in the outer fringes of Perth.

For more information visit [www.firsthomeproject.com.au](http://www.firsthomeproject.com.au).



## 6 Ending greed

Scott Higgins calls on Christians to take a firm stand against greed >>



## 7 Voices of Justice

Christians from across Australia are preparing for Voices for Justice 2012 >>



## 16 Aussie gold

Cate Campbell wins gold in London 2012 >>

“Generous hearts committed to building the Kingdom of God”



### Graham Mabury

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

## On freedom, life in full and liberty ...

Getting ready to present *Nightline* involves monitoring world news. While doing this, I heard and read obituaries for Helen Gurley Brown, editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine for three decades. Kate White, the current editor of the magazine spoke of her 'liberating message for women'. *The New York Times* said she gave the 'single girl a life in full'. An Australian radio interview described her as opening the way for 'a new generation of women who embraced sexual freedom'.

Writing in this publication about someone who promoted a view of sexuality that I believe to be unhelpful, destructive and in many ways deceptive is what Sir Humphrey, of *Yes Minister* fame might call 'a brave decision'. I do so, however, because of an epiphany that I experienced. While monitoring the various comments I was aware of something niggling

away at the back of my mind. After *Nightline*, driving home, it hit me.

'Freedom', 'life in full', and 'liberty' — these are the very things that Jesus promised. Not only promised, but died and rose again to secure for us. He spoke of the Kingdom of heaven as a wonderful party, and of us having a more and better life than we ever dreamed possible.

His liberty includes true 'sexual freedom' — the freedom to discover true intimacy, to be able to progressively reveal your deepest vulnerability and find acceptance and love from another human being because you are within the security of the committed, selfless giving of a vibrant healthy marriage. When it comes to God's gift of

sex, the Bible's frank honesty is challenging — the purity of its passion is inspiring.

How do your friends who have no connection to church see us — repressed, joyless legalists, or grateful, grace-filled recipients of God's extraordinary generosity, forgiveness, freedom and hope? How vital is it that they discover the church as a place of love acceptance and forgiveness? How essential that the love of God flows through us to a hurting world, especially to those whose pain was born of following false promises of 'freedom'?



### Dr Brian Harris

Dr Brian Harris is the Principal of Vose Seminary and Senior Pastor of Carey Community Baptist Church.

## Olympic glory

I'm writing this in the midst of Olympic drama. James Magnussen has missed out on Olympic gold by one hundredth of a second. Four years of gruelling preparation only to miss the target by such an insignificant fraction. What would have made the difference?

A few extra hours of training, avoiding that second helping of cheesecake, plucking his eyebrows a little more thoroughly to avoid drag in water? Who knows with such teeny margins. But make no mistake about it, that one hundredth of a second will always matter. It's the difference between forever being

an Olympic great and an almost great. After all, in trivial pursuit quizzes they ask who won gold, not who managed silver.

True, the tender-hearted around the world will be outraged at this blunt assessment and will remind me that just getting to the Olympics is a major achievement ... one that

I never managed ... though I can boast that I was one of four who represented my state as an under ten gymnast 45 years ago — remember that if you are ever asked who came second in the Natal under ten boys gymnastic competition in 1967! And, I missed out on coming first by one twentieth of a point! Forty five years later and it is still annoying.

Winning and losing. Sometimes the gap between the two is negligible, but the impact can be enormous. Coming second usually leaves a sense of disappointment, bitterness, perhaps even outrage. Coming

second means going back to the script of 'if only'. Coming second means we long for another chance.

I'm rather glad that the Christian gospel is about second chances. And strangely enough, second time around someone else runs the race for us. Which is just as well, because when it comes to the struggle against evil, we're a lot more than a hundredth of a second behind ...



### John Hickey

John Hickey is Chief Executive Officer of Baptist World Aid Australia.

## Generosity changes lives not greed

In the 1980s I was a merchant banker living in the United States helping stitch together finances for guys like Alan Bond and Christopher Skase. The culture was one of unbridled greed and it left me feeling hollow. And so began a search for meaning that led me to faith in Christ.

As I reflect on my journey since, two things stand out to me.

First, generosity changes lives. As CEO of Baptist World Aid Australia, I have exchanged boardrooms in the great financial capitals for remote villages in some of the world's poorest countries. The change I have seen has filled me with hope and joy. I remember hiking through the mountains of Nepal and meeting villager after villager who described the change in their life

as a result of the programs of our partner, HELP Nepal. Where they once were hungry, now they're well fed. Where their children once stayed out of school, now they're in school. Where medical care was once too expensive, now it is within reach.

The second thing that stands out for me is that unbridled greed hasn't gone away. Many business people and corporations act with integrity. But it is also true that the drive for profit fuels

the exploitation of people in developing countries. Many of the goods we buy, from t-shirts to refrigerators, are made in the factories of China, Bangladesh and other developing countries. All too often the people working in these factories receive poverty level pay and work in conditions that, quite frankly, would land people in jail if they occurred in Australia.

Greed also fuels a massive transfer of wealth from poor

countries to rich ones. Every year billions of dollars that should be paid in tax to developing country governments are illegally spirited out of those countries and into tax havens. And that means less money for healthcare, education and other services in poorer countries.

This is why I am committed to both generous giving and advocacy. Generosity changes lives at the grassroots, while advocacy programs are changing the systems that exploit. For more information visit [www.baptistworldaid.org.au](http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au).

## 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](mailto:editor@theadvocate.tv) by the 10th of each month.

# Dushan represents WA



Photo: Jill Birt

Dushan Jeyabalan is the new Church Relationship Coordinator for Western Australia with Baptist World Aid Australia.

Dushan Jeyabalan, Financial Consultant with Baptist Churches Western Australia, is the new Church Relationship Coordinator for Western Australia working two days a week with Baptist World Aid Australia.

"Prior to working with Baptist churches, I had a passion to help the needy and the poor," Dushan said. "There was a nomination process that I went through and I believe God gave me my heart's desire to work with Baptist World Aid."

Dushan will work alongside Robin Carter, located in South Australia, who has been working one day a week for the last five years with Baptist World Aid Australia as Church Relationship Coordinator for South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Baptist World Aid Australia saw the need to have someone based in Perth to build on the great work Robin has accomplished over the past five years.

"I met Dushan six months prior to his appointment and had already begun to discuss his voluntary support of the poor through Baptist World Aid Australia," Robin said. "Dushan and I have a passion for churches to effectively express God's heart for the poor. We have a strong working relationship that will mean our unique strengths and gifts will complement each other

to positively and better serve the churches in WA in their expression of God's heart for the poor."

Dushan's role will include meeting with pastors and other key church leaders to build their awareness of God's call to serve people living in poverty and recruit them to engage with Baptist World Aid Australia as a vehicle by which they and their church serve people living in poverty.

"Part of my role is also to foster strong relationships between Baptist World Aid Australia and Baptist churches in Western Australia, and working to help them develop a biblical response to poverty and to utilise Baptist World Aid as a partner in doing so," Dushan said. "The coordinator role also is to maintain ongoing relationships with major donors and other key supporters."

Dushan will give priority to visiting pastors and supporters, arranging and speaking in churches, thanking supporters and organising functions in WA for churches and supporters.

"The reason that I accepted this role was that I appreciate the good work that Baptist World Aid has done over many years and wanted to be a part of a team that would 'Be Love and End Poverty', Dushan said.

Robin will continue working on West Australian projects with a primary focus on Catalyst Advocacy Groups and Baptist World Aid Australia representatives preaching and running workshops in churches.

"It is a pleasure to work alongside Robin Carter," Dushan said. "He has real passion and heart for the poor."

For more information visit [www.baptistworldaid.org.au](http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au).

## New country pastor

Jeff Jackson is the new pastor at Cranbrook Frankland Baptist Church, making the move from Perth with his wife Sharon and children, Joshua, Anna, Abigail and Samuel.

"Since moving here we have been overjoyed to be part of the wonderful community we have been called to," Jeff said.

Originally from Darwin, Jeff began ministry at Charles Darwin University, before moving to Perth with his family to train for ministry at Trinity Theological College.

"Through friends, I heard about Cranbrook Frankland Baptist Church and began to cautiously investigate the possibility of ministry in the country."

"The desire within the church for the Word of God, particularly among the young adults, is very exciting for us to be a part of. We continue to pray that God will use me to equip and enable the members of the churches here to love one another and the wider community with the love that God has given us in Jesus, and that we will be able to point everyone to Him," Jeff said.

Be love.  
End poverty.

SPONSOR A CHILD.

[baptistworldaid.org.au](http://baptistworldaid.org.au)

Phone 1300 789 991



BAPTIST  
WORLD AID  
AUSTRALIA  
Be love. End poverty.



# Confronted by poverty

Karen Wilson, President of Western Australian Baptist Women, was confronted by poverty when she visited the Freeset project in Murshidabad province, India in early June.

Freeset works with women trapped by poverty in Kolkata's street trade of sexual slaves. For the past few years Western Australian women have generously supported Freeset's education and training programs, assisting women to find freedom and dignity.

In 2011 the women who attended the FRESH conference in Perth committed to help Freeset extend their work among women to the villages of Murshidabad province in an attempt to stem the flow of women being trafficked from the area to work in Kolkata's sex trade.

Karen joined a small team including an Indian woman from Freeset's team in Kolkata to visit the Murshidabad region.

"Travelling coach class on a train with hundreds of other people was an incredible experience," Karen said. "We travelled four and a half hours by train to visit the new work.

We had to jump off in the dark of night and run between tracks to make [train] connections."

"We visited a number of villages where women are trafficked from. We saw small tin roofed huts with bamboo and plastic walls that the women live in. The temperature was over 42 degrees and about 95 percent humidity. It was the most oppressive and overwhelming conditions I had ever experienced."

Freeset has purchased land in the area and plans to start businesses to employ women. They are working with a local pastor, building relationships with people who will run the new work in these provinces.

"The goal is stop the problem at the source instead of rescuing women from the bottom of the cliff. They're seeking to build fences at the top to stop them falling in the first place."

"As women are employed in businesses in villages, they



Photo: Karen Wilson

Karen Wilson was confronted by poverty when she visited the Freeset project in India in early June.

will not have to be sold into sexual slavery so they and their families can survive. It is a preventative plan and is looking like it will be extremely effective," Karen explained.

The journey was challenging and inspiring for Karen and the other Australians who visited Murshidabad.

There will be more news from Freeset at this year's FRESH

conference at Riverview Church on Friday 14 September and Saturday 15 September.

"FRESH this year will be an inspirational time," Karen said. "It will move women forward in their spiritual journey but also make them aware of something far bigger that they can be involved in."

Fresh Leadership, the Friday event, offers support,

encouragement and coaching to women in leadership roles in Perth.

"We'll be seated around tables, have a wonderful lunch, and will also have local and interstate women sharing their leadership journey."

For more information visit [www.freshconference.net](http://www.freshconference.net).

## \$10,000 balloons released in Kalgoorlie

Over \$600,000 was donated or pledged to Kalgoorlie Baptist Church's Freedom Giving Campaign. Sixty balloons were released into the church during the celebration service, Free to Celebrate, each balloon representing \$10,000 raised.

The Campaign was an initiative by the Church in an effort to eliminate the Church's debt.

"Our Freedom Giving Campaign ran for seven weeks and was a celebration of God's work in Kalgoorlie, and through Kalgoorlie Baptist Church, for

over a hundred years," said Kalgoorlie Baptist Church Senior Pastor Aashish Parmar. "Through our conversations in church, small group studies and various events, we were able to focus on the target of reducing our debt to serve God more effectively as a church."

The bulk of the money was raised during the giving day service, Free to Give, in week six of the Campaign.

"Our giving day on Sunday 17 June was a wonderful service that exemplified giving as an act of worship," Pastor Aashish Parmar said.

"The response from the church community was overwhelming as we saw over half a million dollars given. The Campaign was a team effort by the church from start to finish."

Five weeks prior to the Free to Give and Free to Celebrate

services, Kalgoorlie Baptist Church displayed a timeline of their history in the foyer of the church which was added to each week.

"As a church we see this Campaign not as the culmination of a great event but the beginning of a new era in our journey," Pastor Aashish Parmar said.

### digital church

01/08/2012

**Carols Whittaker**

[www.ragamuffinsoul.com](http://www.ragamuffinsoul.com)

"Today there will be a moment. This moment will come with no fireworks, neon sign, or flying banner, it will just show up. In this moment you will have a choice. Christ or self. In that moment Christ will be right there watching you and hoping with all He has inside of Him..."

02/08/2012

**Tim Challies**

[www.challies.com](http://www.challies.com)

"If we believe that God is so much greater than we are, so

much stronger, so much more powerful, and if we believe that God is capable of anger and wrath, then we have little choice but to fear him as a child may fear a parent."

03/08/2012

**Tyler Braun**

[www.davidsantistevan.com](http://www.davidsantistevan.com)

"Too often worship in life is only experienced for an hour on Sunday, when the band plays well. Holiness, even worse, has been abandoned as out of touch with reality and an impossibility in our culture."

08/08/2012

**Stephen McAlpine**

[www.stephenmcalpine.com](http://www.stephenmcalpine.com)

"... church plants have trained people well in the art of 'long-term, low-key, relational' ... evangelism, it's simply not going to cover enough ground quickly enough. We need high-speed, manoeuvrable, succinct, relationship-lite evangelism too ..."

### briefs

#### Baptisms

Paul Lambert, Bethany Rowe, Sue Rowe, Gasson Santos, Declan Simons, George Sinining and Sarah-Jane Turnbull were baptised at Kelmscott Baptist Church on Sunday 12 August.

#### Baptist beginnings

This year is a significant year for Baptists throughout the world. The very first Baptist church was formed 400 years ago on English soil by Thomas Helwys. Even more significant was the book that Helwys published in that year, *The Mystery of Iniquity*. It was the first appeal in English for the state to grant complete religious liberty and a copy was sent directly to

the British monarch of that day, James I. It seems that this action cost Thomas his life. The Baptist Historical Society of Western Australia will be celebrating these 400 year landmarks at a public meeting on Sunday 28 October at the Perth Baptist Church. Dr Richard Moore will present a paper on Thomas and explain why he is significant for every subsequent Baptist.

#### Birthday celebration

Congratulations to Lillian Severin who celebrated her 102nd birthday on 21 August. Mrs Severin has been a member of Baptist churches (Marracoonnda and Katanning) for more than 74 years.

# Youth choir revisited

In early August, a team from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and Maida Vale Baptist Church met up with former members of a Zambian youth choir that toured Australia in 1994. The meeting was a highlight for Ken and Lal Wright from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church who had first heard the youth choir at Fiwale Hill, Zambia in 1993.

"Their harmonies were so beautiful, we were captivated when we first heard them," Ken said. "When the choir came to Australia in 1994, Lal and I travelled with the group of 30 for six weeks across Australia."

The Zambian Baptist church arranged the choir's visit to Australia as an expression of thanks to the Australian church for working in the African nation for 25 years.

"We were very excited to meet up with the old choir members and the young people who are currently in the choir," Ken said.

On a mid-week evening, while the Australians were at Fiwale Hill, many of the 1994 travelling group gathered with current members of the choir to view a DVD of the highlights of the Australian tour.

"There was lots of laughter and happiness that night," Lal said. "This was the first time they'd seen the video – seeing the ocean for the first time, experiencing the waves, being on a national TV show, visiting McDonalds, boarding the ship from Tasmania to Melbourne."



Jackson Kayambwe (centre), a member of the 1994 choir that visited Australia, with Ken and Lal Wright.

"These were powerful memories for the choir," Ken said. "It was a most significant experience for the choir that travelled to Australia."

"Several of the [1994] tour choir brought along their spouse and children for us to meet," Ken said. "It was sad to discover that three of the travelling group have died."

The current youth choir sings with the same rhythm and soul harmonies as the earlier group, using their music to praise Jesus.

West Australian Keith Gallagher, who worked at Fiwale Hill more than 30 years ago, travelled with the 2012 Australian visitors in Zambia.

The day after the Fiwale Hill gathering, Northern Zambia Baptist Association church leaders Lydon Pensulo and Jackson Kayambwe joined Keith and the seven Australians to visit former choir member Modrick Kayambwe and his wife Peggy.

As well as visiting the well established rural churches in Zambia, the Australian team visited urban churches in Zimbabwe, and stayed with Global Interaction's teams in Malawi and Mozambique.

"It was so good to meet up with the West Aussies in the Mozambique team – the Crane family, the Beecks, Alan McGrechan and Sally Pim. They are all so energetic and working very hard," Ken said. "They're an inspiration."

# Growing a church

Rockingham Baptist Church celebrated its 40th anniversary on Sunday 5 August. Following the worship service, the congregation gathered to watch Margaret Eaves, a founding member of the Church, cut a celebratory cake.

"Margaret, along with a handful of people, had a vision to found a church that would have an ongoing influence in what has now become 'our city' of Rockingham," Rockingham Baptist Church Pastor Steve Galambosi said.

"I am reminded that each new year is built on the faith of believers who have gone before us. As a church we have a desire to be committed to an ongoing future."

The Church formally constituted as an incorporated body in August 1972. Up until that time, worshippers were meeting together in their homes.

"In those early years the Church was consecutively pastored by a number of theological students from the Baptist Theological College," Pastor Galambosi said.

South Coast Baptist College, formally Maranatha Christian College, is a ministry of Rockingham Baptist Church.

"Today our school, South Coast Baptist College continues to flourish," Pastor Galambosi said.

The Church supports the College and families in prayer, and with pastoral care.

"Rockingham Baptist Church is all about flourishing, growing, changing, healing and living in the community we are part of."

## Centenary celebration

Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church (MounthyChurch) celebrates 100 years in 2012. MounthyChurch are holding a community celebration on Sunday 28 October in gratitude for the 100 years of life, love and hope. There will be live music, a dedicated youth area, children's activities, historical and missions displays, and food, with the chapel open for reflection. This free event will be held on the church grounds. Those associated with MounthyChurch, past and present, are invited to join in the celebrations.

## Thongs needed!

Can you help us get more thongs?

The Street Chaplains give out free thongs to the girls in Northbridge and Fremantle. Their high heels come off after midnight when they become too much of a hassle to wear. It is such a good way to start a conversation with them.

(sizes 7-9)

Ring or SMS Garth Eichhorn if you can help on 0447 722 505.

Collection can be arranged. Donation details on our website:

[www.streetchaplain.com](http://www.streetchaplain.com)



**2013  
26th & 27th  
October**

For more information  
please contact:  
Garry Beeck 9827 1432  
([garrybeeck@westnet.com.au](mailto:garrybeeck@westnet.com.au))  
or Shirley Beeck 9827 1040  
([bnsbeeck@bigpond.com](mailto:bnsbeeck@bigpond.com))

**GNOWANGERUP  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Members of the present Church would like to compile a booklet comprising of memories and anecdotes from previous years. If you would like to contribute please email or phone Garry. This book will be available after the weekend of the celebration and will also include photos of the weekend.



**CENTENARY CELEBRATION**

*Please join us for this special time of celebration— mark it in your diary!*

# Ending greed in Perth

Scott Higgins, Director of Community Engagement with Baptist World Aid Australia, and author of *The End of Greed*, conducted a two hour workshop at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in July calling on Christians to take a firm stand against greed.

Scott, who was in WA conducting a week long intensive postgraduate Aid and Development Course at Vose Seminary, met with church leaders to put forward the challenge about modern day greed.

"Consumerism is the 21st century manifestation of greed," Scott said. "It is not something we do, like playing a game of football or going to the movies. We consume more than any previous generation, yet we are no happier and in a world of desperate need we are not generous."

"Consumerism exploits people in poorer countries who make the goods we buy," Scott said.

Baptist World Aid Australia Church Relationship Coordinator (WA, SA, NT) Robin Carter organised the workshop. "I really think our focus on standing against greed was an important step forward," Robin said.

"Scott's workshop got us all thinking about how modern day consumerism impacts on our relationship with God, the people around us in everyday life, justice, creation, our planet, the animals, generosity and so on."

Robin believes talking about greed in the context of our

day to day lives is important. "Australians live in one of the most affluent nations on earth."

"We are 16th [in the world] in wages and with all the government benefits such as schools, pensions, unemployment and hospitals we are among the world's most well-off people."

Robin points to consumer items such as cheap t-shirts, chocolate, coffee and electronic gadgets that are produced by people who are paid less than survival wages. "They struggle to feed their families on the minimal wages paid by some large corporations who are only interested in profits."

The workshop was attended by more than 20 church leaders who were challenged to rethink priorities.

"Scott challenged us to focus on God's Word as we begin to put into practice things that show practical love to people in need. We were especially challenged to think of how our lifestyles and shopping habits should change when people in developing countries are often exploited so we can enjoy cheap products and a comfortable lifestyle."

"We celebrate a bargain but fail to see who may have suffered to produce such a cheap product."



Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

Scott Higgins, author of *The End of Greed*, conducted a two hour workshop at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in July calling on Christians to take a firm stand against greed.

"When we read the scriptures, Old Testament prophets and Jesus and Paul's challenges about loving our neighbour as

ourselves, Christians cannot ignore poverty."

"If I claim to love God and my neighbour I would say my

response to poverty is a central issue as part of living out my faith," Robin said.

## Governor's breakfast

Mark Wilson, Director of Ministries with Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) attended The Governor's Prayer Breakfast on Friday 17 August with other BCWA executive staff members. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party of Australia the Hon. John Anderson AO was this year's speaker, celebrating 20 years of Prayer Breakfasts in Western Australia.

"The speech was fantastic and provoked us to take action," Mark said.

Mark said the two most interesting topics were 'In our search for happiness we have lost happiness' and 'Why do we not heed the warning? Because we don't want to know God'. Other topics from John's speech included, 'The United States of narcissism' and 'The elephant in the room is Jesus Christ'.

Philip Bryant, Church Health Consultant with BCWA, also attended with the Perth Wildcats.

Philip thought John's speech was excellent. "He raised issues that are deeply concerning to me and many others that I speak with however they do not get much traction in the media. He spoke of the erosion of the biblical Judeo-Christian values that have formed the basis of the values in Australian society resulting in, among other things, the family being devalued and attempts to change the meaning

of marriage. He then spoke of the elephant in the room being a rejection of God and pointed people to Jesus Christ as the only way to have a relationship with God. He called us to turn back to God's values in order to halt the erosion of societal values," said Philip.

The Governor's Prayer Breakfast is an occasion where Western Australia's leaders and the community meet for fellowship, display unity across the denominations, and express the needs and aspirations of our community.

"Being the 20th anniversary of The Governor's Prayer Breakfasts in WA, they celebrated by inviting all the past guest speakers and requested them to offer prayers to our God," Mark said. "A special mention and tribute was made to past Governors of WA and to past guest speakers on the day."

## Mega bucks at market

Woodvale Baptist Church held their annual Kids Mega Market in July which saw the community buy and sell baby and children's clothing and goods. Sales from the Market reached \$10,791.

The Kids Mega Market is a way to reach the community, provide low cost items for families, allow families to de-clutter their homes by selling good quality items and raise funds for the children's ministries at Woodvale Baptist.

"The idea was raised five years ago by our Associate Pastor's wife Lori Munn who has been involved in similar sales in the USA," Narelle Bevan, Kids Mega Market Coordinator, said. "[In the five years] the sale has expanded in terms of the number of sellers involved, the number of buyers who attend each year and the overall sales figures."

Sellers were asked to donate 15 percent of their

sales to children's ministries. However, some members of the community donated items to be sold, allowing full profits to go to children's ministries.

Goods remaining at the end of the sale were donated to charities and local ministries. "This year, Pregnancy Problem House (Michelle Macormic), Josephs Coat (Monica Jenks), Margot Wigston (refugee immunisations) and Rex Gabrielson from Girrawheen Baptist Church collected a large amount of goods that they can use in their ministries," Narelle said.

"We are hoping that Kids Mega Market will be held again next year."

# Voices for Justice in Canberra

Hundreds of Christians from across Australia will travel to Canberra this September for Micah Challenge's Voices for Justice in a bid to urge our nation's leaders to 'finishing the race' and halving global poverty by 2015.

With three years to go until the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals' 2015 target date, campaigners will seek to influence government policy and keep poverty alleviation high on the political agenda in the lead up to next year's federal election.

Malcolm Devenish from Riverton Community Baptist Church attended last year's Voices for Justice and will be flying to Canberra in September to support Micah Challenge again this year.

"As this conference is the last before the federal election we hope to be able to see as many parliamentarians as possible to get the message across of what our friends here in Western Australia require them to do to achieve the Millennium Development Goals," Malcolm said.

The four day event includes advocacy training, theological teaching, worship, prayer, lobbying, events at Parliament House, workshops, political forums, MP lobby meetings, youth program and more.

"The conference is open to anyone who wants to help the poor or help to reduce infant mortality, maternal morbidity, sanitation and anything else that impacts the poor," Malcolm said.

Since Micah Challenge has been lobbying members of parliament there has been more funding for aid by Australia.

"Each year it's amazing to see Christians from all over the country put their faith into action by making personal and financial sacrifices to come to Canberra and speak out on behalf of the world's poorest people," John Beckett, National Coordinator of Micah Challenge Australia, said.



Photo: Micah Challenge

Campaigners stand next to the toilet conveying the message 'give poverty the flush' at last year's Micah Challenge's Voices for Justice event.

"In recent years we have seen our government take some significant steps in the effort to alleviate global poverty, but there is still much to be done," John said.

One of the issues highlighted at last year's Voices for Justice was sanitation. Micah Challenge

erected a toilet on the lawn outside of Parliament House to convey the message 'give poverty the flush' to raise awareness of the 2.6 billion people in the world without access to a toilet.

For people who can't attend the conference in Canberra there are still ways to help. "What people

can do is to talk to their local member of parliament, be it state or federal," Malcolm said. "As more people hear what is happening in the developing world they will be more ready to give support, so encourage one another."

For more information visit [www.micahchallenge.org.au](http://www.micahchallenge.org.au).

## Thornlie's 40th

Ross Clifford, bible scholar and regular guest on 98.5 Sonshine FM, joined leaders and pastors at Thornlie Church of Christ at a breakfast to mark the Church's 40th anniversary in July.

"Ross is a regular guest on my radio program *Morning Café*, and he agreed to join us for a pastors and leaders breakfast," Sonshine FM Acting Content Director, Rodney Olsen said.

Ross, who had his own radio program in Sydney for approximately 13 years, frequently covers spirituality and belief during his radio appearances.

"Interestingly, I have found that when people start thinking about the bigger spiritual questions of life, the first place they often go for answers is radio," Ross said.

"What Sonshine FM is doing in Perth is an excellent way of connecting with people who are searching spirituality."

The special breakfast was an opportunity for Ross to call attention to the idea that Christians need to focus more on

reaching out to the community they find themselves in.

"He spoke about reconnecting the church and culture, exploring how we can share the gospel of Jesus Christ with today's rapidly changing society," Rodney said.

"Ross believes that Australians are on a spiritual search and Christians hold the answers to their questions – if only we can gain the opportunity to be heard."

Ross is calling on Christians to do more to find ways of reaching out with the gospel.

"Leaders and congregations need to be disturbed by the drop in numbers of people claiming a Christian faith and that should be the driving force behind us finding innovative and natural ways to connect with our communities to share the gospel."

Ross has served as Principal of Morling College and the Baptist Bible and Theological College of NSW and ACT since 1997. He is the author and co-author of more than ten books and is a former President of the Baptist Union of Australia.

His thoughts on spirituality in today's society can be heard on Wednesday mornings on 98.5 Sonshine FM.

## Como childcare centre to be built

Como Baptist Church will build a childcare centre after the City of South Perth confirmed a high demand for childcare. The centre will accommodate up to 47 children, aged from birth to three years and operate from Monday to Friday.

"Sunday School, and children, have always been a foundational ministry of Como Baptist Church," said

Pastor Jackie Smoker. "Over recent years we have been on a journey of rediscovering why God planted Como Baptist and where He would have us serve in the future."

"Our desire is to offer a quality service to families that goes well beyond the time a child spends in our care. We hope to build a strong, loving community that inspires people to say 'yes' to Jesus and His way of life. These core values will underpin all that happens at the centre."

Planning approval was received from the City of South Perth in March this year but building approval is still pending, having been delayed due to the change in approval processes.

"We are seeking suitably qualified staff, and in particular a centre manager who is willing to work closely with us in order to provide a quality service, and to be influential from the very foundation."

For more information visit [www.comobaptist.org.au](http://www.comobaptist.org.au).



'preparing people for effective Christian service'

## Enrolments Open for 2013, Semester 1

Apply by 16 Nov (full-time) and 30 Nov (part-time)  
call Registrar Gillian Kirkness on 9228 9067

[www.ttc.wa.edu.au](http://www.ttc.wa.edu.au) - 632 Newcastle Street, Leederville, Perth



# Daring to hope in spite of death's grim reality

Photo: Dogwoof

Would anyone miss you? Nobody noticed when Joyce Vincent died in her bedsit above a shopping mall in North London in 2003.

By Justine Toh

Settling in to watch *Death of a Japanese Salesman* and *Dreams of a Life* feels similar to rifling to the back of a book to see how it ends before reading it.

For we know from the outset of both documentaries, which screened at the 2012 Sydney Film

Festival, that Tomoaki Sunada and Joyce Vincent are dead. The real question is how they got that way.

In *Death of a Japanese Salesman*, it's no great mystery. Tomoaki, a recently retired salary

man, receives a grim prognosis: his abdominal cancer means he will not have much longer to live. And so Mami, his filmmaker daughter, documents the last months of his life as the practical businessman arranges his final affairs.

The death of Joyce, however, couldn't be more mysterious. *Dreams of a Life* opens with

reports of the discovery of a woman's remains in a London apartment – three years after she died.

Through interviews with friends, ex-boyfriends and colleagues, as well as dramatised re-enactments of Joyce's life, the film speculates on what led to the lonely death of the attractive, charismatic and outgoing

## Become a Qualified Counsellor

Personal growth

Help others



**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF FAMILY COUNSELLING**

*Excellence in Christian Counselling Training*

Three Year Vocational Graduate Certificate in Counselling & Family Therapy, incorporating Certificate IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma & Vocational Graduate Certificate.

VET Fee Help available

Career opportunities

Adelaide • Brisbane • Canberra • Melbourne • Perth • Sydney • Sydney Korean • Distance Education (English & Korean)



Ph: 1300 721 397 [www.aifc.com.au](http://www.aifc.com.au) [aifc.info@aifc.com.au](mailto:aifc.info@aifc.com.au)





Tomoaki's response to his ultimate deadline is to treat it as 'the last great project of my life'. He composes and then carries out items on his 'ending notes' — a cross between an informal will and a bucket list. He wants to play with his grandchildren, enjoy an abalone dinner for the last time and consult a priest. He wants to get baptised, although not to secure a last-minute ticket to paradise but because the church charges a competitive rate for funeral services. Episodes like this provoke as much gentle humour as bewilderment at Tomoaki's relentlessly organised approach to death.

But even if Tomoaki micro manages his final affairs, he isn't heartless about dying. As the end of his life draws near, he gives thanks to his doctor, to his grandchildren for bringing such joy into his life, and to his 94 year old mother for everything — he even apologises for dying before her. Tomoaki also completes his ending notes by telling his wife that he loves her, an especially moving scene given their late rediscovery of their mutual affection. It's only then that her quiet reserve gives way to a flood of tears, "If only I had known how lovely you are".

Joyce's death, on the other hand, seems to have taken her by surprise. When she was found in 2006, the television was still on and half-wrapped Christmas presents were strewn across the floor. Though the film imaginatively reassembles Joyce's life, we're left to wonder how it ended: was her death swift and painless, or did she suffer? Was she lonely? Was there time for regrets or gratitude? What happened to her?

The film doesn't deal with such questions, but indirectly gestures to them in what we learn about Joyce's life. It turns out that she tended to drift in and out of people's lives — and maybe this was why she lay undiscovered for so long.

The film reveals a life that was incomplete in many ways: relationships were left dangling, friendships cut off. Joyce had trouble trusting people, said a friend, and didn't like letting others in. And during a hospital stay Joyce apparently listed her bank manager as her next of kin — a fact that crushes Martin, her homely ex-boyfriend. "I wish she'd rung me," he says sadly.

If Joyce's lonely and unheeded death represents how you wouldn't want to die, is it possible to die well? When the question was put to theologian and ethicist Stanley Hauerwas, he said a good death was one where, "I can be happily remembered by those who have made my life possible".

This is at least partly true for Joyce, whose friends thrill at hearing her playful introduction to herself preserved in a sound recording of her voice. And it's certainly the case for Tomoaki,

who spends his last moments surrounded by his loved ones.

“ I can be happily remembered by those who have made my life possible. ”

But even the best death leaves a gaping hole, a huge tear in the fabric of family and friendship, because we simply don't know what happens to the dead. In *Death of a Japanese Salesman*, Tomoaki's young granddaughter asks 'Is it fun where you're going?' He says he can't say.

At the end of the film, Mami asks her father 'So, where are you now?' Her own voice replies for Tomoaki, repeating his previous words 'That, I can't tell you'.

And yet we can't help hoping for something better after death. This is given voice as Tomoaki's family gathers around his weakening body, still able to smile

in the midst of sadness: 'Being here together, laughing, it feels like this must be heaven'. Maybe many of us have felt a similar way at times.

But for others, the promise of a heaven that offers peace and reunion with lost loved ones is just too good to be true. Physicist Stephen Hawking, for one, dismissed heaven as a fairy story for those afraid of the dark. Presumably he would similarly reject the heaven of Christianity that not only promises the final undoing of death but the tender image of God wiping away everyone's tears.

Maybe Stephen is right, and belief in heaven simply soothes our fears before the long dark descends. And yet, the last shot of *Dreams of a Life* points to the potential of such a vision.

Carol discovered some rare footage of Joyce at a 1990 tribute concert held for Nelson Mandela. Tucked away in the corner of the frame, Joyce turns to someone behind her and smiles, her earrings gleaming as they catch the light. Reflecting on finding this brief glimpse of Joyce, Carol writes in *The Guardian* 'It was Joyce — moving and alive. I had found her. The power of the moving image hit me, the power to resurrect'.

It's a poignant moment where we see the bright and happy Joyce as she lived rather than as she died. But it falls short: she can no more be resurrected than Tomoaki brought back to life at every screening of *Death of a Japanese Salesman*. The moving image lacks that potency.

These films movingly tell stories of death without the trappings of religion, and yet it must be remembered that there are still some who dare to hope in one who holds the 'power to resurrect'.

This article was originally published by The Drum. For content on Christianity as it relates to contemporary life visit [www.publicchristianity.org](http://www.publicchristianity.org). Dr Justine Toh is a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity and an Honorary Associate of the Department of Media, Music and Cultural Studies at Macquarie University.

Londoner. While the police ruled out foul play, the burning question remains: 'Why did no one notice?'

The story so haunted filmmaker Carol Morley that she posted advertisements across Britain appealing for anyone with connections to Joyce to come forward and share their stories of her. The result is a patchwork of recollections of the beautiful, secretive woman at the centre of the tale, which makes *Dreams of a Life* part detective story, part tribute to Joyce's memory, and part rumination on modern alienation.

“ If only I had known how lovely you are. ”

At the centre of both films lies the grim reality of death. Life is so good for many of us that it's hard to confront its inevitable end. So we ignore death, or at least keep it as sanitised and out of sight as possible, or try to dull its sting with hollow platitudes. We are, on the whole, ill-prepared to face the end of our lives.

**LEAVERS Green Team**

**VOLUNTEERS needed for DUNSBOROUGH**

**LEAVERS 2012**

**Leaver's Zone dates 26th-29th of November**

**Have fun while helping the local community and supporting Leavers in WA**

**VOLUNTEERS (AGED 18+) ARE NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

- ★ Band and DJ Tents
- ★ Central Areas
- ★ Traffic
- ★ Towers / Border Patrols
- ★ Volunteer Area
- ★ Rides
- ★ Greeting Team
- ★ Entrance / Exit Gate
- ★ Site Office
- ★ Toilets
- ★ Pamper Tent
- ★ Lounge Tent
- ★ First Aid
- ★ Accommodation
- ★ Response Team

To apply & for more information visit: [www.greenteamwa.org.au](http://www.greenteamwa.org.au)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Baptist Churches WA: Michelle 6313 6300

[www.greenteamwa.org.au](http://www.greenteamwa.org.au) | [www.leaverswa.com.au](http://www.leaverswa.com.au) | [www.baptistwa.asn.au](http://www.baptistwa.asn.au) | Facebook: Leavers WA – Green Team

# Training leaders overseas

West Australian Keith Gallagher, Global Interaction Australia (GIA) Consultant, and Zambian church leader Boston Mwebela recently visited Zimbabwe Baptist churches, strengthening a collaborative move to develop rural church leaders.



Zambian Baptist pastor Boston Mwebela (centre) meets with church leaders during his recent visit to Zimbabwe.

The pastors of some of the Baptist churches in Zimbabwe have been recognising the need to train rural church leaders where churches are growing and new churches are being planted.

Zimbabweans have previously visited Zambia to meet with Boston and others who are involved in non-residential church leadership training.

"Residential Bible colleges are just not viable in very poor rural areas," Keith said. "It's good that Roger Sibindi, a key leader in

the Bulawayo area (Zimbabwe), is exploring the viability and adaptability of a non-residential program."

Since GIA staff left Zambia more than a decade ago, Boston has wrestled with the reality of continuing theological training

in a low level economy. Programs need to be sustainable with appropriate levels of equipment and facilities.

"With most external funding gone, a new form of sustainable leadership development was needed," Keith said.

Three Zimbabwean pastors who want to develop village level leadership development will be in Zambia with Boston in September to meet with people already involved in this type of leadership training.

The goal will be to develop

a relevant model of leadership training led by those working in these rural ministry locations.

The men would value people in Western Australia praying for them as this ministry develops.

Photo: Keith Gallagher

## God at work during Ramadan

Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is a month of fasting when many Muslims will neither eat nor drink anything from sunrise until sunset. It is a month of suppressing natural desires, seeking forgiveness and guidance.

Ramadan emphasises the unity and equality of Muslims before God as all Muslims are expected to fast.

A growing movement among Christians across the world is praying for Muslim people during Ramadan.

Groups like A People Loved and 30-days of Prayer produce and distribute materials to inform Christians who are praying for Muslim people.

The materials focus on large and small ethnic groups from across the Muslim world.

One prayer point is for Muslims to experience dreams and visions directing them to Jesus.

Anecdotal reports say many people throughout the Muslim world are responding.

In early August, a Muslim woman from the Middle East visited a family member who is living in an Australian city. Before leaving her home, she and her husband agreed that she would endeavour to learn more about Jesus while she was in Australia.

During the early days of Ramadan, the woman had a dream in which she was told to visit a

local church and learn from the teaching of someone called Peter.

The woman and her family member visited the church the next day and met people from the church's craft group. The craft people talked with the visitors about Jesus and gave the woman a Bible in the Farsi language.

On Sunday morning the women returned to the church and heard a guest speaker who knew nothing of the happenings during the week teach from a passage in 1 Peter. The woman responded to the teaching saying she wanted to follow Jesus.

Across the world similar encounters are taking place.

Advocates for Muslim people groups implore Christians to pray throughout the year, not only during Ramadan, for God to reveal Jesus to people.

YOUTH SERVICE  
FRI 9TH NOVEMBER  
7:30-9:00PM

GROWING UP!?

Baptist Churches  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

RIVERTON BAPTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH  
38 MODILLION ST NORTH, SHELLEY

## OPEN NIGHT

7PM, MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 2012

The Vose Seminary Open Night is a great opportunity to **explore our campus**, to **investigate course programs** and to **meet with lecturers and current students**.

If you're considering studying in 2013, this is a brilliant opportunity to see what the future may look like!

20 Hayman Road, Bentley

Visit [www.vose.edu.au](http://www.vose.edu.au) or call us today.

T: 6313 6200 F: 6313 6299



come, grow IN 2013

# Hidden church



Photo: Mike Walsh

Dirilis Kilisesi, the hidden church down a street in Izmir, Turkey.

When Perth-based mining consultant, Mike Walsh visited Izmir on the west coast of Turkey, little did he know just how hard it would be to find a Christian church.

"As I walked around the city, I was a little disappointed that I had not been able to find any churches to go to," Mike said.

Mike thought that it would be fitting to visit a church in Izmir but couldn't find one. He decided to pray. It was during his walk back to the hotel via some backstreets when things became interesting.

Bible so I decided to follow him, but he was going fast so I had to keep a good pace to keep up with him."

"He suddenly ducked into a very small building on the left side of the street where I saw a little signboard with Dirilis Kilisesi on it, which I recognised as being Turkish for church," Mike said.

"The Lord led me directly to that little church on that day, and I felt His hand on my life to look after me. Being able to go there was a gift direct from Him."

"I'd walked a couple of blocks when I noticed the man walking a few paces ahead of me was carrying a book in his right hand. I immediately knew the book with the black cover and pages edged in gold was a

Mike ventured through the tiny gate and into the building where he found about 60 people crowded in a small room. "Although the words being spoken were Turkish, it sounded like preaching."

A short while later, Mike recognised the melody of the worship song 'Mighty to Save' and then he knew he was in the right place. He had asked to find a Christian church and God had led him to one.

Mike was impressed by a sense of the Holy Spirit. "I spoke to a church member who turned out to be an American who had lived there for 15 years. He said being part of this little church was just like living in New Testament times," Mike said.

"He told me about a woman who came to the church. She was an alcoholic and had an unusable crippled arm that she supported with the other one."

"The church members prayed for her and she was instantly healed — she started singing and praising God, waving her previously crippled arm in the air."

"To say that I was thankful to the Lord for leading me to that church is a major understatement. The Lord led me directly to that little church on that day, and I felt His hand on my life to look after me. Being able to go there was a gift direct from Him," Mike said.

## Teachers needed

The Thai government has placed a huge importance on the people of Thailand improving their English as Thailand prepares to join the Asian Economic Community in 2015. English teachers Tom and Tuu Beckingham, from Thornlie Church of Christ, are assisting the people of Thailand in this mission on a voluntary basis.

"Tuu and I have been involved with teaching English on a local level in Thailand for the last seven years. Tuu initially started by teaching English at a language school run by Christian friends in Bangkok. Then when we moved to her home village, we started teaching English to children there," Tom said.

Although the Thai government is supporting English teachers moving to Thailand, funds received are barely enough to make ends meet.

"We are certain God still has great plans ..."

"A school encouraged my friends and I to lie to the government about the amount of hours we were teaching in order to receive more money, but we took a stand for what is right and said we would rather teach for free than lie. The head of the English department at that school broke down in tears," Tom said.

"There are some opportunities to earn an income, but they usually provide just enough to get by. I can attest to God's faithfulness as He has continually looked after me, my wife, and my

sons, even as we moved into a 100 percent volunteer role this year."

With the ever increasing opportunities to share the gospel through teaching English in Thailand, Tom was encouraged by leaders at Youth With A Mission (YWAM) to combine his passions for networking and teaching to help facilitate the English Teaching Network Thailand.

"We are certain God still has great plans for the gospel to be shared through the lives of English teachers. Though the government's plan may have fallen in a heap, God's has not, and for anyone that is ready to live by faith, the opportunities to use English teaching as a tool for the gospel are plentiful."

"You should get involved because you can have a part in shaping and impacting this nation. The doors may not stay open forever. If we don't seize the opportunities while they exist then we may miss our God-given chance," Tom said.

Government education officials in Thailand have indicated a need for thousands of additional English teachers to meet the 2015 deadline.

Places exist for either part-funded or volunteer staff, short-term or long-term, serving alongside Youth With A Mission workers or with other Christians.

For more information visit [www.englishteaching.ywamthai.org](http://www.englishteaching.ywamthai.org).

Challenge yourself in 2013!  
Get into medical outreach in Africa



We are looking for Doctors, Nurses, Physios and General helpers to be part of our volunteer medical teams travelling to Zimbabwe in 2013.

Trip dates: April 15th - May 6th and August 26th - September 15th 2013  
Cost: approx \$3,600 all inclusive

If you have a heart to help rural people in struggling communities & enjoy a challenge, then give this a try...

For more info contact:

Jason James: 0407996463 or [jason.james@cosmoshealth.org](mailto:jason.james@cosmoshealth.org)

Cosmos HealthCare is a Perth-based Christian international health and development organisation. We send regular short-term medical teams to support our long-term projects in Zimbabwe.



quality ♦ compassion ♦ empowerment

# A new voice of hope



Photo: Woodlands Media

Australian singer/songwriter Ida Maree loves expressing her art and faith through ballads and worship songs. The magic of Ida's debut album *Saving Grace* is not just in the wealth of experience she brings to the music and the songs that she sings, but in the way she's lived them. Wes Jay from Woodlands Media recently caught up with Ida.

**It's obvious that you have a real passion for singing and performing. When did you start?**

I began singing when I was a child. My first public performance was at the age of 14. It was a Spanish song that I sang half in English and half in Italian. And the reason that's

just popped into my memory is because I forgot the lyrics! So I kept repeating the same verse over and over again. In hindsight, it was the best thing that could have happened because I learnt what to do when something goes wrong – just smile and keep going as if it's part of the show.

**I understand that you began singing professionally while you were still at school.**

That's right. I got into a function band shortly after I started performing as a solo artist. On weekends I would go to various function centres and do the 'floor show'. That continued for several years and it gave me a good look at the music industry.

**To what extent has doing the 'floor shows' – the ballads, solo and duets – influenced what you're doing today?**

I love ballads. A beautiful melody really plays in my heart. I know it's a cliché, but a melody just speaks to me. I love up tempo songs too, but nothing beats a beautiful ballad. I've always loved

and appreciated the voice – the natural God given voice. So as I've progressed as an artist, my repertoire focuses on songs with a beautiful melody. I also adore worship songs because they are my love songs to God. They really inspire me and bring me closer to Him.

**You've worked with Daryl Braithwaite and Reba McEntire, and performed with The Stylistics in concert. After working with so many greats in the music business, why has it taken you so long to release your first project?**

I couldn't write before, because I didn't have anything to say. Now I have! God birthed these songs in me. Just as caterpillars go through a miraculous transformation to become butterflies, there's no set time for them to emerge from the chrysalis. It can take several weeks in summer, or several months in winter. My winter was a lengthy process dealing with personal doubts and insecurities, busyness, being a mum, working as a singing teacher, and finding the right producer. It wasn't easy.

I had a few health scares with my thyroid and lost my voice for five weeks. This was brought on by anxiety towards the latter stage of recording – just what one needs!

My grandfather unexpectedly passed away and my father-in-law was in the last stages of Alzheimer's. I sat by his bedside and watched him pass away. My family and I experienced challenging times with someone close to us suffering with clinical depression. God used these moments as backdrops to my songs. Every one of which I lived through, before writing or singing. So every song is a true story.

**So it's all about timing for you!**

God's timing is perfect. But your relationship with the Lord has to come first. Build that relationship when you're

young, before you start building relationships with spouses and children. Listen fervently to that still small voice, make God your priority and you cannot fail to be satisfied. And if you're going to be involved in music as a career, be prepared to sacrifice your own personal vision for God's. There was a time when I lost my passion for singing, so I stopped performing. It was like being in the desert. God showed me there's water in that desert when we use our gifts to glorify Him and worship Him. Now, He birthed a whole new thing in me.

**You said that you felt that you'd lived every song on the record. So, what songs have resonated with you most?**

For me, a song has to have a storyline so whether it's one that I've written or a song that I simply like to sing, it's got to have a message that I can connect with. So 'Butterfly' is kind of like my 'growing up' song. We all want to grow, we want to mature, but sometimes we don't always like the process. At times, there are bittersweet changes in knowing and understanding God better. And *Saving Grace* encourages people to run the race of life with purpose. It's so full of hope.

**Is that your ministry goal?**

My goal is to use my voice and my gifting for what I was created to be. For so many years I would sing and I would get paid for it and I would entertain. It was a wonderful thing to do. But later on in life I lost my passion for singing. It wasn't until I encountered not just God, but the fact that I'm singing for Him, that it took the spotlight off me. So now my passion, my desire and goal is to use my gift to glorify Him and to worship Him in song, and through that, bless and minister to others. And, encourage people that it's never too late to really find out what your purpose is.

## Saving Grace Competition

*The Advocate*, in conjunction with Crossroad Distributors is giving you an opportunity to win a copy of *Saving Grace*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

**Question:**

**At what age was Ida's first public performance?**

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

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

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

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

Saving Grace Competition  
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

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

# Do you have what it takes?



In the documentary film chronicling her journey to superstardom, performer Katy Perry advises her fans, 'believe in yourself and you can be anything'. However, if 11 seasons of *American Idol* have taught us anything, it's that self-belief is not sufficient for success.

At the beginning of each season of *Idol*, vocalists audition in front of the judges; some are dreadfully tone-deaf and off-key. Amazingly, despite their obvious lack of talent, these musically-challenged contestants truly believe they are destined for celebrity status. In fact, they are genuinely shocked when the judges candidly provide them with negative feedback before dismissing them from the set.

Certainly, at many junctures in the leadership journey, you must be supremely self-assured to press forward through adversity. But while self-confidence factors into a person's success in life, a number of other qualities come into play as well. Here are six questions to ask yourself to gauge whether or not you have what it takes to reach the pinnacle of your profession.

## 1) Does your dream align with your natural abilities?

Olympic sprinters spend countless hours learning how to accelerate out of the starting blocks and to perfect their stride. With years of practice, they're able to shave off precious fractions of a second off the time it takes them to complete a race. However, in actuality, every world class sprinter began his or her athletic career with loads of inborn ability. Absent of God-given talent, the average person, even after years of disciplined training, could not hope to keep pace with these elite runners.

## 2) Can you handle stress?

A stress fracture occurs in the body, not from a single injury, but from repeatedly putting too

much weight on a bone. In a like manner, leaders do not generally break down from an inability to handle a particularly busy stretch on the job. Rather, they crack as a result of taking on the stresses of work, day after day, without finding healthy release valves for the pressure. They let the demands of the office crowd out the joys of relationships with loved ones. Or, they allow the responsibilities of leadership prevent them from experiencing the beauty of nature or the healthfulness of exercise. Eventually, the repeated stress of work becomes too much, and they suffer a broken relationship, physical ailment, or mental illness.

## 3) Are you comfortable with risk?

I think it's unfortunate that risk-taking has taken on the connotation of gambling or recklessness. Many times inaction, rather than action, is the most dangerous path. With a doubt, failure to innovate and adjust spells certain doom in today's fast-paced world of evolving technologies.

## 4) Do you have strong people skills?

Our ability to build and maintain healthy relationships largely determines our enjoyment of life. Indeed, we usually can trace our successes and failures to our relationships. Consequently, getting along with people is virtually a precondition for effective leadership.

Leaders build business relationships in four stages. At the first level, people knowledge, understanding what others need aids a leader in building influence. In the second level, service skills — a leader's ability to attend to people's needs proactively — expand a leader's influence. At the third level of business relationships, a leader's reputation attracts customers. At this stage, a leader's track record for treating others honestly and with respect pays significant dividends.

Finally, at the fourth level, personal friendship with fellow influencers paves the way for tremendous synergies and opportunities for partnership.

## 5) Are you creative in problem solving?

A creative leader actually enjoys not knowing it all. Such a person realises that though we seldom have all the answers, we always have the ability to generate solutions to whatever difficulties we encounter. In leadership, problems are unavoidable. However, the attitude a leader brings to those problems is optional. Creative leaders search for opportunities within the obstacles they face. Instead of complaining about challenges, they welcome them as catalysts for growth.

## 6) Are you competitive?

If you always draw back when presented with a challenge, then you'll never make it to the top. To develop as an influencer, you must revel in the chance, you are your strength, as opposed to shrinking from challenges. Ideally, competition isn't about separating winners and losers, but sharpening the skills of all competitors.

Used with permission from The John Maxwell Company, [www.johnmaxwell.com](http://www.johnmaxwell.com).

## Responsibility without authority

By Steve Ingram

For the last five years we have been talking as a group of churches about the importance of balancing responsibility, authority and accountability in our leadership roles and structures. Traditionally we have been reasonably good at handing out responsibilities, a little bottlenecked when it comes to authority and fairly poor at real accountability.

Interesting research in the field of cardiac health brings us some new insights and warnings about getting this balance right.

In this field, 'job strain' is normally defined as the difference between the responsibility an individual carries and the authority they have to make decisions related to that responsibility. In other words, a lot of responsibility with very little authority to discharge that responsibility will result in high 'job strain'. This is not just an academic consideration but has significant implications for our health as a leader.

One group of experts notes: 'Considerable evidence exists linking 'job strain' to hypertension and coronary heart disease. Over the last decade, more than 40 studies on 'job strain' and heart

disease, and 20 studies on 'job strain' and heart disease risk factors have been published throughout the world providing strong evidence that 'job strain' is a risk factor for heart disease'.

Most leadership positions come with a verbal brief, and sometimes even a written brief, explaining our responsibilities. These are normally broad and nebulous with many churches joking about their 'superman' job descriptions. We are also normally informed that we are accountable to the church membership (a somewhat nebulous description that normally has no reality attached to outside of an annual written report). It is very

rare for a job description to include any reference to authority.

Some helpful questions to have answered in regard to authority would include: What decisions can I make without reference to anyone else? Which decisions can I make in collaboration with others? How much budget do I have authority to spend?

Making sure we balance these things are not just a good idea, they are essential for our health and our sustainability in leadership.

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

## Holiday in Broome!

Broome Baptist Church are leasing a one bedroom, self contained Holiday unit situated adjacent to the Baptist Church manse.

\$500 per week April – Sept;  
\$250 October – March or  
\$100 per night

For further information  
please phone  
08 9193 6135 or email  
[themckerlies@bigpond.com](mailto:themckerlies@bigpond.com)



## events calendar

### September

- 4-8 September Asia Pacific Baptist Congress, Malaysia, [www.apbf.info/Congress2012](http://www.apbf.info/Congress2012)
- 9 September Be Love Sunday, Baptist World Aid Australia, [www.baptistworldaid.org.au](http://www.baptistworldaid.org.au)
- 14-15 September FRESH women's conference, Riverview Church, [www.freshconference.net](http://www.freshconference.net)
- 18-21 September I Hear the Sound of Joy Victory Conference, [www.victoryconference.com.au](http://www.victoryconference.com.au)
- 24 September Vose Seminary Open Night, Bentley, [www.vose.edu.au](http://www.vose.edu.au)
- 29 September - 1 October Sportsfest, BCWA, [www.sportsfest.org.au](http://www.sportsfest.org.au)

### October

- 19-21 October Just Prayer, [www.globalinteraction.org.au](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au)
- 19 October Legends of the Faith, Woodvale Baptist Church, 9309 4044

- 26-27 October Global Leadership Summit 2012, Riverview Church, [www.willowcreek.org.au](http://www.willowcreek.org.au)
- 28 October Baptist Historical Society of WA Public Meeting/AGM, Perth Church, 9384 5460
- 28 October MountyChurch's 100 year community celebration, Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church, [www.mounty.org](http://www.mounty.org)

### November

- 5 and 6 November Business Conference, Vose College, [www.vose.edu.au](http://www.vose.edu.au)
- 9 November Youth Service, Riverton Baptist Community Church, [www.rivbap.org.au](http://www.rivbap.org.au)

To find your local Baptist church visit [www.baptistwa.asn.au](http://www.baptistwa.asn.au)



AGE 16  
I SAY 'YES' TO JESUS FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AGE 18  
I TAKE A SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP TO ZIMBABWE. IT CHANGES EVERYTHING.

AGE 21  
FINISH MY TEACHING DEGREE.

AGE 25  
I THINK GOD MIGHT BE CALLING ME BACK TO AFRICA... FOR A LONG TIME.

AGE 27  
I ENROL AT VOSE SEMINARY AND BEGIN A NEW JOURNEY OF LEARNING, GROWTH, EQUIPPING AND DISCOVERING JESUS IN COMMUNITY. PRETTY EXCITED...

AGE 30  
WHAT'S NEXT, LORD?

At Vose Seminary, no two stories are the same.

Vose Seminary offers certificates, diplomas, degrees, masters and doctoral studies.

[www.vose.edu.au](http://www.vose.edu.au)



come, grow

### contribute news

Do you have news that you would like to share with the rest of the West Australian church family?

Email your name, phone number and brief description to [theadvocate.tv](mailto:theadvocate.tv) by the 5th of each month.

We would like to know about:

- Baptisms
- Birth
- Deaths
- Events
- Marriages
- News about your church
- Pastoral changes
- Your views (letters to the editor)

# the advocate

**Editor:** Terry Hicks  
**Managing Editor:** Brad Entwistle  
**Sub Editor:** Jill Birt  
**Writer:** Nicole Grego  
**Production:** Nicole Grego  
**Graphic Design:** Catherine Bartlett  
**Advertising:** Bek D'Sylva  
**Distribution:** Bek D'Sylva

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

**Editorial deadline:** 5th of each month

The Advocate is published on behalf of Baptist Churches Western Australia by imageseven.

**Tel:** (08) 9221 9777

**Email:** [info@imageseven.com.au](mailto:info@imageseven.com.au)

imageseven.



Baptist Churches WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### Publishers General Disclaimer

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

browse

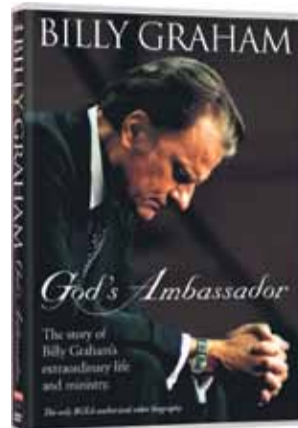


Third Millennium Ministries

www.thirdmill.org

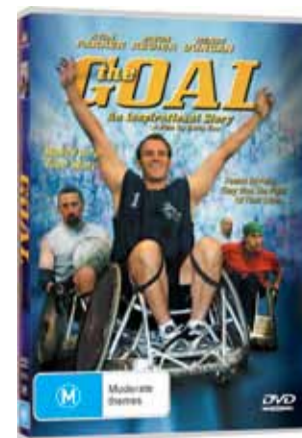
Third Millennium Ministries mission is to prepare Christian leaders to lead a transformation of the world into God's Kingdom by providing biblical education to the world for free. They are meeting this goal by publishing and globally distributing a free multilingual, multimedia, digital seminary curriculum in English, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Russian and Spanish which consists of three central elements: graphic-driven videos, printed instruction and internet resources. The video seminary includes topics such as 'Building your Theology', 'Paul's Prison Epistles' and 'The Apostles Creed'. Each topic includes a number of lessons which you can watch (download or stream), listen to or read. The videos feature teaching and insights from theologians and are presented in an easily accessible way.

watch



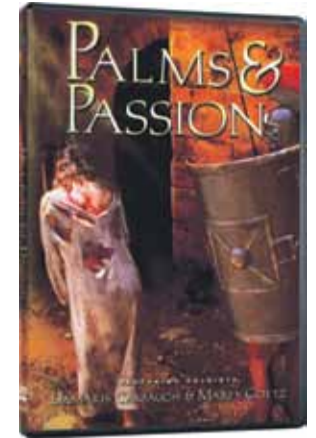
Billy Graham: God's Ambassador

Affectionately known as the 'World's Preacher' for more than 60 years, Billy Graham is one of the most influential and respected spiritual leaders of the 20th century. This documentary features rare archival footage from Dr Graham's early life, his ministry and his worldwide evangelical efforts. This documentary also features interview footage with former President George W Bush, former President George HW Bush, NBC News Anchor Brian Williams, close associates and family members.



The Goal

Based on a true story, The Goal is a compelling story of faith and the miracles God sends to us when faced with adversity. Steve and Jason are two talented and goal-oriented athletes, one on track to the Olympics and the other to professional soccer. With the help of family and God, these young men conquer the obstacles and challenges before them as they start to rebuild their lives. The sport renews their vigour and Steven and Jason start to live life again, a new life that is different, not over.



Psalms and Passion

Israel has been written about and photographed on countless occasions. Its sacred heritage has inspired hundreds of songs and hymns. Yet, never has the spirit of this modern land been captured so beautifully. Travelling through Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Jericho, Jordan River and the Valley of Armageddon, Palms and Passion combines magnificent views with favourite Christian hymns and Hebrew songs of praise. The story of Jesus and the holy land affects the world like no other, for it truly is the greatest story ever told.

win

Blessed Be Your Name

By Matt and Beth Redman



Worship is always a choice. During peaceful and pain-free times, the choice to respond to God in thanksgiving and praise may be relatively easy. But at other painful or confusing times in our lives, the choice to worship is a costly act of devotion. In the life of every worshipper there will come times when worship meets with suffering. In *Blessed Be Your Name*, Matt and Beth Redman use the words of their inspiring song to explore how to stand in the place of praise even in the face of hardship and pain. Focusing on the Psalms, many of which were written out of struggle, Matt and Beth share from their own experience and show how painful circumstances and our choices can propel us toward God or away from Him, build up our faith or break it. Learn how to ride out the storms of life saying 'Blessed be Your name, Lord' and mean it.

The Advocate in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *Blessed By Your Name*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

Who are the authors of *Blessed Be Your Name*?

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

Winners from *Amy Inspired*:  
N Lange, D Pomery

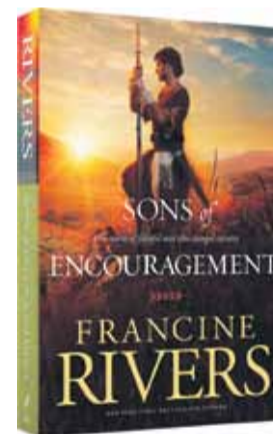
read



Pro Hart: Dying to be Heard

By David Hart

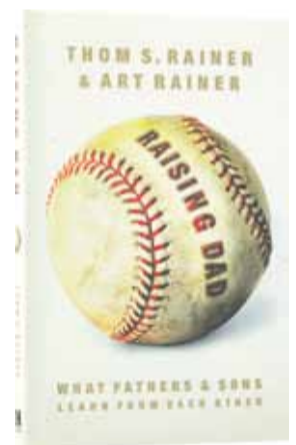
This story expresses the journey of the iconic Australian artist Pro Hart, through his adventurous, humorous life as a burgeoning culture changer. Written by his son David, *Dying to be Heard* takes us through the early days when Pro is growing in his skill as an artist whilst also working dangerous shifts underground as a miner to support his family. After 20 years of full-time mining, Pro hangs up his hard hat and steps out into life as a full-time artist.



Sons of Encouragement

By Francine Rivers

New York Times best-selling author Francine Rivers illuminates the lives of five Biblical men who stood behind the heroes of the faith and quietly changed eternity. Aaron, Caleb, Jonathan, Amos and Silas each faithfully sought after God in the shadows of His chosen leaders. They answered God's call to serve without recognition or fame. And they gave everything, knowing their reward might not come until the next life.



Raising Dad

By Thom and Art Rainer

Parents often learn as much from their children as their offspring learn from them. These poignant family lessons about faith, friendship, commitment and honesty show that Art's memories of his father's success aren't as rose-coloured from Thom's perspective. Readers of *Raising Dad* will be inspired by this work to never stop growing as a mum or dad.

competition

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

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

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

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

Blessed by your Name Competition  
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

Locations: Morley - 4 Wellington Road, phone 08 9375 3722  
Victoria Park - 359 Albany Highway, phone 08 9361 7899



# Aussie brings gold home

Cate and Bronte Campbell from Kenmore Baptist Church in Queensland made their community and country proud after competing in the London 2012 Olympics. Cate won a gold medal in the women's four by 100 metres freestyle relay on the first day of the games while Bronte made her Olympic debut swimming in the 50 metres freestyle.

The media spotlight has remained firmly focused on the pair since March this year when Cate and Bronte made national headlines at the Adelaide selection trials as Australia's first sibling Olympians in 40 years.

“To be down in the dumps with someone and then reach the highest of highs with someone is an incredible experience.”

Their dramatic first and second places in the 50 metres freestyle may have secured their places in Australia's London Olympics team, but it hasn't all been plain sailing for the girls.



Australian swimmers Cate Campbell (right) and sister Bronte made their community and country proud competing at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The path to London threw some significant challenges their way, with both girls battling glandular fever, effectively wiping out their 2010 season, made worse when it then turned into an extended period of post-viral chronic fatigue.

Cate even admitted that she would have quit the sport if not for the support of her younger sister. “She went through exactly what I went through,” Cate said.

“To be down in the dumps with someone and then reach the highest of highs with someone is an incredible experience.”

Having dug deep to secure their spots in the Australian team, it was the generosity of the girls' Kenmore Hills community which followed the Adelaide trials that gave the entire family an opportunity for a Campbell clan reunion.

More than 80 people from the area around the Campbells'

home gathered to wish the sisters well and raise money for their Olympics expenses.

Cate said one of the neighbours raised \$3,000 for the family.

Their mother Jenny described the support as ‘unbelievable and humbling’.

“We have five children, the older girls are on the team and we have a 16 year old daughter, a severely disabled 14 year old boy and a 10 year old daughter,” Jenny said.

Jenny said the family was extremely grateful for the support and friendship they had been shown, and the girls were ‘blown away’.

The show of community support enabled the whole Australian Campbell family to join relatives from South Africa and extended family living in the UK to see the girls in action, while back in Australia, their local Baptist church flew the Campbell flag to cheer them on from afar.

Photo: AP Photo/Rob Griffith

## BE EXTRAORDINARY.

Do you want your career to be about changing lives for the better? Study business at Vose College: Western Australia's newest higher education provider.

**ENROL IN A DIPLOMA OF MANAGEMENT TODAY**

[www.vosecollege.edu.au](http://www.vosecollege.edu.au)

...higher education for those who seek to live an extraordinary life.



## Share Your Will Power

Thinking about your Will?

Call **1300 789 991** or visit [baptistworldaid.org.au/](http://baptistworldaid.org.au/) requests for a copy of Baptist World Aid Australia's 'Guide to Wills and Bequests'



Share an opportunity today!

EMAIL [OFFICE@VOSE.EDU.AU](mailto:OFFICE@VOSE.EDU.AU) OR CALL (08) 6313 6200 TO FIND OUT MORE