

the advocate

"Casting vision successfully requires both emotional and logical transference."

JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>

In Conversation Jeng Juan speaks about her work with people experiencing poverty in the Philippines. **PAGE 12>>**

Photo: joshfernandes photography



Amanda McCleary, Licy Be and Kenyon Bowyer use their music talents to address depression issues in our society.

Licy Be back with hope

Perth spoken word artist Licy Be has collaborated with her friends and fellow musicians Kenyon Bowyer, Amanda McCleary and Deb Bennett to write and record a new song, 'Step up the Love', in time for World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September.

A video clip of the song will be on GodTube and YouTube by early September.

A brief version of Licy Be and Kenyon Bowyer's testimony will be shared in the first 40 seconds of the music video to provide the audience with context to the song. As a teenager Licy Be struggled with depression and thoughts of suicide. Kenyon was bullied and struggled with depression. The duo are regular attendees of C3 Church Beachway.

Having both struggled with depression, Licy Be and Kenyon decided to take their negative experiences and write a positive song to help reach out to others. The song unfolds as a

conversation between Licy Be and Kenyon. He expresses the lyrics from the perspective of someone who is struggling in life with depression and potential suicide. Licy Be raps in response to Kenyon from the perspective of someone who is observing his struggles, yet does not know how to reach out.

"The take home message behind the song and main theme is 'Stand up and give someone a hand up'," Licy Be said.

"This message is about calling others to action and empowering everyday people to reach out to their friends, family and those around them who might be in need."

The music video was filmed at Edith Cowan University campus in Mount Lawley, Western Australia. It depicts a university scene where an everyday girl (acted by Licy Be) eventually finds the courage, in a simple yet realistic way, to reach out to a guy who experiences bullying, family struggles and other issues associated with depression (acted by Kenyon) and who is on the verge of taking his life.

"We are aiming to raise awareness about the need for 'everyday people' to reach out and help those that may be struggling with depression or suicide," Licy Be said.

The version uploaded to GodTube and YouTube will direct people to several services that can help, including Beyondblue, Lifeline and TheHopeLine.

Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA) reports that each year 65,000 Australians attempt to take their own lives. Of these attempts, Australia loses

approximately 2,500 loved ones. This is a significant number when compared to the yearly average of 130,000 total deaths per year in Australia.

Nearly all suicides are preventable. This World Suicide Prevention Day, SPA is asking people to take the time to learn about suicide and think about how to get connected, help someone connect to the support services they need and influence your connections to get involved in suicide prevention initiatives.

For help right now:

- Beyondblue
1300 22 4636
- Lifeline
13 11 14
- TheHopeLine
www.thehopeline.com



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

BAPTIST CHURCHES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Mark Wilson

Mark Wilson is the Director of Ministries for Baptist Churches Western Australia.

Check your pace

Ever feel like your soul needs to catch up with your body? Years ago, social commentators declared that technology would free up our time and our lives.

We could work from home – no more commuting. We could be connected to the world almost anywhere with greater efficiency! We would no longer ‘waste time’ on tedious and repetitious tasks. They anticipated a world of greater flexibility, improved productivity, shorter work weeks, and more free time.

They were absolutely wrong! Instead, we live at higher speed, with more immediate demands upon us, and with raised expectations.

The issue, of course, is not the hand-sized piece of metal and glass that I stuff in my pocket or the tablet that goes everywhere with me. If I put them away, they have no capacity to pursue me. But here’s the question I’m grappling with: Can I slow down my pace sufficiently to once again hear God?

Higher speeds require longer slows. If we’re travelling at 150 kilometres per hour, an abrupt stop is not possible,

nor advisable. But this I know, the Holy Spirit’s voice will not compete with our noise. The richness of His Word in my life is found in seasons of soaking – not moments of shock. Our greatest creativity and peace emerge not by accident, but from connection with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Beholding Christ in the shadows is not something that we can do as we roar down the road on our way somewhere else. It requires that we slow to a crawl and peer intently. God does not stand on a street corner to wave flamboyantly as we zip past. Instead, we find Him quietly among the homeless, alongside

the elderly, sitting with the suffering, gently ministering to the afflicted.

If we want to see Him, to ‘fix our eyes on Jesus’ [Hebrews 12:2], it will take some strategic changes for some of us. In some instances those changes will relate to technology. In other cases, it is a matter of time management. In every instance, it will require us to slow down; not just so that our souls can rejoin our bodies, but so that our hearts can rejoin Christ. Check your pace.



Dr Brian Harris

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

On a daughter’s marriage ...

By the time you read this, my daughter Amy is likely to be within spitting distance of her wedding day.

My responsibility is to walk her down the aisle and conduct the ceremony. I am not sure how I will do that without becoming a tad tearful, but I’m reviewing several strategies which won’t necessarily be successful. So be it.

I’m amazed at how many clichés turn out to be true. Yes, weddings are ridiculously expensive. And yes, we anticipate not losing a daughter but gaining a son. After all, she

is marrying a Vose graduate, so he would be family even if he wasn’t. But the most insightful cliché is the oft repeated, ‘I really don’t know where the years have gone.’ I really don’t ...

Wasn’t it yesterday that I marvelled at her one tooth smile? I would hide behind my hands and suddenly reappear. I have no idea why that was funny, but it caused her to chortle endlessly. Surely it wasn’t further back than last week that she persuaded me

to buy her yet another of the My Little Pony range. And although my efforts to play Barbie dolls were at best half-hearted, did they really end 20 something years ago?

Whilst pondering, a recent conversation replayed in my head. He was speaking intently. The decision was major. Was it time to change jobs and take on something less stressful, something that would leave time for the kids? I asked him their ages. He paused a while – too long really – and then got it. “Two and four. Promotion came so quickly,” he said. “I didn’t realise it had a price tag. But how can I

earn less, now that we’re used to buying at will?”

I was surprised at how quickly and decisively I answered: “You will never regret making time for your children. But you will regret it if you don’t.” In Psalm 90:12 the psalmist prays, ‘Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.’ A prayer for 3,000 years ago – a prayer for today.



Rhidian Brook

Author of *The Aftermath*, Rhidian Brook is an award winning novelist, screenwriter and broadcaster.

Boyhood

I’ve just seen the film *Boyhood*, a film that charts the development of a boy from the age of six through to eighteen.

This coming of age movie was shot over a period of 12 years, using the same actors. We literally see the cast aging before our eyes. And in just a few hours the main character, Mason, develops from a boy to a man.

Boyhood is as much about the changing stages of parenthood as it is about growing up. I watched the film with friends who are nearly all parents – it made for an emotional evening. When Mason’s mother suddenly realised that her

son was finally leaving home it was a bit too close for comfort for most of us watching.

I recently saw my own son (just three days before his 18th birthday) off on his travels. What should have been a simple summer holiday farewell was freighted with heavier implication and intimation. His journey to life’s next stage is well and truly underway. He set off a boy and would return as a man. The moment caught me out – I knew

this day would come but I was totally blindsided by it.

I tried to pull myself together. This is all good and as it should be. He’s a man now. Let him go. Millions of people are going through the same and have been throughout time. Be grateful for the years you’ve had. But none of it was working. By the time I got home I was a wreck. His empty bedroom triggered more waves. From now on, even the mundane would be invested with reminders, no more switching off the left-on light every morning. No more grumbling at the rumble and thrum of band practice. Pretty soon we’d be taking down the posters and choosing

paint to make his room into a guest room. Stop!

Seeking solace, I turned to one of the great leaving home stories – the Prodigal Son. At first I wasn’t sure if the parallel applied. I’m not expecting my son to fall into a dissolute despond and end up eating pig swill, nor am I expecting him to return home in disgrace. But that wasn’t the point. The story of a father letting his son go and then receiving him back unconditionally, with open arms, contains true encouragement for any parent with a child about to leave home – for the love that lets them go is also the love that brings them back.

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.

Nurses making a difference

Western Australian nurses, Ann Mitchell (OAM) and Bethany McCrechan are currently establishing new orthopaedic operating theatres at Black Lion Hospital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The short-term project came about when Ann was invited by Australian Doctors for Africa (ADFA) to commission the new operating theatres at the hospital. With more than 50 years nursing experience, including several years setting up nursing procedures in hospitals in Bangladesh (Square Hospital, Dhaka) and Vietnam (Hanh Phuc Hospital, Thuan An District), as well as nursing for many years in Australia, Ann is highly qualified for the job. She expects to be in Ethiopia for six weeks.

Bethany, who celebrated her 23rd birthday while in Ethiopia, is a registered nurse working at Swan District Hospital. The hospital gave her four weeks leave to travel and work with Ann. Both women are members of Parkerville Baptist Church.

ADFA, founded by Dr Graham Forward, a Perth orthopaedic surgeon, started working in Africa in 2005, providing medical assistance and training in Ethiopia, Somaliland and Madagascar through its volunteer medical operations. The group recently funded the building of four new orthopaedic operating theatres at Black Lion Hospital.

Equipment for the new theatres was recycled from Western Australian hospitals and shipped to Ethiopia. They are fully maintained and have a two year guarantee.

It only took two weeks for Ann and Bethany to install all the equipment in the theatres and they are now beginning to train local staff.

"Bethany and I will be teaching all the staff, working alongside them and we'll also be

setting up management systems for the smooth operation of the unit," Ann said.

"It's been a bit slow at times," Bethany said.

"Last week the doctors and nurses were away doing surgery so we didn't get to work with them and of course there's the issue of language and needing translators."

Bethany has visited Malawi and Mozambique in recent years. This is her first visit to Ethiopia and her first experience working in an African hospital.

A team of volunteer doctors and nurses from Perth joined Ann and Bethany on 17 August to work with local staff as they start using the operating theatres.

The women hope to visit Dr Catherine Hamlin's Fistula Hospital during their time in

“
It only took two weeks for Ann and Bethany to install all the equipment ...
”

Ethiopia. Dr Hamlin, aged in her 90s continues to live and work in Ethiopia, helping women with specific needs following complex birth procedures.

Another highlight for Ann and Bethany of their time in Addis Ababa was visiting the Evangelical International Church for their two hour worship service.



Photo: Ann Mitchell

Bethany McCrechan and Ann Mitchell are helping commission new operating theatres at Black Lion Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST AUSTRALIA
POSITION VACANT

Regional Director Western Australia

YFC is seeking applications from committed Christians, with proven leadership skills, who feel called by God to grow His Kingdom - to lead a team and drive the vision of Youth for Christ Australia in the region of WA.

Youth for Christ is an international, non denominational movement that exists to give every young person the opportunity to encounter God and experience the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Interested individuals should contact richard.sharp@yfc.org.au to obtain an application pack.

APPLICATIONS DUE 16th SEPTEMBER 2014



Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB Australia) broadcasts every day to the Asia Pacific from far north west Australia.

Unwavering in our mission to transform individuals and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

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Helping to change lives



Photo: Rob Cain

Feiyan (7) is now walking on her own and enjoying life.

In 2011 a three year old Chinese girl, Feiyan, had never walked properly following her breech birth that caused a serious hip dislocation. She managed to move around by hopping on her knees.

Living in a remote village in the mountain regions of Yunnan Province of Southwest China, Feiyan had received little medical attention before a visiting health worker found her. She and her parents subsequently moved to the town to commence a rehabilitation program with the visiting medical team.

The rehabilitation team now works with 30 children, offering care and training six days a week. Families have sought help for children suffering from conditions similar to Feiyan's as well as cerebral palsy, autism and Asperger syndrome.

Former Claremont Baptist Church Pastor Rob Cain and his wife Janice have been working with the group running the

rehabilitation centre, Bless China International.

Until their recent return to Perth, Rob provided pastoral care for the medical teams of Bless China International. The company is known by the government and community as a Christian group.

"Today Feiyan is seven and walking on her own," Rob said.

"She was the first of many children we've been working with."

"When we started there was no-one else working with these children in our whole region of China," Rob said.

As the small medical team of two, an American Chinese woman and Chinese woman, refined their skills and methods, they began to see progress with the children they cared for and changes in

the attitudes of people in the community towards children with disability and their families.

"Our team started getting invitations from medical groups in surrounding areas to share the things they've been learning and the methods and systems they're using," Rob said.

"We don't feel we have a whole lot of answers, but when the other option is absolutely nothing, no help at all, then we're happy to share what we're learning."

The team has a desperate need for physiotherapists, occupational therapists, behaviour therapists and speech therapists.

"We'd love to talk with anyone who might be interested in joining us in China. We really need more workers, people with these therapy skills. The ability to speak Mandarin would be great, but it's not essential."

For more information about the work of Bless China International, email Rob and Janice while they are in Perth at rob.cain@blesschina.org.

Morley celebrates baptisms

Morley Baptist Church congregation has seen an influx of baptisms recently. Eleven people were baptised during two services on Sunday 10 August.

The baptisms came after Pastor John Crosby challenged the whole church some months ago to stand up and be counted.

Morley Baptist Church Board Chairman Terry Hicks said that it had been a while since the church had conducted some baptisms and that it was reaping the benefits following John's request

Mackenzie Broun, Jordan

Broun, Yury Ramos Castillo, Rachael Cooper, Evan Crute, Caileb Hombergen Crute, Eliot Hombergen Crute, Ashleigh Ludovico and Jessica Potter were baptised during the morning service in August.

A video was recorded and shown at the 5pm evening service before Isabella Hombergen Crute and her sister Amelia Hombergen Crute were baptised.

More than 300 people attended the morning service and about 70 attended the evening gathering.

Most of the people who were baptised talked briefly about their journey of faith and why they were being baptised before Pastor John Crosby baptised them. Some had made commitments to follow Jesus at an early age. Others had only recently taken that step of faith.

Each piece of music used in the morning service was significant to one of the people being baptised.

Other people from the church are planning to be baptised in the near future.



Photo: Terry Myers

Pastor John Crosby baptises Rachael Cooper at Morley Baptist Church.

digital church

14/07/2014

Mark Jonesreformation21.org

"The topic of pastors receiving calls, searching for calls, and transferring from one church to another is exceedingly complex. The Early Church addressed this issue, and made provisions against the practice of pastors carelessly and selfishly hopping from one church to another."

16/07/2014

Jenny Frankdesiringgod.org

"God is sovereign. He does not need us. He could display

His power much more neatly and efficiently without us, but that has never been the point."

16/07/2014

Mark Howellmarkhowelllive.com

"The most important contribution of a small group pastor is to be a role model."

18/07/2014

David Santistevandavidsantistevan.com

"Worship isn't about your passion on stage. It's about your passion for Jesus behind closed doors."

22/07/2014

Ron Edmondsonronedmondson.com

"It is true that you can't necessarily put a number or percentage on discipleship growth, but you can tell — over time — if it has happened or is happening."

01/08/2014

BBC News Trendingbbc.com/news/blogs-trending-28602328

"Militants have marked Christian houses with the letter 'N' in Arabic, to single them out for harsh treatment."

04/08/2014

Craig Groescheltwitter.com/craiggroeschel

"I'd rather be remembered for standing out than forgotten for blending in."

05/08/2014

Eric Dyechurchm.ag

"80 percent of first-time church guests are there because someone they know personally invited them."

10/08/2014

Mark Broadbentmarkbroadbent.org

"So the key is not to ask once,

or ask twice, but to keep asking until we receive, keep seeking until we find and keep knocking until the door is opened."

10/08/2014

Basie van Rooyenvanrooyenb.blogspot.com.au

"What we do learn about God from this verse [Genesis 2:18] and Genesis 2 in general, is His concern for His creature, the human. God cares for the fact that the human is alone. He thus acknowledges that something is lacking in His creation."

Visiting troupe inspire hope

'Triangle', a music troupe from Myanmar visited Perth from 8 to 13 August to highlight the value of music in Karen culture and raise funds for medical work among the thousands of Karen people living in refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border.

People from the Perth Karen community, including the Buddhist Po Karen people, who have migrated to Western Australia, were inspired by the visit.

Paul Henney, a leader of the Perth Karen Baptist Church that meets in the Bentley Baptist Church on Sunday afternoons, organised the visit in conjunction with Karen community representatives in Perth.

"This is a special time for us to do something together," Paul said.

"We need to work together here in Australia."

The music troupe performed at an event held at the Morley Recreation Centre on Saturday 9 August. The event ran from 9am to 11pm with cultural ceremonies early in the day followed by a free communal lunch then the concert during the evening. About 500 people, mostly from the Karen people groups living in Perth, attended the event.

Kyaw Like Thient (63) is the oldest member of the music group. A famous musician throughout Myanmar, he plays traditional instruments including the mandolin-harp and Karen drums.

"I play traditional music," he said through an interpreter.

"I'm the only one on tour to play this music. I am training other people in Myanmar, but they are not here."

The group of 13 included several singers, guitarists and

a drummer. Jena Tomas (34), a singer-songwriter, is the daughter of a famous Myanmar songwriter and performs some of her father's songs during the concert.

Along with several others in the group Jena and her husband Soe Pee Pee are Christians. Music is helping to bridge a divide in Myanmar where the government continues to place tight restrictions on the predominantly Christian Karen people.

Music is a strong element of Karen culture with musicians, poets and songwriters highly regarded in the community. One guitarist explained how this element of culture is changing with young musicians taking the tunes and rhythms of the songs performed by Kyaw Like Thient and performing them on guitar.

The group performed traditional, modern and gospel songs in traditional dress of the Po Karen and Karen people groups on Saturday.

On Sunday afternoon they attended the church service of the Perth Karen Baptist Church in Bentley where they performed several songs and reported on the situation in Myanmar and the border refugee camps.

The Australia-wide tour includes concerts in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne before the group returns to Myanmar via Singapore.



Members of the Myanmar music troupe with organisers and members from the wider Karen community in WA on the arrival of their first visit to Australia.

Photo: Jill Birt

Outback story for students

Cranbrook/Frankland River Baptist Church serves the local community in the Great Southern with a unique gift – providing high quality incursions for local schools by Christian performers.

Recently John Arbuckle from HATS Productions (History of Amazing people Through Story) told the story of John Flynn, the Christian minister who initiated and founded the Royal Flying Doctor Service, to students at several schools in the Cranbrook area.

John visited schools in Cranbrook, Frankland River, Mount Barker, Kendenup and Tambellup. He also performed at a free community presentation at the Cranbrook Sporting Club where almost 100 people, close to one third of the town's population attended.

Students heard and participated in a presentation which demonstrated how one man's faith and desire to serve others with the love of Christ changed the face of outback Australia in a way that continues to today.

Children, teachers and parents were very impressed by the high quality, interactive storytelling.

"Many people in the country have the misconception that churches are just about something on Sunday morning," Pastor Jeff Jackson from Cranbrook/Frankland River Baptist Church said.

The church pays for the presentation each year, making the incursion a gift to the

service, we are opening new avenues for sharing the gospel of Jesus."

"Sometimes it takes a little creative thinking to come up with a new way to connect to the community, but we have found the effort well worthwhile."

"God has been very good in bringing Christian performers to our attention and who are available to come out to the country," Jeff said.



John Arbuckle telling stories at one of the schools he visited recently.

Photo: John Arbuckle

Fishing trip tragedy

Tragedy struck the Burmese community in Katanning on Friday 1 August when grandmother Oo Ku Thein was washed off rocks by a king wave while fishing at Little Beach, Two Peoples Bay, 40 kilometres east of Albany.

A member of the Katanning Karen Baptist Church, Oo Ku, aged in her 40s, her husband and seven other family members and friends were on a fishing trip to the area where they had fished several times before the accident happened.

This is the first death among the Karen community of about 35 families since they arrived in Katanning several years ago. Almost all of the Karen community came to Australia as refugees. They found work at the abattoir in

Katanning and have integrated well into the local community.

Pastor Moo Kwa said the community was deeply shocked by the accidental death. Oo Ku's husband, children and grandchild are all part of the closely knit Karen community.

Pastor Eh Tee Kaw from the Myanmar Baptist Church in Bentley conducted the funeral service at Katanning Cemetery. The local funeral director worked closely with the Karen community to accommodate cultural elements to the funeral and burial process.

Art from the margins

Credo Café, a ministry of Urban Seed, gave five Melbourne CBD street artists a unique opportunity when they held Art from the Margins – Street to Street Art Exhibition recently.

The exhibition ran for ten days in Collins Street Baptist Church, Melbourne and was the result of five months of engaging with local artists. More than 200 people visited the exhibition. Visitors were able to purchase the artists' works of art.

Street to Street Coordinator Susan Frykberg explained that Urban Seed engages people in Melbourne's CBD from all walks of life – including those experiencing homelessness, addiction, mental illness or isolation – to eat, play and create together.

"We also practice getting outside of Credo Café to be in different spaces and to invite others into the Credo community," Susan said.

Early in 2014 the Credo community invited several local artists to the café to teach their

artistic skills to community members. Four artists taught people for a month with the exhibition displaying their finished projects.

Indigenous artist Morgan taught people to draw totemic animals. Line artist Robert shared the secrets of his extremely difficult and intricate line drawing method. Mark explored ways of drawing cats and Wayne focused on drawing trees.

The artists mainly produce their creative work on the streets of Melbourne at night – Morgan outside the Arts Centre; Robert outside Vodafone on Swanston Street; Mark on the pavement of Swanston Street near Flinders Lane. Wayne draws and sells beautiful cards outside Myer during the day.

Art from the Margins – Street Art Exhibition honoured the creativity and teaching skills of the street artists and the creativity of the Credo Café community.

"We believe everyone is creative because we are made in the image of God and the first thing God did was create," Susan said.

"Our practice acknowledges the acceptance of each for the other, and consequently self-acceptance, and the quiet, focused, mutual companionability that develops around the art table at Credo."



Melbourne artist Ange created this picture of a turtle for the Art from the Margins – Street to Street Art Exhibition.

Photo: Susan Frykberg

Urban Seed also offers walking tours of Melbourne. They help school students by leading interactive walks around the city and conduct creative workshops that address homelessness, addiction and community involvement. There are also walks for Christian and workplace groups for people interested in urban community that offer insights into homelessness, marginalisation and street culture.

briefs

Baptisms

Fiona Lemon and Will Redshaw were baptised at Albany Baptist Church on 25 May 2014.

Engagement

Mark Jefferies, son of Peter and Connie Jefferies of Tenterden, is engaged to Kate Chapman, daughter of Tom and Pat Chapman of Dersingham, Norfolk, UK.

New arrival

Jason and Anika Watterson, from Tenterden, welcomed the safe arrival of Levi Jacob, 4lb 6oz on 20 July 2014.

Marriage

Natalie Wilkinson and Aaron Coulson were married at their home church, Riverton Baptist Community Church, on 2 August 2014.

New Vose staff

Daniel Bonallack has been appointed a Ministry Assistant at Vose Seminary. Until this appointment Daniel has been a volunteer in the Vose Library. Lyn Cowper has also been appointed as a Ministry Assistant, focusing on reception duties and offering personal assistance to Vose Principal, Dr Brian Harris.

Evangelism workshop

Crossover Australia and Baptist Churches Western Australia are hosting a workshop with British trainer Dennis Pethers on Thursday 30 October from 9.30am to 3.00pm at Yokine Baptist Church, 50 Frape Avenue, Yokine. The workshop subject is 'Preparing and Delivering an Evangelistic Message'. Cost is \$40. For more information, phone Phil Bryant on 6313 6300.

Historical Society

A public meeting of the Baptist Historical Society Western Australia is planned for 2.30pm Sunday 14 September at South Perth Baptist Church, 2 Lawler Street, South Perth. Dr Richard Moore will present a paper titled '200 years of American Baptist Overseas Missions'. This is a good opportunity for people to meet at the recently renovated church.

World War I

The Baptist Historical Society Western Australia is seeking information about people from Baptist churches who served in World War I or supported the troops from Australia through knitting, letter writing, and packing and sending parcels to the troops. "We think there may be lots of history and memories of associated events among our church people," Society Secretary Rhoda Walker said. "Events for the centenary of the start of the War could be a catalyst to help us build a picture of the way many Baptists of that era contributed and were affected by this horrible event." For more information, phone Rhoda on 9384 5460.

Detention hope

A lady from the Christmas Island Detention Centre family camp has been engaging regularly with some followers of Jesus. In early August she and her husband sat with a camp visitor and an Iranian Christian detainee to talk and study. Switching between Persian and English they again explored what it means to be a Christian. "I felt in my spirit that this lady was to become a Christian that very afternoon," camp visitor Jack K said. "That is exactly what happened for her and her husband. Only God could have organised this time together in the way it happened."

Perth children in prayer



Photo: Ken Lee

Children work in small groups during the recent Perth Children in Prayer event at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Children from 11 Perth churches met at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church recently for the third meeting of Perth Children in Prayer. Almost 60 children aged six to sixteen attended, along with some adult volunteers and group leader Kathy Sinclair.

"There's a growing movement of Children in Prayer around the world," Kathy said.

"I've been part of gatherings in Indonesia and Sabah [Malaysia] and also attended the global gathering in New York last year."

Kathy, the Children and Families Pastor at Mount Pleasant, has a strong God inspired sense that children in Perth should be praying together.

Each of the prayer gatherings follow a similar program: time for confession of sins and asking

God for forgiveness; asking the Holy Spirit to help them hear God's heart and worship.

Soaking in Prayer is a time of silence when children lie quietly on the floor in a space on their own, listening to God's voice while some gentle music plays. After ten minutes they have the opportunity to draw pictures or write about what they sensed God was saying to them during the Soaking in Prayer time.

"There were some amazing things the children reported," Kathy said.

"A five year old girl said, 'I saw the heavenly throne and God was showing me He is a very great King', other children spoke of God encouraging them to pray for Afghanistan, Iran and the Middle East."

The program finished with the children spending an extended time praying for the things and people God had put in their hearts.

Another Perth Children in Prayer gathering is planned towards the end of the year.

For more information, email Kathy Sinclair at kathy.sinclair@mounties.org.au

Selling children for sex



Photo: Baptist World Aid

Earlier this year, Baptist World Aid Australia reported a case where an Australian man and his partner paid a woman to have their baby and then sexually abused the child. The whole community was shocked to hear about this case.

Not content with their own crimes, they sold the boy off repeatedly to paedophiles around the world. This is a horrific scenario which Australians will not tolerate.

But in Cambodia's far north the situation is very different. In the region bordering Vietnam, tolerance of this form of child abuse has become almost mainstream. Whole communities have become accustomed to the idea of 'virginity selling' for quick cash. Children as young as nine are used and then returned to their families, sometimes only to be

sold again as families become accustomed to the money.

Chab Dai Coalition Director and Founder, Helen Sworn first became aware of the issue when visiting a shelter for girls rescued from brothels.

"Ethnic Vietnamese make up only 5 percent of the Cambodian population however 65 percent of the girls we were rescuing from these brothels came from these communities," Helen said.

"We undertook a research project to find out why and were appalled to learn of the unspoken culture of virginity selling."

Research shows that in these marginalised communities, a facilitator approaches a family when girls reach puberty imploring them to sell their daughter's virginity. Parents are told that their daughters could return to them as if nothing had happened. It is reported that girls disappear for one to two weeks and then return highly traumatised. Nobody talks about the issue.

Desperate poverty was the catalyst for the communities to start selling their daughters and the practice has now become the acceptable norm. The birth of a daughter is celebrated as it is thought that girls allow for an insurance policy in that they can be sold when money is needed.

"Once we realised what was happening we had to act," Helen said.

"With funding from partners such as Baptist World Aid, we were able to start an education and prevention program in these source villages."

"We offer counselling, rehabilitation and alternative livelihood options for families at risk to end abuse and exploitation."

Child sex trafficking is a profitable business and traffickers have guns and bodyguards. The work Chab Dai does is dangerous but they are beginning to see a real difference in the region as the cycle of abuse is slowly beginning to end.

Helen and the team welcome readers' prayers for the work of Chab Dai, the safety of their staff, and for healing of the women and girls who have been abused.

For more information, phone Baptist World Aid Australia on 1300 789 991.

Quick work helps Emily

Yangebup Baptist Church mother Agnes Achan gave birth to her seventh child at Lakes Shopping Centre Coles store on 8 July.

Agnes left home feeling fine but when she arrived at the shops she started to feel unwell. She went to the toilet and quickly realised her baby was on the way.

Friend Rose Aya ran to the Coles supermarket and asked staff to call an ambulance.

Coles employee, Diane Traynor sprang into action, phoning for an ambulance and organising help to get Agnes into

the shop's staff room. A midwife who was in the store assisted at the birth of baby Emily who weighed just 2.7 kilograms.

The ambulance arrived soon after Emily was born and took Agnes and her newborn baby to hospital.

Agnes returned to the store recently with her new daughter to thank staff and the midwife for helping with the unexpected delivery.

"I was so surprised when the baby came. It was very quick and still ten days until the right time," Agnes said.

Agnes and her children arrived in Australia in 2007 from a refugee camp in Uganda. Her husband, Aldo, arrived in 2011. Emily is their third child to be born in Australia.



Photo: Jill Birt

Agnes Achan with baby Emily in their Yangebup home.





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How do we engage with the horrors of loss, destruction, brutal deaths, war and suffering we see in the world from the comfort and security of our homes in Australia?

What can we do? Pray through

Can we empathise without being crushed? Can we really help?

Conversations on social media and in coffee shops and even church foyers highlight a variety of responses. For some the brutality, death and pain is too much and they turn away from engaging.

For others their response becomes loud and angry. It could be that both responses are valid. But there are other valid responses too.

The Australian Government announced on 13 August that they would make 4,000 refugee visas available for Christians and people from minority groups, particularly those in Iraq suffering under ISIS control, to come and live in Australia – an answer to our prayers and a strong call from the Christian community, mobilised through social media, for our government to respond with compassion to this emergency situation.

As people with hope and faith in the all-powerful, true and living God we have much to offer. So, how do we pray in these situations?

Baptist Union of Australia Director of Ministries Keith Jobberns commented, "As we are confronted with the destruction and horror in Syria and the other conflicts in the Middle East it is a natural response to call out to God for relief for those innocent people whose lives are being ripped apart."

"The Psalmist in Psalm 37:4 says we should delight ourselves in the Lord and He will give us the desires of our heart."

"So I want to pray, 'Lord you know we trust you and in acknowledging your sovereignty we pray for the desires of our hearts that ... Peace would reign; Killing would cease; Families would be reunited; Communities rebuilt; Hope restored. And those who follow you would shine like lights in the darkness, helping others to experience your love. O Lord, hear our prayer.'"

Several Christian ministries working in areas from West Africa, where the Ebola virus is running riot and has killed more than 1,000 people, to the Ukraine and across the Middle East have been sending out prayer requests for followers of Jesus to use.

Following is a list *The Advocate* compiled for you to use in your family, small group or church community as a meaningful way to engage with the suffering we continue to see and hear about in the media.

Africa

- Pray for God to intervene and halt the spread of the Ebola virus.
- Pray for protection for health workers who are caring for patients.
- Pray for local populations to grasp the need for quarantine and isolation for people who are showing signs of having the virus.
- Pray for Christians to live out their faith with courage, perseverance and hope.

Middle East – Gaza, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria

- Pray that the Lord will protect and uphold our brothers and sisters in the region who are fleeing from conflicts, that even as they are surrounded by destruction and despair, they will be able to rejoice in the hope we have in Jesus Christ.
- Pray that Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants will be thwarted in their ruthless campaign in Iraq and Syria, and that order, stability and peace will be established in both countries for the good of all citizens.
- Pray for Christians in Jordan and Lebanon who are inundated with refugees fleeing Iraq and Syria. The pressure these people are facing is enormous and there is no sign of it coming to an end. Their resources are running out and they are emotionally overloaded from listening to horror stories and seeing the results of whole communities forced to flee for their lives.
- Pray for the wisdom of government leaders who have the power and resources to intervene.
- Praise God that Australia is making 4,000 visas available to Christians and people from minority groups to come to Australia.



"Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."
[Psalm 62:8]



Photo: Denis Kornilov / Shutterstock.com

h turmoil

A prayer for our times

Ukraine

- Pray for families grieving the loss of loved ones in the MH 17 air tragedy.
- Pray for safe access to the area where the plane came down so that victim's bodies and belongings can be retrieved.
- Pray for Ukrainian people impacted by the crash – for healing of memories and fears.
- Pray for peace in the region.

How else can we engage?

- Keep up with media releases.
- Give as you are able to alleviate the suffering of people. Find the groups you believe are doing great work and support them as generously as you can.
- Engage with social media to keep the plight of God's people in the public arena.
- Encourage people in your network of family and friends to look for hope in life and celebrate that God has not left our world.
- Read scripture and humbly ask God to continue to shape and nurture your life so that He can use you. Do not be afraid to tell Him how these present situations are affecting your faith and heart.

There are many things we can pray for in our fallen world and we can easily fall into the trap of focusing our pray on personal and local needs, but it is important not to forget our brothers and sisters in Christ living in other countries who endure much as they seek to follow Him daily.

Sovereign God, we worship you and acknowledge that you know all of those who suffer in your name. We remember those who are imprisoned for their faith and ask that they would join with the Apostle Paul to see that even though they remain captive, their chains have furthered the gospel, not frustrated it. May they inspire and embolden their fellow believers to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

God of all comfort, for those who are tortured both in body and mind, give them the grace to endure and to see their suffering as part of following in Christ's footsteps.

Merciful God, for those asked to pay the ultimate price; who are martyred because of their love for you, may they truly know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.

Father God, for those who are widowed and orphaned may they know the comfort that comes from your promised presence even when they walk through the valley. May they be strengthened by your Spirit, enabling them to rejoice with the psalmist as they proclaim that the Lord will not abandon them in death.

Heavenly Father, we ask that you would make us ever mindful of our brothers and sisters around the world who need us to stand with them as they suffer in your name. Teach us what it means to overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony; we pray that we would not love our lives so much as to shrink from death.

O Lord, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, who has taught us through your Son Jesus Christ that those who follow Him may be persecuted; strengthen, comfort and encourage all those who suffer harassment, violence, imprisonment and even death for being followers of Jesus. We pray for those who persecute your people; may their hearts be turned towards you through the faithful witness of those they persecute.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Photo: Mykhaylo Palinchak / Shutterstock.com

Iraq crisis

After two thousand years of Christian presence in Mosul, the provincial capital of Nineveh, the ancient historic homeland of the Assyrian nation, there are no more Christians in the city.

In late June, the violent militia of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) entered Mosul with no resistance from the Iraqi army. Within a week, crosses were removed from the top of church buildings in the city and replaced with ISIS's black flag. Since ISIS took control, all women and girls in the region have been circumcised, a tradition never practised in the Mosul region.

ISIS gave Christians an ultimatum to convert to Islam, leave the city by 12 August, pay a heavy fine or be killed. Twenty thousand Christians have left, fleeing for their lives.

A 57 year old Christian business man reported what happened at his home:

"They arrived at my house, they searched every room, they

found a New Testament in English, I was beaten and accused of being a traitor."

"I am not sure what that meant, but I knew that killing people was very easy for them and happened very fast, they had already executed hundreds of people since they arrived. It was God's mercy that they didn't kill me on the spot."

"On their way out they painted the sign 'Christian' on the door of our house – the Arabic letter 'N', an incomplete circle with a dot on the top. Next to it they wrote 'Property of the Islamic republic!'"

"On the next day, early in the morning, we left our home."

"We were not allowed to take anything with us. We left with the clothes on our back."

"They searched each one of us. They took the money, the

passports, even my medicine. I'm diabetic and have high blood pressure. They confiscated my medicine!"

"We, together with all the Christian families in the city walked for more than 50 kilometres to the nearest Kurdish town. There was no place for us to go except to a monastery – they received us."

"In one day we lost everything we possess, we turned from being owners of a house and a business to being refugees."

Christians are not the only group being targeted by ISIS. Other minority groups across Northern Iraq are receiving the same ultimatum as the militia push further north into the Kurdish regions and across the border into Syria.



Image: Public Domain

ISIS militia marked properties left by Christians fleeing from Mosul with a large Arabic letter 'N' for 'Nasrani', the Arabic word for Christian.

International teams are helping rescue up to 30,000 Yazidi people trapped by the ISIS militia, prompting USA President Barack Obama to order air strikes against the Islamic State militants. Humanitarian airdrops were delivered to the trapped people in early August.

Australia has allocated 4,000 refugee visas to Iraqis, which will

be deducted from its annual 13,700 humanitarian intake.

Christian leaders and lobbyists are calling for the Australian Government to respond with more generosity to the humanitarian crisis. They are also asking Christians to pray for those suffering and for decision makers.

briefs

FEBC volunteers killed

Four young men working as volunteers with Christian radio broadcaster Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) were recently captured and beaten to death by pro-Russian separatists in Eastern Ukraine because they were Christians. FEBC's broadcast tower in Slavyansk, in the middle of the fighting area and off air for several months, was shot down and completely destroyed. FEBC is still broadcasting in Western Ukraine, reaching millions of listeners. The group is already looking for a new location to resume broadcasting to Eastern Ukraine.

Nigeria trouble

Christian Solidarity Worldwide reports that residents of Gwoza in north-eastern Nigeria are still in hiding in nearby hills after their town was overrun by militants from the Islamist terror group Boko Haram on 6 August. The fighters dressed in military uniforms arrived in the early hours of the morning and overran the town, killing residents, burning and looting homes and buildings, after filling their trucks with food stocks for their base in the Sambisa Forest. According to survivors, over 100 residents may have lost their lives as the militants conducted door-to-door searches killing men, women and children.

Nepali constitution

As Nepal is considering a new constitution, there is concern about a proposed anti-conversion clause that may be

included. High level officials are reported to have called for a total ban on the Nepali people's right to change their religion or belief. On 30 May, while on a visit to Nepal, the Indian Bharatiya Janata Party Vice Chairman, Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, called for a total legal ban on conversions from one faith to another. On 5 June, Nepal's Social Welfare Minister Nilam KC said that conversion from one religion to another must be prohibited in Nepal. There is also pressure from some political parties to restore the Hindu monarchy.

Nuba education

Education has suffered since the recommencement of war in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan in June 2011. Before the war, 255 schools operated in the area. Now there are less than 100. None are able to provide the same level of education as they did before the war. The only other option for many students is the refugee camps in South Sudan. Families have sent their children hundreds of kilometres to Yida, home to over 70,000 refugees from South Kordofan. The only schools operating in Yida camp are elementary schools that have been started by the refugees themselves. These schools serve thousands of students under trees and in small grass huts and do not have the resources to pay their teachers well or provide textbooks. Many Nuba people are Christians.



Ministry Vacancy: Associate Pastor Up to Full-Time

Located just 400m from the Canning Bridge Train Station, Como Baptist Church strives to be a loving community, inspiring people to say 'yes' to Jesus and His way of life.

This position will include overseeing Youth, as well as other areas of ministry depending upon the person's spiritual gifting and availability.

We are seeking a theologically trained (or in training) Associate Pastor to join our existing Pastoral Team, providing support to the ongoing ministries and the potential to grow ministries into the future.

Our Youth focus includes a mentoring ministry, and active involvement in our monthly 'BBQ Sunday' all-age service.

Potential areas of ministry include evangelism, mission, leadership development and worship.

We encourage interested persons to call either of the Senior Pastors for a confidential conversation.

Enquiries can be via email
jackie.smoker@comobaptist.org.au
or by calling:
Ps Phil Smoker 0409 291 979
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Building bridges in Hanoi

The Hanoi International Fellowship (HIF) is making a significant difference in Vietnam's capital.

Pastor Jacob Bloemberg has worked in Hanoi for 17 years, but it has only been since 2012 that the church, which is made up of expatriates living and working in Vietnam, has engaged so fully with their host city and community.

HIF is part of a global movement called the Missional International Church Network (MICN), a group of dynamic churches serving a very mobile expatriate community, known as the global diaspora.

HIF is ministering to these expatriates, mobilising and equipping HIF members to be missional in ministering through the diaspora. As their people grow in understanding local culture and language, the church is able to minister beyond the diaspora and build bridges with the host society.

One way HIF is doing this is through their Love Hanoi campaign. The vision of Love Hanoi is for it to become a city-wide movement of collaboration across denominations and societal sectors for the benefit of the city. They recruit volunteers to share their time and expertise and raise funds to support initiatives such as orphanages, vocational projects, and start up ministries across the city.

"One of the challenges that I continue to struggle with is this: how can an international church transition from being a church that has come 'to' the city, to being a church that is 'in' the city, to a church that is 'for' the city, to becoming a church that collaborates 'with' the city?" Jacob said.

In partnership with Evangelical Church of Vietnam (ECVN), HIF has met with various levels of city government. Recently they met with Chief of Hanoi Police, Major General Nguyen Duc Chung. He reported favourably on the Security Police news website about the meeting.

Hanoi Security Police's office for religious affairs has asked HIF to help with an orphanage that is run by a Buddhist temple. This may sound strange, for government police to ask a church to help Buddhists, but unbeknown to them HIF has already been volunteering there for a whole year. A Brazilian nurse is onsite daily to help take care of the health and physical needs of the orphans and abandoned children.

On Palm Sunday HIF partnered with ECVN and the Hanoi Korean Church to organise an Easter celebration service at the modern Au Co Theatre. More than 700 people attended including the police chief and officials from various city government and religious affairs offices.

Last Christmas, HIF organised a concert. It took a lot of work to obtain the necessary permits but the evening was a huge success raising \$14,000 for an orphanage under the Love Hanoi banner.

Love Hanoi is becoming an 'incubator' for networks and partnerships. Partnerships not only strengthen each partner and provide synergy to accomplish the goal; they also demonstrate the unity among Christians to the community.



Hanoi International Fellowship (HIF) challenge churches to work in partnership with all walks of life in Hanoi.

Photo: John Bill / Shutterstock.com

Aid workers killed in Herat

Two expatriate women from Finland working with the Christian group International Assistance Mission (IAM) were killed in Afghanistan on 24 July. IAM reported that the women were in a car in the Shar-E-Now area of Herat when two men on a motorbike shot and killed them.

The women had been working in Afghanistan for many years and lived in Herat for several of those. They spoke Dari well and knew and respected the culture of Afghanistan.

One worker first arrived in Afghanistan in 1999 and returned a year and a half ago after a break of several years. She was helping to establish social work within IAM's mental health project in Herat.

The other woman had returned to Afghanistan a few

days earlier to work as the team leader of IAM in Herat. She first arrived in Afghanistan in 1998 and worked in Kabul and later as the Project Manager of IAM's Community Development Project in Herat. She was also supporting IAM's Business Development Services project for illiterate women.

IAM Acting Executive Director, Dr Heini Makila said the team in Afghanistan was deeply saddened by the loss of their two workers.

"We pray that the unselfish sacrifice of these two ladies would contribute in building a brighter future for the Afghans," she said.

In 2010 a team of ten IAM workers, including eye specialist Tom Little, were killed by the Taliban.

IAM continues to serve the people of Afghanistan, meeting needs and inspiring hope for ordinary Afghan people.

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

Dalwallinu Baptist Church 50th Anniversary

Dalwallinu Baptist Church
3 McNeil Street, Dalwallinu

21st September 2014
commencing at 10:00am
Service followed by lunch

All are welcome

Please RSVP by the 7th September 2014

For further details and to RSVP please contact:

Colin Cail

Phone: 9664 3012

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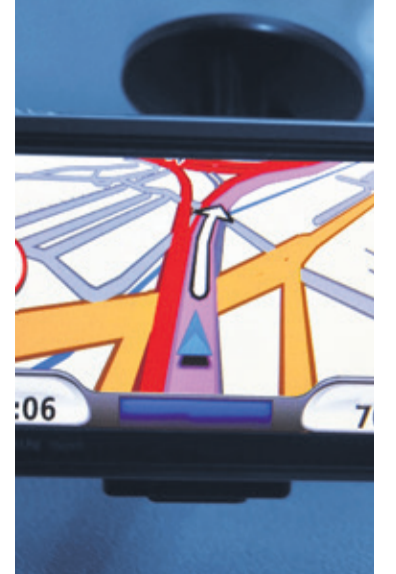
Ian Hyde

Phone: 9661 1578

iwhide@bigpond.com

To find your local Baptist church visit

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Enabling people in poverty

Jeng Juan is one of the three keynote speakers at the Fresh women's conference to be held in Perth on 12 and 13 September at Riverview Church in Burswood.

You're coming to Perth to speak at the Fresh conference. Tell us a little about yourself.

I am Virginia Juan, my friends call me Jeng. I am married to engineer Joseph Juan, and have two sons. I have been working for the poor farmers and entrepreneurs in the Philippines for more than 28 years as a development economist, advocate and implementer of social and solidarity economy (SSE) enterprises like microfinance.

What is your role with APPEND?

As APPEND [Alliance of Philippine Partners in Enterprise Development] CEO, I launched the LIFE [Living in Fellowship with Christ for Eternity] series throughout the Philippines. This is a training program with a book for microfinance staff and micro-entrepreneurs. The purpose of the LIFE program is to help people become mature in character and faith. I developed and launched the Adopt a Family Program, a global advocacy to support the formal education of one child per family and at the same time enhance the businesses of the micro-entrepreneurs. I also facilitated the setting up of Pinoy Ako, a micro-insurance company. Currently, I serve as the Board of Director of Opportunity Kauswagan Bank, the first microfinance-oriented thrift bank in the Philippines.

APPEND is also involved in changing legislation and government policies to improve basic services and availability of social and financial opportunities to the small, cottage scale and micro-entrepreneurial sectors.

What experiences and passions in your life have prepared you for the work you're now doing?

I was born in a poor family but my parents never regarded poverty as a hindrance to success. My father who graduated elementary [primary school] told me that education is a necessity and promised that he will fight for us so we won't be like him. He worked hard in two garment factories at the same time. However, in the early 90s, many factories shut down and my father lost his two jobs. Then he opened up a small junk shop, where he sold and bought all kinds of scrap materials like steel and empty bottles. Income from the junk shop barely paid our utilities. As the eldest in the family, he said

that I should continue with my schooling.

Life was hard back then, but with God's faithfulness we were able to endure the hardships. I finished college, and my masters and doctoral degrees on full financial scholarships. I supported my parents in their old age.

I worked as a socio-economics researcher for nine years among hard-working poor families, learning about the root causes of poverty in my country and some socio-economic models to address poverty.

Tell us about your journey of faith. How did you meet Jesus?

I met the Lord Jesus when I was in college through a group called REACH Ministries [Resources Employment and Community Horizons]. Most of the group were trained by Navigators [American based discipleship organisation]. My professor at university invited me to stay in her house along with five other female students. She taught us to do household chores, read the Bible, have morning devotions and memorise Bible verses. My first five months was an ordeal and I got a culture shock because I was not used to these activities.

After seven months of living with mandatory Bible study, God spoke to me through His words and He made me understand that the best life a woman could have is eternal life through Jesus Christ. I became Christian, at 1am on 2 November 1984.

When and how did you first see the impact of poverty and debt on Filipino families?

In my family I remember there were times that we needed to buy food on credit from a number of stores in our neighbourhood. Many times store owners did not want to lend to us because we still had outstanding debts.

2009 statistics show that the poverty incidence hit 26.5 percent, that's roughly 23 million people living with \$1 USD per day and over 40 million people with less than \$2 USD per day. In 2011, the Social Weather Stations, a private research group surveyed that 49 percent of our households rated themselves poor and among those who rated themselves poor, 27 percent had experienced hunger over the previous three months. The poor are mostly living in slum communities and in areas prone to landslides and flooding.

Tell us about your work with microloans. Why work with women?

APPEND is the first group of microfinance providers in the Philippines. We provide small loans, savings, micro-insurance and remittance services to poor people. People can use the microloans to capitalise their existing or start-up businesses. In the Philippines, micro-enterprising is the only decent means to survive, particularly among the poor. The loans range from \$125 to \$7,500 AUD. Repayments are paid weekly or monthly, depending on the cash flow of the borrowers.

In 2013, close to 970,000 (97 percent) of our more than 1.1 million members were women. We make most of the loans to women because they are good at managing loan responsibility. The money they receive from their micro-enterprise is used to augment the income of their husband. For other families, their microenterprise is the only source of income of their entire household. The poor are bankable and can be entrusted with loans as shown by their 97 to 98 percent repayment rate.

What hope do you see for urban and rural poor through the work you're involved in?

God loves the poor so much. With God, there is a great future for both the urban and rural poor through holistic microfinance. So far this is one of the best social solidarity and economy models. It is good in curbing poverty. Holistic microfinance only requires a seed fund and that fund is recycled many times and grows to fund more needy people. The most important component of our program is spiritual transformation, which includes gospel sharing and Bible study.

What aspects of leadership have helped you most in your role?

The aspect of 'action planning' in leadership has helped me most in my work – getting ideas from my people, crafting strategies and goals with my team and with the board, planning and putting them into action, because mere planning without execution is useless. It should be properly implemented and have accountability.

Prayer also helps me a lot. Working with the poor is not



Photo: Jovvy Color

always fun, easy and convenient. There are lots of challenges. Poverty is multi-dimensional and people are either poor spiritually, socially, politically or economically. We always pray that more Christians will join us in our battle against poverty.

What have you learnt about leadership from the people you work with?

I learnt teamwork, resilience, perseverance and confidence from my board members. They are all committed leaders and focused to our vision. They love the poor so much. Their very lives and testimonies have encouraged me to work hard for the good of our micro-entrepreneurs. My work is not easy without my board members. They have been my mentors and inspiration since I started working with APPEND.

From the community that I work with, I have learnt that a leader should continue to listen and be accountable to the needs of the people.

How do you deal with the constant pressure of the massive need all around you, all the time?

Stresses and pressures are always present in an executive job, however, I manage to organise and simplify my tasks, through prioritising, strategic planning and working systematically.

With the massive need the only way for me, and for all of us, to deal with gigantic need is to look to God and work hard. He called us to partner with Him in the ministry of caring for His special children. He alone can supply the right people to work with us to meet those needs.

Have you been to Western Australia before?

This is my first trip to Australia and I am excited to see her natural beauty and beautiful people.

The head and the heart: Leaders aim to hit both

Vision determines the direction of the team. When a leader communicates a vision clearly and contagiously, team members gain confidence because they know where they're going and why it's important to get there. Casting vision successfully requires both emotional and logical transference.

What is needed to transfer a vision emotionally?

- 1. Credibility**
A leader's actions speak louder than words. Leaders ought to go first and give the most when contributing to a vision.
- 2. Passion**
Have you ever gone through a check-out lane and had a cashier robotically recite a sales pitch asking you to sign up for the retailer's credit card? If so, you know that presentation without passion is utterly unconvincing.
- 3. Relationships**
People buy into the leader before they buy into the vision. How do you get team members to buy into you as a leader? By serving them and adding value to their lives. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

4. Timing

For a vision to connect, the timing needs to be right. The right decision at the wrong time is still the wrong decision.

5. Felt need

People are looking to link up with something bigger than themselves. Studs Terkel was right: most people have a job that's too small for their spirit. They want a sense of purpose, not just a pay cheque.

What is needed to transfer a vision logically?

1. A realistic understanding of the situation today

Some leaders cast vision for tomorrow to cover up the fact that they're not taking care of business today. As leaders, we have to confront reality. If we're not honest about our present circumstances, how can we expect people to believe our plan for the future?

2. A sound strategy

Do you have a game plan that you can articulate clearly and succinctly? Team members need to know where they are going before they can fully accept the responsibility for getting there.

3. The commitment of key performers

If you can't convince your top players of the plan, then you won't be able to gain the backing of the team.

4. Celebration of each victory

A big vision happens by reaching a number of smaller goals. When celebrating each win, recap the values and principles that led to victory. In doing so, you reinforce the behaviours needed to accomplish the overall vision.

5. Evaluation of each defeat

When the team misses a goal, it's important to acknowledge the failure and to communicate how the team can do better moving forward.

6. Time

Whereas emotional transference depends on timing, logical persuasion simply takes time. People often need to mull over an idea and wrap their minds around it before they will agree to move forward.

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Integral mission and leadership

By Sheryl Haw

At the heart of integral mission is the zeal to see the Kingdom of God reflected through the lives of believers; through the local church proclaiming the good news of Jesus and demonstrating this message in practical life changing ways that reveal just how much God loves each community.

It is the inauguration of a new humanity, a new way (God's way) of living life in all its fullness. We must ask, therefore, what does leadership look like in God's Kingdom?

We are surrounded by various models of leadership from anarchy, autocracy, oligarchy to democracy. There are various

styles of leadership. We can learn much from these and other 'secular' methods of leadership.

What is clear is that the one whom we should be modelling our leadership on is Jesus. His style was often completely opposite or so unexpected that it threatened the current leadership, it challenged the disciples who

sought positions of honour. At the core His style was one of obedience and love.

We have all too often 'Christianised' our leadership by placing a prayer and devotion at the start of a meeting, yet continue to go about business as usual throughout the rest of the meeting.

What should our leadership look like today?

1. Discernment: The willingness and capacity to seek for, to recognise and to respond to the presence, activity and direction of God in all aspects of life. This includes the major leadership decisions as well as the day-to-day personal choices. What makes Godly leadership so unique is our commitment to discerning

and doing the will of God. This requires a serious intentionality as we seek His wisdom and direction [Romans 12:2].

2. Integrity: We are called to live a life worth of our calling [1 John 2:6]. An inconsistent life equals hypocrisy which is the great barrier to people responding to the gospel. The world watches us to see if our message matches our life. We are the example and the reflection of what the new Kingdom looks like. Integrity should never be compromised – our behaviour, our speech, our motivation should always match the values we promote. Without this we lose the trust of all. Are we leading to aggrandise ourselves or are we seeking God's Kingdom to be reflected?

3. Royal priesthood of all believers: The purpose of leadership is to see the maturity of all, equipping each person to fulfil their call in every area of their lives.

Leadership is to be worked out with fear and trembling as we are called to demonstrate Jesus. What a wonderful privilege.



Sheryl Haw is the International Director of Micah Network.

browse

Not Just Words

littlewatchman.com

Do you get frustrated when you cannot quite remember a Bible verse and usual searches are proving fruitless? *Not Just Words* is a Bible search app that uses a thesaurus to help you find the verses you're looking for. Search for 'speak' and it will also find verses with 'talk', 'uttered' and other similar words. As well as being able to search for combinations of words it also automatically searches for other forms of your search words. So when you search for 'pray', it also looks for 'prays', 'praying', 'prayer', 'prayers' and 'prayed'. *Not Just Words* also allows you to restrict your search to certain books or sets of books such as the New Testament. Available in the Apple app store.



win

A Time to Plant

Ben Alex

A Time to Plant is a collection of scriptures with an inherent power to encourage and transform the lives of those who read it. Throughout the book are beautifully chosen painted colour images which correspond with the verses. Verses are based around the Biblical principle of sowing the seed of God's Word. Delightfully packaged with a gift bag and card, this lovely little book will be a blessing to the reader.



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

Question:

Who is the author of *A Time to Plant*?

Entries close on Thursday 18 September and all winners will be announced in the October edition of *The Advocate*.

The winners from the *Mercy Triumphs: Lessons from James* competition: C Cobussen, R Friend and A Hoggett

competition

Answer: _____

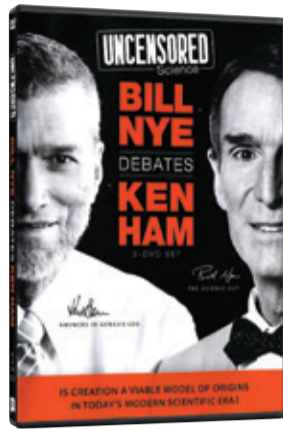
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Please complete this form with your details and post it to:

A Time to Plant Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

watch



Uncensored Science: Bill Nye debates Ken Ham

Leading creation apologist and bestselling Christian author Ken Ham is joined at the Creation Museum by popular television personality and evolution apologist Bill Nye. Ken, a former science instructor who immigrated to the USA from Australia over 25 years ago, is joined by Bill 'The Science Guy' for this first and only scheduled debate. Presented in a packed 900 seat auditorium, this event sold out in the first two minutes of online ticketing.



Abel's Field

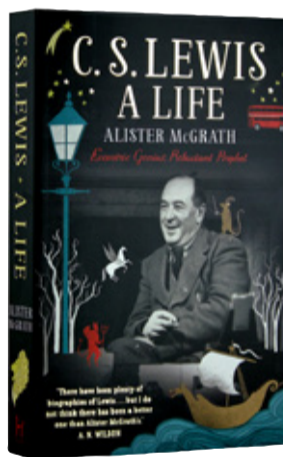
Tragically left motherless and abandoned by his father, high school senior Seth McArdle (Samuel Davis) has been put under enormous pressure to support his little sisters. At school, he endures the daily bullying of the football team. When he fights back, he is singled out for punishment, assigned to an after-school work duty under the supervision of a reserved groundskeeper, Abel (Kevin Sorbo). Much to his surprise, Seth discovers that Abel may be the only one who truly understands his struggles.



Unstoppable

In this powerful visual journal, Kirk Cameron takes viewers on a personal, moving, and hope-filled journey to better understand the biggest doubt raising question in faith: "Where is God during times of tragedy and suffering?" Going back to the beginning; Kirk investigates the origins of good and evil and how they impact our lives ... and our eternities. A 13 minute behind the scenes feature and Warren Barfield's *The Time is Now* music video are also included, as well as other special features.

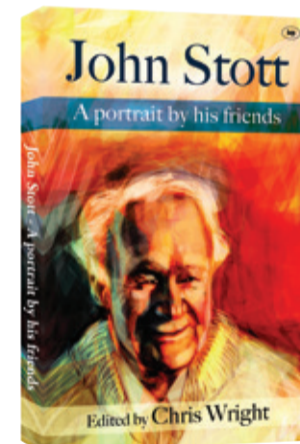
read



C S Lewis – A Life: Eccentric genius, reluctant prophet

Alister McGrath

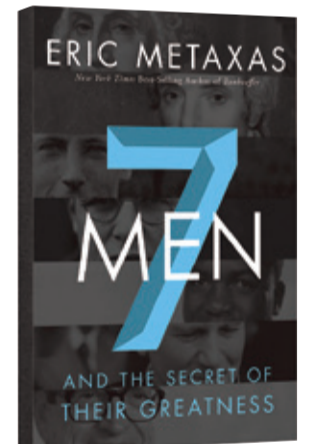
The recent Narnia films have inspired a resurgence of interest in C S Lewis, the Oxford academic, popular theologian and, most famously, creator of the world of Narnia. This authoritative new biography, published to mark the 50th anniversary of Lewis's death, sets out to introduce him to a new generation. Accessible and engaging, this new biography will appeal to fans of the films, readers of Lewis and of theologian and apologist Alister McGrath himself.



John Stott: A portrait by his friends

Christopher JH Wright

Thirty-five of John Stott's friends open their hearts and share memories of a unique man, creating an 'art gallery' of very personal portraits by friends and colleagues from around the globe. From 'Wumby Dumbly', the special uncle and godfather, to the Reverend Dr John Stott, international Christian statesman, this tribute contains a rich bank of memories, representing a key period in British evangelicalism. Many brush strokes, one portrait.



Seven Men: And the secret of their greatness

Eric Metaxas

Written in an engaging style, *Seven Men* addresses what it means (or should mean) to be a man today, at a time when media and popular culture present images of masculinity that are not the picture presented in scripture and historic civil life. Each of the seven men profiled – George Washington, William Wilberforce, Eric Liddell, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Jackie Robinson, John Paul II, and Charles Colson – call the reader to a more elevated lifestyle.

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.

Emmanuel Christian Community School

Kindergarten to Year 7
www.eccs.wa.edu.au



Emmanuel Christian Community School was established in 1982 as a ministry of the Girrawheen Baptist Church. Its vision is 'Through the teaching of God's Word we will bring people to Christ and help them to grow in Him.'

Banding together

City slickers hit the sticks



Photo: Phil Gabrielson

Allyra White and Sian Gabrielson with their idea to help TEAR Australia.

By Sian Gabrielson (Year 5)

In Term 1, Steve McKinnon came and spoke to Year 5 students at Emmanuel Christian Community School about TEAR Australia, an organisation that helps communities around the world. He told the class how life is for them, and how blessed we are to have clean water, fresh food and shelter.

Allyra White came up with an idea to raise money for TEAR – making loom bands to sell to students in the school. She had made about 20 when I asked her if she needed help. After two weeks of hard work together, around 180 bracelets were created.

With our teacher, Mr Pirie, a special day was organised where students were allowed to buy and wear loom band bracelets. Wearing loom band bracelets is normally against school rules so children were happy to support this special day.

When Loom Band Day arrived, tables were set up in the school's undercover area. People started arriving at the loom band stall before they were even allowed to be sold. A mixture of boys and girls from Years 1 to 7 bought the bands, around 170 of them for \$1 per band.

The Year 5 class also brought in spare change for TEAR and, together with the loom band money, a total of \$300 was raised. With the money raised, some chickens, clean water and a toilet were bought. It's good to know that creative ideas and hard work can help families in poorer communities.

By Sam Pavkovic
(Year 7)

In Term 2 the Year 7 boys and their teacher, Mr Gabrielson, were invited by Mr Doug Fitch to a farm in Bruce Rock. They stayed there for two nights, doing different activities arranged by Mr Fitch and his wife. The boys were very excited when they left for Bruce Rock in early June.

On arrival, they settled into their 'new' home, a massive shearing shed. Some boys were worried that they would not last because there were no 'creature' comforts and a strict ban on technology. Whilst settling in, the boys also found out that the toilet was a 'seat' above a hole in the ground.

During their three day stay, the boys searched for yabbies, spotlighted for kangaroos, shot a rifle and created the biggest bonfire they had ever



Photo: Phil Gabrielson

The Bruce Rock sun sets on the boys from 'the burbs'.

seen. They also learnt about modern farming where tractors are controlled by satellite and 'roughed it' by cooking meals over a fire, collecting firewood every morning and sleeping on the shearing shed floorboards.

The lads also mixed with the local youth from Narembeen and played soccer and Aussie Rules on gravel tracks.

Overall it was a fun and educational experience learning

about life on the farm, the value of hard work and just how amazing God is. On the way home, the boys realised they had lasted camp without technology and had grown an appreciation for their life at home, especially the bed they would soon be sleeping in.

It's all a masquerade

By Denisia Cojocarescu (Year 6)

Wednesday 2 April was the day Year 6 and 7 had been waiting for – Masquerade, a '5-star' restaurant experience. Students were asked to dress formally and most importantly, wear a mask.

When the day arrived, it started normally, except that girls wore make-up and their hair was fancy before arriving at school.

Finally, 11:30am arrived and it was time to 'mask' up. At midday, patrons were ushered into a beautifully decorated room where names were marked off, customers were shown to seats and strict etiquette rules were given. Then the five course menu was read.

Meals were carefully presented and full of taste, even the controversial escargot. As the five course

meal continued, official photos were taken and awards were presented for best dressed, finest etiquette and good conversation.

Suddenly, loud dance music played and a man barged into the restaurant! He told patrons to take off their masks and dance, basically causing chaos. He was the guest speaker, Dr Dougalian Stevanovich and the owner of Masquerade was furious with him!

Dr Stevanovich spoke about people who pretend they are good, wearing 'masks' to cover who they really are, fallen human beings who Jesus died for on the cross.



Photo: Phil Gabrielson

Denisia Cojocarescu and Cien Makeui taste the high life at Masquerade.

After some final Easter refreshments, the day had ended. Masquerade was an entertaining and informative

experience and one message was clear – we do not need 'masks', we need Jesus.

SPARC inspires artists

More than 230 creative artists from across Australia met at the third Australia-wide SPARC Creative Conference in Sydney in early August.

SPARC, an initiative of Christian Media Australia (CMA), is a cultural movement that seeks to mobilise a body of Christians who are artists and creative to be intentional and transformative in influencing culture.

Musicians, poets, filmmakers, artists and musicians learnt and collaborated together during the two-day event in The Scots Church, enjoying the synergistic energy of their combined creativity.

A highlight of the conference was a collaborative installation where a group of artists each interpreted a line of text from a prayer written by Sir Francis Drake.

"The gallery of works they produced was inspiring and challenging," conference organiser Vickie Reddy said.

Guest speakers included author Ian Morgan Cron from the USA, Paul Nevison from Sydney and Jarrod McKenna from Perth, as well as Mark Reddy from CMA.

Exodus 28:2-3 was the catalyst for the theme of the conference, 'For Glory and Beauty', where high value for the community and God's Kingdom is placed on the work of gifted artisans.

"Our dream is about creating a chord of influence," Vickie said.

"The simplest definition of a musical chord is three or more notes played at the same time. SPARC's chord is Spirituality, Arts and Culture."

During his talk, Ian Morgan Cron reminded people that their story is a dimension of God's grace that will never be revealed unless they tell it.

Several artists performed at the conference including Kanakawa Nagarra (Olive) Knight from Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia, who sang and played 'the blues' with musician Jeff Crabtree.

"The SPARC conference met more than my expectations, I went away thrilled from this gathering of Christians in the creative industry. There is certainly a real place in the world for Christian arts, influencing the world and being in the world and at the same time being not of it," Kanakawa Nagarra (Olive) Knight said.

SPARC expects to hold a meeting in Perth for local creative artists in October.



Kanakawa Nagarra Knight (Olive) playing some blues with Jeff Crabtree at the SPARC Creative Conference.

Photo: Zon Shih and team



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