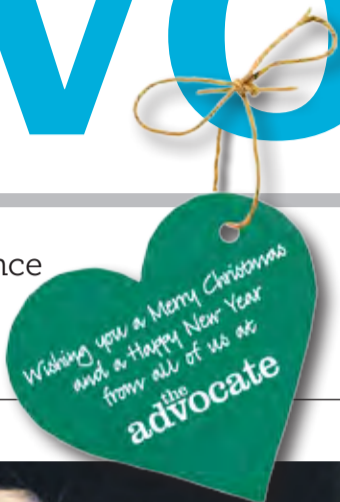


the advocate

"Leadership is not about how far we advance ourselves but how far we advance others."
JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>



In Conversation Harpist Eduard Klassen speaks about his ministry with Reach Beyond and how he became involved with the broadcasting group. **PAGE 12>>**

Photo: Mount Pleasant Baptist Church



2015 Western Australian Senior Australian of the Year, Pastor Graham Mabury OAM with his wife, Merle.

Senior year for Mabury

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Pastor Graham Mabury OAM has been announced as Western Australian Senior of the Year for 2015.

The award was presented at the Australia Day Council of Western Australia's WA Australian of the Year Awards ceremony at Government House in Perth on 15 November.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Senior Pastor Nick Scott accepted the award on behalf of Graham, who was visiting family in the USA with wife Merle.

A speech prepared by Graham was read by Nick at the event which was attended by the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Mrs Kerry Sanderson AO.

Graham and the other Western Australia award winners will join recipients from the other states and territories as finalists for the national awards to be announced on 25 January 2015 in Canberra.

Graham was nominated for the 2015 Western Australian Senior Australian of the Year award for his work as a radio presenter and social justice leader in the Western Australian community.

For 33 years, Graham hosted 6PR's popular *Nightline* radio program, relinquishing his microphone and public voice earlier this year. For decades he

was a light and hope in the dark hours for hundreds of thousands of radio listeners across Perth. His work required far more than the hours he was presenting the *Nightline* program.

The citation for the 2015 WA Senior Australian of the Year award reads 'He went well beyond the call of duty to provide companionship and compassion, entertainment and encouragement for people from all walks of life.'

'In 1986, Graham established Lifeline WA in response to community need for counselling services. From humble beginnings with just a couple of off-air counsellors in the 6PR building, Lifeline has since evolved into a 24 hour counselling and support service which reaches out to thousands of people in need.'

'A pastor with Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and patron of many charities, Graham is an advocate for social justice, helping the homeless, mentally ill and the lonely. Graham has worked with homeless young people, designed and implemented youth rehabilitation programs, directed major musical productions and charity fundraisers and has received many awards for his outstanding public service.'

"We're very proud to have Graham as part of our team at Mount Pleasant. This honour is a fitting response to the way he has served the community," Nick said.

2015 will be a busy year for Graham as he advocates for seniors around the state on a range of issues from homelessness to health and volunteering.



7 Medical hope
 A new medical ship allows YWAM to continue their lifesaving work in PNG >>



10 Challenging G20
 Advocates dress up to highlight tax dodging in the G20 lead up >>



15 School Scoop
 Bethel Christian School students write for *The Advocate* >>

“Living lives that are fully dependent on God in obedience to Christ and the Bible.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES
 WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Mark Wilson

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

Humility of God

'What we are in fact celebrating is the awe-inspiring humility of God, and no amount of familiarity with the trappings of Christmas should ever blind us to its quiet but explosive significance.' JB Phillips

Christmas pageants, plays and parades catch our eye. Strings of lights adorn homes and trees. Decorations, displays, giftwrapped packages and family gatherings give a festive feel to the season. Radio, television, and print media help turn December into one long celebration and spending spree. But the Advent story is steeped in obscurity and humility.

Mary and Joseph are certainly not celebrities, nor is their home town Nazareth a popular tourist

attraction. Jesus Himself takes on the form of mortal humanity, and the most vulnerable form at that, a baby. No parades, no festivities, no spending, no crowds. Except for a few shepherds one night, Jesus arrives without recognition or accolade. Humility personified.

We might be tempted to minimise the manger. But it expresses something foundational not only to the life of Christ but to our lives too. Advent throws down the gauntlet to us. Will we 'empty ourselves' as Jesus

did? Can we also be examples of that Bethlehem birth? Not just once a year, but every day.

Obscurity and humility rankles most of us. Who wants to be unknown and lowly? Who is willing to slip in under the radar in life, and stay there? Few people have a heart for anonymity, vulnerability, or authentic humility. Yet the birth of Christ confronts our self-importance.

Christmas humility sounds decidedly 'Grinch-like'. Might this kill our enjoyment? Just the

opposite. 'God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble.' [James 4:6] Advent humility calls us to selflessness, obedience and surrender. Herod, the most powerful and renowned human figure in the story is also the most treacherous and infamous. May this Advent become a season of greater grace and humility for each of us.

“ Who wants to be unknown and lowly? ”



Dr Brian Harris

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

Coming home for Christmas?

I don't know what images the word 'Christmas' conjures up for you. Overspending, overeating and over entertaining are real possibilities. There is something about Christmas that encourages us to go a little over the top. And that is probably how it should be. After all, life would be a tad drab if we always held back and only ever allowed carefully rationed slithers of love to be shown to the people who really matter to us.

So what is Christmas about?

Some say it's a time to celebrate the people who make a difference in our lives. Yes – it can be vexing to try and decide what to give to an elderly aunt who already has too much, or to a relative for whom nothing will ever be enough. But it is right to want to give, and Christmas is a time of giving.

For others it is about the parties and people gatherings. It is the delight of family coming home for Christmas. Not that every family gathering runs smoothly and sometimes old resentments bubble to the surface. A fair few heave a sigh of relief when it is over and are grateful that it's a once a year event.

Of course if you have young children, Christmas takes a magical turn. Nothing like the excited delight of a four year old to lift your spirits and remind you that life is exciting and good. Indeed, that's what many people conclude. Christmas – it's really for the kids, and finding excuses to spoil them.

And Christmas is for children ... or more accurately, it is for **the** child. Born over 2,000 years ago, it is wise to take time each Christmas to remember the difference that the birth of Jesus has made to millions and millions of people. Perhaps you are one of them. If not – could it be that this Christmas, that could change for you? That would be a real coming home for Christmas ...



Melinda Tankard-Reist

Melinda Tankard-Reist is an author and speaker. Her books include *Big Porn Inc.*

We can no longer walk past

You go to the petrol station to fill your car. As you're paying you notice the porn mags beside the counter next to the lollies. Your children, aged five, eight, and ten, see them too.

Your 11 year old daughter needs summer clothing. You try three major department stores before giving up. There is nothing suitable.

On the way to school you see a billboard with a woman semi-naked and spread leg, advertising something unrelated to women. Your six year old asks why the woman has no clothes on.

You turn on the car radio. There is a song eroticising sexual violence against women. You

turn off the radio hoping your kids didn't hear it.

Your son is online doing homework. Typing an innocent term into a search engine, he is besieged with pornographic imagery. He wasn't looking for porn. It found him.

Your daughter tells you a boy has asked her for a naked selfie. She is 13. It's happened to all her friends, she says.

Young people are bombarded with hyper-sexualised messages

and images in media and popular culture. The lives of children and young people are socialised and conditioned by pornography. The average age of first exposure is 11.

The negative outcomes on their physical, mental and spiritual health are starting to be acknowledged. Exposure is contributing to a distorted view of bodies, relationships and sexuality in young people and hampering our ability to help raise happy, healthy, resilient kids.

What hope is there that our young people will be able to form healthy, respect-based relationships in future when this 'pornified' world is their formative environment?

Five years ago some friends and I started Collective Shout: for a world free of sexploitation (www.collectiveshout.org) to harness community concern on these issues and mobilise people into action. We have had many victories. Please join us. The standard you walk past is the standard you set. We can no longer walk past.

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.

Swapping prison for church

Gavin Douglas is the new pastor at Tom Price Baptist Church. Gavin left his job as a prison chaplain to take up the pastoral role in the Pilbara region.

Director of Ministries of Baptist Churches Western Australia, Mark Wilson flew to Tom Price for Gavin's induction in late October.

"I believe Gavin is going to have a significant ministry in Tom Price. He's well prepared to lead the church to keep engaging with the local community," Mark said.

Representatives from other churches in town joined the Baptist community for the service and lunch which was 'like a wedding feast'.

"It was very encouraging to see the church full for the event," Mark said.

Gavin, with his wife Alana and their two young sons, Gabriel and Jamie, drove from Perth, enjoying some time in Geraldton before heading inland to the mining town of Tom Price.

"We are really enjoying the town. People have welcomed us into the town," Gavin said.

"It's an active community with people coming and going. We feel we have come home."

"Something that reminds me of prison is the common phrase, 'How long you been here?'"

"So many people within the wider community have only been here a short time so there is a lot of generosity in sharing how to live in the town," he said.

Gavin sees strong similarities within the roles of chaplain and pastor.

"At the end of the day chaplaincy and pastoring are about loving people, supporting people through the highs and lows of life, and empowering them to positively contribute to the people we work and play with. It is also about inviting people to

ask the question, 'How does God and faith have an impact on my normal life?'"

"People come and go so I hope that those who come to the church will feel welcome to come and rest, to be connected with God and His community, and empowered to serve God within this amazing part of the country."

"I am yet to see what our role in the wider community is."

Gavin's background in chaplaincy, where he had a strong connection with young indigenous men, has given him unique pastoral relationships.

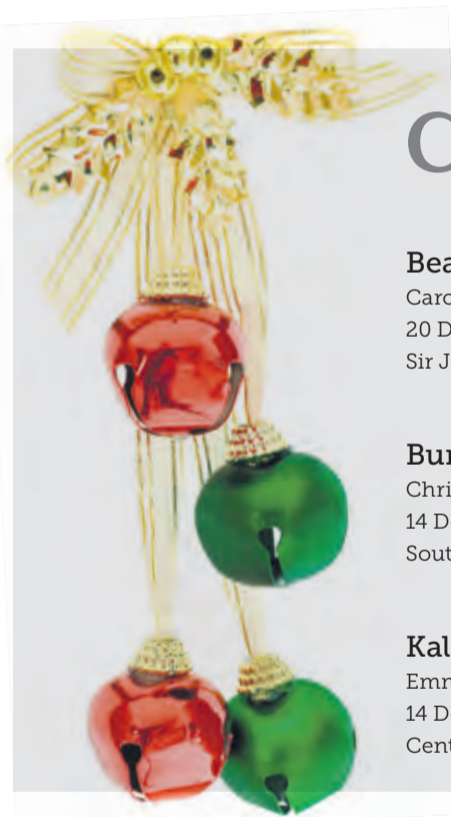
For now the family is adjusting to the Pilbara climate.

"It is hot but every morning you expect it to be hot so I guess we'll adjust, but it's not the peak of summer yet. That's still coming!" Gavin said.



Gavin Douglas at his induction at Tom Price Baptist Church, with his wife Alana, their sons and Mark Wilson.

Photo: Arnott



Christmas celebrations

Baumaris Baptist Church

Carols in the Park
20 December 2014
Sir James McCusker Park, Iluka

Bunbury Baptist Church

Christmas Carols
14 December 2014 from 5pm to 7pm
South Bunbury Primary School

Kalgoorlie Baptist Church

Emmanuel in Kal
14 December 2014 from 6pm. Carols start at 7.30pm
Centennial Park, Kalgoorlie

Maida Vale Baptist Church

Christmas at the Fair
7 December 2014 from 4pm to 7pm
Range View Park, High Wycombe

Morley Baptist Church

Carols by Candlelight on the Grass
21 December 2014 - activities from 6.30pm
55 Vera Street, Morley

Scarborough Baptist Church

Carols by Candlelight
14 December 2014 from 5pm to 7.30pm
158 Brighton Road, Scarborough

aifc **BECOME A QUALIFIED COUNSELLOR**
theology | psychology | spirituality

'I love that I now have the skills and tools I can offer to people so that they can move forward into all that God has for them.'

Jude Crank
Professional Counsellor, aifc Graduate

Enrol NOW and study Full Time or Part Time in 2015

Nationally Recognised Training | ACA | VET FEE-HELP

www.aifc.com.au | 1300 721 397 | @AIFCcounselling | facebook.com /CounsellingAIFC

Scones served with grace

North Beach Baptist Church (NBBC) volunteers served over 500 scones with jam and cream, tea and brewed coffee at no charge to people who visited the Groat Street Festival in late October.

NBBC first heard about the Festival when City of Stirling officers visited the church and asked if the church would allow visitors to use their parking area on the day of the Festival.

The conversation resulted in the church applying to host a 'Spiritual Healing Centre' stall at the festival and more than 50 volunteers helping out during the event.

"Our desire was to 'shock with grace'," Senior Pastor Grant Hendry said.

The NBBC parking area was made available free of charge along with the refreshments.

On the day the church volunteers worked in teams: one group served refreshments, another group engaged people in conversation about spiritual health and gave out evangelistic literature, while the third group sat under a clearly displayed 'Prayer Tree' sign, praying with and for any members of the public that wanted prayer.

Being an eco-friendly event, the church used their own coffee mugs and plates instead of disposable ones. This encouraged people to stay and chat while they enjoyed their free refreshments.

More than 1,000 people attended the Festival.

"It was absolutely clear that God was at work, paving the way for very significant opportunities to deeply share the gospel," Grant said.

"For the past 12 months we have had a team of people working hard at building community connections."

"This opportunity just fell into our lap, and the church was very excited to be involved," he said.

“It was absolutely clear that God was at work, paving the way for very significant opportunities to deeply share the gospel.”

Chris Ellery who leads the church volunteers in the Community Connections Committee reported that the team had conversations with atheists, agnostics and many others who wanted to share life and prayer. There were some remarkably deep spiritual conversations.

"One special comment to me was from Faerie Cara, the event organiser who said over and over how much she appreciated our involvement in 'our street' festival and would we please do the same next year for them," Chris said.

"One volunteer said to me, 'This is one of the best days of my life! It's just like being back on beach missions!'"

Church leaders said the enthusiasm of the NBBC team to step out and serve their local community was encouraging.

"It was exciting to see the smiles on the church volunteers' faces as they served the community with refreshments and the good news about Jesus," Grant said.



North Beach Baptist Church's Spiritual Healing Centre at the Groat Street Festival was an opportunity for the church to serve some of the hundreds of people who attended the Festival.

Photo: Grant Hendry

Global good news

More than 60 supporters and friends of Global Interaction met at Riverton Baptist Church in early November to hear news updates of the group's ministries around the world.

Global Interaction Director Craig Wright travelled from Melbourne to report on ministry developments in Africa, South-East Asia, Central Asia and Central Australia to the group of supporters.

The most exciting news was from Malawi where Ben and Sam Good had received a letter from the Governor of Niassa Province, the equivalent of state Premier, stating that the Good

family must be granted entry into Mozambique and the documents required to allow them to work in the country.

"There are still a few steps in the process that need to be worked out but it is safe to say that in the coming months we'll be packing up and moving to Mozambique," Ben Good wrote in an email to supporters.

The Goods have been waiting for more than 12 months in

Malawi after they were refused entry into Mozambique even though they had the appropriate visa.

Global Interaction's representative Pastor Colin Meadows introduced several people who are passionate about seeing communities develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus and are currently preparing to work overseas with Global Interaction.

digital church

22/10/2014

Andrew Hamilton

backyardmissionary.com

"But if we can encounter God at this point and experience grace and forgiveness then maybe we get re-wired away from our best efforts and back into responding to Him from love."

27/10/2014

Tony Morgan

tonymorganlive.com

"The welcoming church is always thinking guests first. They expect new people to show up every week. They are intentional about how they greet and welcome those guests."

02/11/2014

Mark Beeson

markbeeson.com

"We're grouping-up to do what our Saviour's disciples have done for 2,000 years ... because 'the good days' aren't the 'old days' behind us, they're the 'new days' ahead of us."

03/11/2014

Don Chapman

worshipideas.com

"Has your ministry grown but you're still operating like it hasn't? Re-evaluate your praise team procedures this week to determine if you could be more efficient and effective."

05/11/2014

Jesse Gruber

78p.tv

"Do you know the culture your church is ministering to? What do you plan to do to get yourself more aware of your cultural surroundings? How can you change your tech practices to better reach your culture?"

05/11/2014

Mark Howell

markhowelllive.com

"Leaders are learners. You know this right? Years ago I heard someone say that you could tell when someone stopped learning by the

copyright dates on their bookshelves."

07/11/2014

Louie Giglio

twitter.com/LouieGiglio

"Often we try to get God in our corner/behind our agenda. Success comes when we get in God's corner/join Him in His plans."

09/11/2014

Eugene Cho

twitter.com/EugeneCho

"North Korea is personal. It's the birthplace of my parents. These are my people. God has not forgotten them."

10/11/2014

Todd Adkins

twitter.com/ToddAdkins

"If you don't sing in church when it's not 'Your Song' - Remember it's His - Sing to a Saviour who died for you on a tree."

10/11/2014

Jonathan Dodson

desiringgod.org

"When evangelising, all too often we looking to give answers - to deliver the doctrine, win the argument, check the box. But Jesus responds with a question, something He does quite often."

Green Team turns ten

This year marks ten years of the Zone for Leavers in Dunsborough.

Police estimate about 60,000 school leavers have enjoyed drug and alcohol free celebrations at the Zone following their final high school exams over the past decade. Six thousand Leavers are expected each night at this year's event.

There has been significant reductions in the amount of anti-social behaviour, vandalism and arrests over the years.

The Zone operates from 7pm to 1am for four nights during Leavers Week. The Green Team, a group of volunteers organised by Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA), Red Frogs Australia (another volunteer group), Western Australian Police and other volunteer support groups including St John Ambulance work at the Zone.

"The Green Team are an integral part of the delivery of the Leavers event."

"They are fantastic at engaging the Leavers in the Zone and Leavers wouldn't exist without them," Clint Browning, Project Manager – Leavers WA from Community Engagement and Youth Policing Division of Western Australia Police said.

Michelle Smoker from BCWA has managed the Green Team for the past six years.

"Around the middle of the year when there's so much organising to do it all feels like hard work, but once our team's volunteers are registered and I start training sessions for volunteers and leaders, it reminds me how great it is working with young people," Michelle said.

Many of the 150 volunteers say the reasons they are involved are to serve the community and to help the Leavers have fun.

"This will be my sixth year in a row that I have been involved," David Kingston from Morley Baptist Church said.

"The reason for joining the Green Team this year is no different than the first time. I don't want to miss out the opportunity to serve," David said.

Becky Black is a first time volunteer this year.

"I believe I will be making a difference by helping the younger people be aware of drug and alcohol issues and the damage that can be done without realising," Becky said.

Sarah Lydon is also a returning volunteer.

"I love getting involved in something so big, fun and exciting yet beneficial for the community," Sarah said.

This year the Zone runs from 24 to 27 November with preparations on-site in the paddock just outside Dunsborough starting well beforehand.



Michelle Smoker with Support Service Team leaders at their final meeting in Perth before heading to Dunsborough for Leavers 2014.

Photo: Jill Birt

Life learning

Doctor Trevor Parry AM CitWA was the guest speaker at South Perth's Mosaic Early Learning Centre's inaugural Learning for Life event.

Dr Parry is Clinical Professor, School Paediatrics and Child Health at The University of Western Australia. He is also an Emeritus Consultant at Princess Margaret Hospital, Child and Adolescent Health Service Western Australia.

More than 20 people, including staff and parents of children who visit the Centre enjoyed learning from Dr Parry.

Dr Parry talked about the development of the brain in

babies and young children and highlighted the importance of play in early childhood development.

"Play experiences help the child explore the real world. They need time to do this," Dr Parry said.

"They're only little for a little while."

Dr Parry said relationships are the active ingredients of early experience.

"When protective relationships are not provided, elevated levels



Mosaic Early Learning Centre Director Rose Byron with Dr Trevor Parry at the community event held in South Perth for parents.

Photo: Jill Birt

of stress hormones disrupt brain architecture by impairing brain cell growth," Dr Parry said.

Western Australian research shows that every dollar invested in early childhood development programs saves \$17 for correction

programs in later years.

Mosaic Early Learning Centre Director Rose Byron said several parents told her that they highly valued the opportunity to hear about current research and how to help nurture their children.



EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES

With trusted and highly qualified faculty Vose offers outstanding qualifications in theology, ministry and management — everything from a Cert IV to a PhD.

Coupled with highly sought after leadership professional development and mentoring programs Vose is your choice if you are serious about growing in faith, knowledge and wisdom.

**SEMESTER 1 BEGINS
24 FEBRUARY 2015
ENROL NOW FOR
FEBRUARY START**



08 6313 6200
office@vose.edu.au
www.vose.edu.au

RTO 0145
VET CRICOS 01052B
ACT CRICOS 02650E

Builder Required

To Design and Build a:

Disabled Toilet Facility

as an extension to the current building of the:

Wattle Grove Baptist Church

The Builder will be required to draw up all plans, submit to the local Council Authority, and construct the extension.

Please send letters of interest to:

The Building Committee
Wattle Grove Baptist Church
20 Puddy Lane
Wattle Grove WA 6107

or email: wgbc@inet.net.au

Partnership offers opportunity

In an exciting development Vose College is partnering with Morling College to offer high quality postgraduate education programs from 2015.

Vose Seminary already has a strong reputation for equipping students for Christian ministry and leadership and with the formation of Vose College can now also offer training in additional fields.

There has been support for many years from Christian schools throughout Western Australia and the State Council of Christian Schools Australia (CSA) to have a Christian based higher education provider able to deliver teacher training and professional development programs and awards.

Through Vose's partnership arrangement with Morling College, educators will now have access to high quality postgraduate education programs including the Graduate Diploma of Education, Master of Education and Master of Education (Leadership).

During 2015 access to the courses will be limited to an external/elearning mode. Despite studying externally Vose faculty members will be available to support students.

"I am delighted that Vose is able to help equip those called to teach in our schools. Our faith in Jesus must overflow into the marketplace and I am pleased that this new partnership with Morling will help us prepare teachers to view education through the lens of the Christian faith," Vose Seminary Principal Dr Brian Harris said.

From 2016 Vose College is working towards being able to offer education qualifications in face-to-face modes, including intensives. The first intensive has been planned for January 2016. Dr David Smith from Calvin College

in the USA, will provide five days of teaching at the intensive.

Students who are enrolled in any of the postgraduate education programs offered through the Vose Morling partnership will have the option of attending this January 2016 intensive. Invitations will also be extended to teachers in WA's Christian schools who may want to only attend the five days of teaching.

In addition to the Masters level education awards, Vose is also working to establish partnerships that will enable similar Christian based programs to be offered in the undergraduate and doctorate levels of higher education.

For further information about the education courses available through Vose College, email Graeme Cross (Academic Dean) at graeme.cross@vose.edu.au



Vose College Academic Dean Graeme Cross is developing Christian based tertiary level programs.

Photo: Jill Birt

Albany remembers the Anzacs

Albany Baptist Church joined with 60,000 others as the Anzac Centenary was commemorated in Albany in November.

The church marked the occasion by hosting a special service and lunch on the Sunday of the event and decorated their Passmore Centre facility with a display

of memorabilia from World War I and World War II from families within the congregation.

Several members of the church were community ambassadors during the Anzac Centenary commemoration events.

Church member Joy Metcalf was one of the 400 volunteers who gave their time over the three day event. She spent time talking with visitors to the port city in the historic Stirling Terrace area, one of the most visited locations which was transformed into a vibrant

outdoor market and dining hall for the event.

"It was a fantastic weekend with so many visitors in town," Joy said.

Costumed members of the Westralian Great War Living History Association brought to life scenes from World War I. Schools and choirs, including students from Bethel Christian School, entertained the large crowds with drama and music. Local food producers, craftspeople and artists sold their goods at street stalls giving the area a busy market feel.

More than 60,000 visitors flooded into Albany for the 100 year commemoration of the departure of the convoy transporting the Australian and New Zealand troops to World War I.

There were several poignant events including the Commemorative Service at Anzac Peace Park and Nurses Memorial Service that was held in the memorial rose garden.

briefs

Loss and grief

Sarah and Steve Wickham wrote about their journey through grief in the October edition of *The Advocate*. There has been a very positive response to their courage and openness to share their story. Their loss was confirmed when their infant son Nathanael Marcus Wickham was delivered stillborn on Thursday 30 October 2014. A large group of family and friends gathered at Riverton Baptist Community Church on Friday 7 November 2014 for Nathanael's funeral service.

Call to prayer

Blow the Trumpet! Sound the Alarm was a prayer event that called Christians across Perth to pray for the situation in Iraq and Syria, the wider persecuted church and the nations. The event was held at Wesley Chapel in the city on Saturday 15 November. More than 80 people from churches across Perth joined organiser Wendy Yapp to pray and worship at the second city-wide prayer event. Sunday 16 November was the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

Summer camps

Serpentine Camping Centre hosts three summer camps during the new year. Seniors Camp will cater for students in Years 10 to 12 in 2015. The camp runs from 28 December to 1 January. Inters Camp, for students in Years 7 to 9 in 2015, runs from 2 to 6 January and Juniors Camp runs from 7 to 11 January for students in Years 4 to 6 in 2015. Applications close 12 December 2014. To apply, visit www.bapitstwa.asn.au and look for the camps link.

Bugsy

Austin Cove Baptist College (ACBC) presents *Bugsy the Musical* on 10, 11 and 12 December. Students have been preparing all year for this major drama event. The performances will be held at Lakes Theatre at Mandurah Baptist College, Catalina Drive Lakelands. Tickets are available through ACBC Secondary Reception on 9537 7177.

Christmas events

From Maida Vale to Beaumaris, Kalgoorlie to Bunbury, many churches are preparing to conduct community events including

carols by candlelight and Christmas fairs in the lead up to 25 December. Check your local church's website for more information of pre-Christmas and Christmas celebrations. "It's very encouraging to hear about so many of our churches engaging their local communities with the real message of Christmas. It's a lot of work, but it's a special time to connect with the people in our local communities. It's also a great opportunity for people in our churches to serve using the gifts God has given each of us," Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Ministries Mark Wilson said.

Medical hope floats for PNG

A new medical ship, the *MV Ammari* will allow Youth With A Mission (YWAM) to continue their lifesaving medical work in remote coastal regions of Papua New Guinea.

The Overcoming the Impossible tour will travel through ten ports from Cairns to Sydney and aims to raise awareness of the substantial health and training needs and opportunities in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

YWAM Medical Ships – Australia (YWAM MSA) have been delivering health, training and community development in PNG since 2010. The *MV Ammari* will grow the capacity of their retiring vessel by 500 percent.

PNG's remoteness and limited infrastructure contributes to an estimated five women in PNG dying in childbirth every day. One in 13 children die before the age of five.

Forty-three percent of PNG's population is under the age of 15. A quarter of them will not live to reach the age of 40.

A donation of just over \$100 can give a family of five in Papua New Guinea medical treatment for a year. That includes lifesaving immunisations, dentistry, optical services, vital education and more.

Since 2010, Australian medical professionals, in partnership with YWAM Medical Ships – Australia, has delivered over 180,000 training, health and community development outputs using the 35 year old renovated fishing vessel *MV Pacific Link*.

YWAM Managing Director Ken Mulligan said the catamaran design of the *MV Ammari* would allow the team to reach more shallow waters, while providing

twice as many berths for more health and training professionals to assist developing the remote communities they visit.

The refit of *MV Ammari* will include onboard training facilities, an outpatient medical/surgical facility, dental clinic, and laboratory. YWAM MSA expect the ship to begin operations in 2015.

YWAM MSA is actively addressing the health care and training needs in Papua New Guinea alongside the priorities and vision of the PNG National Health Plan, PNG National Department of Education, and AusAID's commitment to the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals.

The majority of YWAM MSA staff, including the Managing Director, are full-time volunteers. YWAM MSA is a signatory to the World Relief Australia Code of Conduct.

"When you meet these people and see how they live, and how much they long for hope, it really puts things in perspective," said Ken.

The ship is currently berthed in Sydney where people can visit on weekends until 4 December.



YWAM's new ship *MV Ammari* visited Sydney recently, where many toured the ship on weekends.

Photo: YWAM

Supporting Perth's homeless



Lenny Jacoby (centre) and Ruah Centre staff displaying some of the items donated for homeless women.

Photo: Ruah

Lead Pastor Whyalla Baptist Church

Whyalla Baptist Church, on South Australia's Spencer Gulf, is seeking a full-time Lead Pastor to join with us in our current season of church life, enabling us to take what we know and put it into practice.

We have a strong belief in our need to reach our community and want a person who will not only lead us but will work alongside us in this; encouraging and empowering the congregation to share the love of Jesus with others.

For a copy of the church and pastor profile please contact the moderator, David Smith at dsfifty.smith@gmail.com or on 0416 251 718

Essentials for Women of Perth, a social media campaign started by Victoria Park woman Lenny Jacoby has gone viral and captured the generosity and compassion of more than 70,000 people across Australia, including many Christians.

After hearing the plight of homeless people in Perth through Ruah, a not-for-profit agency running a drop-in centre in Northbridge, Lenny started a Facebook campaign to collect new underwear and sanitary items for homeless women.

Ruth Friend from South Perth Baptist Church coordinated a collection of items for the campaign from people in the church and delivered them to the Victoria Park drop-off location.

"This is wonderful for us to be involved in a very practical way to support the homeless in our city," Ruth said.

The campaign was due to conclude on 30 November. By mid-November people had given more than 4,500 items of new underwear, sanitary products and toiletries. Early in the campaign organisers decided to include gifts of new underwear and toiletries for children and men as well as women.

Within 48 hours of commencing the campaign it had gone viral and by early November there were groups across the country regions of Western Australia as well as New South Wales and Victoria that had started collecting goods.

"People have been very generous. It's amazing," Lenny said.

Ruah is planning to share the gifts with other agencies in Perth that are supporting homeless people in Perth.

Simon Smart, a director at the Centre for Public Christianity wrote 'Revisiting the Jesus meme' at the close of 2013. We are pleased to reprint it in this issue of The Advocate during the Christmas season of 2014 because of the timeless truth he explores.

Revisiting the

Last year saw the release of *Who's Bigger: Where Historical Figures Really Rank* by Steven Skiena and Charles B Ward, a book that no doubt provoked as many arguments as it solves.

Julius Caesar or Charles Darwin? Michael Jordon or Errol Flynn? Coming up with a ranking system that relies on the integration of a diverse set of measurements, the authors say they can reasonably compare the significance of historical figures of different eras. The top ten includes some biggies – Napoleon, Lincoln, Hitler and Shakespeare.

Heading the list, however, is a one-time carpenter executed by the Romans for sedition, Yeshua Ben Joseph, better known as Jesus of Nazareth. With over two billion followers 2,000 years after His death, "Jesus is an incredibly successful historical meme," Skiena said in *Salon* magazine, perhaps conscious of the lovely irony that it was Richard Dawkins, Jesus' most formidable foe today, who popularised the term 'meme' (a self-replicating idea, on the pattern of 'gene').

With Christmas upon us, it's worth examining how the story that lies at the heart of that 'meme' has left its mark on the world. Heaven knows it can be hard to recall, when these days that part of the story is easily overwhelmed by the screams of advertisers, grasping consumerism, frantic dashes to malls filled with bad seasonal music, and the stress of the looming family lunch.

But take, for instance, the two biggest names of 2013: Nelson Mandela and Pope Francis.

There are some obvious echoes of the life of Christ in the narrative arc and content of Mandela's life. Raised in rural poverty herding cattle, Madiba endured struggle, persecution and gross injustice to become a great leader and figure of reverence. He made immense sacrifices on behalf of an oppressed people and forged a path towards an unlikely peace. As president with the power to crush the enemies who had humiliated him and his people, he chose instead forgiveness, mercy and welcome. He replaced what would be much more natural and human – the desire for revenge – with the counter-intuitive, yet somehow more grand and beautiful, offer of freedom for the oppressor.

All of this profoundly resonates with the Kingdom proclaimed by Jesus, one that was the inversion of all that could have been expected: where the first would be last, where the humble would be lifted up and the proud and powerful brought low. According to Jesus, the blessed ones in God's sight are the poor, those who mourn, the persecuted, the merciful, and the peacemakers. To align ourselves with this Kingdom is to forgo revenge, to renounce greed, and love even our enemies.

The potent symbolic gestures and open-hearted magnanimity of Mandela served to avert the expected bloodshed in a deeply divided nation and usher in a period of reconciliation. Take for example the invitation to his former jailer to attend his inauguration. The lavish hospitality offered to the leader of South Africa's far right, General Constand Viljoen, who had organised armed resistance units to spearhead the 'white freedom struggle' as apartheid crumbled, was another. Viljoen, like plenty of other enemies of the country's new leader, was eventually won over and, according to biographer John Carlin, came to 'adore' Mandela.

The influence of the Jesus story on Mandela is undeniable. In 1994, at a large Christian gathering, Mandela spoke of "our risen Messiah ... born like an outcast in a stable, and executed like a criminal on the cross."

"Our Messiah, whose life bears testimony to the truth that there is no shame in poverty: Those who should be ashamed are they who impoverish others.

Whose life testifies to the truth that there is no shame in being persecuted: Those who should be ashamed are they who persecute others.

Whose life testifies to the truth that there is no shame in being oppressed: Those who should be ashamed are they who oppress others."

These sentiments could easily have come from the lips of another man of humble beginnings who has risen to the highest office. Former janitor, nightclub bouncer and literature teacher, now Pope Francis, was the most mentioned topic on Facebook in 2013 – overwhelmingly those mentions were positive.

Time Magazine's 'Person of the Year' is loved around the world for shunning the elaborate trappings of papal power, and promoting a church that exists for the sake of others rather than itself. Images of him embracing and kissing a horribly disfigured man in St Peter's Square in November captured what is attractive about this Pope. Francis has become known as the leader who walks among the poor, lives in humble surroundings, and has an active love for those on the margins; the weak, the oppressed, the marginalised. A critic of globalisation and unregulated markets, Francis is regarded as a spokesperson for social justice who is willing to challenge and offend the powerful in order to speak the truth.

But as Elizabeth Tenety writes in *The Washington Post*, 'Without Jesus, there is no Pope Francis.' Francis is merely trying to enact and reflect the example of

the one he follows. The life of Jesus has reverberated through our culture in profound ways, not the least of which is our dislike for those who are proud and the way we honour the truly humble. You don't do much better in the humility stakes than God Himself becoming a human child, as the Christmas story claims. In Jesus the low point becomes the high point. He urged those who wanted to be great to become the servant or slave of all, much like He did, employing His strength in the service of others. That Pope Francis does a pretty good rendition of this goes a long way in explaining his popularity.

Those who feel a stirring in the soul when confronted with the lives of these great men may benefit from looking again at the ancient 'meme' of God being born as a baby 2,000 years ago. Historians and statisticians, if not an incredulous Richard Dawkins, now attest: this life has impacted the world like no other.

Simon Smart is a director of the Centre for Public Christianity and a co-author with Jane Caro, Antony Loewenstein and Rachel Woodlock of *For God's Sake: An Atheist, a Jew, a Christian and a Muslim Debate Religion*.

This article originally appeared on *The Drum* website. Reprinted with permission.

Jesus meme



Advocates challenge G20

Almost 100 advocates from churches across Brisbane dressed as corporate accountants transformed Brisbane's CBD into a tax evader's paradise to shed light on the issue of multinational tax dodging in the lead up to the G20 summit in November.

Micah Challenge estimates approximately \$160 billion is robbed from developing nations annually, more than the \$128 billion received in foreign aid in 2012. With this tax revenue available to developing countries, it is estimated that around 350,000 children a year could be saved from death.

Supporters of the Micah Challenge anti-poverty campaign want the world's largest mock tax haven of palm trees, mocktails, beach chairs and briefcases to send a clear message to G20 leaders that more action must be taken to address secrecy in the global financial system for the benefit of the world's poorest people.

Representatives of Micah Challenge and the global EXPOSED campaign, handed over an open letter for G20 leaders to parliamentary representative Senator Claire Moore at the mock tax haven event. The letter had been signed by over 90 global church leaders, representing approximately 1 billion Christians worldwide who are calling on the G20 to take action on corruption within multinationals, and by government officials.

According to John Beckett, National Coordinator of the Micah Challenge campaign, the issue of corporate tax dodging is seriously undermining progress against global poverty.

"Extremely conservative estimates show that poor nations are losing more money through

tax dodging than they receive in foreign aid – with some suggesting it could be up to two or three times as much," John said.

"This money rightfully belongs to the citizens of these countries and should be used to provide essential services like healthcare, education, infrastructure and water. Instead, much of this money is being siphoned off through tax havens into the pockets of the wealthy."

"We're concerned the decisions made could primarily benefit wealthy countries represented at the table, and not the citizens of developing nations," John said.

"As host of the G20, Australia has an opportunity to play a key role in leading concrete action to promote greater transparency in the global financial system. With the world suffering around us, it's no time for a talkfest – it's a time for strong action."

In order to ensure tax is paid in the country where the economic activity takes place, Micah Challenge supporters want G20 leaders to advance the push on multinational corporations to publicly report their operations and activities in every country in which they operate.

"Making this information publically available will reduce the ability of multinational companies to evade their fair share of tax and allow citizens to hold governments to account for how they raise and spend corporate tax revenue," John said.



Advocates from Brisbane churches dressed up to challenge G20 leaders.

Image: David Fittell

Crowd funds videos

An exciting new project will see Morling College Vice Principal (Communications) Rev. Dr Graham Hill recording interviews for the GlobalChurch Project in Sydney from early December.

The plan for the GlobalChurch Project is to film interviews with more than 50 inspiring Christians from the 'Majority World' which includes Asia, Africa, Latin America and further afield.

"I'm going to travel through Asia, Africa, Latin America, and more, interviewing and filming these 50 plus high profile non-Western Christians on what they can teach the West about mission and theology," Graham said.

The idea is for the video clips of inspiring leaders to be available to thousands around the world and play a part in reshaping global conversations, renewing global mission, and revitalising churches worldwide.

The term 'Majority World' refers to churches of Asia, Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, First Nations, the Middle East, and indigenous cultures. By 2025, two-thirds of Christians will live outside Western countries.

"A century ago, Western countries contained more than four times as many Christians as the countries of the Majority World. Today, more than 1.3 billion Christians live in the Majority World, compared with about 860 million in the West," Graham said.

"That's an astounding shift in only one hundred years!"

"We are currently living through one of the transforming moments in history."

The project is being partially funded by the community through Kickstarter. For more information about access to the videos, email Graham Hill at ghill8@icloud.com

briefs

Religious freedom

Barnabas Fund reports that Nepalese Prime Minister Sushil Koirala has made a public commitment that religious freedom will be upheld in the country's long-awaited constitution. The Prime Minister praised the cordial relations that he said exist between Nepalis who follow different religions, cultures and traditions, and said that Nepal is strengthened by this mutual tolerance. His pledge may help to quell fears that religious repression in Nepal could intensify when the interim constitution becomes law. A proposed 'anti-conversion' clause in the document, which

has been under debate since 2008, currently states that 'no person shall be entitled to convert another person from one religion to another'.

Plane crash

Religious News Service reports Myles Munroe, a prominent Christian minister from The Bahamas, and his wife Ruth Munroe were among nine people killed when a small plane crashed while attempting to land on the island of Grand Bahamas on 9 November. Munroe, 60, was president and founder of Bahamas Faith Ministries International and was travelling to Grand Bahamas to attend

the 2014 Global Leadership Forum. Several members of the minister's entourage were among those killed. "It is utterly impossible to measure the magnitude of Dr Munroe's loss to The Bahamas and to the world," Prime Minister Perry Christie said.

Haiyan update

Asia Pacific Baptist Aid (APBAid) recently reported on reconstruction activities following the devastation caused by typhoon Haiyan on 8 November 2013 to the Visayas region of central Philippines. With generous financial support from international Baptist groups, APBAid has

helped build 1,368 dwellings and assisted re-starting 1,443 livelihood operations including farming, fishing and small family businesses. Other projects include rebuilding churches that can be used as evacuation centres in times of disaster for people in the area. APBAid continues to work alongside several humanitarian groups helping people in the central Philippines understand about psycho social support and psychological first aid.

China growth

The *Financial Times* reports the demolition of the towering Protestant cathedral on

the outskirts of the Chinese city of Wenzhou in April led to a spectacular launch of a government campaign to curtail the fastest growing religion in the nominally atheist China. There are now approximately 100 million Christians in the world's most populous nation, eclipsing the 86.7 million-strong membership of the ruling communist party. According to western intellectual tradition, modernity is supposed to bring secularisation but in modern communist China it has been accompanied by an extraordinary rise of religions formerly banned as 'opiates of the masses'.

Opportunity for teachers

Startingline in Wen Shan China can lay claim to the unique title as the only English language school in the area with teachers who have English as their first language.

Situated in Yunnan Province in Southwest China the school is currently looking for more teachers from Australia for short or long-term visits. Ideally these people would have an English as a Second Language (ESL) background.

Perth couple Rob and Janice Cain have been involved with Startingline since it began in 2013 and after some time in Perth they will return to China in February 2015.

"We were fortunate to have a generous gift from an American Chinese donor that allowed Startingline to purchase the second floor of a business complex in the city," Rob said.

The building has been fitted out as a training centre with meeting and teaching rooms.

"Our goal is to help people improve their English," Rob said.

As well as formal classes, Startingline runs an 'English Corner' at their centre each Sunday afternoon from 3pm to 5 pm. The free event is a valuable way to help the community. Each week university students, business people and high school students join the conversation.

Over the summer (July to August) when schools are on holiday, Startingline runs four one-week English camps at the centre. During this year's camps two people decided to align their lives with Jesus.

Teaching opportunities at Startingline are available from August 2015.

"It would be a great opportunity for graduate teachers," Rob said.

"We can help with visas and there is a local salary available for teaching staff."

For more information, email Rob at rob@startingline.org



Startingline staff and students at this year's Summer English Camp in Wen Shan, China.



This year we are celebrating God's blessing on our 30 years of ministry, with eight of those years also in Western Australia.

At the 30 year mark, we look back: from deposits accumulated, sponsorships and grants in excess of \$10 million were paid out for ministry across Australia, and loans enabled many Church properties to be acquired, Churches to be planted and built, and new ministries, schools and community services to be established.

Your 'investments' have made a difference! In WA we have had an amazing rate of growth, and approximately 75% of our Baptist churches now have accounts with us.

We are so thankful for your partnership in this ministry as we look forward to continuing to extend God's Kingdom through our primary purpose of "Resourcing Christian Ministry".

Please feel free to contact our Relationship Manager, Anina, at the Baptist ministry centre in Rivervale for more information.



Baptist Financial Services

Have harp will travel

Harpist Eduard Klassen is touring Australia in March 2015 promoting the ministry of Reach Beyond. His early life connected him with the broadcasting group and shaped his future.

Tell us about your early childhood.

In 1874 my ancestors moved from Europe to Canada and settled in the prairies in the province of Manitoba. They moved to Canada because of religious freedom, but I was born and raised in the Chaco in Paraguay, South America. My ancestors move to Paraguay South America in 1927 and settled the first Mennonite colony there. We didn't have much when growing up. We were very poor, but always had what we needed including food. I didn't have a pair of shoes to wear until I was around ten years old and these were given to me through MCC (Mennonite Central Committee, a missions group from Canada and the US). We didn't have modern conveniences like we enjoy today and had to make our own toys out of wood or whatever we could find. We sometimes made a soccer ball out of old socks wrapped together. We made use out of anything that wasn't 'needed' anymore.

How did your relationship with Reach Beyond (formerly HCJB Global) start?

When I was around seven years old, at a time when we didn't have harmony in our church, my father came home with a radio and we listened to that radio for the first time in awe. We heard someone speaking in our low German language and someone was playing the harp and this radio station came from HCJB, 'The Voice of the Andes', in Quito Ecuador. This experience left me with a desire to know our Lord and Saviour, but only a seed was planted at that time. This station was the only one that we received information from the outside world. Throughout my life and ministry, Reach Beyond [formerly HCJB Global] has been near and dear to my heart, and knowing that there are so many 'Eduard Klassen's' out there, who haven't been reached, makes me want to help in any way I can.

How did you meet Jesus? How did that change your life?

I met Jesus when I was 20 years old and didn't make a total commitment at that time. It wasn't until I was 30 that I really made a personal commitment with my whole life and no longer

needed to 'hide' sins. The Lord came into my life at that time and changed me from the inside out. From that time until now, I have been in ministry, sharing how I was freed from sins and how others can do the same.

Your first visit to a city was when you were 15. How did that change your life?

I had the privilege to go to the city with an old Ford truck for a few days and it opened my eyes to what was beyond my life in isolation 500 kilometres away from that city. There was electricity and pavement roads and a lot of cars! This inspired me to go back five years later to the city and study music and theology.

You studied music for five years. Tell us about your learning.

I studied music and learned how to live in a big city. This is where I learned many different instruments and music theory and I thought I would go back to the colony and teach music later, but God changed my life path through a missionary from Europe who invited me to do a tour in Germany and that opened my eyes to the possibility of playing the harp and travelling as a ministry.

What attracted you to the harp? The harp you play is different to a European harp. Can you explain the instrument you love?

This harp is the national instrument from my country Paraguay. I loved the unique sound of this harp and my Dad gave me one when I was 15 years old. The Paraguayan harp is the loudest harp in the world and is played with the fingernails, and it is played lively, not melodic. You stand to play this instrument instead of sitting as is traditional with a classical harp.

What type of music do you enjoy playing? Do you write music yourself?

I play mostly hymns and folk music from Paraguay and Europe. I do write my own music, but not as much as I would like.

Have you travelled to Australia before?

This will be our third visit to Australia. We are especially looking forward to not see snow in Australia. Also, we love your country it is absolutely gorgeous.



Photo: The Klassen's Music

Harpist Eduard Klassen and his wife Christine will be visiting Australia during March 2015.

Will you bring your own harp with you? Does that complicate travel for you?

Yes I always have to take my own harp along, because it is a unique harp made by the Guarani Indians in Paraguay, South America. It is a real pain travelling with the Paraguayan harp because of the heat and humidity, and being oversized and overweight. It would be great to have a harmonica instead.

You're coming to Western Australia in March 2015 to play at a number of churches. What are your expectations for your visit?

That those who come to listen to the harp and my stories would be blessed and encouraged to support missions because of how missions impacted my life as a little boy in the wilderness of the Chaco, Paraguay.

How do you see playing music is a Kingdom of God ministry?

We see how the hymns that most churches have forgotten about and have left behind for the new music has impacted those who have loved those old hymns and no longer hear them. We just play them in a lively and upbeat way to make them 'new' again. We have been so encouraged by many people who share this with us each and every time we present a concert.

You travel a lot to perform. Have you met 'other Eduard Klassen's' as you've performed around the world?

As a family we have travelled for 22 years full-time. My wife Christine and I raised our children on the road, travelling with our motorhome and homeschooling our children. Through the years we have been to 29 countries and performed over 4,000 concerts. We do our concerts in four different languages, Plattdeutsch, German, Spanish and English. I have never met a Paraguayan harpist playing

the same music style as I do. There are a lot of harpists out there but they'll play a different style than I do.

What do you do for relaxation?

Photography – I love to take pictures of nature and God's creation and your country has beautiful scenery, I can't wait to take 5,000 pictures there. Portraits, scenery, birds.

What are you reading at the moment?

The Bible and Reader's Digest and books on photography.

Eduard Klassen will be visiting churches in Western Australia during March 2015.

Wednesday 11 March
• Jurien Non Denominational Community Church

Sunday 15 March
• North Beach Baptist Church
• Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

Tuesday 17 March
• Melville Baptist Church

Wednesday 18 March
• Dalwallinu Baptist Church

Friday 20 March
• Combined Manjimup Churches Concert
Manjimup Town Hall

Sunday 22 March
• Maida Vale Baptist Church
• Bassendean Church of Christ

Live like a king

Crowns and sceptres, thrones and palaces, rulership and riches – these are the words we associate with medieval royalty.

Celebrity and ceremony, elegance and style, popularity and paparazzi – these are the words we associate with modern royalty.

Tattered cloth and shepherd's staffs, a stable and manger, humility and servanthood – these are words we associate with the newborn king celebrated at Christmas time.

Jesus of Nazareth did not live to be served, but to serve. He gave himself away on behalf of others. His example communicated a simple but profound truth: leadership is not about how far we advance ourselves but how far we advance others.

How to add value to others:

1. We add value to others when we truly value others.

Leaders who add value to others believe in their people before their people believe in them. They serve others instead of expecting to be served. Jesus' disciples began following Him before they believed He was the Messiah. Why? Because He saw their potential and believed they could be influencers.

2. We add value to others when we make ourselves more valuable to others.

The historical texts documenting the life of Jesus do not give much information about Him as a teenager or 'twenty something'. They do offer this titbit, though. "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." The whole idea of adding value to other people depends on the idea that you have something of value to add. You can't give what you don't possess. Personal growth precedes influence with people.

3. We add value when we know and relate to what others need.

As a leader, it is dangerous to cater to what people want. You will wear yourself out trying to please them. However, it is important to be aware of their genuine needs – the need to be accepted, the need to do meaningful work, the need to feel significant – and to help them meet those needs.

"Then his disciples began arguing about which of them was the greatest. But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he brought a little child to his side. Then he said to them, "Anyone who welcomes a

little child like this on my behalf welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me also welcomes my Father who sent me. Whoever is the least among you is the greatest." [Luke 9: 46-48]

In the above passage, notice how Jesus discerned the true need underlying the disciples' silly boasts: the need to have influence and to make an impact. He then instructs them on how to meet the need. Accept those who are overlooked and neglected and be a humble servant. This verse inspired Martin Luther King, Jr who later summarised its essence: "Everyone can be great because everyone can serve."

Thought to ponder

Giving is the highest level of living. When we spend ourselves on behalf of others we gain the sort of fulfilment that can never be bought with money or satisfied with stuff. As a leader, what are you doing to add value to others? How does serving others enrich your life?

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



Taking the risk to empower people

By Terry Hicks

Ever been surprised by what members of your team can do when you empower them? I have many times.

So why don't we do it more often?

Is it because leadership is a challenge and it is easy to become so involved in doing, that we can miss God given opportunities to facilitate growth and invest in our team members?

Is it because one of the most difficult roles for a leader is to be gracious enough to allow people, who may not appear to be capable of a particular task or activity, to actually do something that we know we can do better?

Through 30 years of leading teams, both in Christian ministry and in secular settings, I have seen that although it is often challenging building into others, having a group of empowered, highly motivated, ministry

focussed people, who are on a journey of self-development and growth with you makes it all worthwhile.

So how do we go about developing and empowering the individuals in the team for their benefit as well as effective delivery of the organisations' goals and objectives?

One approach that I have found effective is to use the following points:

1. Encourage open and honest communication

Make sure there are regular opportunities for your team to provide input and that even though you may decide to go in a different direction their comments, views and input is valued and heard.

2. Encourage self-development

Provide an environment where self-development is encouraged, supported and, if possible, resources are provided to assist this. Give the team opportunities to use their new knowledge with

clear checkpoints. This will motivate and reinforce them.

3. Encourage safe failure

Develop an environment where it is safe to try new things without putting the ministry at risk. Be supportive if failure happens and aim for solutions.

4. Define roles and accountability

Make sure boundaries, roles and responsibilities are clear. This sustains a harmonious ministry environment. Regularly provide feedback on how your team is going. Don't micromanage as this will send a message that they are not empowered or trusted. Ensure they clearly understand the core values and ethos of the organisation.

5. Appreciate them

Most people in ministry don't do it for the money. Empowered people will enrich your ministries. They need to feel their efforts are

appreciated, so do not be shy about finding ways to say thank you or celebrating the good things they do.

Empowering and developing your ministry team will mean people can't wait to achieve great outcomes and creativity. Above all God will be glorified.

Let me encourage you to commence the journey of empowering your team.



Terry Hicks is the Projects Consultant with Baptist Churches Western Australia.

browse

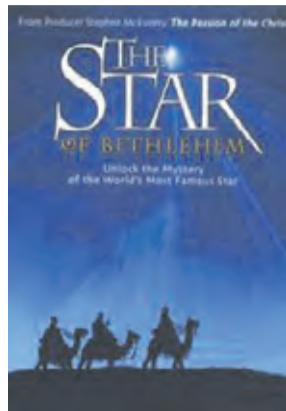
Lightstock
lightstock.com

The modern church is highly visual with websites, projection screens, apps and publications. Given this visual feast it is challenging for the church designer to source original imagery which is modern, relevant and legal.

Enter Lightstock, a stock image library which offers 'faith-focussed, cheesy-free' stock photos and footage. In their collection you will find competitively priced images and footage to support your message and communication strategy. Every week Lightstock gives away a free photo and every month a free video clip, so it is worth checking out just for these. They also curate themed collections for many events and seasons, such as Christmas, communion, missions and prayer. Visit www.lightstock.com and improve your visual communication.



watch



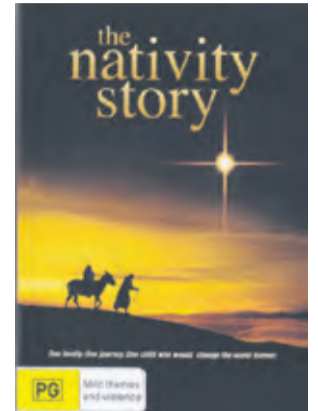
The Star of Bethlehem

Scholars debate whether the Star of Bethlehem is a legend created by the early church or a miracle that marked the advent of Christ. Is it possible that the star was a real, astronomical event? From *The Passion of the Christ* producer comes an amazing documentary that explores the exciting truth of scripture and evidence for God's existence as seen in the stars above. Biblical and historical clues reveal the incredible significance of this celestial event as well as the vastness of God's creativity.



King of Christmas

King of Christmas is Colin Buchanan's joyful celebration of Jesus' birth, with loads of energy and fun for the whole family. Join Colin as he gathers the Christmas clues as the CSI guy, raps his way through the story of Luke 2, and brings the good news to the nation from the 'King of Christmas' news desk. Solidly based on the biblical account of the very first Christmas, Colin cooks, skates and sings his way through the *King of Christmas*.



The Nativity Story

The Nativity Story chronicles the arduous journey of two people, Mary and Joseph, a miraculous pregnancy, and the history-defining birth of Jesus. This dramatic and compelling film traces the perilous journey of a young couple who must travel from their home in Nazareth to Bethlehem, Joseph's ancestral home, to register for a census ordered by King Herod. It is a journey of over 100 miles, through treacherous terrain, made much more difficult by the fact that Mary is nine months pregnant.

win

My Giant Fold-out Book: Christmas

Tracy Harrast



With Scripture references and colourful illustrations, *My Giant Fold-out Book: Christmas* teaches children about Christ's birth in a very special way. Kids will feel like they are there when Gabriel appears to Mary, Jesus is born in a stable, the shepherds are visited by angels, and more. This engaging book features giant fold-out flaps extend up, down, right, and left to create beautiful panoramic scenes that bring the first Christmas to life.

The Advocate in conjunction with Koorong is giving you an opportunity to win *My Giant Fold-out Book: Christmas*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

Who is the author of *My Giant Fold-out Book: Christmas*?

Entries close on Thursday 4 December and all winners will be announced in the January edition of *The Advocate*.

The winners from the *Under the Rainbow* competition: K O'Dea, A Simpson and P Taylor.

read



The Cradle, Cross, and Crown

Billy Graham
The true Christmas message is so often lost in the busyness and profit-making venues during the holiday season. How does one wade through all of the worldly diversions and still find Christ? Drawing from a lifetime of writings and sermons, world renowned preacher and author Billy Graham pierces through the meaningless activity we get caught up in by taking readers back to the time when heaven descended to earth and the place where Christ was born.



The Case for Christmas

Lee Strobel
Who was in the manger that first Christmas morning? Some say He would become a great moral leader. Others view Jesus as a social critic, a profound philosopher, a rabbi, a prophet, and more. Many believe He was the Son of God. Who was He really? How can you know for sure? Atheist turned Christian and award-winning journalist Lee Strobel searches out the true identity of the child in the manger. If Jesus really was God in the flesh, then there ought to be credible evidence.



A Breathtaking Moment

Ian Carmichael
A Breathtaking Moment is a brief gospel tract suitable for any time of the year, but particularly the Christmas season. It reflects on the remarkable thing that God did in taking on human flesh, but He who humbled Himself is also the Creator of the world who breathes life into us. To rescue us from our rebellion, he 'breathed his last' on a cross. But through His resurrection he breathed again, conquered death and gives us new life. It ends with a simple prayer to receive Jesus, and space to write contact details.

competition

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

My Giant Fold-out Book: Christmas Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Koorong.
Website: www.koorong.com
Address: 434 Lord Street, Mount Lawley
Phone: 08 9427 9777



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



Bethel Christian School in Albany is a contemporary school catering for Kindergarten to Year 10 with a rich history and a strong sense of community and academic success.

Kindergarten to Year 10
www.bethel.wa.edu.au

Bethel joins Anzac activities

By Susan Keymer, Head of English Department

Students from Bethel Christian School in Albany were given the opportunity to take part in 'Anzac Albany' commemorative activities held over the weekend of 30 October to 2 November.

The weekend marked 100 years since the first convoy of ships carrying Australian Imperial Force and New Zealand Expeditionary Force troops left Albany's port on 1 November 1914 to join other ships sailing for Egypt and on to Gallipoli. Thousands of visitors joined Albany locals in honouring the sacrifices made by so many as they fought in World War I.

The region's schools were invited to take part in entertaining the crowds in the 'Mess Hall', set up on Stirling Terrace, near Albany's waterfront. Bethel Christian School's choir, consisting of students in Years 4 to 10, performed five songs on the Saturday morning, accompanied by the school's band. They sang and played with energy and emotion, proud to be representing their school and joining the wider community in remembrance.

In the afternoon, Bethel's Year 9/10 Drama class, taught by Mrs Brenda Ward, performed an adaptation of Dianne Wolfer's book, *Lighthouse Girl*. The story is based upon an actual lighthouse keeper's daughter and her experiences on Breaksea Island as the convoy of ships were sailing past the island and off to war.

The performance consisted of various scenes from the book, re-enacted with the addition of costumes and huge painted scenes in the background. It was a fitting tribute to Albany's history and a moving addition to the many events held over the three days.

Although Dianne Wolfer, an Albany author, could not be there on the day, she did attend a dress rehearsal earlier in the week, enjoying the performance and spending some time talking with the students about her love of the writing process.

The special weekend proved to be a valuable experience for the Bethel students and their families, and one which they will remember for many years to come.



Students Rachel Michael (left) and Katelyn Russell with the author of *Lighthouse Girl* and *Light Horse Boy*, Dianne Wolfer.

Photo: Brenda Ward



A cast of students from Years 9 and 10 drama classes performed the *Lighthouse Girl* as part of the Anzac Centenary celebrations in Albany.

Photo: Brenda Ward

Inward and outward learning

By Julia Keymer and Rachel Michael (Year 10)

Throughout the year, students at Bethel Christian School have been learning and growing in Christ as we go about our daily lives. Growth comes through Bethel's outward focus on mission trips, fundraising and learning about the plight of those in undeveloped nations and also the School's focus on mentoring.

Each day Bethel focuses on daily form time devotions. Teachers share passages from God's Word and help us apply these passages in our lives. As a group, we also pray for suffering Christians and ask the Lord's guidance in our lives. This encourages us greatly and strengthens our friendships as we spend time in fellowship together.

This mentoring time has a flow-on effect, as a group of the high school girls hold a weekly lunchtime gathering for the younger girls to pass on some of the knowledge we've gained from life and the wise words of our teachers. We give a devotional message, spend time

chatting, eat some snacks and take part in a fun activity. We hope to encourage these girls in the way that we have been encouraged by our teachers. We hope to share the good news of Christ with them and to be a part of their continual growth.

In Term 4 high school geography students have been researching some of the global human rights issues facing people. It has surprised us to discover how badly people are still being treated in many areas of the world, especially those Christians being persecuted for their Christianity in Iraq. Fairtrade and child labour issues were also studied. We were shocked to learn that children are regularly being prevented from attending school.

Looking outside our school community, we support two sponsor children through Compassion, holding regular bake sales and other fundraisers to raise money for them. There are also missionaries from the School who travel to other countries to provide aid to these places. Four Bethel high school students accompanied others from the school community on a Christian mission trip to Kolkata, India, in mid-September. They worked together with an organisation to provide some support and give a taste of happiness to the people and children in India.

By keeping a focus on both internal and external issues, our school becomes less self-centred and more aware of people and the world. This brings glory to our Lord, by continuing His work and proclaiming His name to those people in need.

Cyclists ride for hope

A team of 30 cyclists have raised over \$50,000 as part of the annual Albany to Perth Ride for Hope cycling event.

Cyclists from Sydney and Scotland joined with Western Australian riders for the 520 kilometre week long trek.

Kevin Barraclough joined the group from Sydney and Struan Gardner flew in from Aberdeen, Scotland with his bike to join the team.

The Ride for Hope 2014 raised funds and awareness of SIM's (Serving In Mission) Girls Off the Streets program and Compassion's work to release children from poverty.

Relationship Manager at Compassion, Rodney Olsen led the team of 30 riders on the six day adventure.

Rodney has completed the ride several times before and enjoys the challenge. With less training opportunities this year, the ride punished him a little more than he remembered from last year's event.

Each day the cyclists rode approximately 100 kilometres arriving at a country town during the afternoon.

Day one took them from Albany to Cranbrook, while day two saw the group stop for lunch in Tambellup before riding on to Katanning.

On day three the team out rode a severe storm and arrived in Wagin in time to watch big black clouds dump heavy rain on the town. A local farmer supplied a memorable meal of steaks for the team that night and locals gathered to hear about the SIM Girls off the Street project and Compassion's

work with children trapped in poverty.

On Thursday the group persevered through tired legs and backs to reach Pingelly where they spent the night before riding into York on Friday.

At each town where they stayed local churches provided hospitality for the group, including hot showers, comfortable beds, food and opportunities to discuss fundraising for SIM and Compassion.

The last day of the ride proved to be the hardest and most punishing for some team members. The ride from York to Perth covered 107 kilometres and featured a number of very serious climbs and one major descent down Greenmount Hill. This combined with strong headwinds was a recipe for several gruelling hours on the bike for the 30 riders.

"To be honest, I found the day rather exhilarating," Rodney said.

"While it was a very tough day, and I could have done with quite a lot more training before the event, my 51 year old legs seemed to remember what to do and carried me across the hills with far more ease than I had expected."



Scotsman Struan Gardner with the Ride for Hope 2014 team mascot on board as the group leaves Pingelly.

Photo: Leith Hackett

WORLDVIEW

Centre for Intercultural Studies

www.worldview.edu.au

- ◆ a learning community for world mission
- ◆ fully accredited courses
 - * Diploma in Cross-cultural Ministry
 - * Associate Degree CCMin
 - * Bachelor CCMin
 - * Grad Cert CCMin
 - * Grad Dip CCMin

enquiry@worldview.edu.au (03) 6337 0444

MISSIONAL

INNOVATIVE

INSPIRATIONAL

Austudy approved

WEC International

the
advocate

<p>Editor: Terry Hicks</p> <p>Managing Editor: Andrew Sculthorpe</p> <p>Subeditor: Jill Birt</p> <p>Production: Vanessa Klomp</p> <p>Creative: Peter Ion</p> <p>Advertising: Natalie Coulson</p> <p>Distribution: Natalie Coulson</p> <p>Editorial deadline: 5th of each month</p>	<p>EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING:</p> <p>Email: editor@theadvocate.tv</p> <p>advertising@theadvocate.tv</p> <p>Mail: Baptist Churches Western Australia PO Box 57, Burswood WA 6100</p> <p>Tel: (08) 6313 6300</p> <p>Fax: (08) 9470 1713</p>
--	--

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.

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

Tel: (08) 9221 9777 Email: info@imageseven.com.au

image
seven
insight applied

Baptist Churches
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BAPTIST YOUTH

SUMMER CAMPS 2015

Youth SERPENTINE Camps

SENIORS

December 28th - January 1st
Students in school years 10 - 12 in 2015

INTERS

January 2nd - 6th
Students in school years 7 - 9 in 2015

JUNIORS

January 7th - 11th
Students in school years 4 - 6 in 2015

for more information and to register online: <http://www.baptistwz.asn.au/view/camps/upcoming-camps> www.facebook.com/BCWAYouth