

# the advocate

"Curiosity may have killed the cat, but it will build the leader."  
**JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>**

**In Conversation** Emily Mason speaks about her work as a volunteer with Red Frogs Australia and the services they provide for young people. **PAGE 12>>**



Photo: Suzannah Gaulke

Two young angels perform in the locally written and produced production *Emmanuel in Kal*.

## Emmanuel in Kal

On 14 December, more than 5,000 people attended a community Christmas carol event organised by Kalgoorlie Baptist Church (KBC) and 19 other local churches.

The creative production *Emmanuel in Kal* was written by Kalgoorlie Baptist Church (KBC) members Helen Kenny and Kerryn Perry and produced and directed by KBC Pastor Eliot Vlatko.

"It really was an amazing event. We had a budget of around \$35,000 for sound, lighting and staging which was fully met by local sponsors," Eliot said.

Each year the community carol event in Kalgoorlie has been organised by the combined churches in town. This was the first time for almost a decade that KBC organised the event.

Norseman indigenous dance troupe Ngadju Dancers, backed by didgeridoo music, opened the production with a dance depicting their long history of living and hunting in the region.

A narrator and a sceptic guided the audience through the storyline from the Old Testament prophecy of Jesus' birth through to the events surrounding His birth, connecting the drama, carols and items to convey the story.

*Emmanuel in Kal* illustrated the question, 'What if Jesus was born in Kalgoorlie?' It may have been reported that a baby was born in a

shearing shed and mine workers saw a bright light in the night sky.

Two choirs, an adult group and a youth choir performed carols and original songs by Meran Byleveld and Eliot Vlatko. The Brownley Singers, Trevor, Marcia, Tyrone and Lyndon Brownley, sang the hauntingly beautiful *Emmanuel* early in the program and then brought some in the audience to tears with *Amazing Grace*.

Other acts included Frontline Drummer, Angel Dancers, Miners Stomp Dancers and Men of Bog.

The crowd listened carefully to the whole program and enthusiastically joined in singing the carols. Pastor Eliot Vlatko heard reports of people in the crowd saying this was the first time they had heard the Christmas story.

Peter Finch from KBC coordinated a pre-event which attracted hundreds of people.

There was face painting for children, food stalls selling a variety of delicious food and a climbing wall for adventurous people to attempt. Funds raised from the climbing wall went to support YouthCARE chaplains in the region.

Preparations for the event included months of rehearsals as well as prayer by groups and individuals for weeks before and during the event.

Jess Crook led the KBC administration team in completing all the necessary documentation required by local council and insurers, including risk assessment for the event.

More than 100 volunteers from several churches worked tirelessly to make it a memorable event.

For a video of the night, visit [www.carolsinkal.org.au](http://www.carolsinkal.org.au)



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### Graham Mabury

Graham Mabury is Pastor to the Community at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

## Humbled and grateful

On becoming the 2015 Senior of the Year for Western Australia I was shocked, humbled and grateful. Shocked because when I was told I was a finalist, I didn't even know I'd been nominated. I'm still unaware who was kind enough to do so. It's humbling to be acknowledged in the company of nominees and finalists of such outstanding quality.

The most enduring reaction, however, is a deep sense of gratitude. So many people have gone the extra mile and let the light of love shine. The award is truly theirs and I only accept it on their behalf.

Thirty two years ago, our Mount Pleasant Baptist Church family asked Merle and I to take them into the community. Ever since they have given generously and sacrificially to allow us to

find creative ways to make a difference as agents of God's love. How appropriate that the award was accepted on my behalf by our church leaders.

6PR had faith in an untried rookie. A commercial station allowed me not to do ads and my colleagues always found a way to say "yes" to community. Through their support, a phone line became a lifeline.

An army of volunteers,

seeking neither recognition nor reward, gave unstintingly. The lives of people they would never meet were changed by their service. They are selfless, great Australians and I am honoured to have journeyed with them.

My amazing family accepted the inevitable sacrifices without complaint and embraced the journey, making the joys more complete and the valleys bearable. My wonderful wife

has always been my greatest supporter, my most astute critic and in every sense the wind beneath my wings.

Above all I am grateful to the Lord for His mercy, patience and grace. In the words of Isaiah, 'All that we have accomplished you have done for us.' [Isaiah 26:12b] As Merle and I enter a new, 'post-Nightline' chapter, we wait to discover what part this recognition will play in the ongoing adventure with Jesus to which He calls us.



### Dr Brian Harris

Dr Brian Harris is the Principal of Vose Seminary and Pastor at Large for the Carey Group.

## Australia's other gods ...

So what did you do on Boxing Day? Although now in the distant past, a statistic I have just made up reliably informs me that 87.26 percent of you were either watching the cricket or grabbing a bargain at a Boxing Day sale. While 37.92 percent of you did both – feel free to quote me, I'm good with figures.

Although church attendance soars on Christmas Day, it doesn't come close to the enthusiasm generated by Australia's other two religions, shopping and sport. So what makes them so appealing? Well, we usually win the cricket, so that's a no brainer. There is something deeply satisfying about annihilating an 'enemy'. True, this year it turned out to be a draw, always a tad frustrating,

but the backdrop had of course been a sobering one –mourning the death of Phil Hughes. It reminds us all of the frailty of life. Not the usual Boxing Day test this time.

Worshippers of the other religion, shopping, splashed out 2.1 billion on 26 December. The tally topped the 16 billion mark by the time most of the sales ended on 15 January – and that's accurate, because I

googled it. In return for their dollars, shoppers encountered crowded parking lots, exhausted attendants, and 70 percent off Christmas decorations. Enormous fun, I am told.

This post Christmas behaviour does pose fascinating questions. What is it about Christ's incarnation that leads to this rush to sport and shopping? Hmmm, it could be a bit of a stretch to suggest any

relationship. So does that mean that Christmas is for Christmas, and the rest of the year we should get on with other things? Perhaps. Or is it that because Christ has come, we are free to spend and play and celebrate? Don't be too quick to dismiss that one out of hand ...

So what did I do on Boxing Day? To tell the truth, I oiled the deck and then read a novel. I'm one of the 12.74 percent who are just not religious ...



### Ben Good

Ben Good works cross culturally with Global Interaction.

## Embrace fragility

I'm 29, so I'm not exactly old, but I'm discovering that the older I get the more fragile I've become. The certainty that I felt when I was younger is disappearing. Clear-cut black and white is being eaten up by the ever growing grey. Confidence in my own abilities is lessening. I'm becoming a lot more emotional, sensitive, and brought down easier.

It could have to do with the life I now lead; transition, uncertainty, strangers in a strange land, etc. Or ... it could just be part of growing up; a gift from God that should be embraced.

Now, our culture says exactly the opposite; fragile and weak is bad, while strength is good. But I believe our culture has it wrong. The fragility that I'm experiencing is God's gift to

me. When we are younger we believe we're invincible, strong, competent, the opposite of fragile. Fragility is what happens when we begin to come to terms with actual reality. Getting used to the newly discovered fact that we are not really all that strong after all. We discover that we can't do everything; that we get tired; that we do get aches, pains, and things not going our way.

So how is fragility a gift from God? Well I'll let the apostle Paul answer that for me, "At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it ... and then he told me, My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness. Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift.

It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer ... I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become." [2 Corinthians 12:8-10, *The Message!*]

It might just be that fragility is God's way of saying trust me, let me do the heavy lifting, let me be your strength. To that, I say 'yes please'.

## 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.



# New church app for WA

In a groundbreaking development, readers are now able to flick through the pages of *The Advocate* on their smartphone or tablet thanks to a brand new Baptist Churches Western Australia app.

The new app was launched in January and will provide Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) with a resource for communicating with WA Baptist church-goers.

The free app allows users to not only read the latest edition of *The Advocate* on smart devices, but also find their local Baptist church, contact Baptist Churches Western Australia and read the Bible in 30 different translations.

"We're really excited to launch this app and see *The Advocate* online and available to more people than ever before and we are looking forward to seeing what other potential there is for this and other apps to help carry out our mission," BCWA Projects Consultant Terry Hicks said.

The BCWA application sits within the larger My Church App, a new platform developed for churches by Perth based organisation Simply Apps, led by local church-goer Kristen Britz.

"An equivalent app built from the ground up would cost a church anywhere between \$5,000 and \$20,000."

The app can be customised for any church and features for users can include: finding local churches on a map, push notifications, submitting prayer requests to the church, service time listings, the ability to contact the church, links to the church's social media accounts, a church event calendar, and small group and children's ministry information.

The free app is available for Apple iOS devices in the iTunes store and for Android users in the Google Play store. To download search for 'My Church App AU' in the iTunes store or 'My Church App Perth' in the Google Play store or scan

the QR code below with your smartphone or tablet.

Once the app has loaded for the first time, users will need to find the blue Baptist Churches Western Australia head office icon in Burswood and click to launch the BCWA specific app.

**For churches interested in developing their own app, visit [www.mychurchapp.com.au](http://www.mychurchapp.com.au)**



“... we are looking forward to seeing what other potential there is for this and other apps to help carry out our mission.”

## Seniors return to Serpentine

**Young campers filled Serpentine Camping Centre during the first 11 days of January.**

After a break of several years a camp for Seniors – students in Years 10 to 12 – ran from 28 December to 1 January.

The theme of the camp was Survivor, focusing activities and learning on running a good race and finishing the course.

Inters, for students in Years 7 to 9, followed the Seniors camp. The

final camp of the summer season, Juniors, ran from 7 to 11 January.

Volunteer leaders guided campers through worship and teaching times each day, as well as activities that nurture 'teamwork' through collaborative tasks.

Many former campers tell stories of long term friendships and personal faith in Jesus Christ starting at Serpentine Camping Centre.

The next youth camps at Serpentine are planned for the July school holidays.

**For registration details, visit [www.baptistwa.asn.au](http://www.baptistwa.asn.au)**



Inters campers ready for action.

Photo: Ebony Sugg

The My Church App could revolutionise communication in churches as the platform allows any church to join and have their own unique customisable app with no set up costs and a monthly subscription fee of only \$30.

The app is free for congregation members to download and use, offering a new way to stay connected to all the news and events at BCWA or their own church.

"We developed the My Church App for our own respective churches and it's evolved to be a simple way for all churches to have their own app and communicate with congregations," SimplyApps Director Kristen said.

"We are able to provide a content management system (CMS) solution for churches at a fraction of the cost," Kristen said.

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# Family festivals thrive

Over 340 volunteers were involved in Scripture Union (SU) Family Festival events across Western Australia over the summer school holidays.

Most of the Family Festivals, formerly known as Beach Missions, were based in caravan and camping parks on the coast. There were two groups in Augusta as well as groups in Bremer Bay, Cervantes, Cheynes Beach (near Albany), Denmark and Jurien Bay.

This year a Family Festival also ran at Brookton, based in the Brookton Camping Ground from 13 to 18 January.

Beach missions started as a ministry of Scripture Union more than 50 years ago. The majority are held for eight days during the first two weeks of January and each one aims to share the gospel.

"They're all aiming to share God's good news with children, young people and families so that they might come to personal faith in Jesus," SU Executive Leadership - Ministry Oversight Barbara Totterdell said.

Stories of how people engage vary widely. At Bremer Bay, six and a half hours south east of Perth, a team member went running each morning. Another camper joined the runner on the second day. Towards the end of the run the camper asked whether the Family Festival runner has always been a Christian. It was a perfect opportunity for the team member to share his testimony.

A group of young adult French backpackers were at the caravan park as well. They joined in some of the activities and after the gospel was shared during one event a young French man said "That's deep. There's a lot to think about there."

The teams prepare their programs throughout the year.

They use Bible stories, music, memory verses, drama, games, craft activities, sport and even quiz nights to engage families who are staying at the camp site with the good news. There are times of high energy interaction as well as opportunities for reflective conversation.

Some teams have been returning to the same camp sites for decades. Programs and teams develop and change to meet the needs of the groups.

Scripture Union Western Australia has been recognised as an international leader in conducting camping and mission programs for families and children. They have several awards from the WA government for their risk management practices for the more than 50 camps they organise each year.

**If you are interested in volunteering with a Family Festival team, email Barb Totterdell at [barb.totterdell@suwa.org.au](mailto:barb.totterdell@suwa.org.au)**



Team member Jenny Rowlands uses her creative face painting skills to welcome a little girl at the Bremer Bay Scripture Union Family Festival.

Photo: Barbara Totterdell

## New pastor

Dalkeith Baptist Church (DBC) welcomed their new pastor, Stuart Manning, on 2 November 2014.

Stuart and his wife Danae and their young family plan to move to Dalkeith ready for the 2015 school year.

A large group of friends from North Beach Baptist Church where the Manning family had been attending and Stuart was an elder, swelled the crowd at DBC for the ordination and commissioning service.

Stuart, who is in his late 30s, was raised in Perth. He has degrees in Education, Commerce and Science as well as a Master of Divinity through Trinity Theological

College. Before moving into pastoral work, Stuart taught mathematics in country schools and was involved in five different country churches, including Collie and Merredin. He worked at St Barnabas and Ellenbrook Anglican churches (2008-2010) and lectured in Hebrew for six years at Trinity Theological College.

During the ordination service Church Health Consultant with Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) Pastor Philip Bryant brought a greeting from BCWA.



Church members gather around Stuart Manning to pray for him as he commences his ministry at Dalkeith Baptist Church.

Photo: Babu Simon

Trinity Theological College Principal Rev. Dr Don West preached using Hebrews 1:1-2:4.

Long-term member and current church secretary Margaret Ellis welcomed Stuart

as the formally inducted pastor and presented him with a Bible, symbolic of his and the church's commitment to God's Word.

Several people from the congregation gathered around

Stuart, laid hands on him and prayed for him, asking for God's blessing.

Stuart is keen to see people transformed as they live for Jesus and serve others.

## digital church

06/01/2015

**Rob Hurtgen**

[lifeway.com/pastorstoday](http://lifeway.com/pastorstoday)

"Under-shepherds must regularly come before God with a simple but powerful prayer request: 'Lord, what next?'"

07/01/2015

**JD Greear**

[jdgrear.com](http://jdgrear.com)

"Charles Spurgeon said that doubt is a foot poised to go forwards or backwards in faith. We can never go forward without first picking up the foot. So stare into your doubts. But then look into the face of God,

realise His power, and grasp the greatness of His love."

09/01/15

**Christina Fox**

[desiringgod.org](http://desiringgod.org)

"... there's another fear that the Bible speaks of, one that we must have. This kind of fear is good. It stands up to all our other fears. It brings wisdom, joy, rest, and life. It is a holy fear - the fear of God."

10/01/2015

**Eugene Cho**

[twitter.com/EugeneCho](http://twitter.com/EugeneCho)

"Our character is often evident in our highs and

lows. Be humble in the mountaintops. Be steadfast in the valleys. Be faithful in the between."

10/01/2015

**Louie Giglio**

[twitter.com/LouieGiglio](http://twitter.com/LouieGiglio)

"Worry less about judging others, for 'each of us will give an account of ourselves to God'. [Romans 14:12]"

10/01/2015

**Carlos Whittaker**

[twitter.com/loswhit](http://twitter.com/loswhit)

"God never promised us peace like a puddle. He promised us peace like a river."

10/01/2015

**Joel Osteen**

[joelosteen.com/Pages/TodaysWord.aspx](http://joelosteen.com/Pages/TodaysWord.aspx)

"... relax and enjoy the journey! Let God take you where He wants you to be in His timing, not yours. Remember, God is never late!"

11/01/2015

**Craig Groeschel**

[twitter.com/craiggroeschel](http://twitter.com/craiggroeschel)

"God never intended the 'church' to be a building. The church has always been God's people."

11/01/2015

**Kyle Idleman**

[twitter.com/KyleIdleman](http://twitter.com/KyleIdleman)

"You may not love **where** you work, but God has called you to **love** where you work."

11/01/2015

**Rick Warren**

[rickwarren.org/devotional](http://rickwarren.org/devotional)

"We want God to take away all of the problems, pain, sorrow, suffering, sickness, and sadness. But God wants to work on you first, because transformation won't happen in your life until you renew your mind, until your thoughts begin to change."



# Gym and a prayer

**Lakeside Baptist Church opens their new \$900,000 Fitness Centre with an open day on Saturday 7 February from 3.00pm to 6.30pm.**

Fitness Centre Manager Karen Smith is ready to welcome new members to the Fitness Centre.

"We've been ready for weeks but needed the final approval to use the new building before we can have people in it," Karen said.

Karen brings a strong background in training and mentoring from years of working in the fitness industry in the United Kingdom before taking up permanent residence in Western Australia.

"We want this to be a place that ministers to people – not just the physical side but mental and spiritual too," Karen said.

"We're addressing the needs of whole people, not just a segment of life."

Karen was involved in Holy Trinity Brompton (the church the Alpha movement came from) and is a skilled communicator with a passion to help people. She attends Lakeside Baptist Church which meets at the Recreation Centre and is a member of the church's Prayer Team.

Karen will lead a team of four personal trainers to extend the culture of Lakeside into the new gym with its new high quality, user-friendly equipment.

"We see she has the skills and the heart to turn our connections into faith conversations," Lakeside Recreation Centre Manager Roy Robinson said.

A grant from Lotterywest helped to build the new gym, café, meeting rooms and offices. The Lakeside church community has generously given more than \$300,000 to the project.

Lakeside Recreation Centre, a ministry of Lakeside Baptist Church, started more than

20 years ago as a basketball ministry. Today, as well as basketball, netball, badminton and the new gym it runs Prime Movers, a fitness program for seniors, and has strong connections with some local schools and the nearby Wandoo Reintegration Facility.

"We'll be offering work experience to some Challenger Institute of Technology students and we're looking for opportunities to connect with

the new Fiona Stanley Hospital," Karen said.

Families will continue to be a strong focus for Lakeside with Family Membership options to the gym.

"We'll run family fitness courses, educating the whole family about healthy living, including eating and exercise," Karen said.

Initially the gym will be open from 6.00am to 10.00pm, Monday to Friday, with shorter hours on Saturday.

**For more information, visit the Centre on the corner of Farrington Road and Bibra Drive in North Lake or phone Karen on 9310 7700.**



Karen Smith is the new Fitness Centre Manager at Lakeside Recreation Centre.

Photo: Jill Birt

## Long-term faithfulness



Photo: Preston

David and Barbara Borrett are leaving Cranbrook/Franklin River Baptist Church after 62 years.

**Cranbrook/Franklin River Baptist Church farewelled long-term members David and Barbara Borrett on 7 December 2014.**

David Borrett was posted to Cranbrook railway station as Station Master in 1952. With his wife and son Andrew, then a toddler, the Borrett's initially saw it as a two-year posting.

After the birth of two more children, Rodney and Sylvie, and 62 years in town, David and Barbara have moved to Katanning to be closer to their daughter Sylvia Patterson.

David and Barbara have been committed followers of Jesus and served Him in many ways during their years in Cranbrook.

Between them, David and Barbara have generously shared

their God given gift of teaching God's word in Bible study groups or one on one. David is known locally as a gifted preacher.

David started the All Age Sunday School in the church, which developed into a vibrant and important part of the church. He also served as Church Secretary for 20 years and volunteered with Aerial Missions, taking the gospel to some very remote areas of northern Western Australia.

Barbara played piano and organ at church and conducted the Combined Churches Christmas and Easter choirs.

Early in their time in Cranbrook, the Borretts travelled to Tambellup to help conduct church services and to Kendenup to run the Christian Endeavour group in the little town.

The church and community honoured the Borretts for their faithfulness to serve God where He directed them.

## Eduard Klassen to tour Western Australia in March



Reach Beyond is excited to bring Eduard Klassen to Australia again in March 2015.

Eduard is a Paraguayan folk harpist who has had a lifelong association with Reach Beyond since hearing the gospel message over the radio as a boy and making a personal commitment to Christ.

Come along and enjoy a variety of his music interspersed with personal testimony and stories of God's work in his life.

For concert details please go to our web site:  
**reachbeyond.org.au/klassen-concerts**  
or contact **Gordon Smith on 0427 760 424**





# BFS celebrates 30 years

Baptist Financial Services (BFS) celebrated 30 years of serving the Christian community by hosting two luncheons in Perth in mid-December.

Leaders from ministries, schools, churches, Baptistcare and Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) attended the events hosted by BFS Relationship Manager – Western Australia Anina Findling at the BCWA office in Rivervale.

The new Baptist Financial Services Chief Executive Officer David Slinn and retiring CEO Graeme Mitchell flew from Sydney for the events.

BFS commenced in 1984 in New South Wales with the goal of supporting ministries and churches. Baptist Churches Western Australia approached BFS in 2006 to extend their operations into Western Australia.

Today, with national deposits of more than \$285 million dollars BFS works with churches in all states of Australia except Queensland.

Western Australian churches, ministries and individuals currently have more than \$35.5 million deposited with BFS.

Anina Findling was appointed Relationship Manager – Western Australia in May 2013. With a solid background in banking and strong interpersonal skills, Anina works at the BCWA office four days a week. She regularly meets with churches and ministry groups to advise how BFS can support their ministries.

BFS has loans and overdrafts totally more than \$11.3 million provided to Baptist ministries in WA. This includes \$8.8 million to 15 Baptist churches, more than \$27,000 to three pastors and \$2.3 million to other Baptist organisations and schools. A further \$1.7 million has been lent to non-Baptist churches in WA.

Loans are not the only way BFS can help churches and ministries. They can also provide a range of financial services to assist churches, including an online cheque account, online saving accounts, term deposits, a unique iGive service designed specifically for electronic church offerings, and a pre-paid Visa card for pastor exempt benefits with an Australian Taxation Office ruling.

BFS has faced challenges as well as many opportunities over the past 30 years. The board and directors consider it a privilege for BFS to give support to so many churches and Christian ministries seeking access to finance for their ministry.

"It has been encouraging to see the continuing confidence within our Christian community with so many churches, organisations and individuals partnering with BFS by stewarding their financial resources, so that together we have been able to resource



Dushan Jeyabalan from Baptist World Aid Australia with Baptist Financial Services CEO David Slinn at the 30th anniversary celebration lunch.

Christian ministry," Graeme Mitchell said.

There is a range of helpful resources on the BFS website, including a guide specifically designed for church treasurers

and administrators, which is available free of charge.

To access BFS resources, visit [www.bfs.org.au](http://www.bfs.org.au)



Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

Mosquito nets for beds are proving valuable in fighting malaria in Africa.

## Aid helping to defeat malaria

The World Health Organization (WHO) has just revealed their annual World Malaria Report showing that aid giving does work.

According to the detailed study, the number of lives claimed by malaria worldwide has fallen by 47 percent between the year 2000 and 2013. For African children under five, the rate has been reduced by 58 percent.

This dramatic result is attributed to a combination of lifesaving malaria interventions, including rapid diagnostic tests, improved treatments and

increased access to bed nets, such as those distributed by Baptist World Aid Australia's projects.

"We can win the fight against malaria," WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan said.

"We have the right tools and our defences are working, but we still need to get those tools to a lot more people if we are to make these gains sustainable," Dr Chan said.

The report states that despite an increase in funding for malaria prevention, it is still less than half what is required to achieve global targets for malaria control and elimination.

The simplest and most effective way to prevent malaria is to use an insect-repellent treated bed net, and education about the best ways to protect families.

Baptist World Aid Australia employee Rose Young said that the \$10 malaria prevention card is one of their most popular gifts from *The Little Book of Big Gift Ideas*.

The report shows what a big impact aid can have in the lives of families living in poverty.

## briefs

### Engagement

John Packard from Cranbrook/Frankland Baptist Church and Kathy Curnow from Mount Barker Baptist Church recently announced their engagement.

### Pastoral changes

Each year the end of the school year brings changes to the pastoral roles within Baptist Churches Western Australia. The following changes have recently taken place: Pastors Glenn and Leanne Whitfield have been appointed as part-time Associate Pastors at Ellenbrook Baptist Church. Pastor Chris Turk is the new Interim Pastor at Karratha Baptist Church.

Pastor Warrick Smith has been appointed as the Pastor of Claremont Baptist Church. Pastor Andy Price is the newly appointed Youth Pastor at East Fremantle Baptist Church and Pastor Shayne Goldfinch has been appointed the new Student Pastor at Byford Baptist Church. Pastor Chris Green has concluded as the Youth Pastor at Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church. Pastor Rod Holmes will be concluding at Darlington United Church in the near future. Pastor Grant Moore is concluding as the Associate Pastor at Gosnells Baptist Church in February 2015. He has been appointed as a staff worker for evangelism with

AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) based at Curtin University.

### Adjournment

Eight people from the #LoveMakesAWay campaign who were arrested for trespassing at the office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Julie Bishop, in Perth on 9 December had their court case adjourned on 31 December. The group, which includes Vose Seminary student Alan McCrechan, was protesting the Australian government's decision to deport babies born in Australia to asylum seeker families to Narau. The group will face court again on 28 January.

### Youth gathering

More than 400 teenagers from Baptist youth groups across Perth attended a combined youth event at Woodvale Baptist Church in early December. The night was filled with fun, games, drama and great music. Ryan Christensen from Quinns Rock Baptist Church was the keynote speaker. The youth music team from Woodvale led the worship. The next combined event is planned for June.

### Catalyst launch

Baptist World Aid Australia's fight against injustice continues with the 2015 Catalyst launch at Woodvale Baptist Church,

Woodvale Drive, Woodvale on Saturday 14 March at 12.30pm. Anyone interested in justice and ending poverty are welcome to join Catalyst groups from across WA. Gershon Nimbalker from Baptist World Aid Australia in Sydney will be at the launch where new resources will be available. People will also have access to some of the excellent campaigning materials, learn more and be inspired to end poverty, fight slavery and tackle corporate corruption. For more information, phone Dushan Jeyabalan on 6313 6300.



# South Australia fire and floods



Photo: Kaye Flack

Clovercrest Baptist Church volunteers Sasha and Amber packing hampers for families affected by the Sampson Flat bushfire in South Australia.

Clovercrest Baptist Church operated as an official fire emergency relief centre for South Australians effected by the fires in early January.

John Flack works three days a week as Director of Pathway Community Services, the church's community engagement team.

As the magnitude of the crisis emerged, John and his team of volunteers took action. Through the use of social media the call went out for non-perishable food and meals to give to those impacted by the fires.

For more than a week people walked in daily with non-perishable and fresh food. Facebook updates advised people of the types of goods needed for hampers.

The church distributed more than 500 food parcels to people in fire-affected areas, including the town of Gumeracha, in the Sampson Flat bush fire area.

With the fire affected area sealed off to all but some property owners, volunteers delivered trailer loads of hampers to the roadblocks where locals from inside the fire zone area met them to collect hampers to be distributed.

Pastor of Salem Baptist Church in Gumeracha Peter Leith described the situation they faced.

"The fire broke out at 12.30pm on Friday 2 January. At about 10.30am on Saturday I was in the church getting some music out for Sunday morning worship. My wife and I had been receiving text messages from the Country Fire Service (CFS) with fire warnings," Peter said.

After receiving the warnings, the Leiths quickly gathered some photos, computers and clothes, and evacuated to Adelaide.

Peter returned to Gumeracha late Sunday afternoon to find the rampaging fire had halted just five metres from the back of the church property. The church and manse were safe.

More than 20 properties in the area were destroyed by the fire. Three properties of the church community received minor damage. There are many stories of heroic efforts to save homes and animals.

"I heard of someone giving a food parcel from Clovercrest to a man who had been using his grader to make fire breaks and clear roads for three days nonstop. He'd missed out on getting help and really appreciated the fresh food," Peter said.

Outside the fire zone, John Flack and his wife Kaye, with the volunteers at Clovercrest, worked long hours for eight consecutive days supporting the people in need.

Many roads in the area were still closed on Wednesday 7 January due to burnt out trees dangerously fringing the two lane thoroughfares.

The situation changed for the area when steady rain fell on Wednesday and Thursday bringing the added complication of floods and the need for more food hampers.

## 40 years after Tracy



Photo: Ramon A Williams

One of Ramon Williams' photos taken 40 years ago of Red Cross worker Betty Watcham helping victims of Cyclone Tracy in Darwin.

Veteran Christian photographer and journalist Ramon A Williams' photographs of the aftermath of Cyclone Tracy destroying Darwin on Christmas Eve 1974 were part of a Red Cross display commemorating the 40th anniversary of the event in Darwin in December.

Ramon travelled on a Royal Australian Air Force Hercules flight with a team of power workers taking trucks and gear to the devastated Northern Territory city on Saturday 28 December 1974.

At Darwin airport he photographed the Salvos providing comfort and care to those evacuating the city, as the cyclone had left 30,000 people homeless.

Driving a car he borrowed from the Retta Dixon Homes,

he visited all the churches in the city. His photos and report covered every denomination. On Sunday 29 December he phoned through a report to Radio 2CH in Sydney.

Ramon also travelled with Red Cross worker and friend Betty Watcham photographing the early stages of the relief effort: searching for missing people and transporting lonely people in need before leaving Darwin on the last flight evacuating people on 31 December.

"I photographed in black and white, colour slides file, colour negative, and panoramic black and white using three Nikon cameras and a panoramic camera," Ramon said.

The majority of his photos used in the Darwin display were black and white images.

Ramon continues as a missionary photographer with Worldwide Photos, 'telling others what others are doing for the Lord'. He is a member of Gynea Baptist Church in Sydney.

Position Vacant

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Parkerville Baptist Church is located in the hills 35km east of Perth. Our mission is to *share our lives and create pathways that inspire people to wholeheartedly follow Jesus.*

We are currently seeking an Associate Pastor, this role will involve preaching, general pastoral duties, overseeing the youth department leaders, leading other ministries and supporting the Senior Pastor. The role will be 3-5 days per week depending on the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

To apply for this position contact:  
jenelle.taylor@parkerville.net.au  
for an application pack.

Applications due:  
28 February 2015





# Courage and compassion: Faith in times of terror

2014 was a tough year: the mysterious loss of MH370, the criminal shooting of MH170 over Ukraine, terrible conflicts in Syria and Palestine, the devastation of the murderous Islamic State, the siege in Sydney's Lindt Café, the tragic killing of eight children in Cairns ...

2015 has started in a similar way with the murder of Parisian journalists and slaughter of over 2,000 villagers in Nigeria by Boko Haram. What does discipleship look like in days of terror?

We find some answers to these questions in Psalms 8 to 11. This little collection meditates on what it means to trust God in terrible times. Psalm 8 speaks of our dignity as God's creation, crowned with glory and honour. Psalms 9 to 10, however, cry out to God because the 'man who is of the earth' is violent, causing terror. In Psalm 11 the king's counsellors ask, 'If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?' and advise him to 'flee as a bird to your mountain!' But David refuses to go; even in the face of threatening and dangerous circumstances David is convinced that the Lord reigns, that God will 'arise' to judge the wicked and put an end to their evil. And so David **trusts** and David **stays**.

Taken together, these psalms provide a vision of life for uncertain times. They proclaim hope in the present and eschatological triumph of God, who is enthroned in His holy temple, and who will establish His sovereignty over all creation. Furthermore, the psalms declare the promises that God will be a refuge for His people, and that they shall experience His protection and reward; the Lord loves righteousness and the righteous will behold His face.

This is the bedrock conviction of biblical faith: The Lord reigns! (see Psalm 96:10; Isaiah 52:7). This conviction, deeply grounded in the scriptures, generates faith and trust, and so also the prayer, patience and courage we find in these psalms.

Further, these psalms present a picture of God's character as one who is merciful and just, who favours the vulnerable and stands against the wicked. God's people are called to emulate this character. If God loves justice, His people will aspire to live justly. Since God cares for the vulnerable and shelters the oppressed, so His people will also learn compassion for the afflicted. Over against the pride, greed and violence of the wicked, God's people will practise humility, contentment, gentleness and peace. They will, however, also stand against the oppressor to defend the needy.

Finally, the psalms presuppose a faithful community which preserves and sings these psalms and prays these prayers, and remembers these promises, and lives this hope. **Together** the people of God dare to **embody** the vision of scripture in the midst of a world of conflict and terror. In particular, they **pray** as the psalmist prays, crying out for God to 'arise', or, in New Testament language, to pray 'Thy Kingdom come!' Like David they refuse to flee. Rather, they **stay** as David stayed. The community of God's people will be **present** to the afflicted, ministering to them and in solidarity with them. They will also be present to the wicked as a testimony against their ways. They not only pray 'Thy Kingdom come!', but live the ways of the Kingdom. In the midst of a world of violence and terror Christians are called to be prayerful, present and practise the gracious and righteous character of God.

**Dr Michael O'Neil teaches theology and ethics at Vose Seminary and blogs at [theologyandchurch.com](http://theologyandchurch.com)**



Photo: Thomas Koch / Shutterstock.com



Photo: NeydtStock / Shutterstock.com



# New partnerships

**Over the past two decades a new wave of refugees has been arriving in Australia seeking shelter from persecution and war.**

There are more than 20 congregations in Baptist churches in Western Australia who's first language for worship is not English.

Baptist churches in WA are embracing the new arrivals. Several churches are building partnerships with these groups which are some of the largest and fastest growing congregations of Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA).

Perth Karen Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Eh Thee Kaw meets on Sunday afternoons at Bentley Baptist Church. They fled Myanmar because of persecution, with some families spending more than a decade in United Nations refugee camps on the Thai-Burma border. The congregation of about 200 people has been established in Perth for about 20 years and have been instrumental in helping other Karen groups develop communities in Albany, Dalwallinu and Katanning.

Bentley Baptist Church Pastor Aaron Bradfield talks regularly with Pastor Eh Thee Kaw and the two congregations have some joint activities.

Pastor James Tin Jung leads the Perth Chin Baptist Church. As a growing church and with their lease expiring, they were desperate for a new place to worship. In late 2014 they began meeting at Maida Vale Baptist Church.

The partnership is already proving valuable for both groups with a combined service. The 30 voice Chin choir sang at Maida Vale Baptist Church's community Christmas event. Pastor James and Maida Vale Baptist Church Pastor Rob Douglas expect to meet together regularly for prayer and to learn together.

"We believe that Maida Vale Baptist Church has been given by God for us," Pastor James said.

"They generously considered our needs especially in building and helped us."

"We are so happy to be with them."

Elizerig Koko leads the Arabic speaking congregation that meets at Yokine Baptist Church. The majority of the congregation of 60 to 70 people are Sudanese refugees, many of them from the Nuba Mountains on the southern border of Sudan. Some of the families have spent many years in refugee camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia. They struggled to find education opportunities in the camps and battled hunger and drought.

The partnership with Yokine Baptist Church is much more than having access to buildings. Elizerig meets regularly with Yokine Baptist Church Pastor Craig Ecclestone to pray and talk. Many of the Sudanese group also attend the morning worship service at Yokine and stay on for their own service in Arabic. Yokine has recently refurbished a section of their property for two purposes: to provide a community meeting place for people who are involved with their community garden project and to be a comfortable place for the Arabic speaking congregation to meet.

Craig conducts weddings and funerals for the Sudanese group as Elizerig is still working towards accreditation.

"I am learning so much from Elizerig and others in the group," Craig said.

"Their commitment to being 'us' has bowled me over."

"They came and worked with us to build the community garden and one day Elizerig arrived with \$6,000 from the Arabic speaking group to help fund the project," Craig said.

The benefits of partnership are not one sided.

Cross Cultural and Indigenous Ministries worker with Baptist Churches Western Australia Pastor Victor Owuor, says refugees from Asia and Africa have much to offer the churches in WA.

"I see two main areas where these established churches will benefit from fellowship with new arrivals: hospitality and community," Victor said.

"I see a need for deep community in the Western church."

"With so many people working in professional roles there appears to be a strong tendency to compartmentalise life, and home becomes a very private place."

Community is a very strong characteristic of African and Asian cultures so generous hospitality is a way of life for many groups in Africa and Asia.

"Sharing food together is a place for good connections. In African culture there is a sense of shame if plates are empty because there isn't enough food," Victor said.

There are many challenges for refugees as their children quickly acquire English language at school but their parents do not have the same quantity and quality of learning. Supporting the adults with learning English is a valuable contribution a partner church can make.

Cultural issues often become problems for families. Australia's egalitarian attitude to gender roles is confusing and challenging to some men. Parents are confused when their children come home from school and announce that they have rights as individuals which their parents must comply with or the children will report them to the police.

Confident relationships with trustworthy people who understand the culture, education system and government agencies are very helpful. Negotiating the local system is a learned skill whether you are holidaying in Bali or arriving in Perth with little knowledge of the English language.

"Of course culture is dynamic and constantly changing," Victor said.

"I think we should all expect to make mistakes at times when we're communicating and caring for one another, but that must not stop us from engaging and learning from one another."

"Integration into Australian culture not assimilation is our goal."



**Elizerig Koko and his wife Yousna minister to an Arabic speaking congregation that meets at Yokine Baptist Church.**

Photo: Jill Birt



**The Perth Chin Baptist Church choir singing at Maida Vale Baptist Church's community Christmas event.**

Photo: Bev Devenport



**The beat and rhythms of music the Arabic congregation use in worship has the distinctive feel of Africa.**

Photo: Jill Birt



# The most beautiful thing

Today, my home made a woman cry ... it was the most beautiful thing I'd seen all day.

My home at the moment happens to be a large, floating hospital ship, part of Mercy Ships. We bring hope and healing in the form of free healthcare to the forgotten poor. The stunning awesomeness of this is still sinking in.

As one of the writers on the ship's communications team, I meet patients and hear their stories. Currently the ship is docked on the sweet shores of Madagascar and the people are gorgeous!

A little two year old girl named Elvie and her mama, Noeline, are fine examples of this beauty. The most useful word in Malagasy language is 'mafatifaty', meaning 'cute' – a descriptor for basically all Malagasy children.

Elvie's cuteness was not deterred at all by the fact that she was born with a clubfoot – her left foot turned inward. Even after surgery when she was six months old her foot remained bent. But spunky little Elvie did not allow her physical problem to limit her. She is one of the cheekiest, most talkative, feistiest, lively little ragamuffins in the ward! She loves to play with balloons!

Elvie is a heart-stealer. Her community loved her so much that they overlooked her deformity and felt sorry for her. Her clubfoot broke her mother's heart. She wondered what she could do, what her baby's future would look like.

Noeline was delighted when she heard about Mercy Ships. She lined up with thousands of others on the

very first patient screening day. She was so excited when Elvie was among those selected for life-changing surgery.

Skilled Mercy Ships medical professionals used the Ponseti Method to correct Elvie's clubfoot. The result? A mother in Madagascar is forever thankful for all those people who have changed her baby's life. Now she dreams that her daughter will become a doctor to help others.

Noeline's crying is like the weather phenomenon I've only experienced in my other home, New Zealand. It's the kind of weather where the skies manage to pour rain, yet simultaneously the sun manages to shine brightly through the clouds. Noeline's tears fell while a grin would not stop bursting out on her face. She was one happy woman!

If her face didn't give it away, then the joyful repetitions of, "I'm so happy! Merci, merci, merci!" punctuated with hugs and excited hand gestures made it clear.

We couldn't help but share her joy.

Several days later in the ward Elvie asked her mother, "Where is the sun?"

I can answer that question: "It's on your mother's face, little girl."

**Eunice Hiew is a writer for Mercy Ships communications team.**



Noeline and her daughter Elvie after successful surgery to correct a clubfoot.

Photo: Justine Forrest

 **Baptist Basketball**

Is looking to fill the role of Court Controller for the 2015 season.

Baptist Basketball's competition is played on Saturdays from the end of March to the middle of September & is held at Lakeside Rec Centre.

To find out more about the role or to request a JDF please contact Richard on [contact@baptistbasketball.info](mailto:contact@baptistbasketball.info)

Applications Close Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Feb

 **Baptist Basketball** **Christ OUR AIM**

**Nominations for Baptist Basketball's 2015 season are now OPEN.**

Baptist Basketball is a great way to introduce Christ to your friends & colleagues, to catch up with other Christians and of course Exercise!

Held at Lakeside Rec. Centre, the season runs most Saturdays from 21<sup>st</sup> March to 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. Multiple divisions are available in our Junior's, Mixed, Men's and Women's competitions

For More info visit: [baptistbasketball.info](http://baptistbasketball.info)  
Or email: [contact@baptistbasketball.info](mailto:contact@baptistbasketball.info)

**Nominations close 5<sup>th</sup> March at the AGM all welcome**

## international briefs

### AirAsia victims

Friends and relatives of the victims of AirAsia Flight QZ8501 gathered at Mawar Sharon Church in Surabaya, Indonesia for prayers led by Pastor Sonny Susanto on Sunday 4 January. Susanto acknowledged the pain of the congregation as 41 of its members were among the 168 on board the flight. There is little hope of their bodies being recovered. After departing Surabaya for Singapore at 5.35am on 28 December, the plane disappeared from airspace less than an hour later. The pilot had sought clearance minutes after take-off to fly higher due to bad weather but

this request was denied. One flight data recorder has been recovered from the ocean floor.

### Persecution in India

Converts to Christianity publicly declaring their faith through baptism in India are aware of the resentment they face from Hindu extremists, especially since a new government led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party came to power in May 2014. A ministry leader in Odisha (formerly Orissa) said there had been attacks, assaults, threats to pastors and believers in several parts of India. Another Christian leader reported 12 believers were

hospitalised following a severe beating. Believers are fearful, scattered and wandering in forest areas. Christian Aid Mission is helping persecuted Christians to survive.

### Andraé Crouch

Gospel music legend Andraé Crouch (72) passed away on 8 January 2015 in Los Angeles. The Nashville Publicity Groups list Andraé's accolades as seven Grammy Awards, six GMA Dove Awards, an Academy Award nomination for the music soundtrack to *The Color Purple*, induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Musicians from

Elvis Presley to Paul Simon recorded his songs. During his career he worked as a producer and arranger with top artists, including Michael Jackson, Madonna, Quincy Jones, Diana Ross and Elton John.

### Egyptian Christians

*Morning Star News* reports suspected Islamist extremists abducted Egyptian Christians in Libya in January. Gunmen raided a housing complex in the coastal city of Sirte in early January and kidnapped 13 people, selecting them for their Christian faith. All those kidnapped were closely related and from Minya, Upper Egypt. They had reportedly

travelled to Libya to work in construction. Previously, on 30 December, seven Christians were kidnapped as they attempted to drive back to Egypt on the coast road that passes through Sirte. In addition, on 23 December, a Coptic doctor and his wife were killed at their home in the city; their 14 year old daughter was kidnapped and later killed.



# Communities bounce back

When events like floods and drought occur across the developing world, there is no government assistance offered to help families get back on their feet.

Natural disasters do not just destroy homes and livelihoods for these communities, they also erode development gains that have been made, entrenching families in poverty and leaving them vulnerable to famine and exploitation.

Malawi frequently experiences events like flood and drought. In January 2015 thousands of families lost their homes, had crops damaged, livestock lost and water sources contaminated as a result of seasonal flooding. Displaced families searched for inadequate makeshift accommodation, with the risk of cholera, food shortages and disrupted schooling. Their children become a very high risk of abuse.

local landowner demanded more from this vulnerable young girl.

Bosses take advantage of children as young as nine. Ndazi felt that her only escape was to get married, losing any chance of further education.

"I got married at 13 years old. I had no heart for school at this time, Ndazi said.

"All I thought about was to get married to escape from the abuse I was going through [from] my parents' boss."

Baptist World Aid Australia's Christian partner in Malawi heard of Ndazi's plight and invited her to take part in a support program which helped her reclaim her fractured childhood. She is now back at school and the perpetrator has been punished.

"My family and I are so happy of the changes that are happening to our community, but especially the change that has taken place for me," Ndazi said.

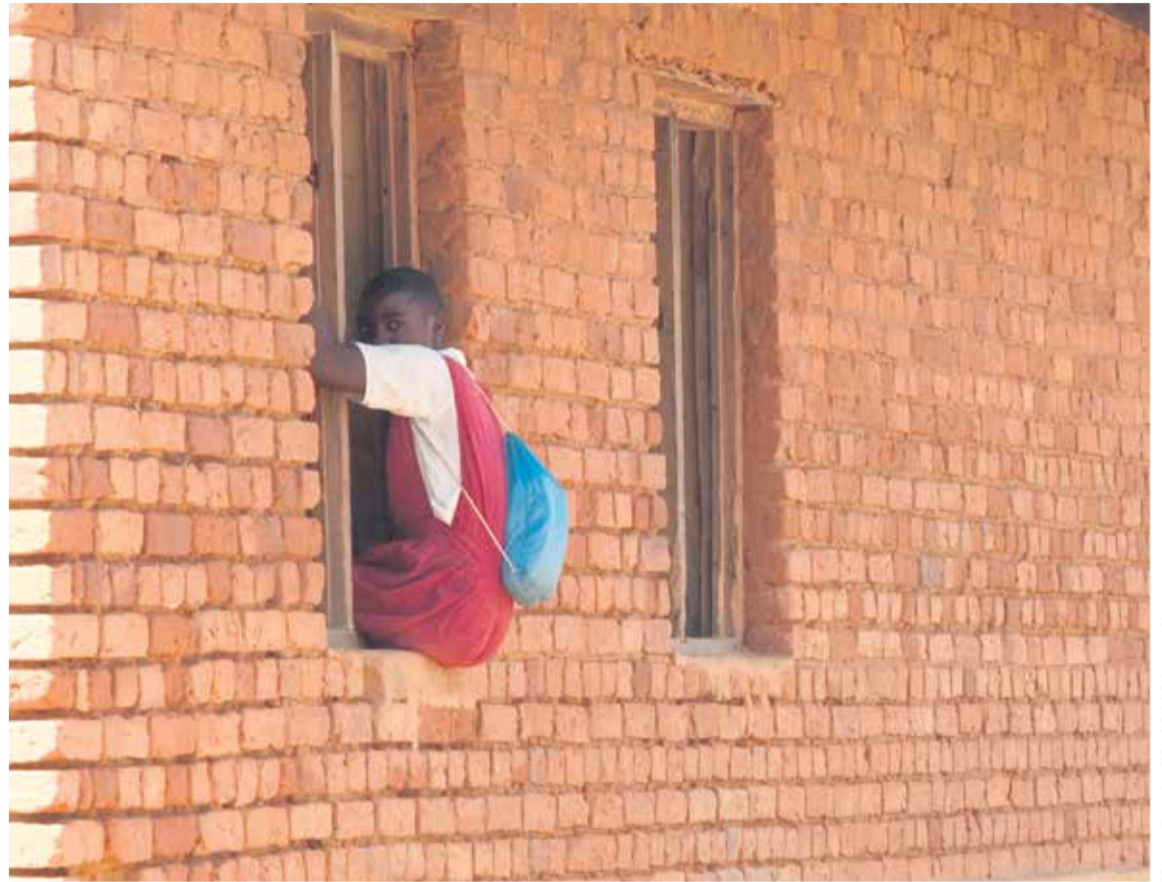
"Now I want to finish school and be a doctor."

Baptist World Aid Australia works alongside international Christian partners investing in Disaster Risk Reduction programs, which identify risks to communities and put in place measures to save lives and reduce the impact of natural hazards.

Working with Disaster Risk Reduction, the Vulnerable Children Fund invests in children, families and communities at risk as a result of natural events. The support Ndazi and others receive is made possible through the generous support of Australian Baptists who have given to this fund.

“  
... the Vulnerable Children Fund invests in children, families and communities at risk as a result of natural events.”

Following an earlier flood, Ndazi's family moved to the north of the country looking for a better life, but her parents and siblings were forced into back-breaking labour, harvesting tobacco to survive. Tragically, the



Ndazi sits in the window of the school in Malawi where she is now a student.

Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

## Pakistanis unite

In the shadow of the brutal massacre of 145 children and staff at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan in December 2014 by Taliban fighters, Muslim and Christian communities in a nearby town have come together to mourn the slain and celebrate the birth of 'Isa' or Jesus, revered by both communities.

The two communities are working together on a project to use media to tackle health and social issues, and build community cohesion.

When the local pastor announced that his community would not celebrate Christmas this year because of the school murders, an imam said that that they must celebrate because his

community had brought a cake to recognise the birth of Isa.

The two communities held a ceremony where they lit candles in memory of those children who had been killed and cut the cake provided by the imam.

A Muslim community radio station in England joined the event live to cover the unique gathering.

Local Muslim leaders praised the organisers, saying

more events of this nature were needed to foster peace and understanding among Pakistani communities.

Perth-based Health Communication Resources provides training and other resources for this project and others in Pakistan.

For more information, visit [www.h-c-r.org](http://www.h-c-r.org)



Christian and Muslim leaders light candles to remember the children killed in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Photo: Health Communication Resources



### Executive Recreation Centre Manager

#### Lakeside Recreation Centre (F/T)

Situated in the southern suburbs of Perth WA, Lakeside is a unique Church serving the community through a Recreation Centre. Lakeside is one of the busiest Recreation Centres in the state with around 6500 people using the Centre each week.

A full time position is available for an enthusiastic and experienced person to oversee the management and expansion of the facility and its programs.

Lakeside Recreation Centre and its programs are the primary mission of the Church and therefore the successful applicant will have a heart for local Christian mission, especially through sports.

For more information or a copy of the selection criteria, contact Robyn Jamieson on (08) 9310 7111. Please send written application addressing the selection criteria to [church@lakeside.asn.au](mailto:church@lakeside.asn.au).

Applications close Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015.



# Red Frogs

The Advocate recently spoke with Emily Mason, a volunteer with Red Frogs.

## Tell us about Red Frogs.

Red Frogs Australia exists to safeguard a generation of young people, empowering them to make positive life choices and become a voice of change within their culture. Founder and Director of Red Frogs Australia Andy Gourley was a youth worker visiting one of his friends at Leavers' Week when he saw an overwhelming need for young people to be kept safe as they celebrated.

Since then Red Frogs have been providing their services through high school education programs, universities, schoolies/leavers, festivals, sports and boardriders.

Bags of Allen's red frogs have been our 'icebreaker' since our inaugural induction into Leavers on the Gold Coast in 1997. Starting with only 80 kilos in our first year, Red Frogs Australia distributed over 16 tonnes of Red Frogs in 2014!

## What's your connection with the group?

I first heard about the Red Frog crew through some of the young adults in my church who had been volunteering at Leavers' Week. It sounded like a fantastic opportunity to serve my own generation in a way that was relevant to my own personal beliefs and life goals.

As soon as I turned 18 I started volunteering at university events and in November 2013, my first Leavers' Week. Since then I have been involved in high school presentations to school students all around Perth, preparing them for the big Leavers' Week and encouraging them to make wise choices and look after their friends.

I have made incredible connections with both the students I meet in schools and at Leavers, several of which I have built long-term friendships with.

## Red Frogs is involved on university campuses. Tell us about that work.

Our volunteers are in universities helping with events such as providing hydration stations at a big party and pancake cook ups for in-house games nights.

We have seen an increased desire for non-alcoholic events since we became involved in university events. We also assist with O-Day [Orientation Day], where we see a lot of leavers we have previously met, and make our presence known as they enter this new phase of their lives.

## How is Red Frogs connected with churches in Western Australia?

Our volunteers come from churches all over WA. Certain churches also take on particular universities to look after and coordinate. Churches help us with fundraising and collecting pancake shaker mixes.

## What is Red Frog's role during Leavers at Dunsborough?

During Leavers' Week our four main roles include:

**Visitation:** Dropping in on the leavers where they are staying, checking that they are safe and providing for any needs they may have that we can meet.

**Referrals:** When a young person is in need of support that is beyond the scope of a Red Frog team member's experience, workers are to respond by making an accurate assessment and then referring the young person to an appropriate agency.

**Mediation:** Mediation is a role where workers assist managers and staff in their management of patrons during leavers. We are available 24 hours a day to assist management, security and leavers.

**Entertainment:** Providing entertainment that engages young people, offering an alternative to drinking and other negative behaviour. Daytime activities are held to increase opportunities to interact and engage with young people in a preventative frame work.

## Tell us about the team you worked with last December in Dunsborough.

Once again, all volunteers were unbelievable in the selfless contribution in looking after the Year 12 graduating class of WA.

Our partnership with other service providers and support services is a credit to all involved. Over the past ten years these organisations have sought to work collaboratively and in partnership to ensure that all aspects of the joint strategy are fulfilled, mostly to ensure a safe Leavers event for all stakeholders.

The Leavers WA Support Services are a part of a very small number of multifaceted organisations (government and non-government) that have been able to boast a successful plan being enacted at every level.

## What does a day look like for a Red Frog volunteer?

During Leavers' Week a day in the life of a Red Frog is a big one! We typically have breakfast as a group, then break into our smaller teams for bonding time and personal devotion time. By mid-morning we will have received several calls for pancake requests, in which we send teams out armed with pancake shakers and spatulas ready to feed the hungry (and often hung-over) youth!

During the day teams will visit their set accommodation to check on things, perhaps play a game of cricket or go down to the beach. As volunteers we also have regular chapel services to bring us together, worship and praise God, and spiritually prepare ourselves for the night ahead.

Throughout the night we have teams in accommodation, on the streets and in The Zone. We also have teams that rotate in our 24 hour call centre. We can expect multiple things to happen on any given night. Our teams based in The Zone will be doing anything from dancing on the stages to helping kids who are highly intoxicated to assisting with the general crowd control.

Teams based in accommodation and on the streets will help load the kids on and off buses, making sure they are safe getting back to their rooms. We act as the middle

ground between the leavers and the emergency services.

So if they find themselves in a situation where they need help (dealing with drunk friends, overdoses, emotional issues etc.) we can assist them in their capacity as their sober and responsible friends.

## The Green Team runs an alcohol and drug free zone for leavers for four nights. How does Red Frog work with that activity?

The past ten years have been the result of a lot of hard work from both organisations to ensure that young people have a safe and enjoyable event. We both have the thinking that at the end of the day, we wear different shirts but look after the same kids.

Red Frogs' mission is to do whatever it takes to safeguard this generation. At the end of the day, it's only a bit of spew. Any organisation, especially the Green Team could adopt this mission statement and be proud of how their teams go above and beyond to ensure that this is what happens.

## What's next on the Red Frog program?

Red Frogs doesn't stop! We are currently in the midst of our music festival season and about to kick off university events. Our education program is simmering away, getting ready to jump off the hot plate and engage high school students all over WA.

## How can the Christian community support Red Frogs?

**Prayer:** We would love continual prayer for God's favour to be upon us, for safety and protection and that we would consistently be living out God's Word and serving Him wholeheartedly.

**Volunteers:** We can always do with more volunteers! If you want to find out how you can serve as a Red Frog, see our website at the end of the article.

**Pancake shakers:** In the lead up to Leavers' Week [November] we will be collecting pancake shakers from local churches to help feed and facilitate encounters with young people. If your church would like to assist us in this more information can be found on our website.

**Funding:** We are very blessed to have such generous partners sponsor us and keep this vision of Red Frogs alive and pumping. There are many ways you or your workplace can financially sponsor us, more information is on our website.

For more information, visit [au.redfrogs.com](http://au.redfrogs.com)



Photo: Emily Mason



# Curiosity may have killed the cat, but it will build the leader

"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious." Albert Einstein

## Curiosity = Asking

You only get answers to the questions you ask. There is a yawning chasm separating the person who neither formulates interesting questions nor asks for help and the person who poses profound questions to others and solicits their advice. People who fail to ask questions live in a mental fog. Trapped in the limitations of their own perspective, they have difficulty seeing their present situation clearly or discerning the best path forward. Conversely, people who seek ideas and input from others strengthen their decision-making, work smarter and see their surroundings with sharper clarity.

Immature leaders try to accomplish everything alone. They lean on their own understanding, and when it runs out, they fall flat on their faces. As leaders mature, they learn the value of putting together a team of people to help them think more intelligently.

## Curiosity = Listening

You only get answers to the questions you ask, and you only benefit from the answers you're willing and able to hear. If you're going to ask life-changing questions, then be sure to pay attention to the answers!

Have you ever met someone new only to forget his or her name immediately after introductions? When absorbed in our own thoughts, we tend to miss important information that others have to share. Since learning about life is linked to curiosity about people, self-absorption is a recipe for stupidity.

Great leaders are listeners, and great listening is fuelled by curiosity. Listening is the way to acquire wisdom because everything you say, you already know. Listening is a valuable skill, because while it helps you gain knowledge, it also enables you to give respect. People have a basic need to be heard, and listening shows you care about what they have to say. As Henry David Thoreau said, "The greatest compliment that was ever paid to me was when someone asked me what I thought and attended to my answer." We lead others with



our ears. People won't follow our direction unless we first make a connection with them. We initiate this connection by asking questions about their hopes, interests, concerns, and ideas – and then listening intently to their responses.

## Thought to ponder

American President Woodrow Wilson once said, "The ear of the leader must ring with the voices of the people."

Are your ears ringing? If not, what questions could you proactively pose to your

people in order to learn from them? Also, how can you demonstrate that you are truly hearing what they're saying?

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

## How often did Jesus wash feet?

By Jennifer Turner

I sometimes wonder how often Jesus washed His disciples' feet. It wasn't his usual job. It belonged to the humble servant who met you when you came in from a dusty journey. However, it was precisely because it was a servant's task that Jesus chose to do it on the night before his death – to remind His disciples (and us) that leadership in the Kingdom is serving – servant leadership we call it.

But if Jesus had spent a lot of time washing feet He wouldn't have been so available to lead people, to heal and to teach. He might even have been too distracted to 'set His face like flint' and make His journey to Jerusalem to die. His model of servant leadership teaches us that serving is not just taking on the lesser tasks but also responding to the other demanding things God calls us to.

Have you discovered an ability to assess a difficult

situation and act? Can you see the long-range issues in your church? Are you experienced in handling money? Do you recognise a need and can organise others to cooperate to address it? Do you have a passion for seeing justice flow in our society? Does teaching children excite you?

We serve when we give ourselves to ministering through our God-given gifts and opportunities. That includes

church leaders going out on a limb, articulating what God seems to be saying to His people for this moment and being willing to risk advocating that vision. People in our churches as well as the community need us to serve in the way the Spirit has gifted and prepared us for.

In working with leaders I find many want to serve but they are not sure they are doing what God has called them to do. They find Buechner's words helpful:

'The place where God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet'. [Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC, 1973] This almost certainly will not be washing feet, and it may not be everyday tasks others can do, but serving in a way that stretches us to the limit that brings great joy.

On the campus of Dallas Theological Seminary there is a large statue by Max Greiner Jr of Jesus washing Peter's feet. You can find pictures of it by searching it on Google. I was greatly moved by it and every time I look at this strong depiction of Jesus on His knees, dressed only in a towel, and the rugged profile of the protesting Peter finally submitting to Him, I remember the outcome. After His resurrection Jesus recommissioned His chastened disciple to lead His church at

Pentecost and beyond. This humble servant leader responded faithfully to the task the Master had in mind for him. It was a big, costly service.



Jennifer Turner pastored in Baptist and Churches of Christ for more than 20 years and now in active retirement mentors pastors and leaders overseas and in Perth.



browse

**NOOMA**  
nooma.com

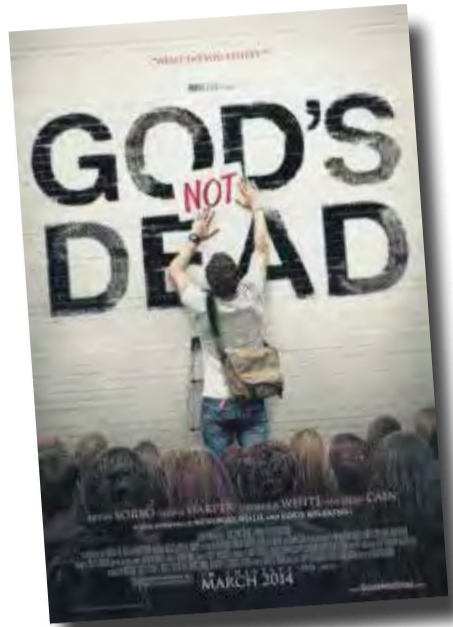
Jesus' life on earth was one where He was conscious that God is doing something, here and now, and anybody can be included. He encouraged His listeners to search, to question and to grapple with what He was saying and doing and the consequences. He started discussions about what matters most. NOOMA is a collection of short films that explore our world from Jesus' perspective. The films encourage viewers to search, question and join the discussion.

NOOMA films are created and produced by Flannel, a not-for-profit organization committed to discovering fresh ways to look at the teachings of Jesus.

Witness the impact NOOMA films are having on people's lives by visiting Flannel Stories at [flannel.org](http://flannel.org)  
To purchase a NOOMA film, visit [flannel.org](http://flannel.org)



watch



**God's Not Dead**

"It's a great movie both encouraging and challenging. Filled with stories of people standing up for their faith and for the God who is not dead, but alive and at work in us!" – Alison

"A great film about confronting today's atheist society. Making a stand and not denying God. This will keep you at the edge of your seat. Special appearance by Newsboys!" – Alyvia

"What a challenging and inspiring movie, suitable for **all** Christians of all generations. Our God is alive, but are we willing to risk everything to declare it? Will we stand for Him above all else?" – Dorothy

read



**Courageous**

**Randy Alcorn, Alex Kendrick and Stephen Kendrick**

*Courageous* is a novelisation of what was first a screenplay. As a novel it is disturbing, delving into one of the great social dilemmas of our time, the father who is physically or emotionally absent from his children. We experience this played out in the lives of four United States police officers, each of whom comes to his own resolution of this dilemma. The American gang culture is also explored, with its violence and drug abuse, as well as its fascination for impressionable and vulnerable teenagers.

Which of the police officers will so seriously abuse the moral code of his profession to find himself in prison? What heartbreak and triumphs await these officers and their families? Included in the novel are photographs from the screenplay as well as discussion questions for those who wish to use this book for group meeting purposes.



**Counterfeit Gods**

**Timothy Keller**

*Counterfeit Gods* is salutary reading for those of us who give precedence to the things ('gods') of this world rather than to a life fulfilled by deep spiritual meaning. Timothy Keller has produced a richly researched book, in which he relates the stories of such disparate figures as Madonna of our present day, the philosopher Nietzsche and biblical figures such as Zacchaeus, Jacob and Jonah, interweaving these stories spanning thousands of years into a compelling argument, which is not to abandon what our material world offers, but not to idolise it either.

Our primary relationship is between each of us and our Creator. The book contains a well annotated appendix for those who wish to delve further into Timothy Keller's message.

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the advocate

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Each month a school highlights news from their campus through the School Scoop page.



**Kennedy  
Baptist College**

Kennedy Baptist College – Murdoch  
Years 7 to 12 www.kennedy.wa.edu.au

**Strive today, conquer tomorrow**

Kennedy Baptist College is a co-educational independent school in Murdoch. Their mission is to provide educational opportunities of excellence in a Christian context, addressing the needs of individuals for lifelong learning.

## The 2015 Year 12 graduate

By Linda Ang, Public Relations

The Year 12 Graduation was held on Tuesday 18 November. The keynote speaker was former Sydney Swans Premiership Captain and current Midfield Coach for the Fremantle Dockers Brett Kirk. Brett's message was greatly appreciated as he encouraged the students to persevere through difficulties to achieve their goals in life.

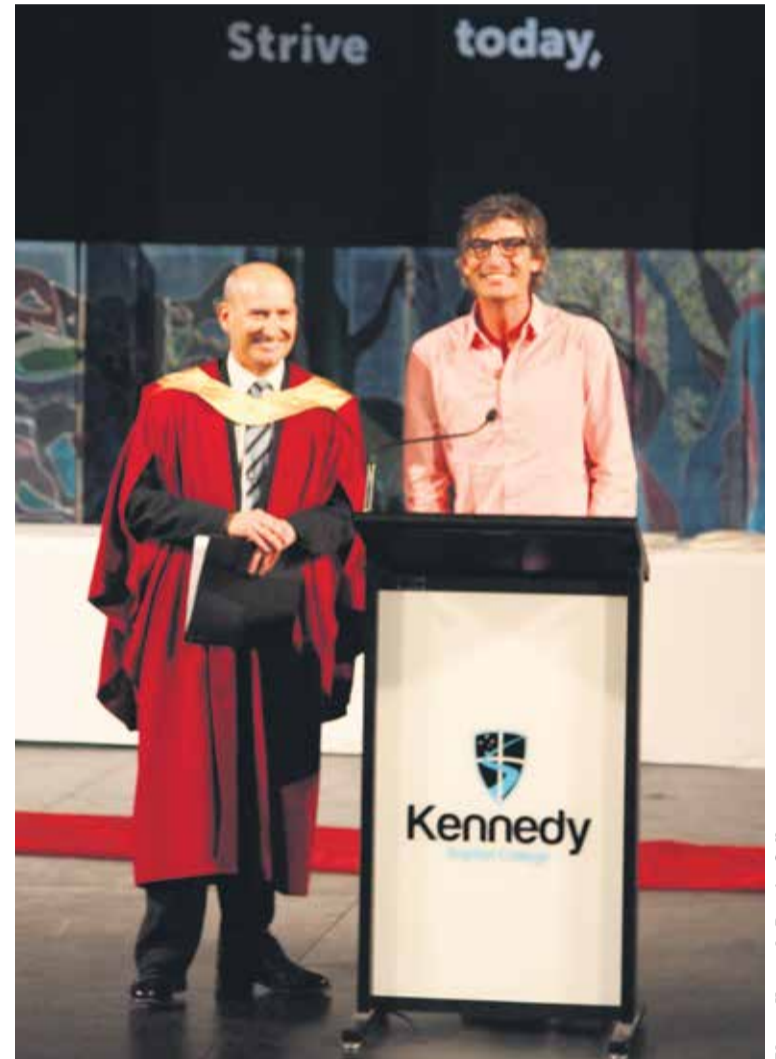
The graduation ceremony was a celebration of five years of secondary education but also a sad day as it marked the end of the students' school career and the start of a new stage in their journey.

The Kennedy Baptist College community gave their very best wishes to the Year 12s as they leave the security of school with their tightly-knit friendship groups and go on to experience the wider world of work and study, and start to make new friendships. They also wished them God's special blessing in their lives.

**Murdoch University Entry Awards**

Throughout the year, Kennedy has been working hard to strengthen its links with Murdoch University. One of the ways this has been done is through the Murdoch University Entry Awards. The awards guarantee the successful applicants an early entry into the course of their choice upon completion of a combined College and student application process. At graduation, ten students received the following awards.

Tiffany Bond	Bachelor of Arts in Journalism
Olivia Coleman	Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood and Primary Teaching
Christopher Gething	Bachelor of Laws and Arts
Elyse Hanham	Bachelor of Arts in Tourism and Events Management
Marco Li	Bachelor of Business in Accounting
Mitchell Kennedy	Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science
Monique Ross	Bachelor of Education in Primary, 1-10 Health and Physical Education
Georgia Varney	Bachelor of Arts in Criminology
Brandon Ward	Bachelor of Business in Human Resources Management
William Wharton	Bachelor of Education in Primary, 1-10 Health and Physical Education



Kennedy Baptist College Principal Mark Ashby with former Sydney Swans Premiership Captain and current Midfield Coach for the Fremantle Dockers Brett Kirk, guest speaker at the graduation.

Photo: Kennedy Baptist College

## Engaging with Indigenous culture



Maisie Raine (Year 8), Bethany Fry (Year 8), Jaymon Needham (Year 7) and Sophie Cliff (Year 9) working on their Aboriginal art with Maureen Foster (second from left).

Photo: Kennedy Baptist College

By Linda Ang, Public Relations

Kennedy Baptist College has recently been playing host to respected Aboriginal artist Maureen Foster as students in Years 7 to 10 prepare a large Indigenous themed artwork for the College.

"At Kennedy we acknowledge and value Indigenous culture, which is why having Maureen attend the College over a few days has been a fantastic opportunity for students to engage and learn the art of Aboriginal painting," Kennedy Baptist College Principal Mark Ashby said.

The final artwork, under the influence of Maureen, will be featured in Kennedy's cafeteria. The cafeteria and dining room was opened at the start of 2014 and named

Beedawong, meaning 'meeting place' in the Nyoongar Aboriginal language.

"The artwork will consist of five major pieces incorporating Australian native animals, all converging on a meeting place in the centre of the art piece," Mark said.

Maureen was born in Kalgoorlie to an Aboriginal father and Dutch mother and started painting in primary school. Maureen attended Rockingham TAFE and has been working with schools for the past eight years, teaching students about Aboriginal art and culture.





Photo: Lisa Flynn

# Basketball converges on Perth

One hundred and ninety basketballers representing 26 teams from around Australia and the Philippines converged on Perth for the 42nd annual Australian Baptist Basketball Carnival from 4 to 11 January 2015.

Five teams flew in from Victoria, four from South Australia, two from Tasmania and two from the Philippines to join the 13 Western Australian teams for the Carnival at Cockburn Basketball Stadium in Hamilton Hill.

Former Perth Wildcats assistant coach and Chief Commissioner of Basketball WA Andy Stewart headed the dedicated group of volunteers who organised the Carnival.

For many of the participants, the annual Australia-wide carnival is not just about playing their favourite sport, but the highlight of their year.

"I have been attending the Australian Baptist Basketball Carnival for the last nine years and it combines three of my most favourite things in this world; God, community and basketball," Tristan Prentice from South Australia said.

"Although we only meet people from the other states once a year they still feel like a second family and you can clearly see Jesus at work."

Jeff Andrew from Victoria has attended 20 carnivals.

"The home carnivals are great but the away ones are better, when you spend a solid week with your team mates you get to share God in ways that are not possible at home," Jeff said.

"When you get Christians together from around Australia you see God."

Volunteer Leanne Knowles said the sportsmanship displayed throughout the Carnival was great.

"They are always offering to help, whether it is to each other, the volunteers or the organisers they just want this to be the best event it can be," Leanne said.

Founder of Kids International Ministries based in Cainta in the province of Rizal, Philippines Jeff Long has been bringing basketball teams to Australia for the Baptist Basketball Carnival for ten years. As well as playing some great basketball, it is an opportunity to recruit Aussie teams to visit the Philippines to

play basketball games in villages to build friendships and share God's love.

"We've been associated with Beckenham Community Church for several years and they've sent basketball teams to the Philippines, so a visit to Perth is a great opportunity to catch up," Jeff said.

"We had two teams in the Carnival and they both reached the finals but didn't win," he said.

The visitors enjoyed a week of high quality basketball and fellowship and look forward to catching up again at the 2016 Carnival.



Photo: Lisa Flynn



Photo: Lisa Flynn

Top of page: The crowd ready for a South Australia versus Tasmania game.

Above: Jarrod Pure (WA) defending Australia's tallest man Kewal Shiels, at 223.5cm (Victorian and American college basketballer).

Left: Jarrod Pure (WA) shoots to take the lead from Victoria deep in the last quarter of their game.

## Carnival Results

### Competition

#### Men's A grade

WA South 2 (78) defeated VIC (63)

#### Men's A reserve

SA (54) defeated Philippines (34)

#### Men's B grade

WA South 2 (53) defeated Philippines (48)

#### Women's A grade

WA South 1 (59) defeated VIC (52)

#### Women's B grade

TAS (46) defeated WA South 2 (42)

### Most Valuable Players

#### Men's A grade

Kyle Armour, WA South 2

#### Men's A reserve

Chris Tebbit, WA South 1

#### Men's B grade

Matt Edwards, VIC and

Brad Meyers, SA

#### Women's A grade

Ashleigh Grant, WA South 1 and

Sam Whitcomb, VIC

#### Women's B grade

Sophie Byrnes, WA South 2

### All Stars

#### Men

Ian Anderson, VIC

Kyle Armour, WA

Daniel Goodluck, SA

Brad Haydon, SA

Chuck Long, VIC

Tom Parkinson, WA

Julian Pesarva, WA

Jarrad Prue, WA

Kewell Shiels, VIC

Mike Vigor, WA

### All Stars

#### Women

Emily Fielding, WA

Ashleigh Grant, WA

Kelsey Ireland, SA

Amber Land, WA

Nikkita Martin, SA

Melissa Moyle, WA

Emma Pass, WA

Alicia Stevenson, WA

Sam Whitcomb, VIC

Mel Zucollo, VIC