

the advocate



"There's no substitute for being strategic. To maximise growth, you must develop strategies." **JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>**

In Conversation Wayne Field speaks about his work as a Cultural Intelligence facilitator. **PAGE 12>>**

From little things ...

After two years of research and hard work, the Mustard Seed Community Garden and the Ernie Arcus Community Centre at Yokine Baptist Church were officially opened on 30 November.

City of Stirling Lord Mayor Giovanni Italiano, Deputy Mayor David Lagan and several City Councillors, tradespeople and suppliers attended the opening along with past and present Yokine Baptist Church members.

The church spent \$110,000 renovating the old church hall and building two sections of the garden. The City of Stirling contributed \$5,000 to start the project in 2013.

"Ernie Arcus was a founding member of Yokine and invested heavily in the work of the Church for many years. It's a fitting tribute for us to honour him and his family by naming the Community Centre after him," Pastor Craig Eccleston said.

"Currently we have 33 raised garden beds on what used to be our basketball court. There is space for 60 beds," Craig said.

The church was looking for ways to connect with its local community, so started by researching the needs of the people. Information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and a City of Stirling survey of local needs discovered a significant need for a community hub where people could connect with others.

According to the ABS 41 percent of Yokine's population lives in what is known as Lone Person Households. Elsewhere in the Perth metropolitan area 25 percent of households are Lone Person Households.

The 2009 City of Stirling survey revealed a need to provide activities to foster a sense of community. The suggestions



Photos: Jill Birt

The recently established Mustard Seed Community Garden is meeting needs in the Yokine community.

included the need to have further developed community and family parks and open spaces for interaction and activities, both active and passive.

Russell Bone has been appointed in a part-time capacity by the church to support the Community Centre and the Mustard Seed Community Garden.

Members of the community are welcome to come and share the work and produce of the garden.



Photos: Jill Birt

"Collectively we aim to create a thriving, healthy centre for social interaction, knowledge, inspiration and the production of great food grown using the ethics and design principles of permaculture," Craig said.

The transformation of the grounds of the church includes an alfresco seating area under well-established trees near the entrance of the Ernie Arcus Community Centre.

Visitors were invited to plant seedlings in the newest garden bed. Many young visitors were intrigued by the six laying hens in their new home at one end of the garden.

Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Ministries Mark Wilson said it's inspiring to see what they've done so far. It is a great project by a local church totally committed to helping meet the needs of their community.



3 African journey

The Goods family finally cross the Malawi-Mozambique border >>



6 Opening doors

Lesmurdie Baptist Church focus on people with disabilities >>



15 School Scoop

Austin Cove Baptist College students perform in *Bugsy - the Musical* >>

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

BAPTIST CHURCHES WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Mike Bullard

Mike Bullard is Senior Pastor at Riverton Community Baptist Church.

Keep it going!

A friend of ours was upgrading their computer a couple of years ago and they gave their old one to me. I thought it would be good for our daughter to take to high school, but the high school's requirement for a computer was that it have at least five hours of battery life. Our second-hand one only had about two hours.

So, despite it being a good computer, it's not okay because its battery life had reduced over time. Batteries, when new, run long and strong. However, over time, they lose their ability to hold charge, resulting in diminished power and vitality.

Christians can have this problem too. Perhaps you remember when you had more spiritual vitality than you do now. Over time, we can lose our passion and desire to follow Jesus.

Check out Hebrews 10:32; "Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering ..."

Clearly, these Christians had been strong early in their faith journey. But, this didn't continue: "... you have become sluggish ... by this time you ought to be teachers but you need someone to teach you again the elementary truths of God's word.

You need milk, not solid food." [Hebrews 5:11-12]

Time has resulted in a decrease rather than an increase in spiritual vitality. Thankfully, there is a remedy. We are told not to be sluggish but to "... imitate those who through faith and perseverance inherit the promises." [Hebrews 6:12] It is faith plus perseverance that result in us inheriting God's promises.

If we find our spiritual vitality has reduced over time

we need to hear this message. Faith is not just the response we made to God 'back then'. It was a good start, but the author of Hebrews points the hearers to the necessity of faith being a long-term orientation to God – trusting Him and believing His promises – for the rest of our lives. We must persevere and continue to trust God to see His promises come to pass.

The full spoken version can be heard or downloaded at <http://rivo.org.au/multimedia-archive/faith-perseverance>



Dr Brian Harris

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

On succeeding through failing ...

Don't know about you, but I've got depressed at my many failures to keep New Year resolutions. By my calculations, the failure rate is 100 percent. So that set me thinking. Given that I am clearly a genius at failing to keep resolutions, how about resolving to do some things I really don't want to do?

Instead of my usual dreary 'lose weight' I will write as the goal, 'eat junk food every day'. Instead of 'get fit' I will commit myself to 'blob for hours in front of TV'. It's foolproof. By February, expect to see a transformed me.

I also use a counterintuitive approach to time keeping. I was born in Africa, so it is in my blood to view start times as suggestions to be ignored or giggled at. But I now live in

Australia, so change has been required. Apparently 10:30 is supposed to mean 10:30. It is most annoying. My foolproof way around this is to set all household clocks ten minutes fast. It's the 'arrive on time by thinking you are late' method, and it works like a dream.

The counterintuitive approach works in other areas too. When I know little about a topic I find it helps to nod sagely

and to say nothing. Not too surprisingly, I often sit mute. People interpret it as wisdom, and in its own way, it is. It is also deeply biblical. As James 1:19 says, 'Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.' Actually, when everyone thinks you are wise because you haven't said anything, there is not much to get angry about, so the last part is easy.

Of course it's deeper than that. Succeeding through failure is at the heart of the Christian faith. The failure of our sin leads to the apparent failure of the cross, which leads to resurrection and new life. Talk about counterintuitive.

Better go. My clock has just alerted me I am going to be ten minutes late for my next meeting ...



Colin Meadows

Colin Meadows is on the pastoral team at Riverton Baptist Church and WA Global Interaction representative.

What recharges your batteries?

Each of us are wired by God to engage with our world in different ways. Some love to read and study God's Word and then share with others what they have learnt. Others are gifted to share the gospel with their friends and dialogue their faith in relational settings.

Still others love to demonstrate their faith through acts of service, rolling up their sleeves and meeting the needs of others in practical and caring ways.

For me, I love the intersection of each of these engagement methods. We need, I believe, to see a blending of acts of service and gospel sharing that is informed by the teaching and proclamation of God's Word.

This is illustrated in Matthew 9: 35-36, "Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported Kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives." [The Living Bible]

Each aspect of sharing the good news is included here – the presentation of biblical truth, the proclamation of the good

news and then its demonstration through acts of healing. Jesus met with people where they were at and touched them at their points of need. He taught God's Word, reported Kingdom news and healed those in need. He refused to separate these various ways of engaging with others. We need to do the same.

Throughout history, however, Christians have not always been able to keep these three activities

moving in harmony. Some have tried to put a priority on one over and above others. However, the life of Christ displayed a wonderful wholeness to how He engaged with people. This reminds me of the comment by CH Spurgeon, "If you want to give a hungry man a gospel tract, wrap it up in a sandwich". There is also an African proverb I enjoyed thinking about over the years which notes 'An empty belly has no ears'. We should not seek to separate a person's spiritual, emotional and physical needs, but rather meet them at their point of greatest need and allow God's Holy Spirit to transform their life.

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.

Under the Southern Cross

Former Vose Seminary New Testament lecturer Dr Richard Moore has recently published a new translation of the New Testament called *Under the Southern Cross*.

Under the Southern Cross is the first published translation of the complete New Testament from Greek into Australian English.

Current versions of the Bible available to readers in Australia have mostly originated in Britain, or the United States. Australian English has been recognised in the last three or four decades by the production of both dictionaries and grammars of Australian English.

"While I do not wish to exaggerate the differences between the English spoken in Australia and 'international' English, nevertheless there is some vocabulary, some expressions, and some usage that is distinctly Australian. For example, the only 'fields' we have in Australia are sports fields. Out in the country cropping and grazing occurs in paddocks," Richard said.

Australian born Richard commenced work on the translation in 1985, initially writing in pencil in an interleaved Greek New Testament.

"I did not have a computer when I commenced, but after I acquired one in December 1988, I began putting the translation on it," Richard said.

"My work as Head of the New Testament Department, at what is now Vose Seminary, involved considerable time given over to teaching and assessment, administration, student counselling, and supervision of postgraduate students until I retired in 2002. The time available for research was limited."

A prerequisite of the eight people who reviewed the

translation was that each was a native speaker of Australian English.

Vose Seminary Head of Biblical Studies Rev. Dr David Cohen said this version of the New Testament is easily read and understood for anyone from early teens through to adults.

"While the language is contemporary it has not been 'dumbed down' in any way," David said.

Currently, supplies of the New Testament have not arrived in Western Australia but for more information, visit amazon.com or source the ebook through westbowpress.com



Dr Richard Moore has filled a gap in Bible translations available with his new publication.

Photo: Jill Birt

Mozambique journey

After waiting more than 12 months, Ben and Samantha Good and their two young daughters, Elizabeth and Anna, checked through immigration on the Malawi-Mozambique border on Tuesday 9 December.

They received visa stamps in their Australian passports on Thursday 4 December in Lilongwe, Malawi to allow them to enter Mozambique. The Goods have had their patience tested while living in Malawi

waiting for immigration matters to be resolved.

The Goods are Cross Cultural staff with Global Interaction and are joining other members of the team in Lichinga, Niassa Province, Mozambique where they will continue language and cultural studies.

Although they have experienced some frustration at the length of their wait the time has been fruitful, living among Yawo people in the Namwera area of Malawi, learning about their culture and language.

"We are so excited to finally be in Mozambique. Now to settle in and become part of the Mozambique team," Ben Good said on social media.



Ben and Samantha Good with their daughters, Elizabeth and Anna, have finally arrived in Mozambique.

Photo: Jonno Crane



reach
beyond
Australia
formerly HCJB Australia

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

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

reachbeyond.org.au
Ph: 1300 653 853

Help for LOTE churches

Baptist Churches Western Australia recently appointed Pastor Victor Owour as the new Cross Cultural and Indigenous Worker.

Born in Kenya and completing postgraduate studies in South Africa, Victor is well equipped to work with cross-cultural ministries.

"I know what it is like to move cultures, just like many of the migrants who are coming to experience Perth. You have to keep learning and growing and changing as you settle in your new country," Victor said.

There are more than 20 congregations amongst WA Baptist churches where English is not their first language. These LOTE (Languages Other Than English) congregations

include a Sudanese group who speak Arabic, several groups from Myanmar, including Chin, Zotung, Matu and Karen people, as well as Chinese and Indonesian groups.

Victor will be supporting the pastors and leaders of these groups and work with churches to integrate into the local culture.

"We talk about integration because I believe that is what needs to happen."

"Assimilation is not the best thing to aim for. All people who engage in another culture keep some of their own culture. That is right and proper, but there are areas where we need to absorb new elements of culture," Victor said.

Acquiring the English language is a significant cultural change for people joining Australia's community.

"Culture is dynamic. It doesn't stay the same. It is constantly changing."

"The cross-pollination of a person's own culture and the Australian culture can't be stopped."

"If we look at the second generation of families in the LOTE congregations, the children who either came to Australia when they were young or who were born here, we see them quickly adopt the language, clothes and the food of the new culture," Victor said.

Along with integrating LOTE congregations into the family of Baptist churches in WA, another key area of Victor's work will be to walk with churches as they learn more about the second generation and how to maintain community and culture.

Victor and his wife Mary and their children Jesse (15) and Joy (11) arrived in Perth in September 2012 from George Whitfield College in Cape Town, South Africa, where Victor had been teaching Biblical Studies, to join the pastoral team at Girrawheen Baptist Church.



Victor Owour is the new Cross Cultural and Indigenous Worker with Baptist Churches Western Australia.

Photo: Jill Birt



Andrew Kenyon chatting with his Mum in the crowded Pingelly Baptist Church before his baptism.

Pingelly baptisms inspire

Over 100 people gathered to witness Andrew Kenyon and Scott Cunningham's baptism at Pingelly Baptist Church in late October 2014.

Long-term member of the Church, John Kenyon has strongly influenced both Andrew and Scott spiritually, so they chose him to perform the baptism after they spoke about the changes Jesus has brought in their lives.

"It is always a delight to see our young people give their hearts to the Lord and be baptised before

they reach their mid-twenties," Pastor David Adams said.

"Statistics indicate that far fewer youth surrender to Jesus once they have turned 25 years of age,"

Both men grew up in Pingelly Baptist Church and are now in their early 20s. The decision to publicly declare their commitment to Jesus has encouraged the whole congregation.

Andrew is now working in his family's business in Claremont and continues to talk about Jesus' power working in his life with anyone who will listen.

"Scott is a highly respected young farmer in Pingelly and exudes the presence of Jesus."

"We praise God for the lives of these two young men and pray

God will bless their lives as they live for Him," David said.

Rather than preaching during the service, Pastor David Adams interviewed two local men, Dan McQueen and John Kenyon. Their stories of God at work in their lives over many years were inspiring.

“It is always a delight to see our young people give their hearts to the Lord ...”

digital church

24/11/2014
Joel Osteen

joelosteen.com/Pages/TodaysWord.aspx

"Know that even though something caught you off guard, it didn't catch God off guard. He is prepared and ready to lead you to the place of victory."

26/11/2014
Ray Ortlund

thegospelcoalition.org

"The truth is, 'everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving'. This beautiful truth includes marriage and food and mowing

the lawn and flying a kite and paying the bills ... and on and on and on. There is so much divine goodness all around. To push it away, to be above it, would insult our gracious Creator."

27/11/2014
Brian Croft

practicalshepherding.com/blog

"The pastor's true biblical calling is to shepherd the souls of God's people humbly, willingly, eagerly, and on behalf of the Chief Shepherd. This was the calling for those leading the local church in Peter's day, and it is the same calling for the busy pastors of the 21st century."

29/11/2014
Todd Adkins

twitter.com/ToddAdkins

"Secularism makes you selfish. Religion makes you tribal. The gospel makes you sacrificial."

01/12/2014
Rick Warren

rickwarren.org/devotional

"Sometimes we never give God a chance to talk to us. We've made up our minds. We want to do what we want to do, not what God wants us to do. Our hearts are hardened, and we're unwilling to listen."

02/12/2014
Eugene Cho

twitter.com/EugeneCho

"Advent = We wait for Christ to return to restore all things but while we wait, we partner with God to work towards that restoration."

02/12/2014
Steven Dilla

twitter.com/stevendilla

"Christmas is at far less risk of attack, or war as some claim, than it is of counterfeit."

02/12/2014
Kyle Idleman

twitter.com/KyleIdleman

"In God's economy, success only comes when we declare spiritual bankruptcy."

02/12/2014
Marshall Segal

desiringgod.org

"Jesus's birth was not Luke's final word about our joy. Even in the midst of the very worst circumstances – the awful persecution of Jesus and his disciples – Jesus's message remained the same, 'Rejoice!'"

Social research helps

Compassion Australia recently invited social researcher, demographer and futurist Mark McCrindle to speak to over 160 pastors and church leaders in Perth about how Australia is changing.

Mark is an award-winning social researcher, best-selling author, media commentator and Principal of McCrindle Research.

"The speed and extent of change in Australian society is massive. To respond and engage with change is a challenge," Mark said.

Demographic statistics identify trends and changes in communities from the national scene to a small locality. Understanding these trends is helpful for church leaders as they plan and engage with their local community, thinking of creative options that address the statistics.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows 61.1 percent of people in Australia are identified as Christians but further research reveals only 15.7 percent would identify as regular church attending evangelical people.

The Australian population is ageing but the trend is far more heavily accented in the church. In the nation the median age is 37.3 years. In churches the average age is 53 years. An ageing congregation influences the number of volunteers who can serve the church and engage with younger generations. Church leaders need to think about ways younger generations can learn to serve from those with many years of experience.

School leavers in 2014 can expect to have 17 jobs over five careers and live in 15 different homes during their lifetime. These changes reflect the challenges faced by every church and how to bring relevance to programs when society is changing all around.

Cultural diversity is increasing. Nationally, 27 percent of the population was born overseas whilst in Western Australia that figure is 40 percent.

To engage with this changing demographic church leaders need to be students of culture as well as delivering Biblical truth and finding ways to lead change.

In the past 12 months, 82,000 people have moved from another state to live in WA, and Tasmania has welcomed just 1,000 interstate arrivals in the same time.

"WA is growing with more people every five days than Tasmania adds in a whole year," Mark said.

Perth's population is 77 percent of the state's population. This concentration of people highlights the importance of understanding local communities and a focus on urban mission.

Research conducted by McCrindle asked people where

they would go to connect with their local community. A local shopping region was the answer from 39 percent of the people surveyed. Just 5 percent said a local church and 16 percent said a local park.

Baptist Churches Western Australia Church Health Consultant Philip Bryant said that these figures are challenging.

"The church needs to be doing things differently to engage people. We need to have more than just a presence for an event in the community."

"There are many lessons here for the church at large and the local church in particular," Philip said.

For resources available to the public, visit www.mccrindle.com



Compassion Australia Area Manager: West, Melissa French, Mark McCrindle and Compassion Australia Chairman John Bond at a seminar focusing on demographic changes in Australia.

Photo: Rodney Olsen

Mercy for Africa

On Sunday Night in mid-December 2014, Channel 7 broadcast the story of a team of dedicated Australians on board *Africa Mercy* providing free medical help to the people on the coast of Africa.

The story was filmed in the Republic of the Congo whilst the hospital ship spent ten months in dock, with volunteers performing surgeries for conditions often not seen in the West.

A paediatric nurse from Bundaberg Rinnah Fry has volunteered three times with Mercy Ships, the international Christian charity that operates *Africa Mercy*.

"The only difference between me and the patients is the fact that I was born in Australia," Rinnah said.

Rinnah is one of the many Australians who make up more than 450 volunteers staffing the *Africa Mercy*. Thoracic surgeon Dr A-J Collins from Tathra in New South Wales also featured.

Dr Collins has volunteered on board the *Africa Mercy* a number of times to carry out thoracic surgeries, which are critically needed by many



Africa Mercy recently featured on commercial television station Channel 7.

Photo: Mercy Ships

people living in Africa where benign tumours are left to grow unchecked for decades.

"Underneath they're someone just like yourself or someone in my family and they have the same emotional needs," Dr Collins said.

"You can't bear the idea that you'd let them go without some attempt to improve their situation."

Mercy Ships help not only with free surgeries and other medical interventions, but also with programs to enable the local people to better look after themselves.



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

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**



New songs for toddlers

Walking the Tightrope, the latest Toddler Jam CD produced by Inglewood Community Church is due to be released in early December.

The CD has nine new songs; all written by local musicians, specifically for children aged 0 to 4 years.

Producer and musician Jess Magowan wrote six of the new songs and fellow Inglewood Toddler Jam team member Kelsey Middleton wrote two. The ninth song, 'It's Raining Cats and Dogs' was written by the late Peter Birt who wrote many songs for the Parkerville Baptist Church Toddler Jam group.

"We love Pete's song. It's really catchy and sticks in your head," Inglewood Community Church Pastor Mark Edwards said.

The CD was recorded and produced at Inglewood Community Church.

This is Jess's first recording experience.

"It's been a lot of fun creating this CD," Jess said.

"The whole production has taken about five months and I've learnt a lot over that time."

Musicians Quentin Gribble and his daughter Emma Gribble joined Jess and Kelsey to record the nine songs. As well as tracks with the group singing the songs there is a backing track for each song, chord charts and sample run sheets for Toddler Jam sessions utilising the songs.

Pastor James Middleton leads the Toddler Jam team at Inglewood.

"We see there is huge value in providing backing tracks on the CD," James said.

"Not all Toddler Jam groups have live music each week, so this gives groups another option."

"We're always looking for ways to keep the music fresh at Toddler Jam so a new CD with new songs is great," he said.

The CD will be available from early December through the Inglewood Community Church: www.inglewoodchurch.org.au

The Toddler Jam movement continues to grow around Western Australia with 18 groups actively engaging toddlers and their families across the state.

The annual conference is planned for 7 March 2015 at Inglewood Community Church's new property at 10 Cleveland Street, Dianella. The event is an opportunity for Toddler Jam leaders to get together to learn and share and for anyone interested in the program to come and meet the people who run local programs from Port Hedland to Eaton.



Jess Magowan showing the latest Toddler Jam CD, which includes several songs she wrote and produced.

Photo: Andrew Binns

Pursuing inclusivity



Rob Munro and Cliff Arney, who has a hearing disability, celebrate inclusivity in their local church.

Photo: Roger Smith

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) on 3 December celebrates progress in breaking down barriers, opening doors and realising an inclusive society for all.

Lesmurdie Baptist Church used the Day to focus on disabilities during their morning worship on 30 November.

"We wanted to recognise this day in our gathering

because we see the importance and value in promoting awareness and support for the people in our community who live with some form of disability," Graduate Pastor Ben Bandiera said.

"We're encouraging people to be more informed."

One way the Church did this was to show the YouTube clip of Nick Vujicic, a young man born with a disability. Nick found that God still had meaning for his life, even though he had a disability.

"We are actively pursuing the practice of being a diverse and inclusive church community, so over the past couple of years we have held various workshops at which we have heard from people

within our community," Lead Pastor Karen Siggins said.

The church has forged a close relationship with Luke14, the CBM ministry (formerly known as Christian Blind Mission) that promotes inclusivity. One of the church members is now the regional manager for Luke14.

This is not the first time the church has acted to recognise those with a disability in the community. On World Down Syndrome Day they all wore striped coloured socks to church to represent the chromosomal disorder that lies behind Down syndrome.

briefs

Green Team

School Leavers in Dunsborough celebrated the end of their high school years for four nights at the Zone, a drug and alcohol free entertainment precinct just out of Dunsborough that is run by the Green Team. Baptist Churches Western Australia staff member Michelle Smoker is a key organiser for the Green Team which partners with other groups including Western Australian Police, Red Frogs Australia, Royal Life Saving Society, WA AIDS Council, Australian Red Cross and Hope Community Services to provide a safe environment where the students can celebrate. More than 4,500 teenagers visited the Zone each night, from 7pm to 1am, and over 140 Green Team volunteers worked enthusiastically and engaged well with the leavers.

Myanmar visitors

Perth Karen Baptist Church celebrated with the Klo and Kweh Music Team visiting from Myanmar in early December. Perth was the first stop on an Australian tour. They played at the Vasto Function Centre in Balcatta during a cultural event on Friday 5 December. Paul Henry from Perth Karen Baptist Church said one of the group's aims was to raise awareness and funds for education support to stop human trafficking in Myanmar.

AMUC 2015

Scripture Union and TEAR Australia run a mission exposure trip, AMUC (Among the Urban Community), for adults in Perth each year. With teaching and immersion cultural experiences the five day experience will challenge your faith, lifestyle, priorities and understanding of the gospel. Facilitator Steve McKinnon helps to broaden the experience of Christians while allowing space to reflect on the message of Christ. AMUC will be held at Wesley Church, corner Hay and William Streets, Perth from Monday 26 to Friday 30 January. Cost \$175 to \$200. For more information, email Steve at stevemckinnon1@hotmail.com

Nordic model

FamilyVoice reports Canada joined the growing list of countries who have adopted the Nordic model of prostitution law in early November. The decision means that for the first time in Canada's history, the buying and advertising of sexual services will be illegal and the government will provide robust funding to help women and youth escape prostitution. Peter Abetz MLA wants the Western Australian government to follow Canada's example and adopt the Nordic model which sees exploiters penalised and prostitutes (male and female) given compassionate and effective help to quit their damaging trade.

Helping without hurting

More than 70 young adults were challenged to think through how to 'help without hurting' at a curry dinner hosted by TEAR Australia and Urban Neighbours of Hope (UNOH).

TEAR Australia Development Effectiveness Officer Phil Lindsay and UNOH worker in the Mount Druitt area in Sydney's Western Suburbs Jon Owen posed some thought-provoking questions about how to engage and help people in poverty.

"When we see or hear of people suffering in the world, it's right that we want to help. However, good intentions are not enough," Phil said.

"Churches or individual Christians may have a genuine heart for the poor and a desire to help communities facing poverty but, if not done well, mission and development can actually do more harm than good."

"It can cause long-term issues, undermining people's own abilities for coping with difficulty, or preventing them from developing resilience or skills that will be useful in the future."

"There is a place for short-term relief activities after emergencies such as natural disasters, but good development

is about building, reshaping or strengthening relationships in ways that will benefit people who are marginalised through poverty of disadvantage."

"It's about walking alongside communities in poverty and supporting them as they do their own development," Phil said.

Jon challenged those at the dinner to think about how to respond to needs.

"It's not about should we respond to needs, but how to respond. It's not just, 'Is it going to make me feel better?' but how do we walk alongside them?" Jon said.

"We have an expert bias. We think we know, but we need to meet the people, listen and learn from them."

"What do they say their needs are?"

UNOH's website describes Mount Druitt, where Jon and his wife Lisa live and work, as 'a neighbourhood of high density housing built near the local area's main shopping centre and train station. The cheaper prices of its



Phil Lindsay from TEAR talks with Simon Bint at Bentley Baptist Church following some challenging questions on how to help people in poverty.

Photo: Jill Birt

flats and town houses attracts refugees, migrants and people working in minimum wage jobs.'

Jon described some of the issues they face, including dysfunctional families where violence and drug use have become normal activities in households.

"Our culture is full of activists, but reflection is important."

"Don't miss it in your process and plan properly when you're thinking about engaging with problems."

"Its long-term work if you want to help bring change," Jon said.

Jon suggested the book *Beyond Charity* by John Perkins as a good place to start reading about the issues around engaging with urban poverty. Phil advised that *When Helping Hurts* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert is a very useful book for people thinking through aid and development.

Street work expands



Photo: Garth Eichorn

About 70 Street Chaplains met in Perth for training at their annual gathering in November.

Street Chaplains, the volunteer late-night pastoral carers organisation, are expanding their ministry to country towns in Western Australia.

Groups of Street Chaplains are now working in Bunbury and Busselton. Teams are currently forming to start work in Albany, Mandurah and Newman in the Pilbara.

At their recent annual gathering in Perth approximately 70 Chaplains met for training and planning.

Street Chaplains Coordinator Garth Eichorn said the ministry is proving more and more to be a vital Christian outreach across Western Australia.

"In the last three weeks alone the chaplains have led young men to faith on the streets which shows the steady maturing of the ministry," Garth said.

Chaplains range in age from 18 to 65 years and come from churches of more than 20 different denominations. Each chaplain has a team of prayer supporters. Chaplains train for several weeks before working in pairs, mostly starting about 11.00pm on Friday and Saturday nights in areas of need in Western Australia's cities and

country towns. They offer compassionate help and pastoral care to any revellers in need.

Teams work in Northbridge and Perth's central business district, around the nightclub venues in Joondalup and Bunbury, along the 500 metre Cappuccino Strip in Fremantle and in the streets surrounding the hotels in Busselton.

Street Chaplains are funded through donations. It costs about \$500 for each chaplain.

"With 140 to 150 chaplains it's getting to be quite a bill each month. We thank God that we've made it so far," Garth said.

For more information, visit www.streetchaplain.com



Como ready to care

Excitement is building at Canning Bridge Early Learning Centre as the team prepares for opening day on 12 January 2015.

Final authorisation for the Centre to commence their program with young children is expected before Christmas.

"The inspection has been completed and we've made the minor alterations required, Director Kim Moore said.

"Our team of workers is growing and we'll all start a week before the children arrive."

The Centre has been a seven year adventure for the people of Como Baptist Church who had a dream of serving their local community.

The building they once used as a Sunday School has been

transformed into a top-of-the-range facility for caring for the youngest group in society – children from six months to four years of age.

"We expect the Centre will start at about 50 percent capacity during the early weeks."

"We're staffing initially for 75 percent capacity," Como Baptist Church Pastor Jackie Smoker said.

The staff will commence work on 5 January, allowing them time to develop as a team and to be confident in the processes of working in the Centre before the children arrive.

The congregation at Como Baptist Church has supported the development of the Canning Bridge Early Learning Centre with several hundred hours of voluntary work. One of the final projects was laying the new lawns in the shady play areas at the front of the Centre in late November.

A New Year brings opportunities to examine and affirm the life choices each of us make. Author John Ortberg looks at one life choice each of us must make and re-make many times.

THE WATER OR

Some years ago my wife arranged for us to ride in a hot air balloon as a birthday gift. We went to the field where the balloons ascended and got into a little basket with one other couple. We introduced ourselves and swapped vocational information. Then our pilot began the ascent. The day had just dawned – clear, crisp, cloudless. We could see the entire Canejo Valley, from craggy canyons to the Pacific Ocean. It was scenic, inspiring and majestic.

I also experienced one emotion I had not anticipated. Want to guess? Fear.

I had always thought those baskets went about chest high, but this one only came up to our knees. One good lurch would be enough to throw someone over the side. So I held on with grim determination and white knuckles. I looked over at my wife, who does not care for heights at all, and relaxed a bit, knowing there was someone in the basket tenser than I was. I could tell, because she would not move – at all. During part of our flight there was a horse ranch on the ground directly behind her. I pointed it out because she loves horses and without turning around or even pivoting her head, she

simply rolled her eyes back as far as she could and said, “Yes, it’s beautiful.”

About this time I decided I’d like to get to know the kid who was flying this balloon. I realized that I could try to psyche myself up into believing everything would be fine, but the truth was we had placed our lives and destinies in the hands of the pilot. Everything depended on his character and competence. I asked him what he did for a living and how he got started flying hot air balloons. I was hoping for his former job to be one full of responsibilities – a neurosurgeon, or perhaps an astronaut who missed going up into space.

I knew we were in trouble when his response to me began, “Dude, it’s like this ...”

He did not even have a job! He mostly surfed.

He said the reason he started flying hot air balloons was that he had been driving around in his pick-up when he’d had too much to drink, crashed the truck and badly injured his brother. His brother still couldn’t get around too well, so watching hot air balloons gave him something to do.

“By the way,” he added, “if things get a little choppy on the way down, don’t be surprised. I’ve never flown this particular balloon before and I’m not sure how it’s going to handle the descent.”

My wife looked over at me and said, “You mean to tell me we are a 1,000 feet up in the air with an unemployed surfer who started flying hot air balloons because he got drunk, crashed a pick-up, injured his brother, and has never been in this one before and doesn’t know how to bring it down?”

Then the wife of the other couple looked at me and spoke – the only words either of them were to utter throughout the entire flight: “You’re a pastor. Do something religious.” So I took an offering.

The great question at a moment like that is, ‘Can I trust the pilot?’ I could try telling myself that everything would be okay. Facing the flight with a positive attitude would certainly make it a more pleasant journey and it would be over soon, but the real issue concerned the dude who was flying this thing. Were his character and competence such that I could confidently place my

destiny in his hands? Or, was it time to do something religious?

Peter and his friends got into a little boat one afternoon to cross the Sea of Galilee. Jesus wanted to be alone, so they were boating without him. Peter didn’t mind – he’d been on boats his whole life. He liked them. But this time a storm blew in. Not a minor squall either. The Gospel of Matthew says the boat was ‘tormented’ by the waves. It was so violent that the only thing the disciples could do was to keep the boat upright. Then one of the disciples noticed a shadow moving toward them on the water. As it got closer, it became apparent that it was the figure of a human being – walking on the water.

When Jesus came to the disciples on the water, he was revealing His divine presence and power. Only God can do such a thing. It is interesting that the disciples entered the boat in the first place at Jesus’ command. They would have to learn – as do we – that obedience is no guarantee of being spared adversity, but now that the storm had their full attention, Jesus decided it was time the disciples got to know a little bit more about the guy

THE BOAT?

who was piloting this thing. 'It's like this, dudes', He reassured them. 'You can trust me. You know my character and my competence. You can safely place your destiny in my hands. Take courage. It's me.'

Peter blurted out to the water-walker, "If it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Why does Matthew include this detail? Why doesn't Peter just plunge into the water? I think it's for a very important reason. This is not just a story about risk-taking; it is primarily a story about obedience. That means I will have to discern between an authentic call from God and what might simply be a foolish impulse on my part. Courage alone is not enough; it must be accompanied by wisdom and discernment.

This is a story about extreme discipleship. This means that before Peter gets out of the boat, he had better make sure Jesus thinks it's a good idea. So he asks for clarity,

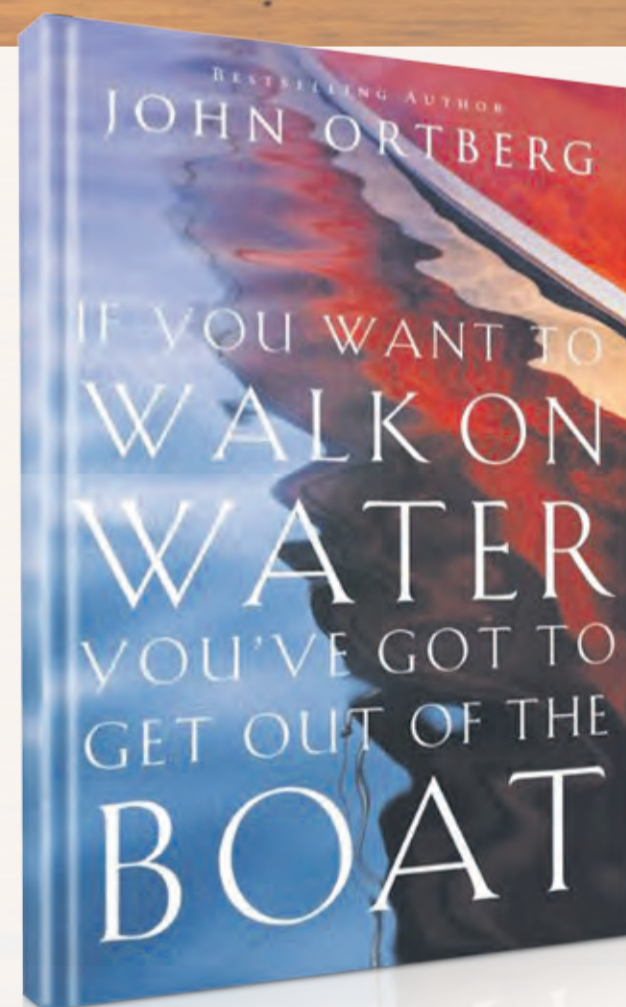
"If it is you, command me ..."

And in the darkness, I think Jesus smiled. Maybe he laughed because one person in the boat got it. Peter had some inkling of what it is the Master was doing. Allowing His disciples to face

a storm alone in a boat is an example of Jesus using controlled trauma with masterful skill to help them take the step toward trust that they would never be able to develop on their own. Not only that, Peter had enough faith to believe that he too could share the adventure. He decided he wanted to be part of history's original water walk. Command me. If I am going to experience a greater measure of God's power in my life, it will usually involve the first step principle. It will usually begin by my acting in faith – trusting God enough to take a step of obedience. Simply acknowledging information about His power is not enough. I have to get my feet wet, but when I say 'yes', I set in motion an adventure that will leave me forever changed.

He's inviting you to go on the adventure of your life, but at the same time, you're scared to death. What would you choose? The water, or the boat?

From *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* (2001)
Published at www.johnortberg.com/the-water-or-the-boat.
Reprinted by permission.



Raising hope in the outback

Ron and Paula Turner have a goal to develop 20 vital spiritual communities throughout Central Queensland by the year 2020.

Based in the coal-mining town of Blackwater in the Central Highlands Region, Ron and Paula spend much of their time visiting communities that are fragile and fractured because of drought, government decisions that have affected their economic and social structures, and uncertainty caused by the volatile mining industry.

"All these things eat away at the community spirit of these fading communities. People feel a lot of hopelessness," Queensland Baptist Pastor Ron Turner said.

A team of volunteers support the Turners financially and in prayer in their passion for church planting. They regularly

visit 40 country towns in three circuits of Central Queensland.

The northern region is a 1,200 kilometre round trip while the other two routes are about 1,000 kilometres each. The total area extends from the Flinders Highway to the Adventure Way tourist route. Each year they drive their circuit routes three or four times and can be away from home for three to five weeks.

The Turners travel with a camper trailer and spend anywhere from a couple of nights or up to a week in a town, engaging with the people living there, buying all they need from local suppliers and looking for ways to give back to the local community.

"We spend time walking the streets, praying for the town and people, looking for ways to connect with people," Paula said.

At a café in the far west of Queensland they noticed the owner could do with some help.

"We could see the lady who ran the shop was under a lot of pressure, so Paula went to the counter and offered to help her with food preparation and coffee making," Ron said.

"The lady accepted Paula's offer for the next day's event she was catering for so we stayed an extra night to help," Ron said.

A network of simple organic churches is developing across the area.

"We're planting churches and making disciples," Ron said.

The Turners are members of Praxeis, an Australian church planting movement committed to prayer, sharing the good news of Jesus with lots of people, making disciples,



Photo: Praxeis

Ron and Paula Turner are bringing hope to remote Queensland towns.

creating simple and reproducible communities that live out the message of Jesus, and creating a movement of people that virally spread the message and multiply.

The message of hope through Jesus is a significant contribution to the fragile country communities of remote Queensland.



Ministry Vacancy: Pastor up to full time

Ballajura Baptist Church

Located 13 km from Perth's CBD and based in Malaga in Perth's Northern suburbs, Ballajura Baptist Church is a small and vibrant Christian community ministering to Ballajura and surrounding suburbs.

We are seeking a Theologically qualified/trained person to take on the role as Senior Pastor of our Church, encouraging growth through our various ministries.

If your desire is for ministry including evangelism, mission, leadership development and worship we would welcome your interest.

For further information and a fact sheet, please contact:

John Johnston - Mob: 0447 733 832 Email: linleyjohn@bigpond.com

Paul Mewhor - Mob: 0414 549 508 Email: pimew@iinet.net.au

Ballajura Baptist Church | 7 Townsend Street Malaga WA 6090

EMPLOYMENT VACANCY
Part-time Accounting Assistant

An employment vacancy exists at the Baptist Ministry Centre for an experienced Accounting Assistant.

The role will be 3 days per week with the possibility of increasing to 4 days. The candidate must have previous bookkeeping experience, knowledge in QuickBooks/Reckon Accounts is preferred.

For more information, please contact Peter Lu after the 5th January 2015:
Baptist Churches Western Australia on 6313 6300

international briefs

Peace prize

WorldWatchMonitor report the three top religious leaders of the Central African Republic (CAR) have been awarded a prize for their efforts for peace in the war-torn Central African Republic. President of the Evangelical Alliance Rev. Nicolas Guérékoyamé-Gbangou (55); President of the Islamic Community Imam Oumar Kobine Layama (53); and Archbishop of Bangui Monseigneur Dieudonné Nzapalainga (46), were among the five recipients distinguished by Search For Common Ground (SFCG) at a ceremony in Washington DC. They worked through a joint platform to promote peaceful coexistence

between Christians and Muslims saying violence in CAR is not primarily caused by religious conflict but in the struggle for political power.

Afghanistan deaths

South African Christian Werner Groenewald and his two teenaged children, Jean-Pierre and Rodé, were killed in an attack by the Taliban in Afghanistan on 29 November. Hannelie Groenewald, a doctor who also served the people of Afghanistan, grieves the loss of her husband and children. She also lost her home and possessions when the family's house was burned in the attack. Werner Groenewald had been helping Afghans through

education and development projects since 2002.

Sudanese struggles

Integrated Regional Information Networks' (IRIN) longstanding humanitarian needs in South Sudan's Aweil North County are largely unmet. In the area, some 30,000 people, including Christians from the Nuba Mountains region of Sudan are displaced. Aweil North lies in the so called '14-Mile Area', a supposedly demilitarised zone between South Sudan and Sudan. The displaced live in makeshift settlements dotted along the River Kiir. Clean drinking water and decent sanitation are scarce. Education and adequate health

care are almost non-existent. Irregular rain during the latter half of 2014 means this year's crops are likely to fail.

Indonesia freedom

One month into his new job, Indonesian President Joko Widodo is proposing a new bill to place before the Parliament within the next six months to protect religious minorities and remove religious identity from the national ID cards. Christians are a minority in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country. Currently six religions are recognised in Indonesia: Buddhism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Islam, Protestantism and Taoism.

Nigeria tensions

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) reports the Kano State capital remains tense following a gun and suicide bomb attack on the Kano Central Mosque by the Islamist terror group Boko Haram on 28 November. More than 100 people, including children were killed. CSW's Chief Executive Mervyn Thomas condemned the attack and extended condolences to the families of every victim of terrorist violence. "Once again Boko Haram has targeted worshippers while they were in prayer, violating their right to freedom of religion or belief and demonstrating its total disregard for every creed, and for the sanctity of human life," Mervyn said.

Changing lives in Malawi

A world away from bustling, downtown Perth, a young woman makes preparations for the day ahead. She unlocks a simple, thatched roofed building, gives the dirt floor a quick sweep before throwing open the doors to welcome the first of many families she will serve today.

Ayale is a volunteer making an enormous difference in her home town in rural Malawi. The service she offers from this basic building has had a profound ripple effect across her community.

Ayale runs an Early Childhood Development (ECD) centre caring for children aged two to four. It is a simple enough model, parents drop their children off for a few hours in the morning which allows them time to tend their farms or do chores. The children are well cared for, fed a nutritious meal and take part in preschool activities such as music and games. The benefits to the wider community, however, are huge.

In traditional Malawian culture older children are taken out of school to care for their younger brothers and sisters. An ECD Centre transforms the lives of not just young children but their parents as well, allowing them to have time to pursue income-generating livelihoods. The other group to benefit are older siblings.

"The centre has meant that these children can return to and remain in school. It is a massive benefit for the whole community – all funded through our child sponsorship program," Baptist World Aid Australia Program Coordinator for Africa Lana Henley said.

Baptist World Aid Australia works through a Christian partner in Malawi called

Church and Society Program (CSP). Through talking with village families the CSP finds out the issues that are stopping children from developing and thriving, and together they work to find long term, sustainable solutions.

Ayale received early childhood training from the Church and Society Program and now volunteers her time to support her community.

"There are many more children in other communities across Malawi keen to take part in programs such as these however we need supporters here in Australia to walk alongside them," Lana said.

Western Australians currently sponsor 85 children from Malawi, however there are still 125 children waiting.

"Child-centred community development really works and has an amazing long term impact on the lives of these children and their families. Please, can I encourage you to consider becoming a sponsor today? It's the best new year resolution you can make!" Lana concluded.

To sponsor a child from Malawi, please visit www.baptistworldaid.org.au



Volunteers supporting young children like these are helping to strengthen families in Malawi.

Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

Mangoes bring comfort

Towards the end of 2014, approximately 2,600 boxes of mangoes donated by generous farmers in Kununurra raised close to \$26,000 for Rumah Abedona Hospice (RAH) as well as funds for the radio ministry, Reach Beyond Australia and Families God's Way in the Kimberley.

Rumah Abedona Hospice (RAH) is the only official hospice offering palliative care in Kolkata, India.

Perth parenting trainers, Bill and Joan Grosser have a long-term friendship with Santanu Chakraborty who founded the hospice in 2002.

Santanu completed his palliative care training at

McAuley Training Centre in Perth and further postgraduate studies in Adelaide to prepare for his work among the many terminal cancer patients in Kolkata's population of 91 million.

Accredited by the Indian government, RAH has close ties with a cancer hospital in Kolkata that sends volunteers to work with patients two days each week.

"The whole program is funded by donations from within India and from Australia," Joan said.

"All of the team are volunteers and they will care for about 500 terminally ill people each month."

Palliative care is almost unheard of in India due to the limited availability of trained personnel, the huge population and lack of finances available. RAH's motto 'care beyond cure' is lived out as the volunteers alleviate the suffering of patients and support their family and friends through the end stages of life.



Jeyanthi Jeyabalan from Woodvale Baptist Church with some of the 140 boxes of mangoes she distributed to friends to help support the Rumah Abedona Hospice in Kolkata, India.

Photo: Sonya Jeyabalan

To find your local Baptist church visit www.baptistwa.asn.au



Cultural Intelligence

Wayne Field works as a trainer with the multinational ministry organisation Operation Mobilisation. He has been based in Carlisle in the United Kingdom for the past two years and returned to Australia to continue his ministry.

You've just been in Chicago, to do some further training. Tell us about it.

I was in Chicago to train as a certified Cultural Intelligence (CQ) facilitator with academic and author David Livermore in the Cultural Intelligence Center.

Can you explain that for us?

Multiculturalism and globalisation are not just issues for business people, expats, missionaries and politicians, they impact everyday people, on every continent, every day. For example, in a recent story in *The Economist*, 90 percent of executives from 68 countries said that finding effective cross-cultural personnel is a top management challenge. So cultural awareness and an ability to adapt to different cultures is a vital skill to have in order to be successful in today's globalised world.

What I appreciated about the training is its foundation in solid academic research. The CQ concept was first introduced by two business researchers, Dr Christopher Earley and Dr Soon Ang (National University of Singapore) in their 2003 book *Cultural Intelligence: Individual Interactions Across Cultures*.

The certification enables me, as a facilitator, to measure CQ and coach participants towards greater cultural dexterity. Thankfully CQ is something that can be learned and developed in a person.

Operation Mobilisation (OM), the group I work with, requested I attend the training in order to reinforce and expand the CQ awareness training across the organisation. Cultural misunderstanding is one of the primary reasons mission teams fail. Think about it. A team is recruited from a variety of cultures from all over the world and planted together in yet another foreign culture in order to spread the good news. The probability for a cultural clash in a team like that is enormous!

It's not too hard for us to imagine. We all have things about other cultures that we find confusing or even distasteful. Imagine having to live in close quarters with that on a team in a foreign country. Healthy teams need to be culturally aware so they can live with grace towards each other and their adopted culture, and maybe even learn to enjoy the cultural difference.

Why do you think churches and ministries need to understand culture?

The way I see it pastors, churches, Christian schools, chaplains and others simply don't have a choice. Multiculturalism is here to stay and if we want to engage people of varying cultures for the sake of the gospel, then we must learn how to connect and communicate effectively across cultural barriers.

I believe Australian Christians face an exciting opportunity to share the gospel among the wide variety of people arriving on our shores. We may be confused or offended by the cultural differences or even fearful and threatened, but we must grow beyond our own discomfort in order to share the good news about Jesus Christ.

What have you seen in Australian churches that gives you hope?

Baptists in WA have an excellent track record in this regard. My own parents are 'ten pound Poms' (i.e. postwar British immigrants), who arrived in WA in the 1960s. I'm sure the cultural shock for them was real, but WA Baptists reached out to my family and provided a spiritual home. I am eternally thankful to God for those visionary and loving people.

WA Baptists also have several multicultural churches. It's such an encouragement to see these congregations being nurtured by the denomination. Today, I have some very dear South African and Zimbabwean friends who have migrated to WA. We all 'look the same', but there are real differences and this can sometimes cause confusion. If pastors, churches, teachers and others are going to reach out to and care for migrants, they will need to be adept at navigating cultural diversity.

What can ministry leaders do to develop their Cultural Intelligence?

Research shows that there are four CQ capabilities that can be measured and developed in a person. These are:

1. CQ Drive. This is simply a question of motivation. Are we even interested in functioning effectively in culturally diverse settings? Desiring a harmonious relationship with a foreign neighbour, or family at your school, or church may be all the motivation you need.



Wayne Field (left) with author David Livermore in Chicago recently.

Photo: Operation Mobilisation

2. CQ Knowledge. Anyone can learn more about an alternate culture. Start by reading widely or watching SBS every now and then. I'm currently reading a book about the history of the Arab people. It's fascinating and I'm learning to appreciate their history and culture. The point is not to be an expert on every culture, but simply to understand the core cultural differences and their effects on everyday life together. For instance, when you travel it's just smart never to hand anyone anything with your left hand. In some cultures you should never touch your shoes or touch another person on the head. This is CQ knowledge.

3. CQ Strategy. This means thinking about and planning for cultural exchanges before they occur. We can all learn some simple skills that will enable us to cope in culturally challenging situations. Personally, I have found that positioning myself in a humble place of need really helps. For example, instead of blurting out "Do you speak English?" Which may be taken to mean someone is unintelligent if they don't, it may be better to say, "Excuse me, I don't speak Indonesian (or whatever). Do you speak English?" That is a more gentle approach as it positions me in a place of need. I'm the one who is truly ignorant in that situation.

4. CQ Action. Everyone can learn to adapt their behaviour to different cultures. One of the key behaviours to learn is to pause, or reserve judgment. One of the smartest things to do when culture offends you is to hold your tongue until you have an opportunity to clarify your understanding at the next appropriate opportunity.

Where can people learn more about this?

There are a couple of great books people can get hold of and learn from. The Earley and

Ang book mentioned above, *Cultural Intelligence: Individual Interactions Across Cultures* and David Livermore's books *The Cultural Intelligence Difference* and *Leading With Cultural Intelligence*.

Are there opportunities to learn more in Western Australia?

Once I've settled in Australia I hope to be available for teaching and coaching. I'd be happy to connect with churches, schools, short-term mission teams and bible colleges to explore the possibilities. People can email me at Wayne.Field@om.org

Senior Pastor Position – Geraldton

Geraldton Baptist Church is seeking a full time pastor to oversee the ministries of the church.

Geraldton is a vibrant port city located 430 km north of Perth. The church has recently celebrated 50 years of faithful service and is keen to find a pastor to help develop the vision, mission and ministry of the church into the future.

The church is a member of the Baptist Churches of WA. The Pastor Remuneration package and employment conditions will be offered in accordance with BCWA guidelines.

For further information or an application package, please contact John Bruce 0458 053 273 or the GBC administration officer (08) 9921 3356 or email admin@geraldtonbaptist.org.au.

Applications close 5pm, Friday 6th February 2015

My favourite time of year

By John Maxwell

Happy New Year!

I hope your year has begun well. What is your favourite time of year? Is it Christmas? Is it when you celebrate your birthday? Or when flowers bloom in the spring? Or your summer vacation? Or when the children go back to school? Or the beginning of football season? Or when the leaves change?

When is it? I can tell you mine. It's the week after Christmas.

On Christmas Day in the afternoon, after the grandchildren have finished opening all their presents and all the hoopla has died down, I can hardly contain myself, because I know it's time for one of the things I love most every year.

I steal off to my study while everyone else is watching television or napping. There on my desk waiting for me is my appointment calendar from the preceding year and a yellow legal pad. Starting that afternoon and continuing that week up until New Year's Eve, I spend time reviewing my calendar.

I review every appointment, meeting, commitment, and activity – hour by hour – from the previous 359 days. And I evaluate each of them. I look carefully at my speaking engagements and consider what I should do more of, what I should do less of and what I should eliminate altogether. I look at the growth opportunities I pursued and judge which gave a high return

and which didn't. I look at all the meetings and appointments I had and determine which ones I should do more of and which I should eliminate. I consider how much time I spent doing things that I should have delegated to someone else. (I also look at what I delegated and reconsider whether I should pick anything back up or delegate it to someone different.) I evaluate whether I spent enough time with my family.

I also make a list of all the things Margaret and I did together that year, and I take her out to dinner one night so we can reminisce and enjoy them once again. That's a romantic evening that always ends well!

I try to account for every waking hour I had the previous year. What's the value of that? It helps me to develop strategies for the coming year, because I do this every year (and have for decades), I become more focused, strategic, and effective every year. Even if I have a difficult time or relatively unproductive year compared to what I desired, it's never a loss, because I learn from it and improve upon it in the coming year.

There's no substitute for being strategic. To maximise growth, you must develop strategies. That's the 'Law of Design'. Most people allow their lives to simply happen to them. They float along. They wait.



They react. And by the time a large portion of their life is behind them, they realise they should have been more proactive and strategic.

I hope that hasn't been true for you. If it has, then I want

to encourage you to develop a stronger sense of urgency and a pro-strategic mindset. These things will help you plan and develop strategies for your life and growth. It's not too late to maximise growth in 2015.

Adapted from *The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth*.

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

Accountability

By Steve Ingram

The word accountability seems to have reached a fashionable high point in its long history. It is not a new concept of course, but it does seem to be bandied about with repetition and new vigour at the moment.

In defence of this new trend, accountability is a strongly biblical concept that is urgently needed in our current context, which may well account for the increased use in our leadership discussions.

The problem is not in the concept, but in our lack of detailed understanding as to the substance of what it is and how it should be implemented. We have reduced the concept (at best) to reporting and maybe a stern conversation.

Take the example of a friend who asks you to hold her accountable for controlling her anger. You meet with her once a week and she reports the incidents of angry outbursts that have occurred in the last seven days. You give her a stern admonition and you go your separate ways. This happens week after week. Is this accountability or enabling?

If you are keen to add substance to the concept of accountability, here are some

additional thoughts about what accountability should include.

1. Reporting or observation followed by honest conversation
2. Affirmation of what has gone well
3. Analysis of what has not gone well and why
4. Constructive help in forming solutions around what has not gone well
5. Follow through with ongoing conversation and help, adjusting as needed
6. Intervention at the point of misbehaviour
7. Consequences

Each of these items deserves greater explanation, but it is the affirmation and analysis that seems to be the areas we need the most help.

We know how to affirm, but we hold back due to worry that if we are too positive about the few good things it may be seen that we are endorsing all their actions. In spite of our concerns, research confirms that positive reinforcement (affirming what they do well) is the one of the most effective means of long-term change. It is also true that as humans we are aware of what we have done wrong, but often need encouragement to persevere with doing what is right.

Analysis requires us to enter their world in greater depth to try and understand where things went wrong. It might be an issue of motivation or a problem regarding their ability or even an environment that needs to be changed. Without deeper

thought we are probably only supplying an opportunity for short-term confession and relief of guilt that in fact enables them to continue their poor behaviour.



Steve Ingram is the Director of Deepwell Leadership.

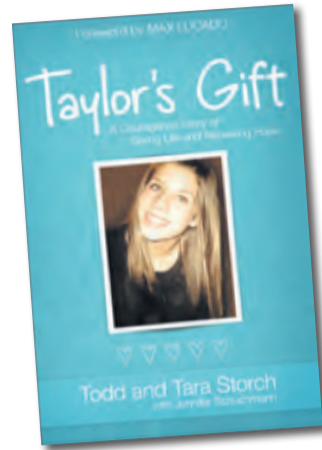
browse

One Year Thru the Bible Devo

As a new year kicks off Christians often set the goal of reading the whole Bible in the coming 12 months. The *One Year Thru the Bible Devo* app is a smart phone and tablet app that helps readers stay on track as they attempt to achieve this. The app provides a daily key passage and other verses to read, an introductory devotional thought for the day and a concluding take away message. The One Year series of apps present a user friendly and attractive layout and also offer the ability to select from 30 Bible translations, share inspiring quotes via text message, email or Facebook, or make notes within the app. There are also a range of other The One Year devotionals available, including *Praying through the Bible*, *Devotions for Men*, *Devotions for Women*, *Devotions for Teens* and *Love Language Minute Devotional*. Search for *One Year Thru the Bible Devo* in the Apple or Google Play stores.



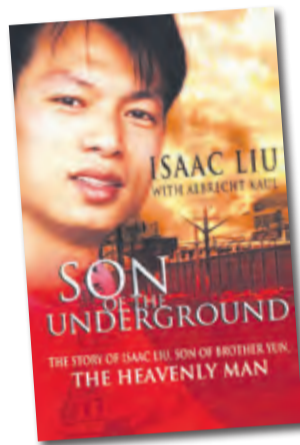
read



Taylor's Gift

Todd and Tara Storch with Jennifer Schuchmann

Taylor's gift is both a heartbreaking and inspirational story. It tells the true story of Taylor whose young life was tragically taken in a skiing accident. Her parents then make a courageous decision to donate her organs. Though it is sad and difficult to read at the beginning, especially from a mother's point of view, it ends as an inspiring story of hope. You are left feeling encouraged that God makes something good out of every tragedy.



Son of the Underground

Isaac Liu with Albrecht Kaul

Son of the Underground is an autobiography by Isaac Liu, describing his childhood as the son of Brother Yun, 'The Heavenly Man', whose life story is also a best seller. Isaac tells of his birth: as the wife of a proscribed person his mother was to have had her baby aborted and was due to go to hospital for that reason. Her prayers not to have this happen were answered when Isaac was born early. He also relates how his mother, sister and he fled from China to Burma and the perils of that journey. Isaac relays his story with compassion and wisdom, and with obvious devotion to his family.



The Best Yes

Lysa Terkeurst

Is there always a right and wrong choice? We often feel that God has only one right path for everything in our lives and we can make ourselves miserable trying to decide and then agonise over the decision. Lysa brings some practical ways to avoid the stress of over committing and ways to help make purposeful decisions to continue on God's path for our lives.

watch



Home Run

Home Run is an honest and inspiring portrayal of a major league baseball player who finds his life off the field quickly spiralling out of control as he battles haunting memories of his past and a crippling alcohol addiction. This movie is a powerful reminder that with God it is never too late to find freedom from your past and a hope for your future.

The winners from the *My Giant Fold-out Book: Christmas* December 2014 competition were: P Friend, J Raymond and C Royce

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

KOORONG
 This voucher entitles you to 15% off your next purchase in store at Mount Lawley

The Advocate – January 2015

the advocate

Editor: Terry Hicks
Managing Editor: Andrew Sculthorpe
Subeditor: Jill Birt
Production: Vanessa Klomp
Creative: Peter Ion
Advertising: Natalie Coulson
Distribution: Natalie Coulson
Editorial deadline: 5th of each month

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

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 imageseven.

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

image seven
 insight applied



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

Austin Cove Baptist College - South Yunderup
Kindergarten to Year 12

www.acbc.wa.edu.au



Austin Cove Baptist College, situated south of Mandurah, started in 2011. Today they have approximately 655 students studying in classes from Kindergarten to Year 12. The College is a place 'Where Quality is not achieved by chance'.



Photo: Kelly Doye

The acting cast of *Bugsy – the Musical*, ready to perform at the Lakes Theatre, Mandurah.



Photo: Kelly Doye

Harrison Mitchell (*Bugsy*) and Minet Coetzee (*Tallulah*) performing on stage.

Bugsy – the Musical

Bugsy – the Musical was played to full houses during four public performances at The Lakes Theatre in Lakelands Mandurah in early December 2014.

With a cast of 90 students from Years 7 to 11, *Bugsy – the Musical* was written by the students of Austin Cove Baptist College as their end of year drama production.

The inspiration for *Bugsy – the Musical* came from Performing Art Teacher and Director of the production Stephen Capener.

The production is based on the fictional character Bugsy Malone, depicting the life of Bugs Moran. This original work of theatre is set in the early 1900s in New York City, where Grandma Tallulah played by Minet Coetzee, recalls the adventurous and sometimes treacherous story of her youth married to the notorious gangster, Bugsy Malone, played by Harrison Mitchell.

When an innocent young woman Bonnie arrives in New York and works for Al Capone, she soon learns the ways of a gangster and teams up with Clyde to take on Bugsy and his gang.

"We hope the production will challenge students and those who see the performances to think about the decisions we

make in life and how those decisions have consequences," Stephen said.

"As we journey with *Bugsy* through this adventure we will see how one decision not only changed his life but many around him for generations to come."

Preparations started early in the year with the script and stage design shaping the drama students' work for the year.

During Term 1 the Backstage and Production classes worked with the Director to create an original plot incorporating many infamous gangsters, people and events that occurred in the early 1900s. After many brainstorming sessions they set about writing a script, designing stage sets and costumes.

Set builder Alan Nield worked with students to build the stage sets by the end of Term 3.

In a video update to the school community in July, the Director told media students that the backstage production team is the heartbeat of the production. Regular video updates have kept the focus on the production, and the momentum to engage with the backstage developments remained strong throughout the year.

160 students auditioned for the singing, dancing and speaking parts in the production. The successful students worked intensely with Musical Director Chas Cassey, Vocal Coach Kim Barlow and Choreographer Gayle Capener as the work came to life on stage. Costumes were designed

by Deb Hiller and made by Deb and other locals.

For many of the school's staff, students and parents, *Bugsy – the Musical* has been a consuming passion for most of 2014, with hundreds of hours of voluntary work required to bring the production to the stage.

The school's 2013 drama production *Rumpelstiltskin* was a fanciful fairy tale, but this year's work is more like a Broadway musical and required more refined drama skills.

"The students' stage craft skills are developing each year. '*Bugsy*' has demanded more of them," Stephen said.

Without a performing arts centre at the Austin Cove Baptist College (ACBC) campus in North Yunderup, the musical was performed at The Lake Theatre, part of the Mandurah Baptist College campus.

The Director paid tribute to ACBC Principal, Orlando dos Santos, for investing so much of his creative talent along with his unwavering encouragement in the production.

"He has been a rock for me throughout this time," Stephen said.

"Above all, I would like to honour Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, for the visions and inspiration He gives me. He is my strength and I know this production would not be possible without Him."

On opening night the Director said the production was Austin Cove Baptist College's gift to the community this Christmas.



Photo: Kelly Doye

Scott Haggerty plays Henry in *Bugsy – the Musical*.

Production team

Director	Stephen Capener
Stage Manager	Chris Hay
Assistant Stage Manager	Madison Kinder
Props Manager	Bethany Cobb
Lighting Designer/Operator	Brody Hodges
Lighting Operator	Jacob Bolch
Sound Operator	Chloe Lamont
Sound Operator	Tom Bailey
Microphone Operator	Kate McGougan
Aerial Choreographer	Nicole Capener
Head Technician	Kyle Baggaley
Choreographer	Gayle Capener
Musical Director	Chas Cassey
Vocal Coach	Kim Barlow
Costume Design/Dressmaker	Deb Hiller
Set Builder	Alan Nield
Fine Artist	Orlando dos Santos
Public Relations	Taryn Dyer
Photographer	Kelly Doye
Film Editor	Peter Jackson
Program	Monique Macdonald

WACA Chaplain supports team



Photo: Jill Birt

WACA Chaplain Rob Furlong spent time with WACA cricketers while the team mourned the death of Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes.

Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) Chaplain to the Western Warriors, Pastor Rob Furlong spent several hours with the team following Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes' death on Thursday 27 November.

Western Warriors' Coach Justin Langer was Phillip's batting coach, mentor and close friend. He along with others in the Warriors' squad were deeply impacted by the accident and Phillip's death.

Hughes, aged 25, was hit by a rising ball during a Sheffield Shield game at the Sydney Cricket Ground while playing for South Australia against his former team, New South Wales.

Initially Rob met with the Warriors squad for a debrief when they arrived back in Perth from Victoria on Wednesday 26 November, after all Shield games had been abandoned out of respect for Phillip Hughes.

"The mood of the squad was very subdued and one of great concern for their colleague," Rob said.

Following Phillip's death, Rob worked with Warriors support staff to assist the players through the grieving process.

The WACA decided to televise the funeral service live at the WACA ground and opened the event for the public to attend. Members of the Warriors squad and other WACA staff were part of the group of 400 people who attended the live screening. As Chaplain, Rob made some opening and closing remarks.

"One of the values that we hold at the WACA is looking after your mates. This is why we took the opportunity to conduct the live screening of the service," Rob said.

"We all came together to acknowledge a son, a brother, a competitor, a colleague, a sporting hero and whether we

“
The mood of the squad was very subdued and one of great concern for their colleague ...”

knew him well or not in that great Aussie tradition he was someone we called a 'mate'.

"Our world can be a dark place at times but God cares deeply for all of us."

"His heart breaks for the family of Phil Hughes, but He also shines into the darkness through His Son Jesus. We can have hope at a time like this."

"The WACA have done a tremendous job in supporting everyone concerned through this devastating loss."

"They've provided condolence books for the public to sign and there's been a tremendous response to that," Rob said.

The public received the event warmly with many people thanking the WACA for providing the opportunity to say farewell.

Rob who is a cricket tragic, has been the honorary chaplain to the Warriors for eight years.

"It's been an absolute privilege to get alongside the players and support them at this time and to serve God in the wider community," Rob said.

Student strip searched



Photo: LoveMakesAWay

Alan McGrechan, second from left, prays with other Christians in Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop's office in Perth before the group was arrested and strip searched.

Vose Seminary student Alan McGrechan was arrested, strip searched and charged with trespassing along with seven other Christians in Perth on Wednesday 9 December.

The group from #LoveMakesAWay campaign included pastors from the Church of Christ and Pentecostal Church, a Uniting Church minister, a female Anglican priest, and other concerned Christians. They were involved in a sit-in at the Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Julie Bishop's office protesting the deportation of babies born in Australia to asylum seeker families being transported to Nauru.

The #LoveMakesAWay movement held a national day of action in Member of Parliament (MP) offices across Australia

with 53 Christian leaders being arrested or forcibly removed. Only the group in Perth was arrested and strip searched.

"We were waiting at Ms Bishop's office from 9.30am to 5.00pm for a commitment from the government to not send 25 babies born in Australia to the detention centre in Nauru," Alan said.

Australian Federal Police and Western Australia Police were at Ms Bishop's office during the day. The arrests were made by WA Police and the group was transported to the Perth Watch House in Northbridge for processing.

In individual rooms the protestors were stripped naked and told to 'squat and cough'. Each was fingerprinted and had a DNA swab taken.

The group's lawyer Shash Nigam said police usually only strip search individuals they reasonably suspect could be carrying a weapon, firearm, ammunition or drugs.

The group will face court on 31 December 2014.

"It was humiliating, but my main concern is the little babies. We don't want them sent to Nauru," Alan said.



MISSIONS & CHAPLAINS

A new unit in Missional Chaplaincy will be conducted at Perth Bible College in the first semester of 2015!

Over recent years we have been reflecting on the way the Lord has been working within the ministry of Street Chaplaincy. This new Missional Chaplaincy course at Perth Bible College (PBC) has been shaped by the experiences of many in this ministry area, to address those spiritual and biblical issues that stand out as being vital to seeing God at work.

We are all on a valuable journey with God in ministry and have much to learn as we go. This unit is offered as a part of the journey to learn how best we can work with and for the Lord. We highly commend it to you and would value you being part of the course.

The course can be completed externally as an online unit, or on campus at PBC.

Lectures will commence Thursday 19th February 2015.

To secure your place in this new unit, please call PBC on (08) 9243 2000.