

the advocate



"Momentum makes leaders look better than they actually are."

JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>

In Conversation Daniel Price discusses his work as an Astrophysicist at Monash University and his faith in God as a scientist. **PAGE 12>>**

Baptistcare to the rescue

Residents of Northcliffe in Western Australia's South West recently faced the devastation of the largest bushfire to hit the region in decades.

Baptistcare played a key role in the emergency by coming to the aid of Pemberton Hospital and a number of its patients.

The Northcliffe bushfire raged for more than 12 days, burning over 90,000 hectares of land and threatening thousands of residents, homes and businesses.

A state of emergency was declared on Monday 2 February as residents in the towns of Northcliffe and Pemberton were evacuated from their properties, with the blaze, which had been sparked by lightning, leaving widespread destruction in its wake.

Anticipating the need to relocate hospital patients affected by the fire, Baptistcare staff from the Moonya residential aged care facility in neighbouring Manjimup contacted Pemberton Hospital to advise they had rooms and beds available for patients if required.

Baptistcare staff continued to contact Pemberton Hospital each day to offer assistance as the out of control fire continued to spread to surrounding areas. The call was made on Wednesday 4 February, two days after the fire started, to evacuate six patients and transfer them to Moonya until the fire was under control.

Conscious of the vulnerable state of the evacuated patients, Baptistcare staff worked tirelessly to ensure the patients were as comfortable as possible and received the highest level of care during their stay at Moonya.

Many staff ended up working beyond their rostered hours to help where required and the onsite chaplain was available to

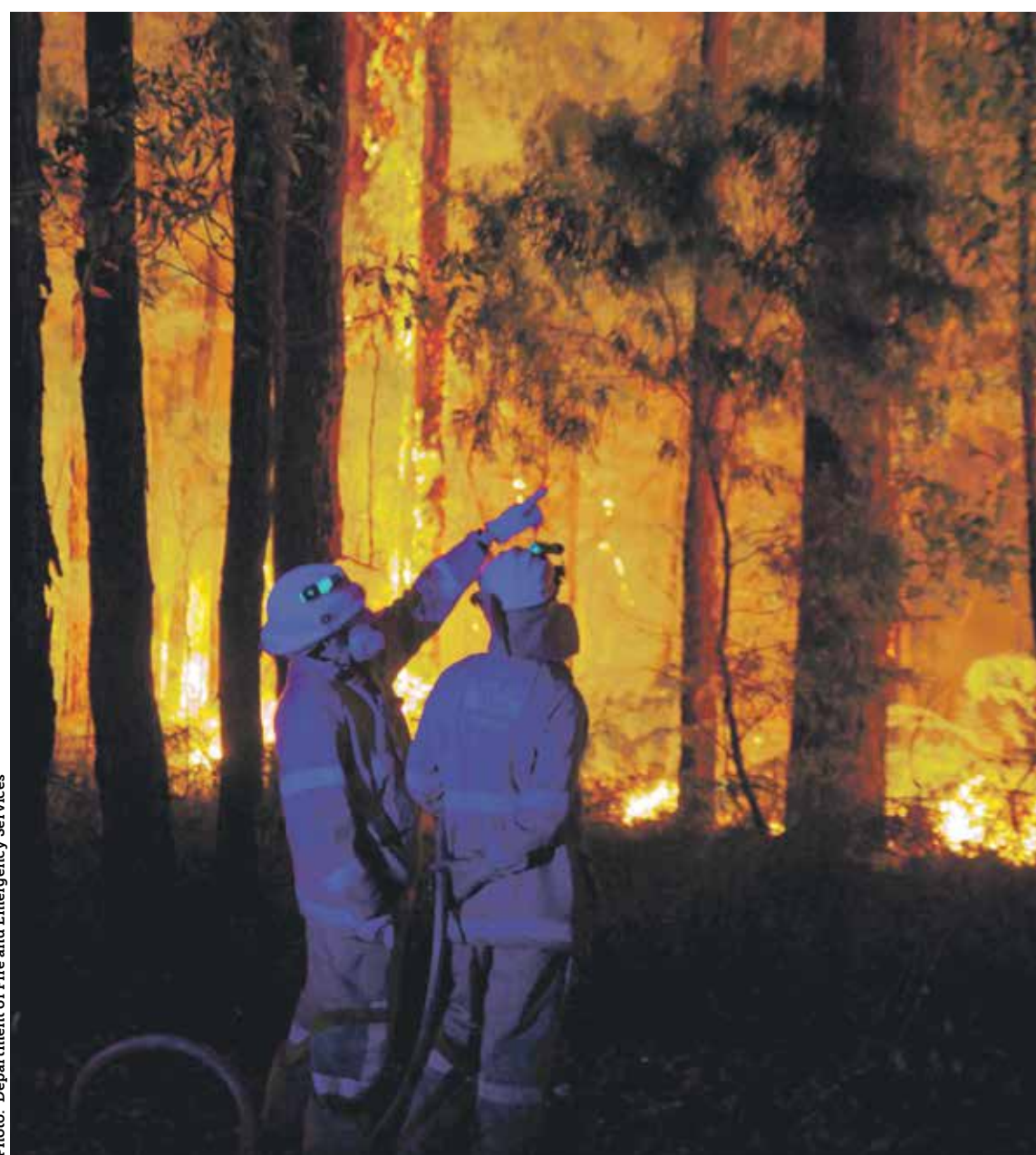


Photo: Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Firemen assessing the Northcliffe fire in early February.

support patients and staff who were directly affected by the fire.

Despite the state of emergency in the region, the six patients quickly settled into their new surroundings and were able to enjoy a time of peaceful recovery during their time at Moonya.

One patient, Helmut Leunders, said he was very sorry to leave Moonya and would have liked to have stayed if he could. He told staff he loved the people and staff who were very welcoming and helpful.

"They made me feel safe and I was able to rest and recuperate well," Helmut said.

Another patient Eileen Hughes, said Moonya was one of the loveliest places she has stayed with lovely staff who are very kind and patient, and even great food.

"It would be the only place I would go if I had to move," Eileen said.

As the State Emergency Service worked to bring the fire under control, the all clear was given for the patients to be transferred back to Pemberton Hospital via Home and Community Care transport on Monday 9 February.

Identifying the demand for supplies in the community

during the crisis, Moonya Baptistcare staff also contacted the sports centre in Pemberton, which operated as an evacuation centre, to offer assistance and use of equipment such as beds and clothing. A bed was supplied to a Northcliffe resident who was displaced due to the destruction of the fire.

Baptistcare has been providing quality aged care for members of the Manjimup and surrounding community at Moonya for many years, and is proud to have been able to assist the community during a time of crisis.



3 Switchfoot coming

World renowned Christian band heading to Mandurah in March >>



8 Fry v God

Comedian Stephen Fry questions God >>



15 School Scoop

Carey Baptist College music students accepted into WAAPA >>

“
We are
stronger
when we
work together.”

BAPTIST CHURCHES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Mark Wilson

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

Passionate spirituality

In 1996 Christian Schwarz wrote the book *Natural Church Development* and identified eight key qualities of healthy churches. On that list, he included 'passionate spirituality' – a vital quality for our personal lives, too.

We all share the desire for a deeper and richer spiritual experience and passionate spirituality, however, the phrase can help and confuse us at the same time.

The old English roots for the word passionate may help us. Remember Mel Gibson's blockbuster movie *The Passion of the Christ*? The term passion refers to suffering. We are passionate when we are willing to suffer.

Then, Wil Hernandez defines Christian spirituality as "Spiritual

formation is the process of being with Christ ... in order to become like Christ ... and consequently live for Christ."

Hernandez suggests a specific order. First, with Christ. When we come to Him (John 6:35), trust in Him (John 7:38), and abide in His presence (John 15:5) we become like Him. And the more like Him that we become, the better we can live for Him in the world.

In typical fashion, we want to reverse the order. In our activist culture we prefer to live

for Christ immediately. We get busy and later (perhaps) deal with becoming more like Him. Only a few followers seem to draw their inspiration and direction from time with Him. Little wonder then, that we strain so hard and frequently feel more exhausted than exhilarated in our Christian service.

The Apostle Paul modelled passionate spirituality. Listen carefully to what he wrote: 'I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of

knowing Christ Jesus my Lord ... and I count them but rubbish in order that I might gain Christ ... that I may know Christ ...' [Philippians 3:8]

What would we gladly 'count as loss' to know Christ more deeply? How might the world change, our personal worlds and the larger world beyond us, if such passionate spirituality became our driving ambition?

May we be increasingly willing to pay whatever price necessary to abide in Christ more fully. That's passionate spirituality.



Dr Brian Harris

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

On errors ...

A friend, perhaps worrying about my mental state, sent me one of those mind games that are supposed to renew your brain cells. On a page filled with hundreds of tiny repeats of the number nine, one eight had been placed. To prove mental agility, you had to spot it in under a minute.

Now I don't want to brag, but I got it in less than five seconds. There it was – four rows from the bottom, eleventh from the left. I mean, really, I mark students' essays every day. Provided they are not my own, errors leap out at me.

It's a strange exercise though. Sitting down and trying hard to spot the mistake. It can become a default drive for the way we approach life. 'So how

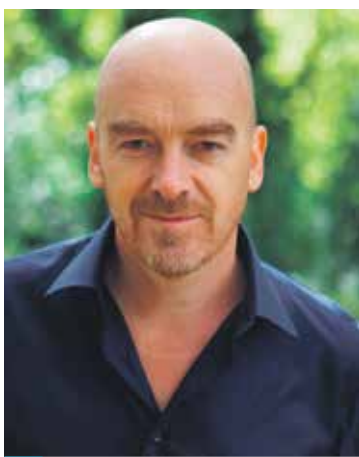
did you find the church service today?' 'Very nice, but did you notice ...' and 27 minutes of complaints quickly follow. It's always a pity when people are wired like that. Philippians 4:8 instructs us to play the opposite game. We're told to notice whatever is pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy. Many of us do so with a 'yes but' in mind. 'That was lovely – just a pity about ...'

In defence of error spotters, it must be noted that most progress depends upon them. Believe it or not, I pounce upon student mistakes because I believe they are capable of more. I want them to improve. As Proverbs 27:6 says, 'Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.'

So which should it be? Endless positive affirmation, or spot the error. Or do we have to use the old

P word – it's a paradox. Somehow both are true.

Fair enough, but don't be too quick to justify fault finding. After all, what would happen if God played the game with us? Spot the flaw ... too easy. Spot what's right ... now that's really hard. Except that God plays it the other way around. Spot what's right? 'Well they're forgiven. Because of Jesus, everything has been made right ...' And you really can't fault that.



Rhidian Brook

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

50 is the new 20

I was half way through an exercise class, trying to do a sit-up on a foam roller, when my friend said very loudly: "I bet our parents weren't doing this at our age."

Which, in part, might explain why we are living longer than previous generations and why we see headlines that tell us that 40 is the new 30, and most recently, 50 the new 20.

Having just turned 50 I'm excited by these recalibrations. But no amount of spin can change the fact that, the body I'm waking up with the day after a five a side football match is saying 'You're 50. Get used to it.'

So why not get used to it? Maybe it's partly because our culture sees little merit in getting older. This constant re-branding of each decade is as much about disguising age as about celebrating it. We believe young is better than old. Old must be delayed. Avoided. Renamed.

I don't expect to live long enough to see the headline '20 is the new 50!' but there are things I know now that I'd liked to have known then. Being older has its

advantages. In another culture and age, it didn't have to mimic youth to claim validity. In the Old Testament experience was valued so highly that 50 year olds were allowed to retire from certain physical duties so that the community could make the most of their accumulated wisdom.

As a boy, my elders told me to be thankful, but I've had to almost reach their age to appreciate what they wanted me to be thankful for. At recent parties celebrating

the landmarks of 50 and 60, there has been a real sense of gratitude: for making it this far, for friendships, for family, for life. Maybe that gratitude is a kind of understanding. It's why the Psalmist asks 'teach us to number our days so that we might gain a heart of wisdom.' [Psalm 90:12]

Scripture says life might last 70 years, 80 if we have the strength, but it doesn't pretend it won't have troubles or sorrows. It seems we have a choice between living out whatever days we have by raging at our aging and pretending that it isn't really happening; or being glad for what we have and celebrating it as we can – with gratitude.

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.

Seven minute move for Morley



Photo: Terry Hicks

The first service of Morley Baptist Church in their new premises was an opportunity to celebrate God's goodness to them.

After over 50 years in one location Morley Baptist Church moved to a new facility in early February and has begun ministry in their new neighbourhood.

The Vera Street property where the church was previously located was no longer adequate to accommodate the church's ministries and congregation. The decision was made in December 2014 to purchase the Broadway Function and Arts Centre in

Bassendean, a seven minute drive from the former church site.

The new property has a larger foyer and auditorium, increased parking, a café and alfresco area, additional staff offices, more restroom facilities and no noise restrictions from neighbours.

There are multiple meeting rooms that will suit the church's growing children's ministry and other church groups, including a crèche with play area attached to the building.

Senior Pastor John Crosby is full of praise for the congregation

as they have navigated the change.

"I believe Morley Baptist Church is a community of courageous Christians who are demonstrating their missional commitment to God by stepping out in faith; through deliberately moving out of their comfort zone to be relevant in the region for Christ's Kingdom," John said.

A large part of the cost will be covered by the sale of the church's parcel of land and buildings in Morley.

Chairman Terry Hicks led the 'Relocation Group' committee, which met regularly to plan the departure from Vera Street and the start of the church's ministry in the new building.

"A very strong majority of the church, 86 percent, voted for the move, so that was a huge plus. There was plenty of work to do with some minor alterations to the new building and setting up the various areas for ministry," Terry said.

After two Sundays in the new property the church has seen attendance rise significantly, especially among young families.

Almost all the 106 parking bays were full on the second week so the church has negotiated with a number of local businesses and will have access to a further 40 parking bays close to the church.

"The church is positioned to engage with its immediate community and with the wider northern metropolitan area of Perth", John said.

"The facility is multi-functional and can also operate as the Broadway Function and Arts Centre which is appealing to many community user groups."

The church expects to be able to hire sections of the facility to community groups with it being in a very good location for northern suburb regional gatherings.

The Chin Falan Christian Fellowship which has been using Morley Baptist Church's (MBC) buildings on Sunday afternoons will also move their service to the new property.

To introduce the church to the local community Morley is holding a mega fete in late March.

For more information, visit www.morleybaptist.org.au

Switchfoot is coming

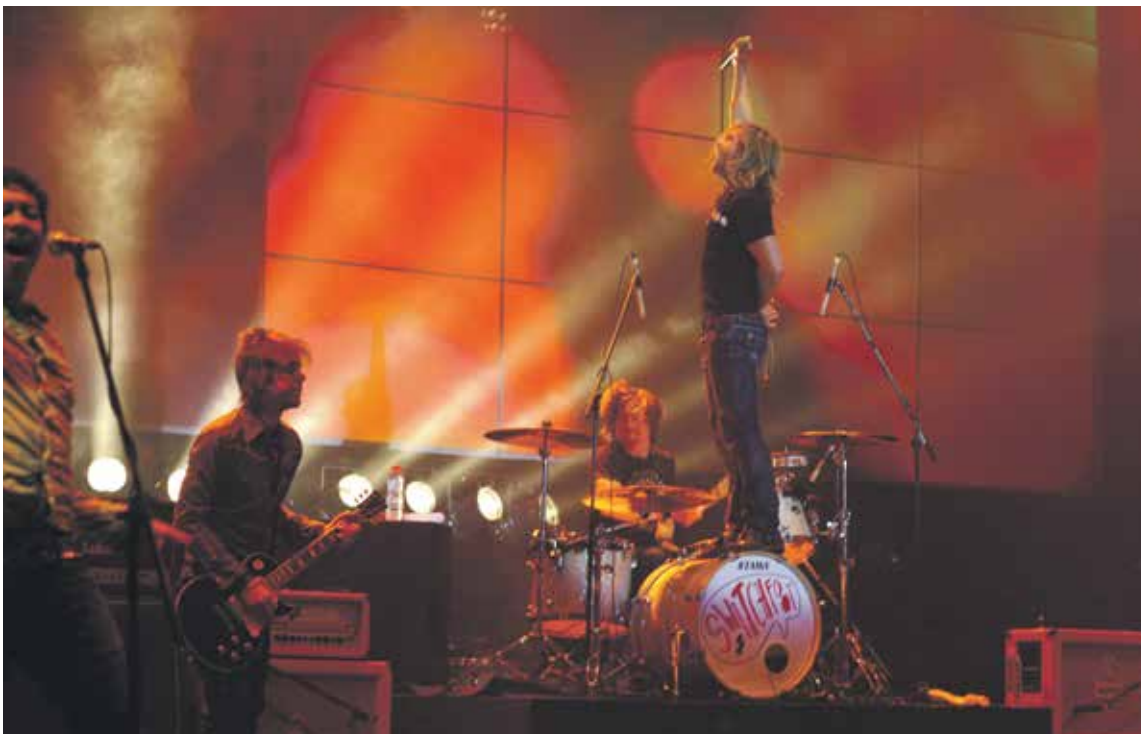


Photo: AS Zain/Shutterstock.com

Switchfoot will be performing in WA in March.

Switchfoot, one of the biggest Christian bands in the world is heading to Mandurah on 30 March.

The band will be supported by local musicians Like a Thief.

Switchfoot will play at the Lakes Theatre and facility manager James Waldeck said it was a coup for the Theatre to sign Switchfoot for this show.

"Without doubt there are many members of the group's global fan base in Western Australia who are devoted to Switchfoot's emotionally intelligent and uplifting brand of alternative rock and would

want to catch the performance," James said.

The Lakes Theatre is situated on the campus of Mandurah Baptist College, Catalina Drive, Lakelands.

To purchase tickets, visit www.ticketmaster.com.au

Carey CHURCH An exciting opportunity exists at Carey for an **ADMINISTRATOR AND P.A. FULL TIME**

The role is Administrator of the Church and PA to the Senior Pastor and Executive Director of the Carey group. The successful applicant will need to have excellent people and communication skills, good computer literacy, strong administrative and co-ordination ability and the capacity to develop and maintain systems. Joining Carey Baptist Church will be a requirement of the role. Carey is a community of Church, College and JUMP and is in a stage of significant development. We are about to open a community centre, and are in the process of developing a second campus. This is an exciting time in the life of Carey and the successful applicant will work closely with the Senior Pastor/ ED both within the church and the broader organisation.

Applications should be submitted to Carey Community Baptist Church **ADMINISTRATOR AND P.A. | PO Box 1409, Canning Vale WA 6970** or email your application to office@carey.asn.au

An information pack for this position is available at www.carey.asn.au or contact the office on 9394 9155
email: office@carey.asn.au | 51 Wright Rd Harrisdale WA 6122

Restoring hope delivers award

Esperance Baptist Church Pastor Chris Boland has been awarded the Apex Esperance Bruce Kelman Award for his work in the community.

The award, a trophy and a cheque for \$1,000, was presented by Apex Esperance President Jodi MacNish and Club Treasurer Derek Clarke during a dinner in Esperance in February.

"It is amazing to be able to recognise someone who puts his all into the community," Jodi said.

"I am so privileged to know this amazing man and I was super proud as the President of the Esperance Apex to be able to give him the award."

Chris established the Restore Hope Foundation in 2006 and through this organisation he has helped a broad cross section of the community.

Chris's initial goal was to raise awareness of homelessness in the community and address this need.

Following its formation the Foundation opened a soup

kitchen and with the help of the community have been feeding those in need of help since July 2008.

"Many people in our town and surrounding area were struggling due to the economic situation, which in turn had caused more hardship through higher costs for food and basic utilities so we started the soup kitchen," Chris said.

A generous donation from Magellan Metals helped the Foundation to build a commercial kitchen in a caravan. The Foundation uses this to cook meals from donated ingredients for people in need.

The kitchen caravan is also used at fundraising activities to sell food or coffee and drinks to raise much needed funds to keep the vital work going.

Woolworths also provided funds for the Foundation to purchase a cool room to assist with food preparation and storage.

In late 2012, Lotterywest funded the purchase a new Toyota HiAce van. The van included a fridge/freezer compartment which has proved useful for collecting and delivering food. Chris said it is a huge improvement on the small van the Foundation used previously.

Recently Chris exhibited a prototype of microhousing at the local show. The Restore Hope Foundation plans to use this form of microhousing to address homelessness in town, offering a creative option that could become a solution to the problem.

A team of volunteers provide energy and skills to make the Foundation an important contributor to the community. As well as the soup kitchen, the Foundation runs fundraising events, including the annual Sleep for the Homeless in August, and outings for nursing home



Photo: Rosemary Boland

Chris Boland has been recognised for his work in the community.

residents. They also prepare Christmas hampers each year.

In addition to his work with Restore Hope Foundation Chris drives a local school bus.

As pastor of the Esperance Baptist Church and their

extensive involvement in the community, Chris and his wife Rosemary have opportunities to support the spiritual journeys of their local community.

Coming, staying or going?

Why young adults are leaving, staying and returning to the church are questions high on the radar of young adult church ministries across Australia.

Canadian churches have conducted research to help understand the issues. Two practitioners, father and daughter team Dr Dave Overholt, Lead Pastor of Church on the Rock in Ontario and Karra Overholt, Youth Director at Church on the Rock, are visiting Perth in March.

Baptist Churches Western Australia Youth and Young Adult Consultant Craig Palmer met Dave and Karra in Singapore at the last Baptist World Youth Conference.

"Australian Baptist Youth Ministries has been talking with them about their research findings in the Canadian scene, so instead

of reinventing the wheel, we've invited them to Australia to share their learning," Craig said.

'Haemorrhaging Faith' is a one day event for people interested in Christian ministry among young adults. During the morning Dave Overholt will be unpacking the research and offering practical responses arising from Haemorrhaging Faith.

Dave and Karra will present electives during the afternoon including mentoring young leaders; working with your senior leader; building culture that



transforms; and evangelism for the next generation.

"This is a great opportunity for sole pastors, youth and young adult workers, leadership teams and even children's workers," Craig said.

There are many similarities between Canada and Australia's cultures as both countries

experience a rapidly changing community in an increasingly secular community.

The event is being hosted by Baptist Churches Western Australia at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on Thursday 12 March.

For more information, phone 6313 6300.

digital church

28/01/2015
David Mathis
desiringgod.org

"Which means good disciple making is always a two-way street. The 'disciple' and the 'discipler' are most fundamentally disciples of Jesus ... Stephen Smallman says, 'Our involvement in making disciples will be one of the most significant things we can do for our own growth as disciples.'"

29/01/2015
Shane Claiborne
twitter.com/ShaneClaiborne
"Sometimes we are waiting on God, and God is waiting on us.

So pray. And as you ask God to move a mountain, get ready for God to hand you a shovel."

02/02/2015
Tim Challies
challies.com

"Jesus is the one whose love is true. He is the one who has died for us, clothed us in righteousness and called us into the Kingdom of light. He is the source of comfort, hope and life in all its fullness." [John 10:10]

04/02/2015
Jenny Franks
desiringgod.org
"Because of our hope, we are

freed from a life that is insecure and bunkered-down."

04/02/2015
Rick Warren
rickwarren.org/devotional

"But if you're going to be successful in life, you must move against your fears. You have to do the very thing that you fear the most!"

05/02/2015
Todd Atkins
twitter.com/ToddAdkins
"See what the Bible actually says about things. Don't just live off the breadcrumbs of popular Christian theology."

05/02/2015
Max Lucado
twitter.com/MaxLucado

"Everyone says: Be productive! Be busy! Be ambitious! God says: 'Be still and know I am God.'" [Psalm 46:10]

06/02/2015
Mark Beeson
markbeeson.com

"... that means we'll be following Jesus with real people, not ideal people. It means loving imperfect people ... just as God does. It means accepting God's invitation to be part of God's family - which continues throughout eternity.

It means devotion. It means commitment."

06/02/2015
CS Lewis
twitter.com/CSLewisDaily
"Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth 'thrown in'; aim at Earth and you will get neither."

06/02/2015
Carlos Whittaker
twitter.com/loswhit
"Jesus isn't the solution to all of your problems. Jesus is the sufficiency within your problems."

Compiled by Breege McKiernan

Troupe takes Perth



Photo: Jill Birt

Members of the Karen music troupe enjoy sunset in Kings Park.

A troupe of musicians, singers, and poets from Myanmar visited Australia for two months over December and January to highlight the issue of trafficking and exploitation of workers in their homeland.

Sponsored by the Perth Karen Baptist Church and coordinated by church leader Paul Henney, the troupe spent time in Perth before flying to Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane where they visited Karen communities.

Returning to Perth the troupe visited the Christian Karen groups in Albany and Katanning as well as performing for a packed audience at Bentley Baptist Church on 24 January.

The groups perform folk, pop, rock and jazz music, highlighting the versatility of the musicians and singers. Several of the troupe have strong recording careers in Myanmar and the opportunity for Karen people in Australia to meet and listen to these stars was highly valued.

Saw Poe Kwar is a Reggae artist with the troupe and is identified as the Bob Marley look-alike of Karen

music wearing the distinctive colours and dreadlocks of a devoted reggae musician.

"Karen people are born with music, we can accept different types," Saw Poe said as an explanation for his appearance.

The concerts and performances in Christian worship services offered a unique experience for Karen Christians in Australia.

"We can give a sense of belonging to Karen people overseas," team leader Saw Marvellous Soe said.

"We can connect them with the people and culture of Burma."

As the second generation of Karen people grows among the families that initially came to Australia as refugees, there are some unique cultural needs in the community.

"We see the generations of kids born here in Australia are not in

touch with Burma, so this has been a great opportunity to help them connect with the beauty of the culture of the Karen people group," singer Fanny Rockman said.

Naw Paw Gaw, is a pastor working in the city of Yangon. She was widowed several years ago and continues in ministry, working with a group of young women who have been freed from the work places where they were trafficked from their rural homes.

"These young people need hope and re-training," Naw Paw said.

"It is slow work and we need help."

While the group are on tour the music team sing and perform and Naw Paw preaches and shares information about the trafficking issues.

The tour was a learning experience for the troupe as well.

"I'm impressed with the freedom and development of Burmese women who have come to Australia."

"They're involved in everything. They drive cars and they're very empowered. I see them working together with the men with confidence and it's very encouraging," Naw Paw Gaw said.

Change at Como



Photo: Como Baptist Church

Church leaders welcome Steve Wickham (second from right) to his new pastoral role at Como Baptist Church.

A new beginning shaped Como Baptist Church at the start of 2015 when Pastor Steve Wickham joined the church staff as Associate Pastor in January.

Steve will have specific responsibilities for Youth, Young Adults and Discipleship.

Steve and his wife Sarah, and their young son Ethan, recently moved into the area to support Steve's work with the church.

His appointment will allow Pastor Phil Smoker to focus on the ministry of the church's new Canning Bridge Early Learning Centre.

The Centre welcomed children for the first time when it opened on 12 January. The Centre currently has 23 children registered.

Prior to the opening the Centre's nine staff enjoyed a full week of preparation together, including orientation and setting up the building ready for arrival of children.

"We've had a number of comments about 'the vibe' of the Centre."

"It's fresh and spacious; and it's already proving to be flexible," Pastor Jackie Smoker said.

Excitement builds as the church prepare for the official opening on 22 February. It is almost five years since the great hail storm of March 2010, when the buildings were damaged and the idea to use the building that now houses the Centre as a childcare centre was seriously investigated.

"A great deal of prayer, support and work has gone into bring the Centre into being, and the church are supporting and waiting to hear how they can be involved in helping people say 'yes' to Jesus," Jackie said.

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Haircuts help plant a church

Four years ago Karen Daniel left her role as a Personal Assistant to the CEO of one of Australia's largest not-for-profit organisations to train as a hairdresser and work with migrant workers in Melbourne.

From the buzzing high-pressured culture of an international aid agency, Karen moved to helping a small family hairdressing business. She streamlined processes from ordering products to booking clients and mentoring the staff.

"It is my pleasure to do this work – I get to spend time with the staff and to share in their lives," Karen said.

Some days Karen demonstrates haircutting techniques to the staff, some of whom have limited technical training.

Karen and her husband Spenser spend much of their working week in the Melbourne suburb of Dandenong, building friendships with

asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers.

"Both of us are Sri Lankan and speak Tamil, so that's an easy connection point. Spenser also speaks Sinhalese," Karen said.

Karen and Spenser's goal is to plant simple churches that multiply. Prayer walking the Dandenong area is a high priority. Sometimes a small group of friends join them for a couple of hours walking the streets, praying for the area and for individuals they meet.

In building friendships with Nepalese people and Sri Lankan Buddhists and Hindus, the couple look for opportunities to focus conversations to spiritual matters.

Currently the Daniels host two Discovery Bible Study

groups each week with people who are interested in learning about Jesus.

As well as running the studies, Spenser supports several Sri Lankan refugees and asylum seekers as they negotiate the 'red tape' and processes of Centrelink and other government agencies.

Karen and Spenser are also involved in teaching English to new arrivals in Australia, including some of their 60 regular contacts in Dandenong.

"We love doing this work. It is what God has prepared us for," Karen said.

While Karen works part-time as a church planter, supplementing the family's financial needs through her private hairdressing clients, Spenser works full-time in church planting.

The Daniels are part of Praxeis, a church planting movement that started in Melbourne. They focus on soaking prayer, generous sharing of the gospel and multiplying groups.



Photo: Jill Birt

Spenser and Karen Daniel are using a unique method for church planting in suburban Melbourne.

The team currently has more than 30 church planters working in Australia. In Melbourne there are teams

engaging with university students at Monash and Deakin universities as well as in the western suburbs.



Photo: Vose Seminary

Thousands of quality books can be purchased at Vose Seminary on 11 April.

Books, book and more books

More than 25,000 books are being catalogued for the popular annual Vose Book Sale in April.

Book categories in this year's selection include books for children, fiction, biographies, theology, Bible commentaries, health, family, Christian fiction, business, education, Bibles and more. There is also hundreds of DVDs and CDs on offer.

A sausage sizzle and Devonshire tea and coffee will be available throughout the day.

The sale has been used as a fundraiser for Vose for more than two decades.

"The book sale is a great opportunity for us to connect with the community as well as providing much needed and appreciated funds for the Seminary," Book Sale Coordinator Bridget Barry said.

Each year up to 500 books are added to the Vose Seminary Library as staff examine the donated books before they are checked and catalogued.

"This is a huge benefit for the Library. We just couldn't afford to purchase all these extra books," library worker Nathan Hobby said.

Following the Saturday Book Sale the public is welcome to shop at the Breezeway Browse where books are displayed on the verandah of the Seminary. The event runs for three weeks during business hours until Friday 1 May.

The sale will be held on Saturday 11 April from 9am to 3pm at Vose Seminary, 20 Hayman Road, Bentley.

For more information, phone Bridget on 6313 6200.

briefs

Baptisms

Stan and Sue March were baptised at Denmark Baptist Church on 25 January.

Marriages

Mark Jefferies, son of Peter and Connie Jefferies of Tenterden, Western Australia, married Kate Chapman, daughter of Tom and Pat Chapman of Dersingham, Norfolk, UK on Saturday 24 January in Norfolk.

Michelle Smith, daughter of Noel and Debbie Smith of Mount Barker, and Mark Preston, son of David and Lorraine Preston of Cranbrook married in the Albany Baptist Church on Saturday 31 January.

Kangaroo encounter

Derby Baptist Church Pastor Paul White was on an early morning bicycle ride in January when he had a memorable encounter with a kangaroo. Paul broke his left leg and was flown to Perth for surgery. He is currently back in Derby and going through what promises to be a lengthy rehabilitation process and is looking forward to being able to ride again.

Global friends

People interested in the work of Global Interaction are invited to morning tea at Riverton Baptist Community Church on Saturday 21 March at 10am to hear Haylee

Freudigman from the Melbourne office with news from the teams working overseas and give some insights into the training and equipping of people preparing to go. Sally Pim and some of the team that visited Bangladesh in February will report on their visits. For more information, phone Pam Gallagher on 6313 6300 (Wednesday and Thursday).

Catalyst launch

Baptist World Aid Australia's Catalyst groups across Western Australia will meet at Woodvale Baptist Church, 67 Woodvale Drive, Woodvale from 9am to 11.30am on Saturday 14 March

for the launch of projects for 2015. There are some great new resources available to groups and excellent campaigning materials for those wanting to learn and engage to end poverty, fight slavery and tackle corporate exploitation. For more information, contact Dushan Jeyabalan on 6313 6300.

Baptistcare moves

Baptistcare Support Services office moved to new premises in early February. Their new address is 95 Belgrave Street, Belmont and phone 1300 660 640. Their postal address remains the same: PO Box 263, Bentley WA 6982.

Pastoral retreat

The annual All Together Baptist Pastoral Retreat for Baptist ministry staff is planned for 13 to 15 April in Mandurah. Churches can register their pastors online. Conference sessions will be held at Mandurah Baptist College, Catalina Drive, Lakelands, just north of Mandurah.

Different leadership

31 Media announced in February that Jason Jaggard, a former young adults and youth pastor with Mosaic Los Angeles will be speaking on leadership in Perth on 24 March. Details will be posted at www.31media.com

Leatherwork shapes change

The Loyal Workshop in South Asia, is helping set women free from bondage in the sex industry.

New Zealand Baptists, Paul and Sarah are growing the sustainable business by training women as leather artisans and exporting their work around the world.

“We started super small so our business would be based on relationships ...”

Using leather from a local producer that is cured with eco-friendly vegetable products and satchel designs by their friend, The Loyal Workshop brand is achieving a high standard of handcrafted leather goods. Women train for six months, learning the skills and discipline of work that pays them a living wage.

“We started super small so our business would be based on relationships and we knew the first

group of trainee artisans would become the foundation for the future,” Sarah said.

The women are shipping products to New Zealand, Australia, the United States and the UK almost every day.

“We want to be selling 100 bags a month to keep this business slowly growing.”

“We’re not quite there yet but we’re off to a good start.”

“We’re also doing other orders that are good for business too, like making 5,500 wristbands for the New Zealand Baptist Youth Easter Camp.”

“There’s a disproportionate number of Kiwis here ... and there’s been a strong missional link between the two countries since the 1800s,” Sarah said.

The Loyal Workshop is not far from Freeset, a business developed by fellow New Zealanders that trains women from the red-light area to make bags and apparel.

“We are like Freeset’s baby sister,” Sarah said.

“The Freeset community have been a huge support.”

“They have provided loads of legal and administration support

and we’re learning from their 13 years of experience,” she said.

The future of the workshop is unknown but Paul and Sarah have big dreams of freedom.

“We hope that this foundation will give rise to a thriving business of about 30 to 50 artisans, working together to create beautiful products in a new community of love, peace and justice,” Paul said.

The red-light area they focus on has 1,500 to 2,000 women working on ‘the line’. It will take a combined effort of many businesses, NGOs and the local church to see the community transformed.

Spirituality is a very natural part of the culture in this region and The Loyal Workshop women enjoy singing together and hearing stories from the Bible.

“We cover a broad sweep of biblical truths and have a particular focus on stories from Jesus’ life.”

“We hope that after our six months of artisan training the women will have a new understanding of their value as precious children of God, how much Jesus loves them and how much He believes in their freedom,” Sarah said.

The business recently launched their online store at www.theloyalworkshop.com



Photo: Robin Smith



Photo: Kay Tiddy

Paul and Sarah run The Loyal Workshop.

Churches for Bhutanese



Photo: Jill Birt

GC Uttam and his wife Mira are planting Nepalese churches among refugees in Albury, Victoria.

GC Uttam and his wife Mira are planting churches among Nepalese speaking Bhutanese people in Albury, Victoria.

Called by Albury Baptist Church, Uttam left a strong network of young Nepalese churches in Sydney to travel south to live in the New South Wales-Victoria border town to serve and learn from the group of 800 Nepalese speaking Bhutanese in the city.

“This whole group of people came to Australia as refugees a few years ago,” Uttam said.

“They had been living in a refugee camp in Nepal, displaced from their homeland of Bhutan.”

Uttam and Mira arrived in Australia from Kathmandu via

Kuala Lumpur where they were working with the Nepalese diaspora, the Nepalese people who have moved from their homeland to Malaysia to find work.

They planted several churches in Sydney which continue to develop and multiply while remaining imbedded in the community. With deep understanding of Nepalese culture and language along with finely honed leadership skills and tested dependence on God, Uttam and Mira are seeing the formation of new groups in Albury.

“Along with the work in Albury, we plan to grow a network of Nepalese churches across Australia.”

“There are thousands of Nepalese in other states including South Australia and Western Australia and there is very little focus on them,” Uttam said.

Uttam plans to visit Perth to meet with Nepalese followers of Jesus later in 2015.

Children and Women’s Worker

East Fremantle Baptist Church is seeking a Children and Women’s worker to work 2 days a week to oversee these two vital areas of our church.

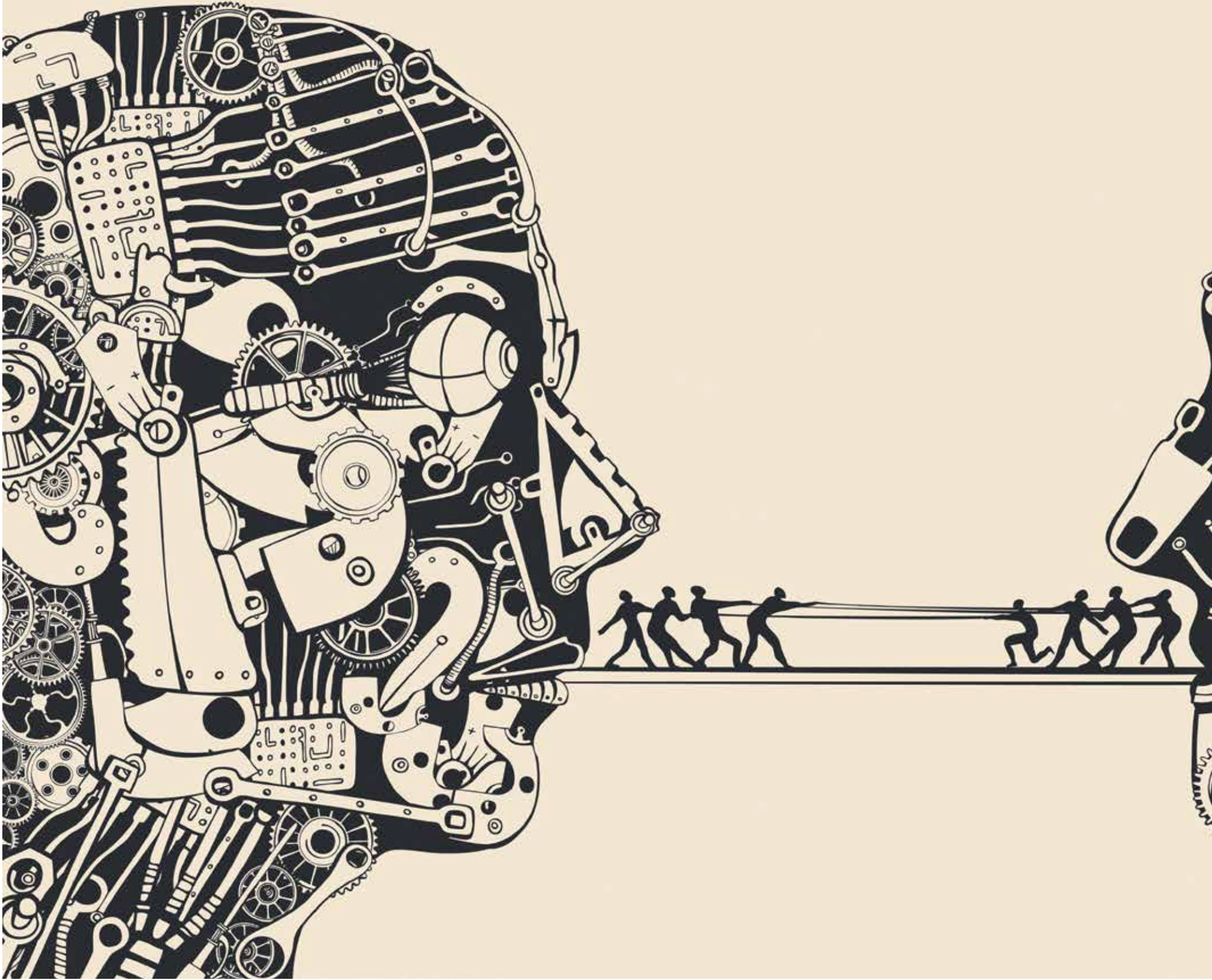
East Freo has a reputation for being multi-generational and having a high focus on our children, including kids church and school holiday programs. We are seeking someone to head up this ministry.

The women’s role includes pastoral care, and oversight of our women’s ministry.

For further information, or to receive a role description, please contact Phil Beeck at admin@eastfreobaptist.com.



Fry v God: the comedian's concerns aren't new



Comedian Stephen Fry recently questioned how God could be all-loving and also responsible for all the injustices in the world. But these aren't new concerns, and in fact the Bible openly addresses them, writes Simon Smart.

The much loved, affable and erudite Stephen Fry raised eyebrows recently when, in an extended interview on Gay Byrne's *The Meaning of Life* program, he left no one in any doubt about the low opinion he holds of the God he doesn't believe in.

Fry was responding to the question of what, if his atheism turned out to be wrong, he would

say to God if he ever had to face Him.

What followed was a classic, and skilfully articulated remonstrance against the injustices and miseries of human life and the God who, if He exists, must be held responsible.

"Bone cancer in children? What's that about?" challenged Fry, with a sudden edge to his voice.

"How dare you create a world in which there is such misery that is not our fault," he continued.

"It's not right. It's utterly, utterly evil," declared Fry, who went on to describe such a God as capricious, mean minded and stupid; a monstrous maniac.

In his haranguing of the Almighty it is easy to detect an element of personal pain and exasperation. As seems to be the case with so many comics, life has not been an easy ride for Fry. A gay man who for many years felt that side of his life needed to be hidden, he is very open about his mental illness and bouts of serious depression and furthermore is clearly awake to the pain of others.

In making his case Fry no doubt knows his is not a new perspective. Through the ages some have observed the tragedies and horrors of life and lost faith as a result. The German poet Georg Buchner

personally, I find the question of suffering the most problematic aspect of being a believer – the thing that, more than anything else, gives me reason to doubt at times. In that sense I share quite a lot of Fry's frustration

“

Of course to those who, like Fry have decided that God is a nonsense, the reality is that suffering is simply part of life ...

”

called suffering 'the rock of atheism' and there is no doubt it is the most powerful objection to belief. Indeed, speaking

and bewilderment. There is a moral and emotional force to this argument that is impossible to ignore.



sees suffering as an aberration – something to rail against. The laments of the Bible are offered by those who believe they know God, and it's the jarring contrast between that knowledge and the reality that they see around them that causes them to protest. This after all is the God who we are told 'has compassion on all He has made'. It's appropriate to ask, then, "how can He not intervene when, for instance, hundreds of thousands of people are killed in an earthquake?" Even for the most faithful believer, there is a mystery here that leaves plenty of unanswered questions.

Ultimately when a Christian stops to consider the struggle of human existence they will want to point to the death and resurrection of Jesus as the centre of a very long, and still unfolding, story of how God launches a plan to redeem the world from its misery – a portrait of a God who has not remained aloof from the suffering but rather has become part of it.

The resurrection of Jesus points to God condemning all the things that have destroyed life, and promising a day when the weight of history and all the centuries of human cruelty, sadness and loss will

be overcome. Is it enough? Not everyone will think so.

The Biblical picture offers a promise of the possibility of a new beginning when murdered children will be raised up and restored, where families torn apart by violence will find peace and harmony again. It presents a vision of a time where crushing loneliness will be a thing of the past, where bodies broken and ravaged by disease or old age will be restored to strength and vitality, where people who have experienced grinding poverty will find abundance, where children ripped from their mother's arms in a tsunami will be ushered in to new life. In the end Christianity is a story of the denial of the powers of darkness and violence and cruelty and hatred and heartbreak. And in their place the victory of goodness and mercy; kindness and love.

Every aspect of this vision is predicated on Jesus rising from death. If that didn't happen, then it is right and proper to join Stephen Fry and to throw the

whole thing out the window. We may even, as Fry claims to have done, conjure up a degree of optimism in the face of the implications of a godless universe. But if we arrive at that point it would be fitting to acknowledge that, while doing nothing to rid ourselves of suffering we will have removed a source of profound hope that for centuries has sustained millions of people in the face of life's joys and sorrows.

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

First published at ABC The Drum 10 February 2015. Used with permission.



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Baptist Churches Western Australia

Of course to those who, like Fry have decided that God is a nonsense, the reality is that suffering is simply part of life, and there can be no logical objection to it. In that case, what's wrong with human existence is that we live in a world that is subject to chance and uncontrolled processes, and in the cosmic scheme of things it's astounding that any of us enjoys even the semblance of a good life. There is no one to complain to and there can be no ultimate justice or a final 'putting of things right'.

The atheist picture, then, is a pretty bleak one; but at least it offers the satisfaction of a sense of intellectual consistency, and perhaps a cheerful stoicism.

What about the believer? Do they just have to shut their eyes to the reality of things? How can there possibly be a God who is both good and all-powerful, and yet the world be the way it is?

Interestingly the Bible is surprisingly realistic about this question. Within the Biblical framework there is enormous space for 'lament': not only the passionate expression of grief or sorrow, but also protest – in the face of suffering. The Bible is full of people who come to Him with baffled questions and loudly voiced objections. Lament is not only allowed but modelled all over the place.

This tells us something of the Christian response to suffering. It's hard edged. It

Nigerian Christians targeted

Samson Ayokunle, president of the Nigerian Baptist Convention has castigated the international community for ignoring terrorist violence and attacks in the West African country.

The Nigerian Baptist Convention (NBC) is the largest Baptist World Alliance (BWA) member organisation in Africa with approximately 3.5 million members from 10,000 churches.

"My consternation is in the attitude of the international community toward the huge destruction going on in Nigeria," Ayokunle said.

"The earnestness with which they intervened in the ISIL attack in Syria and Iraq, or the Taliban problem in Afghanistan etc., is not shown in the case of Nigeria."

He accused the world community of devaluing Nigerian lives.

"Does it not matter to the rest of the world if Boko Haram continues to kill hundreds of people every week?"

"Are these people less human than those being killed in other places where they have gone to directly intervene?"

"My people are being killed like animals and the whole world is just watching."

Ayokunle was responding to attacks by Boko Haram, a jihadist group that seeks to establish sharia law in Nigeria.

Boko Haram conducted the Baga massacre in the north-eastern Nigerian state of Borno in early January 2015 causing an estimated 2,000 deaths.

Up to 2014, the group killed more than 5,000 civilians in attacks, mainly in northern Nigeria.

"The situation is pathetic. The main targets in all these attacks are the Christians first and any other person that opposes them," Ayokunle said.

"Any town they enter, after killing the Christians there, they go ahead to bring down all the churches there, sparing the mosques."

"Major Christian cities such as Gwoza and Mubi among others have fallen to them," he said.

Baptists have been directly affected.

No Christian church remains standing in Mubi where more than 2,000 Baptists fled the city through Cameroon when Boko Haram attacked. These Christians returned to Nigeria through another town called Yola but never returned home again. Those affected are living in displaced people's camps, searching for food and clothing.

Ayokunle said Baptist buildings, including the offices of the secretariat of Fellowship Baptist Conference of the NBC, was burned in Mubi, and the home of the conference president was vandalised. A Baptist high school and a pastors' school have been closed.

He expressed appreciation for the prayerful support of Baptists and other Christians and requested financial support to assist those who have been displaced by the terrorist attacks.

"Continue to join us in prayer so that the gates of hell might not prevail against the Church of Christ in Nigeria," Ayokunle said.



Thousands of people have been killed in Nigeria by Boko Haram, with Christians being the main target.



POSITION VACANT:

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER

New Church looking for a part-time (3 Days per week) Children and Youth Ministry Leader!

Harmony Baptist Church of Mosman Park was established in June of 2014 as a church plant of BCWA, though Baptists have been at work in Mosman Park for 100+ years. Harmony Baptist has a mission of, 'Glorifying God, growing in Christ and reaching out with the life-giving message of Jesus.' We are looking for the person called and gifted by God to lead the church as it ministers to our children and youth and to reach out to the children and youth in our community.

The candidate must be a born-again and baptised Christian who agrees with the church's statement of beliefs and is willing to become a member of our church. Baptist seminary training is preferable but not required.

The church has regular participation from both age groups at present. Sunday School is ministering to the children during our regular worship time and a team of volunteers assist in this ministry. We do not currently have a regular youth-focused ministry. Our church hosts Cuddlepie Playgroups, which allows us to meet families within the community. The Children and Youth Ministry Leader will be expected to develop and participate in these ministries.

Remuneration will be based on the BCWA recommended guidelines for such a posting.

If you are called to be part of the exciting things God is doing in our area, send your CV to Harmony Baptist Church, 34 Fairlight Street, Mosman Park 6012 or via Email to info@harmonybaptistchurch.com.au

international briefs

Parisians open

Following the terrorist attack on the offices of newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* Christian workers living in Paris were surprised as they distributed Bibles that non-Muslim Parisians were the ones to stop for a spiritual discussion. A Christian worker said he usually has conversations with Muslims but he was surprised that a number of local French people stopped by to take a Bible and/or the *Jesus* film. "We sense a sort of stirring in the waters," he said.

Burmese rights

Christian Solidarity Worldwide reports that a new law restricting religious

conversions, passed in mid-January by the upper house of Burma's parliament, would be a major setback for religious freedom and human rights in the country. If implemented, the law will require anyone wishing to change their religion to apply for permission to an 11 member committee, consisting of officials responsible for religious affairs, immigration, women's affairs and education. The legislation has been opposed by civil society in Burma and the international community.

Refugees struggle

As Iraqi Christians from the Nineveh Plain spend their first winter away from their homes,

conditions are becoming extreme. Relief organisations moved thousands out of camps into rented accommodation. In Mosul, one of the towns they left behind, conditions have grown desperate. One British newspaper says it has been told there have been sharp price rises for basic goods and widespread shortages, as well as public beheadings of people that the new Islamic State occupiers consider to be a threat – including doctors, lawyers and MPs. In Irbil, to where thousands of Christians fled, a church collective has been formed to provide food and clean water.

Displaced return

Barnabas Fund reports believers have begun returning to their communities in northern Mali after they were driven from their homes in 2012 when Islamists took over the region. Many churches have been looted and desecrated, and the cities of Timbuktu and Gao were left with no churches intact. Properties and vehicles belonging to Christians were also damaged. French troops liberated Mali's north in February 2013, and civilian rule was re-established. This has enabled the displaced Christians, many of whom had been living in difficult conditions in Bamako, to make the journey home.

Ban overturned

In a positive move for followers of Jesus, the Chhattisgarh High Court in Bilaspur, India has been persuaded by Christian organisations to oppose a ban that prevents non-Hindu missionaries from entering villages in Bastar district. Christians in Bastar, Chhattisgarh state, are currently prohibited from taking part in non-Hindu religious activities following a resolution passed in May 2014.

Africa Mercy answers dream



Photo: Mercy Ships

Western Australian nurse Tamara Lowe is volunteering her services as part of the team performing over 1,700 surgeries on adults and children on board the hospital ship *Africa Mercy*, currently based in Tamatave, Madagascar.

Staff and volunteers with the international medical charity Mercy Ships also plan to treat approximately 8,000 people at land-based dental and eye clinics, and provide holistic healthcare education to Malagasy health care professionals and community leaders during *Africa Mercy's* eight month stay in port.

Tamara, who hails from Eaton joined *Africa Mercy* in October 2014 in South Africa before she sailed to Madagascar.

"Since I was little, I have always wanted to travel to Africa to help somehow towards giving the people some chance at having a healthy, full chance at a future," Tamara said.

Madagascar is one of the poorest of nations in the world

with limited access to affordable healthcare services, while the sex trade is increasing.

"My grandparents were excited but also a bit concerned for my safety, while Mum and Dad and my sisters were encouraging," Tamara said.

"My workmates' reactions were mixed between excited and 'for that long, really?'"

Africa Mercy's crew and the medical team are volunteers, raising their own financial support to perform the groundbreaking medical work. Every position on the ship is important to the running of it.

"As a nurse I am blessed to be able to participate in direct contact with our patients and their caregivers," Tamara said.

"We get to directly touch their lives by assisting them through their healing phase as well as speak words of life and encouragement to them."

Tamara said seeing the smiling faces and hearing the giggles of the kids on the orthopaedic ward where she works is exciting.

Within a couple of months the children's casts will come off and they will have straight legs or flat feet and will be able to walk more easily.

Tamara has seen and felt her faith grow by being part of the faith community on the ship.

"The experience I am gaining here is life-changing," Tamara said.

"I think it will broaden my job opportunities at home and I will most likely come back in the future."

West Australian nurse Tamara Lowe is living a lifelong dream by volunteering her time and skills on board a hospital ship docked in Madagascar.

Showering ministry

First Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, listened to their young adults' vision and started a 'shower ministry' to homeless people in their local neighbourhood.

The church raised enough money to install eight showers close to the church's gymnasium to launch the ministry in October 2013.

Three college students committed to volunteer at the shower each Thursday when it is open from 2pm to 5pm.

The college students have since graduated and the ministry is now conducted by homeless people.

The ministry expanded when a local politician donated two washing machines and two dryers to the cause, which were added to the units the church already had. This enabled people to shower and have their laundry done at the church.

Six months ago the church started offering haircuts by volunteers from a local cosmetology school. On a recent Thursday they facilitated 18 haircuts, 12 showers and 13 loads of laundry.

This ministry dovetails with an ecumenical ministry called Mustard Tree which uses the First Baptist Church gym to serve dinner and hold a bible study for homeless people on

Thursday evenings. Different churches serve as the host each night.

"We get to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our local community," First Baptist Church Elder Herb Hooper said.

Fear of rejection hinders attendance

New research among church attendees shows fear is hindering people inviting friends and family to church.

Michael Harvey, a research fellow at St John's College at Durham University in the UK, will be presenting his findings at Ridley College, Melbourne, in early March.

Two themes emerge from Michael's research: the paralysing anxiety felt by Christians at the thought of rejection by friends if they invited them to church and the number of Christians who do

not recognise the gospel imperative to 'go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples'. [Matthew 28:19]

Over the past 11 years Michael has carried out research in more than 700 focus groups – at least 100 in Australia – asking people why they do not invite people to church.

"I asked, what is wrong with getting a 'no'?" Michael said.

"It became clear that many people were still dealing with previous rejection, not necessarily connected with church but life in general."

Michael believes the church has 'no muscle in the area of invitation and God conversations'.

"We need to better support the inviter – dyads, pairs of people working together to become invitational, is one area to develop," he said.

"After all Jesus sent out the disciples in pairs, and let's face it, some of them had doubts."

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The universe and beyond

Daniel Price is a follower of Jesus and a Senior Lecturer and Australian Research Council Future Fellow at the Monash Centre for Astrophysics at Monash University in Melbourne. He completed his PhD at the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge. He is currently Editor of the Publications of the Astronomical Society of Australia and is actively involved with the Scientists in Schools program.

You're an Astrophysicist at Monash University in Melbourne. Tell us about your work.

I use computers to try to model the universe. We can't do laboratory experiments in Astronomy so we use computer simulations to try to understand what we are seeing. In particular, our group is trying to understand how stars like the Sun are born. We compare our simulations to observations of nearby star-forming regions of the Milky Way taken by telescopes such as the Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes --- the Orion Nebula in the handle of the 'saucepan' is perhaps the best nearby example. The birth of stars in a place like Orion takes about a million years, so by simulating it in the computer we can speed it up and in doing so get a much better idea of the physics.

I spend a lot of my time developing the simulation algorithms and computer programs so that we can model the process better. Many of the methods developed at Monash for astrophysics are now used in computer games, advertising and movies and even for modelling things like floods and tsunamis.

“ Without God there is no basis for why science works at all. ”

How did you get interested in science and choose it for your career?

I was always interested in science, but as a career choice I kind of fell into it. Like many of us astrophysicists I was a wannabe astronaut. Essentially though I studied Science and Engineering at Monash, but enjoyed Science far more and decided to undertake fourth year

studies in astrophysics. From there on a whim I applied for a PhD scholarship to Cambridge. The rest is history!

Parts of our community can't see science and faith in God existing together. How do you see the relationship and how have you navigated this path?

Unfortunately there are some very loud scientists declaring that science implies there is no God. The truth is that modern science itself developed from people like Galileo, Bacon, Newton, Faraday and others wanting to understand the world 'as God made it' rather than as the Greeks imagined it. In particular, the idea of needing to actually 'go out and test' how the world actually is, by performing experiments, rather than assuming the universe fits with our preconceptions.

What I find very sad is the response of the church and many Christian leaders to scientific issues. More often than not the Christian response to 'science implies there is no God' is to therefore assume there must be something wrong with science – the response to evolution and climate change are prime examples.

The very fact that we are able to make sense of the universe screams that there is something bigger behind it all – without God there is no basis for why science works at all. However, it is extremely dangerous to try to substitute God as a cause-and-effect as if He were some kind of alternative to 'nature'. Nature is just 'what God does normally'. Science forces you to accept either a God who is over all of it, or none of it, but doesn't leave much room for a God responsible for 'bits of it'. Fortunately God who is over all of it is precisely what we profess to believe in!

What has surprised you most about the things you're discovering through your scientific research?

How often my assumptions are wrong. It is a profoundly



Photo: Daniel Tokarev

humbling experience to be confronted by the actual universe. Many Christians find this difficult, since it is assumed we must hold our beliefs unquestioningly. Science forces you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

“ Too often as both Christians and scientists we want simple, canned answers ... ”

How has that discovery influenced or impacted your faith?

The big one is learning to live with uncertainty. Faith is wrongly characterised by people like Dawkins as being 'belief in the absence of evidence' but really the Christian definition of faith is similar to the scientific process – we don't have a complete picture so we must make an informed judgement based on the evidence available. Too often as both Christians and scientists we want simple, canned answers to complicated questions. However, science quickly teaches you that

simple or absolute answers are very often wrong.

I have found it extremely helpful to simply admit that "I don't know" rather than supply a wrong or ill-informed answer. I've learnt that this is actually the right response much of the time. I'm therefore prepared to carry an element of doubt about even core elements of my faith, but I fully know the reasons that I do believe and am prepared to live my life on the 'rational extrapolation' of that evidence. Also, both Christianity and science require experiment – Christianity is to be experienced rather than just debated!

You're part of Christians in Science. Tell us about that.

Christians in Science is a UK organisation that helps professional scientists as well as church leaders to think about the science/faith interaction. There's now a whole institute at the University of Cambridge – The Faraday Institute – devoted to this with many fine resources available. Particularly during my PhD I found it very helpful to realise there were many Christians working in science that had thought about many of these issues in much more depth than I ever had.

What do you think has been your greatest contribution to science so far?

While I'd like to claim some grand discovery, actually the

most useful contribution I have made is in developing codes and methods that are now used by colleagues all over the world to simulate a variety of astronomical wonders.

What advice would you give to people who are grappling with connecting their faith and scientific argument?

Don't do it alone! Try to make contact with someone who is both a Christian and actively working as a scientist.

One of the problems is that science is a specialist area so it is hard to make sense of it 'from the outside'. Many Christians over the centuries, including Galileo and Darwin, have had no problem reconciling their faith with their scientific profession and without compromising either – so find someone for whom this is true.

What do you do for fun/relaxation?

I enjoy spending time with my family, camping, working in the garden and rockclimbing.

What books on your bedside table are you reading?

Galileo's Daughter, by Dava Sobel – very relevant to the science/faith discussion!

Getting big mo to go

When cycling, there's a world of difference between cruising downhill, with momentum, and pedalling uphill without any momentum at all. The former is a breeze; the latter is extremely tiresome and requires extraordinary effort.

In a like manner, leaders are sure to feel the difference between having momentum and lacking it. Momentum makes leaders look better than they actually are. It exaggerates all of their strengths. It also covers a multitude of mistakes. When an organisation has momentum, people will forgive their leaders for almost anything. Without it, people magnify the flaws of their leaders and forget none of their faults.

Many times momentum is the only difference between winning and losing. With it, everyone is expectant and energised, and people tend to perform at their peak potential. Without it, people lose heart and have difficulty finding motivation.

Momentum is the greatest of all change-agents. When a leader has it, organisational change comes easily, for it's much simpler to steer a company that's already experiencing success than to jumpstart one that's stagnant.

On a team that's thriving, growing, and delivering results an aura of excitement permeates everything. The momentum is almost tangible. Yet even though we can feel the momentum,

it's hard to define. Let's take a momentum to pin down where it comes from.

A formula for momentum

The attitude of the leader + the atmosphere of the organisation + the accomplishments of the people = Momentum.

Leaders who court momentum display a set of attitudes that help them reach new altitudes. First, they take responsibility for outcomes. They don't blame failures on their people or on forces beyond their control. Second, leaders who generate momentum operate with an empowering sense of hope. They shape their surroundings instead of merely being shaped by them. They believe in the possibility of change instead of complaining about challenges to it. Finally, leaders who drive momentum have unflinching enthusiasm. They're convinced of the importance of their work, and this sense of purpose propels them forward.

Leaders build a culture favourable to momentum in the following ways. First, they believe the best about their



people — concentrating on developing their strengths rather than on fixing their shortcomings. Second, they provide an inspiring vision that's contagious. They share it confidently and talk about it continually, until everyone on the team sees it almost as clearly as they do. Third, they remove the fear of failure. They invite risk and affirm innovative ideas — even if they don't always work.

Lastly, leaders create momentum by revelling in

the accomplishments of their people. A smart leader knows a victory is not an end in itself; it involves more than placing a 'W' in the win-loss column. Rather, a victory's value in creating momentum comes through the celebration of it. People work hard on their jobs, and they have a deep-seated need to know that their effort matters. Leaders can reinforce the worth of their people's work by setting aside time to revel in the sweet joys of each triumph.

Thought to ponder

The 'Law of Big Mo' states that momentum is a leader's best friend. Which of the following might help to bring 'Big Mo' to your organisation: 1) adjusting your attitude, 2) altering your atmosphere, 3) celebrating your team's victories?

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A perspective on leadership – inspiring others

By Bruce Watkins

Can you think of a time when you have been sitting in a board, committee or ministry team meeting, the leadership position has been vacated for whatever reason and the other members turn to you to take on the role?

Even though you may have accrued considerable experience from years of involvement, your head immediately fills with self-doubt and feelings of inadequacy flow over you. Very few of us would consider ourselves natural leaders and would rate ourselves low on leadership in a survey on spiritual gifts. Yet we take on the role and embark on the journey of over committing ourselves to the tasks of the group. Sound familiar?

I personally learnt this lesson many years ago when I was seeking to improve the efficiency of three ministry teams I was attempting to coordinate. The senior pastor at the time gently advised me that God only wanted me to do one job and to allow others to apply their gifts to the other ministry teams.

A true leader is not someone who can do the work of ten people, but someone who can organise ten people to do the work. Moses had this message

highlighted to him by his father-in-law Jethro, who advised Moses that he would incur serious burnout if he continued with his former leadership style.

But what style should we apply? Our secular world is awash with texts, training courses, conferences and leadership advisers, all promoting their methodologies and techniques on leadership. Don Cousins in his book *Experiencing LeaderShift* suggests that rather than focusing our efforts and energy on developing the gifts God has given us, these leadership gurus are luring us to focus on becoming just like them, if we want to be effective leaders.

From a biblical perspective, leadership expresses itself through different spiritual gifts, all for the purpose of equipping. In Ephesians 4:11-12 Paul writes '... and He gave some as apostles,

and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.' In other words, be the person God made you to be and let your service flow from the gifts God has given you.

Leadership can be described as the art of inspiring others in a team to contribute their best toward a goal. As Christians, the goal we aspire to is very clear: we are required to devote our spiritual gifts in service of others, in order that communities are served, that churches grow and are strengthened, and that God is glorified.

Leadership is not about popularity, but about gaining people's trust and moving them forward. In *Humilitas*, John Dickson writes that persuasion and example are at the heart of

leadership and that a leader's ability to persuade their followers to pursue a vision will be enhanced with the virtue of humility. Practicing humility has been found to significantly enrich a leader's effectiveness.



Bruce Watkins is the Chairman of the Council of Baptist Churches Western Australia and a Director at Genesis Business Advisers.

A minute with ...



Photo: Jill Birt

Brad Lewis and Aaron Bradfield

**Bentley Baptist Church
Lead Pastor Aaron Bradfield**

What led you to this role?

After leaving Katanning Baptist Church we moved back to Peth where I continued Counselling Studies at Curtin University and worked as a boilermaker for two years. I found I was pastoring the guys in the workshop, I just couldn't help it. I remember longing to do something 'Eternal'. I contacted the Baptist Ministry Centre and they passed on my name to Bentley and within a month I was the pastor of Bentley Baptist Church.

Where is the church located?

59 Chapman Road, Bentley

What time are services held?

Sundays, 9.30am

How and when did the church start?

We started in 1953 and was a church plant of East Victoria Park Baptist Church in a new housing area.

Who makes up the ministry team?

Aaron Bradfield (Lead Pastor) and Brad Lewis (Youth Pastor)

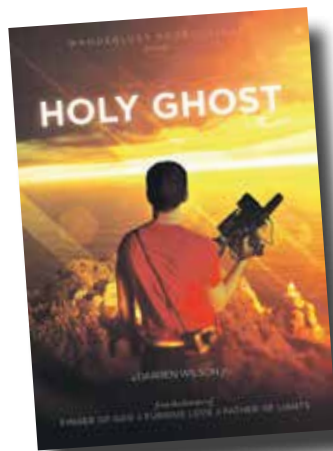
What is a feature of your church or ministry you'd like to share?

Bentley is a casual, open and friendly church. We desire to be a place of shelter in our community with a focus on showing each other love and offering opportunities to serve whilst encouraging an ongoing learning and discovery of God and His gospel message.

A final thought ...

Bentley offers children's programs on a Sunday morning from toddlers through to high school age. Brad and his team run Toddler Jam on Tuesdays and the Church welcomes families with children of all ages to be involved in worship on Sundays.

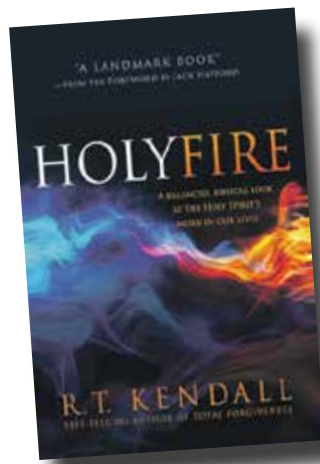
watch



Holy Ghost

Holy Ghost is an amazing documentary filmed by Darren Wilson, director of *Finger of God* and *Furious Love*. Darren wanted an entire movie that was led by the Holy Spirit so without a script or plans his film crew headed to the streets to see where the Holy Spirit would take them. With inspiring awe you watch a group with open minds and willing hearts tune into the Holy Spirit as they meet people in divine appointments, from the streets to a heavy metal concert, then Moscow, and end with singing in the streets of India. It is amazing to watch as they follow the Spirit and encourage people along the way. Full of short stories, great testimonies and interspersed with guest speakers sharing their personal views on the Holy Spirit, it is a thought-provoking and inspiring movie. The Holy Spirit is alive and moving and this movie shows it.

read



Holy Fire

RT Kendall

Holy Fire is a must read book if you want to learn more about the Holy Spirit. Kendall, an author, pastor and theologian, explains who the Holy Spirit is and the role he plays in the life of every believer regardless of denomination. Through his book Kendall has a heart that people will understand that the Holy Spirit is our guide and a part of every Christian's walk. He explains 21 principles to build upon and know the Spirit, also warning of the strange fire that comes from walking outside God's Word with examples from scripture as well as sharing his own testimony and experiences. *Holy Fire* is written in a very informative and understandable way, based on clear theology and scripture. Whether you know the Holy Spirit personally or have not experienced him yet, there is something this book has to offer you.



Becoming a Prayer Warrior

Elizabeth Alves

If you are looking for a book on prayer, *Becoming a Prayer Warrior* is a great place to start. The author Elizabeth Alves is founder and president of Intercessors International (now Increase International) and has written this book as a very practical guide. Step by step she guides you through every aspect of prayer, helping you recognise that effective prayer begins with you entering into the presence of God for the purpose of building a relationship with Him. Simple ideas – yet such powerful ones – that help answer all the questions such as why we pray, how to pray, how to hear God's voice and have a deeper connection with God and experience His power through prayer. From the basics for the beginner to those who are experienced, this book will walk you through how to be effective and equip you with a powerful prayer life.

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



Carey Baptist College – Harrisdale

Kindergarten to Year 12

www.carey.wa.edu.au

Expect great things from God Attempt great things for God

Established in 1998, Carey Baptist College Harrisdale is a co-educational college catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. Carey is launching a second campus in Forrestdale in 2016.

Carey music students accepted into WAAPA



Photo: Mark Wagenaar

Tristan Neale performing at the Carey Year 12 Recitals.

By Carey staff

Three 2014 Carey graduates have recently been accepted into the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) to commence further music studies in 2015. Sharni Cumming, Leah McFetridge and Tristan Neale all studied Stage 3 Music (ATAR) as a subject at Carey in 2014 and are all incredibly pleased that they have gained entry into WAAPA for 2015.

Tristan has been accepted to study Bachelor of Music (Jazz) for piano and says that he is "so excited to learn how to produce world class music" and to "build relationships with other fantastic musicians."

Leah has been accepted for the Bachelor of Music (Contemporary) for voice and likewise Sharni for the Diploma

of Music (Contemporary) for voice.

"Carey Music has a strong reputation for producing graduates with very high levels of performance skill," Curriculum Manager (The Arts) Scott Loveday said.

"We have a team of brilliant musicians on staff that help shape and hone each student's craft. We've been deliberate about making links with the university; indeed some of our staff also lecture and teach at WAAPA."

Sharni and Tristan were also invited to audition for Performing Arts Perspectives, an annual showcase of students who achieved the highest marks for Western Australian Certificate of Education practical examinations.

Year 12s help orphanages

By Melissa Douglas, Jordan Harris, Lachlan Jones and Jonathon Toynbee (Year 12)

Four Carey Year 12 students are preparing to embark on another trip to Indonesia to continue work they have been doing in orphanages. These Carey students have been involved in Sidhi Astu Orphanage in Bali and Brayat Pinuji Orphanage in Java for the past four years.

"We have helped rebuild and paint broken buildings, as well as fundraise for much needed items, but the most important thing we do is build relationships with the children," said Jordan Harris, who has visited the orphanages ten times.

Lachlan Jones agrees and is excited to return after his first experience in 2011.

"To see the kids so happy even when they have so little makes it all worthwhile," Lachlan said.



Photo: Carey Baptist College

Jonathon Toynbee, Jordan Harris, Melissa Douglas and Lachlan Jones with a canvas painted by children at Sidhi Astu Orphanage.

Jonathon Toynbee is returning for his sixth time. When asked why he keeps returning he said, "It has changed my life."

"I understand the struggle of people living in poverty and have developed a deeper sense of compassion towards others."

Melissa Douglas, also returning for her sixth time, would like to encourage anyone thinking of getting involved in

the orphanages, or overseas charity work.

"It is definitely something you should do as the people you are helping get so much out of it, and so do you."

"I have learnt so much and become a better person because of my experiences at the orphanages," Melissa said.

For more information, visit Helping Orphans Meet Expenses Facebook page.

Futsal champions visit Florida

By Isaac Hulbert (Year 9)

My team and I visited Melbourne to play in the national futsal competition over the summer holidays. It was incredible when the final whistle blew in the grand final. We all knew that we had done it – we had won the nationals.

Futsal is a type of soccer played on a smaller field, with teams of five players.

We will now be competing in the upcoming world championships in Florida in August. We will be travelling over to Florida as a team and will be accompanied by our coaches from the WA State Futsal Centre. We will be staying in a resort in Disney World as this is where the competition is being held.

The team will be doing a lot more training now in preparation for Florida so that we can play to the best of our ability over there. We will also need to fundraise so that we are able to afford the trip, which I think will be fun. I am looking forward to going with these coaches as they have all played futsal at a very high level around the world, so they will be able to give us any help that we need.

I am really looking forward to the atmosphere at the world championships and am excited to visit and explore Florida. I am also looking forward to the new experiences. I think we will learn a lot from the other teams competing and hopefully will make some friends from all around the world.

Volunteers on the right track



Photo: Graeme Watson

Elite athletes Hannah Elbers, Alanna Doig, Terry Price, Chris Punch, Tom Brennen and Wesley Salisbury are key volunteers with Carey Right Track Foundation mentoring young athletes.

Carey Baptist College's Carey Right Track Foundation uses track and field as a tool to build community, purpose and opportunities for youth with volunteers the backbone of the organisation.

Graeme Watson, a teacher at Carey, started the Foundation and leads a team of six volunteers, young adults aged 18 to 24, to run the Foundation's programs.

"Each of them is an elite athlete and they are all either working or studying full-time as well as giving so generously of their time," Graeme said.

Chris Punch is a State Championships silver medallist in the 400 metre open and has been selected in the state 4x400 metre relay team who will compete in Adelaide in February.

Tom Brennen is a seven time state gold medallist in the open high jump, Commonwealth Youth Games medallist and national medallist.

Wesley Salisbury and Hannah Elbers are past students of Carey Baptist College. Wesley is the State Decathlon gold medallist in the open division and Hannah medalled in 400 hurdles and high jump in the under 20 age group.

Terry Price is a 200 metre and 400 metre medallist at state level for an athlete with a disability. He went to the World Championships for Intellectual Disability Games in 2013.

All five athletes are going to the National Championships at the end of March.

Alanna Doig who works full-time as an occupational therapist will compete in the

State Championships for the heptathlon. She is Secretary for the Canning District Athletics Club and a member of the Right Track board.

Three times a week the athletes train with Canning Districts Athletics Club (Canning Trains) at the Carey campus in Harrisdale as well as training once more each week at a different track.

As well as training they mentor and coach students from Carey Baptist College.

The Foundation conducted athletics clinics in Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre in 2014 and expect to continue this

work in 2015. Carey Community Baptist Church has connected with the team and runs a church service in the Centre once a month.

In August 2014 the Foundation organised Ranger Community Athletics Clinics where they visited nine remote and district schools in the Mid West reaching over 450 students.

Later in the year, during the October school holidays, the team ran Geraldton Athletics Camp where they inspired and mentored young athletes.

"These high achieving young adult mentors are inspirational," Graeme said.

App and away for BCWA

There has been a spike in usage of the My Church App following its launch, with the app being downloaded over 50 times in the last month.

Developed in Perth, it allows every church to have their own app for a monthly subscription fee of \$30.

Readers of *The Advocate* are now able to view the newspaper on their smartphone or tablet and access other information from within the Baptist Churches

Western Australia section of the app.

Westcity Church in Wembley is another to have jumped aboard and taken advantage of the apps' ability to house information for all their ministries, an event calendar, church directory, bible studies and accept prayer requests.

To download the free app, search for 'My Church App AU' in the iTunes or 'My Church App Perth' in the Google Play store or scan the QR code on the right 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 more information, visit www.mychurchapp.com.au

