

the advocate

"How do you respond when a great opportunity presents itself?"
JOHN MAXWELL PAGE 13>>



In Conversation Glen Gerryn, Queensland athlete with a dream of going to the 2000 Olympics, speaks about how his life changed after he was diagnosed with an incurable disease **PAGE 12>>**



Photo: Jill Birt

Nic Naitanui talks about his faith during an interview with Eagles Chaplain Paul Morrison at the Celebration of God's Gift of Sport service held at St George's Cathedral early April.

Nic Nat shares his faith

On Sunday 6 April, St George's Cathedral in Perth was full for the inaugural Celebration of God's Gift of Sport, an ecumenical service for sports people and sports chaplains from across the state.

One of the highlights of the service was when West Coast Eagles ruckman, Nic Naitanui, was interviewed by Eagles chaplain, Paul (Morro) Morrison.

Nic described his home life where mid-week prayer gatherings were held on Wednesdays and Fridays. His faith in Jesus strengthens his resolve and has helped him face some of his fears.

He has Romans 8:31 tattooed inside his left forearm to remind him of God's power and commitment to him.

"As a skinny 17 year old up against some big guys like Aaron

Sandilands, I tell you I was afraid at times. Now that fear has gone. I know God is for me. He's on my side," Nic said.

"We've (the Eagles) introduced a chaplain service before the game at the Eagles this year where Morro meets with us. We read some verses from the Bible and pray together. That's the best pre-game routine you can have."

Kevin Durant NBA Forward with Oklahoma City Thunder inspired Nic to be more confident about his faith in God.

"He's got real humility even at the top but he's not afraid (to be known for his faith)," Nic said.

Terry Dorrington, Chaplain for Perth Speedway and Drag Racing, introduced Pieter de Wit who was seriously hurt in a drag race in February 2013.

Struggling to keep his emotions in check, Pieter described how he met God through the suffering he experienced and his long weeks in hospital.

"I did not know Jesus before the accident," Pieter said.

"I want to say thanks to Jesus and to Terry for walking with me [through] all the steps of the journey of my recovery."

Cricket legend and Coach of the Western Warriors cricket team, Justin Langer read from Matthew 5 during the service.

Representatives from several of Perth's elite sporting teams attended the service along with school students in their sport uniforms and leaders of several

Perth churches, including Anglican Archbishop Roger Herft, Catholic Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, Mark Wilson (Baptist Churches Western Australia), Tania Watson (Churches of Christ), Karen Wilson (Riverview Church) and Wayne Pittaway (The Salvation Army).

Praise filled the cathedral as the music team from Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church led the congregational singing, supported by the choirs from Hale School and St Mary's Anglican Girl's School.

The Cathedral generously provided a free barbecue on the Cathedral terrace after the service.

Organisers Christians Together in Sport and Sports Chaplaincy Australia plan to make the Celebration an annual event and have commenced planning for a service in 2015.



3 Fathering project
 Church engages fathers and their children through overnight camps >>



8 The Railway Man
 New film puts forgiveness and reconciliation in the public eye >>



15 School Scoop
 Alkimos Baptist College students write for *The Advocate* >>

“ Building healthy churches ”

BAPTIST CHURCHES WESTERN AUSTRALIA





Terry Hicks

Terry Hicks is Project Consultant for the Baptist Churches Western Australia and the Editor of *The Advocate*.

It's always better together

Like me, I am sure many of you have been watching with interest as the events unfold about missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370. The sadness surrounding not knowing what happened affects everyone with family and friends on the flight, causing grief, anxiety and a great sense of loss.

We are affected to some extent as we ponder – what if I had a friend or family member on the flight?

The flurry of activity surrounding the search and the rush to assist by countries from around the world is amazing. Australia, China, Malaysia, Britain, America and other nations all devoted huge resources to assist in trying to locate the missing plane and to answer the pressing question

of what happened and why. Then amidst this we start to see speculation, false leads and the excitement of 'pings' from the black box. Hopefully by the time you read this there is more concrete information and good news.

Reflecting on these activities, what stands out for me is the increased effectiveness of the 11 planes, 11 ships and all the people involved

because they are all working together and putting their own interests aside to help.

The search for Malaysia Airlines MH370 has reminded me that we can be more effective if we are willing to work together, accept leadership and get on with the task in unity together and with servant hearts. Often we are bogged down in the detail and forget the big picture.

Just imagine the joy and excitement there will be if the search for MH307 is successful. We too can experience that as we work together for the good of everyone, not just ourselves. As we reflect back on Easter we acknowledge that in a sense this is what Jesus did for each of us on the cross – put others first and Himself last that we might be saved.



Dr Brian Harris

Dr Brian Harris is the Principal of Vose Seminary.

On Zacchaeus ...

Don't know why, but the story of that vertically challenged tax collector, Zacchaeus by name, has always appealed to me. It's not that I particularly identify with Zac, after all I am not especially tall, nor am I drastically short – 175cm if you insist on precision.

As for career, well given my dislike for filling in my annual tax return, I can't imagine an occupation I am less drawn to (okay, I also really wouldn't like to be a plumber). So why does Zac's story keep coming back to me?

Perhaps it is the sheer resourcefulness of the man. With the taller heads in the crowd blocking any view of Jesus, we are told that

Zacchaeus dashed ahead of the group, and climbed a sycamore fig tree. From that elevated position he was able to see Jesus approaching. All he wanted was a glimpse of this miracle worker. God often gives us more than we dare ask for. This is one of those times. Jesus stops at the base of Zac's tree and invites himself to the tax collector's home. To say that Zacchaeus was pleased is a

colossal understatement. What an unexpected coup for him. As a tax collector, he was routinely ignored by others. As with most who are ostracised, his coping mechanism was to pretend not to care. The trouble was he did ... and desperately at that. He is beside himself with joy when he welcomes Jesus into his home.

It didn't go down well with the crowd. Luke 19 tells us

that they grumbled as Jesus' decision to enter the home of so shady a character. Not that Jesus was thrown by their displeasure. He knew they would fuss about the past, but he was interested in building the future. It is a future Zacchaeus readily embraced. In no time he distributes his ill gotten gains to the poor, while Jesus happily observes, 'today salvation has come to this house.'

To everyone else, Zacchaeus was an outcast. To Jesus, he was someone to be welcomed, embraced and transformed.



Dr Michael O'Neil

Dr Michael O'Neil teaches theology at Vose Seminary, and blogs at theologyandchurch.com

Solus Christus: In Christ alone

Eighty years ago on 31 May 1934, some German church members gathered in the city of Barmen to confess their faith. The German church struggled for its existence as the new Nazi regime affected every sector of German society.

Millions of Germans, humiliated and impoverished by the Great War and its aftermath, longed for a new hope. Thousands of Christians wanted desperately to believe that Hitler represented God's will for the nation, and so fell in line with his program.

It is difficult for us to conceive how this was ever possible. It happened in part because Christians were not satisfied with Christ alone, but wanted another source of comfort and assurance

beside Christ, and in addition to Christ. They wanted an earthly Führer (leader, guide) in addition to a heavenly Lord.

Anytime we seek our comfort and assurance in anything other than Christ, we are already in trouble. In 1930s Germany they sought it in a political leader. Now people are more likely to seek comfort or significance in something pleasurable, thrilling or risky, perhaps something illicit or subversive.

Christians may seek it in success, a loving relationship, a worthy cause, a good reputation, or church activities. We convince ourselves that these are all good things and so must be God's will.

This was the mistake of the German Christians: they mistook cultural values and priorities for the Word and will of God. The believers who gathered at Barmen, however, confessed Jesus Christ alone, and in so doing began at great cost, a

movement of resistance against the Nazis:

'Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.'

Alongside Jesus Christ there can be no other Lord, no other ultimate or equivalent authority, claim or allegiance. Christ alone is our hope and our salvation, our comfort and assurance, our duty and our freedom. In Him we believe and in Him we rejoice; Him we obey, and in Him we are saved.

In Christ alone, our hope is found ...

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.

Dads and kids camps grow

East Fremantle Baptist Church is engaging with families in its community by partnering with The Fathering Project and two local primary schools.

In 2014, they ran overnight camps for dads and their primary school aged children from East Fremantle Primary School and Richmond Primary School.

Ninety-nine dads from Richmond Primary School camped with their children on the school's oval in March and 107 dads and their children from East Fremantle Primary School attended an earlier camp.

East Fremantle Baptist Church (EFBC) member Helen Vandersteen was the inaugural chaplain at Richmond Primary and several families from the Church have children at the local schools.

Raymond Shanhun from The University of Western Australia's The Fathering Project works with the local team and speaks at the dads and kids camps.

EFBC has a long history of engagement with local schools. The East Fremantle Baptist Church Senior Pastor, Phil Beeck, is also the President of the Parents and Citizen's group at Richmond Primary School and coordinates the dads' events at both schools.

"Years ago we used to teach scripture and help with their Christmas assembly," Phil said.

After four annual events at Richmond and three at East Fremantle, the program for a camp is well tested.

Dads and kids arrive at 5pm and erect their tents on the school oval then each family cooks dinner in front of their tent. As the sun sets there are activities where family members have to work together to achieve a goal.

"At the latest camp we asked each family to create a family shield with four things that are important to their family," Phil said.

"Then they had to write down three goals of things to do with dad, either daily, weekly, monthly or during the year."

Everyone sleeps in their own family's tent overnight.

A coffee van arrives to start the next day and a group of about a dozen volunteers from East Fremantle Baptist Church cook breakfast for all the campers.

After breakfast the dads listen to Ray speak about fathering skills. This year's talk focused on getting involved in children's education, the need for daughters to hear from their dad that they are beautiful on the inside and the outside, and understanding how important it is to love and respect your children's mother.



East Fremantle Baptist Church volunteers cook breakfast for 99 local community dads and their children.

Church volunteers supervise the kids through a variety of activities, including writing a letter to their dad while the dads are busy.

Richmond Primary School Principal Lisa Dentith said the school is very committed to promoting the importance of the father in their children's lives.

"It gives dads the opportunity to be involved with their kids and to interact and learn from other dads, plus, the children love it." Lisa said.

New book gets churches to speak out

A new book, *Just Speak: How Your Voice Can Change The World*, has recently been released to explore what the Bible means when it speaks about justice and how we can be effective in 'doing justice'.

With justice being a core dimension of discipleship, Senior Consultant and Advisor with Baptist World Aid Australia and author Scott Higgins, felt the need

to explore how Old Testament prophets played a key role in calling on governments and powers to act justly.

In *Just Speak*, Scott shows how Jesus took up the mantle of

this prophetic vocation and how the church in Western Australia today can continue the calling through advocacy for the exploited and oppressed. The goal is to change the way people think and speak about issues of justice forever.

Just Speak is the third book in the popular 'ethical life' series and follows on from *The End of Greed*. It is



a practical book with preaching notes and small group study guides to accompany stories of Christians being effective advocates of justice.

For more information and to order the book visit, www.baptistworldaid.org.au/justspeak



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Carer Opportunity

A Christian lady is sought to provide 3 day in-home weekend respite on regular occasions through the year. This is to provide breaks for the parents of a delightful adult son and daughter, who are intellectually disabled. The position is fully remunerated.

Our son and daughter are totally gluten intolerant, so the person must have a good knowledge of gluten-free cooking.

If you wish to discuss this carer opportunity, we would invite you to contact the parents on **08 9454 5519 or 0437 226 066** aystephens@dodo.com.au

Report set to shake industry

In early May, Baptist World Aid is set to release the second in the 'Behind the Barcode' series of ethical shopping guides. The new guide looks at the consumer electronics industry – computers, phones, music devices and tablets.

All the major electronic providers in the Australian market are reviewed in *The Australian Electronics Report* to be released in conjunction with the guide. The report assesses 39 companies on the systems they have in place to protect workers in their supply chain from exploitation to forced labour and child labour. Companies are then given a grade from A through to F – with some surprising results.

Baptist World Aid expects to receive international media coverage about the new guide due to its content.

In August 2013 the fashion industry received a wake-up call when thousands of consumers began using the inaugural *Ethical Fashion Guide* which reported on the real story behind the barcode when it came to worker's rights and conditions overseas.

Response to the guide was immediate and overwhelming with both national and international media outlets running with the story and retailers responding by improving supply chains and conditions for workers overseas.

Baptist World Aid Advocacy Manager Gershon Nimbalker has been instrumental in the research and production of the guide and report.

"In Proverbs 31 we are instructed to 'defend the rights of the poor and needy'", Gershon said.

"By knowing how and where a product is made, we can make informed decisions about the devices we buy and use. The choices we make at the cash register send a powerful

message to multinational electronics companies – and boy, do they listen!"

"Your purchasing decisions influence the way the world does business and you'd be amazed at how much change can happen for exploited workers overseas as a result."

"By choosing to support companies that protect workers' rights, you become part of God's vision for a world as it should be – where workers and their families share in the fullness of life He intends for every person."

Senior Consultant and Advisor with Baptist World Aid Australia Scott Higgins has been grappling with how significant change comes to organisations and companies.

"One of the most important things in life that I've discovered is not how much money I have, but how much love I have and what I do with it," Scott said.

"I'm captivated by Jesus. If we could love the world as God does it would be a completely different place."

"We have already seen [with the *Ethical Fashion Guide*] what happens when love is the motivation for our political and consumer choices, unsustainable living wages are not fair trade" Syndal Baptist Church Senior Pastor Bill Brown said when commenting on the launch of *The Australian Electronics Report*.

To order *The Australian Electronics Report* or *Ethical Fashion Guide*, visit www.behindthebarcode.org.au



Gershon Nimbalker and Claire Cremen, Baptist World Aid's Advocacy team and two of the researchers/authors of *The Australian Electronics Report* are excited about the impending release of the Report.

Photo: Fiona Russell

The Inside Story launched

Riverview Church Executive Minister Karen Wilson unexpectedly launched her first book, *The Inside Story*, in the foyer of Riverview Church in late March.

"We had everything planned for a venue in Subiaco then they phoned 24 hours before the launch and said they were cancelling all events after a crisis," Karen said.

That phone call could have become another chapter in Karen's book which explores the

gap between the inner person and the public persona.

"I'd been in ministry for more than 20 years when we left a successful ministry in a Perth church," Karen said.

"The grief I experienced was deep and I worked for a long time to find the real me."

For a year while she travelled extensively with the Willow Creek Association, Karen made a pact with God to watch no in-flight movies but to use the long hours of international flights to journal and write the first draft of her book.

Perth Clinical Psychologist Joy Eicchorn wrote about the book:

"It was my privilege to share a 'rough' time with Karen. I learned to appreciate her determination,

her desire for the best for God, and the struggle to know, grow and respectfully love her beautiful inner person. What courage to share it with the rest of the world!"

More than 100 people attended the launch where Karen was introduced by her husband, Mark Wilson, Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Ministries. Son Daniel read a chapter from the book and daughter Katie was on hand to help and cheer.

"I read the book in one sitting. Insightful in understanding yourself. You feel like you are having a really helpful conversation with someone" Inglewood Community Church Pastor Mark Edwards who attended the book launch said.

digital church

01/04/2014
Jeremy Bouma
koinoniablog.net

"Like most of you, at the start of Holy Week I am deep in reflection upon the most monumental event in history: the Resurrection. I'm deep in reflection not only personally, but pastorally. And the reason why this is: I want to preach the Resurrection well. Not for the sake of professionalism, but for the sake of my people."

07/04/2014
Pastors Today
lifeway.com/pastorstoday
"It's no secret; mobile

technology is everywhere you turn. But is the church utilising technology to fulfil the mission and ministry God has called it to?"

08/04/2014
Ronnie Martin
thegospelcoalition.org
"Unfortunately, grudges are easier to hold than forgiveness is to hand out. Reputations are complex mechanisms to dismantle. Although we have limitless opportunities to show kindness to others, it takes only one poisonous slip of the tongue or outburst of anger to completely destroy

our credibility and strip us of relational capital."

15/04/2014
Tim Challies
challies.com

"I want to protect my children in a world like this, but I want to do more than that. I want to disciple my children to live virtuously, to use these new technologies for good purposes instead of bad ones. I believe this is a crucial part of my calling as a parent."

15/04/2014
Brian Gowing
behindthemixer.com
"Technically transparent

worship means someone coming into your church for either the first or the 1,000th time will not encounter technical or artistic issues that interfere with providing them a total, enveloping, immersive worship experience that prepares their mind and soul to be impacted by God."

15/04/2014
Steven Furtick
stevenfurtick.com

"We all have something in our lives that seems unbeatable, no matter how hard we try. A bad habit, a destructive pattern, a regret, a heartbreak ... whether we

feel chained to the shame of the past or are feeling overwhelmed by our current circumstances, there is and always will be only one solution – Jesus."

15/04/2014
Marshall Segal
desiringgod.org

"Sometimes it's hard to sort out our lives before Christ. It all feels so bleak, so dark, so destructive, so wasted. Some of us have a hard time finding anything good, anything worth remembering in the stories of our old selves."

Cuballing muster mighty men



Photo: Rodney Wilson

Men attending the Mighty Men's Conference at Cuballing in early April met at sunrise on Sunday morning to celebrate communion and pray together.

More than 270 men camped on a farm in Cuballing, two hours south-west of Perth, over the first weekend in April for the Mighty Men's Conference.

Men were challenged on Saturday morning by one of the speakers, John Wilmot, with his testimony of a life redeemed from crime and drug abuse. John is now pursuing a doctorate and working amongst the Martu people near Newman, as well as pastoring Newman Baptist Church.

Paul Morrison, morning 98five Perth radio host and West Coast Eagles Football

Club Chaplain shared a stirring presentation on the prodigal son which included original songs and a challenging message.

On the Saturday night, Brad Patterson from Mukinbudin brought an inspired message which had the men laughing, crying and engaging with the word of God.

The ministry time afterwards saw some men say 'yes' to Jesus for the first time.

There was a stream of men coming forward for prayer for healing, encouragement and exhortation.

A highlight for many of the men who attended Cuballing this year was the early Sunday morning gathering on 'the hill' – a landmark on the property. Any Conference participants who wish to join the group walk about one and a half kilometres to a local hill to celebrate communion as the sun rises.

As well as men from Western Australia's south-west region men flew in from Queensland and Tasmania.

Kalgoorlie Baptist Church Pastor Eliot Vlatko drove to Cuballing with a bus load of 25

men, leaving Kalgoorlie early on Friday morning and returning late on Sunday night.

Craig Lydon, is the Director of Mighty Men's Conference (MMC) in Western Australia.

"With MMC it's never about the program or some spectacular speaker," Craig said.

"We get together and try to sense where God is working and join Him there."

"Yes, we'll organise some great music and good food but the beauty of these conferences is seeing God work in lives."

"It was a great weekend where everyone enjoyed meeting new people and hearing God speak through ordinary men with ordinary lives to challenge

us to be more obedient and committed in our walk with Him," Garry McGrechan who attended from Mundaring said.

Mighty Men's Conference has been running in Western Australia since 2008. Conferences and regional gatherings are now held in Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria. Regional rural gatherings are conducted in Western Australia at Latham, Newdegate and Muntadgin, as well as a meeting in the North-West and the annual event in Cuballing.

Australia: Too poor to be generous?

As talks begin over the upcoming federal budget and the rising state of Australia's 'debt crisis', Baptist World Aid Australia is questioning if the Government is right in suggesting the nation's foreign aid budget is at an 'unsustainable and irresponsible' level. Is Australia really too poor to be generous?

"Australia actually has the second lowest debt level amongst all rich aid giving nations," Baptist World Aid Advocacy Manager Gershon Nimbalker said.

Baptist World Aid Australia's research shows Australia's debt is just 27.2 percent of income. This debt level is only beaten by the small European nation of Luxemburg (who gives three times the level of aid that Australia does). Sweden has a touch more debt than we do and they still manage to give one percent of national income in aid compared to our 0.33 percent.

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom with four times the

level of debt of Australia, gives more than double what we do.

"It seems pretty clear that trying to use Australia's level of 'indebtedness' to justify why we can't be more generous may be politically popular – but it's certainly not accurate!" Gershon concluded.

To take action on this and other issues of justice you can join a Catalyst Group. Groups are provided with everything needed to be vocal, prayerful and active when it comes to 'defending the rights of the poor and needy' [Proverbs 31].

For more information, visit www.baptistworldaid.org.au/get-involved



Photo: Rowan Butler

Expo at Vose

Vose Seminary will celebrate its strong focus on mission on Wednesday 7 May with a Missions Expo at the Seminary in Bentley.

Islamic culture specialist, Tillmann Klein, is the guest speaker for the day. Tillman works with Muslims in Sydney and loves to engage with people holding a different worldview. He will speak about what he sees God doing in Australia.

Head of Vose Mission Lloyd Porter said that this is a wonderful opportunity for people to come and explore mission.

"The Expo includes hearing from a guest speaker, a time of worship and fellowship and the opportunity to visit the exhibition stands," Lloyd said.

"We have ten agencies represented in our mission partnership, and each of them is making a unique contribution around the globe."

The Expo commences at 9am.

To RSVP and for more information, email Charis at office@vose.edu.au

3e network starts

The 3e Movement of Perth started meeting at Inglewood Community Church in early April. The group of young adults is committed to following Jesus: working together to equip, encourage and engage one another in faith and action.

The group emerged when Aashish Parmer from Ellenbrook Baptist Church and Dan McGrechan from South Perth Baptist Church looked for a way to motivate young people towards mission.

Inglewood Community Church Young Adults Pastor Josh Thomas hosted the event with intentional focus on reaching young adults for Jesus on the agenda as well as with great music and food.

Josh and Marnel Thomas work amongst young adults at Edith Cowan University (ECU), Mount Lawley, and are passionate about mobilising young adults towards reaching people for Jesus.

"The best way it helps in our continued mission with ECU Mt Lawley is that this event reminded our church of the cornerstone of our faith, Jesus Christ," Josh said.

"Our saviour is not a saviour who is content with being in the confines of the church walls but is active in all mission fields we get to engage with."

The group heard stories from Niro Abraham and Mark Edwards of how prayer and the Holy Spirit are crucial to seeing people say 'yes' to Jesus.

Niro is part of Praxeis, the church planting arm of Crossway Baptist Church in Melbourne which aims to see a movement of church planters develop across Australia. She lives in Fremantle and has prayer walked through more than 200 Western Australian towns in the past 18 months. When prayer walking, Niro looks for 'people of peace', people whose heart and mind are open to engage with Jesus. Then she talks with them about Jesus and life with Him.

Mark Edwards from Inglewood Community Church talked about how out of a person's relationship with God comes a keen sense of discernment and passion to share faith.

About 80 young adults from several Baptist churches across the city, including Ellenbrook, Inglewood, Maida Vale and South Perth, attended the event.

"We'll be facilitating a number of these events across the year in different churches," Dan said.

A goal of the group is to create a network of young adults who can encourage one another along the journey of active faith.

"Any young adults who want to explore these issues are welcome to join us."

"The vision of 3e is to partner with local churches to equip and encourage young adults in their faith and engage them in the mission of God locally and globally."

"We want to come alongside what churches are already doing and add some vibrancy and focus," Dan said.

Moving forward

Twenty-three members of South Perth Baptist Church met for half a day in early April to listen and imagine. The church recently refurbished their property in Lawler Street and launched the Mosaic Early Learning Centre.

"It's been a pretty tough time getting the Mosaic project up and running," Senior Pastor Steve Izett said.

"Now we're working together to help our church grow."

Church Consultant Steve Ingram facilitated the half-day event.

In the first activity of the day, everyone listed five things they contribute to the church community. The diverse list ranged from a sense of humour to a passion for ending poverty. The information has been placed onto a large poster the church plans to display in their auditorium.

Associate Pastor Dan McGrechan guided the group to explore the church's position in the local community.

Steve Ingram helped the group explore some of the things the little church will grieve as they grow. They then graphed the possible journey and pressures the church may take as they reach their goal of a vibrant group contributing to their community.

After 15 minutes of praying in pairs around the church property the group gathered together again and listened to what people sensed God was saying.

"We often forget that step, listening to what people have received from God," Steve said.

"I've done a lot of these events. You could see as people arrived this morning that there's a sense of anticipation. People are engaged and ready for the job ahead of them as this little church plans for the future."



Photo: Aaron Chidgzev

Dan McGrechan shares the vision of 3e at the first meeting of the group at Inglewood Community Church in early April.



Photo: Steve Ingram

The people of South Perth Baptist Church with their poster that lists the many things they contribute to the church as they plan for future growth at the church.

briefs

Baptisms

Manjimup Baptist Church visited the Busselton Baptist Camping Centre for their church camp from 14 to 16 March. Ross Bremner baptised Dave Henderson, and Ross and Lorraine Ewing baptised Nicole Loder. Isaac and Nicole Loder also dedicated their two young children, Timothy and Samuel.

Death

Alison (Ali) Quicke, wife of Geraldton Baptist Church pastor Paul Quicke, died peacefully in Royal Perth Hospital on Monday 7 April after a short battle with cancer. The Quicke family, including Paul and Ali's

children, Alisha and Grant Dufty, Ryan and Emmalee Quicke and Rachel and Sam Thomson, joined hundreds of mourners at a memorial service to remember Ali at North Beach Baptist Church on Saturday 12 April.

Grace Community Church

Pastor Dawson Elliott led the Grace Community Church congregation during their first anniversary celebration as a church plant on 16 March at Maida Vale Baptist Church.

Pastoral changes

Dr Marc and Mrs Brigitte Chan conclude their time at Baptist Churches Western Australia in May 2014 and will be moving to Melbourne. Pastor David Lowe has concluded at Boyup Brook Baptist Church. Pastor Ryan Quicke has concluded at Claremont Baptist Church and will be commencing as the Associate Pastor at Eaton Baptist Church shortly. Pastor Warrick Smith has commenced as the Interim Pastor at Claremont Baptist Church. Retired Pastor Alastair Bain is serving as Interim Pastor at Geraldton Baptist Church.

Better mums

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) groups are meeting at Riverton Baptist Church from 9am to 4pm on 17 May for the first Better Mums Conference. Organiser Miranda Miller said the conference is aimed towards mothers of babies, toddlers and preschool children. Speakers will aim to encourage, equip and develop mums in their mothering and relational skills. Cost is \$50 which includes morning tea and lunch. Register online at www.mops.goregister.com.au For more information, email bettermums@gmail.com

Baptist Historical Society

'Baptist Schools in WA - Part A' is the topic for the Baptist Historical Society's Public Meeting on 18 May at 2.30pm at Perth Baptist Church, corner of Stirling and James Street, Perth. The development of schools associated with Baptist churches has been quite a growth area so this topic will be in two parts. A panel will present on seven of the schools, based in Albany, Armadale, Forrestdale, Girrawheen, Kalgoorlie, Mt Pleasant and Rockingham. 'Part B' of the schools' history is planned for November. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, phone 9384 5460.

Kimberley inspires artist

Renowned local visual artist Joel Smoker exhibited his latest ceramics at the Zig Zag Cultural Centre in Kalamunda throughout April.

The Circle, Line, Square exhibition included three dimensional ceramic pieces, framed ceramic wall tiles and framed pastel drawings from around Western Australia.

"I have endeavoured to echo the colours of the West Australian landscape in my ceramics, and of course my drawings," Joel said.

Fellow ceramic master craftsman, Bela Kotai, gave the opening address at the exhibition.

"Clay is a material we take most for granted – yet it is most deeply embedded in our lives," said Bela.

"If you are lucky the second thing you press to your lips each morning will be a cuppa in a ceramic mug."

"Clay is the material that has contributed more than any other to civilised development, from utilitarian things such as bricks to fine porcelain. The science of clay is used in the silicon chip, the basis of our technological revolution."

"In the hands of the skilled, knowledgeable and sensitive, it is the material used for the creation of art of the highest order. These pieces on display are the product of such a fusion of hand, mind and eye."

"The Bible tells us God was a potter, and the transformation of common clay is the great gift and akin to a miracle."

Bela described Joel as a classicist.

"Joel needs order and structure. Clay has many fine qualities but tidiness and orderliness are not among them."

"In this exhibition you will experience a classical constraint against processes not fully controllable such as clay, glaze and fire," he said.

A member of the Parkerville Baptist Church, Joel's creative and spiritual journey started in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. His parents, Bruce and Pearl Smoker, moved to the Kimberley region in 1951 as missionaries.

Joel was born the following year in Derby, also living in Fitzroy Crossing, then Halls Creek where his parents established the Halls Creek Peoples Church.

Joel has had a lifelong interest in music which began by playing guitar alongside the Aboriginal musicians who accompanied the gospel singing at the Halls Creek Peoples Church.

In the 1980s Joel returned to the Kimberley where he took many photographs of the region, culminating in his book, *The Kimberley Series*.

Joel also set up the Waringarri Aboriginal Arts Centre in Kununurra.

"I can safely say that the Aboriginal artists I worked with have been a great influence and inspiration on my own artistic journey," Joel said.

Joel studied Visual Art at Curtin University, majoring in Ceramics and Painting, and has combined a career as an art teacher with an ongoing visual art practice. Joel first exhibited his ceramic art in a group exhibition in 1978 and has been exhibiting regularly ever since.



Joel Smoker at the opening of his Circle, Line, Square exhibition.

Photo: Alexis Smoker

Swan River celebration

Mount Zion Aussie Indigenous Church celebrated 21 baptisms in the Swan River on the windy afternoon of Sunday 6 April.

Pastor Keith Truscott believes the baptisms help to show that Aboriginal people do exist and Jesus loves and includes all people groups.

"There has been a real sense of prayer and repentance coming into our church recently," Pastor Keith Truscott said.

"Then God is able to restore broken relationships with Him and each other, and mainstream people who so often still subconsciously think Australia is 'terra nullius' [no inhabitants], that Australian Indigenous people do not exist or matter."

Eight of those baptised are a family of Nyungar people with four teenagers. The parents work fly-in fly-out in the North-West.

Another group included a household of ten people from the Pilbara, including a mother, eight teenage boys and a younger son. The teenagers are studying in Perth.

A mature aged woman was baptised after returning to her faith. She had run away from Roelands Mission the day they were conducting baptisms years ago.

"I met her at the funeral of her brother recently and invited her to get baptised," Keith said.

"To me her baptism really honours the many years of faithfulness of workers and supporters of Roelands Mission people."



Twenty-one Aboriginal people from the Mount Zion Aussie Indigenous Church were baptised in the Swan River near the Narrows Bridge in early April.

Photo: Puanini Lalahi

A young Nyungar man who is restoring his relationship with his wife and family and dealing with other issues was also baptised.

"A real blessing was the arrival of three dolphins nearby while I was baptising the candidates," Keith said.

"To me this ... signified the

blessing of Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Three weeks earlier the church baptised five people at the same place in the river.

Tom Price awards Annette

On Australia Day 2014, Annette Turk received the Premier's Australia Day Active Citizenship Award in Tom Price for the volunteer work she does in the community.

"I was totally shocked and humbled to have my name called as all I do gives me joy and pleasure," said Annette.

Annette and her husband Chris are the interim pastors at the Tom Price Baptist Church, where they have ministered for nearly two years.

Annette was nominated for the award by friends in the church and the community for her contribution to several programs that are conducted at the community centre. These include an Op Shop, an over 40s group, a group for kids with disabilities, the Wakathuni Aboriginal Community, and the combined churches Friday Live which brings up to 30 kids

together every Friday night.

"I have a passion to bless others because I have been so blessed, so I express this through the volunteer work," said Annette.

"I feel strongly that faith needs to be shared through action with those I meet on a daily basis."

"Tom Price is an oasis in the desert, about 2,000 mostly young vibrant families live here permanently, and then another 2,000 fly in fly out workers. We absolutely love the town and its people," she said.

FORGIVENESS IN T

With the passing away of Nelson Mandela in late 2013, and Colin Firth's new film *The Railway Man* now in cinemas, matters of forgiveness and reconciliation are in the public eye.

The stories of Mandela and Eric Lomax, upon whose 1995 autobiography the film is based, share excruciating experiences of decades-long suffering as well as awe-inspiring moves to extend grace and forbearance to their former enemies when primal human impulse would seek retaliation instead.

Given recent commemorative efforts paying tribute to Mandela's life, his story is likely better known than that of Lomax. After the fall of Singapore in 1942, where Lomax (played by Jeremy Irvine) was serving as a British Signals Officer, Lomax as well as some 60,000 other Allied soldiers, and as many as 300,000 Asian labourers, were used as slave labour to build the Burma-Thai Railway that would keep the Japanese army supplied. The construction of the 'death railway', as it came to be known, was a titanic endeavour that stretched for over 400 kilometres through rock and tropical jungle that the men had to carve out with nothing but hand tools and in sweltering conditions where dysentery, disease and malnutrition were rife.

Lomax comes to the attention of the Kempeitai, the Japanese military police, after they discover the makeshift radio he built to keep track of the war. It doesn't help that Lomax, a self-described 'railway enthusiast', was also mapping the progression of the railway in vain hopes of passing on this intelligence to Allied forces. In response, the Kempeitai interrogate and imprison Lomax, who manages to survive despite the terrible treatment. His hate burns against Takashi Nagase (played by Tanroh Ishida in the past and Hiroyuki Sanada in the present), the army interpreter who becomes a figurehead for the torture Lomax endures.

While Lomax wasn't imprisoned for the 27 years that Mandela was incarcerated, *The Railway Man* makes it clear that his wartime experience has held him captive long after the end of hostilities. His late-in-life romance with Patti (Nicole Kidman) is hijacked by trauma that manifests in violent rages as well as determined silences that freeze out her gentle enquiries. The role of Lomax as troubled veteran well suits Colin Firth who has cornered the market on playing stitched-up gents whose taciturn exteriors belie the torment raging within (see *A Single Man*, *The King's Speech*, even his portrayal of Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*.) Once Lomax discovers that Nagase is alive and showing tourists around the site of his former misery, he travels to Thailand to confront his enemy a half-century after the war. The scene is set for revenge, as you might expect, and yet Lomax's ultimate response is one of startling forgiveness that enables him to reconcile with his former interrogator.

These moments pack a powerful punch, but so extraordinary is the real story of Lomax and Nagase that it dwarfs the merits of the film. *The Railway Man* portrays Nagase as reluctant to confront the horrors of the war. In a scene that reverses the interrogator-interrogated roles between Lomax and Nagase, the former corrects any attempt the later makes to fudge, through euphemisms, the events of the past. What happened wasn't a 'tragedy', Lomax avers, but a 'crime' and soldiers didn't simply 'die,' they were 'murdered'. The scene demonstrates that for justice to be served the truth must be told; yet the film takes a few liberties of its own in this area. It turns out that after being confronted with the horrors of the war, the real Nagase was disgusted with his own conduct and became a tireless campaigner for peace and reconciliation between former



A man with glasses, wearing a light-colored checkered shirt and khaki trousers, is walking on a set of railway tracks. In the background, a train is visible, and the scene is set in an industrial or railway environment. The title 'THE RAILWAY MAN' is overlaid in large white letters across the top of the image.

THE RAILWAY MAN

Japanese soldiers and Allied prisoners, despite opposition from many of his countrymen. Nagase then published *Crosses and Tigers*, a memoir describing his remorse over his and his country's actions, and how he remained haunted by the brutalisation of one particular prisoner-of-war. The real Patti then wrote to Nagase identifying her husband as that individual, which opened the door for the two men to correspond before eventually meeting more than 50 years later.

Forgiveness is not cheap. When the real Lomax met Nagase he did want to kill him. Yet, disarmed by the letters Nagase had sent and the sorrow and regret of the man in the flesh as they met on the bridge on the River Kwai, Lomax found himself, surprisingly, acknowledging the man's suffering as well as his own: "We both survived." Nagase apparently said after that meeting, "I think I can die safely now." Later, Lomax wrote Nagase a letter assuring him that while he would never forget what had happened, Nagase had his total forgiveness. If that isn't astonishing enough, the two ended up becoming friends, remaining in contact until Nagase's death in 2011. Lomax died in 2012.

The story of Lomax's real life encounter with Nagase bears out the power of forgiveness to release people from the destructiveness of hate. In *Exclusion and Embrace* Yale theologian Miroslav Volf writes that forgiveness arrests the cycle of violence and retribution that often sees 'yesterday's victims [become] today's perpetrators and today's perpetrators tomorrow's victims'. Strangely enough, both victims and perpetrators of violence can be set free when victims choose forgiveness over revenge or, in Volf's words, demonstrate the 'will to embrace' rather than exclude the other. And yet embrace – full reconciliation – is only possible once the truth has been told and justice done. That Nagase accepts responsibility for the past and his role in it enables Lomax to show him mercy.

Stories such as that of Lomax and Mandela can't help but activate a deep response in us. Victims who forgo their rightful claims to vengeance and manage to rise above the all-too-human tendency to lash out in retaliation seem more than mere mortals. It helps, of course, when victims like Lomax are faced by repentant perpetrators like Nagase. Which begs the question: what of wrongdoers who don't see the error of their ways? To reach out to them with a gracious spirit must be to border on the divine.

But such transcendent possibilities are foreclosed in our disenchanting age stripped of both gods and monsters. Many of us settle, then, for Lomax and Mandela as secular saints. Still, for some the ability of these men to 'turn the other cheek' allows a glimpse into a redemptive reality where the ability to show grace to wrongdoers is not dependent on their moral fibre – or lack thereof. It is announced by the Apostle Paul: 'While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' Ultimate forgiveness, in the cosmic sense suggested by those words, hinges on what one does with such a claim.

Justine Toh is the Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity.

This article first appeared on the Centre for Public Christianity website. Reprinted with permission.

Refugee's Nauru experience

Mr T, a newly arrived refugee from South Asia, spoke to 95 Year 9 students at Carey Baptist College in early April. The students are studying Australia's immigration policy in their Studies of Society and Environment course.

Mr T's real name can't be published because of the restrictions placed on him when he received his 477 visa. Another restriction is that Mr T is prohibited from working for a wage.

In his homeland Mr T had been arrested and imprisoned where he was tortured and beaten, including three days with no food and little water before his initial interrogation. When he was released he was a 'marked' man because of his connection to members of his extended family.

“
One student said ... she was not happy to hear his story but rather it was good to hear from a refugee about their personal experience.”

Mr T was able to board a boat to flee his homeland. The group bobbed across the Indian Ocean for 22 days before arriving in the Cocos Keeling Islands. Immigration officials flew Mr T and his group to Christmas Island for a week, then he became one of the early inhabitants of the detention camp on the Pacific Island nation of Nauru.

“It was a very hard time,” Mr T said.

“We had a tent and camp stretcher. There was no light or running water when I got there.”

Camping in stifling tropical heat and humidity was difficult for Mr T.

“We went to sleep late at night because it was too hot in the tent then woke early because the tent gets hot again.”

Mosquitoes, cockroaches and mice were challenges to his health. The tents did little to protect Mr T from torrential rain. Some nights his camp stretcher was pushed around by the force of water flowing through the tent he shared with other men.

“Many days we hear that people try to end their life,” he said. “It is a very hard place.”

After 13 months Mr T was transferred to Curtin Immigration Detention Centre in Western Australia's North-West. After three weeks he was told he was free and was flown to Perth.

The freedom he received means he has a visa to stay in Australia until March 2015. After that he has no idea what will happen to him. Currently he lives in a household of eight refugee men in an eastern suburb of Perth.

One student said to Carey teacher Jules Birt that she was happy to meet Mr T and hear of his experience. Then she stopped and changed her story and said she was not happy to hear his story but rather it was good to hear from a refugee about their personal experience.

Mr T also spoke to Year 11 students at Carey Baptist College during the last week of term.



Carey teacher Jules Birt talks with Mr T who spent 13 months in detention on Nauru.

Photo: Jill Birt

North Korea trouble

Joel News International reports the Dictator of North Korea, Kim Jong-un, decreed that 33 Christians who had planned to establish 500 underground churches under the leadership of South Korean missionary Kim Jung-wook are to be executed.

Kim Jung-wook has been held since October 2013 in a North Korean prison camp. Now 33 of his friends and followers from the North are due to die in their cells at the State Security Department.

Kim Jung-wook was forced to 'confess' that he worked for the intelligence services and had intentions to overturn the North Korean government. The South

Korean Intelligence Service denied this and stated that Kim Jung-wook was kidnapped in China and taken to Pyongyang by North Korean forces.

When dictator Kim Jong-un previously purged 80 people, witnesses stated that he had them all machine gunned in front of family members as they watched in horror.

Open Doors appeals to Christians globally to pray for the country of North Korea.

North Korea has been the number one persecutor of Christians on the Open Doors World Watch List for 12 years consecutive years. Engaging in secret religious activities is a crime punishable by arrest and even public execution in this nation.

briefs

Solomon floods

The Solomon Islands were inundated by heavy rain in early April causing significant flooding, particularly around the capital Honiara, leaving half its residents without access to clean water. More than 20 people are confirmed dead and a further 50,000 people have been affected, many of them in remote areas. Through their local partnership with South Seas Evangelical Church, Baptist World Aid has launched the Solomon Islands Flood Relief Appeal, and has already sent funding for immediate relief of food, water and medical supplies. They have also given in principal approval

for additional funds, subject to further information. Baptist World Aid asks Christians to be prayerful, be generous to help reach the target of \$200,000 and be vocal by sharing Baptist World Aid Facebook posts. For more information, visit www.baptistworldaid.org.au

Chocolate certification

Just in time for Easter, Haigh's Chocolates announced UTZ Certification. This means a better deal for cocoa farmers and far less risk to children working in the cocoa industry in Africa, Latin America and the Pacific. It's sweet news for chocolate lovers everywhere but particularly for

Peter Millard, Haigh's Chocolates Supply Chain Manager. A member of Parkside Baptist Church, a community that advocates for change through a Baptist World Aid Catalyst Group, Peter had long felt the tension between his ideals and his employment with Haigh's, who were yet to sign on to fair trade.

Reading Noah

Two of the most popular online Bible reading tools have reported a huge increase in the reading of the story of Noah online, after the release of Darren Aronofsky's blockbuster, *Noah*, starring Russell Crowe. YouVersion, makers of the Bible App and bible.com

report a 300 percent increase in readers from the United States opening the Noah story, and a 245 percent increase worldwide. A full page advertisement placed by the film's creators in the *New York Times* upon launch of the movie encouraged readers to read the story of Noah on the Bible App. Similarly, BibleGateway says visits to Genesis 6 on their website increased 223 percent from the previous weekend, after the *Noah* movie was released.

Ukraine - Russia

Vyacheslav Nesteruk, head of the 2,300 church and 125,000 member Ukrainian Baptist Union, and Aleksey Smirnov,

president of the 1,800 church and 76,000 member Russian Baptist organisation, met on 8 April for the first time since a political crisis began last November putting the two nations on the brink of war. The leaders called on churches "to pray continually for peace between our peoples as well as for those who have suffered during the course of the recent political stand-off." Tony Peck, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, said the meeting demonstrates "that the gospel we believe in transcends political differences between nations and unites us in an overall concern for peace and reconciliation in Christ."

A miraculous gift for the blind



Photo: MegaVoice

A woman in India celebrates her new MegaVoice Envoy.

"A miraculous gift from God," is the way the Rev. Dr Roger Chilton, former chairman of Bible Society Australia (NSW and ACT), described the new MegaVoice Envoy audio Bible for the blind.

MegaVoice CEO Charles Cibene said from Florida, USA, that MegaVoice became deeply concerned that of the world's 600 million blind, visually impaired and poor sighted, very few have access to God's Word in their own language and in a convenient and usable form.

Braille, the system of raised dots which enables blind and visually impaired to read was invented in 1821. Most of the world's languages still do not have a Braille Bible, or any

portion of it in Braille. Of those that do exist, the cost is over \$800 a copy, making it a very expensive item for many people to purchase.

"God has given us a Bible in a form that can reach everyone with the love of Jesus. Our whole global MegaVoice team is totally committed to providing these 'miraculous gifts from God' to all those who will send them 'to the ends of the earth.'" Australian-born inventor of MegaVoice Bibles, Tom Treseder said.

The Envoy fits well in a shirt pocket or hangs on a lanyard around a person's neck because it is only 65 grams and 5.4 cm wide x 10.4 cm long x 13 mm thick. Its design allows it to withstand the harshest conditions and being solar powered means there are no ongoing running costs.

The Envoy is designed so that any church, mission, ministry, or agency, is able to load and reload their messages, up to 700 hours of audio content, anywhere in

the world, at any time and in any quantity. They are able to do this direct from their computer and the message is secure so that the end user cannot change it. It allows huge flexibility for any message in any language and in any quantity.

The MegaVoice Envoy is having a dramatic effect on the education and literacy development of people who suffer any degree of visual impairment. For the first time in history, the new Envoy is filling a gap never previously thought possible.

Director of Wycliffe Bible Translators/SIL International on the island of Vanuatu, Ross Webb said that Braille Bibles for minority languages will never happen.

"This means that with the MegaVoice Envoy, it is now possible for all blind people to own God's Word for themselves – and even hold it in their hand!"

"MegaVoice is a fantastic and far better solution for these precious people," he said.

Challenged by Africa

With his wife Sam and two young daughters, Ben Good is working with Global Interaction in Malawi. His experience of God has been challenged during the first six months in Africa.

Ben describes himself as 'a product of western Christianity', attuned to experiencing God's presence a particular way. He believes this is just one way.

"Back in Australia feeling the presence of God was a very real and tangible thing," Ben said.

"Each Sunday the music team would crank out wonderful music that I would sing along to at the top of my voice. My pastors would preach ripper sermons that would take me to new heights and

understanding of how wide and deep our mighty God's love is.

"I enjoyed communion and being tangibly reminded of God's grace and forgiveness through drinking the wine and eating the bread."

Stripped of these church trappings, Ben has been learning about God and himself.

"With no worship band, pastor's preaching and supportive small group, I haven't once felt the presence of God like I did in

Australia," Ben said.

"I've gone six months without feeling any buzz or spiritual high of any kind."

"I need to be content with knowing and trusting that God is here with me because His Word tells me so. I need to be responsible for my own faith and spiritual development. It involves being with God in the silence."

To read more of Ben's story, visit 1lifetale.com/2014/03/19/gods-presence-more-than-a-feeling



Photo: Global Interaction

Ben and Sam Good are being challenged as they settle into life in Africa.



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communities for life

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Glen Gerreyn was a representative sprinter for Queensland with a dream of going to the 2000 Olympics. At the age of 18, he was diagnosed with the incurable disease, ulcerative colitis. Instead of letting life get the better of him, Glen fought back. He pursued a new dream of starting a youth centre in his hometown; The X-treme Youth and Community Centre was a huge success. Glen continued doing community work, earning a number of accolades including Young Australian of the Year National Finalist. Having learnt to lift himself out of difficult situations, Glen began to inspire the nation's young people with his story and commenced a full-time career in motivational speaking.

Inspiring change

Glen spoke to *The Advocate* about his work with youth suicide, the joys of parenthood and becoming an author.

You founded your company Oxygen Factory in 2004, what changes have you seen in Australia's youth in the last ten years?

Young people are more technologically driven and savvy now. I try to make my programs high in content so they stay engaged. My goal isn't to get them motivated; I want to get them committed to taking action to achieve their dreams.

A student wrote me a letter once saying, "I went home after your seminar today, and I ate an orange". She had been suffering from anorexia. Now, I don't believe that becoming motivated to one thing will change your life, but I hope I can be a catalyst for a single positive change on a young person's journey to achieving their goals.

Do you take your own advice when overcoming challenges? How do you cope, and help others cope with failure?

If there's one thing I've learnt, it's that everybody is going through something. If it's not in their body, it's in their mind, or their finances, or their relationships.

My health for the past 20 years has presented my biggest challenge. The only way I have overcome it is by believing that tomorrow can always be better than today. Disappointment is part of life. It's okay to fail. You've got to learn a lot of lessons in life, and the fastest way to do that in today's high speed technocratic society is by failing. If you want to get anywhere you have to 'move fast and break things' which is counter cultural as we're always told as children 'to move slowly and don't touch anything'.

I was in Mumbai in a school with 30,000 students and inside there was this massive room – they called it the 'Innovators Room' and it was full of old, broken electronic equipment. I was speaking to the principal and he said "At this school, a lot of kids come from the western

slum areas. We get them to pull apart the broken electronics and rebuild them better. 'From West to Best' – take what's in the west and make it better." You have to build innovation and creativity. Failure is not fatal. We need to be teaching our kids these lessons.

Most parents don't share their failures. If we did, it would make failing okay. My daughters always ask me to retell the story of when I fell really badly doing the 200 metres. I got up, kept going and won the race. I recently attended my youngest daughter's first athletics carnival. She was participating in the 400 metre obstacle course and she fell over. But instead of crying, she got back up, finished the race and came third. I was so happy that she listened to the message in the story.

How do you find parenthood?

Parenthood is awesome. It was what I was put on the earth to do. I do around 100 flights a year, but I still pick the girls up or drop them off at school three or four times a week. Sometimes I might be speaking for an hour in the middle of the day, so I can drop them off in the morning, catch a plane up to Brisbane and then be back by 5pm to pick them up after gymnastics. It just needs to be intentional as a parent – we're all busy but we can always make time.

What goals are you currently working towards?

My goal is to eliminate youth suicide in Australia. Larry Page, who is best known as the co-founder of Google once said, "You have to be a little silly about the goals you are going to set. There is a phrase I learned in college called, 'having a healthy disregard for the impossible'. You should try to do things that most people would not."

I made it my goal to eliminate youth suicide by 2020. If that doesn't happen I will make it happen by 2030, or 2050. And if I'm dead and buried and I don't make it happen, hopefully I've inspired enough of the youth in Australia so that somebody else will pick up the baton.

How did you get involved with youth suicide?

It kind of happened when we were running the Day of Hope five hour program – it's a program I run in schools – and I was getting up to ten emails a week from students, sometimes six months or three years after my seminar, saying that they had been contemplating suicide and the seminar really helped. So I realised, hey, we could really do something significant with these programs. I've been speaking in high schools for 15 years now and I really wanted to narrow the impact and focus on an area. You know, I didn't want to be known as 'that guy who talks in high schools'. I think as you get older you think "how am I making an impact? How can I do something significant?" So I picked out five areas I got the most emails about and the first one was suicide. Hopefully through my work I will at least make a dent in the number of instances of youth suicide.

What were the other four?

Number two was depression, three – eating disorders, four – addiction, five – fatherlessness.

Does your faith come into your work at all?

Faith is the motivation behind everything I do. It's the only reason I have got through. I grew up as a Catholic and am now a Pentecostal Christian. My seminars aren't very God-centric but Godly principles are littered throughout. Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God in a language that people understood – using agriculture metaphors for the farmers back then.

I try and talk to kids in a language they understand. Some kids aren't getting any positive values or Godly principals at home. I believe that most positive values are inspired by the Bible and the Christian faith. The Bible is an exceptionally motivational book full of incredible stories and characters. Take Moses

for example – he is so full of insecurity and doubt about himself but with the inspiration of God, goes on to lead his people to safety.

How did you get involved in writing books?

I realised, you can only do so much in a five hour seminar. A lot of people wanted more, so writing books fulfilled that.

Are you reading a book at the moment?

Ian Thorpe's bio, *Choose Yourself*. I'm loving it. It contains so many great lessons for young people about developing life skills and self-awareness. My eldest daughter is a very keen swimmer and though I'm not going to push her in that direction, I mean, she could become a rower or a doctor or whatever she wants, but I just kind of wanted to get a feel for what a swimmer's life might be like in case she wants to pursue that.



By John Maxwell

How do you respond when a great opportunity presents itself? I'm a firm believer in finding and embracing new opportunities. But I don't chase an opportunity without evaluating it according to some specific criteria.

How do I evaluate an opportunity? I run it through a series of tests. Only after it passes them do I take steps toward the goal.

1. The Murphy's Law Test – What could possibly go wrong, and am I willing to accept the consequences if it does?

The question is not whether there will be problems; it's what and how serious will they be? Albert Einstein said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity", so the fact that there will be problems is not a reason to abandon the opportunity. Instead, we need to anticipate problems before they happen. If we examine them first, then we can decide if the consequences will be manageable.

2. The Common Sense Test – Does this opportunity make sense, or am I trying to make sense out of it?

This is important because passion can often overpower common sense. We get excited about an opportunity and don't look at it objectively. The result: We try to make something happen! Instead, we need to weigh an opportunity based on its own merits.

3. The Preparation Test – Am I prepared to do this?

John Wooden said, "When opportunity comes, it's too late to prepare." He knew that his basketball players needed to be prepared for the game, or they wouldn't be able to capitalise on the opportunities within it.

Likewise, we need to be prepared with the necessary skills and abilities to meet opportunities. For example, I love to swim, and I try to swim an hour a day. But what if I was given the opportunity to compete in a race, at a distance I'd never swam before? It wouldn't be smart for me to take on that challenge if I hadn't prepared for it.

Here's what preparation is not: Knowing all the answers before you start. The key is to recognise when you know enough to start down a road. Otherwise, you'll be plagued with the paralysis of analysis.

4. The Options Test – Do I increase or decrease my options by waiting?

How quickly do you need to embrace an opportunity? Sometimes it's smart to wait while you gather information or talk to advisors. But other times if you wait, the door to the opportunity closes.

Ask yourself what will happen to your options in the meantime.

Will some be eliminated as time passes (for example, if someone else's decision will impact it)? If waiting will eliminate an important option, decide now.

5. The Deadline Test – When is the best time to make the right decision?

I believe that serious decision-making only happens when a deadline is set. People naturally wait to move until they absolutely have to. So with this test, you give yourself a deadline for deciding. This motivates you to take a hard look at all the answers to the previous questions, and make a decision in a timely manner.

Lee Iacocca said, "The right decision is the wrong decision if it's made too late." By asking these questions about an opportunity, you increase your odds for success, because you keep yourself from chasing the wrong opportunity, going after one too soon, or missing out on the opportunity of a lifetime.

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Being a vulnerable leader

By Rev. Dr Lucy Morris

The notion of leadership is one I have been thinking about in recent weeks, as I have been preparing for the journey towards Easter. This journey always means stripping away the clutter in our lives, simplifying our prayer and standing in solidarity with Jesus, as we contemplate His death on the cross and His glorious resurrection.

The outcome of Jesus' death confronts us on Good Friday in all its horror and grief; and stands in distinct contrast to all our modern notions of leadership. Jesus' death reminds us of His deliberate rejection of power, status, and access to the seat of privilege and power as a leader. It is a very different message to the increasing ascendancy we give to the narcissistic ego with the endless self advertising of our own image, coupled with the focus on the vision we have for ourselves and our organisations, with all our plans and preparations for various scenarios and always, first and last, a clear calculation of the cost and its acceptability.

So what does this difference look like in a modern organisation or in our various community settings? How

do we take Jesus' leadership model and make it our own? My reflection highlights the characteristic of vulnerability in leadership and our willingness to think about our shadow and its projection into communities in which we live and work.

The issue that makes me most frustrated and cranky is the lack of reflective capacity by people in authority; and their unwillingness to admit any vulnerability or recognition of behaviours that cloud judgement. So we have communities and organisations full of egos and their shadows, where we project our 'woundedness' onto those around us and so we hurt others. Such behaviour rejects any implication that perhaps 'I' am less than perfect. As a leader, it means I recruit people to reflect my own image, and we see this

in political parties, churches, workplaces and communities. The willingness to judge and discriminate against others is given full authority and we become communities focussed on ensuring like-mindedness, as we exclude those who don't fit our idolatrous image of God, a God created in our image. I am thinking particularly at this time, about asylum seekers and refugees who don't somehow fit into our communities and in whom we delight to scapegoat.

As I reflected on being vulnerable and without power in our power-filled communities I heard someone speak about righteous anger. And Jesus did get angry in the temple and when he healed the lame and the blind. However, I am joyfully reminded Jesus' resurrection wasn't just for the chosen few, but for all. And our work in the

real Kingdom, present here and now is critical as God breaks through into our lives. God requires a different leadership and a new way of including everyone, providing healing and hope, not exclusion and judgement.

The subsequent challenge for leaders is palpable. It is only with God's Grace we can achieve such a radical type of leadership.

Lucy Morris is Chief Executive Officer at Baptistcare.

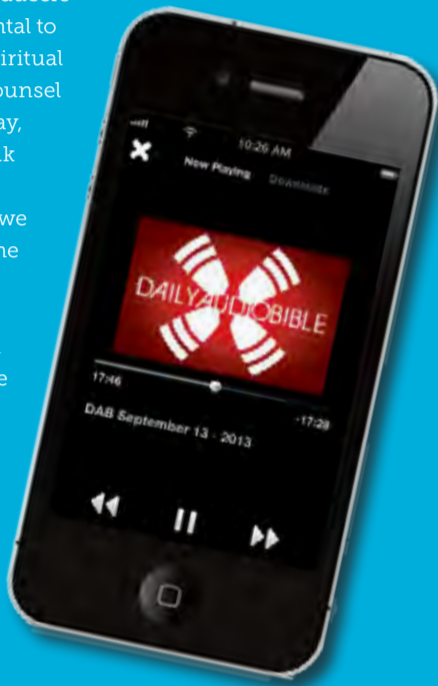


Photo: Baptistcare

browse

Daily Audio Bible
www.dailyaudiobible.com

The *Daily Audio Bible* takes you through the whole Bible in a year, one day at a time and is supported by a vibrant community who enjoy going through the Bible together. The *Daily Audio Bible* is available on the web as well as an iOS and Android app, which allows access whenever and wherever you are. The producers believe that it is fundamental to every believer's healthy spiritual life that people seek the counsel of the Bible every single day, that we be people who walk with God intimately and conversationally and that we live in community with one another. Available from www.dailyaudiobible.com or via the iTunes or Google Play store.



win

Five Simple Ways to Grow a Great Family

Carol Kuykendall

Before you had children – did you dream about the kind of family you wanted? And then those lofty dreams, depicting a peaceful, picture perfect life all came crashing down; amongst the chaotic schedules and refereeing those sibling squabbles! *Five Simple Ways to Grow a Great Family* will help you focus on the five qualities that really matter the most: love, fun, loyalty, growth, and faith.



The Advocate in conjunction with Word Bookstore is giving you an opportunity to win *Five Simple Ways to Grow a Great Family*. To be in the draw, simply answer the following question:

Question:

Who is the author of *Five Simple Ways to Grow a Great Family*?

Entries close on Thursday 15 May and all winners will be announced in the June edition of *The Advocate*.

Winners from *The Sixty Minute Family* competition: R Eastman, N Sculthorpe and B Taylor.

competition

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

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

Five Simple Ways to Grow a Great Family Competition
11 East Parade East Perth WA 6004

listen



Ready to Fly

Jamie Grace

Twenty one year old singer-songwriter Jamie Grace hails from outside of Atlanta in Lithonia, Georgia. At age 11, she was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome and has since travelled the country sharing her story through music and speaking. Her career made a remarkable debut with breakout success of her Grammy nominated, number one smash hit 'Hold Me' (featuring TobyMac) which assisted in propelling Jamie to win her first GMA Dove Award – for New Artist of the Year.



Tides Live

Bethel Music

After the release of their first studio album in September 2013, *Tides* came to life on a new level as Bethel Music began leading these songs at home and around the world. It became clear that the resonance and passion of each song in a live worship setting was too exciting to overlook – so Bethel Music simply pressed 'record' during its weekend services. *Tides Live* offers a fresh and powerful worship experience.

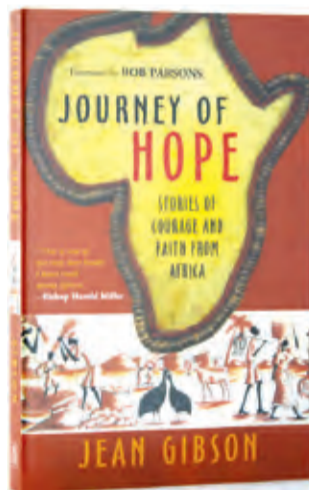


Welcome To The New

MercyMe

The history making, Grammy nominated band MercyMe is following up 2012's *The Hurt and The Healer* with their eighth studio album, *Welcome To The New*. The project signifies a new season for the group, and is a musical reminder that we don't have to try to please God because He is already pleased. MercyMe has sold more than six million units, and has an arsenal of Gold and Platinum recordings, along with numerous number one radio hits.

read



Journey of Hope

Jean Gibson

As Jean and Brian Gibson travel through Malawi and Kenya, they meet Christians who have overcome extraordinary challenges – including polygamy, child abuse and HIV – to share Christ and to model Christian discipleship. The future for sub-Saharan Africa lies, to a remarkable degree, in the hands of the national churches. *Journey of Hope* gives us vivid illustrations of this redemptive work taking place at this point in history throughout Africa.



Kisses from Katie

Katie Davis

At the age of 18 Katie Davis made the decision to follow her heart and not her head. Finishing high school as homecoming queen and senior class president; it was to everyone's surprise when she moved to Uganda where she knew only one person and didn't speak the language. Katie, now 22, has established a ministry for children in Africa and adopted children in the aim of doing all she can with what she has.



Have a Little Faith

Lesley Gomez

At the age 22 Lesley Gomez's heart was moved by the hopelessness she saw in the faces of the children struggling in extreme poverty of the Philippines. She volunteered as a nurse for six months, but stayed on to care for the people living on the streets. And now, with her husband Peter, they have given their lives to serving the poor, rescuing child prostitutes, and helping the homeless.

Reviews and competition kindly supplied by Word Bookstore.

Website: www.word.com.au

Address: Victoria Park - 359 Albany Highway, phone 08 9361 7899



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

Alkimos Baptist College – Merriwa

Kindergarten to Year 11

www.alkimosbc.wa.edu.au

Alkimos Baptist College was established in 2011 to provide quality education for students in the northern Perth region. It is an open-entry co-educational College, comprised of students living locally to the campus. The College will cater for Years 7 to 12 by 2015.



‘Connect’ youth group at school

By Eleanor Litterick (Year 10)

Imagine a class at school where each lesson opens with a live band. A class where students can dance, clap and sing along to some of the newest, most upbeat songs on the Christian charts. Imagine that, after the concert, the teachers ran games, gave out prizes and allowed students to run around and have fun. Imagine further, that each week a different youth pastor or speaker visited and spoke to the students on various topics regarding connecting with God, Jesus, family, friends, community, the world, their purpose in life, the Bible and church. Finally, imagine a class where students are split into small groups, with a teacher to facilitate discussion, to talk about the message they received and how it might affect their lives.

In 2014 Alkimos Baptist College made a change to our Christian Education program. This change took us away from sitting behind desks, in rows, listening to a teacher talk about the Bible, to a Christian Education program where we experience the above. We call this program ‘Connect’. It is an opportunity for us to connect with God, connect with Jesus, connect with each other, connect with the community, with the world, with a purpose in life, with the Bible and connect with the church.

Since the beginning of this year, I have seen the lives of myself, friends and other students at Alkimos Baptist

College changing as a result of the program. Students with no faith in God have been enjoying worship songs and hearing messages of life. We have been talking with teachers and students who love God and discovering new ways to view the world.

More students now regularly attend youth groups in the local area and think about ways they can serve the local community. Students are bringing parents to Mother/Daughter and Father/Son nights, and special events held at our College, to hear about God and His love for us.

We love this program and Friday is the best day of the week!

Cooking surprise with Mrs Campbell

By Jorja Salt (Year 5)

Every day is a great day in Mrs Campbell’s Year 5 class but on Tuesday 25 February it was a super awesome day!

Our class was lucky enough to be chosen to bake cookies in the Home Economics room while the high school

students were away at a carnival. You could have heard the celebrations from kilometres away!

We were given the choice of which two friends we wanted to work with. We all worked well together and took it in turns to add each ingredient into the bowl. By the time the last ingredient was added we were all pretty messy but very happy. Once the dough was shaped and put on a tray, Mrs Campbell helped us put the trays in the oven.

As a team we all helped to clean and put everything away, we were then left to wait patiently while the cookies baked – they smelt so good!

It was the longest 15 minutes ever but it was worth the long wait as the cookies tasted as good as they smelt.

Thank you to Mrs Campbell for our cooking surprise, you are the best.



Photo: Faith Hunter

Zack Tuxworth performs with the Connect Youth Band.



Photo: Carol Harris

Benjamin Taylor, Hayden Petera and Jacob Fagence proudly show the result of their cooking class.

Andrew receives WACA award

On Sunday 23 March Andrew Vallance was awarded the WACA Regional Volunteer of the Year Award for his services to Indigenous cricket development in Northam.

Andrew was unanimously voted for the award due to his eight years coordinating, coaching and administrating the Avon West Cricket Academy (AWCA) that has seen hundreds of junior cricketers go through the Northam Junior Cricket Association.

Andrew has been part of the Avon West Cricket Academy for the past eight years. This is a junior cricket program sponsored by the Western Australian Cricket Association's (WACA) Indigenous cricket program, and set up by Mark Davis, an Aboriginal Elder in Northam, and David Clear from the WACA. The program aims to encourage more Aboriginal children to play cricket, but is not only focused on Indigenous children.

WACA representatives Peter Silinger and Alan Singer, along with Joanne Lee from Northam Toyota presented the award during the Northam Cricket Association wind-up at the conclusion of the Grand Final fixtures.

Jermaine Davis and Bevan Bennell also spoke about Andrew's dedication over the years. He was presented with a shield, signed by the Australian cricket team, \$500 from Northam Toyota and tickets to a Scorcher's match with accommodation for Andrew and his wife Kerry.

"I've just finished with the program after this season," Andrew said.

"We have one grandchild and two more on the way, and I want to spend time with them."

Jermaine Davis will take over the key leadership role at the AWCA.

Over the last fourteen years Andrew has been involved in all levels of cricket from representing Northam in Senior Country Week, as well as several teams in the Northam Cricket Association competition.

A high school teacher and a trained pastor, Andrew was WACA Chaplain for nine seasons before moving to Northam.

"As well as the cricket program, Kerry and I have been running a youth group for Indigenous kids in town," Andrew said.

"We started about seven years ago, initially working with primary school kids. Now they're teenagers so we've run two groups – young kids and high schoolers until this year."

Groups from several churches including Bassendean Church of Christ, Chidlow Community Church, Eastern District Alliance Church in Beechboro, and the Christian Union groups at Perth's universities have been sending teams to help Andrew and Kerry.

"With agreement from local Indigenous leaders, we pick up the kids in our buses and meet at a local primary school. Each night we feed the kids as well as running a program," Andrew said.

"We couldn't have done it without the help of these groups."

Local police have been very supportive of the Friday activities and noticed a difference in levels of antisocial behaviour when the groups went into recess recently until July 2014.



Photo: Jill Birt

Andrew Vallance with the plaque he received honouring him as the WACA Regional Volunteer of the Year.

LEAVERS Green team

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for DUNSBOROUGH LEAVERS 2014

HAVE FUN! WHILE HELPING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTING LEAVERS IN WA

LEAVER'S ZONE: 24-27 NOVEMBER

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR: BAND & DJ TENTS, ENTRANCE/EXIT GATE, TRAFFIC, GREETING TEAM, PAMPER TENT, VOLUNTEER AREA, SITE OFFICE, LOUNGE TENT, CENTRAL AREAS, RIDES, TOILETS, FIRST AID & RESPONSE TEAM

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