

the advocate

In Conversation David Watson talks about helping people and organisations across the world adopt and develop disciple making principles. [PAGE 12 >>](#)

"Is your pursuit of success drawing you closer – or further from – the most important people in your life?" **JOHN MAXWELL** [PAGE 13>>](#)

Noel Vose – a tribute

Baptist Churches Western Australia

Noel Vose was outstanding as a Christian leader, not merely in his own generation, but within the first century of Baptist life in Western Australia. Although he was born in one of the most isolated cities in the world, at the height of his career his influence extended right around the globe. Noel passed away on 2 May at the age of 94, but will leave a legacy to Christians worldwide.

In spite of an unpromising start in life, with frequent changes of school, deafness in one ear, and colour blindness, he rose above his circumstances and the extreme conservatism of the Baptist denomination with which he came to identify. Without models readily at hand to follow, he managed to transcend Western Australia's isolation and embrace a grander vision. This was achieved in a balanced way, without developing extremes, by wise choices and the use of diplomacy.

Within his own state his gifting as a spiritual leader was recognised in his appointment as Founding Principal of the Baptist Theological College of Western Australia (today named Vose Seminary).

Former Vose Seminary Principal John Olley said that Christ's love and a vision of what His church is to be guided Noel throughout his involvement with what is now Vose Seminary.

"Theological education was to be of the highest excellence and never separated from a life of love and compassion for all, especially those who may feel 'less important'," John said.

"Students, staff, family members, tradespeople, volunteers – all experienced Noel's unassuming personal interest, encouragement and prayer."

Within Australia his spiritual leadership was recognised by his election as President of the Baptist Union of Australia (1975-1978).

Noel's spiritual leadership was also recognised on the world scene when he was appointed President of the Baptist World Alliance (1985-1990). Tragically, while Noel was undertaking his Presidential duties with his wife Heather, she died in the USA a few months before the end of his term.

While glad to be identified as a Baptist, Noel served the wider Christian community. In earlier days it was through the Crusader movement, the Evangelical Union, Teachers' Christian Fellowship and Evangelical Alliance. Later he served with World Vision and the Bible Society and from his first contact with the Baptist World Alliance in 1970, he continued to attend the annual meetings of its Executive and the five yearly Congresses. These later commitments extended well into his retirement years.

Noel received community recognition for his work when he was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 1989.

Noel was first and foremost a pastor-teacher, his pastoral vocation pervaded all the activities in which he engaged. It had a

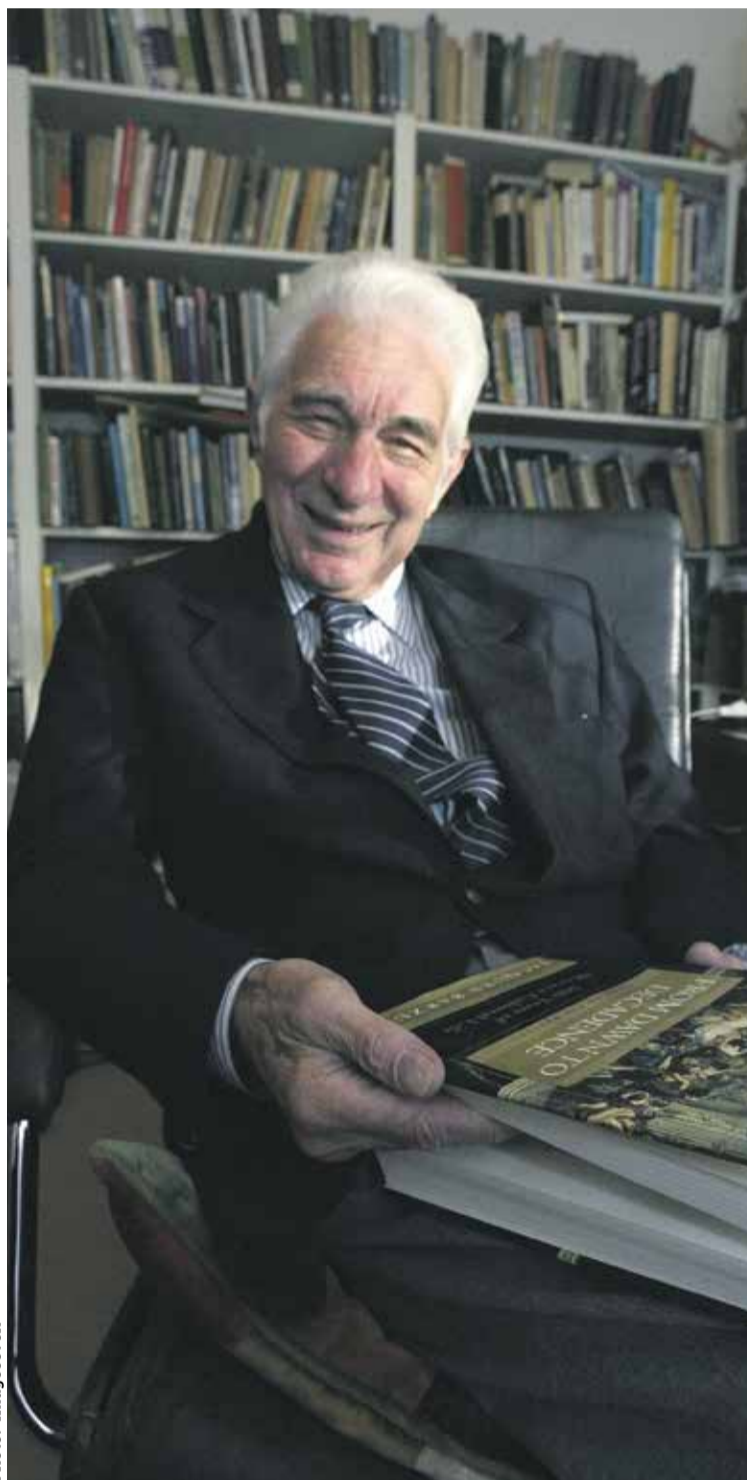


Photo: imageseven

Dr Noel Vose was a pastor to many, from pastors in Western Australia to those in the family of Baptist churches around the world.

strong evangelistic edge. On his retirement in 1991 he founded Parkerville Baptist Church, near his home, and practised hospitality for both evangelistic and pastoral purposes.

"He was a superb pastor ... Not many start church planting when they turn 70, but the church birthed from his efforts continues to have a thriving and relevant ministry," Vose Seminary Principal Dr Brian Harris said.

"He genuinely loved people. He was warmly outgoing, generous with his time, and he remembered things about

people, using his knowledge to help people to feel special – 'he remembered what I said all those years ago'."

"He took people under his wing, and nurtured them. He was graciously hospitable, and opened his home in the hills to many."

In the public sphere he was a superb communicator, able to capture and retain the attention of his audience or congregation, and always with something significant to say.

Noel is survived by his son Stephen and daughter, Valerie Sorensen, and their families.



3 Pastoral retreat

The largest gathering of WA Baptist pastors met to receive spiritual input [>>](#)



5 Music memories

Baptistcare reconnect people impacted by dementia using music [>>](#)



8 Multiply your impact

Baptist World Aid's Matching Grant Appeal extends donated gifts [>>](#)

“

We are stronger when we work together.

”

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Rob Furlong

Rob Furlong is the Pastoral Consultant for the Baptist Churches Western Australia.

Finding God in the wilderness

As I write this, God has led me into the wilderness again, so it is fitting that my thoughts turn to Psalm 63, written by David when he too, found himself in the wilderness.

David recalls moments when he has seen God's power and glory – God Himself – in the house of worship [Psalm 63: 2-5].

I wonder what it was he saw? And when have I seen evidence of God's power and glory in my life?

More importantly, David saw God in the sanctuary. I take this to mean that God Himself is the One we seek, a greater blessing by far than His acts of power and glory.

So right there in the wilderness, David chooses to praise and rejoice in God. His will be a life of constant praise and of giving glory to God with his words and songs. And the reason for all of this is a quite remarkable statement in verse three:

"Because your love is better than life ..."

To know the love of God in your life and the peace, comfort and security this brings is a

greater gift than life itself, even in the wilderness. For David, this is enough: "God Himself is enough for me and my soul is satisfied." [Psalm 63: 5]

The message for me is straightforward enough as I walk through this wilderness time. I will choose: to live a life of constant praise to my Father and to thank Him every day; to live my life for His glory; and to rest in the peace, comfort and security of God's love for me.

So here, in the wilderness, I find I am able to tell God how much I love Him, thanking Him for every good gift in my life and for teaching me again about humility and my need to depend utterly on Him.

In this my soul is satisfied – in and with God Himself.

He is enough ...



Dr Brian Harris

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

Getting the horse to jump ...

A lifetime ago I pastored a church in a wealthy South African suburb. One of our members had a palatial home with sweeping views of the ocean, but majestic though they were the thing I most remember about the home was its reception area.

Fit for royalty, its central feature was a near life-sized statue of a horse on its hind legs. It was so realistic that it looked as though it was going to leap across the room. Had it done so it would have shattered the chandeliers in its way. You felt as though you needed to cry out, "don't jump, don't jump". And of course it never did. After all, this was just a statue.

The picture has remained in my mind as a parable. A parable of promising much, but not actually doing anything. And I have often asked myself, "so what would it take to get the horse to jump?" I hear you say, "No matter how lifelike, statues don't jump. You are speculating about the impossible".

True, but don't impossible things happen?

Take the birth of the Church. Founded by a group of inadequate disciples (mostly fishermen, every time they caught fish the Bible describes it as a miracle), you would never have picked that their paltry efforts would change the world. But they did. During Jesus's ministry they rarely understood what He was on about, bickered constantly amongst themselves and turned away the

people Jesus actually wanted to see. They fell asleep in His hour of need, deserted Him at His trial, and were slow to grasp the significance of His resurrection. Could that horse ever jump? Clearly not ... Except it did. The world has never been the same.

Two thousand years later and it seems as though the horse has frozen back into a locked position. Few speak about the future of the church in Australia with glowing confidence. Can this horse jump? Please, it has been in retreat for decades. And we will keep saying that until one day God suddenly breathes the word 'jump' ...



Ben Good

Ben Good is a missionary working with Global Interaction in Mozambique with his wife Sam and children.

Taking the time

Cross-cultural mission and the modern western obsession with all things instant are not really all that compatible with each other. Trust me I know, I'm a product of Western society.

I don't like to wait, I want it now and that's why I have a credit card, a microwave, fibre-optic internet, same day delivery (I wish). Quick, instant, efficient, these things are an intrinsic part of who we are, ideals to aspire to.

Waiting, slowing down, taking our time are not things we do well. I have begun to discover this over the last term. Mail can take over four months to reach us. A grocery run can take a whole afternoon. Lining up at

the bank can take over three hours. On a more pertinent note learning to speak Ciyawo and Portuguese occupies most of our time. It is a rather depressing thought, especially when every fibre of our being is saying it should be done already.

The reality however is that things like learning a new language (or learning two) takes lots of time. Relationships, deep, meaningful, Jesus focused relationships take time to grow.

For instance, I consider Iassine, who helps me learn Portuguese, as a good friend but we still are only in the early days of trusting each other with the deeper more sacred parts of our lives.

This is the reality of life in cross-cultural mission and our Christian faith in general. Things don't often happen overnight. Languages aren't learnt, relationships aren't built, people don't come to faith, and faith communities aren't established

in days or months but in years and decades.

And to be honest, I don't think this comes as a surprise to God. God asks us to be faithful to Him, to endure, to persevere, to wait on Him. He doesn't say give up if it takes longer than you thought, or throw in the towel if it gets too hard. God is not bothered with instant results, God's in it for the long haul and He asks us to do the same.

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.

Your servants are listening

The largest All Together Baptist Pastoral Retreat for West Australian Baptists was held in April when over 220 pastors, chaplains, ministry workers and their spouses gathered at Mandurah Baptist College.

Just over nine months ago, the Retreat planning team prayerfully discussed what the theme and vision for the annual Baptist pastors' retreat would be. The team felt the Baptist denomination in Western Australia was at a critical stage in its culture where there was a true desire to hear from God and to experience the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowerment.

The team settled on the theme 'Speak': to hear, to listen, to ask God to speak to those at the retreat, to take them a step closer in their faith journey over the three days of the Retreat, as well as provide spiritual input and fellowship.

Rev. Dr Allan Demond from NewHope Church in Melbourne was the keynote speaker for the Retreat. He has pastored in his church for over 20 years and is renown amongst Baptists. As he spoke, Allan described his own church, from being known as an 'anti-charismatic' church to one that is open to hearing from God.

"It was a gentle, good humoured message over the three days and it would be easy to think with the laughter and warmth that nothing too provocative was being said. However, this was far from it," Inglewood Community Church Senior Pastor Mark Edwards said.

"What Allan proposed was a challenge for many and came from years of pastoral experience."

Liz Black who attends Riverton Baptist Community Church and is in training for cross-cultural work with Global Interaction said she particularly appreciated the last session of the Retreat.

Allan Demond spoke with confidence about allowing the

Holy Spirit to work in our lives and to continue to ask what these experiences are for."

"At the end of this session he invited people forward for prayer ... I knew God was telling me to go forward and receive prayer."

Mark said that a real strength of the Retreat is when churches send their entire pastoral team. Riverton Baptist Community Church had ten of its pastoral staff attend and made the most of spending a number of hours in prayer for each other.

Father and son Pastors Rob and Gavin Douglas shared their story of ministry as well as some of the highs and lows from their experiences. Rob is the Pastor at Maida Vale Baptist Church and Gavin pastors at Tom Price Baptist Church.

"It was a special moment of the Retreat and gave us a keen insight into pastoral ministry from the context of family and legacy and Quinns Baptist Church Pastor Andrew Hamilton described this moment as 'gold'", Mark said.

"There was a real sense that the journey of the Baptist denomination is something we have to offer to the wider church," Mark continued.

"If we can continue to grow in our experience of that which many of us have not yet experienced of God, how much stronger in Christ we will be."

The planning team acknowledge that the Retreat would not be possible without the support from their sponsors: Baptistcare, Baptist Financial Services, Baptist Insurance Services, Baptist World Aid Australia and Global Interaction.



Photo: Matt Chapman

Pastors Gavin and Rob Douglas sharing insights from their pastoral experiences as father and son with Pastor Mark Edwards.

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How Can Church Intentionally Interact With Your Local Community?

The Hybrid Church With Matt Hunt
A Hybrid Church is a church with a commercial enterprise that assists the church to interface with their community for mission and evangelism.

Inspire 2016

When: Tuesday, July 5th 2016

Time: 9.00am to 4.00pm

Venue: Yokine Baptist Church

Book Now:

<http://tinyurl.com/bcwainspire2016>



A hybrid approach

Philip Bryant

Queensland Baptist Pastor Matt Hunt first used the term 'Hybrid Church' – but he would be the first to say he did not invent this concept.

Matt defines a hybrid church as a "church that has a financially sustainable ministry to facilitate mission to the customers".

Hybrid churches have three distinctive elements. First, it is owned, managed and operated by a church. Second, it has an autonomous income stream. Third, the intention and practice is that the ministry reasons are more important than the financial ones.

Western Australian Baptists have many of these hybrid churches. They are the churches that operate schools, childcare centres and recreation centres. The earliest form was those who provided care for the aged. Most of these are now part of Baptistcare. Carey Baptist College has 1,300 students, most are from families that are not affiliated with a church. Lakeside Recreation Centre owned by Lakeside Baptist Church has 5,000 people pass through their doors each week. Most of these people are not influenced by a church.

Matt has a couple of reasons why he was attracted to the hybrid church model.

"Apart from being a member of a hybrid church at Ryde in Sydney before entering pastoral ministry, God uses hybrid churches to place the church closer to the heart of families and lives that ordinarily would have very little regular engagement with Jesus through a local church," he said.

Matt also said that there are joys of being part of a hybrid church.

"First, you get to see God at work in the lives of people outside the church."

"Recently I chatted with a couple about a shared event between our childcare centre and the church and about how they were just starting to seriously consider God in their life after 20 years of ignoring Him."

"Our discussion started with how Jesus impacts how they live their life as a married couple and with their kids, and then turned to their eternal future and 'going to heaven'."

"Secondly, it's been wonderful to see Christian

people from CrossLife Church see how their diverse gifts and experiences make, in their words 'a direct impact on the Kingdom'."

"These include expertise and experience in child care, marketing and property management – skills not usually linked to local church ministry."

As the speaker at Inspire WA 2016, Matt will share how being deliberate and intentional about following God's leadership is key to our sustainability. We need to consider the sustainability of our mission in 21st century Australia.

Inspire WA 2016 will be held at Yokine Baptist Church on 5 July. To register, visit www.baptistwa.asn.au/view/events



Photo: CrossLife Church

Pastor Matt Hunt will visit Perth to share what he has learned about 'Hybrid Churches' through his years of ministry, early July.

Keys for ministry longevity

Former Australian College of Ministries Principal Keith Farmer will be sharing at the 'Keys for Ministry Longevity' seminar for church leaders, 16 June.

Former Anglican Church Bishop Peter Brain, and Baptist Churches Western Australia Pastoral Consultant Pastor Rob Furlong will also be speaking at the seminar hosted by Compassion Australia at The Rocks Church, Cannington.

Rob states that it is estimated that there are thousands of ordained clergy in Australia who are no longer involved in pastoral ministry with 40 percent of that number not worshipping anywhere or using their ministry gift in a local church.

Over time, many pastors and others working in full-time ministry suffer from burnout,

mental breakdown or serious illness. Other causes, such as moral failings or loss of faith, see leaders leaving the ministry or even walking away from God.

"No one is inexhaustible. Even if you're doing things you love all the time, you still might run out of emotional energy," Keith said.

"One of the important skills in ministry is to know what it is that energises you and what drains you."

The seminar is a chance for pastors and their teams to benefit from many decades of ministry experience and learn practical ways to continue serving God and others long term.



Photo: Margaret Farmer

Former Australian College of Ministries Principal Keith Farmer has a passion for helping Christian leaders sustain ministry and service over the long term.

One of the stated aims for Baptist Churches Western Australia is that healthy pastors lead to healthy churches.

"We are encouraging as many of our leaders as possible to attend

this much needed seminar," Rob said.

To register, visit www.compassion.com.au/ministrylongevity

digital church

10/05/16
Kyle Idleman

cityonahillstudio.com/blog
The hardest part for most of us is asking for help. And that really is a problem because if you do it yourself, God's not doing it. Relying on me means I'm not relying on God.

11/05/16
Cindy Hess Kasper

odb.org
Some of us have made wrong choices in our lives, but our past words and deeds need not define our future in God's eyes. There is always a fresh start.

12/05/16
Rick Warren

rickwarren.org/devotional
Awesome families teach their kids that they're not the centre of the universe. They teach their kids that God made them and shaped them for a mission. They model dedication, service, generosity and prayer.

15/05/16
Craig Groeschel

twitter.com/craiggroeschel
Those who are struggling are not projects we help. They are people we love.

15/05/16
CS Lewis

twitter.com/CSLewisDaily
... If they are wrong they need your prayers all the more; and if they are your enemies, then you are under orders to pray for them.

16/05/16
Jamin Goggin

twitter.com/jamingoggin
What we need is hidden, personal, sacrificial, lovingly heroic stands against evil, not merely platform declarations opposing injustice.

17/05/16
Brian Croft

practicalshepherding.com/blog
A simple definition of pastoral theology is the application of biblical theology in a pastoral manner for the purpose of caring for God's people.

17/05/16
John Piper

desiringgod.org
Jesus promised to be with us to the end of the age in our mission to make disciples of all ethnic groups ... So the duration of the mission is as long as the duration of the promise – to the end of the age.

19/05/16
Don Carson

thegospelcoalition.org
The more a gap opens up between the culture of the church and the culture of the surrounding society, the more important it is to know how to bridge it.

19/05/16
Max Lucado

twitter.com/MaxLucado
We're prone to depend on God to save us but not sustain us. He does both.

Music reconnecting memories

● **Linda Lee**

Music has the power to connect people with who they are and with those around them.

Over the past year, Baptistcare, one of Western Australia's largest aged care and community services providers, has been implementing an innovative way to reconnect people impacted by dementia with their memories and the world around them.

Inspired by the music and memory program featured in the documentary *Alive Inside*, the Baptistcare Music Connection program uses music to help reconnect memories for its aged care residents. The initiative is part of Baptistcare's commitment as dementia care specialists to enable sufferers to have meaningful lives through the Dementia Enrichment Project. The initiative was a finalist in the 'Projects: Innovation and Best Practice Award' in the 2016 Aged and Community Services Western Australia (ACSWA) Excellence in Care Awards.

Listening to personalised music is changing the lives of residents living with dementia and their families at Baptistcare residential aged care facilities throughout Perth.

Music can tap into one of the last areas of the brain affected by the progression of dementia,

where a person's long-term memory is stored, with remarkable results seen.

"Each resident lights up when music they have an emotional connection to is played – their posture, movements and speech improving almost immediately," Baptistcare Gracewood Occupational Therapist Jodi Taylor said.

Ninety-six year old Gladys, who was a musician in her youth, loves listening to church hymns and 1940's music.

"Gladys is very receptive to the music, lots of smiling and foot tapping, and you could see real listening and concentrating as the song changed, her face was alive," Jodi said.

"When we took off the headphones I asked 'Would you like to listen some more?', her immediate response was 'Oh yes!'"

After listening to the music Gladys starts communicating and sharing memories about her childhood.

"I've been working in this area for over ten years and have never seen anything have such a powerful effect on residents' lives," Baptistcare Dementia Specialist Amanda Adams said.

Residents' families are approached by Baptistcare staff to ask if their loved one would like to participate in the program. Family members, staff and volunteers then spend time identifying a personalised playlist, carefully choosing a selection of songs from their

youth or music they were known to enjoy. Songs are downloaded onto donated iPods and residents can listen to their very own music collection on a regular basis.

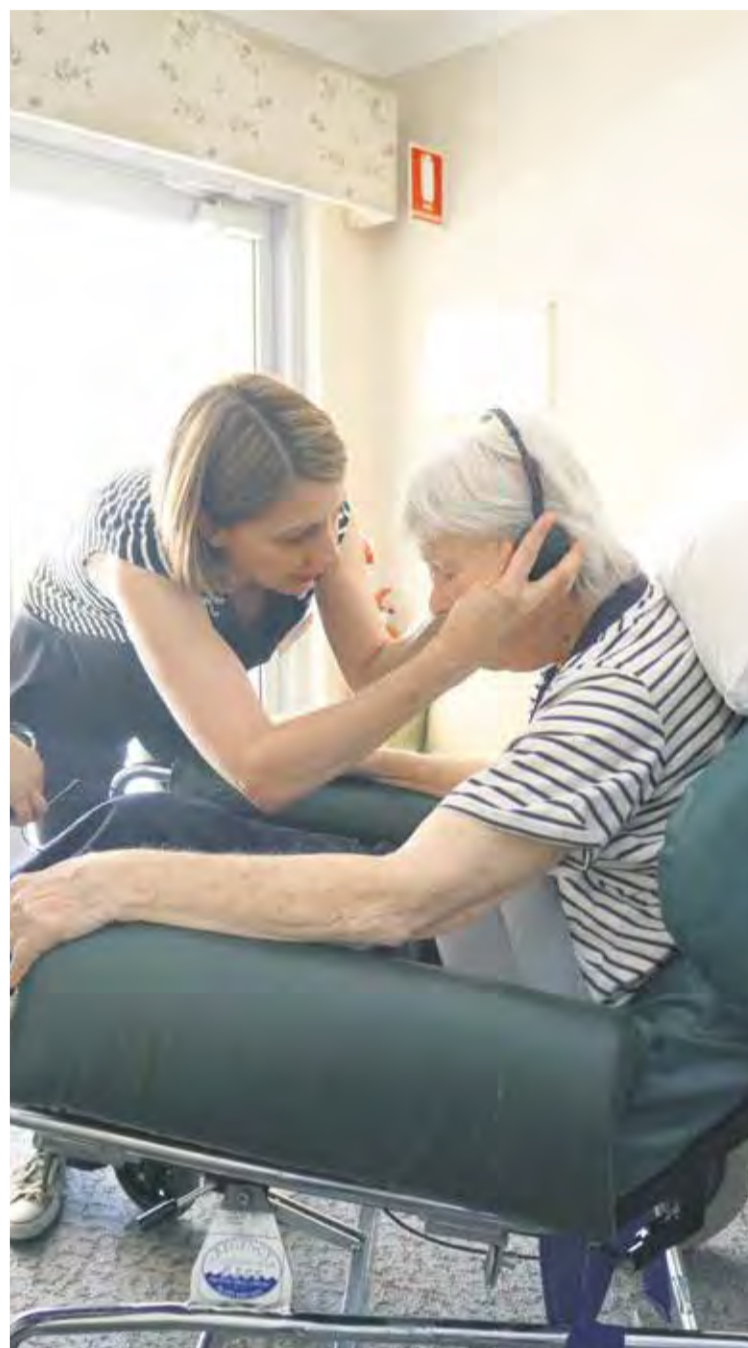
Community involvement has been invaluable to the Program's success, with volunteers, local school and university students helping to ensure each resident has their own playlist and someone to listen to music with.

Murdoch University's Student Emerging Leaders (MSEL) have been actively involved in getting the Program up and running through iPod donation drives, engaging student volunteers and undertaking research.

Similarly, Aquinas College, Helena College and St Stephen's School students are listening to music with residents and putting together a personalised playlist for each of them. Alzheimer's Australia WA also assists by helping Baptistcare collect much needed second-hand iPods.

With plans to introduce the Music Connection program to as many people living with dementia as possible at all 14 of its residential aged care facilities, Baptistcare hopes to source more volunteers and equipment, including iPods, iTunes gift cards and headphones, to enable this to become a reality across WA.

For more information, visit <http://bapt.co/music-connection>



Baptistcare Occupational Therapist Jodi Taylor provides a personal music playlist for aged care resident Else Spitzkat.

Photo: Baptistcare

WA politicians under Mandurah's spotlight

● **Catherine Eppen van der Aa**

Mandurah Baptist College played host to five Western Australian Government Cabinet Ministers in May when a student lead Q&A session was held.

The Ministers were in Mandurah for a regional WA Parliament meeting and time was allocated to visit a local school and the College was selected to host the event. Ministers in attendance included Liza Harvey, Deputy Premier, Minister for Police, Training and Workforce Development, Road Safety, Women's Interests; Michael Mischin, Attorney General, Minister for Commerce; Donna Faragher, Minister for Planning, Disability Services; Joe Francis, Minister for Emergency Services, Corrective Services, Veterans, Fisheries; and Colin Holt, Minister for Racing and Gaming, Housing.

The Q&A session gave Year 11 and 12 Politics and Law students, Year 12 Economic students and Year 10 Specialist Humanities

students an insight into the role of a Member of Parliament.

The event commenced with a tour of the College led by the Head Boy and Head Girl, and Deputy Leaders, concluding at the theatre foyer for the session to begin.

Teaching staff present commented that the students asked very thought-provoking and appropriate questions with a clear focus on the role each Minister conducts in the governing of Western Australia. Students posed questions on a range of topics, including the effectiveness of committees at the Legislative Assembly, the impact of the vertical fiscal imbalance present in today's economy, improving disability services for young children and adolescents, the



Minister for Planning, Disability Services Donna Faragher and Deputy Premier Liza Harvey gave their opinions in response to a broad selection of questions by Mandurah Baptist College students.

Photo: Lisa van Til

gender pay gap crisis, and how the 2014 Disability Services Act amendment affects the State's ability to provide services.

Deputy Head Boy Brodie Patroni said the Ministers

provided a valuable insight into what it takes to be a successful leader in modern society.

"We appreciate opportunities like these because they give us the

chance to see firsthand what politicians experience in their day-to-day lives and the important decisions that they have to make every day for our community."

Unsung heroes of Baptist camps



Campers and leaders celebrating another successful Baptist Churches Western Australia camp.

Photo: Brooke Sheehan

Baptist camps in Western Australia have been an annual highlight for children and youth since the late 1950s. A legacy of unity, fun and young people encountering God's love has driven a faithful group of leaders to carry the flame of this important ministry. At Baptist Churches Western Australia, these people are known as 'camp heroes'.

David and Rachel Friend have been directing Winter Juniors camp for eight years. Prior to the director's role they were both camp dorm leaders.

"It's a fun week! And knowing we are part of sowing God's love into young lives and seeing leaders develop in their confidence and abilities makes it really worthwhile," David said.

David shared that one of their best memories was seeing over 140 campers and leaders praising God in the worship sessions.

Jamin and Jodi Booth have been directing Winter Inters camp for eight seasons as well.

"Sharing God's Word with the youth of today and watching the campers grow in life and in Christ is a blessing we thank God for," Jamin said.

"We have formed some amazing lifelong friendships along the way, like with our current camp parents Marty and Catherine York."

"Marty was one of our campers when he was 14 years old and has grown-up to work with youth and have a passion to share God's Word with the next generation."

"We couldn't continue to lead these camps without them and the other committed leaders who volunteer their time every year and keep coming back to make these camps so amazing."

Brooke Sheehan has been a leader at Baptist camps for

five years and directing camps for two years. While working at Lakeside Baptist Church and studying a Bachelor of Ministry at Vose Seminary, Brooke has continually invested her time and passion voluntarily to make sure that camps are a success.

"Baptist camps have provided me with spiritual and social foundations to dedicate my life to following Jesus," Brooke said.

"Having the opportunity to provide these foundations to the next generation of campers while having an absolute blast is an eternally rewarding privilege."

Brooke said her best camp experience was Summer Inters camp 2009 as it was life-changing for most campers.

"An outdoor worship service saw God really bestow His presence on the night and we spent hours praying and worshipping together. The role of Director was great fun."

Baptist Churches Western Australia Youth and Young Adults Consultant Ed Devine said that camp leaders are to be celebrated.

"Camp leaders faithfully invest their time and energy into making camps the awesome experience they are."

"We call them our 'Camp Heroes', and thank God for their passion and service to Baptist campers in Western Australia," he said.

Fashion in vogue at Alkimos



Averil Willoughby, Ashley Petera and Tiana Arrigoni learning the basics of sewing in preparation for the 2017 Fashion and Design Academy.

Photo: Nina Bergmann

Alkimos Baptist College is working hard to provide a point of difference in education for the community in the northern suburbs of Perth.

In 2016 the College introduced a Robotics Engineering Program, a specialist course designed to delve deep into the world of robotics and engineering.

The College will branch out into another specialist area in 2017 with the creation of a Fashion and Design Academy.

The Fashion and Design Academy will teach young students how to plan, design,

create and ultimately sell clothes to a wide market of people.

One of the main focuses of the program is teaching students the importance of having an ethical and modest approach to fashion.

The students will spend time looking at how the fashion industry has been used to create social injustices at the expense of making money. Students will also be taught that elegance

and sophistication is more important than shock and gore.

"We hope to show our students that the fashion industry can be an exciting place to work, full of events and creativity yet can also be used as an avenue to teach students the importance of honouring God in all aspects of life," Alkimos Baptist College Principal Kieran Graham said.

The Fashion and Design Academy opens in 2017 and will be available to all Year 7 students.

For more information, phone the College on 9406 8189.

World's largest church survey

The 2016 National Church Life Survey will take place in October, continuing the largest longitudinal survey of local church life in the world and the largest research project undertaken in Australia outside of the national census.

Conducted by National Church Life Survey (NCLS) Research, in partnership with more than 20 Christian denominations across Australia, it is expected that the 2016 NCLS will, once again, involve hundreds of thousands of church attenders and leaders.

"When we started 25 years ago, we never contemplated a sixth wave of the NCLS would happen," NCLS Research Director Dr Ruth Powell said.

"To now have 25 years of accumulated learning about Australian local churches is quite astounding."

"It is a tremendous testimony to the collaboration of so many church leaders over such a period."

What began as a small research project in 1991, asking 'who goes to church', the survey has grown into a research organisation of international renown.

The 2016 NCLS will produce a snapshot of the role of faith in the lives of individuals, the place of local churches in their communities, and of local and denominational church vitality. Responding to changing needs, the 2016 NCLS will be adaptive and innovative in its approach.

Nationwide results will map church activities and appraise effective leadership practices, providing a national perspective of the presence and impact of local faith communities. The NCLS will also capture the individual congregation, its hopes and its journey. Practical life-giving processes are offered to help each church identify their

strengths and get the most out of their survey results.

"Our mission in 2016 remains: to help identify signs of hope in churches and its leadership, providing a credible research base to build vitality and connect churches and communities," Dr Powell explained.

"Our goal is still to listen to the great diversity of Australian churchgoers, leaders and communities and to learn from them."

Narara Valley Baptist Church Pastor Craig Corkhill stated that for some time now their church has been surveyed every year.

"It provides invaluable insights as to whether the strategies we've adopted have been effective or not," Craig said.

"The mission of the local church is too important to leave to 'hunches' and 'guesses' about effectiveness."

For more information on how churches can participate in the 2016 NCLS, please contact Pastor Philip Bryant at Baptist Churches Western Australia.



Photo: NCLS Research 2016

Church goers across Australia will be answering questions about their local church in October.

Quick Facts about Baptist Churches Western Australia (For the year ending 30 June 2015)

Church attendance	12,404
Baptist churches and congregations	117
Baptist community, including schools, Baptistcare and church community ministries	34,000+ (est)
Baptisms	283
Current Baptist pastors	188
Multicultural and Indigenous churches	24

Church goes beyond borders



Photo: Peter Smit

A typical street in Cebu city where MountyChurch are partnering with IJM.

Encouraging church members to visit partner mission groups is a key goal for MountyChurch in Mount Hawthorn.

As part of this initiative MountyChurch Connecting Pastor Suzanne Mitchelson had the opportunity to visit International Justice Mission in Cebu, Philippines, in March.

Since 2014 the Church has partnered with International Justice Mission (IJM) through its Christmas Gift, which is an

annual financial gift from the congregation aiding different mission organisations. This is in keeping with the church's desire to bring both physical and spiritual restoration of Jesus to people.

IJM's mission is to "protect people from violent forces of injustice by securing rescue and restoration for victims and ensuring public justice systems work for the poor". However, IJM's \$48,320 Christmas Gift component for 2015 was specifically allocated for targeting the crime of online sexual exploitation of children.

Suzanne joined 12 others from around Australia,

including IJM staff, lawyers, pastors and church members, for her visit to Cebu.

"It was a fabulous opportunity to meet with the Cebu office staff and see the powerful work of justice firsthand," Suzanne said.

The timetable included visits to partner organisations and churches as well as a shelter where clients are restored from trauma and abuse.

"It was very humbling to meet with young women who thanked us for our involvement in their restoration," Suzanne said.

"I'm so very appreciative of being able to see God at work through these lives."

local briefs

Quinns baptisms

On 1 May, the Quinns Baptist Church community gathered after church at Quinns Beach to witness and celebrate the baptisms of two of its members, Vanessa Anderson and Luciana Aldersea. After sharing their confession of faith, they entered the water and were baptised.

Chaplain for the Pilbara

Elaine Wilson from Karratha Baptist Church has been appointed to a support chaplaincy role with YouthCARE, working with five schools in the Pilbara region.

New baby welcomed

Global Interaction missionaries, Ben and Samantha Good have welcomed their new baby Finlay James into the world on 8 May (Mother's Day) while on home assignment in Western Australia. Finlay is their third child, joining daughters, Elizabeth and Anna.

Parkerville building opening

Parkerville Baptist Church officially opened their church extension at a service on Sunday 1 May. The extension includes three multipurpose rooms, a check-in area, crèche and second kitchen. The auditorium has also been extended, much needed storerooms created and the main kitchen doubled in size. Baptist Churches Western Australia Director of Ministries Pastor Mark Wilson dedicated the building to the Lord. Special guests also included local ministers and Shire councillors, former Pastor of Children and Mission Jill Birt and Baptist Churches Western Australia Church Bookkeeper Jey Jeybalan. The extension has increased the church's service capacity, enabled children's ministry to operate in the one building, Parky Craft to meet together with natural light, much needed storage space for Toddler Jam and a variety of different spaces for youth group. Building Project Manager Garry McGrechan was thanked for his commitment to the project.

MULTIPLY YO

John Hickey

"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness ..." [Isaiah 58:10a]

Australian aid has achieved some remarkable things.

In 2014 alone, Australian aid provided more than 2.3 million children with vaccinations, gave 2.9 million people access to clean drinking water, and paved the way for 1.3 million more children to go to school.

Such are the accomplishments of our country's overseas aid contributions.

Baptist World Aid Australia is part of an important partnership that provides these kinds of lifesaving initiatives and enables the transformation of communities living in poverty.

The partnership exists between Baptist World Aid, generous supporters and the Australian Government.

It is the financial support of Baptist World Aid's committed supporter base that makes the organisation eligible to receive Australian Government funding for the work carried out. That is why so much emphasis is placed on the Matching Grant Appeal each year.

Through the Matching Grant Appeal, Australians' gifts are matched with an Australian Government aid grant and are used to fund important projects within some of the world's poorest communities.

By matching gifts with the Australian Government aid grant it can have up to six times the impact. But, most importantly, the two together provide far greater capacity to honour God's call to be love to the poor.

The purpose of aid and charitable giving is often thought of in terms of meeting the most basic physical needs of the poor. But there is so much more to God's call to be love than provision alone.

Matthew 5:14-15 says Christians are the light of the world and encouraged to let our love for others shine so that it might glorify God.

Baptist World Australia believes that through the simple act of being love, our light will rise as a beacon in the darkness of the world and be a testament of God's love for all of those who see it.

What a reason to be love to the poor!

The Matching Grant Appeal multiplies the impact of 17 Baptist World Aid projects across six different countries. The important work being carried out by these 17 projects is only achievable on the current scale because of the partnership between supporters and the Australian Government.

In a time where Australia's overseas aid budget has been in steady decline, Baptist World Aid is blessed to be a continuing part of the Australian Government's aid response to poverty.

At the beginning of this article, I reflected on some of the differences that were made by Australian aid in one year: improved access to water, and investments in health and education – benefits for millions of people. Astonishingly,

this was all achieved by an aid grant program which accounted for less than one per cent of the Australian Federal Budget.

It is truly amazing to witness the life-changing impact that Australian aid can have on the world's poorest communities. That is why it is vital that, as a nation, we continue to invest in aid. And why we, who are called to shine love, should actively do the same.

John Hickey is the CEO of Baptist World Aid Australia.



The Matching Grant Appeal multiplies impact for mums like Julia.

OUR IMPACT

Samara Linehan

Julia's Joy

When I think of Julia, I remember her joy.

The first time I met her she laughed at me as I introduced myself. Julia speaks excellent English herself, but my Aussie twang (and speed of speech) made me far too difficult for her to understand. My indecipherable introduction had her in stitches!

Julia is a mum who lives in Kenya. Just five years ago she and her husband Simon were struggling to make ends meet.

Simon was living and working as a security guard in a town called Thika, more than 100 kilometres away from their family home. But his wage was very small. And not enough to support a family of six.

All too often Julia was faced with a choice. Would it be food to stop her family's hunger or school fees to secure her children's future? But there was only ever one real answer ... they needed to eat to survive.

And then Baptist World Aid Australia's Christian partner, Anglican Development Services (ADS) Eastern, began working with Julia's community. An Australian Government grant plus gifts to our Matching Grant Appeal support the project.

In the four years that Julia has been involved, she has worked hard to change her family's situation. She formed a village savings and loans group with other women in her community and, together, they started to save.

Simon is still working as a security guard but his wage is no longer the family's primary source of income. With Julia's care, their small farm is flourishing.

"You know, we used to harvest, let's say two sacks of maize," she said.

"But now we can harvest even up to ten. It's a big difference."

It certainly is a big difference. Especially when you consider that there are 90 kilograms of maize to each sack.

It was special farmers' training that Julia took through Baptist World Aid's Christian partner, which taught her how to get the most out of her crops. Before her training, Julia would simply scatter seed and wait for crops to grow. But the partner taught her to plant her seeds differently – carefully spaced and in rows.

Because she was planting less seeds than ever before, Julia was afraid that her harvest would also be low. Imagine her joy when she first realised that her new knowledge had not only saved seeds, but also multiplied the yield of her crop.

Julia also learned helpful techniques for breeding her livestock.

"Our local goats are very small in size, [with] little milk," she explained.

So, with a loan from her group's savings scheme Julia bought a bigger, hardier breed of goat to breed with her own stock. And with this simple technique Julia was able to multiply the amount of milk that her goats were producing.

"All of those achievements ... we have achieved through [the knowledge learned from] ADS," Julia said.

Because of these achievements, and the income they have generated, Julia now has enough money to feed her family and keep her kids in school.

"My prayer to God is to lead my family; to be a role model to the community."

"I pray to God to give my husband and me power, strength and capacity to bring up our children in a life different from our youth."

When I remember Julia, I think, "What an amazing answer to prayer."

Jennifer's life-changing experience

What I find most encouraging about Julia's story is not her increased crop yield or even the amazing change she has worked to bring about in her life.

What inspires me most of all is the way her knowledge and learning has positively impacted, not only her nearest family members, but everyone who comes into contact with her.

I met Julia's sister-in-law, Jennifer, the second time I met Julia.

I was sitting in a plastic chair outside Julia's house listening, entranced, to her story when Jennifer arrived.

Jennifer is older than Julia and, as it turns out, a member of the same village savings and loans group.

Jennifer joined the group because she saw the positive impact it was having in Julia's life.

"I joined when I saw the benefits Julia was getting, like being able to pay school fees ... and being taught good farming methods," she said.

And it wasn't long before Jennifer began to experience these benefits in her own life.

"Now if I don't go to a group [meeting] I feel I'm missing something," she explained.

"Because when people go there, they learn many more things."

Since joining the group Jennifer has learnt about goat and poultry raising as well soil and water conservation.

And she has been able to borrow from the group's collective savings to buy a goat.

"With a bigger loan you can do that," she said, smiling.

"I need to [save] with other people so we can [afford] more together."

The changes in Jennifer's life have been of her own making, but they have been inspired by her sister-in-law's experience.

In the same way, Julia is now encouraging others from outside her community to join a village savings and loans group.

"In other places [where ADS Eastern is not working] you can see they have no knowledge on whether they can come together and form something; that they can do anything together," Jennifer said.

"I tell them, '2010 we started a group. After two years we achieved this, after three years we achieved this,' and motivate them that when they come together, they can do even better than us."

And that is how Julia is helping to multiply impact.



Photo: Baptist World Aid Australia

Jennifer's life has been changed through the inspiration of Julia's (right) experience.

Love women like Julia and Jennifer through Baptist World Aid Australia's Matching Grant Appeal. Your gift plus an Australian Government Aid Grant will multiply livelihoods and have up to six times the impact. For more information, visit baptistworldaid.org.au/matchinggrant

Beecks back to Mozambique

▲ Jill Birt

Cam and Kath Beeck and their children recently returned to Mozambique after several months in Australia on home assignment. They work with a team from Global Interaction among the Yao people.

"Returning to Mozambique has been easier than we thought it would be," Kath said.

"All our paperwork, visa and residency permits came through smoothly. Luggage and freight arrived without a hitch."

The Beecks have moved to a new village, Daima, 90 kilometres south of the provincial capital Lichinga where they had lived during their first three years in Mozambique. There are more opportunities for visitors to drop-in, as the village is on the main road from Lichinga to the Malawi border.

They have a new house that was completed just before they arrived, thanks to generous volunteer workers from Australia and a team of local contractors.

"We're spending quite a bit of time out and about, meeting people and finding where and how things are done in the village," Kath said.

Cam has a clear sense of God 'growing' him in some new ways.

"I sense God is teaching me to expand my ideas about the way in which God moves and in order to see these movements taking place, I need to put myself 'out there' and go into those awkward, unknown and sometimes intimidating situations, knowing God is already there and he is my strength," Cam said.

The Beeck children, Jack, Tilly and Sydney have transitioned well to their new home and community. Volunteer teacher, Stephanie Coulson from Riverton Baptist Community Church, guides their formal learning with structured lessons during the mornings. The afternoons provide time to explore the mountain behind their home.

Jack visits the local soccer field most afternoons and is establishing himself within the group of boys who play regularly. The fact that he has a real soccer ball has helped him be included.

Tilly's bricklaying skills are developing as she helps a local builder lay the bricks for a new

gazebo in the front yard, while the Beeck's youngest child, Sydney enjoys visiting people.

There are plenty of things for the family still to adjust to, such as how to make do when they run out of food items because they didn't buy enough supplies on their last visit to Lichinga.

"We're very aware of the prayer support of our team in Australia. We really need that," Kath said.

"One thing people can pray for is that we will make time to be still and listen to God rather than get too busy with doing things."



Cam, Kath, Jack, Matilda and Sydney Beeck recently met the chief of their village, Che Daima,

Photo: Stephanie Coulson

international briefs

Syrians want to stay

World Watch Monitor reports a Syrian Melkite Catholic Archbishop serving in the 8,000 year old city of Aleppo has urged the West to refrain from taking in any more refugees and instead put more effort into finding a solution to the devastating conflict. "We will reconstruct our country ... We want it to be our country and stay in this country where Christianity was born, and give testimony of the possibility to live together, as men believing in God and respectful of one another," he said. Since 2011, the Christian population in Syria has reduced from 1.5 million to 500,000 today.

Ecuador earthquake

Christian Aid Mission (CAM) reports at least 654 people died and more than 12,492 were injured when a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck coastal Ecuador on 16 April. A CAM indigenous ministry rapidly provided food, clothing, clean water and other relief aid to survivors in Pedernales, one of the worst hit towns. Christians

near Anchanyacu Muisson of Ecuador, in Esmeralda, are sharing goods for initial aid, but need help to purchase relief items needed over the coming months.

Refugees targeted

Open Doors, a Christian charity, reports Christian refugees in Germany are facing religiously motivated abuse and violent attacks from Muslim refugees and security officials. Of 231 refugees interviewed between February and April 2016, 204 said they had experienced "religiously motivated persecution", whether through verbal insults, sexual or physical assault, or death threats. Of those interviewed, 69 percent were Iranians, while 13 percent came from Afghanistan and 5 percent from Syria. Eighty-six percent were former Muslims who had converted to Christianity, most of them in their home country. Christian refugees and other religious minorities appear to be increasingly experiencing the same kind of persecution and discrimination as in their home countries.

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Christians flee Eritrea

Christians have been fleeing the East African nation of Eritrea for 13 years since a dictator came to rule.

Estimates say one in twelve Eritreans have fled. Many of these are Christians. The nation has jailed hundreds of Christians because of their faith. All evangelical and independent churches have been closed.

While thousands escape via perilous boat trips to Italy, many more flee to makeshift refugee camps made of canvas and corrugated tin in Sudan and Ethiopia.

Andrew Boyd reporting for Release International recently visited a refugee camp in Ethiopia and talked with some Eritrean followers of Jesus.

Dawit was tortured and imprisoned because of his faith in Jesus.

"I was in prison, first for one month, then I was sent to a labour camp, where I had to work without payment. I was also detained for two weeks, when I was tortured," Dawit said.

Each night he had to sleep on the floor with his legs doubled up behind his back and lashed to his wrists.

"They called it the Number 8. I still have back pain," he said.

Dr Berhane Asmelash, also a refugee and a former victim of torture, compares Eritrea to North Korea.

"Eritrea is a giant prison. The country is filled with jails, concentration camps and prisons," he said.

Temesgen and Amleset are also part of the community in the Ethiopian refugee camp.

With help from Release International, Temesgen has opened a small photography studio in the camp.

"This shop has really helped us to support the family. I take still pictures, edit them and

send them to a local town to be printed," Temesgen said.

The camp is a relatively safe place for Temesgen and his family.

"The refugee camp may seem like a wilderness but we feel God's presence and we are together," he said.

For Amleset the hope of finding a safe place to live is paramount.

"It was not my choice to leave Eritrea. We were forced to leave."

"Life here is tough, especially in looking after my daughter. We want to find a home in another country," Amleset said.

While the family waits, they remember their homeland where it is estimated that 300 Christians are currently imprisoned.

Another refugee, Deborah, asked people to pray for the Eritrean Christians.

"Pray for the church [here] to be strong in faith, not to be in fear but to keep on declaring the Kingdom of God and sharing the gospel with others," Deborah said.

"Pray for justice to come to Eritrea."

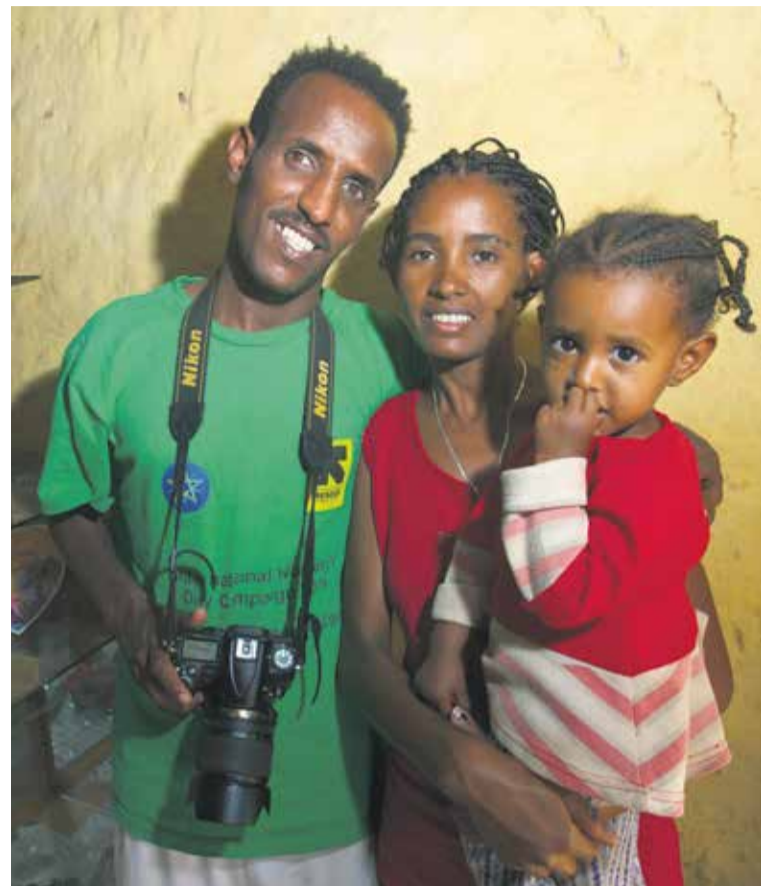


Photo: Release International

Release International helped Eritrean refugee Temesgen start a small business as a photographer working in northern Ugandan refugee camps to support himself and his family.

Radio helps build peace in Eastern Kenya

Since the 19th century, eastern Kenya's Tana River County has often been the scene of violent conflict between different tribal groups.

Disputes over land and access to water are intensifying. Often they are fuelled by the easy access to weapons flooding across the nearby Somalia border, growing poverty and the pressure caused by poorly managed resources. On top of

this, with elections looming next year Kenya's electoral commission has warned that there has been a rise in ethnically charged 'hate speech' which threatens instability and Tana River County is at risk of descending into violent conflict.

There is now a new voice in town in the shape of a community radio station, promoting peace and community cohesion. With the help of equipment and training from Western Australian based charity Health Communication Resources (HCR), Tana FM Radio is now on the air broadcasting from the capital Holo.

HCR is working with local and international partners to build local capacity and extend the reach of the station. The

aim is to ensure that coverage gets to the areas at greatest risk, often where rumours and misinformation fuel tensions.

Tana FM Radio CEO Shedrack Hiribae, believes this 'new voice in town' will fill a gap in getting reliable and objective information to the community as well as being a voice for the community.

"Tana FM will not only promote peace, it will help development and be a force for positive social change," he said.

HCR Director of Development Dr Ross James, who attends Woodvale Baptist Church in Perth, said HCR enables vulnerable, marginalised and poor communities to use media to tackle poverty, injustice and promote spiritual transformation in order to achieve their God-given potential.

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Jer 29:11



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David Watson – disciple maker

David Watson is an equipper of people and organisations in disciple making. He is based in the USA.

Tell us a little about your background.

My father was a Jehovah's Witness but my Mum sent us kids to the local Baptist Sunday School. My Father died when I was eight years old. I studied Chemical Engineering then went to seminary in 1973 to confirm what I believed. I pastored five churches. Finally, our family headed overseas to work as missionaries with the Chinese people of Malaysia. Initially we were in Hong Kong learning Cantonese and learning about Chinese culture, before moving to Malaysia. We were there from 1986 to 1989 when the government expelled us.

How did you move from church planting into disciple making movements?

In 1988 key global church leaders were asking what it looks like for us to obey the Great Commission, regardless of location and government. We were the first ones in the group we were working with at the time to move to India. I started learning language and culture. I also started recruiting young men to join me in the field and within 18 months, six of them had lost their lives. We got expelled from India in 1991, because of the Gulf War.

After leaving India I was at a pretty low point in my life. We relocated to Singapore and I spent six months arguing with God. It was obvious to me I was not the right person to do pioneering work – I had just got six people killed. What had been successful in other places did not work. God just kept saying to me, 'you have a lot to learn, keep going. You can make a difference'.

So I decided for a year to read nothing but the Bible – no TV, no movies, magazines or books, just reading the Bible over and over again; and a picture began to emerge for me between the Old and New Testaments. Out of that, I began to get a rough idea of what would work, regardless of the community. We went back to India and started to try things. We'd tweak it, we'd change it, whatever it needed to get it to work. Part of this is understanding what a paradigm shift is all about.

Tell us more about paradigm shifts.

The reason for a paradigm shift is because we don't know how to do something that needs to be done. We have all these things we know how to do but

something pops up, and we don't know what to do to make it right. There's nothing that works [in this situation], so now we have to get creative, we have to act differently, we have to talk differently, because all the stuff we've done before isn't working. And so that's how we started asking different questions like instead of asking, "What can I do?" we started asking, "What will it take?"

That's a huge difference from asking what can you do to help us reach a certain people group or city to changing that to asking what will it take to reach them regardless of me, and what is my role in that. It wasn't long and we were seeing success in places we'd never seen success before. We use a simple process of learning from the scripture by asking what you understand scripture to be saying, and if this is what scripture is saying, what are you going to do about it, how are you going to obey it? That was a transformational process. And then we started seeing churches emerge.

What were these churches like?

We started to think about what church should look like. What should a 'proto-church' look like? What we realised was the basic DNA of church needed to be in the groups that we started even though they were still lost. They needed to be thankful. They needed to express challenges, needs and fears, and have those things met. They needed to be able to share the gospel in a way that was meaningful to their community. They needed to be accountable for all the things just mentioned and then they needed to do something ministry-wise, inside and outside that group of people. These things led to our basic Discovery Group processes that we were establishing proto-church with lost people but as they obey it becomes church. That process started to sky rocket. We literally went from a handful of churches to 40,000 churches in five years. In the next five years it went from 40,000 to 80,000 churches. These were audits by people who came in from outside.

That was in India – how did this disciple making method transfer to other places?

I took it to South-East Asia, to South America and Central America. I coached people and stayed right out of it. And they were able to get things started. Then we went to Africa in 2003. People said it wouldn't



Photo: Jill Birt

David Watson has helped people across the world adopt and develop disciple making principles.

work in Africa. Right now we have over 40,000 churches, almost completely among Muslim people groups. Now there are movements among Arabic speaking groups in the Middle East. We're also working in the USA and South Africa. I think we'll see it working in Australia also.

So what is your focus now?

Now I have a global ministry. My primary responsibility is to help agencies adopt and develop disciple making principles into their organisation, to let that become a primary part of their DNA. In the last 15 years we have started movements in 69 countries among 72 different people groups.

How do you see this working in Australia? What has to change in the established church to make this happen?

I think changes can happen in the established church but

they really need to change their perspective to see that every established church is an outpost. In that outpost you have your soldiers, equipment, food, logistical support and training. The purpose of the outpost is to project the Kingdom into places where it is not. It's not how many are in the outpost but how much the outpost is impacting and bringing change. Is the church moving into areas that have no voice for Christ? Buildings are not a bad thing unless you build them too soon. If you do that they can be a burden. Until it's time, use all the resources God has put into the hands of the people – houses, shops. Why did he give you that property? Why are you successful at business? So that it can be used for Kingdom work.

There has to be some paradigm shifts to set things moving and the whole process may take longer than in areas of

the world where 'community' is still a strong cultural value and experience. We have to change from winning people one by one to the Kingdom. That's good but it's not great. I believe that is a lie from Satan. We're never going to reach the world that way. We need to think in terms of family groups and networks. Then we'll see multiplication not simply addition.

What books can you suggest for our readers to learn more about disciple making movements?

Look for *Miraculous Movements* by Jerry Trousdale. *The Father Glorified* [Patrick Robertson and David Watson] drills down further into what Trousdale writes about. Then there's *Contagious Disciple Making* [David Watson and Paul Watson] which outlines the philosophy behind disciple making movements and is very practical in how to do it.

How do you define success?

John C Maxwell

In 1986, when I was 39 years old, I began to notice a terrible trend among my colleagues, college buddies and friends: divorce.

This was happening in a variety of marriages – from the shaky to the apparently strong. Margaret and I didn't think our relationship was in any kind of danger, but then again, we knew that many of our friends had thought their relationships were indestructible too. At the same time, my career was really taking off. And while I was enjoying the new challenges, I knew that I didn't want to lose my family in the process. That prompted me to make one of my key life decisions: rewriting my definition of success. Instead of acclaim or advancement or achievement, I decided that for me, success means having those closest to me love and respect me the most.

This made success for me possible only if I included my wife and children in the journey. From that moment on, my success depended on putting my family first. If you want to truly succeed in this life, you need to ask yourself a question: Is your pursuit of success drawing you closer to – or farther from – the most important people in your life? If you want to redefine success the way I did, here are some ways to put your decision into practice:

Determine your priorities

How much of your calendar is devoted to your family and/or close friends? On your budget and to-do list, where do you write in your loved ones? No relationship can survive for long on leftovers. Early in my career, I focused so much on work that I neglected Margaret. After I realised this, I changed. I carved out time for her. I protected my day off. And we dedicated money in our budget to facilitate special times together. It's been said that a lot can be learned about what a person values by examining two things: their calendar and their bank statement. They show where people spend their time and money. What do those things say about what you value?

Decide on your philosophy

Once your loved ones are a priority, you have to decide together what you want your family to stand for. What values will you live out? For us, the bottom line was to cultivate and maintain:

- commitment to God
- continual growth
- common experiences
- confidence in God, ourselves and others
- contributions to life.

This was my family's list. I'm not suggesting that you adopt our philosophy. But I encourage you to take time together to list your non-negotiables. Keep the list short so that you can remember and apply it.

Develop your problem-solving strategy

I think a lot of people go into marriage expecting it to be easy. Maybe they've seen too many movies. Marriage isn't easy. Family isn't easy. Close friendships aren't easy. The best plan is to expect problems, stay committed, and develop a strategy for getting through the rough times. Talk to your loved ones about how you could improve your problem-solving together. (Note: Do this during a calm time, not in the middle of a conflict!) Many problem-solving strategies exist, from family meetings to fair fighting rules. Use the ones that work for you. Just be sure that they foster and promote three things:

- 1) Better understanding,
- 2) Positive change, and
- 3) Growing relationships.

Deciding to redefine success, and acting on that decision, changed the trajectory of my life. Now, years later, I'm still married to the love of my life, both my kids are married with children (my grandangels!), and we all still enjoy spending time together. Wrapping my definition of success around those I love the most made the difference. And really, when you reach the end of your life, what will be most important to you? Dusty awards granted by acquaintances, or deep connection with those you love?

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Making sense of media

Media is a large part of our world and in this day and age it isn't easy to keep up-to-date with the continual stream of movies, music or video games being released. More importantly, parents need to decide if this media content is suitable for their children and family to watch.

According to Common Sense, an independent not-for-profit media review organisation, children currently spend over 50 hours in front of a screen each week. The media content they take in and create has a significant impact on their development: social, cognitive, emotional and physical.

This makes it all the more important for parents and carers to monitor and choose appropriate material for their children.

Common Sense has a variety of content to assist in making wise media choices. Their website

provides an extensive list of independent ratings and reviews for movies, television shows, apps, games, websites, music and books. It also gives reviews on the latest releases in each category with the option to select by relevant age, entertainment type, learning rating and genre, as well as other options.

If families need some ideas about what movie to watch, Common Sense editors have provided their top picks for a wide range of film categories, including Disney movies, animation, inspirational and movies great for sleepovers. All

the suggestions are rated to assist parents in deciding whether they are age appropriate.

As part of Common Sense's mission to 'rate, educate, and advocate for kids, families, and schools', they provide family guides. The guidelines help parents and carers understand what content is appropriate to the child's age, as well as developmental stage, based on leading authorities and research. They also address parent concerns with articles, videos and frequently asked questions. Some of the topics include technology addiction, cyberbullying, violence in the media and screen time.

Common Sense's goal is to provide trustworthy information so parents and carers can decide what works best for their family, taking into account that every family and child is different.

For more information, visit www.common sense media.org



Emma's road to obedience

98five Music Director Chela Williams

Obedience has directed Sydney's Emma Mullings evolution from radio host, TV presenter, actor, producer, blogger and most recently singer/songwriter. Her debut single 'Skinny Roads' is currently being heard on 98five and was an unexpected addition to Emma's expansive list of roles.

"For me, there are a lot of things I could do and I've had to get really good at listening to God's voice as to what I'm to put my focus on in which season," Emma explained.

"At the beginning of 2015, I really felt God prompting me to write and sing again."

"I work full-time and I have two amazing kids so all I could start with was a night a fortnight."

Co-written by producer Nathan Eshman, 'Skinny Roads' is an up-beat pop track about taking the road less travelled and Emma's personal testimony of being obedient to God's call.

"Everyone has a 'skinny road' in life," Emma said.

"It looks different to different people, but sometimes you just

need to feel the fear and do it anyway."

With her debut EP coming out later this year, Emma's music explores life lessons of strength and openly shares her humble responses to her own tragedies.

"For me, my strength comes from having a relationship with God. I tried to survive without that for so many years and it literally almost killed me."

"There were many things that happened in my life that should mean that I am not here today. But that's what God does, He restores all that has been lost and broken," Emma described.

"I think it's healthy to go and see [a] counsellor and talk through whatever tragedy you have been through to make sure you can process it in a healthy

way. I always say 'if you want things to be different, you need to do something different' and that is a motto I've loved my life by."

For more information, visit www.98five.com/latest-music



Emma Mullings debut EP will be released later this year.

Photo: John Cody

Award for Anzac spirit



Colin Buchanan and Lee Kernaghan added to their APRA Music Award collection in April.

Photo: APRA

The Australasian Performing Rights Association presented the 2016 award for Country Work of the Year to 'Spirit of the Anzacs', co-written by Lee Kernaghan, Colin Buchanan and Garth Porter. It is the title track of the epic Lee Kernaghan album of the same name.

Colin is well known as an internationally acclaimed Christian children's artist, but is also a much sought after country music collaborator.

This award is Colin's third Australasian Performing Rights Association (ARPA) Music Award.

In accepting the award before a star-studded music industry gathering he acknowledged the most important co-writers on this project, the Australian and New Zealand service men and women whose stories became the substance of the album.

"The Australian War Memorial gave us unprecedented access to letters, journals and other materials and we discovered that what our soldiers had to say was humble, heartbreakingly honest and full of love – for one another, for their country and for the cause of freedom," he said.

"Every town in Australia has its own cenotaph or obelisk, marking the loss of war. We had the privilege of crafting musical monuments to our diggers."



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Baptist Churches
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A minute with ...



Photo: Terry Hicks

Michelle Smoker (second from right) with Leavers Green Team Coordinators

Baptist Churches Western Australia Events Coordinator Michelle Smoker

Which church do you attend?

Morley Baptist Church

What led you to the Events Coordinator role?

I was living in the South West and needed to move to Perth as I was travelling a bit as a nanny with V8 Supercars, and an opportunity came up at the Baptist Churches Western Australia to do bookkeeping and also help out with events. It was such a blessing that I could keep doing both at that time. After a few years I stepped into coordinating events full-time.

Who makes up the ministry team?

Too many to name. With all the events I am involved with – Pastoral Retreat, Fresh, SportsFest and Leavers Green Team, there are a huge number of volunteers and we couldn't run these events without them.

What keeps you going this role?

A passion to see people's lives – especially young people – being brought one step closer to knowing Jesus and also knowing that we are making a difference in people's lives

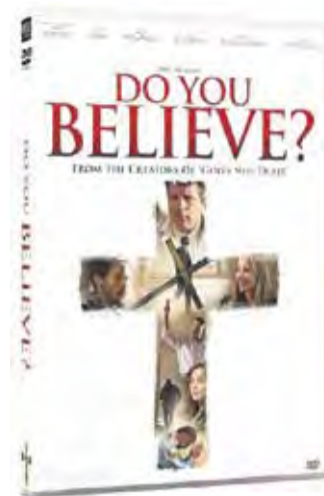
What is a feature of your ministry you'd like to share?

Leavers Green Team is such a unique opportunity to help serve not only 7,000 Leavers but the local community of Dunsborough as well. It is making a difference in so many lives and helping them have fun in a safe environment. It is the best week of the year that you will never forget.

What is a dream or desire for this ministry you'd like to share?

To see it grow from strength to strength and be able to get maximum people involved in all the events, and see many lives come to know Christ!

watch

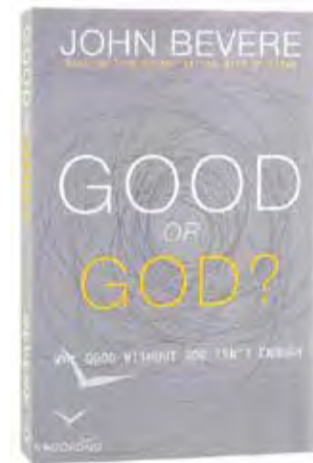


Do you Believe?

Pure Flix

Do you Believe? follows the lives of 12 different people as they discover what it means to live for God and who He is. From a pastor and his wife who have become a little broken-down from the stresses of life, to a mother and daughter who are homeless and destitute, viewers can see how God weaves the tapestry of lives together so people can see Him for the loving and caring Father He really is. There are a number of challenges for viewers to look at in their own lives by asking the questions: "Do I Believe? In God? In His power to change and bring about the best in my life?"

read



Good or God?

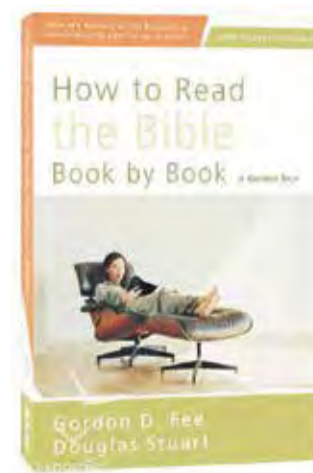
John Bevere

Once again John Bevere brings a challenging and potentially controversial message. *Good or God* raises a number of questions that John encourages readers to search scripture for themselves to answer. This is not something he has lightly written but through his own journey with God John has been challenged to face these questions himself, bringing testimonies and stories from his own life to support his statements. Many people believe that being good is sufficient but John states this is not biblical, also many believe that Jesus as Saviour is all we need but this again is not biblical. Join John in his exploration of what is just good and what is really God's plan and design.

How to Read the Bible Book by Book

Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart

How to Read the Bible Book by Book is a follow up to *How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth*. In this book the authors examine each book of the Bible in turn, giving the reader important cultural, historical and contextual information to expand understanding of the Word and to bring it to life. Each chapter begins with an overview of the book of the Bible and then explores the themes that follow through that book. It could be described as a cross between a handbook and study Bible notes. This is a guide in simple language that will help anyone starting out on their study journey but is also a textbook for a number of Bible colleges. To maintain relevance and accuracy this book has been updated a number of times and the fourth edition is the latest edition available.



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The Advocate – June 2016

More than a game for Stewart



Photo: Perth Lynx

Andy Stewart helped transform the Perth Lynx from cellar dwellers to championship contenders in the space of a season.

It is a case of unfinished business for Andy Stewart as he looks towards his second season as coach of the Perth Lynx.

The Lynx compete in the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL) and 2015/2016 marked their first season as a new entity, having come under the umbrella of the Perth Wildcats organisation in the previous off-season.

Stewart is a well-known basketball identity in Western Australia having been involved in the State Basketball League, Baptist Basketball and National Baptist Basketball carnivals over many years.

Before the Wildcats took over the team's licence the Lynx were known as the West Coast Waves and had suffered through three straight seasons of finishing on the bottom of the ladder.

Things turned around quickly for the Lynx, with the new-look team able to tick off a host of achievements during the season.

"We talked all year about ticking off boxes. Things like get a win, get a crowd, achieve more wins than the year before, make a real impact in the sporting scene, especially for young girls, make the play-offs, make the Grand Final, win the championship," Stewart said.

"We ticked every box except for the last one, losing the championship series."

The success achieved during the season was acknowledged with Stewart being named WNBL Coach of the Year.

Whilst team and individual success can be rewarding for

Stewart, a bigger factor at play is allowing relationships with players and coaches to grow and finding opportunities to build into their lives.

"I suppose over the years you regularly see people searching for very real relationships, I feel relaxed in intertwining my faith in God, and my beliefs into my coaching sessions, lectures, talks and general conversation, because my faith is a part of me," Stewart said.

With the travel demands involved in coaching often restricting his ability to regularly attend church services, Stewart has put measures in place to stay spiritually healthy.

"Although I attend a church as regularly as I can, I travel a fair bit so I have three or four close friends who I speak to on very regular basis."

"I give them permission to speak into my life as a form of reality and accountability – one is a pastor. I respect them all enormously."

"Being involved in the NBL (5 years) and WNBL (2 years) has stretched me enormously, challenged my foundations, got me out of my comfort zone, forced me to look at myself, my faith in God, my purpose and my overall growth."

"I hope it has made me a stronger person, husband, father, coach and leader."

Sports camp provides more



Photo: Sports Plus Perth

Sports Plus helps young athletes extend past their chosen sport.

Entering its third year, Sports Plus is growing a reputation as a high quality coaching camp for young athletes that goes beyond the norm.

Sports Plus also gives teenage athletes the chance to explore who Jesus is and what it means to play sport for Him.

Netballer Gracie Lee was amongst those that attended the first Sports Plus Perth camp.

"I came away from Sports Plus completely inspired and motivated to keep using my sport for God. It was uplifting meeting all the young Christian athletes," she said.

"As a young Christian athlete there can be a lot of pressures and tensions to work through," Gracie continued.

Sports Plus provides four hours of coaching each day and is suitable for everyone.

"You just have to be open to finding out more about this guy Jesus," Gracie said.

"If you are like me and already a Christian and want to know more about representing Christ in your sport you'll come away challenged and equipped to do that better. And you'll have heaps of fun!"

Sports Plus 2016 will be held 10 to 15 July at Guildford Grammar School.

For more information, visit www.sportsplusaustralia.com

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