

A U S T R A L I A N

Presbyterian

THE MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

march 2002

The 10/40 Window



where 1.5 billion have never heard

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The words of the Teacher,
son of David, king in Jerusalem:
"Meaningless! Meaningless!"
says the Teacher.
"Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless."

JOHN 15:5-6

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a
man remains in me and I in him, he will bear
much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
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a branch that is thrown away."

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editorial

The day of missions is over," the speaker from the central church office in the city said. He argued that funds were needed to establish a new "secretariat" to lobby for social justice. Anyway there was no need to go at all, for who were we to question that sincere adherence to local religious understanding in "non-Christian" lands was insufficient grounds for complete acceptance by the Almighty? A vote was taken and – tragically – one more congregation drifted further away from genuine biblical Christianity.

How different were the ministry aspirations of Paul! "And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, but just as it is written: To whom he was not announced, they shall see; and those who have not heard shall understand" (Rom. 15:20-21).

Science fiction TV show *Star Trek* had as its motto "To boldly go where no man has gone before". In the context of what mission strategists call the 10/40 window countries, it expresses a gospel fact that should be acted upon by every Christian.

Of all the least evangelised nations of the world that make up the 10/40 window, Afghanistan is probably best known at the moment. Since September 11 it has hardly been out of the headlines. We have all learned a bit about Afghanistan, but did you know that there is not *one* Christian church building or congregation in the *whole* country? On the other hand there are 48,000 mosques. Do we really believe the day of Christian missions is over?

All of us should seek to support those who have gone in missionary service, and to become advocates for those who suffer, sometimes dreadfully, for the same Lord Jesus Christ we worshipped last Sunday in the congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. This year perhaps you and your congregation might consider becoming involved in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. In Australia it is sponsored by such worthy organisations as the Bible League, Voice of the Martyrs, Open Doors and Christian Solidarity Australasia, and will be held in November.

Stuart Bonnington 

Window of opportunity

The challenge of Acts 1:8 remains colossal.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VOICE OF THE MARTYRS AUSTRALIA

As we enter the new millennium, the world's population stands at about 6 billion people, perhaps 1.5 billion of whom have never heard the gospel. Yes you did read that correctly! There are in the world right at this moment 1.5 *billion* people who have *never* heard Jesus Christ say "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Nearly all of these people live in or immediately next to an area of the world, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east, which has a total population of nearly 4 billion. This enormous region is known as



**Stuart
Bonnington**

either the Resistance Belt (Patrick Johnstone of *Operation World* fame), due to the very low number of Christians found within its bounds, or as the 10/40 window (coined by Luis Bush of the AD2000 movement), due to its location between latitudes 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator.

This area covers mainly North Africa and Asia, and includes the heartlands of

the Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist faiths as well as the largest of all communist (and indeed any) nations, the People's Republic of China.

More and more Christians are becoming aware of the astonishing social, political, economic, technological, developmental, racial and ultimately spiritual problems concentrated within and adjacent to this area of the world.

The 10/40 window countries challenge us in a fresh way to understand Scripture when it says "for we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the

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heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all things to stand" (Eph. 6:12,13).

This vantage point is essential for the Christian to understand and combat through prayer and the preaching of the everlasting gospel of peace the evil dynamics behind the spiritual darkness and denseness in the 10/40 window.

While the concept of the 10/40 window has been criticised in certain circles, it has proven very helpful in marshalling a growing world prayer focus and in alerting Christians, congregations and missionary organisations that the needs of this area need to become *the* priority in terms of present and future outreach activities.

There are at least four reasons for this: First, the countries in and near the 10/40 window are home to the overwhelming majority of the people who have never, not even once, heard the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. For the person who takes seriously the call of Christ to make disciples of all peoples, and to be the witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth, the implications are clear. We must focus prayer and workers on and in these nations.

Second, the countries in and near the 10/40 window are the home to the great world religions of Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and atheistic communism.

The countries in and near the 10/40 window are home to the overwhelming majority of the people who have never heard the name of the Lord.

Literally billions of men, women and children, made in the image of the living God but fallen in sin, are enslaved. Only Jesus Christ can free and forgive them. His name must be heard among the nations.

Third, the countries in and near the 10/40 window are made up of the poorest people in the world. The level of poverty is shocking and deeply disturbing to anyone who has ever visited a country in the area. In such situations the reality of the gospel needs to be demonstrated – not only with biblical truth but with biblical deeds.

Fourth, the countries in and near the 10/40 window contain most of the

world's least-evangelised megacities. Consider the spiritual needs of vast cities such as Karachi (9.5 million), Delhi (10.8 million), Beijing (12.3 million), or Tokyo-Yokohama (18.5 million), for example. Think of the great influence for good or bad these cities as capitals have on their nations and consequently the world, then remember Paul went to where the people



The 10/40 window

were concentrated in a strategic mission which eventually turned the world upside down.

We need to pray and labour that in our day and into the future there would be a repeat of the great days of past spiritual blessing.

Luis Bush has written that "the focus of the concern of Christian community 200 years ago was for the coastlands of the

world. A century later, the success of the coastlands efforts motivated a new generation to reach the interior regions of the continents. Within the past decades, the success of the inland thrust has led to a major focus on people groups. More recently, the world's burgeoning megacities have also become focal points of concern. Today we are wise to concentrate our efforts on the 10/40 window ... We must find the most innovative ways to reach the billions of people within the 10/40 window with the love and truth of Jesus Christ.

"We must mobilise for a massive prayer focus on the 10/40 window within the body of Christ worldwide. However, it must be clearly understood that a concentration on the 10/40 window does not mean a curtailing of Christ's work going on elsewhere ... If we are faithful to the Scriptures, obedient to the mandate of Christ and unwavering in our commitment to plant churches within every people and city... then we will get to the core of the unevangelised peoples of the world in the 10/40 window."

Stuart Bonnington is minister of South Yarra Presbyterian Church, Victoria, and a member of the National Journal Committee.

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In Carey's footsteps

Operation World is a marvellous manual for evangelism.

In 1792 William Carey's concern for the evangelisation of the world dying without a knowledge of Christ saw him produce one of the truly seminal books in Christian history, *An Enquiry into the Obligation of Christians to Use Means for the Conversion of the Heathen*. This book was, from a Christian point of view, a demographical survey of the known world of the day, in which the spiritual needs of the nations of the earth were set before readers with a view to the Church rising up in a great missionary movement to win the world for Christ.

Carey's life and book were deep and direct influences on Patrick Johnstone, the main author for *Operation World*, which in every sense is a phenomenal work. Who says church history is of no use in contemporary Christian ministry?

Operation World is billed as "the most comprehensive, up-to-date and wide-ranging compilation of prayer informa-



**Stuart
Bonnington**

tion ever produced". It lives up to this claim. It has three main sections, of which the one covering the nations of the world is the largest and most comprehensive.

Starting with the highly topical Afghanistan (an entry that in the light of recent events is now in many ways out of date, but speaks of the way that the Lord has in amazing ways answered prayer), it moves through the countries of the world in an alphabetical list-

The most comprehensive, up-to-date and wide-ranging compilation of prayer information ever produced.

ing until it reaches Zimbabwe. Keeping a copy near the TV or radio could lead to a better Christian understanding of the world and current events.

At the bottom of each page the reader finds the date, so on any given day of the year *Operation World* can be opened and used as the starting point for prayer. The entries make for interesting reading, as each country is introduced from a demographic point of view, and then a series of points for prayer are given based on distinct pieces of information. Answers to prayers from earlier editions are also given where available.

The detail is staggering. Some may question certain facts and the evaluations given to certain movements, denominations and events, but this is unavoidable given the sheer scale of the work. Let the reader remember the Bible says "test all things; hold fast to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21-22). And this of course includes any

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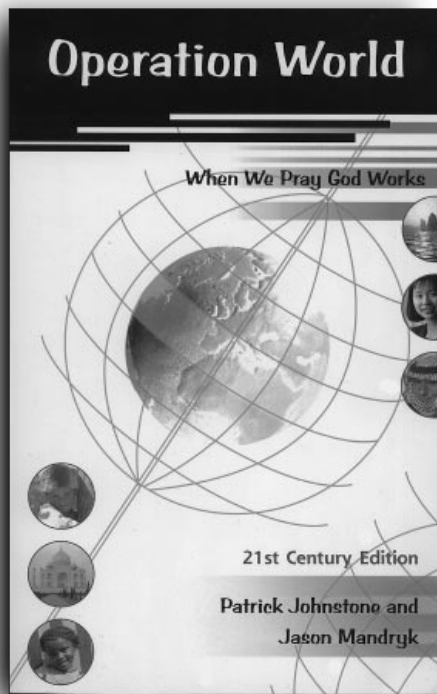
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human prayer digest.

But the strengths of this work far, far outweigh any weaknesses within its pages. The call to serious intercession for the world is laid before the Christian as perhaps never before.

Due to their size and great spiritual needs, certain countries are given special treatment. The entry of China for example covers nearly 30 pages and the one on India 28.

No Christian could be the same after reading with what has been done so far in this day of grace to bring the gospel to the world, and what yet remains to be done.

The alphabetical section is preceded by a 60-page review of the world's six continents and is followed by a listing of specialised ministries. Australia appears on pages 83-86 and is now the focus of worldwide prayer on February 18-19 each year wherever the Lord's people know and use *Operation World*. The *Operation World* CD-ROM contains even more information! There is also a very informative children's 'version' called *Window on the World* and an *Operation World* desk calendar, which is much better than the concept may at first lead one to believe. All of these works are highly recommended, and should be read and used, it is to hoped, by increasing numbers of Christian people. ap

A man of the world

AP talks to Patrick Johnstone

What led you to bring *Operation World* into print in 1972?

The vision of helping African Christians to pray for other countries in the world could not have been done without some valid prayer fuel. This provided the impetus for the initial edition and the pressure for further editions came from a growing number of users of the book around the world.

What was your overall aim?

In Acts 1:9-11, two angels had to shake the 11 apostles out of their long jaw-dropping gaze into the heavens after the Lord Jesus had gone. "Why do you gaze...?" Jesus had given them two definite commands in the earlier verses: wait in Jerusalem – understood as meaning they were to wait on God in prayer – and be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

My passion is that believers obey those clear parting instructions of our Master. The joy is to find out how many have done so as a result of *Operation World*.

How has it been received?

By bookstores, with deafening silence on the whole. But thousands of passionate advocates of the Great Commission are moving out of the 300,000 that were printed because they believe in the vision of *Operation World*. We receive a constant flow of congratulatory comments.

Of interest perhaps is to recount a bit of history. In 1972 when we printed the original *Operation World* in South Africa, we found that we were legally not permitted to market a non-union-produced book in the country. We approached Moody Press to ask them if

they might take up the book. Their reply was, in effect, that the book was unremarkable. Years later a Moody executive confided in us that this was their greatest publishing boob. We estimate that in all editions and versions more than two million copies have been sold!

What are the strengths of *Operation World*?

First, it is unique. Second, it has become a major source of information on the spiritual needs of the world. Third, it has been one of the major factors in facilitating the global missions movement in non-English speaking countries. Fourth, the *Operation World* database is widely recognised as the most reliable and credible ever compiled.

My passion is that believers obey those clear parting instructions of our Master.

What about weaknesses?

It has been written with much prayer and leaning on the Lord, but it is still a fallible, error-prone document. Some mistakes have been pointed out to us, but amazingly few so far!

How can the ordinary Christian use *Operation World*?

By prayerfully seeking to extend the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ through wise use of *Operation World* – not being daunted by the size or volume of the information. A good way is by using the prayer calendar – don't worry if you miss a day. Be selective by just using one or two key prayer points a day.

Patrick Johnstone is the main author of Operation World. He visits Sydney from 8 to 14 March. ap

Why don't we care?

The cries of the suffering church are more agonised than ever, reports Stuart Bonnington.

Vast numbers of people are being “killed, brutalised, sold as slaves, imprisoned, tortured, threatened, discriminated against and arrested solely because they are Christians,” says Johan Candelin, director of the Religious Liberty Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance. “They are being subjected to persecution and suffering, the extent of which we can hardly begin to comprehend, because of their faith.”

Persecution seems to pass through three stages, Candelin notes. The first is *disinformation*. “Disinformation begins more often than not in the media. Through printed articles, radio and television ... Christians are robbed of their good reputations and their right to answer the accusations made against them. The public opinion that easily results from being constantly fed such disinformation will not protect

Christians from the second step, which is *discrimination*. Discrimination relegates Christians to a second-class citizenship with an inferior legal, social, political and economic standing than the majority in the country.”

The third stage is *persecution*. Once the first two steps have been taken, persecution can be practised without normal pro-



He also confronts squarely the terrible circumstances under which “Christians” persecute other Christians.

protective measures taking place. Persecution can arise from the state, the police or the military, extreme organisations, mobs, paramilitary groups, or representatives of other religions.

There is a close relationship between the countries in the 10/40 window and those in which Christians face opposition, discrimination and sometimes bitter hatred.

In the highly significant book *Their Blood Cries Out*, Paul Marshall of the Institute of Christian Studies in Toronto discusses the current plight of persecuted Christians worldwide. He reviews the outrageous and murderous treatment of Christians under the Islamic authorities and movements in Sudan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt as well as in countries where the curse of communism still holds sway. He also confronts squarely the terrible circumstances under

Sudan: a study in suffering

Two saints who escaped tell their stories.

The north African country of Sudan has been torn in two by some of the bitterest religious violence seen in the modern world, as the fanatical fundamentalist Islamic regime has progressively tried to impose shari'a law on a growing and significant Christian minority.

The experience of millions of Christians in the southern region of this, the largest of all African countries, has been warfare, death, famine, torture, slavery and persecution – even to crucifixion – despite the efforts of the international community.

As has been noted over and over again in the history of Christianity, the worst that the enemies of Christ do

does not stop the Church but actually causes it to grow. This has been clear to both sides in Sudan, to the murderous fury of the government and the deep encouragement of the Church. Church leaders are particularly under attack from the Islamic extremists, but ordinary believers also suffer in ways that are hard for Western Christians to believe.

We have within the congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Australia brothers and sisters who have suffered for the Lord Jesus Christ first-hand. Here are extracts from two of their stories. As the situation they face is still very dangerous, both accounts are anonymous.

'Sister Hopeful'

After completing university studies in Khartoum I was employed by the Sudan Council of Churches to coordinate a program to teach crafts to displaced southern Sudanese women. This program was very successful, and attracted the attention of the Islamic government, which claimed I was involved in politics and ordered me to disband the work.

I refused and struggled to continue the work for six months until my employers advised me to flee the country. At the airport, however, I was stopped and my passport was destroyed.

After that I was forced to report to the police every day, morning and evening.

which “Christians” persecute other Christians, who seem often to be evangelicals of a different tradition to the dominant group.

For Christians of the Presbyterian tradition, the situation facing fellow believers in Mexico, particularly in the southern states, should be far better known than it is.

Perhaps the most disturbing section of Marshall’s book is the second which deals with the apathy of Americans, both secular and Christian, to the suffering of millions upon million of people. As far as the professing Christian movement is concerned, those who tend to be on the right (the evangelicals) often lose sight of persecuted Christians because of their all-consuming quest for inner peace, while those more on the left (the mainline churches) compromise their Christian values due to their obsession to be accepted by the socialist political machines, Islam and the interfaith juggernaut.

Sadly, parallels in Australia of these tendencies would not be too hard to find. The pathetic stances of the so-called Western secularists in regard to




PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF VOICE OF THE MARTYRS AUSTRALIA

Pastor Li Dexian arrested in China

the suffering Church is not so far removed from much of what we hear in Australia.

Marshall calls for the Church to become more aware of the suffering of

millions of its worldwide members and to organise, pray, advocate and work for global changes to the lot of the persecuted as part of the expression of our daily faith. 

After some months of harassment I was able to escape to a neighbouring country with a new passport under a false name. But I was pursued and was forced to hide for two years before getting into Europe. Even there a price was put on my head.

I have had some very narrow escapes. I have been frequently attacked and my body is covered in scars. Eventually, after years on the run, I came to Australia where, thanks be to the Lord, I can practise my faith openly.

‘Brother Faithful’

In the middle 1980s, I was arrested on false allegations that I was a sympathiser of the Sudan’s People’s Liberation Movement and imprisoned for six months. During my detention I was intimidated, beaten and suffered other forms of physical and mental torture at the hands of the Islamic fundamentalist security personnel.

I was deprived of basic needs, including a mattress to sleep on and sometimes food, and was denied family visits.

Some years later, I was employed as an aid worker in a remote area of the southern Sudan. While there, I used my free time to carry out some evangelism among the local community. This activity came to the notice of the Islamic government in Khartoum, and brought a swift reaction. The government did not want any strong or lively church activities in the area, or anywhere else, because this would be an obstacle to their program of imposing Islam.

I was forced to flee for my life and, after escaping by night, walked day and night to the Ethiopian border, a distance of 400 kilometres. Unfortunately I was arrested by the Ethiopian security authorities. They accused me of being a member of the Sudanese People’s Liberation Army and detained me for six months. During this time I was separated from my family.

In 1997 along with my family I came to beautiful Australia and we thank God that we are blessed and secure in this land where we are free to practise our faith without restriction. Please continue to pray for the Sudan.

Please pray for:

- Christian leaders, who regularly face enormous pressure to deny or compromise their faith, or face terrible consequences for themselves or their families.
- The Church in Sudan, as it grows rapidly but often lacks trained and mature leaders and the resources required to educate its pastors.
- That the political and military situation might improve permanently for the benefit of all of the peoples of Sudan – Christian, Islamic or those of other religious backgrounds.
- Those Christians, including many children and women, who have been sold into slavery, who face all sorts of abuse including sexual, and have been forced to convert to Islam or face torture and death.
- The breaking of the spiritual darkness that lies over the Sudan.
- The world Christian community to take a deeper interest in and develop a wider knowledge of the suffering of the Church in Sudan.

A patchwork ministry

Australian women help give birth to an exciting development in India.

Set in the foothills of the mighty Himalayas, the Dorcas Training Centre, in Rajpur, near Dehra Dun, India, was officially opened last May. The ministry began in 1999, with a request from Annamma Ebenezer, wife of the deputy principal of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Dehra Dun. Could someone please come and teach patchwork sewing to the women of the PTS?

This request was taken up by Shirley Benn, Jan Langbridge and me, and we went there in February 2000. Patchwork was taught to give the women sewing skills that could be used to help beautify their homes, be a means of contact with others, supplement their meagre income and help the students by selling articles made by the women.

The Women's Project (as it was lovingly referred to by Annamma) was indeed very successful, with many women asking Annamma to teach them as well. By July 2000, the demand had exceeded all expectations, and Annamma once again asked for further help and training.

This request was taken up by APWM, who endorsed both Jan and me for short-term missionary service, which enabled

Betty Thompson

support from a number of churches, groups and individuals. Thus we were able to return again last year for a month to teach patchwork.

Not only were our travel costs covered, but we were also able to provide further equipment, books, plus some items of furniture, a stove, refrigerator, iron, ironing board, sewing machine and overlocker for the new training centre.

This assistance was much appreciated, and our sincere thanks go to all who made this possible.

The work had originally begun on the seminary campus, but in July 2000 it was decided that the work could be better carried out away from the college itself, which led to the redevelopment of the disused TEAR building at Rajpur. The centre uses the name Women's Development Society so that it meets the many government regulations, especially the requirements for operating a bank account.

The training centre is registered and recognised by the government and is set up to provide training in various skills including sewing (patchwork and dress-making), cooking, food processing, health and hygiene, basic education, Bible doctrine and study.

The training centre is receiving many students and enquiries. Students pay what they can towards the cost of their training. They are free to choose the courses they want, but all must receive Bible teaching. We spent one month in the challenging Indian summer heat, working in a building still being built, coping with the dust etc, but enjoying it all immensely.

We worked with four delightful and highly skilled women, teaching them many patchwork skills and techniques. These women will be employed by the centre to train others in sewing skills, including patchwork. They will also produce goods for sale to generate income for

the centre. We recently got a photo of a beautiful quilt and matching cushion covers that the women at the centre made to fulfil an order. This confirmed our confidence in their ability.

Annamma says: "The vision of the Women's Development Society is first and foremost to train Christian women in living skills that will help them in their family life and ministry. This can be accomplished by learning to use the gifts God has given them to develop themselves." The

skills can help them meet their family's financial needs, and make their own homes attractive and welcoming.

Above all these, the skills learned are meant to be tools to reach out and share the gospel with other women. The Women's Development Society is committed to teaching a basic Bible course, while daily devotions and prayer offer women undergoing training the opportunity to grow spiritually through the study of the Word and Fellowship. This is a ministry in its infancy, yet it is a great step forward for the women of north India and beyond. We were thrilled to be part of this "birthing stage" and to witness the official opening day.

Betty Thompson worships at Taree Presbyterian Church, NSW.

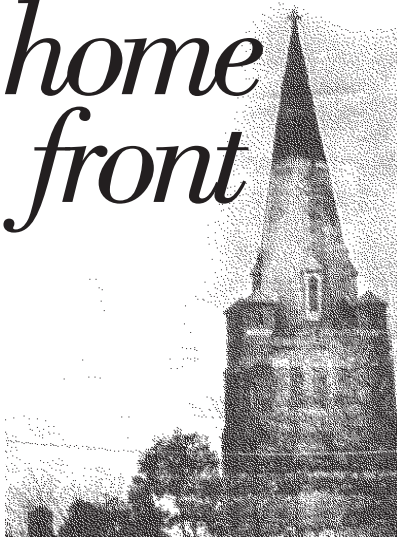
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Above all these, the skills learned are meant to be tools to reach out and share the gospel.



Jan with her class of eager students

home front



Farewelling a giant

Rev Dr Allan McDonald Harman (RFD, BA, BD, Mlitt, ThM, ThD) has retired after 27 years of faithful teaching at the Presbyterian Church of Victoria's theological college in Box Hill.

Allan began his studies in Newcastle (NSW) at the teacher's college in 1953, then continued at Sydney University until 1956 and at Edinburgh and the Free Church College.



Allan and Mairi Harman

After completing his theological studies Allan went to the Westminster Theological College where he received his Masters' in 1961.

He married Mairi in 1961, and they went to Geelong where Allan was inducted as minister of the PCV. They served the congregation until 1964, when

they returned to Westminster, then Edinburgh, with Allan completing his doctorate in 1965 and his Master of Literature in 1969.

In 1974 Allan took up the position as Professor of Old Testament Studies at the Reformed Theological College in Geelong, during which time he started as a visiting lecturer at the Presbyterian Theological Hall in Melbourne. He was appointed as Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Studies in the Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne in 1977.

In their Minute of Appreciation the Theological Education Committee recorded the following: "In succession to Dr Robert Swanton, Dr Harman was appointed Principal of the P.T.C. in 1982, and has served with distinction in that position until his retirement in December, 2001. During this crucial period in the history of the Presbyterian Church, Dr Harman has had a leading role, under God, in re-establishing our church as an evangelical and reformed denomination, and in training a significant number of men for Gospel ministry. He has been a dedicated teacher, a warm encourager and a good friend to many."

A public thanksgiving service was held on Sunday 2 December 2001 for the life and service of both Allan and Mairi Harman, who was also honoured with a Minute of Appreciation for her distinctive contribution, which recorded the following: "For four years she taught New Testament Greek; for two years she taught English to help students from overseas; and for another two years she taught Australian and Presbyterian Church History. In addition to this classroom work, Mairi Harman has led, guided and encouraged the students' wives' group, and given much practical assistance in the smooth-running of the college.

The TEC wishes to place on record the great debt that the College, and the whole church, owes to Allan and Mairi Harman, and it extends its best wishes to them both for usefulness in the Lord's service in the years ahead."

New direction

In fact, both Allan and Mairi remain very busy in their new direction. Allan reports that he is making good progress on a commentary on Isaiah for Christian Focus Publications, which earlier published his volumes on the Psalms and Deuteronomy. Also this year, they will publish the 29 sermons by Matthew Henry on the Covenant of Grace which come from an original manuscript Professor Harman owns. "These sermons have never been previously published, and I have added footnotes and an introduction. A Dutch translation of them is already under way," he says.

He has also accepted an invitation from Evangelical Press to write the commentary on Daniel for their new Study Commentary series. The Old Testament editor is his friend Dr John Currid of

Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson.

Further, this year he and Mairi hope to develop the notes they used in the past few years in the Scottish and Australian Church history course. "Our aim is to try and publish them so that they can be of use not only to students at the PTC but hopefully to a wider audience as well," he says.

Christians honoured

This year 487 Australians were honoured with Australia Day awards. The following names are of those with obvious church affiliation. We acknowledge there could be others also associated with church activities which are not as obvious and to them we also extend our sincerest congratulations.

Member (AM) of the Order of Australia: Margaret Donaldson Moore, Summerhill, Tas – for service to the community of northern Tasmania through participation in a broad range of charitable and voluntary organisations. Mrs Moore has served as President, Presbyterian Women Missionary Union (Ladies Group); current Catering Convenor; choir member, for over 50 years. Mrs Moore attends St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Launceston.

Medal (OAM) of the order of Australia: Joan Craggs, Altona, Vic – for service to the visual and performing arts in the community of Altona through the Hobsons Bay Arts Society and Advisory Committees, the Annual Festival of Arts and Palette Pals. Mrs Craggs has taught callisthenics on a voluntary basis at the Altona Youth Club and the Altona Presbyterian Church for more than 10 years.

Rosalie Denise Grieve, Naracoorte, SA – for service to the community of Naracoorte, particularly through local government and support for charitable and sporting organisations. Miss Grieve

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has been involved with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Australian Red Cross, Presbyterian Church, Croquet Club and Anti-Cancer Foundation.

Charles William Lucre, Deakin ACT, – for service to the community, particularly through the provision of pastoral care services at the Canberra Hospital. Mr Lucre has served as the Honorary Presbyterian Pastoral Carer at the Royal Canberra Hospital for the past 14 years. He attends the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew.

Archibald John McArthur, North Adelaide, SA – for service to entomology and to the environment through the collection and study of ants, and to the community, particularly through the National Parks Consultative Committee for the Lower South East Area, South Australia. Mr McArthur has served as Elder and Treasurer of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Millicent, for many years.

Annie Irvine Swanson (deceased), Tullamore, NSW – for service to the community of Tullamore through women's service organisations. Mrs Swanson served as Vice-President of the Tullamore Presbyterian Women's Association. Mrs Swanson died on 15 September 2001.

A degree of help

The Reformed College of Ministries, a teaching institution of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, has offered for the past five years an Advanced Diploma of Theology accredited under the Australian Quality Training Framework. Now former students can attain this award through "Recognition of Prior Learning". If approved by the Australian College of Theology, such students may then be able to attain two years advanced standing towards a bachelor of theology.

The Advanced Diploma of Theology is due for re-accreditation in October 2002, and it is probable that the college will *not* seek re-accreditation. So former students who wish to receive the advanced Diploma should contact the College to register their interest. RPL Secretary Reformed College of Ministries P.O. Box 6376 St Lucia, Qld, 4067; phone 07 3871 9347; email: rcm@ug.net.au.

The college has three new candidates, with their families: **Roger Marsh**, his wife **Anna** and two children; **Richard Vaughan** and his wife **Lynette**, who have three adult children; and **Andrew Richardson**, his wife **Simone** and two young children.

New principal

Rev. Dr Douglas Milne was inducted principal of the **Presbyterian Theological College**, Box Hill, at a service for the opening of the academic year at **Canterbury Presbyterian Church**, Melbourne. **Rev. Greg Goswell** was inducted as lecturer in Biblical Studies.

Rev Dr Paul Swinn, moderator of the Presbytery of Melbourne East led, **Rev. Bob Thomas**, convener of the Theological Committee and Moderator of the PCV, read the charge. During the service, **Bishop Oliver Heywood**, President of the Board of Delegates of the Australian College of Theology conferred a Bachelor of Theology on **James John Playfoot**; Bachelor of Ministries on **Jogi Matthew Joy** and Advanced Diploma of Theology (Pastoral Ministry) on **Anthony Neil Salisbury**.



Greg Goswell, Paul Swinn and Kevin Childs



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<Laurie_Hughes@maf.org.au>
or 'phone (03) 9890 4009.

Interested persons to respond by **25 March 2002**, with CV by email or to the following postal address:

**Mr Laurie Hughes, Personnel Manager,
MAF, PO Box 211, Box Hill, VIC 3128**

Appointments

Pastor Norman Hughes has been appointed chaplain to the **Herston Hospital Complex**; The Prince Charles and Holy Spirit Northside Hospitals in Brisbane (Qld). The catalyst came last year when his wife, **Inga**, while in hospital, requested a Presbyterian chaplain, and there wasn't one.

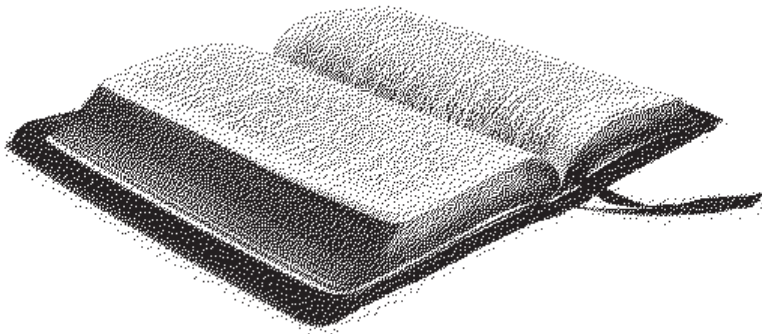
Steve Blencowe took up the position of assistant pastor at **Acacia Ridge** (Qld) on 14 January.

The Committee of Outreach and Nurture appointed **David Hopper** as assistant to the Director of Christian Education.

Elton Wiltshire has been appointed as a home missionary to the **Monto Parish** (Qld).

Hilaire Gordon Fraser has been inducted an elder at **Cooma Community Church**, NSW.

Word for the wise



*The theme this month, leading to
Easter, is Jesus's death and resurrection
(John 17-21).*

Psalm 1 tells us that the truly happy man is one whose delight is in the law of the Lord, on which he meditates day and night.

Unfortunately, the pace of life in the 21st century means men and women have to juggle time between work and play and family and all their other commitments and the Lord. Many of us find it hard to put aside even a few minutes a day to read the Bible and pray. Getting the whole family together for any meaningful, regular family devotions is much more complicated again.

From this issue, AP will publish each month a set of 20 simple, daily Bible studies – a realistic target for the average person or family. The studies – prepared by the immediate past Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, **Bruce Christian** – are designed to be profitable in as little as five to 10 minutes a day.

Each is built around a small Bible **passage**, with a clear **point** to bring you to the heart of what God is saying. Some of the most important **particulars** are listed, with questions on which to **ponder** and **pray**. You can think about them during the day. We have provided a small box for you to tick each day, so you know where you are up to.

The editorial committee of AP is delighted to commend these to readers.

DAY 1 *Crunch Time*

THE PASSAGE JOHN 17:1-5

THE POINT God the Father gave Jesus his Son a job to do on earth, and he did it. It brought God glory and us, his chosen ones, eternal life by knowing him.

THE PARTICULARS

- Jesus knew he was the Only Son of God the Father.
- God is glorified by the success of Jesus' mission. (4)
- Jesus had absolute authority to grant eternal life to everyone God the Father had chosen. (2)
- There is no eternal life apart from Jesus.
- Jesus was perfectly obedient to the Father's will. (4)
- Jesus was with God at Creation. Jesus IS God. (5)

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- What work has God given you to do? How committed are you to finishing it?
- Can we have eternal life if we don't believe in Jesus?
- How do these 5 verses affect your view of -
God? ... Jesus? ... Creation? ... your own Salvation?

DAY 2 *'I Pray For Them'*

THE PASSAGE JOHN 17:6-12

THE POINT Jesus was totally committed to his twelve disciples during his earthly mission. They were a central part of God's Plan. Jesus had concern for their welfare.

THE PARTICULARS

- Jesus' relationship to the Twelve was a significant part of his ministry while he was on earth. They were part of the process by which God glorified Jesus. (10)
- At the heart of his teaching program for his disciples was his unique relationship with the Father. (7-8)
- Jesus prayed earnestly for his disciples – for their protection, and for their complete unity of spirit. (9, 11-12)
- Even Judas' defection was in God's eternal Plan. (12)

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- Is Jesus concerned only for our physical welfare?
- What lessons can we learn from Jesus' model about discipling others for him? ... concerning prayer for them? ... commitment to them? ... teaching them?

DAY 3

Wholly Holy

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 17:13-19

THE POINT Jesus' disciples were (are) to be the God-given means by which his work would continue in the world. The disciples were (are) to be wholly holy for him.

THE PARTICULARS

- Jesus' desire was for the disciples to have **all** his joy.
- The world will treat Jesus' followers the way it treated him: with hatred, because of their alien value system.
- Jesus' disciples must stay in the world to be effective.
- Jesus' disciples are kept safe and holy (sanctified) by union with Jesus, by his prayer, & by God's true Word.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- In today's world it's impossible to escape the constant impact of the world's value system. How does Jesus' prayer both encourage and challenge us?
- What importance does Jesus place on God's Word?
- 'Sanctify' means 'make holy or separate'. How can we be 'holy' and still be 'in the world'?

DAY 4

You, Me and the Trinity

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 17:20-26

THE POINT Jesus' desire is that he, the Father, & the Church will be a perfect unity in glory, purpose and love.

THE PARTICULARS

- Jesus prays for his whole Church.
- Jesus' prayer is for the mark of his Church to be perfect harmony among a people fully in tune with God's will.
- Jesus' desire is for the world to believe that he is God's promised Saviour; unity in his Church will show this.
- Glory, unity and love are inseparable characteristics of the Trinity; this must be reflected in the Church as well.
- The Father loved the Son before time began. Jesus was fully conscious of his own pre-existence & divinity.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- How will it help you today knowing that your relationship with him is just like his relationship with his Father – that **he** is working on maintaining this as a practical reality in your life? Do you expect to see proof of this?

DAY 5

Judas knew the place

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 18:1-9

THE POINT Jesus was betrayed by one of his closest friends in the quiet place of intimate fellowship which had been their secluded, private retreat for perhaps 3 years.

THE PARTICULARS

- Jesus, knowing he was about to be betrayed & killed, went with his close band of followers to their familiar place to prepare himself and them for what lay ahead.
- Judas would have been in no doubt about what would follow from his actions – he brought soldiers, Jewish leaders, torches and weapons, and he was implicated.
- Jesus faced his accusers without fear, but knowing exactly what was to happen to him; he was in control.
- Jesus wanted to protect his disciples from trouble.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- What does it tell us about Jesus' love that he allowed himself to be betrayed by his disciple, Judas?

Jesus said 'I am he' in the same way God had told Moses his name was 'I AM' (Ex.3:14) – hence the reaction in v.6!

DAY 6

God's chosen hero fails

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 18:10-18

THE POINT Peter, with the best of intentions, but relying on his own resources, was unable to get it right.

THE PARTICULARS

- Peter tried to defend his master and friend with the wrong weapons and with the wrong motive. Rescuing Jesus from his captors seemed a good idea from a human point of view but it was not part of God's Plan.
- Annas and Caiaphas must have been waiting prepared for Jesus to be brought in (irregularly / illegally) at night.
- Ironically, Caiaphas was the one who, a short time before, had unwittingly 'predicted' that "it is better for you that one man die for the people" (John 11:49-50).
- The whole Passion pageant was planned by God, even to the point of ensuring Peter's access to the trial!
- The Bible doesn't hide the weaknesses of its heroes.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- Are you still trusting in your own strength & wisdom to follow Jesus & remain faithful to him under pressure?

DAY 7

3 Trials: Jesus, Annas, Peter

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 18:19-27

THE POINT The 'official' (albeit illegal) trial was that of Jesus. But Jesus was God the Son, and those really on trial were the Jewish leaders, Pilate, Herod – even Peter.

THE PARTICULARS

- It was clear from the outset that Jesus' complete innocence was proven by his open, public ministry.
- It's a sad day when courts are governed by concern for correct procedure rather than for truth or justice.
- Annas was clearly uneasy about the course of the trial.
- Peter was graciously given 2 more chances to stand up for Jesus but still failed. Jesus knew Peter better than Peter knew himself (see John 13 : 37-38).

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- Is your public profession of your faith, through your speech, behaviour and lifestyle, a clear & unambiguous proof of where you stand in relation to Jesus?
- Can you relate to Peter's failure to keep his promise? What does this teach us about grace & our real need?

DAY 8

Power Games

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 18:28-38

THE POINT Jesus was born for the very purpose of ushering in God's Kingdom. This threatened the earthly empires of Rome (Pilate) and Judaism. If man's power base is threatened he resorts to hypocrisy and deceit.

THE PARTICULARS

Evidence of the Jews' hypocrisy:-

- wanting to avoid 'ceremonial uncleanness' while conducting a blatantly illegal trial;
- branding Jesus a criminal without bringing a charge;
- seeking the death penalty with no substantial case;

Evidence of Pilate's hypocrisy:-

- giving in to the Jews knowing Jesus was innocent;
- avoiding having to do what was right by questioning whether anyone can really know what is true.

Jesus' Kingdom is a heavenly one, founded on truth.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- Are your actions motivated by truth or by hypocrisy?
- Are you opposing Jesus' rule in any part of your life?

DAY 9

The World, Then & Now

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 18:39-19:6

THE POINT Pilate, convinced of Jesus' innocence, but unable to deflect the Jews' resolve, opted for expediency instead of justice, compromise instead of truth.

THE PARTICULARS

- Pilate's desperate attempts at compromise included:-
 offering Barabbas the rebel for Jesus the 'royal';
 having Jesus severely flogged;
 cruelly mocking & torturing God's true King, Jesus, as a counterfeit king.
- Pilate's attempts to free Jesus made his final surrender to the Jews' demand for crucifixion far less excusable.
- Sadly, the Jews' emotionally driven rage mentality blinded them to the true reality (see 1 Corinthians 2 : 8).

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- Barabbas means 'son of a father', ie you & me. Jesus was chosen to die while Barabbas went free.
- How much are the attitudes of Pilate & the Jews evident in the value system of our society? your daily life?

DAY 10

What I Have Written...

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 19:7-22

THE POINT Pilate realised the decision about Jesus was a spiritual one. To achieve their purpose the Jews had to turn it into a political issue. In the resulting dispute Pilate was forced to make spiritual concessions – 'Here is your King' – and the Jews had to compromise their political position – 'We have no king but Caesar'. Failing to face up to who Jesus really was cost all of them their integrity!

THE PARTICULARS

- Pilate saw clearly that Jesus saw his kingly rule only in spiritual terms and in this sense was no real threat to Rome; but Jesus' claim to be the Son of God was a real worry.
- Jesus was still in complete control of the situation.
- All these events coincided exactly with the Passover events as their true fulfilment in every detail. God rules!

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- What do we learn from the fact that Jesus carried his own cross and was crucified between two criminals?
- Do you let expediency compromise your integrity?

DAY 11

He Emptied Himself

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 19:23-27

THE POINT The disposal of Jesus' clothing (all he owned) meant that he was now considered a 'nobody': in contrast, he was concerned about the welfare of others.

THE PARTICULARS

- God knew every little detail of the process of Jesus' death, even to the casting of lots for his clothes (see Psalm 22 for this and many other examples).
- Even in the middle of his great physical pain, mental anguish, & spiritual struggle, Jesus was conscious of the needs of his mother and his closest friend, John.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- It seems that the less importance we place on status in the eyes of others, or the ownership of material possessions, the more sensitive we are likely to be to the needs of others. Have you found this in your life?
- Paul tells us in Philippians 2:7 that Jesus 'emptied himself' or 'made himself nothing' as part of the work of redemption. Is your attitude the same as Jesus'?

DAY 12

'It is Finished'

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 19:28-37

THE POINT On the cross Jesus was still in control. He knew he could at last give up his spirit because everything he had come to do was now accomplished. Even the events that then followed, although required by the circumstances, were an exact fulfilment of the Scriptures.

THE PARTICULARS

- Jesus was obedient to the Father's will in every detail.
- Jesus was affected by every human need & emotion. He was fully God & fully man in his life and in his death.
- The cry of thirst, the taking of cheap sour wine, Jesus not needing his legs to be broken to hasten death, & the spearing of his side were all foretold in Scripture. (Psalm 69:21, Exodus 12:46, Psalm 34:20, Zechariah 12:10)
- The gospel accounts are true eye-witness testimonies.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- Have you really come to realise that the whole work of rescuing you and qualifying you for heaven has been done by Jesus & you can't contribute anything to it?

DAY 13

A Powerful Life

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 19:38-42

THE POINT We should never underestimate the extent of the influence of Jesus' life, even among the rich & powerful who may not feel free to profess him openly.

THE PARTICULARS

- The dedicating of his as yet unused family tomb as Jesus' burial place, thus rendering it useless for his own future family needs, was a great sacrifice on the part of Joseph of Arimathea. It fulfilled Isaiah 53:9.
- The approach of Joseph and Nicodemus to Pilate for permission to give Jesus, the executed criminal, a reputable burial put them at great risk of attack from the Roman authorities as well as their Jewish colleagues.
- Even in his burial Jesus was Jewish (verse 40; see 1:11)!

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- The life of God's Son on earth began in the stable of a packed inn and finished in a borrowed tomb. To what extent is this attitude to material comforts & possessions reflected in the lives of his followers today?

DAY 14

A Powerful Reality

THE PASSAGE

JOHN 20:1-9

THE POINT On the third day the tomb where Jesus' dead body had been laid was empty. There was no body there. The fact that the tomb had been sealed prevented outside interference. The Jesus who died is alive!

THE PARTICULARS

- The first witnesses of the empty tomb were women. The fact that this is reported is evidence of the integrity of the gospel accounts since the testimony of women was not considered as reliable as that of men.
- The folded grave clothes and the absence of Jesus' body convinced Peter & John that Jesus had risen – even against their expectations and better judgement.
- Mary Magdalene, Peter & John all react in different but typically human ways. The gospel account rings true.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- Had the stone been rolled away from the entrance to the tomb to let Jesus out, or to let the disciples in?
- Is belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus important?

DAY 15 *A New Relationship*

THE PASSAGE JOHN 20:10-18

THE POINT Mary longed for the earthly Jesus she'd come to know, love & depend on. She now had to learn to relate to this same Jesus in a new, non-physical way.

THE PARTICULARS

- The fact that the tomb was empty was a major emotional problem for Mary Magdalene – it prevented the grieving process from even getting started.
- Her intense emotional state kept her from feeling the real impact of the presence of angels or even recognising the true identity of Jesus himself.
- Jesus' use of Mary's name was the link between her old way of knowing him & the new way she had to learn involving knowing God as her Father in this new way.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- Do you know Jesus as a real person? ... as your friend and brother? ... as the eternal Son of God? ... and as your risen Lord and Saviour who has conquered death for you for ever?

DAY 16 *A Powerful Relationship*

THE PASSAGE JOHN 20:19-23

THE POINT Jesus, the risen and ascended Lord, has commissioned us in the power of the Holy Spirit to be his servants – to do his work in the world in the same way that he did his Father's work while he was on earth.

THE PARTICULARS

- Jesus brings peace among his followers.
- Jesus' resurrection body was continuous with his earthly one (the wounds in his hands & side were evident and he stood and spoke) but it also belonged to the heavenly realm (he appeared inside the locked room).
- Jesus gave his disciples a task to do & immediately empowered them to do it by giving them the Holy Spirit.
- In the power of the Holy Spirit the disciples were to be Jesus' representatives on earth, even to the awesome responsibility of granting or withholding his forgiveness

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- In all you do today will you be conscious of how Jesus has given you his Holy Spirit to help you to do his will?

DAY 17 *By Faith, Not By Sight*

THE PASSAGE JOHN 20:24-31

THE POINT Eternal life comes only through believing in Jesus. God provides many convincing 'proofs' to help us believe but in the end the step of faith is what matters.

THE PARTICULARS

- Thomas' seeing-is-believing attitude is a typical human response to spiritual realities, but we need to acknowledge God's definition of true faith in Hebrews 11.
- Thomas' statement of faith was simply that Jesus was God – his Lord and his God.
- John emphasises again the physically recognisable features of Jesus' resurrection body, and again mentions that he came into the room through locked doors.
- The purpose of the Gospels is to bring people to faith.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- What do you think Thomas thought about in the week between verses 25 and 26?
- Why doesn't Jesus show himself physically to the world today? What effect did it have 2000 years ago?

DAY 18 *Abide in Me... Much Fruit*

THE PASSAGE JOHN 21:1-14

THE POINT Without Jesus the disciples were aimless. They resorted to fishing again but even that was empty & fruitless until their living Lord gave them new life & hope.

THE PARTICULARS

- Even after Jesus' first two resurrection appearances the disciples were still discouraged & lacking direction.
- The disciples recognised Jesus by his firm authority.
- Jesus was able to change the disciples' frustrating, unproductive labours into encouraging, fruitful work when they responded to his simple instruction.
- The large number of fish they caught was a sign of the future success of obedience to the Great Commission.
- Jesus was concerned with their normal daily needs.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- How much do you look to Jesus each day to provide the strength, wisdom & other resources you need?
- Are you an enthusiastic 'fisher of men' or a discouraged treadmill walker? How can you be more fruitful?

DAY 19 *Healed, Restored, Forgiven*

THE PASSAGE JOHN 21:15-19

THE POINT Peter could well have written the hymn:

*Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven -
who like me his praise should sing?*

THE PARTICULARS

- Peter had denied Jesus three times; Jesus gave Peter the opportunity to declare his allegiance three times.
- In verses 15 & 16 the word 'truly' in the NIV is very significant. In the first 2 questions the word Jesus used for 'love' was the word defined in 1 Corinthians 13. In reply Peter used a weaker word for 'love'. In the third question (verse 17) Jesus graciously used Peter's word!
- Jesus' instructions to Peter progressed: 'Feed my lambs ... Take care of my sheep ... Feed my sheep'.
- Jesus gave him a new challenge to follow him in spite of the fact that it would still involve danger and death.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- How does this event encourage you today?

DAY 20 *MYOB*

THE PASSAGE JOHN 21:20-25

THE POINT There is no limit to the scope of God's story of Salvation through the life, death & resurrection of his Son Jesus. Each believer's life & testimony has a part to play in the telling out of that story. Each must be faithful and true to his own particular calling.

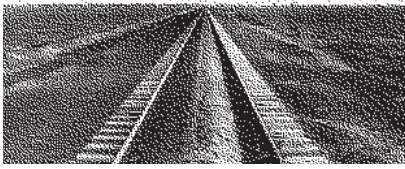
THE PARTICULARS

- Our prime responsibility is for our own discipleship. Faithfulness to following Jesus could lead to my death while the lives of other Christians are saved, but that must not concern me – it is in God's hands.
- We need to be careful of rumours that might just come from a misunderstanding of what someone says.
- John's reference to himself as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved' grates on us a bit but it could be a humble way of acknowledging that Jesus loved even him.
- The Gospels don't contain all that Jesus said and did.

TO PONDER ... AND TO PRAY

- Are you willing both to live and to die for Jesus?

across australia



Further honours

N*New Life* magazine reported many further awards to Christians in the Australia Day honours. These included **Companion (AC) of the Order of Australia** to **Rev Dr Gordon Keith Moyes, AM**. Dr Moyes has served as the Superintendent of the Wesley Mission in Sydney since 1979, the chaplain to the Australian Olympic team in 1988 and is the author of 55 religious books and booklets, as well as the presenter of various national TV and radio programs.

Officer (OC) of the Order of Australia: Clarence Raymond Briese, Sydney, Commissioner on the NSW Crime Commission (1990-1996) and Chief Magistrate, NSW Local Courts (1982-1990). Mr Briese worships at Christ Church, St Ives.

Member (AM) of the Order of Australia: John Kenneth Clezy, OBE, Jibla Baptist Hospital, Ibb, Yemen, for service to medicine and international humanitarian aid. He was senior surgeon at the Goroka Base Hospital in the Highlands Region, Papua New Guinea, 1984-1988, then spent 10 years in Burnie, Tas, and has been a surgeon in the Jibla Baptist Hospital, Republic of Yemen, since 1999. He regards his home church as Burnie Baptist.

Warwick Hood Olson, Sydney, the first international chairman of African Enterprise in the 1980s, a former vice-president of World Vision, director of Pilgrim International Limited since 1974, and a former director of communications for the Anglican diocese of Sydney and editor of *Southern Cross*. He worships at St Paul's, Carlingford.

John Anthony Townend, Sydney, the chairman of the Diabetes Australia International Affairs Committee, 1995-2000. He attends St Martin's Anglican Church, Killara.

Tutors wanted

Mission Australia's **Home Tutor Service** is calling on volunteers to teach English to newly arrived migrants and refugees in the Greater Western Sydney region. All you need is an hour each week to help people learn English in their home.

Kevin Wright, manager of the service, said the program – which offers English language tuition to people unable to attend formal classes due to ill health, disability or childcare responsibilities – was stretched for volunteers and had a waiting list of 70. For more details, phone (02) 9635 1543

Reaching Russians

During the past five years, the number of Russians completing Bible study has exploded almost 1400 per cent, from a little more than 5000 in 1997 to almost 75,000 in 2001, reports **Bible League Australia**. Last year there were a record 74,711 Bible study graduates, an average of 205 a day. The Bible League provided 1,372,555 Scriptures to Russia last year.

The Bible League's "Choose Life" Bible study program is key to much of this growth. The Bible League launched the program in Russia a little more than two years ago.

Walpole on air

Australia's fastest-growing national radio network, **Vision FM**, has become first radio station to broadcast into Walpole in Western Australia. **'VisionFM Walpole'** launched in January on **88.0 FM**. Through the involvement of local supporters, the installation of a transmitting tower and broadcast site has been established, providing Walpole with its only radio signal.

Vision FM broadcasts to 75 local communities across Australia from its headquarters in Brisbane, and community interest has already been shown for another 200 locations across Australia. Aimed mainly at country Australian families, Vision plays only Christian music, with a ratio of two thirds music to one third spoken.

Commonwealth Games outreach

Quest Australia, the organisation that coordinated the Christian community's combined activities for the Sydney 2000 Olympics and Paralympics, is now planning outreach for the Commonwealth

Games in Melbourne in 2006.

According to Quest's CEO, **Warren Searles**, the effort of Sydney's Christian community for the 2000 Games is considered around the world as the most united and successful major event outreach to be staged.

"The Commonwealth Games is another big-ticket event which will capture the imagination of Australians. It will focus much of the world's attention on Australia again, will bring the world to our doorstep, and will provide the Church with another remarkable opportunity for Bible witness to our sports-mad nation," he said.

A meeting of interested people and groups is planned for 13 March, 10am to 2pm at Salvation Army Headquarters, 5 Hamilton St, Mont Albert, Melbourne. Lunch will be provided.

For more details, phone 02 9763 2800

Family First in SA

The new **Family First** party had amazing success, including winning a Senate seat, in the South Australian elections held on 9 February, reports Roslyn Phillips, research officer for the Festival of Light in Adelaide.

Political pundits are shaking their heads in amazement – particularly as they look at the votes in several electorates where hitherto unknown Family First candidates did as well as or better than the Democrats. Opinion polls in the week before the election were showing Family First on just 2 per cent – but on Election Day they were polling as much as 7 per cent in some seats.

The Family First party began in June with just one man: **Andrew Evans**, recently retired pastor of a large Assemblies of God church. Over the next few months the paid-up membership of Family First swelled to become one of the largest parties registered in South Australia.

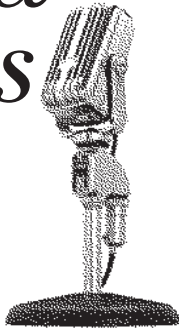
FAMILY REUNION

QUARMBY ~ Richard and Sarah.

We would like to make contact
with descendents.

Family reunion is planned for
April 2002. Please ring Ken or Joan
Quarmby, 02 4684 2363 A.S.A.P.

world news



Bible-smuggler jailed

A Hong Kong businessman who brought Bibles to a banned Chinese religious group has been sentenced to two years in prison. **Lai Kwong-keung** was convicted by a court in the southeastern Chinese city of Fuqing of "illegal operation," said a court official.

China allows only state-monitored worship and is trying to crush independent groups that it says are a threat to communist rule and public order.

Gender-neutral NIV

America's best-selling modern Bible is about to get an update using gender-neutral wording, despite past criticism of that

idea from conservatives, said the **International Bible Society**.

The revision will be called *Today's New International Version* or TNIV. The original NIV, which has sold more than 150 million copies worldwide since 1978, will remain on the market. The New Testament of the latest version goes on sale next month, with the full Bible expected by 2005.

Zondervan of Grand Rapids, Michigan, owned by HarperCollins, holds North American rights for both versions.

Charity-head appointed

US President George W. Bush has named **James Towey**, an advocate for the aging who worked with Mother Teresa's ministry for more than a decade, to lead his initiative to give federal money to religious charities.

"He brings to the job managerial skills and a servant's heart," Mr Bush said.

Mr Bush called his religion-based initiative "a great cause" and said that since the 11 September attacks, community and religious groups "have helped heal the nation's wounds".

Internet magazine

A free new weekly online magazine has been launched, just one of the new efforts in a rising trend in Christian publishing on the Internet. *ChristiannewsToday.com* offers free Christian world news and Information to anyone who is interested in world news and information with a Christian

perspective. It also publishes news daily, and has a late-breaking Christian world news alert that is E-mailed out to hundreds of subscribers.

ChristianNewsToday.com is a new Christian site in the beginning stages and has already been visited by thousands of Christians around the world. A small entity, unlike *Crosswalk* or *Christianity Today*, it is developing into a Christian World News publisher and e-zine on the internet.

Assist News Service

Evangelism school

A new Bible school called the **School of Biblical Evangelism** has drawn interest from around the world, reports *ASSIST News Service*. **Mark A. Spence**, the principal of the highly specialised school said that Christians have registered from Australia, France, Norway, Turkey, New Zealand, England, Malaysia, Canada and almost every state in the US. Spence said, "We have drawn from the wisdom of **Charles Spurgeon, John Wesley, Whitefield** and many of the great preachers of past eras to equip Christians to effectively share their faith." The course gives instruction on atheism, evolution, and historic revivals. Most nowadays aren't aware of how a country can be transformed by a true revival. Much of the teaching has been drawn from the material of author **Ray Comfort**, whose ministry has been commended by many well-known Christian leaders such as **Dr D. James Kennedy, Josh McDowell** and **Franklin Graham**.

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Evangelist

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For application form contact:

Rev. C. Vanderhorn,
120 Anderson Road, SUNSHINE, Vic. 3020
Tel: (03) 9311 1661
cor@netspace.net.au

Deadline: 8 March '02



Come worship with us!

If you are passing through or moving nearby, feel free to ring the Minister, Clerk or Elder.

australian capital territory

CANBERRA, BELCONNEN

Cnr Gatty St. & Ross Smith Cres, Scullin.
Sunday Service 10:00 am

Elder: Mr R Howe (02) 6247 9586

CANBERRA, FORREST (St Andrew's)

1 State Circle (opp Parliament House).

Service Times: 9.30am. & 7.00pm.

Church Office: (02) 6295 3457

CANBERRA, TUGGERANONG

Isabella Plains: Isabella Plains Primary School,
Ellerstone Ave. Worship Service & Sunday
School 10.00am.

Rev Tim Abbey (02) 6292 6772

GUNGAHLIN-NORTH BELCONNEN

Ngunnawal Primary School 10.00am. I.M:

Rev. Keith King Enquiries: (02) 6253 8257.

new south wales

ANNANDALE

Hunter Baillie, Johnston & Collins Sts.

10.00am, Rev Colin Alston (02) 9969 8071.

Welsh Church: Chalmers St, Surry Hills.

3.00pm. each Sunday.

ARMIDALE

Faulkner St, 9.30am. & 7.00pm.

Rev. Richard O'Brien (02) 6772 3093

ASHFIELD

Liverpool Rd. & Knox St.

Rev Peter Hastie (02) 9798 6572.

BEACON HILL-NARRAWEENA

244 Warringah Rd. 9.30am. & 7.00pm.

Rev. Andrew Clausen (02) 9521 2361.

BEECROFT

Mary St., 8.45am. 10.30am. & 6.30pm.

Rev Martin Levine (02) 9876 2478.

BEGA — EDEN

Bega -Upper St; Eden — CWA Rooms,

Imlay St. Clerk: Mrs J Gill (02) 6495 6062

BLACKTOWN (EAST)

Gallop Grv. & Heffron Rd. Lalor Park,

Service Times: 10.30am. & 6.00pm.

Rev Stuart Coulton (02) 9626 0866.

BONDI

Cnr. Castlefield & Miller Sts.

10.00am & 7.00pm.

Rev John Graham: (02) 9597 5214

BONNYRIGG

Western Regions Chinese Church

14-16 Bibbys Place. 9.30 am. (English) &

11.00 am. (Mandarin)

S.Clerk: Stanley Chen (02) 9753 2073

BOWRAL — MITTAGONG

Bowral: 20 Bendooley St. 10.30am.

Kid's Church: 9.30 am. 1st & 3rd Sunday

Mittagong: Cr Alice & Edwards Sts. 9.00am.

Rev. Doug McPherson: (02) 4872 4052.

BURWOOD

48 Belmore St. 9.15am (English)

Burwood: 11.00 am (Cantonese)

5.00 pm (English).

Rev Jim Elliott (02) 9745 3935.

Rev. Dennis Law (02) 9715 3889

CAMPBELLTOWN

34 Lithgow St. 8.30 am. 10.00 am. 6.30 pm.

CARINGBAH

393 Port Hacking Rd.

Rev Graham Flick (02) 9524 6406 (O).

CASTLE HILL

247 Old Northern Rd. 9.30am. & 6.00pm.

Rev Dr Ron Keith (02) 9634 2911.

CHATSWOOD

St Andrew's, Anderson St.

9.00am.& 7.00 pm.

Lane Cove, St James, Farran St. 11.00am.

Rev. Jeff Read (02) 9419 5932 (W) 2077 (H)

CHERRYBROOK

John Purchase Public School Hall, Purchase

Road, Cherrybrook 9.30 am

Rev John Irvin (Minister) (02) 9875 4894

CHINESE CHURCH

Cnr Crown & Albion Sts. Surry Hills.

English/Cantonese/Mandarin/Bilingual
Services.

Rev John Ting (02) 9331 4459(O).

Rev Joe Mock (02) 9642 8861(H).

COFFS HARBOUR (St Andrew's)

187 High St. 8.00am. 9.45am. & 6.30pm.

Rev Peter Moore (02) 6652 3183(O).

CONCORD

Cornerstone Community Presbyterian Church

Meets Concord Public School 9.30 am.

Cnr Burwood Rd. & Stanley St. Concord

Rev. C S Tang (02) 9688 7880 (H)

COOTAMUNDRA (Scots)

Cnr Parker & Francis Sts 11.00 am.

I.M. Rev F. Monckton (02) 6977 1642

COWRA

46 Macquarie St. Also Gooloogong,

Morongla.

Rev John McClean Ph (02) 6342 1467.

CRONULLA

13 Croydon St. 9.30am.

Rev. Russell Stark (02) 9523 5875.

EAST MAITLAND

George St. Beresfield: Beresford Ave.

Raymond Terrace: Irrawang St.

Rev Donald Smith (02) 4933 7443.

EPPING

Bridge & Rawson Sts.

Rev David Tsai (02) 9876 1188.

FORSTER/TUNCURRY

Bruce St. Forster, 9.30am.

Rev. John Thompson (02) 6552 1082

GILGANDRA (St Stephens)

14 Myrtle St. 11.00am. & 9.00am. (4th Sun).

Rev. Tony Adams (02) 6847 2036

GOSFORD

14-16 Young St. West Gosford. 8.00am.

9.45am. 6.30 pm. Office: Ph (02) 4323 2490.

Rev Rod Mallinson (02) 4385 5231.

GRIFFITH

Opp. Collina Oval, Blumer Ave. 9.30 am.

Rev. Peter Gobbo (02) 6962 4827.

Dr L. Thorpe (02) 6962 1934

GUNNEDAH

Marquis & Barber Sts. **Boggabri:** Court

House Rev. Stefan Slucki (02) 6742 0551

HURSTVILLE

Cnr. Park Rd. & McMahan St. English:

9.30am. & 6.30pm. Indonesian: 4.00pm.

Rev Kevin Murray (02) 9153 8176.

KIAMA

Terralong St. 9.00am.

Pastor: Noel Creighton (02) 4233 1554

KOGARAH

Cnr Kensington & Derby Sts.

9.30am. & 7.00pm.

Rev Ray Osborn (02) 9587 5577.

KOREAN, SYDNEY (Young Nak)

7-9 Manson St, Telopea. 9.30am. 11.00am.

3.00pm. S.Clerk (02) 9816 3807

LEETON

Cnr. Sycamore & Cypress Sts. 10.00 am.

Rev. Richard Keith (02) 4272 9407

LISMORE (St Paul's)

188 Keen St. 9.00 am. & 7.00 pm.

Rev Peter Playsted (02) 6624 7050

MACQUARIE

Herring & Abuklea Rds, Marsfield

Rev. Rex Swawley (02) 9878 4202

MANLY (St Andrew's)

Raglan St. & Augusta Lane. 9.45am. 5.30pm.

May/Sept; 7.00pm Oct/April.

Rev Tony Lang (02) 9976 2801

MAROUBRA, Kingsford

8 Robey St, Maroubra. 9.30 am. 7.15 pm.

94 Houston Rd, Kingsford 11.15am

Chinese Service, Maroubra 4 pm.

Rev Johnnie Li (02) 9349 1312

MOREE (St Andrew's)

Cnr Albert & Auburn Sts, 10.00am.

Rev. L. Fowler (02) 6752 1083

MOSMAN (Scots Kirk)

Belmont Rd. (nr Military Rd), 9.00am.

Rev R J McCracken (02) 9969 6101.

MURWILLUMBAH (St Andrew's)
Wollumbin St. 9.00am. & 7.00pm.
Tyalgum: 11.00am. (3rd Sun).
Rev. Philip Strong (02) 6672 1088

NEWCASTLE (St Andrews)
Cnr. Laman & Auckland Sts 9.15am & 7.00pm.
Office: (02) 4929 2857

NORTH SYDNEY-GREENWICH
(St Peter's) 234 Blues Point Rd. 10.00am.
& 6.45pm. Wednesday 1.15pm.
Greenwich: (Taylor's Memorial)
86A Greenwich Rd. 10.00am.
Rev Dr Paul Logan (02) 9955 1662.
Assistant Rev A B Clark (02) 9638 7471

ORANGE (St James)
Cnr Anson St. & Matthews Ave. 10.00am.
Rev. William Stewart (02) 6362 6304

PARRAMATTA CITY
Cumberland High School, Dunmore Ave.
Carlingford. Rev. Luke Tattersall.
S. Clerk: Mike Whiteman (02) 9484 1240.

PENRITH (St Andrew's)
Doonmore St. near High St, 9.00am. &
7.00pm. Rev William Morrow (02) 4721 2440.

PORT MACQUARIE (St Andrew's)
Cnr William/Munster Sts, 9.00am., 10.30am
Rev S Donnellan (02) 6582 2505

RANDWICK
Alison Rd. & Cook St. 10.00am. & 5.00pm.
Rev. Grant Thorpe (02) 9399 3183.

ROSE BAY (St Andrew's)
Cnr Dover Rd. & Carlisle St. 10.00am & 6.00pm.
Rev Bruce Christian (02) 9388 1206(O).

RYDE
Bowden & Squire Sts.
Putney: Douglas St.
Rev Andrew Unwin (02) 9809 3197.

SOUTHERN CROSS
Park Ave. East Lismore
Rev. Stephen Cree (02) 6621 3655

SPRINGWOOD
160 Macquarie Rd. 10.30am. & 6.00pm.
Winnalee: 481 Hawkesbury Rd. 9.00am.
(02) 4751 1188(O).
Rev. Robert Benn (02) 4751 9968

STRATHFIELD (St David's)
Barker Rd. & Marion St. 10.00am. & 6.30pm.
Rev Robert McKean (02) 9746 8123.

SUTHERLAND
Cnr Flora & Glencoe Sts. 9.30am & 5.30pm
Rev Adrian Clausen (02) 9521 2361

SYDNEY (Scots Church)
142 Chalmers Str., Surry Hills (temporary)
Service Time: 10.30 am.
Rev. Adrian Van Ash (02) 9817 0587.

TAMWORTH (St Stephen's)
23 Matthews St, also at **Moonbi**.
9.00am. & 6.30pm
Rev Stuart Andrews (02) 6765 8754.

Tamworth Community Presb Church,
Oxley High School Piper St Nth T'worth
10 am. Rev Keith Walker (02) 6762 5759

Manilla: Court St.
Rev. Vic Johnson (02) 6785 1627.

TAREE
Albert St. 9.00am.
Rev John Thompson (02) 6552 1082(O).

TENTERFIELD
117 Logan St. (07) 6977 1642

TERRIGAL (Scots Kirk)
2 Willoughby Rd.

Rev Phillip Paul (02) 4385 2240.

WAHROONGA
Wahroonga Presbyterian Church,
Cnr. Illoura Ave. & Stuart St. 9.30am.
Rev. Murray Fraser (02) 9489 3690

WEE WAA
Mitchell St. Mr Mark Powell (02) 6795 4259

WENTWORTH FALLS (St Andrew's)
Falls Rd. 9.00 am. Session Clerk: Mr Bernie
Tucker (02) 4757 3518

WENTWORTHVILLE
7 McKem St. **Girraween:** 15 Tungarra Rd.
Rev. David Griffin Phone: (02) 9896 3297.

WESTLAKES
Warnervale Community Hall, Warnervale Rd
S.School 8.30 am. Service 9.30 am.
Rev. Esa Hukkinen (02) 4393 5530

WEST WYALONG
Pioneer Memorial, Court St. 9.00am. &
11.00am. Also at **Barmedman, Mahda,**
Talimba & Weethalle.
Mr. Lance Jackson (02) 6972 2143.

WOLLONGONG (St Andrew's)
Cnr Kembla & Burelli Sts. 9.45am. &
6.00pm. Rev Bruce Hammonds (02) 4226
1458(H) (02) 4226 1725(O).

WOOLGOOLGA
Cnr Scarborough St. & Landrigan Cl.
9.00am. Rev. Peter Moore (02) 6651 2301.

WOONONA
7 Gray St. Rev Peter Currie (02) 4284 4057.

WOY WOY
120 Blackwall Rd. 9.00 & 10.30 am.
Rev. Jamie Newans (02) 4342 2856

queensland

ACACIA RIDGE
Cnr. Mortimer & Beaudesert Rds.
8.45am. & 6.00pm. Pastor Stephen Teale,
(07) 3277 0010, (07) 3344 5022 (H).

ASCOT
68 Charlton St. (Near Airport).
Nundah: 14 Rode Rd
Rev Guido Kettniss (07) 3216 4151.
Rev Les Hall (07) 3267 0558

ATHERTON
Cnr. Alice & Jack Sts. 10.00am & 6.00pm.
Rev. John Trappett (07) 4091 1375.

BALD HILLS
58 Strathpine Rd. 8.30am. & 7.00pm.
Rev Peter Bloomfield (07) 3261 4305.

BRISBANE KOREAN
145 Ann St. 8.00am. 12.00 noon, 7.30pm.
Rev Dr M. M. Y. Kim (07) 3300 3132

BRISBANE (St Paul's)
53 St Pauls Tce. Spring Hill.
Rev A. Gardiner (07) 3831 7458(O).

BUNDABERG (Scots')
Cnr. Water & Alice Sts. 9.00am & 7.00pm.
Rev David Newman (07) 4153 2954

CABOOLTURE
24 Cottrill Road. 9.00am & 6.00pm.
Rev. G. Watt (07) 5494 1181

CAIRNS
85 Sheridan St. 9.15 am. & 6.30 pm.
Rev Donald Broadwater, (07) 4036 0421(H).
Rev Russell van Delden, (07) 4054 3241 (H).

CALLIDE VALLEY
Biloela: Cnr. Kariboe & Melton Sts.
10.00am. & 6.00pm.
Jambin: Three Ways 8.30am.
Pastor Walter Posthuma (07) 4992 1441

CALOUNDRA
Cnr Kalinga & Ormutz Sts. 9.30am. &
7.00pm. Rev N. Thomason (07) 5493 3594

CAPALABA
74 Lyndon Rd. 8.30am
Rev B Enchelmaier (07) 3824 0958

CHARLEVILLE
Galatea St. Pastor Alan Grant (07) 4654 3100.

CHARTERSTOWERS
Blackthorn Hall, Thornburgh College,
King St. Mr. S. McDonald (07) 4787 3395

CLAYFIELD (Scots Memorial)
29 Bellevue Terrace, 9.30am.
I.M. Rev. Robert Herrgott (07) 3300 6158

CLEVELAND
Cnr Bloomfield & Ocean Sts.
10.15am & 6.30pm.
Rev Brian Enchelmaier (07) 3824 0958

COORPAROO
Emlyn St. 10.00am. & 7.00pm.
I.M. Rev D. Mihailovic (07) 3800 3799

CREEK ROAD
PCYC Centre, 27 Narracott St., Carina
9.00 am & 5.30 pm.
Rev Peter Barson (07) 3398 3607.
Rev D. McDougall (07) 3397 5244.

DALBY
Condamine St. (cnr. Patrick St).
Rev Roland Lowther (07) 4669 7074

EUMUNDI
Memorial Drive, 10.45am. (weekly) &
6.30pm. (2nd & 4th Sunday).
I.M. Rev. Noel C. Thomason (07) 5493 3594

GAYNDAH
Warton St. 10.00am.
I.M. Rev. Noel C. Thomason (07) 5493 3594

GLADSTONE (St Andrew's)
Goondoon & Bramston Sts. 10.00am. &
7.00pm. **Benaraby:** O'Connor Rd. 8.00am.
Also **Calliope.**
Rev. David Secomb (07) 4972 1058

GOLD COAST (I)
Arundel: 132 Allied Drive 9.15am.
Rev Bob Carner (07) 5545 0947
Robina: Cnr University & Cottesloe Drives
10.00 am. & 6.30 pm.
Rev. Kevin Ridley (07) 5571 1416

GOLD COAST (II)
Mudgeeraba: Cnr Mudgeeraba Rd &
Regency Pde. 9.00am. & 6.30 pm.
Rev. Glenn Samuel (07) 5530 7003

Mudgeeraba Korean Congregation:
11.30 am. Rev. Jo Kim (07) 5574 4001

Palm Beach/Elanora: 'The Meeting Place'
Cnr. Coolgardie & Guineas Creek Rds. (cnr.
Pines Shopping Ctre) 9.00 am.
Rev. Donald Geddes (07) 5522 8982

GYMPIE
11 Crown St. 9.30am. Woolooga 11.00am.
Rev. D Cranney (07) 5482 7629(O).

HERVEY BAY (St David's)
Denmans Rd, Scarness, 9.30am. & 7.00pm.
Rev. John T Roth (07) 4124 7018.

IPSWICH
Cnr Limestone & Gordon Sts. 8.20am.
10.00am. 6.30pm.

Coominya: 8.00am.
Forest Hill: Church St, 9.00am.
 Rev John Langbridge (07) 3294 7999.
 Rev Wesley Redgen (07) 3282 9829.
ITHACA
 100 Enogerra Tce, Paddington.
 Service: 9.30 am. 6.30pm.
 Rev. Robert Herrgott (07) 3300 6158
MACGREGOR
 268 Padstow Rd. Eight Mile Plains 8.30am.
 I.M. Rev. Dan Mihailovic (07) 3800 3799
MACKAY
 Cnr Harvey St. & Evans Ave. Nth Mackay.
 7.30am; 9.30am & 7pm.
Sarina: Sarina Beach Rd. 9.00am.
Pinnacle: Red Cross Hall, 4.00pm
 (1st & 3rd Sunday).
 Rev. Jim Brown (07) 4955 3829.
MALENY
 Cedar St. 9.00am.
 Rev. Noel Thomason (07) 5493 3594
MAROOCHYDORE
 Okinja Rd. Alexandra Headland.
 9.00am. & 7.00pm.
 Rev Keith Mayers (07) 5445 9209.
MARYBOROUGH
 523 Alice St. 9.00am.
 Pastor John Tucker (07) 4123 5920.
MILES
 Miles 80 Murilla St., 9.00am.
Dulacca Temple St., 2nd & 4th Sunday
Condamine 1st & 3rd Sunday S'time 7 am
 W'time 11am
 Pastor Harold Wills (07) 4627 1180
MONTO
 Bell St. 10.00am. & 7.00pm. (2nd & 4th
 Sunday). **Abercorn** 11.45am. (1st Sunday).
Kalpowar: 7.30pm. (3rd Sunday).
 Pastor Elton Wiltshire (07) 4166 1441.
NAMBOUR
 21 Solanda St. 8.45am
 I.M. Rev. Noel C. Thomason (07) 5493 3594.
NORTH PINE
 57 Old Dayboro Rd. Petrie.10.00am. &
 6.30pm. Rev Neil McKinlay (07) 3285 2104.
PEACE PRESBYTERIAN
 Student Centre, Deception Bay State High
 School 9.30am.
 Rev. John Gilmour (07) 3261 7804
REDCLIFFE PENINSULA
 WoodyPoint, Cnr. Ellen & Hawthorne Sts.
 9.30am. & 6.00pm.
Scarborough: Jeays St. 8.00am.
 Rev. Peter Whitney (07) 3284 2578.
ROCKHAMPTON (St Andrew's)
 Cnr. Bolsover & Derby Sts. 10.00am. &
 6.00pm. St John's: Parnell St. 8.30am.
 Rev Charlie Kennedy (07) 4922 8241.
ROCKHAMPTON (John Knox)
 Rundle St. 10.00 am. & 7.30 pm.
 Rev. Jon Chandler (07) 4922 1825
ROCKHAMPTON (St Stephen's)
 Burnett St. Nth Rockhampton, 8.30am.
 Rev Jon Chandler (07) 4922 1825
Mt Morgan: St Enoch's, East St. 9.00am.
 Rev Gilbert Jansen (07) 4938 2485.
SANDGATE
 Loudon St. 9.00am. & 6.00pm.
 I.M. Rev. D. Todd (Em.) (07) 3269 9359
SPRINGSURE
 Charles St. 10.30am.

Emerald: High School Frazer St., 8.30am.
 Rev B J Harrison Phone (07) 4984 1550.
TEWANTIN
 Anglican Church, William St. 11.45am.
 Rev Keith L. Mayers (07) 5445 9209.
THE GAP
 1195 Waterworks Rd., 9.00am.
 Rev David Niven (07) 3300 2987.
THURINGOWA -TOWNSVILLE
 John Calvin, Carthew St. Kirwan. **Condon:**
 I.M. Rev. Colin Barwise (07) 4728 4224.
TOOWOOMBA NORTH (St David's)
 Mary St. Also at **Geham**
TOOWOOMBA WEST
St Andrews: 57 West St. 9.00am. & 5.00pm.
Glenvale Rd: 35A Glenvale Rd. 8.00am.
 Rev R. Sondergeld (07) 4633 4188.
 Mr Ross Turner (07) 4634 6053
 Mr Mike Stone (07) 4635 0651
 Mr Wayne Harrison (07) 4634 9066
TOWNSVILLE (St Andrew's)
 113 Wills St. City. 9.30am. & 6.30pm.
 Ass. Min. Rev. Walter Jones (07) 4778 3823
VICTORIA POINT
 164 Colburn Ave. 8.30am.
 Rev Brian Enchelmaier (07) 3824 0958
WYNNUM
 Cnr Bay Tce & Cedar St. 9.00 am & 6.00 pm.
 Rev Dr George Logan (07) 3893 1712

south australia

ADELAIDE (St Andrew's)
 92-98 Archer St. North Adelaide. 10.30 am.
 Session Clerk: Mr. Jim Petrie (08) 8395 6252
Largs North, Brenda Terrace. 11.00 am.
 Rev R. Burns (08) 8267 1056.
ELIZABETH
 106 Goodman Rd, Elizabeth South. 9.30 am
 Session Clerk: Mr Bob Arstall (08) 8825 5226.
MILLICENT
 Cnr Fifth & Sixth Sts. 10.30 am.
 Rev Andrew Slater (08) 8733 2062.
MT BARKER
 Hutchison St. 10.30 am.
 Pastor Rupert Hanna (08) 8391 3151.
MT GAMBIER
 Allison St. 10.00 am. 6.30 pm. Also **Allendale,**
Glenburnie, Nelson (Vic), OB Flat.
 Rev R. Waterhouse Ph/Fx (08) 8723 9028
MURRAY BRIDGE
 Masonic Hall 5.00pm. (1st, 3rd & 5th S'day)
 Rev Wally Zurrer (08) 8296 0801.
NARACOORTE
 Church St. 10.00am.
 Rev Rudi Schwartz (08) 8762 1035
NORWOOD (St Giles)
 79 The Parade. 9.15am & 7.00pm.
 Rev Dr Reg Mathews (08) 8395 7841
PARA HILLS
 174 Maxwell Rd. 10.45 am.
 Rev Dr Reg Mathews (08) 8395 7841
PENOLA
 Portland St. 10.45 am. Rev. Alan Clarkson
 (08) 8737 2984 Also **Dergholm, Kalangadoo**
PORT AUGUSTA
 Jervois St. 11.00 am.

Rev Laurie Peake (08) 8648 6777.
SEACLIFF
 Kauri Pde. Seacliff. 9.30am.
 Rev Wally Zurrer (08) 8296 0801.
WHYALLA
 28 Ramsay St. 9.00 am.
 S/ Clerk: Helen Mashford
 (08) 8645 0818



CROSSROADS (Hobart)
 Campbell St. School 6.00 pm.
 Rev David Jones (03) 6223 4701
DEVONPORT (St Columba's)
 Edward St. **Don:** Waverley Rd.
 I.M. Rev. Daniel Combridge (03) 6425 9525
HOBART
 (St John's) 10.00 am & 7.00 pm
 188 Macquarie St. (03) 6223 7213
 Rev. Robert White (03) 6278 1370
LAUNCESTON (St Andrew's)
 Civic Square. 9.30 & 11.00 am. @ 7.00 pm.
 (Dec/Jan 10.00 am. & 7.00 pm.)
 Church Office: (03) 6331 5412
 Rev. Peter Thorneycroft 0438 315 412
 Yth. Pastor: Brett Rutherford (03)6331 2584
MONTROSE
 Cnr. Islington Rd. & Walker St. 10.00 am.
 Rev. Steve. Warwick (03) 6272 2608.
RIVERSIDE
 Eden St. Also **Glengarry & Winkleigh.**
 Mod. Ps. Bryan Crawford (03) 6352 4024
ROKEBY
 Presby. Community Church, Tollard Dr.
 Mod. Rev Steve Warwick (03) 6272 2608
SCOTTSDALE
 George St. **Bridport:** Westwood St.
 Mod.Ps. Bryan Crawford (03) 6352 4024
STANLEY (St James)
 Fletcher St. **Rocky Cape, Mawbanna**
 Mod. Mr I Bessell (03) 6443 4299
ULVERSTONE (St Andrew's)
 65 Main Rd. 10.00am.
 Rev Daniel Combridge (03) 6425 9525.
WEST TAMAR
 Auld Kirk, Sidmouth and Mole Creek
 Mod: Rev. John Britton (03) 6339 4480

victoria

ARARAT
 Cnr. Campbell St. (Pyrenees H'way) and
 Queen St. 10 am. Mr Norman Sharp
 O.(03) 5334 3747 H. (03) 5352 4054
ASHBURTON
 Junction of High St. and High Street Rd.
 near Warrigal Rd. 10.15am.
 Rev Peter Orchard (03) 9889 6034.
ASPENDALE
 Cnr Station St. & Lyle Grv. 9.00am. &
 6.00pm. Rev A. Campbell (03) 9580 0530.
AUBURN
 Cnr Rathmines & Station Sts

Hawthorn East 10.00 am.
 Rev S P Swinn (03) 9882 5256
BAIRNSDALE
 7th Day Adventist Church, 149 Nicholson St. 10.00 am. 1st of Month 5.00pm.
 S/school 9.00 am.
 Past. Laurie Leighton (03) 5153 1669
BALACLAVA
 Hotham St. & Denman Ave. 10.00am.
 Rev Mike Wharton (03) 9527 3270.
BENDIGO (St John's)
 Forest St. 10.30am.
 Rev Andrew Clarke (03) 5443 6189.
BLACKBURN
 53 Gardenia St. 11.00am.
 Rev P Locke (03) 9725 6417
BUNDOORA
 Bundoora Hall, Noorong Ave. 10.00 am
 Admin: Mrs M Goodson (03) 9431 1851
BURWOOD
 (Chinese Presbyterian Church) 11.00am.
 Cnr. Greenwood & Tennyson Sts.
 Rev Dr John Elnatan (03) 9801 7645.
CAMBERWELL- Trinity
 cnr Riversdale & Waterloo Sts. 10.00am.
 Rev. Philip Mercer (03) 9882 8102
CAMPERDOWN-TERANG-GARVOC
 9.30 am Aug — Jan. 11am Feb — July
Terang: 1 Warrnambool Rd.
Camperdown: Campbell & Brooke Sts.
Garvoc: 2:30pm. 2nd & 4th Sunday.
 Pastor Bernie Thomas (03) 5592 1041
CANTERBURY
 146 Canterbury Rd. 10.30am. & 7 pm.
 Rev. Grant Lawry (03) 9836 4601.
CANTERBURY JAPANESE
 146 Canterbury Rd. 10.30 am
 Rev. Hugh Price (03) 9894 2384
CAULFIELD-ELWOOD
Caulfield: Neerim/Bambra Rds. 11.15am.
Elwood: Scott/Tennyson Sts. 9.15am & 4.00pm. Rev Stephen Tay (03) 9505 3013.
 Assistant: Mr John Cho (03) 9571 5218
CHELTENHAM Pioneers' Presbyterian
 8 Park Rd. Cnr. Charman Rd. 9.30am.
 Rev. David Palmer (03) 9583 2785
CLIFTON HILL
 Cnr Michael & McKean Sts North Fitzroy.
 10.30 am
 Int.Mod. Rev Peter Phillips (03) 9481 4642.
CROYDON HILLS
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School
 57 Plymouth Rd. Croydon. 10.00am.
 Rev. John Diacos (03) 9725 5370
DANDENONG
 51 Potter St. 10.00am.
 Ses. Clerk. (03) 9793 1423
DONVALE
 Cnr. Springvale & McGowan's Rds. 8.30am,
 10.30 am & 6.30pm. Rev Gerald Vanderwert
 (03) 9842 9493. (03) 9841 7020 (O)
DROMANA — MORNINGTON
Dromana: St Andrew's, Gibson St. 9.00am.
Mornington (TheChapel) Cnr Strachans
 Rd. & Nepean Hwy. 11.00am.
 Rev Andrew Venn (03) 5975 9514
DROUIN
 Church St. 9am. 10.30am. 7.30pm.
 Sept-April; 7.00pm. May-Aug.
 Rev. Ken Brown (03) 5625 1126.

ELTHAM
 23 Batman Rd. 10.00 am
 Rev. Don Elliott (03) 9439 9720
ESSENDON
 Cnr Wilson & McPherson Sts.
 Moonee Ponds 9.30am. & 7.00pm.
 Rev. Paul Ridgewell (03) 9370 1281
FRANKSTON
 30 Radiata St. 10.30am. & 6.00pm.
 Rev David Kumnick (03) 9786 2976.
GLEN WAVERLEY-KNOXFIELD
 Highvale Primary School,
 Ashton St. Glen Waverley 9.30am.
 Rev. Trevor Cox (03) 9764 9141.
HAMILTON
 St Andrew's, Gray & McIntyre Sts. 10.00am.
 & 5.00pm. (last Sunday of month)
 Rev Keith Bell (03) 5572 1009
HAWTHORN
 580 Glenferrie Rd. 11.00 am. & 7.00 pm.
 Rev Dr Graham Lyman (03) 9819 5347.
KANGAROO GROUND
 265 Eltham-Yarra Glen Rd. 9.30am.
 S. Clerk: Dr R. Baldock. (03) 9437 1265
KOREAN
 16 Walnut Rd. North Balwyn.
 English language service. 11.00 am
LEONGATHA
 Cnr. Bent & Turner Sts. 10.00am.
 Session Clerk: (03) 5662 4734
MALVERN
 161-163 Wattletree Rd. 10.30am. & 5.00 pm.
 Rev John S Woodward (03) 9509 7373.
MELTON
 Mowbray College, Centenary Ave.
 Rev Peter Owen (03) 9747 8195.
MOE — YARRAM
Moe: 34 Fowler St. 10.00am.
Yarram: Cnr. Dougherty & Montgomery
 Sts. 2.00pm. Rev Jared Hood (03) 5127 1296.
NOORAT-DARLINGTON
Noorat: Cnr Mc Kinnons Bridge &
 Glenormiston Rds. 10.30 am.
Darlington: Hall St. 8.45 am. (1st & 3rd
 Sundays) Rev. Barry Oakes (03) 5592 5220
NUMURKAH
 58 Saxton St. 11.15am.
Tallygaropna: Victoria St. 9.30am.
Cobram: Cnr High and Pine Sts. (Anglican
 Church) 2.30pm.
 Pastor John Rickard (03) 5862 1621.
RESERVOIR
 81 Edwardes St. 10.00 am. & 7.00 pm.
 Rev Chris Siriweera (03) 9460 9523
RINGWOOD-HEATHMONT
 Cnr. Waterloo St. & Canterbury Rd.
 Heathmont 10.00am. Enq: (03) 9728 3374
ROCHESTER
 Cnr. Victoria St. & Echuca Rd. 11.00am. &
 7.30pm. **Timmering** 9.30 am
ST KILDA
 Cnr Alma Rd. & Barkly St. 11.00am &
 7.00pm. Rev Bob Thomas (03) 9537 1642 (O)
SALE
 89-93 Dundas Street. 10.30 am.
 I.M. Rev. P.W. Swinn (03) 5122 3406
SHEPPARTON
 Cnr. Hayes & Leithen Sts. 9.00am. &
 7.00pm. Also **Stanhope, Kyabram.**
 Rev John Sutherland (03) 5831 6494.

SOMERVILLE
 Cnr Jones Rd. & Park Lane.
 Rev. Ian Brown (03) 5977 5469.
SOUTH YARRA
 621 Punt Rd. 10.00 am. & 6.30 pm.
 Rev. Stuart Bonnington (03) 9867 4637
SORRENTO-RYE
Rye: St David's, Colwood & Lyons Sts. 9.30am.
Sorrento: St Andrew's, Kerferd Rd. 11.00am.
SUNSHINE
 McKay Memorial, Anderson Rd. 10.00am. &
 7.00pm. Rev Cor Vanderhorn (03) 9311 1661
SURREY HILLS (St Stephen's)
 Canterbury & Warrigal Rds. 10.15am. &
 7.00pm. (2nd Sun: Youth Service 7.00pm).
 I.M. Rev. Peter N Orchard (03) 9889 6034
UPPER YARRA — WARBURTON
 3471 Warburton H'way. 10.00am. & 6.00pm.
 Mr. Tony Archer (03) 5966 2309.
**WANGARATTA — REGIONAL
 PARISH**
Wangaratta, 158 Rowan St. Yarrowonga,
 47 Orr St. Myrtleford, 78 Standish St
 Rev. Neil Harvey (03) 5721 6444
WARRNAMBOOL (St John's)
Warrnambool: Cnr Spence & Manifold Sts.
 10.00am & 7.00 pm. Sunday Night Life 5.30
South Warrnambool: McDonald St. 9.30
Woodford: Mill St. 11.00 am
 Warrnambool Office: (03) 5562 2029
 Rev Chris ten Broeke (03) 5561 5373
 Rev. Philip Burns (03) 5561 7899.
WEST FOOTSCRAY
 141 Essex St. (Scots) 10.00 am.
 Session Clerk: Ms J Swift (03) 9687 5701
WILLIAMSTOWN (St Andrew's)
 87 Cecil St. 10.00am.
 Rev. Bruce Riding (03) 9397 5338
WOORI YALLOCK
 Healesville Rd. 9.15am & 5 pm, (7pm DLS)
 Rev David Brown (03) 5964 6014.

western australia

BICTON
 Harris St. & View Tce. 9.00am & 7.00pm.
 S.Clerk Mr R Kent (08) 9339 1089
FREMANTLE (Scots)
 Cnr South Tce & Parry St. 10.00 am
 Chinese Worship & Sunday School. 3.00 pm.
 Rev James Nocher (08) 9319 2208.
WHITFORDS (St Mark's)
 Anglican School, St Marks Dr Hilarys.
 9.00am. Rev Alan Perrie (08) 9447 1074

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A butterfly people

From garden (Eden) to garden (Gethsemane), in suffering and pain.

Romanticism was a dream that dominated Germany in the 19th Century. Swinburne spelled it out with touching naiveté: “Glory to man in the highest; for man is master of all things.” Whoever was dreaming awoke with a shudder in 1939 as the German army marched into Poland and throughout Europe. The idealistic dreams and the brittleness of pseudo-Christianity entered the same extermination chamber. Suffering and pain. These are the watchwords of the post-Holocaust globe.

Pain and suffering. These sound so unwelcome. *AP* is not a Catholic journal after all, and gnostic nomenclature scares even good Presbyterians. So why a subject as unEaster-like as this? Isn't Easter about triumph and procession? Isn't it about conquest of sin and death? Why the bitter pill?

When I was a brand-new Christian, I went along to a prayer meeting at an Anglican church in the US, in a small town in Kansas where I lived. There was a group of older folks gathered on a night they called Maundy Thursday. I figured they were so old they didn't know which day of the week it really was. They were also out of sync about the message of Christianity, I decided. Here they were, allegedly born-again folks, concentrating on the pain and suffering of the Messiah. OK, fair enough. He did die, but where was the Hallelujah? Where was the joy in the journey? I didn't really sort it out that night.

At the “Jesus people” church I attended in 1973, we used to sing the song “Do Lord (do you remember me?)”. One verse said, “If you can't bear the cross you can't wear the crown.” But it was a hand-clapping sort of song, and didn't really teach me about the cross, so much as remind me of the joy of the crown.

Let us try to find our way to the cross from another angle. By calendar we travel to Friday via Thursday, but to be geographical, let us come to Calvary from Gethsemane.

Gethsemane. The place of Jesus' arrest. The NIV commentary describes it as “a favorite place of Jesus on the Mount



Bob Mendelson

of Olives, a garden across the Kidron Valley from Jerusalem”. The Hebrew is a compound word: *Gat Shemen*, meaning the *oil press*. This was a manufacturing plant for Israel's olive oil (see Ex. 27.20, where we are told about the menorah, the lampstand, which requires oil from beaten olives for the light in the Tabernacle).

But Gethsemane is not only a factory or the place of Jesus' arrest. It was the place of the final chapter in the life of Messiah. It was his agony, the beginning of the ultimate sufferings of Jesus. Points can be made to the incarnation being the beginning. Or the baptism. Or the first healings (Mt. 8.1-17). However so, the final chapter begins with Gethsemane.

Susan Perlman wrote in *If you want life, expect pain*: “One of the Hebrew verbs for pain, *parpar* expresses the idea of ‘moving convulsively, struggling, twitching, jerking’ such as is found in Job's description of his pain: ‘I had been

untroubled, and He... shattered [*vai-pharpereni*] me’ (Job 16:12).

“In modern Hebrew, however, the same word is transformed into a noun to denote a ‘butterfly’. The reason is as follows: The beautiful butterfly with its multi-colored appearance was first an ugly grub. Then came the time for its transformation and by extreme convulsions, pain and struggle, the ugly grub

became a golden butterfly. Hence the same word in Hebrew for *convulsions* and *butterfly*.” (The title of Susan's essay is taken from The Midrash Tehillim, commenting on Psalm 16: 11.)

It's a very Jewish idea to suffer and, by it, to grow. “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Thy word” (Ps. 119.67).

As we contemplate Easter's resurrection realities, it becomes obvious that we are a people unable to separate ourselves from the bondage that entraps us. Were it

What happened in the original Garden, where mankind lost relationship with God, was redeemed by God in another Garden.



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not for the hand of God in the Exodus, we Jews might still be in Egypt bemoaning our fate. While we entertain idealistic dreams about being able to change our life situations, very few have the strength to make more than small adjustments without the strength of God. We might move from one part of "Goshen" to another, but real Exodus events take the power of God. Only he can initiate the change, bring us to the place where he wants us to be and sustain us there.

We long for significant changes in the quality of being. We long to be free, but we are unable to overcome the inertia of human nature. If God does not lift us out of our life situations, and all that oppresses us, we shall never transcend the sin and selfishness that shackles us and pulls us down.

So we needed a saviour. And that one came to die and take our place. His death began at Gethsemane as Luke records, "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but thine be done." And being in agony he was praying very fervently; and his sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground (Lk. 22:42-44).

It sounds like the Psalms, but it is more than the Psalms. Jesus is the object of the Psalms and the divine Author of the authors of the Psalms.

"Most of the Psalms were born in difficulty. Most of the Epistles were written in prisons. Most of the greatest thoughts of the greatest thinkers of all time had to pass through the fire. Bunyan wrote Pilgrim's Progress from jail. Florence

Nightingale, too ill to move from her bed, reorganised the hospitals of England. Semi-paralysed and under the constant menace of apoplexy, Pasteur was tireless in his attack on disease. During the greater part of his life, American historian Francis Parkman suffered so acutely that he could not work for more than five minutes as a time. His eyesight was so wretched that he could scrawl only a few gigantic words on a manu-

Pain is not good in itself. What is good in any painful experience is, for the sufferer, his submission to the will of God.



script, yet he contrived to write 20 magnificent volumes of history.

Sometimes it seems that when God is about to make preeminent use of a man, he puts him through the fire (Tim Hansel, *You Gotta Keep Dancin'*, 1985).

Y'shua certainly went through that fire in the Garden. I often think that what happened in the original Garden (Eden), where mankind lost relationship with God, was redeemed by God in another Garden (Gethsemane). He received the crown by going to the Garden and then the cross. Gethsemane


is not the end, nor is pain and suffering your end. Helen Keller was quoted as saying "although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it. Calvary was next in the program of God's enterprise of salvation. And then came the Tomb.

Let us not rush to the Tomb before we have seen ourselves asleep in the Garden. Let us find the One who sweated drops like blood. Let us have the oil of our lives pressed in our lives, that we might be "poured out wine and broken bread" (in the terms of Oswald Chambers) for the lost and broken world in which we live.

Pain is not good in itself. What is good in any painful experience is, for the sufferer, his submission to the will of God, and, for the spectators, the compassion aroused and the acts of mercy to which it leads (C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*).

Those oldies in Kansas understood much more than I ever will about the realities of salvation. They knew that Maundy (commandment – that is, the night Y'shua issued the "New Commandment") Thursday was a time to reflect on Jesus, the Lamb of God, and the One who went to Gethsemane for – dare I say it – for me.

May your experience of Holy Week always include a Thursday for a Passover reminder of the Lamb and for a time in his Garden of Agony.

Bob Mendelson is Australian director of Jews for Jesus. 

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Body image

There's just no such thing as perfect.

Guess who said the following words: "I hate my nose. It's really big. It's horrible. I hate my nose..."

Surprisingly, it wasn't Eric Richard, better known as *The Bill's* Sergeant Bob Cryer. With Bob's career drawing to a close after 800 episodes, viewers will be sure to miss television's most outstanding olfactory appendage. But funnily enough, Bob's retirement plans don't include lining up for a nose-job.

So who said it? Let's add a few more words. "I hate my nose. And I wish my hips were a little bit smaller too." Cher, maybe? Or Barbara Streisand? No. And no. The surprising answer is Britney Spears, who we noted last month makes a perfect anagrammatic match for "Presbyterians". Acronymically perfect, perhaps, but certainly not anatomically perfect – at least in her own mind.

In an interview with *Teen People* magazine, Spears talks frankly about the flaws she sees in her body. "I'll think, 'Maybe I should be a little bit skinnier,'" she says. "And my nose! I hate my nose..."

The irony, of course, is that the nose – and body – Britney is complaining about adorns posters on teenage walls around the globe. There are more than one million websites devoted to the Britney phenomenon, and a recent survey in the UK places Britney at the top of the list as marriage-partner for boys under 10 years old – easily beating Madonna, Lara Croft



The Bill's Bob Cryer ... likes his nose just the way it is.

Phil Campbell

and Victoria Beckham. (Girls the same age, by the way, have their eye on Prince William.)

Spears, whose new teen movie *Crossroads* has just hit Australian cinemas, sold 746,000 copies of her most recent album in the first week of release. Total sales of the previous album, *Oops... She Did it Again* peaked at just over 17 million, and Pepsi has just signed her to head up a new line of commercials for a reported \$20 million.

No matter. The owner of these much admired assets simply isn't satisfied, and so joins the ranks of "the beautiful people", whose nose reductions, bust enhancements, and on-again-off-again bouts of anorexia fill the pages of *Who Weekly* magazine.

Meanwhile, members of US band *O-Town* have cautioned teenagers about the danger of unrealistic aspirations. "False hope is when you put up a picture of Britney Spears and tell kids she looks like that naturally. Everything that's on television gives kids false hope."

Wise words. And if there's any moral to the Britney Spears story, it's that even when you have everything, satisfaction is not guaranteed. And when it comes to beauty, how much better to be pursuing the true inner variety, which we're reminded of in 1 Peter 3 ... "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewellery and fine clothes. Instead,

it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

It may not look great on a poster, but it goes a whole lot further than "skin deep."




If there's any moral to the Britney Spears story, it's that even when you have everything, satisfaction is not guaranteed.

Postscript

Last month's *Culture Watch* ("Dour Presbyterians") generated a few light-hearted responses, including the following piece of top class "Presbyterian-spotting" from Cowra's John McClean, who writes "I read your column, and it reminds me of a reference to Presbyterians which has been a personal favourite since teenage years.

It is in one of the Muppet movies, in which Kermit and Co are travelling across America. They come to an old church building which is rocking with music. When they open the door, there's Dr Tooth and his band. One of them looks in, then looks back and tells the rest "Well, they aren't Presbyterians."

Phil Campbell is Culture Watch editor.
phil@mpc.org.au 

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prayer

MARCH

- 21 Launceston parish, Tasmania 335 communicants and adherents, 115 younger people and 17 elders; Peter and Maureen Thornycroft inducted last year.
- 22 The vacant Inverell parish northern NSW; three congregations also including Ashford, with about 255 communicants and adherents and 17 elders; Garry White, Bert Edwards.
- 23 Presbytery of Murrumbidgee, NSW; 3 parishes and 3 home mission stations totalling 9 congregations with 465 communicants and adherents and 1 ministerial candidate; David Hocking clerk.
- 24 Rochester-Timmering parish; two congregations with about 125 communicants and adherents, 25 younger people and 7 elders; Chris and Michelle Perona, recently ordained and inducted.
- 25 Swan Hill parish, northern Victoria, about 50 communicants and adherents, 40 younger people and 2 elders; Martin and Kaylene de Pyle.
- 26 Hay home mission station in the NSW Riverina; about 25 communicants and adherents, 5 younger people and 5 elders; now vacant.
- 27 Toowoomba West parish Queensland, as it uses its new facilities; about 280 communicants and adherents, 100 younger folk and 23 elders; Roly and Betty Sondergeld, Ross Turner.
- 28 As Jewish people celebrate Peshach (Passover), pray that many will be led to recognize the Lord Jesus as the true, liberating Lamb of God.
- 29 As we remember the Crucifixion, pray that regular churchgoers and less frequent attenders may "see all their sins on Jesus laid" and dealt with once for all.
- 30 Bega-Eden home mission station far south coast NSW; about 46 communicants and adherents, 8 younger folk

- and 7 elders; vacant.
- 31 Praise God for the new and living hope believers have through the bodily Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and pray that many more will have this hope this Easter.

APRIL

- 1 Port Augusta home mission station, South Australia; about 25 communicants and adherents, 5 younger folk and 4 elders and the associated Flynn P.I.M. Patrol; Barry and Cheryl Rossiter. John Campbell moderator.
- 2 Wollongong parish NSW; about 420 communicants and adherents, 60 younger folk and 28 elders; Bruce and Jacki Hammonds.
- 3 Presbytery of Geelong, Vic; 6 parishes totalling 11 congregations with 590 communicants and adherents, 1 ministerial candidate, 8 retired ministers, 1 under jurisdiction; Graham Hamill clerk.
- 4 The publication and use of the Pitjantjatjara Short Bible for central Australia (including the former Presbyterian mission at Ernabella) - Paul and Ann Eckert and Gordon Thompson.
- 5 Pray for the health of Gregory and Rosemary Braid from Boort, Vic., on home leave in Tasmania from their facilitation work in South Asia with Wycliffe Bible Translators.
- 6 Camperdown parish, including Terang and Garvoc, western Victoria; about 80 communicants and adherents, 25 younger folk and 7 elders; Bernie Thomas, exit appointee.
- 7 Graham and Sandra Chipps from Leederville, WA, at the International Christian Fellowship and theological education in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- 8 Exit student Tony Salisbury and Ann as they take up an appointment with the Melbourne Deaf Fellowship.
- 9 Melton parish, western Melbourne; about 30 communicants and adherents, 25 younger folk and 4 elders; Peter and Ruth Owen.
- 10 South Wagga parish, NSW; about 180 communicants and adherents, 75 younger folk and 13 elders; Sandy and Karen McMillan, Jason Clift.
- 11 Alex and Sybil Shaw of Epping, NSW, workers with Language Recordings for more than 30 years as they are involved in training recordists in Asia, Mexico and maybe west Africa this year.
- 12 Sutherland parish, southern Sydney; about 50 communicants and adherents, 50 younger people and 6 elders; Andrew and Doneale Clausen
- 13 Presbytery of Sydney, NSW; 24 parishes and 2 home mission stations totalling 28 congregations with 3700 communicants and adherents, 5 ministerial candidates, 4 theological lecturers, 2 specialised ministers, 1 school chaplain, 5 retired ministers, 12 under jurisdiction, 2 deaconesses; Robert McKean clerk.
- 14 Charlestown-Eastlakes parish north of Sydney, including Swansea, Belmont and Redhead; about 200 communicants and adherents, 35 younger folk and 12 elders; John and Joy Seaton.
- 15 Janet Cowden from Drouin, Victoria, librarian and archivist with Wycliffe Bible Translators for 30 years.
- 16 Jack and Wendy Knapp, our Moderator General, and his leadership of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.
- 17 Sandy Wade-Ferrell of Epping, Sydney, on home assignment from her work as a "tentmaker" English teacher in East Asia.
- 18 The infant Presbyterian Church of Bangladesh (2 congregations) and the work of the Bible College helped by our 2001 "Meal for Mission".
- 19 Sandgate parish, northern Brisbane; about 85 communicants and adherents, 20 younger people and 4 elders; now vacant.
- 20 Sydney Chinese church, Surry Hills; about 850 communicants and adherents, 150 younger folk and 16 elders; Joe and Mavis Mock, Daniel Ng, and the need for further ministers.

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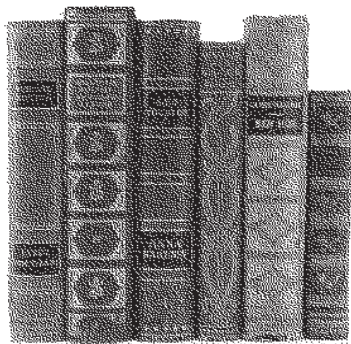
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books



The Experience of Ultimate Truth

Michael Graham

U-Turn Press: 2001.

Reviewed by Peter Barnes

One of the most vivid impressions which I took from a trip to Melbourne some years back was walking into the home of Michael Graham, and encountering a man who owned more books than I did! There hardly seemed to be a book on eastern mysticism which Michael had not devoured. Having come from what he calls “a light Christian enculturation”, Michael embraced the wisdom of the East, knowing both Buddhism and Hinduism. He became one of the crack yogic troops.

Indeed, for 28 years he had steeped himself in all that the gurus of India could offer. He has had experiences that indicate that the eastern religions possess real power of some kind or another. But all that Michael was left with was the memory of the experiences. He was living, as he says, in a jungle of leafy trees with no fruit. Then he came to know Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins. Or rather, Christ came to possess Michael.

It is, as Francis Schaeffer put it: “There are only two types of people: those who seek for truth and those who seek for self-justification.” Michael is one of those who reached the end of self – all his spiritual endeavours, impressive as they were, added up to a huge fat zero – and was found by Christ.

This is a deeply moving and fascinating account of one man’s spiritual quest. It is yet another illustration of Augustine’s words: “You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.” This is a spiritual autobiography which deserves a wide reader-

ship in these confused and syncretistic days. It will surely do much good.

The Psalter – the Only Hymnal?

Iain Murray

Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2001

Reviewed by Peter Barnes

In one sense, it is odd, even a little sad, that this booklet has appeared at a time in the Church’s history when the Psalms are neglected in so many places. Many – probably most – of today’s churches would do better to sing and preach the Psalms more often than they do.

However, there is still a need to defend hymns against the charge that, being human compositions, they are inherently inferior to God’s songbook, the Psalter. It is difficult to mount a convincing case that the Bible itself restricts praise to the Psalter, and it is also difficult to maintain the argument, put forward for example by John Kennedy, that hymns can be edifying but not in public worship. If they are edifying in family worship or at conferences, they surely must be edifying when the church gathers together more formally.

One would think that any Christian might find it a little strange to restrict his musical worship of God to compositions that do not mention the name of Jesus.

The Puritan maxim that “overdoing is undoing” is as true in the area of musical praise as it is in other areas of life. One section of Christendom has an almost “top 40” approach to praise while another section is fearful of singing a word which is not sanctioned by the metrical Psalms. As Calvin wrote – and Geoff Bullock would agree – “Music has a secret and almost incredible power to move hearts.” In such a situation Iain Murray has, as always, provided the Church with a sane and helpful approach to this topic.

Chris: A Study in Excellence

Betty Black

P.O. Box 6151, Mitchelton, Queensland, 4053.

Reviewed by Peter Barnes

Surely the most terrible nightmare for any parent is to lose a child. On 4 November 1992 Keith and Betty Black lost their married daughter Chris and their seven-year-old granddaughter

Sheena in a car accident in Canada. *Chris* is Betty’s memoir of her daughter’s life and death. It is an account that is honest and free of emotionalism but deeply moving.

Chris spent the first 18 of her 32 years on earth in Africa. Her hobbies included painting and drawing; her work was nursing, where she took a strong pro-life stand. She also met and later married Warren Balisky, and had two children – Steven and Sheena.

As Betty tells of her daughter, she deals with Chris’ relationships with friends and family, and also of her relationship with God. That Chris was such a good letter writer and that she kept a journal at times greatly helped Betty in presenting us with a well-rounded picture.

Chris had been studying Alan Redpath’s book on Nehemiah when she was killed. The last paragraph which she marked read: “Our Lord Jesus Christ is the rallying point for us all, and one day the trumpet shall sound, the rallying call will come, and on that day we will be taken from our work to meet Him; one glorious day the enemy will be utterly overthrown ... On day the journey will be over, the trumpet shall sound, and Jesus will come; one day our enemy will be finally vanquished.”

This is a fitting tribute, lovingly written, to a woman who knew and loved the Lord, loved her fellow human beings, and now is with Christ which is far better. Those who grieve, and those who simply want to know what life is all about, are encouraged to read it.

Firm in the Faith

Dennis D. Husted

Darlington: Evangelical Press, 2000.

Reviewed by Peter Barnes

This is a splendid piece of work, based on the Westminster Shorter Catechism. There are 52 lessons altogether, which come in four lots of 13. The 13th in each of the four sections is actually a review lesson. For reasons of space, not all of the Catechism is covered, and it is noteworthy – and I think regrettable – that the sacraments are not dealt with. However, it is ideal for a keen youth group. Should youth groups all over the country take up this study, the Church will be transformed.

Firm in the Faith is available in two forms – as a leader’s guide and as a student’s book. It is highly recommended.

It's still wrong

Society may change, but God doesn't.

Sydney will soon be visited – or afflicted – with the Gay Mardi Gras and the Gay Games. Predictably, it is also the season for politicians to fall over themselves in saying how vital a contribution the Gay Mardi Gras makes to our cultural diversity and to our economy.

A biologist in Seattle has even argued that homosexuality should be celebrated because some king penguins and pygmy chimpanzees have no objection to the practice. That is an intriguing argument – remember that the female praying mantis eats the male.

In addition, there are renewed calls for the recognition of homosexual “marriages”, and the rights of homosexual couples to raise children. Faced by anti-vilification laws and a media consensus that no decent person could possibly call this into question, Christians are often intimidated into silence or acquiescence.

It is thus worth our while to look again at what the Bible says on the subject of homosexuality. It is hardly open to much interpretation: “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination” (Lev. 18:22). The civil penalty was death (Lev. 20:13).

Unrestrained homosexuality came to prevail in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and this led to their destruction by brimstone and fire (see Genesis 18-19). God's plan was always for one man to marry one woman for life.

The New Testament's teaching is no different, despite the oft-repeated claims that Jesus was all-inclusive in his mercy. In Romans 1:26-27 Paul writes of idolaters: “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men, committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”

The emperor of the day was Nero who castrated a boy, then “married” him, and paraded him through Rome in a litter, while kissing him amorously. Small won-



Peter Barnes

der that people wished that Nero's father had married the same sort of wife!

Homosexuals are not to deceive themselves. Like heterosexual fornicators, unless they repent and trust in Christ alone, they will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 6:9-10). Homosexuals are treated as lawless and insubordinate in 1 Timothy 1:8-10.

Yet Richard Holloway, the Bishop of Edinburgh and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, wants to bless homosexual unions. In fact, he says that he has already done

so, as far back as 30 years ago. He says: “We have been operating an ethic which is no longer appropriate to our time.”

That is a strange position for a supposed Christian to adopt – if the Scriptures disagree with modern views, ditch the Scriptures!

Let me briefly raise three issues:

First, promiscuity. The homosexuality community is agitating for the right to “marry”. However, male homosexual relationships are inherently promiscuous (lesbians are somewhat different in that they often follow some kind of serial monogamy). In 1978 the pro-homosexual Kinsey Institute reported that 79% of homosexual men said that more than half of their sex partners were strangers.

Dennis Altman (who taught me at Sydney University in the 1970s) is himself a homosexual but he ridicules the notion of homosexual monogamy. It happens so rarely that we can almost say that it simply does not happen.

Second, disease. In Australia more than 90 per cent of AIDS cases come from homosexual activity. The slogan

that “AIDS doesn't discriminate; people do” is yet another official lie. Condoms have a fairly high failure rate for preventing pregnancy, when the woman can only fall pregnant for a few days within the monthly cycle. The failure rate is obviously higher for homosexuals, especially when one notes the rougher nature of homosexual sex.

Third, the “gay” gene. Justice Michael Kirby claims that one's sexuality is inherent: “It is like your gender, your skin colour or being left-handed.” In 1993 the media became excited when the “gay gene” was supposedly discovered by Dr Dean Hamer of the United States National Cancer Institute. They were not so vocal when it later emerged that Dr Hamer, an avowed homosexual, had been charged with professional misconduct for misusing the evidence.

In summary, it must be said that homosexuality is contrary to Scripture, and is damaging, unhealthy and unnatural. Hugh Kingsmill once made the interesting comment that “Homosexuality, which aims at duplicating the self instead of complementing it, is the natural outlet of exaggerated self-love”.

If I hear that God has apologised to Sodom and Gomorrah, you will be the first to know.

Peter Barnes is minister of Revesby Presbyterian Church, NSW, and books editor of AP.

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